



## Research and Innovation practice, policy and theory – changing interactions

Final conference of the PRIME network of excellence

Aix en Provence, December 15-18, 2008.

Conference Programme (second version)

**Comment:** the core of the conference is made on debates on themes and issues that have raised interest from the Community. Organisers will devise a 2-3 pages provocative statement positioning the issue and proposing a sequence for the session. This statement will be downloadable from November 15. Organisers might also invite discussants to initiate the discussion. Those willing to intervene should contact directly organisers.

December 15		
13.00-14.30	Introductory speeches (Prime, CNRS and IEP) Keynote presentations on the topic, S. Kuhlmann and B. Martin	
15.00-16.30	<b>Session 1</b> Can we govern science and innovation in regions? – organisers: J.A Heraud, E. Uyarra & K. Flanagan ( <a href="mailto:Elvira.uyarra@mbs.ac.uk">Elvira.uyarra@mbs.ac.uk</a> )	<b>Session 2</b> Should we abandon public policy to foster the creation of university spin-off firms? – organiser: P. Mustar ( <a href="mailto:philippe.mustar@ensmp.fr">philippe.mustar@ensmp.fr</a> )
17.00-18.30	<b>Session 3</b> Critical assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of different support mechanisms for SIPS research – Organisers: M. Nedeva and T. Luukkonen ( <a href="mailto:terttu.luukkone@etla.fi">terttu.luukkone@etla.fi</a> )	<b>Session 4</b> Cultural industries as a major component of knowledge-based societies – organiser: V. Mangematin ( <a href="mailto:vincent@grenoble.inra.fr">vincent@grenoble.inra.fr</a> )

City council aperitif

<b>December 16</b>		
9.00-10.30	What does our speciality require in term of shared training facilities. Lessons from 5 years of experience.	
11.00-12.30	<p><b>Session 5</b></p> <p>Post-national Dynamics in STI and STI governance - do our perspectives, models and indicators keep pace? – organisers: S. Kuhlmann, J. Edler and R. Barré (<a href="mailto:Jakob.edler@mbs.ac.uk">Jakob.edler@mbs.ac.uk</a>)</p>	<p><b>Session 6 - part 1</b></p> <p>The future of innovation policy: Creative Destruction, Neue Kombinationen and White elephants – organisers: S. Borras and R. Smits (<a href="mailto:r.smits@geo.uu.nl">r.smits@geo.uu.nl</a>)</p>

Lunch at IEP

<b>December 16</b>		
14.00- 16.00	<p><b>Session 7</b></p> <p>Are ‘our’ indicators of some use for decision-making? – organisers: ENID board (<a href="mailto:benedetto.lepori@unisi.fr">benedetto.lepori@unisi.fr</a>)</p>	<p><b>Session 6 – part 2</b></p> <p>The future of innovation policy: Creative Destruction, Neue Kombinationen and White elephants – organisers: S. Borras (<a href="mailto:sb.cbp@cbs.dk">sb.cbp@cbs.dk</a>) and R. Smits</p>
16.30-18.00	<p><b>Session 9</b></p> <p>New approaches to research funding systems – organisers: D. Braun and B. Lepori (<a href="mailto:benedetto.lepori@unisi.ch">benedetto.lepori@unisi.ch</a>)</p>	<p><b>Session 8</b></p> <p>Characterising the diversity of European Universities: pursuing a good but lost cause?– organiser: A. Schoen (<a href="mailto:a.schoen@esiee.fr">a.schoen@esiee.fr</a>)</p>

Conference dinner

<b>December 17</b>	
9.00-11.00	“Orphan” themes, further thoughts – Why are there themes that do not attract us collectively? Chair: B. Martin
11.30-13	What are NoE worth? What should be our recommendations to the EC, and how do we react to Horvat's report – Chair : E. Reale, discussants: A. Bonaccorsi, P. Laredo

Lunch at IEP

<b>December 17</b>	
14.30-15.30	Do we need a 'science, technology and innovation policy' global forum, a question raised after the 4S and Mexico meetings? Organisers: S. Cozzens, S. Kuhlmann, A. Rip and L. Sanz
15.30-17.00	Closing session - Do SIPS or STIPS require a platform in Europe? For what? And if so, which next steps? Chair: V. Mangematin

Evening event for the official creation of the ENID international association

<b>December 18</b> Space reserved for project meetings	
9.30-12.00	ENID open board meeting – organiser: B. Lepori ( <a href="mailto:benedetto.lepori@unisi.fr">benedetto.lepori@unisi.fr</a> )
9.30-16.00	Nanodistrict final meeting – organiser: V. Mangematin ( <a href="mailto:vincent@grenoble.inra.fr">vincent@grenoble.inra.fr</a> )
9.30-12.30	Roundtable on knowledge dynamics in genomics – organiser: D. Pardo ( <a href="mailto:daniel.pardo@wanadoo.fr">daniel.pardo@wanadoo.fr</a> )
9.30-16.00	EURO CV project meeting – organiser: C. Canibano ( <a href="mailto:carolina.canibano@urjc.es">carolina.canibano@urjc.es</a> )



## **Research and Innovation practice, policy and theory – changing interactions**

### **Final conference of the PRIME network of excellence**

**Aix en Provence, December 15-18, 2008.**

#### **The conference in context**

PRIME has made of the annual conferences central events in the life of the network. To follow the dynamics of the network, the conference formats have evolved each year. After Madrid (January 2004, start-up event of the NoE), Manchester (January 2005), Paris (February 2006) and Pisa (February 2007), we have chosen once more to propose a new approach and structure to take into account the evolving context of both our community and of the European policy.

2008 is the last year of the 5-year EC project. In our proposal, we took the project as an experimentation of a new policy instrument, networks of excellence, in a specific knowledge production environment, our community – science and innovation policy studies (SIPS). We argued that this was justified by the four main features which characterise our community: being small in overall size at European level (though by far the largest at world level), being at the encounter of 4 main disciplines (political science, economics, sociology and management), being widely geographically disseminated (all countries, and more and more most regions, wishing to have specialised teams), and (as a partial consequence of the former point) being largely user-driven, depending mostly on present day policy issues, priorities and contracts. We argued that this had two major consequences on our ability to produce ‘frontier’ science: (a) having difficulty in developing adequate ‘infrastructures’, and (b) a growing difficulty in anticipating new issues and in nurturing variety. PRIME was thus an experiment in addressing these issues. We did so in developing three complementary approaches: (i) we have supported two platforms for developing training (and in particular what we have called the European SIPS doctoral path) and for supporting the design of new indicators (with the ENID network and association); (ii) we have provided seed-money for first explorations and multi-partner exploratory projects; and (iii) we have developed a set of smaller activities to nurture exchanges and our ability to shape the ‘strategic research agenda’ of the community. We have done so through targeted ‘review and initiation actions’ and through numerous workshops, seminars or discussion fora. The annual conference has been the most important of those. This is why, at the end of the 5-year experimentation, we have decided to reflect on the experience, while setting it in its wider environment. We have located the event at the end of the year because, as beautifully analysed by science studies, it is both a closure (the end of a time-bounded project)

and a new opening, discussing the new challenges we face, and the potential alleys the community should take in order to address them.

### **The conference focus**

The focus of the conference is the changing interactions between

1. science, technology and innovation activities ('practice')
2. public policies to support and enhance these ('policy')
3. the efforts of those in the science and innovation policy studies (SIPS) community to study research and innovation practice and policy and to mediate between them ('theory').

These interactions take place in a fast-evolving environment characterised by e.g. globalisation and spread of 'free market' capitalism, rapidly declining importance of manufacturing in the economies of industrialised nations, growing concerns about the environment and sustainability, and an emerging view that the emphasis of innovation now needs to shift from wealth creation to enhanced quality of life. These interactions also deploy in a political context which recognises the critical importance of knowledge (as symbolically demonstrated by the EU objective of a new knowledge-based society) and in spaces below or above the traditional 'national' level that we have too often taken for granted while new forms of collective intervention multiply (at geographical as well as at institutional levels). These interactions finally develop in a world where the production of new knowledge is facing rapid shifts, with a multiplication of sources (both geographically and in terms of actors involved in the production process), and with new 'search regimes' manifested by such notions as 'convergence' or NBIC, and with a growing focus on 'frontier', 'breakthrough' or 'transformative' science.

Not only have science, technology and innovation activities, and science and innovation policies been slow to adjust to these changes, but so have we, the SIPS research community. (For example, many empirical studies of innovation still focus on the manufacturing sector, even though this may now be only ~15% of GDP.) The purpose of conference is to analyse this rapidly changing environment, the consequences for the interactions between practice, policy and theory, and what we, the SIPS community, need to do differently over the next 5-10 years.

### **The organisation of the conference**

The conference will be organised to discuss these relations, in a pro-active way, reflecting on past shared experiences (including PRIME of course) and proposing new challenges and directions, both in term of long-term strategic research agenda and in term of 'structural needs' for the community.

Before presenting the proposed structure, we think it important to say what the conference will **not** be: it will not be a forum for presentation of traditional academic papers (there are, and we have organised in 2008, plenty of other opportunities for this); it is not just a 'normal' PRIME Annual conference (presenting what is going on) nor a *post mortem* on PRIME (although we, no doubt, will draw some lessons from PRIME); and it is not a workshop for planning PRIME II (this would be too late) nor even an occasion for engaging extensively with policy makers (although we might invite a few and engage into discussion with them).

Sessions will thus discuss issues considered as central in this interplay. In order for the sessions to play their role, we wish to devote most of the time to the discussion. They will be introduced by **short** (~10-15 minute), **provocative ‘think-pieces’** (based on e.g. just 3-5 key ideas) as starting point for extensive discussion and debate. One could also think of two short pieces with different views in order to fuel the debate.

We have identified a number of topics, but we wish the list to be shared, and thus **this presentation is also a call for such topics and sessions**. Proposals should: (a) provide a first skeleton of the anticipated think piece, (b) consider possible guests (outside of the network, especially in neighbouring fields or in policy and practice) as introducers or contradictors, and (c) propose a way for taking hold of the contents of the debate.

Possible topics include:

1. identification of new policy needs and ‘gaps’ in SIPS research agenda (e.g. innovation in non-manufacturing sectors; research and innovation on ‘collective’ goods and services, research and innovation on sustainability...);
2. critical assessment of strengths and weaknesses of different support mechanisms for SIPS research (e.g. Networks of Excellence, other FP support mechanisms, ERC, NSF, national research councils in EU countries, etc.);
3. SIPS vis-à-vis a changing global atlas of knowledge production and its implication for policymaking
4. SIPS – victim of a ‘frontier science’-based innovation hype? Do we blind out the persistent (and probably healthy role) of incumbent technology and related policy?
5. SIPS – and the quantitative edge. Can multiple new themes / problems be addressed with mostly “old nationally based” indicators?
6. How to raise the attention for the ‘education –knowledge generation’ links, both in analytical perspectives and in policy practice?
7. SIPS and STS, SIPS and evolutionary economics – complementarity, overlap or distinct intellectual galaxies?
8. views of SIPS ‘neighbours’ on evolving field of research and innovation studies and its changing relationship to ‘practice’ and ‘policy’.

**Proposals for such sessions should be sent by their organisers to the Prime executive committee via the management link ([prime.management@enpc.fr](mailto:prime.management@enpc.fr)) and to the coordinator ([philippe.laredo@enpc.fr](mailto:philippe.laredo@enpc.fr)) before September 15, 2008.**

### **Conference dates and venue**

The conference will start Monday, December 15 at 2 p.m., and finish Wednesday, December 17 at 5 p.m. We have kept the possibility for projects to organise working days at IEP Thursday December 18 and for exceptional cases Friday December 19. Projects should tell the contact point (see below) about their will and requirements for organising such working days, before September 15.

The conference will take place in **Aix en Provence, at the Institut d’Etudes Politiques**, with our colleagues from LEST (CNRS and Université de la Méditerranée) as local organisers.

Further information on logistical aspects expected for September 2008.