special issue

innovaatika

ARCHIMEDES FOUNDATION
EU INNOVATION CENTRE

PHOENIX

P H O E N I X

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

Dear reader of Innovaatika!

This is the fifth number of PHOENIX Newsletter. The year 2006 ended for PHOENIX with Training Course from 19th to 24th of November in Tallinn and Helsinki. In this number we give the overview about the activities and presentations that were implemented within these days.

The Training Course participants were researchers from Central Asia, the PHOENIX project leaders and some guest lecturers.

The long journey for the participants from Central-Asia and the travel-tiredness didn't lessen their interest and energy to listen and present their information with great interest and passion. Despite of the long days in Tallinn and Helsinki, there was something new in many topics for everyone.

Between the busy working-hours there were also some time to take a little walk with Central-Asian participants in Tallinn and it was quite emotional tour for most of the visitors who hadn't seen the sea before and were exited about standing in the wavy waterfront of Finnish Bay.
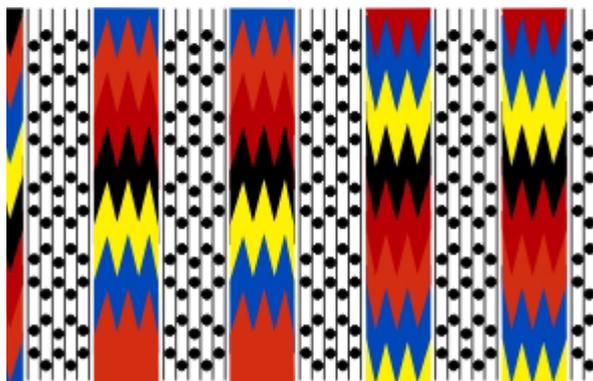
First three days (from 19th to 22nd of November) were training courses and presentations from morning till late evening in Tallinn, the capital of Estonia. And at the end of the 22nd of November the ferry carried most of the company to the capital of Finland – Helsinki.

Unfortunately there were problems with getting the Schengen visa for some of the Central Asian guests and therefore they stayed to enjoy the last days of their journey with relaxing Spa-entertainment in Southern-Estonia, Pühajärve.

As one very important goal of the Training course were to get the overview about the first mapping exercises in Central Asian SSH communities, there will be reflection about the issue in this number.

We look through the role of Humanities in foresight exercises (on bases of Finnish experience) and will see, how was answered to the question: "Why is foresight important? What does it do?"

There will be shortly reflected also other topics about humanities and foresight together with feedback.

t r a i n i n g   c o u r s e

The first days and Foresight in SSH

The Training Course started on Sunday morning, on 19th of November, in Oru Hotel with opening speech of Ülle Must.

There were short introductions from participants and the whole atmosphere was tense-free and natural. Smoothly the conversation topic touched everyone's travel experiences all over the world and culture differences from the traveller's point of view. This interesting "trip over the world" was a good introduction to the **Professor Hildrun Kretchmer's** speech about the "**Methods of Social Network Analysis explained with help of Collaboration Networks in COLLNET**".

Hildrun introduced on her discussion that Social Network Analysis (SNA) is developed especially in sociology and in social psychology in collaboration with mathematics, statistics and computer science, but can also be used successfully in the information sciences, as well as in studies of collaboration in science. On her speech she touched different topics – etc about internet significance and impact on changing our social structure, about class differences. Hildrun emphasized that people are all equal all over the world, independent of culture and policy. She brought many interesting examples for the participants from her personal life and this performance generated lively discussions and questions among the participants.

At the end Hildrun called Central-Asian participants as a missing part, also to join with COLLNET, because she finds it very important to everyone to come together. Several methods of social network analysis will be explained with help of collaboration networks in COLLNET.

On the second day all the participants were transported to the Tallinn's National Library, where **Ülle Must** opened the day with speech about "**Foresight in SSH**" and **Arto Mustajoki** talked about "**The role of the Humanities in foresight exercises** (based on Finnish experiences)".

Professor Hildrun Kretchmer

Science and Technology in Finland

Arto Mustajoki

On his presentation Arto Mustajoki emphasised that small countries have to find things which are important to the country and in which the country is good already. The overview about foresight exercises was based on Finnish experience. Below there are brought out some main objectives and panel themes from the issue and also the web-site address for further information.

Objectives

- **Wellbeing and competitiveness**
  To increase Finnish wellbeing and competitiveness by means of Science & Technology.
- **Decision-making support**
  To form basis for establishing internationally high level concentrations of expertise and centres of excellence.
  To support and develop funding strategies of Academy and Tekes.
- **Development support**
  To develop cooperation of Academy and Tekes.
  To develop foresight as a strategic instrument in the Finnish context.

Recent Developments And Present Issues

- Structural development of the whole innovation system
- Structural development of the public research system
- Decision to stop the extensive development of university system
- Merging universities and polytechnics
- New forms of cooperation
- Profilation: universities, public research institutes
- Prioritization
- New forms of cooperation: Strategic Centres of Science, Technology and Innovation
- New forms of internationalizing research system: FiDiPro (cf Canadian Research Chairs)
- Foresight: FinnSight 2015
- A very intensive cooperation between main actors

With the introduction list of the topics with PANEL THEMES reminded us simple facts about how important face-to-face dialog in working is and that culture is something we can't export, also the possibilities of communication between machine and people and that it is not easy to make research. But one thing is sure – human factor is very important in each area.

foresight

Panel Themes

1. Learning and Learning Society
2. Services and Service Innovations
3. Well-being and Health
4. Environment and Energy
5. Infrastructure and Security
6. Bio-expertise and Bio-society
7. Information and Communications
8. Understanding and Human Interaction
9. Materials
10. Global Economy

www.finnsight2015.fi

Professor Arto Mustajoki is giving his speech about Science and Technology

What is Foresight?

In the beginning of the Newsletter we also mentioned to find the answer to the questions: **"Why is foresight important? What does it do?"**

In the afternoon of second day of the training course took place the video conference with Professor **Denis Loveridge** from Manchester University about the importance of Foresight.

Denis tried to give to the concept "Foresight" step-by-step the understandable explanation. He started the conference with definition that "Foresight is the action of looking forward".

Why Foresight is important?

There occurred two reasons why foresight is important:

1. It prevents the ossification of modes of thought that otherwise lead societies "sleepwalking" into the future.
2. It helps to create a vibrant society in all the six STEEPV (Social, Technological, Economic, Ecology, Politics and Human Values) themes.

The other question: **What does foresight do?** Was answered by Denis Loveridge with next explanations:

1. foresight identifies new ideas and possibilities for society in the future in the STEEPV themes
2. it responds to Whitehead's contention
3. When done systemically (as it should be) enables the ideas generated to be placed in a systems framework that displays their context and content.

There was also discussion after the Denis Loveridge's presentation and those who had any questions about foresight matters could ask it directly from the professional.

Video Conference with Denis Loveridge about Foresight.

mapping of ssh

First mapping exercises in Central Asian SSH communities

The second day dinner-time was capably organized with Central Asian and visitors presentations between the tasty bites.

Although we have reflected in our last numbers of PHOENIX Newsletter the information about Central-Asian educational system, there are still some useful facts with some improvement for reminding below based on the interesting presentations.

Research and Development in Kyrgyz Republic

Kyrgyzstan team was deputized with three persons:

• **Olga Borisova**, Expert of National Information Point

• **Tatyana Rybina**, American University in Central Asia, KG

• **Natalia Bragina**, Education Network Association EdNet, KG

Some facts that were transmitted through the presentation:

In the Kyrgyz Republic there is:

- **54 universities and academies** (practically all of them have social and humanitarian departments, 90% - corresponding program).

- **31 of them are state, 15 – private, 8 - branches of foreign universities.**

They have:

- **33 institutes; 9 branches; 2 colleges.**

- **Population is 5 million people,**
  - **232030 of them are students.**

• Diploma of state standard for all higher educational institutions (private and state)

• 11 years secondary school

• Colleges and professional education is not popular

• Official strategy of the Ministry - towards joining the Bologna process in perspective (6 criteria)

• Introduction of credit system in universities (14 pilot universities have already transferred)

• Introduction of Bachelor, Master and PhD programs in universities (30% of universities introduced the 3-cycle system keeping also the old one)

• Bridging business and education to make curricula more oriented to the market realities and demand (Career Centers have been opened in universities)

• Intensification of faculty and students' mobility through international programs

Total number of researchers	2187
incl. Social Sciences	*159*
Humanities	*156*
Researchers per 1 000 inhabitants	0,37
Expenditure on R&D of GDP	0,2 %
Total number of higher educational institutions:	
Only universities	*51*
Including branches of the Universities	*138*
Total number of students:	231095
incl. Social Sciences	*85603*
Humanities	*16430*
This data were given by the National Statistical Committee (2005 year)	

country informa-

SSH in Kazakhstan

The Kazakh's presentation was held by Aliya Dairabayeva and Ainash Kenzhegaliyeva

Kazakhstan Science Network - www.nauka.kz

Data name	Value
Total number of researchers	19,100
Humanities	513
Social Science	679
Environmental Sciences	3188
Technician	3098
Medicine	1258
Agriculture	1646
Summer	10382
Researchers per 1 000 inhabitants	1,8
Expenditure on R&D of GDP	2,4%
Total number of higher educational institutions:	181
State	51
Private	130
Total number of students:	775762
Among them	
Full-time	143746
Part-time	2361
Correspondent courses	232848

Mission
University of Kazakhstan XX Century:

- Higher education;
- Knowledge, skills;
- Employment;
- Career

University of Kazakhstan XXI Century

- Life learning
- Competitive education;
- Internalization of education;
- Corporative;
- Mobility;
- Career;
- Partnership to Labor Market;
- Transforming the university to science centre

Bologna process in Kazakhstan

- Still 2005-06 year. 36 State Universities under experiment of Credit Hour system
- In Kazakhstan start and development three level educational system:
- Bachelor, Master Programs, PhD.

Research and Development in Turkmenistan

Presentation of Turkmenistan was held by Professor of Law - Dr Murad Hayitow and Dr. Dovlet Jumakuliyew

It appears from the performance that the rights of Citizens for education are declared in Turkmenistan with the **Constitution of Turkmenistan**.

- Every Citizen has the right to receive the free education in the State schools.
- The State provides access to the Universities and professionals education.
- The organizations and citizens have the rights establish the paid schools according by Turkmen Law.
- The Law of Turkmenistan "On State Science and Technology Policy" opens perspectives for development science and research activity in the all State and Public fields.

Also, this Law provides great opportunities in choosing its forms.

- The Law of Turkmenistan " n Education" declares common secondary education for everybody.
- The Ministry of Education has special Institute of Education, which is responsible for develop curricula, methodological standards for educational system and for its expertise.

The Constitution of Turkmenistan (1992, amended of 2005)

The Law of Turkmenistan "On State Science and Technology Policy" (1992).

The Law of Turkmenistan "On Science Intellectual activity" (1992)

The Law of Turkmenistan "On Education" (1993)

m a p p i n g   o f   s s h

Results of implementation of the "Virtual Silk High Way" Project in Turkmenistan:

- Infrastructure of National scientific and educational network is created
- 21 Scientific and educational institutions have an access to the Internet
- Internet centers for students and teaching staff of the Universities are created and its connected to the Internet
- The Central Scientific Library is connected to the network and provides free access for a number of foreign libraries including World Bank library
- The important stage in the development of humanity researches became the International Conference "Ancient Margiana – a New Centre of the World Civilization" conducted on November 14-16, 2006 in one of the oldest city of Central Asia- Mary (Merv)
- The participants of the Conference were representatives more than 20 countries from around of the world: USA, Russia, Germany, French, India, Turkey, Kazakhstan, etc.
- The Supervisor of International Archeology Expedition is the famous Professor of Archeology Victor Sarianidi.
- Archeology researches and investigations prove that Margush is the great part of ancient civilizations and world history. Because Margush was largest crossroad of world trading, cultural and other ways in Central Asia civilizations during thousands years.

Research and scientific situation in Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan's presentation was stated by Lyudmila Kim and Liliya Safarova from National University of Uzbekistan

Firstly there was a summary about the higher educational institutions in Uzbekistan:

Universities - 24
Institutes – 40
Including
- *Technical – 14, Economic – 3, Humanitarian – 15, Pedagogical - 6*
- *Medical – 6, Agrarian – 4, Special - 13*
- *Branch of the V. Plehanov Economic Academy (Moscow) - 1*
- *International Westminster University in Tashkent - 1*
- *Moscow State University in Tashkent - 1*

In 2004/2005 academic year:
- the number of students came to 270 thousands,

- 60 thousands graduates, including 9,8 thousands graduates from pedagogical institutes.

For the period from 2003 to 2005 for higher educational establishments the government allocated 3 million 665 thousands EUR. Distribution of the sum among the ministries is as follows:

- Ministry of higher and secondary special education – 2 million 823 thousand EUR;
- Ministry of health – 289 thousands 200 EUR;
- Ministry of agricultural and water industry – 256 thousands EUR;
- Ministry of public education – 60 933 EUR
- Other ministries – 198,733 EUR.

International Donors:
- USA: USAID, STCU, CRDF
- EU: TEMPUS, INCO, INTAS

During 2003-2005 higher educational establishments carried out projects of international grants on the total 2 million 646 thousands US dollars.

Number of institutions	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total:	61	61	63	63	63	64
In Tashkent:	29	29	31	31	31	32

All the presented information about Uzbekistan is available on websites:

http://www.statistics.uz
http://www.gov.uz

Presentations from local visitors

With the addition to the Central Asian presentations there were also some presentations from local visitors.

Gulnara Roll from Centre for Science Studies (a research centre founded in 2003 in Tartu, Estonia, with the aim of advancing scientific investigations in Estonia in the science studies, including history, philosophy, policies of science) step up with the presentation about **"Research Collaboration in the Social and Human Sciences between Europe, Russia, the NIS and China (Global SSH)"**.

The report aim was to provide a survey of SSH institutional setting and organisation of SSH research funding and policy instruments (including evaluation) in the target countries. It demonstrated how the diversity

of "types" of arrangements influences differently the research agenda-setting processes at the regional and national level, and how this relates to European research priority building.

The Objectives of the presentation were:

1. Provide a synthesised account of the rise and transformations of the SSH in Europe, the NIS and China in the context of the emergence of modern states and universities.

2. Map and assess the scientific capability in six NIS countries – Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan – and China, including analysis of their status, perspectives, and abilities to face contemporary challenges

3. Iincrease knowledge about the transnational co-operation between research communities in the EU, NIS, and China by identifying common research agendas between the regions

4. Elaborate recommendations for the development of compatible methods of assessment of SSH scientific capabilities in the international context

5. Elaborate policy recommendations for setting priorities in the SSH within an enlarged ERA in the part of the international research cooperation between EU-NIS and EU-China research communities (WP4).

6. Mobilise the SSH international collaboration

By establishing a cross-regional consortium, arranging cross-regional meetings, and in other ways creating platforms for SSH collaboration between scholars from EU, NIS and China.

Tarmo Pihl's presentation talked about **"Supporting R&D Collaboration between East and West"** (assistance to Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine in Acceeding European R&D community), **and**

Rein Ruubel from Tallinn Technology Park introduced **"FW6 project DETECT-it 2".**

- DETECT-it2 aims to work with regional clusters on identifying suitable bottom up proposals which do correspond with EC funding.

- Innovation is the key to future growth. Cluster members, in particular SMEs, need to know about emerging technologies in their sector

- DETECT-it2 provides SMEs and other cluster members with opportunities to become involved in European FP research projects

- FP projects bring together the leading researchers in Europe in different industry sectors

- Cluster managers bring new services to their members

- The DETECT-it2 FP7 expert panel is available free-of-charge to evaluate and help build new bottom up proposals coming from regional clusters

- Clusters aim to stimulate networking among members

- DETECT-it 2 provides opportunities to network with other clusters across Europe through online forums and networking brokerage events

Web-site: www.detect-it.org

Nordic Forum Regional Branding – an Asset in Times of Globaisation

On the last day in Tallinn were some more short presentations:

"Does Estonia need branding?" (Tiia Rohelsaar, Director, Internal Group LLC, Estonia)

"Branding in the Baltic Sea Region" (Ole Frijs-Madsen, Director, Baltic Development Forum, Denmark)

"The role of Regions in a Global World" (Prof. Per-Olof Berg, Stockholm University School of Business, Sweden)

"Innovative Cluster and Sub-regions Development in the Baltic Sea Region" (Per Eriksson, Director General, VINNOVA, Sweden)

"Business Perspective: Creating a Regional Home-market" (Nordic-Enterprise: Sampo Group; Estonian Enterprises: AS Regio, Teet Jagomägi, Chairman of the Board AS Baltica).

"Strengthening the R&D Sector – Pooling Excellence in the Baltic Sea Region" (Prof. Liisa Hakamies-Blomqvist, Director, NordForsk, Norway)

It is possible to get the overviews about the presentations mentioned above from useful web-sites:

www.nordforsk.org
www.norden.org
WWW.BDFORUM.ORG

humanities & foresight

Present into Future: The Role of the Humanities in Foresight exercises

After the interesting days in Tallinn most of the Central-Asian guests and local conference organizers directed to Finland at Crowne Plaza Helsinki, where took place the virtual conference about Foresight in SSH.

Foresight In Ssh

A Virtual Conference held on-line took place parallel to the HERA conference held in Helsinki on 23 November 2006.

All the interested parts could ask questions and talk with key note speakers and participants of the conference using Skype (http://www.skype.com/download/)

Conference Programme

Present into Future: The Role of the Humanities in Foresight Exercises

Annual Conference of Humanities in the European Research Area (HERA)

23rd November 2006

The Finlandia Hall, Helsinki

Programme

09.45 Welcome

Professor Arto Mustajoki, Chair, Research Council for Culture and Society, Academy of Finland

10.00 Keynote speeches

Humanities and the Bottom Line: Exploiting Arts and Humanities for Business

Professor Maurice Biriotti, Chief Executive, SHM Company, London

Multidisciplinary approaches to foresight: FINNSIGHT 2015 Project

Professor Liisa Salo-Lee, University of Jyväskylä

The use of the UK Foresight exercise in national policy making

Assistant Director Karl Cunion, Office of Science and Innovation, UK

13.30 Keynote Speech

Opportunities for the Humanities in FP7

Dr Pascal Dissard, European Commission, Directorate-General for Research

14.00 Panel discussion:

Future visions for and from the Humanities: the use of foresight exercises for national policy-making and European co-operation

Mr Karl Cunion
Dr Pascal Dissard
Professor Philip Esler (Moderator)
Professor Poul Holm
Professor Gretty Mirdal

16.00 Wrap-up

16.30 Conclusion

Key Note Speakers

(http://www.helsinki.fi/~mustajok/index_en.html)
Professor Maurice Biriotti
(http://www.mic.unisi.ch/salo_lee_cv.pdf)
(http://www.eranet-forsociety.net/ForSociety/partners/DTI_OST.html?dbX_sid=b0e4bcea13255bcecfa7d21b5cb)
http://www.lifesci.sussex.ac.uk/home/Pascal_Dissard/
http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/~www_sd/esler1.html
http://www.ruc.dk/ruc/omruc/rektoratadministration/rektorat/ph/
http://ec.europa.eu/research/eurab/cvmirdal.html

http://www.heranet.info/Default.aspx?ID=104

Useful Links

Foresighting Europe Newsletter
http://ec.europa.eu/research/foresight/09/home_en.htm
EU Research in SSH. Newsletter
http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/newsletter/article_3285_en.htm
HERA – Humanities in the European Research Area
http://www.heranet.info/Default.aspx?ID=102

brainstorming

Impressions from the training in Estonia.

It is suitable take the training course impressions together with visitor's personal feeling. We have got some feedback from Central-Asian participants on the training course in Tallinn and Helsinki. It is wonderful to know that the emotions are good and no one has anything to complain. Here we give a feedback-note from Turkmenistan's visitors about the training course in November:

"In general all training was well-organized for participants and gave more new information. Thanks to organizers for participants was created conditions where we could combine individual learning with collective lecture and discussions. In short period we saw the widely opportunities to conduct teaching activities from individual lecture to videoconference that increased our knowledge about teaching technology.

For development further collaboration and increasing scientist's mobility particular in my country useful for me was lecture of Professor Hildrun Kretschmer about Collaboration Network. The videoconference with Professor Denis Loveridge was helpful in understanding new methodology and meaning of foresight. Other activities were also interesting and informative.

Thanks again for organizers for fruitful training."
Tanya

Brainstorming results

Themes of common interest

Team 1 – Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Estonia
- Societal needs
- Capital vs Regions

Team 2 – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan
- Cultural Heritage
- Wellbeing and Life Styles
- Environment and Societal needs
- Gender Policy and National programs

Team 3 – Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Estonia
- Environment (water resources) and Societal needs
- Cultural Heritage
- Migration (Inter and Exter)
- Health Care
- ICT and Society
- Educational Research
- Quality of Education
- Global Law System (All European Law Area)

Team 4 – Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan
- Integration (between Central Asia and global)
- Globalization and impact to Central Asia
- Gender Studies
- Migration
- Cultural Tolerance
- Expert building
- Ecology – Aral Sea and global problems
- Health Care and Life Styles
- Ecological Informatics

events

Scenarios for a coordinated approach

to sustainable S/T co-operation with the Eastern Neighbors of the EU (SCOPE-EAST) -under negotiation-

On December 13th there was a meeting in Bonn about the co-operation with the Eastern Neighbours of the EU. The feedback about the objective, background and challenges of such a meeting is given below.

Objectives of SCOPE-EAST

- to take sustainable steps in view of an enhanced coordination of the R&D cooperation of interested EU-Member States and Associated Candidate States with Russia and Eastern Europe.
- to achieve optimum coherence between national cooperation strategies and the EU R&D cooperation strategy and of how cooperation in R&D can contribute to other policies of the EU such as the European Neighbourhood policy
- Identifying strategic research areas
- Creation of a sustainable communication and coordination platform
- Facilitating a dialogue on scenarios for a coordinated approach to sustainable cooperation with Russia, the Ukraine and the other Eastern European Countries among stakeholders from the science community and policy
- Recommendations on scenarios for a coordinated approach to sustainable co-operation with Russia, the Ukraine and other Eastern European countries

Background:

EU - Russia, Eastern Europe, Central Asia (REECA)

- Neighbourhood regions
- REECA as a region of great strategic importance: reflected in EU foreign relations
- EU (Member States) major partner of REECA (besides: USA and China)
- Traditional close links between EU-25, Associated Accession States and REECA
- Large scientific and economic potentials in EU and NIS:
    - the human factor
    - unique scientific infrastructures
    - huge market potential
- Different perspectives on Russia, Eastern Europe, Central Asia:

    3 Regions with three different approaches by the EU
- Perspectives for the European Research Area

The challenges

- The needs of the ERA:

From bilateral to multilateral approaches: Priorities and instruments
- Coherence and co-ordination between EU-Member States activities and EU-Commission
- Participation of REECA in FP 6/7: huge differences between Russia and EECA
- R&D as a pillar in ENP
- Building on the experiences of INTAS (Impact Evaluation)
- Better exploitation of ISTC and STCU
- Russia and EECA
- Identification of areas with potential for enhanced co-ordination between and with Member States, Associated Candidate States, Russia and Eastern Europe
- Definition of comprehensive international co-operation schemes including Community external and RTD policy
- To some extend:

Analysis of S/T co-operation with Russia and Eastern Europe in terms of conformity with the Community's external policies

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  D-53227 Bonn
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  www.internationales-buero.de

events

Uzbek International Conference
30. – 31. March 2007

Uzbek Ministry of Education together with **National University of MirzoUlugbek** will organize on 30.-31. March 2007 International Conference **"Process of urbanization in Uzbekistan: past and present".**

Sessions:

1. The process of urbanization during antiquity and Middle Ages
2. The process of urbanization during colonial and Soviet periods
3. The impact of demographical processes on the level of urbanization
4. Socio-economical aspects of urbanization
5. Development of civil engineering in independent Uzbekistan
6. National and regional individuality of urbanisation in Uzbekistan

Deadline for submission a proceedings paper (5 pages) will be **February, 15.**

Contact:

700174, Taskent, University campus, National University of Mirzo

Ulugbek , Main building, Chair of Uzbek History, room 105.

Phone: 396-36-56;

framework programme 7

The 7th Framework Program (FP7) has been approved

The 7th Framework Program was adopted by the Council of the European Union on 18 December 2006. The new program starts on 1 January 2007 and will run for seven years. The total budget is €50 521 million.

FP7 will be implemented through four specific programs:

Cooperation - collaborative research;

Ideas - the establishment of a European Research Council (ERC) to support frontier research;

People - human resources;

Capacities - research infrastructure and potential research capacity.

More information can be found on the FP7 website: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html

FP7 Research in Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH)

Research in Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH) remains one of the research themes under the 'Cooperation' Specific Program and it will be supported by a €623 million budget.

It focuses on building a better understanding of the socio-economic, political and culture-related challenges facing Europe. The ambitious agendas set out by the Lisbon and Gothenburg Summits can only be achieved through a process that reconciles distinct but complementary objectives: the need for economic development and progress while at the same time achieving sustainability and improving cohesion; the need to bring about change while at the same time reinforcing core values and respecting diversity in its various manifestations; the need to reinforce the EU competitiveness while at the same time developing new types of international relations with our partners.

The Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities Theme will operate at the interface between these objectives. It will do this by supporting research and related activities aimed not only at providing the basis for policy development but also at improving insight and understanding of the key underlying trends and the factors driving them. This Theme should therefore help improve our knowledge in these fields but also our policies.

In addition, Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities will support the development of actions undertaken elsewhere within the 'Cooperation' Specific Program and, where appropriate, within the Specific Program 'Ideas' and 'Capacities'. Complementarities and synergies are sought with other priorities of the 'Cooperation' specific program (in particular the 'Food, Agriculture, Fisheries and Biotechnology', 'Energy' and 'Environment' priorities).

The Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities activities are implemented by means of the Work Program which was provisionally adopted by the Commission on 21 December 2006. The first call for proposals from this program was published on 22 December 2006.

More information about Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities in FP7 can be found on: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/cooperation/socio-economic_en.html

FP7 Registration of Experts for Research Activities

Within this framework program for the first time humanities scholars have serious funding opportunities within the SSH action lines.

Research proposals can only be assessed by experts that are registered with the European Commission. It is therefore of the utmost importance that Humanities experts register in that database so that humanities.

The Commission will appoint experts:

- to assist in the evaluation of proposals in line with the various scientific, technological and socioeconomic aims of FP7. Evaluation work includes making recommendations on ways to gear research towards optimum achievement of the aims of the specific program concerned;

- to assist in the monitoring of projects selected and funded by the Community, including, where necessary and as appropriate, the monitoring of projects funded by the Community under previous research framework program;

- for other purposes where specific expertise might be required (e.g. monitoring of the implementation, evaluation and assessment of impacts of research program and policies).

SO PLEASE ENCOURAGE HUMANITIES SCHOLARS TO REGISTER AS AN EXPERT AT:

https://cordis.europa.eu/emmfp7/index.cfm?fuseaction=wel.welcome