The Importance of Inclusion

Reducing inequalities and social exclusion in Europe, where an estimated 80 million people are at risk of poverty and 14 million young people are not in education, employment or training, are crucial challenges for the future of Europe. A rapidly changing world, characterised by the emergence of new economic powers and of new poles of power, also calls constantly for renewed understanding.

EU research based on a strong multidisciplinary approach, including social sciences and humanities, can help address these challenges by exploring new forms of innovation and strengthening the evidence base for policy actions, both at EU and national level. It also promotes coherent and effective cooperation with countries outside the EU and looks at issues such as memories, identities, tolerance and cultural heritage.

What is EU Research and Innovation doing to support Innovative and Reflective Societies?

In 2013, EU research has focused on growth, employment and competitiveness (intangibles, youth, public finances), sustainable development (lifestyles, social entrepreneurship, welfare state), major trends in society (social innovation, education, third sector), Europe in the world (Mediterranean area, transatlantic relationships and India), citizenship (resilience, multilingualism, cultural heritage) and foresight (post-carbon cities).

Between 2007-2013, under the previous programme for research and technological development FP7, EU research had financed more than 250 socioeconomic projects with almost 2,800 participants from 92 countries.

Key future research action will focus on:

- New ideas, strategies and governance structures for overcoming the crisis in Europe (resilient economic and monetary union, EU growth agenda, EU social policies, the future of European integration).
- The young generation in an innovative, inclusive and sustainable Europe (job insecurity, youth mobility, adult education, social political engagement of young people).
- Reflective societies (transmission of European cultural heritage, uses of the past, 3D modelling for accessing EU cultural assets).
- Europe as a global actor (focusing R&I cooperation with third countries, new geopolitical order in the Mediterranean, EU Eastern Partnership, sustainable urbanisation in China...).
- New forms of innovation (in the public sector, ICT government, business model innovation, social innovation community, ICT for learning and inclusion).

For the very latest information on European Research and Innovation, go to:
http://www.facebook.com/innovation.union
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Towards a socio-ecological transition

What kind of growth path should Europe opt for in the face of the financial crisis and the big challenges ahead: globalisation, demographic shifts, climate change and new technologies? What kind of growth path can guarantee Welfare, Wealth and Work for Europe in the long term? These are essential questions about Europe’s future that need to be answered today. And these are the questions an ambitious European research project is working on. Its name is its mission: Welfare, Wealth and Work for Europe – WWWforEurope.

Supported by a €8 million contribution from the EU 7th Framework programme, WWWforEUROPE includes 33 partners from 12 Member States.

Project coordinator: WIFO - Österreichisches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung
Country participants: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, UK.

More information:
Project website: http://www.foreurope.eu/
Contacts: http://tinyurl.com/kdu52c6