

WORKSHOP 2
Social structure/sociology and Economics

Leicester, United Kingdom, 12-14-May 2010



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PROGRAMME

DAY 1 WEDNESDAY 12 MAY

- 19.00 **Reception and Welcome Address** (at Hotel): **Karen Henderson**
including quick presentation of the ESF by Balázs Kiss and brief
introductions of all participants
- 20.00 **Dinner** (at Hotel)

DAY 2 THURSDAY 13 MAY

SESSION 1 INTRODUCTION TO WORKSHOP: BACKGROUND, AIMS, PERSPECTIVES

- 09.00 **Introduction to Workshop** **ROOM: BELVOIR CITY LOUNGE**
Karen Henderson
- Keynote Presentations**
Introduction of the speakers : **Agnieszka Wenninger**
- 09.30 • **Agendas of Social Changes and Research Agendas:
 are there Convergences?**
 Lazar Vlasceanu
- 10.00 • **Economic Prospects and Prospects of Economics in Eastern
 Central Europe**
 Hans-Jürgen Wagener
- 10.30 **Presentation of the preliminary Survey Results**
Hans-Dieter Klingemann
- 11.00 **Break**

SESSION 2 BREAK-OUT GROUPS ON FUTURE ECONOMIC AND SOCIETAL DEVELOPMENTS IN CEE

- Discussion Questions
1. What is the focus of your research at the moment?
 2. Where are Central and Eastern European (CEE) societies going within the next 5-10 years: what are the most important future economic or societal challenges and issues?
 3. What are the major uncertainties about the developments pertaining to economy or society in CEE in the next years?
 4. What will you, or would you like to be, researching in 5-10 years?

11.30

**Break-Out Group: Economics
ROOM: QUORN ROOM**

Chair: **János Mátyás Kovács**

Rapporteur: **Dalina Dumitrescu**

Participants (no presentation):

- **Balázs Kiss, Iwona Nowicka, Stephen Struthers**

Participants (with presentations):

- **Maja Bučar**
- **Attila Havas**
- **Dumitru Miron**
- **Martin Myant**

**Break-Out Group : Sociology
ROOM: BELVOIR CITY ANNEX**

Chair: **Zdenka Mansfeldová**

Rapporteur: **Agnieszka Wenninger**

Participants (no presentation):

- **Petra Grabner, Hans-Dieter Klingemann, Silvia Miháliková, Ilona Pálné Kovács, Olivier Ruchet**

Participants (with presentations):

- **Lazar Vlasceanu**
- **Dumitru Sandu**
- **Imre Kovách**
- **George Kolankiewicz**

11.45

12.00

12.15

12.30

13.00

Lunch

Participants (presentations continued):

- **Slavo Radosevic**
- **Ion Stancu**
- **Erik Terk**
- **Hans-Jürgen Wagener**

Discussion of Presentations

Participants (presentations continued):

- **Olga Gyarfasova**
- **L'ubomír Falt'an**
- **Ivan Bernik**

Discussion of Presentations

14.30

14.45

15.00

15.15

15.30

16.00

Break

16.30

Summary of Discussions for Presentation to Plenary

Summary of Discussions for Presentation to Plenary

SESSION 3 PLENARY

ROOM: BELVOIR CITY LOUNGE

Feedback from the Disciplinary Groups and Discussion

Chair: **Ian Miles**

17.00

- **Report from Break-Out Group: Economics**

17.10

- **Report from Break-Out Group: Sociology**

17.20

Discussion

17.30

End of Day 2

19.30

Dinner: The Tiffin Restaurant

Meet in Hotel Reception at 19.20 to walk to restaurant (1 De Montfort Street)

DAY 3 FRIDAY 14 MAY

09.30 **Introduction to Day 3**
Chair: **Ian Miles**

ROOM: BELVOIR CITY LOUNGE

SESSION 4 BREAK-OUT GROUPS ON RESEARCH CHALLENGES AND FUTURE RESEARCH AREAS

Discussion Questions

5. What are the emerging research areas in economics or in sociology to be included into the future research agenda?
6. Are these emerging research areas similar or different to Western Europe (convergence/divergence)?
7. Are there some topics or themes in economics or in sociology where the collaboration of researchers from CEE countries could give a consistent competitive advantage in forging the future research agenda? If so, please specify.

10.00

Break-Out Group: Economics
ROOM: QUORN ROOM

Chair: **Dalina Dumitrescu**

Rapporteur: **Stephen Struthers**

Participants (no presentation):

- **Petra Grabner, János Mátyás Kovács, Iwona Nowicka**

Participants (in order of presentations):

10.15

- **Maja Bučar**

10.25

- **Attila Havas**

10.35

- **Dumitru Miron**

10.45

- **Martin Myant**

Break-Out Group : Sociology
ROOM: BELVOIR CITY ANNEX

Chair: **Silvia Miháliková**

Rapporteur: **Olivier Ruchet**

Participants (no presentation):

- **Balázs Kiss, Hans-Dieter Klingemann, Ilona Pálné Kovács, Agnieszka Wenninger**

Participants (in order of presentations):

- **Lazar Vlasceanu**

- **Dumitru Sandu**

- **Imre Kovách**

- **George Kolankiewicz**

11.00

Break

Participants (presentations continued):

11.30

- **Slavo Radosevic**

11.40

- **Ion Stancu**

11.50

- **Erik Terk**

12.00

- **Hans-Jürgen Wagener**

12.15

Discussion of Questions

12.30

Summary of the Discussions for Presentation to Plenary

Participants (presentations continued):

- **Olga Gyarfasova**

- **L'ubomír Falt'an**

- **Zdenka Mansfeldová**

- **Ivan Bernik**

Discussion of Questions

Summary of Discussions for Presentation to Plenary

13.00

Lunch

SESSION 5 PLENARY

ROOM: BELVOIR CITY LOUNGE

Provisional Findings - Building the Case for CEE Social Science Research

Chairs: Karen Henderson and Dalina Dumitrescu

14.30

- **Report from Break-Out Group: Sociology**

14.40

- **Report from Break-Out Group: Economics**

14.50

- **Discussion of Workshop Finding**

15.10

Evaluation Form Completion

15.30

End of Meeting

WORKSHOP PREPARATION

AIM OF WORKSHOP

The workshop aims to provide foresight about future directions of social science research that should be pursued by ESF member organisations. It is the second of four meetings (three workshops and a final workshop) to be held during 2010. The purpose of the workshop is both 'brainstorming' (collecting *ideas* about how CEE societies and economies may develop), and more complex reflection on how future research agendas should be structured to provide the knowledge necessary to understand and influence the future. These ideas and agendas will form the basis of the road-mapping and finally are going to be presented for broader discussion in the final conference in December 2010.

The focus is Central and Eastern Europe 'beyond transition': our objective is to define the extent to which research agendas need to address issues that are specific to this region, and the extent to which pan-European research agendas need to pay more attention to the specific dynamics of change in this region. Convergence and divergence co-exist: how can the interplay of both be encapsulated most constructively in research projects within the field of social sciences?

PREPARATION FOR BREAK-OUT GROUPS

A questionnaire has been circulated to all participants, to prepare for the break-out group sessions. During the first part of each session all participants will be given a time-slot to present their responses to the questions; the second part of the session will be dedicated to discussion of the responses and to prepare a report back to the following plenary session (of 10 minutes).

Questions to be addressed by Break-Out Groups– Session 2

1. What is the focus of your research at the moment?
2. Where are Central and Eastern European (CEE) societies going within the next 5-10 years: what are the most important future economic or societal challenges and issues?
3. What are the major uncertainties about the developments pertaining to economy or society in CEE in the next years?
4. What will you, or would you like to be, researching in 5-10 years?

Questions to be addressed by Break-Out Groups – Session 4

5. What are the emerging research areas in economics or in sociology to be included into the future research agenda?
6. Are these emerging research areas similar or different to Western Europe (convergence/divergence)?
7. Are there some topics or themes in economics or in sociology where the collaboration of researchers from CEE countries could give a consistent competitive advantage in forging the future research agenda? If so, please specify.

SURVEY OF THE EXISTING RESEARCH RESULTS

The Forward Look commenced with a systematic survey of existing research funded by major national and international sponsors, most particularly – but not exclusively - ESF Member Organisations to provide insights into current priorities in social science research on CEE as well as the actors determining them. The survey focused on funded projects on Central and Eastern Europe in economics, sociology and political science over the last five years. The survey report will summarise also general trends in research directions. During the Leicester workshop Prof. Hans-Dieter Klingemann will present the preliminary findings of the survey results.

WORKSHOP FOLLOW-UP

An evaluation form will be distributed at the workshop so that you can give feedback to this project's Scientific Committee

BACKGROUND READING

You may find the following information useful in preparation of the workshop. The proposal summary provides details on this Forward Look Project, followed by short summaries of three publications (on pages 14-17; the latter two ESF publications will be distributed at the workshop) plus a quick overview of the Forward Look instrument.

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BACKGROUND READING

Proposal Summary

Introduction

The 'Forward Look' will set new frontiers in Social Science research on Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). Previous initiatives by the European Science Foundation (ESF) looked at the research infrastructure in CEE rather than the content of research agendas (e.g. the report '**Status and Developments of Social Science Research in Central and Eastern Europe**', and the Member Organisations in Central and Eastern Europe - MOCEE project). However, following a workshop attended by many members of the Standing Committee for the Social Sciences from CEE states, it was suggested that in the social sciences, a rethinking of the European research agenda would usefully complement other efforts to overcome the structural and resource challenges faced by researchers from CEE.



Since the regime changes took place with rather unexpected speed, research agendas have frequently been reactive. Research priorities of major transnational projects have also frequently been determined externally with a normative assumption that convergence with Western Europe is the goal of social development in CEE that knowledge will facilitate. Now that the period of rapid change in CEE has ended, it is necessary to reassess the convergence and divergence between the formerly communist states and western Europe.

Central and Eastern Europe has been an important topic of social science research throughout the period since the fall of communism in 1989/1990, but it is possible to divide research on CEE into two very approximate phases:

- In the 1990s, which could be referred to as the transition phase, the major focus was democratisation and economic transformation. Although the fall of communism *per se* initially attracted most attention, much comparative work later in the decade was concerned with analysing the character of the changes that followed the fall of communism. In economics, discussion focused on whether rapid liberalisation and privatisation would themselves create the conditions for people to change their economic behaviour and reorient to a commercial and profit oriented outlook, or whether institutional change was a necessary prerequisite for capitalist development. In political science and sociology there was a debate on whether the revolutions were **part of the 'third wave' of democratisation including Latin America and southern Europe (an approach labelled 'transitology')**, while some transnational studies attempted to compare CEE to western European states. At an empirical level research focused on the development of the new institutional framework of democracy, the changing character of elites and their influence over economic and political change, the relative weakness of civil society development, the social welfare consequences of economic change, and changes in popular culture and attitudes towards the old and new regimes.

In the 2000s, which could be referred to as the consolidation phase, the European integration process began to dominate the research agenda. While EU enlargement *had been* a peripheral research topic at the point when detailed negotiations commenced in 1997-1999, within a few years it became the framework within which much social science research was conducted. Harmonisation and conditionality were viewed as leading forces driving political and economic transformation, with some underlying assumptions that convergence with western Europe was the benchmark for assessing development. Further new empirical concerns included questions of different types of capitalism, migration across Europe, problems of corruption and international crime, ethnic identities and their relation to political consolidation and the promotion of social justice according to EU norms, and social policy reforms and their meaning in terms of the character of social policy regimes in different countries in the region.

The Forward Look will build on this research and establish a research agenda for the next decade. Its focus will be on the states of Central and Eastern Europe that are currently in the EU, but with awareness that understanding developments there could be particularly relevant longer term. It should be noted that the EU currently embraces 27 states, of which ten formerly had some form of communist rule. Two of three current candidates are post-communist states; all five potential candidates in the Western Balkans were once communist; and all the European states included in the European Neighbourhood Policy are post-communist. Consequently, it is possible that – if enlargement continues at its present speed - by the end of the next decade, almost half EU member states will have had a protracted communist interlude in their past, and that this proportion will not lessen.

The contention therefore is that frameworks for European social science research which **assume that the states of Central and Eastern Europe represent the 'other' compared to a western European 'norm' may be inappropriate.** Convergence may prove more complex to map than a simple process whereby **post-communist states 'return to Europe' and resemble the old EU member states.** In order to understand the future direction of Europe, it is thus of vital importance to reassess societal development in the current post-communist member states. In this process, it should not necessarily be assumed *a priori* that the legacy of post-communist transition is wholly negative, or that the EU integration process has been entirely positive.

When designing a Forward Look on societal, political and economic developments in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as on new challenges for social science research resulting from the profound changes that have been taking place in this region for 20 years since the collapse of the state socialism, one can point to the following important reasons for the FL:

- a) Developments in CEE not only profoundly influence populations in CEE but are also critically important for the future of the European society at large. CEE breaking free from the Soviet empire, which after fifteen years resulted in the membership of many states in the EU, has been one of the most important processes shaping the 21st century in Europe (and elsewhere).
- b) Developments in CEE are too many, on too many levels, and are too complex to be creatively studied without reference to strategic visions of where CEE is heading. Without being backed by such visions future research may slide into endless preoccupation with local details.
- c) Developments in CEE are unique in providing an opportunity to evaluate future consequence and limits of social constructivism (introducing and shaping social order **by 'big bang' instant political decisions rather than allowing for its autonomous self-forming evolution**).

The Forward Look will identify developments in CEE which will, could or should become hot research topics in the study of CEE as a part of European society and as such be promoted and endorsed by national and European grant institutions; and to outline ways in which foresight on CEE can contribute to the development of social sciences in general.

Crucially, the agenda for future research needs to be established with a very major role played by the scholarly community within the new EU member states in Central and Eastern Europe. It is also recognised, however, that many colleagues originating from this community are currently integrated into research institutions in western Europe, and that west European scholars also play a valuable role in conducting ground-breaking research. Research findings from everyone involved in the field must be surveyed in order to determine future research directions. Crucially, the needs of user communities throughout Europe also have to be addressed. Synergies between academic and policy-oriented research, conducted by a wide variety of institutions, are becoming stronger. Future research agendas must be constructed to harness the forces of all parties involved.

The Forward Look will formulate policy recommendations to set up priorities in social sciences with respect to designing future research programmes to be tackled in the next 5-10 years. It will employ foresight methods in order to analyse future scenarios of developments in CEE in a pan-European and global context. The intention is to improve the science policy-making process by providing actors and stakeholders with a more informed understanding of future challenges in order to support science policy definition (drafting future research priorities/informing policy) and actively to take part in the strategic development of future research in the social sciences (embedding participation of scientific expertise in the policy-making process). New perspectives on the socio-economic and political changes, and responses to the changes and scientific challenges, after 20 years of transformation and EU accession, will form part of this process.

State of the Art & Scientific Challenges

Members of the working group that formulated the Forward Look proposal prepared brief reports on some of the major research questions and scientific challenges that arise in a number of the social science disciplines and made suggestions about future research agendas:

Economics (János Mátyás Kovács, Institute for Human Sciences IWM, Austria)

Social Structure (Bogdan Mach, SCSS)

Democratic Institutions (Terry Cox, University of Glasgow, UK)

Local governance (Ilona Pálné Kovács, SCSS)

Political Culture and Identities (Silvia Miháliková, SCSS)

EU Integration (Karen Henderson, University of Leicester, UK)

This was not an exhaustive survey, but merely indicative of the broad scope of the issues that need to be addressed. While the project is designed to be interdisciplinary, the major focus overall is on issues of governance. The Forward Look is designed to develop and integrate such ideas so that its Final Report may make more concrete suggestions for the formulation of science policy. In other words, this was a starting point, and was not intended to predict or pre-empt the FL's final conclusions. The FL is interested not only in formulating coherent research agendas, but also, crucially, in how they could best be implemented.

Forward Look Activities

While the major activities of the Forward Look will revolve around the conference and workshop programme and its outputs, it should commence with a **systematic survey** of existing research funded by major national and international sponsors, most particularly – but not exclusively - ESF member organisations. It is particularly important to identify the main actors currently determining priorities in Social Science research on CEE. Previous ESF reports have looked at research structures within the University sector and state-funded academic research. However, given the importance of funding challenges, exogenous influences on research agendas are of great significance in the region, particularly in transnational projects (whether coordinated in CEE or in old EU member states), but also at other levels. For the recommendations produced by the Forward Look to have maximum effect, it is essential to understand the current structures of agenda-setting in Social Science research on CEE.

Workshops and conferences

The investigation of future research directions will be tackled first during three expert workshops which will combine foresight activities with the sub-themes highlighted in the proposal. The workshops will bring together leading researchers in the respective subfields to both map and evaluate the state of the art as well as to present ideas on the future scientific challenges and new research questions within each sub-theme. It is anticipated that the researchers will be based in a diversity of research-active institutions. The aim of the workshops, however, is also to identify the most effective means of implementing future agendas. Policy makers and stakeholders will therefore be involved at all stages of discussion.

The final conference, informed by a science policy brief, will be predominantly concerned with integrating other stakeholders (e.g. policy actors, research councils, learned societies' representatives) in visions of how to implement and apply future research agendas. It will incorporate the main findings of the workshops in order to come up with a strategy for future social science research in CEE that will be contained in the Forward Look's final report in 2011.

Current Work Plan

- **First Management Committee Meeting Brussels, 4 September 2009**
- **First Scientific Committee Meeting Strasbourg, 8-9 October 2009**
- **Interim Scientific Committee Meeting 30 Nov 2009 – telephone conference**
Follow-up on workshop planning
- **Survey Dec 2009 – April 2010**
Mapping of existing research projects
- **Workshop 1: Bratislava, Slovakia, 4-5 February 2010**
Horizon scanning: expert views on future research challenges
- **Interim Scientific Committee Meetings 17 March 2010 & late April – telephone conference**
Follow-up on workshop planning
- **Second Scientific Committee Meeting Leicester, UK, 12 May 2010**
- **Workshop 2: Economics, Sociology/Social Structure Leicester, UK, 12-14 May 2010**
Using the results of horizon scanning, the survey and brainstorming: establish priorities in research into economic and social questions. Discuss road-mapping for future research.
- **Workshop 3: Democratic Institutions, Local Governance, Political Culture Sofia, Bulgaria, 23-25 June 2010**
Using the results of horizon scanning, the survey and scenario analysis: establish

priorities for examining the impact of governance structures, and their limitations, on in dealing with economic and social challenges. Discuss roadmapping for future research.

- **Road Map October/November 2010**
Presentation of summary findings on future research priorities (with regard to convergence/divergence in Europe)
- **Third Scientific Committee Meeting November 2010 – venue tbc**
- **Final Conference Berlin, Germany, December 2010**
Present the roadmap developed on the basis of Workshops 2 & 3; discussion with stakeholders.
- **Outreach activities October 2010 - April 2011**
- **Drafts of Science Policy Briefing and Final Report for the Management Committee meeting February 2011**
- **Second Management Committee meeting February/March 2011**
- **Publication of Science Policy Briefing and Final Report June 2011**

Impact and Follow-up

It would be premature at this stage to present a vision of the research agenda that would be developed by the Forward Look, and the precise means of implementation. A full programme of outreach/impact activities will be constructed as an ongoing process, particularly once the detailed findings of the initial survey are available for discussion, and will be developed progressively as an integral part of workshop discussion.

The final report with policy recommendations should present strategic visions developed during the workshops and suggestions for an action plan. This will include a survey of the specific constraints on and potential of the social sciences in CEE, and possibly suggest new instruments; it should facilitate networking programmes in CEE; and support systems for stronger EU-funded research participation (e.g. new mobility schemes, new data infrastructures). The needs of user communities at local, national and international level must underpin all proposals made.

The broadest possible network of stakeholders would be required to implement the visions presented. These would include scientific organisations (at the operational level: Academies of Sciences, universities, non-university research institutes); ESF member organisations in CEE (intermediary organisation-level funding agencies); science policy makers and science administrators (national policy level - science officers at the ministries of science and education); foundations supporting scientific research in the field of social sciences, but also policy makers from other policy sectors reliant on the social science findings for the sake of evidence-based policy (policy relevant research); international scientific organisations, advisory groups etc.

The Forward Look will face a number of challenges because of the weaker support for social sciences in comparison to hard sciences (the amount of funding that is likely to be/or is being allocated to the social sciences) on the national level. There are also organisational/managerial issues as there is some instability at the science administration level which is dependent on political changes in CEE countries. There is also a question of openness to the recommendations, which might be counteracted by involving science policy level at the formulating of the recommendations level.

The greatest challenges relate to the rather broad scope of the Forward Look; yet it was the simultaneous transition of politics, economics and society that made the democratisation of CEE such a unique process, and the legacy of these changes, and the future responses necessary, cannot therefore be usefully assessed without recourse to the full range of social sciences.

Forward Look Management Committee

(represents the ESF and other commissioning organisations, guides and monitors the project)

CHAIR

Professor Bogdan Mach

Institute of Political Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences

MEMBERS

Mr. Berry J. Bonenkamp

Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research

Dr. Patricia Georgieva

National Science Fund of Bulgaria

Ms. Petra Grabner

Austrian Science Fund

Professor Everhart Holtmann

Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany

Professor Leo Motus

Estonian Academy of Sciences

Forward Look Scientific Committee

(responsible for implementation, including scientific and methodological aspects)

CHAIR

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University of Leicester, United Kingdom

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Emerging Trends in Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities in Europe

The METRIS Report

Executive Summary

METRIS stands for Monitoring European Trends in Social Sciences and Humanities. The aim of METRIS is to support the European Research Area (ERA) in the Social Sciences and the Humanities (SSH). This is particularly important for these sciences, because their knowledge is embedded into national systems, and the ERA brings about novel insights and perspectives that result from comparing national systems and situations as well as rising above such comparisons. European level research in SSH forms an important support for European policy-making.



Download the full report:

[METRIS Report – Emerging Trends in Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities in Europe](http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/metris-report_en.pdf) (URL: http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/metris-report_en.pdf)

Brussels, 2009, EUR 23741, ISBN 978-92-79-11136-5, DOI 10.2777/57083, 144 pages

This report offers an overview of emerging trends in research in the social sciences and humanities (SSH) in Europe. It is based on the contributions of 14 senior researchers who were asked to review emerging trends in research in the five priorities of theme 8 (Social Sciences and Humanities) of the 7th Framework Programme (FP7) as well as cross-cutting trends, and to formulate recommendations for further action. The report does not cover the important contribution of SSH to the other nine themes of FP7 although overlapping interests may be identified.

Trends in the SSH reflect not only societal developments, but also the changing structures of research itself. National research systems remain very different in Europe, and efforts should be made to understand the ways in which the construction of a unified European Research Area is transforming them. We need to better understand how the important changes underway in the modes of funding and in science policy are affecting research both in terms of quality and in terms of its social uses. This should start with an effort at creating a reliable database monitoring both public and private funding of SSH research in Europe. The quasi-ubiquitous calls for interdisciplinarity should not obscure **the continued relevance of traditional disciplinary work, nor the need to achieve 'deep' interdisciplinarity** between distant disciplines. The development of new intellectual property rights regimes and the changing economy of publishing call for measures aiming at ensuring public access to knowledge in the ERA. This, in turn, depends on the capacity to develop a strong and open European research infrastructure.

The group identified the following five trends in SSH research in the five thematic areas:

Major trends in society include demographic trends related to the slowing down of population growth worldwide and to the falling share of Europe in the world population, to ageing and its impact on social systems, and to migration flows. New approaches to the urban habitat, to the pace and forms of social change, and to advances in the field of biotechnologies are also important research trends. Research is also likely to focus on political issues such as the worldwide prospects of democracy, the crisis of traditional

political representation, new intersections between the political and the religious, the transformation of the mode of governance characteristic of welfare systems, as well as new understandings of very long-term change.

In the rubric Growth, Employment and Competitiveness in a Knowledge-Based Society, the study of innovation will remain high on the agenda, in particular analyses focusing on the institutional and social dimensions of innovation and creativity. The emphasis placed on the role of intangibles in the so-called knowledge economy will increase **researchers' interest in human, social and cultural capital, in the experience economy,** and in measures of value. In this context, social welfare will be reconsidered as a productive factor. With the current economic crisis issues of financial stability and economic governance are also coming back to the fore.

Research on Citizenship will maintain a focus on issues of constitutionalism and formal citizenship, but it also renews itself by taking into account the proliferation of different types of citizenship. Issues of religious, sexual, scientific, biological citizenship are promising lines of research in this area. New forms of participation in the public sphere, and new participant subjects – such as corporations – are also attracting a growing interest. Researchers increasingly understand citizenship by analysing its limits or its confines and by looking at non-citizens.

In terms of Combining Economic, Social and Environmental Objectives, current trends point at a growing engagement of the SSH with the study of the environment in its various dimensions, such as biodiversity, landscaping, or conservation, while analysing the socioeconomic consequences of climate change. New approaches to social cohesion and to the analysis of social inequalities are developing, in part with a new emphasis on globalising trends. Alternative models of growth and alternative theories of value are also bound to develop, while studies of risk and risk-management will continue to attract interest.

Europe and the World is a thematic area for which EU support plays a significant role **relative to the support at national levels. Next to the analysis of Europe's place in** multilateral frameworks, innovative research focuses on a relational understanding of European identity and the social and political dimensions of memory. Europe as a knowledge-based economy and as an entity inserted in global circuits of cultural and immaterial artefacts is also important.

Next to these five areas, the group has provided selected examples of transversal **research trends that renew vast swathes of the SSH. They are: the 'iconic turn' in a** number of fields where the role of images, visualisations and iconic languages delineates a complex ecology of the visual; new approaches to space and spatiality that take into consideration the importance of physical space and lead to the rethinking of many territorialised concepts; a renewed interest in affects and emotions; and the erosion of the traditional boundaries of scientific research.

Following the analysis within the themes, the following important cross-cutting themes are flagged out for coordinated support in Europe:

- **The future and the new forms of social welfare**
- **A new research agenda on migration breaking with methodological nationalism**
- **Interdisciplinary research on innovation**
- **Sustainability research on the 'post-carbon' city**
- **New approaches to value and valuation in the context of knowledge economies**
- **Space, landscape and virtuality as new socio-political environments**
- **Time and memory as social formations and as political issues**
- **The technologisation of research in the social sciences and the humanities**
- **The iconic turn and the analysis of iconospheres**
- **New approaches to governance and regulation**

VITAL QUESTIONS

The Contribution of European Social Science

Download the Position Paper (URL: <http://www.esf.org/publications/social-sciences>.
A hard copy will be distributed at the meeting)

European Science Foundation 2009, ISBN 978-2-918428-04-6, 71 pages

The ESF Standing Committee for the Social Sciences, which is chaired by Professor Sir Roderick Floud, decided to publish a Science Position Paper to reflect upon significant achievements to date but also on how to move forward and encourage answers to the vital questions that are being asked today.

Written, edited and reviewed by leading social scientists, it contributes to the public understanding of scientific research – much of it supported by the European Science Foundation and its Member Organisations – and of the contribution that social science is making and can make in future to the solution of challenges of vital importance to the people and societies of Europe.



Published by the European
Science Foundation
ISBN: 978-2-918428-04-6

This Science Position Paper looks in particular at **Challenges and Opportunities** for the Social Sciences in Europe and examines important **themes**. It concludes with six main needs, so that social scientists can strengthen their contribution to the issues which will shape our future.

1. **Adequate funding to train and develop the next generations** of social scientists who will teach and aid the learning of one-third of Europe's students.
2. **Support for the infrastructure of data collection and dissemination**, and for **improved access** to administrative and commercial as well as academic data.
3. **Support for the research networks**, which are the lifeblood of social science disciplines and which promote the integration of European research.
4. **Mechanisms to develop ever-closer links with cognate disciplines** in the humanities and the natural and biological sciences.
5. **The development of statistics and indicators of research activity, outputs and impact of research** in the social sciences and humanities.
6. **The willingness of policy makers to listen** to the evidence and to the conclusions of social scientists as they analyse the problems of society.

Status and Developments of Social Science Research in Central and Eastern Europe

Download the Report (URL: <http://www.esf.org/publications/social-sciences>. A hard copy will be distributed at the meeting)

European Science Foundation 2008, ISBN 2-912049-78-4, 55 pages



This report was commissioned by the European Science Foundation (ESF) in the framework of the Member Organisation Fora instrument (Member Organisations in Central and Eastern Europe) from the Aleksanteri Institute, the Centre for Russian and Eastern European Studies. The aim of the study was to identify and analyse the situation and challenges in research in Central and Eastern European Countries (CEEs), particularly concerning research conducted in Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) and in the field of social sciences¹. The main emphasis of the report is on state-run universities.

The countries under examination are Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. All these countries are members of the ESF with the exception of Latvia, which was included in the study because it was seen as an integral part of the area under investigation. The respective countries are new members of the European Union (EU). The information on each country is presented in one of the main sections in this report.

Core Questions

Similarities and Differences in CEE countries

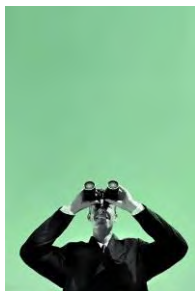
- Reorganisation of administrative structures
- Allocation of resources for research and development
- Doctoral education – future of career researcher
- Brain drain
- Cooperation among the CEE countries

National Research Policies

- Concrete strategies and their implementation
- Proportion of social sciences in national research policies

¹ The social sciences are defined differently in the respective countries. However, the disciplines usually include sociology, political science, economics and international relations, and often also education, psychology and law.

Information on ESF Forward Looks



The flagship activity of ESF's strategic arm, Forward Looks enable Europe's scientific community, in interaction with policy makers, to develop medium to long-term views and analyses of future research developments with the aim of defining research agendas at national and European level. Forward Looks are driven by ESF's Member Organisations and, by extension, the European research community. Quality assurance mechanisms, based on peer review where appropriate, are applied at every stage of the development and delivery of a Forward Look to ensure its quality and impact.

Homepage: <http://www.esf.org/activities/forward-looks>

DURATION AND BUDGET

- Average budget of k€ 160 funded from the ESF General Budget
- Forward Looks should last 12-18 months
- ESF provides a Forward Look Coordinator

Criteria

At the heart of a Forward Look topic proposal there are five *design questions*:

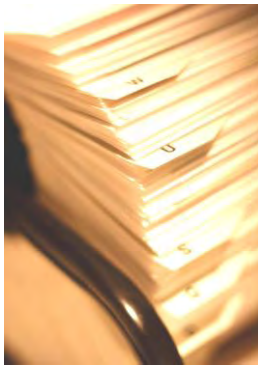
1. What are the characteristics and dynamics of the field that is foresighted?
2. What is the main question or problem that makes foresight needed or appropriate?
3. Can any sort of implementation of the results be expected and, if so, who should take care of implementation?
4. What expertise is needed to discuss the developments in the field and to what extent are external perspectives needed?
5. What kind of specific interests or obstacles may be expected in the conduct of the foresight or in implementing the results?

A Forward Look is essentially a systematic and high level priority setting exercise. Although research is unpredictable, a cautiously balanced assessment of state-of-the-art with looking ahead, typically over a period of 5-10 years, may provide a guide and reference for all concerned in setting new directions and priorities for European science in the global context. ESF Forward Looks are essentially science driven, but include, as appropriate, the societal dimension as an essential element of context.

It is becoming increasingly important that the science community and funding agencies at both national and European levels are aware of the potential directions research might take in the future, especially as traditional disciplines combine to produce new and exciting multidisciplinary areas of study. Using the outputs of a Forward Look, agencies will be better able to plan their resources to meet possible future demand, including the development of new facilities and infrastructure which may take a considerable lead time before becoming operational. Foresight exercises also help the development of pan-European approaches by Member Organisations and other national agencies as well as informing European institutions such as the European Commission and ESF itself.

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