

A E G I S

Socio-economic Sciences
and Humanities

Advancing Knowledge-Intensive Entrepreneurship &
Innovation for Economic Growth and Social Well-being in Europe

**“Advancing Knowledge-Intensive Entrepreneurship
and Innovation for Economic Growth and Social
Well-being in Europe”**

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AEGIS: The emergence of an Integrated Project in the field of Socioeconomic Research

- **AEGIS is the product of research networking within the FPs**
- **Building on previous experience: network of people, and institutes that were created in previous calls / projects etc (TSER, NoE, ..) is the most important and crucial issue in the formation phase**
- **Development of trust**
- **Convergence of research agendas and systematic background preparation for achieving it: Identification of common interests and then search for external funding**
 - **In the absence of external funding, use of internal resources to maintain joint efforts and collaboration**

Objectives of the project

- ***Micro level:*** it will examine knowledge-intensive entrepreneurship: characteristics, boundaries, scope, incentives and effects. It will do that for high technology as well as low technology sectors and services. The project will pay a lot of attention to the demand side and to the social and cultural dimensions. It will analyze the organization, networks and strategies related to knowledge-intensive entrepreneurship.
- ***Macro level:*** it will examine the link between knowledge entrepreneurship, economic growth and social well-being. Special attention will be paid to the broader socio-economic environment and the various shades of capitalism in Europe and elsewhere. It will examine the major underlying issues of social well-being such as inclusion, cohesion, equity, opportunities, and social care.

Policy relevance

- The project focuses on one of the most pressing issues that will critically affect Europe's ability to maintain and enhance economic growth as well as its diverse, but distinct, socio-economic model(s).
- The issue examines is knowledge-intensive entrepreneurship
 - (i) as a major factor affecting *innovation*;
 - (ii) as a *core transformative mechanism for translating knowledge into growth*, (which represents a problem for Europe);
 - (iii) as a *stock of capital* or factor of wealth generation which can be used in the production of other goods;
 - (iv) as important *dynamic property* of different systems of innovation and institutional setting.
- Based on all four perspectives on entrepreneurship, the AEGIS project will translate its analytical findings into *diagnostics tools for country or sector specific assessment* of knowledge-intensive entrepreneurship. To that effect, the project aims at providing *operational policy recommendations* for advancing key aspects of knowledge-intensive entrepreneurship in Europe.

Methodology (1)

- The AEGIS project aims to analyze knowledge-intensive entrepreneurship and related strategies and policies from a *variety of disciplines and research methodologies* such as *economics, organization theory, strategic management, finance, economic history, economic geography, sociology, science and technology studies, and policy studies*.
- A whole spectrum of *analytical techniques* will be employed, from *qualitative techniques and case studies to modeling and statistical and econometric analysis, as well as advanced policy analyses*.
- Moving away from the traditional person-centric literature on entrepreneurship, this project will concentrate primarily on *organizations and institutions* as factors that strongly shape the dynamic organizational capabilities which are the core of knowledge-intensive entrepreneurship.

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Methodology (2)

- **First set of WP:** *knowledge-intensive entrepreneurship and innovation* - knowledge-intensive entrepreneurship in high-tech sectors, low-tech sectors and service sectors; the role of demand and public procurement in stimulating knowledge-intensive entrepreneurship and innovation; the social and cultural dimension of knowledge-intensive entrepreneurship; the organization and strategies for knowledge-intensive entrepreneurship
- **Second set of WP:** *knowledge-intensive entrepreneurship, innovation and economic growth* - knowledge-intensive entrepreneurship and national systems of innovation, varieties of capitalism in Europe, and the emergence of clusters.
- **Third set of WP:** *effects of newly created knowledge on economic growth and social well-being;*
- **Fourth set of WP:** *knowledge-intensive entrepreneurship in EU15 and new member countries; policy recommendations and tools* - dynamics of knowledge-intensive entrepreneurship in Europe and in China, India and Russia; policy recommendations for the design and implementation of new/improved policy tools for greater effectiveness in the transformation of knowledge into economic value and social benefits.
- **Horizontal WP:** *creation of data to support the analysis in the other WP.*

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The research consortium

Greece	PLANET S.A.
Italy	Università Commerciale "Luigi Bocconi"
Greece	National Technical University of Athens
Sweden	Institute for Management of Innovation and Technology
Germany	Max Planck Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Wissenschaften e.v.
Sweden	Lunds universitet
The Netherlands	Universiteit Utrecht
Germany	Technische Universität Dortmund
France	Université Louis Pasteur
United Kingdom	University College London
Portugal	Unidade de Estudos sobre Complexidade e Economia
Denmark	Aalborg Universitet
United Kingdom	University of Sussex
Hungary	Magyar tudományos akadémia közgazdaságtudományi intézet (Institute of Economics, Hungarian Academy of Sciences)
Czech Republic	Centrum ekonomických studií Vysoké školy ekonomie a managementu, o.p.s. (Centre for Economic Studies, University of Economics and Management)
Russian Federation	Finansovaya akademiya pri pravitelstve rossiyskoy federacii (The Finance Academy under the Government of the Russian Federation)
China	Zhejiang University
India	Centre for Development Studies
Poland	Centrum analiz społeczno- ekonomicznych- fundacja naukowa (Center for Social and Economic Research)
The Netherlands	Universiteit Maastricht
Croatia	Croatian Employer's Association

A E G I S

Event – date- place

Short overview of AEGIS

- **No of partners: 21 (a really big project compared to previous TSER projects).**
- **No of countries: 16 (13 EU, Russia, China, India).**
- **Type of partners: 1 management consulting firm, 13 University research groups, 6 research institutes and research centres, 1 government council.**
- **Broad Coverage in terms of different socio-economic configurations (varieties of socio-economic models, varieties of capitalism) as socioeconomic phenomena are time and path-dependent:**
 - **European social model (Nordic, Continental, Anglo-Saxon, Mediterranean, ex centrally planned- economies of Central and Eastern European countries),**
 - **Russian, Chinese, Indian Models.**

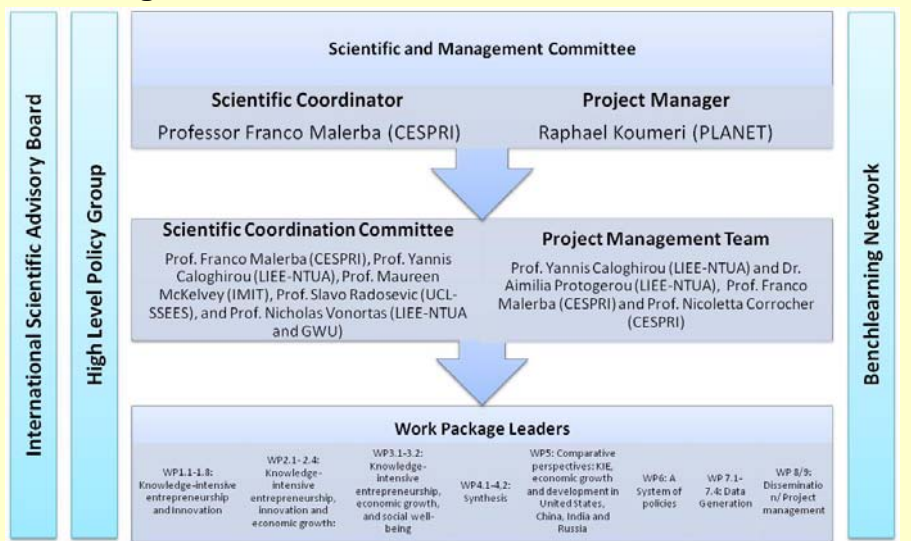
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AEGIS project

- **Duration of Projects: 3 years**
- **How long took proposal writing:**
 - From Pisa to Brussels: Initial idea -> Proposal submission: 9 months.
- **Partners finding process**
 - Founding teams: CESPRI- BOCCONI (Franco Malerba, Corrocher et al) and LIEE-NTUA (Yannis Caloghirou, Protogerou, Vonortas et al)
 - Gradual expansion of the core group (Maureen McKelvey, IMIT), (Slavo Radocevic, UCL)
 - Search for other partners based on the project concept, the conceptual framework prepared by the core group, the project needs.
 - The search was primarily focused on communities of similar research interests (Innovation Studies, Entrepreneurship research etc) and links established previously in the context of other EU funded socioeconomic projects and from the DIME NoE.
 - As the project network was formed, the need for a professional project management partner was realized. Too much organizational and administrative effort.

How should an IP be designed?

- **Management structure:**



How many people for the management task

- **The core mgt group: 3 people (Project coordinator, the assistant project coordinator, the financial manager) plus a person responsible for the administrative issues in each team.**

Project Procedures

- **Meetings**
 - Meetings of the Scientific and Management Committee (face-to-face and virtual).
 - Plenary meetings
 - WP meetings (mainly virtual)
- **Internal Work Package Procedures**
- **Common Process for Project Documents (Internal documents, external documents)**
- **Quality Assurance and Project Control**
- **Plans for knowledge management and dissemination**

The flow of information

- Vertical and Horizontal
- The type of information flows (scientific, organizational,..)
- The role of the Scientific and Management Committee as a facilitator in managing the flow of information.
- The Project Management Compendium (Manual)
- The role of the WP leaders as agenda setters, initiators and coordinators
- The tools
 - Two e-mailing lists
 - One on administrative issues.
 - One on scientific issues
 - The Aegis Repository (a knowledge tree) [internal]
 - The AEGIS website [external]
 - Skype as a tool for frequent communication (esp. among the members of the Scientific and Management Committee)

The problems of running large-scale surveys

- The design of the survey and the processing of the results is definitely a task of the research groups within the consortium, but...,
- The running of a large-scale survey i.e. on entrepreneurship in many countries, in different languages, with different corporate cultures requires a professional expertise in data collection.

Main challenges/ Lessons learnt

- The dual character in managing an IP in SSH. Clear distinction between the research and administrative issues.
- A clear and well-defined project concept.
- The need for a core group sharing a common understanding of the scope of the project and the project specificities.
- Convergence of different research agendas and consolidation of a single IP research agenda in order to create synergies and comply with the IP objectives.
- The difficulty of creating a new synthesis and not just a variety of fragmented results.
- It is very important to establish the link between research results and evidence-based policy.
- Trust among partners and earlier cooperation facilitates the smooth and productive implementation of the research effort. The cohesion of the research consortium is vital.

Main challenges/ Lessons Learnt

- Communication between different disciplines in SSH research efforts is one of the most difficult issues.
- Think in advance the best available way to run a large-scale survey. You need a professional approach.
- It is essential to create the necessary time and space (within the project planning) in order “to sit back and think the project findings and results”