

Acronym	IConnectEU
Title	Developing a portal for integrated dissemination of outcomes from eight complementary research projects on governance in the EU.
Contract No.	028416
Funding scheme	Specific Support Action
Coordinator	GESIS, German Social Science Infrastructure Services http://www.gesis.org
Duration	1 March 2006 – 31 October 2008 (32 months)
Person responsible	Dr. Maximilian STEMPFHUBER – max.stempfhuber@gesis.org, (+49) 228 2281 139
Short description	<p>IConnectEU aims at increasing the visibility and impact of collaborative research in Europe by improving the dissemination of and the accessibility to research outcomes from projects with similar topics and audience. For such projects, a joint platform for disseminating their outcomes is not available yet. This has negative effects on visibility, accessibility and sustainability for the projects themselves as for the public which wants to access these outcomes.</p> <p>The objective of IConnectEU is therefore to create a generic infrastructure for joint dissemination activities across thematically related projects, consisting of a software platform, a reference model for integrated dissemination, and guidelines on how to implement the infrastructure in different domains. Eight projects doing complementary research on governance in the EU are used as a test case for building an internet portal based on the infrastructure developed.</p>
Website	www.icconnecteu.org
Overall budget	299 K EURO
EU funding	299 K EURO
Partners & Collaborators	<p>Project partners: Eight projects from five countries funded under FP6, Priority 7 “Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-based Society”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Roskilde University, Department of Social Sciences (RUC, Denmark, www.ruc.dk) representing the CINEFOGO Network of Excellence (www.cinefogo.org), ★ University College Dublin, National University of Ireland (UCD, Ireland, www.ucd.ie) representing the CIVICACTIVE Specific Targeted Research Project (www.ucd.ie/civicact), ★ Mannheim Centre for European Social Research, University of Mannheim (MZES, Germany, www.mzes.uni-mannheim.de) representing the CONNEX Network of Excellence (www.connex-network.org), ★ European University Institute (EUI, Italy, www.iue.it) representing the DEMOS Specific Targeted Research Project (demos.eui.eu) and the NEWGOV Integrated Project (www.eu-newgov.org), ★ University of Cologne, Jean-Monnet Chair, Institute of Political Sciences (UC, Germany, www.jeanmonnetchair.uni-koeln.de) representing the EU-CONSENT Network of Excellence (www.eu-consent.net), ★ University of Siena, Department of Political Science (UNISI, Italy, www.unisi.it) representing the INTUNE Network of Excellence (www.intune.it), ★ University of Vienna, Department of Political Science (UNIVI, Austria, www.univie.ac.at) representing the PAGANINI Specific Targeted Research Project (www.paganini-project.net). <p>SSH Research community, namely EU-funded research projects and scientists doing research on EU governance. European Commission, international and national funding agencies and research organizations, EU-funded and nationally funded projects, interested in integrating research outcomes in a thematically oriented way.</p>

EC Scientific Officer

Ms. Louisa ANASTOPOULOU

Aim and objectives

IConnectEU is a Specific Support Action aiming at providing a **joint dissemination infrastructure for research outcomes from complementary research projects** which will:

- ★ give users of research information a single point of access to actors, activities and results from EU-funded research,
- ★ collect and organize thematically related research information,
- ★ provide a homogeneous way to document and present research outcomes,
- ★ network researchers and their results across project boundaries,
- ★ enhance the visibility of research institutes, researchers and their results beyond their own dissemination infrastructures and
- ★ provide a sustainable dissemination platform beyond the lifetime of the participating research projects' web sites.

More specifically, the project will create a technical dissemination infrastructure – a current research information system – consisting of a web-based catalogue which allows describing all entities relevant to research activities (e.g. projects, institutes, persons, scientific publications, policy briefs, events, databases, data sets, learning materials etc.) in a very detailed and flexible manner. This research information is entered directly by the persons involved in the participating projects, allowing them to provide up-to-date information and to revise information as needed. All information is interconnected such that browsing e.g. from a project to the involved persons and onwards to their publications is supported. In addition, information can e.g. be browsed by alphabet, country, geographic coverage and combinations of these categories, providing new views on currently fragmented research information.

The approach of IConnectEU to reach these objectives is that of bringing together thematically related research and research information in a Pilot Internet Portal by activating a specific research community which is already interconnected to some extent, which is carrying out complementary research, and which is addressing similar groups of stakeholders with its results and specific dissemination activities. As a use case for such a joint dissemination infrastructure, the topic of “EU governance” was chosen and eight projects funded in the 6th Framework Programme under Priority 7 “Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-based Society” are providing information about their research and research outcomes using the Pilot Internet Portal.

To increase the impact of research results, IConnectEU will:

- ★ provide a thematically organized, constantly growing and comprehensive information base on research activities and outcomes which can be re-used by the projects providing the information and by other projects and organizations with dedicated information needs or dissemination activities;
- ★ provide a sustainable platform which can be extended to support additional, thematically organized research communities or groups of stakeholders beyond the initial scope of “EU governance” research;
- ★ provide an infrastructure to link EU-funded with national funded research, integrating the European Research Area at different levels;
- ★ provide an adaptable and re-usable technology (Open Source Software) which can be used at the level of individual projects to build up their own research information systems in domains other than the social sciences.

Beneficiaries

- ★ During the project lifetime: FP6 research community in the Social Sciences carrying out EU governance-related research.
- ★ After the project is finished: Groups of thematically related research projects wanting to use the project infrastructure for disseminating their research outcomes.
- ★ Policy / decision makers at the European, national and regional level.
- ★ National and international funding agencies and research organizations aiming at integrating their research activities with EU-funded research.

Activities and on-going services

Development activities

- ★ Development of the Pilot Internet Portal, including a catalogue on research outcomes.
- ★ Data entry into the catalogue by the partner projects.
- ★ Evaluation and improvement of the Pilot Internet Portal.

e-Services

- ★ Projects database,
- ★ Institutes database,
- ★ Persons database,
- ★ Results database (publications, events, databases etc.),
- ★ Searching and browsing the databases.

Sustainability and re-use

- ★ Workshop on the re-use of the dissemination infrastructure by additional projects, for other research topics and for networking EU-funded with national funded research.
- ★ The Pilot Internet Portal is a sustainable service provided by GESIS after the end of the IConnectEU project.

Methodology

- ★ Analysis phase: Assess a) the diversity of research outcomes of the participating projects, b) their procedures for documenting research outcomes and c) their current technical dissemination infrastructure.
- ★ Prototype phase: Build up a Pilot Internet Portal on the topic of “EU governance” research and populate the included catalogue with actors, activities and results of the eight partner projects.
- ★ Improvement phase: Study the feasibility of a joint dissemination infrastructure with the project partners, detect missing information and features, and enhance content and functionality of the Pilot Internet Portal on “EU governance”.
- ★ Sustainability and re-use phase: Document the experiences made in creating a joint dissemination infrastructure in the form of a reference model and guidelines, which complement the software developed in the project. The Pilot Internet Portal will be opened for other projects to use it as a complimentary dissemination infrastructure to their project web sites.

Deliverables

- ★ Pilot Internet Portal containing a catalogue of the research outcomes of eight projects doing complementary research on EU governance. After the project, the Pilot Internet Portal will be maintained on a sustainable basis by GESIS. The software developed for building the Pilot Internet Portal will be made available as Open Source Software.
- ★ Reference model for integrated dissemination of research outcomes.
- ★ Guidelines on how to implement the infrastructure developed in the project in different domains.