

Europe Extended - Scenarios and Projects

Josef Hochgerner
Centre for Social Innovation, Vienna

A democratic, social and prosperous development of the European Union 25+ will require a basis of highly valued mutual respect between different interest groupings, ethnic, regional and national cultures. In a political sense this may be achieved only if „Europe“ becomes acknowledged by the majority of citizens. Thus a topical aim is to overcome the tipping point from the European Union being a „project of elites“ to beginning to matter for everyday businesses and masses of people – even though they may remain in different spheres of interest, traditions and solidaric networks, and in a variety of ways toward modernisation.

The presentation will identify relevant stages in the creation of the European Union and an outlook on the potential of future developments. From a socio-economic point of view the great scenarios will be confronted with a selection of programmes and projects in support of education, research, institution building and social and economic progress in the new Member States and beyond. An issue for debate is whether efforts and resources involved may be sufficient to facilitate breakthroughs of EU integration and „Europeanisation“.

CV

Univ.-Doz. Dr. **Josef Hochgerner**

Founder and Scientific Manager of the Centre for Social Innovation, a socio-economic research institute associated with the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences in Vienna (Universitaet fuer Bodenkultur/BOKU). Secretary General of „W.I.S.E.“ - International Forum on Work, Information Society and Employment“, and President of the Austrian Sociological Association.

Key areas in research and teaching at universities and in vocational training institutes cover major issues of the knowledge based information society, in particular the development of „collaborative eLearning“, employment, eWork and trends in business organisation. Technology Assessment, in-depth knowledge of national and European policies on innovation, science and technology development are additional competencies developed in the course of more than 25 years of professional experience in private research institutes, social partners' organisations and universities. Visiting professorships, lectures and co-operation in many European projects led to the establishment of extensive and tight networks of scientific collaboration across Europe and beyond.

Relevant participation in EU-funded projects include MUNICIPIA (Multilingual Urban Network for the Integration of City Planners and Involved local Actors; TURA – UR 1018; 1995-1997); DIPLOMAT (The European Charter for Telework; Co-ordinator, ACTS – AC222; 1996-1998); VIP (Voluntary Industrial Code of Practice for IST-enabled cross-boarder work arrangements; IST-2000-25463; 2001-2002). Concerning ERA, European integration and the role of education and learning, participation in the STRATA project RECORD/www.record-network.net and the EURONE&T project/www.learningpolicies.net may be mentioned. Complementary work on national level encompasses the setting up of an interactive communication platform for FP6 and ERA (www.era.gv.at), studies and advisory processes concerning EU enlargement and the integration of Central and Eastern European countries.

Selection of book publications:

- „Jenseits der großen Transformation. Arbeit, Technik und Wissen in der Informationsgesellschaft“ [Beyond the Great Transformation. Work, Technology and Knowledge in the Information Society]; published by Loecker Verlag, Vienna 1999 (ISBN 3-85409-154-0)
- “Bringing Public Administration Closer to the Citizens”, in „Netzwerke. Kooperation in Arbeit, Wirtschaft und Verwaltung“ [Networks. Co-operation in Work, Business and Administration]; ed. with Hubert Eichmann and Franz Nahrada; published by Falter Verlag, Vienna 2000 (ISBN 3 - 85439 – 248 - 6)
- „Innovationspotenziale zentraleuropäischer Länder. Analyse und Vergleich ausgewählter Forschungs- und Technologieindikatoren“ [Innovation Potential of Central European Countries. Analysis and comparison of selected indicators of research and technology]; with Karl Blecha and Günter Hillebrand; Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Forschung, Vienna 2001