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## Social sciences

### Citizens and governance in a knowledge-based society

#### Objective

The activities carried out in this area are intended to mobilise in a coherent effort, in all their wealth and diversity, European research capacities in economic, political, social sciences and humanities that are necessary to develop an understanding of, and to address issues related to, the emergence of the knowledge-based society and new forms of relationships between its citizens, on the one hand and between its citizens and institutions, on the other.

#### Justification of the effort and European added value

At the European Council in Lisbon in March 2000, the European Union set itself the ambitious objective of becoming "the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustained economic growth providing more and better jobs and greater social cohesion".

In this perspective, the European Council in Lisbon underlined that "human resources are Europe's main strength", stressing the need for Europe's education and training systems to "adjust both to the needs of the knowledge-based society and to the need to raise the level of employment and improve quality".

Europe's transition towards a knowledge-based economy and society, and its sustainable development in the interests of the quality of life of all citizens will be all

the easier if it takes place in a way which is properly understood and managed. This requires a substantial research effort concerning the issues of integrated and sustainable economic and social progress based on the fundamental values of justice and solidarity and cultural diversity which characterise the European model of society, as well as research on issues relating to entrepreneurship and the setting up, growth and development of small enterprises.

In this respect, economic, political, social and human sciences research should more particularly help to ensure the harnessing and exploitation of an exponentially increasing quantity of information and knowledge and an understanding of the processes at work in this area.

In Europe, this issue arises in particular in connection to the future enlargement, the functioning of democracy and new forms of governance, and in the general context of this. What is at stake is the relationship between citizens and institutions in a complex political and decision-making environment characterised by the coexistence of national, regional and European decision-making levels and the increasing role of civil society and its representatives in the political debate.

Issues such as these have a clear and intrinsic European dimension, and there is much to be gained by examining them from a global perspective, taking into account the historical dimension as well as the cultural heritage.

This European dimension is only just starting to be taken into account in research conducted at national level, and is not yet receiving all the attention that it requires.

It seems highly appropriate to address these aspects on the European scale. What is more, action taken at Union level will make it possible to ensure the requisite degree of methodological coherence and guarantee that full benefit is derived from the rich variety of approaches existing in Europe and European diversity.

### **Actions envisaged**

Action by the Community will focus on the following themes:

knowledge-based society and social cohesion:

(a) research with reference to the objectives set by the Lisbon European Council and subsequent Councils, in particular systematic analysis of best methods for improving the production, transmission and utilisation of knowledge in Europe;

(b) options and choices for the development of a knowledge-based society serving the Union objectives emphasised at the Lisbon, Nice and Stockholm European Councils, in particular as regards improving the quality of life, social, employment and labour market policies, lifelong learning, and strengthening social cohesion and sustainable development with due consideration for the various social models in Europe and taking into account aspects relating to the ageing of the population;

(c) variety of transition dynamics and paths towards the knowledge-based society at local, national and regional level;

citizenship, democracy and new forms of governance, in particular in the context of increased integration and globalisation, and from the perspectives of history and cultural heritage:

- consequences of European integration and enlargement of the Union for democracy, the concept of legitimacy, and the functioning of Union institutions through a better understanding of political and social institutions in Europe, and their historical evolution,

- research on the redefinition of and the relationship between areas of competence and responsibility, and new forms of governance,

- issues connected with the resolution of conflicts and restoration of peace and justice, including the safeguarding of fundamental rights,

- emergence of new forms of citizenship and cultural identities, forms and impact of integration and cultural diversity in Europe; social and cultural dialogue involving Europe as well as the rest of the world.

In operational terms, Community activities will focus on support for:

- (a) transnational research and comparative studies and the coordinated development of statistics and qualitative and quantitative indicators;
- (b) interdisciplinary research in support of public policies;
- (c) the establishment and exploitation on a European scale of research infrastructures and data and knowledge bases.

## Links

[FP6 - social sciences](#)  
[CORDIS](#)  
[European Commission Research](#)

## News

**20 May 2005:** The ninth annual meeting of the Innovation Relay Centre (IRC) network, celebrating ten years of existence in 2005, will take place on 29 June in Brussels, Belgium. [click here](#)

**16 May 2005:** A conference entitled 'Delivering effective innovation' will be held on 20 and 21 June in London, UK. [click here](#)

**13 May 2005:** Funded under the Science and Society section of the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6), BITE (biometric identification technology ethics) brings together nine partners from a range of backgrounds. The partners intend to make it easier for industry and academics to confront ethical issues highlighted by biometrics, and to initiate a public debate on its implications. [read more](#)

**12 May 2005:** YESS (Yearly European Science & Society event) is a new concept created by ECSITE, the European network of science centers and museums, to ensure a "Science & Society" dimension to the already existing "Day of Europe". Science, and in particular the dialogue between the scientists and the public, with the aim to

discuss all aspects of the application of science in daily life should be part of a celebration where Europe wants to meet with its citizens

**9 May 2005:** Relations between employers and workers are typically characterised by conflicts of interest, with bosses often using carrots and sticks to try to influence and control worker behaviour. But European researchers have discovered this 'controlling behaviour' signals distrust and could be counter-productive. [read more](#)

**9 May 2005:** Policy-makers need sound scientific advice. Fortunately, measures were introduced in the EU's research programmes to provide just that. The initiative, dubbed Scientific Support to Policy (SSP), was created to help strengthen the foundations of the European Research Area, and focuses on three main priority areas. [read more](#)

**5 May 2005:** The Commission's Education and Culture DG has published a call for tenders entitled 'Education and training 2010: benchmark 'mathematics, science and technology''. [read more](#)

**5 May 2005:** The German government has used its experience of reunification to make the case for using the EU's Structural Funds to support research and innovation. [read more](#)

**29 April 2005:** 'We must create a new innovative spirit in Europe - a spirit that is going for change, is taking the risk and willing to enter unknown territory,' Enterprise and Industry Commissioner Günter Verheugen told engineers on 22 April. [read more](#)

**29 April 2005:** The Commission's Enterprise DG has published a call for tenders relating to the collection, analysis and exploitation of results obtained from ongoing innovation projects. [read more](#)

**28 April 2005:** Competition policy and state aid reform have a central role to play in boosting Europe's capacity for innovation and entrepreneurship, says EU Competition Policy Commissioner, Neelie Kroes. [read more](#)

**27 April 2005:** The European Commission's Research DG has published a call for tenders for a contract relating to research and development (R&D) indicators and data for social sciences and humanities. [read more](#)

**20 April 2005:** The European Commission has unveiled a new Mutual Learning Platform (MLP) for research and innovation in EU regions, designed to encourage regional policy makers to share their experiences and enable regions to participate fully in the knowledge-based society. [read more](#)

**19 April 2005:** While policy-makers discuss new computer patent legislation, the European Patent Office (EPO) recently held its first-ever open day at the European Parliament. It sought to demonstrate how the office helps underwrite the emerging knowledge economy and serves the EU's innovation goals, as outlined in its Lisbon Strategy. [read more](#)

**19 April 2005:** The EUROPE of Knowledge 2020 - A vision of University-based Research and Innovation, Belgium, 25-28 April 2004. Conference follow-up: Draft agendas available for meetings held on 1 February 2005 and 6 April 2005

**18 April 2005:** The European Commission has published a call for proposals entitled 'standards in support of innovative business solutions' under the Research and Innovation pillar of the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6). [read more](#)

**14 April 2005:** A conference on interdisciplinary and cross-border research on biology and society will take place on 19 April in Umeå, Sweden. [click here](#)

**14 April 2005:** As part of the new generation of Community actions programmes for the period 2007-2013, the European Commission adopted yesterday a proposal for a programme for the promotion of active European citizenship. This programme, with a budget of EUR 207 million for the whole period, will take over the current programme coming to an end in 2006 and is a contribution to addressing a major challenge of the European Union, namely how to bridge the gap between the citizens and the European Union. [click here](#)

**14 April 2005:** Competitiveness and innovation are the twin keys to unlocking Europe's potential for sustainable growth and more and better jobs. The Commission has proposed a Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) with a budget of € 4.213 billion for the period 2007 – 2013. The CIP will support actions that develop the capacity of enterprise and industry to innovate.

**11 April 2005:** 'The Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme [CIP] is the smaller and younger brother (or sister) of FP7,' according to Matthias Ruete, Director of the coordination for competitiveness directorate at DG Enterprise and Industry. [read more](#)

**8 April 2005:** The European Commission has unveiled its plans for the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), which propose a duration of seven years (2007 to 2013), a budget of 73 billion euro and a structure based on four specific programmes: Cooperation, Ideas, People and Capacities. [read more](#)

**8 April 2005:** The European Commission has outlined how it intends to boost Europe's competitiveness and innovation through a new programme, to run from 2007 until 2013 with a budget of 4.2126 billion euro. [read more](#)

**5 April 2005:** The European Commission's Regional Policy DG has published a call for tenders for the strategic evaluation of innovation and the knowledge-based economy in relation to the Structural and Cohesion Funds for the programming period 2007 to 2013. [click here](#)

**5 April 2005:** The European Millennium Project Nodes Initiative (EuMPI) is organising a conference on 'the futures of Europeans in the global knowledge society', to take place in Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, on 13 and 14 April. [click here](#)

**5 April 2005:** Achieving innovation in Europe depends on retaining and attracting more researchers. Among other objectives, this means improving European researchers' work conditions and encouraging more professional mobility – strong reasons behind the Commission's new recommendation for a Charter and Code of Conduct for Researchers. [read more](#)

**5 April 2005:** The Swedes have turned the table on the science and society debate by asking researchers how they view the public and, most tellingly, how they see their own kind – researchers at universities are confident that the public trusts them, but those working for companies are less sure. Another study asks teachers what they think about scientists. [read more](#)

**5 April 2005:** Recognising the importance of better communication between the

scientific community and society at large, the European Commission launched a new newsletter called 'EU Research on Social Sciences and Humanities'. [read more](#)

**21 March 2005:** The European Commission has published a prior information notice of a call for tenders for monitoring and analysis of policies and financing instruments for research and development (R&D) in the public and private sectors. [read more](#)

**18 March 2005:** International migration and its consequences is a major topic on the European policy agenda and yet there is a dearth of research on the subject as it affects the EU as a whole. A network of specialist institutions was set up with European funding to fill this knowledge gap. [read more](#)

**17 March 2005:** The latest in a regular series of 'Café Crossfire' debates organised by the Swiss Mission to the EU will take place on 23 March in Brussels, with the title 'How will the EU's R&D boost help it meet the Lisbon goals?' [read more](#)

**16 March 2005:** The European Commission has published a call for proposals for the identification of new methods for promoting and encouraging transnational technology transfer under the 'Research and Innovation' strand of the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6). [read more](#)

**16 March 2005:** 'The knowledge society' and 'innovation' are 'dreadful buzz words' according to Commission President José Manuel Barroso, but are nonetheless key to the growth and employment needed to 'put Europe back on track'. [read more](#)

**15 March 2005:** Science shops are defined as 'a unit that provides independent, participatory research support in response to concerns expressed by civil society', and today the concept can be found in action in numerous European countries, from Denmark to Spain, France to Romania. [read more](#)

**15 March 2005:** The European Commission has drafted a European Charter for Researchers and a Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers, both of which are intended to contribute to the development of an attractive, open and sustainable European labour market for scientists, where conditions are conducive to high performance and productivity. [read more](#)

**10 March 2005:** The European Commission's Enterprise and Industry DG has

published a prior information notice of a call for tenders for various innovation-related services. To see the full details of the the call please [click here](#)

**10 March 2005:** The Commission's Research DG has published a call for tenders relating to a study on 'new emerging/converging clusters of science and technology', which will contribute to implementing the European science and technology foresight and knowledge sharing platform. [click here](#)

**9 March 2005:** To facilitate the writing of proposals for the second call of the programme 'Citizenship and governance in a knowledge-based society', the European Commission will webcast this week an interactive information session. [read more](#)

**8 March 2005:** Europe is not innovative enough when it comes to pedagogy geared towards the training of young researchers, and suffers from a lack of debate on the issue, says Marie-Claude Roland, who is seeking to launch EU-wide a project that has already proven extremely successful at national level. [read more](#)

**8 March 2005:** An interactive information session on the second call for proposals under the 'Citizens and Governance' thematic priority will take place on 8 March from 14:00 until 16:30 CET. The event will be broadcast live on the Internet, and the video will also be available online from 11 March until 13 April. [read more](#)

**8 March 2005:** The first ever European Research and Innovation Exhibition will be held in Paris, France, from 3 to 5 June. The brainchild of an entrepreneur and a scientist, the exhibition will bring together researchers, public research organisations, financial partners and investment funds, councils, publishing companies, multinationals and start-ups. [read more](#)

**4 March 2005:** Interface Europe is organising a training course on Marie Curie actions and support for the mobility and training of researchers, as well as the objectives of the calls for proposals for 2005 and 2006, that will take place on 24 March in Paris, France. [click here](#)

**3 March 2005:** Belgium has prepared a paper on reviving EU competitiveness for discussion at the European Council in March. The paper - 'A European 'pentathlon': A Community growth strategy for the European economy' - questions the open method of coordination, and says that the path ahead must be based on five commitments:

or coordination, and says that the path ahead must be based on five cornerstones: convergence, tax reform, research, global market and political guidance. [read more](#)

**3 March 2005:** Policy-makers are putting on their thinking caps in the search for better ways to address what has been identified as a knowledge gap between scientific research and society. At the EU level, for example, a rich programme of activities seeks to bridge this divide. But there are also innovative national schemes tackling this problem. One example is the British Council's series of European Science Events, including exhibitions, lectures and a unique concept called *Café Scientifique*. [read more](#)

**14 February 2005:** Education, Training, Culture and Multilingualism Commissioner Ján Figel' has made a plea for higher education not to be sidelined by the focus on research within the Lisbon agenda. [read more](#)

**14 February 2005:** The EU research Framework Programmes play an important role in developing Europe's knowledge base and should receive substantially increased funding in the future. This is the conclusion of an expert panel's review of the programme during the period 1999 to 2003. [read more](#)

**11 February 2005:** A conference on innovation in enterprises through innovative training will take place in Thessaloniki, Greece, from 28 February to 1 March. [click here](#)

**10 February 2005:** The European Commission has published a call for proposals for 'European science events; 'science and society' beyond FP6' under its Sixth Framework Programme (FP6). To see the full details of the call [click here](#)

**10 February 2005:** CORDIS will host a round table on innovation in Europe within the agenda of the 2005 Entrepreneurship Forum, taking place in Brussels, Belgium on 23 and 24 March. [read more](#)

**9 February 2005:** The French Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (INIST) is organising a conference on 'Open Access to Grey Resources', to be held in Nancy, France, on 5 and 6 December 2005. [click here](#)

**4 February 2005:** A conference on basic research and human resources within the

EU's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) for research will take place in Helsinki, Finland, on 3 and 4 March. [click here](#)

**4 February 2005:** If the EU wants to build sustainable leadership, it must exploit the knowledge triangle of creation, transmission and use through research, education and innovation, says Janez Potocnik, EU Commissioner for Science and Research. [read more](#)

**4 February 2005:** The European Commission unveiled its new-look Lisbon strategy on 2 February, placing a strong emphasis on growth and jobs, as well as on partnership and shared ownership. [read more](#)

**3 February 2005:** Interface Europe is organising a training course entitled 'How to prepare a successful European project and write a competitive proposal? Secrets and logics of FP6', to take place on 9 and 10 March in Marseilles, France. For more information (in French), [click here](#)

**1 February 2005:** Investing in research has a number of socio-economic benefits – ranging from better medicine to improved industrial technology and employment – but to the average person, science can appear distant and disconnected from their lives. The EU picked up on this several years ago when it decided to create a series of 'Research in action' publications to paint a clearer picture of what European research funding is, and how it affects us. [read more](#)

**31 January 2005:** Accelerated scientific and technological progress has given rise to a number of serious ethical questions that need to be taken into due consideration when assessing developments in medicine, science and technology. Public fears must also be addressed to avoid creating an environment hostile to scientific and technological innovation. [read more](#)

**27 January 2005:** The Science and Society Forum 2005 will take place in Brussels, Belgium from the 9-11 of March 2005. For more details [click here](#)

**26 January 2005:** An information day on social sciences and humanities in the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) will take place on 4 February in Tallinn, Estonia. The event will focus on the opportunities in FP6 for social scientists and humanities researchers. An overview will be given of Estonian participation in FP6. For more

researchers. An overview will be given of Estonian participation in FP6. For more information, please contact: Margit Lehis [E-mail: margit@irc.ee](mailto:margit@irc.ee)

**26 January 2005:** 'What Europe needs is political will. There is a political will in the making, but it needs to be voiced and clear,' heard MEPs at a public hearing on the future of European research in the European Parliament's committee on industry, research and energy (ITRE) on 24 January. [read more](#)

**26 January 2005:** The EU is currently collating the results of its public consultation on how to stimulate innovation for a competitive Europe, which will inform the upcoming Innovation Action Plan. *Headlines* looks at the latest European innovation survey findings and how this might affect policy in this important area. [read more](#)

**25 January 2005:** The MORESS project - Mapping of Research in European Social Sciences and Humanities, is an important contribution to the endeavour to establish a European Research Area in the social sciences and humanities. It was conceived, organised and coordinated by the European Universities Association (EUA)[1] with the aim of improving access to information on research in social sciences and humanities. Through bringing together multiple sources of information in Europe into an integrated structure, MORESS aims to provide useful tools for interested researchers and decision-makers, and to enhance the future quality of European research. [read more](#)

**21 January 2005:** EUROAGRI Citizens Conference *Brussels, Belgium, 3-4 February 2005*. Under the slogan 'Science for Society - Science with Society', this conference will explore ways of adapting the knowledge base for the optimal functioning of the food-health-agriculture triangle. It seeks to demonstrate that society needs to be engaged in order to strike a balance between the management of rural areas, food production, nutrition and human health. It will bring together stakeholders from the agri-food industry, farmers, scientists, representatives of concerned civil society organizations and policy-makers. [click here](#)

**21 January 2005:** The perennial challenge of how to stimulate and motivate personnel raised its head again at a recent conference in the UK on occupational psychology. One study, in particular, pointed out the link between investment in learning and the level of innovation in companies, while another reversed the thinking about lost productivity due to e-mail interruptions. [read more](#)

**20 January 2005:** The European Research and Innovation fair will be held in Paris, France, from 3 to 5 June. [click here](#)

**12 January 2005:** The 2004 Innobarometer has found a mixed picture on use of public innovation support by the private sector. The survey indicates that some 31 per cent of innovative firms within the EU use at least one form of public support for their innovation activities, but that only 12 per cent take advantage of the public schemes for which they are eligible. [read more](#)

**11 January 2005:** The European Commission has published a prior information notice for a call for tenders for various services related to innovation. To see the full details, [click here](#)

**11 January 2005:** Building on a previous EU-funded project, CREAM is a new knowledge-management system that allows workers in modern companies to tap into and share intellectual assets wherever they might be in today's fluid work environment. [read more](#)

**10 January 2005:** CORDIS, the European Union's official online information platform for scientific research, has launched a new online service covering the research and innovation activities being led by the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the European Union (1 January - 30 June 2005). [click here](#)

**10 January 2005:** The European Commission has launched a call for proposals for 'Regions of Knowledge' under the 'support for the coherent development of policies' section of the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6). [click here](#)

**10 January 2005:** Preparations for the mid-term review of the EU's Science and Society Action Plan are afoot. And in the spirit of that landmark document, the Commission is calling on the scientific community and civil society to assess performance so far and – at the forthcoming Science in Society Forum 2005 – plot the course forward. [read more](#)

**10 January 2005:** The latest European Innovation Scoreboard (EIS) confirms that Europe is maintaining its innovation levels – with the Nordic countries holding on to their mantle as world leaders. However, the EU continues to lose ground in the

innovation stakes against some of its major competitors. [read more](#)

**9 December 2004:** Six members of the PAXIS network for innovative regions were honoured in Stuttgart, Germany, on 6 December, while one was singled out with a distinction for its outstanding performance. [read more](#)

**9 December 2004:** The European Commission has published a call for proposals for the 'citizens and governance in a knowledge-based society' thematic priority of the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6). [read more](#)

**9 December 2004:** The PRIME (Policies for research and innovation in the move towards the European Research Area) Network of Excellence is organising a conference from 7 to 8 January 2005, to be held in Manchester, UK. [click here](#)

**9 December 2004:** A new call for proposals for "Scientific Support to Policy" was opened on 30 October 2004. Full details of the call, including the work programme, detailed task descriptions and the guide for proposers, are available [here](#). The deadline for submission of proposals is 1 February 2005 at 17.00 (Brussels local time).

**8 December 2004:** Registration is now open for the Science and Society Forum 2005, the major Commission conference in the field of science and society interaction, which will be held in Brussels, Belgium from 9 to 11 March 2005. [click here](#)

**6 December 2004:** A conference on advancing knowledge and the knowledge economy will take place in Washington DC in the US on 10 and 11 January. The event is a joint initiative between several EU, US and international organisations, and involves the Commission's Research and Information Society DGs. [click here](#)

**6 December 2004:** The 2004 European Innovation Scoreboard (EIS) confirms Sweden and Finland as the EU's innovative leaders, with Estonia and Slovenia leading the ten new Member States. [read more](#)

**2 December 2004:** The Drug Information Association is holding a meeting - Maximising Strategic Alliances - Successfully Charting New Horizons. Critical decision from "Proof of Concept" to Profitable Partnership on May 23-24, 2005 at

transition from Proof of Concept to Profitable Partnerships, on May 23-24, 2005 at Hotel Renaissance Penta, Vienna Austria. [register here](#). The Programme Chair David Cocker ([dcocker@ecotrac.com](mailto:dcocker@ecotrac.com)) would like to hear from any prospective attendees from NZ universities as he might be able to offer some travel assistance.

**2 December 2004:** On 27 & 28 January, 2005, the European Commission invites representatives of local or regional ethics committees in Europe to attend the conference "Research Ethics Committees in Europe: facing the future together" to open such a debate and will thus aim at gathering together as many RECs as possible in order to identify the state of the art. Good practices, obstacles and pitfalls will be considered, thus leading to the identification of future initiatives, actions and activities. [click here](#)

**30 November 2004:** Europe urged to rethink medicines strategy. Manufacturers frequently do not align their research with society's real needs

**18 November 2004:** Top researchers ask web users to join science grid. IBM and top scientific research organisations are joining forces in a humanitarian effort to tap the unused power of millions of computers and help solve complex social problems

**17 November 2004:** The French Minister for Research, François d'Aubert, has called for the increased dissemination of scientific advances worldwide. Speaking at the STS (Science and Technology in Society) forum, which held its inaugural meeting from 14 to 16 November in the west of Japan and gathered almost 500 scientists, business representatives and politicians, Mr d'Aubert stated that 'this conference proves that the role of science and technology in society has become a crucial question at global level.' [read more](#)

**17 November 2004:** In the run up to the fourth 'forum for innovative enterprises', co-organised by the European Commission and the regions of Stuttgart and Karlsruhe, Director-General of the European Commission's Enterprise DG, Horst Reichenbach, spoke to CORDIS News about the factors impacting upon innovation today, and where the responsibility lies for its facilitation. 'Innovation is about turning ideas into new products and services and new business processes,' said Dr Reichenbach. [read more](#)

**16 November 2004:** The Marseilles Chamber of Commerce and Industry is

organising a meeting on innovation at the Maison du Développement Industriel in Château-Gombert, Marseilles, France, on 9 December. [click here](#)

**12 November 2004:** Significant emphasis in current EU research programmes has been put on the importance of communicating scientific findings to the broader public, the aim being to bridge what studies highlighted as a widening gap between science and society. The Commission developed an action plan to tackle this problem and published a special guide to help scientists cope with public relations and curious journalists. [read more](#)

**11 November 2004:** With support from the Commission's Science and Society programme, the second Living Knowledge conference, entitled 'Advancing science and society interactions', will take place in Seville, Spain, from 3 to 5 February 2005. [click here](#)

**3 November 2004:** The European Union Research Advisory Board (EURAB) has followed up its recommendations on social sciences and humanities within the European Research Area (ERA) of January 2004 with a progress report illustrating how few of its suggestions have been taken into account. [read more](#)

**28 October 2004:** A call for proposals for 'Entrepreneurial innovation: networking key players and users' has been launched by the European Commission under the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6). [click here](#)

**20 October 2004:** An international survey carried out among 4,000 scientific and medical research authors from 97 countries has found that the majority of researchers around the world are satisfied with their level of access to the scientific and medical journals. [read more](#)

**19 October 2004:** The European Commission has launched a new newsletter on EU research in the social sciences and humanities. Each issue contains an editorial, highlights, news of forthcoming calls for proposals, news from EU research and relevant projects, information on recent publications and a review of such a publication. The theme of the first issue is 'the future framework for social sciences and humanities research in Europe'. To access the newsletter, please [click here](#)

**12 October 2004:** Recent conferences, reports and reams of press coverage have highlighted the obvious problems that the European Union is facing with regard to a shortage of some 500 000 personnel in science, engineering and technology sectors. The conspicuous lack of female scientists at the highest level – the so-called glass ceiling – has been blamed on various things, from interrupted careers through pregnancy to obstructive, male-dominated organisational hierarchies. But few would have thought to blame it on other women. [read more](#)

**12 October 2004:** The second call for proposals in Priority 7 will be launched in late autumn. Further details on the call will be available in due time on the [Citizens](#) website – [Find a call section](#)

**12 October 2004:** Results from the first call for proposals for Priority 7 – Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-based Society – are in; and will be followed by a “kick-off” meeting for all the successful project coordinators. [read more :](#)

**6 October 2004:** Is your company stuttering along without direction? Are you using cutting-edge technology or making do with current equipment? Does your small company have a growth plan and a hunger to innovate? These and many more questions plague European SMEs as they look for ways to remain competitive in an increasingly ‘globalised economy’. At the regional level, smaller firms often turn to local advisers who provide valuable assistance, but Coventry University in the UK’s West Midlands felt more could be done to give local businesses the competitive edge. And, measure-by-measure, such initiatives help the EU achieve its Lisbon goal of becoming the world’s most competitive knowledge-based economy. [read more](#)

**6 October 2004:** The Biological Innovation for Open Society (BIOS) initiative was launched this week. BIOS has been established with a \$1 million grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, and will aim to make information and research tools more readily available to scientists who could not otherwise afford them. An editorial in the same issue discusses the initiative. Nature <http://www.nature.com> 431 30 September 2004 p.494, 491

**5 October 2004:** Conference ‘Images of science - new interactions between science and society’, 6-7 Dec. 2004, Amsterdam. The conference is intended for scientists, politicians, policy makers and other interested parties from Europe. The programme

provides for an overview of developments over the last 15 years, as well as discussions on the future.

**4 October 2004:** A congress entitled 'Innovation, not stagnation' will take place in the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft's Stuttgart institute in Germany on 19 November. Representatives from industry and research organisations will be present and will be discussing current approaches to innovation management. The event will also see the presentation of the Fraunhofer Gesellschaft's 'innovation and creativity award'. German State Secretary Rezzo Schlauch will open the congress. For further information, please contact: [guido.noack@teg.fraunhofer.de](mailto:guido.noack@teg.fraunhofer.de)

**30 September 2004:** [4th EPIP Conference](#), European Policy for Intellectual Property Conference [Announcement and call for papers](#) Paris, 1st and 2nd October 2004

**15 September 2004:** The European Educational Research Association (EERA) will hold its next annual conference at the University of Crete (Rethymnon campus) from 22-25 September 2004. The Post-Graduate and New Researchers' Pre-Conference will take place on 20 & 21 September 2004.

**10 September 2004:** The launch event for the LIAISON Integrated Project, funded under the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6), will take place in Toulouse, France, on 1 September. The project will focus on location and mobility services, and will enhance LBS technologies and existing applications ready for the mass market. LIAISON will also make use of EGNOS, the European geostationary navigation overlay service and Galileo, Europe's future satellite navigation system. The project brings together 34 partners, and is led by Alcatel Space. For further information, please contact: [E-mail: Remi.Challamel@space.alcatel.fr](mailto:E-mail: Remi.Challamel@space.alcatel.fr)

**10 September 2004:** The INTUITION Network of Excellence, funded under the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) and bringing together 58 virtual reality organisations, will hold a workshop in Athens, Greece, on 22 September. Participants at the workshop will have the opportunity to get up to date with the latest developments within the virtual reality field, and to form contacts with the INTUITION consortium. For further information, please consult the following web address: <http://i-sense.iccs.ntua.gr/intuition.html>

**10 September 2004:** An EU funded project aimed at developing a talking face

**10 September 2004:** An EU funded project aimed at developing a talking face telephone that can assist hard of hearing people in their use of an ordinary telephone is showing promising results. Over the last three years, the European Commission has provided 1.27 million euro to the Synface (synthetic face) project, financed under the Fifth Framework Programme (FP5). The project brought together partners from Sweden, the UK and the Netherlands, who have developed a software programme that creates an animated face synchronised with speech. For more information about the project, please visit the following website: <http://www.speech.kth.se/synface/>

**10 September 2004:** The European Commission announced on 2 September that it will contribute 93 million euro over four years to the upgrading of Europe's world-leading communications network for research and education, GÉANT. The project, now funded under the EU's Sixth Framework Programme, will aim to improve high-performance services, giving researchers their own 'wavelengths' from Iceland to the Caucasus. The upgrades will also include end-to-end connectivity to give scientists direct access to GÉANT and Europe's national research networks, as well as a mobility and roaming service to enable researchers to stay connected to GÉANT, wherever they are.

**10 September 2004:** IANIS (the innovative actions network for the information society) and the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) Integrated Project COCOON are jointly organising a workshop on healthcare risk management, to be held in Brussels, Belgium, on 15 September. The COCOON project began in January, and seeks to support healthcare professionals in reducing risk management in their daily practices by building dynamically adaptive networked communities within European healthcare systems. The event aims to identify seven European regions interested in participating in the project, and will provide an opportunity for the project coordinator to explain in detail what participation will involve and the expected benefits for a region. For further information, please consult the following web address: [http://www.ianis.net/default.php?page=detail\\_events&idevent=624](http://www.ianis.net/default.php?page=detail_events&idevent=624)

**10 September 2004:** By pioneering the commercial use of sophisticated natural language technologies, SemanticEdge is enabling users to rapidly find information from the Internet, intranets and databases, and make it available anytime, anywhere from any digital device. [SemanticEdge](#) is a leading firm in the emerging market for natural dialogue systems. It was founded in 1999 by Dr Lutz-Peter Pape, Chief Executive Officer, and Dr Ralf Köhrbrück, Chief Operations Officer and Chief

Financial Officer. Prior to launching the company, the entrepreneurial pair had worked together as Engagement Managers at McKinsey & Company. In 2000, they won Computer Week Magazine's Entrepreneurial Award for their business plan for the nascent company and, subsequently have attracted considerable investment from the venture capital firm 3i.

**10 September 2004:** An information day on the 'Citizens' thematic area of the EU's Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) will take place in London, the UK, on 16 November. At the event, social scientists will be able to find out about the content of the work programme for the Citizens priority, Integrated Projects and Networks of Excellence set up after the last Citizens call for proposals, and plans for FP7. For more information [click here](#).

**17 August 2004:** Dr Toralf Richter from the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture is doing a research project into understanding consumer behaviour, looking at the most important factors that influence the knowledge of consumers concerning nutrition as well as their assessments, attitudes, preferences, decisions and nutritional habits. "Particularly we want to grasp children's and young people's food choice in relation to their lifestyles. So as to meet children's and young people's needs with suitable innovative products or ways of eating we are especially interested in investigating the acceptance of two possible lines of healthy food - technical health food (e.g. functional food) and natural health food (e.g. low input food, organic food) taking into account family life as well as eating out of home situations. Qualitative and quantitative social research methods could be implemented likewise.

Specific Information on the competence offered: Our exploratory focus deals with consumer behaviour and understanding particularly concerning food and nutrition covering socio-economical and health as well as sensory aspects. We offer our competence in consumer and nutrition behaviour together with the German partner Hamburg University of Allied Sciences / Prof. Dr. H. Laberenz." he can be contacted at: <mailto:toralf.richter@fibl.ch>, Telephone: 0041-62-8657280 (Switzerland), Fax: 0041-62-8657273 (Switzerland), <http://www.fibl.org/english/fibl/team/richter-tora>

**17 August 2004:** The British Academy is offering a number of small grants intended to help British scholars wishing to make closer contact with colleagues in other countries and develop research plans prior to submitting an application to the EU.

It is expected that most applications will fall within the remit of Thematic priority 7 (Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-based Society). However requests in respect of appropriate work in the social sciences and humanities relating to other Priority areas would be considered. The maximum award is £1,500, and the closing date is 31 October 2005. Details at: [www.britac.ac.uk/funding/guide/intl/FP6pp.html](http://www.britac.ac.uk/funding/guide/intl/FP6pp.html)

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