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# Newsletter

## January 2016

### Foreword by ENSR Chairman

**Dr. Kim Møller**



One of my most encouraging professional experiences this past year was our evaluation seminar in Brussels in April. It demonstrated that when we stand together as a network we really are an interesting speaking partner to our largest client, the EU Commission. Often we are tied in our interaction with the Commission by tender procedures that don't allow for building personal relationships. At the seminar, however, we were able to sit as peers with key decision makers in the Commission and learn what really matters to them. For their part, the Commission decision makers learned that we are more than just service providers. We are also experts and we pursue more than just revenues. We pursue a higher purpose of improving the knowledge base for the Commission to adjust policies and programmes for the good of a better Europe. In the years to come I trust we can do even more like this: for the benefit of Europe, our clients and our own businesses.

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### Annual ENSR Days 2016

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#### ENSR Thematic Groups

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

In the context of this working group, ikei has been in contact with cooperation partners in the Latin American countries to discuss further cooperation with ENSR.

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##### **Research in Innovation, led**

## 21 and 22 April

The **Annual ENSR Days** will take place on the 21st and 22nd of April, 2016. During these days the triennial general directors meeting will take place. The aim of this meeting is to discuss the activity plan from the last 3 years, the accounts, and the Action plan and budget for the next 3 years. In addition, the members of the executive committee, the president, and executive director will be elected. Further information will be sent on the meeting in February, but please save the days already.

In keeping with previous years, for the next ENSR Days, we will be organising an event in the afternoon of April 21st for all participants. On the second day, the participants will split up. The directors will participate in the directors meeting and a training will be organised for the other participants. The executive committee will meet in the end of January to start the preparations for the days, as well as for the strategic plan for the ENSR for the period of 2016-2019.

In 2015, 65 people participated in the ENSR Days and this year even more participants are expected.

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## Projects

### **Effectiveness self- and co-regulation in the context of implementing the AVMS Directive**

This study is being carried out by Panteia (lead)/VVA, in cooperation with ENSR, for DG Connect of the European Commission. The objectives of the study are to provide an overview of the existing self- and co-regulatory structures which have been implemented in the EU Member States in the context of the Audiovisual Media Service Directive. In particular, the self- an co-regulatory schemes in place which structure audiovisual commercial actions and protection of minors in audiovisual media services are collected and analysed for their effectiveness, their acceptance by relevant

### **by KMFA**

The thematic group Research in Innovation is led by Sasha Ruhland of KMFA Austria. The group is making an overview of the competences of the group members that are relevant to the field of RTI policies. This overview will be available in January 2016. Partners who are interested in joining this group can contact Sasha directly at [s.ruhland@kmuforschung.ac.at](mailto:s.ruhland@kmuforschung.ac.at).

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### **New Skills for New Jobs, led by Oxford Research Group**

The thematic group on New Skills for New Jobs has been focusing its efforts on the preparation of tenders. If any ENSR partner is interested in joining this thematic group, please feel free to contact [Jakob Stoumann](#), the Group leader.

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### **Impact assessments and evaluations, led by Panteia**

The working group on Impact assessments (IAs) and evaluations is led by Amber van der Graaf and Paul Vroonhof from Panteia. In the context of this group, Panteia organised a training session for ENSR researchers during the previous ENSR Days on executing IAs and evaluations in line with the guidelines of the European Commission. In addition, a number of proposals were prepared for framework contracts and individual contracts in close cooperation with ENSR. Partners who are interested in becoming a

stakeholders, and a selection of best practice examples will be made for the two areas.

## **Provision of evaluation services to the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work**

Panteia (lead), Oxford Research and IKEI, in cooperation with ENSR, have won the framework contract for the Provision of evaluation services for the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work. The evaluations cover all activities of EU-OSH, and may both be of a prospective nature (ex-ante and impact assessment) and of an interim (mid-term) and/or ex-post nature.

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

The Austrian Institute for SME Research (KMFA) and VVA Europe are carrying out the study on the competitiveness and economic relevance of the cultural and creative industries for EASME. Special focus will be on the spill-overs from these industries to other industries, the main challenges and drivers for change, and the existing barriers and market and/or regulatory failures.

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## **Framework Service Contract to carry out studies supporting European cooperation in education and youth**

Panteia (lead), Oxford Research, PWC and LSE have been selected as one of the four parties to carry out studies on youth and education for DG EAC of the European Commission.

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## **Proposals**

member of the group can contact Amber van der Graaf directly

[a.van.der.graaf@panteia.nl](mailto:a.van.der.graaf@panteia.nl)

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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.

### **Zoe Kourounakou**



Zoe Kourounakou has a high level of expertise in coordinating research

projects and surveys. She is currently the Director of the Applied Research and International Relations Department of ALBA Graduate Business School at The American College of Greece. She holds a BA in International Business (University of Plymouth, UK), a Master Degree on Communication Studies (University of Leeds, UK) and a second Master degree on Strategic Human Resources Management (ALBA). She has acted as the Project Coordinator or partner of several IST, e-Ten, SSH FP7, LLP, SOCRATES and ERASMUS+ projects. She is also the evaluation coordinator for the BEST WORKPLACES Survey (top 25 workplaces) in Greece. Since 1999, Zoe has participated in various seminars and conferences either as presenter or as an attendant. Since 2007, Zoe introduced the Recruitment Confidence Index

## **Development of an online guide on access to financing and funding for small retailers**

In November 2015, VVA (lead), KMFA, Panteia and Gaggemini, in cooperation with ENSR, prepared a proposal for the tender for DG Growth of the European Commission on the development of an online guide on access to financing and funding for small retailers.

## **Development of solutions and an online guide on fostering the revitalisation and modernisation of the small retail sector**

Panteia (lead), KMFA, VVA, and Gaggemini, in cooperation with ENSR, submitted a proposal to DG Growth of the European Commission in November 2015 for a project on the development of solutions and an online guide on fostering the revitalisation and modernisation of the small retail sector.

## **Apprenticeships: a cross-national overview**

On behalf of Cedefop, the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, IKEI (lead), Panteia and VVA prepared a proposal for a study on Apprenticeships: A Cross-National Overview. The main purpose of the research project is to update, complete and systematise the information base on apprenticeships in Europe.

## **Setting up and implementing the Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platforms**

Panteia in cooperation with a consortium led by Technopolis Group, is preparing a proposal for a framework contract for the set up and implementation of four Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platforms. Panteia is leading the platform on SMEs and competitiveness. The framework contract is carried out on behalf of GEIE GECOTTI - PE – Interreg Europe, and will take 8 years.

(RCI) in Greece, which takes place annually and is considered a barometer of the Greek Labour market. Since 2010 Zoe has also been responsible for the International Relations of ALBA. Her research interests focus on Human Resources Management, Working relationships and Optimisation of Working environments, New Learning Techniques, promotion of Knowledge Management culture and employees' employability and skills gap.

## **Ambre Maucorps**



Ambre Maucorps is a Junior Consultant and Researcher at VVA Europe. She joined the

VVA team after completing her Blue Book traineeship in the Evaluation Unit of the European Commission's DG for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. Ambre holds a Master's degree (with Distinction) in European Economics from the College of Europe in Bruges and an Engineering degree (with a major in public policy economics) from an elite French Grande Ecole. At VVA Europe, she contributed to ex ante and ex post evaluations as well as cost-benefit analyses for the European Commission's DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs on various topics such as Consumer safety and Market surveillance. Strengthening her understanding of socio-economic challenges, she is

## Lost proposals

Unfortunately, the following proposals involving the ENSR network were not successful:

- SME performance Review 2015-2016, EASME, by Panteia
- Woman and poverty, EIGE, by Panteia
- Study on improving the take-up and effectiveness of financial instruments, DG Regio, by Oxford Research Sweden
- Study on youth work and youth entrepreneurship, DG EAC, by Panteia and IKEI

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## News

### Robert Blackburn



Robert Blackburn of the Small Business Research Centre at Kingston University, and member of the ENSR executive committee, has been elected as President of the European Council for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (ECSB). The ECSB is a non-profit organisation whose main objective is to advance the understanding of entrepreneurship and to improve the competitiveness of SMEs in Europe. The ECSB is an affiliation to the ICSB. Partners who want to become a member of the ECSB can find out more by visiting its web site: [www.ecsb.org](http://www.ecsb.org). We congratulate Robert on this new position.

### Harald Furre



Harald Furre of Oxford Research Norway and previous president of ENSR, has been elected as the mayor of Kristiansand. Kristiansand is the fifth largest city in Norway and the municipality is the sixth largest in Norway, with a population of 85,681 persons. For more information on this beautiful city, see its [Wikipedia entry](#).

currently involved in a project focusing on intra-EU mobility schemes for young apprentices and trainees as a means for tackling youth unemployment. Ambre speaks English, French and German, enjoys travelling across Europe and is fond of both teaching and practising synchronised swimming.

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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](http://www.ensr.eu)). This was a request made by our directors as it will help our Google search rankings!

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## Associate Members

In the ENSR Action plan, “**Networking for Growth**”, the agreement was made to set up a third layer of international associates. The international associates are not represented in the General Meeting, nor the Executive Committee, and do not pay a fee. The identification of potential partners is distributed among the executive committee members as follows:

- **Middle East:** Kim Møller
- **Africa:** Jacqueline Snijders
- **Latin America:** Antonio Corral

## Rik De Keyser



After 35 years, director Rik De Keyser will leave WES Research & Strategy to enjoy his well-deserved retirement. Due to Rick, WES has become, among others, one of the major research organisations on tourism in Belgium. Rick will remain available as an expert on tourism and will become a member of the WES board.

## Research on the legal needs of small businesses in the UK

The Small Business Research Centre at Kingston University has just finished a piece of national research on small firms use of the legal system. See [here](#) for more information.

## Statistical Data on Women entrepreneurs in Europe

The study on Statistical data on Women entrepreneurs in Europe, including the country reports has been published on the web site of DG Grow of the European Commission, click [here](#) for more information. The study was led by Panteia and involved contributions from the ENSR network.

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- **Western Balkans and Eastern neighbourhood countries:** Thomas Oberholzner.

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## New ENSR contact persons

### Civitta

Sander van der Molen  
e-mail: [sander.vandermolen@civitta.it](mailto:sander.vandermolen@civitta.it)  
Tel +358 2 333 9517

### Alba

Zoe Kourounakou  
[zkouroun@alba.edu.gr](mailto:zkouroun@alba.edu.gr)

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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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### **ENSR Secretariat**

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