

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

Area 8.1.2 Structural changes in the European knowledge economy and society

SSH.2011.1.2-1. „Europe moving towards a new path of economic growth and social development”

“ The Challenge

The underlying globalisation trends and the current acute financial and economic crisis open up a decade of uncertainties. In particular, they trigger questions about models of human development and social well-being and therefore about the links between social and economic priorities.

As highlighted by recent forward looking analyses carried out at national, European and international levels, there are trends in the use of natural resources, in the development of ICTs, in the demographic outlook of our societies, in the distribution of income and wealth which call for a "socio-ecological transition". This transition will involve major tensions between different models of capitalism, between social groups, between policy priorities. Tensions will also emerge between different economic interests in competition for business growth, between different types of consumer behaviours, between short-term and long-term political considerations, between "traditional" and "modern" values.

The EU has been engaged in a race against relative economic and social decline (compared to other developed or emerging countries). Since a decade, Europe has tried to solve its "slow growth problem" and its related social problems through "knowledge economy strategy", i.e. facilitating industrial change and accelerating transformation of the EU into a sustainable knowledge-based economy. It has implemented the Stability and Growth Pact in order to improve its macro-economic stability and performance. Given the current international and national evolutions, EU and national policies need to be reassessed and adapted to the new requirements of a transition to a socio-ecological model of development. The new "Europe 2020" agenda made to foster these new development and social well-being trajectories needs an accompanying research agenda.

Why it matters for Europe

In the context of rethinking EU policies after the crisis and of the upcoming discussions on EU modernisation strategies, it will be important for Europe to re-examine how policies with exclusive and shared EU competences (such as trade, agriculture, competition, internal market, consumer policy and so on) actually combine economic, environmental and social objectives in order to respond to the challenge of a new economic growth and social development path. In the medium-term, finding ways to get out of the crisis will require combining collective endeavours like the European Economic Recovery Plan with other EU and national policies and actions in the social and/or economic field. In the longer-term, responding to the new socio-economic priorities like "smart, sustainable and inclusive growth" within the "Europe 2020 strategy" calls for the definition and characterisation, through research, of a new path of economic growth and social development.

The crisis has also drawn the attention to "governance" issues in the EU. Firstly, there is a need to strengthen the coordination of European and national economic policies, internally as well as in relation to global partners and institutions. Secondly, some of the new Member States seem to be particularly affected in the long run by the crisis and one can wonder whether specific "solidarity" measures should be designed for them to buffer the worst effect of the socio-economic crisis.

Addressing the challenge

Research dimensions to be taken into consideration:

- Given the large public deficits the Member States will have to face in the coming years, how

are they going to solve the dilemma of maintaining or expanding welfare state commitments, ensure fiscal consolidation and allow innovation in favour of the green economy? What innovative solutions can be found for structural reforms and bold fiscal policies that preserve or even enhance income redistribution in Europe while preparing for the future?

- What can the EU do in terms of policies and governance initiatives either internally (between Member States and the EU) – e.g. coordination of macro-economic, fiscal and/or budgetary policies, new stakeholder involvement models in designing policies - or at the international level (i.e. G20 and other fora), to buffer potential negative impacts of globalisation on its citizens and influence global trends towards new socio-ecological development paths?

- How will the Member States and the EU adapt and coordinate their research, innovation and industrial policies towards the socio-ecological transition? What are the best practices in combining technological, economic and social innovations? What are their economic efficiency, their social equity and their environmental performance? What are the new sectors that may develop alongside the socio-ecological transition? How ICTs can efficiently contribute to the achievement of the economic, social and environmental objectives?

- Given the difficulty to define common solutions but also due to the importance of the territorial dimension in Europe, what are the economic, social and environmental regulations and organisations in a large "region" such as Europe that allow moving towards a socioecological transition? What are the impacts on specific sectors? What are the challenges for the urban, peri-urban and rural areas concerning the locations of work and leisure, habitat, landscape and infrastructure?

- What are the cultural contexts of the socio-ecological transition? What can interdisciplinary analyses (economics, sociology, history, philosophy, anthropology for example) tell us of the complex collective meanings of "well-being"? What is the gender dimension of these expectations and preferences? What lessons can be drawn from the historical analysis of past "systemic transitions"?"

Funding scheme: Collaborative project (large scale integrated research project)

Für dieses Förderthema ist als Förderinstrument ein **Collaborative project¹ (large scale integrating project)** vorgegeben.

Die **minimale Fördersumme für Projektanträge in diesem Topic liegt bei 6,5 Mio. € pro Antrag.**

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

An Projektanträgen mit diesem Förderinstrument müssen mindestens 7 voneinander unabhängige Partner aus mindestens 7 Mitglieds- oder Assoziierten Staaten beteiligt sein.

Dieses Topic ist unter dem **Call-Identifizier FP7-SSH-2011-1** 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*“)