

Research Collaboration in the Social Sciences and Humanities between Europe, Russia, other CIS countries and China

Social Sciences and Humanities: Emerging Trends and Future Prospects. Europe in Global Context



GlobalSSH Action Steering Committee has met on 13 March 2009 at SCAS to prepare the Action final conference and discuss follow-up activities to the project

The GlobalSSH Action "Research Collaboration in the Social Sciences and Humanities between Europe, Russia, other CIS countries and China" that started in 2006, is coming now to the end. A final conference of the GlobalSSH Action "Social Sciences and Humanities: Emerging Trends

and Future Prospects. Europe in Global Context" will take place on 24–25 April 2009 at the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study (SCAS), Uppsala – please see the conference programme and other materials at the Action website www.globalsocialscience.org.

The conference is a joint event of the EU FP6 Special Support Action GlobalSSH and METRIS: "Monitoring European Trends in Social Sciences and Humanities" Expert Group. The conference is aimed at debating emerging trends in research in the social sciences and humanities (SSH) in Europe. Special interest will be given to Europe's international research agenda, to EU-third countries international research cooperation in SSH and to elaborating policy recommendations for strengthened cooperation in this particular research area. The conference is co-organised by Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study and the Swedish Research Council. Support to the organisation of the conference is provided by the Swedish Research Council and European Commission Directorate-General for Research, Science, Economy and Society Directorate.

For more information on the conference, please contact:
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Global SSH focuses its activities in the following areas:

1. Mapping and assessing SSH capabilities in seven Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan; and China. This includes studies of the institutional landscape (including institutional innovation and change) and the research policies that structure advances in SSH research in the region.
2. Investigating the internationalisation of social sciences, the research infrastructures for internationalised social sciences and the experiences and capacities in transnational SSH research in the EU, Russia, other CIS countries and China.
3. Placing the above mentioned areas in historical context by synthesising what we know about the rise and transformation of the social and human sciences, in Europe and beyond, as these were related to the emergence of modern states and universities.
4. Identifying common agendas for future transnational research and formulating policy recommendations for setting up priorities in the SSH and the designing of future research programmes within the context of the enlarged ERA, supporting the mobilisation of scientific co-operation between the EU-CIS and the EU-China research communities.



This Special Support Action is supported by the European Community under the Sixth Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration (FP6) Thematic Area 'Citizens and governance in a Knowledge-based society' Call FP6-2004-CITIZENS-6 --8.3.3 - Promoting international research and policy cooperation in social sciences and humanities. Action contract Nr. is 028997.



Additional support to the Action is provided by INTAS under INTAS Thematic Call in Social and Human Sciences 2005 through a research project "Mapping the social sciences and humanities research capacities in Europe and the NIS", contract reference Nr. is 05-1000006-8446.

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Evaluation of the research capacity of social science and humanities in countries of Eastern Europe from the perspective of their inclusion into the international research cooperation

International research cooperation in Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) with countries of Eastern Europe is very important for Europe in order to understand better the common challenges that Europe and the neighbouring Eastern European countries are facing. However, as of yet there is no sufficient information and understanding in Europe on the available research potential in those countries. The bibliometric approach widely used in the west to measuring research capacity, cannot be used for measuring the capacity in transition countries (since scientists in those countries publish very little in international peer-reviewed journals and are not visible in publications' international indices), there is a need for developing innovative methods of assessing research capacity in the transition countries.

A survey, aimed to analyze the research capacity of scientists in the SSH primarily in the light of their preparedness for the international research cooperation, has been conducted in 2007 – 2009 in Russia, three Southern Caucasus republics: Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia; and two EU member states - Estonia and Lithuania. Organisation of the survey was supported by the INTAS funded project "Mapping the social sciences and humanities (SSH) research capacities in the former Soviet Union" (Contract INTAS 05-1000006-8446) and the GlobalSSH Action.

The study was based on an assumption that in each scientific field there are communities of scholars using the same languages, for instance, English, French; etc. As a necessary condition for the existence of such a language community, there should be a sufficiently large group of individual scientists reading and writing in those languages. In such language scientific communities, scientists, members of the communities, tend to cite in their publications written mostly articles in their own languages (see more in bibliometric studies by Yitzhaki, 1998; Egghe, Rousseau, Yitzhaki, 1999; Egghe, Rousseau, 2004). A special terminology has been established to describe this feature - ROLP (Relative Own-Language Preference). Table 1 demonstrates this feature based on the citation information in two major sociological journals of France and Germany.

	English	German	French
Kolner Zeitschrift fuer Soziologie (1990-94)	35,2	63,3	1,3
Revue francaise de Sociologie (1990-94)	35,5	0	64,5

Table 1. Frequency of the citation of sources in different languages in peer-reviewed sociological journals in France and German

Before the 1990s, scientists in all the former Soviet Union countries used the Russian language for communication in science. After the dissolution of the former Soviet Union and the opening of borders with Western Europe, the situation started to change however with a different pace in different countries. To understand better the modern patterns of the international cooperation of SSH scholars in countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA), there is a need for analysis of how much scientists in EECA countries are integrated with English or French language scientific communities.

The survey conducted assessed how the situation has changed 17 years following the dissolution of the former Soviet Union. The study encompassed an extended citation analysis of publications of scientists and qualification papers of Master students in two disciplines – political sciences and sociology for the years 2002 - 2006. The evaluation of citation patterns in students' qualification papers was included to study the norms and procedures used by young researchers in working with scientific literature. The study also checked the correlation between citation of world literature by scientific supervisors and in Master theses written under their supervision. Such an analysis may show how norms of scientific citation are reproduced in the research community.

To conduct the study, project coordinators in each participating country were asked to collect, first, lists of scientists' publications, master papers and dissertations in sociology and political science defended within the last 5 years (2002-2006); and hard- or electronic copies of the articles and qualification papers with full bibliographical lists. Then the coordinators were requested to fill in the citation information into databases. All the data collected were processed using the statistical analysis software SPSS. As a result of the statistical analysis, "maps of preparedness to the international research cooperation" have been developed – please see as an example of such a map for Master Students at Figure 1.

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Currently results of the study are being evaluated. An overall conclusion is that during the 17 years, the scientific communities of sociology and political sciences in Eastern European countries have drifted in different directions – towards the integration with the English – German – French (EGF) or otherwise Russian language scientific communities. The developed and tested methodology of the

study could be used also in other disciplines and regions to evaluate preparedness of scientists for participation in the international research cooperation.

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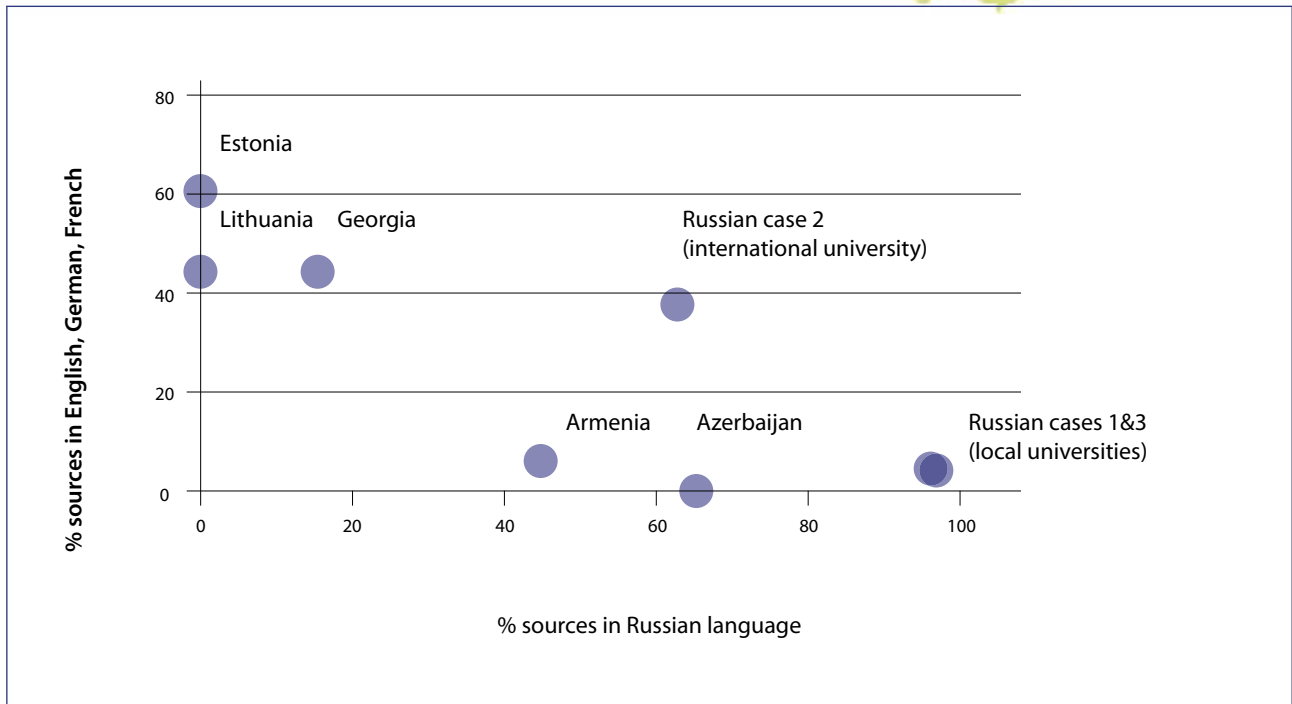


Figure 1. Map of preparedness to the international research cooperation of Master students in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Estonia, Georgia, Lithuania and Northwest Russia

GlobalSSH Action March 2009 policy workshop and scientific seminar



GlobalSSH Action Coordinator and SCAS Principal Professor Björn Wittrock opening the seminar

The GlobalSSH Action policy workshop took place on **13–14 March 2009 at the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study in Uppsala, Sweden**. The workshop was aimed to discuss preliminary outcomes of the GlobalSSH studies and events; and to draft the GlobalSSH Action policy recommendations.

The policy workshop was followed by a scientific seminar “Social Science in China, Russia and the Arab World” that included presentations of Dr. Liudmila Pipiya of the Center for Science Development Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences – ISS RAS, Moscow, Russia; and Dr. Seteney Shami, Programme Director, Eurasia, Middle East and North Africa, Social Science Research Council – SSRC, New York, USA. The seminar was chaired by Lyudmila Harutyunyan, Professor of Sociology of the Yerevan State University.

METRIS expert group report published

METRIS stands for Monitoring European Trends in Social Sciences and Humanities. The aim of METRIS is to support the European Research Area (ERA) in the Social Sciences and the Humanities (SSH). This is particularly important for these sciences, because their knowledge is embedded into national systems, and the ERA brings about novel insights and perspectives that result from comparing national systems and situations as well as rising above such comparisons. European level research in SSH forms an important support for European policy-making.

The first report from a METRIS expert group was published and is available at ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/ssh/docs/ssh_metriz_en.pdf.

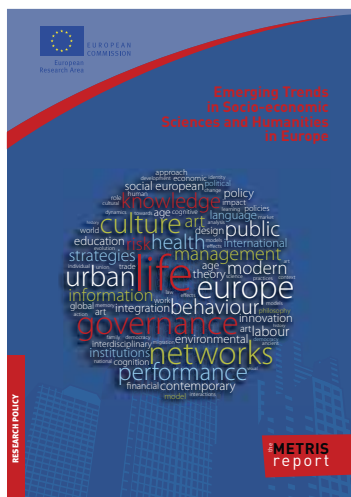
The report identifies important new and emerging trends in social sciences and humanities in the 5 themes of the framework programme:

- Growth, employment and competitiveness in a knowledge-based society
- Combining economic, social and environmental objectives
- Major trends in society and their implications;
- Europe and the world
- The citizen in Europe

In addition the report highlights some themes that cut across these areas (such as migration for example) as well as some examples of cutting edge research that lie outside the thematic coverage of the Framework Programme, such as new conceptualizations of space, the rise of visual and affective themes in social sciences and themes that arise from the breaking down of the boundaries between the sciences.

It is envisaged that the METRIS report will be compiled also in the future on a regular basis; then the reflection of expert groups will be combined with a sound monitoring system to form a powerful supporting instrument for the advancement of the ERA in SSH. It will provide for a collective understanding of the state of the art, trends, needs, challenges and research policies for SSH across Europe and in all its Member Countries, and will thus support the advancement of SSH in Europe through coordinated research efforts and coordinated research policy interventions.

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METRIS expert group report published

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The region in focus – Events and news

11-12 February 2009, Vienna, Austria

Kick-off meeting of the ERA.Net RUS “Linking Russia to the ERA: Coordination of MS/AC S&T programmes towards and with Russia” project

ERA.Net RUS, which is a project funded within the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission, was officially launched on 11-12 February in Vienna. The project aims to increase the cooperation and coordination of research programmes carried out at national or regional level in the Member States and Associated States towards and with Russia. The project further emphasises the significance of the EU-Russian partnership and helps to reach a new level in EU-Russian S&T cooperation by improving the coherence and coordination of European scientific cooperation with Russia and enhancing complementarities between MS/AC and Community activities. Participating countries in ERAN.Net RUS are Germany (coordinator), Austria, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Norway, Russia, EU/ Spain, Turkey.

Information: see <http://www.increast.eu/en/504.php> or contact the Project Coordinator Dr. Jörn Sonnenburg, e-mail: franziska.mueller@dlr.de

12-13 February 2009, Vienna, Austria

General Assembly Meeting of the IncoNet EECA project

On 12-13 February 2009 the General Assembly of the IncoNet EECA Action “Science and Technology International Cooperation Network for Eastern European and Central Asian Countries” was held in Vienna. During the meeting the consortium discussed results of the first year of implementation of the project. At the same time detailed planning for the second year was made.

The IncoNet EECA is a project supported by the EC 7th Framework Programme that is aimed at facilitating a bi-regional EU – EECA S&T policy dialogue and, in the case of Russia and the Ukraine, a complementary bilateral S&T policy dialogue involving stakeholders from policy making, science community and industry. IncoNet EECA is a partnership of 23 prominent institutes from 21 EU and EECA countries. The Coordinator of the project is the International Centre for Black Sea Studies - ICBSS - in Greece.

Information: the project website <http://www.inco-eeca.net/>

18-21 September 2008,

Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

International Conference for the Central and Eastern Europe, Balkans, Caucasus and Baltic States on Science and Education Policies

The conference was organised by the Academy of Sciences of Moldova. The results of the Conference (Declaration and Final Communiqué) and presentations are available at the website of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova http://www.asm.md/?go=noutati_detalii&n=1545.

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23-24 October 2008, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia

International Scientific Seminar “Cooperation between Russian and EU Country Scientists in Social Sciences and the Humanities: Problems and Perspectives”

The seminar was organized by the Institute for the Study of Science of Russian Academy of Sciences (ISS RAS) in cooperation with the Institute of Philosophy of RAS. The seminar was supported by the Presidium of Russian Academy of Sciences and Institute for the Study of Science of RAS.

Scientists and experts from the UK, Sweden, Finland, Germany, Switzerland, Norway and Russia took part in the seminar. Director of ISS RAS, Prof. Levan Mindeli opened the seminar with a speech addressed to the participants. He underscored that in spite of differences between scientific and historic background of Russia and European countries, we mostly faced similar problems, and Russian and European scholars should take opportunities to strengthen cooperation in research and to accept all challenges of the modern societies.

The seminar agenda related to most topical problems, faced by social sciences and the humanities in Russia and European countries in the light of global challenges in today's realities. The participants of the seminar presented reports and exchanged their views on four sets of problems of the social sciences and humanities:

- 1) Trends in humanitarian knowledge production in the contemporary society

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- 2) Societal and economic challenges of the present
- 3) Issues of interaction between science and society
- 4) Perspectives of international collaboration between Russian and European researchers in the SSH

Prof. Gabrielle Griffin addressed in her key-note speech "Disciplinary and Interdisciplinary Trends in the SSH: Challenges in International Research Cooperation" to the seminar participants. She touched upon the key research agenda in the context of the humanitarian knowledge production in the EU, current trends in interdisciplinary research and problems related to cross-cultural research.

The other key-note speaker of the seminar Prof. Bjorn Witrock talked about social sciences and the humanities in the historical contexts and outlined contemporary challenges of the SSH. He paid attention to the basic components of the SSH over the past 200 years and marked out challenges faced by social sciences and the humanities in the modern society in institutional and intellectual context.

Besides scientific reports, the participants discussed the problems of international cooperation between Russian and European researchers. According to all participants, the seminar succeeded in providing deep insight into the current problems faced by social sciences and the humanities in Russia and European countries, helped to define trends for mutual collaboration of experts and scientists, and set foundations for the continuation of the scientific dialogue between Russia and Europe.

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Participants of the international seminar "Cooperation between Russian and EU Country Scientists in Social Sciences and the Humanities: Problems and Perspectives", 23 October 2008, Moscow

24 October 2008, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova - International Conference in the framework of the Moldovan Presidency of the Central European Initiative "Strengthening Cooperation towards a Knowledge-based Society in Central European Initiative Region" was held.

The Central European Initiative (CEI) was established in 1989 as an intergovernmental forum for political, economic and cultural co-operation among its Member States. Among the CEI Member states there are (as of 1st January 2007) nine EU and nine non-EU Member Countries. One of CEI's objectives is to bring the countries of Central and Eastern Europe closer together and assist them in their preparation process for EU membership.

The conference "Strengthening Cooperation towards a Knowledge-based Society in Central European Initiative Region" discussions focused on two key topics: development of knowledge-based society in the CEI region: identifying new forms of cooperation and EU Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) as an opportunity to improve international cooperation in S&T and Information Society. The event also included a working session, intended at exchanging experience and enhancing the cooperation activities within the CEI region in the fields of S&T and Information Society, by creating an opportunity for networking, collaboration, sharing of information and building of reliable relationships between the scientific communities of our countries.

Conference conclusions and recommendations are available at http://international.asm.md/files/cei/241008/Concl&Recom_CEI_241008.pdf

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Announcements about upcoming events

10-12 May 2009, Bergen, Norway
World Social Science Forum (WSSF)

The main purpose of the WSSF is to demonstrate the global presence, impact and authority of the social sciences. It will showcase the social sciences by bringing together major researchers and stakeholders in international social science to address substantive topics of world significance, as well as future priorities for the social sciences. It will address both the problems posed for the social sciences by critical social developments around the globe and by theoretical work within the disciplines.

Information: <http://www.rokkan.uib.no/wssf/>
 Registration: https://ei.kongress.no/getdemo.ei?id=11&s=_3200VWYJ7

11-14 June 2009,
Yerevan State University, Yerevan, Armenia
39th World Congress of the International Institute of Sociology "Sociology at the Crossroads"

The 39th World Congress of IIS will have three broad foci, namely questions concerning the way sociology can arrive at a reformulated understanding of dilemmas of humanity in the contemporary era, including the nature of war and violence, of political order and states and state-like entities, of religious and cultural encounters, of processes of collective memories, traumas and reconciliations, and of shifting conceptions of law, legal regulation, human rights and international order. The Congress will also highlight cutting-edge theoretical advances in sociology and neighbouring disciplines as well as teaching and curricular developments of sociology and social science in general in universities in the future.

Information: <http://www.scasss.uu.se/iis/iis2009/index.htm>
 Registration: on-line registration at <http://www.scasss.uu.se/iis/iis2009/registration.html> or contact iis2009@akademikonferens.uu.se.

14-16 June 2009, Astana, Kazakhstan
World Summit on University Rankings

Following meetings of the International Rankings Expert Group (IREG) in Washington DC (2004), Berlin (2006) and Shanghai (2007), the IREG-4 Conference on International and National Academic Ranking: Commonalities and Differences will take place in Astana, Kazakhstan June 14-16, 2009.

Registration and information: www.ireg-observatory.org
 Contact: Dr. Kazimierz Bilanow, IREG-4 Conference Secretariat, e-mail: k.bilanow@ireg-observatory.org

4-11 July 2009, Uman, Ukraine
International Summer School "Studying memories of Central and Eastern Europe"

The goal of the Summer School is to reflect on the present approaches and problems, which are being scrutinized by the researchers of the national/local memories and histories. The Summer School focuses on the interdisciplinary approach and invites researchers from the various fields, including sociology and history, political science and psychology, anthropology and cultural studies. The Summer School is open to any academic candidates: students, PhD students, young and senior researchers. The working language of the Summer School is English.

Registration: Send your application form, CV and a publications list (if any) to umansummerschool@gmail.com or by post to Uman Summer School, the Embassy of Poland in Ukraine vul. Yaroslaviv Val, 12, Kyiv 01034, Ukraine. Deadline 15 April 2009.

26-31 July 2010, Stockholm, Sweden
VIII World Congress of ICCEESS (International Council for Central and East European Studies)

The VIII World Congress of the International Council for Central and East European Studies will take place in Stockholm, Sweden, on 26-31 July 2010. The theme of the Congress is: "Eurasia: Prospects for Wider Cooperation". The academic hosts are Stockholm University, Södertörn University College and Stockholm School of Economics. The local organiser of the Congress is the Swedish Society for the Study of Russia, Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Proposals should be sent by e-mail to: proposals@iccees2010.se

Submission of abstracts and registration should be done via the congress web site: <http://www.iccees2010.se/>

Deadline for proposals: 28 February 2009
 Registration: Beginning 1 July 2009
 Deadline for abstracts: 30 October 2009
 Congress dates: 26-31 July 2010

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