



# Science and Society 2002 - 2006

## Overview of Contracts

**Contract No** : SAS6-CT-2003-003282 INES  
**Call** : FP6-2003-Science and Society-4  
**Domain** : Ethics  
**Type** : CA  
**Title** : The Institutionalisation of Ethics in Science Policy; practices and impact  
**Duration** : 36  
**Start Date** : 01/02/2004

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**Abstract:**

INES investigates the issue of the incorporation of ethics in S&T policy in terms of the methodologies used and their actual impact in decision making.

Debates on technological developments touch fundamental ethical considerations and uncover wide mistrust in public authorities and scientific establishments. Policy makers have reacted by incorporating ethics into the decision making processes of S&T policy.

Different nations have different ways of doing this, ranging from advisory expert committees to open debates with relevant stakeholders.

The form and method in which ethics is incorporated in S&T varies greatly throughout Europe and its actual impact in decision making is still unclear.

INES brings together a group of leading experts in the area of S&T ethics and the relevant policy making community, to analyse comparatively the manner by which ethics is incorporated into the official decision making structures.

The analysis is done in terms of representations of the 'ethical problem?; understanding of the concepts 'ethics vs morality?', 'ethics vs bioethics?; the notion of 'ethical expert?; and consideration of lay values in the decision making process.

Informed by public perceptions research on 'ethics? and paying particular attention to gender differences, the project will explore case studies presenting particular challenges for the incorporation of ethics in decision making (medical genetics, forensic genetics and food technologies). The differences in the understanding of the ethical issues and the incorporation approaches chosen will provide the basis for the creation of a 'European map' which will be critically examined in terms of impact assessment and best practices.

The ultimate goal of INES is to create a pan-European platform where ethics experts, policy makers and relevant stakeholders can debate, exchange information, identify 'best practices? and devise ways to improve the input and impact of ethics in the actual decision making process

**Contract No** : SAS6-CT-2004-003582 CEC-WYS

**Call** : FP6-2002-Science and Society-1  
**Domain** : Ethics  
**Type** : SSA  
**Title** : Central European Centre for Women and Youth in Science  
**Duration** : 36  
**Start Date** : 01/03/2004

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**Abstract:**

Building upon the policies and activities of the EC (establishment of the Helsinki Group in 1999, the ETAN report of 2000, the current ENWISE project monitoring the position of women in science in wider Europe - Action 27, and the planned establishment of the European Platform for Women Scientists - Action 24 of the Science and Society Action Plan), it is proposed to establish Central European Centre for Women and Youth in Science. The Centre will build upon and expand the experience of the National Contact Centre - Women in Science (NKC) established in 2001 by the Czech Ministry of Education at Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences.

The two primary goals of the Centre are:

- 1) to promote, mobilise and network women in science in Central Europe and
- 2) to promote, mobilise and network young people in science in the region, and thus to contribute to increasing gender equality in R&D and to structuring the European Research Area.

The Centre will involve Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia and the Czech Republic and will draw on the experience of partners from Romania, France and Italy. Specific goals of the project are: - a database of women experts to mobilise and network women scientists - FP6-related activities (training on inclusion of gender dimension in FP6 proposals, mobilisation of women scientists to apply for the EC's expert evaluator database) - training on responsible scientific conduct - creation of a forum to facilitate networking, exchange of experience and mobility opportunities of young scientists, building upon the Young Scientists' workshop organised by the EC and NKC in April 2003 - co-ordination of policy monitoring and lobbying at national and international level - increasing gender awareness in scientific community in the region.

Project results will be made available to the public.

Training activities will be based on the 'train the trainers' approach, thus wide dissemination will be ensured

**Contract No** : SAS6-CT-2003-508865 SCHOOL-FORESIGHT  
**Call** : FP6-2002-Science and Society-2  
**Domain** : Public understanding and confidence  
**Type** : SSA  
**Title** : Launching a Visionary Quest for the Intelligent School of Tomorrow on the basis of Relevant State-of-the-art Scientific and Technological Achievements  
**Duration** : 10  
**Start Date** : 01/01/2004

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**Abstract:**

The School-foresight proposal aims to realize different visions for the "intelligent school of tomorrow" unveiling, particularly to school students, new horizons that are created thanks to the contribution of scientific and technological achievements performed in the European Research Area.

The visualisation of the "intelligent school of tomorrow" will be realised by focusing on two scientific and technological domains:

- a) new learning techniques and ICT technologies affecting learning process, methods and tools and
- b) ICT & eco-efficient technologies in intelligent school buildings affecting school as a physical entity.

Experts will analyse and select the most suitable for demonstration relevant FP5 projects. Equally, Experts will adapt and popularise the scientific content based on young people perception abilities and the respective pedagogical principles.

To prepare the information activities a detailed organisational plan and a diversified information material will be prepared.

To accelerate early involvement of school students a School-foresight composition contest with subject "A vision for the school of 2020" will also be organised. 5 cities of Greece, Estonia, Romania, Bulgaria and Czech Republic will host a diversified Information Programme before, during and after the European Science Week 2004, including publicity, core, and closing events. 5 interactive exhibitions, debate workshops, a virtual 'classroom of tomorrow' comprising a synchronous collaborative lesson (of science and technology's impact on school education) will be used to achieve the project's objectives.

At least 10,000 secondary school students of 5 European countries will participate in projects activities and interact with the most recent state-of-the-art S&T achievements.

A quantitative and qualitative review of project's results and dissemination activities to 7 discrete target groups will conclude School-foresight project's activities.'

**Contract No** : SAS6-CT-2003-508963 VENUS TRANSIT 2004

**Call** : FP6-2002-Science and Society-2

**Domain** : Public understanding and confidence

**Type** : SSA

**Title** : VENUS TRANSIT IN JUNE 2004: EXOPLANETS AND THE SIZE OF THE WORLD

**Duration** : 12

**Start Date** : 01/01/2004

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**Abstract:**

On June 8, 2004, planet Venus will pass in front of the Sun. This event, a transit, is extremely rare - the last one occurred 121 years ago. Easily observable in Europe, it will most certainly generate unprecedented attention from the media and the public.

This project aims at transforming curiosity into knowledge and interest in European science through large-scale pedagogic action, specially geared towards the importance of uncertainty in scientific observations, the leading European role in the discovery of extra-solar planets and the measure of the Universe.

This project will set up a large international network of individuals (teachers, students, amateur astronomers, etc.), and institutions (planetariums, science centers, etc.). It will encourage them to participate in real-time measurements of one of the most fundamental astronomical parameters, the distance from the Earth to the Sun.

It will explain the relation of this event to a current front-line research area, the search for extra-solar planets by the transit method; the only one, which, in the near future, will enable the discovery of Earth-size planets and thus possibly, alien habitable worlds.

The project will promote international collaboration throughout Europe, and also in Africa and Asia, by observing the same rare celestial event, debating it via web and adding local observational contributions to a large, common database.

The project is centred on the delivery of the detailed explanation in all European languages of all aspects (scientific, technical, historical etc.) of the event itself and its implication in the search for life, and on the involvement of media, teachers and amateur astronomers to ensure the highest return.

The Internet will be the main vector of interaction.

To emphasize the sociological importance of this event, a video contest will be launched.

The project will be thoroughly evaluated in terms of impact and management in a Final Event during the Science Week.

**Contract No** : SAS6-CT-2003-509884 DATAWOMSCI

**Call** : FP6-2002-Science and Society-1  
**Domain** : Women and Science  
**Type** : SSA  
**Title** : Study on databases of women scientists  
**Duration** : 10  
**Start Date** : 01/04/2004

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**Abstract:**

Networks and databases are an important strategy to promote women in science and to increase the percentage of women in top positions in the scientific field. While there are projects covering networks, an international cooperation and linking of mostly national databases is still missing. The promotion of women scientists is urgently needed and databases are an effective means to achieve this.

The study will result in presenting the bases to build up co-operations.

It comprises three tasks concerning databases of women scientists:

1. a structured coverage and an overview of databases,
2. a feasibility study on the technical possibilities of linking databases,
3. the development of criteria of quality and formulation of recommendations for building up new databases.

In order to ensure the adequate participation of women scientists in the 6th Framework Programme and in the building of the European Research Area, the internationalisation and collaboration of women scientist is urgently needed.

Databases are an effective means to achieve this aim.

For databases to be used efficiently by women scientists and organisations, they have to meet certain criteria of quality.

A catalogue of relevant criteria for a high quality database will be presented as one of the results of the study. It will also include best practice examples for those countries wishing to build up new databases.

The availability of recommendations, including a technical background, can also facilitate any plans for a database possibly accompanying the European Platform of Women Scientists in the future