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July 2017

Newsletter no. 7

Coimbra Group Office



Executive Board in Brussels

The first meeting of the Executive Board after Edinburgh took place in Brussels, at the Coimbra Group Office. The main topic on the agenda was the redistribution of coordinated actions of the Executive Board. This includes the EB members' responsibilities for the Working Group, the CG University contacts and other responsibilities such as interaction with the European Commission and other networks; the final division of responsibilities will be disseminated by the end of August to all Coimbra Group members.

The Executive Board also discussed the final programme for the CG High-Level Seminar on Education Policy on 13-14 November at Trinity College Dublin and the CG Workshop on Lifelong Learning and Employability in January 2018 in Brussels.

Developments in the debate leading up to a ninth research and innovation framework programme (FP9), incl. follow up to the launch of the "Lab-Fab-App" report, and the new communication strategy were other points on the agenda at the EB meeting. The membership ceremony for the University of Cologne was also prepared and will take place in October.

The next EB meeting in Granada on 19 September will take advantage of the joint event organised in Granada with the AUGM/Grupo Montevideo on 16 September, following on to the EAIE in Sevilla the preceding week.



From right to left, bottom to top: Ludovic Thilly (EB Chair, University of Poitiers), Jürgen Barkhoff (EB Vice-Chair, Trinity College Dublin), Lenka Rovná (Charles University in Prague), Joaquim Ramos de Carvalho (University of Coimbra), Daniel Donoghue (Durham University), Johnny Laursen (University of Aarhus), Henri Luchian (Treasurer, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași). Luca Verzichelli (University of Siena) attended the meeting virtually.



Lamy Report – LAB-FAB-APP

The High-Level Group report was published on 3rd July 2017, on the occasion of the '[Research & Innovation – Shaping our Future](#)' conference in Brussels. It was presented by the Chair of the Group, Pascal Lamy at the conference, and you will find his speech at the end of this newsletter.★

The report is available at

http://ec.europa.eu/research/evaluations/pdf/archive/other_reports_studies_and_documents/hlg_2017_report.pdf#view=fit&pagemode=none

You can also access it via the web site dedicated to the High-Level Group:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/evaluations/index_en.cfm?pg=hlg, where you will also find the mandate of the High-Level Group, an overview of its members and their CVs.

Other documents of interest and referenced in the Lamy Report are the interim evaluation results and the relevant staff working documents:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/evaluations/index_en.cfm?pg=h2020evaluation

In the next issue of the newsletter we shall bring more about the Report, following a discussion of the Executive Board in Brussels end of this month.



Second Erasmus+ Impact Study

From the European Commission:

Does Erasmus+ improve skills and the chances of finding a job? How can we measure the impact of Erasmus+ on institutions? These are all questions tackled in the second Erasmus+ Impact Study in the field of higher education. Following the success of the first, a new study has been launched to discover the benefits of the mobility programme.

Building on the success of the first Erasmus+ Impact Study, a new study has been launched to measure the impact of the Erasmus+ programme on its beneficiaries and participants. The study is being carried out by CHE Consult GmbH and ICF Consulting Services and will run until 2018. It will target Erasmus+ participants before, during and after time spent abroad, but also non-mobile students and staff, Erasmus+ alumni and participants funded through other mobility programmes.

The first wave of surveys has already started and we strongly encourage all representatives of higher education institutions (Vice-Rectors, Heads of Faculty or Departments, International Relations Office staff) to take part and complete the survey.

You can access the survey via this link: <http://www.mobility-survey.org/>

You can view the first Erasmus+ Impact Study [here](#).



New President of ACA

From ACA's Newsletter:

Ulrich Grothus was elected the new ACA President at the recent meeting of the association's General Assembly of 20 June. His term of office will begin at the **start of January 2018**, when the second term of office of Sijbolt Noorda, the current ACA President, comes to an end.

Ulrich Grothus was born in Hagen (Germany) in 1952; he studied political science and German language and literature at the Free University of Berlin, and then worked as a journalist for six years. In 1982, he joined the West German Rectors' Conference (*Westdeutsche Rektorenkonferenz*, WRK), before he started his career at the DAAD, the German Academic Exchange Service, as the head of the President's Office. After having been in charge of almost all DAAD divisions and the organisation's branch offices in New York and Paris, he is today the Deputy Secretary General of DAAD. He is based mainly in Berlin, but also in Bonn where the DAAD still has its main office. Ulrich Grothus has also been an ACA Vice-President and Administrator.



As you would imagine, the Estonian EU presidency, which started on 1st July this year, is fully into modern use of IT, the media and social networks (cf. below).

The Estonian Presidency seeks to fulfil its role in ensuring 'the EU remains united and decisive' by working along four main priorities:

- A safe and secure Europe
- A digital Europe and the free movement of data
- An inclusive and sustainable Europe

The fourth priority includes education under the motto "Unity through Balance" and will concentrate on the modernisation of school and higher education, propose regulations to enhance labour mobility and the free movement of people, ensuring citizens equal labour market access and social inclusion prospects, while taking forward the *New Skills Agenda for Europe* and investing in Europe's youth including the next [EU Youth Strategy](#) and the recently [launched](#) European Solidarity Corps.

Council conclusions will follow concerning Higher Education in response to the recently published *Communication on a renewed EU agenda for higher education*, as well as discussions on challenges in the sector with a view to propose future policy actions. The presidency aims to achieve an agreement by November on the Commission's [graduate tracking initiative](#) in tertiary education and of young people in vocational education and training (VET).

Efforts in Research and Innovation will be fed by results of the interim evaluation of Horizon2020, towards proposals for the next generation of the programme. The presidency seeks to also advance specific priorities - the promotion of links and the impact between research excellence, innovation and society, as well as advancing a more coherent and accessible funding programme and a successful partnering approach for the next Framework Programme.

Presidency events planned in the field of education:

15-16 June 2017, Tallinn - High Level Group on Education

3 meetings of Directors General (DGs) in Tallinn:

- DG Schools on 18-19 September,
- DG Higher Education on 12-13 October and
- DG VET on 9-10 October;

19-20 September, Tallinn - Presidency conference on education

27-28 September - Seminar of the Lifelong Guidance Policy Network (ELGPN)

4-5 October, Tallinn - PLA of ET2020 working group on digital skills and competences

8-9 November, Tartu - Meeting of the Bologna Follow-up Group (BFUG)

More information on priorities and scheduled events in further fields of education, including youth as well as research and innovation, can be [found here](#)

<https://www.eu2017.ee/priorities-estonian-presidency>



Altiero Spinelli Prize for Outreach

The European Commission has launched an EU-wide contest for a prestigious "Altiero Spinelli Prize for Outreach: Spreading Knowledge about Europe".

The Prize will reward outstanding contributions that communicate the EU - its founding values, history, action and key benefits- to wider society, enhance citizens' understanding of the EU, broaden the ownership of the European project and build trust in the EU. Eligible participants include scholars/researchers, scientists, writers, journalists, artists and all kinds of other actors who can contribute to articulating what Europe stands for today and tomorrow and why European citizens should "fall in love with Europe" despite its imperfections.

Applicants from all EU-relevant fields of study and sectors of work are eligible, most notably the social sciences, the arts and humanities and the fields of media and communication. Cooperation across disciplines is encouraged.

Prizes will be awarded to the most attractive, non-conventional, user-friendly, evidence-based, and myth-busting works that achieve the objectives set above and that are suitable for outreach to a variety of audiences. If academics, the prize winners will be encouraged to join the Jean Monnet Community of academics in the future.

Registration of intention to apply is compulsory by 16 August 2017.

The deadline for applications is 2 October 2017.

Applications will be assessed in October 2017 and the Award Ceremony will be held in early 2018.

For further information:

https://ec.europa.eu/education/calls/altiero-spinelli-prize-contest-2017_en



Interview with EASSH President

From the NET4Society newsletter - NET4Society is an International network of National Contact Points (NCPs) for the Societal Challenge 6 in Horizon 2020 (<http://www.net4society.eu/>)

Interview with Poul Holm - President of the "European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities" – EASSH

The "European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities" – EASSH – promotes research on social and cultural issues and links research communities with civil society and policy makers. Poul Holm was elected president of EASSH in 2016 and is a professor of environmental history at Trinity College Dublin.

What is the background of EASSH and what are its main objectives?

The future of the human species hinges on our abilities to develop a collective intelligence to overcome the big challenges of today. Climate, democracy, religion, migration, these are all headlines that must be addressed by understanding human motivation and behaviour as much as by technological responses. EASSH exists to help ensure Europe can benefit from investment in SSH scholarship directed at understanding and answering these questions.

Europe has a large and active scholarly SSH community (over 300,000 only in UK, Germany and France). Nearly half of the world's top 100 faculties undertaking scholarship in the humanities are based in the EU. Forty percent of leading centres of excellence for research in the social and economic sciences are in institutions based in the EU. EASSH is a channel to and from the social sciences and humanities to the wider research system, which also includes civil society, policy makers, advisors, public-private partnerships, administrators and practitioners. The strength of the wider research system is a valuable resource, from which Europe can benefit considerably.

When EASSH was established, what kind of feedback on your initiative did you receive from the SSH community and other R&D actors?

We have had a very positive response so far. The idea of an Alliance emerged as long ago as 2010 when we opened a dialogue with the research community to discuss the need for a



stronger voice in science policy. EASSH was formally created only a year ago. Since late 2016, we have deliberately tried to collaborate with other organisations on common policy issues; for example, Academia Europaea, the Coimbra Group and others. Our experience has shown how important it is for the wider community to be given a consistent voice advocating for the contribution SSH research makes to knowledge and society. Recently more and more organisations want to have their voice heard and we just opened a call for new members (<http://www.eassh.eu/p/joining-european-alliance-social-sciences-and-humanities>).

In your view, what are the most important issues with regard to European research in social sciences and humanities that EASSH needs to address?

Our focus is clear: we must ensure that the SSH has a much better position in the next Framework programme. First of all, we must ensure that the ERC maintains its flagship position in European research funding. The ERC is the single greatest success for the EU in the past ten years and SSH research has benefitted enormously. Second, we must ensure that the next Framework programme has a larger budget for societally-driven challenges. Third, we must ensure that the integration of SSH research in technologically-driven challenges comes with real funding and is not a token gesture. And fourth, we must ensure that Europe means Europe: after Brexit the UK's position hangs in the balance while at the same time worrying developments in Eastern Europe are threatening to limit the freedom of universities.

What kind of activities does EASSH plan for the future?

We have opened up the dialogue even further to include private, philanthropic foundations from across Europe. The EUFORI project has shown that together, foundations invest about €5 billion a year in European research and innovation, and they play an important part in supporting the SSH. However, like us they are concerned that EU priorities are too limited both in terms of research agenda and disciplinary spread.

In the longer term, we want to engage our membership more directly. By necessity, our focus in the first phase has been a Brussels-focused agenda but we want the SSH to set their agenda by means of giving more direct voice to membership-led initiatives and to become a real platform for SSH disciplines and their engagement with civil society, policy makers, advisors, public-private partnerships, administrators and practitioners.

In Memory of Liu Xiaobo



"I hope that I will be the last victim in China's long record of treating words as crimes"



We have received



From the University of Würzburg

The German Careers Service Association publishes the "careers service papers" every year, where we discuss current questions concerning career service topics. Most of the articles are still in German but a growing number is also available in English. If you are interested, you can find all papers here: <http://www.csnd.de/publikationen/csp/csp-ausgaben.html>

For this publication, the editors want to collect a quick flash light from other European career service institutions and therefore asked me, if I could forward 5 questions to you. I would be happy, if some of you would be interested in answering those questions and sending me the answers **until August 18:**

- 1) Could you please give a brief description of your institution and your Careers Service?
- 2) How would you describe the most important functions your Careers Service fulfils?
- 3) In what ways does your Careers Service receive recognition from relevant target groups such as students, employers, and the university board?
- 4) What are the major external and internal challenges you had to face during the last few years?
- 5) What are the major goals you set for your Careers Service for the coming years?

The answers don't have to be very long, as they aim to achieve only a short, structured and comparable overview about the basic understanding of career service work in Europe at this point.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me any time.

Krischan Brandl (krischan.brandl@uni-wuerzburg.de)



From the University of Geneva

DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMME

Research Methods in Translation and Interpreting Studies (I)

Foundations and Data Analysis

September > December 2017

FACULTÉ DE TRADUCTION ET D'INTERPRÉTATION | FTI

UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE

We are pleased to announce the launch of the new edition of our courses on Research Methods in Translation and Interpreting Studies, developed at FTI-Geneva on the basis of our innovative doctoral school program:

<http://www.unige.ch/formcont/researchmethods-distance1>

<http://www.unige.ch/formcont/researchmethods-distance2>

These courses offer a unique opportunity for doctoral or pre-doctoral students from partner institutions, as well as other researchers in the field, to hone their methodological and communication skills, and to collaborate with fellow scholars via a one-of-a-kind, interactive on-line platform. Participants will have access to reading materials, individual feedback, discussion threads and plenary lectures, and will be able to organize their work according to their individual schedules.

Registration for the first course is open until 4 September 2017, and the course will officially begin on 25 September. Professor Michael Cronin will be our first guest lecturer on 29 September. For more information, please contact the coordinators listed in the brochure: <http://www.unige.ch/formcont/researchmethods-distance1>

Best regards,

Faculty of Translation and Interpreting (FTI)
University of Geneva, Switzerland
<http://www.unige.ch/fti>



From the Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe



Is the lack of affordable accommodation a significant obstacle to internationalisation? How can we create a stable and effective cooperation platform at the local level (private entities, individual landlords, municipalities and student associations)? How can sending and hosting institutions share the responsibility for informing international students on housing possibilities? If you are interested in the answers to these questions, then join us for the **HousErasmus+ project Final Conference: At home in Europe: Accommodate international students!** which will take place in **Brussels, 21-22 September 2017**.

The event is the culmination of a [2-year HousErasmus+ project](#): Improving Mobility and Accommodation, co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme under the Key Action 3: Forward-Looking Cooperation. The project is coordinated by Erasmus Student Network (ESN) and involves 3 university networks as partners: UNICA, European University Foundation, and Compostela Group of Universities.

The 2-day programme of the Conference, organised as part of the 30-year-celebrations of the Erasmus programme, includes capacity-building workshops, panel discussions, presentation of the **HousErasmus+ research results** and the subsequent recommendations for universities, student associations, housing providers and policy makers formulated to improve the international student housing in Europe.

For **programme and information on online registration** (registration deadline: **15 August**), please visit the **Conference's website**: <http://conference.houserasmus.eu/>

For further information, go to the Conference's website <http://conference.houserasmus.eu/>
Ask questions to the Organisers [via the contact form](#) or contact directly the Project Coordinator Mr Jeremy Apert: house-erasmus@esn.org

PDW 2017: Call for Project Ideas



Do you have a great idea for an innovative European Project on tackling challenges related to the professional development of teachers and trainers? Does it align with the [recent EU communication on "School Development and Excellent Teaching for a Great Start in Life"](#)? Whether it is in higher education, school or vocational education and training, adult education, youth or sports, get ready to develop your Erasmus+ project proposal and benefit from EU funding. Let's shape the **Teachers and Trainers of Tomorrow!**

Pin down **Thursday 30 November and Friday 1 December 2017** in your calendar! You will get a unique insight into the Commission's new priority on professional development in the 2018 Erasmus+ programmes and meet European partners for your project idea.

Build your European consortium for the upcoming calls for proposals related to the professional development of teachers and trainers:

Erasmus+ [Key Action 2: Innovation and Good Practices](#)

Erasmus+ [Key Action 3: Policy reforms](#)

Erasmus+ [Sport](#)

How does it work?

Find European partners for your next project on tackling skills challenges

Do you want to submit a proposal as a project leader? Please [fill in the form](#) by **15 September 2017**. This form should only be completed by potential project promoters who have a clear project idea and who are willing to act as a project leader under Erasmus+ KA2, KA3 or Sport calls.

[Submit your project idea now!](#)

The European University Association (EUA) and Digital Europe have the pleasure of inviting you to a joint breakfast event on:

The importance of openness for sustainable knowledge societies

27 September 2017, 8.30-10.30, Digital Europe premises, 14 rue de la Science, 1040 Brussels

[REGISTER NOW](#)

The idea of an open global economy is under attack. For decades, there has been wide consensus that an open, rules-based, international order would create wide-spread prosperity and ensure progress. And it did, to a point. Supranational institutions like the EU or multilateral

organisations like the WTO bear witness to the amazing accomplishments resulting from tearing down barriers. Now, bilateralism and even protectionism are gaining currency across the world. It is therefore vital to remind ourselves why openness is important for business and civil society alike, and to reinforce the arguments why we need an open world to sustain our knowledge-powered societies.

This breakfast event will present concrete examples of the deep international dynamics that are at the basis of two fundamental sectors, the digital technology industry and the university sector. The aim is to stimulate a discussion and awareness about tangible benefits of an open world to the knowledge society at large. It will also be a unique possibility for cross-sector networking and dialogue for anyone interested in innovation, technology, and the role of knowledge in society. The event will be held as a moderated panel discussion.

Speakers:

- Alexa Joyce, Director Education Policy, Teaching and Learning, Microsoft
- Paul Ayriss Pro-Vice-Provost (UCL Library Services), University College London
- Brando Benifei, Member of the European Parliament
- Peter A. Wieringa, Vice-rector, Delft University of Technology

Introduction:

- Thomas Jørgensen, Senior Policy Coordinator, European University Association (EUA)

Moderator:

- Cecilia Bonefeld-Dahl, Director General, DIGITALEUROPE

The number of seats is limited. [Please register online](#) before 25 September 2017.

The event is part of the [Digital in Practice Programme](#) of Digital Europe.

For more information, please contact:

Kivanç Akil, Events and Office Executive

kivanc.akil@digitaleurope.org

★ *Speech by Pascal Lamy, Chair of the High-Level Group on maximising the impact of EU research and innovation programmes at the 'Research and Innovation – Shaping our Future' conference, 3 July 2017, Brussels*

I would like to thank the European Commission, and particularly Commissioner Moedas, for having entrusted our Group with a task that we consider important and timely for the future of Europe.

The 12 of us, coming from various horizons, were asked to come up with a set of recommendations on how to maximise the impact of future European research and Innovation programmes, thus framing a vision for "FP9" which will succeed the current European programme for research and innovation, Horizon 2020.

We were not asked to prescribe thematic priorities for future programmes. These will result from a public consultation and a political decision-making process that we hope will be inspired by our report.

Our report is built on the findings of the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020.

As mentioned by Commissioner Moedas, it is also the result of considering other written evidence as well as of wide consultations - with researchers, innovators, stakeholder organisations, governmental and non-governmental representatives.

Let me now reveal the main features of our report, which you will get at midday when we break up for lunch, starting with its title: "LAB-FAB-APP". Sounds a bit mysterious?

So let me explain: We need to continue investing in science, whether disruptive or incremental - LAB. But we need to become much better in fabricating added value products and services; converting the results of science into innovative solutions that generate value for economy and society - FAB. And we need to ensure that these solutions find their application for the benefit and with the more active participation of society - APP.

We need LAB, FAB and APP. All three, not one or the other. And not one after the other, but all together in an iterative process.

Let's start with LAB. In Europe today, we are good at producing knowledge. We have first-rate universities, a deep pool of talented people, a rich tapestry of small and medium-sized firms, excellent academic institutions. The Horizon 2020 interim evaluation shows this in clear and compelling detail. Horizon 2020's European added value is undisputed. It is entirely transnational and border-crushing – between disciplines, sectors and countries.

The European Research Council has quickly become a global beacon of scientific excellence. But many fantastic proposals bump into a budget wall: only a small proportion of new ideas succeed in getting funding.

This puts our future capacity to produce new knowledge at risk, if we compare with the dynamics we observe in the US, in China, in Japan or in Korea. What should be the proper amount of EU funding? By various calculations, we came to the conclusion that the next EU Multiannual Financial Framework should retain an amount for the research and innovation programme that is between €160 and €120 billion. €160 billion is the number that would allow funding a reasonable proportion of proposals. €120 billion is the number that results from the rate of increase that was retained for Horizon 2020 (a round 6.5% per year), leading to around €13 billion for the year 2020. We also call on national governments to step up spending on research and innovation in their national budgets.

FAB - We all know that all innovation does not stem from research, while not all research leads to innovation. Research and innovation are different, but they depend on each other and need each other to flourish. They are each other's best friends - in theory. But not in practice, or not enough. We Europeans are good at growing science. But we are not good enough at getting growth out of science. Hence a large part of our growth deficit, when compared to other major developed or developing economics. And we know that too - low growth risks making our European economic and social model unsustainable. Nothing new? Maybe. But given the acceleration of technological change, lagging behind in innovation is now a much more serious problem than in the past.

So, where should we go? We need a broad and understandable definition of innovation that takes into account the whole ecosystem. This means that EU and national policies – such as trade, agriculture, energy, regional, industrial and competition policies – must be more supportive of innovation and always seek innovative solutions to realise their objectives. A true EU innovation policy, supported by coherent regulation, should provide better incentives to innovators and entrepreneurs to operate and succeed.

As we all know in this room, Europe's innovation deficit does not stem from a lack of ideas or a lack of start-ups. Our problem is the lack of scale-up. We have to invest in and promote

innovative ideas that can be rapidly scaled up. Hence our support for a European Innovation Council modelled upon the European Research Council, mutatis mutandis. And we have to further simplify our funding opportunities – the range of EU funding schemes for research and innovation is currently too complex.

What matters for a successful research and innovation programme is not who participates most with what kind of instruments, but how we maximise the programme's impact in support of the purpose we set for it. Purpose and value should trump instruments and clients.

Last and third part: APP. We need to have applications for the benefit of all which clearly result from the research and innovation supported by the EU. So it is vital that citizens be more involved in determining EU research and innovation priorities. There has to be a greater public connection with research and innovation. We must convincingly abolish old perceptions of distant men - and increasingly women - in white coats, or in ivory towers. We call for global challenges to be addressed in future EU programmes in a mission-oriented way.

Our Group's remit was not to prescribe what the Man on the Moon mission for Europe could be (although 'Woman on the Moon' was considered at one point!). But we do offer a set of principles: missions should privilege impact, they should define a clear goal which captures public imagination, and they should mobilise many different actors.

The impacts of the EU programme must also be better captured, and better communicated, to the public. Communicating with the public and involving it in co-programming and co-creating in innovative solutions is an integral dimension of open science and open innovation. It not only increases the chances of success, it also contributes to reinforcing the legitimacy and sense of belonging to Europe's future.

We believe that the best way to ensure a larger political participation in research and innovation is to embed it in our education systems, from schools to universities. Major reforms are needed in this field. Human capital is our treasure, but it might become idle if we do not build a culture where risk is embraced and failure is tolerated.

To sum up, our vision and message is that investing in research and innovation is more and more crucial for shaping a better European future in a fast globalising world. It is the best option we have to creating the future we want, rather than to have a future created for us, hence the subtitle of our report: "Investing in the European future we want".

With our report, we intend to help trigger a political debate in the coming months on the importance of investing in research and innovation – the time to act and to build the future we want to see in Europe is now.

The group is so convinced of the opportunity and necessity of an ambitious EU research and innovation policy and programme that we will continue to champion our recommendations.

Our report has 11 recommendations - each one is championed by one member of the group. This is a further manifestation of their incredible availability and engagement. I have rarely seen such a productive group chemistry. I am even confident, dear Commissioner, that they can witness that I (sometimes) can smile! And I, as chair, will continue to champion the whole report.

We have already scheduled a rendez-vous with Commissioner Moedas and other Commissioners in early January 2018 to take stock of the follow-up to our recommendations.

A follow-up which starts today with you all.

Thank you for your attention.