



Max Weber Programme Academic Careers Observatory Conference

“Research and Higher Education in Europe: Opportunities and Challenges for Young Academics”

**San Domenico di Fiesole
Villa la Fonte, 24 May, 2007**

The 7th Framework Programme of the EC, with its creation of the European Research Council, committed from its inception to support the research of young academics. Furthermore, new initiatives have emerged at the national and regional levels to retain, attract and support promising young scholars. All these are encouraging signs for those embarking on an academic career in Europe. In fact, the new generation of scholars (those obtaining their Ph.Ds in the early 2000's) has the opportunity of replacing a relatively large generation of European scholars who will be entering retirement. However, this opportunity may be lost, and the encouraging signs can turn into discouragement. In this respect, the main problem is that this new generation of scholars faces uncompetitive barriers (i.e., filters not based on excellence of research and teaching) in entering and advancing within the European Higher Education System. While in many European countries university reforms are underway, the final outcome - whether, for example, Europe will regain its intellectual leadership in the Social Sciences - is uncertain.

The first MWP-ACO conference on "Research and Higher Education in Europe: Opportunities and Challenges for Young Academics" began to tackle and analyse these issues and problems from two perspective. One was to provide an overview of the available research funding opportunities in the Social Sciences and Humanities in Europe. The other was to do a comparison of different European Higher Education systems.

Conference Programme

Research Funding Opportunities in the Social Sciences and Humanities in Europe

Chair: Ramon Marimon, Director, Max Weber Programme, EUI

9.00 - 10.10

An Historical Perspective to Research Funding by the European Commission

Speaker: Michel André, Adviser for Research Policy, Directorate-General for Research, European Commission

An Introduction to the Seventh Framework Programme

Speaker: Roman Arjona, DG Research Coordinator with the European Council, Directorate A (A.1), Directorate-General for Research, European Commission

10.10 - 10.40 Coffee Break

Chair: Valentina Fava, Max Weber Fellow, EUI

10.40 - 11.50

EU Research Funding for Social Sciences and Humanities under FP7

Speaker: Pierre Valette, Directorate-General for Research, European Commission

The European Research Council: Opportunities and Challenges for a New EU Funding Institution and for Young Researchers

Speaker: Andreu Mas-Colell, Chairman of the Barcelona Graduate School of Economics Professor Universitat Pompeu Fabra and next Secretary General of the European Research Council

11.50 - 12.35 Round table discussion

Chair: Ramon Marimon, Director of the Max Weber Programme, EUI

Balancing 'opportunities and challenges': Participating in FP7 & ERC calls: Collaborative and Individual Research

A first discussion of the GREEN PAPER on "The European Research Area: New Perspectives", 3.1 Realising a single labour market for researchers, pp.10-12 (for the reading see here: "[Green Paper](#)" and the [accompanying document](#)).

12.35 - 12.45 Presentation of the Academic Careers Observatory

Arnout Mertens and Lotte Holm, Academic Assistants, MWP, EUI

12.45-14.00 Lunch Break

Chair: Karin Tilmans, Programme Coordinator, MWP, EUI

14.00-15.00 Comparative Analysis of European Higher Education Systems

Internationalisation of Higher Education Systems in Europe

Speaker: Marijk van der Wende, Centre for Higher Education Policy Studies, University of Twente

Challenges for Doctoral Education in the Knowledge Society. Forces of Change and International Trends

Speaker: Barbara M. Kehm, International Centre for Higher Education Research Kassel

15.00-15.15 Break

Chair: Rüdiger von Krosigk, Programme Coordinator, MWP, EUI

15.15 - 16.15

Public Policy and the Academic Research Enterprise in the US: Some Possible Implications for Europe

Speaker: David Dill, Department of Public Policy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Higher Education in Europe: Where are we now, and where do we go from here?

Speaker: Pello Salaburu, Departamento de Filología Vasca, Universidad del País Vasco

16.15 - 17.00 Round table discussion

Chair: Andreas Frijdal, Head of Academic Service, EUI

Balancing 'opportunities and challenges': Internationalisation of EU Higher Education Systems

A first discussion of the GREEN PAPER on "The European Research Area: New Perspectives", 3.3 Strengthening research institutions, pp.14-16 (for the reading see here: "[Green Paper](#)" and the [accompanying document](#))

17.00 Refreshment