

CALL FOR PAPERS

The 7th Semmering S&T Forum:
Research Programming for Excellence
Is it desirable; and if so: possible?

October 17– 19, 2002



Venue: Jablonna Palace, Warsaw, Poland
Organizer: The European Integration Exploratorium at CIMPAN,
Warsaw, Poland

This conference is part of an accompanying measure of the European Commission's
5th Framework Programme:
"Shaping the European Research Area: Science Policies for an Enlarged Europe" (2nd
Workshop: Tools for Excellence)




THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION

ALL CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE SENT TO
semmering@iccr-international.org

The aims of the conference

The conference is part of the SEMMERING series of conferences and workshops organised by the Interdisciplinary Centre for Comparative Research in the Social Sciences jointly with The European Association's S&T Research Group since 1993. A consortium which emerged from the EA's S&T Group has obtained funding from the European Commission's 5th Framework Programme to organise 3 conferences related to policy-relevant science and research issues. This Call relates to the second conference and deals with the tools necessary to achieve excellence. Topical to this is a critical assessment of what could be understood as "excellence in science and research" and how to measure it.

Science policy has very different tools at its disposal for implementing strategic goals as formulated in national programs or in sectoral approaches. Of particular importance are the funding structure and arrangements – be it in the form of subsidies, research grants and/or contract research. The aim of this conference is to compare the different tools, their concepts and their achievements in relation to the goals set by the decision-makers. Relevant to this are evaluation as well as contract granting procedures. What evaluation criteria are used, what measures of performance, how are quality standards ensured? Of particular interest is the stimulation of transnational and interdisciplinary research. Under what conditions are specific instruments developed, what are their results, what role do they play within the research communities?

An important element of the conference is to discuss and make in-depth evaluation of possible *acquis communautaire* changes which might be relevant to strengthen the competitiveness of the enlarged EU. It is obvious that the topic of enlargement is one of the key issues which will be addressed at the conference.

Good "Governance of S&T" is an integrated concept which starts with policy programming. Three topics will be addressed:

- Government and Governance in Science
- Excellence: what meaning, in national and international contexts?
- Networking for scientific excellence.

Furthermore, two round tables will be organised as panel sessions bringing eminent researchers together with policy makers from national and European institutions.

The philosophy of the SEMMERING Fora coincides with the strategic interests of the European Commission: The Work Programme of the Key Action 'Improving the Socio-Economic Knowledge Base' (Fourth Edition, December 2000) calls for a dialogue between researchers, policy makers and the Commission through "reinforced research support to key European policies and improved integration of socio-economic aspects into EU-level RTD and other policies". The SEMMERING Fora have a long lasting experience in this type of activities.

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SESSION 1: "GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNANCE IN SCIENCE: ARE BOUNDARIES SHIFTING?"

Session Convenor: Tadeusz Zoltowski, CIMPAN, Warsaw
Rapporteurs: John Crowley, CIR, Paris
Eino Tunkelo, The Helsinki Consulting Group

Recent studies have shown that in the field of science and research "governance" is not merely rhetoric, but plays a major role in policy making. Governance can be understood as a way how governments implement their aims and strategic options in consultation with the other actors in science and research. Experiences in the field will be presented from the EU Member States and the Candidate Countries paying particular attention on the issue of scientific excellence.

- The workshop should address the **governments' science policy options at the national level**. The papers should examine the different tools which are used in science policy making at the national level and analyse the existing programmes (funding structures: subsidies, research grants and arrangements). The latter's influence on scientific achievement should be critically assessed. More specifically, science policy options to sustain reasonable scientific achievement in a situation of scarcity of public funding have to be addressed. This is even more important for the CCs combining a low GERD with a low GDP. Relevant to this is the analysis of coherence of research policy options between the different funding institutions and ministries.
- Another part of this session will deal with procedural tools, e.g. **ex-ante and ex-post evaluation and monitoring**. Relevant to this are specific technical questions like the specificity of standards and measures of performance, as well as general questions like evaluation and monitoring cultures. Benchmarking exercises might help to understand good governance.
- An additional question to be discussed is the **importance of tools** which can influence scientific excellence **at the European level** (mainly through multi-annual framework programmes, Structural Funds instruments, such as Art. 10 ERDF and Art. 6 ESF) , or offered under EU assistance programmes to the CCs. **Bi- and multi-national programmes** are here topical as well.
- Last not least, **governance** has to be understood **as an interaction between knowledge producers, policy makers and other stakeholders** in the field as outlined in the Commission's Communication "Science and Society". Stakeholders are not just policy makers and industries, but citizens and non-governmental institutions as well (regional groups, patients' initiatives, social groups, etc.). Relevant to this is the influence of non-public institutions, such as banks, private foundations, associations, and intermediary organizations on the definition of "scientific excellence" and the role of the scientific communities in their interaction with this type of actors.

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SESSION 2: EXCELLENCE IN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONTEXTS

Session Convenor: Maria Nedeva, PREST
Rapporteurs: Barend van der Meulen, University of Twente
Judith Mosoni-Fried, Hungarian Academy of Science

In more recent policy making for science and technology achieving “research excellence” has gained quite an exceptional status and has become one of the leading themes/aims of policy. This process is fairly universal and governments of countries varying widely according to their levels of socio-economic and technological development include ‘achieving research excellence’ into their political discourse. Meanwhile the very concept of ‘research excellence’ as well as its social manifestations and supporting policies, are fairly complex, multi-faceted and more often than not politically and culturally grounded. This workshop aims to initiate a focused and, we hope, fruitful discussion on the meaning and implementation of ‘excellence in research’ within different cultural contexts. It is our conviction that such a discussion is particularly timely in the light of implementation of the European research area (ERA).

We invite presentations discussing:

- a) **The changing (or not) nature and understanding of ‘research excellence’ in different national contexts.** Here particularly important and interesting issues are: ‘Is ‘research excellence’ understood to mean the same thing(s) within different cultural and policy-making contexts?’; ‘What are the ways and mechanisms (tools) used to distinguish ‘research excellence’?’; ‘Are ‘research excellence’ and ‘scientific excellence’ different?’
- b) **Policies for ‘excellence’.** Here the discussion will focus on the variety of national/regional policies aiming to encourage ‘research excellence’. Presentations raising the issues related to diverging rationales for policy formulation and implementation are particularly welcome. While discussing these rationales contributors are encouraged to consider the international dimensions of the issue of ‘research excellence’.
- c) **Excellent research and best practice.** Is ‘excellent research’ entirely contextual or it is possible to establish and disseminate best practice?
- d) **How to register and measure ‘excellent research’?** Under this heading contributors are invited to consider (and share experience about) ways to evaluate excellence in research.

Please note that the headings above are intended to provide a flexible framework for discussion rather than restrict it. Contributions from representatives from academic/research institutions and policy-making agencies, and presentations and papers involving collaborative effort are particularly welcome.

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SESSION 3: NETWORKING FOR EXCELLENCE

Session Convenor: Nikolai Genov

Rapporteurs: Elise Féron, CIR Paris

Riccardo Cappellin University of Rome "Tor Vergata"

Networking is the mechanism for production and reproduction of social capital. In R&D, networking is also a mechanism for production and reproduction of cognitive capital.

There are four major structural levels for networking in R&D aiming at the increase of quality of research and development.

- First, this is the structural level of networking in R&D teams. The constructive group dynamics is the major mechanism of networking which fosters excellence at this level of R&D.
- At the level of R&D organizations the well balanced relation of formal rules and informality is the major characteristic of networking supportive to excellence.
- At the third level of national R&D complexes the situation is to some extent similar because of the need to keep a balance between the necessary state support to R&D and the very much needed autonomy of R&D institutions.
- Fourth, international networking is getting more and more relevant in fostering excellence in R&D.

Given this background, there are three burning issues for discussion: What factors foster or hinder constructive networking at these structural levels of R&D systems and thus foster or hinder excellence in R&D? What are the relationships between networking at these four structural levels and how do they influence excellence of R&D? Last but not least, what are the implications of the emerging common European Research Area for networking at the different levels in R&D and consequently on the search for excellence in European science?

In this session very specific features of networking for excellence have to be addressed. It should be practically oriented, as a forum of exchanges of good practices, suggestions, comments of practitioners etc.

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Procedural questions (Call for Papers, proceedings, publications)

The conference is basically organised through an open call with the addition of some eminent scholars who will be invited as speakers. The Call is distributed as largely as possible by the scientific committee.

The call is addressed to eminent scholars, but contributions from researchers, consultants dealing with the STDI policy, representatives of governmental authorities etc. will also be taken into consideration. Their contribution, however, will be evaluated as well by the procedures described below.

As there is a limited number of places available the decision on the invitation of the participants will be taken by a two-steps procedure:

- on the base of abstracts interesting abstracts will be invited to be developed into full papers, but no commitment for (full) presentation will be given at this stage.
- On the base of the papers' assessment a final opinion will be given by the scientific committee which will determine who will be invited as speaker or, alternatively, invited as commentator.

As a general rule, the abstracts should have about 200 – 500 words, the final paper should be around 6'000 words. The length of the contribution is, however, just indicative and not a criterion for the evaluation of the submitted abstracts and papers.

All papers which meet the requested quality standards will be published in the proceedings and possibly in the book. As there is a limitation of funds and space we are limited to a maximum of 50 participants.

Additionally, science policy makers will be invited to join the discussions and panels.

DEADLINE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF

- **THE ABSTRACTS IS JUNE 28, 2002,**
- **THE PAPERS IS SEPTEMBER 6, 2002.**

The papers selected will be available at the conference and CIMPAN is in charge of preparing the proceedings.

A revised version will be published in the book series "Contemporary Trends in the Social Sciences" (Ashgate Publishers).

ALL CORRESPONDENCE AND SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO:

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Format of the Conference:

October 17	10:00-12:30	OPENING SESSION (VIP-ROUNDTABLE)	Chair: Stanislaw Walukiewicz, CIMPAN
	14:00-18:00	Science Governance & Government	Chair: Tadeusz Zoltowski, CIMPAN, Rapporteurs: John Crowley, CIR & Eino Tunkelo, The Helsinki Consulting Group
October 18	10:00-12:30	Excellence in national and international context	Chair: Maria Nedeva, PREST, Rapporteurs: Barend van der Meulen, University of Twente & Judith Mosoni-Fried, Hungarian Academy of Science
	14:00-17:00	Networking for excellence	Chair: Nikolaj Genov, Rapporteurs: Elise Féron, CIR Paris & Riccardo Cappellin Faculty of Economics, University of Rome "Tor Vergata"
October 19	10:00-12:30	Conclusions	
	14:00-18:00	Steering Committee Meeting	

Organiser:

The European Integration Exploratorium at Centre for Industrial Management of the Polish Academy of Sciences (CIMPAN) – Warsaw
All electronic mail should be sent to:

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The SEMMERING Consortium:

The Interdisciplinary Centre for Comparative Research in the Social Sciences (ICCR) – Vienna (co-ordinator)

Le Centre Interdisciplinaire pour la Recherche Comparative en Sciences Sociales (CIR) – Paris

Centre for Industrial Management of the Polish Academy of Sciences (CIMPAN) – Warsaw

Policy Research in Engineering, Science and Technology, Victoria University of Manchester (PREST) – Manchester

Institute of Sociology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS) – Sofia

NEXUS Institute for Co-operation Management and Interdisciplinary Research (NEXUS) – Berlin

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Scientific Committee:

The Steering Committee of the *Science, Research and Society Research Group* of “The European Association for the Advancement of Social Sciences” (elected at the 5th SEMMERING FORUM, Vienna 1999)

Aaron Benavot, The Hebrew University Jerusalem, Israel

Chris Caswill, The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), United Kingdom

John Crowley, Le Centre Interdisciplinaire pour la recherche comparative en sciences sociales (CIR), France

Saša Cvijetić, UNCCD, Bonn, Germany

Hans-Luidger Dienel, Centre for Technology and Society, TU Berlin (ZTG), Germany

Adolf Filáček, Czech Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic

Nikolai Genov, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria

Jennifer Harper Cassingena, Council for Science and Technology, Malta

Imre Hronszky, Technical University Budapest, Hungary

Lidiya Kavunenko, STEPS, Ukraine

Tamás Kemény, Foundation for the Technical Progress of the Industry, Budapest, Hungary

Henrique Machado Jorge, IAPMEI, Lisbon, Portugal

Maria Nedeva, PREST, Manchester, United Kingdom

Steven Ney, The Interdisciplinary Centre for Comparative Research in the Social Sciences (ICCR-Vienna), Austria

Alan Pearman, Leeds University Business School, United Kingdom

Martin Peterson, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

Ronald Pohoryles, The Interdisciplinary Centre for Comparative Research in the Social Sciences (ICCR Vienna), Austria

Rene Tõnnisson, Archimedes Foundation, Estonia

Barend van der Meulen, University of Twente, The Netherlands

Tadeusz Zoltowski, Polish Academy of Sciences (CIMPAN), Poland

Additionally, the following scholars have joined the Scientific Committee:

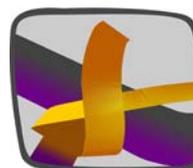
Prof. **Maciej Grabski** (President of the Foundation for Polish Science & Chairman of Ethics Committee, The State Committee for Scientific Research - Ministry of Science)

Prof. **Eino Tunkelo** (Helsinki Consulting Group)

Prof. Dr. **Stanislaw Walukiewicz** (CIMPAN)

Prof **Jan Woroniecki**, (former Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the OECD)

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7th SEMMERING S&T FORUM

REGISTRATION FORM

I intend to participate at the 7th SEMMERING S&T FORUM

**"Research Programming for Excellence
Is it desirable; and if so: possible?"**

to be held October 17– 19, 2002 in Jablonna Palace, Warsaw.

Name:	
Institution:	
Function, Title:	
Street:	
City:	
Country:	
e-mail:	
I intend to submit a paper	yes/no
My paper fits into topic	1 / 2 / 3
Working title for my abstract / paper:	
Dietary restrictions:	

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