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Newsletter

June 2015

Foreword by ENSR Chairman

Dr. Kim Møller



The 2015 ENSR days in April were a great confirmation that we are on the right track in building relations with our main client, the EU

Commission, rather than only responding to tenders. On Thursday, April 23rd, the ENSR network hosted a seminar on “**Next level evaluation**” and key decision makers from DG Research, DG Environment and DG Regio kindly accepted our invitations to speak and to take part in the workshops on equal terms with the ENSR partners. After the seminar we received very positive feedback from the Commission representatives encouraging us to stay in this informal contact with them.

Looking ahead we shall do much more of this and we shall do so in the context of the thematic groups that are continuously being formed. This is how we get to know each other better so we join forces better in the tendering process and this is how we get the extra insights that distinguish our proposals from those of our competitors. More is to come in positioning ENSR as more than a network. We want to build ENSR as a brand — a blueprint for quality and innovative solutions in our industry. Stay tuned.

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ENSR Thematic Groups

Research in Innovation, led by KMFA

ENSR has recently established a new thematic group focusing on ‘Research, Technology and Innovation (RTI) Policy’. RTI policies constitute a top priority for European institutions and Member State governments, and this is well reflected in the high number of calls for tender concerning studies and evaluations in the RTI field. The new thematic group will work on increasing the ENSR’s profile, the quality of proposals, and the

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Annual ENSR Days 2015

23 and 24 April

On the 23rd and 24th of April, the Annual ENSR Days 2015 took place in Brussels. The topic of this year's ENSR Days was evaluations. For the first day a series of presentations were given on evaluations for both the directors and the researchers. The seminar was opened by Mr. Steven Holjund who has just completed his PhD thesis on EU evaluations. He started the proceedings with this presentation, **The European Commission's Evaluation System and its Consequences for Evaluation Use; Can we do it better?** Following Mr. Holjund's insights, the session enjoyed presentations by Ms. Anne-Sophie Paquez from DG Research and Innovation, Mr. Steven White from DG Environment, and Ms. Veronica Gaffey from DG Regional Policy. The group was privileged to hear what each of these speakers looked for in EU evaluations, how these evaluations and studies are used by clients and what in their views, constitute a good evaluation given their policy areas. The session culminated into a lively discussion, with researchers, directors and speakers dividing into groups and brainstorming on the main ways in which we could improve our proposals and EU evaluation studies. At the end of this first day our speakers presented their own reflections on the discussions and ideas they had heard, bringing the session to an end.



In accordance with one of ENSR's most important traditions(!), the day was closed with a dinner in the evening, hosted by ENSR.



relations to clients in the area of RTI. The group is coordinated by the Austrian Institute for SME Research (KMFA). Following a call for expression of interest at the end of April 2015, there are currently 11 ENSR members participating in this group. Further participants are, of course, welcome at any time; please contact the coordinator by email at: [Sascha Ruhland](#).

New Skills for New Jobs, led by Oxford Research Group

The thematic group on New Skills for New Jobs has consolidated a mapping of competencies among the participating partners and is now developing a 1-pager on our capabilities. The group has also made a proposal for a Framework Contract with DG Education and Culture, led by Panteia. Now we are looking into how to be more pro-active: looking for potential clients beyond the EU

Commission, looking at how to keep an updated inventory of our joint references in the field and looking for how to get closer to the client(s) and build more personal relationships. To any new ENSR partners interested in joining this thematic group, please feel free to contact at [Jakob Stoumann](#).

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Thematic group on work opportunities in Latin America, led by ikei

ikei (in cooperation with Kingston University) has started working on the Barbados Competitiveness Strategy and Action Plan. That being said, opportunities for new projects in the region which can be of interest for the network are continuously being scanned.



The second day took the shape of a two part workshop. The directors workshop focused on the identification of new markets and opportunities for ENSR partners. The training for researchers was organised by Panteia and took the form of an interactive, hands on training session in which we focus on the actual process of carrying out an EU evaluation. The aim here was to share ideas, knowledge, and to pool our collective knowledge and experiences in evaluative research. The session was divided into working groups with each group developing their own hypothetical proposal for an EU evaluation.



All in all some 65 people participated in this year's ENSR days. The documents of the meetings can be found on the ENSR extranet under the item Member Services. The minutes of the directors meeting and slides of the seminar can also be found on the Extranet.

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Projects

Job creation in Born Global enterprises

ikei, in consortium with Oxford Research Sweden, has been awarded a research project on “**Job creation in Born Global enterprises**”. This research, commissioned by Eurofound, consists of two main lots, namely,

Finally, several Latin American research and consultancy organisations are being considered in order to identify suitable candidates for the category of associate members of the ENSR in the region.

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ENSR Researchers

We recently introduced a new feature in the ENSR newsletter in which we give ENSR researchers an opportunity to introduce themselves.

Jessica Durán



Jessica Durán is a consultant at ikei research & consultancy (Spain), where she works mainly on international

research projects. She holds two Bachelor degrees in Tourism and in Humanities & Businesses, in addition to several specialisation courses (Foreign Trade and Marketing). Before joining ikei, she worked in Australia as a trade consultant at the Spanish Trade Commission in Sydney, as well as a marketing assistant for a private company in Melbourne. Since joining ikei in August 2008, she has worked on a number of studies on socioeconomic analysis especially concerning areas such as employment and working conditions, education and training, social issues, regional development, or SMEs and entrepreneurship. She has collaborated with the ENSR partners on several European projects, such as on the elaboration of the study ‘**Initiatives and Measures to Promote Youth**

secondary data analysis (Lot 1) and case studies (Lot 2). Lot 1 is intended to statistically quantify and characterise job creation in Born Globals, using secondary data analysis in three European countries (Sweden, Denmark and Estonia) for this purpose. Meanwhile, the main goal of Lot 2 is to conduct 15 case studies of these types of companies in order to qualitatively investigate the motivations, drivers and processes behind the establishment and international expansion of this type of companies, as well as their job creation dynamics and needs of external support. For this purpose, case studies have been conducted in five European countries, namely Austria, Estonia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom, in collaboration with the respective national ENSR partners.

Food advertisements aimed at children

Panteia has won a tender from the Dutch government for a study on regulation of food advertisement aimed at children in Europe. One of the reasons why Panteia was successful with the tender was the participation of ENSR partner organisations. In cooperation with ENSR partners an overview was prepared of regulations in 10 Member States. The results of the study will be used to adapt Dutch regulation.

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Danish Study on Gender in the Research Sectors

On behalf of the Danish Agency for Research and Innovation, Oxford Research Denmark is carrying out an internationally comparative study on gender in the research sectors. Within research organisations, such as in research institutions and universities, it is not uncommon to have an underrepresentation of women in higher positions. Relatively few women act on governance or management boards for research institutions, or in lecturer or university professor positions. The Danish Agency seeks to look to a selection of other European countries to examine what sort of policies have been implemented to get more women into such higher positions, how

Entrepreneurship'. Also, she is currently working on the project '**Job creation in Born Global enterprises**'. Jessica enjoys travelling and hiking, and cooking and handicrafts are also among her interests. You can contact her by email jduran@ikei.es and also on LinkedIn.

Iris Fischl



Iris Fischl graduated from the University of Vienna in 2004, having studied political science and cultural anthropology with a focus on policy analysis. She works at the Austrian Institute for SME Research as a senior researcher and project manager and focuses on evaluations and studies in the field of technology and innovation policies at regional, national and international levels. For example, she recently completed a study on Austria's participation in the European Security Research Program (FP7-SECURITY) on behalf of the Austrian government. Iris also was a key expert in the EU wide interim evaluation of the participation of SMEs in certain schemes of the Seventh Framework Programme, where she collaborated with many ENSR partners. Through her studies and evaluations of RTDI policies Iris gained experience and knowledge of diverse technological fields including e.g. nanotechnology, life sciences, mobility, and climate and environmental technology. Iris works with qualitative as well as quantitative methods and is especially engaged in the further development of evaluation methods. She is co-speaker of the working group on '**Evaluation of**

effective these are, and why this is the case. Countries under study include Austria, Switzerland, Finland and the Netherlands to see what sort of experiences could be applied to the Danish context.

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Proposals

Framework contract DG EAC

DG Education and Culture recently put out a call for tender for a framework contract to conduct studies on European co-operation in the policy areas of education and youth. In response, a consortium led by Panteia and including Oxford Research Denmark developed a proposal. The specific research activities involved in this framework contract revolve around education, training and youth, examining in particular the current policy contexts in Member States and the collection of sound, relevant evidence to support EU policy making in this area. The experiences of Member States, good practices, and guidance on implementing effective policies are all encompassed in this framework contract.

Effectiveness of self- and co-regulation in the context of implementing the AVMS Directive — SMART 2014/005

Panteia recently submitted a proposal with VVA Europe on the effectiveness of self and co-regulation in implementing the Audiovisual Media and Services Directive. Together with the network of ENSR partners this study will analyse to what extent the current methods of regulating the implementation of the AVMS Directive are effective. The study includes a special focus on media regulation and advertising aimed at children, with the aim of producing a series of best regulatory practices in its final stages. Given the internet and the new and pervasive forms of media it facilitates, the need to update both the AVMS Directive and how institutions regulate is becoming increasingly urgent.

RTDI-Policies’ within the German Evaluation Society (DeGEval) and is member of the Austrian ‘**Platform for Research and Technology Evaluation (fteval)**’. In 2009, Iris completed a research visit at the ENSR partner Panteia in the Netherlands. In her leisure time, Iris especially enjoys diving, hiking and skiing.

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ENSR web site

Bearing our ENSR web site in mind, we would hereby like to invite all partners to present ENSR on their company web site and to put a link to the ENSR web site (www.ensr.eu). This was a request made by our directors as it will help our Google search rankings!

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New Latvian partner

As of May 1st, the ENSR partner in Latvia has changed from Baltic Consulting to **Oxford Research Baltics**. This is not a major change though, since Oxford Research Baltics is a joint venture between Baltic Consulting and Oxford Research, the ENSR partner in Denmark and Sweden. Baltic Consulting had two business division: supporting applicants for EU grants and research. The research division linked up with Oxford Research to form Oxford Research Baltic while Baltic Consulting continues to provide support for companies and organisations applying for EU grants.

Boosting the competitiveness of cultural and creative industries for growth and jobs

The Austrian Institute for SME Research (KMFA) (lead) and VVA Europe have submitted a joint bid in response to this call for tender from EASME. The study will analyse the competitiveness and economic relevance of the cultural and creative industries, including their spill-overs to other industries, the main challenges and drivers for change, existing barriers and market and/or regulatory failures.

SME Performance Review 2015-2016

Panteia has prepared the proposal for the SME Performance Review 2015-2016. The Review includes the preparation of the Annual Report on European SMEs and the collection of input on SME policy development in the EU Member States. The proposal is carried out in the context of the Framework contract, SME economic studies EASME/DG Grow and all ENSR partners are included in the proposal.

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New ENSR contact persons

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Forward

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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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