

Activity 8.1: Growth, employment and competitiveness in a knowledge society – the European case

Area 8.1.1 Changing role of knowledge throughout the economy

SSH.2011.1.1-1. „Lifelong learning in Europe: appropriate skills for sustaining better jobs”

“Investing in people through lifelong learning is not only a source of personal development and well-being but also promotes equality and social cohesion. Developing people’s skills also gives individuals access to the labour market, promotes productivity (and higher wages) and opens up opportunities for better jobs and eventually leads to economic growth and competitiveness at the macro-economic level. The long-term socio-economic developments, compounded by the severe economic crisis, accelerate labour market flexibility and make patchwork careers more common for some groups in society. Coping with the needs of changing labour markets and societies, while supporting people’s employability, requires flexible and instant learning. It may imply a shift in responsibility for investment in skills: from a situation where skills development is mainly the responsibility of the State and employers to one where it is a shared responsibility between individuals, enterprises and the State. In this context, European and national policy-makers responsible for education and training need better insights and sound evidence on how lifelong learning policy can reconcile economic and social needs with individual aspirations.

It is thus important to investigate whether, how exactly and which types of lifelong learning policies are most conducive to innovation, competitiveness and growth, in what ways lifelong learning should be delivered, assessed and monitored, which links develop between lifelong learning and flexicurity, and how education and training systems can support individual employability by creating the right conditions for continuous learning. The "employee-driven innovation concept" will be also developed in this context. A particular challenge for research is that linear approaches which mainly focus on investments in skills preceding working life should be enriched by considering that working and learning increasingly alternate during one’s life and career and that there are interdependencies between formal and informal learning and work. Research should also acknowledge that the contribution of informal learning to work-related competence is greater than that of formal learning.

Based on empirical work on a limited number of key industrial or service sectors, research should analyse to what extent and how lifelong learning contributes to growth and competitiveness and map how lifelong investments in knowledge and skills, both job-specific and transversal, transfer into societal outcomes. It should include adequate theoretical and empirical frameworks to consider the increasing relevance of skill development during the career, and consider all types of learning. Although proposals may focus on a sample of EU Member States (minimum 10), they should generate comparative results that are relevant in a EU context. Samples of Member States should be representative of the variety of lifelong learning systems and policies in Europe and their links to flexicurity. Proposals should also compare European countries with selected major competitors.”

Funding scheme: Collaborative project (small or medium-scale focused research project)

Für dieses Förderthema ist als Förderinstrument ein **Collaborative project**¹ (**small or medium-scale focused research project**) vorgegeben.

Die **maximale Fördersumme für Projektanträge in diesem Topic liegt bei 2,7 Mio. € pro Antrag**.

Diese Summe stellt eine Höchstgrenze dar. Projektanträge, die eine finanzielle Unterstützung der Europäischen Kommission oberhalb dieser Grenze beantragen, werden nicht zur Evaluierung zugelassen.

An Projektanträgen mit diesem Förderinstrument müssen mindestens 3 voneinander unabhängige Partner aus mindestens 3 Mitglieds- oder Assoziierten Staaten beteiligt sein.

Dieses Topic ist unter dem **Call-Identifizier FP7-SSH-2011-2** ausgeschrieben.

Projektanträge müssen bis zum **02. Februar 2011, 17:00 Uhr** (Ortszeit Brüssel) per [EPSS \(„Electronic Proposal Submission Service“\)](#) eingereicht werden.

Alle notwendigen Unterlagen zur Einreichung von Anträgen zu diesem Topic finden Sie auf der [Cordis-Webseite](#).

Bitte wenden Sie sich bei Fragen zur Antragstellung jederzeit an die Nationale Kontaktstelle Sozial-, Wirtschafts- und Geisteswissenschaften!

Unsere Kontaktdaten finden Sie unter:

<http://www.nks-swg.de/de/ansprechpartner.php>

¹ Verbundprojekte („*Collaborative Research Projects*“, CP) sind Forschungsprojekte, die von Konsortien mit Partnern aus verschiedenen Ländern und dem Ziel durchgeführt werden, neues Wissen, neue Technologien, Produkte, Verfahren oder Dienstleistungen zu entwickeln. Größe, Gegenstandsbereich und interne Organisation der Projekte können je nach Förderbereich und thematischem Schwerpunkt unterschiedlich gestaltet sein. Prinzipiell unterscheidet man zwischen kleinen bis mittelgroßen Verbundprojekten („*small or medium-scale focused research projects*“) und großen integrierten Projekten („*large-scale integrating projects*“)