Remarks on the WSI proposals for the further development of the TURI network by the Labour Institute for Economic Research

Remarks regarding the proposal from the WSI (10 May 2010):

Dear Colleagues,

We received the WSI proposals for the further development of the TURI network that you forwarded to us on the 30th of April. Presumably they were taken up towards the end of the TURI conference in Madrid, however Heikki Taimio had to leave before that discussion took place. This is how we would like to comment on the WSI proposals:

TURI Thematic Working Groups
We support this idea in principle, but we regret that the WSI does not address the question of financing these groups. Relatively big institutes such as the WSI might be able to allocate enough resources to this kind of activity. Our institute, however, employs only a dozen people who do research at least part of their time, and only five others who assist the researchers. The researchers are always expected to have specific funding for their research, travel expenses etc. This would also include activities referred to by the WSI that are not strictly research-oriented, such as regular monitoring, writing of reports, setting up a database etc. Besides, our resources are probably too limited for the task of a coordinator of such a working group. Thus, the big question is: where is the funding expected to come from?

TURI Working Paper Series
Again, we support this idea in principle, but perhaps it would be more practical to set up an independent TURI WP Series, while at the same time maintaining, on the TURI website, a list of working papers published by the member institutes. We don't think we could afford to translate all wp's originally published in Finnish, however we would be happy to send url's and abstracts of the English ones for display on the TURI website.

TURI Yearbook
This is also a good idea. Perhaps each issue should be devoted to a single, broad theme, with contributions by researchers who have done research in that area.

Best Wishes,

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