Contents

Editorial

It is now more than three years since I was first invited to address the Humanities community through the medium of *Reflections*. Since then I believe I can say that much has been achieved in reinforcing the Humanities within and outside the ESF. In particular, we have endeavoured that the Humanities be seen as a very important and essential contributor to the European Research Area.

At that time, I said I was looking forward to working with the newly appointed Chair, Professor Shea. This has turned out to be a pleasure and, I dare to say, quite an effective partnership.

Now the Scientific Secretary, Antonio Lamarra, has left us and Elisabeth Vestergaard from Denmark has taken over. I must congratulate Antonio on his achievements in running such an efficient and proactive secretariat in the Humanities.

I feel that both the Chair of the Standing Committee and the secretariat in Strasbourg have responded to the need to be ready for change. And change has happened, with more still to come.

In the issue of *Reflections* (No. 3, Feb. 1999) to which I have referred, I outlined a scheme for which we still had no name at the time. Those were the initial designs of what we now all know as EUROCORES, and the Humanities at ESF were the first to respond to the scheme. This was important since it showed readiness to follow ESF's strategy in implementing new ways to fund research. It also showed a high capacity of responsiveness from the scholars and ESF Member Organisations. The EUROCORES scheme at ESF is now running, but not without its difficulties. This is mostly due to the novelty and the difficulty of breaking ground in joint European actions.

Change is always difficult to manage. However, I am sure we are on the right track and we are confident that the scheme will live up to the expectations that it has created.

As a scientist I am aware of the insatiable new issues and new areas of research that we have to explore, and to be completely successful, all of these will certainly need new efforts and new EUROCORES.

Humanities has also responded to another new scheme: the ESF Forward Looks. These are important because, ultimately, they will provide us not only with new perspectives but will themselves become the precursors of EUROCORES.

Another exciting and challenging topic which the Humanities has tackled is its approach to and use of new technologies and new information tools. The project of a Humanities citation index and the realisation of a prototype Humanities Web portal are two good examples. Both of these fall within the new ESF Action Line on research infrastructures. The latter will offer a remarkable facility to scholars by putting at their disposal an enormous quantity of textual, figurative, and audio-visual data, made available by the most prestigious cultural and academic institutions. The former is surely a very ambitious project, and yet would eventually fill the existing gap between the Humanities and other research fields. As a natural scientist, I have lived with and used scientific citation indices. The Humanities, however, brings in new dimensions, especially those of languages and the varied types of publication. This is a major challenge which I am confident can be met by the Humanities community.

Enric Banda
ESF Secretary General

SCH contribution to ERA and the Humanities in the Sixth Framework Programme

At its plenary meeting held in Rome on 27 April 2001 the ESF Standing Committee for the Humanities (SCH) approved the following position paper prepared by Professor Eda Sagarra, SCH member from 1996 until 2002 and present Chair of the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences. It was forwarded to the ESF Executive Board as a specific contribution from the Standing Committee for the Humanities.

SCH contribution to ERA

The Standing Committee for the Humanities has considered at length the documents *Towards a European Research Area* of January 2000 and *Making a Reality of the European Research Area*: *Guidelines for EU Research Activities 2002-2004,* of October 2000 and wishes to offer warm and active support for the European Research Area.

It so happens that this initiative of the European Commission coincides with a fundamental reflection by scholars on European Humanities research thinking, namely, the recognition by Humanities researchers of:

(i) how, in Europe, the organisation of data collections has for centuries been nationally based and determined; and

(ii) that mentalities, though not *a priori* so defined, are embedded in national frameworks.

These simple facts have shaped both the image of the state, and the perceptions of scholars which reality does not justify. In the interests of creating an authentic and sustainable European Union, it is imperative to rediscover the social, economic, geographical and cultural realities that nationally determined mentalities have obscured. The idea and the challenge of the European Research Area will in the immediate future focus Humanities research on the task of creating a framework and appropriate structures to this end.

A natural outcome of these developments will, we believe, be the emergence of a supranational European research body. The time, in our view, may perhaps not be yet ripe for this, but in pursuing the creation of a European Research Area, and in our own area through the systematic exploration of the complex and many-layered history of European disciplines, we will actually be helping to provide the essential preconditions for the emergence, in due time and in appropriate form, of such an organisation.

The Humanities in the Sixth Framework Programme

Preamble

The Humanities, that quintessentially European span of disciplines, was afforded little or no place in the Fourth and Fifth Framework Programmes.

- Did their exclusion benefit either programme?
- Was the cause of research, was the closer integration of Europe – an

avowed aim of the framework programmes – better served by that decision?

- Is it appropriate that in the Sixth Framework Programme, so rightly concerned with the vital relationship between science, society and the citizen, that the last be understood without its human component, without regard for the European citizen as a sentient, feeling, rational and, at times, unpredictable being?

In a young century that has already put brain mapping at the heart of the research agenda, and thereby challenged traditional disciplinary boundaries between the natural and the human sciences, it is legitimate to ask:

- What will the Sixth Framework Programme gain by involving some key areas of contemporary Humanities research?
- What insights might these bring to vital areas of research in the life and other sciences, as for example in the current dialogue between man and machine?
- What might be their contribution to the creation of that European Research Area that has been so rightly identified as a priority of EU research policy.[1]

Before looking at some of the most appropriate areas of Humanities research for inclusion in the Sixth Framework Programme, a brief word on the changing nature of contemporary Humanities research focus and practice:

It is true and right that there are still many lone men and women of ideas in the Humanities, dedicated to spinning their lovely webs of learning. But in our universities and research institutions, in museums, libraries and galleries, in representative bodies such as the Standing Committee for the Humanities of the European Science Foundation, researchers in the Humanities today begin to resemble bees rather than spiders, such is the impulse of their collaborative engagement. Unknown to many, they have been spearheading a quiet revolution, one which operates both at the level of research projects and at a policy level. For some years now, such scholars have been engaged in identifying the needs of Humanities research, and doing it both in a focused European context and in full recognition of its global dimensions. Infrastructural electronic networks, such as they envisage and are working to create, are at once scientific and political policy instruments. The very latest initiative of the Standing Committee for the Humanities, the project for the Citation Index in the Humanities, is an eloquent instance of European added value and of the institutionalising of new research mechanisms through its authors' collaborative, supranational and 'bottom-up' approach.

In what follows, some exemplary possible contributions by Humanities research within the Sixth Framework Programme are outlined:

1. The challenges to humankind, and the fears aroused, by the post-genomic society require a concerted approach by scientists. We know, though at present mainly at an abstract level, that the impact on personal and familial identity, on ethnic, social and political affiliations may be so profound as to challenge the very assumptions on which our society is based. The scale and meaning of what is happening needs to be made accessible to people's reason as well as to their imagination. We need to provide a body of research of these phenomena that goes beyond mere description, at the individual as well as the societal level.

[1] Even the native speaker of English must here lament the absence of French as a common language of communication in European policy documents, given the fundamentally different connotations of the terms 'area' and 'espace'. The latter encompasses, with grace and ease, the remit of the Natural Sciences, the Social Sciences and, not least, that of the Humanities. The former, quite unintentionally, seems to stress the measurable and quantifiable and to preclude the realms of imagination and memory.

The **domain of ethics is quintessentially humanistic**. Humanities could thus offer to this research systematic

- reflection on the ethical problems related to manipulations of life; and
- methodological direction with regard to a key aspect of bio-ethical problems. How do we discuss them and on what basis can we create a consensus? Ethical argument belongs to the tool-kit of the Human sciences that should be called upon to structure the debate. For there is an urgent need to be able to make informed policy decisions with regard to a host of prospective developments as diverse as genome technology, medical science, environmental issues, immigration, euthanasia.

2. Perhaps the unique and most self-evident contribution which the human sciences in Europe can make at this time concerns **cultural identity, diversity and integration:** namely for **a sustainable European Union**. The term 'cultural identity' has been over-used but under-reflected. Quite simply, our success in implementing the desired contract between science, society and the citizen will be predicated on our capacity to understand the complexities of the notion of cultural identity. Europe's myriad of cultures contributes both to the strength and weakness of the European Union as an integrated, cooperating social and economic entity. Humanities research can provide insights of a particular kind that are required to promote the success and sustainability of the European Union as a global actor. Just as corporate cultural identity plays a pivotal role in corporate mergers, national and regional cultu-

ral identities have and will have a huge impact on the European integration process. Within the context of the multicultural European Union and the future plans to fully integrate countries applying for accession, knowledge about and understanding of cultural identity, diversity and integration is vital to a successful integration process; for cultural change occurs on a different timescale, and often out of step with more rapid social and economic change. The Sixth Framework Programme should therefore include a research theme of cultural identity, diversity and integration. This theme should address as a central issue:

The question of how the construction of collective identities takes place in European societies at a local, regional, national and supranational level. Cultural identities should be studied in the light of the process of globalisation and European integration, but also in the light of the diverse official policies of European Union states with respect to cultural diversity and multiculturalism. This research could focus on the questions of language, the content and methods of education and the roles of both everyday and institutionalised forms of culture, art and communication. The school system has been a very important agent of cultural homogenisation on a national basis during the last century. Now, growing internationalisation, the rise of new electronic media and the sharply differentiated learning modes of young people and adults challenge this role. A fundamental rethinking of the whole question of how collective identities are formed needs to be carried out.

A specific example of what such diversity in terms of cultural identity and self-perception can mean in practice concerns the non-Western migrants from the so-called 'peripheral' European countries and former colonies. Many now use modern technology to keep close contact with their native countries; they can maintain supranational and international religious affiliations while having a minority status in their host countries. It goes without saying that these relatively new features of European immigration, by comparison with half a century ago, affect areas as diverse as health, education, gender roles, attitudes to citizenship, acquisition of norms, behaviour patterns etc.

3. We have identified as a further priority area in the post-industrial knowledge society that of **human language technologies in IST**. Governments, policy makers, scientists and citizens are at one in recognising the key importance to our world of global information management. Yet the first signs of incipient 'internet weariness' indicate that not only the first three, but also the citizen, are recognising the deficiencies of current human language technologies. The research necessary to achieve real answers to questions (instead of merely providing locations where the answer might be found), the collaborative work of researchers in the physical sciences and the humanities on the handling of image material as well as gathering the language resources needed to develop and test the systems, will involve considerable investment. In order to develop the appropriate tools for multilingual communication and information management systems, support should be given in the Sixth Framework Programme to

innovative and risky strategic research projects which may yield the new human language techniques required by industry.

4. Implicit in the decision to add a cultural dimension to the Community agenda by the article on culture in the Maastricht Treaty, is the need for a **Community research infrastructure programme in the Humanities**. Support should be provided for the design, construction, maintenance and development of user-friendly access to large electronic databases, catalogues of widely scattered collections of cultural artefacts in material and textual form to create virtual libraries, museums, galleries and archives. Digital libraries and archives have become, in the field of the Humanities too, an indispensable research instrument and an irreplaceable tool for the accumulation and the circulation of knowledge. Access to these digital libraries and archives is becoming widespread with a growing number of users (researchers, teachers, students, educated people and soon the wider public) thanks to the development of information circulation networks. Community financing should not only cover the creation of new digital infrastructure but also the management and upgrading of existing infrastructure. The promotion of standards and development of publicly available multipurpose tools should be strongly supported. How these new instruments can be employed at a higher theoretical and empirical level will be a central area of Humanities research in the coming years. Or, to put it more plainly, new technologies nowadays make it possible to store large amounts of documents and to make them virtually accessible in electronic form. However,

the central issue will now be that of internationally agreed standard procedures and coding. Hence, the concept of 'research infrastructures' cannot but encompass the Humanities.

5. While the ESF Standing Committee for the Humanities sees collaborative research between the Humanities and cognitive science[2] in broad terms as a central field of enquiry in the immediate future, a variety of specific issues and topics suggest themselves, some of which have been addressed in separate submissions by research organisations to the European Commission.

They include:

- the new learning patterns of the younger generation in their cognitive, emotional and social as well as physical dimensions;

- the need to revolutionise the teaching of European history as an integrating instrument of our future Union, possibly through a common primary school textbook; 'textbook' being understood here as both paper and electronic medium, at once image and word;

- the role of the philosopher, the historian, the psychologist and the rhetorician in the highly topical debate on the decline of interest in science among Western school and university students;

- the as yet little-charted engagement of the cohort of 'active retired' with new technology; i.e. the learning patterns of, and strategies for promoting the acquisition of new skills by the elderly, with implications for Europe's work force, and for the health, social and political engage-

ment and contentment of this growing group of Europe's citizens;

- the restoration of language's innate imaginative power to the increasingly sanitised forms of communication in European Union English.

All of these issues and topics lend themselves to 'coherent groups of activities' and would allow the use of 'variable geometry' instruments as defined in the relevant document of the European Commission of October 2000[3]. All will benefit from a collaborative approach, involving disciplines outside the remit of the Humanities.

But it is not, surely, unjust to the other sciences to suggest that the Humanities, with their tradition of studying human culture and thought across time, have a particular capacity and brief to understand different rationalities. So much policy making is predicated on (wo)men as rational beings, yet the response of those targets of benign policy makers has so often seen to be non-rational or irrational. It is the domain of the Humanities to understand the fundamental truth that there are different kinds of 'rationalities'. Europe's neglect of this truth has had horrific consequences for some of its peoples. It may be intellectually more taxing, but in the long run it is cheaper and more effective to understand Serb mentality than to bomb Serbian settlements and kill their citizens. The failures as well as the successes of the journey to European unity have been the failure of reason and of imagination. The European Research Area needs to enhance both reason and imagination, just as the Sixth

[2] See the submission of the Danish Research Council for the Humanities dated 1 December 2000

[3] Commission of the European Communities COM (2000) 612 final, p. 14

Framework Programme needs to harness and coordinate the fruits of research across the disciplinary divide. As the British Academy phrased it in its submission *The Quality of Life*, the separation of the natural and life sciences from the social, economic and human sciences, creates barriers between the disciplines. These may result, ultimately, in divisions across societies and the problems of perception of scientific advances, such as indeed have already caused such severe problems in modern society. The evidence of 'mental disengagement' from the idea of Europe noticeable among the young, and the student population in some member states (including even those who were once its most fervent advocate), alongside the much commented-on indifference towards democratic politics, reinforces the view that we have to invest, as the Max Planck Society[4] puts it, in 'human and non-human capital'. We need to do so in order to develop much more sophisticated instruments for understanding cultural identity, especially the nature of people's conditioning, value systems, memory, and the media.

Central to the exploration of diversity in all its forms, let us not forget, is research-based knowledge, not simply of diversity as such, but of Europe's diverse citizenry as sentient, feeling, rational beings, whose behaviour, perceptions, experiences and reflection are culturally conditioned.

In conclusion, we, as members of the Standing Committee for the Humanities, coming as we do from a variety of disciplines and European states, would like to put it on record, that, should in time a supranational European research body be found appropriate to the European Research Area, it is our considered view that the European Science Foundation would be the natural candidate to be developed into such an organisation. We base our judgment on its nearly three-decade-long experience in successfully managing international research initiatives and on its dual links with the scientific community through its Committees, and the national funding agencies, its Member Organisations.

Eda Sagarra

European Latsis Prize 2003

The European Science Foundation invites nominations for the European Latsis Prize 2003. The Prize, of a value of 100 000 Swiss Francs, is presented each year by the Latsis Foundation at the ESF Annual Assembly to a scientist or research group in recognition of outstanding and innovative contributions in a selected field of European research. The research field for the 2003 Prize will be on *Archaeology*.

A Portal to the Humanities Web Resources

The World Wide Web is extremely dynamic and continuously growing; where new sites appear and disappear every day in every possible field, trivial as well as serious, in fields of general interest as well as in very specific and narrow domains.

The quantity of information is so great that finding site(s) that could provide satisfactory answers to the user's demands is often difficult. In addition, good and bad quality information is mixed up on the Web, and it is sometimes a hard work to select the good one. In this context, the function of specialised portals, conceived as a facility for users, can be described in terms of minimising the background noise produced by non-relevant information. Therefore, a portal to Humanities Web resources would be characterised by its capacity to offer access to the largest number of high quality sites of scholarly interest, and to help users in selecting those most appropriate to their demands.

Although an increasing number of good quality sites are available in the various fields of the Humanities, scholars are not yet used to surfing on the Web when looking for data for their research, mainly because obtaining the information is not always easy. In the recent past, the Standing Committee for the Humanities (SCH) and the relevant ESF Member Organisations discussed these issues and agreed that improving Web access would be a major instrument for strengthening the Humanities and Humanities' visibility at the international level, and encouraged the ESF Office to take initiatives in that field.

In 2001 a preliminary inquiry was undertaken aimed at selecting websites of scholarly interest with special attention paid to those offering access to high quality data and materials. The results of this survey were very positive and showed that information of scholarly interest available on the Web was even more copious than expected. In the meantime, the *ESF Plan 2002-2006* had been approved, which placed particular emphasis on ESF action on research infrastructures, and included medium- or small-scale research infrastructures and scientific databases or collections among the targets of this new priority. The project of a Web Portal for the Humanities, to be intended as an infrastructural facility for scholars and advanced students, was conceived against this background.

In the first half of 2001, actions have been undertaken that were clearly oriented to the setting-up of a prototype portal offering information about high quality websites in any field of the Humanities. Dr. Fabio Bosinelli, an external collaborator, selected sites to be included in the portal and submitted his proposals to the ESF, whereas Mr. Emmanuel Barmoy and Mr. Patrice Vallet, both from the ESF Information and Communication Unit, provided their technical expertise to set up the portal. Thanks to their efficient collaboration, the planned prototype is now a reality and will be made public shortly.

The portal has been structured like a directory. Therefore, on the homepage 16 clickable headings are listed, giving access to different sorts of information. Four headings are of general interest (i.e.

General Web Resources, Online Libraries, Online Museums, Site Map), whereas 12 are dedicated to specific disciplinary domains (i.e. Art History, Archaeology, Ancient History, Medieval and Modern History, Literature, Linguistics, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Oriental Studies, Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Performing Arts, History of Science). Information provided in each of these fields is in its turn structured in a variable number of appropriate subfields. As regards the content, under each heading or subheading of the portal the Web addresses of a number of selected sites are listed together with a short description of the main characteristics of each site. At present, around 1 300 site addresses are listed in the prototype. Finally, information retrieval should be possible either by navigating through the classification tree or by means of a research meta-engine that would start up at the input of key words.

I think that this initiative, which entirely falls within the ESF Action Line on Research Infrastructures, will offer the scholarly community a unique facility in terms of access to textual, figurative, audio-visual, and musical data in any disciplinary field of the Humanities, while improving the Humanities' and the SCH's visibility on the Web.

This project, the first of this kind at ESF, aroused great enthusiasm among all the collaborators; we hope that it will generate the same enthusiasm among scholars.

(Written in September 2002)

Antonio Lamarra
Head of the Humanities Unit
(to September 2002)

Launching the first ESF EUROCORES

After a year's preparation, the EUROCORES programme *The Origin of Man, Language and Languages (OMLL)* was officially launched on 1 March 2001.

A Call for Proposals was jointly published by ESF and the funding agencies supporting the programme, and considerable efforts were made to deliver information about this opportunity to the scientific and scholarly community: web site pages were dedicated to this programme, thousands of messages were disseminated through the available electronic information lists, and special attention was paid to the distribution of *Reflections No. 5*, which was largely dedicated to presenting this new ESF initiative to researchers.

The OMLL Call for Proposals was in fact extremely successful. By the expiration of the deadline, 140 eligible applications

had been submitted from principal investigators based in 14 countries. The degree of internationalisation of the projects as well as the size of the scientific community that had been mobilised was remarkable; applications involved in total around 700 researchers from 32 countries, and included researchers or teams from 10 non-European countries (including the USA, Israel, Japan, and South Africa) as collaborators. Scientists and scholars largely entered into the collaborative spirit of the initiative and in the great majority submitted joint applications: indeed, 102 of them belonged to 36 international collaborative projects, while only 38 were proposed by single research teams. In addition, international

collaborative projects usually had a clear interdisciplinary scope and referred to more than one topic of the programme. All the topics proposed by the programme were covered by applications: 26% of them came under topic 4 (Language acquisition and language universals), 19% under topic 6 (Language evolution and computer modelling), 18% under topic 1 (Language and archaeology), 17% under topic 3 (Language and genes), 12% under topic 2 (Language and brain), and 8% under topic 5 (Language and animal communication).

The great success of the Call confirmed that the theme of the OMLL programme was timely as well as stimulating, and that the opportunities offered by EUROCORES programmes came up to the scientific community's expectations. On the other hand, it resulted in a real challenge for the ESF Office, which had committed itself to complete the peer reviewing of applications in no more than six months, and aimed at getting no less than two assessments per application, possibly three. To obtain both these results it was necessary to contact a very large number of referees and to constantly monitor their replies. As agreed by the Management Committee of the programme, an international pool of referees had been set up on the basis of nominations made by all the agencies participating in the OMLL programme as well as by the ESF. This pool has been later enlarged and integrated to cover specific fields of expertise by the International Review Panel of the programme. As a result, the number of the OMLL referees finally amounted to more than 300. During the summer of 2001, approximately 900 requests for assessment were addressed to the referees, as selected for each application by the Review Panel. The rate of success of these requests was around 45%, so that at the end of October, when the panel met again, approximately 400 evaluations were available. Applications and related evaluations were considered by the Review Panel, which eventually recommended 22 joint applications (including 63 team projects) and 8 single-team applications for funding.

From those 30 (22+8) recommended applications, 13 are going to work as real EUROCORES (7 are fully granted and 6 are partially granted) and those 13 real EUROCORES are composed of 36 team projects; 8 single-team applications (evaluated at the European level) are funded by their own country; 9 projects did not receive any funding.

Project Title	Principal Investigator	Country
● DNA variation, linguistic diversity and population history in Europe: a multilocus story	Prof. Guido Barbujani	IT
● Cultural and linguistic identities of the neolithic and protohistoric populations of Europe and Near East	Prof. Paul-Louis Van Berg	BE
● Cross-cultural, cross-linguistic and atypical aspects on words, gestures and signs in the acquisition and development of language	Dr. Eva Berglund	SE
● Language, culture and genes in Bantu: study of the genetic relationships of the different Bantu-speaking populations	Prof. Jaume Bertranpetit	ES
● The cultural self-organisation of cognitive grammar: game-theoretic models	Prof. Cristiano Castelfranchi	IT

Project Title	Principal Investigator	Country
Emergence and flow of gene lineages and languages along the steppe belt and beyond	Prof. Andre Chaventre	FR
Language and genes of the greater Himalayan region	Dr. Peter De Knijff	NL
From symbols to language: the archaeology of the origin of language and early diversification of languages	Prof. François d'Errico	FR
The cultural self-organisation of cognitive grammar: neural network simulation	Dr. Peter Dominey	FR
The berber and the Berber: genetic and linguistic diversity	Prof. Jean-Michel Dugoujon	FR
Pioneers of Island Melanesia: a joint project between British, Dutch, German and Swedish teams	Dr. Robert A. Foley	UK
Does a mirror system exist for phonetic gestures recognition?	Dr. Luciano Fadiga	IT
Categorical perception and its role in the evolution of language	Dr. Joël Fagot	FR
Orofacial controls	Dr. Leonardo Fogassi	IT
Mind reading and the emergence of human communication (MEHC)	Prof. Vittorio Gallese	IT
Mind reading and the emergence of human communication: case of reference (MEHC)	Dr. Manuel García-Carpintero	ES
The prehistory of Amazonian languages: biological and cultural processes underlying linguistic differentiation	Dr. Alf Hornborg	SE
Orofacial controls	Prof. Jean-Louis Heim	FR
East meets West: linguistic and genetic comparison of modern Eurasion populations. A joint programme in anthropology, ethnology, linguistic and population genetics	Dr. François Jacquesson	FR
Language and genes of the greater Himalayan region	Dr. Mark A. Jobling	UK
Comparison between processes in language acquisition by children and language evolution: from the first syllables to the lexical spurt	Dr. Sophie Kern	FR
The emergence of grammar in the brain: a comparative study of acquisition, processing, and cortical organisation of the structural aspects of language in bilingual and monolingual populations	Dr. Itziar Laka	ES
Pioneers of Island Melanesia: a joint project between British, Dutch, German and Swedish teams	Dr. Stephen C. Levinson	NL
Pioneers of Island Melanesia: a joint project between British, Dutch, German and Swedish teams	Dr. Eva Lindström	SE
Genetic variation of recent Alu insertions in Berber populations: traces of ancient demography and population dynamics	Dr. Pedro Moral	ES
Plasticity in neural speech-sound representations underlying language perception and acquisition	Prof. Risto Näätänen	FI
Early world segmentation and representation: psychological responses and electrophysiological correlates	Dr. Thierry Nazzi	FR

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Project Title	Principal Investigator	Country
The emergence of grammar in the brain: a comparative study of acquisition, processing, and cortical organisation of the structural aspects of language in bilingual and monolingual populations	Dr. Marina Nespor	IT
The origins of primate semantic and syntactic abilities	Prof. Ronald Noë	FR
Artificial life models of the evolution of language	Prof. Domenico Parisi	IT
Mind reading and the emergence of human communication (MEHC)	Dr. François Recanati	FR
Mirror neurons and communication	Prof. Giacomo Rizzolatti	IT
East meet West. Linguistic and genetic comparison of modern Eurasian populations. A joint programme in anthropology, ethnology, linguistic and population genetics	Dr. Antti Sajantila	FI
Cognition, culture and typology in language acquisition and evolution: Zapotec	Prof. Chris Sinha	DK
The cultural self-organisation of cognitive grammar: robotic and computational methods	Prof. Luc Steels	BE
Pioneers of Island Melanesia: a joint project between British, Dutch, German and Swedish teams	Dr. Mark Stoneking	DE
Language, culture and genes in Bantu: a multidisciplinary approach of the Bantu-speaking populations of Africa	Dr. Mark Stoneking	DE
Orofacial control	Dr. Jean-Luc Schwartz	FR
Language, culture and genes in Bantu: a multidisciplinary approach of the Bantu-speaking populations of Africa	Prof. Lolke Van der Veen	FR
Early diffusion of domestic bovids in the Middle East and Europe: transmission of animals, transfer of technical knowledge	Dr. Jean-Denis Vigne	FR
Words, gestures, and signs in the acquisition and development of language	Dr. Virginia Volterra	IT
Emergence and flow of gene lineages and languages along the steppe belt and beyond	Dr. Richard Villems	EE
Orofacial control	Dr. Jacques Vauclair	FR
Comparison between processes in language acquisition by children and language evolution: case study of Dutch	Dr. Inge Zink	BE

Obituary

Professor Matthias Baltes

In deep sorrow we announce that on 21 January 2003 Professor Matthias Baltes died after many years of an illness which, while absorbing much of his energies and keeping heavy-hearted his human and scientific community, did not prevent him from accomplishing an enormous amount of scholarly work. Professor Baltes was a leading scholar in the field of Platonic studies and gave the support of his immense learning to the ESF Network *Late Antiquity and Arabic Thought (LAAT)*.

Cristina D'Ancona (Chair of the LAAT Network)

The Origin of Man, Language and Languages

Report from the European Union of Science Journalists' Associations (EUSJA).

In connection with the European Science Foundation General Assembly in November 2001 the EUSJA organised a study tour to Strasbourg. Twenty science journalists came from all over Europe. The theme of the tour was the origin of language.

At the ESF the newly launched pan-European research project, The Origin of Man, Language and Languages, was presented by Professor Alain Peyraube. The project includes participation of scientists from a number of disciplines, among them linguistics, paleontology, archeology, anthropology, neurology, genetics and computer science.

The object of the project is to find out more about how human language has emerged and evolved. It is thought that language first emerged about 40 000 years ago among our ancestors, the people known as Cro-Magnon man or *Homo sapiens sapiens*. During this period it appears that humans started to use symbolic artefacts. Cro-Magnon man spread rapidly throughout Europe and drove back the other contemporary human species, the Neanderthals.

Basically, the history of modern man starts with the appearance of language. It is believed that the ability to speak spread from tribe to tribe, not as a result of war or conquering of territories, but through peaceful contact. Speech, when it appeared, was a cultural achievement, not a result of biological evolution. However, the ability to communicate through speech had such great advantages that the non-speaking Neanderthals were completely out-competed in the next couple of thousand years.

Today anthropologists estimate that there are some 5 000 different languages in the world. Many of them are spoken by only a handful of people in the deep interiors of rain forests. Within ten years half of these languages will be extinct – a loss comparable to the loss of genetic variety when species become extinct, according to our speaker, Professor Alain Peyraube.

Kaianders Sempler
Ny Teknik, Sweden

Project for Building a European Citation Index for the Humanities

In the domain of Humanities, contrary to the general rule for natural sciences, the evaluation of researchers, research teams and centres, is rarely made at the European level, but rather at a national level, country by country.

Certainly there is something special about the Humanities because the object of research in Humanities is not exterior to the person (as it is in natural sciences), and consequently to the researcher him/herself. It is indeed difficult for the researcher to remove him/

herself from the research, whatever efforts are made or the methodological approaches used.

The domain of Humanities (which encompasses fields such as Archaeology, Anthropology, Arts, Asian Studies,

Ethnology and Folklore, History, History and Philosophy of Sciences, Linguistics, Literature and Literary Reviews, Music, Theatre and Performing Arts, Philosophy, Poetry, Religious Studies and Theology, etc.) is also much more fragmented than the natural sciences domains. This situation often leads to two dangerous tendencies that should be resisted; namely a disciplinary imperialism and a disciplinary autism.

A year ago, ESF's Standing Committee for the Humanities (SCH) opened up wide consultation and reflection on what should be the basic criteria used to evaluate the research productivity of researchers and research teams. The conviction, which became firmly entrenched, was that it is necessary for an appropriate evaluation to include both qualitative and quantitative criteria, and that it should focus not only on the research results but also on the integrity of the research process.

The decision taken was to assume that the first step needed would be to work on quantitative criteria and to advance an evaluation of the research productivity in terms of bibliometrics. In fact, the European situation in that respect is, at the moment, unsatisfactory. Different institutions in different countries regularly provide quantitative statistics for publications in natural sciences, but rarely in the humanities and social sciences, as administrators usually think that such statistics would be hard to interpret correctly.

Actually, there is one database produced by the Institute of Scientific Information (ISI) of Philadelphia for the Humanities domain, called AHCI (Arts and Humanities Citation Index). However, there is a general consensus that the database – contrary to the SCI (Science Citation Index) used for natural sciences,

for which there is now substantial support – is clearly deficient. Even if one can find the major US Humanities journals in such indexes, they rarely include the best journals published outside the USA, especially those in languages other than English. Although, they do, surprisingly, list several non-English journals (published in French, German, Italian, Spanish, and other languages) but they are definitely not research journals.

To improve this situation, the SCH decided to compile its own database of scholarly journals, discipline by discipline, in the domain of Humanities. The conviction is that the new database could easily become an international reference for all, assuming that the AHCI is not seen as the standard reference work.

As a first move, the SCH decided to hold a Preparatory Workshop in June 2001 where the different quantitative evaluation criteria and indicators in Humanities were discussed. There were 29 people at the meeting, coming from the following 17 countries: Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and United Kingdom. Thirteen papers were presented while a substantial amount of time was set aside for discussion. A large consensus was reached to:

- Confirm that the AHCI of the ISI is obviously deficient and should not be used by scientific policy makers in Europe.

- ESF's SCH should go ahead to try to compile lists of reference journals. There is an urgent need for a European Citation Index in the Humanities, even if it is only an additional tool for research

evaluation, and would not be the only way of evaluating research quality.

- SCH should give instructions first at a national level on how to compile these lists. Compromise solutions between different approaches should be suggested in order to have the necessary combined methodology. Also, the ESF should be able to offer help to those countries that have not worked on this problem before.

- Groups of experts, discipline by discipline, should then be established at the ESF level to work first on a possible combined methodology and to screen the different propositions from different countries.

- References to books would also need the construction of a database. How references to, and in, books can be included in a database should be investigated.

In November 2001, the SCH plenary meeting discussed the outcomes of the Preparatory Workshop and took the decision to take further steps in the matter. A small working group of three people has been asked to prepare the procedure for approaching the SCH member organisations and to outline the whole project.

Alain Peyraube

Alain Peyraube is Adviser to the Minister for Research for Humanities and Social Sciences; Professor of Chinese Linguistics; and Research Director in Linguistics at CNRS.

The Humanities in the European Research Area
Is there room for the Humanities in a 'Europe with a human face'?

In anticipation of the Danish chairmanship of the EU in the autumn of 2002, The Danish Research Council for the Humanities invited representatives from European Research Councils in the Humanities to Copenhagen on 11 March 2002. At the beginning of the meeting, Gretty Mirdal gave an overview of the position of the Humanities in the European Research Area.

" The expression 'Europe with a human face' was the title of a meeting in Uppsala in February 2001 during the Swedish presidency of the EU. The objective of this conference was to highlight the importance of the broad spectrum of Social Sciences and Humanities for the future shaping of European societies and European policies.

Throughout the preparation of the Sixth Framework Programme the importance of the human sciences were consistently stressed. ESF, ALLEA and EUA wrote in a joint statement: 'We would like to reiterate the importance of fully integrating the Humanities and Social Sciences in the new framework programme. The European Research Area takes shape in the context of European cultures and societies, and the contribution of these disciplines is needed in other areas to fully understand multiculturalism and multilingualism in Europe. (…) The Humanities and the Social Sciences need to be more adequately represented in the Framework Programme Proposal.' (Joint Statement sent to the European Council of Research Ministers meeting in Luxembourg on 26 June 2001).

Gretty Mirdal is currently Professor of Transcultural Clinical Psychology at the University of Copenhagen. Gretty Mirdal is also member of the Standing Committee of the Humanities and of the Governing Council at the ESF; of the Danish Research Foundation; of the Scientific Council of the Comité National de la Recherche Scientifique; and of the EURAB (European Research Advisory Board).

Today the Sixth Framework Programme is a reality. Has it achieved a human face as seen from a humanistic perspective? Can scientists and scholars in the Humanities get any benefit from it, and can the Humanities in return contribute meaningfully to the development of the European Research Area? This is the theme of our discussions today. I would like to open this debate by presenting a factual overview of how the Humanities are represented and what place they have been given in the new framework programme.

It is necessary to go beyond declarations of good intentions and to see concretely where and how the Humanities could fit into the plan. We all know that the present text is the result of many compromises, and that its wording will have considerable influence on which topics will be considered for funding. Where in the text then is there a chance for the Humanities to receive financial support? Where can they be included in future interdisciplinary cooperations? Let us quickly review the main concepts of the Sixth Framework Programme[5].

The three concepts of the Sixth Framework Programme

The Sixth Framework Programme is structured around three main axes:

1. Structuring the European Research Area, supported with approximately 260M euros
2. Integrating European research, supported with approximately 13 285M euros
3. Reinforcing the European Research Area, supported with approximately 300M euros

These concepts are by now well known to the scientific community at large, and will not be presented here at any length.

However, it might be useful to give a short definition and description of each one of the axes in order to reveal the more or less implicit place of the humanities within each.

I. Structuring the ERA

- Research and Innovation (300M euros)
- Human resources (1 630M euros)
- Infrastructures (665M euros)
- Science and Society (60M euros)

The last point, Science and Society, is obviously of great interest for the Social Sciences and of potential interest to the Humanities. The latest Eurobarometer study shows that the public feels poorly informed about science. The Commission has now presented an action plan consisting of 38 actions in order to establish stronger and more harmonious relations between science and society. It is noteworthy here that the original focus on informing citizens about science has now been replaced by a stronger emphasis on a dialogue between scientists and society, and on the public's concern for ethical issues and perception and management of risk.

II. Integrating the ERA: 7 + 1 areas of priority (13 285M euros)

1. Genomics and biotechnology .... 2 200M euros
2. Technology for the information-society ..... 3 600M euros
3. Nanotechnologies, new production procedures .... 1 300M euros
4. Aeronautics and space technology .... 1 075M euros
5. Food and health risks .... 685M euros
6. Sustainable development and planetary changes .... 2 219M euros
7. Citizens and governance in the European knowledge society .... 225M euros

The eighth area: (Anticipation of needs, international cooperation, etc.) (1 320M euros). This last figure will probably be reduced in the coming weeks.

Obviously it is the seventh item, Citizens and governance in the European knowledge society, which has attracted most attention in humanistic research circles in spite of its having the lowest budget of all. The actions envisaged by the Community regarding item 7 will focus on the following themes: improving the production, transmission and utilisation of knowledge; improving the quality of life, life-long education and training; strengthening social cohesion and sustainable development; issues regarding citizenship, governing and democracy, new forms of citizenship and identity, and cultural diversity.

Although less apparent, there is no doubt that there is also room for an input from the human sciences in the other areas. For example, genomics and biotechnology, and technology for the information-society have strong humanistic elements. Here are some of the suggested topics with humanistic connotations within these areas: studying human development, the brain and the ageing process; developing intelligent systems for the preservation of the cultural heritage; multisensorial interfaces capable of understanding and interpreting the natural expression of human beings; and knowledge representation and management systems based on context and semantics, including cognitive systems, to name but a few.

III. Strengthening the foundations of the ERA (330M euros)

The activities carried out under this heading are intended to step up the coordination of research and innovation policies and activities in Europe, mainly through the following channels.

- Coordinating research activities at the national and European level; opening of national programmes networking, COST, collaboration with other European research organisations.
- Supporting the development of coherent research and innovation policies: indicators, benchmarking, etc.

The COST programme deserves special attention here, for its previous support given to Arts and Humanities research. Likewise, the inclusion of possibilities for supporting the development of indicators and benchmarking instruments might open up the possibility of funding European databases, e.g. a European citation index within the Humanities.

The new instruments

The programme will be implemented through four types of instruments. Although the Humanities in principle could feature under any one of them, the big projects and consortia are generally not suitable for humanistic projects.

1. Integrated projects: Big projects in applied research within the areas of priority with an EU subvention to the budget of $\leq$ 50% (10M euros for 3 to 5 years).
2. Networks of excellence: Big projects in basic (long-term) research, within the areas of priority. EU contribution: $\leq$ 25% (10M euros for 3 to 5 years).
3. Networking of national programmes where the EU gives complementary

financial support (Article 169) (the support will be based on 'an evaluation of the scale of the resources mobilised and the improvement expected', on a case by case basis)[6].

4. Specific projects (*Escalier de l'excellence*) that are not yet defined but are conceived to manage the transition between the 'classical and the new instruments'.

On humanistic premisses

So far, a humanistic perspective on the Sixth Framework Programme does not seem to give cause for special cheerfulness. However, it should be remembered, as stressed by Research Commissioner, Philippe Busquin, that the European Research Area is much broader than the framework programme itself, and that there still is ample room for a humanistic perspective in interdisciplinary research in Europe. It is important to specify the minimum requirements for a real integration of the human sciences into interdisciplinary projects:

- integration into the research team/ programme from the start;
- full involvement in defining the object of the research and not only in studying its ethical consequences;
- true interdisciplinarity; going beyond a view of the Humanities as a 'spiritual addition' to the real project (an example of such a project is the new EUROCORES programme on the origin of language);
- choosing relevant methods for the study of the humanistic aspects of the questions under study;
- using forms of evaluation that are meaningful from a humanistic viewpoint.

Can the European Research Advisory Board (EURAB) make a difference to the Humanities?

The task of the Board, which was established in June 2001, is to advise the Commission on the design and implementation of Community policy in research and technological development. The Board consists of 45 members nominated in a personal capacity for a period of three years. Two of its members, M. Hatzopoulos and G. Mirdal come from the Humanities.

Since the major part of EURAB's task will be carried out in working groups, Mirdal and Hatzopoulos suggested the establishment of a working group with the following points on its programme:

- the integration of human sciences in the priority areas of the Sixth Framework Programme;
- the establishment of centres of excellence in more specifically humanistic topics of particular importance for European social life; and
- the development of research infrastructure programmes in the Humanities.

This suggestion was not accepted by the EURAB bureau. The following seven groups have now been established:

1. Role of universities in the ERA.
2. Implication of enlargement in ERA.
3. Evaluation of proposals.
4. Evaluation of proposals and implementations of the Sixth Framework Programme, Priority 8 (predetermined content versus flexibility for future emerging needs: the role of basic research)
5. Improving academia-industry relations.
6. Increasing the attractiveness of science/technology as a profession.
7. Long-term outlook for ERA (e.g.

[6] Several questions concerning the legal status of the network itself and of the participants in the network remain, e.g. (1) the position of university centres; (2) the concept of what constitutes a 'critical mass' (Article 169/3.3: 'The themes must necessarily be important enough to generate large-scale activities…they must cover a significant proportion of the area in question); the evaluation procedures and choice of reviewers; and the rules of intellectual property.'

research policies in relation to other EU policies: agriculture, health, environment, etc.; better coordination of national funding agencies and research councils; setting up an independent European funding agency).

Why research in the Humanities

Although the very fact of having to argue for the legitimacy of humanistic research can seem incongruous, and the reasons enumerated below evident, the position of the Humanities in the EU at present justifies the reiteration of the obvious.

- The Humanities shape our understanding of the world. They are not only important for the enhancement of knowledge, in a so-called 'knowledge-based society', but also for the *eu zen*, the wellbeing of its citizens.

- The new information technologies are affecting our representation of the world, our language and thinking, our dreams and emotions – our ways of being human. These processes are at the core of humanistic research.

- The success of the ERA depends on intercultural understanding and cooperation across disciplines and across nations, regions and religions. The study and interpretation of culture and of acculturation processes is a humanistic discipline.

- Humanistic training consists in learning to put pertinent and critical questions rather than necessarily providing answers. This is important at a time when the frontiers between fundamental and applied research are falling and where goal-oriented research is under pressure to provide answers.

Finally, I will take the liberty of citing the AHRB (Arts and Humanities Research Board in the UK), who have prepared a Case for Arts and Humanities Research in the EU. I would like to close by presenting the reasons given by this board as to why research in the Arts and Humanities should be included in the Sixth Framework Programme:

- the influence of European culture in the development of humanity throughout recorded history;

- the influence of ancient philosophical traditions on the basic belief systems that underpin European societies, political systems, and legal and ethical frameworks;

- the role of human sciences in providing context, examples and warnings for the future development of European relationships at both the European and global levels;

- the need to address problems of social cohesion and social integration, requiring the connection to be made between the legacies of the past, the problems of today and the challenges of tomorrow;

- the promotion of a vigorous research culture in the creative and performing arts (including design) as a key motor of continued economic growth;

- the role of the creative, cultural and heritage industries in the economy, employment and wealth generation;

- the evolving nature and needs of the knowledge economy which requires the development and fusion of people and ideas from the natural and human sciences to foster creativity and wealth generation;

- the practical and innovative ways in which research in the Arts influences the creativity of groups and individuals;

- the contribution made to the quality of life of European citizens through cultural activities and enhanced cultural understanding;

- the enhancement of human faculties for critical enquiry and comparative understanding of broad (and sometimes abstract) questions confronting citizens;

- the contribution of research to the development of perspectives in the human sciences which contribute to a stronger and more self-reflexive European Union. ''

Gretty M. Mirdal

Electronic Service 'AlphaGalileo': delivering research news to the media

Since the spring of 2002, the research community in the Humanities and the Social Sciences can profitably use a free, electronic service called 'AlphaGalileo', by surfing www.alphagalileo.org

It is a service which provides research news from a growing number of countries to the media: journals, radio, TV, etc. Researchers and science administrators may consult this service as a source for press releases and announcements of workshops and conferences, as well as an outlet for their own news that they want to distribute to the media. The website is offered in a number of languages, and allows one to see what is on offer before making a decision on whether to register and get full access to the service. It was opened up to news from the Arts and Humanities in May 2002 with the support of the British Academy, the Arts and Humanities Research Board (AHRB, UK), and the ESF's Standing Committee for the Humanities.

The AlphaGalileo service was introduced in 1998 and originally focused on news from the hard sciences, medicine and technology. It was supported initially by the governments of France, Germany and the UK; now, the service is largely supported by the European Commission (DG Research). The number of supporting countries has increased to include Finland, Greece, Portugal, Spain and Sweden, while discussions are underway on applications for membership from Italy, Ireland and the Netherlands.

On a daily basis, the service gives journalists access to press releases, book announcements, a calendar of events, an on-line database of experts, address

books of researchers and press officers, and related material. The AlphaGalileo staff is headed by Director Peter Green and has in total four members, located across Britain. The site is supervised daily, during the week from 7 to 18 GMT and with a reduced weekend service.

To contact the team:

E-mail: alphagalileo@alphagalileo.org
or write to the Director,
AlphaGalileo
23 Savile Row
London W1S 2EZ, UK

There are many ways to publish the results of research efforts: specialist journals and magazines, dedicated websites, several types of scholarly books, etc. Apart from these reports for a broad audience of colleagues, there is often a wider public with an interest in topics studied under the Humanities. A researcher may ask for the assistance of the university press centre to extract and edit the news from his or her research for this more general public. The result may be a widening interest in Humanities research and the establishment of new, international contacts. The extension of the AlphaGalileo service to the Humanities has therefore been welcomed by the European Science Foundation.

Henk Stronkhorst

Obituary

Professor Eugene K. Wolf

We are very grieved to learn that on 12 December 2002, Professor Eugene K. Wolf died after a long and painful illness. If we find it difficult today to measure the loss his disappearance represents, all of us will keep in mind his generosity and his tireless dedication to the direction of the ESF Scientific Programme on *Musical Life in Europe, 1600-1900 (MLE)* during these past years. We join in his family's mourning, and we offer our sincere sympathy to his wife Jeannie and his children John and Maria.

Christoph-Hellmut Mahling (MLE Co-Chair)
Christian Meyer (MLE Co-Chair)

ESF instruments for the Humanities

Exploratory Workshops

ESF Exploratory Workshops are aimed at helping European research teams to exchange knowledge, establish new links and to explore the possibilities of developing future collaborative actions. Each workshop allows 20-25 leading European scientists to develop the case for increased interaction at the European level.

Exploratory Workshops are funded from the ESF general budget. Their maximum budget is 15 000 euros. Each year a Call is published in spring and publicised on the ESF website: ***http://www.esf.org***

Deadline:
The usual deadline for submitting proposals for exploratory workshops is around 1 May.

Proposals are evaluated by international referees and decisions are communicated in November of the same year.

Contact:
Ms Carole Mabrouk
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1 quai Lezay-Marnésia
67080 Strasbourg cedex – France
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Fax: +33 (0)3 88 37 05 32
E-mail: humanities@esf.org

Scientific Networks

ESF Scientific Networks discuss, plan, innovate, analyse or coordinate research. They bring together scientists or scholars to explore the potential of developing and carrying out research at a European level. Very often they give rise to other ESF activities such as scientific programmes or European Research Conferences.

These networks are frequently interdisciplinary in character. They typically have participants from no fewer than six countries. They are funded from the ESF general budget.

Proposals for networks originate from individual groups of scientists and are put before the ESF Network Group. Proposals should demonstrate that the proposed work is to be done at a European level.

The anticipated time from submission of a full proposal to final decision is approximately six months.

Deadlines for submission of new proposals:
There are two closing dates each year, 31 May and 30 November.

Contact:
Mr Tony Mayer
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Fax: +33 (0)3 88 37 05 32
E-mail: networks@esf.org

Scientific Programmes

Scientific Programmes are medium- to long-term activities focused on specific themes. They bring together substantive research projects carried out by multinational teams of researchers and may include limited fellowship schemes. They concentrate on how expertise can be coordinated and developed effectively at a European level. Programmes last an average of three to five years and are funded on an *à la carte* basis by the ESF Member Organisations.

The usual procedure is to send an outline proposal (2-4 pages) describing the topic, indicating the planned activities and the proposed Steering Committee. The Senior Scientific Secretary will contact the proposer and advise him/her on how to write a full proposal which will be peer-reviewed and submitted to the Standing Committee for the Humanities.

Deadlines for submission of full proposals:

There are two closing dates each year, mid-March and mid-September.

Contact:
Dr Elisabeth Vestergaard
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EUROCORES
(ESF Collaborative Research Programmes)

The aim of EUROCORES is to provide an effective and efficient need-driven collaboration mechanism at a multinational level within Europe that can be responsive to new and changing demands in science and the emerging priorities of national funding agencies and their analogues within the ESF membership. It fosters cooperation between national agencies and promotes the harmonisation of funding mechanisms in a common European approach. This builds on existing structures and maximises their value through collaboration while leaving funding at the national level.

ESF Collaborative Research Programmes offer a flexible mechanism for mobilising national funding in ESF Member Organisations not just in support of research coordination but also in support of the research itself.

The usual procedure is to send an outline proposal (2-4 pages) describing the scholarly content and the potential interest from the scientific community. The Senior Scientific Secretary will contact the proposer and advise him/her on how to write a full proposal which will be submitted to the Standing Committee for the Humanities. If this proposal receives a good assessment, it will be submitted to the ESF Member Organisations.

Deadlines for submission of full proposals:

There are two closing dates each year, mid-March and mid-September.

Contact:
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ESF Scientific Forward Looks

The ESF Forward Look is a new instrument to enable Europe's scientific and academic community to develop medium- and long-terms views and analyses of future research developments in multidisciplinary topics, and to interact with policy makers from the ESF Member Organisations.

The main event of an ESF Forward Look is a conference involving about 50 to 60 people meeting over two to three days. To this aim, specialist study groups can be established or existing expert groups and panels can be used. High level overview papers can also be commissioned. Reports from preparatory groups and/or overview papers will be the basis of discussion at Forward Look meetings. It is envisaged that each Forward Look will produce a major report that can provide a reference for the future. Action plans may also be expected in order to set research goals and means of implementation. The development of EUROCORES projects should be considered as a further output of the exercise.

The usual procedure is to send an outline proposal (2-4 pages) describing the topic, its rationale, and the methodology to prepare the final conference of the proposed Forward Look. The Senior Scientific Secretary will contact the proposer and advise him/her on how to write a full proposal which will be submitted to the Standing Committee for the Humanities. If the proposal receives a good assessment, it will be submitted to the ESF Executive Board.

Deadlines for submission of full proposals: There are two closing dates each year, mid-March and mid-September.

Contact:

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European Research Conferences

European Research Conferences (EURESCO) provide a platform for high level discussion on specific scientific issues in all areas of research. By offering opportunities for younger scientists to become involved, EURESCO conferences encourage greater openness in scientific enquiry. This programme promotes a series of meetings, devoted to the same general subject, normally taking place about every other year.

Proposals for European Research Conferences come from a variety of sources, but principally in response to regular Calls for Proposals. In addition, scientific societies can contribute new conference initiatives through their disciplinary sections and divisions. Representatives of the ESF Standing Committees provide the ESF scientific input, while several of the ESF Scientific Programmes and Networks also organise EURESCO conferences.

European Research Conferences are co-sponsored by the ESF and the European Commission.

The practical organisation of all conferences is carried out by the EURESCO team in Strasbourg; venues are chosen from the list of EURESCO-approved sites.

Deadline: The usual deadline for submitting proposals for conferences is around 15 September.

For researchers wishing to participate in a EURESCO Conference, an annual conference calendar is available at: ***www.esf.org/euresco***

Contact:

EURESCO Office
European Science Foundation
1 quai Lezay-Marnésia
67080 Strasbourg cedex – France
Tel: +33 (0)3 88 76 71 35
Fax: +33 (0)3 88 36 69 87
E-mail: euresco-proposals@esf.org

Overview of current programmes and networks in the Humanities

Current scientific programmes in the Humanities include:

Programmes	Duration (4 years)
● Occupation in Europe: the Impact of National Socialist and Fascist Rule	2000-2004
● Changing Media – Changing Europe	2000-2004
● Cultural Exchange in Europe, c. 1400 – c. 1700	1999-2002 *Extended until* 2003
● Musical Life in Europe, 1600-1900: circulation, institutions, representation	1998-2001 *Extended until* 2002

Completed programmes now publishing:
Concepts and Symbols of the 18th Century in Europe; The Transformation of the Roman World; The Evolution of Chemistry in Europe, 1789-1939; Individual and Society in the Mediterranean Muslim World

Two new programmes are being launched in early 2003 for a four-year period:
Representations of the Past: national histories of Europe; From Natural Philosophy to Science

Current scientific networks in the Humanities include:

Networks	Duration (3 years)
● Cities as International and Transitional Actors: history, current dynamics and future role	Jan. 2003 - Dec. 2005
● Philosophical and Foundational Problems of Modern Physics	Jan. 2003 - Dec. 2005
● The Politics and History of European Democratisation	Jan. 2003 - Dec. 2005
● New Perspectives on the Enhancement of the European Scientific Heritage	July 2002 - June 2005
● Late Antiquity and Arabic Thought – patterns in the constitution of the European culture	July 2001 - June 2004
● Tensions of Europe: technology and the making of 20th century Europe	Jan. 2001 - Dec. 2003
● Tone and Intonation in Europe	Jan. 2001 - Dec. 2003
● Science and Human Values: religious beliefs and interpretation of nature	July 2000 - June 2003
● Historical and Contemporary Perspectives of Philosophy of Science in Europe	July 2000 - June 2003

Completed networks now publishing:
Early Modern Thought; Intersign: sign linguistics and data exchange; Science and the Visual Image; European Theatre Iconography; Republicanism: a shared European heritage

Humanities Exploratory Workshops held in 2001 and 2002

- ***Experimental pragmatics***
  (Lyon, France, 17-19 May 2001)

- ***Minority languages in Europe: frameworks – status – prospects***
  (Bath, United Kingdom, 8-10 June 2001)

- ***Reconstructing Science. Contributions to the enhancement of the European scientific heritage***
  (Ravenna, Italy, 8-9 June 2001)

- ***Constructing the Humanities: which roles for women?***
  (Paris, France, 13-15 June 2001)

- ***Corpus and data processing in geolinguistics***
  (Bayonne, France, 22-23 June 2001)

- ***Academic local history and the concept of heritage: towards a European model***
  (Cheltenham, United Kingdom, 26-28 July 2001)

- ***Lower palaeolithic small tools in Europe and the Levant***
  (Liège, Belgium, 2 September 2001);

- ***(Hidden) minorities: language and ethnic identities in the Alpine-Adriatic region***
  (Radenci, Slovenia, *postponed to 20-24 March 2002*)

- ***Whither archaeology?***
  (Warsaw, Poland, 12-13 October 2001)

- ***Leibnitz and the powers of language***
  (Rennes, France, 6-9 March 2002)

- ***Early symbolic systems for communication in Southeast Europe***
  (Karlovo, Bulgaria, 14-20 April 2002)

- ***Face-to-face communication over the Internet: emotions in a Web of culture, language and technology***
  (Hull, United Kingdom, 7 April 2002)

- ***Computer texts: documentation, linguistic analysis and interpretation***
  (Strasbourg, 14-15 June 2002)

- ***The European metropolis***
  (Paris, France, 1 September 2002)

- ***Power and authority: comparative analyses of History, Law and Legitimation***
  (Madrid, Spain, 11-13 September 2002);

- ***Histoire de la perspective et sciences humaines: l'œuvre et l'artiste à l'épreuve de la perspective***
  (Rome, Italy, 19 September 2002)

- ***Emotion in dialogic interaction. Advances in the complex***
  (Münster, Germany, 15-18 October 2002)

- ***HomeroOnline: the Iliad, the Odyssey, their context and their reception***
  (Grenoble, 13 November 2002)

- ***Archaic Greek culture: the archaeological and historical context of the first writing in Europe***
  (East Norton, United Kingdom, 12-15 December 2002)

- ***Emotion, consciousness and self-consciousness***
  (Cambridge, United Kingdom, *postponed to 21-23 March 2003*)

Standing Committee for the Humanities (SCH)

Membership

- **Professor William R. Shea* (Chair)**
Institut d'Histoire des Sciences Université Louis Pasteur
Strasbourg, France

- **Professor Luís Adão de Fonseca**
Facultade de Letras da Universidade do Porto Departamento de História
Porto, Portugal

- **Professor Ján Bakos**
Institute of Art History, Slovak Academy of Sciences
Bratislava, Slovakia

- **Dr Maurice Bric**
Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences
Dublin, Ireland

- **Dr Kyriakos Demetriou**
(as of 1 January 2003)
Department of Social and Political Sciences, University of Cyprus
Nicosia, Cyprus

- **Professor William Doyle***
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Bristol, United Kingdom

- **Professor Hans-Joachim Gehrke***
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- **Dr Giorgos Georgis**
(until 31 December 2002)
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- **Dr Sami Gülgöz**
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- **Professor Robert Halleux**
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- **Dr. Miltiades Hatzopoulos***
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- **Professor Josef Jarab***
Palacky University Olomouc
Olomouc, Czech Republic

- **Professor Arne Jarrick**
Department of History Stockholm University
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Publications

The following recent publications were the outcome of SCH activities:

- **G.P. Brogiolo, N. Gauthier, N. Christie (eds.),** *Towns and their Territories between Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages*, Leiden, Boston, Köln, Brill, 2000, pp. XVII-403

- **Inge Lyse Hansen, Chris Wickham (eds.),** *The Long Eighth Century. Production, Distribution and Demand*, Leiden, Boston, Köln, Brill, 2000, pp. X-388

- **W. Pohl, I. Wood, H. Reimitz (eds.),** *The Transformation of Frontiers. From Late Antiquity to the Carolingians*, Leiden, Boston, Köln, Brill, 2001, pp. VI-299

- **Mayke de Jong, Frans Theuws, Carine van Rhijn (eds.),** *Topographies of Power in the Early Middle Ages*, Leiden, Boston, Köln, Brill, 2001, pp. X-609

- **Mercedes Garcia-Arenal,** *Conversions islamiques, identities religieuses en Islam méditerranéen*, Maisonneuve et Larose, 2001, pp. 460

- **Manuela Marin & Randi Deguilhem,** *Writing the Feminine – Women in Arab Sources*, I.B. Tauris, 2002, pp. XV-278

- **Nelly Hanna,** ***Money,*** *Land and Trade: An Economic History of the Muslim Mediterranean*, I.B. Tauris, 2002, pp. VII-294

- **Eugene Rogan,** *Outside In – on the margins of the Modern Middle East*, I.B. Tauris, 2002, pp. VII-262

- **Giuseppe Ricuperati,** *Historiographie et usage des Lumières*, Berlin Verlag, 2002, pp. XX-261

- **Christopher Balme, Robert Erenstein & Cesare Molinari,** *Proceedings of Network on European Theatre Iconography*, Bulzoni Editore, 2002, pp. 388

- **E. Andor and I. György Toth,** *Frontiers of Faith*, Central European University, 2001, pp. 296

- **Jose Pedro Paiva,** *Religious Ceremonials and Images: Power and Social Meaning (1400-1750)*, Centro de Historia de Sociedade e da Cultura – ESF, Palimage Editores, 2002, pp. XV-425

- **Zbigniew Kobylinski,** *Quo vadis archaeologia? Whither European archaeologia in the 21st century?* Warsaw, European Science Foundation, Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Foundation "Res Publica Multiethnica", 2001, pp. 208

- **Cees Leijenhorst, Christoph Lüthy & Johannes M.M.H. Thijssen,** *The Dynamics of Aristotelian Natural Philosophy from Antiquity to the Seventeenth Century*, Leiden, Boston, Köln, Brill, 2002, pp. VIII-484

- **R. Corradini, M. Diesenberger and H. Reimitz,** *The Construction of Communities in the Early Middle Age: Texts, Resources and Artefacts*, Leiden, Boston, Köln, Brill, 2003, pp. X-417

- **Martin van Gelderen & Quentin Skinner,** *Republicanism, A Shared European Heritage,* volume 1, Republicanism and Constitutionalism in Early Modern Europe, Cambridge University Press, 2002, pp. XI-420

- **Martin van Gelderen & Quentin Skinner,** *Republicanism, A Shared European Heritage,* volume 2, The Values of Republicanism in Early Modern Europe, Cambridge University Press, 2002, pp. XI-402

Forward Look on Immigration and the Construction of Identities in Contemporary Europe

A Forward Look on *Immigration and the Construction of Identities in Contemporary Europe* was approved by the ESF Executive Board on 19 September 2002. Activities started in December 2002. The research plan and the Coordination Group are as follows:

Definition of a Forward Look

The ESF Forward Look is a new instrument to enable Europe's scientific and academic community to develop medium- and long-terms views and analyses of future research developments in multidisciplinary topics, and to interact with policy makers from the ESF Member Organisations.

The main event of an ESF Forward Look is a conference involving about 50 to 60 people meeting over two to three days. To this aim, specialist study groups can be established or existing expert groups and panels can be used. High level overview papers can also be commissioned. Reports from preparatory groups and/or overview papers will be the basis of discussion at Forward Look meetings. It is envisaged that each Forward Look will produce a major report that can provide a reference for the future. Action plans may also be expected in order to set research goals and means of implementation.

For further information, contact flooks@esf.org

Study Groups

- The development of psychological conflicts and their prevention.
- A historical perspective on transcultural/transnational identities in Europe.
- Recognition and representation: national legislation, religious law and identity.
- The subjective experience of cultural belonging – cultural and artistic expressions of identity.
- Language and identity.
- Muslim-Christian interactions.

Planned workshops and conference

Workshop 1: The history of migration and identities in Europe

- *Convenor and Chair:* Professor Wim Blockmans
- *Date and location:* 6-7 December 2002, NIAS, Wassenaar, Netherlands

Workshop 2: The recognition and representation of immigrants in Europe

- *Convenor and Chair:* Professor Riva Kastoryano
- *Date and location:* 7-8 March 2003, Paris, France

Workshop 3: The development and prevention of immigrant-related conflicts

- *Convenor and Chair:* Professor Gretty Mirdal
- *Date and location:* 23-24 May 2003, Copenhagen, Denmark

Workshop 4: The cultural and linguistic expression of identity

- *Convenor:* Professor Josef Jarab
- *Chair on day 1:* Professor Josef Jarab (for study group: Culture);
- *Chair on day 2:* Professor Ekkehard König (for study group: Language)

- *Date and location:* July 2003, Prague, Czech Republic

The preparatory work will be finished with a final Forward Look conference:

Conference: Immigration and the construction of identities in contemporary Europe

- *Convenor:* Professor Gretty Mirdal
- *Chairs:* the chair of each study group will be responsible for a session.
- *Date and location:* 3-4 October 2003, Academy of Sciences, Copenhagen, Denmark

Coordination Group

- **Professor Gretty Mirdal (Chair)**

Institute of Clinical Psychology University of Copenhagen, Denmark

- **Professor Wim Blockmans**

Rector, Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences, Wassenaar, Netherlands

- **Professor Riva Kastoryano**

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Ms Céline Seewald
(Administrative Assistant)

Humanities Exploratory Workshops to be held in 2003

- **Framing art history: reflections on the discipline**
13-15 March 2003, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

- **Ancient textiles: production, crafts and society**
19-23 March 2003, Falsterbo, Sweden and Copenhagen, Denmark

- **Emotion, consciousness and self-consciousness**
(postponed from 2002)
21-23 March 2003, Cambridge, United Kingdom

- **Constructing bilingual computerised dictionaries with special emphasis on lesser used languages**
25-27 August 2003, Thessaloniki, Greece

- **European dialect syntax**
10-12 September 2003, Padua, Italy

- **General issues in the study of medieval logistics: sources, problems and methodologies**
September or November 2003, Birmingham, United Kingdom

- **The humanised mineral world: towards a social and symbolic evaluation of prehistoric technologies in Southeastern Europe**
September/October 2003, Sofia, Bulgaria

- **James Joyce and Samuel Beckett, translating Europe**
23-24 October 2003, Antwerp, Belgium

- **Optics, optical instruments and painting. The Hockney-Falco thesis revisited**
12-15 November 2003, Ghent, Belgium

- **Gender and diversity: comparative and critical perspectives**
November 2003, Utrecht, Netherlands

- **Between Greece and Rome. Hellenistic philosophy and Roman culture from 150 to 88 B.C.**
9-13 December 2003, Rome, Italy

More information at:
www.esf.org/workshops

Summer schools

Two summer schools will be held during 2003:

● Language Typology

Cagliari, Italy, 1-12 September 2003

Organisation:

Professor Martin Haspelmath *(Max-Planck-Institut für evolutionäre Anthropologie, Leipzig)* and Professor Ines Loi Corvetto *(Dipartimento di Linguistica e Stillistica dell'Università di Cagliari)*

Programme Committee:

Pier Marco Bertinetto *(Pisa)* ● Walter Bisang *(Mainz)* PierLuigi Cuzzolin *(Bergamo)* ● Martin Haspelmath *(Leipzig)* Ines Loi Corvetto *(Cagliari)* ● Edith Moravcsik *(Wisconsin)* Paolo Ramat *(Pavia)*

Courses and topics:

1. Morphosyntactic typology.
2. Phonological typology.
3. Italian dialects and typology.
4. Typology of the classical languages (Ancient Greek and Latin).
5. The languages of Native North America.
6. The languages of Australia.
7. Creole languages and typology.
8. Syntactic theory in typological perspective.
9. The syntax/semantic interface.
10. Typology of agreement constructions.
11. Language acquisition and semantic typology.
12. Morphological typology and language acquisition.
13. Typology of sign languages.
14. Linguistic diversity and spatial cognition.
15. Syntactic typology and generative syntax.
16. Typology of noun phrase syntax (or: areal typology).
17. Typology of quantification.
18. Typology and language change.

● The Impact of the Humanities on the Development of European Science

Erice, Italy, 8-14 September 2003
(co-funded with the Foundation Ettore Majorane in Erice)

Convenor:

Professor Paolo Galluzzi *(University of Florence)*

Lecturers:

Mariano Artigas *(University of Navarra, Spain)* ● Tore Frängsmyr *(University of Uppsala, Sweden)* ● Paolo Galluzzi *(University of Florence, Italy)* ● Fernand Hallyn *(University of Gent, Belgium)* ● Ekmeledin Ihsanoglu *(Institute for Islamic Culture, Istanbul, Turkey)* Nadeije Laneyrie-Dagen *(Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris, France)* ● Jürgen Mittelstrass *(University of Freiburg, Germany)* ● Liba Taub *(University of Cambridge, UK)*

Students: Thirty doctoral or post-doctoral students, and junior lecturers to be chosen from European institutions.

Topics:

1. How Greek philosophy gave birth to Greek science.
2. How Renaissance painting influenced the science of optics.
3. How Ancient Greek speculation gave Copernicus arguments for a new cosmology.
4. How Kepler's theology made him turn to science.
5. How Newton saw the cultural dimension of scientific research.
6. How the Enlightenment gave a new orientation to modern science.
7. How Linaeus drew is ideal of scientific order from the culture of his day.
8. How the Anthropic principle stimulated research into the nature of the Big Bang.