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Socio-economic Sciences & Humanities and Science in Society in 2007

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Directorate-General for Research
Science, Economy and Society Directorate
European Commission

*Office SDME 07/60
B-1049 Brussels
Fax +(32) 2 2984694*

*Science in Society: www.ec.europa.eu/research/science-society
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Socio-economic Sciences & Humanities and Science in Society in 2007

Highlights of the Year

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Foreword by the Director-General

European societies are changing very rapidly and we need to better understand how and why. The dynamics of science and technology interact with social, economic and political developments and this leads to new production, consumption and learning models. Activities that aim at a stronger engagement of society in the debates on the directions of research are an essential part of a modern research policy environment. This is where the “Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities” (SSH) and “Science in Society” (SIS) programmes of the Directorate-General (DG) for Research make a valuable contribution.

We need solid social sciences and humanities research to understand the changes that are taking place in our societies. Additionally, this research contributes to the elaboration of policies aimed at solving problems and ensuring the well-being of European citizens. Such research is also important both for the Lisbon Agenda and the European Research Area strategy.

The SSH programme has identified the principal challenges of the EU relative to sustainable development, Europe in the World and EU Citizenship. It allows research teams from different countries to unite their efforts in analysing these problems and in inspiring EU policies. Structured dialogue between the DG and the Member States has taken place in order to ensure improved shared knowledge of research trends in SSH throughout Europe and to identify, with the aid of the scientific community, the principal research themes that correspond to common concerns.

In the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), we have moved from “science and society” to “science in society”. This is to reflect a new way of thinking on the role of civil

society and the public, with the aim of raising the profile of science as an integral part of our common European culture. The SIS programme covers the following issues: governance, ethics, gender and science education, and promoting two-way communication channels that enable the public to engage with science and vice versa. Issues related to the science in society debate need to be identified horizontally, when there are developments that are important to all fields of science, and specifically when a particular research domain illustrates the wider implications of a renewed contract between research and society in all its diversity. Moreover, improved access to research results can enhance the science in society dimension and help Europe move closer to becoming a knowledge-based society, thereby increasing the conditions for long-term prosperity.

The SSH and SIS programmes play an essential role in bringing the importance of research for growth and sustainable development to be fully recognised at national and European levels. They also help us form new policy initiatives and organise policy-related events. After all, society needs research and research needs society.



José Manuel Silva Rodríguez
Director-General of DG Research

‘this research contributes to the elaboration of policies aimed at solving problems and ensuring the well-being of European citizens’

The Year in Brief

The context in which the Science, Economy and Society Directorate (Directorate L) operates is challenging and demanding. Since the beginning of 2007, we have been managing two important research programmes: one fostering scientific cooperation in the field of social sciences, economics and humanities, and the other promoting stronger interactions between the world of sciences and society, in all its diversity. Additionally, the Directorate contributes to policy developments, guided by the European Commission and Commissioner Potočník in particular, which have resulted in some major policy-related events.

The idea behind this publication is to give an overview of the main activities and events conducted by our Directorate in the fields of Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH) and Science in Society (SIS) in 2007. It contains information on the research agenda of the programmes, project results and reports on important events and publications.

As the first year of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), 2007 represented a necessary period of transition. We continued to manage research projects that were selected under funding calls for the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) while launching and processing the first calls under FP7.

These were launched and executed with great efficiency and success. Sixty-five projects were selected out of the 531 proposals submitted under the May 2007 deadline for the first call of SSH proposals. The selected projects represent all activities highlighted in the SSH programme, indicating a balanced spread of research funding across related issues. A further 425 proposals were submitted for the November deadline. For SIS, 30 projects were selected out of the 182 proposals received in the first call under FP7.

All stages of project management — organising major evaluation processes, negotiating new projects, monitoring older ones, and disseminating the results — are complex and challenging tasks for all staff in the Directorate.

Some of the main events in which the Directorate has been involved throughout the year have played an important role in shaping and moving new policy actions forward. Among our main achievements, I would mention the following.

- Adoption of the “Communication on scientific information in the digital age: access, dissemination and preservation,” followed by the organisation of a major conference on Scientific Publishing in the European Research Area — Access, Dissemination and Preservation in the Digital Age (15-16 February 2007).
- The international conference on Ethics, Research & Globalisation — Europe and its Partners Building Capacity in Research Ethics (14-15 May 2007). It brought together stakeholders from developed countries, emerging economies and developing countries in an effort to identify policy options together and encourage the development of support actions under FP7 in the European Research Area and worldwide.

‘the main events in which the Directorate has been involved throughout the year have played an important role in shaping and moving new policy actions forward’

- The Rocard Report on science education, presented in June 2007, detailing initiatives in science education, as examined by a group of experts chaired by former Prime Minister of France Michel Rocard.
- In preparation of the Recommendation on a “Code of Conduct for Responsible Nanosciences and Nanotechnologies Research”, a public consultation was announced in July 2007 with the intention of collecting a broad sample of the input emanating from research, industry, civil society, policy and media.
- Preparation and organisation of the first international conference on Research Integrity (16-19 September 2007) was supported by the Directorate. A group of experts were asked to set up a rationale for action at Community level.
- Implementation of a major conference, Towards a Post-Carbon Society — European Research on Economic Incentives and Social Behaviour (October 2007), with a view to mobilising the social sciences community to address the twin challenges of climate change and energy systems transformation.

With the results of projects carried out in FP6 under “Scientific Support to Policies” (such as EU KLEMS

(Productivity in the European Union: a Comparative Industry Approach) and TAXBEN (Tax/benefit Systems and Growth Potential of the EU), information of which is provided in this publication), the socio-economic research of FP6 contributed, with the support of Commissioners and EU Ministers, to the development and application of methods for policy making in the services (including EUROSTAT of the Commission) as well as in the Member States.

The “Foresight activity” is now under the Directorate’s responsibility. This area deals with the future implications of global knowledge, migration, ageing, risk and the emerging domains in research and science, and will strengthen links with other SSH activities.

In shaping our programmes and policies, the Directorate cannot work alone. Developing interfaces with stakeholders is essential, whether they be the research community, the research administrations of the Member States, other research Directorates and Directorates-General within the European Commission, or civil society organisations. Building bridges between our activities in the fields of SSH and SIS and the other thematic activities under the Cooperation specific programme are also extremely important. Ultimately, the societal dimension of research needs to be embedded in all EU research activities and programmes.



Jean-Michel Baer

Director of the Science, Economy and Society Directorate



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FP6 Project Funding Summary

Within the Sixth Research Framework Programme, Priority 7 “Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-based Society” aimed to mobilise European research in the areas of economics, politics, social sciences and humanities.

Researchers were invited to submit proposals that addressed issues relating to seven research areas (grouped into two major themes):

Knowledge-based society and social cohesion

1. Improving generation, distribution and use of knowledge;
2. Options and choices for the development of a knowledge-based society;
3. Variety of paths towards a knowledge society;

Citizenship, democracy and new forms of governance

4. Implications of European integration and enlargement;
5. New forms of governance;
6. Resolution of conflicts and restoration of peace;
7. New forms of citizenship and cultural identities;

One additional research area of a horizontal nature

8. Actions to promote the European Research Area in social sciences and humanities and their contribution to the knowledge-based society in Europe.

Of the 594 proposals submitted to Calls for Proposals, 169 projects received funding. These included 34 Networks of Excellence and Integrated Projects (approximately EUR 142 million), 120 Specific Targeted Research Projects and Coordination Actions (EUR 118.5 million), and 15 Specific Support Actions (EUR 5.5 million).

Additionally, Priority 8 “Policy Support and Anticipating Scientific and Technological Needs” aimed at financing projects whose main objectives were to support specific policies and related activities. The priority was organised around three major research areas:

1. sustainable management of Europe’s natural resources;
2. providing health, security and opportunity to the people of Europe;
3. underpinning the economic potential and cohesion of a larger and more integrated European Union.

As a result, 18 projects were approved in areas related to crime, migration and refugee flows (research area 2), as well as competition policies, sustainable development and trade policies, and improving the quality of European statistics (research area 3).



Copies of this publication and others prefaced in this section are available from the SSH portal at

www.ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences

SSH in FP7 : a Year of Innovations

The year 2007 was an important period for research activity in the Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH). Over 1000 proposals were received in the first Call for Proposals launched under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), marking a milestone for the programme.

There are other key reasons that explain the changes which took place in 2007.

These include:

- content and structure development of SSH in FP7, based on major EU challenges and new disciplines;
- high importance placed on EU policy support according to the Lisbon principle, recognising the role of knowledge for policy definition;
- high level of communication and exploitation of results;
- modification of project management by introducing greater involvement in the political dimension of the programme.

The SSH programme is addressing EU challenges in two ways. Firstly, the distribution of research subjects needs to strike a balance between social-, economic- and humanities-orientated issues. In this regard, integration of disciplines is a true necessity as is the development of both quantitative and qualitative approaches. New dimensions have been added to the traditional SSH research agenda: the introduction of the socio-economic aspects of energy, environment, agriculture and land

use as research subjects in the context of sustainable development; emphasis on the international dimension initiated by the globalisation issue; full integration of the humanities into the structure of the programme; and the creation of quantitative capacity of analysis to facilitate the foresight, forecast and assessment activities.

The results of the first Call for Proposals signals a real success from both the point of view of enlargement of the programme and relevance of the projects. Apart from projects focused on the understanding of social and economic mechanisms, others address the future perspectives regarding EU challenges and contain applications of tools and databases.

Secondly, the exploitation of results must be envisaged from the beginning of the research. In this respect, representatives of the Directorate-Generals (DGs) of the Commission dealing with policies will be invited to bi-annual discussions about intermediary results and research orientations of projects.

In more general terms, communication is playing a major role in SSH activity due to the knowledge-based society objectives and the strong willingness to exploit project results for policy making.

At the internal level, concrete organisational efforts have been devoted to communication and valorisation of research through policy briefs, websites (for both SSH

'results of the first Call for Proposals signals a real success from both the point of view of enlargement of the programme and relevance of the projects'

SSH in FP7 : a Year of Innovations

activity and each funded project), large conferences and dedicated workshops for clusters of projects. Examples of these achievements in internal procedures include:

- all scientific officers participate in actions or inter-services groups led by other DGs of the Commission in all key areas of FP7;
- more than 20 DGs participated in the discussion for the next Call for Proposals in 2008;
- tools and databases generated by the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) are actively utilised, as is the case for the results produced by the EU KLEMS (Productivity in the European Union: a Comparative Industry Approach), TAXBEN (Tax/benefit Systems and Growth Potential of the EU) and COMETR (Competitiveness Effects of Environmental Tax Reforms) projects (taken on board by the policy DGs including the European Statistical Office);
- the European Statistical Office will dedicate efforts for data collection according to SSH needs;
- DG for Economic and Financial Affairs (DG ECFIN), DG for Taxation and Customs Union (DG TAXUD), DG for Enterprise (DG ENTR), DG for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (DG EMPL), DG for Development (DG DEV), DG for Justice, Freedom and Security (DG JLS), and DG for External Relations (DG RELEX) are now “clients” of the SSH programme. The Directorate has been invited to co-launch future important foresight exercises for the Commission with other DGs.

At the external level, 500 participants were involved in the Post Carbon Society conference (October 2007). This confirms the need for the social sciences to be involved in such domains. Other events have confirmed the

interest of a wider scientific community than what had previously existed, particularly regarding the humanities and economy sectors. This will enrich the production of knowledge and the usefulness of the SSH programme.

Many initiatives were launched during FP6 in support of the key role that SSH plays in the European Research Area (ERA). At the onset of FP7, SSH activities are still involved in the implementation of ERA and is focused on three new objectives:

1. to develop the new economics of knowledge, innovation and international systems of research;
2. to elaborate and apply adequate tools and indicators to assess and forecast the impacts of research policies and programmes;
3. to promote the principle of “scientific evidence basis for policy making”.



The SCIFI-GLOW, GLOBINN and DEMETER projects are working towards these goals and will ensure the link is maintained with other services of the Commission involved in the matter, such as the Bureau of European Policy Advisers (BEPA), the DG for Research (DG RTD), the DG for Economic and Financial Affairs (DG ECFIN), and the DG for Enterprise (DG ENTR). Their initial work will be promoted during the French Presidency conference in July 2008.

Furthermore, well-known policy makers and experts at the interface between research and policy making were interviewed during the second half of 2007 to express their views on how to promote evidence basis for policy making. The outcome of these interviews should help the future discussions on ERA following the ERA Green Paper, a Commission Communication entitled “The European Research Area — New Perspectives” adopted on 4 April 2007.

The “Foresight activity” area has now joined the direct management of SSH in Directorate L. This reorganisation will facilitate synergies between all SSH activities. The foresight approach will be part of the majority of the SSH projects; vice versa, foresight will systematically use the outcome of SSH research, including the new developments of tools for quantitative analysis. Foresight activity will engage with EU challenges, bringing it one step beyond the traditional concentration on research, technology and innovation within the ERA context.

‘traditional efforts devoted to the evaluation and selection process of projects have been successful, even if adaptation to new conditions and procedures has been necessary’

Since FP6 projects still represent a major portion of the Directorate’s work, management has shifted from a “project” to “global” focus, while simultaneously addressing the following: management of “clusters of projects”; stocktaking and exploitation of knowledge for policy making; dissemination of results to all the users; participation in the policy definition process with other DGs; and programming of the FP7 annual work programmes. In addition to being applied to FP6 management, these principles are also being administered for the new framework programme.

This means more involvement in the EU policy process and more intensive participation in “issues-orientated” activities; more time is also dedicated to the communication of SSH results.

The traditional efforts devoted to the evaluation and selection process of projects have been successful, even if adaptation to new conditions and procedures has been necessary. An improvement in the quality and transparency of the evaluation process has been recognised by the observers and evaluators. The implementation of the redress procedure (by which an applicant may provide feedback about the process of project evaluation) has demonstrated the strength of the system and only one or two redress requests will need in-depth analysis.

New challenges appeared at the end of 2007 with an unexpected level of participation in some topics offered by the second deadline of the Call for Proposals. In general, the overall oversubscription ratio will be approximately 1:10, which is not an encouraging signal for future calls, and measures will need be taken.

SSH in FP7 : A Year of Innovations

Many other actions were implemented in 2007 and their follow-up has to be ensured. These actions include:

- implementation of a strategy for international cooperation;
- stronger involvement in the Sustainable Development strategy and in the Climate Change initiatives for adaptation;
- implementation of a strategy for official and unofficial data collection and statistics;
- strengthening of cooperation with other themes under “Cooperation” and specific programmes (such as the European Research Council, Capacities, and Mobility);
- elaboration and updating of the websites for the programme and the projects;
- production of regular policy briefs and “fiches of results” for policy definition.

The most important elements from the perspective of the SSH programme are now in place to ensure the success of FP7.



FP7 Funding Results for 2007

Sixty-five projects were selected in 2007 for the Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH) programme under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). Combined, these projects represent a funding total of EUR 59 million. The projects signify an injection of research into growth, employment and competitiveness in a knowledge-based society, sustainable development, investigating societal trends and their implications, as well as in other areas that affect Europe and its citizens in the domain of socio-economic sciences and humanities.

Globalisation and knowledge

Funded projects will analyse the effects of globalisation, both on the knowledge sector (e.g. universities) as well as on the behaviour of firms and markets. The research should provide evidence-based knowledge for designing policies for the European Research Area.

Support for rural Europe

Sustainable development of rural areas in Europe will be addressed through a number of projects. One project supported in this area will develop concepts and tools to support the design of a future common agriculture policy.

New policy tools

New tools and indicators will be developed for a deeper analysis of the trade-offs and synergy between social, economic and environment dimensions of policies.

Urban development

A new instrument, the “social platform”, will be tested in the domain of urban development and cohesion. A funded project’s objective will be to define a research agenda with stakeholders from the domain.

‘a funded project will gather comparative empirical data on the use of Arabic-language television in Europe, in order to deliver well-founded policy advice on issues relating to political and media debates about citizenship in Europe’

The impact of changing social contexts

One of the selected projects will investigate how changing social contexts (from macro-societal to micro-interpersonal) affect social integration, well-being and intergenerational solidarity across different European nations.

Citizenship debates

A funded project will gather comparative empirical data on the use of Arabic-language television in Europe, in order to deliver well-founded policy advice on issues relating to political and media debates about citizenship in Europe.

Economic governance

Europe’s role in global economic governance will be explored in a project dealing with macroeconomic adjustment and governance, integration of markets for finance and investment as well as for trade in goods and services, and migration and the mobility of labour.

Privatisation of war and its regulation

A new project will examine the phenomenon of privatisation of war and the legal status of security companies under international humanitarian law. The project will highlight the crucial role of the EU in future regulation of security companies.

FP7 Funding Results for 2007

The role of diasporas in conflict and resolution

The new instrument of Research for the Benefit of Civil Society Organisations will be inaugurated with a pioneering project on the role of diasporas. The project will look at whether diasporas “import” conflict from their country of origin to the host country, or rather assist in reconciliation and peace.

Cultural heritage and conflict

One of the projects funded under this activity will examine how both the empirical and theoretical relationships between cultural heritage and conflict involve notions of identities and values.

Socio-economic and scientific indicators

Other projects supported will develop science and technology indicators as well as methods and tools for evaluation of research programmes and innovation.



The Monitoring European Trends in the Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (METRIS) project intends to raise the profile of the research efforts of scientists in the field of Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH) and support further cooperation in Europe. The project was identified in the SSH 2007 work programme as part of its strategic activities.

During its two-year pilot phase, the objective of the METRIS project will be to establish a foundation for sustainable evidence-based decision-making in the EU's SSH domain. This will allow for the future development of cooperation within Europe, based on the identification of common trends, interests and challenges at various levels (regional, national, transnational or European).

A report will depict the most important trends in SSH research in Europe that specifically target the seven activities of the SSH theme under the Cooperation programme. In addition to this, METRIS will provide information about the relevant national research priorities and programmes, funding structures, performance and research governance in the Member States. These, as well as the needs and prospects for social sciences and humanities, will be analysed.

The information provided in the report will also contribute to the development of an online portal. The portal will initially include national reports, profiles of national research programmes, and analyses of trends at national, European and regional levels. At a later stage,

it may include information on institutions and databases, as well as tools for interacting with the information and with other users of the system.

The information generated by METRIS will assist in the implementation of the European Research Area (ERA) by enabling all stakeholders, from governments, funding agencies, and other interested parties, to develop their actions with knowledge acquired from a wider context. In this manner, they will be better able to benchmark their performance, and better able to collectively set targets and evaluate progress.

The METRIS project builds on the past experiences and resources of a number of projects which were developed and implemented during previous framework programmes.



'to establish a foundation for sustainable evidence-based decision-making in the EU's SSH domain'

The Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH) theme hosted and participated in a range of conferences, workshops and meetings in 2007. These events, a selection of which are detailed below, contributed to achieving the aims of the eight key activities highlighted in its 2007 work programme.

Activity 1: growth, employment and competitiveness in a knowledge society

Pisa, 29 January-1 February 2007: PRIME annual conference on innovation policies in Europe, covering such issues as European universities at the crossroads, the link between scientific production and technological performance, policy making in the ERA, and new rationales for policy making in science and technology.

Brussels, 15 March 2007: high-level meeting of the FP6 SSP project EU KLEMS (Productivity in the European Union: a Comparative Industry Approach). It included the public launch of the EU KLEMS database on EU productivity factors. Key attendees: Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs Joaquín Almunia, Director-General of Eurostat Hervé Carré, Deputy Director-General of Economic and Financial Affairs Marco Buti, and Deputy Director-General of Research and Technological Development Zoran Stančič. Chaired by Associate Editor of the *Financial Times* Wolfgang Munchau.

Brussels, 21 March 2007: final policy conference of the COMETR (Competitiveness Effects of Environmental Tax Reforms) FP6 SSP project [topic requested by DG for Taxation and Customs Union (DG TAXUD)] in the framework of the forum titled “Sustainable Development and Fiscalité”.

Brussels, 27 November 2007: final policy conference of the TAXBEN (Tax/benefit Systems and Growth Potential of the EU) FP6 SSP project (topic requested by DG TAXUD). Key attendees: Commissioner for Taxation and Customs Union László Kovács.

Activity 2: paths towards sustainable development

Barcelona, 20-21 September 2007: conference entitled “The Emerging Global Governance Paradigm: the Role of Business and its Implications for Companies, Stakeholders and Society”, organised by the European Academy of Business in Society for its sixth annual colloquium. It also represented the final conference of the CSR Platform project. The conference was attended by 200 high level academics, managers of multinational companies, representatives from DG for Research (DG RTD), (DG RTD) DG for Employment (DG EMPL), Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and DG for Enterprise and Industry, and other major stakeholders.

Brussels, 24 October 2007: conference entitled “Towards a Post-Carbon Society — European research on economic incentives and social behaviour” which addressed two

issues: the adaptation to climate change and the adoption of new forms of energy. The presentations and speeches mostly dealt with incentives and behavioural changes that can act as solutions. Chaired by Director-General of DG RTD José Manuel Silva Rodríguez. The results are published in “Towards a Post-Carbon Society — European Research on Economic Incentives and Social Behaviour”, at www.ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences

Activity 3: major trends in society and their implications

Rome, 27-28 March 2007: international conference entitled “Citizenship, Identity and Immigration in the European Union”. Results were presented of projects related to the theme of migration, funded under FP4, FP5 and FP6. Chaired by Italian Minister for Social Solidarity Paolo Ferrero in cooperation with DG for Justice, Freedom and Security and DG EMPL, as well as journalists and trade unions.

Activity 4 : Europe and the world

Coventry, 17-19 September 2007: GARNET conference entitled “Pathways to Legitimacy? The Future of Global and Regional Governance”. This was the second annual conference of the Network of Excellence GARNET and gathered around 160 participants including researchers, policy makers, civil society organisations and businesses from Europe as well as other continents. Some 120 papers were presented in the plenary as well as parallel sessions and a selection of them will be revised and gathered for publication.

Activity 5: the citizen in the European Union

Paris, 10-12 January 2007: conference entitled “Democracy, European Governance and Social Sciences”, organised in the context of the Think & Act project. The conference opened with high-level policy makers such as European Parliament President Josep Borrell Fontelles (who was ending his mandate in that period), Member of European Parliament Philippe Busquin, Member of French Assembly Elisabeth Guigou, and Director-General of DG for Communication Claus Sørensen. A book based on the proceedings was published: *What's wrong with Europe?* edited by O Costa and I Janin, Editions de Condé, Paris.

Berlin, 14-15 March 2007: informal FP7 Programme Committee SSH Meeting, jointly organised by the German Presidency of the EU and Directorate L. Presentation of the final report of the Expert Group on the Humanities.

Activity 6: socio-economic and scientific indicators

Luxembourg, 6-7 December 2007: conference on Modern Statistics for Modern Society organised by the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat). It addressed five major challenges facing the EU and countries across the globe today: generating growth, employment, competitiveness, and a knowledge-based society; combining economic, social and environmental objectives; major trends in society; Europe in the World; and participation, democracy, governance focusing on European diversities and commonalities. The conference opened with a workshop on “Innovations in Statistical Systems” chaired by Deputy Director-General of Eurostat Marie Bohatá. A plenary session was followed by three concurrent workshops based on “Research and

Statistics”, “Official Statistics and Statistical Support of Public Policies” and “Communication between Official Statistical Authorities and User”. The event was concluded by a round-table discussion on “Future Markets for Statistics”.

Activity 7: foresight activities

Brussels, 24-25 June 2007: conference entitled “Towards Future Challenges for Agricultural Research in Europe”. It was jointly organised by the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research, the European Parliament and the European Commission on the basis of a foresight report produced by an expert group co-directed by the “Research in the economic, social sciences and humanities – prospective” unit. Participation of the Director-General of DG RTD José Manuel Silva Rodríguez, Commissioner for Science and Research Janez Potočnik, ministers for agriculture as well as 420 attendees.

Brussels, 19 September 2007: conference entitled “The Science of Thinking: Europe’s Next Challenge”. Organised by Microsoft, the conference was chaired by Microsoft’s Chief Research and Strategy Officer Craig Mundie, and included the participation of the Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Potočnik, Kurt Vanderberghe. The conference was a follow-up to the conference organised in 2006 with the participation of Commissioner for Science and Research Janez Potočnik and Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates.

Activity 8 : strategic activities

Brussels, 4-5 October 2007: workshop on “Global Challenges for International Cooperation”, with the participation of several leading European and non-

European scholars on major global challenges such as energy, democratic and social issues, and health. It was attended by 80 people from various services of the Commission. Proceedings from the workshop will be published.

4-7 October 2007: the second biennial conference, the China-Europe Forum, was launched by the Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation for the Progress of Humankind. Directorate L actively participated in two workshops, “Scientists and Experts” and “Management of Scientific and Technical Choices”. Almost 1 000 business people took part in 40 socio-professional and thematic workshops that were organised in many European regions and cities. A plenary session was held in Brussels on 6 and 7 October. This event succeeded in forging direct contacts between stakeholders, effectively opening lines of communication and strengthening cooperation.

Lisbon, 8-10 October 2007: conference entitled “The Future of Science and Technology in Europe”, which focused on the realisation of the European Research Area in light of ongoing consultation and debate following the Green Paper “The European Research Area: New Perspectives”. Directorate L hosted the “Science in Society” session, which explored how scientific research can be made more open to societal concerns — including ethical issues — and more accessible to societal actors (citizens and civil society organisations).

The results of projects funded in the area of the Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH) under the framework programmes, offer Europeans an array of new knowledge and information. Harnessing this information in order to inform policy making is a major priority. In a series of interviews undertaken with senior European policy makers, policy advisors and knowledge transfer specialists, participants explored how to most effectively disseminate project results and strengthen dialogue between researchers and policy makers.

The interviews revealed a consensus on how the framework programmes can influence policy making and respond effectively to the challenges faced by society. They identified a number of areas where action by the Directorate-General for Research (DG RTD) and project coordinators is necessary in order to ensure that research results inform policy making at regional, national and European levels.

Strategic role for DG RTD

At a strategic level, DG RTD needs to strengthen its cooperation with other Commission services by developing a targeted information-sharing process in those areas that have major economic, social and scientific relevance for the EU. Such collaboration is important at each key stage in the development of policies.

DG RTD should also strengthen its role as a facilitator of communication and information-sharing between projects and as key actor in the policy making process at European and national levels.

The projects funded under framework programmes have an important role to play in shaping the Commission's policy development at the political level. Appropriate connections across the institutional spectrum, as well as dialogue (informed by research results) with politicians and senior policy advisors are necessary so as to ensure that policy making benefits from the most up-to-date information available from the research community.

DG RTD has a key role to play in ensuring that project coordinators include appropriate dissemination and information-sharing strategies in their projects from the earliest stages of their development. This is essential if projects are to contribute meaningfully to evidence-based policy making at regional, national and/or European levels.



'projects funded under framework programmes have an important role to play in shaping the Commission's policy development'

Informing Policy Makers

The role of project coordinators

The interviews also reveal some important messages for project coordinators to ensure that the policy relevance of their research findings is put at the forefront of their objectives and work programmes. This implies developing appropriate dissemination and knowledge-sharing strategies from the earliest stages of project planning. It is suggested that project coordinators should:

- include partners from the field of policy making in their project team to make certain that the subject chosen as well as the scope of the research respond to defined policy making priority areas;
- guarantee dialogue between experts and non-experts over the lifetime of their project so that they effectively acquire the kind of local knowledge, lay knowledge and lay expertise that contributes to a socially robust scientific view;
- create access to infrastructures containing databases and tools which will allow for the use of updated knowledge and model simulations, in order to forecast future directions and to establish an impact assessment of policies;
- develop subtler ways of engaging with the broader public and embedding social and ethical reflection within the everyday practice of science;
- develop a programme and a methodology of results dissemination over the lifecycle of their project in order to provide updated information on progress over time;

- reflect not only in terms of the scientific research but also in terms of the policy usefulness of the work undertaken;
- prepare policy briefings which are easy to read and can be understood by policy makers in framing and/or evaluating policies.



'to ensure that the policy relevance of their research findings is put at the forefront of their objectives and work programmes'

Directorate L identifies and analyses major trends in relation to scientific, economic and societal challenges in Europe, and examines them in the light of the principal EU strategic objectives and sectoral policies. The Directorate has a dual role: it offers knowledge for *policies*, and supports the formulation of policies for *knowledge*.

A series of ten policy reviews were published in 2007. Each subsequent report represents a synthesis of research results from projects funded under the Fifth Framework Programme (through the key action “Improving the Socio-Economic Knowledge Base”), covering the period 1998-2002. These reports perform a crucial role in achieving a better understanding of the issues involved, in extracting the key policy implications, and in guiding future directions.

Education

Author: Prof. Sally Power, Director of Research, School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University (United Kingdom)

The 28 research projects reviewed in this report cover all phases of education, from early childhood provision to the needs of adult learners. Likewise, the findings are drawn from a wide variety of sources, from cross-national databases to individual life histories. The synthesis of these findings is organised into five broad policy themes: modernising education systems; innovations in teaching

and learning; addressing inequalities; education and employment; and European “convergence” and integration.

The report surmises that there are a number of challenges ahead with respect to generic policy issues: common issues of policy implementation across different facets of education; the tensions between different policy agendas; the limits of contemporary policy discourses; and the gaps in knowledge.

Employment and unemployment

Author: Prof. Nick Adnett, Professor of Economics and Head of Research, Business School, Staffordshire University (United Kingdom)

The fragile evidence base underpinning policy analysis is among the key findings of the 29 projects reviewed for this report. As labour markets become more flexible and production more idiosyncratic, definitions, measurement, data collection and indicators need to adjust if policy is to be evidence-based. A second general finding is the diversity of labour market behaviour in Europe. Policies are required to be sensitive to this diversity and to avoid undue standardisation and over-reliance on prescriptive hard-law measures.

These policy reviews are available at
www.ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences

The priorities identified for future research include the following: developing indicators of the intensity of work in Europe and analysing its determinants; further analysis of the causes of the apparently weak productivity performance of the service industries in Europe that use information and communication technologies; and exploring the processes which have enabled certain sectors and organisations to increase their proportion of high-quality part-time workers.

Enlargement

Author: Prof. László Halpern, Deputy Director of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Hungary)

The 12 projects reviewed in this report cover quite a range of dimensions (related either directly or indirectly to enlargement): from macro- to firm-level analysis; from theoretical micro-level issues to networking on social protection; and from labour market to exchange rate. The review is arranged into four clusters: labour market, macroeconomic issues, catching up and restructuring, and democracy and institutions.

Among its conclusions, the report asserts that new Member States have to build knowledge on how to operate within the EU. They have to move into a mode of strategic management, prioritisation, and problem-solving. In addition, they have to adjust their administrative and institutional capacity to implement European law and learn how to operate within the new environment. Special attention also needs to be paid to building and supporting institutions of regional governance.

Family and welfare

Author: Prof. Linda Hantrais, University of Loughborough, Department of Politics, International Relations and European Studies (United Kingdom)

To illustrate linkages between policy and practice in family and welfare research, the review addresses the issues raised by socio-economic change, enlargement, and the EU's Charter of Fundamental Rights by examining three interrelated topics: family formation and structure; employment and family life; and caring for children and older people.

The many projects and networks involved revealed how difficult it is to isolate policy effects. Few countries systematically monitor the implementation of policy measures and take-up rates. More systematic comparative research into the policy process in different socio-economic and cultural settings would therefore help to determine whether policies that are deemed to have worked in one country, region or socio-economic group could be transferred to a different policy environment.

Gender equality

Author: Ms Juliet Webster, Work & Equality Research (United Kingdom)

'the review addresses the issues raised by socio-economic change, enlargement, and the EU's Charter of Fundamental Rights'

The review addresses the policy domain of gender and equal opportunities in relation to employment and labour market policies. The findings of six research projects fall into four clusters that mirror the concerns of policy makers: gender inequalities in labour market participation; labour market segregation and the nature of “women’s work”; flexible employment, family-friendly work and work-life balance; welfare and social exclusion; and the formulation and implementation of gender equality policies.

The research reviewed highlights several gaps in our understanding of labour market dynamics as they affect gender equality and policy formulation. The need for further research has been identified on specific topics, including a systematic evaluation of flexible work forms on gender equality, developing new understandings of “skill”, and social protection and social exclusion.

Governance

Author: Ms Monika Mokre, Director of the Institute for European Integration Research (Institut für Europäische Integrationsforschung), and Sonja Puntcher Riekmann, Vice-Rector and Professor at the University of Salzburg (Austria)

Governance is a term and process that cuts across a broad variety of policy fields and actors. As a descriptive

and normative term, the projects reviewed reflect both of these aspects from different angles in terms of substance, methods and viewpoints. The key angles that emerge include the following: the articulation of governance with the development of a European identity, and its relation to principles and practices of democracy; the specific structures and objectives of European governance; and the links between European and global levels.

The more new modes of governance differ from traditional forms of government, the higher the need for communication with citizens. The most urgent task proposed for European institutions is the need to clarify governance procedures and define the question of responsibility and accountability for their outcomes.



‘the articulation of governance with the development of a European identity, and its relation to principles and practices of democracy’

Innovation

Author: Prof. Lena J Tsipouri, Centre of Financial Studies, University of Athens (Greece)

The purpose of this report is to review the main findings of 23 research projects in order to identify policy issues related to choices/decisions and actions within firms, with important implications for growth and inter-firm cooperation.

These subjects are studied under the themes of industrial organisation, technological change, regional science, economics of institutional change, corporate finance and corporate governance. The related range of policies (and to which subsequent recommendations are made) fall under employment, financial markets, research, innovation and enterprise, as well as macroeconomic and regional development policies.

A theme that emerges frequently and cuts across analyses and policy recommendations is governance. Most projects suggest policy interventions for the EU rather than for the national or regional level. In those recommendations, the need to build effective bridges for policy coordination is a recurring theme, especially as regards bridges between research, innovation and enterprise policies, and macro-economic and technological policies.

Research, technology and innovation

Author: Dr Karl-Heinz Leitner & Dr Matthias Weber, Department of Technology Policy, ARC Systems Research (Austria)

In relation to innovation research, the 20 projects selected for this review reflect the current contribution to the field of insights from evolutionary economics, modern firm theories, institutional economics and the heuristics of innovation systems. Although the findings and perspectives from these projects are presented in a reflexive and discursive way, the translation of research insights into the practice of policy making is still fragmented and somewhat lagging. The report tries to fill this gap by identifying the policy-relevant lessons which emerge when considering and contrasting projects.

The topics addressed by the projects have been clustered into five thematic areas, which not only emerge as central across the projects reviewed, but are also crucial for addressing the main challenges Europe is facing at the moment: the impact of innovation; the changing nature of knowledge production; the importance of institutions; human capital, labour market and innovation; and the governance of research, technology and innovation policy.

Sustainable development

Author: Prof. Martin O'Connor, Professor of Economics, C3ED, Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines (France)

'the need to build effective bridges for policy coordination is a recurring theme, especially as regards bridges between research, innovation and enterprise policies'

Since its initial diffusion with the Brundtland Report (World Commission on Sustainable Development) 30 years ago, the practical and analytical issues related to sustainable development keep challenging policy makers, researchers, as well as business and civil society organisations. One way of summing up the sustainability challenge and the research work examined in this report is through the three Ws formula: sustainability of what, why, and for whom?

This policy review focuses on social, economic and governance aspects while acknowledging that sustainable development includes (and in fact has been

largely led by) environmental ones. The idea behind the review was to complement the research carried out in the Environment programme (on issues ranging from climate change and biodiversity) by focusing on the other pillars of sustainable development.

Quality of work

Author: Dr Heike Jacobsen, Social Research Centre Dortmund (Germany)

For some years now, demands for “better jobs” and for more “quality” in work have become prominent in European policy debates. Since 2003, (besides the issues of full employment and social cohesion), improving quality at work has been one of the three overarching objectives of the common guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States within the European Employment Strategy (EES).

In addition to conclusions for further research, the review summarises the results and policy implications of a selection of 25 projects and outlines their relevance to the European policy in this field. The projects’ findings are arranged into four major subjects with relevance to the political as well as to the scientific discussion: labour market flexibility; the organisation of work; learning, knowledge, and change competencies; and access to the labour market, equality and inclusion.



‘the idea behind the review was to complement the research carried out in the Environment programme by focusing on the other pillars of sustainable development’

Report by the Expert Group on the Humanities

The Expert Group on the Humanities (EGH) was created in February 2006 to ensure the maximum participation of humanities researchers in the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). In March 2007, the group delivered its final report, which identifies and highlights the contributions that the humanities can make to policy-oriented research.

The advent of FP7 marks the first time in the history of European research framework programmes in which an entire theme has been dedicated to the Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH). Theme 8 of the Cooperation specific programme explicitly addresses the SSH domain, designed to 'provide a new knowledge base for policies' in these and related fields.

The inclusion of SSH in FP7 directly addresses the revised Lisbon Agenda. The revision seeks to address Europe's current and future key challenges: growth, employment and competitiveness, social cohesion, sustainability, quality of life, and global interdependence.

A group of experts were brought together in order to help advise the Directorate-General for Research (DG RTD) on developing and integrating SSH into the FP7 work programme. The role of the EGH was to assess the extent of EU collaborative and comparative research. Based on this, framework programme instruments could be adapted to disciplines and fields within the humanities.

The group also assessed how some key concepts of EU collaborative and comparative research could be better understood and fully integrated into proposals by humanities researchers. The group could then advise DG RTD on the formulation of the FP7 work programme, particularly on the use of more humanities-friendly terminology.

In order to fully comprehend the approach underlying Theme 8, the EGH progressed in three stages. Stage one included the identification and description of concrete research topics under the theme. All members of the group were encouraged to consider research under Theme 8 from an "issue" perspective.

Stage two consisted of a methodical analysis of the web-based research agenda. This was to accomplish three major aims:

1. to establish the degree of relevance of individual topics to the humanities at three levels:
 - a. humanities appropriate (more than 80 % of a given project to be carried out by humanities researchers),
 - b. humanities friendly (topics of prime interest to researchers outside the humanities, but inviting a substantial contribution from humanities researchers),
 - c. topics of no direct interest to the humanities;
2. to rank the topics within the three categories established in order of relevance;

'a group of experts were brought together in order to help advise the Directorate-General for Research (DG RTD) on developing and integrating SSH into the FP7 work programme'

3. to subject the language used to a critical analysis and to suggest improvements.

The third and final stage was to complete a meticulous analysis of the first draft of the work programme. A comparison was made between the web-based research agenda and the first draft of the work programme. An assessment was made as to the extent to which its comments on the research agenda had been taken on board during the drafting of the work programme. The EGH also attempted to list which disciplines could contribute to selected topics rated “humanities-appropriate”.

Overall, the EGH group was encouraged by the progress made at mainstreaming SSH activity. The group concludes its report with a set of 13 recommendations for the future. These are:

1. further efforts should be made to make the descriptions of topics more humanities-friendly;
2. DG RTD should showcase successful applications submitted by humanities-led consortia to encourage greater participation;
3. DG RTD should make greater effort at dispelling the notion that FP research is not “scientific”;
4. Theme 8 should be implemented as a dynamic, developing process;
5. DG RTD should be updated of research proposals originating from the field of education to the extent that these are relevant to the Lisbon Agenda;

6. DG RTD should make more effort to arouse the interest of humanities researchers in other FP7 themes;
7. DG RTD should reconsider the funding levels for humanities research in order to attract high-calibre researchers to the programme;
8. consideration should be given to the creation of opportunities designed to train young researchers in collaborative, policy-oriented research in international contexts;
9. specific institutes should be created to encourage international, policy-oriented humanities research; these institutes should also run dedicated third-cycle programmes;
10. dedicated, paid internships should be created in the European institutions, thereby raising awareness among young humanities researchers;
11. DG RTD should convene a more permanent expert group for the humanities to accompany the further development of Theme 8;
12. DG RTD should strengthen and coordinate its outreach activities;
13. DG RTD should see to it that humanities disciplines are represented on all the evaluation panels to be convened in connection with Theme 8.

The 11 members of the EGH

Prof. Wolfgang Mackiewicz (chair), Margaret Gowen (rapporteur), Prof. Christine Agriantoni, Dr Anna MT Bosman, Prof. Adriana Cavarero, Prof. Roman Horak, Prof. Gabor Klaniczay, Dr Yunas Samad, Prof. Liliana Tolchinsky, Prof. Guy van Orden, Dr habil. Alina Zvinkliene.

Corporate Social Responsibility

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a concept whereby companies take into consideration the interests of society by assuming responsibility for the impact of their activities on customers, employees, shareholders, communities and the environment. This goes beyond the statutory obligation to comply with legislation, with organisations voluntarily taking further steps to improve the quality of life for employees, the local community and society as a whole.

The following four projects have engaged with business leaders, business managers, academic institutions and policy makers in order to train individuals, integrate CSR into the decision-making process and effectively disseminate the findings. Researchers have consulted a broad spectrum of European businesses which have included the oil, banking, fish processing and automotive sectors. The size of businesses involved in these studies ranged from small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to large corporations.

Over the last three years, research workshops, conferences and seminars have been carried out throughout the European Union to facilitate these CSR projects. The work of the projects includes improving the synergy between European research institutions, evaluating and explaining the impacts of CSR on sustainability, and improving the understanding between companies and stakeholders. The different approaches taken by researchers and the resulting recommendations have been highlighted.

Project acronym: CSR Platform Project
Project title: European Platform for Excellence in Corporate Social Responsibility
Coordinator: European Academy for Business in Society (Belgium)
Funded under: FP6–Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-Based Society
EU funding: EUR 749 500
Website: www.eabis.org/csrplatform

European researchers have explored the role of business in society for many years and a large body of research regarding CSR has been generated across different disciplines. However, the European research agenda on CSR remains fragmented and the knowledge generated is not always effectively communicated to those who need it. The CSR Platform Project addresses this problem and is led by EABIS (the European Academy of Business in Society) in collaboration with 12 academic partner institutions.

This unique project enables academic institutions, business, policy makers and civil society actors with an interest in the subject to come together and discuss

'enables academic institutions, business, policy makers and civil society actors with an interest in the subject to come together and discuss alignment and integration of research on CSR'

alignment and integration of research on CSR. It helps identify the best way to disseminate research findings so that they are used effectively.

A series of research workshops, multi-stakeholder meetings and colloquiums were carried out across Europe over a period of three years. Between 20 and 21 September 2007, Barcelona hosted the 6th Annual Colloquium of EABIS, which also served as the final conference of the CSR Platform Project. Entitled “The Emerging Global Governance Paradigm: The Role of Business and Its Implications for Companies, Stakeholders and Society”, conference participants included over 200 high-level academics, managers of multinational companies, major stakeholders and Commission staff from various directorates.



The knowledge and insights generated will remain accessible beyond the initial project period and serve as a global reference point through a Web portal and a knowledge centre. In this way, the CSR Platform Project will facilitate and strengthen European research collaboration and the dissemination of knowledge on CSR.

Project acronym: ESTER

Project title: Social Regulation of European Transnational Companies

Coordinator: Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (France)

Funded under: FP6–Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-Based Society

EU funding: EUR 800 000

Website: <http://ester.u-bordeaux4.fr/siteanglais/accueil.htm>

The ESTER project examined the social practices of European firms within the context of economic globalisation, exploring the relationship between social responsibility, international trade, and the rights of people at work. The sociological and legal analyses, as well as the principle economic observations focused solely on the social dimension of CSR, while the contextual analysis of websites included both the environmental and social dimensions. The project had four objectives:

- provide a status report on the situation in Germany, Italy, Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and France;
- classify data collected inside and outside the companies with a view to establishing a multidisciplinary, comparative typology;
- give a legal, sociological, and economic evaluation of the regulation of corporate social practices, with a view to proposing a regulatory instrument;

Corporate Social Responsibility

- model these practices on the basis of social and economic indicators. In doing so, it will be determined whether or not there is a European model of external social responsibility, and demonstrated that compliance with fundamental rights by European companies (operating outside the Community) is not detrimental to their competitiveness and may be a source of sustainable development.

The May 2007 report presents a summary of the results obtained by each discipline and examines the hypothesis of a “codification of ethics”. The latter represents the last stage in the research and consists of a forward-looking, multidisciplinary analysis of a possible legal regulation of CSR.

Project acronym: RARE

Project title: Rhetoric and Realities: Analysing Corporate Social Responsibility in Europe Metropolitan Regions within the Enlarged Union

Coordinator: Öko Institut (Germany)

Funded under: FP6–Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-Based Society

EU funding: EUR 839 987

Website: www.rare-eu.net

The RARE project studied whether CSR impacts contribute to the achievement of sustainability goals set by the European Union. These impacts were assessed in four different areas: mitigation of climate change and chemical risk; resource management in marine fisheries; promoting gender equality; and countering bribery.

The research team adopted the perspective of public policy to determine how the private sector can contribute to achieving politically set goals on sustainable development. Data was collected by means of a survey from 49 respondents in the oil, banking, and fish processing sectors plus SMEs in the automotive supply chain. Case studies were also undertaken, including company and stakeholder interviews for 10 (non-SME) companies. A second study examined the effects of EU accession on corporate responsibility (and vice versa) in Hungary. Key achievements include:

- increased knowledge on the impacts of CSR in Europe, especially regarding structural differences in CSR performance according to company size, sector, and issue area;
- increased knowledge concerning the efficacy of CSR and the role it could play in achieving public policy goals;
- policy recommendations for companies, national governments and the EU.



*‘policy recommendations for companies,
national governments and the EU’*

The conference Rhetoric and Realities – Corporate Social Responsibility in Europe took place on 27 June 2007, attended by over 100 policy makers, academics and representatives from the business sector and civil society. The project's main findings will be published in a book in 2008 by Edward Elgar publishers.

Project acronym: RESPONSE

Project title: Understanding and Responding to Societal Demands on Corporate Responsibility

Coordinator: INSEAD (France)

Funded under: FP6–Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-Based Society

EU funding: EUR 1 099 200

Website: www.insead.edu/ibis/response_project/index.htm

The RESPONSE project aimed to improve knowledge and understanding between companies and their stakeholders with regard to what CSR means to them. The study assessed the perception of an organisation's social performance by identifying internal and external factors.

The project also studied CSR at the level of the individual manager and assessed the effectiveness of various training techniques in developing social awareness. Understanding the wider social implications of one's decisions and actions is crucial to an organisation's capacity to respond to the "cognitive gaps" that separate

them from their stakeholders and from society at large. The final conference, Understanding Corporate Responsibility — Results and Insights from the RESPONSE project, took place on 12 October 2007 and involved business leaders, stakeholder representatives, management-development professionals and policy makers.

The project's most important recommendations include:

- corporate executives and CSR managers should redress the balance between external engagement and internal change initiatives in favour of the latter;
- management-education institutions should develop managerial skills related to the impact of decisions and actions on the social context in which companies operate;
- future academic research is required to increase the understanding of the role cognition plays in CSR, and to further integrate the CSR principles in management;
- policy makers should encourage uptake in business by focusing on the internal changes required to integrate CSR into the decision-making processes.



'to improve knowledge and understanding between companies and their stakeholders with regard to what CSR means to them'

Introduced in 2004, the SSH newsletter has become a key channel of communication for EU research in socio-economic sciences and humanities, providing an access point between relevant Commission services, the research community and other stakeholders. The quarterly newsletters are published on the Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH) website at www.ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences, a user-friendly portal that will officially be launched early in 2008.

Combined, the communication tools act as a major source of SSH information, providing project updates, event listings, sector highlights, book reviews, and even interviews with experts in the area of socio-economic sciences and humanities. These three interviews were published in editions of the 2007 newsletter.

Interview with José Manuel Barroso for the Wider Europe — Deeper Integration? project

European Commission President José Manuel Barroso was asked to reflect on five academic papers in an interview with John Peterson, professor of European politics at the University of Glasgow, and member of the Constructing Europe Network. The papers were selected in an open poll of EU-focused academics, who were asked to nominate the most influential works published in the last 10 years. The exchange (excerpt below) represents an initiative of the SSH-funded Network of Excellence, Wider Europe — Deeper Integration?

If you think about the issues on which these pieces focus — Europe as a global actor, the relationship between the Member States and the institutions, ‘the unraveling of the state’, and so on — are these the most vital issues of European integration in practice?

The issue raised by [Fritz] Scharpf — the question about asymmetry between economic and social Europe — it is a political problem which has confronted me almost every day here. And a lot of my own political communication is [intended] to explain exactly this asymmetry. I had to explain by saying, ‘Look, we in the Union, we do not have the social instruments that you have in the Members States. It is not feasible to have a social Europe at the same level that we have an internal market in Europe.’ So, no one is seriously proposing to have national health systems or national education systems or social security systems at the European level. But what can we do at the European level to show that we are also committed to social principles and solidarity? There are things we can do — for example, we have proposed the European Globalisation Fund, and that was subsequently adapted.

Could you imagine a day when we might have common European minimum standards for social assistance and minimum wages (defined relative to each country’s GDP or average wage level)?

It depends on the decisions of the Member States.

‘we are now 27 countries, almost 500 million people, the most important trade bloc in the world, the most important donor of foreign aid’



We certainly would not object ... we are pushing the Member States to reflect on whether we can do more and come up with new ideas for reform of their social systems. Some kind of benchmarks have been established. But, to answer very candidly your question, I don't think in the foreseeable future we will have this kind of hard legislation — if I may use that word — or regulation from Brussels.

Hedley Bull's conclusion in 1982 was 'Europe is not an actor in international affairs, and does not seem likely to become one.' In Zbigniew Brzezinski's new book, he claims that 'today's Europe [is] more extensive in scope yet more distant from America while still impotent globally.' Writing 25 years apart, are they both wrong?

[The] European powers count more now because we are now a much bigger player — we are now 27 countries, almost 500 million people, the most important trade bloc in the world, the most important donor of foreign aid — all of these things count And if you look at the global issues, those discussed in the United Nations — such as climate change, environmental protection, human rights, demography — the positions of the European are setting a trend more or less in the direction of an operational compromise ... We don't

have the levels of competitiveness of some areas of the American economy, but we have mechanisms of social inclusion that we don't want to give up and are not ready to give up because we believe we can reform them and, in fact, we are pushing for their reform. And we certainly have higher social and environmental standards than the rest of the world. So my answer is: Europe today counts more. But it is true that we are not an integrated polity, and that means on some foreign or security issues we don't count as much as one might expect, looking at our demographic or economic power.

Do you think that central states in Europe are becoming weaker, or are they finding new and more creative ways to empower themselves through collective action?

I think that, maybe paradoxically, they are more important in some ways because they can act more globally through the EU... There was a famous quote, I think made by Paul-Henri Spaak, who once said that all states in Europe were small states but that some haven't noticed it! If you compare them with China or Russia or India or the US in terms of geographical size, or demographic or military power, all EU Member States are relatively small. So what is the new function of the European Union?...

The five papers (chosen Spring 2007)

- Liesbet Hooghe and Gary Marks, 'Unravelling the Central State, but How? Types of Multi-level Governance', *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 97, No 2 (May 2003), pp. 233-243.
- Ian Manners, 'Normative Power Europe: A Contradiction in Terms?', *Journal of Common Market Studies*, Vol. 40, No 2 (June 2002), pp. 235-258.
- Andrew Moravcsik, 'Theorizing European Integration', in Andrew Moravcsik, *The Choice for Europe: Social Purpose and State Power from Messina to Maastricht*, Ithaca, Cornell University Press, 1998 [European edition: London, Routledge/UCL Press, 1998], pp. 18-85.
- Mark A Pollack, 'Delegation, Agency, and Agenda Setting in the European Community', *International Organization*, Vol. 51, No. 1 (Winter 1997), pp. 99-134. Publ. also in *European Integration online Papers (EIoP)*, Vol. 3, No 6 (1999).
- Fritz Scharpf, 'The European Social Model: Coping with the Challenges of Diversity', *Journal of Common Market Studies*, Vol. 40, No 4 (November 2002), pp. 645-670. Publ. also in *MPIfG Working Paper*, No 02/8 (July 2002).

Europe is the indispensable articulation between the national and the international. Even the biggest states — what chance do they have on, say, climate change in asking for the Americans or the Chinese to make tough decisions and change their policies? None at all... I think the Member States are not losing authority — if they act properly, they can in fact have their leverage and include very important national agendas in diplomatic terms as part of a wider European agenda.

Interview with Elise Féron for the Peace-Com project

The European Union was established as a means of avoiding the devastating conflict that plagued Europe in the first half of the 20th century. In over 50 years of existence, much has been accomplished in fostering increased integration and mutual understanding among Member States and their neighbours. Progress does not mean perfection, however, as several simmering disputes can still be found from the Basque region in the west to a UN-protected border in Cyprus.

The objective of the Peace-Com (Peace Processes in Community Conflicts: from Understanding the Roots of Conflicts to Conflict Resolution) project was to gain insight into the nuanced intricacies of conflict, both armed and peaceful. The project has subsequently developed an innovative conceptual tool to establish whether a conflict is escalating or de-escalating, aimed at giving Europeans the means to resolve conflict and avoid it in the future. Peace-Com hosted a final conference on 28 September 2007 to discuss findings. Professor Elise Féron, coordinator of the project, commented on the results.

For this project, you focused on characterising conflict, that is whether a conflict is escalating or de-escalating, rather than identifying concrete causes of conflict. How novel of an approach is this?

Most existing early warning systems tend to be biased towards the description and explanation of levels of violence. For instance, many early warning systems include very detailed indicators about human rights violations, violence against women, children or specific social or

ethnic groups. While we think that we should not completely drop these kinds of indicators, as violence can be one feature of conflict, we suggest to complement them with a series of other indicators that assess the ability of a given society to deal with conflict, through courts or negotiation schemes, and to assess their increasing or decreasing efficiency and legitimacy across time.

You examined 12 case studies covering ongoing conflicts in Europe. Did any of the findings surprise you? Any clearly identifiable trends?

It is very difficult to identify any clear pattern, because these conflicts (from the Basque Country, Cyprus and North Ireland to Belgium and the role of minorities in Estonia or Slovenia) display highly diverging levels of violence (including endemic or occasional episodes, direct physical violence or harassment and tensions that do not translate into physical violence), and some follow escalating trends, while some others seem to be on the road to pacification. However, our research clearly shows the importance of some dimensions or “causes” for these conflicts, (namely cultural and linguistic differences, identity questions, territory, and socio-economic issues), and, perhaps more importantly, the fact that none of these dimensions seems enough in itself to explain either the emergence or the persistence of conflicts.

Indeed, in all cases covered by this project, several dimensions interact and have to be taken into account in order to understand what is really going on. In addition,

‘these conflicts display highly diverging levels of violence, and some follow escalating trends, while some others seem to be on the road to pacification’

what is clear is that these various dimensions have very different implications and meanings on the ground, both for the actors and in terms of conflict resolution. In other words, saying for instance that socio-economic issues are essential in a conflict can both point towards discriminating policies generating mistrust, and to socio-economic differentials accused by a favoured community of hampering its own development.

Studying the effect of Europeanisation on conflict was an important aspect of the project. Could you comment on any conclusions you've been able to draw vis-à-vis "EU-isation" and conflict in Europe?

It seems that the process of Europeanisation can above all have a positive impact on conflicts characterised primarily by the salience of socio-economic and geographic dimensions, especially socio-economic differentials (provided that it doesn't deepen them in the case of an existing border, if both sides are not at the same stage of integration vis-à-vis the Union), and territory. It can also impact positively on conflicts where it is mainly political issues that are at stake.

On the whole, however, one should be aware that there can be no uniform impact of Europeanisation on those conflicts, because these conflicts (as well as Europeanisation itself) are complex social constructs and processes.

What were your expectations going into the project in terms of how your findings might eventually be put into practice and how they would be received?

The objectives of the project were to devise and test a set of indicators in order to monitor not only the evolution of these conflicts, but also the effects of the measures taken at the European level, so as to resolve or appease these conflicts. The indicators that have now been set up have allowed for the establishment of an observatory for community conflicts in an enlarged Europe.

This observatory provides empirical data accessible both to researchers and to policy makers. Moreover, by systematically looking at the policy initiatives taken in these conflicts, the project has identified specific areas of intervention for the European Union, in particular where grassroots initiatives are lacking or insufficient. This should help policy makers devise policies and measures that complement existing ones in an efficient way.

Your project focused on European conflicts for obvious reasons. Any plans to apply your findings beyond Europe?

We are currently exploring two paths for application and adaptation beyond Europe. The first area in which we are currently interested is the Israel/Palestine conflict; the second geographical area in which we are interested is the Great Lakes Region in Africa. These areas were not examined within the project but we would like to explore whether our monitoring system and findings could be adapted to these non-European cases.



Interview with Ingmar von Homeyer for the EPIGOV project

Over the past years, the EU has increasingly supported projects researching ideas and technologies aimed at improving environmental problem areas in Europe and globally. In this context, EPIGOV (Environmental Policy Integration and Multi-level Governance) is a project which seeks to research the different modes of governance to support environmental policy integration at EU, national, regional, local and global (from 2008) levels. The project is coordinated by Dr Ingmar von Homeyer of Ecologic — Institute for International and European Environmental Policy. He was interviewed during EPIGOV's first conference (15-16 February 2007) in Brussels.

How would you describe EPIGOV's goals?

EPIGOV looks at which practices are used to support the integration of environmental concerns into sector policies at different levels ... We try to identify level-specific governance patterns, assess effectiveness, and eventually look at whether and how these governance patterns influence each other. For example, if there are synergies or conflicts.

What do you hope to take away from this conference? Have you received the participation you expected or hoped for? What has the conference's impact been on the project as a whole?

My impression was very positive and the conference surpassed my expectations. I think the conference presented and discussed many basic conceptual and

policy issues for EPIGOV, and therefore provides an excellent foundation for our next conference in Milan (this took place on 22 and 23 November 2007). The Milan conference will differ from the Brussels one. It seems unlikely that we will be able to attract the same level of interest in Environmental Policy Integration (EPI) and multilevel governance issues from stakeholders and policy makers in a city that is less international and is not a capital city. At our Brussels workshop, we had two presentations on mainstreaming in other policy areas: gender equality and development policy. This raised a lot of interest among participants and we will try to continue this comparative perspective in Milan.

What are EPIGOV's principal challenges?

The main challenges are institutional and ideational. People often see the value and necessity of EPI, but when they try to implement it, they run into all kinds of institutional and conceptual barriers. There are far fewer necessary conflicts between economic and environmental goals than many people think. Much depends on how you understand and organise the economy.

EPIGOV is funded under FP6, and will build upon previous research. In your view, what has been one of the most significant successes for environmental policy in recent years, and what was the critical factor leading to that success?

'there are far fewer necessary conflicts between economic and environmental goals than many people think'

Although there have been successes, really significant successes were quite rare in recent years. One of the most encouraging developments is that there seems to be a growing awareness of environmental issues in the US, especially regarding climate change. However, I am not sure if that can be interpreted as a success of environmental policy. In the EU, the adoption of the new chemicals legislation REACH [Regulation on Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals] was a success, despite the fact that the Commission's original proposals were watered down significantly.

Alternatively, in your opinion, what has been one of the greatest legislative failures in recent years?

There have been many failures. The failure of the voluntary agreement with the car industry to cut CO₂ emissions is quite remarkable. This was a legislative failure in the sense that no legislation was adopted which might have ensured

more progress towards agreed cuts in CO₂ emissions.

In which policy area would increased “green-mindedness” have the greatest impact: energy, agriculture or transport?

Transport, because of its increasing share of CO₂ emissions. Also it would have ripple effects in other sectors, and it would promote green-mindedness among the general public, among voters. Everybody is confronted with green or not-so-green transport choices on a daily basis.

EPIGOV investigates the different layers of government that come to bear on environmental policies. Is there one level that plays a dominant role, and if so, which sector of society currently exerts the greatest amount of pressure on it?

I do not think there is a generally dominant level, although if you look at specific environmental issues you



may sometimes be able to identify a dominant level. It is remarkable that in environmental policy, the national level is often only one among several levels of governance which all have important impacts on policy making.

Pressure to weaken environmental objectives can come from a number of sources, including economic sectors or sub-sectors, professional groups, and institutional interests. Ideological factors are very important, too. Again, much depends on the issue.

With overlapping layers of government, or the perception thereof, one of the biggest complaints registered is from people who say they are not allowed to participate. Your response?

Whether or not overlapping layers of governments improve or diminish opportunities for participation is an open question. Again, this depends on the policy area and other circumstances. In general, overlapping layers are more likely to have a negative impact on accountability than on participation.

In addition to projects under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), the Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities programme (SSH) under Directorate L manages more than 150 projects from the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) as well as several from the preceding Fifth Framework Programme (FP5). These projects cover a wide range of issues that are then used for policy purposes by other Directorates-General of the Commission as well as the European Parliament.

A representation of these projects is provided below which details the variety of topics the Directorate addresses and their relevance to the challenges affecting the European Union today. Twenty-seven projects have been selected covering the following six themes: work conditions and business, economics, governance and citizenship, society, conflict and security, and migration.

Work conditions and business

Project acronym: ACRE
Project title: Accommodating Creative Knowledge — Competitiveness of European Metropolitan Regions within the Enlarged Union
Coordinator: Amsterdam Institute for Metropolitan and International Development Studies (the Netherlands)
Funded under: FP6—Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-Based Society
EU funding: EUR 4.5m
Website: www2.fmg.uva.nl/acre

The ACRE project aims to research the conditions for creating or stimulating “creative knowledge regions” in the context of the extended European Union. It will compare the recent socio-economic development trends and strategies in 13 metropolitan regions across Europe in order to gain more insight into the extent to which creativity, innovation and knowledge are indeed the keys to successful long-term economic development.

European cities want to be competitive, and over recent years it has become increasingly evident that along with the traditional “hard” location factors (such as availability of capital or labour, infrastructure, and tax regimes), new “soft” location factors (mainly related to attracting the required talent pool) are being given increased attention. European cities recognise the key to success in developing creative and knowledge-based industries. But while the final destination is clear, the road towards that goal is still hazy.



‘to gain more insight into the extent to which creativity, innovation and knowledge are indeed the keys to successful long-term economic development’

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To achieve this goal, ACRE focuses on several dimensions that have been neglected or underestimated in research to date: the role of path dependency; the extent to which policies provide soft location factors; the differences and similarities between metropolitan regions in western, central and eastern Europe; and the role of transnational migration of a skilled labour force towards centres of creativity and knowledge.

Project acronym: CSR PLATFORM

Project title: European Platform for Excellence in CSR Research

Coordinator: European Academy of Business in Society (Belgium)

Funded under: FP6–Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-Based Society

EU funding: EUR 749 500

Website: www.eabis.org/csrplatform

CSR PLATFORM brought together a consortium of leading academic institutions and stakeholder groups in the field of corporate social responsibility (CSR) research to implement three strategic goals: to mobilise an international community of academics across disciplines, types of research and generations; to build an effective system that would disseminate knowledge from past, current, and future European CSR research initiatives and outcomes to benefit all stakeholders; and to foster and facilitate cooperation and collaboration between academia, the business community, policy makers and other key stakeholders through the creation of multi-stakeholder platforms and colloquia.

The European research agenda on CSR remains fragmented and diffuse; the knowledge and insights generated through research is not always effectively commu-

nicated and disseminated to those who need it. The CSR PLATFORM project addressed this problem by focusing on activities such as the Research Colloquiums, Young Research Professionals, the CSR Research Coordination Network, Multi-Stakeholder meetings, and the CSR Knowledge Centre/European Reference Portal on CSR.

The Research Colloquiums were central to the project and crucial as an agenda-setting event where stakeholders from across Europe were able to meet in order to take stock of achievements, to identify knowledge gaps, and to plan future research priorities. Likewise, the creation of a knowledge management system and web portal was central to building a foundation for a structured exchange of information on CSR research in Europe.

Project acronym: IKINET

Project title: International Knowledge and Innovation Networks for European Integration, Cohesion and Enlargement

Coordinator: University of Rome “Tor Vergata”, Department of Economics and Institutions (Italy)

Funded under: FP6–Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-Based Society

EU funding: EUR 799 997

Website: www.economia.uniroma2.it/dei/ikinet

IKINET focuses on the innovation and knowledge exchange within clusters and networks in technology sectors, such as the automobile and aerospace indus-

‘stakeholders from across Europe were able to meet in order to take stock of achievements, to identify knowledge gaps, and to plan future research priorities’

tries. As a factor leading to higher competitiveness and growth, it analyses the transfer of information, knowledge and competencies between firms within regional networks and clusters and at the international/inter-regional level.

Specifically, the project studies the obstacles that usually hinder the diffusion of “technology spillovers” outside a specific local economy, as well as the policies and “soft” infrastructures and institutions that can remove those obstacles.

Nowadays, it is widely accepted that knowledge and learning are at the core of competitiveness; innovation generates winners and losers at the same time, and depends on learning processes, knowledge creation and accumulation. Thus, learning has the potential to provide significant opportunities for growth as well as severe threats of exclusion and marginalisation, especially for the economically lagging regions in the EU and central and eastern European regions and countries.



‘the five-year project seeks to assess the effect of relevant institutions and educational policies on the participation of adults in, and their access to, lifelong learning’

The key policy questions raised by IKINET are:

- how innovation and learning processes can effectively contribute to economic development when they take place within clusters and supply-chain networks;
- how knowledge and innovation networks may extend from local clusters in the most developed regions to the lagging regions and new accession countries, with a view to maximising the full potential of Europe’s knowledge/learning capacity as a whole.

Project acronym: LLL 2010

Project title: Towards a Lifelong Learning Society in Europe: the Contribution of the Educational System

Coordinator: Institute for International and Social Studies, Tallinn University (Estonia)

Funded under: FP6–Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-Based Society

EU funding: EUR 3 199 901

Website: lll2010.tlu.ee

In March 2000, the European Council adopted the Lisbon Strategy, a comprehensive and coordinated policy aimed at making Europe the most dynamic and competitive knowledge-based economy by 2010. To achieve this ambitious goal, EU policy makers agreed to carry out a radical transformation of the European economy as well as a modernisation plan of Europe’s education and social welfare systems. Within this framework, a policy was developed, aimed at increasing the participation rate of adults in lifelong learning.

LLL 2010 aims to collect and analyse information on the patterns of lifelong learning (LLL) across Europe. More

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specifically, the five-year project seeks to assess the effect of relevant institutions and educational policies on the participation of adults in, and their access to, lifelong learning. The project focuses on questions such as: 'Are there differences in terms of lifelong learning between EU countries and, if so, do these depend on country-specific institutions?', and 'What are the barriers to lifelong learning and how can these be overcome?'.

Research will be carried out on three levels (macro-, meso- and micro-levels) in order to look at the interaction and relationship between macro-structural factors, national policies, institutional factors and adults as potential learners. In the first year, the project analysed and compared the national practices and policies on lifelong learning. In subsequent years, the project will conduct and analyse surveys on LLL practices and opinions among adult learners, adult education institutions and among SME managers and employees.

Project acronym: SPReW

Project title: Generational Approach to the Social Patterns of Relation to Work

Coordinator: Fondation Travail — Université, Work & Technology Research Centre (Belgium)

Funded under: FP6—Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-Based Society

EU funding: EUR 1 192 000

Website: www.ftu-namur.org/sprew

The objective of the SPReW project is to examine the factors that contribute either to solidarity or to tensions in intergenerational relations, in the specific areas of work and related fields. It aims to provide an improved and updated understanding of how diverse generations re-



late to work, and to analyse the policy challenges and implications of these changes.

The first deliverable of the project consisted of a state-of-the-art report that introduced current research on the issues. It included overviews of relevant literature carried out by each partner, and a cross-overview of their contributions. Each team noted the hypotheses, analyses and conclusions that were relevant to the key areas of the project, including the following: the relation of generations to diverse work components; the connection with lifestyles and family construction; the intergenerational dimensions; and the social cohesion perspective, including gender and ethnicity issues.

Additionally, each writer performed the following activities: indicated the convergences and divergences in the social context of different countries of the project;

'to examine the factors that contribute either to solidarity or to tensions in intergenerational relations'

investigated the continuity and changes in orientations towards work and in the intergenerational challenges it raises; and described how changes in families and lifestyles are strongly intertwined with changes in work.

Project acronym: WORKS

Project title: Work Organisation and Restructuring in the Knowledge Society

Coordinator: Higher Institute for Labour Studies, Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium)

Funded under: FP6–Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-Based Society

EU funding: EUR 3.8m

Website: www.worksproject.be

The main scope of the WORKS project is to investigate how employment, learning and labour practices adapt to change, and to what degree this occurs. It aims to improve our understanding of work changes within the context of a knowledge-based society, identify their driving forces, and obtain their implications for the use of knowledge and skills for flexibility and quality of life.

We are witnessing a historically unprecedented transformation of work. A number of large-scale changes have been monitored in the organisation of work: working time, working space, content of work and contractual relationships between workers and their employers. It is generally agreed that these changes are connected to globalisation and technological change. At an interna-

tional conference organised by the WORKS consortium, attendees deepened the theoretical discussion on the mechanisms by which these changes take place.

The four thematic areas of research identified for the WORKS project are as follows: changes in work organisations from the perspective of global restructuring of value chains; changes in the use of knowledge and skills and different ways of achieving flexibility; changes in the use of time and occupational identities and their implications for quality of life; and social dialogue and the regional institutional context.

Economics

Project acronym: COMETR

Project title: Competitiveness Effects of Environmental Tax Reforms

Coordinator: National Environmental Research Institute, University of Aarhus (Denmark)

Funded under: FP6–Scientific Support to Policies

EU funding: EUR 988 026

Website: www2.dmu.dk/cometr

The COMETR project provides new *ex post* evidence on the economic effects of environmental tax reforms (ETR) in six EU Member States. During the 1990s and early 2000s, these countries carried out tax reforms which involved shifting taxes away from labour and towards the energy and transport sectors. Such tax reforms are generally considered beneficial from both an environmental and economic perspective, but so far very little direct evidence exists on these effects.

‘to investigate how employment, learning and labour practices adapt to change’

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The results indicate that ETR had, in fact, improved the economic performance of all six countries, mainly due to the favourable revenue recycling effect, while at the same time reducing their GHG emissions. These results are very encouraging, and give important support to Commission efforts to promote the further use of market-based instruments in environmental policies.

The COMETR project has provided useful inputs for the Directorate-General for Taxation and Customs Union (DG TAXUD) work on several occasions. The first Brussels Tax Forum, a high-level conference on tax policy issues organised annually by DG TAXUD and the Cabinet Kovacs, was held in March 2007, just before the COMETR final workshop. Results from the project have also been used in the “Green Paper on market-based instruments for environment and policy purposes,” published jointly by DG TAXUD and DG Environment (DG ENV) in March 2007, and used in internal Commission work on the international competitiveness of energy-intensive industries in face of a unilateral carbon constraint (led jointly by DG Enterprise and Industry and DG ENV).

Project acronym: EU KLEMS

Project title: Productivity in the European Union: a Comparative Industry Approach

Coordinator: Faculty of Economics, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen (the Netherlands)

Funded under: FP6–Scientific Support to Policies

EU funding: EUR 4 994 680

Website: www.euklems.net

The EU KLEMS database, a major project achievement, includes detailed measures of economic growth, productivity, employment creation and capital formation at the industry level for European Union Member States, Ja-

pan and the United States from 1970 onwards. This work represents an important new tool both for academic research and policy makers on sources of economic performance and on policy evaluation. An example is the assessment of the goals concerning competitiveness and economic growth potential as established by the Lisbon agenda.

The fifteen organisations from across the EU involved in EU KLEMS include leading academic institutions and national economic policy research institutes. They are supported by (and interact heavily with) national statistical offices, Eurostat and other services of the European Commission, and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.



‘these results are very encouraging, and give important support to Commission efforts to promote the further use of market-based instruments in environmental policies’

The database facilitates the sustainable production of high-quality statistics using the methodologies of national accounts, growth accounting and input-output analysis. The input measures included various categories of capital (K), labour (L), energy (E), material (M) and service (S) inputs. It is expected to be used for analytical and policy-related purposes, in particular by studying the relationship between skill formation, technological progress and innovation, on the one hand, and productivity, on the other.

Project acronym: KEINS

Project title: Knowledge-Based Entrepreneurship: Innovation, Networks and Systems

Coordinator: Centre for Research on Innovation and Internationalisation, University of Luigi Bocconi (Italy)

Funded under: FP6–Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-Based Society

EU funding: EUR 1m

Website: www.cespri.unibocconi.it/folder.php?nascondi=1922&tbn=albero&id_folder=1913

KEINS aimed to examine the relevance and features of knowledge-based entrepreneurship (KBE) in Europe by looking at three types of KBE: start-up, corporate and academic. The project integrated different methodologies and approaches, ranging from appreciative and formal theorising to case studies and quantitative empiri-

cal work. It had five specific objectives:

- discuss and refine current concepts of KBE;
- explore the relationship between KBE and innovation;
- define the role of networks of alliances, information, finance and social ties;
- assess KBE in different sectoral and national systems of innovation;
- produce policy recommendations.

The project's main findings underline that the strategic role of entrepreneurship and innovation networks and systems (the complex webs of relationships among firms, universities and other organisations, and the role of institutions in generating and sharing knowledge relevant to innovation) has entered the core of the science and technology policy agenda. At the same time, the role of new technology-based firms in industry spin-offs, start-ups and rejuvenation, in labour mobility and knowledge communication as well as their positioning in innovation networks, has never before been more critical to understanding the solution of the “European paradox” and to meeting the Lisbon criteria.

The project's final conference was held on 4 and 5 June 2007. The debate focused on the issue of KBE and its capacity to enhance relevant innovations and highly successful new products and processes.



'the strategic role of entrepreneurship and innovation networks and systems has entered the core of the science and technology policy agenda'

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Project acronym: RICAFE2
Project title: Regional Comparative Advantage and Knowledge-Based Entrepreneurship
Coordinator: London School of Economics and Political Sciences (United Kingdom)
Funded under: FP6–Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-Based Society
EU funding: EUR 1 187 100
Website: www.lse.ac.uk/collections/RICAFE

RICAFE2 is a research project that seeks to address the questions of how the European models of societal, legal and economic institutions affect the patterns of regional economic growth. It also aims to examine how knowledge-based entrepreneurship (KBE) contributes to shifting patterns of regional comparative advantage and how it shapes policy options and priorities. Research will assess the links between societal, legal and economic mechanisms and KBE at the micro level, while studying the resulting regional dynamics and growth patterns at the macro level.

The project builds on the successful RICAFE project completed in April 2005. The original network has been expanded to include new European partners as well as research institutions from Serbia, India and Israel. The RICAFE2 strategy is based on understanding the success factors of KBE and their potential application in an EU environment. By conducting research using European datasets, the project has fine-tuned the understanding of the factors driving the success of KBE in Europe. Secondly, by inviting eminent researchers from the US to the RICAFE2 conferences, a larger scope of insights into the American experience has been acquired.

To enhance user participation and interaction, RICAFE2 has introduced an open forum on the project's results and ongoing research. This forum will serve as an important tool in receiving feedback from the wider community. To this effect, RICAFE2 invites members and others who are interested in contributing or initiating discussions related to the project's objectives, to do so by participating in the discussion forum.

Project acronym: TAXBEN
Project title: Tax/Benefit Policies and Growth Potential of the EU
Coordinator: The Centre for European Policy Studies (Belgium)
Funded under: FP6–Scientific Support to Policies
EU funding: EUR 935 244
Website: www.taxben.org

The TAXBEN project carried out in-depth economic analyses of tax/benefit policies on five broad themes: employment; corporate taxes under tax competition;



'to address the questions of how the European models of societal, legal and economic institutions affect the patterns of regional economic growth'

productivity growth and convergence; macro-economic policies under single monetary policy; and environment and climate change.

The TAXBEN team produced a total of 24 working papers and held 5 workshops on these research themes. The final conference (27 November 2006) was attended by Commissioner Kovacs, who commented that the new research-based knowledge produced by TAXBEN will contribute in a useful way to policy initiatives taken both at EU and national levels.

In conducting its work, TAXBEN developed and used a large variety of tools for economic analyses. These include small computable general equilibrium models covering only one country, large-scale multi-country models to analyse policy scenarios in the whole EU, and econometric estimations of the relationship between key economic target variables and fiscal policies.

An entirely new computable general equilibrium model was built within the project to investigate the impact of EU policies in the area of corporate taxation. The results obtained with this model have already been presented at economic conferences dealing with EU fiscal policies. It is expected that the model will be used further in ongoing work within DG for Taxation and Customs Union to analyse the impacts of various policy options related to the harmonisation and consolidation of the corporate income-tax base in the EU.

‘an entirely new computable general equilibrium model was built within the project to investigate the impact of EU policies in the area of corporate taxation’

Governance and citizenship

Project acronym: CINEFOGO

Project title: Civil Society and New Forms of Governance in Europe — the Making of European Citizenship

Coordinator: University of Roskilde (Denmark)

Funded under: FP6–Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-Based Society

EU funding: EUR 3.9m

Website: www.cinefogo.org

CINEFOGO has three aims: to promote citizens' involvement and social participation in policy making; to understand the impact of different forms of citizenship and civic participation; and to identify factors that help the co-existence of multiple identities. More than 35 institutions and 150 researchers in Europe are part of this Network of Excellence, the FP6 instrument for tackling the fragmentation of European research.

Three events (Vienna, 22-28 May 2006) were organised within the first six months of the project: the regular meeting of the Network Council, the Spread of Excellence working meeting, and the PhD network meeting on Civil Society and the Third Sector. A TRANSACT Training Workshop took place in Prague, 23-27 September 2007. These training workshops aim to raise the capacity of sharing, elaborating and spreading good practices, as well as determine how to strengthen an appropriate spread and use of CINEFOGO deliverables.

The TRANSACT principles are:

- transparency (making all research outcomes generally accessible);
- readability (making all research outcomes under-

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- standable and user-friendly);
- accountability (presenting all research outcomes adequately and accurately);
- networking (promoting horizontal exchange of information and skills);
- sharing (supporting dialogue, dissemination and exchange of best practices);
- autonomy (relying on autonomy, motivation and initiative of all involved actors);
- activation (attracting attention of indifferent but potentially engageable actors).

Project acronym: CONNEX

Project title: Connecting Excellence on European Governance

Coordinator: Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (Germany)

Funded under: FP6–Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-Based Society

EU funding: EUR 3.5m

Website: www.connex-network.org

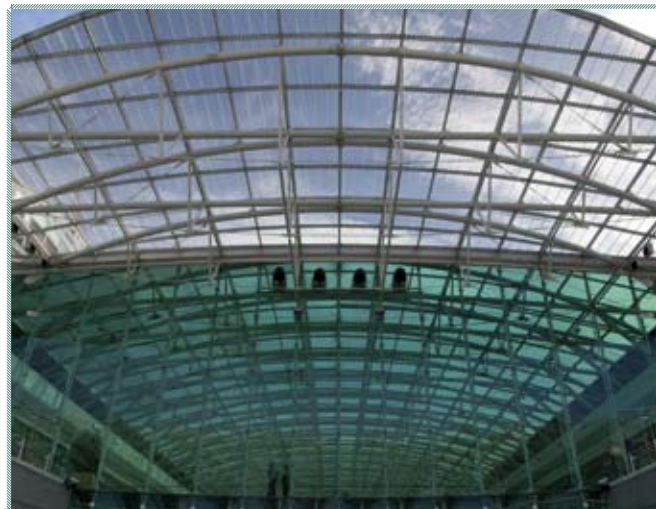
CONNEX seeks to integrate independent fundamental research and mobilise scholars from different disciplines to deepen the knowledge on European multi-level governance and to contribute to public debate on the future of European governance. CONNEX, closely linked to the Integrated Project NEWGOV (New Modes of Governance), involves 43 partner institutions from 23 European countries with more than 170 scholars.

In its effort to build a research community on European governance, CONNEX surveyed recent and ongoing governance research in Europe (the survey was conducted in 2005 and completed in early 2006). The GOVDATA database developed as a result of the survey, includes infor-

mation from all EU Member States as well as Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, Russia, Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania and FYROM.

The thematic areas of GOVDATA correspond to the thematic structure of CONNEX, and focus on the following dimensions of EU governance:

- institutional architecture of European multi-level governance;
- enhancement of democracy in European governance;
- civil society involvement in European multi-level governance;
- flexibility of European governance through new instruments.



'mobilise scholars from different disciplines to deepen the knowledge on European multi-level governance and to contribute to public debate'

GOVDATA is an efficient search tool that offers excellent performance for governance researchers. Comprehensive and user-friendly, the database produces exact results rapidly. CONNEX has also launched GOVLIT, a free online database of academic literature on European governance with bibliographic information on over 2 500 articles, books, reviews and other materials.

In addition to several meetings and workshops, three theme-based CONNEX conferences were held in 2007: The Multi-level Electoral System of the EU (19-22 March); Political Representation (25-26 May); Accountability (29-30 June); and Lessons Learned on Meaning and Practice of Accountability in the EU Multi-Level Context (11-12 October).



'a comparative study was conducted on 40 different environmental policies from 24 OECD countries over a period of 30 years'

Project acronym: ENVIPOLCON

Project title: Environmental Governance in Europe: the Impact of International Institutions and Trade on Policy Convergence

Coordinator: Department of Politics and Management, University of Konstanz (Germany)

Funded under: FP5–Improving the Human Research Potential and the Socio-economic Knowledge Base

EU funding: EUR 949 500

Website: www.uni-konstanz.de/FuF/Verwiss/knill/projekte/envipolcon/project-homepage.php

The dual purpose of the ENVIPOLCON project was to investigate the extent to which a convergence of environmental policies exists across countries, and examine the direction environmental protection is moving towards (if there is an environmental “race to the top” or a “race to the bottom”). A comparative study was conducted on 40 different environmental policies from 24 OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) countries over a period of 30 years (1970-2000).

An overall conclusion of the project was that environmental policies have generally grown more alike over time. At the same time, they have moved in an “upward” direction, thus becoming more strict. Hence, a “race to the bottom”, due to regulatory competition (a lowering of environmental standards by countries as a consequence of engaging in competitive markets, as often predicted in literature), does not appear to have taken place.

FP5/FP6 Project Results

According to ENVIPOLCON's main findings, there are three factors related to globalisation that are considered responsible for the observed convergence of environmental policies: international cooperation of countries and harmonisation of environmental law; transnational communication within international institutions; and regulatory competition in increasingly integrated markets.

Project acronym: EUROSPHERE

Project title: Diversity and the European Public Sphere: Towards a Citizens' Europe

Coordinator: International Migration and Ethnic Relations Research Unit, University of Bergen (Norway)

Funded under: FP6-Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-Based Society

EU funding: EUR 4 056 373

Website: www.eurosphere.uib.no

The main objective of the five-year EUROSPHERE project is to create a comprehensive base of information that could operate as a source of knowledge for policy making, and also serve as a vital knowledge-bank for civil society organisations and scientific communities involved in the articulation of a European public sphere. With a focus on the visions and strategies of central social and political actors in Europe, the main question that the project will answer is whether and how an inclusive European public sphere is possible.

To meet this objective, EUROSPHERE is examining the factors that weaken the fabric of European democracy, identifying ideas that are able to optimise citizens' involvement in the European democratic process, and assessing diversified strategies that could strengthen inclusive democratic institutions.

The research plan comprises data collection and analysis activities in 16 European countries, as well as the creation of the EUROSPHERE knowledge base. EUROSPHERE will organise four conferences, two European forums for European stakeholders' institutions, and four researcher training/PhD courses.

The project's first major event took place in February 2007. Participants had the opportunity to exchange views on how EUROSPHERE could develop new ways to analyse and understand the public sphere. They also explored how this ambitious project will deal with the expected conflicts and contestations linked with future attempts to articulate a European public sphere. Three more large-scale conferences have been planned (October 2009, August 2010 and October 2011), where the results of the project will be presented to stakeholders and the public.



'the project will answer whether and how an inclusive European public sphere is possible'

Project acronym: GARNET

Project title: Global Governance, Regionalisation and Regulation: the Role of the EU

Coordinator: Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation, University of Warwick (United Kingdom)

Funded under: FP6–Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-Based Society

EU funding: EUR 5.4m

Website: www.garnet-eu.org

Currently, the European Union is the most institutionalised regional policy community and complex system of governance beyond the territorial state. While research on regulation and multi-level governance has achieved an advanced level of sophistication, it is still largely fragmented, weakly coordinated, and often detached from wider questions of an extra-European nature.

There is a need, therefore, for analysts and practitioners undertaking European research on the theory and practice of global regulation across the economic and security domains, to come together in a coordinated and systemic process of dialogue. GARNET fills this gap.

The project focuses on two major issues: elements of the global regulatory framework, such as trade, finance and security, which structure the modern world system; and an analysis of Europe's role within that framework. More specifically, four themes guide GARNET's integrating activities:

'the transformation of governance in Europe (and beyond) by mapping, evaluating and analysing the emergence, execution, and evolution of what is referred to as New Modes of Governance'

- the theory and practice of regionalism and regionalisation;
- the identification of key elements in the regulatory framework of governance, especially how best to enhance collective action problem-solving at regional and global levels;
- policy issues in global governance, notably those concerned with overcoming problems in the governance of trade, finance, security, environment, technology, development, social production and gender inequality, and disease;
- the role of the EU in the advancement of research and policy in these themes.

GARNET holds an annual international conference intended to engage network members and scholars from outside the network on key GARNET research themes. The second conference took place between 17 and 19 September 2007 on the theme of "Pathways to Legitimacy? The Future of Global and Regional Governance".

Project acronym: NEWGOV

Project title: New Modes of Governance

Coordinator: Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute (Italy)

Funded under: FP6–Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-Based Society

EU funding: EUR 3 850 000

Website: www.eu-newgov.org

The aim of NEWGOV is to examine the transformation of governance in Europe (and beyond) by mapping, evaluating and analysing the emergence, execution, and evolution of what is referred to as New Modes of Governance (NMG). NMG represents the range of

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innovation and transformation that is occurring in the instruments, methods, modes and systems of governance in contemporary polities and economies, and especially within the European Union and its Member States.

The scientific objectives of NEWGOV are structured in four clusters, each of which contains a set of inter-linked projects: emergence, evolution and evaluation; delegation, hierarchy and accountability; effectiveness, capacity and legitimacy; and learning, experimental governance and reform.

The project is closely linked to the Network of Excellence, CONNEX (Connecting Excellence on European Governance). Six other projects have joined forces with NEWGOV and CONNEX to disseminate their research output more effectively. This joint project is named IConnectEU.

The third annual NEWGOV consortium conference took place on 31 May and 1 June 2007. In addition to parallel

meetings of the clusters and discussions on cross-cutting topics, keynote speeches were delivered on such topics as "How the Rule of Law Might Survive the European turn to Governance" and "Can the European Union be Legitimised by Governance?".

The second training course, jointly organised by NEWGOV and CONNEX, took place between 1 and 7 July 2007. The course focused on questions of research design and methods in social science, in particular theoretically guided empirical research. Furthermore, an international seminar was held on 26 October 2007 to reflect on the emergence, function and impact of new modes of governance in new and old Member States.

Project acronym: SUS.DIV

Project title: Sustainability Diversity

Coordinator: Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (Italy)

Funded under: FP6–Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-Based Society

EU funding: 5 142 000

Website: www.susdiv.org

SUS.DIV regards cultural diversity as a new form of capital, embodied in cultural assets both material (such as monuments) and immaterial (such as languages). Cultural diversity is accumulated through generations and provides services for economic growth and human welfare.



'to achieve sustainable development is thus to ensure that society transfers to future generations a quantity and quality of "diversity heritage" that does not compromise their ability to meet their own needs'

The environment mankind inherited and that it will transfer to future generations is a combination of nature and culture. To achieve sustainable development is thus to ensure that society transfers to future generations a quantity and quality of “diversity heritage” that does not compromise their ability to meet their own needs.

SUS.DIV’s primary objective is to integrate European research capabilities across disciplines and countries, in order to provide society and polity with the instruments and tools for managing cultural diversity as a key element of a strategy for sustainable development. The project has four overarching aims:

- to promote lasting cooperation and integration;
- to produce world-class research;
- to serve the wider European research, policy and business community, as well as the public at large;
- to increase the participation of women in research.

SUS.DIV’s third annual meeting was held on 20 and 21 September 2007. The focus was on the network’s



‘an academically driven social survey designed to chart and explain the interaction between Europe’s changing institutions and the attitudes, beliefs and behaviour patterns of its diverse populations’

progress towards achieving its scientific objectives, further developing the research outputs produced in the first year, and enhancing networking opportunities.

Society

Project acronym: ESS
Project title: European Social Survey
Coordinator: City University London (United Kingdom)
Funded under: FP6–Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-Based Society
EU funding: EUR 1 489 943 (ESS4) and EUR 1 444 799 (ESS3)
Website: www.europeansocialsurvey.org

ESS is an academically driven social survey designed to chart and explain the interaction between Europe’s changing institutions and the attitudes, beliefs and behaviour patterns of its diverse populations. Its aim is to provide reliable data on underlying value change within Europe. Furthermore, it is designed to provide a long-term account of the evolution of European societal trends and changes, and of how its changing political and economic institutions interact over time with the changing attitudes and values of its citizens.

The European Social Survey is a biennial multi-country survey covering over 30 nations. The first round took place in 2002-03, the second in 2004-05 and the third in 2006-07. It is based on a questionnaire, consisting of a “core” module, lasting about 30 minutes, and two “rotating modules” to be repeated at intervals, each devoted to a substantive topic or theme.

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ESS was awarded the 2005 Descartes Research Prize, where the following was specifically stated: 'Europe has, for the first time, an authoritative and accurate source of data about its changing social values, which in turn, informs academic and political debate and allows the EU to measure changes in values of its citizens.' The ESS has decided to direct the funds towards two major projects: a book on the issue of non-response and a framework for a context dataset.

Project acronym: G-FORS
Project title: Governance for Sustainability
Coordinator: City of Hannover, International Affairs (Germany)
Funded under: FP6–Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-Based Society
EU funding: EUR 1 489 267
Website: www.g-fors.eu

G-FORS has developed an innovative analytical model for the study of governance for sustainability, focusing on the synergy between new governance modes and different forms of knowledge. In order to meet this challenge, the project will analyse how different forms of knowledge may interact in the context of particular governance arrangements to produce “reflexive knowledge” and contribute to a more legitimate understanding of sustainability.

The project will empirically test this new model through case studies examining EU policies in the field of particulate matter, emission trading and environment planning, and their implementation at national and local level. These areas have been chosen because they involve different governance modes in a multilevel context that illustrate the positive interactions and potential tensions

between certain governance arrangements, different forms of knowledge and sustainable development.

G-FORS will identify indicators in order to appraise the effectiveness of current political, economic, administrative and organisational processes and institutional settings in developing economically, socially and environmentally sustainable policies. From the empirical research, the team will assess how the engagement of a range of actors in new multilevel governance arrangements can be activated to tackle any future threats of democratic deficit, and promote participation and sustainable development.

Project acronym: TRANSITIONS
Project title: Gender, Parenthood and the Changing European Workplace: Young Adults Negotiating the Work-Family Boundary
Coordinator: The Manchester Metropolitan University (United Kingdom)
Funded under: FP5–Improving Human Potential Programme and the Socio-Economic Knowledge Base
EU funding: EUR 1 190 000

In the present context of falling birth rates and an overall reduction of welfare in many European countries, there is an increasing need to know how parents make decisions and, more specifically, how they negotiate their family-work boundaries.

‘an innovative analytical model for the study of governance for sustainability, focusing on the synergy between new governance modes and different forms of knowledge’

The aim of the TRANSITIONS project was to understand how young European women and men (aged 18 to 30 years) deal with parenthood within the context of different national welfare regimes, as well as family and employer support.

The main findings of the study reveal that parents across Europe are facing growing demands both at home and the workplace. More explicitly, a young person's decision regarding parenthood is heavily influenced by macro social factors, such as ethnicity, socio-economic status, education, availability of house care as well as workplace practices and conditions.

TRANSITIONS also addressed a controversial topic in contemporary Europe, namely the relation between gender and parenthood. The research not only confirmed that, even in the most equalitarian countries, gender is still an important feature which shapes family-work

decisions, but also found that the workplace culture is still mostly gender-specific, with policies for combining work and family principally aimed at women. This has an effect on individual and household strategies for dealing with parenthood, and indicates why the transition to parenthood still remains a “tipping point” on the road towards gender equality.

Conflict and security

Project acronym: CHALLENGE

Project title: The Changing Landscape of European Liberty and Security
Coordinator: Centre for European Policy Studies (Belgium)

Funded under: FP6–Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-Based Society

EU funding: EUR 4 499 999

Website: www.libertysecurity.org

The CHALLENGE project aims to facilitate a more responsive and responsible assessment of the rules and practices of security and its implication for civil liberties, human rights and social cohesion in an enlarged Europe.

More specifically, the project focuses on the tensions created by claims that “security is the first freedom” and that a new “balance” has to be established to manage the global scale of contemporary dangers. It also assesses the justification of these policies on grounds of emergency, necessity and prevention in a transformed global environment, and the impact that they are having on civil liberties, human rights and social cohesion.



‘a young person’s decision regarding parenthood is heavily influenced by macro social factors, such as ethnicity, socio-economic status, education’

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In its 2007 interim report, the project released evidence that indicated that over the past six years there has been a consolidation of security measures, characterised by claims of efficiency and speed used to defeat demands for democratic and judicial oversight. This is accompanied by a fragmentation of liberty where individual and collective freedom have time and space limits.

The project also explores the five-year aftermath of 9/11 and its impact on liberal polities. It reveals that these liberal polities have often resorted to many illiberal practices which have been legitimised by sweeping claims about global dangers.

In 2007, the annual CHALLENGE conference was held between 4 and 6 July. In addition, the fourth CHALLENGE training school took place on 23 and 24 November 2007. The training school series brings together young researchers to broaden their knowledge on the issues at stake, along with key academics and policy makers.

Project acronym: CRIME AND CULTURE

Project title: Crime as a Cultural Problem. The Relevance of Perceptions of Corruption to Crime Prevention: a Comparative Cultural Study in the EU-Accession States, Bulgaria and Romania, the EU-Candidate States, Turkey and Croatia, and the EU-States, Germany, Greece and the United Kingdom

Coordinator: University of Konstanz (Germany)

Funded under: FP6-Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-Based Society

EU funding: EUR 1 094 700

Website: www.uni-konstanz.de/crimeandculture

Corruption is a universal problem. Within the EU, and especially with reference to the Europeanisation of south-eastern candidate countries, it is considered to be a severe threat which may lead to hindrance of European integration and enlargement procedures and, in an extreme situation, act as a menace to social order.

EU policy makers have already acknowledged the multifaceted problem of corruption and have put policies in place aimed at preventing this phenomenon. So far, these strategies have consisted of administrative, legislative and law enforcement measures based on a definition of prevention of corruption developed by political institutions. In other words, these policies rely on a "top-down" procedure.

CRIME AND CULTURE's main objective is to develop the means to optimise the prevention of corruption in Europe by adopting an original "bottom-up" approach to the problem. Based on the conviction that varying perceptions of corruption have significantly different influences on a country's awareness of the problem, the project aims at identifying the fit between institutionalised prevention policies and how these policies are perceived by a range of stakeholders, including the media.



'to develop the means to optimise the prevention of corruption in Europe by adopting an original "bottom-up" approach to the problem'

The project will ultimately produce data which will encourage a revision of the existing anti-corruption systems, enable the design of new prevention policies and, more generally, contribute to combating corruption in Europe.

Project acronym: JURISTRAS

Project title: The Strasbourg Court, Democracy and the Human Rights of Individuals and Communities: Patterns of Litigation, State Implementation and Domestic Reform

Coordinator: Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (Greece)

Funded under: FP6–Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-Based Society

EU funding: EUR 1 179 000

Website: www.eliamep.gr/eliamep/content/home/research/research_projects/juristras/en/

JURISTRAS studies the relationship between courts and politics, between judicial review of human rights at the supranational level and domestic politics and policies in Europe. Specifically, it comparatively explores processes of human rights litigation and state implementation of European Court of Human Rights judgements, as well as the effects of the latter in national legislative reform and policy making in a number of EU Member States and Associate Candidate States.

'aims at formulating policy recommendations concerning the rights of religious, ethnic and immigrant minorities, the combating of discrimination, and the protection of personal privacy'

The project examines domestic processes of implementation of Strasbourg Court judgements and their impact on the legal norms, institutional structures and policies of national states that are parties to the Convention. It focuses on the Court's growing jurisprudence pertaining to the civil rights of individuals and communities, and their participation in the public sphere in a democratic setting.

Such case law has primarily grown out of specific categories of cases brought to the European Court of Human Rights, in which individuals claim a violation of their right to privacy and family life, religious freedom and conscience, freedom of expression, assembly and association, and discriminatory treatment.

Overall, the large number of cases that still reach Strasbourg, in spite of the existence of domestic guarantees, raises issues considered problematic from a national perspective regarding democracy and human rights protection. JURISTRAS aims at formulating policy recommendations concerning the rights of religious, ethnic and immigrant minorities, the combating of discrimination, and the protection of personal privacy.

Project acronym: MICROCON

Project title: A Micro Level Analysis of Violent Conflict

Coordinator: Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex (United Kingdom)

Funded under: FP6–Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-Based Society

EU funding: EUR 4m

Website: www.microconflict.eu

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MICROCON aims to promote understanding of individual and group interactions leading to and resulting from violent mass conflicts. In doing so, the project can better assist conflict policy, and place individuals and groups at the centre of interventions.

Its innovative programme uses a micro-level, multidisciplinary approach to studying the conflict cycle. Currently, approximately one third of the world's population lives in conflict-affected low-income countries. The project coordinators posit that at a fundamental level, conflict originates from people's behaviour and how they interact with society and their environment (from its "micro" foundations). However, most conflict research and policy focuses on macro perspectives which MICROCON seeks to redress.

Twenty-eight different research projects have been organised and are underway in over 40 countries. These individual projects cover eight main themes:

- group formation, identities and mobilisation;
- contemporary conflicts and ethnic-religious tensions;

- gender aspects of violent conflicts;
- migration, displacement and refugees;
- risk, security and coping mechanisms;
- poverty, inequality and social exclusion;
- violent conflict and health outcomes;
- governance and institutions.

The MICROCON consortium came together for the first time at a kick-off workshop on 28 and 29 March 2007. The main purpose of the workshop was to discuss the conceptual framework, research methods, data collection, research ethics and the gender action plan.

Migration

Project acronym: FEMAGE

Project title: Needs for Female Immigrants and their Integration in Ageing Societies

Coordinator: Federal Institute for Population Research (Germany)

Funded under: FP6–Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-Based Society

EU funding: EUR 973 887

Website: www.bib-demographie.de/femage

FEMAGE addresses the challenges of Europe's demographic future and social cohesion. Its main objective is to provide a knowledge base for relevant



'the project coordinators posit that at a fundamental level, conflict originates from people's behaviour and how they interact with society and their environment'

policy building at national and European levels by monitoring, tracking and elaborating the viewpoints of native and immigrant women, as well as the perceptions of key policy stakeholders. More specifically, this innovative research focuses on the need for effective social integration, and the emancipation of female immigrants in European societies. It aims to identify gaps in knowledge in the following areas:

- life-chances and expectations of immigrant women in eight Member States;
- integration requirements for female immigrants already present in the host country, taking into account their current needs but also the fact that immigrants themselves age and need care and social security at a high age;
- long-term demand for immigrants and the impact on the host society in view of the experiences and expectations of national populations and expected socio-demographic developments.



'this innovative research focuses on the need for effective social integration, and the emancipation of female immigrants in European societies'

Results from the project (including findings from interviews with some 21 000 native citizens from 8 European countries) were presented at the European Parliament on 17 October 2007. According to the published report, integration needs to be a two-way process because populations are poorly informed about the real magnitude of the presence of foreigners and their potential for contribution to the host country.

FEMAGE shows that migration histories and integration processes differ for women and men, and general policy support in the host countries needs to be complemented by gender-friendly measures. Furthermore, the fact that most women want to stay in the host country, puts the issue of ageing of women immigrants at the top of the social policy agenda.

Project acronym: POLITIS

Project title: Building Europe with New Citizens? An Inquiry into the Civic Participation of Naturalised Citizens and Foreign Residents in 25 Countries

Coordinator: Interdisciplinary Centre for Education and Communication in Migration processes (Interdisziplinäres Zentrum für Bildung und Kommunikation in Migrationsprozessen, Universität Oldenburg) (Germany)

Funded under: FP6-Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-Based Society

EU funding: EUR 850 380

Website: www.uni-oldenburg.de/politis-europe

Populations of immigrants are growing and changing in Europe. The POLITIS project explored the potential

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of immigrants in the development of a civically active European society, starting with the perceptions foreign students have of Europe, and focusing on the sustained social and political activities of immigrants.

The project was divided into 3 parts: a comparative literature review on migration and immigrant civic participation in 25 Member States; a comparative analysis of foreign students' perceptions of Europe, exploring the potential of their ideas with the help of essays and focus group discussions; and a comparative analysis of 176 qualitative interviews with civic activists of immigrant origin in the EU, to identify favourable and unfavourable biographical and national conditions for active participation.

The project brought together significant resources from 25 countries, including a network of 35 experts, more than 70 international student partners (who participated in 2 European summer schools), a group of students involved in the registration and analysis of these perceptions, and more than 176 immigrants who participated in interviews. In particular, the project demonstrated the positive contribution by civically, highly active (and usually highly educated) immigrants to their host country societies.

The experts were involved in the production of Country Reports on Immigrant Civic Participation for all 25 EU Member States. These reports present information on national migration, integration policy, and civic participation. For the first time ever, they offer a systematic information source for 25 Member States on these issues.



'these reports present information on national migration, integration policy, and civic participation. For the first time ever, they offer a systematic information source for 25 Member States'

Science in Society 65

FP6 Project Funding Summary

With a budget of EUR 88 million, the Science and Society (S&S) programme funded a total of 134 projects during the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6). This selection was based on a number of proposals received from 20 Calls for Proposals covering research activities in the areas highlighted below.

1. Bringing research closer to society:

- a. Governance and scientific advice,
- b. Science shops: research for local civil society;

2. Responsible research and application of science and technology:

- a. Research into ethics,
- b. Deepening the understanding of ethical problems,
- c. Risk, governance and ethics,
- d. Uncertainty, risk and implementing the precautionary principle;

3. Stepping up the science/society dialogue and women in science:

- a. Promoting science and scientific culture, young people, science education and careers, science communication,
- b. René Descartes Prizes,
- c. Women and science,
- d. European Platform of Women Scientists.



A publication and CD-ROM detailing the synopses of projects funded under the FP6 SIS programme are available. Copies of this publication and others prefaced in this section are available from the SIS portal at www.ec.europa.eu/research/science-society

During the implementation of the first Science and Society (S&S) programme of the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6), the Directorate implemented an internal evaluation in order to gather useful lessons on the programme's future development and direction. The two following reports provide a summary of the evaluation's findings and recommendations.

Mid-Term Assessment of Science and Society Activities 2002–2006

The main goal of this report was to evaluate whether the activities within the S&S programme were meeting the stated goals and objectives. This was achieved by reviewing several representative actions across the themes of the programme, and analysing the potential impact of existing results on both European policies and on related activities supported by the European Commission and its Member States. This was a challenging task, as part of the report's brief was to assess the S&S programme as an innovation in the framework programme. Moreover, the evaluation exercise is a "mid-term" assessment which means that the majority of the actions supported in FP6 have not yet reached their full term and the results are not yet fully formulated.

In the initial stages, a panel of five experts reviewed and assessed a set of selected S&S activities for the five thematic areas of the programme (science education, scientific advice and governance, ethics, women and science, and science communication), and evaluated their

potential impact on future policy development. The next stage consisted of a second panel of six experts which formed the impact assessment panel. They integrated the review reports of the first level with findings from other evaluations.

Based on this work, the report puts forward the strengths and weaknesses of the programme, a number of policy recommendations for future activities, as well as further policy development in this area.

Overall, the report considers that the activities of the programme are in line with the main objectives, as defined by the action plan and all that the activities have contributed to its implementation.

The main achievements include the establishment of a forum and a context at European level, for examining S&S issues in a manner that provides reflective activities on specific issues related to scientific and technological research. Projects which involved non-European partners have provided a valuable international dimension to the programme.

With regard to the weaknesses, it was discovered that the scope of several projects, and possibly of the work programme, was too narrowly defined. This led to the situation that very few, if any, of the projects were able to address "transversal" issues, such as ethics and governance, and gender issues in science education.

As a response, the report presents a number of recommendations including that the overall reach and perspective of the programme be broadened in two ways. Firstly, by correcting instances where the programme

'main achievements include the establishment of a forum and a context at European level for examining S&S issues in a manner that provides reflective activities'

focused its objectives or activities too narrowly, especially in the areas of science communication, and scientific advice and governance. Secondly, by introducing new topics which address the “transversal” issues and social science research activities that would strengthen the knowledge base that is deemed necessary for the actions.

Final Report of the Study on the Integration of Science and Society Issues in FP6 Thematic Research Priorities (Embedding Study)

The S&S action plan was initiated by the European Commission following discussions on the relationship between science, society and Europe’s citizens. For the four-year period (2002-2006), EUR 88 million was allocated to S&S activities. This report presents the findings of the study on the integration of S&S issues into FP6, and is a valuable resource for scientists, policy makers and the general public.

The report is divided into two main areas. The first part presents the conclusions of a number of studies addressing the integration of S&S issues in FP6 thematic priorities. Based on these findings, it also presents its recommendations for Science in Society (SIS) issues in FP7. This section is divided into five chapters, each one addressing the thematic areas of the programme: science education for young people; user and stakeholder dialogue; science communication with the public; women in scientific research; and gender in scientific research. The sixth chapter deals with socio-economic dimensions in scientific research, which was part of a separate programme on

Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge Based Society. The second part of the report presents the findings and conclusions of the embedding study itself, which focused on education, stakeholder dialogue and public outreach in FP6.

The report found that FP6 funded research projects, to a large extent, responded well to both formal and informal guidance on S&S issues which are given at programme level. The formal guidance includes the work programmes, guidance to proposers, evaluation criteria and procedures, and reporting requirements. Informal guidance covers the support given during project evaluation, negotiation and implementation.

Of all the S&S issues studied, perhaps the most disappointing area was in the actions intended to reach and educate young people, as this appeared to be the area least well addressed by FP6 projects. On the other hand, communication actions targeting stakeholders and the public were the most widely used.

In moving forward, three key recommendations were made for the successful integration of SIS issues into FP7: the creation of precise definitions of the various SIS issues; convincing arguments and demonstrations of the relevance of SIS issues to FP7 programmes and projects; and practical examples of how SIS issues can be addressed in the mainstream.



The Science in Society programme for the period 2007 to 2013 builds on the actions of the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) with greater coherence across its different elements and with the involvement of different actors. It also addresses new and emerging themes.

Both the 2007 and 2008 Science in Society work programmes are organised along three main action lines described by the specific programme (together with a fourth action line that contains strategic and horizontal actions):

1. “a more dynamic governance of the science and society relationship”;
2. “strengthening potential, broadening horizons” with respect to issues of gender and science education;
3. “science and society communicate” to promote effective communication that enables the public to engage with science and vice versa.

The content of the work programmes has been based on input received from the following groups: the Science in Society Advisory Group, the Programme Committee of this theme, the European Research Advisory Board, SINAPSE (Scientific information and expertise for policy support in Europe), expert groups and other stakeholder consultations. The findings and recommendations from the FP6 Science and Society Mid-term Assessment Report were also considered.

A more dynamic governance of the science and society relationship

Topics under this action line included the following:

- transnational exchange of experience between research integrity structures;
- activity focusing on the scientific publishing system as regards research excellence and sharing of knowledge;



‘to promote effective communication that enables the public to engage with science and vice versa’

- support for the transnational networking of advisory structures and the further development of SINAPSE;
- support as regards capacity-building on ethics in developing countries and emerging economies;
- research on ethics and new and emerging fields of science and technology;
- definition of better framework conditions for more efficient university research.

Furthermore, it supports exchanges between and co-operation of local actors on scientific culture, action on university-based research, and the development of a data-collection network on research-active universities. The cross-thematic activities focus on nanoscience, governance in the production of health and medical knowledge, and the ethical aspects of security technologies.

Strengthening potential, broadening horizons

Focus topics for this action line include the following:

- gender management in research organisations;
- research on the influence of the perception of science on study choices;
- analysis of gender and leadership in medicine;
- an expert group to take stock of 10 years of activities on women in science.

Topics also call for work on young people and science, including identifying trends in scientific studies, and actions to support innovative methods in science education (inquiry-based teaching methods). The latter represents a continuation of work produced in the report of the group chaired by Michel Rocard, "Science Education Now: a Renewed Pedagogy for the Future of Europe".

Science and society communicate

Focus topics for this action line include the following:

- training actions to bridge the gap between the media and the scientific community;
- activity to encourage cooperation and networking between organisers of science events;
- science promotion by audiovisual means, including co-productions and the circulation of science programmes, as well as by promoting transnational research and science communication by means of popular prizes.

Strategic activities under the fourth action line include coordination of the activities of the National Contact Points (NCPs) for Science in Society, a project to Monitor Activities on Science in Society (MASIS), a European Platform for Science in Society Initiatives and research on the social impact of research.

'identifying trends in scientific studies, and actions to support innovative methods in science education'

FP7 Funding Results for 2007

Twenty-eight projects were selected in 2007 for the Science in Society (SIS) programme under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). Combined, these projects represent a funding total of EUR 21 million. The projects signify an injection of research into governance, strengthening the participation of young people in science, and facilitating a better communication exchange in the science and society relationship.

Capacity building for CSOs

Activities supported the aim to foster dialogue and exchanges between researchers and civil society organisations (CSOs). In one project, six European research centres and seven CSOs will test recent ecological economics tools and indicators in the regions where the participating CSOs are located.

Civil society to support sustainable development

A funded project will address civil society participation in the EU Sustainable Development Strategy. CSOs will assist in identifying research needs and developing processes on sustainable consumption and production in the areas of food, housing and mobility (areas responsible for 70 % of environmental damage in the EU).

Mapping out scientific and technical controversies

Top-level scholars from the area of science, technology and society will cooperate in a common project to create a platform in which to gather and organise information on controversial scientific subjects.

Debating on ethics and governance

A pan-European project on ethics and governance of personal detection technologies and biometrics will aim to create the ideal environment for structured discourse to stimulate progress.

Addressing gender issues in scientific professions

A project will compare various strategies implemented in Europe and in third countries for promoting the presence of women in decision-making bodies relating to scientific research public institutions.

Encouraging careers in science and technology

Another project will gather, exchange, develop and disseminate good practices in inquiry-based science teaching (IBST). The overall aim is to stimulate a more engaging and interesting teaching method.

Art and science

A travelling exhibition on a centennial sailing boat has been supported. The exhibition will showcase the work of Swedish and Turkish artists and scientists, in which art is used to explain scientific issues. The boat will visit 10 EU cities in 2008 and 2009.

'the exhibition will showcase the work of Swedish and Turkish artists and scientists, in which art is used to explain scientific issues'

FP7 Funding Results for 2007

Promoting scientific literacy

What are the social, cultural and philosophical foundations of science? Work on improving strategies for the development and implementation of domain-relevant materials into educational practice will be carried out by 10 partners from 8 countries.

Engaging the public

A funded project will cover the structure of science audiovisual programmes in Europe by classifying and analysing existing data available in Member States. The European Commission will ultimately be provided with an action plan to improve public engagement with science programmes.

Monitoring Research and Policy Activities of Science in Society (MASIS)

MASIS (Monitoring Research and Policy Activities of Science in Society) is a new action launched under the Science in Society (SIS) structure of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). It aims to increase the visibility of SIS activities and strengthen their impact in European policy and society. To achieve these ends, the action will map the SIS policy and research landscape and monitor its developments at national and European levels.

The change from Science and Society (S&S) in FP6 to Science in Society (SIS) in FP7 signified a paradigm shift. To reflect this, the reference framework consists of an inclusive perspective on research in its wider societal and policy context. MASIS is a strategic activity that aspires to achieve these new aims by stimulating the harmonious integration of scientific and technological endeavors and associated research policies in European society, with a view to building a democratic knowledge-based society.

To achieve this, MASIS will prepare a system to map the landscape of SIS policy and research activities and monitor its development at national and European levels. This action will be carried out in conjunction with the Member States and the associated countries.

Three major deliverables are projected to be completed as part of the programme: a European report on main trends of SIS activities in Europe; a conference on SIS in Europe; and the MASIS online portal.

The European report will include a description of the different components of the SIS landscape. This will detail

important and emerging trends, priorities, strengths and weaknesses, the needs of the framework programme, and other EU policies in SIS developments. It will also include the structures of funding, performance and governance in EU Member States.

In addition to the European conference on SIS (scheduled for May 2010), the work of MASIS will be presented and debated in strategic round-tables and academic sessions. The online portal will be structured around the information gathered as part of the European report. This includes national reports, national research programmes, databases and analyses of trends from national, regional and European levels.

These actions will help achieve the programme's three core aims: to inform relevant policy makers and all other stakeholders; increase the visibility of such activities in different parts of the EU; and increase their impact in European policy and society.

MASIS activity will be overseen by an expert group represented by the SIS community. Members will advise on data collection and will also take editorial responsibility for the output of the programme. This expert group will be made up of 15 members, including one chairperson and one special rapporteur. Jointly, they will be responsible for the provision of a variety of views and approaches. Additional experts may be added to the group either to replace members who withdraw or to address new specific tasks.

'integration of scientific and technological endeavors and associated research policies in European society, with a view to building a democratic knowledge-based society'

Customarily used as a forum in which to discuss scientific results, there is now growing interest from civil society organisations (CSOs) and researchers to exchange views and work together from the onset of the research process.

The BSG-CSO scheme, introduced in 2007 for the duration of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), responds to this need by structuring partnerships between researchers and CSOs (defined as non-governmental, not-for-profit, not representing commercial interests and pursuing a common purpose for the public interest).

Specifically, the funding scheme:

- allows CSOs to find scientific responses to their needs;
- provides researchers with new inputs and perspectives for their activities;
- contributes to enriching public research agendas;
- broadens public access to scientific results.

BSG-CSO can be made available in specific Calls for Proposals. When CSOs require scientific knowledge in a field covered by one of these calls, they source appropriate research organisations to prepare a joint project. If the proposal is accepted, research organisations and CSOs then combine their knowledge to conduct the planned activities.

Provisions for the ownership and use of the research results are set out in a consortium agreement between the grant beneficiaries. In addition to research activities, training, debates and dissemination activities can be supported through the scheme.

As a general requirement under FP7, the participation of three independent legal entities established in three different Member States or associated countries is required. The maximum grant accommodated is specified in the work programmes. The maximum funding rates of eligible costs vary according to the type of activities: research and technological development (50 % or 75 % for non-profit public bodies, education establishments, non-profit research organisations and small and medium-sized enterprises); and management, training and dissemination (100 %).

As long as its availability is specified under each Call for Proposal, BSG-CSO can be used within the Cooperation and the Capacities programmes. In 2007, the funding scheme was used in the Environment and Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities themes.

'when CSOs require scientific knowledge in a field covered by one of these calls, they source appropriate research organisations to prepare a joint project'

In 2007, some key events took place within the Science in Society (SIS) programme in support of its aim to promote greater participation in and access to issues that position scientific research in society.

Brussels, 15-16 February 2007: the conference entitled “Scientific Publishing in the European Research Area — Access, Dissemination and Preservation in the Digital Age” brought together stakeholders concerned with access, dissemination and preservation issues in connection with scientific publication and data. The event provided a forum for funding bodies, publishers, researchers, and libraries to debate policy options for scientific publishing under FP7 and in the European Research Area. Key attendees: Commissioner for Science and Research Janez Potočnik and Commissioner for Information Society and Media Viviane Reding.

Brussels, 14-15 May 2007: international conference entitled “Ethics, Research & Globalisation — Europe and its Partners Building Capacity in Research Ethics”. The conference brought together stakeholders from developed countries, emerging economies and developing countries in an effort to identify policy options together, as well as to encourage the development of support actions under FP7 in the European Research Area and worldwide.

Lisbon, 16-19 September 2007: the first world conference on research integrity, entitled “Research Integrity and Fostering Responsible Research”, was jointly organised by the European Science Foundation and the Office for Research Integrity as part of the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Attendees: over 300 scientists, scientific managers and magazine editors from 52 countries.



Governance and Ethics

The year 2007 has been a significant one for the field of governance and ethics, with concrete steps put in place to advance work in the sector. All proposals submitted to the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) that explore ethical content are now submitted to ethical review before they can be funded. This guarantees that all FP7 projects respect commonly approved ethical standards in Europe.

Furthermore, innovative governance projects have been selected, putting into practice the principles developed during the Sixth Framework Programme (such as inclusive framing of issues and cooperative research processes) in the fields of nano-technology, energy and the environment, agriculture, agro-industry and fisheries. Finally, an assessment has been initiated aiming to reinforce research integrity and improve access to scientific information (including open access to peer-reviewed publications).

The two following projects represent some of the work currently underway in the field of governance and ethics.

Project acronym: CAPOIRA

Project title: Capacity-building for Patient Organisations to Participate in Research Activities

Coordinator: European Organisation for Rare Diseases (France)

Funded under: FP6–Science and Society

EU funding: EUR 154 581

Website: www.eurordis.org/article.php3?id_article=1223

CAPOIRA aims to address the needs of patient organisations in health research and to foster their participation in research activities. The project team has set two key deliverables:

- to develop a capacity-building module on the understanding of clinical trial protocols in three Member States (Italy, Denmark and Spain);
- to organise a European conference entitled “Gaining Access to Rare Diseases Research Resources” aimed at increasing the capacities of patient representatives to understand health research activities at EU level, and to act as catalysts for the development of research on their own disease.



‘to address the needs of patient organisations in health research and to foster their participation in research activities’

The training sessions on clinical trial protocols are based on an improved version of a module previously developed by EURORDIS (European Organisation for Rare Diseases) and INSERM (National Institute for Health and Medical Research). The module aims at familiarising patients and patient representatives with the vocabulary, concepts and key issues of evidence-based medicine and clinical research.

The underlying objective is to provide patients with the tools to build their own research agenda and start contributing concretely to research policy development in Europe. Overall, at least 250 patient representatives from across Europe will benefit from the national training sessions and the European conference (the latter took place on 4 and 5 May 2007).

Project acronym: ENHANCE

Project title: Enhancing Human Capacities: Ethics, Regulation and European Policy

Coordinator: Centre for Ethics in Medicine, University of Bristol (United Kingdom)

Funded under: FP6–Priority 4.3.2.3, Deepening Understanding in Ethical Issues

EU funding: EUR 570 000

Website: www.enhanceproject.org

Most emerging biotechnologies are being developed with the purpose of curing people of severe diseases. However, many of these new technologies also have the potential to be used beyond the frame of therapy, namely for

enhancement of human capacities in body and mind. If we are to prepare our society to cope with the enhancement perspective of the emerging biotechnologies, we must consider ethical and philosophical questions within the context of the current biotechnological development.

The ENHANCE project investigated the latest developments within research on biology, bio-gerontology and neuroscience in order to reach a deeper understanding of the ethical and philosophical consequences when moving from “therapy” perspective towards the one of “enhancement”. The project’s main objectives were to:

- document current and imminent scientific advances that may enhance human capacities in cognition, mood, physical performance (in sport) and ageing;
- evaluate these advances from a philosophical, ethical and social perspective;
- facilitate policy making to the emerging dual-use technologies;
- promote public understanding of dual-use technologies and the ethical debate.

The ethical research (the core of the project) was based on in-depth scientific understanding of the new technologies provided from experts within neuroscience, biology and bio-gerontology. To reach the objectives of the project, the research combined literature searches, workshops and conferences (the final conference took place on 27 September 2007).

‘we must consider ethical and philosophical questions within the context of the current biotechnological development’

Access to Scientific Information

In the digital age, access to scientific information refers both to access to as well as dissemination and preservation of scientific research results, particularly those resulting from the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) and other publicly-funded research programmes. Publishing an article of research data in “open access” mode means that it is available over the Internet at no monetary cost to the reader. The concept has emerged as a means to promote access to research results to the widest possible audience through journals and by self-archiving on so-called “institutional repositories”.

The European Commission is working together with all concerned stakeholders (such as researchers, universities, libraries, and publishers) to develop ways to improve access to research data and publications resulting from projects funded under FP7.

In February 2007, the Commission adopted a Communication on “Scientific information in the digital age: access, dissemination and preservation” (COM (2007) 56). This Communication provided an overview of the current state of play in Europe regarding access to scientific information (including data and peer-reviewed publications) and the preservation of research results. It laid down a series of future actions to be undertaken at Commission level in the following areas: developing rules for research funded under the framework programme, co-funding of e-infrastructure, contribution to the policy debate, and policy coordination.

This Communication was presented during a high level conference in Brussels entitled “Scientific Publishing in the European Research Area — Access, Dissemination and Preservation in the Digital Age” (15-16 February 2007). This conference, hosted by Commissioner for Science and Research Janez Potočnik and Commissioner for Information Society and Media Viviane Reding, brought together stakeholders to debate the issues surrounding scientific publishing.

The importance of the issue of access to scientific information was also reflected in the policy process surrounding the Green Paper on the Future of the European Research Area (ERA). Open access was identified as a key issue in the Green Paper’s “knowledge sharing” axis and was included in a questionnaire on the ERA submitted to a public consultation after the Green Paper was published in April 2007. An overwhelming majority of the online respondents (80 %) welcome the concept of open access to publicly-funded research results.

More recently, the issues associated with access to and dissemination and preservation of scientific information were addressed by Competitiveness Council Conclusions under the Portuguese Presidency on 22 and 23 November 2007. The issue of access to scientific information was identified as ‘crucial for the development of the European Research Area, and [as being able to] help accelerate innovation’ (Council document 15362/07).

For more information on scientific publications, visit www.ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/index.cfm?fuseaction=public.topic&id=122

‘an overwhelming majority of the online respondents (80 %) welcome the concept of open access to publicly-funded research results’

Since the 1990s, the number of female university graduates in Europe has been steadily increasing. However, many of these graduates begin their careers in science, only to move to a different sector later on. Evidence of this career change is compelling, and the pattern is constant across the European continent. The resulting loss of the female perspective in the sciences is costing Europe dearly.

The primary reasons given for this apparent brain drain include the scarcity of women in senior positions (and on scientific boards), inflexible working conditions, and archaic career structures. Coupled with these factors, a key feature of their careers is international mobility. Additionally, scientists undergo the longest period of training and have high levels of career insecurity.

Since 1999, various actions have been launched in a concerted effort to ensure that science and research becomes gender neutral. As the future of Europe also depends on an intensified research effort, the increased participation of women is needed. The scientific community, funding institutions and contemporary society as a whole, need to think more openly on this issue.

Project acronym: EPWS
Project title: European Platform of Women Scientists
Coordinator: Centre of Excellence Women and Science (Germany)
Funded under: FP6-2002-Science and Society-6
EU funding: EUR 1 988 010
Website: www.epws.org

Networking has been identified as an essential empowerment tool for women scientists to participate in the policy debate and to enhance their professional and career advancement. The European Platform of Women Scientists (EPWS) supports the work of a whole range of existing national, European and international networks of women scientists from all disciplines (natural, medical, social sciences, engineering and technology, as well as the humanities and arts).

As an umbrella organisation, the platform's mission is to represent the concerns, needs, aspirations and interests of women scientists in all stages of their careers. The platform encourages women scientists to better understand the role that they can play in the research policy debate and how to fully benefit from these opportunities. Its purpose is to build a structural link between women scientists and research policy makers, and to introduce a new key strategic actor into the research policy debate by making the voice of women scientists heard.

'various actions have been launched in a concerted effort to ensure that science and research becomes gender neutral'

More specifically, the EPWS aims to:

- represent European women scientists in dialogue with policy makers;
- coordinate EU value added support activities for women scientists;
- promote the understanding and the inclusion of the gender dimension in science, which includes profiling the work of women scientists.

Project acronym: EuroWistdom

Project title: European Women in Science TV Drama on Message

Coordinator: Femtec (Germany)

Funded under: FP6–Science and Society

EU funding: EUR 319 300

Website: www.eurowistdom.eu

Europe's continuing prosperity depends upon scientific and technological innovation. Unfortunately, despite their importance, these subjects attract little interest among young people (particularly women), according to a recent international ROSE (Relevance of Science Education) survey. In Germany, for instance, only 1.9 % of the characters in TV films, drama series and soap operas work in technical professions.

The EuroWistdom project aimed to discover new ways of using science and technology as a source of inspiration for themes and characters in popular TV formats across Europe and develop positive role models for young women, rather than the usual clichéd stereotypes. The project sought to show women in leading roles in science, engineering and technology-based stories by encouraging writers or producer-writer teams from all over Europe to develop new ideas for television drama.

Support packages were awarded to writers in order to facilitate the development of ideas for new TV drama series or feature-length TV films on a theme involving contemporary science and technology that also gave prominence to women as scientists or engineers. Finance and scientific support was also provided for seven new TV drama proposals featuring women scientist or engineers in leading roles. The project also hosted a number of workshops and conference events in Paris, Berlin and Ljubljana.

Project acronym: PROMETEA

Project title: Empowering Women Engineers Careers in Industrial and Academic Research

Coordinator: Conférence des Directeurs d'Ecoles et Formations d'Ingénieur (France)

Funded under: FP6-2004-Science and Society-10

EU funding: EUR 1 220 000

Website: www.prometea.info

The aim of PROMETEA is to develop a better understanding of gender issues in engineering and technology research settings, in order to propose effective measures and recommendations to empower the careers of women engineers in academic and industrial research in Europe. The project focuses on:

- gender dynamics of male and female careers, comparisons between different fields of engineering and their interrelations, recruitment, full-time and part-time work, survival curves and

'to discover new ways of using science and technology as a source of inspiration for themes and characters in popular TV formats'

tenure, vertical segregation, pay gaps, school to work transitions, work-life balance, and double careers patterns;

- differential effect of organisational cultures on male and female careers;
- recognition of excellence in engineering and technology research, impact on female and male careers. These include gate-keepers and gate-keeping in research funding committees, women's and men's success rates in research funding, analysis of scientific publishing and publicity, patents, experiences of "excellent women" at the top of technological research, and prizes and awards in technology and engineering;
- identification and evaluation of good practice.

In 2007, the international conference titled "Women in Engineering and Technology Research" was held (26-27 October) within the framework of the PROMETEA project. The conference was structured around five



'to mobilise successful women in science, engineering and technology for ambassador positions in schools and universities in Europe and beyond'

plenary sessions devoted to specific themes. A round-table session and networking events also took place.

Project acronym: SET-Routes

Project title: Pan-European Women Ambassadors Programme bringing Role Models to Schools and Universities to Stimulate and Mobilise Girls and Young Women for Studies and Careers in SET

Coordinator: European Molecular Biology Laboratory (Europaisches Laboratorium für Molekularbiologie) (Germany)

Funded under: FP6-2005-Science and Society-17

EU funding: EUR 533 200

Website: www.set-routes.org

SET-Routes aims to mobilise successful women in science, engineering and technology (SET) for ambassador positions in schools and universities in Europe and beyond. These ambassadors (representing disciplines ranging from biology, medical imaging, astronomy and robotics) will act as inspirational role models to rekindle young peoples' enthusiasm for science, encourage young women science graduates to pursue further studies and careers in SET, and help change future perceptions of women in science.

These goals will be achieved through the launch of a pan-European SET women ambassadors programme consisting of four initiatives: a Start-up Conference, a Schools Programme, a Universities Programme and an Insight Lecture series.

The Start-up Conference (9 and 11 May 2007) brought together stakeholders to examine the current state

Gender and Research

of affairs of women in science, re-define hurdles and signpost ways forward, thus preparing the ambassadors for the programme.

The subsequent schools and universities initiatives will provide young people and stakeholders in education with insight into routes and job perspectives in SET, and information about particular growth areas within science. The series of Insight Lectures presented by top women scientists will further dispel the stereotypes of women in science on a broader scale and produce innovative teaching material for European classrooms.

Project acronym: TRANSGEN

Project title: Gender Mainstreaming European Transport Research and Policies. Building the Knowledge Base and Mapping Good Practices

Coordinator: Coordination for Gender Studies, Department of Sociology, University of Copenhagen (Denmark)

Funded under: FP6-2005-Science and Society-17

EU funding: EUR 160 211

Website: www.sociology.ku.dk/koordinationen/transgen

TRANSGEN aims to develop the knowledge base for future research and interventions in the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) by linking gender mainstreaming with the thematic area of transport. The project pursues the following questions:

- How can mainstreaming goals be ensured in relation to planning, production and decision-making processes in relation to transport?
- How can gender mainstreaming be linked to

current goals of greening and smartening the European transport systems?

- How do gender-related access and use of transport systems affect the overall European goals of enhancing employment and competitiveness?

TRANSGEN addresses a gap in current European research strategic initiatives, where evaluations, assessments and actions are missing in the vital area of transport. The project supports the FP7 goal of transport benefiting the citizen and society in a broad and democratic sense, as well as the overarching goals of enhancing sustainable developments and respect for the environment.

Its activities consist of mapping existing research as well as generating assessments of policy strategies. TRANSGEN will act as instigator for future interventions and interdisciplinary research networks. It will also



'addresses a gap in current European research strategic initiatives, where evaluations, assessments and actions are missing in the vital area of transport'

clarify current EU research programmes and equality policies and will provide the knowledge base for gender mainstreaming of future transport research.

Group acronym: WiST2

Group title: Women in Science and Technology working group

The European Commission decided to continue the WiST initiative following the interest expressed by the participating companies in the first Women in Science and Technology working group (introduced in January 2005). The second WiST working group will focus on two main areas:

- the business case of work-life balance (the correlation between work-life balance and motivation and satisfaction, as well as the correlation between work-life balance and productivity);
- reducing the leaky “pipeline” (how to attract/promote and retain women in SET).

WiST2 will provide more companies with the opportunity to join the group and at the same time extend the invitation to the academic world. Indeed, numerous studies as well as the work of the first WiST working group showed that the pipeline starts to leak very early, in many cases before the professional career has started. The collaboration with universities therefore is seen as crucial for increasing the potential of women in industrial research.

‘numerous studies as well as the work of the first WiST working group showed that the pipeline starts to leak very early, in many cases before the professional career has started’

The working group was inaugurated in June 2007 and will deliver a final report on its findings at the end of 2008. This report will also include recommendations on how to change the corporate culture with a view to embedding work-life balance best practices.

Project acronym: WomenInNano

Project title: Strengthening the Role of Women Scientists in Nano-Science

Coordinator: Leibniz Institute for Solid State and Materials Research Dresden (Leibniz-Institut für Festkörper- und Werkstoffforschung Dresden) (Germany)

Funded under: FP6-2004-Science and Society-10

EU funding: EUR 533 860

Website: www.womeninnano.de

WomenInNano allows high-level women scientists working in nano-science to act as ambassadors to raise awareness of gender issues (specifically in nano-science) and to encourage women to pursue careers in scientific fields. The project aims to empower and enlarge the group of women scientists working in nano-science and increase its visibility within the international scientific community.

Since 2005, WomenInNano has organised a series of activities to create and stimulate structural links at national, trans-national, regional and trans-regional level between scientists (female and male), policy makers and society at large. In 2007, this included a workshop on nanomaterials and gender aspects in research and technology (18-19 October) which provided presentations on nanomaterials (e.g. funding situation, current applications) and male/female perspectives on research and career development.

Gender and Research

A winter school (7-9 February) and the final European workshop titled “Strengthening the Role of Women Scientists in Nano-science” (6-7 March) will take place early in 2008.

Project acronym: WONBIT

Project title: Women on Biotechnology, Scientific and Feminist Approaches

Coordinator: Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini (Italy)

Funded under: FP6-2005-Science and Society-17

EU funding: EUR 273 252

Website: www.wonbit.net

The Wonbit project aims to empower women in biotechnological research by strengthening the links with the feminist movement and, at the same time, to create a better social and political understanding of current biotechnological research.

The aim of the Wonbit conference (21-23 June 2007) was to promote an interdisciplinary and wide-ranging debate amongst feminists and scientists. Several speakers elaborated on four main themes: women scientists in academic and industrial biotechnological research; bodies, cultures, and scientific metaphors; environmental effects of biotechnologies; and facing impact(society and biotechnologies). A recommendations paper was expanded during the conference, detailing a three-level approach to improving the future of women in biotechnological research.

‘to promote an interdisciplinary and wide-ranging debate amongst feminists and scientists’

Science education activities are dictated by the aim to contribute to the Lisbon agenda by increasing the number of young people from all backgrounds entering careers in science, research and technology, as well as by raising the general level of scientific literacy to increase awareness of the societal impact of science.

Observing, investigating and experimenting science instead of learning the concepts — the Rocard Report below gives recommendations on how to bring about a change in science teaching in European schools. It is followed by two examples of projects funded in support of the aims of science education.

The Rocard Report — a roadmap for science education

A radical rethink in the way that science is taught in European schools is needed if we are to reverse the decline in school children's interest in the subject. An expert group was set up by EU Commissioner for Science and Research Janez Potočnik and Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth, Ján Figel', and chaired by Member of the European Parliament and former French Prime Minister Michel Rocard. The aim was to identify best practices for encouraging young people's interest in science, with a particular focus on the way science is taught in schools.

The report recommends seeking a change in school science teaching from mainly deductive to inquiry-based methods. The traditional deductive approach has

been to present concepts, their logical implications and examples of how they can be applied. However, in Inquiry-Based Science Education (IBSE), more room is given to observation and experimentation and pupils, under their teacher's guidance, are encouraged to construct their own knowledge.

Experts believe that IBSE is effective at gaining a child's interest and in increasing attainment levels in science at both the primary and secondary level. This approach is particularly suitable for students suffering from low self confidence and/or a disadvantaged background, while allowing the most able students to achieve a deep knowledge of the subject.

'stimulating interest among European youngsters for science and technology is crucial if a truly knowledge-based society is to emerge'



The report stresses that deductive and enquiry-based approaches are not mutually exclusive and should be combined to accommodate the full spectrum of students' abilities. Therefore, the expert group has recommended support and training for teachers and teachers' networks so that IBSE can be used as effectively as possible.

Priority should also be given to increasing the participation of girls in science subjects. It has been found that the IBSE helps engage girls' enthusiasm for science activities.

Greater articulation between national activities and those funded at a European level is also called for, with the report recommending that the EU contribute EUR 60 million over a ten-year period for these activities.

The report also recommends the creation of a European Science Education Advisory Board, which can monitor initiatives on IBSE, encouraging them to cooperate and exchange information at the European level.

Stimulating interest among European youngsters for science and technology is crucial if a truly knowledge-based society is to emerge in the future. Therefore, decision-makers must insist on action being taken at the local, regional, national and European level in order to implement change.



Project acronym: PROMISE

Project title: Promotion of Migrants in Science Education

Coordinator: European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (Austria)

Funded under: FP6

EU funding: EUR 296 000

Website: www.promise.at

The objective of PROMISE is to provide equal opportunities in science education and to enhance the choice of science studies and careers for migrants. The project's strategy is based on five key actions:

- to promote migrant girls at high school and university level through Club Lise;
- to inform teachers and school authorities of the specific problems faced by multilingual and multicultural groups;
- to develop new teaching concepts by bringing together teachers and experts of science, language and intercultural education;
- to train teachers in special science education methods for multicultural/multilingual classes;
- to facilitate cooperation between teachers and education experts (with participation from both countries of origin and countries of residence).

Named after the renowned physicist Lise Meitner, a "Club Lise" is an intercultural girls' working group

'each club's aim is to promote greater choice in science studies for migrant girls (the most underrepresented group in science)'

on science topics. A Club Lise has been established at every partner university, and each club's aim is to promote greater choice in science studies for migrant girls (the most underrepresented group in science). The young women work together with female scientist role models (women of migrant backgrounds), participate in laboratory work and lectures, and engage with all the Clubs on key science topics.

Project acronym: Roberta-EU

Project title: Roberta-Goes-EU

Coordinator: Fraunhofer IAIS (Germany)

Funded under: FP6

EU funding: EUR 632 281

Website: www.roberta-home.eu

Highly qualified engineers in key areas such as IT, mechatronics, and robotics are essential for the sustainability of society. Technical subjects and

professions, however, interest girls even less than they interest boys. Young people, especially girls, need to be encouraged to take up engineering studies.

Roberta-Goes-EU takes young people into the fascinating world of robots, where they can learn and “do” science, technology and IT in an exciting way. By designing, constructing, programming, and testing autonomous mobile robots, children learn how technical systems are developed and realise that technology is fun. Constructing and using robots is the ideal way to communicate the types of knowledge that are important for understanding technical problems.

The project provides teachers with training courses and comprehensive teaching materials in several European languages. Roberta instructors are specially trained in gender-sensitive course organisation. Roberta-Goes-EU continues to build a European network of Roberta



‘highly qualified engineers in key areas such as IT, mechatronics, and robotics are essential for the sustainability of society’

Regional Centres and encourages the participation of student teams in robotics competitions like RoboCupJunior. In 2007, the Roberta consortium built new regional centres, trained additional teachers, and delivered Roberta courses to hundreds of students.

Science Communication

It may seem extraordinary that the sciences — the very source of so many incredible changes and technological advancements — sometimes have difficulty attracting the curiosity and talent of people today. This, however, is precisely what is happening. The complexity of many scientific principles, and the intense technical detail in a great deal of research, can give the impression that the sciences are not instantly accessible.

That is why part of the European Commission's drive to increase the number of researchers in the EU is focused on communicating science to the public. Through various initiatives, projects as well as recognition given to science communicators, the Commission aims to inspire greater interest and participation in the sciences of future generations.

Rewards for Excellence

The Descartes Prize for Collaborative Research has been supported under the framework programme since 2000 and was complemented in 2004 by an additional prize that sought to recognise excellence in science communication at the European level. The most recent prize winners were announced early in 2007 at an awards ceremony in Brussels. The next awards ceremony will take place in March 2008 based on a call that was published under the new Science in Society part of the Capacities specific programme.

The Descartes Prize for Collaborative Research celebrates excellent results from scientific collaborative research in all areas of science. Work is judged on the criteria of scientific excellence and cross-border cooperation at international level. Proposals for this prize may be submitted by teams of scientists themselves or by public or private organisations, such as research centres, foundations or universities, which can nominate

candidates for the prize. In 2007, EUR 1 150 000 was granted to research teams for demonstrating scientific excellence through close transnational cooperation in all areas of science, including the social sciences and humanities.

Through the Science Communication Prize, the European Commission seeks to stimulate scientists and the media to improve the quality of science communication to the public. Candidatures are accepted from organisations or individuals who have achieved outstanding results in this field. Organisers of science communication prizes may send their winners as candidates for the EU prize. In 2007, awards totalling EUR 275 000 were shared among winning scientists, filmmakers and specialist communicators.

The 2007 award ceremony took place on 7 March in Brussels, within the framework of the "Today is the Future" launch of the Seventh Framework Programme and to celebrate 50 years of European research.

The ceremony was attended by European Commissioner for Science and Research Janez Potočnik, German

'through the Science Communication Prize, the European Commission seeks to stimulate scientists and the media to improve the quality of science communication to the public'

Science and Education Minister Annette Schavan, President of the Descartes Grand Jury Claudie Haigneré, and President of the Communication Jury Suzanne de Cheveigné.

For the Descartes Prize, laureates and finalists for the 2006 awards were selected by the Research Grand Jury made up of 22 eminent scientists from 11 EU countries, as well as Brazil, Morocco, Russia and Turkey. The jury represents a broad range of scientific disciplines.

Winners, finalists and nominees of the 2006 Descartes Prize for Collaborative Research

Thirteen projects from 20 countries were nominated for the prize from a field of 65 submissions. Three research projects were awarded the 2006 Descartes Prize for Collaborative Research.

Basic sciences

Nominees: FULCARS, “Developing friendly and useful carbon nanotubes for industry and medical applications” (Italy, France, Germany, UK and Spain), and QUMAGDE, “From magnetic avalanches to magnetic deflagration: a new field of physics is born” (Spain, Germany and Belgium).

Finalists: NEMABS, “Gaining a clear picture of molecules through colouring” (Germany and Belgium), and QGATES, “Quantum mechanics brings breakthroughs to information processing” (Austria, UK, Germany, Slovakia, France and Spain).

Winner: H.E.S.S., “A new glimpse at the highest-energy universe” (Germany, Czech Republic, UK, Poland, France, Ireland, South Africa and Armenia).

Engineering

Winner: HYDROSOL, “Solar hydrogen production via water splitting” (Greece, Germany, Denmark and UK).

Information sciences

Nominee: AVISPA, “Bringing internet security to the next level” (Italy, France, Germany and Switzerland).

Finalist: TAM-RAM, “Thermally assisted magnetic random access memory” (France, Portugal and Germany).

Life sciences

Nominee: EUROGENOS, “Uncovering genetic determinants of osteoporosis and other bone diseases” (UK, Belgium, the Netherlands, Greece, Italy and France).

Finalist: DYNAQPRIM, “Protein dynamics in cell nuclei” (UK, Germany and Denmark).

Winner: APOPTOSIS, “Understanding cell death: pathways for future treatments of cancer and AIDS” (France, Austria, Denmark, Italy, Sweden and Germany).

‘laureates and finalists for the 2006 awards were selected by the Research Grand Jury made up of 22 eminent scientists’

Socio-economic sciences

Nominee: DOSEI, “Analysis of constitution building in the European Union” (Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, UK, Greece, Belgium and Switzerland).

Finalist: GLOBALIFE, “Life courses in the globalisation process” (Germany, Spain, the Netherlands and Hungary).

Winners, finalists and nominees of the 2006 Descartes Prize for Science Communication

Thirty-three candidates from 18 countries were nominated for the prize from a field of 80 submissions. Five individuals and groups were awarded the 2006 Descartes Prize for Science Communication.

Professional scientists engaged in science communication to the public

Nominees: Fran Balkwill (United Kingdom), Osmo Pekonen (Finland), Jean-Marie Pelt and Alain de Sedouy (France) and Steven Rose (United Kingdom).

Finalists: Jean-Marc Lévy-Leblond (France) and Gerold Wefer (Germany).

Winner: Wendy Sadler (United Kingdom).

Popularising science through the written word

Nominees: A life dedicated to science and science com-

munication (Italy), *The origins and evolution of the Hominids* (Spain), Popular Swedish science magazine *Forskning & Framsteg* (Sweden), The ethical and scientific conflicts of transplanting animal organs to humans — *XENESIS*, science-based fiction (Switzerland), *Critical Mass: the behaviour of matter* (United Kingdom), and *Cells — the building blocks of our body and mind* (France).

Winner: *Eureka* weekly science magazine for children (Ireland).

Popularising science through audiovisual and electronic media

Nominees: *The Science caster* (Switzerland), *From Kiss to Baby* (France), *Malaria, the secret storm* (France) and *Océanautes: explorers of the deep sea* (France).

Winner: *Europe, a Natural History* (Austria).

Innovative action for science communication

Nominees: School competition bringing life sciences to developing countries, IMAGINE (the Netherlands), Delivering science and technology to the people — TECHNOLIS science communication centre (Belgium), A hydrogen powered automobile, HYSUN3000 (Germany), “Advice of Professor Chimico on chemical risks” (France), Exhibition “Conversations with snow and ice” (Japan), KVARKADABRA, a society for explaining science

‘five individuals and groups were awarded the 2006 Descartes Prize for Science Communication’

[Slovenia), International Science Festival in Göteborg (Sweden) and The Science Café (Denmark).

Finalists: A compass-port to science infotainment, EN-COMPASS (Hungary) and “Inhabiting the world to understand the biosphere” (Spain).

Winners: ‘Città della Scienza Napoli’: Italy’s first science centre (Italy), and Exploring the secrets of the depths, MAR-ECO (Norway).

Communicators at the start of their career

Nominee: “The unique voice of Stradivarius violins” (Spain).

Finalist: The Big Dipper Science Bus (Estonia).



▲
*President of the Descartes Research
Grand Jury Claudie Haigneré, former
French Minister for EU Affairs and ESA
Astronaut.*

The European Union Contest for Young Scientists (EUCYS)

EUCYS is part of the European Union’s wider Science in Society programme and addresses the problem of young people who are turning away from scientific studies and professions by encouraging them to pursue their interest in science and embark on scientific careers. By using the competition as a platform, the European Commission is able to strengthen efforts made by each participating country in attracting more and more young people into these careers.

Since 1989, more than 1 000 students from all over Europe and beyond have exhibited their promising research work on the European stage, and an increasing number of young women scientists have taken part in the contest.

The event takes place annually (hosted by a different European country each year) and gives students (aged 14 to 21) from Europe and beyond the opportunity to compete at European level with other winners from national competitions. Only projects that have won a top prize at a national young-scientist competition can participate.

More than just a competition, the event has also become a meeting place between leading scientists and talented young people with a passion for science. The participants meet others with similar abilities and interests, and exchange views. For many of them it is also the first time they will have travelled in Europe and embarked on a challenging experience to present their projects to a professional jury of renowned scientists.

Science Communication

The EU Contest for Young Scientists has become an important instrument to promote science amongst young people, but also to promote cultural exchange. The latter is an important pillar of Europe's existence, since the European Union itself is based on exchange and cooperation between countries with a rich and diverse cultural heritage.

Every year, the EUCYS grows and becomes an ever more important visible event, where the spotlight is on young people and their creativity.

This year's event, which was hosted by the University of Valencia, gathered 124 participants (80 young men and 44 young women) who presented a total of 81 projects, covering a wide range of scientific disciplines, from astronomy and earth sciences to biology, medicine and social sciences.



**Winners of the 19th EU Contest for Young Scientists.
Valencia, Spain.**

The standard of entries is consistently high every year, and several past participants have achieved major scientific breakthroughs, or set up businesses to market the ideas developed for the contest.

Among the winners of this year's EU contest were young scientists from Germany, Hungary and Ireland. The projects, from fields such as physics, biology and mathematics, were selected by an international jury of 15 experts.

European Science Week 2007

The emphasis of European Science Week is on promoting lively projects and activities to capture the imagination and show how science — its impacts, uses and applications — is relevant to all Europeans regardless of age, background and education.

European Science Week 2007 was held between 19 and 25 November. The four projects below ran throughout 2007, including Science Week. From 2008, the events represented will evolve into a series of projects that facilitate the cooperation and networking between science museums, science centres and/or organisers of national and regional events. This will allow for the development and exchange of ambitious and interactive exhibitions on European research topics.

'several past participants have achieved major scientific breakthroughs, or set up businesses to market the ideas'

Project acronym: Discovery Days
Coordinator: International Environment and Quality Services S.A. (Greece)
Funded under: FP6-2005-Science and Society-19
EU funding: EUR 350 000
Website: www.ea.gr/ep/discoverydays

The Discovery Days project introduced several pan-European science and cultural celebration initiatives, which reached their momentum during European Science Week 2007. These initiatives consisted of two main activities: realisation of eight Discovery Days in several European Cities (each Discovery Day included demonstrations of advanced technological applications in real environments, workshops of specific subjects of general interest, and special events focusing on young visitors to the museums and the science centres) and an international three-day conference during Science Week.

Discovery Days presented the vision for the future operation of museums, science centres and thematic parks, and gave members of the public the opportunity to experience new technological achievements during their visits. A rich collection of examples of futuristic scenarios and visions were presented and discussed in detail. These offered a glimpse of a future in which visitors could explore worlds and cultures beyond their own, both in distance and time, as if they were there.

It is estimated that at least 50 000 visitors (including virtual visitors) of science centres, parks and museums

'presented the vision for the future operation of museums, science centres and thematic parks and gave members of the public the opportunity to experience new technological achievements'

participated in the project's activities, while an estimated 300 individuals attended the Science Week conference.

Project acronym: MEYPS SC²
Project title: European Mobility of Young People and Scientists in Scientific Culture Context
Coordinator: Université des Sciences et Technologies de Lille (France)
Funded under: FP6-2005-Science and Society-19
EU funding: EUR 200 000
Website: www.ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/index.cfm?fuseaction=public.topic&id=616#1

The two-year MEYPS SC² project started in January 2007. Its objective is to bring science closer to society through participatory and interactive events. It focuses on:

- promoting young people's interest in science, science education and careers as well as general public interest in science;
- various pedagogical approaches on science communication for citizens and young people;
- a transnational exchange for young people;
- the use of art in making science more accessible.

The activities include artistic events created by students and artists promoting science, competitions at the secondary school level (the winners participate in science festivals) and interactive European workshop exhibitions involving students, engineers and technicians.

The project is part of the portfolio of activities of several festivals and science-related events. A key final objective of MEYPS SC² is to create a European Network

of Universities on Science Communication with the objective of raising awareness on science and technology for young people and the general public.

Project acronym: SWEETS

Project title: Space Weather and Europe — an Educational Tool with the Sun

Coordinator: Ernst Moritz Arndt University of Greifswald (Ernst-Moritz-Arndt-Universität Greifswald) (Germany)

Funded under: FP6-2005-Science and Society-19

EU funding: EUR 500 405

Website: www.sweets2007.eu

Space weather (SW) is primarily an astronomical phenomenon, linked to solar activity and cosmic rays. Its study is by nature interdisciplinary and encompasses various fields of physics, engineering and human activities. SW has already revealed significant effects, such as failures in satellite navigation (GPS) and in telecommunication, as well as spacecraft losses, pipeline corrosion, and radiation risks.

The aim of the SWEETS project was to demonstrate the significance of the sun, solar activities, cosmic rays and space weather. Despite their great scientific, commercial and security potential, these phenomena remain largely ignored by the public. Furthermore, Europe has achieved significant capacities in the SW field as well as solar science and this was also considered an important issue that needed greater public attention.

The SWEETS project promoted and raised public awareness during science weeks and festivals in 27 countries all over Europe. Some of the 13 elements that made up the project included: an on-tour mobile truck

with space weather exhibition and a small fair; TV/internet streaming of the main space weather festival/forum at Schwerin castle; video links to space weather telescopes in Australia, Japan and Germany; rocket/balloon launch and aurora movie production; SW multimedia dance show; and real time SW storm displays.

Project acronym: WONDERS 07

Project title: Welcome to Observations, News and Demonstrations of European Research and Science

Coordinator: European Science Events Association

Funded under: FP6-2005-Science and Society-19

EU funding: EUR 450 000

Website: www.wonders.at

WONDERS used the strengths, experiences and capacities of existing major European networks and institutions in the field of science communication to promote greater awareness for Europeans in science, technology and the humanities, and to stimulate dialogue about science within society. WONDERS was designed to inspire European science communicators to work together and collaborate on similar programmes in future years.

The activities of WONDERS took place across most of Europe. The principal activity, the Carousel of Science, was an inter-European exchange of the best science communication presentations between the 31 participating organisations. In addition to Carousel,

'Europe has achieved significant capacities in the SW field as well as solar science and this was also considered an important issue that needed greater public attention'

throughout 2007, school students came together with teachers, journalists and scientists in a special group dialogue game called Talk.

The project came to an official close with the finals at the Pavilhão de Conhecimento in Lisbon, Portugal, where Carousel's "best of the best" were chosen on 24 November 2007.

Pestre Report

On 29 and 30 June 2006, an open and exploratory workshop entitled "Historical Perspectives on Science and Politics" was held by Directorate L. The ultimate aim of the workshop was to provide input to policy making at EU level regarding science and/in society.

The event was organised by Dominique Pestre, director of studies at L'Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, along with Peter Galison, Harvard University, Jean-Paul Gaudilliere, Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale, and Simon Schaffer, Cambridge University.

A direct outcome of the workshop was a report released in 2007 of the same title written by Prof. Pestre. The report provides a set of direct messages for the Science, Economy and Society Directorate to help it enrich its approach to science and society issues from a policy

perspective. It also proposes to the Commission a research agenda consisting of a set of proposals on science, technology and medicine from an historical perspective.

Science is a product of human beings living in society and has always been linked to those in power, helping them better understand and subsequently manage nature and societies. Science is not a simple and neutral vehicle for progress and there has been a recent tendency to think the world is becoming anti-scientific and irrational. However, criticism and opposition to science has always been essential for the development of safer technological systems.

Scientific knowledge tends to be hierarchical and exclusive whereas democratic decision tends, in principle, to be more egalitarian, more inclusive and less dependent on levels of authority. The policy of the EU has been to foster wide ranging participation in the decision processes, which is a highly positive move, according to the group.

Over the last few decades, international finance, courts and governance have played a greater role than before, while the role of national administrative bodies and elected representatives has become less significant. Key changes have also occurred in the area of intellectual property rights and patenting. Societies have undergone parallel changes, becoming flatter with fewer class distinctions but greater polarisation between rich and poor. The alliance developed during the 19th century among politicians, administration, scientists and economic elites has also been eroded, while a new definition of the political has emerged.

'a research agenda consisting of a set of proposals on science, technology and medicine from an historical perspective'

Science Communication

The workshop also discussed the main requirements for a research programme in history. It was agreed that the call should be open to all historians and other social sciences. The programme should seek projects that map the sites of science and knowledge production in society over the centuries. It should cover the restriction, control, appropriation and forms of mastery over knowledge and science including long-term histories of patenting and intellectual property rights. The many forms through which knowledge and techno-scientific products are “regulated” in democratic societies should also be studied.

The programme should also consider the variety and importance of amateurs’ knowledge and the changing roles of amateurs, patients and activists. Governance and management through knowledge and science will also be considered, as will the evolution of the audit culture and the effects on knowledge production. The group also discussed whether the final product should be in the form of a book, film, exhibition, or other, and the question was raised whether a history office within the directorate could be envisaged.

Modernisation Agenda for Universities (2007-2013)

University-based research plays a crucial role in the development of a European knowledge-based society. At the European level, these actions support the ongoing reform of European universities, which is in line with the communication “Delivering on the Modernisation Agenda for Universities: Education, Research and Innovation” COM (2006) 208 of 10 May 2006. They will be carried out in conjunction with the ongoing activities launched by the Directorate-General for Education and Culture (DG EAC).

The objectives include:

- to define better framework conditions for more efficient university research;
- to promote the establishment of structured partnerships with the business sector;
- to reinforce knowledge-sharing between universities and society at large.

The European Commission is not a direct actor in the process, but has a catalytic role in providing political impetus and targeted funding. The following six policy activities will support the modernisation process proposed in the May 2006 Communication.

Policy activity 1 is based on the mandate of the expert group for “Strengthening research institutions”, with a focus on University-based Research (UbR). The expert group will provide an overview of recent initiatives, current challenges and existing trends, and assess the various policy options and their potential impact. The group will also look at those domains where progress has been made in enhancing European UbR. It will also examine those areas where progress is most needed. The question of what should be done at the European, national

and institutional level to foster and sustain progress will be addressed. The role of the Commission in supporting the actions identified will also be investigated.

Policy activity 2 is based on the mandate of the expert group on “Diversified funding streams for university-based research: impact of external project-based research funding on financial management in universities”. There are increasing moves towards project-based funding at both European and national levels. Therefore, the expert group will provide an overview of the characteristics of external project-based funding mechanisms across the 27 EU Member States, focussing on their financial and accounting requirements.

Policy activity 3 is based on the text of the work programme 2008. Expert groups will be established to address, from the research perspective, different aspects of the reform process. They will identify good practice and provide recommendations to the Commission and Member States. In 2008, an expert group will be set up for “Assessment of UbR”. It will discuss methodologies for assessing UbR activities and feed into the policy process. Particular attention will be paid to the assessment of UbR beyond strict academic outputs (typically publication based). It will also cover licensing and scientific participation in policy making.

‘expert groups will be established to address, from the research perspective, different aspects of the reform process’

Modernisation Agenda for Universities (2007-2013)

Policy activity 4 is based on the text of the work programme 2008, "Development of a European data collection network on research-active universities". Suitable data and indicators are limited and hinder benchmarking which would be of use to policy makers and the institutions themselves. The Commission, therefore, will support the development of a data collection network in conjunction with Eurostat and DG EAC.

The network will collect data on research-active universities at institutional level. The intention is to build a complete census of European universities, beginning with those that are active in research. The pilot phase of the project will begin in 2008, while the operational phase will commence in 2010, providing full data-collection services. The action will continue for the duration of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) via regular public procurement calls, which will be issued approximately every two years. This action is key to collating data at the institution level with regard to the activities of research-active universities throughout Europe. This will allow Member States, associated countries and the Commission to assess policy options in the area of UbR.

Policy activity 5 is based on the text of the Council resolution on "Modernising universities for Europe's competitiveness in a global knowledge economy" COM (2006) 208 of 16 November 2007. Actions include promoting excellence in higher education and research by attracting the best talent to Europe and in providing these institutions with the autonomy to develop their full potential.

Quality assurance through independent evaluation will promote the internationalisation of higher education

institutions. They will also be encouraged to develop partnerships with the private sector, research institutions, regional and local authorities and civil society. Measures will also be taken to encourage the participation of those with disabilities, regardless of gender, income, social or linguistic background. The attractiveness of European higher education systems will be enhanced by encouraging institutions to fully use the cooperation and mobility opportunities offered by the Erasmus Mundus programme for the promotion of academic excellence at worldwide level.

Policy activity 6 is based on the draft mandate of the CREST (European Union Committee for Scientific and Technical Research) working group, which will be setup in 2008. The group will monitor the effect of existing initiatives. This will include reporting and reviewing national strategies and developing recommendations and possible actions to facilitate the process. The group will examine the effect of the reforms on research performance. The questions of how to measure excellence in research and how it should be supported will also be addressed.

'quality assurance through independent evaluation will promote the internationalisation of higher education institutions'

Pairing Scheme between Researchers and MEPs

The Pairing Scheme assists in the transnational exchange of information and research practices. Ultimately, the scheme aims to build bridges between some of the best research workers from the EU Member States (and associated countries) with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs). In the United Kingdom where a similar programme has been running since 2001, over 80 scientists and MEPs have taken part with significant long-term success.

A special workshop was held in Brussels from 1 to 5 October 2007. Fourteen scientists were specifically invited to take part in the event, and were paired with an equal number of MEPs. Through this scheme, policy makers were brought into direct contact with scientists and researchers. The anticipated result is a better understanding of the environment in which scientists operate, and an improvement in the synergy between scientific advice and policy making.

During the workshop, MEPs had the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the process of scientific understanding and topical research, and ultimately to be able to bring this knowledge to better informed discussions and decision-making. The workshop also created the opportunity for MEPs to forge direct links with a network of practising research scientists.

Likewise, the participating scientists were better able to recognise the potential methods and structures through which they could deliver scientific knowledge to parliamentarians. They were also able to better understand the pressures under which MEPs operate.

'the participating scientists were better able to recognise the potential methods and structures through which they could deliver scientific knowledge to parliamentarians'

An informal greeting session at the outset of the workshop was attended by scientists, MEPs as well as Philippe Busquin, president of the Scientific and Technological Options Assessment (STOA) unit. The subsequent week-long programme comprised numerous meetings, training sessions and networking events. Following this, each MEP will visit their "paired" scientist at their place of work.

The 2007 Pairing Scheme benefited from the informal support of the Royal Society and the European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC). Both have several years of experience in implementing similar schemes.



In accordance with the efforts undertaken to develop new forms of governance, the European Commission has developed the SINAPSE (Scientific information and expertise for policy support in Europe) e-network. By providing a range of essential tools, SINAPSE will help involve stakeholders that cannot at present be easily consulted. The main and general objective of the e-network is to make better use of expertise in policy making.

SINAPSE is still growing and has now registered more than 850 organisations and 3 000 members. Members come from a wide range of backgrounds — not just science — but all have a common purpose of expertise in European governance.

SINAPSE is primarily an information exchange for experts to share their knowledge more easily. One of its main activities is its “e-Communities” module, which allows members with a common interest to create their own communication platform. SINAPSE communities offer a range of tools, including modules to launch e-debates or create thematic libraries of accessible documents/web links. There is also a notification system allowing members to be aware of new activities that are taking place, such as conferences and the posting of new documents. Some of SINAPSE’s information is stored on public pages so that the general public can access them, facilitating public debates and consultations.

E-Communities established in 2007 include the European Science Advice Network for Health, created jointly by the Belgian and Dutch National Health Council. This community aims to share information on health between scientific advisory bodies in Europe in order to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts, and create, as well as coordinate, an evidence-based health policy throughout Europe.

Members aim to exchange and share scientific knowledge and upgrade the quality of advisory reports in order to make use of the best scientific expertise available. Work will also be carried out on dovetailing working programmes from different countries and shaping them for European policy. Issues that are affecting Europeans across all nations, such as the rise in obesity, should be dealt with in this way. One objective is to issue joint advisory reports, whenever possible.

The Forum of National Ethics Councils, another e-Community created in 2007, is an independent platform for exchanging information and experience on issues regarding ethics and science. Strengthening the coordination of ethics policies is vital in order for the EU to have confidence in its scientific policies and legislation. The forum intends to operate by exchanging details on conferences and workshops, making available new articles and reports, launching online debates, gathering opinions and responding to requests by different Commission departments for expert input and advice.

Three e-Communities have also been created by the European Aviation Safety Agency to organise an information exchange in the areas of regulation and standardisation with experts from both Member States and the rest of the world.

By serving the communication needs of the Commission services and encouraging Europe-wide expert contact and communication, SINAPSE will help to develop the European Research Area (ERA).



SINAPSE is open for registration and use at www.europa.eu/sinapse

'SINAPSE is primarily an information exchange for experts to share their knowledge more easily'

EURAB — the European Research Advisory Board

The European Research Advisory Board (EURAB) was established in June 2001 to advise the European Commission (EC) on the design and implementation of Community Research and Technological Development (RTD) policy. EURAB represents a unique arena for the provision of advice on EU research policy through its shared membership from academia and industry. Its final report compiles all the introductory statements and explanatory notes in date order, together with recommendations from the board's formal advice to the EC.

Reports and recommendations produced by EURAB

1. The evaluation of proposals (April 2002).
2. Recommendations regarding the European Research Area (ERA): the future (September 2002).
3. Some issues affecting the future of university research in ERA (November 2002).
4. European Research Council (ERC) (November 2002).
5. Improving innovation (November 2002).
6. Increasing the attractiveness of science, engineering and technology careers (November 2002).
7. Boosting joint investment in research, towards 3 % of GDP (December 2002).
8. Enlargement and ERA (January 2003).
9. Research Infrastructures (October 2003).
10. The ERC — a possible implementation model (October 2003).
11. Bureau recommendations: following the visit to Washington DC (December 2003).
12. ERA and the social sciences and humanities (SSH) (January 2004).
13. European Technology Platforms (ETPs) (January 2004).
14. Interdisciplinarity in research (April 2004).
15. Evaluation (April 2004).
16. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and ERA (May 2004).
17. The Descartes Prize (May 2004).
18. Structural Funds and the research component (May 2004).
19. FP6 assessment with a focus on instruments and with a forward look to FP7 (April 2005): recommendations included increasing the profile of strategic research for the Joint European Technology Initiative (JETI) and bottom-up frontier research for the ERC, and improving the participation of SMEs.
20. The financial perspective for FP7 and criteria for the selection of topics for the work programmes (May 2005).
21. Science and society, an agenda for a responsive and responsible European science in FP7 (September 2005).
22. Boosting European private R&D, the foundation stone of the new Lisbon strategy (October 2005) recommended improving the financial environment for industrial R&D.
23. Stimulating the regional potential for research and innovation (November 2005).
24. Research and Technology Organisations (RTOS) and ERA (December 2005).

25. EURAB recommendation on the proposed European Institute of Technology (EIT) (April 2005).
26. EURAB recommendations on cooperation with third countries (non-EU Member States or states not associated with the FPs) (June 2005).
27. SSH in FP7 (December 2005).

In the last two years, the following advice has been produced:

28. International research cooperation (June 2006). According to EURAB, the EC needs a new proactive international policy in science and technology. This policy should both strengthen its scientific, technological and economic position, help to solve global environmental, health and other problems, and give opportunities to EU researchers to develop strong international partnerships.
29. Second EURAB opinion on the EC's proposal for an EIT (June 2006). EURAB endorsed the view that efforts should be made to increase the competitiveness of Europe through innovation, stemming from harmonising developments of research with those of higher education. However, the most pressing need was for an increase of funding for the framework programme and to progress with the establishment of the ERC.

'efforts should be made to increase the competitiveness of Europe through innovation, stemming from harmonising developments of research with those of higher education'

30. Scientific publication: policy on open access (December 2006) called for a clear policy at European level. The EC can play a role in three ways: as a funding, policy, and supporting body.
31. Energising Europe's knowledge triangle of research, education and innovation through the Structural Funds (April 2007). EURAB welcomed the joint effort of the EC to push forward the Research, Education and Innovation (REI) dimension of the renewed Lisbon strategy, especially at the regional level.
32. Research management in ERA — education, communication and exploitation (May 2007). The board believes that education is essential, to raise the level of skill in project management and more generally in managing research strategy, intelligence and resources. Communication is vital, not just between functions within one organisation but increasingly between organisations across Europe. Research cannot deliver the benefits that Europe needs without managing the exploitation of results.
33. Research and societal engagement (June 2007). EURAB recommended that researchers are exposed to other perspectives of research and innovation by integrating engagement societal actors into the university curriculum. Encouraging public engagement should be promoted as being beneficial to researchers' careers. Mechanisms need to be developed for societal actors to improve their research capacities and become involved in ETPs. Structures for partnerships between researchers and societal actors in the research dialogue should be encouraged and societal actors integrated into the various stages of the research evaluation process.

EURAB — the European Research Advisory Board

The evolution of EURAB: introducing ERAB

The lesson drawn from the hard work and success of EURAB is that any following advisory structure must contain viewpoints from as many areas as possible. Every effort should be made to involve leading figures, acting truly independently but with access to the leading stakeholders in research.

On 15 October 2007, the first meeting took place of the European Research Area Board (ERAB) Identification Committee. Its objectives are to reform EURAB, set up the new board and identify new members. The panel will submit its recommendations by January 2008.

ERAB will include 22 members and selection will be undertaken by the Identification Expert Group. This group comprises Dr Claudie Haigneré, former French minister for research and new technologies, Prof. Vaira Vike-Freiberga, former Latvian president, and Dr Andrew Dearing, Secretary-General of the European Industrial Research Management Association.



Science, Economy and Society Directorate



Organisational Structure

The management responsibility of the Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH) theme under the Cooperation specific programme and the Science in Society (SIS) area under the Capacities specific programme rests with the Science, Economy and Society Directorate (Directorate L).

While three units, namely: (1) Research in the Economic, Social Sciences and Humanities — Prospective; (2) Governance and Ethics; and (3) Scientific Culture and Gender Issues are more involved in the scientific content of projects (from selection to final report stage), their activities are achieved in close cooperation with two other units: the Administration and Finance Unit, which coordinates the legal and financial aspects of the management of projects, and the Horizontal Aspects and Coordination Unit, which coordinates the non-financial and non-legal issues regarding the implementation of programmes.

The Unit for Research in the Economic, Social Sciences and Humanities — Prospective is responsible for defining and implementing the research strategy on economic, social, and human sciences based on current research needs in Europe and requirements emanating from EU policies. It identifies and manages research projects most suitable to this strategy, disseminates research results to users, policy makers and stakeholders, and promotes the use of these results.

Research is focused on:

- growth, employment and competitiveness in a knowledge society;
- consolidating the basis for sustainable development at European level;
- major societal trends and their implications;

- the interactions between world regions and governance of these;
- the development of socio-economic and scientific indicators and foresight activities.

The unit also launches initiatives designed to strengthen the EU scientific community in economic, social, and human sciences, with a view to reinforcing the European Research Area.

The Unit for Governance and Ethics is responsible for defining and supporting analysis and research, as well as for developing and fostering strategies, processes and best practices that contribute to a more inclusive and open approach to governance and ethics of RTD and innovation in Europe (based on a better understanding of their role and perception in society).

The unit is also responsible for the following:

- improving the role and quality of scientific advice in policy making;
- protecting fundamental rights in European Union actions;

- encouraging international dialogue on governance and ethics of science and technology;
- improving the knowledge base and reflection on citizenship and democracy, as well as the articulation of rule of law and protection of human rights in the European Union and beyond (this includes the issues of conflicts and peace, and changes in international governance, such as multilateralism and external perceptions of Europe);
- ensuring that fundamental ethical principles are respected in the implementation of the framework programme as a whole and in the research activities arising from the programme;
- improving access to publicly funded research results.

The Unit for Scientific Culture and Gender Issues contributes to the implementation and development of European research policy in the areas of scientific culture, young people and science, and equal opportunities in scientific research.

The unit is also responsible for defining and supporting research activities relating to major trends in society, such as demographic developments and migration, cultural interactions in an international perspective (traditions of different societies, diversity, and problems of discrimination) and differences as well as similarities within Europe (historical origins, normative differences, cultural heritage, the role of language, arts and religion).

The unit seeks to develop synergies with relevant European policy areas for all of its activities and provides scientific advice to European policy areas based on results from projects funded under its responsibility.

The Unit for Administration and Finance provides the necessary administrative, legal, budgetary, financial and informatics advice and support to the units and the Directorate as a whole, so that they accomplish their respective missions. To achieve this, the unit is involved in the various actions of the Directorate, particularly regarding the implementation of the framework programme, in respect to the financial circuits adopted by the Directorate-General (DG).

The Unit for Horizontal Aspects and Coordination coordinates all non-financial and non-legal cross-cutting issues regarding the implementation of the SSH theme of the Cooperation specific programme and the SIS area of the Capacities specific programme of the Seventh Framework Programme. It supports these activities through measures to increase the knowledge of relevant national policies, create synergies, and ensure complementarities with other parts of the framework programme, including background work for the development of relevant research infrastructures.

The unit provides the interface between Directorate L, other Directorates and services, external bodies (such as the relevant Programme Committees and Expert Advisory Groups, including the Scientific Secretariat of the European Research Advisory Board), as well as other relevant national and international groups and organisations. It is responsible for the efficient planning, coordination and delivery of horizontal functions (non-specific to the thematic units), which include aspects

Organisational Structure

relating to international cooperation and implementation of the ERA-NET scheme, communication activities and strategic activity, planning and reporting.

The Communication Unit is also part of the Directorate. This unit is the “spokesperson” not only for Directorate L but for all the Research DGs. Its aim is to provide and improve information on (as well as access to) EU-supported research programmes, projects and initiatives. Working in close cooperation with the DG’s scientific and horizontal units, it promotes the visibility of European research, whether it be through publications, the Europa website, conferences, publications, the media and other activities.

Directorate L works in close cooperation with other Research Directorates, such as **the Unit for Universities and Researchers** in the Directorate for the European Research Area: Knowledge-Based Economy. This unit conceives, develops and implements initiatives to improve the careers and career mobility of researchers as well as to improve university-based research. It also provides the Research DG’s input for the development and implementation of the European Institute of Technology.

The Science, Economy and Society Directorate began in 2007 with some 104 staff members. This number increased in September to 135, when the DG’s Communication Unit joined the Directorate. This number is made up of 69 administrators and national experts working as managers, scientific and policy officers, and 66 supporting staff dealing mainly with administrative and financial procedures.



Directorate L staff

European Commission

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