

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"**

Name: Heiner Dürr (heiner.duerr@t-online.de)

Work group: **3 Learning/teaching strategies**

Thematic Network: HumanitarianNet

Here are a few suggestions for the initial stage of our work:

> **Identification of the general (overall) issues which "ARCHIPELAGO" wants to address:**

i.e. ARCHIPELAGO in general. Learning and teaching strategies (subject of Group 3) should be related to this overall objective. One of many other questions to be discussed in this context:

- > Emphasis on basic academic (university) work (theory construction, concepts) and/or on
- > practical/policy issues and problems?

> **Teaching what? Learning about which areas of knowledge?**

Of course a basic question. What are our points of reference for selecting and prioritising relevant fields of knowledge which we are then going to disseminate? This questions requires a broad discussion, touching on

- > disciplines (history, anthropology, law, geography, cultural and studies, arts, film making, language studies etc.)
- > levels of aggregation (world society, civilizations, countries, regions, places, ethnic groups, individuals)
- > types of knowledge (academic, tacit, endogenous)

> **Identification of the target group(s) of teaching and learning strategies.**

Whom do we intend to teach? Who is going to learn what with and from whom?

- > researchers, e. g. training in interdisciplinary approaches to research
- > administrators and knowledge managers, e. g. inform them and learn with them about the special nature of "humanistic" knowledge (such as "thick descriptions", understanding in place of positivist explanation, cultural embeddedness of studies, constructivist character of any representations, etc.) and the consequences of these characteristics for appropriate knowledge management
- > students (???9 Which students? Contributions to specialized Master Courses?
- > the populace at large?

> **The necessity of an initial "concept clearing"**

Our work should be based on the understand that the use of language and definitions are of great importance for an effective co-operation. In continuation of our work, "definition workshops" would therefore be useful.

- > eligible terms: "culture", "civilization", "identity", "quality of life", "sustainability", "participation", "development", "integration", "inter-, cross- and trans-disciplinarity", etc.,

