

Proposal for the take-over of the Database on Post Graduate Scholarship and Grant Opportunities for SEE Students

Background

The Stability Pact launched in February 2007 the pilot project “*Postgraduate Scholarships and Grant Opportunities for South Eastern Europe in Social Sciences*”, a web portal for graduate students from South Eastern Europe on available scholarships and grants in the European Union Member States and beyond.



The aim was to enhance brain circulation between South Eastern Europe and the European Union, to build up a pilot project and then to transfer it into an established regionally-owned, constantly updated information service.

Initial coverage of the Postgraduate Scholarships and Grant Opportunities was focused on Social Sciences but was gradually expanded towards covering further fields of study, thus the Database was renamed Database on Scholarship and Grant Opportunities for South Eastern Europe. For the usability of the database, it will be needed to make possible search and filtering e.g. by field of study (widening of the database) as currently only filtering by country is available.

The organisational background for the take-over will be provided by the Information Office of the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan countries, which is coordinated by the Centre for Social Innovation (Vienna, Austria) and implemented in cooperation with ASO/Bulgaria.

Activities

There are two core activities:

1. *background research aimed at gathering necessary information about Scholarships and Grants, as well as their classification*

To date, this is carried out by the Working Table 1 - Fostering and Building Human Capital Team of the Stability Pact.

It will be handed over to ASO/Bulgaria.

2. *technical service of the database and regular updates*

At the moment, this work is also done by the Stability Pact.

It will be handed over to Centre for Social Innovation (Austria) who is coordinator of the Information Office of the Steering Platform on Research for Western Balkan countries.

Further steps will include the improvement of the available data in terms of structure and content (deepening), in particular towards scientific fields not covered so far (widening).

It is planned to carry out these activities for 2 years after the transition from the Stability Pact.

Two Reports to the donor are foreseen, interim report after the first year and a final report after the second year. Then the integration of the Western Balkan countries to the mobility offers of the European Union (ERA-MORE, Mobility Centers, etc.) and the necessity of specific targeted offers will again be assessed.

Portal of the Information Office of the Steering Platform

<http://see-science.eu> is established since August 2006 and already contains useful databases for the research community in South Eastern Europe: e.g. *news*

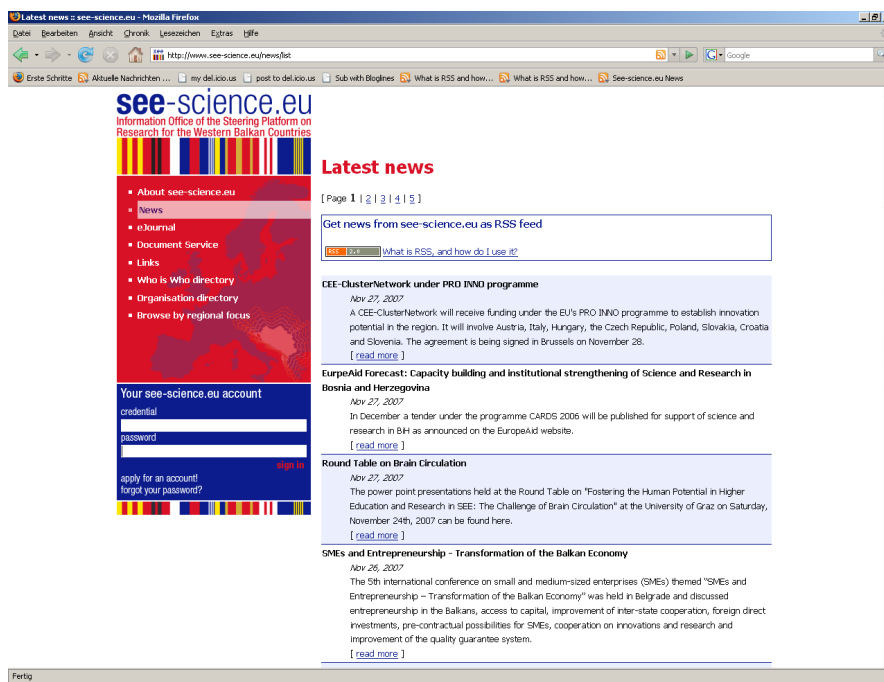
(October 2007: 345 news entries, with currently 110 news entries are publicly visible immediately when clicking on "news". Several items are "related news". 154 items are currently in the "news archive")

organisations

(October 2007: 306 registered organisations)

stakeholders

(October 2007: 219 contacts provided in the "who is who", 548 registered users)



The scholarship directory is a very suitable addition to the services of the portal.



Timetable

February 2008:

Preparation of the Handover

Set up of a structure (see below) to allow easy integration, update and service of the database entries, with a special focus on searchability and interactivity

Involved parties: ZSI, Stability Pact WT1

March 2008:

Handover from the Stability Pact

Moving of the Scholarship database from

<http://www.stabilitypact.org/wt1/BHCscholarships.asp>

to

<http://www.see-science.eu/scholarships/list>

Involved parties: ZSI, Stability Pact WT1, Tagomago (contracted by the Stability Pact)

April 2008:

Content-wise adaptation of the "existing" entries (around 200) to an improved searchable database with new features

Involved parties: ZSI, ASO/Bulgaria

May 2008-January 2009:

Widening the existing database: Gathering of at least 15 new entries per month expanding the geographical outreach as well as the covered fields of study

Involved parties: ASO/Bulgaria

Promotion of the database in the region through public relations, events, etc

Involved parties: ZSI, ASO/Bulgaria, Steering Platform on Research

Continuous IT support

Involved parties: ZSI

February 2009:

First year review / Interim Report to donors

Presentation of results and user statistics

Involved parties: ZSI, ASO/Bulgaria

February 2009-February 2010:

Further expansion of the database with at least 15 new entries per month

Involved parties: ASO/Bulgaria

Promotion of the offer in the region through public relations, events, etc

Involved parties: ZSI, ASO/Bulgaria, Steering Platform on Research

Continuous IT support

Involved parties: ZSI

Liaison with ERA-MORE network and other mobility stakeholders on integration of services

Involved parties: ZSI, Steering Platform on Research

February 2010:

Final report

Presentation of results and user statistics

Involved parties: ZSI, ASO/Bulgaria

Costs:

		ZSI / Austria		ASO / Bulgaria	
<i>Preparation of the Handover</i>	February 2008	70 h	3.500		
<i>Handover from the Stability Pact</i>	March 2008	70 h	3.500	70 h	700
<i>Content-wise adaptation (deepening)</i>	April 2008			140 h	1.400
<i>Gathering of new entries (widening)</i>	May 2008-January 2009			140 h x 9 person months	12.600
<i>Promotion of the database in SEE countries</i>	May 2008-January 2009	8 h x 9 months	3.600		
<i>Continuous IT support</i>	May 2008-January 2009	8 h x 9 months	3.600		
<i>Review and Interim Reporting</i>	February 2009	20 h	1.000	10 h	100
<i>Further expansion of the database (widening)</i>	February 2009-February 2010			140 h x 12 person months	16.800
<i>Continuous IT support</i>	May 2008-January 2009	8 h x 12 months	4.800		
<i>Review and Final Reporting</i>	February 2010	20 h	1.000		
Sum 2 years operation per partner			21.000		31.600
Sum 2 years operation total					52.600

