

The overall goal of the IConnectEU Workshop is to get input from different groups of stakeholders in how far the research information collected in the IConnectEU portal can be used for dissemination activities, and how the IConnectEU portal, its content and the presentation of the content could be enhanced to serve their needs even better. By connecting the activities of around 700 researchers from all over Europe working on the topic of governance in the EU, IConnectEU contributes to the integration of the European Research Area. The workshop, therefore, also seeks to support the exchange between EU-funded and national funded research, giving room for discussion between researchers, the European Commission, national funding agencies and research organizations on how such a connection could be supported by IConnectEU.

The following information is intended to help structure the discussion planned in three of the workshop sessions and to support the participants' preparation for the workshop.

Results & Lessons learned

First we want to discuss the experiences we made when planning and building the IConnectEU Pilot Internet Portal on EU governance. Specifically we want to address the scope and details of project information, persons' profiles and research outcomes currently covered by IConnectEU and the process of supplying this information by the participating eight projects. Members of the IConnectEU partner projects will give insight into the collection of information, difficulties in providing information, challenges of handling communication with large numbers of researchers and features of the portal they found useful or were missing. All workshop participants are invited to present an overview of the different types of research outcomes their projects have (materials to structure the presentations will be sent out before the workshop) and to discuss how these research outcomes could be documented and connected to the information already covered by IConnectEU. Also, the issues of knowledge organization and user access to the information stored in the IConnectEU portal will be discussed.

The second part of the session will be dedicated to expanding the current coverage of the IConnectEU Pilot Internet Portal. Feedback is expected from representatives of projects directly dealing with the issue of "EU governance" in how far they are willing to use the portal for their dissemination activities and which factors would have to be considered to make this infrastructure most useful for them. Representatives from projects dealing with other research issues under the broad topic of Priority 7 "Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-based Society" are welcome to suggest additional research topics for which IConnectEU could provide a joint dissemination infrastructure. Finally, the perspective of the IConnectEU

portal will be discussed in regard to its overall thematic coverage: Is there a demand for thematically well-focussed dissemination infrastructures (micro level)? Should the social sciences be the level at which research is documented and its outcomes are disseminated (macro-level)? Is much of the current research already interdisciplinary by nature such that information infrastructures should bridge between disciplines?

The concept of IConnectEU relies on researchers actively documenting their research activities and outcomes. To minimize the efforts involved in providing information, like project identities, institutional or personal profiles, bibliographic data etc., other information systems could be used to acquire information. Using the IST-World project as an example, an overview will be presented of the approaches other EU-funded projects used for collecting research information from external sources and for quality control of the collected information. Applicability of these methods in the context of IConnectEU will be discussed.

Usefulness of the IConnectEU portal for policy making

While IConnectEU is aiming at bringing together and documenting the full scope of research information related to a research topic like "EU governance" for later use in dissemination activities and to enhance access to this information by all stakeholders, dedicated projects are addressing more specific issues concerning dissemination of research findings. Two introductory notes on the projects AIM (Adequate Information Management in Europe) and PLATON+ (Progress through socio-economic research) will set the stage for discussion. First, Gerd Kopper will present relevant findings of the project AIM and will add a journalist's perspective to dissemination in the context of IConnectEU. Second, Annelies Bruhne will present the goals of PLATON+ and how IConnectEU could help to translate and disseminate actual research findings of social sciences or humanities disciplines for the benefit of stakeholders from policy making or business world.

Future Perspectives of IConnectEU

The final session of the workshop focuses on how the Pilot Internet Portal realized in the IConnectEU project could be expanded, how it could be linked to existing infrastructures and how it could help in integrating the ERA by connecting the EU and the national level concerning social science research. Position statements will introduce the issues being discussed:

- ★ Open Access,
- ★ monitoring and evaluation,
- ★ standardization of research information and its exchange,
- ★ integrating the ERA by connecting EU-funded and national research in IConnectEU.