WORK-IN-NET

The WORK-IN-NET Coordination Action (CA) will exchange and collect, analyse and spread information on existing national activities on work-related innovations, thus paving the way for joint, transnational initiatives in the future. Only by increasing the quality of work and the creativity of employees as well as a new balance of social security and flexibility of organisations, Europe will be able to meet the demands of the knowledge-based economy of the 21st century.

WORK-ORIENTED INNOVATIONS

Innovative interactions of all stakeholders and extended development coalitions are vital for achieving the goal set by the Lisbon European Council – to become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world by 2010, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and with greater social cohesion.

Successful performance depends on many factors. IT applications are perhaps the most obvious, but also crucial are enlightened company strategies and new forms of work organisation. These include the promotion of health and skills with regard to the ageing of the workforce and equal opportunities for women and minority groups, and many more.

TWO WAYS OF WORKING

WORK-IN-NET will take two complementary approaches throughout to improve the cooperation and coordination of national research efforts for work-oriented innovations.

- The ‘RTD management approach’ is concerned with establishing joint electronic tools for further information exchange, evaluation and benchmarking procedures for promoting learning processes, and arrangements and agreements for multilateral research activities.

- In parallel, the ‘RTD thematic approach’ will set up pilot models for joint strategic approaches, primarily to identify and to cope with the key challenges affected by new interactions between markets and companies, social partners and public bodies.

THE AIM OF WORK-IN-NET

The aim of WORK-IN-NET is to set up sustainable communication and cooperation channels in Europe between the still fragmented national and regional research activities in the area of work-related innovation issues.

To cope with the lasting innovation, productivity and employment challenges in European countries, the focus will be on three key themes with respect to

- qualitative human resource management,
- corporate social responsibilities and cultures, and
- regional development alliances.

Information will also be shared with the other member states of the EU where innovative work organisation is less advanced in order to contribute to reducing the economic and social differences between north and south, and Eastern and Western Europe.

CURRENT NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Programme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>TYKES</td>
<td>Work organisation, Workplace innovation Learning networks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FWEF</td>
<td>Work environment, Industrial relations, productivity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>PT-DUR</td>
<td>Competence, Health and Employability, Sustainable Company Development, Equal Opportunities and Demographic Change, New Ways of Implementation and Transfer, Interregional Alliances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>GIST</td>
<td>Work-oriented modernisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Regional Government of Emilia Romagna, PR</td>
<td>Regional development networks, Work environment, Health and safety, Regional social quality label</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>RCN</td>
<td>Value Creation 2010 (Employee participation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>MSRT</td>
<td>Individual Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>VINNOVA</td>
<td>Work Life Development for Sustainable Growth, Dynamic Labour Markets and Organisations, Efficient Product Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FAS</td>
<td>Work, chemical and physical hazards, family and welfare</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the starting phase of Information Exchange, the national and regional partners will systematically exchange information about their research activities by developing joint electronic communication tools and by developing distinctive indicators on general programme descriptions and research processes.

In the second phase of Strategic Activities, further interactive approaches will identify similarities and differences between national research programmes with three thematic working groups on the selected key themes to develop core elements for an integrated innovation strategy.

In the third phase of Joint Activities, there will be developed a joint action plan for areas of mutual interest on the basis of a joint database and infrastructure including transfer and training resources as well as foresight and impact studies on future challenges for European development goals.

In the final phase of Transnational Activities, the strategic and joint activities shall lead to lasting structures to continue the work with bilateral and multilateral joint R&D programme activities on high-road innovation strategies based on sustainable work life approaches in Europe.
ERA-NET Programme of the European Commission

ERA-NET is a new scheme within the Sixth Research Framework Programme (2002-2006) to support the longlasting coordination of European research programmes across national boundaries.

Aimed at national and regional programme funders and programme managers, the ERA-NET scheme is designed to encourage the creation of close, long-term links between national research programmes with shared goals.

Uniquely, it provides support for the transnational networking and coordination of national research activities. The scheme’s participants are, therefore, programme managers working in national ministries and funding agencies.

CONSORTIUM

Finland
Finnish Workplace Development Programme, Ministry of Labour (TYKES, MOL)
www.tykes.fi

Work Environment Fund (FWEF)
www.tsr.fi

Germany
Project Management Organisation in the DLR of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (PT-DLR) (Coordination)
www-pt-dlr.de

Ministry of Economy and Labour Affairs of the Land Nordrhein-Westfalen (MWA)
www.mwa.nrw.de

Gesellschaft für Innovative Beschäftigungsförderung (G.I.B.)
www.gib.nrw.de/de/index.htm

Greece
Secretariat for Research and Technology, Ministry of Development (GSRT)
www.gsrt.gr

Italy
Regional Government of Emilia Romagna
www.emilia-romagna.it

Istituto per il Lavoro (IPL)
www.fipl.it

Norway
Research Council Norway (RCN)
www.forskningsradet.no/english

Poland
Ministry of Scientific Research and Information Technology (MSRIT)
www.mnii.gov.pl/en

Sweden
Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems (VINNOVA)
www.vinnova.se

Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research (FAS)
www.fas.forskning.se

FURTHER INFORMATION

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WORK-IN-NET

Labour and innovation: Work-oriented innovations - a key to better employment, cohesion and competitiveness in a knowledge-intensive society.

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