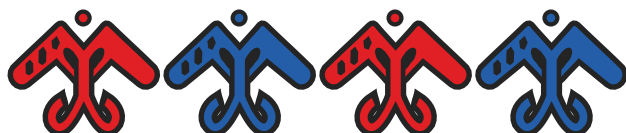
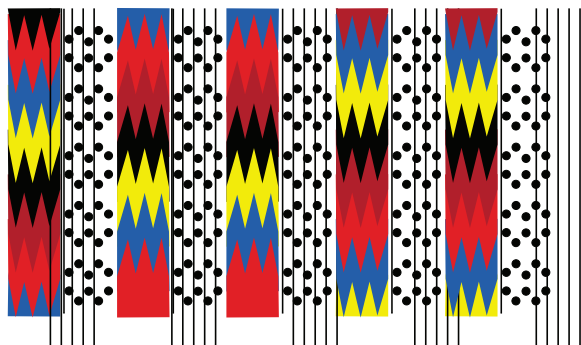


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Research Cooperation Centre

PHOENIX Newsletter

PHOENIX - Fostering the rebirth of social sciences and humanities in the Central Asia



Dear reader,

e 2006 was busy period for PHOENIX ending with extensive training course in late November in Tallinn and Helsinki that was troughly covered by previous Newsletter.

In this issue we concentrate on the events that are being prepared for the year 2007. First we give an introduction to PHOENIX second workshop that will be held in resort "Raduga" near lake Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan in May 21st-22nd.

e workshop is focused on research assessment and subtitled "Road to excellence: Research evaluation in Social Sciences and Humanities".

With the workshop theme of research assessment and bibliometrics is strongly connected European initiative called European Reference Index for the Humanities" (ERIH). ERIH is conceived as a tool to improve access to and assessment of Humanities research in Europe, initially by identifying and categorizing good research journals in 15 fields of the Humanities. e project is jointly sponsored by European Science Foundation and the ERA-NET project "Humanities in the European Research Area" (HERA).

e second event to be covered is forthcoming HERA Conference that will take place in Tallinn, Estonia in September 2nd-3rd. e conference investigates the role of new technologies in humanities, concentrating on the topics of ethic in new technologies wide usage, the convergence of digital media and content and the human factor and environmental issues of digitalization. Happy news for all the persons who are not able to participate is that the event can be accessed via Skype, the free online communicating software. Also, the conference includes the poster session that is opportunity for students to present research results or significant work in progress. Note that the organizers will cover the cost of accommodation for selected presenters.

Before the HERA event the CA students and researchers have great opportunity to participate in PHOENIX training course taking place in September 1-2. e Training course called "Writing a Competitive Proposal for Framework 7" is helpful tool for researchers interested of EU funding and the Newsletter will outline the main topics of the course.

From CA side, the newsletter will give overview of forum that was organized by Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia and OSCE about improving the management and transparency of higher education in Kyrgyz Republic

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PHOENIX website
<http://phoenix.irc.ee/>

Supported: FP6 CIT6-028703

research evaluation workshop

"Road to excellence: Research evaluation in Social Sciences and Humanities"

"Raduga" resort, Kyrgyzstan
21st – 22nd of May 2007

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Monday, 21st May

- 11.00-11.30 Welcome, **Ülle Must**
- 11.30-12.30 Short presentations (self introductions) from all countries (à 10 minutes)
- 12.30-13.30 Research assessment. History. Methods. tbc
- 13.30-15.00 *Lunch*
- 15.00-16.00 Bibliometric tools for the assessment of research performance, and their application in social sciences and humanities, **Henk Moed**
- 16.00-16.30 Questions. Discussions
- 16.30-17.00 *Tea/Coffee*
- 17.00-17.45 Peer Review in SSH, tbc
- 17.45-18.00 Questions. Discussions
- 18.00-19.00 Assessment of proposals in European R&D cooperation programs (COST; ESF; FP)
- 19.00 *Reception/Dinner*

Tuesday, 22nd May

- 09.00-09.45 Research evaluation strategies in Finland and Estonia, **Tiit Laasberg**
- 09.45-10.00 Questions. Comments
- 10.00-10.45 Research assessment in Finnish Universities, Prof **Arto Mustajoki**
- 10.45-11.00 Questions. Comments
- 11.00-11.30 *Tea/Coffee*
- 11.30-13.00 Practical management of research evaluation in Estonia, **Tiit Laasberg**
- 13.00-13.15 Questions. Discussions.
- 13.15-14.00 Conclusions
- 14.00 *Lunch*

Most updated programme and post-workshop proceedings will be available at project's website
<http://phoenix.irc.ee>

The venue

Resort center "Raduga" at lake Issyk-Kul

Raduga is located on the northern coast of Issyk-Kul lake, at the height of 1617 m above the sea level in Sari- Oj village, that is approximately 230 km from Bishkek). The 58 comfortable numbers are arranged in separate cottages.



Lake Issyk-Kul

Lake Issyk-Kul is the "sapphire" treasure of Kyrgyzstan with the unique combination of mountain, marine and steppe climate, crystal-clear water and air and variety of colors during a day. Issy-Kul means "Warm Lake" in Kyrgyz, it doesn't freeze and thus provides place to stay for white and black swans during winter.

It is the second largest alpine lake on earth after Lake Titicaca in South America and the second-deepest lake on the Earth. It has length of 182 km, width of 60 km and maximum depth of 668 meters. Issyk-Kul is the habitat for unique species like wild tulips and lilies, snow leopards and ibex.



ERIH project overview

European Reference Index for the Humanities

Need for Benchmarking

Humanities research in Europe is rich in lively national linguistic and intellectual traditions. They all find their expression in scholarly publications. The new trans-national mobility of researchers and the often trans-disciplinary nature of contemporary science require that Humanities researchers position themselves in changing international contexts.

As European Humanities scholarship moves forward more confidently in concert with other sciences, benchmarking and commensurability of quality are essential. Researchers and institutions alike need a tool that facilitates access to and assessment of the scientific quality of Humanities research output, irrespective of disciplinary and linguistic boundaries. Commensurability is required when it comes to the comparative merit or strength of a given field in international or inter-institutional comparisons as these become more and more common-place across the continent.

This is why ERIH aims initially at identifying and gaining more visibility for top-quality European Humanities research in journal-based publications, whatever their language.

ERIH will provide a **reference index of top journals in 15 areas of the Humanities**, across the continent and beyond. The exercise will eventually be extended to include book-form publications and non-traditional formats. It is envisaged that ERIH will operate as a backbone to a fully-fledged research information system for the Humanities.

ERIH is a fully peer-review driven process, and its development must continue to be steered by scholars for scholars, whilst also encouraging publishers to introduce rigorous peer-review mechanisms to all the journals included in the index.

Covered disciplines

ERIH initially produces a categorised list of good peer-reviewed research journals in 15 disciplines of the Humanities:

- Anthropology
- Archaeology
- Art and Art History
- Classical Studies



- Gender Studies
- History
- History and Philosophy of Science
- Linguistics
- Literature
- Musicology
- Oriental and African Studies
- Pedagogical and Educational Research
- Philosophy
- Psychology
- Religious Studies and Theology

The subject coverage is defined by scope notes developed by the ERIH Expert Panels.

Categories of research journals

ERIH distinguishes between different categories of good research journals, those read internationally (here called A and B) and those read in scientific communities which are linguistically more circumscribed (here called C).

ERIH is therefore the first attempt to place “C category” journals in an internationally recognised context.

Category A (expected: 10%-25% of all titles):

- High-ranking, international level publication;
- Very strong reputation among researchers of the field;
- Regularly cited all over the world

ERIH project overview

Category B:

- Standard, international level publication;
- Good reputation among researchers of the field in different countries

Category C:

- Important local / regional level publication;
- Mainly local / regional readership, but occasionally cited outside the publishing country;
- Only European publications to be considered (ESF Member Organisations)

Criteria for international journals

Precision of criteria for international journals

- a genuine, varied and regular international cohort of contributors and readership;
- a consistently high-quality scholarly content;
- a broad consensus within the field concerning international status and visibility, insofar as possible

In addition international journals will have some, though not necessarily all, of the following characteristics:

- Active international advisory board;
- Openness to unsolicited contributions;
- Highly discriminating and selective in the choice of articles published;
- Publication on time and to an agreed schedule

Generally, 'A' journals should conform to more of the additional characteristics, and to a greater extent, than 'B' journals.

ERIH Initial Lists

On 31 March 2007 the ERIH initial lists of Anthropology, Gender Studies, History and Philosophy of Science, Linguistics, Musicology, Philosophy, Religious Studies and Theology were published.

You can access these list at www.esf.org/erih

The next ERIH initial lists will be published as following:

- By 30 June 2007 - Archaeology, Classical Studies, History, Pedagogical and Educational Research;
- By 31 October 2007 – Art and Art History, Literature, Oriental and African Studies, Psychology

Possible uses

The ERIH lists will help to identify excellence in Humanities scholarship and should prove useful for the aggregate benchmarking of national research systems, for example, in determining the international standing of the research activity carried out in a given field in a particular country.

However, as they stand, the lists are not a bibliometric tool. Therefore ERIH does not encourage using the lists as the only basis for assessment of individual candidates for positions or promotions or of applicants for research grants.

In the long run, the lists will be a useful reference tool for scholars when considering where to submit research articles, as they give some insight into likely audiences.

Source: ERIH, see more at www.esf.org/erih



Humanities in the European Research Area

European Reference Index for the Humanities is a project jointly sponsored by European Science Foundation and the European Commission ERA-NET project "Humanities in the European Research Area" (HERA)

future events

PHEONIX training course "Writing a Competitive Proposal for FP7"

"Laulasmaa" Resort, Estonia

1st – 2nd of September 2007

The aim of the course is to study how to write professional and competitive proposals for the EU's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) for Research and Technological Development.

The course will give overview about the relevance of FP7 in EU policies, focusing on the common problems in proposal writing and the success criteria for proposals.

All the participants have great opportunity to discuss their project ideas with experts. The course will investigate how to collect information, how to select strategic partners and how to avoid duplication in proposal writing.

Course topics

- Brief Overview of 7th Framework Programme
- The Research Priorities in 7th Framework Programme
- Your idea vs workprogramme and specific call
- The Funding Schemes
- Legal and Financial Rules in 7th Framework Programme
- Searching and Selecting Partners - how to make consortium
- Proposal Evaluation process
- Streamlining Proposal Writing
- Reasons of failure

Lecturers

Tarmo Pihl, senior consultant, Invent Baltics

Silver Toomla, managing director Invent Baltics



International Cooperation in FP7

The international dimension is no longer confined to a specific scientific and technological (S&T) cooperation programme but is now inherent in all European Community research activities.

Organisations from an international cooperation partner country (ICPC) that involves many countries in CA can receive funding from FP7.

The 'INCO' activities under the Capacities programme are designed to support and stimulate the participation of third countries in FP7. The deliverables include:

- Identification of S&T priorities with third countries to be used by the Themes under Cooperation;
- Supporting and strengthening of participation of third countries in FP7;
- Reinforcing bilateral S&T cooperation with targeted third countries;
- Coordinating S&T national programmes of EU Member States with third countries.



Cooperation with third countries in FP7 will be targeted in particular at the following groups of countries:

- Candidate countries;
- Mediterranean partner countries (MPC), Western Balkan countries (WBC), Eastern European and Central Asian countries (EECA), Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP), Latin America and Asia;
- Developing countries, focussing on their particular needs of each country or region concerned;
- Emerging economies.

More information at CORDIS INCO Portal

<http://cordis.europa.eu/inco>

HERA conference 2007

HERA conference 2007 "New Technologies in Humanities Research"

Radisson SAS Hotel, Tallinn, Estonia

2nd – 3rd of September 2007

The conference investigates the role of new technologies in humanities, concentrating on the topics of ethic in new technologies wide usage, the convergence of digital media and content and the human factor and environmental issues of digitalization.



DRAFT PROGRAMME

September 2, 2007

19.00 Reception at Tallinn City Hall

September 3, 2007

9.30 Registration & coffee

10.00 Welcome & opening

Prof **Philip Esler**, Chair of HERA Network Board

10.30 Keynote speech: The role of new technologies in humanities

Prof **Marcel Danesi**, the University of Toronto

11.30 Coffee

12.00 Keynote speech: New technologies and ethics

Prof **Margit Sutrop**, the University of Tartu

13.00 Lunch

14.30 Keynote speech: Convergence of digital media and content

Prof **Graham Murdock**, the University of Loughborough

15.30 **Breakout groups**

1. New technologies and doctoral training in humanities (Chair tbc)

2. Human factor in technology, globalization and environmental issues (Chair tbc)

3. Ethical aspects of technology (Chair tbc)

16.30 Coffee

17.00 Doctoral students' thematic poster session

18.00 Reports from breakout groups

18.30 Conclusions

20.00 Conference dinner

Hosted by Prof Karl Pajusalu, Member of EstSF Council

Registration information

Registration is free of charge.

Please register online at <http://www.archimedes.ee/hera>

Registration deadline is **June 20th**

Working language

English

Venue location

Radisson SAS Hotel, Tallinn, Rvala str. 3.

Conference Secretariat

e-mail: margit@archimedes.ee

HERA conference 2007

POSTER SESSION FOR DOCTORAL STUDENTS

Objectives

The poster session is an opportunity for students to present research results or significant work in progress. Accepted posters will be given a space in the exhibit area during the conference. Special poster session will be organized during the conference.

The accommodation of the authors of selected presentations will be paid by organizers, and they will be invited to participate in pre-session for PhD students, to be held on 1-2 September in Laulasmaa resort near Tallinn.

Submission

Poster papers should present original research contributions and will be refereed by HERA partners.

Valid document format is Rich Text (RTF). Authors should ensure that their papers are printable on a standard printer. Charts and graphs should not rely on colour for clear interpretation since printing will be black and white only. The paper length is limited to 2 pages (including all figures, tables, and bibliography).

Papers must be sent to conference organizers: Ülle Must (ylle@archimedes.ee) by 1 June. The notification from the review process is on the 15 June.

Format

The paper length is limited to 2 pages (including all figures, tables, and bibliography). Apart from the title and author information papers should be in two columns, each 7.5 cm wide and with 1.0 cm gutter. Papers should be formatted for A4 paper, and all material on each page should fit within a rectangle of 24.75 x 16 cm. centred on the page. Top, bottom and side margins should be 2.5 cm. The font to be used is a Times New Roman font type with a font size of 10 points (single line shifts) in order to make as much room available as possible within the two page limit.

Do not include page numbers, headers or footers.

First Page

The first page must contain the title of the paper (14 point type, centred, Times Roman font) and the authors' names (12 point), affiliations, mailing addresses, and email addresses (all in 10-point), centred in one column at the top of the page. If notes are needed they should be given as endnotes.

Paper Style

In general, the background and purpose of the study should be stated first, followed by details of the methods, materials, procedures, and equipment used. Findings, discussion and conclusions should follow in that order.

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE



Not able to join us in Estonia?

We have a solution for this - a virtual conference via Skypecast.

Everyone, who is interested in, can ask questions and talk with keynote speakers and participants of the conference.

You just need to download Skype software and find Skypecast named "HERA Conference"

For free download and more information visit www.skype.com



About HERA

HERA – Humanities in the European Research Area - is a partnership between fifteen Humanities Research Councils across Europe and the European Science Foundation, with the objective of firmly establishing the humanities in the European Research Area and in the 6/7th Framework Programmes. HERA has been designed to deliver new levels of co-operative research policy and practice in the humanities by embarking on an ambitious programme of communication, enquiry and sharing of expertise. Over a period of four years (2004-2008) partners are dedicated to the establishment of best practise in funding mechanisms, research priorities, humanities infrastructure and the development of a transnational funding programme.



HERA

Humanities in the European Research Area

recent events

Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia assists improvement of management and transparency of higher education in Kyrgyz Republic

At the end of February Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia (EFCA) jointly with Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) conducted a forum on issues of improvement of management and financial transparency of the KR Universities.

Representatives of University, state and commercial structures, non-profit organizations and donor agencies gathered at the forum to discuss key problems of management and transparency of the higher education and the ways of solving the problems.

At the Forum positive experience of some institutions implementing mechanisms of management and financial transparency was presented. Representatives of Universities, state and commercial structures, donor agencies and other organizations concerned were discussing measures on improvement of management and increasing financial transparency in the sphere of higher education in the Kyrgyz Republic.

“Everybody deserves quality education and a full return of the financial means invested in education. Participation of students and faculty in a university management will contribute to rise of quality and transparency of education as a whole, what is necessary nowadays”, underlined Edward Winter, EFCA development coordinator.

The Forum was conducted in the frames of the EFCA Project on Helping raise of the quality and transparency of higher education in the Kyrgyz Republic, aimed at improving management and financial transparency of higher education in the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as assistance in reduction of corruption in higher education. The program mission is to establish a public dialog on management and transparency between university administration, faculty, students, private sector, government, and donor organizations.

The Forum was financed by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), in cooperation with the KR National Agency on Corruption Prevention, and KR Ministry of Education and Science.

Contact:

e-mail: eurasia@eurasia.kg

web-site: www.efcentralasia.org



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