

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: 4

Thematic Network: HUMANITARIAN NET

My 'vision' about the role of the humanities in modern European society can be boiled down into two brackets:

1) the humanities should be viewed as one among many socio-political agents who take an active part in setting the public agenda from defining and framing issues that European society is faced with to inventing and developing plans for solution.

2) the humanities should generate and impart knowledge that is anchored in the challenges that modern European society is faced with. Our 'media' are research and teaching. (My personal interest in this domain is that the role of the company is not reduced to that of an economic agent, whose actions are determined by a strict rational/transactional logic, but also a social agent with socio-affective and ethical concerns.)