



Highlights

- Conference: 'Social sciences and humanities in Europe: New challenges, new opportunities', Brussels, 12-13 December 2005: what strategy does Europe need for social sciences and humanities?
- 409 proposals received for Priority 7 last calls: evaluation results due in late autumn 2005
 - More than 400 participants were connected up during the web-streaming information day and around 2 000 consulted it afterwards
 - Priority 7 call for tenders on indicators in SSH: closing date 10 June 2005

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THEME OF THIS ISSUE

Social Sciences and Humanities in FP7

Interview with Director-General Mitsos on the future of EU research

The Seventh Framework Programme will ensure continuity with the past, but will also be highly innovative due to the creation of the European Research Council. For the first time, the scientific community itself will set the priorities for European-funded fundamental research in relation to SSH. FP7 will also aim for more flexibility and simplification. Greater effort will be put into making research results more visible, through an increase in dialogue. The main challenge for SSH at European level is to demonstrate that it can contribute to the well-being of our society and to competitiveness, on an equal basis with other scientific disciplines and with clear European added value.

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News from projects

Political extremism appeal linked to changing work conditions

Economic uncertainty and growing job insecurity are a breeding ground for prejudice, say results from the SIREN research project. It brought together two separate research fields: working life, labour market developments and social security, and analysing political orientations and right-wing populism and extremism.

This project set out to see how experiences in working life influenced political orientation, and to what extent social decline and precarious living conditions were contributing to the rise of right-wing populism and extremism. Numerous political commentators have made this link but there has been no data to prove this hypothesis. Now, the EU's SIREN project has provided the evidence.

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Recent books from projects

Democracy in the European Union

The process of European integration has given rise to concerns that transfers of power to European institutions produce a democratic 'deficit'.

The Oxford Handbook of Innovation

Innovation is a prerequisite for sustained economic growth and social progress. As understanding of the process deepens, policy responses become more diverse.

Building the European Research Area

What are the effects of EU-supported social science research on the structure of the European social science research community?

Ideas and welfare state reform in Western Europe

Are new social policies meeting the demands of globalisation, the ageing of the population and economic pressures?

The future of Europe's rural peripheries

Entrepreneurial ventures and the transfer of new technology are stimulating economic development in rural areas.

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Projects' cluster review

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Editorial

The publication of the Commission's Proposal for Framework Programme 7 (FP7) on 6 April 2005 is a significant milestone in the overall process leading to the final decision on FP7 by the European Parliament and Council of Ministers. The Commission proposal establishes the basic principles and identifies the priorities for future research, which will be further developed in the months ahead in the form of specific programmes.

This is the overall theme of this issue, in particular the role of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) in FP7. We have interviewed Achilleas Mitsos, Director-General for RTD, who gives his reflections on the past, present and the future of SSH. As announced in the last edition of the Newsletter, we also provide a short summary of the web consultation results on SSH, to which some of you have contributed.

The last months have certainly been very busy for researchers in SSH, preparing proposals to be submitted to the last calls under Priority 7. It is now the turn of my services to be fully mobilised, working with the independent evaluators on more than 400 proposals received. For four weeks, starting on 30 May 2005, more than 200 evaluators will be in Brussels to evaluate the proposals.

In addition to FP7, this edition of the newsletter gives the latest news about dissemination events, publications, etc. in relation to FP5 and FP6 projects.

T. LENNON
Director

THEME OF THIS ISSUE

Social Sciences and Humanities in FP7 (1)

1. Commission Proposal for FP7 has just been published

On 6 April 2005 the European Commission published a Proposal for the Seventh RTD Framework Programme (FP7), to be submitted for discussion and eventual approval to the European Parliament and the European Council.

This proposal foresees a doubling of the current total EU RTD budget as well as an extension of the duration of the Framework Programme for four to seven years. In terms of content, FP7 aims to combine continuity, for example in terms of the priorities for collaborative research, the reinforcement of infrastructures and the mobility of researchers, with some major innovations, extending EU research activities to fundamental investigation-driven research (the European Research Council) and reinforcing the coordination of national programmes and activities.

In relation to instruments, an effort of continuity in parallel with the introduction of new instruments, such as the technology platforms, and the reformulation of the concept of integrated projects is also foreseen.

As was already the case for FP7, Research in Social Sciences and Humanities is one of the nine selected themes to be addressed by collaborative research. This clearly indicates that SSH is now fully accepted as an equal partner with the hard sciences in overall EU RTD policy.

The proposed objectives of the new theme, 'Socio-economic sciences, humanities and foresight', will be to provide further understanding of the socio-economic challenges Europe is confronted with, such as growth, employment and competitiveness, social cohesion and sustainability, quality of life and global interdependence, in particular with the view of providing an improved knowledge base for policies in the fields concerned.

These objectives are to be achieved through research in five main areas:

- Growth, employment and competitiveness in a knowledge society
- Combining economic, social and environmental objectives in a European perspective
- Major trends in society and their implications
- Europe in the world
- The citizen in the European Union.

Two further themes on socio-economic and scientific indicators and foresight activities are also foreseen.

There will also be important opportunities and challenges for SSH across a number of the activities of FP7, including the creation of major infrastructures of pan-European interest, increased emphasis on international scientific co-operation, more ambitious and wide-ranging opportunities for mobility etc.

Finally, the integration of socio-economic dimensions within other research activities will be developed further.



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2. Interview with the Director-General of DG Research



On the publication of the FP7 proposal the SSH Newsletter interviewed Achilleas Mitsos, Director-General for RTD.

Achilleas Mitsos, the Director-General for RTD, has championed the development of EU research in Social Sciences

and Humanities (SSH). His support was evident as far back as 1996 when he joined DG Research as Director for socio-economic research. When he became Director-General in 2000, he was one of key architects of the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6). During this period, he ensured the broadening of EU social science research to include humanities. Today SSH has become an equal partner with other sciences in EU RTD policy.

On the occasion of the publication of the FP7 proposal, we asked him about the future of EU research, and more particularly on socio-economic research and humanities.

What are the major innovations of FP7?

The FP7 proposal contains four new initiatives.

First, it suggests a certain continuity with the past in terms of focus and themes. In FP6, there was a little too much focus when defining priorities. This resulted in artificially excluding certain research areas. In FP7 we plan a more 'intelligent' focus to avoid such exclusions. In addition, humanities will enter into the picture centre-stage. FP7 will be the turning point for European humanities research.

The second new initiative, the creation of a European Research Council, is huge, revolutionary, if I may use the term. For the first time, we are proposing that the scientific community itself, and not the policy-makers, sets the priorities for European-funded research. It will do this by focusing exclusively on excellence without a precondition of international collaboration. Our aim is to follow the best themes to advance science.

The third new initiative concerns research infrastructures. We will continue to fund existing examples but we also want to fund new research infrastructures in a number of fields, including SSH. For example, imagine the creation of a European database containing all the data that has been used in EU RTD studies and surveys, making this wealth of information available to all researchers in any field.

The fourth initiative is important for the Framework Programme and social scientists, although less so for the social sciences. The Joint Technology Initiatives will enable the private and public sector to work together on jointly determined research agendas.

What about the design of instruments such as the Networks of Excellence and Integrated Projects for FP7?

FP7 will aim for flexibility and simplification. Under FP6, we wrongly gave the impression that big is wonderful for science while small is less good. It is the objective you want to achieve that must determine the instrument, not the size.

For example, the Networks of Excellence set out to integrate and link research institutes across Europe in a permanent way. That objective matters more than their size. I can understand how you can integrate five or even seven institutes but not 30 or 40. The same applies to Integrated Projects.

Perhaps part of the perception problem arose from our efforts to simplify the administrative procedures - something we will continue to work on. For the networks, we made the simple and direct rule that each network will get a certain amount of money per year per person. But this gave the misleading impression of larger networks being 'better' because they received more funds.

How can the important body of research being produced by current EU SSH activities be made more visible?

This is a major challenge. It is easy to make visible the important link between research and a new medicine, for example. But the outcome of socio-economic research is less obvious. It is trickier to show that without this research we would not know this or another key factor.

We must put more effort in making SSH research results more visible. It is not just a matter of improving communication - which we must also achieve. It is about creating a better dialogue between what we are doing and society at large.

What do you see as the main challenges for SSH in the EU context?

The main challenge for SSH at European level at this moment is to prove that it can contribute to the well-being of our society and to competitiveness at large, on an equal basis with other disciplines and with a clear European added value.

SSH research has an impact on policy-making and policy-shaping although, I repeat, it is difficult to show the immediate link. For example, the EU's research on the



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evaluation of science and technology policy had a tremendous influence on the design of current EU and national research and innovation policies.

Policy-makers are often looking for immediate results from researchers. They are seeking scientific expertise to shape or back policy. But it is not the job of researchers to provide this expertise directly. Their job is to create knowledge. How policy-makers then use this knowledge is another issue.

The biggest failure we have to cope with at EU level is the fragmentation of effort. The EU's research programme can and does influence research agendas in all countries, changing the dialogue between science and society. Science is not value-free, nor should it be. Where you put the emphasis, why you ask this question, these are all based on a value judgment. ■

3. The future of SSH – What are the views of the research community and relevant stakeholders?

Follow-up to web consultation

In view of the preparation of FP7, since July 2004 various consultations have been launched by DG Research to gather the views of researchers and other stakeholders on future RTD policy and, in particular, of the thematic areas to be addressed by FP7.

As announced in previous Newsletters, Directorate K, responsible for EU research in SSH, has launched or has collaborated on several consultations targeted at different audiences:

- with key actors such as national funding agencies, private foundations and professional associations
- through the launching of web consultations aiming at addressing a wider public, namely researchers and other stakeholders. These consultations were open during November and December 2004.

In relation to the latter, more than 400 replies were received. They have been carefully analysed and are providing a useful input to the current design and further development of the new thematic priority 'Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities'.

Brief analysis

In general, respondents agreed that the future research agenda in SSH should be built on previous research. However, most of the contributions also called for a broadening of the scope of the research. We were able to identify two important inter-related themes to which most respondents referred in various ways and in different combinations: *Economic, social and cultural sustainability as a cross-cutting issue*, and *Europe in a global context*. Examples of themes which have not been extensively addressed in previous FPs, but which are frequently highlighted, are *Ageing and demographic changes*, *Research on business sustainability* and *Research on media, communication and culture*.

As far as the humanities are concerned, a number of contributions suggested that EU research address new areas, such as anthropological studies of European culture and origins, archaeological and historical studies of technological development of societies, European languages and cultures, the history of contemporary changes, the history of religions, welfare and values, etc.

On the question on the specific needs of infrastructures for SSH, most contributions referred to the need for further harmonisation and standardisation of datasets, centralised databases, digitalisation of paper-based information, web-based archives, etc., to promote comparative research of high quality. ■



Highlights

Conference: 'Social sciences and humanities in Europe:

New challenges, new opportunities', Brussels, 12-13 December 2005

On 12 and 13 December 2005, the Commission will hold in Brussels a conference on "Social sciences and humanities in Europe: New challenges, new opportunities".

The conference will discuss the state of social sciences and humanities in Europe, and their prospects in the 7th Framework Programme and beyond. It will be addressed by Commissioner Potocnik, responsible for research, as well as other leading political and scientific figures from Europe and abroad. It will address the question of what sort of a strategy for social sciences and humanities is needed for Europe, how can this be pursued and what are its global dimensions and implications. It will include showcase presentations of important ongoing European projects, as well as contributions from the perspective of social sciences and humanities addressing current policy questions of European significance.

Further details about this conference will be soon available at the Citizens' website <http://www.cordis.lu/citizens/>

Priority 7 last calls for proposals – 409 proposals received

The last calls for proposals under FP6, Priority 7, closed on 13 April.

The calls were organised around various instruments and received the following numbers of proposals:

- Citizens 4 open for Integrated Projects (IP) and Networks of Excellence (NoE) – 98 proposals received
- Citizens 5 open for Targeted Research Projects (STREPS) and Coordination Actions (CA) – 279 proposals received
- Citizens 6 – open for Specific Support Actions (SSA) – 32 proposals received

These proposals will be evaluated over four weeks, starting on 30 May 2005, by more than 200 independent evaluators from all European and some non-European countries. The results of this evaluation will be available in late autumn 2005.

Priority 7 call for tenders on Indicators in SSH

A call for tender for a service under FP6, Priority 7, research topic 8.4.1, was published in the *Official Journal* on 21 April 2005 (closing date 10 June 2005). This study aims to support the development of R&D indicators and data for SSH.

OJ reference: Contract notice 2005/S 78-074923, 21 April 2005.

Website:

http://fp6.cordis.lu/citizens/tender_details.cfm?CALL_ID=207

National and web-streaming information days

On 8 March 2005 we organised an Information Session about the open calls for proposals of the 'Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge Based Society' Priority in FP6.

This was the first time we made use of a web streaming information exercise. 459 participants have been connected during the session and a very lively chat room took place simultaneously. Further, more than 2000 participants did connect during the period this presentation was available in our website. They were from more than 30 countries, led by the Netherlands, UK, Germany, Italy and Spain,

Most of National Contact Points have organised National Information Days as well. EU staff participated in a significant number of these meetings, which in most cases were also an opportunity for researchers active in former or current Priority 7 projects to talk about their experiences and the lessons that can be learnt from the preparation of proposals.

Scientific support to policies - supporting informed decisions in the Social Sciences and Humanities

The Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) funds scientific support to policies (SSP) activities – sometimes referred to as Priority 8 – under 'Policy support and anticipating scientific and technological needs'.

SSP serves the decision-making process through targeted research which responds to the specific needs identified by policy-makers.

The way this works, in practice, is that the various European Commission Directorate Generals (DGs) identify their policy-related knowledge needs and inform DG Research of the kind of research they wish to have carried out. DG Research then commissions and manages the research and delivers the results to the 'client' DG and other interested parties.

Directorate K of DG Research is responsible for four sub-areas of Priority 8:

- 2.5 'Understanding of migration and refugee flows'
- 2.6 'Understanding crime trends in the context of public safety'
- 3.1 'Underpinning the economic potential and cohesion of a larger and more integrated European Union'
- 3.7 'Improved quality, accessibility and dissemination of European statistics'.

As a result of the first SSP call for proposals published in 2004, 16 projects were signed in areas related to competition policies, sustainable development and trade policies, migration and refugee flows, and improving the quality of European statistics.

A second call for proposal was published in November 2004 (SSP4). 13 proposals have been submitted and 2 proposals in the area of migration were selected for funding.

Further details on the selected projects under this particular area can be found in the projects synopses book, available at:

ftp://ftp.cordis.lu/pub/citizens/docs/kickoff_p7_p8_2004.pdf

Website: http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/ssp/index_en.htm



Future events

- **Innovation in a knowledge-based economy**, Brussels, Belgium, 27 May 2005, workshop organised by the Advisory Group on SSH.
Details available soon at: <http://www.cordis.lu/citizens/>
- **The hidden work regime. Informal work and social cohesion in Europe**, international work from the project 'Formal and informal work in Europe' (FIWE), University of Hamburg, Germany, 27-28 May.
Details available at: http://www.sozialwiss.uni-hamburg.de/Isoz/isoz/forschprojekte/fiwe/conferences_7.htm
- **Democracy and security in the EU**, Florence, Italy, 17-18 June 2005, workshop organised by the European University Institute, Florence.
Details available soon at the Security Working Group website: <http://www.iue.it/RSCAS/Research/WorkingGroups/SecurityWG/Index.shtml>
- **Gender, work and organisations conference**, Transitions project workshop, 22-24 June 2005, Keele University, UK.
Details available at: <http://www.workliferesearch.org/transitions/>
- **Domestic structures and European integration. A multi-stage two-level analysis of constitution building in the European Union**, DOSEI project final conference, 20 June 2005.
Details available soon at: <http://dosei.dhv-speyer.de>
- **Bridging SSH to the other research priorities**, Brussels, Belgium, 27-28 June 2005, workshop organised by the Advisory Group on SSH.
Details available soon at: <http://www.cordis.lu/citizens/>
- **Low-tech as misnomer: the role of non research-intensive industries in the knowledge economy**, PILOT project international conference, Brussels, Belgium, 29-30 June 2005.
Details available at: <http://www.pilot-project.org/events/events.html>
- **Network for European Women's Rights**, NEWR Project final conference, University of Birmingham, UK, 30 June-1 July 2005.
Details available at: http://www.newr.bham.ac.uk/general/Conference/newr_final_conference.htm
- **EUYOUTH: 'Political Participation of Young People in Europe - Development of Indicators for Comparative Research in the EU'**, Project final conference, Brussels, Belgium, 14 July 2005.
Details available soon at: <http://www.sora.at/wahlen/EUYOUPART/>

- **First European Association for Survey Research conference**, Barcelona, Spain, 18-22 July 2005,
Details available at: www.easr.upf.edu
- **Framing gender inequality across Europe: Challenges for gender mainstreaming**, Brussels, Belgium, 27 September 2005.
Details available soon at: http://www.ceu.hu/cps/res/res_mageeq.htm
- **Communicating European Research**, Brussels, Belgium, 14-15 November 2005, calls for proposals for the exhibition and forum available at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/conferences/2005/cer2005/index_en.html
- **'Social sciences and humanities in Europe': New challenges, new opportunities' conference**, Brussels, Belgium, 12-13 December 2005.
Details available soon at: <http://www.cordis.lu/citizens/home.html>
- **European Social Model(s) and its Challenges**, Conference organised by Directorate K, Brussels, Belgium, November 2005, details available soon on the 'citizens website'

Recent events

- **Employees' resources and social rights in Europe**, Brussels, Belgium, 11 May 2005, dissemination conference from RESORE project. Details available soon at: <http://www.univ-nancy2.fr/ILSTEF/RESORE/GB/Gb.html>
- **The European Union and the global governance**, Brussels, Belgium, 20 April 2005, workshop sponsored by the European Commission and organised by the SSH Advisory Board. Further information on this workshop will be given in the next issue.
- **Diverse dialogues across Europe: Humanities & Social Sciences Research Forum**, Nicosia, Cyprus, 27-28 January 2005, workshop organised by Intercollege with the support of the European Commission and the Cyprus Research Promotion Foundation.

The Diverse Dialogues forum focused on the European Commission's Social Science and Humanities Research funding plans, especially the second call of the Sixth Framework Programme's Priority 7 'Citizens and governance in a knowledge-based society', as well as Marie Curie Actions (human resources and mobility) and international scientific co-operation. Moreover, it explored means of further involving Mediterranean countries, INTAS countries and EU Candidate Countries, as well as discussing new EU research initiatives and major European networking opportunities.



There were around 100 participants, half of whom travelled to Cyprus for the forum, including scholars, research managers, NGO activists, National Contact Point representatives and doctoral students. The session included presentations by representatives of the European Commission, Intercollege, the Cyprus Research Promotion Foundation, the EU Representation in Cyprus, the INTAS network, the National Contact Point for Turkey, and workshops by nine FP5 and FP6 research project coordinators and managers. All presentations are available on-line at <http://www.intercollege.ac.cy>.

The forum was a successful attempt at encouraging social science researchers from the new Member States, INTAS countries and other third countries to network and work collaboratively with the existing 15 Member States. Many questions were raised and the formal and informal discussions contributed to helping smaller countries and institutions promote themselves and create links. The forum offered another opportunity for influential institutions and research centres to meet and discuss relevant research issues.

○ **Jerusalem Workshop of EUBorderConf project,** Jerusalem, Israel, 8-12 January 2005

The workshop on 'The role of the EU in border conflicts: the Israel/Palestine case', in the context of the EUBorderConf project, funded within the Fifth Framework Programme, and the BRIT Conference 'Border regions in transition: Crossing cultures, crossing disciplines, crossing scales', took place in Jerusalem on 8-12 January 2005. The time was particularly special: the Palestinian elections took place on January 9 with high turnouts in spite of difficulties, and were surrounded by local and international attention. The new Israeli Government (nicknamed by the media the 'disengagement Cabinet' with reference to disengagement from Gaza) was voted in at the Knesset on January 11.

About 100 people attended the workshop and conference, including Israeli and Palestinian researchers, and researchers from Europe, the USA and other areas. Key factors stressed were the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, and the EU's role in its resolution, and demography, democracy, and security. Different perceptions of the EU were also examined and debated. In connection with this conflict, but also more broadly (e.g. in connection with EU enlargement), the notion of borders was tackled with a focus on issues of inclusion, exclusion, identity, and management issues.

For more information please refer to:
<http://www.euborderconf.bham.ac.uk/publications/Issue11Feb.pdf>

○ **PRIME - Policies for research and innovation in the move towards the European Research Area,** Network of Excellence first annual conference, Manchester, UK, 7-8 January 2005, Institute for Innovation Research.

On 7 January 2005, EU Commissioner for Science and Research Janez Poto_nik opened the first annual conference of the PRIME Network of Excellence (NoE) at the Institute for Innovation Research at the Manchester Business School, UK. PRIME, which stands for Policies for Research and Innovation in the Move towards the European Research Area, is the first NoE launched under the Sixth Framework Programme's Priority 7 'Citizens and governance in the knowledge-based society'. In his address, Mr Poto_nik stressed that PRIME is a flagship project in the social sciences and humanities. He encouraged the project "to lead as a bright example of co-operating and acting together as a network". He also expressed his optimism that PRIME will make a valuable contribution to European research excellence.

The PRIME NoE started on 1 January 2004 and it currently comprises 44 universities and public research centres from all over Europe. The network is coordinated by Professor Philippe Larédo of ARMINES, Paris. The project's rationale is that science and innovation policies are challenged by globalisation processes, by processes that lead from national to multi-level policy-making and by the growing role of public debate in policy-making. PRIME's research activities address these challenges. Additionally, PRIME aims at integrating and structuring the science and innovation policy studies landscape in Europe and beyond. Close interaction with stakeholders, the coordination of training activities, and the involvement of non-Triad (i.e. from outside the EU, the USA and Japan) research groups will serve this objective.

The first annual conference took place against the backdrop of preparations for the Seventh Framework Programme and the process of integrating new Member States into the European Research Area. The forum was designed to debate the extension of PRIME's current research themes in order to develop a perspective on the future of research and research policy in Europe for the next decade. More than 140 participants addressed such topics as innovation in public services, changing institutions and institutional relationships in the European research and innovation system, human resources for research and innovation, as well as Europe and science for developing countries.

For more information on the network, please refer to www.prime-noe.org.



○ **Advancing knowledge and the knowledge economy**, Washington DC, USA, 10-11 January 2005.

Conference sponsored by the US National Science Foundation, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the European Commission, the US Interagency Working Group on IT R&D, and the University of Michigan,

This conference was attended by more than 200 participants. The European and American presence was very strong illustrating the breadth and depth of innovation research on both sides of the Atlantic.

Some key policy lessons from the conference:

1. Catch-up processes cannot be achieved through technological and institutional imitation. They require doing more and doing it better. Thus, Europe needs to reflect on what important functions institutions should play in its innovation systems and to devise appropriate institutional frameworks that will perform these functions effectively. Imitating US institutions is unlikely to lead to a catching-up.
2. The market for talented individuals (especially researchers) is being globalised and the USA is losing its monopoly position. The USA is still a very powerful market, but Europe and some Asian countries are increasingly emerging as important destinations for highly skilled job-seekers. In the meantime, the increasing emphasis on security in the USA is creating barriers to this kind of mobility, which in turn helps European and Asian countries in their efforts to attract highly skilled people.
3. User-innovators are becoming increasingly important in a wide range of industries (accounting for more than 20% of innovations, according to some estimates). User-innovators typically have advantages over manufacturers in cost, skill and access to information. User-innovators tend to be dissatisfied customers who have the skills to improve their suppliers' products. Some marketing studies show that 80% of customers tend to be dissatisfied with some aspect of the items they buy. It is only natural that some of them have the skills, need and drive to improve those aspects. The importance of this phenomenon lies in the consideration that user-developed innovations have a much lower failure rate than producer-developed innovations. Thus, facilitating user-innovations will have a strong positive effect on the productivity of the R&D process.
4. How can user-innovations be facilitated, and how can the concomitant gains in R&D productivity be realised? Important gains can be made by decreasing the cost of experimentation and by facilitating the creation of knowledge communities. In both respects, information technologies, in general, and scientific cyber infrastructure, in particular, are very important. Broadly speaking, simulation and access to advanced equipment decreases the cost of experimentation, while providing a meeting space for like-minded individuals who generate and generalise tacit knowledge.

5. The importance of user innovation for welfare (realised through the increasing productivity of the R&D process) has profound implications for more general RTD and innovation policy. Support to industrial R&D programmes may be inefficient, if it only addresses producers of innovation and excludes users. It needs to be noted here that product innovations are known to have much wider growth and employment effects than process innovations. Thus, policy needs to facilitate lead-user innovators and to ensure that producers then introduce the resulting innovation into the wider market. A very important point here concerns intellectual property rights (IPRs). If IPRs prohibit user-experimentation (as is the case with software), then they have detrimental effects on the prospects for successful innovation. At the same time, it was argued that strong IPRs may induce user-innovators to compete with producers, although others contest this view. This could simply mean that the model of user-innovators, which is becoming an increasingly important part of the overall innovation landscape, is found where favourable conditions exist (strong producer industry, intellectual property regimes favouring user-experimentation, easy networking among lead users, etc).
6. The need to restrict IPR regimes (in terms of their scope, accessibility and applicability), and especially patents, was a strong message to emerge from the conference. This was not solely in order to facilitate experimentation by user-innovators, but also in relation to the basic functioning of the patent systems.

The programme, abstracts, papers and presentations are available on the conference website:

<http://www.advancingknowledge.com/>

○ **XENOPHOB: Racism and xenophobia, the European dilemma**

Final project conference, Brussels, Belgium, 27 January 2005

Researchers reveal a landscape of discrimination and racism

Research teams involved in an ambitious project investigating xenophobia and racism in eight EU countries presented their key findings at a conference in Brussels on 27 January 2005. The Xenophob project has been supported under the Fifth Framework Programme.

One of the project innovations was a series of focus groups organised in each country with migrants. "We wanted to investigate how people experience racism," explained Professor Gerard Delanty, from the UK's Liverpool University.

A book based on this work, *Migrant voices: Discourses of Belonging and Exclusion*, is to be published in 2006.

Professor Delanty said overt racism is decreasing but "there is growing endemic or structural racism" which is "produced and reproduced" by the media, politicians, institutions and everyday life.



This new "xenophobic" racism targets "migrants with a different skin colour but also a significant number of poor white migrants coming from within the EU and its margins".

Institutional racism strong even if unintentional

At the conference, the research teams described the patterns of discrimination that they had uncovered. They depicted the "gatekeepers" that exist throughout society, in key institutions, in schools, in the labour market, in political parties, who select "who gets in". They clarified that "it does not mean these people are racists but they behave in discriminatory ways" as they take on the role of maintaining the status quo.

In the world of work, this means protecting those with the same values and "cultural baggage". A foreign name, a different dress code, the way a person speaks, is enough to exclude them. There are more formal barriers too, such as employers or the state not recognising school qualifications from other countries or even their working experience.

They also presented alarming research on the power of 'symbolic violence'. "Just by the way we look at a person, we can make them feel that they do not belong," explained Professor Helena Flam from the German University of Leipzig.

The radical right influence

The rise of radical right parties, which for the first time since the Second World War are constituting a significant force in Western European democracies, have also fuelled racism.

They have put immigration on the top of the political agenda, said Carlo Ruzza from Italy's University of Trento. When in office, these parties influence policy directly. In opposition, they indirectly affect the policies of established parties which, fearing the loss of voter support, end up using similar slogans on immigration.

Conference participants said governments had to target the institutional nature of racism and not just run information and educational campaigns. They had to recognise that society's institutions perpetuate discrimination. If they fail to do so, they will allow discrimination to continue unhindered.

They recommend a radical transformation of the current "policies of tolerance" into ones that will give "actual, official and everyday recognition of minorities and migrants".

Project website:

http://www.multietn.uu.se/the_european_dilemma/index.htm

Interview with the Xenophob project coordinator, Masoud Kamali

Professor Masoud Kamali, from Sweden's Uppsala University, is the coordinator of the Xenophob project. He confirmed that their research left no doubt that racial discrimination is part of everyday life in the eight countries studied.

"Europe has a dilemma. Its philosophy of enlightenment is embedded in racism." The colonial past has left its mark,

explained Professor Kamali. The attitude of intellectual and cultural superiority in relation to other groups developed during that time remains embedded in the national psyche of many European countries.

This dualism of 'us and them' nurtures a culture of 'otherism'. The result is systematic and institutional discrimination leading to the exclusion of groups because of the colour of their skin, their religion, beliefs, gender and so on.

Institutional discrimination rife

Professor Kamali said that the project found that structural or institutional discrimination takes place even if the person involved does not want to discriminate. "Often, it is not related to the person's intentions but it is part of the daily routine of institutions and companies, the normal practice that has been built on this otherism and the duality of us and them."

He criticised the lack of political will. "If we are serious about combating racism, then we must show what we mean. We have created an internal colonialism with segregated areas for migrants and a general attitude that if it is not a problem for us – for example, criminal behaviour restricted in deprived areas – then we can ignore it."

Increased tolerance of racism but not of immigrants

The policy of tolerance was not the way forward to create a more inclusive society. He asked: who will tolerate who? Instead, Kamali supports a policy that respects individual indifference.

The project, however, found an increased 'tolerance' of discrimination and anti-migrant discourse. "It is becoming normal to see immigrants as the problem."

Yet Professor Kamali said the evidence shows the contrary. Immigrants have "limited access and fewer opportunities with respect to education and the labour market". Their children are "pushed out" of education through "bad" schooling, while the parents suffer from job insecurity and low pay. They "transmit to their children their history of unemployability and poverty".

He said there was an urgent need to combat institutional discrimination. "It is a long process." But "we also need to redefine what society means by concepts such as security, cohesion and globalisation". As a first step, he suggests that the time has to come to recognise that European societies are racist and do discriminate.



News from projects

This space is dedicated to coordinators who would like to announce their meetings, publications and books, major findings of their projects, etc.

Please send us your contributions for the next issue until 30 June 2005.

News from the following Projects:

1. *Children in communication about migration (CHICAM project)*
2. *Constructing understandings of homeless populations (CUHP project)*
3. *Socio-economic change, individual reactions and the appeal of the extreme right - (SIREN project)*
4. *Labour inclusion of the Roma in Europe (Workaló Project)*
5. *EU KLEMS 2003: Industry-level productivity analysis in the European Union: a comparative analysis - (EU KLEMS 2003 project)*
6. *Transitions: negotiating motherhood and fatherhood and work-family boundaries in the context of labour market and workplace change - (Transitions project)*

1. Children in communication about migration (CHICAM project)

The 'Children in Communication about Migration' (CHICAM) project cuts across issues of childhood, media use, education and migration. It held a successful policy-informing conference in Brussels in October 2004.

Discussions about refugees and migrants coming to Europe have often paid scant attention to the actual experiences, contributions and opinions of the children involved. Yet children are at the frontline in building the new social contacts necessary for their families' successful social integration. European countries have very different histories of migration, different expectations of incoming migrants and different policies regarding their education, employment and social inclusion, and these affect the processes of social inclusion or exclusion in different ways.

The CHICAM project addressed three major aspects of structural change in contemporary European society: the increase in global migration, the use of new communication technologies and the specific needs of refugee and migrant children. The project set up media clubs in six European countries (the UK, Italy, Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands and Greece). In each club, a researcher and a media educator worked with recently arrived refugee and migrant children to make visual representations of their lives and their experiences in their new locations. The children came from many different countries, including Iraq, Sierra Leone, Angola, Somalia, Albania, Kosovo, Colombia and Turkey.

The project investigated how these children represented and expressed their experiences of migration. It also examined how they could use new media to help inform the development of European educational and cultural policies. In the process, the project sought to identify how particular experiences of reception, educational practice, family re-unification and community involvement could more effectively promote social inclusion and economic and cultural integration.

The project's briefing paper, available at <http://www.pjb.co.uk/npl/bp48.htm>, summarises some key conclusions and policy recommendations emerging from this research.

Project website: <http://www.chicam.net/index.html>

2. Constructing understandings of homeless populations (CUHP project)

The network Constructing Understandings of Homeless Populations (CUHP) began its work in January 2003. It is coordinated by a French team led by Maryse Marpsat at the Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques, with the participation of six other partners from the UK (London Metropolitan University), Denmark (Danish National Institute of Social Research), Hungary (Metropolitan Research Institute Ltd), Italy (Politecnico di Milano), Spain (University Complutense, Madrid) and The Netherlands (the Netherlands Institute for Care and Welfare).

It has five main objectives:

- to discuss the different definitions of the homeless and homelessness employed by researchers, NGOs and policy-makers in different Member States, and to provide a framework for comparative research
- to assess methodological procedures that provide robust results when used to research homeless populations, and to provide a guide to methods that can be replicated by research institutes or NGOs in other countries or at national level
- to share the substantive findings of the participant research teams, the policy issues that have emerged at national level and the conceptual frameworks used by the various teams
- to share knowledge of good practice in relation to reinsertion programmes
- to construct a research proposal in the field of homelessness.

The CUHP network's activities are organised around a series of five two-day workshops and one final conference. The second day of the workshops is open to NGOs from the host country.

In 2003-2004, four workshops were held: Paris (March 2003), Madrid (October 2003), Copenhagen (April 2004) and London (October 2004). The final conference will be held in Brussels at the end of 2005.



During the first four meetings, the main issues of discussion were:

- definition of homelessness: should it be defined only according to the housing situation or should it include other aspects, such as mental health, poor social network, etc?
- what is the relationship between, on the one hand, the level of development of NGOs and their relationship with the government and to the researcher community and, on the other, research possibilities and means?
- which methods are the best adapted to which questions, and what are the (institutional, political, scientific, etc.) conditions to implement them?

Project website: <http://www.cuhp.org>

3. Socio-economic change, individual reactions and the appeal of the extreme right (SIREN project)

Populist party appeal linked to changing work conditions

Interview with the project partner Yves de Weerd

Economic uncertainty and growing job insecurity are a breeding ground for prejudice, said Dr Yves de Weerd, a senior researcher at Leuven Catholic University in Belgium.

The SIREN research project, coordinated by Jörg Flecker, was completed in 2004, and brought together for the first time two separate research fields: working life, labour market developments and social security, and analysing political orientations and right-wing populism and extremism.

De Weerd said that this three-year project involving eight countries set out to see how experiences in working life influenced political orientation and to what extent the threat of social decline and precarious living conditions were contributing to the rise of right-wing populism and extremism.

New evidence from SIREN

Numerous political commentators have made this link but there has been no data to prove this hypothesis. Now, the SIREN project has provided the evidence. "Across Europe, it illustrates the link between psychological reactions to changes in job conditions and right-wing populism and extremism."

He said that people in work who felt under increasing pressure to perform or to accept lower wages, or considered that their skills were devalued or that their working conditions had deteriorated, were more open, with the unemployed, to extremist theories.

"It is easier to blame a clearly identified scapegoat such as migrants to explain what is wrong at work rather than the economic climate which remains theoretical and out of reach."

The research found that not only negative changes at work increased perceived uncertainty and an affinity with right-wing populism. Some successful workers started to believe "that they were superior to others, more capable of dealing with the uncertainties but also with the challenges that characterise contemporary working life". As a result, they too were attracted by populist ideology.

But De Weerd was also careful to explain that the economic climate is not "the only reason for prejudice". Other factors also count, such as discontent with mainstream political parties and a lack of political representation. There is a feeling that social democratic parties are showing less and less interest in the worker's world. Populist parties have occupied this space by publicly recognising the problems of social decline and precariousness.

Feelings of injustice because of frustrated expectations from work and life breed prejudice. "If you eat away at people's security and, at the same time, make extra demands on them such as a harder, longer and heavier workload, there is a heightened chance they will turn to right-wing populism and extremism."

Project website: <http://www.siren.at>

4. Labour inclusion of the Roma in Europe (Workaló Project)

Following EU enlargement, the Roma have become the largest ethnic minority in Europe (European Parliament, 2004). They are more likely to be unemployed or in low-skilled work than other Europeans. Additionally, traditional Roma jobs, such as travelling sales or metal collection, are reaching a crisis point within the current economy, endangering the survival of many families. Since labour inclusion is directly related to social participation and active citizenship, the Roma labour situation has become an urgent issue that needs to be addressed in the construction of a socially cohesive European society. The Workaló project aimed to respond to this situation. The project started from the hypothesis that the Roma have developed professional skills and abilities that are, nowadays, demanded by knowledge-based economies. This opens up new employment opportunities for the Roma that need to be further explored.

The project has addressed these issues across the whole of Europe. After an exhaustive review of the scientific literature, qualitative fieldwork was carried out in all the partner countries (France, Romania, UK, Portugal, and Spain, as coordinator) for more than two years. In the initial phase, in-depth interviews with entrepreneurs and other professionals were carried out. In the second phase, communicative everyday life stories were gathered and focus groups with Roma were conducted.

After looking at the requirements of the current labour market, and exploring what the Roma had to offer, the data indicated that they have developed specific skills and forms of work organisation in their traditional jobs that coincide with emerging occupational profiles. Although they possess these skills, their low levels of schooling plus discriminatory practices in hiring and at the workplace represent serious barriers for Roma inclusion. It was also found that there was a need to guarantee the Roma's right to maintain their traditional lifestyles, culture and identity, while granting them equal treatment and opportunities. It is also necessary to point out the key role played by Roma associations in



promoting the recognition of their community, campaigning for compliance with anti-discriminatory legislation and basic human rights, and their work towards major labour inclusion, in many ways.

In the project's final stage, key recommendations were formulated. Institutional recognition of the Roma and the implementation of affirmative action measures in both the education system and the labour market were considered as two overall measures that can contribute to overcoming the Roma's social exclusion. In the labour market, it was found that some emerging economic organisational forms coincide with some of the features that have characterised traditional family-based Roma economic activities. For example, it was concluded that the creation of Roma franchises and self-employment initiatives based on the recognition of their existing co-operative and practical abilities would open up new labour opportunities for the community. In addition, a key recommendation was not only to focus on access to unskilled jobs but also measures to widen access to professional jobs in emerging fields, such as information and communication technologies.

To conclude, one of the most innovative aspects of the Workaló project has been the use of communicative methodology. Representing a shift away from the traditional approach to Roma studies, the Workaló research team was multicultural, and each partner worked closely with its local Roma community. Furthermore, the Advisory Council, a permanent committee composed of representatives of the Roma community, as well as Romà and non-Romà associations, supervised the research team. This Council oversaw all the results and conclusions arising from the project. This collaboration shaped the project's findings and political recommendations. These were presented and discussed in different national workshops and at a final conference at the European Parliament, which was attended by Roma representatives from across Europe, Parliament members (MEPs), policy-makers and other stakeholders.

The proceedings of this gathering are available at: <http://www.neskes.net/workalo/proceedings.pdf>

Project website: <http://www.neskes.net/workalo/indexan.htm>

Briefing paper: <http://www.pjb.co.uk/npl/bp58.htm>

5. EU KLEMS 2003: Industry-level productivity analysis in the European Union: a comparative analysis

What is the relationship between skill formation and innovation on one hand, and productivity, on the other?

The EU KLEMS project represents a good example of what a project funded under Priority 8 is about. Its principal goals are to analyse European industry productivity through the analysis of data on economic growth, employment creation, skills formation and technological change. A database,

containing data from 1970 onwards, will be created, with the expectation that it will become a particularly useful tool for analytical and policy-related purposes. It will provide the possibility of studying the relationship between skills formation, technological progress and innovation on the one hand, and productivity, on the other. The research exploiting this new industry-level productivity database will provide important input to policy evaluation, in particular for the assessment of the goals concerning competitiveness and economic growth potential as established by the Lisbon and Barcelona summits. Once completed, it will be freely accessible, and automatically updated by the European statistical system.

The project is coordinated by Bart Van Ark, from the Rijks University, Groningen, and involves 14 research teams, representing a mix of academic institutions and national economic policy research institutes, with support from various statistical offices and the OECD.

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

6. The Transitions' project: Negotiating motherhood and fatherhood and work-family boundaries in the context of labour market and workplace change

The Transitions project aims to examine how young European adults negotiate motherhood and fatherhood and work-family boundaries in the context of labour market and workplace change, different national welfare state regimes, and family and employer support. The project is examining individual and household strategies and their consequences for well-being at individual, family and organisational levels. This is being studied in the framework of parallel organisational contexts and macro levels of public support in the eight participating countries: France, Portugal, Sweden, Norway, the Netherlands, the UK, Bulgaria and Slovenia. In the first year, the Transition team conducted 11 case studies in public and private organisations.

Among the major changes in the new European workplace, the project identified a general trend towards work intensification which is a particular challenge for young parents. Parents in all the case studies felt that they had to balance work and family in a particularly intense and competitive reality. The intensification of work undermines workplace attempts to support parents in managing work-family boundaries. The findings were presented at a special Transitions symposium during the International Conference 'Community, Work and Family: Change and Transformation' held in Manchester, UK, 16-18 March 2005.

Project website: <http://www.workliferesearch.org/transitions/>



Publications

Final reports from projects

- *Gender Relationships in Europe at the Turn of the Millennium: Women as subjects in migration and marriage*; GRINE project final report, Brussels, 2005, EUR n°21249, ISBN 92-894-7056-9, 139 pages
- *Precarious Employment in Europe: A Comparative Study of Labour-Market Related Risks in Flexible Economies*; ESOPÉ Project final report, Brussels, 2005, EUR n° 21250, ISBN 92-894-7057-7, 145 pages
- *New Kinds of Families, New Kinds of Social Care: Shaping Multidimensional European Policies for Informal and Formal Care*; SOCCARE project final report, Brussels, 2005, EUR n° 21322, ISBN 92-894-8453-5, 116 pages
- *Sectoral Systems in Europe: Innovation, Competitiveness and Growth*; project final report, Brussels, 2005, EUR n° 21039, ISBN 92-894-7571-4, 106 pages
- *European Biotechnology Innovation System*; project final report, Brussels, 2005, EUR n° 21040, ISBN 92-894-7574-9, 76 pages
- *Management Tools and a Management Framework for Assessing the Potential of European Long-Term S&T Options To Become Embedded in Society*; project final report, Brussels, 2005, EUR n° 21041, ISBN 92-894-7476-5, 50 pages
- *Strategies and Policies for Systemic Interactions and Convergence in Europe*; CONVERGE project final report, Brussels, 2005, EUR 21042, ISBN 92-894-7577-3, 162 pages
- *Youth Unemployment and Social Exclusion in Six Countries of the EU: Dimensions, Subjective Experiences and Institutional Responses in Six Countries of the EU*; YUSEDER project final report, Brussels, 2005, EUR n° 21043, ISBN 92-894-7578-1, 31 pages
- *European Citizenship and the Social and Political Integration of the European Union*, project final report, 2005, EUR n° 21044, ISBN 92-894-7579-X, 117 pages
- *Comparative Social Inclusion Policies & Citizenship in Europe: Towards a New European Social Model*; project final report, Brussels, 2005, EUR n° 21045, ISBN 92-894-7580-3, 160 pages
- *Globalization and Social Exclusion*; project final report, Brussels, 2005, EUR n° 21046, ISBN 92-894-7583-8, 94 pages

- *Working on the Fringes: Immigrant Businesses, Economic Integration and Informal Practices*; project final report, Brussels, 2005, EUR n° 21047, ISBN 92-894-7582-X, 52 pages
- *Enterprise and its Transfer to Combat Social Exclusion*; ENTRANCE project final report, Brussels, 2005, EUR n°21049, ISBN 92-894-7584-6, 112 pages
- *New Forms of Employment and Working Time in the Service Economy*; NESY project final report, Brussels, 2005, EUR n° 21050, ISBN 92-894-7585-4, 145 pages
- *Family Reunification Evaluation Project*, project final report, Brussels, 2005, EUR n° 21102, ISBN 92-894-7586-2, 88 pages

Paper versions of these publications can be requested from: RTD-citizens@cec.eu.int

Further details on these projects can be found at the projects' database website: <http://improving-ser.jrc.it/default/>

Projects' cluster review

Gaining new perspectives on the role of learning

Under the Fourth and Fifth Framework Programmes (FP4 and FP5), the European Commission supported a significant number of research projects, thematic networks and project clusters that address a wide range of education and training-related issues. The total EU contribution to these projects exceeded €50 million. These collaborative endeavours – some of them still in progress – have produced important insights for policy formulation and have laid the foundations for significant research co-operation across Europe.

The 'New Perspectives for Learning' website highlights key results emerging from these activities. In addition, it provides information on new educational research projects currently supported by FP6, as well as on present opportunities for research funding in this field. The website is a valuable resource for policy-makers in the wider field of education and training, as well as other areas of social policy.

Research results demonstrate that policies for learning, and their reflection of a 'learning society' form an integral part of wider social and economic policy. This means that the outcomes of learning are intimately connected to core economic and social policy concerns. Among numerous other conclusions, this research shows that there is currently a need for a better balance between the economic and socio-cultural objectives of learning.

New Perspectives for Learning website:
<http://www.pjb.co.uk/npl/index.htm>



Recent books from projects

○ ***Democracy in the European Union. Towards the Emergence of a Public Sphere***

Edited by Liana Giorgi, Ingmar Homeyer and Wayne Parsons
London, Routledge, 2005

The process of European integration has given rise to a new object of study: European society. Several old questions concerning identity, citizenship, democracy, government and institutions must be raised anew, this time at European level. These are not only academic issues, but also major political concerns at European and Member State level. There are concerns that transfers of power to European institutions produce a characteristically new and worrying form of democratic 'deficit'. Both the justification of the European project and its viability are at stake. Ongoing reforms of European Union institutions and the establishment of a constitutional framework represent an important step forward. They promise to make decision processes at European level both more transparent and more accountable. Yet where does this leave participation and the public? Is there a European public sphere? Does Europe provide structures in which citizens and their representatives can discuss, deliberate and evaluate issues of public relevance, including the contents of the EU political integration project itself? These are the questions dealt with by the book.

Issues addressed are the theoretical underpinning of multilevel governance, democracy and the public sphere; institutional practices of participation and consultation at the level of sectoral policy formulation and implementation; the legitimacy and democratic deficit of key European institutions; the role of political elites with reference to the emergence of a European political class; and the role of key civil society actors. Cross-sectional issues addressed are those of subsidiarity, political identity and enlargement. ■

○ ***Innovation shows its many sides
The Oxford Handbook of Innovation***

Edited by Jan Fagerberg, David C. Mowery, and Richard R. Nelson
Oxford, OUP, 2005

Innovation is now acknowledged to be a prerequisite for sustained economic growth and social progress. As understanding of the process deepens, policy responses to foster innovation are becoming ever more diverse.

Providing a comprehensive global view of the subject, *The Oxford Handbook of Innovation* brings together contributions from some 29 researchers based in Europe and the USA. Part-funded by the EU, the book collates knowledge from the many different disciplines with an interest in innovation.

But what exactly is innovation? In academic circles, definitions of the process abound, and the nuances in these definitions mean that few outside these circles have a clear idea of exactly what innovation is.

Although innovation theories date back to pioneers such as Joseph Schumpeter, as an academic discipline innovation has only grown up in the past two or three decades, led predominantly by social scientists. However, there has been little cross-disciplinary work, with economists, geographers, management theorists and sociologists, among others, each looking at different aspects of the process in isolation.

Policy-makers keen to encourage innovation are gradually realising that successful initiatives will not fit into neat administrative pigeon-holes. And the multilateral approaches needed by policy-makers are mirrored in the growth of multidisciplinary research in the field.

The four sections of the *Oxford Handbook* aim at a holistic understanding of innovation, and provide an up-to-date, comprehensive review of research across the field.

In 'Innovation in the making', the contributors look at the different forms of innovation present in firms, and at how it takes place. In 'The systemic nature of innovation', the chapters address the background conditions which favour innovation, and at the elements which contribute to successful innovation.

'How innovation differs' shows that innovation as a process has different characteristics in different contexts, be they different industries, locations or ages. Finally, 'Innovation and performance' examines the impact of innovation on economic performance, competitiveness and employment, at micro and macro levels.

By providing a comprehensive overview of the field, and the literature, this book will help researchers to understand the breadth of work outside their own discipline. It also provides an accessible overview for those looking simply to learn about the innovation process in detail. ■

○ ***Building the European Research Area: socio-economic research in practice***

Edited by M Kuhn & SO Remoe
Peter Lang, New York, 2005

The book is the product of a project analysing how EU-supported projects in socio-economic research are implemented. The book provides a very interesting account of achievements under the Fourth and Fifth Framework Programmes (FP4 and FP5), as well as an analysis of how project partners define, interpret, negotiate, and actually implement, notions of transnationality, interdisciplinarity, the 'European Dimension', and policy relevance in their projects.

What is the meaning of 'European Dimension' in social science research? What is the 'European added value' of EU-supported social science research projects? How are these interpreted and implemented by project coordinators and



partners? What are the effects of EU-supported social science research on the structure of the European social science research community? How is interdisciplinarity interpreted and implemented in European transnational research projects? What is the new meaning of 'comparative' enquiry in the framework of such projects? How is the traditional division between pure and applied research broken down in European social science research? What are the implications from the requirement for policy-relevant research at EU-level? What are the challenges and difficulties characterising EU-supported transnational collaborative research? These are some of the questions asked in the book. ■

○ *Ideas and welfare state reform in Western Europe from the WRAMSOC Key Action project*

Edited by Peter Taylor-Gooby
London, Macmillan, 2005

The welfare state is a distinctively European invention and is central to Europe's success in balancing competitive capitalism and social inclusion. Social policies across Europe are now being transformed to meet the demands of globalisation, the ageing of the population, changing labour markets and the economic pressures from the European single market. This book analyses the ideas that lie behind the new policies. Based on more than 250 interviews with senior politicians, civil servants, representatives of business and unions, and other key policy actors in seven European countries and at EU level, it explores how far a market-centred paradigm lies at the heart of the reforms and offers new insights into the essential resilience of the European welfare state. ■

○ *The future of Europe's rural peripheries*

Edited by Lois Labrianidis
Ashgate Books, Abingdon, 2004

This new book explores what impact economic restructuring is having in Europe's periphery regions. Drawing on case studies from five EU Member States: Germany, Greece, Poland, Portugal and the UK, the book examines how entrepreneurial ventures and the transfer of new technology stimulate economic development in rural areas.

The book analyses the key causes and effects of economic restructuring in the Union's periphery regions. It looks into the consequences – both current and future – of European integration and globalisation on these regions.

It identifies sources of entrepreneurship and the extent to which the existing institutional, social and technological environment and infrastructure encourages and facilitates such innovation. It explores examples of good practice in terms of both public and private initiatives, and develops a coherent combination of policy objectives facilitating the long-term economic development of the countryside.

The book has been well received by experts in the field. "For those with a serious interest in the future of European rural areas, this state of the art text is essential reading," said Brian Libery of Coventry University.

The editor, Lois Labrianidis, coordinated an EU-backed project on 'the Future of Europe's Rural Periphery: The role of entrepreneurship in responding to employment problems and social marginalisation (FERP)'. FERP, which furnishes the groundwork for the book, was funded under the EU's Fifth Framework Programme (1998-2002).

FERP: <http://www.uom.gr/ferp/> ■

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