



Erasmus Thematic Network Project
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Network Newsletter
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“The need has arisen for discriminating consumers who can interpret relevant information and corporate messages in order to make choices that emphasize the demand for corporate social and environmental responsibility—prudent choices that contribute to universal development and intra-generational equity”
UNDP HDR 1998

Enthusiastic Initiation of Consumer Citizenship Network

The Consumer Citizenship Network has witnessed an enthusiastic commencement of the network's activities despite limited funding from the Socrates Programme. The steering group and all 5 thematic groups have had constructive meetings in which resources have been mobilized, strategies designed and priorities laid. Summaries of the plans of the thematic groups are included in this newsletter. Minutes from the meetings have been distributed by email to all partners and are available on the CCN website.

Thematic groups meet

The thematic groups have the important task of helping coordinate the network partners' initiatives. The first meetings concentrated on becoming acquainted with each other and the work done by partner institutions. The thematic groups discussed subtopics which they feel deserve further focus and research. The groups have considered ways in which this can be done. The list of focus topics can be found on the website in connection with the call for abstracts for the first CCN conference. Each group has suggested various concrete outputs to be accomplished within the goals of CCN. For more details, see the minutes on the website. Several of the thematic groups have established active online communication and hope other network partners interested in their theme will join these exchanges.

“Using, choosing or creating the future?”

The conscientious consumer citizen who “civilizes the market economy” and who turns visions of sustainable human development into reality must be aware of the role he/she has and the potential influence he/she can wield. The first annual conference of the CCN which will take place **1-2 March 2004** at **UNESCO headquarter in Paris, France** will look closely at what the consumer citizen knows and what they need to know to make responsible decisions. It will reflect upon what has been done and what can be done to ensure global equity, compatibility and sustainable consumption. The conference will also focus on who the consumer is and who we need to become to ensure the growth of a civilization characterized by qualities of justice, good governance, generosity and caring.



“Using, choosing or creating the future?”

The first international conference of the Consumer Citizenship Network will be on the

1-2 March 2004

UNESCO headquarters, 7. Place de Fontenoy, Paris, France

The conference themes are:

- * How can the consumer citizen deal with the ethical challenges of prosperity?
- * How can the media and ICT be constructive tools for the consumer citizen?
- * What are the consumer citizen's rights and responsibilities as regards food, transport, housing, energy use and personal finances?
- * What contributions can the European consumer citizen make towards the eradication of poverty in the world?
- * How can awareness and social involvement be stimulated in the consumer citizen?

At the conference there will be quality key-note speakers, presentations of research and development work, discussions, opportunities for displays, posters and opportunities for networking.

REGISTRATION

The **Booking Form**, and **practical information** for registration and **preliminary program** for the Conference are available on the CCN website www.hihm.no/concit. Drafts of papers for presentation at the conference are expected to be submitted electronically by the 10th of February 2004.(see website)

Registration fees:

CCN partners registration received by 25 January 2004: NO FEE

CCN partners registration received after 25 January 2004: 20 euros fee

Non-CCN participants: 50 euros conference fee (includes administration, lunch, printed materials)

Full time research students: 20 euros conference fee

The conference dinner on Monday 1 March will cost 30 euros for non-CCN participants

All fees must be paid in advance of the Conference

Cancellations must be made in writing or by email before 10 February. No refunds will be made after that date or for no-shows.

Fees will be invoiced on the receipt of booking forms.

Erasmus Thematic Networks

Erasmus thematic networks are an integral part of the Socrates program. Guidelines for the Erasmus networks include the following six tasks.

1. Mapping and enhancing education

- describing, analysing, and comparing existing teaching methods;
- defining and experimenting with new teaching methods;
- identifying existing teaching material and placing this at the disposal of the members of the network with the aid of databases;
- producing, translating and disseminating new teaching material;
- activities in the field of quality assurance.

2. Facilitating European cooperation

- assessing the state of art in European cooperation, identifying needs and obstacles and ways to overcome them;
- setting up tools (the use of ECTS, new models of coordination, European strategies);
- promoting the production of European modules.

3. Defining and updating generic and sectoral competencies

-the pilot project "Tuning educational structures in Europe"(2001/2) was built on the experience of Thematic Networks, and the Networks must now take the Tuning results further. *Tuning Phase Two* will transfer the Tuning methodology to existing and future Thematic Networks.

4. Promoting synergies between teaching and research

-encouraging universities to integrate research results in their teaching, and linking the Socrates-Erasmus Thematic Networks with the Networks of Excellence to be funded by the Research Directorate.

5. Reinforcing the link between education and society

-bringing together public-sector, scientific and professional players, and contributing to European innovation capacity.

6. Creating links with other continents.

* Website developments *

The Consumer Citizenship Network **Web site** is functioning and undergoing continuous improvement. Links to other relevant sites are being set up as are the files describing the CCN partners and their areas of work. The academic reference library database is also under construction and contributions can be sent to the Core Unit (ccn@hihm.no) at any time. The member site with information specifically for CCN partners is still being established and hopefully will be available in January. All CCN partners will receive a password for this particular part of the website. For news and updates look regularly www.hihm.no/concit Please send the Core Unit your comments and suggestions about how to improve the site.

Partner Agreements

The CCN Core Unit has sent the CCN partners agreements (contracts). These documents are a means of clarifying to the Socrates Programme the scope of the Network. Although the contracts may seem complicated they basically insure copyrights in connection with CCN publications and identify the routines for the partners to inform the Coordinating institution of the amount of time the participants use in connection with the network. The Network provides services (information, reference database, conferences, etc) but depends upon the involvement of the partners and the extent of their willingness to cooperate. The Core Unit has received some suggestions as to simplification of the agreements and will incorporate these into next year's version. If there are any questions about the agreements, please feel free to contact the Core Unit at ccn@hihm.no.

Words of wisdom

In connection with the conference in March, CCN partners are asked to submit short "words of wisdom" about consumer citizenship or related topics. These can be your own insights or the reflections of others. Please mention the source of the quotation. We would appreciate receiving these at the Core Unit ccn@hihm.no as soon as possible.

CCN Network outputs

The concrete activities of the first year of the Consumer Citizenship Network have been defined as:

1) Establishment of a network management system to create a dynamic and efficient system of cooperation between the partners

2) Establishment of communications systems: a website for information dissemination and an active intranet system allowing network partners to exchange ideas and references on-line and to discuss central issues.

3) Acquisition of a few new partners to further guarantee scientific and geographic diversity of partners

4) Creation of network identity and collective understanding of concept of consumer citizenship.

5) Establishment of a searchable database with relevant literature and teaching ideas and materials. The database will also contain a reference file with brief descriptions, comments and analyses of relevant books and articles.

6) Research and development work on network focus topics.

7) First annual network conference where partners and guests can exchange reports, discuss and debate issues related to consumer citizenship.

8) Application for renewed funding of the network's activities

9) Preparing research and development work for the second year of the project

10) Printing and distributing of the network report in English including presentations and report from the first annual conference

11) Translations of the summary of the network report

12) Evaluation of year 1 and final report

13) Dissemination. The CCN will spread the results of its for the work both on the internet, published materials and at conferences and seminars

Pamphlets, posters, invitations

Printed pamphlets describing the Consumer Citizenship Network are now available. Two copies will be posted to you soon. If you would like more copies please write or email the Core Unit. Invitations to the conference 1-2 March 2004 plus posters informing about the conference have also been printed. If you would like more copies of these please do not hesitate to contact the Core Unit.

Things to remember

1. For those CCN partners who participated in thematic group meetings or steering group meetings who have not yet submitted their travel reimbursement forms together with the original ticket stubs, please do so as soon as possible!
2. It is appreciated if the partner agreements (contracts) are returned by the 15th of December 2003. However if you need more time to do this, please simply inform the Core Unit.
3. It has taken a while to get the correct email addresses and other communication information. At present most of the partners receive information by email and through the web site. However, important notices will always be sent by post as well. The Core Unit would appreciate receiving all address changes.

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