



# HERA

Humanities in the European Research Area

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# Humanities in the European Research Area (HERA)

A **network** of national funding agencies committed to:

1. Developing funding opportunities for humanities researchers in Europe
2. Sharing best practice in research management



## HERA partners

- Academy of Finland (AKA)
- Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (ASCR)
- The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), UK
- Austrian Science Fund (FWF)
- Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), France
- The Danish Research Council for the Humanities (DRCH)
- European Science Foundation (ESF)
- Estonian Science Foundation (EstSF)
- Fonds National de la Recherche Scientifique (FNRS), Belgium
- The Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS)
- Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology Slovenia (MHEST), Slovenia
- Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO)
- Rannís – the Icelandic Centre for Research
- Research Council of Norway (RCN)
- The Research Foundation Flanders (FWO)
- Swedish Research Council
- Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)





## HERA projects (2005-09)

- Best practice in peer review
- Best practice in programme management
- European benchmark of research quality and impact
- Research infrastructures in the humanities
- European peer review college

[www.heranet.info](http://www.heranet.info)



# Research Programmes

Launch 2 transnational research programmes:

- *Humanities as a Source of Creativity and Innovation*
- *Cultural Dynamics: inheritance and identity*

Call for proposals – Early 2009



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## Main features of programmes

- Fund transnational research teams (at least 3 partners from 3 participating countries)
- Theme-based / interdisciplinary
- Single peer review and decision-making process
- “Common pot” funding mechanism

# European Peer Review College in Humanities



A pilot project on the development of a common European peer review process

Pilot project will focus on a selected area:  
Archaeology

A project board will have oversight of the project



# Why a European College?

- To ensure high quality of funded research
- To increase European co-operation among funding agencies
- To counteract 'peer review fatigue'
- To increase the range of expertise
- To provide evaluation in joint calls - e.g. HERA
- To apply best practice and common understandings in peer review across EU
- To have a common pool of peer reviewers





# Pilot project: archaeology



Duration of project: 24 months in 4 stages

1. preparatory work and formation of Project Board (3 months)
2. selection and training (6 months)
3. implementation (common pool of reviewers to be used by participating agencies for 12 months)
4. Evaluation (3 months)

## Project partners

Open to all European funding agencies which have an interest in archaeology



# Size of pilot College



The size of the College membership will take into account:

- the size of the archaeology research community in Europe (estimated at 4000 researchers)
- propensity to apply for funding (AHRC receives app. 100 applications from archaeology per annum)
- the need to manage the demand on the College
- the range of expertise in archaeology required.

Proposed to have a College for this exercise of app 200 reviewers across Europe

Cost of training and management: €275,820



# Concluding remarks on Peer Review



1. Peer Review College and incentives.  
Embedding in career structure; 'evidence of esteem'.
2. PRC as a means of giving a sense of ownership of process
3. PRC as large community of scholars which may be used as resource by Research Councils and funding agencies.

## Concluding remarks on Peer Review

4. Training: continuing improvement rather one-off and once and for all.
5. Peer reviewers make evaluations expressed as grading; panels make judgements expressed as ranking.

The best training allows the possibility of movement between College and Panel.