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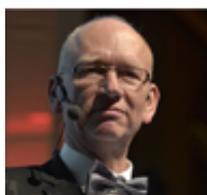


Newsletter

June 2014

Foreword by ENSR Chairman

Dr. Kim Møller



It takes will, focus and capability to succeed and we are well on our way to succeeding in playing a bigger game in 2014. Without question we have the capability to do much more in the future

than what we have done up till now. Our focus is on forming thematic groups of ENSR partners around subjects of mutual interest and the Directors' meeting in April showed that we also have the will to do so. 12 ENSR partners declared their interest in working together in a thematic group on "New Skills for New Jobs", 9 ENSR partners confirmed their interest in working together on expansion in Latin America and two additional thematic groups were suggested and interest in them was confirmed.

Now we have to stay focused. Summer vacation calls but when we resume work after the summer break let's follow up on the good foundation laid down in the Spring: **Let's play a bigger game.**

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Annual ENSR training workshop and directors meeting 2014

The annual ENSR training workshop and

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ENSR Thematic Groups

New Skills for New Jobs

12 ENSR partners (VVA, Oxford Research Denmark, Oxford Research Sweden, Ikei, Baltic Consulting, Tom Martin & Associates, Economarket, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Panteia, KMFA, IfM Bonn, Praxis) and ENSR Faculty member Prof. Giuliano confirmed their interest in exploiting the mutual capacity in the field of "New Skills for New Jobs" at the

directors meeting took place in Brussels on 9-10 April 2014.

Training sessions over both days were organised by ENSR researchers for ENSR researchers. Derek Light (Oxford Research), Sascha Ruhland (KMFA), Iñigo Isusi (Ikei) and Digna Lazdina (Baltic Consulting) handled different aspects of the preparation of a tender. The trainees were invited to prepare a tender in small groups and the winner of the best tender won a car [the Dinky toy variety!].



Arnaud Burgess (Panteia) focused on a specific type of EC tenders: the new calls for DG RTD Research within Horizon 2020 (the follow up of the 7th Framework Programme [FP]).



On April 10th, a workshop for ENSR directors took place. The idea of having an annual workshop for directors was born last year during the general meeting. Robert Blackburn of Kingston University (UK) presented an analysis of the ENSR tender processes and outcomes in the previous 24 months. Mirela Alpeza of Ceper (Croatia) discussed how policy institutes as ENSR organisations can be lead like an entrepreneurial venture. Kim Møller (Oxford research) and Antonio Corral (Ikei) led the discussion on the activities carried out and planned for two ENSR thematic groups: “New skills and new Jobs” and “The Latin American market” respectively — see also the side bar on the right.

Directors meeting in April. The purpose of the thematic group is to develop both joint and individual business from the second half of this year and onwards.

The first step will be a more detailed discussion on where our key competencies lie in a joint talent pool which will probably narrow the scope of the thematic group. In a more narrowed scope we will identify what the specific value proposition is to clients of the ENSR network and we will develop an action plan to get closer to our key clients and to develop business with them.

Other ENSR partners interested in joining the thematic group, but who have not confirmed interest yet, are invited to do so by email to Dr. Kim Møller.

Further details are available on the [ENSR extranet](#).

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The Latin American market

Following the discussions during the ENSR General Meeting 2013 on how to expand the activities of the Network, Ikei proposed the constitution of a thematic group intended to analyse the interest and potential of the Latin American and Caribbean market for the ENSR network. With this purpose in mind, a survey has been conducted amongst partners, with results showing that at least 12 partners are interested in working in this new market and that 9 are

During lunch, Ms Klavdija Cernilogar of DG EAC of the European Commission presented the state of knowledge on new skills for new jobs in the European Union and the related EC policy in the context of Horizon 2020.

The presentations can be found on the [ENSR extranet](#).

The 2014 Annual ENSR Days were a big success. In total, around 40 people from the ENSR network participated. On the evening of the 9th, all participants were invited to join the annual ENSR dinner.

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Interesting ENSR projects

(1) Initiatives and measures to promote youth entrepreneurship

In cooperation with a number of ENSR partners, Ikei is carrying out a project on youth entrepreneurship on behalf of the **European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound)**.

Specifically at the national level, the research will try to fulfil the following goals:

- Provide a very short introduction to the importance of youth entrepreneurship at the national level and the national policy conducted for promoting youth entrepreneurship.
- Provide detailed information on selected policy measures available at national level that cover one or more of three following main support pillars: 1) fostering an entrepreneurial mind-set, attitudes and culture among young people, 2) provision of information, advice, coaching and mentoring and 3) removal of perceived practical barriers and ease of access to credit.

The outputs of this project will be used to prepare two chapters of the final report of a larger Eurofound project called 'Youth entrepreneurship in Europe: Values and characteristics of young entrepreneurs'.

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willing to participate in the thematic group. The next steps will be to compose an attractive ENSR portfolio for this market and study work possibilities (potential clients, local partners in the region, etc.). Ikei will inform interested parties of possible interesting calls for tenders which may be launched in the future.

Other ENSR partners interested in joining the thematic group, but who haven't confirmed interest yet, are invited to do so by email to [Antonio Corral](#).

See also the relevant section of the [ENSR extranet](#).

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Two new working groups

During the ENSR directors workshop in April 2014 two new working groups were announced. Rik de Keyser and Stephanie Devisscher from WES (Belgium) will elaborate further on the setting up of a working group on research tools.

Leopold Gilles from Credoc will study the possibility of setting up a working group to value common expertise in the field of welfare policies.

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Forward

Do you know someone who might be interested in ENSR? Forward this email to a colleague (**please note**, we

(2) SMEs and Bank rating

On 15 April the European Commission published the report “**Evaluation of Market Practices and Policies on SME Rating**”. The objective of this study was to evaluate the effectiveness of banks’ practices in place at the EU and Member States levels as regards SME rating systems, paying particular attention to the use of qualitative ratings. It also evaluated the usefulness of the feedback provided by banks to SMEs.

A secondary objective of the study was to highlight which policies public authorities in Member States and EU authorities have taken to promote the transparency of SME ratings in the banking sector, the supply of such feedback to SMEs, and how effective they have been. The evaluation was carried out by CSES in cooperation with Panteia. At the request of CSES, ENSR covered 6 countries. To access the report and the press release — including comments by Antonio Tajani, EU Commissioner for Industry and Entrepreneurship, see:

[Evaluation of Market Practices and Policies on SME Rating](#)

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Recent ENSR tenders

The following proposals have been or are in the process of being submitted:

- **VVA:** ‘Ex post’ evaluation of cohesion policy programmes 2007–2013 financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Cohesion Fund (CF) — work package 2: support to SMEs — increasing research and innovation in SMEs and SME development.
- **Civitta:** Collection of gender equality policy documentation and grey literature in 10 EU Member States, EIGE.
- **Consortium comprising Oxford Research (lead), Ikei, KMFA, Panteia:** Project opportunity — Occupational safety and health (OSH) in micro and small enterprises, European Agency for Safety and Health at Work.

In the context of the **Framework Contract for**

need to clarify that the sharing of the newsletter concerns only colleagues within one’s own organisation). The Newsletter is not meant for external colleagues.

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Want to contribute?

ENSR member organisations are invited to submit news or articles to the Secretariat for inclusion on the extranet and in the next edition of the newsletter. Contact the [Secretariat](#) if you wish to contribute.

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the provision of evaluation services of research and innovation programmes and policies of DG Research, led by Oxford Research in cooperation with Panteia and CSES, the following tenders were prepared:

- Ex post evaluation of the health theme in FP7;
- Ex post evaluation science society FP7;
- Interim evaluation of the Innovation Union Flagship Initiative;
- Analysis of role and impact of industry participation in FPs;
- Analysis of role of and impact on RTOs in FPs;
- Stock-taking and Meta-analysis of Science in Society projects throughout FP6 and FP7R.

For more details on ENSR-related proposals, see the [extranet](#).

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