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THEME OF THIS ISSUE

SUSTAINABILITY AND GOVERNANCE

The contribution of socio-economic research to sustainability and governance is illustrated by results and news from three projects (EPIGOV, ENVIPOLCON & SRDTools). The editorial and an interview with EPIGOV Coordinator Dr von Homeyer, following a conference on EPIGOV activities, helps to underline progress in the field of sustainability and governance. Finally, further suggested reading on this theme is provided in the book review "Participation for Sustainability in Trade."

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EDITORIAL

The issue of 'sustainable development' is now a key part of political and institutional discourse.

Since the Gothenburg European Council (2001), this theme clarifies the Lisbon strategy, the aim of which is the building of a knowledge society at European level. But it also reveals the tensions and contradictions current in our societies, and leads us to question the relevance of our instruments to evaluate and measure the results of policies that have been implemented. It is remarkable that the main indicator cited in social and political discourse is the GDP, which is 'blind' as regards sustainable development.

Since the goal of sustainable development touches the ensemble of human activities, and concerns the behaviour of individuals and social groups, it is a favoured subject of research for social science and humanities. It concerns research which by its nature is interdisciplinary, combining social, economic and environmental dimensions, which implies international action since sustainable development only makes sense if it is global; and for the reasons mentioned, if it deals with questions of governance. The first pieces of research undertaken under the Fifth Research Framework Programme have recently given rise to a policy review around the principal question "sustainability of what, why, and for whom?" Other projects are currently under way under the Sixth Framework Programme. The new framework programme will build on this research by favouring the development of concepts, methodologies, and comparative analyses, and by analysing the

different political, economic, social and environmental factors that interact in the sustainable development strategy.

Starting this year, the first research subjects of the Seventh Framework Programme are being proposed to the scientific community. They concern in particular the trajectories of socio-economic development in different European countries, and relations and synergies between the different aspects of sustainable development, as well as considering whether or not this objective is taken into account by the political communities, and analysing their impact.

Throughout the whole of the Seventh Research Framework Programme we must encourage research, to better understand the challenges facing Europe and the world in the pursuit of sustainable development. This is an important mission as well as a great responsibility which involves the Commission services, our colleagues in the Member States and Associated Countries and above all the research community. Together we can make progress.

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



THEME OF THIS ISSUE

EPIGOV

Project acronym: **EPIGOV**

Title of project: **Environmental Policy Integration and Multi-level Governance**

Co-ordination: Dr. Ingmar von Homeyer, Ecologic – Institute for International and European Environmental Policy, Berlin (Germany)

Funded under: FP6

Project website:

http://www.ecologic.de/projekte/epigov/events/conference1_brussels.htm



Programme, is a project which seeks to research the different modes of governance to support environmental policy integration at EU, national, regional and local levels.

EPIGOV's first conference took place in Brussels, on 15 and 16 February 2007.

Attended by consortium members as well as external participants, this two-day conference had two objectives: to review the progress made in integrating environmental concerns into important areas of EU policy, and to identify the challenges faced by governance when implementing the principle of Environmental Policy Integration (EPI).

Tackling environmental concerns: the EU's EPI

Environmental problems have gradually become a global priority. Although a few decades ago environmental issues were not considered a particularly critical concern for society, nowadays topics such as pollution, water and

Over the past years, the EU has increasingly granted funds for projects researching ideas and technologies that aim to help improve environmental problem areas, in Europe and globally. In this context, 'Environmental Policy Integration and Multi-level Governance' (EPIGOV), a coordinated action funded under the European Commission's 6th Framework Research



waste are constantly on policymakers' agendas and in the media spotlight. At EU level, there are many policies and programmes aimed at protecting the environment. Regarding the modes of governance in particular, concerns about environmental issues are reflected in the principle of EPI, a policy which addresses growing environmental concerns by ensuring that these are reflected in all policymaking. This principle, which was introduced in the EC Treaty by the Single European Act, was strengthened by the Treaty of Amsterdam. More specifically, Article 6 of the European Community Treaty states that 'environmental protection requirements must be integrated into the definition and implementation of [all] the Community policies and activities ... in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development'.

Despite the introduction of EPI in the EU's primary legislation, and notwithstanding numerous other policies aimed at facing environmental problems, environment still remains a top priority for policymakers. With respect to the EPI, what have the public authorities done so far? What progress has been made in the integration of environmental concerns?

The EPIGOV project

EPIGOV is a three-year project which will be carried out from February 2006 to January 2009. Designed to foster mutual coordination and the pooling of resources among consortium team members, this Co-ordinated Action will bring together experts from 19 partner institutions and 10 EU Member States. The project is coordinated by Dr. Ingmar von Homeyer, of the Ecologic Institute of Berlin.

In general, EPIGOV seeks to coordinate and merge existing research on environmental policy integration and multilevel governance. The consortium also aims to investigate different modes of governance employed at global, EU, national and regional/local levels, to support the integration of environmental concerns into other policy areas.

More specifically, two sets of questions will be addressed. Firstly, the consortium members plan to identify which modes of governance are used

to improve EPI at different levels of governance. The aim is to understand whether it is possible to identify dominant governance modes at particular levels, and based on this finding, to determine which modes are the most effective. Secondly, EPIGOV will focus its attention on the investigation of how the presence or interaction of different modes of governance, affect EPI.

Over the duration of the project, EPIGOV foresees a series of individually themed conferences, aiming to bring together consortium partners as well as academics, policymakers and other stakeholders. The programme of these conferences, each of which addresses two main themes, is set out below:

- 15-16 February 2007, Brussels (IEEP)
Themes: EPI and modes of governance; EPI at EU-level.
- 15-16 November 2007, Milan (FEEM)
Themes: EPI at national level; EPI at regional-local level.
- 12-13 June 2008, Stockholm (SEI)
Themes: EPI at global level; EPI and multi-level governance.

News from the first EPIGOV Conference

As planned, the first conference of EPIGOV was held on 15 and 16 February 2007, at the Free University of Brussels (VUB). Considering the interest and awareness surrounding environmental issues, the first day of the conference, entitled 'Better Integration: Mainstreaming Environmental Concerns in European Governance', was open to the public. The second day of the conference, which focused on 'Environmental Policy Integration and Modes of Governance', was an internal workshop restricted to the project's consortium only.

Dr. von Homeyer opened the two-day conference with a speech, briefly outlining the EPIGOV project. This introductory speech was followed by a series of presentations on behalf of different stakeholders and academic speakers from various sectors. With the intention of covering most of the aspects of EPI in specific policy areas and EU initiatives, a variety of topics were presented, ranging from energy to agriculture, and from transport to development coordination. Has there been any progress in the integration of environmental concerns into other areas of EU policy?

What emerged from the presentations, is a somewhat ambiguous picture of the achievements of EPI, ranging from optimistic to disappointing. On a negative note, several speakers observed that the achievements of EPI over the last five years have been limited. The main cause for this could be attributed to the primacy of the Lisbon Strategy over the Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS). It was also stressed that, although the renewed version of the SDS has been approved at the highest level, it has not yet been implemented intensively by the institutional actors. On a more positive note, it was recognised that the results in terms of research, with particular reference to impact assessment, constitute one of the successes of EPI. In addition, as concerns specific policy sectors, significant steps have been taken in the efforts to reduce CO₂ emissions in the transport sector.



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The first day of conferences was concluded with a presentation by Mr. Robin Miège of DG Environment. By locating EPI in a broader context, Mr. Miège identified five key factors for successful implementation of EPI, namely acuteness and scientific evidence, popular support, commitment (including impact assessment of all EU policies regarding the environment, social and economic aspects), governance and trust. (Presentations and papers are available on the project's website).

The second day of the conference was dedicated to a workshop attended by EPIGOV's participants. It gave the researchers the opportunity to focus on the project's analytical framework, as well as on the outcomes of the project's first year. Thanks to a well-designed programme, lively debates on different modes of governance were possible. These constituted a basis for exchanging ideas and encouraging further cooperation among the consortium members.

The final results of EPIGOV will be presented to all stakeholders in the final policy conference, to be held in Brussels toward the end of 2008. This conference will be followed by a final report, which will include the main findings, as well as areas of interest for future research activities. In the meantime, the consortium plans to disseminate its findings by producing a range of publications, including literature reviews, state-of-the-art reports, research papers and policy papers.



INTERVIEW with Dr von Homeyer, EPIGOV Project Coordinator



1. For the uninitiated, how would you describe EPIGOV's goals?

EPIGOV looks at which practices are used to support the integration of environmental concerns into sector policies at different levels — regional and local, national, EU, global. We try to identify level-specific governance patterns, assess effectiveness, and eventually look at whether and how

these governance patterns influence each other; for example, if there are synergies or conflicts.

2. What do you hope to take away from this conference, and do you have any first impressions? Have you seen the participation you expected or hoped for? What has the conference's impact been on the project as a whole, and your approach to the Milan conference? Has the focus shifted as a result of the first conference?

My impression was very positive and the conference surpassed my expectations. I think the conference presented and discussed many basic conceptual and policy issues for EPIGOV, and therefore provides an excellent foundation for our next conference in Milan. The Milan conference will necessarily differ from the Brussels one. It seems unlikely that we will be able to attract the same level of interest in Environmental Policy Integration (EPI) and multilevel governance issues from stakeholders and policymakers in a city that is less international and isn't a capital city. At our Brussels workshop we had two presentations on mainstreaming in other policy areas: gender equality and development policy. This raised a lot of interest among participants and we will try to continue this comparative perspective in Milan.

3. What has the feedback been from consortium members and participants in the conference? What surprised you most about their reaction?

Most feedback has been very positive, and I have had no negative reactions so far. I was most surprised by the fact that the audience had not diminished in the afternoon, after people had had to leave the conference venue at lunchtime and cater for themselves

4. What are the principal challenges to EPIGOV's goals, i.e. increased integration of environmental concerns into other policy areas? Who is most responsible for these challenges?

The main challenges are institutional and ideational. People often see the value and necessity of EPI, but when they try to implement it, they run into all kinds of institutional and conceptual barriers. There are far fewer necessary conflicts between economic and environmental goals than many people think. Much depends on how you understand and organise the economy.

5. EPIGOV is funded under FP6, and will build upon previous research. In your view, what has been one of the most significant successes for environmental policy in recent years, and what was the critical factor leading to that success?

Although there have been successes, really significant successes were quite rare in recent years. One of the most encouraging developments is that there seems to be a growing awareness of environmental issues in the US, especially regarding climate change. However, I am not sure if that can be interpreted as a success of environmental policy. In the EU, the adoption of the new chemicals legislation REACH was a success, despite the fact that the Commission's original proposals were watered down significantly.



HIGHLIGHTS

DYNREG

Project acronym: **DYNREG**

Title of project: **Dynamic Regions in a Knowledge-Driven Global Economy: Lessons and implications for the EU**

Co-ordination: Iulia Traistaru-Siedschlag, Economic and Social Research Institute, Dublin

Funded under: FP6 – Citizens

Project website:

http://www.esri.ie/research/current_research_projects/dynreg

Over the past decades, China has emerged as a major player in global economy. While so far few others have been able to match the pace of China's sustained economic growth, countries such as India, Brazil, Russia and the central European countries are also gradually emerging as economically dynamic regions. What characterises the economic development of these regions, and in particular, which are the key factors underlying their growth performance?

By addressing a fundamental aspect of the European Commission's Sixth



Framework Program, the project 'Dynamic Regions in a Knowledge-Driven Global Economy: Lessons and Implications for the EU' (DYNREG) aims to research the core factors driving the economic growth of the world's most dynamic regions. However, the objectives of DYNREG, a project which brings together experts from ten European leading universities and research centres, go beyond the purely academic identification of the emerging regions' growth factors. After categorising and analysing the main causes of the sustained economic growth, the research consortium seeks to understand the role of these emerging regions in a knowledge-driven world economy, with the ultimate aim of translating its findings into policy implications and recommendations for the EU.

More specifically, the DYNREG project is divided into four Work Packages (WPs), which aim to provide the following results:

- a) a theoretical and methodological research framework on the role of knowledge and innovation in fostering growth, competitive advantages and competitiveness, and the role of public policy in fostering innovation and growth (WP1);
- b) a comparative analysis of the factors underlying the growth performance of dynamic regions, and the role of knowledge and innovation in fostering growth at firm, industry, region and country levels (WP2);
- c) an assessment of the role of shifting comparative advantages in new growth regions and the impact of current trends in dynamic regions on patterns of world growth, development, competitiveness, inequalities and convergence (WP3);
- d) an analysis of public policies in shaping the dynamic economic performance of firms, industries, regions and countries, with the aim of drawing lessons and policy implications for the EU (WP4).

DYNREG was launched on 1 January 2006. As scheduled, the first part of the project (WP1), which took place from January 2006 to June 2006, has now been successfully completed. The main output of WP1 is a literature survey on dynamic growth regions and their competitiveness in a knowledge-driven world economy, as well as detailed and methodological frameworks for the main parts of the project (WP2, WP3 and WP4).

Based on the findings of WP1, the second part of DYNREG (WP2) consists of a series of studies on the growth performance of dynamic regions. Econometric methods are being implemented, not only to test a number of hypotheses about the forces behind dynamic growth, but also to deliver a comparative analysis of factors underlying the growth performance of dynamic regions at global, national and sub-national levels. The results of WP2 are expected by the end of April 2007.

The three-year long project will conclude at the end of 2008. By improving the theory, methodology and empirical analysis of the factors driving dynamic regions within the world economy, DYNREG is expected to positively influence EU policymaking.

RECON: Reconstituting Democracy in Europe.

The first RECON conference was held in Oslo on 26 and 27 January 2007, hosted by the RECON coordinating team at ARENA, led by Erik Eriksen and John Fossum. The conference addressed the main problems of supranational governance and democracy in Europe, and presented the main themes of the project. The first day of the conference was an open event that attracted some 160 researchers from Norwegian and European institutions, coordinators of other projects within the Sixth Framework Programme, as well as policymakers, practitioners, and representatives of civil society. Norwegian State Secretary Liv Monica Stubholt from



the Centre Party held the opening speech on 'Democracy in the Age of Globalisation'. This was followed by an introductory speech by Erik O. Eriksen, and keynote speeches were delivered by John Dryzek, one of the leading political scientists on democracy beyond the nation-state, and James Bohman, prominent theorist in the field of normative political theory and cosmopolitanism. Hauke Brunkhorst and Rainer Forst commented on their speeches. John Erik Fossum chaired the sessions where the RECON work package leaders presented the project's research fields. The sessions included commentaries by Tanja Hitzel-Cassagnes and Philippe C. Schmitter, and were followed by a final discussion.

For further information, see

<http://www.reconproject.eu/projectweb/portalproject/Index.html>

INTUNE and the deliberative citizens' consultation.

The Integrated Project INTUNE (Integrated and United), coordinated by Maurizio Cotta and Pierangelo Isernia at the University of Siena, Italy, was involved in the preparation of the Deliberative Citizens Consultation held in Turin on 24 and 25 March 2007. This event was held in the context of the European Citizens Consultation with citizens from all 27 Member States, to debate the future of the European Union. This process was organised by a consortium of foundations and non-profit organisations led by the King Baudouin Foundation, and cosponsored by the European Commission's communication strategy 'Plan D' (democracy, dialogue, debate). The two topical themes in Turin were the TAV/Alta Velocità (the high speed train), and immigrant voting rights.

For further information, see

<http://www.intune.it/news/deliberative-polling-in-turin>

<http://www.european-citizens-consultations.eu/9.0.html#c447>

MICROCON: A micro-level analysis of violent conflicts

MICROCON held its 'kick-off meeting' and first conference in Sussex on 28 and 29 March 2007, hosted by the coordinating Institute of Development Studies, and led by Patricia Justino with Tilmann Brück and Philip Verwimp as deputy directors. Past and present violent conflicts, ranging from civil wars to riots and violent mass protests, affect the lives of millions of people every year across the world. Violent conflicts result in significant lost opportunities in terms of human and economic development, and jeopardise the processes of building democracy, establishing peaceful international relations, and reducing lawlessness and terrorism worldwide. At a fundamental level, conflict originates from individuals' behaviour and interactions with their immediate surroundings (households, communities) — in other words, from its micro-foundations. However, most programmes of conflict resolution, prevention and mediation are typically driven by regional, national and international perspectives. The project aims to



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'counter-balance' such situations by uncovering much-needed fundamental principles for better informed domestic, regional and international conflict policy, which places individuals and groups at the centre of their interventions. At the kick-off meeting, several aspects (methodological, theoretical, ethical, gender-related) were discussed, and the conference on the second day included papers by S. Kalyvas of Yale University, and J. Esteban, coordinator of the FP6 project 'Polarisation and Conflict'.

For further information, see

<http://www.microconflict.eu>

SSH Publications:

1. Policy Review Series n° 1 "Family and Welfare Research".
2. Policy Review Series n° 2 "From Good Governance to Democratic Governance? A Policy Review of the first Wave of European Governance Research".
3. Policy Review Series n° 3 "Social, Economic and Governance Aspect of Sustainable Development".





With the intention of further developing the European Research Area in the field of social sciences and humanities, the European Commission has recently launched a new cycle of publications. The broad objective of the Policy Review Series is to produce a collection of policy results from the social research projects funded under FP4 and FP5.

So far, three Policy Reviews have been published. The first, entitled 'Family and Welfare Research' (n° 1), addresses the challenges raised by ongoing socio-economic changes, EU enlargement and the Union's Charter of Fundamental Rights for family and welfare policy. By adopting an extensive definition of family concept, the research focuses on studying the many factors affecting family formation and structure, employment and its repercussion on family life, as well as care for children and elderly people.

'From Good Governance to Democratic Governance? A Policy Review of the first Wave of European Governance Research' is the title of the second Policy Review Series (n° 2). Governance is a complex and multifaceted concept which cuts across a wide range of policy fields and actors. By reflecting the descriptive as well as the normative aspects of governance, the review aims at highlighting the problems of governance, and identifying the most productive practices for present and future European policymaking.

Finally, Policy Review Series n° 3 consists of a 'Synthesis Report on Social, Economic and Governance Aspect of Sustainable Development'. Over the last decades, the concept of sustainability has gradually become a central aspect of public policies and business practices. However, despite the importance given to sustainable development at EU level, available evidence suggests that European societies are still some distance from achieving

their sustainability goals. Within this context, the aim of the Synthesis Report is that of identifying useful pointers concerning sustainability goals in the EU. For this purpose, a total of 16 ongoing projects have been reviewed. The objective of the report is not that of enlightening the projects' scientific contents and conclusions, but rather that of identifying findings and priorities which may be useful for future EU policymaking as well as social sciences research.

Further Policy Reviews addressing important aspects of social science and humanities, such as education, inequalities and social exclusion, gender and equal opportunity, employment and quality of work, research, technology and innovation, will be soon published.

SSH Programme Committee

The Commission (DG RDT/L) together with the German Presidency of the EU organised an informal SSH Programme Committee in Berlin on 14 and 15 March. The objectives of this event were to present the 'Final Report of the Expert Group on the Humanities' to the Committee members, and to discuss the situation of the humanities within European research. Presentations were made by Prof. Wolfgang Mackiewicz (Chairman of the Expert Group on the Humanities), Prof. Alain Peyraube (Scientific Council of the ERC), Dr Rüdiger Klein (Humanities Unit of the European science Foundation), Ms Annemarie Bos (Coordinator of the ERA-NET Humanities in the European Research Area, known as HERA) and Prof. Kathy Isaacs (Coordinator of the Network of Excellence in history, known as CLIOHRES.net).

NEWS FROM PROJECTS

ENVIPOLCON

Project acronym: **ENVIPOLCON**

Title of project: **Environmental governance in Europe: the impact of international institutions and trade on policy convergence**

Co-ordination: Professor Cristoph Knill - Department of Politics and Management, University of Konstanz

Funded under: FP5

Project website:

<http://www.uni-konstanz.de/FuF/Verwiss/knill/projekte/envipolcon/project-homepage.php>

Subject: Empirical findings on environmental governance in Europe

ENVIPOLCON is the acronym of 'Environmental governance in Europe: the impact of international institutions and trade on policy convergence'. The project was carried out between 2003 and 2006 by University of Konstanz, University of Hamburg, Free University of Berlin (Germany), University of Salzburg (Austria) and Radboud University Nijmegen (The Netherlands).

ENVIPOLCON project was supported by the EU, RTD programme 'Improving the human research potential and the socioeconomic knowledge base' (contract no. HPSE-CT-2002-00103).

The purpose of ENVIPOLCON was to investigate the following:

a) to what extent a convergence of environmental policies across countries exists, and b) towards which direction environmental protection is being developed, and if there is an environmental 'race to the top' or a 'race to the bottom'? For the purposes of ENVIPOLCON research, a comparative study of policy development for 40 different environmental policies in 24 OECD countries over a period of 30 years (1970-2000), was carried out.

An overall conclusion of ENVIPOLCON is that environmental policies have generally grown to be more alike over





time, but at the same time they have moved in an 'upward' direction, thus becoming more strict. Hence, a 'race to the bottom' due to regulatory competition — i.e. a lowering of environmental standards by countries as a consequence of engaging in competitive markets, as often predicted in the literature — does not appear to have taken place.

According to ENVIPOLCON's main findings, there are three factors related to globalisation, considered to be responsible for the observed convergence of environmental policies:

- international cooperation of countries and harmonisation of environmental law;
- transnational communication within international institutions;
- regulatory competition in increasingly integrated markets.

In order to determine which of these factors explain the convergence better, a statistical analysis of both policy similarity and the direction of policy convergence was carried out. This analysis yielded the following results:

1) International harmonisation contributes most to the explanation of convergence. The overall effects of transnational communication on environmental policy convergence are almost as strong as the effects of international harmonisation.

2) The explanatory potential of the mechanism of regulatory competition is much lower than that of international harmonisation and transnational communication. Moreover, the impact of trade is not more pronounced for trade-related policies than for those not directly related to trade.

3) Domestic factors also contribute to the explanation of environmental policy convergence. Among the factors controlled in the ENVIPOLCON project, the effects of income are most pronounced, whereas political demand exerted by green parties and environmental problem pressure shows weaker effects.

ENVIPOLCON has also recorded a number of findings that have important implications for policy makers:

1) Globalisation drives environmental protection. In contrast to often-feared scenarios of environmental 'races to the bottom', ENVIPOLCON pointed out that growing similarity of environmental policies coincides with a constant strengthening of environmental standards over time.

2) The positive effect of globalisation on environmental protection is to a considerable extent triggered by the fact that states increasingly communicate with each other and exchange their perceptions and regulatory solutions with regard to environmental problems. Governments watch each other very closely, either trying to avoid the impression of falling behind others, or because they seek to draw lessons from successful policies developed elsewhere.

3) There is no evidence that economic integration has negative effects on environmental protection. Regulatory competition drives international cooperation in environmental protection. To avoid downward pressures on environmental regulation, countries seek to harmonise standards by establishing international or supranational rules and regimes.

4) There is strong evidence that environmental leaders are able to motivate the laggards. The establishment of legally binding agreements at



the international level typically implies that low-regulating countries adjust their standards to the level of environmental forerunner countries. However, this effect is also relevant to the absence of legally binding agreements. Mere communication and information exchange can motivate countries to raise their standards.

5) Finally, it is important to observe the implementation of environmental standards and agreements. While laggards have a strong interest in enhancing their international environmental reputation by adopting strict environmental standards, they have, at the same time, an incentive to 'cheat' in the implementation of these standards. This is a result mainly of economic competitiveness; however, effective implementation can be improved by the establishment of international control measures. Moreover, the mere existence of strict standards gives domestic pressure groups in these countries important leverage to push for effective implementation of environmental policies.

EUROSPHERE

Project acronym: **EUROSPHERE**

Title of project: **Diversity and the European Public Sphere: Towards a Citizens' Europe**

Co-ordination: Yngve G. Lithman - International Migration and Ethnic Relations Research Unit, University of Bergen (IMER Norway-Bergen)
Funded under: FP6-7 Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-based Society Project

Project website: <http://eurosphere.uib.no/>

Subject: Initiatory conference, Bergen, 14-16 February 2007

EUROSPHERE is the acronym for the programme 'Diversity and the European Public Sphere: Towards a Citizens' Europe', which started on 1 February 2007. It is a research project funded by the European Commission, the RTD Directorate, and the Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-based Society thematic area (FP6).



The main objective of EUROSHERE is to create a comprehensive base of information that could operate as a source of knowledge for policymaking, and also serve as a vital knowledge bank for civil society organisations and scientific communities involved in the articulation of a European public sphere.

Towards this objective, EUROSHERE

will examine the factors that weaken the fabric of European democracy, identify any ideas that are able to optimise citizens' involvement in European democratic process, and assess diversified strategies that could strengthen inclusive democratic institutions.

The research plan comprises data collection and analysis activities in 16 European countries and the creation of the Eurosphere Knowledge Base. For these purposes, EUROSHERE will organize four conferences, two European forums for European stake-holders' institutions and four researcher training/PhD courses. A great number of researchers — approximately 150 — are expected to contribute to the project. The EUROSHERE partnership consists of 17 European universities from 16 countries, and is coordinated by University of Bergen. Its duration will be from 1 February 2007 to 31 January 2012.

EUROSHERE's first major event took place in Bergen, from 14 February 2007 to 16 February 2007. All 17 partners and European Commission officials gathered together in an initiatory conference, where they elected the steering committee of the project and discussed the plans for future activities in detail. Participants had the opportunity to exchange views on how EUROSHERE could develop new ways to analyse and understand the public sphere; they also explored how this ambitious project will deal with the expected conflicts and contestations linked with future attempts to articulate a European public sphere.

According to the project schedule, after this first conference, three more large-scale international conferences will be organised. The second conference will be organised by the University of Bergen (28-30 October 2009), and it will aim to present the theoretical and methodological innovations that will have been achieved in EUROSHERE. The third conference will be organised by the University of Osnabrück (2-4 August 2010), and its objective is to present the findings of the ongoing research on the social and political actors' contribution to the articulation of the European Public Sphere. The fourth conference will be organised by the University of Bergen in Brussels (26-28 October 2011), where the final results of the project will be presented to the public, to the academic fields and to the end users of the project.

More information on these future conferences will be announced on the EUROSHERE site, in due course.

FEMAGE

Project acronym: **FEMAGE**

Title of project: **Needs for female immigrants and their integration in ageing societies**

Co-ordination: Prof. Charlotte Höhn - Bundesinstitut für Bevölkerungsforschung - Federal Institute for Population Research (BiB, Wiesbaden Germany)

Funded under: FP6

Project website: <http://www.bib-demographie.de/femage/index.html>

Subject: First findings on how European native citizens see foreigners, immigration and integration

'Needs for Female Immigrants and their Integration in Ageing Societies' (FEMAGE) is a project funded by the European Commission under the Specific Support to Policies Work Programme (SSP4) of FP6. The project addresses the challenges of Europe's demographic future and social cohesion. Its main objective is to provide a knowledge base for relevant policy building at national and European levels by monitoring, tracking and elaborating the viewpoints of native and immigrant women as well as the perceptions of key policy stakeholders. More specifically, this innovative research focuses on the need for effective social integration, and the emancipation of female immigrants in European societies.



The first part of FEMAGE's research explored how European native citizens see foreigners, immigration and integration. Some 21.000 native citizens from 8 European countries, namely the Czech Republic, Germany, Estonia, Hungary, Austria, Poland, Slovenia and Finland, have been interviewed, and the FEMAGE project team has recorded the first findings of this survey.

Respondents answered the four critical questions, set out below:

1. Are there too many foreigners? Two thirds of the respondents in the Czech Republic, Germany, Estonia, Hungary, Poland and Slovenia think that there are too many foreigners in their country. This opinion is held by one quarter of the Finns and nearly half of the Austrian respondents.

2. What do natives think about foreigners? In all 8 countries studied



by FEMAGE, natives have negative viewpoints and attitudes towards foreigners, rather than positive ones, especially on labour market issues. In Poland, the Czech Republic, eastern Germany and Hungary, more than half the respondents believe that foreigners take jobs away from natives. In Austria and western Germany this proportion is lower, 25% and 30% respectively. More than 50% of western Germans think that the presence of foreigners is positive because of the benefits of cultural exchange. In the Czech Republic and Estonia, only 30% of the respondents agree with this viewpoint. In western Germany, 13% of the respondents agree that there is no room for foreigners in their country, whereas in Hungary the proportion is much higher, at 40%.

3. What do residents think of integration of foreigners? The majority of respondents expect that foreigners should learn and speak the language of the host country, and also abide by the customs and laws of the host society. The majority also believes that those foreigners who do not integrate should return to their country of origin. Political participation of foreigners in local elections did not get majority approval in any country. There are significant differences among participating countries: at the upper end of the scale in Finland, 48% of respondents share the view that foreigners should have the right to vote in local elections, while at the lower end of the same scale is Hungary, where only 20% of respondents approve this measure.

4. What shapes people's attitudes towards foreigners? One of the major differentiating factors for both positive and negative attitudes towards foreigners and immigration is the socio-economic, political and cultural context of each country. Education and income levels are quite significant factors. Those with a higher income and more education are more likely to have positive attitudes and express greater acceptance of foreigners. There is also a direct relation between traditional values in terms of gender roles and family relations, and negative attitudes towards foreigners, immigration and integration. In addition, location is an important factor: residents from rural areas more frequently express negative attitudes towards foreigners, migration and integration, than city dwellers.

The FEMAGE team is now moving forward to the next step of the project, namely the analysis of the interviews of female immigrants. FEMAGE's overall report will be ready by the end of December 2007, and the final results of the project will be presented to the public in January 2008.



EU KLEMS

Launch of the first public version EU KLEMS Growth and Productivity Accounts database



On 15 March 2007, the first version of an important new database and set of statistics, the EU KLEMS Growth and Productivity Accounts, was launched at a meeting in Brussels in the presence of the Commissioner responsible for DGs ECFIN and ESTAT, Joaquín Almunia, the Director General of ESTAT, Hervé Carré, and the Deputy Directors General of DG ECFIN, Marco Buti, and DG RTD, Zoran Stancic.

Opening the meeting, Hervé Carré underlined the potential that EU KLEMS had to substantially increase the amount of data available to both researchers and policy makers alike on productivity. He confirmed ESTAT's interest in the project and ESTAT's role in bringing the EU KLEMS consortium together with the National Statistical Institutes. He also stressed the importance of this project being carefully followed up both from the point of view of quality assurance, but also and most importantly with regard to finding its place long term in the European Statistical System, and thereby avoiding it being just a one-off exercise. Marco Buti then reminded the meeting that the idea for EU KLEMS came from DG ECFIN and was made possible by support from DG RTD under the Scientific Support for Policies part of FP6. DG ECFIN continues to be very enthusiastic about the project, given the potential of the new datasets, with the detailed insights they give, to become a key tool in monitoring the overall success of the revised Lisbon Strategy and thereby to significantly influence the EU structural reform agenda in the next few years.

Commissioner Almunia reiterated his support for EU KLEMS, underlining the potential usefulness of the dataset in the Lisbon context through its provision of industry level statistics. The data will provide vital insights into the drivers of the knowledge economy. He emphasised that sensible policy changes are dependent on policy-makers gaining a deeper knowledge of the changes that have occurred at industry level resulting from the creation of the euro zone and enlargement and globalisation processes. He said that it is important that industry level statistics be of high quality and that it is crucial to obtain better statistics on sectors such as market services. In this context he has asked ESTAT along with the NSIs to explore the best way to ensure the maintenance and updating of the EU KLEMS data.

The long awaited EU KLEMS database is the main result of the first stage



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of a major research project funded under the Scientific Support for Policies part of the Sixth Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development. The database includes detailed measures of economic growth, productivity, employment creation and capital formation at the industry level for European Union member states, Japan and the United States, from 1970 onwards. This work represents an important new input both for academic researchers and policy-makers on sources of economic performance and on policy evaluation; an example is the assessment of the goals concerning competitiveness and economic growth potential, as established by the Lisbon agenda. While the output measures are provided at detailed industry level, the input measures are broken down into various categories of capital (K, including ICT versus non-ICT), labour (L, including skills levels) and a breakdown of energy (E), materials (M) and service (S) inputs. The productivity measures have been developed on the basis of growth accounting techniques.

The EU KLEMS project is being led by Professor Bart Van Ark of the University of Groningen, NL, and Mary O'Mahony of the University of Birmingham and NIESR, UK. The 15 organisations from across the EU involved in the project include leading academic institutions and national economic policy research institutes. The project team has been supported by and interacted heavily with national statistical offices, Eurostat and other services of the Commission, and the OECD.

In closing the meeting, Zoran Stancic cited EU KLEMS as an example of why there is a need to support and strengthen social and economic research. The EU KLEMS data will open up new opportunities for research work, for instance in modeling and on understanding the role of innovation and new technologies in different sectors, and in fields such as environment policy. He went on to talk about the future, underlining that one theme in FP7 is dedicated to socio-economic and humanities research, and that the research undertaken will address economic issues such as the role of knowledge throughout the economy, and structural changes in the European economy, and that other themes under FP7, such as sustainable development, 'Europe in the World' and 'Socio-economic Indicators', address economic issues. He concluded by underlining two points: firstly, the important contribution that the excellent cooperation between DGs, RTD, ECFIN and ESTAT had made to both the elaboration and implementation of this project, and secondly the help that research can give to policy making.

The first version of the EU KLEMS database is available free of charge via the EU KLEMS website: <http://www.euklems.net>

For further information please contact: g.ypma@rug.nl. A second version of the database is scheduled to become available in December.

SPReW

Project acronym: **SPReW**

Title of project: **Generational Approach to the Social Patterns of Relation to Work**

Co-ordination: : Patricia Vendramin - Fondation Travail - Université (FTU), Work & Technology Research Centre – Namur, Belgium

Funded under: FP6

Project website: <http://www.ftu-namur.org/sprew/index.html>



Subject: Publication of a State-of-the-Art Report

SPReW is a two-year research project (June 2006-May 2008), funded under the 6th Framework Programme of the European Union, within priority 7 ('Citizens and governance in the knowledge-based society', FP6). Its overall objective is to examine the factors that contribute either to solidarity or to tensions in intergenerational relations, in the specific areas of work and correlated fields. SPReW aims to provide an improved and updated understanding of how diverse generations relate to work, and to analyse the policy challenges and implications of these changes.

The research partnership of SPReW involves researchers from six countries (Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Portugal), and state and inter-state stakeholders (from the French Ministry of Labour and the Social Agency of the European Trade Union Confederation).

The first deliverable work package of SPReW consists of a state-of-the-art report that introduces current research on the issue. It includes overviews



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of relevant literature carried out by each partner, and a cross overview of these contributions. Each team notes the hypotheses, analyses and conclusions that are relevant to the key areas of the project; these are set out below:

- a) the relation of generations to diverse work components (precariousness, mobility, etc.);
- b) the connection with lifestyles and family construction;
- c) the intergenerational dimensions;
- d) the social cohesion perspective, including gender and ethnicity issues.

In the state-of-the-art report, writers perform the following activities:

- a) point out the convergences and divergences in the social context of different countries of the project;

- b) investigate the continuity and changes in orientations towards work and in the intergenerational challenges it raises;

- c) describe how changes in families and lifestyles are strongly intertwined with changes in work.

This overview of existing research and debates in different European countries is a necessary step when preparing the finalisation of research questions, and the selection of hypotheses; these will be investigated using the empirical approach scheduled within the next work packages of the project.

An electronic version of this report is available at

<http://www.ftu-namur.org/fichiers/SPREW-D1-web.pdf>

EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

Enhancing social science research opportunities in Europe through information and communication technologies: exchanging relevant experience with the US

18 February 2007, San Francisco (US)

Symposium held at the AAAS Annual Meeting

San Francisco (US), 15-19 February 2007

The annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), one of the most prominent organizations worldwide in the field of science and technology, was held in San Francisco (US) from 15 to 19 February 2007.

Under the far-reaching title 'Science and Technology for Sustainable Well-Being', the AAAS meeting brought together experts, academics and policymakers from across the globe. The meeting aimed to discuss and generate novel understanding on sustainable economic, socio political, and environmental conditions and processes at global and national level. This was achieved by addressing a wide variety of issues, ranging from health concerns to energy, from economic development to terrorism, and from the science disciplines to education.

Cyber-infrastructure Research Tools

One of the topics addressed during the AAAS 2007 scientific workshops of 18 February 2007, was cyber-infrastructure research tools and their utility in the advancement of social science research. This was part of the process of continuing an international exchange and dialogue between the NSF and European Commission, a collaboration initiated through the 2006 European Open Science Forum. The symposium, entitled 'Cyber-enabled Social Science Research: New Cross-National Opportunities Promoting Sustainable Development', presented the possibilities of utilising cyber-enabled capabilities to address political, economic and consumer-based topics, at cross-national levels.

The importance of cyber-infrastructure research tools lies in their potential to realise global social science, by conducting observation, data-collation and analysis at an unprecedented scale often involving collaboration between scientists from different parts of the globe. Although research using those tools has immense potential to provide increasingly reliable and valid results, their use also raises questions regarding privacy, confidentiality, trust and research ethics.

The Internet: a cross-national social research tool?

Based on the advancements of comparative empirical research as well as on the technologies to create such possibilities, the symposium 'Cyber-enabled Social Science Research' explored the prospect of using the Internet as a research tool capable of addressing questions of sustainable well-being. More specifically, the seminar focused on the challenges and





opportunities of using the Internet as a means for conducting cross-national research.

The symposium addressed the following thematic areas:

- using the Internet for innovative non-survey data collection;
- using cyber-resources to build databases for social science research;
- the Internet as a facilitator of comparative research;

- socio-economic determinants of work-life attitudes, preferences and perceptions;
- Internet-enabled international social science research: a private sector perspective.

The symposium, which was organized by Wanda E. Ward, Nikolaos Kastrinos and Frank P. Scioli, saw the participation of leading experts in the field of international social research, from both the US and Europe.

The WageIndicator Web Survey for worldwide social science research on wages

18 February 2007, San Francisco (US)

Presented at the Symposium 'Cyber-enabled Social Science Research: New Cross-National Opportunities Promoting Sustainable Well-being', AAAS Annual Meeting

San Francisco (US), 15-19 February 2007

WageIndicator website: www.wageindicator.org

An important part of the symposium 'Cyber-enabled Social Science Research: New Cross-National Opportunities Promoting Sustainable Well-Being' was dedicated to the presentation of the European 'WageIndicator Web Survey', on behalf of Prof. Kea Tijdens of the University of Amsterdam (AIAS). While the title of the presentation is, at least in part, self-explanatory, indicating that the survey makes use of the Internet as a means to collect data on wages, what exactly does the 'WageIndicator' concept refer to?

WageIndicator: concept and evolution

In general terms, WageIndicator is an international web-based operation, which provides free information on wages. In return for this information, web-visitors are invited to complete a web survey, comprising an internationally comparable questionnaire on wages and work. Owing to this survey, which is accessible to all participating countries, 24 hours a day and seven days a week, novel data on wages, labour standards, working conditions and other work-related issues are available for cross-national research.

WageIndicator is owned by the WageIndicator Foundation, a Dutch non-profit organization. The project was launched in the Netherlands in the year 2000, and by 2001 the first website had been created. The positive response of both public and academic actors, which relates largely to the desire to have information on wages, quickly led to an enlargement of the project.

At EU level, interest in WageIndicator was reflected in the assignment of a three-year grant on behalf of the European Commission (6th Framework Programme) for the Work Life Web (WOLIWEB) project. By 2004, thanks to the EU's contribution, WageIndicator websites had been set up in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Finland, Italy, Poland, Spain and the UK. In 2005 and 2006, websites were created for Hungary (funded by the EC EQUAL project), and for Brazil, India, South Africa, South Korea, Argentina and Mexico (funded by the GLOBAL project, under the Netherlands Development Aid Fund). Additionally, 2006 marked the participation of the USA, which joined



WageIndicator as www.worklifewizard.org, thus increasing the number of participants to a total of 17 countries, operating 35 websites.

Basic facts on the WageIndicator survey

The WageIndicator survey consists of a questionnaire aimed at collecting information on wages and working conditions. More specifically, the questionnaire is divided into six sections:

- occupation
- place of work
- employment history
- working hours
- employment contract and salary
- personal questions

The target population of the web survey is the labour force. However, the questionnaire varies according to the respondent's employment status and therefore addresses all worker groups. On the whole, the dataset has over 500 variables. The magnitude of the data collected by the survey creates numerous research possibilities, not only across countries but also in terms of time (e.g. cross-country wage differentials, wage effect of parenthood, women's wages and motherhood, and so on).

Moreover, the importance of the WageIndicator concept rests in its uniqueness, for it constitutes the first worldwide web survey aimed at gathering data from different countries in a consistent and uniform manner. Most importantly, the survey is innovative in its interaction with the public, since the questionnaire is completed on a voluntary basis. Although this



noncompulsory characteristic of the survey constitutes a disadvantage of the WageIndicator concept, as the data are not representative for the whole population, several strategies are currently being employed, in order to manage the process of self-selection. These strategies, together with the reliability of the data, contribute to establishing WageIndicator as an extremely effective and useful research tool.

The success of the WageIndicator concept goes beyond the results produced to date. On the wave of the globalisation process, a proposal for a worldwide 'GlobalWageIndicator' is currently being jointly prepared by the ILO and Harvard Law School, with the aim of increasing the number of participating countries from 17 to 75.

WORK IN PROGRESS

METRIS Project

METRIS Project : Monitoring European Trends in the Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities

The implementation of the European Research Area (ERA) requires an information base that allows stakeholders (governments, funding agencies, interested parties), to develop their actions whilst remaining aware of the context of the strategies, to be able to benchmark their performance against each other, and to be able to collectively set targets and evaluate progress.

Identified in the SSH 2007 Work Programme, as part of its Strategic Activities, the METRIS project is designed to increase the visibility of research endeavours in the field of socio-economic sciences and humanities (SSH) by optimising the stock of SSH resources and facilities. METRIS is oriented to support evidence-based decision-making in the EU SSH, thus allowing for the development of further cooperation in Europe, on the basis of the identification of common trends, common interests and common challenges at the appropriate level, be it regional, national, transnational or European.

One of the major tasks of METRIS will be to compile a report on important trends in SSH research in Europe that point specifically to the seven activities of the SSH Theme under the Cooperation Specific Programme. In addition METRIS will be providing information about relevant national funding structures, performance and research governance in the Member States.

Likewise, a METRIS online portal will be set up. It will be based on the information provided for the European Report; it will include national reports, profiles of national research programmes, institutions, data-bases, analyses of trends at national and European levels, but also at regional levels, as well as tools to facilitate interaction with the information, and with other users of the system.

Finally, the European report will be launched in a conference on socio-economic sciences and humanities in Europe where the work underpinning the report will be presented, together with strategic round tables, and possibly further academic sessions.

In order to achieve these goals, METRIS needs to build on the support to

be provided by national systems developing the socio-economic sciences and humanities in the EU.

METRIS will build on the experience and resources of a number of projects developed under the previous framework programmes. A workshop with relevant experts from these projects was held recently, where the objectives, the scope and the broad lines of METRIS implementation were discussed, as were possible means of integrating their existing information resources into the METRIS system.

An invitation had been addressed to the countries, through the national representatives in the SSH Programme Committee, for nominating the most appropriate institutions to liaise with the Commission in a better implementation of METRIS's work, at national level.

The project (which will be run and managed by the Commission Services) will have an initial duration phase of two years.





RECENT EVENTS

AIM

Project acronym: **AIM**

Title of project: **Adequate Information Management in Europe**

Co-ordination: Julia Lönnendonker, Universität Dortmund, Institut für Journalistik Centre for Advanced Study Erich-Brost-Haus, Dortmund (Germany)

Funded under: FP6 – Priority 7

Project website: <http://www.aim-project.net>

The final conference of AIM (Adequate Information Management in Europe), a project funded by the EU's 6th Framework Research Programme under Priority 7, was held on 1 and 2 March 2007 in Brussels. Attended by the consortium's partners as well as EU Commission members, the conference's objective was to present and discuss the most significant findings of the three-year long project.

The main focus of AIM was to investigate how the mass media covers EU matters in the context of dissimilar journalism cultures, as well as the different professional standards of the EU Member States. By conducting intensive interviews with EU correspondents, home newsroom journalists and spokespersons in eleven European countries, the project aimed to study the communication strategies of the European Commission, its public relations strategies, and reporting by EU correspondents and journalists in the home newsrooms.

The two-day conference kicked off with an opening speech by Beate Gminder of DG Communication, who discussed the latest steps towards the realisation of the White Paper on EU Communication. Subsequently, Els de Bens, moderator of the conference and AIM consortium member, presented the main findings of AIM, explaining that EU communication encounters problems at three different levels: EU institutions, EU correspondents and national newsrooms and audiences.

At the EU institutions level, the EU Commission was asked to adapt its information more to national contexts. Members of the EU Commission responded by noting that nationalisation and localisation of the news was already practised by national representatives, and that this is not generally considered to be a task of the spokesman in Brussels. With respect to the EU correspondents and the national newsrooms, it was acknowledged that although EU issues are often hard to understand for both journalists and the public, EU awareness within national newsrooms has increased over the last years. However, it was stated that EU representatives are not well known in the national publics.

The first day of the conference ended with a presentation constituting a historical review of the development of EU communication, and a discussion exploring the relationship between journalism and EU representatives.

In-depth presentations and debates concerning the main results of AIM

research were the core subject matter of the second day of the conference. Consortium members Paolo Mancini and Auksė Balčytienė presented their results on the effects of different journalism cultures in Europe, and concluded their presentation by stating that there is an ongoing homogenisation of cultures occurring in Brussels. Next, Peter Golding and Risto Kunelius, also from the AIM consortium, discussed the existence of a European Public Sphere (EPS) at EU level. The public part of the conference closed with a presentation delivered by AIM consortium member Olivier Baisnée, who considered the presence of a hierarchy within the press corps, i.e. that the investigative process of journalists correlates to the correspondent's



country of origin and the duration of membership in the EU. With reference to the situation in regional and local media in particular, Farrel Corcoran emphasised that there is a lack of EU knowledge, as well as manpower. Some weeks before the final AIM conference the EU Commissioner for institutional relations and communication strategies, Margot Wallström, expressed her interest in the results of the AIM project. Marju Lauristin from the Estonian AIM team had presented the main AIM issues and conclusions about the EU communication strategy to Wallström during a panel discussion devoted to the opening of the EU house in the centre of Tallinn.

COMETR

(Competitiveness effects of environmental tax reforms)

The COMETR project was concluded recently, and its findings were presented at a meeting held on Wednesday 21 March 2007, the day after the European Commission's Brussels Tax Forum — Taxation for Sustainable Development. This meant that more than 80 people attended the COMETR workshop and that there were representatives from relevant ministries in the member states, NGOs and industry, e.g. Alcan (a global aluminium and packaging supplier) and the Confederation of Swedish Enterprises, as well as academic researchers and officials from DG TAXUD, DG RTD and other services of the European Commission.



COMETR was a project financed from the Scientific Support for Policies part of the Sixth Framework Programme for Research. It was led by Mikael Skou Andersen from NERI, University of Aarhus, DK. The COMETR workshop addressed the following: conceptual issues, world market structure, the effects of green taxes on certain industrial sectors, macro-economic analyses, carbon leakage and green tax reforms and mitigation practices. The presentations emphasised the usefulness of a quantitative approach and economic modelling at sectoral level, and the importance of taking into consideration linkages with the national economies in the EU. They also recognised the important role that new datasets resulting from

projects such as EU KLEMS and resulting from the use of models such as E3ME have to play in any such work. At the end of the workshop DG TAXUD underlined the usefulness of economic research in the elaboration of policy in the fields of taxation and the environment. This view was supported by OECD representatives attending the meeting. A 53-page long policy brief summarising the results from the different parts of the COMETR project was distributed at the workshop and it, together with copies of various presentations made, can be found on the COMETR workshop page of their website: <http://www2.dmu.dk/cometr/>. For further information please contact Carey. Smith (Smith, Carey [cs@dmu.dk]).

SRDTOOLS (Methods and tools for evaluating the impact of cohesion policies on sustainable regional development)

Work under SRDTOOLS which is a project resulting from the first Scientific Support for Policies call, has recently been completed and its findings presented in a final policy meeting. An outline of these findings is provided below. For further information, see: www.srdtools.info.

While there is still debate about the precise nature of sustainable development (SD), over the last ten years a substantial degree of consensus has evolved about its key dimensions and characteristics. In short, meeting human needs and increasing the quality of life may be regarded as the 'development' part of sustainable development. Being able to maintain this in the future may be regarded as the 'sustainability' part. At regional scale, the evaluation of policy choices and programme design and assessment for SD has particular resonance, given the use of cohesion policies and resources. It is also at regional scale that international and national policies can be integrated with local policies designed to take due account of local circumstances.

The research has examined and tested methods and tools for supporting and informing public policy decision-making when seeking to determine between competing policy options, in the context of uncertainty and complexity; i.e. where traditional policy evaluation tools (such as Cost Benefit Analysis) break down. To this end the research has been concerned with defining the policy 'evaluation space' for sustainable regional development (SRD), and the validity, utility and application of evaluation tools designed to support SRD decision-making. An important outcome of the project is the presentation of a 'nested' approach, i.e. one which recognises different evaluation methods from multi-criteria mapping through to cost-benefit analysis for sustainability appraisal but which have increasingly restrictive requirements in terms of the commensurability of data and the use of decision-rules to determine policy choices. Given that sustainability appraisal can not fully operate with these restrictive requirements the project has examined approaches and guidance for multi-criteria/multi-stakeholder evaluation of policy options.

The project builds on EU thematic evaluation, to develop methods for assessing the contribution of cohesion policies to SRD (2003). This work

developed the notion of regional development pathways, i.e. alternative scenarios for regional development describing economic, social and environmental change; it also applied the conceptual idea of sustainable development as non-declining capital stock (i.e. a resource from which



goods and services flow to meet development goals). Using this 'capital' model, trade-offs between different capitals (dimensions) were identified, using regional case studies, to understand the degree to which regions were pursuing a sustainable development path and the contribution of cohesion policies to SRD. This project has been extended to cover regions in the new Member States. At the same time, the work has further developed the understanding of trade-offs, especially with respect to the use of critical thresholds to help establish one means of evaluating a given trade-off. The work has also focused on the use of a deliberative approach to evaluation, i.e. one which recognises the normative character of SRD evaluation, and the need to allow the participation of multiple stakeholders with an interest in SRD choices. Finally, the project has attempted a synthesis of the major elements necessary for the evaluation of policies in support of SRD, and to provide tools that support the evaluation process.



UPP

Project acronym: **UPP**

Title of project: **Understanding Privatisation Policy: Political economy and welfare effects**

Co-ordination: Bernardo BORTOLOTTI, Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM), Italy

Funded under: FP6 – Priority 7

Project website: <http://www.privatizationbarometer.net/upp>

The process of privatisation, which in general terms refers to the transfer of government-owned or -run enterprises to the private sector, is considered one of the most significant events in Europe's recent economic history. The wave of privatisation, which originated in the UK, slowly swept through the European continent during the 1990s. Against this background, recent data suggest that the privatisation agenda in Europe has lost momentum. What are the main causes for this slowdown?

As part of the European Commission's 6th Framework Research Program, the project 'Understanding Privatisation Policy: Political economy and welfare effects (UPP)' aims to investigate the causes, methods and effects of the privatisation process in the context of the EU. More specifically, UPP has four core objectives. Firstly, the project will research the political and institutional incentives and constraints which affect privatisation. UPP's second objective is the analysis of the multifaceted interactions between private and public ownership and control of firms. Thirdly, the project seeks to evaluate the welfare effect of privatisation policies on several stakeholders. Finally, UPP aims to translate the results of a comprehensive ad hoc survey into concrete policy recommendations.

In particular, the UPP project foresees the following Work Packages (WPs):

- a) the determinants of privatisation policy;
- b) privatisation and regulatory reform in the Middle East and North Africa (MEDA) area;
- c) public vs. private ownership and control;
- d) company performance from transition to EU integration;
- e) the welfare effects of privatisation on consumers;
- f) the fiscal effects of privatisation;
- g) the stock-price performance of privatisation-related indexes;
- h) expert interviews and targeted surveys;
- i) making privatisation deliver.



The year 2007 marks the first anniversary of the UPP project. In order to assess the progress of the investigation so far, an intermediate project meeting was held on 15 and 16 February in Prague. Over 30 consortium partners came together to present the earliest results of the research, and to discuss these findings in the broad context of the European privatisation trends.

How much does politics influence privatisation?

One of the central topics discussed at the Prague reunion was the role of politics in privatisation. Recent data for Europe show that the EU experienced a downward correction of the privatisation process throughout 2006. This is in net contrast with world privatisation trends. An analysis of these data reveals that privatisation flows in Europe are heavily influenced by the current economic and political environment.

An important contribution to this topic was provided by a joint research team, led by the Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF), which investigated the political economy aspects of privatisation. This team set out to understand whether political institutions affect a country's ability to implement policies, such as privatisation, which have considerable distributional effects. By using an original dataset with measures on political institutions for OECD countries, for the years spanning 1977 to 2002, the team confirmed that majoritarian political systems are more likely to privatise than countries with consensual or proportional systems.

Political institutions are not correlated solely to the choice of privatisation, but are also connected to the financial returns of the privatised industries. A study on behalf of a joint team led by the Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM) found that privatised companies remain exposed to political risk even after privatisation. Many factors explain this phenomenon: privatised companies are generally large companies providing services of general interest, they manage national infrastructure, they can be used as policy tools to absorb unemployment or increase fiscal entrances, and so on.

The two-year project is yet to be concluded. The results of UPP will go beyond their simple scientific importance, and are expected to influence future European as well as national policymaking.





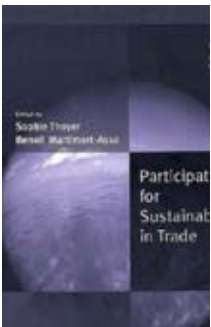
FUTURE EVENTS

SSH MAJOR EVENTS IN 2007							
Date	Conference/Project	Venue	Audience (close/open)	SO	Unit	Project title, website (if to be announced)	Remarks
May	DIOSCURI	Vienna	Final Project Conference	Goffart	L2		
10-11 May	TTSRL	Prague	Workshop	Liberatore	L3		
21-May	Corporate Strategy and Social Responsibility	Fontainebleau	Workshop				
30-May	From CSR to Business in Society and Global Governance	Warwick	Workshop				
31 May-1 June	NEWGOV Annual Conference	Florence	Annual Conference	Liberatore	L3		
31 May-2 June	ESSE Pour un Espace des Sciences Sociales Européen	Liège	Conference "Pré-requis pour le développement d'un espace européen des sciences sociales"	Keraudren	L2	http://www.espacesse.org	
16 May	POLITIS: Building Europe with New Citizens? An Inquiry into the Civic Participation of Naturalised Citizens and Foreign Residents in 25 Countries	Brussels, EP	Final International Conference	Goffart/Bursi	L4	http://www.uni-oldenburg.de/politis-europe/index.html	
June	CINEFOGO	Roskilde	Conference	Liberatore	L3		
June	CONNEX	Florence	Conference	Liberatore	L3		
4 - 5 June	INTERACT - Intercultural Active Citizenship Education	Lisbon	Final conference	Colligan, Bursi	L4		
5 June	KEINS - Knowledge-based entrepreneurship: Innovation, Networks and Systems	Milan	Final Project Conference	Laurila	L2		
6- 8 June	Mobilising SSH- Research Collaboration in the SSH between Europe, other CIS Countries and China	Tartu	International workshop "Assessing social sciences and humanities research capacities in Russia and other CIS countries in a view of the internationalisation of science"	Keraudren	L2	http://www.globalsocialscience.org/	
7 - 8 June	CBCED - Challenges and Prospects of Cross Border Collaboration in the Context of EU enlargement	Thessaloniki	Project meeting	Laurila	L2		
11 - 12 June	PAGANINI - Towards the New Governance of Life: Challenges. Transformations. Innovations.	Vienna	Final Project Conference	Amaducci	L2		
12-13 June	ESSHRA - Enlarging the SSH Research Agenda	Berne, CH	Conference "Is knowledge a Public Good?"	Keraudren	L2		
12-16 June	RECWOWE - REConciling Work and Welfare in Europe (NoE): State of the art Conference	Warsaw, PL		Goffart	L2	http://recwowe.eu	
27 June	RARE - Rhetoric and realities - analysing corporate social responsibility in Europe	Brussels	Final conference	Sobczak	L2		
July	MIRICO	Sarajevo	Workshop	Liberatore	L3		
9 July	RESPONSE - Understanding and responding to societal demands on corporate responsibility	Fontainebleau	Final conference	Sobczak	L2		
10 July	EUEREK - European Universities for Entrepreneurship - their Role in the Europe of Knowledge	Brussels	Final Project Conference	Laurila	L2		
5-6 October	RICAFE2 - Regional Comparative Advantage and Knowledge-Based Entrepreneurship - 2nd Conference	Riga, LV	Project Conference	Goffart	L2	http://www.lse.ac.uk/ricafe	
1-3 November	KASS - Kinship and Social Security in Europe	Halle/Saale, DE	Final Project Conference	Goffart	L2	http://www.eth.mpg.de/kass/	co-funded with DG EMPL



BOOK REVIEW

Participation for Sustainability in Trade



Participation for Sustainability in Trade
Edited by Sophie Thoyer and Benoit Martimort-Asso.

2007. Ashgate Publishing, Aldershot-UK, pp 278

Sustainable development comprises a list of actions, activities and policies directed towards environmental protection, economic development, democratisation, and the pursuit of human justice and peace. In other words, sustainable development presupposes

compromise and balance for a multitude of issues, and above all, global governance of the emerging issues. The European Union and the USA are perhaps incapable of providing the global governance required to manage these issues, and it therefore falls upon international organisations, as well as formal and informal institutions, to take over the governance tasks in a globalised context.

Usable knowledge, as a subset of scientific knowledge, has recently been defined as a more effective tool for decision-makers, in comparison with the global knowledge concept; usable knowledge can also readily be converted into governance. Creating and disseminating usable knowledge through effective networks and linkages can therefore provide a usable model towards a new type of voluntary governance. The 2007 publication *Participation for Sustainability in Trade* forms part of the SUSTRA network's efforts towards the creation of a new paradigm for sustainable development and social consensus-based governance, and it provides great insight into the issues of global governance and sustainability. SUSTRA is a research network of European social scientists, which focuses on the numerous interactions between trade rules and social and environmental protection objectives.

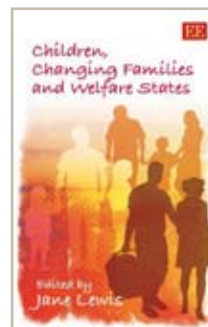
The book sheds light on the particular interactions between trade and sustainable development, aiming to arrive at more effective policymaking, in order to promote sustainability in trade. One of the key issues being addressed is that of participation on a global scale. Third world countries have long dispensed with a passive stance, and their role needs to be clearly enforced and defined in the face of global pressures. An improvement of the relationship between sustainability objectives and globalisation forces is grounded in the improvement of participatory and deliberative approaches. The participation of all global players in the negotiations of trade treaties with far-reaching impacts on societies at large, is receiving attention from research groups around the European Union, and a multitude of

participatory processes and negotiation positions are being reviewed and analysed.

The concept of global public goods (GPG) is one of the examples best-suited to illustrate the emergence of a growing interdependence among countries and the need to coordinate efforts, in order to achieve higher living standards around the world. As a theme affecting international policymaking, the articulation and definition of GPG in the 1990s has helped provide new impetus to the ongoing debate over international cooperation and coordination. The shift towards sustainability in trade undergoes a renewed understanding of societal needs and demands, and it rises above national governments and their policies.

Participation is a fundamental issue in the international decision-making process, and the specific challenges it poses for international institutions such as the United Nations, are topics of scrutiny and examination. *Participation for Sustainability in Trade* provides the reader with a multitude of views, aiming to construct an enlarged vision of the current issues at stake in the realisation of global governance. This insight could be of particular interest to the European Union as it seeks to position itself as a facilitator of international cooperation.

Children, Changing Families and Welfare States



Children, Changing Families and Welfare States

Edited by Jane Lewis, Professor of Social Policy, London School of Economics, UK

The fast-paced and challenging world we live in has forced us to modify the ways in which we nurture and provide for our children. Whether a child lives in a two- or single-parent home, it has become clear that the needs of a child are observed and handled not only by the parents

themselves, but also by the state they live in.

Children, Changing Families and Welfare States, a top-notch publication edited by Prof Jane Lewis, presents the questions asked by experts and laypersons, concerning what individuals and states are doing to ensure a viable future for children. The book is instrumental in offering readers a window into understanding how the relationship between children, parents and the state has been influential in developing the modern welfare state, despite the problems faced by western liberal democracies.

This outstanding piece of work has successfully compiled the papers of 15 leading professors and researchers of sociology and social work,



and effectively examines diverse, and thought-provoking issues currently affecting not only children and their families, but also policymakers.

This collection of papers brings to light, how over last two decades, welfare states have overhauled their systems, and families have reshuffled the roles they play in the upbringing of their children, because ultimately, they all recognised the need for change.

In this book, the experts explore the connection between children and social investment and look into how governments offer families benefit packages. They investigate how policies affecting the labour market have influenced how cultures view the relationship between care and employment in welfare states. The readers also gain insight into how the restructuring of the labour market effectively shaped the role of mothers, thus compelling states to implement new initiatives that would support mother-wage earners.

Another stimulating concept outlined in this book, is how cultures view formal and informal care. Clearly, this relationship has succeeded in receiving attention in comparative social policy research across the globe. Welfare states have since formalised childcare and do continue to offer

support in this field. This has proven effective in developing 'women-friendliness' in welfare states.

The book notes that formalised 'care' is classified as modern and women-friendly, as it takes the pressure off women to complete chores in and around the house, while informal care work is linked to the traditional model of the housewife. Informal care, the experts say, is unpaid and not publicly visible or acknowledged; consequently, people are adversely influenced and consider it trivial work.

While the challenges faced by mothers and fathers have forced them to find a balance in their personal and professional lives, they have had to do so by paying the short- and long-term economic and social costs involved. Costs such as dealing with the fact that they have less contact with their children, or enduring the hardships brought on by the loss of income.

When all is said and done, the policies impacting the lives of children as a group must be centred on the children, if they are to grow and lead successful lives. But just as important, as the book notes, is that new research strategies and designs must be developed in order to establish a work-life balance in a period of institutional change.

ONLINE DATABASES & JOURNALS

WORKS

Project acronym: **WORKS**

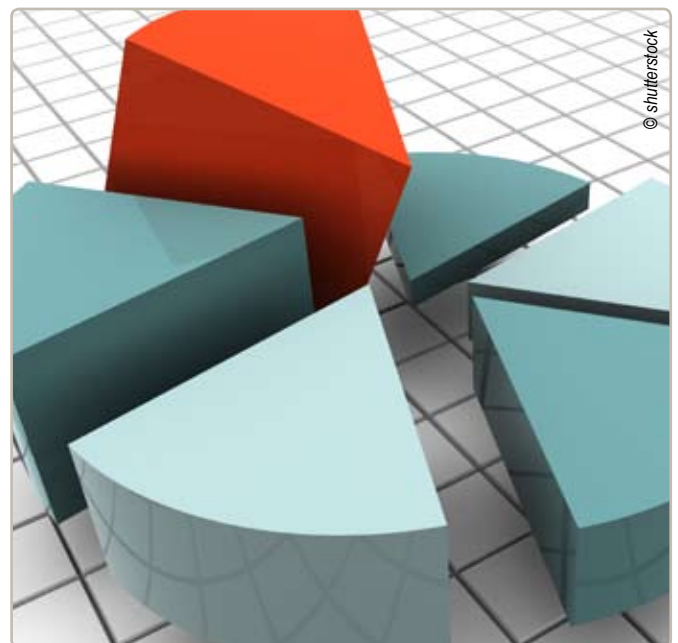
Title of project: **Work Organisation and Restructuring in the Knowledge Society**

Co-ordination: Monique Ramioul - Higher Institute for Labour Studies (HIVA), Catholic University in Leuven

Funded under: FP6-7 Citizens

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

Work Organisation, Labour and Globalisation brings together insights from the fields of political economy, communications studies, labour sociology, gender studies, economic geography, trade union studies and development studies; it is doing so in an attempt to expand our understanding of the new international division of labour that is emerging in a global knowledge economy.



Subject: Launch of the first issue of an international journal: Work Organisation, Labour and Globalisation

WORKS is an international research project of 19 EU and Accession State partners, aiming to investigate how employment, learning and labour practices adapt to change, and how this is effected in a knowledge-based society; WORKS and Analytica Publications have recently (2006) initiated a new means of dissemination, an independent, international, interdisciplinary peer-reviewed academic journal entitled *Work Organisation, Labour and Globalisation*.

This is an innovative tool of information dissemination, scientific debate, research feedback and social dialogue among researchers, academia, policy makers, governments and social partners; it focuses on the critical issues of reorganisation of work and labour in a global knowledge economy.



Work Organisation, Labour and Globalisation aims to achieve the following objectives presented below:

- Become a specialised journal which will publish issues related to the changing international division of labour, and the restructuring of work in a global knowledge-based economy.
- Present the results of relevant empirical research — both qualitative and quantitative — and theoretical analyses, especially the new interdisciplinary approaches of the restructuring of work, organisation and labour, on a global scale.
- Be global in scope, with particular emphasis on attracting contributions from developing countries.
- Encourage dialogue between university-based researchers and their counterparts in international and national government agencies, independent research institutes, trade unions, civil society and policy makers. Subject to the requirements of scholarly peer review, it is open to submissions from contributors working outside the academic sphere, and encourages an accessible writing style, in order to facilitate this goal.
- Complement, rather than compete with existing discipline-based journals.
- Bring to the attention of English-speaking readers, relevant articles originally published in other languages.

The *Work Organisation, Labour and Globalisation* journal will be published twice annually. The first issue of the journal is already available.

For more information, see www.ingentaconnect.com/content/analytica (subscriptions: www.cybertariat.com).

Submissions for future issues are welcomed by the editorial board. Future topics will include the following: discussion on the new global division of labour; trade union responses to globalisation; the role of global corporations in the privatisation of public services; information and migration.