

News on EU Research Policy and Programmes

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Should you wish to receive *European RTD Insight* by email each month please send an email to ukro@bbsrc.ac.uk, if you have not already done so, stating 'European RTD Insight' in the subject line. You will then be added to our mailing list.

The UK Research Office and the British Council are currently in the process of gathering feedback on *European RTD Insight*, to inform future development of the publication. A questionnaire is now available on both the UKRO and British Council websites. We would be extremely grateful if you could spare a few minutes to complete this. Your comments and preferences will then help us to ensure that *European RTD Insight* meets readers' information needs.

The questionnaire can be accessed from:

UKRO: http://www.ukro.ac.uk/public/rtd_insight/european_rtd_insight.htm

British Council: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/science/science/pubs/online.htm>

EU POLICY

Ireland Ratifies Nice Treaty

In a referendum on 19 October the Irish electorate accepted the Treaty of Nice, which is the enlargement treaty of the EU. This paves the way for negotiations with candidate countries to be concluded at the European Council in Copenhagen, within the term of the Danish presidency of the EU.

Danish Prime Minister, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, in a press statement following the announcement, said that "the Irish people have taken an important decision. Not only for Ireland. But for the EU as a whole and not least for the enlargement". He stressed that the results of the referendum send a clear signal to the candidate countries that all current Member States take the enlargement of the EU seriously.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.eu2002.dk>

Negotiations with Candidate Countries

The EC has recommended that the negotiations on accession to the EU should be concluded by the end of this year with Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia. The EC considers that these countries will be ready for membership from the beginning of 2004. The recommendations are based on assessment of the state of preparedness of each candidate country.

As for Bulgaria and Romania, the EC will strongly support these two countries in achieving their objective to join in 2007. Regarding Turkey, the EC recommends that the EU should enhance its support for Turkey's pre-accession preparations and provide

additional resources for this purpose. The 'yes' vote in the Irish referendum on the Nice Treaty is a significant step towards EU enlargement. However, it still remains to be seen whether or not the recent fall of the Dutch Government will affect the issue.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

EC Press Release IP/02/1443 of 09/10/2002, available from:

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh>

'Towards the Enlarged Union', a 2002 strategy paper and reports on progress towards accession by each of the candidate countries, is available from:

<http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/report2002/>

Strengthening the ERA

The EC has said that EU Member States need to do more in order to meet the objectives of the ERA. In a new Communication, 'Providing new momentum for the European Research Area', EC Research Commissioner Philippe Busquin proposes a number of ways to strengthen the ERA, which is key element in making the EU the most competitive knowledge-based economy in the World.

Commissioner Busquin recognises that there has already been progress in terms of the ERA, such as the benchmarking of the performance of national research policies, the development of a European network of researcher mobility centres, to be launched in 2003, and the preparations for FP6. The main problem to date, however, is seen as being lack of co-ordination of national research policies. The EC is proposing three methods of addressing this problem:

- Definition of a formal co-ordination mechanism (which could be based on the system of annual national reports, as used in the fields of economic and employment policies);
- Establishment of a structure capable of ensuring this co-ordination, in which national administrators at the highest level will be represented; and
- Use of the full open co-ordination method, as well as setting common objectives and translating them into specific targets for each country.

The EC will also step up ongoing ERA activities, and will make efforts to assist candidate countries in integrating themselves into the ERA.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

EC Press Release IP/02/1488 of 16/10/2002, available from:

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh>

or:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/era/eranews_en.html

The 'Providing new momentum for the European Research Area' Communication is available from:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/research/era/listcom_en.html

FP6 on Track

As expected, the Competitiveness Council has now approved the Specific Programmes document for FP6. This means that activities can be launched before the expiry of FP5 at the end of this year, according to plan.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/documents_en.html

Embryonic Research Moratorium

The EP has arrived at a compromise with the Council on the issue of a moratorium on funding embryonic stem cell research. The EP had felt that the proposed moratorium until December 2003, pending further discussions in Council, meant that the Council was reneging on promises made in negotiations during the Spanish presidency, and had vocally expressed its anger at what it perceived to be a violation of EU Treaties and the EP's co-decision rights.

In exchange for the EP's acceptance of this moratorium, the Council has agreed to open a wide-ranging debate on the technical, political and ethical aspects of this matter. The moratorium will then be revised before the end of 2003 on the basis of the results of this debate.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

None available.

Director for European Food Safety Authority

The Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority has nominated Geoffrey Podger as its Executive Director. Mr Podger is at present the Chief Executive of the UK Food Standards Agency and has been responsible for its establishment and development.

Before a formal appointment can be made, the nominated candidate has to make a statement to the EP, and it is expected that Mr Podger will appear before their Environment Committee by the end of October. The Authority's Management Board met for the first time in September; the appointment of an Executive Director will now facilitate the establishment of a Scientific Committee and Panels, as well as an Advisory Group.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.efsa.eu.int/>

or contact:

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RESEARCH NEWS

FP6 EoI Reports

The EC has made available a set of thirteen reports on the analysis of the submissions received in response to their call for Expressions of Interest (EoIs) to participate in FP6, launched back in March 2002. A general introductory report gives an overview of the exercise, and describes some of the main features of submissions, across all thematic areas. The remaining twelve reports each focus on a particular thematic priority, or sub-priority. None of the analyses comment on individual EoIs. Some, however, can be read as early indications for what may be included in the FP6 work programmes and in early calls for proposals.

The general report indicates that after incomplete submissions and duplicates had been removed some 11,700 Eols were available for analysis. The EC has highly appreciated the response, describing it as a “huge brainstorming exercise”. There was a good distribution of Eols across the thematic priorities, although some areas had a disproportionately high number in relation to the budget that will be available. Submissions came from over fifty countries; the highest level of submission was from Germany and the UK, each of which accounted for 15 per cent of all Eols. This was followed by Italy with 10 per cent, France with 9, Spain with 8, and Poland with 6. The majority of submissions came from academic institutions and research organisations; industry made up only 14 per cent of those received, and, amongst those, SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprise) were poorly represented

As far as type of instrument was concerned, roughly two-thirds of submissions were for potential Integrated Projects, with one third for Networks of Excellence. The analysis showed that overall around 15 to 20 per cent of the Eols received convincingly met the requirements of the relevant instrument as well as being within the scope of the FP6 thematic priorities. This proportion was considered mature, and demonstrated potential readiness to submit a strong proposal in the early stages of FP6. The EC is currently developing the FP6 work programmes, ahead of launch of the first calls at the end of 2002.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

The reports on the Expressions of Interest are available from:

<http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/eoi-analysis.htm>

Euragri Conference 2002

The annual conference of Euragri – the platform bringing together ministries of agriculture and the top management of national agricultural research organisations – has proposed new goals, roles and rules to respond better and quicker to the needs of society. At the meeting, EC Research Commissioner Philippe Busquin called for a European platform on plant science to be formed on the basis of an ERA-Net network of national research programmes. ERA-Net is part of FP6, and is a scheme to support the co-operation and co-ordination of activities carried out at a national or regional level.

The promotion of an open, science-based dialogue between all stakeholders for and against GMOs is seen as crucial. The EC is hosting round-table meetings on GMO safety research, bringing together European bio-safety researchers and other stakeholders, such as consumer organisations, environmental NGOs, national administrations and industry. Through this, the EC seeks to foster the GMO debate by establishing a continuous discussion forum on the research results of the benefits and risks of GMOs.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

EC Press Release IP/02/1474 of 15/10/2002, available from:

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh>

Information on the ERA-Net scheme is available from:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/era-net.html>

Stem Cell Patentability Research

The EC has pledged to investigate the patentability of human stem cells, and cell lines obtained from them. The intention to do so is set out in the first annual report on the

implications of the 1998 directive on the legal protection of biotechnology inventions, and is part of the EC's commitment to monitoring difficulties in the area of biotechnology and genetic engineering.

The investigation will look at whether or not it is necessary to increase the scope on patents for certain techniques and applications. It is felt that research in biotechnology and genetic engineering may suffer if the commercial incentive of patenting is removed. The study will need to consider the balance between encouragement of research that could lead to new treatments and ensuring non-ownership of the human body. The results of the investigation will be published in next year's annual report.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

The report is available from:

http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/rpt/2002/com2002_0545en01.pdf

New Urban Transport Forum

A forum for European cities committed to introducing innovative urban transport policies has been launched by the EC. The 'CIVITAS Forum' is part of the EC's 'CIVITAS Initiative', which focuses on measures to radically improve urban transport. Overall, the aim is to achieve a significant reduction of the modal split towards sustainable transport modes. It also links in with the strategy to substitute 20 per cent of diesel and gasoline fuels in road transport use by 2020.

Nineteen cities are currently participating in CIVITAS. These are: Aalborg, Barcelona, Berlin, Bremen, Bristol, Bucharest, Cork, Gdynia, Göteborg, Graz, Kaunas, Lille, Nantes, Pécs, Prague, Rome, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Winchester. The Forum is intended to provide a platform for the exchange of ideas and experiences between these cities. The EC is providing €50 million to support projects in the nineteen cities. It also intends to extend the financial support through a CIVITAS call for proposals under FP6 in 2003. The current projects began this year and will run for four years.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/energy_transport/en/lb_en.html

First Day of PEOPLE Experiment

The first stage of the EC-funded PEOPLE (Population Exposure to Air Pollutants in Europe) project took place on 23 October. As reported in *UKRO European RTD Insight*, August 2002, the project aims to measure the benzene in the urban environment, using a new sampler which detects benzene over short periods of time.

On 23 October, 330 volunteers (130 in Brussels and 200 in Lisbon) wore pollution detectors for up to twelve hours. The volunteers were monitoring fifty outdoor sites, such as streets, parks and metro stations, and fifty indoor sites, such as offices, shops and bars) in each city. The results of the experiment will be presented in February 2003. They should help policy makers in formulating transport policies, as well as enabling citizens to make informed health decisions. In Spring, the EC will conduct similar research in Madrid, Bucharest and Budapest; later in the year they will do the same in Berlin, Dublin, Paris, Rome, Vienna, Belgrade and Ljubljana.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

EC Press Release IP/02/1540 of 23/10/2002, available from:

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh>

or:

<http://www.people-pt.net/eindex.html>

Beetles Versus Bacteria

A European research team, comprising scientists from the UK, Finland and Germany, has found that the ecosystem may well be less susceptible to change than was believed to be the case.

The team has conducted a study looking at how global change affects soil biodiversity. The study was carried out at the Ecotron facility in the UK, using sixteen walk-in chambers with computer-controlled climates, each containing a square metre of grassland. Over nine months, with the temperature set to mimic summertime, soil fauna were introduced. It was thought that where larger fauna, such as beetles, were introduced there would be higher yields and greater carbon storage, in comparison with where smaller fauna, such as bacteria, were introduced. However, there was actual little variation between the measurements. It may be that the positive and negative effects of the fauna cancel each other out, thus meaning that there is no ecosystem change. Further research will be needed to assess the full impact of this over a longer time frame.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.cpb.bio.ic.ac.uk/ecotron/ecotron.html>

Campaign on Arctic Ozone Loss

October has seen the first meeting of the VINTERSOL campaign. VINTERSOL (Validation of International Satellites and Study of Ozone Loss) is co-sponsored by the EU and the US, and brings together national and EU projects to improve understanding of Arctic ozone depletion.

Satellites, aircraft, balloons and ground-based instruments will be used to measure ozone and other gases. The campaign will help in meeting the requirements of the Montreal Protocol on ozone depleting substances, in developing European policy, and in strengthening Europe's international scientific role. VINTERSOL runs from 2002 – mid 2004. The first phase, which is currently underway, is concentrating on the Arctic. However, the second phase, from mid 2003, is planned to take place in Antarctica. A third phase, in early 2004, is scheduled for Brazil, in order to focus on atmospheric processes in the tropics.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://ozone-sec.ch.cam.ac.uk>

Supermassive Black Hole Discovered

Astronomers have new evidence of a huge black hole at the centre of our galaxy. Ever since the discovery of a dense cluster of stars around a large quasar source at the centre of the Milky Way, it has been thought that there might be a black hole there, since quasars can indicate the existence of one. Now they have observed an otherwise normal

star orbiting what they believe to be the black hole, which is strong evidence of its presence.

An international project team, lead by German researchers, used the new NAOS-CONICA telescope in Chile to observe the star. This telescope provides the sharpest images ever seen of the centre of the galaxy, and it was clear to the team that the star that they were observing was in motion around a black hole. This was the first time that such an event had been recorded. Further research is now needed into how supermassive black holes are formed, and why they are present in almost every galaxy.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.eso.org>

Closing the e-Commerce Gap

An EC-funded project called 'e-MINDER' is aiming to close the gap between different European regions in terms of e-commerce. Currently, the gap between the use of e-commerce in the most and least developed areas of Europe is widening; consequently, there is a need to further investigate this phenomenon and to boost e-commerce capabilities in the least developed regions.

The project will target SMEs (small and medium sized enterprises) in Cyprus, Galicia in Spain, and Pomerania in Poland. Independent centres, which will help in the implementation of e-commerce activities, will be set up. Universities, technology organisations and businesses will all be involved in the centres. Three main types of activity are foreseen through these centres:

- improving innovation policy by promoting best practise between regions;
- encouraging competitiveness and new sales channels; and
- e-commerce awareness raising in education.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.eminderproject.com>

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND CULTURE

Third Country Involvement in Education Programmes

The EC has approved a proposal for a directive on the entry and residence conditions for third country nationals wishing to study, or undertake vocational training or voluntary activities in the EU.

The proposal is part of the Community strategy designed to strengthen co-operation with third countries in the area of education, by providing the means needed to match the challenge of internationalisation in education. The forthcoming directive, if adopted, will make it easier to host students from third countries under the recently announced Erasmus World scheme (see UKRO *European RTD Insight*, August 2002) as well as allowing third country nationals to take part in programmes such as Youth and Euromed Youth.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

EC Press Release IP/02/1437 of 07/10/02, available from:
<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh>

Heritage for Sustainable Tourism

A new study on the use of natural and cultural heritage for the development of sustainable tourism in non-traditional tourist destinations is available from the EC. The study, carried out for the Enterprise DG, was finalised in October, and aimed to provide greater knowledge about non-traditional tourist destinations in the EEA countries and their natural and cultural heritage, which could be the basis for sustainable tourism.

Other issues that the report looked into include:

- know-how regarding approaches to, and practice and experience of, using natural and cultural heritage for the development of sustainable tourism; and
- basic guidance on the development of sustainable tourism based on natural and cultural heritage.

The report also provides a series of conclusions and recommendations for stakeholders.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/services/tourism/studies/ecosystems/study_sustainability.htm

Report on Theatre and the Performing Arts

An EP report on the importance and dynamics of the theatre and the performing arts in an enlarged Europe will be presented to the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport. In adopting the draft resolution, the Committee is calling for support for the performing arts sector and wider cultural co-operation between the Member States and the candidate countries. This support, the Committee argues, should take the form of support for mobility of those working in the performing arts sector. The Committee further believes that the lack of co-ordination between various social and tax laws is an obstacle to mobility.

MEPs stressed the importance of basic and continuing training and called on the Council and the EC to include on the political agenda mutual recognition of performing arts qualifications between Member States.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.europarl.org.uk/news/NWSupcomingmain.htm>

EXTERNAL COLLABORATION

Israel Calls for New S&T Agreement

Israel has asked for its scientific co-operation agreement with the EU to be renewed as soon as possible, in order that it can fully participate in FP6.

Israel participated in FP5 with the same status as Member States, countries of the European Economic Area (EEA), and candidate countries. It was involved in 498 FP5

projects, of which 131 were Israeli co-ordinated. Now that FP6 has been adopted, Israel's agreement needs to be re-negotiated. At a meeting of the EU-Israel Association Council, Israel requested that the negotiation be accelerated, to allow them to participate in FP6 from the start of the programme.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://ue.eu.int/newsroom/newmain.asp?lang=1>

EU-China Summit

Following the recent EU-China Summit, both EU and Chinese leaders have stressed their commitment to expanding and deepening EU-China co-operation in all areas. The talks covered a range of political, trade, and economic issues, as well as transnational questions such as illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to respect international human rights standards and to co-operate fully with UN human rights mechanisms. They welcomed the recent developments in bilateral project co-operation, in particular with respect to the establishment of an EU-China academic network related to the ratification and implementation of the UN covenants on human rights. They also welcomed the successful establishment of the Human Rights Small Project Facility, as well as steps towards closer co-operation between European and Chinese non-governmental organisations and academic institutions.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

None available.

New Partners in International Fusion?

China has expressed an interest in participating in the ITER project. The project involves the EU, Canada, Japan and Russia in a joint effort to develop an international thermonuclear reactor. Chinese officials will meet with negotiators from the countries currently involved for further discussions.

The US is also considering participation; it was involved in the project until 1999 and then withdrew, but may now wish to re-join.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.iter.org>

EVENTS and AWARDS

German Introduction to FP6

The German chamber of industry and commerce (DIHK) is organising an FP6 event in Düsseldorf on 4 December. The event is intended to provide an introduction to FP6 for businesses, particularly small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). The day will cover the objectives, priorities and rules of participation of FP6, and will discuss how SMEs can

participate in the new programme. Representatives from the EC and the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research will be present.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.dihk.de>

or contact:

Nicolay Rainer

E-mail: nicolay.rainer@bonn.dihk.de

Technology-enhanced Learning Day

An event on technology-enhanced learning, organised by Proacte, will take place in Luxembourg on 5 December. The aim of the event is to allow the research community to share ideas and experiences, and to facilitate partnering. There will be a particular focus on FP6, with information on the programme and detailed feedback on the technology-enhanced learning submissions in the EC's call for Expressions of Interest to participate in FP6.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

http://proacte.com/meetings/infoday_Dec2002/agenda.asp

Green Week 2003

The EC has announced that Green Week 2003 will take place in Brussels, from 2 – 6 June 2003. Green Week is intended to provide a platform for raising the awareness of EU environmental policies and activities. By highlighting priority policy areas, mobilising resources and strengthening dialogue and co-operation with key stakeholder groups across the EU, Green Week seeks to illustrate the 'added value' of concerted Community-wide action.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/greenweek/index.htm>

Descartes Prize Finalists Announced

The EC has announced the names of the finalists for the EU Descartes Prize for Scientific Excellence. The finalists were selected from a range of 108 entries, the highest number in the prize's history.

The ten finalists include a wide variety of projects co-ordinated by scientists from many different European countries. These include research on the structure and composition of the Earth's interior (UK), micromachined circuits (Romania), multiple sclerosis (Denmark), chronic inflammatory bowel disease (Germany), gender differences in political and business elites (Italy), gamma-ray bursts (Netherlands), self-compacting concrete (Sweden), chemical morphogenesis (France), quantum information research (France) and asynchronous circuits (Spain). This year's prize-giving ceremony will take place in Munich, at the European Patent Office, on 5 December, following the selection of winners by a Grand Jury, composed of nine prominent figures from academic, industrial and public fields.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

http://www.cordis.lu/descartes/press_releases.htm

IST Winners Announced

The European IST Prize winners for 2002 have been announced. The awards are given for groundbreaking products that represent the best of European innovation in information society technologies (IST). 437 innovative companies and institutions from twenty-seven countries competed for this year's prize. This is the highest number of participants since the inception of the Prize scheme in 1995.

The twenty best applicants in terms of the criteria (technical excellence, innovative content, potential market value and capacity to generate new jobs) have been selected as winners by the European IST Prize evaluation group of high-level experts. The winners this year come from: Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Israel, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Three European IST Grand Prize Winners out of the twenty will be selected and presented with the IST Grand Prize Trophy and €200,000 by Mr Erkki Liikanen, the European Commissioner for Enterprise and Information Society, at the European IST Prize Awards Ceremony, to be held during the IST 2002 Event in Copenhagen on 4 – 6 November.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.ist-prize.org>

Young Scientist Results

The EC has awarded three first prizes of €5,000 each to four students from Germany and Finland, this year's winners of the EU Contest for Young Scientists. The selected projects deal with aircraft transportation, bio-testing and space rockets. In addition to the first prizes, the international jury awarded three second prizes of €3,000 each and three third prizes of €1,500 each. Prize winners will represent the EU at several international events and will join established research teams for short periods of scientific training.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

EC Research DG Press Release of 27/09/2002, available from:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/press/2002/pr2709en.html>

NEW PUBLICATIONS and ON-LINE RESOURCES

What is the EU?

The EC has published an information booklet on the EU for candidate countries. The document, entitled 'Panorama of the European Union', is available in eleven languages: Bulgarian, Czech, Estonian, Hungarian, Lithuanian, Latvian, Polish, Romanian, Slovak, Slovene, and Turkish. It covers the basics of the EU, details major EU actions, and presents each of the EU institutions.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

The information can be downloaded in all eleven languages from:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/dg10/publications/autres/panorama/bibli_en.html

Updated Climate Change Pages

The web pages for the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP) have been updated.

The pages contain information on what was achieved under the first phase of the programme, and set out plans for the second stage. There is information on the progress of all ECCP working groups, and relevant EC Communications and Action Plans are available to be downloaded.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/climat/eccp.htm>

Networking Environmental Networks

'Networking the European Environmental Communications Networks' is a new website aimed at networks in the field of environmental public information, communication and awareness raising. It is intended to serve as a communication relay between the various networks, as well as between the networks and the EC.

The site contains information about the individual networks, and links to their own sites, where they have them. It also has EC funding information, news of events, and a partner search facility.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/networks/index_en.htm

GALILEO Web Pages

New web pages on GALILEO, the European Satellite Navigation System, are available on the EC's Energy and Transport website. The pages include an introduction to GALILEO, applications of GALILEO, information on the partners in the programme, international co-operation activities, and documents. There is also a GALILEO brochure that can be downloaded.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/energy_transport/galileo/index_en.htm

Lifelong Learning Publications

A new publication on 'Scenarios and Strategies for Vocational Education and Lifelong Learning' is available. This is based on the findings of a joint CEDEFOP (European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training and ETF (European Training Foundation) scenario project. The publication suggests strategies that rank highest in terms of importance until 2010.

Also newly available is 'Lifelong Learning Bibliography: A European VET Perspective', which lists vocational education and training documents.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Both documents can be downloaded from:

<http://www2.trainingvillage.gr/etv/publication/publications.asp?section=3>

Social Precariousness and Social Integration

A report on the results of a Eurobarometer survey on Social Precariousness and Social Integration, carried out in all fifteen Member States of the EU for the EC's Employment and Social Affairs DG, has been published.

The report charts trends in key factors that affect risks of social exclusion, such as unemployment, lack of social support, and low quality of jobs. The first two chapters focus particularly on issues relating to precariousness in terms of living conditions, while the third and fourth are concerned with sources of precariousness in people's work lives. The fifth and sixth chapters examine the implications of social precariousness in both of these spheres for people's personal integration and their attitudes to society. The final chapter considers the implications of precariousness for wider attitudes to society, to democracy, and to welfare state provision.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/news/2002/oct/eurobarom_en.pdf

CORDIS

CORDIS is the Community Research and Development Information Service. It is a web-based service which provides information on EU R&D programmes and related issues.

URL: <http://www.cordis.lu>

EUR-LEX (Official Journal C and L)

This web site provides information on European Union Law. It includes electronic copies of the Treaties and recent copies of the Official Journal of the European Communities (OJ). The OJ, published daily in eleven languages, consists of two related series, the L series (Legislation) and the C series (Information, notices and preparatory EU legislation), a supplement and an annex. EUR-Lex provides free access to the C and L series of the Official Journal for a period of forty-five days following publication. (The OJ issue with the Euro exchange rates (L 359, 31/12/1998) is permanently available in PDF format in EUR-Lex).

URL: EUR-LEX <http://www.europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/index.html>

Official Journal C & L <http://www.europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/oj/index.html>

Treaty of Amsterdam <http://www.europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/treaties/index.html>

EUROPA

EUROPA is the official European Union's Server. It contains links to the European Parliament, the European Council, the European Commission and other EU institutions and contains information on EU policies listed by subject area.

URL: <http://www.europa.eu.int/index-en.htm>

RAPID

RAPID is a database giving a daily view of the activities of the European Union as presented by the Institutions in their press releases.

EC Press Releases are available at:

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh>

GLOSSARY

COST	European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research is a framework for scientific and technical cooperation, allowing the coordination of national research on a European level. http://www.netmaniacs.com/cost/
'Council'	'Council' refers to the 'Council of Ministers', the principle decision-making body within the European Union. It has both executive and legislative powers, the latter in some cases exercised jointly with the European Parliament (co-decision procedure). The Council is composed of one representative at ministerial level from each Member State. Which Ministers attend each Council meeting varies according to the subject discussed, e.g. The Minister of Science in the UK attends the Research Council. http://ue.eu.int/en/summ.htm
Culture 2000	First European Community Framework Programme in support of culture, which runs from 2000-2004 (inclusive). http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/culture/index_en.html
EC	The European Commission - made up of 20 Commissioners nominated by the Member States - both initiates proposals for EU legislation and executes EU policies and actions. http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/index_en.htm
EESD	Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development (FP5) http://www.cordis.lu/fp5/
eEurope	eEurope A political initiative of the EC to allow Europe to benefit fully from the Information Society. http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/information_society/eeurope/documentation/index_en.htm
EP	The European Parliament - which is made up of elected representatives (MEPs) from all the Member States. It shares decision-making power with the Council in a number of areas including research and education. http://www.europarl.eu.int/sg/tree/en/default.htm
ERA	European Research Area. On 18 January 2000, the EC issued

	<p>a Communication entitled "Towards a European Research Area" which proposed ways in which research in Europe could be more effectively organised and coordinated. http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/research/area.html</p>
ESC	<p>European Economic and Social Committee is a consultative body made up of representatives of Europe's employers' organisations, trade unions, farmers, consumer groups and professional associations. http://www.ces.eu.int/ Press Releases: http://www.ces.eu.int/en/acs/fr_acs_press_rels.htm</p>
ESF	<p>European Science Foundation. http://www.esf.org/</p>
ESF	<p>The European Social Fund http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg05/esf/en/index.htm</p>
Eureka	<p>Eureka is a Europe-wide network for Industrial Research and Development. http://www3.eureka.be/Home/</p>
FP (FP5, FP6)	<p>The EU's Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development. The Fifth Framework Programme (FP5) was adopted in 1998 and will run until 2002, when the next framework programme (FP6) is expected to supersede it.</p> <p>FP5 is composed of four thematic programmes (see QoL, IST, Growth, EESD) and three horizontal programmes (see INCO II, Innovation and SMEs, and IHP). http://www.cordis.lu/fp5</p>
Green Paper	<p>Green Papers are communications published by the European Commission on a specific policy area. Primarily they are documents addressed to interested parties who are invited to participate in a process of consultation and debate. In some cases they provide an impetus for subsequent legislation.</p>
Growth	<p>Competitive and Sustainable Growth (FP5) http://www.cordis.lu/fp5/</p>
IHP	<p>Improving Human Potential Programme (FP5) http://www.cordis.lu/improving/home.html</p>
INCO II	<p>Confirming the International Role of Community Research (FP5) http://www.cordis.lu/fp5/</p>
INDU	<p>The European Parliament Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy (FP5) http://www.europarl.eu.int/committees/en/default.htm</p>
INNOVATION	<p>Promoting of Innovation and Encouragement of SME</p>

and SME	Participation (FP5) http://www.cordis.lu/fp5/
INTAS	International Association for the promotion of cooperation with scientists from the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union. http://www.intas.be/mainfs.htm
IST	Information Society Technologies Programme (FP5) http://www.cordis.lu/fp5/
MEDIA	The MEDIA Plus Programme (2001 - 2005) is to be introduced as a follow-up to the Media II programme which ends in December 2000. The programme aims to strengthen the competitiveness of the European audiovisual industry. Http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/dg10/avpolicy/media/index_en.html
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation http://www.nato.int/
PHARE	The Phare Programme is the European Union's instrument for financial and technical cooperation with the countries of central and eastern Europe. http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/pas/phare/index.htm
QoL	Quality of Life Programme (FP5) http://www.cordis.lu/fp5/
RTD	Research and Technological Development
TACIS	The Tacis Programme aims to forge closer economic and political links with the former republics of the Soviet Union and Mongolia (also known as New Independent States (NIS)) http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg1a/tacis/index.htm
Treaty of Amsterdam	The Treaty of Amsterdam was signed in October 1997 and entered into force on 1 May 1999. http://www.europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/treaties/index.html
UUK	Universities UK (formerly the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals) http://universitiesuk.ac.uk
White Paper	White Papers are documents containing proposals for Community action in a specific area. They often follow a Green Paper.

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