

Invitation

International Conference

Ethnic Minorities in Science and Higher Education

**A Human Resource Development Challenge
to Present and Future European Union Member States**

Date:

15 – 16 October 2004

Venue:

**Inter-University Centre, Dubrovnik
Don Frana Bulića 4, Room No. 4**

Organisers:

**Austrian Science and Research Liaison Office Ljubljana and Sofia
African Caribbean Network of Science and Technology (ACNST), UK**

Background:

As a matter of fact societies in European states are heterogeneous regarding ethnic origin. Reasons for this being historic (for instance denomination of political boundaries between emerging nation states through ethnically mixed territories of disintegrated former multiethnic empires) as well as contemporary (migration flows of asylum seekers or economically motivated migration, etc.). The fact of European societies being multiethnic demands the special attention of policy makers in several fields of social life in order

- To secure the access of the minority population to university education, science and research and
- To best utilise the human resource pool not only of the majority population but also of ethnic minorities which should be regarded as a huge reservoir of human potential within the framework of “inclusive” and “multicultural” societies in Europe.

Goals and structure of the conference:

The conference aims to raise awareness of the challenges that science and higher education policy makers are facing, regarding the better utilisation of the human resources of ethnic minorities in the fields of science and research. The conference will provide a forum for detailed discussion of concrete measures developed to promote inclusion of members of ethnic minorities in the fields of science/research and higher education and also mechanisms to prevent inter-ethnic tensions and conflict.

The conference organisers aim to contribute to science policy development on two levels:

- Contribution to development of inclusive science and higher education policies in SEE countries (especially ex-Yugoslav countries) through facilitating exchange of know-how in the region as well as from EU member states to the region
- Contribution to the advancement of the European Commission’s “Science and Society” programme

An important reference and rich knowledge base for achieving these aims is the network of the EU funded project „ETHNIC“ (RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AMONG ETHNIC MINORITIES, www.bit.ac.at/ethnic), which will be presented at the conference and could be a starting point for specific follow-up activities.

Programme outline:

Friday, October 15th, 10.00am, IUC Dubrovnik, Frana Bulića 4, Room 4

Opening session

- **Krunoslav Pisk**, Acting Director General, Inter-University Centre Dubrovnik (*requested*)
- **Jadranka Huljev** Ministry of Education, Science and Sports, Republic of Croatia
- **Gisela Zieger**, Department for International Research Co-operation, Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture
- **Miroslav Polzer** (Austrian Science and Research Liaison Office (ASO) Ljubljana)
- **Elisabeth Rasekoala**, African-Caribbean Network for Science and Technology, United Kingdom

Panel I – EU and regional SEE dimension

N.N., Directorate for Science and Society, Research Directorate-General, European Commission, Brussels/EU, “Integration of Ethnic Minorities in EU’s Science and Society Programme” (*requested*)

N.N., UNESCO-CEPES (the European Centre for Higher Education “Science capacity building and cultural diversity – the UNESCO approach” (*requested*))

Mario Cervantes (Science and Technology Policy Division, OECD, Paris) “Ensuring the supply of human resources in Science and Technology – current research in OECD countries”

Mitja Agar, Director of the Institute of Ethnic Studies, Ljubljana/Slovenia and former Head of the Task force “Ethnic minorities and human rights” of the Stability Pact for SEE
“SEE Regional dimension of the issue ‘Ethnic minorities in Science and Higher Education’”

Silvo Devetak, Director, European Centre for Ethnic, Regional and Sociological Studies, University of Maribor, “How to implement the EU constitution principle of unity in diversity in the higher education within EU and in its relations with SEE-non-member countries”

Discussion

Panel II – country/region reports from EU member states and SEE non-EU-member countries

- Slovenia: **Edvard Kobal**, Director of the Slovenian Science Foundation and member of the EU Committee for Programme Configuration ‘Science and Society’
- Croatia: **Jadranka Huljev** Ministry of Education, Science and Sports – Republic of Croatia, Head of Unit for Ethnic Minority Education
- FYR of Macedonia: **Marija Milosevska** (Head of Science for Peace Department, Ministry of Education and Science – Republic of Macedonia),
- Kosovo: Mrs. **Aferdita Spahiu**, Head of Education Unit, UNICEF Kosovo (*requested*)
- Representative of Bulgarian Ministry of Science and Education
- Greece: **Michael S. Arvanitis** Euroscience’s activities focusing on ethnic minorities in Greece,

Discussion

Saturday, 16th 09.00am – 2 pm, IUC

Panel III – Best practise cases studies and projects

- **Elisabeth Rasekoala**, African-Caribbean Network for Science and Technology, United Kingdom; ETHNIC- (Raising Public Awareness of Science and Technology among Ethnic Minorities) project
- **Suzana Pecakovska**, SOROS Foundation, Skopje, Project on Mentoring of Roma in Higher Education in Macedonia
- **Wilma van Donselaar**, Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)- Mozaiek/Mosaic Programme: How to attract more ethnic minority graduates into academic research – Dutch experience
- **Brian Wardle**, Senior Adviser, Birmingham Education Authority, UK
- **Lejla Kapetanovic**, Svjetski univerziteti servis Bosne i Hercegovine – contribution of NGOs to inter-ethnic co-operation in higher education system of Bosnia and Herzegovina

- **Rossalina Latcheva**, ZSI Vienna; “LIMITS-project: Immigrants and Ethnic Minorities in European Cities - Causal factors that influence the evolving strategies of immigrants and their descendants towards improving their personal well-being.”
- **Maren Borkert**, HERMES, Brussels

Panel IV – Suggestions for future activities in the “Science and Society-Programme” of EU

Travel and accommodation costs of paper presenters will be covered by the organisers; costs of participants from SEE countries not presenting papers can be covered by organisers on request.

Proceedings of the conference will be published

(Free) Guided Dubrovnik city tour will be offered on Thursday, 14th at 4 PM

Excursion with boat and fish picnic will be offered on Saturday afternoon

On 14th 1-5 PM there will be at IUC, room 4 a preparatory meeting for a follow-up-project to ETHNIC-project in the [Science education and careers 2004](#)- call of EU RTD-Framework Programme 6 (for details contact weiss@zsi.at)

Links:

- Austrian Science and Research Liaison Offices Ljubljana and Sofia: www.aso.zsi.at
- African-Caribbean Network for Science & Technology: www.ishangohouse.com
- Inter-University-Centre, Dubrovnik, www.iuc.hr
- Video-on-demand: ETHNIC project presentation at the international conference “Science and Society in an Enlarged EU” (April 2004, Slovenian parliament, Ljubljana): http://www.hipulab.uni-mb.si/Znanost_in_Druzba_AN/Znanost_in_Druzba_ANGL.htm
- EU Science and Society programme: http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/science-society/index_en.html

Conference Organisers’ contact details:

- dr. Miroslav Polzer, ASO Ljubljana: polzer@zsi.at
- dr. Elizabeth Rasekoala, ACNST, UK: lizrasekoala@hotmail.com

for organisational details like hotel accommodation, paper handling, etc. contact Mr. **Gorazd Weiss** weiss@zsi.at, 00386-31-637424

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and builds on the results of EU-funded project

E^thnic

Raising Public Awareness of Science and Technology among ethnic minorities; www.bit.ac.at/ETHNIC