

# WSI proposals for the further development of the TURI network

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WSI

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Fakten für eine faire Arbeitswelt.

Dear friends and colleagues,

the WSI is unfortunately not able to participate at the 2010 TURI conference in Madrid. Therefore, we would like to take the opportunity of this note to make some suggestions for the further development of the TURI network.

More than two years ago we met for the first time to establish the TURI network. In our view, it is now the time to ask what we have reached so far and where we want to go in the future.

## *What we have reached so far?*

The TURI network currently has 31 members from 17 countries. Although there are significant differences in the size, financial resources and fields of activities, altogether the TURI network represents a broad range of scientific expertises.

However, the cooperation among the TURI network is still rather limited. So far, ...

- ➔ we have established a TURI web page with some basic information about the participating institutes and their fields of research
- ➔ we organised a few workshops on current issues to exchange our views and research
- ➔ a very few TURI researchers used the opportunity to visit one of the other TURI with the financial support of a TURI grant.

## *Where we want to go?*

In order to further develop the TURI network and to intensify the cooperation, in our view the next step would be to think about joint TURI **Projects** and **Products**.

In order to start a real cooperation on certain issues we should establish **thematic working groups** within the TURI network. If we go through the list of research activities as laid down at our web page, there are already a number of topics which are of joint interest for many TURI institutes. Among other many TURI institutes are working on macroeconomics, labour market

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policy, social policy, flexicurity, gender policy, labour migration, wages and collective bargaining, development of trade unions etc.

The **TURI Thematic Working Groups** might be based on the following principles:

- every TURI institute can propose to set up a thematic working group
- thematic working groups are in principle open to all TURI members, but could also work with just a few numbers of institutes
- thematic working groups should set the basis for a long term cooperation in certain core fields of research
- the topics chosen by the thematic networks should be relevant for both national and European level
- one TURI institute should take the role of coordinator
- the thematic working group should decide about the concrete form of cooperation and work programme
- the principle aim of the thematic working group should be the elaboration of joint products.

The WSI wants to make a first concrete proposal for setting up a **TURI Thematic Working Group on Wages and Collective Bargaining** and would be ready to organise a first meeting for such a group. The aims of such a working group might be the following:

- Regular monitoring of wage developments in Europe
- Analysis of wage policy at European level (ECB, European Commission, European Trade Unions etc) and the European dimension of national wage policy
- Elaborating an annual TURI report on wages and collective bargaining
- Setting up a European database of collectively agreed wages
- Cooperation with the ETUC Collective Bargaining Committee and corresponding committees of the European Industry Federations
- Defining research projects on topics related to wages and collective bargaining
- Etc...

The TURI network also needs a visible **joint product**. As a first step we suggest to establish a **TURI Working Paper Series** to be published at the TURI web page. The working papers should contain research papers from researches working at a TURI institute. The papers should be in English and might also include English versions of papers and articles which have already been published in the national languages of the TURI institutes. There should also be a review process organised by the TURIO members, in order to guarantee certain quality standards of the working papers.

Another possibility of a joint product could be a **TURI Year Book** as annual publication with contributions from the various TURI members. The year-book might enclose analyses on both national and European level.

These are some ideas from our side. We wish you an interesting and fruitful TURI Conference with good results for the further development of our network

In behalf of the WSI

Thorsten Schulten