

HIVA comments on TURI future discussion

1. Extend of the network,

Still limited geographical scope

First of all, for internal evaluation, it is important not to over-estimate the extend of the network ; we only have full-members from 13 EU countries. If you see AK from AT and SALTSA from Sweden not as full research institutes, we only have a research basis in 11 EU-countries. This is not in a majority of the EU countries.

One of the goals of the next years, should therefore probably be to extend this type of institutes to other regions of the EU (lobbying together with ETUC, ... reasons why countries like France and Italy finance these institutions). Make a policy plea for it.

Scientific base?

The first period of getting to know eachother learnt that the differences in research capacity and scientific development between the current partners are large. A next question/goal of the network could be in other words: is their a need of knowledge transfer in this regard?

From the start, we has HIVA stressed that from our perspective a next network of conferences, making working papers, etc. was not our first priority. Possibilities of these kind of low-profile activities of networking exist enough. So, we were more looking for more added-value.

2. Strategies for more added-value

In this regard we find the WSI proposals interesting, but we want to even think further.

Yes to the thematic groups.

- We believe especially in the exchange of ideas and way of work, when you start a national research project. In this regard we are certainly interested in the wages and collective bargaining theme.
- We would suggest also one on 'health and safety management and employee participation' as this is a topic, we want to invest in on the national level the coming period. We certainly want to take the lead of thematic group.
- I believe also that a lot of the institutes are involved in doing some kind of 'marketing research' for the union (membership studies).

The further thinking has to do with doing more research together.

- A first step could be based on the work in one of the thematic groups to apply for a COST network; it would create financial possibilities to enhance the transfer of knowledge and the expansion to other EU countries.

- ETUC and European sector federations are commissioning, most of the time within the money from the European social dialogue, studies. A sometimes strange network of consultants and research groups is active in conducting these studies. I think presenting the TURI network as a valuable (and preferable) partner for this type of research should be a strategy.