

## HUMAN PLUS 2004

First Conference of the Archipelago of Humanistic Thematic Networks  
The role of the humanistic arts and sciences in European  
society, education and research

### Working Group 5

"Reaching out" and collaborating with broad disciplinary areas or  
Archipelago/s.

Dear Thematic Network member and participant in the Human Plus 2004 meeting,  
I are looking forward greatly to seeing you at the Conference in Brussels  
on 26-27 November. I am sure that it will be interesting and innovative.  
According to the information I have received from your TN Coordinator, you  
will participate in the plessions, of course -- and in the working group  
number 1, on the role and value of the humanistic area in general for  
society and culture: I think we are aware that we ourselves have the task  
of making understandable to others WHY our disciplines and thematic areas  
are of vital importance. The work of group 1 will be elaborating our ideas  
about this issue.

We sent a 'fiche', a blank page, to you several days ago, asking you to  
gather your thoughts, even in very schematic bullet point form, about what  
you think it would be useful to discuss. I hope that you have thought  
about this and have begun to gather your ideas. It would be very helpful  
if you would bring twenty copies of your 'fiche' to Brussels with you and  
send it as an e-mail attachment to l.burgisano@stm.unipi.it too. This way  
the sheets can be distributed to the members of the working group and help  
in the discussion.

Perhaps it would be useful to deal also with the following questions:

How do you define 'Humanistic' area?

In the HE system in your country is there a 'humanistic area'? Is there a  
recognised division between Humanisties, Humanistic studies, social  
sciences? In your institution?

Are there faculties of 'Humanisties'? what Faculties in your institution,  
or in your country generally have to do with the Humanistic Arts and  
Sciences?

Are there other Faculties or Departments that you consider part of a

broader Humanistic area?

Does your TN 'fit' into the Humanistic area? Does it have relevant links with other areas, such as the scientific/technological area or the health care area? How?

What do you see as the relevance, the value, the importance of the Humanistic area? for society, culture, research, citizenship etc.? And the specific importance of the disciplinary/thematic area of your Network?

Thank you for your willingness to work on this theme: I will see you soon in Brussels for what I hope will be a very good meeting.

Best regards

*Kathy Isaacs*