



## EQUALSOC AT A GLANCE

### SHORT DESCRIPTION

The core objective of the network is to mobilize expertise across the European research community to explore in a rigorous way the implications of the increasingly knowledge-intensive pattern of economic growth for the strength of social cohesion in the European Union and its member states. It is concerned with both the relational and attitudinal dimensions of social cohesion: the extent of social connectedness on the one hand and the sense of common membership of society on the other. The setup of partner institutes provides for important problems being investigated by researchers from different disciplines, thus providing for a broad cross-disciplinary analysis of these problems. The research of the network makes and will make a major contribution in integrating and developing the evidence base available to policy makers. A major aspect of the network is to train and involve younger researchers in the comparative study of employment conditions, inequality of income, education for all, family formation, integration of ethnic minorities and institutional conditions. For this purpose it puts substantial resources in spreading competence in the use of recent advanced and relevant methods for the study of such phenomena. ★

### ACTIVITIES

**RESEARCH:** The network is organized in six Research Groups (see below) responsible for work within their subject areas. The groups are subdivided into Research Teams working on a specific issue (for a complete list of teams please consult the website [www.equalsoc.org](http://www.equalsoc.org)). **Workshops of Research Groups, Workshops of Research Teams, and Cross-cutting Workshops, and Network Conferences** are organized throughout the period of duration of the network, to encourage interaction of network members, to facilitate the coordination of research and of common publications. At **policy conferences** key results of the network activities are presented in an interactive environment.

**TRAINING:** A central objective of the EQUALSOC is to provide high-level training in comparative research for the next generation of researchers. Three types of training activities are organized: **summer schools, methodology workshops, and student/researcher visitorships**. These activities combine relatively standardized courses for students in several domains with individual advice and collaborations across the participating institutes.

**DATA MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORT:** network's research is facilitated through sharing information about useful data, getting access to these data, dealing with harmonization problems and data comparability, and acquiring more relevant data.

**COMMUNICATION:** the network has an interactive and user-friendly **website** which is a useful tool for EQUALSOC members in organizing and coordinating research activities, as well as disseminating information on research outcomes and publications. The network's **newsletter** also serves communication purposes. ★

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**Coordination Coordinator**  
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**Duration**  
1 September 2005 - 31 August 2010

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THE ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE



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UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI  
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Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin  
für Sozialforschung

## RESEARCH GROUPS

### **EMPLOY** (Chair, Duncan Gallie, Nuffield)

The focus is on two broad but closely inter-related themes: 1) The 'Knowledge-Based Economy' and Skill Development, and 2) Changing Work Patterns, Social Polarisation and Risks of Marginalisation. Under the first theme research focuses on (i) Trends in Skills (ii) Skill Mismatch (iii) In-Career Training. The research under the second theme revolves around the question of whether economic growth is leading to a convergence or a polarisation in the employment and labour market conditions of different sectors of the workforce.

### **INCDIS** (Chair, Christopher T. Whelan, ESRI)

The Group researches the implications of patterns of economic change for the distribution of income, consumption and living standards, and how this works dynamically for individuals and families over time. Another investigated issue is the impact of economic change and key channels of influence on different parts of the income distribution, since summary inequality measures may mask very different trends for the bottom, middle and top of the distribution.

### **EDUC** (Chair, Walter Müller, MZES)

The Group investigates if, to what extent, and how educational chances are unevenly distributed among different social groups in contemporary European societies. Another set of important questions concerns the gain that individuals and society have from education. Both, inequalities in educational participation and the returns to education can change over time and there are substantial differences between countries.

### **FAMNET** (Chair, Chiara Saraceno, University of Torino/WZB)

Research in this Group investigates i) the implications of the changing family-work balance as expressed by women's labour force participation for work organisation, for family formation and organisation, for welfare state arrangements; and ii) the varieties and changes of social networks in crucial phases of the individuals' and household's life cycle, with a specific attention for their impact over time on the individuals' and households' life chances.

### **SOCULT** (Chair, Yannick Lemel, CNRS)

Research under this theme focuses on social cohesion, on the possible expansion of less integrated social groups, and on the closures that could develop consequently. The research questions revolve around the following topics: (i) Ethnicity and immigration. (ii) Social exclusion and urban inequalities. (iii) Cultural and Life-style differentiation.

### **TRALEG** (Chair, Jelle Visser, AIAS)

Mutual trust, associational life and the legitimacy of the societal and political order all contribute to determine the level and nature of social cohesion. By combining micro and macro perspectives the Group hopes to shed light on the factors enabling the inducement of increasing social cohesion in Europe, in societies that experience rapid economic change and social reform. ★

## AUXILIARY COMMITTEES

### **TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** (Chair, Antonio Schizzerotto, University of Trento)

The Committee organizes summer schools, methodology workshops, and students/researchers visitorships, with the aim to provide training to young scholars, which will directly contribute to the development of research on social cohesion in Europe during the years of the funding. Additionally, it will provide an important mechanism through which the activities of the network can be prolonged beyond the formal duration of network funding.

### **DATA SUPPORT COMMITTEE** (Chair, Roxane Silberman, CNRS)

The main objective of the Committee is to increase the amount of accessible and relevant data in the network's fields of research. It is thus fully integrated in the EQUALSOC project and offers important support for the achievements of the research projects.

### **COMMUNICATIONS AND DISSEMINATION COMMITTEE** (Chair, Herman van de Werfhorst, AIAS)

One of the Committee's tasks is to organize, together with the relevant Directorates-General, two 'policy conferences'. These conferences are open for as wide a group of policy makers as possible, of various policy levels (non-EU policy makers will be invited on a self-funding basis). Policy makers related to the relevant DG's will also be invited to other network activities, in particular the cross-cutting workshops and the network conferences. The Committee is also in charge of the website and of newsletters. ★

## PARTNER INSTITUTES

Amsterdam Institute for Advanced Labour Studies (AIAS), Amsterdam  
[www.uva-aias.net](http://www.uva-aias.net)

Centre for Social Policy (CSB), Antwerp  
[www.centrumvoorsociaalbeleid.be](http://www.centrumvoorsociaalbeleid.be)

National Scientific Research Centre / Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), Paris  
[www.cnrs.fr](http://www.cnrs.fr)

Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), Dublin  
[www.esri.ie](http://www.esri.ie)

Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES), Mannheim - [www.mzes.uni-mannheim.de](http://www.mzes.uni-mannheim.de)

Nuffield College, Oxford - [www.nuffield.ox.ac.uk](http://www.nuffield.ox.ac.uk)

Swedish Institute for Social Research (SOFI), Stockholm  
[www.sofi.su.se](http://www.sofi.su.se)

Università degli Studi di Milano (UNIMIB), Milan  
[www.unimib.it](http://www.unimib.it)

University of Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona - [www.upf.edu](http://www.upf.edu)

University of Tartu - [www.ut.ee](http://www.ut.ee)

University of Torino - [www.unito.it](http://www.unito.it)

University of Trento - [www.unitn.it](http://www.unitn.it)

Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung / Social Science Research Centre (WZB), Berlin - [www.wzb.eu](http://www.wzb.eu)