



This Newsletter is a key channel of communication for EU research in Social Sciences and Humanities, with the research community and other relevant stakeholders.

<http://cordis.europa.eu/citizens/home.html>

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/index_en.htm)

### THEME OF THIS ISSUE

#### How relevant is SSH research to National Policies?

An interview with Prof Louise Morley, Professor of Education, Sussex School of Education, University of Sussex, UK underlines the relevance of SSH research to National Policies across the EU.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

#### THEME OF THIS ISSUE ...Pg .2

Impressions from the Triple E-Dose conference and an interview with Professor of Education, Louise Morley

#### HIGHLIGHTS ...Pg .6

Covering the Anna Lindh Award presentation

#### WORK IN PROGRESS ...Pg .7

Work in Progress provides details on the first FP7 calls that were launched in December 2006 and an update on FP6 calls

#### NEWS FROM PROJECTS ...Pg .9

News from Projects introduces information on a number of projects funded by the European Commission. The following projects are presented:

1. CINEFOGO
2. CRIME AND CULTURE
3. LLL 2010
4. PLATON
5. TRANSITIONS
6. WORKS

#### Pg .14... ONLINE DATABASES & JOURNALS

Information on the GOVDATA database and the LREG e-journal

#### Pg .16... FUTURE EVENTS

Future Events announces a number of conferences aiming at presenting findings from EU-funded projects on topics such as global markets, integration strategies and citizenship

#### Pg .17... RECENT EVENTS

Recent Events looks at conferences recently held such as:

- EP-EUROFOUND seminar
- OSIS workshop
- THINK & ACT conference

#### Pg .19... PUBLICATIONS

- Keeping you informed on the literature published by our Programme
- Project Briefing Papers, State of the Art Reports and Final Reports

#### Pg .20... BOOK REVIEW

"Mergers & Acquisitions: The Innovation Impact"



### EDITORIAL

On 1 October 2006, the European Commission's Directorate General for Research underwent a significant structural reorganisation. Two previously distinct Directorates, one responsible for 'Research on Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities' and the other for 'Science and Society', were merged.

The resulting Directorate 'Science, Economy and Society' will ensure better synergies between research on key societal, economic and S&T challenges for Europe and the actions designed to bring science closer to society.

This new organisational structure will thus encompass the activities to be carried out under the two new specific programmes of the 7th Framework Programme: the 'Cooperation' Specific Programme (for 'Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities' Theme) and the 'Capacities' Specific Programme (for the 'Science in Society' Activity).

These changes have coincided with a crucial phase in the preparation of the 7th Community RTD Framework Programme. Intensive inter-institutional negotiations should result in the final adoption of the FP7 package in the last half of December. The Commission, after consultations with relevant Programme Committees, adopted the work programmes for 'Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities' and 'Science in Society' and published the first calls for proposals on 22 December 2006.

Both programmes aim for continuity of activities carried out under FP6, while at the same time introducing several new and innovative elements. In 'Science in Society' the focus will gradually shift towards research, with a view to maximising research activity after 2009. A particular emphasis of the 2007 SSH work programme will be the strategic agenda of the European Union regarding competitiveness, growth and employment, as well as sustainable development. Attention will also be given to the contribution of Humanities scholars.

It is my great pleasure, as the Director of this new 'Science, Society and Economy' Directorate, to present the seventh issue of the SSH Newsletter.

I hope that it will remain a useful tool for communicating EU research on Socio-economic sciences and the humanities, which is essential for the development of the European Union.

Jean-Michel Baer  
Director, Directorate L  
Science, Economy and Society

### THEME OF THIS ISSUE

#### How relevant is SSH research to National Policies?

**An interview with Prof Louise Morley, Professor of Education, Sussex School of Education, University of Sussex, UK**

The inclusion of New Member States into the European Community has brought with it great social change – not just for the new members, but for all of Europe. The disparity between nations has triggered a number of EC funded research programmes into how best to accommodate and facilitate educational equality within the confines of rapid social adjustments.

Equality in education is of vital importance as it covers a host of issues, many of which are highly integrated into the social constructs of society – and a broader European dimension. According to the Bologna Declaration, one of its underlying principles is to "establish a more complete and far-reaching Europe, in particular building upon and strengthening its intellectual, cultural, social and scientific and technological dimensions." It further stresses that

the importance of education – and international education co-operation – is of utmost importance in fostering "stable, peaceful and democratic societies".

Speaking at the Triple E-DOSE conference in Krakow, Professor Morley, from the School of Education at the University of Sussex, outlined her work from several research projects she has undertaken over the years, and points to the discrepancy that exists between this principle spirit of the Bologna Declaration and between the perception and support of elitism within educational institutions.



© shutterstock



Her central argument was that policies on quality assurance in higher education have been developed and implemented without consideration of equality issues.

“My research,” she explains, “has primarily looked into issues of gender and social equality and equity within the political constructs of the Commonwealth nations. I have investigated a number of key elements relating to equality throughout these nations, from Sri Lanka to South Africa, looking at the factors that impede or facilitate gender based participation in higher education. The research also looked at other concepts such as curriculum transformation and professional development. In other work, we looked at how UK universities were implementing equal opportunities policies.”

While the extent of her research is enormous, covering more than ten years, Professor Morley outlined some of her more fundamental findings for the conference. One such, for example, is that equality in education is not merely gender inclusive, nor is it solely pertinent to students. The issue of equality is often pursued on separate policy trajectories from that of quality. In a very subtle manner this is highly controversial argument simply because discussions on quality are not automatically related to concepts of equality.

Moreover, perceptions of quality are rather one sided. During a survey of employers and what institutions they perceived as producing better candidates (2006), Morley explains that most employers “tended to favour graduates from universities which had the highest and most rigorous selection process. Conversely it was found that universities with the most diverse student bodies, for example the newer universities, were not favoured by employers.”

This common perception; that elitism is synonymous with quality, a situation, Professor Morley explains arising from the pretext “that the indicators of quality are based on reputation built over the centuries” flies directly in the face of education access and widening participation, and, more importantly, undermines any policy based on equality formation. The direct correlation therefore that Professor Morley makes between education equality and a candidate’s future economic potential is associated not on quality matters per se, but to a common antiquated perception of quality’s exclusivity on behalf of employers.

While Professor Morley does not deny the excellence with which these institutions provide education, she is concerned about their selection processes and whether or not the regime of quality upon which they are based is exclusive of social equity. She argues that the criteria for excellence these institutions have established are counter-equality in that they are too exclusive and rigorous. “Equality is multi-faceted, it’s not just about quantitative change and widening access for students. It’s also about qualitative change e.g. student rights, curriculum, social relations,

organisational culture, and professional development. Universities have been rather slow in recognizing this, citing the principles of meritocracy upon which they are founded. In so doing, they tend to forego any need to include equality as merit is perceived as transcending identity.”



While there has been much discussion of how the number of women entering higher education as students has increased, women still lack power as providers and producers of higher education. One example of exclusion, Professor Morley cites is that “Internationally, women are grossly under-represented in the professoriate, even within these institutions that have highly evolved equality policies “Britain has had equality legislation since the nineteen seventies but has fewer women professors than Sri Lanka or Jamaica.”

Other considerations of equality also pertain to a form of cultural heritage or ideology promoted by certain universities. Research in the UK identified the fact that many students coming from lower socio-economic groups, tend not to apply to elite institutions. “A number of reasons explain this,” Professor Morley admits, “for one, they anticipate rejection and secondly they often don’t feel comfortable in elitist organisations as there’s a cultural mismatch.”

So there is a multifaceted dimension to providing equality. One which would require a flexible resolution. One solution for Professor Morley, lies in a transparent auditing process whereby quality audits themselves meet the requirements of the diversity found within the higher education sector. It is unfair, Professor Morley says, for such diversity in the sector to be assessed according to one set criteria of quality. She illustrates the point by stating that “equity issues frequently are not factors in taxonomies of excellence”.



Professor Morley expanded on the example through exemplification, citing student completion of their course studies as a case to point. In the UK, this is a performance indicator in quality audits of teaching and learning. She highlighted that often able students coming from financially deprived backgrounds are not able to complete their studies due solely to economic reasons.

Professor Morley is quick to assert that issues of quality are a matter of discourse, having multiple interpretations. "Some see it as a positive involvement, making organisations more accountable. The externality of audits makes accountability more transparent to equity issues. Students too can benefit from such in that it provides them with clearer rights, more entitlements and greater support."

"There is, however," Professor Morley points out, "another side to it."

One such counterpoint is the huge financial burden such audits place on organisations in terms of the bureaucracy involved. There is a larger issue at stake in that some institutions lack funding to provide good quality services e.g. libraries and IT resources. However, seemingly unlimited. Funding appears to be available for quality assurance audits of the sector. Another objection academics often raise is that they feel auditing imposes a "non-negotiable orthodoxy, that forces people to perform to standards of quality that they could not challenge or question".

Professor Morley explains that one response from academics is that the indicators for auditing were over-simplified and reductive for such complex issues. "Traditionally," she points out, "academics have been invited to be critical of this sort of performative approach, whereas now they're being told not to be, and just have to meet the criteria."

There are no easy or straightforward answers to ensuring equality in education, nor will the problems involved, or the complexities associated with equality be immediately addressed. What is certain, says Professor Morley, "is that there has to be more negotiation with the providers of higher education about performance indicators in quality audits".

It is clear however, that change is needed and with the work of Professor Morley and others like her, we can be assured that they will encompass the dynamisms of change, making equality synonymous with quality and inclusive of equity.

### Triple e-DOSE conference, Poland, 2006

#### A dose of heritage, culture and education

The Vistula River meanders its way through Poland stretching over a thousand kilometers long. Not far from its grassy banks, as it winds its

way through Krakow, nestles one of the oldest universities in Europe. The Jagiellonian University, founded by Casimir III the Great in 1364, has a long history of education and turmoil. Like the city itself, it is no stranger to adversity and progress and as such, provided a highly symbolic venue to host the Triple E-DOSE International Conference on Education, Employment and Europe.

With the recent inclusion of new Member States into the European Union, the discrepancy between education, opportunity and employment has become increasingly visible. In the immediate sense, Europe is changing. Dramatic events are sweeping societal changes to the fore, research is pressurised to bring answers to potential difficulties or provide solutions for current demands, and policymakers want practical answers to their concerns.



To address these extensive societal changes, the Triple E-DOSE conference brought government, research and educational practitioners under one roof to discuss the relevant issues dominating education and employment in the broader European arena.

The conference titled 'Days of Socio-Economy: Education, Employment, Europe' had a rather unique structure to it. Divided into two categories; the Voice of Science and the Voice of Practice, its intention was to have these 'voices' speak out, not as a means of opposition, but as a means towards a further understanding regarding their differences and common goals, and more importantly, a common road of progress.

#### There by the good grace of government goes education

Education has a direct and potent impact on the future economic growth of nations. "It is the youth of today," says Constantinos Fotakis, Director of the European Commission DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, "that will provide the ideas for restructuring tomorrow." He further reiterated the importance of education by stating that through improving its educational lead, Europe can "survive the competitive edge of other countries".



But the role of education, given the rapid paces of social change, is not clear-cut. Nor is it a matter of 'traditional educational structures' that will lead the way. During a number of the workshops of Triple-E DOSE, it became abundantly clear that education reforms need to address issues across the board. From lifelong education through continued education programmes to the role that the elderly play as proponents of 'active ageing', changes in education will have to firstly be understood, and secondly, be implemented within the proper context and manner.

More importantly, since there is a global side to both educational and employment reforms, the European Commission has placed great emphasis on international cooperation. Integrated collaborative research is so strongly encouraged that it is almost the by-word for the European Commission, the 'holy-grail' for the encouragement and exploitation of research potential.



A continuing theme throughout the conference was that in promoting both education and opportunity, the role of the government cannot be underemphasised. Since the growth of employment is directly related to the growth of education quality and opportunity, National Contact Points need to be engaged in dialogue to fully exploit national results. Moreover, other incentives provided by governmental bodies need to be encouraged. Tax benefits and reforms, pension and retirement schemes and the promotion of anti-discrimination policies such as age-based employment opportunities, are examples of policy areas government should address.

### The scope of education, employment and Europe

One of the initial and predominant senses that arose from these meetings is one of disjuncture and the discrepancy between research and policy formation. While various educational institutions continue to employ high standards for education, there is little in the way of a unified, homogenous standard throughout Europe, and the gap between policymakers and researchers seems to be growing. One such point of debate is that for many government officials, such social science orientated research has little immediate and practical bearing, while researchers feel a growing tendency from policymakers to dictate to their research.

The above highlights just one area in which the Voice of Science and the Voice of Practice have opposing points of view. It is such contrary opinions as these that the conference intended to smooth out in an open platform of discussion and exchange of ideas. It is such activities as these, says Angelos Agalianos, in his opening address in "Crossing Borders: The European Dimension in Educational and Social Science Research" that sums it up best, as being the drivers for providing "a coherent, and interlinked understanding of the challenges contemporary European societies are faced with and to support policy, thereby enabling Europe better to understand itself and face its future".

The workshops hosted, proved an essential element is breaching the gap of understanding. Based on open, informal discussion, the various workshops addressed a number of issues the growing concern of Europe's educational systems are wrestling with.

Some of the areas covered included the impact of active aging; people with disabilities; immigration on education and labour markets; the nature of life long learning; the inequalities of education and labour markets, as well as the inherent restrictions of career potential female educators face.

### Measure for Measure; taking steps forward

Equality in education is a predominant theme, vital in ensuring that the bar of quality education and more importantly, opportunities for education, is raised in an appropriate manner. Not just on a gender specific focus, but also on a platform of immigration, financial status and social class.

Equality was also dealt with in the framework of the 'Persons with Disabilities in Education and Labour Market' workshop, revealing how marginalised they were, not just in their educational prospects, but as the Voice of Practice pointed out, also in their lifelong struggle for employment and opportunities. One conclusion coming from the debate identified the necessity for policy to stipulate the formation of accessibility standards across Europe in all educational institutions.

In the 'Active Aging' workshop, for example, the discussion identified that education was synonymous with quality of life, as the higher educated had the necessary empowerment to lead quality lives based on the ability to make better, more informed decisions regarding improved lifestyles, health and greater participation in socially beneficial events. Additionally, the discussion addressed more ethical questions regarding active aging and whether or not there is any real necessity firstly, to include the aged in the labour market, and secondly, what the pros and cons of such an inclusion would be.

The complexities of such inclusion however have more than just ethical concerns. For the labour market, many may view the 'age drain' as a leak of vital skills and experience. Others, where entrance into the labour



market may be more competitive, perceive the aged as obstacles to attaining employment opportunities. The 'Intergenerational Learning and Employment' workshop identified that the senior sector of the labour market still has a vital role in the transmission of skills and experience.

The inclusion of the younger generations were also seen as beneficial in that, specifically, they could teach their elders in vital ICT skills. In fact, primarily in this area, Fotakis acknowledges that "knowledge is diffused via various new instruments of ICT like blogs, chats, website etc. This is the place where the older generations would require support from the young." While other recommendations were made during this workshop the primary consensus arising was that further research was necessary in order to present policymakers with a more solid evidence-basis.

The recent breakdown in dialogue between Greek students and educational bodies is a prime example of how important quality education is viewed and how deeply seeded it is within social constructs. In fact, during the Education for a Civil Society workshop, one of the first recommendations agreed on concerning policymakers was to ensure an open and continuous debate about engaging higher education in a process for developing civil society.



From one workshop to another, common findings began to emerge. Consistently the role of family became increasingly encouraged, and viewed as one of the vital means in which furthering opportunities could be acquired. Financial status too was identified as an important means by which opportunities for education were offered. Even in the

earliest stages of education – kindergarten – it was seen that the more money the parents paid for such, the more was offered to their children.

In order to level the playing field, several recommendations emerged, calling for greater participation of welfare systems, educational bodies and labour systems. Continuous support for long-term solutions coming from the political sector was stressed as an important measure.

### A voice to policymakers, advice to research

As the second day of the conference drew to a close, one of the most obvious weaknesses identified was that there seemed to be little common ground between policymakers and researchers. The slippery slope of policy inclusion, for most researchers who struggle to preserve the integrity of their research, is where should it begin and where would it end.

Likewise, the voice coming out of government bodies seems to echo a similar charge; that research is not providing tangible results that can contribute effectively to the development of policies.

Perhaps, the most clear-cut advice that promises to bridge the two worlds came from Steve Bainbridge, a former Commission member with experience in research, now part of the European Center for the Development of Vocational Training, who advocated strongly for researchers "to seek a mandate". He encouraged researchers to seek existing calls for tenders in order to raise interest from parliament in their research. As the voice of experience in this matter, he warns that from both sides there is a tendency "to interpret results to suit themselves".

In seeking mandates, he explained, both an audience for and a level of objectivity are raised for researchers. More importantly, policymakers then attain answers to problems they need for immediate issues. This imperative instruction, he concluded, is one of the most important means by which research can come to the "political wedding".

In this framework it was also identified that under the Bologna Process, the 45 countries that committed themselves to higher education reforms, still have a long way to go. Specifically in adopting policies that integrate education with the development of the labour market. During his speech, Jerzy Buzek, member of the European Parliament stated that the Bologna Process highlighted only one objective in integrating education and the labour market. It was, he felt, a severe shortcoming.

The conference provided a significant and important first step towards dealing with all important issues. Everyone left feeling progress had been made, not only in furthering their own cause, but in identifying issues for future consideration.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Dr Helene Sjørnsen Wins Anna Lindh Award

Dr Helene Sjørnsen is the winner of the Anna Lindh Award. Named in honour of Anna Lindh, the former Foreign Minister of Sweden, this is the first time

the prize is presented for research on EU security policy. Dr Sjørnsen, a Norwegian researcher, is a vital player in various EU-funded research projects focusing on key policy issues. She is especially noted for her work in the project titled 'Citizenship and Democratic Legitimacy'. CIDEL spotlighted the concept of European citizenship. While the project



ended in October 2005, CIDEL is still generating influential bodies of work. Dr Sjursen played a significant role in the 'External Security' work package, which was one of eight packages. Under this rubric, she participated in many workshops, such as 'From civilian to military power: the European Union at a crossroads?', where Dr Sjursen presented 'What kind of power?' and 'Questioning EU Enlargement', for which she edited a book of the same name.

Dr Sjursen was presented the Anna Lindh Award in Brussels in September 2006, where EU Commission Vice President Margot Wallström paid homage to Ms Lindh and her principles of integrating peace into a viable security policy. "Anna Lindh wanted the European Union to be better at preventing and managing crises, both inside and outside Europe. Thanks to her vision and energy, and despite initial reticence, the EU did finally decide to set up a civilian crisis management capability in parallel with its military capability," Ms. Wallström remarked.

Ms Lindh was slain while shopping in a Stockholm department store. She was a member of the Swedish Social Democratic party and a key supporter of Sweden's accession to the Eurozone, despite the constituents' decision to vote against membership.

The Anna Lindh Award was the brainchild of three European research foundations: Compagnia di San Paolo in Turin (Italy), Riksbankens Jubileumsfond in Stockholm (Sweden) and the VolkswagenStiftung in Hanover (Germany). The €20,000 prize is awarded in the context of their European Foreign and Security Policy Studies training programme, which underlines the prospects of the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the European Security and Defence Policy. Research projects that look beyond the national views now dominating academic and practical approaches towards European foreign and security policy are getting the backing they need from the three foundations.

### WORK IN PROGRESS

#### First FP7 Call launched

One of the last important steps on the road towards FP7 was taken on 21 December 2007, with the final approval of the Work Programme 2007 for the thematic area 8, entitled Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH). By acting as the basis for the Call published on 22 December 2006, the Work Programme covers the first year of FP7 and be implemented for proposals which are planned for the budget years 2007 and 2008.

Please note that this Work Programme is the subject of the Special Issue of the SSH Newsletter, sent by email on 22 December 2006 to the subscribers.

For the Work Programme and the Call: see <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/>.

The overall priority of the SSH is to address the key social, economic and cultural challenges facing Europe at present and in the near future. The main objectives of the research agenda is to generate in-depth and shared knowledge on complex and interrelated issues such as growth, employment and competitiveness, social cohesion and sustainability, quality of life and education as well as cultural issues and global interdependence. A better understanding of these socio-economic and humanities challenges will facilitate the formulation, implementation and assessment of European, national and regional policies.

The Work Programme 2007 is heavily based on the findings of two Internet based consultations (2004 and 2006), in which public and scientific community were asked to comment on the research agenda. The Work Programme also draws from earlier consultations, from a series of targeted meetings at a European level and, moreover, from past and present research

in EU national programmes.

For a comprehensive coverage of the wide range of socio-economic and humanities challenges, the Work Programme has been structured in terms of Activities, which are in turn subdivided into Areas and Topics. The eight Activities of SSH are the following:

#### Activity 8.1: Growth, employment and competitiveness in a knowledge society: the European case

The ongoing processes of globalisation, emerging economies and, at a European level, EU enlargement, are creating new challenges and opportunities for economies throughout the world. Within this context, growth, employment and competitiveness are considered crucial aspects for the development of a knowledge-based society. These issues, which are of great concern to policymakers and citizens, are presently expressed in the renewed Lisbon agenda. In order to support the Lisbon strategy and other European policies, research aimed at integrating knowledge on growth, employment and competitiveness is needed.

Activity 8.1 aims at producing novel information on growth, employment and competitiveness within Europe. Under this Activity, research aims at assessing the changing role of knowledge throughout the economy by focusing on economic growth and social well-being, intangible investments and internalisation of Europe's research and innovation systems. Furthermore, there is the necessity to study the structural changes in the European knowledge society by analysing the process of globalisation, the developments of the service economy, as well as the role of finance. Finally, research under this Activity should focus on strengthening policy coherence and





coordination in Europe, especially in terms of macro-economic policy interaction with other policies.

### **Activity 8.2: Combining economic, social and environmental objectives in a European perspective: Paths towards sustainable development**

The main purpose of Activity 8.2 consists of combining economic, social and environmental objectives in order to improve the basis for sustainable development. More specifically, the research aims to gather key evidence on European means of bringing together socio-economic objectives, comparing various societal models and developing tools for socio-economic forecasting. By analysing the regional development challenges and economic disparities, this Activity also addresses the models and effectiveness of regional, territorial and social cohesion. Particular attention is given to the reforms of the CAP and to the social platform on urban sustainable development.

### **Activity 8.3: Major trends in society and their implications**

In the last decades, Europe has undergone drastic demographic and societal changes, which, progressively, have turned into major challenges for EU policymakers. At present, there is an increasing necessity to understand the causes and trends of demographic changes such as the ageing of the population, low fertility rates and the intensification of migration streams. Societal trends and the modification of Europe's lifestyle also need to be addressed, with due consideration to the role of the family, the changing work-family balance, the transformation of consumption patterns, and the importance of beliefs and values. Moreover, research is needed in order to understand how European societies will develop in the present context of globalisation. This entails identifying the role of cultural interactions in an international perspective by focusing on multiculturalism, diversities and traditions.

### **Activity 8.4: Europe in the World**

The ongoing processes of globalisation and interdependency have a major impact on the social, economic and political framework of all countries. While new global players emerge, so do new conflicts, threats and geographical borders. As a consequence, the stability of the international system is not automatically guaranteed.

Europe is by far not excluded from these global events and, therefore, it is vital that the EU policymakers tackle emerging challenges in a concrete and concerned way. With the aim of better understanding global interaction and interdependencies between the World's regions, Activity 8.4 aims at assessing the role Europe has within the global economic governance as well as its paths of development from a historical and comparative perspective. Studies focusing on the emergence and perception of threats, violent conflicts and human rights also need to be carried out. Research in

this field is essential as it will allow the European Union to react proactively to ongoing global challenges.

### **Activity 8.5: The Citizen in the European Union**

How 'European' do European citizens feel? The different cultural and historical backgrounds of the EU Member States make it somewhat complex for EU citizens to achieve a sense of democratic 'ownership', active participation and effective governance within the EU policy processes. This is not in agreement with the global association of Europe as supporting democratic consolidation and fundamental rights.

Activity 8.5 aims at researching the wide range of issues related to EU participation and democratic 'ownership' and, moreover, the perception, rights and education of the European citizenship. The research also addresses Europe's diversities and commonalities by focusing on the history and role of national and European identities and on the role and societal impact of creativity.

### **Activity 8.6: Socio-economic and scientific indicators**

The proper use of quantitative and qualitative data is of extreme importance for policy making. Research under Activity 8.6 aims at highlighting how indicators are presently used in policy development and implementation and, in contrast, how these indicators should be used. In this respect, the objective of the research agenda consists of isolating the problems associated with the existing official statistics by identifying new ways of improving the collection, the dissemination and the comparability of qualitative and quantitative indicators. Another area of interest concerns the need to develop indicators and approaches for the evaluation of research policies and programs.

### **Activity 8.7: Foresight activities**

Research and innovation are both fundamental issues for a prospective vision of socio-economic developments in the EU. A forward vision of upcoming challenges and opportunities is in fact extremely useful for developing and implementing a wide range of policies and contributing to the preparation of future research programs. Within this framework, Activity 8.7 aims at assessing the forward visions of the European Research Area (ERA), by analysing the progress made by ERA over the past years and by identifying economies of scale and scope in research. Moreover, the aim is to address foresight activities in emerging research domains and future dynamics of key F&T actors in Europe. Finally, there is the need to consider the possibilities of mutual learning and cooperation between national and international foresight activities, including developing countries as well as international organisations.



### Activity 8.8: Strategic activities

A wide range of 'horizontal activities', which are directed at guaranteeing a good implementation of the SSH priority, fall under Activity 8.8. More specifically, this Activity addresses emerging and unforeseen policy needs, actions which support international cooperation, measures aiming at research dissemination as well as impact assessment studies of EU research on policy and science. In addition, this Activity includes the application of schemes that are used to develop and strengthen the coordination of national and regional research projects (ERA-NET and ERA-NET plus) and to monitor European trends in research in SHH (METRISS).

#### FP6 - Last round of negotiations for Citizens 4 and INCO 'top-up' calls

##### Citizens 4

In autumn 2006, the negotiations for the Citizens 4 proposal, a call which falls under Priority 7 of FP6, were successfully completed. A total of 14 projects for Networks of Excellence (NoE) and Integrated Projects (IP) passed all thresholds in the evaluation and were therefore selected for funding. A list of these projects will be shortly available on the CORDIS website.

A first overview of the outcome of the Citizens 4 call is already available at:

[ftp://ftp.cordis.lu/pub/citizens/docs/second\\_call\\_priority7\\_outcome.pdf](ftp://ftp.cordis.lu/pub/citizens/docs/second_call_priority7_outcome.pdf)

### Topping-up International Cooperation

Following the finding that part of the available FP6 budget for third country participation had not been completely utilised, the Commission launched the INCO 'top up' call with the aim of increasing Targeted Third-Country participation in the thematic priorities of FP6 (FP6-TTC-TU-PRIORITY-7). The negotiations for this call have now been completed. Of the 15 proposals which were submitted either by ongoing project or by projects under negotiation at the time of the call's closing date, nine were selected for funding. As of January 2007, 17 new partners, coming from 10 Targeted Third Countries (Albania, Bolivia, Iran, Indonesia, Lebanon, Moldova, Russia, Serbia, South Africa and Ukraine) will participate in the nine projects. These projects will receive extra funding for the new partners, corresponding to a total of EU budget €983.531.

### Publications

An updated version of *European Union – Supported Research in Social Sciences and Humanities* has recently been published. This publication contains a description of the methods and main scientific policy outcomes of 120 projects conducted between 1998 and 2005 and funded by TSER Programme and Key Action 'Improving the Socio-economic Knowledge Base', Briefing Papers, Brussels, 2006, EUR n° 21538, ISBN 92-79-01299-1, 280 pages. The publication is also available at the following web page: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/index_en.htm)

## NEWS FROM PROJECTS

### News from the following Projects:

1. **CINEFOGO** - Events of CINEFOGO Network
2. **CRIME AND CULTURE** - Crime as a cultural problem
3. **LLL 2010** - towards a lifelong learning society in Europe
4. **PLATON** - Development of an online SMEs partner search web-tool
5. **TRANSITIONS** - Gender, parenthood and the changing European workplace
6. **WORKS** - Work Organisation and Restructuring in the Knowledge Society

### CINEFOGO

Project acronym: **CINEFOGO**

Title of project: **Civil Society and New Forms of Governance in Europe - the Making of European Citizenship**

Co-ordination: University of Roskilde (Denmark)

Funded under: FP6-Priority 7 Citizens

Project website: [www.cinefogo.org](http://www.cinefogo.org)

### Subject: Events of CINEFOGO Network

CINEFOGO is a research, learning and dialogue Network of Excellence that seeks to promote citizens' involvement and social participation in policymaking; understand the impact of different forms of citizenship and civic participation; and identify factors that help co-existence of multiple



identities. More than 35 institutions and 150 researchers in Europe are part of CINEFOGO which is coordinated by University of Roskilde, Denmark. CINEFOGO Network is supported by FP6-Priority 7.

CINEFOGO aims to provide knowledge about civil society, citizenship and social protection, nourish a public debate on governance and strengthen intellectual cooperation.

The fields of interest for CINEFOGO are:

- To promote citizens' involvement and social participation in policymaking,
- To understand the impact of different forms of citizenship and civic participation,
- To identify factors that help co-existence among multiple identities in Europe.



During the first 6 months of CINEFOGO project, 3 events were organised.

The first was the regular meeting of the Network Council, which took place in Vienna on 22-23 May 2006. Its purpose was to evaluate the first 6 months of CINEFOGO network and to discuss a first draft for the detailed programme of activities for the next 18 months of the programme. During the reference period CINEFOGO developed a number of activities on three main thematic areas:

- Identities, Values and Civic Cultures – Integration and Diversity;
- Citizenship and Civic Participation in Relation to Social Protection;
- Multi-level Governance and Organized Civil Society.

Progress in these areas was commonly judged to be quite satisfactory by the members of the network council. A detailed schedule of activities for the second semester of CINEFOGO has also been discussed and agreed by the council.

The second event was a working meeting in which members of CINEFOGO examined the ways and means for the better possible Spread of Excellence (Vienna, 24-25 May 2006). The meeting was open to media representatives and members of civil society. The Spread of Excellence team gathered many ideas on how dissemination of Excellence could reach target groups such as academia, students, the media and policymakers.



The third event was the PhD network meeting on Civil Society and the Third Sector (Vienna, 25-28 May 2006). The meeting was attended by 35 PhD students and 10 senior scholars who discussed a lot of dissertation topics of the project in small groups and plenary sessions.

All three meetings were hosted by the Wirtschaftsuniversität in Vienna (Austria).

An updated calendar with future CINEFOGO activities is available online at [www.cinefogo.org](http://www.cinefogo.org), as well as detailed newsletters on past events and various texts of the project.

## CRIME AND CULTURE

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 United Kingdom**

The official meeting marking the beginning of CRIME AND CULTURE, a three-year EU funded project which brings together partners from seven European countries, was held on 2-3 February 2006 in Sofia. By addressing a fundamental aspect of FP6, 'Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-Based Society', the consortium's main objective is to develop means to optimise the prevention of corruption in Europe.

Corruption is a universal problem. Within the EU, and especially with reference to the europeanization 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, be a menace to social order. EU policymakers have already acknowledged the multifaceted problem of corruption and have therefore put in place policies 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.

Against this background, the CRIME AND CULTURE project adopts an original 'bottom-up' approach to the problem of corruption. The consortium does not seek to conduct a detailed inquiry into the concept of corruption,



but rather to understand its perception on behalf of various stakeholders within national boundaries. 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 wide range of subjects, ranging from policymakers and institutions to the average European citizen. Particular attention is given to the

role of the media, as it is known to have a considerable influence on the social patterns of corruption recognition and perception.

By conducting a comparative study between the EU Accession Countries (Bulgaria and Romania), the EU Candidate Countries (Turkey and Croatia) and three EU Member States (Germany, Greece and the UK), CRIME AND CULTURE aims at producing novel information on corruption and perception thereof. The 2006 workshops of Lisbon, Istanbul and Spetses, which focused on reconstructing the cultural patterns that underlie the perception of corruption among institutional actors, media and other target groups, have already produced the first important findings. Based on these results, the project will enter a new phase, in which bottom-up strategies for the prevention of corruption will be developed. CRIME AND CULTURE will ultimately produce data which will encourage a revision of the existing anticorruption systems, enable the design of new prevention policies, and, more generally, contribute to combating corruption in Europe.

### LLL 2010

Project Acronym: **LLL 2010**  
Project Title : **Towards a Lifelong Learning Society in Europe: The contribution of the educational system**  
Project Acronym: LLL 2010

In March 2000, the European Council adopted the so-called 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, the EU policymakers 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 aimed at increasing the participation rate of adults in lifelong learning was developed.

As part of the European Commission's 6th Framework Research Program, the project 'Toward a Lifelong Learning Society in Europe: The Contribution of the Educational System' (LLL 2010) aims at collecting and analysing information on the patterns of lifelong learning across Europe. More specifically, the five-year project seeks at assessing 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 like: '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?'

The end of 2006 marks the conclusion of the first of five LLL 2010 subprojects, 'Review of Literature and Policy Documents', which commenced in September 2005. The focal objective of this subproject consisted of a critical assessment of the notion of lifelong learning and the conceptualisation of the various notions related to it: learning citizens, learning cities/regions and learning organisations. Moreover, this first part of the project aimed at examining to which extent different models of lifelong learning apply in national and European contexts; at developing a typology of policy measures focusing on lifelong learning policy; and at mapping the range of initiatives to encourage the participation of socially excluded groups.



So far, the main results indicate a clear trend across Europe to promote lifelong learning as a key means of addressing extensive economic and social changes and of focusing on labour market issues. Despite this general tendency and notwithstanding the consensus about lifelong learning's importance and desirability, this concept is perceived in different, and sometimes contradictory, ways. For example, the research team found that some countries, with no clear distinction between 'old' and new EU Member States, focus on the human capital aspect of lifelong learning, while others stress its social and personal development aspect. Other dissimilarities regard the approach to the problem of social exclusion through the creation



of better learning opportunities for disadvantaged and marginalised groups. Translated into recommendations, the research team concluded that the diversity of national context implies that a single model of lifelong learning is not likely to be achieved and that EU common guidelines will be strongly influenced by institutional, social and ideological elements.

Further subprojects will focus on adult learners' perspective of formal provision for lifelong learning. Thanks to the development of an agenda for a better understanding of the tensions between the knowledge-based society, lifelong learning and social inclusion in the context of EU enlargement, LLL 2010 is expected to have a major impact on the competitiveness and cohesion of the EU.

### PLATON

Project acronym: **PLATON**

Title of project: **EU Innovative SMEs Online Database**

Co-ordination: Q-PLAN North Greece Ltd, Thessaloniki, Greece

Funded under: FP6-Priority 7 Citizens

Project website: <http://www.platonproject.net/>

#### **Subject: Development of an online SMEs partner search web-tool**

PLATON is a European research project which aims to support EU SME Groupings and interested EU SMEs to respond better and proactively to their changing global macro-environment. European Union SMEs can benefit from PLATON operation by taking advantage of prominent European research results as well as through their participation in research projects in the areas of economic, political, social sciences and humanities under the Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities theme of FP7 (FP7-SSH). PLATON addresses SME Groupings (associations, chambers, networks or clusters of SMEs), highly innovative SMEs and socio-economic research organisations. All these social actors can join PLATON network, submit the required collaboration profile or use any of the project's free services. PLATON offers services for both researcher and economic actors. Emphasis is being placed on connecting science and economy in various events and activities in order to identify common research issues and provide information/support for project submission and utilisation of project results.



PLATON addresses the needs of SMEs / SMEs Groupings and researchers from all EU-27 States but its diversified activities primarily take place in 6 countries: Greece, Italy, Germany, Poland, UK and Estonia. Duration of the PLATON project is October 2005-December 2007 and coordinator of the project is Q-PLAN North Greece Ltd, Thessaloniki, Greece.

To achieve its targets, PLATON offers a wide range of free services, addressing the needs of SMEs / SMEs Groupings and researchers from all Europe and beyond.

More specifically, PLATON offers SMEs & SME Groupings the opportunity to:

- participate in and take advantage of results of Socio-economic research in Sciences and Humanities,
- learn about major social and economic trends and how these can affect their competitiveness.

Proper utilization of PLATON services generates important benefits for SMEs such as the opportunity to:

- form new research / business cooperations;
- participate in European networks of socio-economic research, set their needs and get research results tailored to their requirements;
- clarify their long-term business planning through a better understanding of macro-environment, global changes and implications for their business;
- take proactive measures to reinforce business performance, respond in time to (future) opportunities and threats and enhance their competitiveness.

Additionally, PLATON offers Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) researchers the chance to:

- expand SSH research to new fields;
- bring SMEs / SME Groupings as partners to their projects;
- enhance the perception and demonstrate the value of socio-economic research to enterprises.

Recently, PLATON successfully completed its first year of activities. An online partner search web-tool is now available on the PLATON website. This is quite a useful instrument that aims to facilitate consortium building under FP7-SSH. More than 250 'Collaboration Profiles' are already available in PLATON web-database and more than 400 organisations have been registered to benefit from the project's activities and services. As a result, all interested organisations may search for potential partners for proposal submission. Interested parties can also benefit from selected and processed proposal ideas in the SSH field.



## TRANSITIONS

Project Acronym: **TRANSITIONS**

Project Title: **Gender, Parenthood and the Changing European Workplace: Young adults negotiating the work-family boundary**

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

The TRANSITIONS project addressed the relation between 'Gender, Parenthood and the Changing European Workplace'. As part of the Fifth Framework Programme, this cross-national project aimed at understanding how young European women and men deal with parenthood within the context of different national welfare regimes, family and employer support. This EU funded project, which focused on adults aged 18-30 from seven European countries, took place from January 2003 to December 2005. Its main objective was to analyse the ongoing conflict between globalisation and intensification of work loads and the parents' need to be able to care for their children.

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.

The research carried out in private and public sector workplaces found that companies and governments have already started to adopt, to various degrees, family friendly policies aimed at maintaining a 'work-life balance'. These policies include, for example, flexible working hours, childcare arrangement, part-time opportunities, work outsourcing as well as

parental leave rights. In practice, however, a large part of these efforts are destabilised by conflicting working cultures and practices associated with the increase of workloads related to new forms of competition in the global economy or restructuring and reorganisation of companies. In addition, a perceived absence of job security also leads many parents to renounce pro-family policies.

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, according to the research team, why the transition to parenthood still remains a 'tipping point' on the road towards gender equality.



By acknowledging both positive and negative implications associated with parenthood transitions in European societies, the Final Report of the project (published in 2006) identifies the main consequences of, and gives innovative recommendations on, work-family policies and practices within the Lisbon Agenda. More findings and data will be soon available in a book and various follow-up articles currently being prepared by the project's team.

## WORKS

Project acronym: **WORKS**

Title of project: **Work Organisation and Restructuring in the Knowledge Society**

Co-ordinator: Monique Ramioul

Institution: Higher Institute for Labour Studies (HIVA), Catholic University in Leuven

Funded under: FP6-7 Citizens

Project website: <http://www.worksproject.be/home.htm>

**Subject: International conference 'Bringing together the knowledge to build on further in a European perspective' (Chania, Greece, 21-22 September 2006)**

WORKS is an international research project with 19 EU and Accession State partners. Its main scope is to investigate how employment, learning and labour practices adapt to change and to what effect. The overall objective of the WORKS project is to improve our understanding of changes in work in the knowledge-based society, their driving forces and their implications



for the use of knowledge and skills, for flexibility and for quality of life. In particular, new forms of work organisations are analysed taking into account global value chain restructurings and regional institutional contexts.



Four key thematic issues are tackled by WORKS:

- 1) Changes in work organisations from the perspective of global restructuring of value chains,
- 2) Changes in use of knowledge and skills and different ways of achieving flexibility,
- 3) Changes in use of time and occupational identities and their implications for quality of life of individuals,
- 4) Social dialogue and regional institutional context.

In the frame of its activities WORKS organised an international conference in Chania, Greece (21-22 September 2006), with the title: 'Bringing Together the Knowledge to Build on Further in a European Perspective'. This was the first large event of WORKS which integrated the conclusions of the first year of research. The conference brought together leading EU experts from a range of different disciplinary and national backgrounds. Its aim was the development of a conceptual framework for studying the relationship between global forces and working life, recognising that global corporate strategies may both shape and be shaped by local practices.

The starting point was the generally agreed case that we are witnessing a historically unprecedented transformation of work. A number of large scale changes have been monitored in organisation of work: working time, working space, content of work and contractual relationships between workers and their employers. It is also generally agreed that these changes have something to do with globalisation and technological change. WORKS Chania Conference deepened the theoretical discussion on the mechanisms by which these changes take place.

The conference focused on certain questions:

- How are global forces mediated by national and regional institutions?
- What are the spatial impacts of global corporate restructuring?
- What are the impacts of corporate restructuring on workers' skills and knowledge?
- What are the impacts of strategies that promote flexibility on the organisation of work?
- What are the impacts on working time, work-life balance and quality of life?
- What are the gender impacts?
- What is the impact on occupational identities and career structures?
- What are the implications for workers' organisations and representation as well as Social Dialogue?

There were many contributions complemented by a rich range of presentations by researchers in North America, Asia and Latin America as well as Europe illustrating changes currently taking place in the way work is organised. The valuable conclusions of this important international conference have been recorded and they will be integrated into the research.

### ONLINE DATABASES & JOURNALS

#### GOVDATA

Project acronym: **CONNEX**  
Title of project: **Connecting Excellence on European Governance**  
Co-ordination: Mannheim Centre for European Social Research  
Funded under: FP6-Priority 7  
Project website: <http://www.connex-network.org>

CONNEX seeks to integrate independent fundamental research and mobilise outstanding scholars from different disciplines to deepen our knowledge on European multilevel governance and build a Europe-wide research community which stands for scientific excellence. It also aims to contribute to the public debate on the future of European governance. CONNEX, which is closely linked to the Integrated Project NEWGOV - New Modes of Governance, involves 43 partner institutions from 23 European countries with more than 170 scholars cooperating within the network. The consortium is coordinated by the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research.



In its effort to build a European wide research community on European governance, CONNEX has surveyed recent and ongoing governance research in EU Member States and countries of the 'wider Europe'. Research on governance and the European Union is namely a veritable growth industry. GOVDATA database was developed on this survey.



GOVDATA includes information from all EU Members as well as Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, Russia, Serbia, Monte Negro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania and FYROM (Macedonia). About 1600 Projects dealing with governance have been entered into the database (<http://connex-network.org/govdata/>). The survey covers academic research conducted at all public and private organisations such as universities, research centres and institutes. Because of their differences of scope and structure, a distinction was made between single projects and networks. Single projects are research projects (including PhD or Post PhD research) with one or more researchers involved at any one institution. Research networks have the structure of collaborative research gathering several researchers from different institutions.

GOVDATA includes research projects that have been running at least for a year resulting in publications or reports. Publications, as such however, do not belong in the database. With regards to thematic areas, CONNEX national correspondents have paid much attention to the thematic focus and have entered projects that deal with Governance in EU and/or with a multilevel dimension. In some countries that are not EU Member States, research in the field of EU governance is not well developed yet, so there are not many relevant references.

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.

The overall picture for this innovative database on governance is undoubtedly impressive. GOVDATA is an efficient search tool that offers excellent performance for researchers of governance. Comprehensive, user-friendly and time saving, while producing exact results rapidly, this database is considerably enriching project based research. All references have been categorised according a number of criteria that are easily visible to the main page search engine of GOVDATA. A helpful detailed thesaurus that permits a combined search based on 4 keywords is included on the site.

The survey was conducted in 2005 and completed in early 2006. It includes ongoing or already concluded single research projects and research networks which started between 1994 (the start of the 4th Framework Programme of the EU) and 2005. A drawback of this explicit database is that it has terminated the entry of any new data since April 2006 and it will not be updated in the future. According to the co-ordinator of CONNEX any further information regarding current research on EU Governance can be retrieved in the near future from the joint internet portal [www.eu-governance.org](http://www.eu-governance.org) that provides direct access to the research conducted within the framework of all EU funded research consortia dealing with the topic of EU governance.

To complete its stock-taking exercise, CONNEX has launched another online database. GOVLIT ([www.connex-network.org/govlit/](http://www.connex-network.org/govlit/)), still under revision, is a free online database of academic literature on European Governance with bibliographic information on over 2500 articles, books, reviews and other materials.

### LREG e-Journal

Project activity: **LREG e-Journal**  
Chief Editor: Prof. Dr. Gerda Falkner, Institute for Advanced Studies,  
Department of Political Science, Vienna  
Funded under: FP6-Priority 7  
Project website: <http://europeangovernance.livingreviews.org/>

### Subject: LREG (Living Reviews in European Governance) e-Journal

LREG is an entirely web-based journal, publishing reviews of research on core themes relating to European Governance. It is offered as a free service to the scientific community. This innovative e-journal was jointly developed by CONNEX (Connecting Excellence on European Governance) and NEWGOV (New Modes of Governance), two projects funded by the European Union within its Sixth Framework Programme of research, both funded under FP6-Priority 7.



The research reviews are fully refereed according to highest international standards, and are kept up-to-date by their authors. This is the significance of the word "living". Articles are posted throughout the year when they are ready for publication. LREG operates also as a database of references to books, articles and writers that are mentioned in published articles. It contains a large amount of information on EU governance data and so far the reference database includes 350 different records.

LREG provides European researchers with a valuable tool that is easy to use. Users are able to access up-to-date information related to current writings and recent bibliographies on European Governance. The most innovative feature is that LREG reviews are up dated on a regular basis. LREG users are also entitled to some important benefits: all articles can be downloaded in a format suitable for printing or in a self-contained set of HTML pages for off-line reading, and LREG users may subscribe free to a mailing list and will be notified regularly when a new article has been published.



Already available issues:

LREG-2006-1: Oliver Treib "*Implementing and complying with EU governance outputs*"

LREG-2006-2: Christopher J. Lord "*The aggregating function of political parties in EU decision-making*"

LREG-2006-3: Ulrich Sedelmeier "*Europeanisation in new member and candidate states*"

## FUTURE EVENTS

TITLE OF CONFERENCE	DATE	VENUE	PROJECT	WEBSITE
CRIMPREV	February 2007		CRIMPREV	
Strategic choices on global sourcing from emerging markets - Do codes of conduct do more harm than good?	8 February 2007	Copenhagen, Denmark	CSR PLATFORM	<a href="http://www.eabis.org/csrplatform/engagingstakeholders/WP4event08022007">http://www.eabis.org/csrplatform/engagingstakeholders/WP4event08022007</a>
Kick-off Conference of the Integrated Project EUROSHERE	14 February 2007	Bergen, Norway	EUROSHPERE	<a href="http://www.eurosphere.uib.no/docs/conference_february.pdf">http://www.eurosphere.uib.no/docs/conference_february.pdf</a>
AAAS Annual Meeting: Cyber-enabled Social Science Research	15-19 February 2007	San Francisco, US		<a href="http://www.aaas.org/meetings/Annual_Meeting/">http://www.aaas.org/meetings/Annual_Meeting/</a>
Think & Act - Citizenship and Identity	March 2007	Rome, Italy		<a href="http://www.apre.it">http://www.apre.it</a>
Major launch event on european research	7 March 2006	Brussels, Belgium		
GOEUROMED	April 2007	Amman, Jordan	GOEUROMED	
ESSRHA - Challenges of integration for the new Accession Countries; the case of Bulgaria	April 2007	Sofia, Bulgaria		<a href="http://esshra.tubitak.gov.tr/">http://esshra.tubitak.gov.tr/</a>
MOVE	12-14 April 2007	Krakow, Poland	MOVE	
DIOSCURI	May 2007	Vienna, Austria	DIOSCURI	



## RECENT EVENTS

### EUROFOUND

Project: **Joint EP - EUROFOUND seminar**

Title of project: **Working Time and Work-life Balance: A policy dilemma?**

Date: 17 October 2006, Brussels, Belgium

Institution: EUROFOUND

Project site: <http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/pubdocs/2006/96/en/1/ef0696en.pdf>

A result of the seminar was that there is evidence to support the case that innovative working time and work-life balance policies can lead to a win-win option for both companies and workers. Such a reform could produce a variety of positive impacts at company level, including enhanced employee performance, reduced absenteeism levels, better recruitment and retention potential, as well as greater overall time-efficiency.

### OSIS

Project acronym: **OSIS**

Title of project: **Origins of security and insecurity: The interplay of housing systems with jobs, household structures, finance and social security**

Co-ordinator: John Doling

Institution: School of Social Sciences, The University of Birmingham

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

Project website: <http://www.osis.bham.ac.uk>

#### Subject: Joint Seminar of European Parliament & Eurofound

Time spent working and the balance between work and life are issues on the forefront of European Union's policy debate. As defined at the Lisbon summit, increasing Europe's employment rates has become a major objective of the European Employment Strategy (EES). Working time can play an important role in this context, while flexible working time arrangements are considered a means for improving the competitiveness of companies and national economies. There is also a need to improve job opportunities for women and the senior population as well as great social demand for a better work-life balance.

Over 250 policymakers and social partners attended a half-day seminar at the European Parliament in Brussels on 17 October 2006. The seminar was organised by the European Foundation and the European Parliament (Alejandro Cercas MEP) and participants included Finnish and Spanish Ministers of Labour Tarja Filatov and Jesús Caldera, President of the European Parliament Josep Borrell, and several MEPs.

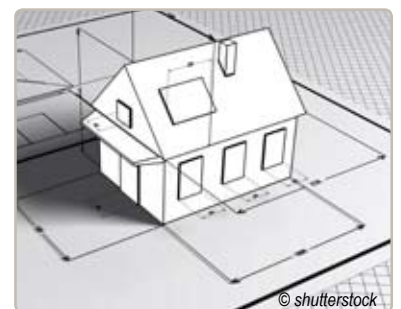


The event focused on working time arrangements and their consequences for workers and businesses, and on the implementation of policies facilitating the reconciliation of work and family life. Different working patterns over the life course were also explored and discussed (i.e. part-time work, flexitime, leave schemes, etc.), with a special focus on those groups with low employment rates. Additionally, many speakers discussed the need for a revision of the Working Time Directive.

#### Subject: Workshop on EU developments in housing systems (Brussels, 13 September 2006)

Within the framework of dialogue and dissemination activities, OSIS participated in a workshop organised by CECODHAS (the European Social Housing Observatory) in Brussels (13 Sep 2006) on developments in housing systems across the EU. The workshop which attracted a number of policymakers and officials in Member States and EU policymaking mechanisms as well as representatives of housing organisations and scientific researchers was entitled: 'Current developments in housing policies and housing markets in Europe: implications for the social housing sector'.

The OSIS contribution to the workshop focused on two aspects of home ownership. The first considered the extent to which the recent growth of home ownership in EU could and should continue and whether there are any limits to the growth of home ownership. The second dealt with the impact that home ownership might have on the long-term





economic growth of the Member States and whether there are any home ownership limits on economic growth.

A useful conclusion derived from the workshop is that it is important that Member States are more comprehensively informed about the significance of housing, while many EU policies have significant consequences on housing systems.

### THINK & ACT

Project acronym: **Think & Act**

Co-ordinator: Diassina Di Maggio

Institution: APRE - Agency for the Promotion of European Research

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

Project website: <http://www.thinkandact.eu/about/index.htm>

#### **Subject: Think & Act Governance and Democracy Conference (Paris, January 2007)**

The recent refusal of some European nations to ratify the European constitution has triggered concern amongst various commission officials. For some, the failure heralds a crisis while others are left pondering "what crisis?"

Nonetheless, in a frank admission that something within the 'European project' has gone wrong, the Commission instigated a round-table discussion involving experts in an attempt to uncover the source and reasons for the setback.

The Think&Act conference held in Paris 10-12 January 2007, was titled "Democracy, European Governance and Social Sciences" with its theme "What's wrong with Europe?" opened to the various panel of experts.

In the opening speech of the day, Josep Borrell Fontelles, President of the European Parliament highlighted the nature of the current crisis. "Economics," he said, "are underperforming; social identities are under threat and the Commission is inefficient — five years to adopt policy is inefficient."

Philippe Busquin, Member of the European Parliament and Former Commissioner for Research, also added that "the European Research Area is a tremendous development and a common reality for everyone." He did, however, reinforce the notion that it was troubled by institutional problems.

For Mrs. Giugou, Vice President of the National Assembly delegation to the European Union and Member of the French Parliamentary Committee on Cultural, Social and Family Affairs, the crisis of Europe took on three distinct forms; the crisis of confidence, the crisis of institution and the crisis of future.

Also addressing the future needs of Europe, Claus Haugaard Sørensen, Director General for Communication, European Commission, postulated whether Europe was targeting future concerns by promoting a "Europeanisation" of interests rather than globalisation. He instanced an example of where the youth of Europe already seemed to be far more integrated on a global scale through various means such as Skype and other VOIP technologies.

As the discussions evolved, it became apparent that bringing together politicians and social science researchers under one roof was going to be more complex than anyone had expected.

At its core, one critical impasse was highlighted; floored by researchers was the concern that the empirical nature of research should not be open to the influence and direction of political interests. The counter demand of politicians was that they were not seeking to influence the nature of results, but that they did want pragmatic solutions to current social problems.

However, both sides were willing to concede that research and the commission should make changes to the way in which they were conducting themselves in order to best answer the issues put on the table.

Notably, researchers stated that the Commission needs to simplify and reduce the administrative requirements associated with its funding programmes. Likewise, the Commission responded by declaring that academics need to simplify their content, making it clearer and less elitist in nature.

While the discussion lasting three days involved a great many themes, one of the most visible conclusions derived was that social science research was vitally important and had a lot to contribute towards better understanding of social issues and to the formulation of policy.

Professor Hubert Heinelt, of the University of Technology, Darmstadt, Professor of Political Science and Coordinator of the 'Achieving Sustainable and Innovative Policies through Participatory Governance in a Multi-Level Context' project, warned that "the social complexities involved are likely to cause governance to fail".

Indeed, the multivariate discussions revealed just how complex the 'European Project' is, highlighting such areas as its 'presence' amongst the ideology of Europeans to its enormously complex economic structure, and even the perceived mystery surrounding the workings of the European



Parliament. In the latter regard, several speakers pointed out that more transparency was needed - specifically for researchers- if the bridges between government and scientists were to be effectively built.

Michel Rocard, Member of the European Parliament, Former Prime Minister, reinforced this point, but from the citizens point of view. "The gap," he claimed, "between European elites who form law and citizens is huge. The secrecy surrounding this process must be cleared, if Europe is ever to come closer to its citizens."

Moreover, speaking somewhat critically of Europe's progress-or lack thereof as the case may be, he claimed that a number of instances were responsible for the failure of ratification. Namely, he pointed out that unemployment in Europe constituted a major reason for the rejection of the constitution. He also equated capitalism as a "ferocious, efficient but unstable system", highlighting that "trade not aide" policies will ruin Europe and that only through "public works" can Europe be "returned to its rightful place".

While his views may seem somewhat harsh, they do serve to highlight the multivariate perspectives of Europe's complexities. This alone is indicative of the imperative need for hard, factual evidence that research alone can provide.



Speaking from the French perspective, Yves Gazzo, Head of Representation of the European Commission in France, said that Europe failed because it could not live up to its citizens' priorities or allay their fears, and that "Europe won't protect Europeans against globalization".

Perhaps this is one reason why people's belief that being part of the European Union is a good thing, has been steadily declining. Furthermore, there is also a lack of discussion on 'European Democracy' but national

democracy is still a strong issue of debate, says Bo Str ath, Professor of Contemporary History, History Department and Robert Schuman Centre at the European University Institute. This is a source of the lack of conceptual clarity also supported by the lack of a clear-cut political policy.

For Mario T elo, Professor of Political Science and President of the Institute of European Studies, Free University of Brussels, there is another concern that is not necessarily socio-political or economic in nature. He posed the question that there could be no solution to Europe's problem because it was not yet understood whether or not it was connected to issues of globalisation or Europe's construction - or both.

Joel Decailon, Confederal Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation on addressing the first point, stated that democracy was threatened by the inherent nature of business, in that "finance moves quickly, democracy moves slow." This suggests that the speed of which business moved had the very real potential of influencing governance by operating in areas in which either there was no policy formation, or by pressurising policy favourable to finance simply by being the first at the finish line.

It can be seen therefore, that there are two primary camps involved; those who feel the 'European Project' is a definite failure with no hope of revitalization or resurrection, and those who accept that while it might not be working as expected, there is both hope and scope for its continuance and revival.

Whatever the divide, there are at least several areas of consensus. One such is that the chasm between research and politics must be closed, that the two interests must find common ground upon which they can work together. Another consensus is that the European Parliament must reach out more to its peoples, that it needs to become more transparent in its workings and that it should encourage participation. Both research and government must develop the tools to fulfill their needs.

Notwithstanding the complexities of Europe's hydra-like difficulties, nor irrespective of the solutions research can provide, the future remains unclear. The pervasive ambiguity with which the conference was opened seemed at least to have receded somewhat under these conclusions. People still believe that the EU is a good thing, they still prefer the Euro to other currencies.

There may be difficulties; this is to be expected with any growing entity. There may be hardships ahead, but a union of nations remains always an ideal that sets strength and diversity against the darkness of fragmentation, alienation and isolation.



## PUBLICATIONS

**Security versus Freedom? A Challenge for Europe's Future.** Thierry Balzac and Sergio Carrera  
CHALLENGE, Ashgate Brussels 2006, ISBN: 0 7546 4832 X, 328 pages

**State of the Art Reports:**  
**Changing Interests and Identities in European Border Regions: EU Policies, Ethnic Minorities and Socio-Political Transformation in Member States and Accession Countries**  
EUROREG, State of the Art Report, Brussels 2006, EUR no 21916, 187 pages

**Conference Proceedings Reports:**  
**Employees' Resources and Social Rights; Proceedings of the International Conference, May 11th 2005**  
RESORE, Conference Proceedings Report, Brussels 2006, EUR no 21916, 22364, ISBN 92-79-02219-9, 132 pages

## BOOK REVIEW

### MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS: THE INNOVATION IMPACT



Editors: Bruno Cassiman and Massimo G. Colombo. 2006. Edward Elgar. Cheltenham, UK - Northampton, MA, USA. 200 pp.

Mergers and acquisitions (M&A) have been used as a means to consolidate market forces since the start of the 20th century, but it was not until the mid-to-late 1990s that M&As became a definitive aspect of corporate policy for many companies. Alongside M&A, innovation, both in terms of research and development (R&D) efforts as well as innovative output, has also risen in significance as a crucial element in the struggle towards competitive advantage.

Bruno Cassiman, University of Navarra and Massimo Colombo, Politecnico di Milano co-edited "Mergers and Acquisitions; The Innovation Impact," a publication that aims to shed light on the complex relationship between M&As and innovation. The book, which includes contributions from a variety of academics, consultants and management practitioners, comes at a very interesting time in terms of European Union innovation policy and also as global regulatory frameworks surrounding M&As are struggling to keep up with the changing globalisation trends.

Through a comprehensive literature review and a study of past and current events, the book arrives at what essentially becomes the starting point of the empirical research: namely, the relative lack of sufficient data on the links between M&As and innovation and more specifically the effect that

M&As have on the innovation process. Based on a series of hypotheses to construct their conceptual framework, the Cassiman-Colombo team concentrated initially on the effect of M&As on R&D, perceived as an integral part of innovation. The methodological approach employed in this project was that of the case study and it involved a series of in-depth interviews with key people in the organisations that were selected to take part in the study. The advantage of the case study in this type of research is that it offers a qualitative response to a series of questions on how innovation is impacted during the M&A process.

A total of 31 M&As were studied, involving 62 companies since 1987. Factors such as market relatedness, geographic scope, prior relationships and motivations were deemed as significant when assessing the overall effect of M&A on the innovative performance of the post-M&A entity. The book makes a valuable contribution to the M&A as well as the innovation literature by separating technology relatedness and market relatedness and studying them as separate influencing factors when it comes to M&A and R&D. With this unique approach, researchers set a precedent, which could prove to be extremely useful in the delineation of M&A effects in the future.

Research showed that when merged entities complement each other technologically, R&D efficiency is increased; however, reductions in R&D become evident when firms were market rivals prior to the M&A. The methodology that was followed during the course of the empirical research allowed for such distinctions to be made i.e. R&D vs. market forces. Geographic proximity was also shown to impact R&D performance less dramatically than cross-border M&A. Unfortunately, these observations do not lend themselves to further generalisations given the limited size of the sample, but they are useful as a tool to gain insight into the M&As under



study. Specifically, the data that was obtained during the course of the study can be used as a guide as to what can be expected during the post-M&A era, based on technology and market relatedness prior to the M&A.

The book in fact presents details on four case studies that formed part of the research, including the high-profile 2000 merger of Pharmacia & Upjohn and Monsanto into the Pharmacia Corporation, which helped to further illustrate those above-mentioned points. The Pharmacia deal was a perfect example of the marked increase in merger activity throughout the pharmaceutical sector at the turn of the 21st century. The deal was motivated by the promise of geographic and technological complementarities as well as increased focus on inhouse R&D. Indeed, following the merger, Pharmacia spent over €2 billion on R&D annually and had managed to speed-up the discovery process for new lead candidates.

It is overall extremely challenging to assess the long-term effects that M&A might have on the corporate innovation performance. Delineating these effects in terms of technology and market relatedness and making them relevant for managers and R&D executives worldwide is one of the key contributions of this publication. Cassiman's and Colombo's book provided the impetus for further study in the field of post-M&A integration, which remains one of the chief concerns of managers involved in that process. As such, the empirical research that is presented in the book can be considered valuable for management at all levels.