



Work Report European Millennium Project Nodes Initiative (EuMPI) Period: March 2004 – July 2004

Since March 2004, the EUMPI (European Millennium Project Nodes Initiative) continued its work mainly in the form of a meeting held in Brussels in April and in the form of virtual collaboration via its e-group. The main points of activities are listed below.

Meetings:

- the second EuMPI meeting was held in April in Brussels, hosted and organized by the German Node at the Coordination Office of Science Organizations to the European Union
- **Participants were:**
 - Philippe Destatte (The Destree Institute, Wallonia, Brussels-Area Node)
 - Cornelia Daheim (Z_punkt GmbH The Foresight Company, Essen-Berlin, German Node)
 - Pascale van Doren (The Destree Institute, Wallonia, Brussels-Area Node)
 - Juha Kaskinen (Finland Futures Academy, Turku, Finland Node)
 - Bruce Lloyd (London South Bank University, United Kingdom Node)
 - Peter Mettler (FH Wiesbaden - University of Applied Sciences, member of the German Node's Planning Committee)
 - Pavel Nováček (Center for Social and Economic Strategies, Charles University Prague, Central European Node)
 - Béline Pharaon, representing Saphia Richou (Prospective-Foresight Network, Paris, French Node)
 - Mike Rogers (European Commission, DG Research; participated for lunch break and discussion)
 - Sari Söderlund (Finland Futures Academy, Turku, Finland Node)
 - Apologies for Absence: Nadezhda Gaponenko (Russian Institute of Economy Policy and Law, Ministry of Industry, Science and Technology - Russian Academy of Natural Sciences, Department of Forecasting Moscow, Russian Node)

Decisions on organizational structure and funding questions

a) funding

Up to now, the EUMPI operates on the funding of the Nodes – they pay travel and accommodation costs etc. For the long-term, funding from outside will be needed. The EuMPI will try to utilize existing opportunities, for example in the context of:

- Spider
- the FFA's European Futures Academy
- COST
- And by following EU research programmes, continuing to try to get funding for research projects together.

b) General organizational aims and structure

At the moment, the EuMPI has decided to stick to the principle it has used up to now: To keep the organizational structure simple at the beginning and change when thought appropriate.

c) Communication / Website

The EuMPI communicates via its Email-Group in between meetings. The French Node offered to realize a EuMPI-Website soon.

SPIDER-Project

The SPIDER-Project (<http://www.spider-project.net>) is a project realized by three of the European Millennium Project Nodes, the Finnish Node as coordinator, and the Brussels-Area Node and German Node. For details on the project progress see the separate report by Juha Kaskinen. The project is networked to EuMPI, and news were given at the meeting in Brussels in April to all EuMPI-members.



Other activities:

- a letter to the UNU Rector Hans van Ginkel, concerning the Home institution decision of the Millennium project, was written and sent by Peter Mettler (member of the German Node) on behalf of the EuMPI
- news from the Global Partnership for Development were given to EuMPI at the meeting in Brussels by Pavel Nováček (for details see his report)

2005 Conference

- the EuMPI plans to host a conference in 2005, and, if possible, in this context also the MP Meeting
- this conference is mainly organized by the Finnish and Brussels Area Node, with the other Nodes giving support and contributions as far as they can
- Contacts for support from the EU COST Initiative were made by the Finnish Node, and the COST Action group has agreed to become a partner for the conference. A COST working group for the conference was formed. By now, the German Node is also in touch with a German COST member to discuss the conference, and the Brussels-Area Node will co-organize the contact to the COST group, together with the Finnish Node.
- at the EuMPI-meeting in April, and after that via the Email-group, the conference was discussed further, with the following results:
 - o the conference's aims and subjects still need some focussing
 - o the conference should link up to the whole of the MP and to the need of a common European Vision
- the conference program and plans will be developed further in the next weeks

SOFI – a possible proposal

- a proposal for a European State of the Future Index was written (proposal partners: Finland Futures Research centre, MP, South Bank University, Charles University Prague) in 2002
- The EuMPI will try to build on this proposal and find a space for its funding in EU or other programs, but the proposal would then need to be adapted

"New questions for the Future" coming from EUMPI to MP

The "new questions" which have been discussed as a subject for the MP from a European point of view at the moment are (they will be prepared further a.s.a.p.):

- Civil society
- Globalization
- Demographics
- the EU treaty as a model

Next EuMPI Meeting / Prague Workshop on Future Studies Methodolgy

The next meeting will take place in the context of the conference (First Prague Workshop on Future Studies Methodology) in Prague 16th to 18th of September, and will be hosted by the Central European Node.

Main Objectives for the Next Months:

- further developing the conference plans
- continue networking the European Nodes in EuMPI
- meet in Prague in September
- promote The Millennium Project on a European Level
- if possible, realize EuMPI Website
- following EU research programmes, continue to try to get funding for research projects together



Background on the EuMPI

The EuMPI-Initiative was formed in July 2003 at the San Francisco Meeting. The foundation paper says that the Initiative aims at stimulating "a network of the European Nodes [...] to learn together within the culture and spirit of the Millennium Project, and to prepare proposals and partnerships for the European Commission; to participate to the renewal of the European Futures thinking [...]". After this first step, an email-group was formed so that co-operation started very quickly this way. The first output was the proposal to the European Commission for the "SPIDER project: Increasing regional competitiveness through Futures Research methods", led by the Finnish Node (Finland Futures Academy) and realized together with the Brussels-Area Node (The Destree Institute) and The German Node (Z_punkt GmbH The Foresight Company). In November 2003, a kick-off meeting of the EuMPI was held in Brussels at the European Parliament, hosted by the Destree Institute. Background documents (minutes etc.) are available from the members of EuMPI, which are:

- Central European Node (Prague),
- Finland Node (Helsinki, Turku),
- French Node (Paris),
- German Node (Berlin, Essen),
- Italian Node (Roma),
- Russian Node (Moscow),
- United Kingdom Node (London),
- Brussels Area -Europe Node (Brussels, Wallonia).

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