

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"**

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Work group: Mapping the 'missing' or 'emerging' islands in the humanistic Archipelago and encouraging their formation

Thematic Network: Children's Identity and Citizenship in Europe

I have always been puzzled by the reactive approach of Erasmus/Education and Culture concerning the range and focus of Thematic Network Projects. It appears that they have accepted groups that have come forward on the basis simply of mechanical criteria – do they have the necessary range of partners, do the objectives match the current Socrates priorities, etc.

So we have several significant gaps – where we know that there are major unrepresented disciplines – and several Networks that appear to be almost congruent.

Surely the DEC should have identified the range of disciplines it wanted to include, and then specifically encourages these – and have steered rival groups together.

Thematic-based networks (such as CiCe) are rather different, with generally a cross-disciplinary approach – but often working in a specific area of each of these disciplines.

I think I am arguing that they need a 'root-and-branch' rationalisation!

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To get things started: we currently have as Networks (the categories may not be right)

Disciplines:

Language	History	Geography	Political Science
Women's Studies	Arts and Music		

Professional Education:

Health and Social Welfare	Occupational Therapy	Children's Citizenship and Identity	Humanitarian Rights
Architecture	Landscape Architecture		

Themes

Consumer Citizenship	Intercultural Communication	Globalisation and Europeanisation	Legal Framework for Information
Cultural Memory			

What distinguishes these areas is that they have a real 'European' dimension. Admittedly, they are as 'humanistic' concerned with all humanity, but as practices they have, or can have, a particular European flavour; or can add significantly to the European identity. This is not so true in the case of the sciences, where the contribution may be more to the economy or the economic capital of Europe. Our areas constitute cultural capital.

Missing Disciplines

Literature
Philosophy
Sociology
Psychology
Economics
Creative Arts: Drama/Theatre, Fine Arts, etc
Archaeology

Missing Professional Education

Law
Teaching
Social Work

Missing Themes

This could be as many as one might imagine!