

# ***MANAGERIAL REPORT***

## ***Management and co-ordination aspects***

### ***5.1 Management overview***

Effective management of the project has been ensured through regular bilateral and multilateral e-mail contact, telephone conferences and meetings. All scheduled meetings have taken place as planned and an additional major sub-group meeting has also taken place in Aarhus. Attendance at plenary and major sub-group meetings is noted below and the proceedings of the meeting are summarised in the Appendix. Before proceeding to details of these aspects, a brief note on the financial management is presented in the next section.

### ***5.2 Financial management***

Costs for the first year are all within the budget envisaged. In a number of cases, costs relating to (a) personnel and (b) consumables are actually under budget. These cost under-runs are related in most cases to the scheduling adjustments described in an earlier part of the this report and all of the surplus will be required in order to meet targets envisaged for year two of the project. The exception is the cost under-run under the personnel heading in the University of Bamberg. This arose because additional funding from the University of Bamberg was allocated to the project in year one so that some of the FP5 funding could be reallocated to year two and three when a shortfall would otherwise have occurred. The transfer of FP5 funding involved has been formally approved by the Commission.

*5.3 Participant attendance at first plenary meeting of FP5 project research group, University College Dublin, 18-21 May 2000*

National University of Ireland, Dublin (NUI-UCD)	Richard Sinnott Gerald Mills Elva Hannan
University of Aarhus	Palle Svensson Soren Thomsen
University of Amsterdam	Holli Semetko Susan Banducci
Universitaet Bamberg	Hans Rattinger Sandra Wagner
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona	Joan Font Guillermo Rico Camps
European University Institute (EUI) Robert Schuman Centre	Jean Blondel Federica Bicchì
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Grenoble	Bruno Cautres
Norwegian Social Science Data Services (NSD)	Bjorn Henrichsen
University of Plymouth	Colin Rallings Michael Thrasher
European Policy Centre, Brussels	John Wyles
Forward Studies Unit, Brussels	Agnes Hubert
Ministry of Home Affairs, Spain	Jose Maria Astorkia Felix Marin Leyva
European Parliament	David Harley
European Parliament Office, Edinburgh	Dermot Scott

*5.4 Participant attendance at second plenary meeting of FP5 project research group, European University Institute, Florence, 10-13 May 2001*

National University of Ireland, Dublin (NUI-UCD)	Richard Sinnott Gerald Mills Heather Winlow Pat Lyons Elva Hannan
University of Aarhus	Palle Svensson Soren Thomsen
University of Amsterdam	Susan Banducci
Universitaet Bamberg	Hans Rattinger Sandra Wagner
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona	Joan Font Guillermo Rico Camps
European University Institute (EUI) Robert Schuman Centre	Jean Blondel Federica Bicchì Katherine McGarry
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Grenoble	Bruno Cautres Stephanie Abrial
Norwegian Social Science Data Services (NSD)	Atle Alvheim
University of Plymouth	Colin Rallings Andrew Schuman
University of Michigan	Chris Achen
European Commission	Aris Apollonatos
European Parliament	David Harley

5.5 *Participant attendance at additional meeting of FP5 project research group involved in aggregate data analysis, University of Aarhus, 14-18 October 2001*

National University of Ireland, Dublin (NUI-UCD)	Richard Sinnott Pat Lyons
University of Aarhus	Palle Svensson Soren Thomsen Soren Lorenzen
Universitaet Bamberg	Sandra Wagner
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona	Guillermo Rico Camps
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Grenoble	Stephanie Abrial
Norwegian Social Science Data Services (NSD)	Atle Alvheim Atle Jagstad
University of Plymouth	Colin Rallings Michael Thrasher
University of Michigan	Chris Achen Mike J. Hanmer

5.6 *Updated list of partner organisations*

*University College Dublin, National University of Ireland, Dublin (NUI-UCD)*

Richard Sinnott                      Richard.Sinnott@ucd.ie                      +353 1 716 2892

Public Opinion and Political Behaviour Research Centre, Eurokom Building,  
University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4. Fax No. +353 1 706 1108

*University of Aarhus*

Palle Svensson                      Pal@ps.au.dk                      +45 8942 1284

Soren Thomsen                      SRT@ps.au.dk                      +45 8942 1271

Department of Political Science, University of Aarhus, Nordre Ringgade 1, 8000,  
Aarhus C, Denmark. Fax No. +45 8613 9839

*University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam School of Communications Research (ASCoR)*

Holli Semetko                      semetko@pscw.uva.nl                      +31 20 525 2263, 3989  
ASCoR, Amsterdam School of Communications Research, Universiteit van Amsterdam,  
Oude Hoogstraat 24, 1012CE, Amsterdam, Netherlands. Fax No. +31 20 525 3681

*Universitaet Bamberg*

Hans Rattinger                      hans.rattinger@sowi.uni-bamberg.de                      +49 951 863 2605  
Universitaet Bamberg, Lehrstuhl Politikwissenschaft 2, 1549, Feldkirchenstrasse 21,  
96045, Bamberg, Germany. Fax No. +49 951 863 2606

*Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona*

Joan Font                              joan.font@uab.es                              +34 93 5812474  
Departament de Ciència Política i Dret Públic, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona,  
Edifici B - Campus de la UAB, 08193 Bellaterra (Cerdanyola del Valles), Spain.  
Fax No. (34-3) 5812439

*European University Institute (EUI), Robert Schuman Centre*

Jean Blondel                              blondel@datacomm.iue.it                              +39 055 4685705  
Robert Schuman Centre, European University Institute, Via dei Roccettini, 9, 50016,  
San Domenico di Fiesole, Italy. Fax No. +39 055 4685770

*Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Grenoble*

Bruno Cautres                      cautres@cidsp.upmf-grenoble.fr                      +33 4 76 82 60 51  
Centre d'Informatisation des Données Socio-Politiques, Institut d'Etudes Politiques,  
B.P. 48, 38040 Grenoble Cedex 9, France. Fax No. +33 4 76 82 60 50

*Norwegian Social Science Data Services (NSD)*

Bjorn Henrichsen                      Bjorn.Henrichsen@nsd.uib.no                      (47) 55 58 21 17  
Atle Alvheim                              Atle.Alvheim@nsd.uib.no                              (47) 55 58 21 17  
Norwegian Social Science Data Services (NSD), Hans Holmboesgt. 22, N-5007,  
Bergen, Norway. Fax No. (47) 55 58 96 50

*University of Plymouth*

Colin Rallings                      C.Rallings@plymouth.ac.uk                      (44-1752) 233205

Michael Thrasher                      M.Thrasher@plymouth.ac.uk                      (44-1752) 233275

Local Government Chronicle Elections Centre, Department of Politics, University of Plymouth, Drake Circus, PL4 8AA, Plymouth, United Kingdom. Fax No. (44-1752) 233206

*University of Michigan*

Chris Achen                                      achen@umich.edu                                      (734) 763-9715

Department of Political Science, University of Michigan, 4252 ISR, 426 Thompson Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104-3028, USA. Fax. No. (734) 764-3522

## *APPENDIX*

### *Summary of proceedings of first plenary meeting of FP5 project research group, University College Dublin, 18-21 May 2000*

#### *Overview and Introduction*

Richard Sinnott outlined the scientific and policy objectives of the research. He examined elections at local level, national level and European level, and he pointed to the large discrepancy between the level of participation in national elections and European elections. He emphasised that the research problem arising from this has to be generalised to cover all levels of governance: supranational, national and sub-national.

#### *Issues raised by policy-makers*

David Harley pointed to the general apathy towards elections in all member states of the European Union. He argued that the reasons identified by the Eurobarometer are insufficient in offering an explanation for low voter turnout. He concluded that political parties are, to a large extent, responsible for low turnout in elections.

John Wyles also offered reasons for the lack of participation of voters. He concluded that it could be due to the perception that the outcomes of voting are obscure, or it may be due to the fact that European political parties have not been developed.

Jose Maria Astorkia and Felix Marin Leyva commented on the research problem from a Spanish perspective. They described the approach taken by the Spanish authorities to the problem of abstention. This places particular emphasis on voter facilitation and offers very useful examples of what can be done.

Agnes Hubert examined the scope of the research. She pointed to the necessity of extending the research beyond the questions asked in the Eurobarometer.

David Harley stated that it was necessary to find ways of improving voter turnout. He expressed dissatisfaction with the 'civic duty' reason for voting identified by the Eurobarometer. He explained that perceptions of civic duty differ for different people. He suggested including a survey of MEPs as part of the research. He also mentioned the possibility of synchronising the work of the research group with the preparations for the next election being undertaken by the Parliament.

Dermot Scott commented on the question of low voter turnout in the countries of Europe. He pointed to the need for a continual search for answers to this question.

### *Campaign analysis*

Jean Blondel outlined the strategies to be employed in this aspect of the research project. He discussed both analysis of the newspapers and analysis of the parties. He concluded that the project might have to approach campaigning from the point of view of candidates as well as political parties.

Federica Bicchi discussed the results of a pilot study she carried out on the Guardian newspaper. She based her study on a number of articles focusing on the campaign and a number of other relevant articles. She discovered that the Guardian reflected more of the campaigning of the Tories than Labour.

### *Geographical Information Systems*

Gerald Mills explained how GIS (Geographical Information Systems) could be used to capture information. He used a series of maps and drawings to illustrate different geographical techniques. He drew a comparison between the use of geographical information systems to decide where to locate hazardous areas and their use to decide where to locate electoral areas or polling stations.

### *Survey research evidence*

Richard Sinnott offered a preliminary analysis of the survey research evidence, summarising the findings of the research carried out with Jean Blondel and Pelle Svensson.

### *Contribution of media analysis*

Holli Semetko and Susan Banducci discussed the content and context of media messages. It was noted that it is not just the presence or lack of coverage that may have an impact on voter turnout. Positive or negative coverage may also have an impact so the research should assess the tone of media coverage as well.

### *Ecological inference*

Soren Risbjerg Thomsen gave an overview of recent advances in the methodology of ecological inference. He concluded that the research could use this method in conjunction with other methods.

### *Aggregate data collection*

Bjorn Henrichsen outlined the procedures for the collection of aggregate data. He discussed possible packages that could be used for the collection and recording of data. He explained the use of cartographic data sets and the role of Norwegian Social Science Data Services in the processing of data for the research project.

### *Preliminary country reports*

Trends in turnout and the present state of knowledge regarding turnout in each of the six countries were outlined by country experts. The availability of aggregate data and problems with the data in existence were also discussed and plans for data collection in each country were outlined.

## *Decisions on procedures for data collection and analysis*

### Survey data

The EB 52 data set is ready and will be circulated to all participants. Richard Sinnott will explore with the European Parliament the possibility of further Eurobarometer data collection.

### Ecological data

1. In the seven ecological data countries, partners should base data collection on the draft list of variables that is part of the technical annex. Variables that are not available for the country in question should be reported as missing. If partners wish to add variables to the draft list (either for theoretical reasons or because new variables are 'discovered' in the process of collecting the ecological data), they should send a note to Richard Sinnott who will circulate the addition to all partners.
2. The periodicity of data collection is every five years.
3. The levels at which data will be collected are as follows:
  - a. Britain: Wards (n = 7500) [Note: numbers of units in this list are approximate].
  - b. Denmark: Polling districts (n = 2000).
  - c. France: Cantons (n = 4000) for electoral data and for census data for 1990. Availability of census data at canton level for period prior to 1989 and for 1999 to be confirmed.
  - d. Germany: Kreise (n = 440); the possibility of further disaggregation will be explored depending on data availability in particular Laender.
  - e. Spain: Municipalities (n = 8000) with municipalities over 500,000 pop. broken down by amalgamated sections.
  - f. Ireland: District electoral divisions (n = 3500) for census data and ballot boxes, which can be aggregated to DEDs, for electoral data other than from local elections. Local election data at 'local electoral area' level (n = 120).
4. All ecological partners should investigate the possibility of redundancy or other discrepancies in the voting lists/electoral register and the effect this may have on the calculation of turnout.

5. Ecological data should be submitted to NSD on a phased basis as follows: 50 per cent by end of February, 75 per cent by end of March and 100 per cent by end of April 2001.
6. NSD will circulate as soon as possible a protocol that will specify the procedures for data collection, documentation and delivery.

### Geographical Information Systems

Gerald Mills will carry out a pilot study in Ireland using GIS to investigate the issue of access to polling stations and to make proposals as to how this pilot study could be extended to other ecological data countries.

### Cartography

The question of acquisition of a comprehensive mapping system will be investigated by Bjorn Henrichsen, Atle Alvheim and Richard Sinnott.

### Media

1. Content analysis of media coverage of four weeks prior to June 1999 election is on track.
2. Amsterdam and Florence to discuss the coding of campaign stories over a longer time span. Access to Commission/Parliament files in this regard to be investigated.
3. More extensive linkage between media and ecological data to be investigated.

### Campaign study

Questionnaire to MEPs to be added as fourth strand in the campaign study. The administration of the questionnaire will be co-ordinated through the European Parliament central administration.

### Project administration

1. All participants undertook to read carefully the relevant provisions of Annex II to the contract.
2. Dublin to circulate e-mail addresses of all participants and to explore the desirability of establishing a list server.

3. Dublin to circulate a note regarding the financial and other reporting requirements of the project.

#### Date and place of next meeting

Next meeting to be held on 10-13 May 2001 in Florence.

### ***Summary of proceedings of second plenary meeting of FP5 project research group, European University Institute, Florence, 10-13 May 2001***

#### *Welcome*

Jean Blondel welcomed the FP5 participants to the European University Institute. He discussed the organisational structure of the meeting.

#### *Overview*

Richard Sinnott provided an overview of the project to date and went on to outline the developing co-operation between the research project and policy makers in the European Parliament.

He explained that some of the Eurobarometer questions asked on behalf of the European Parliament have become redundant in the sense that the answers have become predictable. So it is proposed that these questions be replaced by questions of more relevance and benefit to the European Parliament and the data made available to the project participants.

#### *Media analysis*

Susan Banducci discussed the analysis of the television coverage of the 1999 European Parliament elections. It was based on television news broadcasts for two weeks prior to the elections. The unit of analysis was the story and they coded the actors and their references to the European Union. Their preliminary results showed

that, taking country variations into account, there were far more stories that mentioned the European Union than stories that were devoted to the European Parliament elections.

They extracted the Eurobarometer 52 data for people who regularly watch television in order to link the content analysis data to the Eurobarometer 52 data.

### *Analysis of the 1999 campaign*

Federica Bicchi compared the 1999 European Parliament election campaign coverage across the Member States of the European Union. She found that there was a low level of coverage, a low level of interest and therefore a low turnout.

Jean Blondel added that it is necessary to have an analysis during the campaign, as an analysis after the campaign is more likely to bias the results.

### *Reports on aggregate data collection*

A report was given for each country on the aggregate data collected:

Denmark	Soren Thomsen
Germany	Hans Rattinger and Sandra Wagner
Ireland	Pat Lyons
United Kingdom	Colin Rallings and Andrew Schuman
Spain	Joan Font and Guillem Rico Camps
France	Bruno Cautres and Stephanie Abrial
United States	Chris Achen

### *Common integrated aggregate data file; cartographic presentation and analysis*

Atle Alvheim stated that the documenting of data is very important and that all required information must be forwarded to the Norwegian Social Science Data

Archive by a certain deadline. He explained how NSD-Stat could be used to develop maps and illustrate data.

### *Geographical Information Systems analysis*

Heather Winlow and Gerald Mills used maps to illustrate examples of Geographical Information Systems on sections of the Irish data.

Colin Rallings and Andrew Schuman also presented preliminary findings from a Geographical Information Systems analysis of access to polling stations in Britain.

### *Audit of institutional structures and electoral arrangements*

Richard Sinnott and Elva Hannan presented a preliminary audit of institutional structures and practical arrangements governing the conduct of elections at local level.

### *Methodology of ecological inference*

Chris Achen discussed regression and stated that it should be used with caution. He used examples to illustrate how it can cause inaccuracies.

Soren Thomsen used the logit model on the Danish data giving graphs to illustrate the findings. He drew a comparison between the logit and linear models of regression. He thought that the linear model was insufficient for explaining the data and that the logit model was required. He explained some of the intricacies of the ECOL programme, illustrating it with examples of the Danish data.

### *Decisions*

#### Circulation of Eurobarometer data sets

Eurobarometer 41.1 (cleaned), 52 and 57 (forthcoming) data sets to be circulated to all participants.

### Investigation of Eurobarometer 52 embargo variables

Richard Sinnott to investigate Eurobarometer 52 embargo variables and seek full data set, including the age variable in particular.

### Data collection and submission to NSD

Data to be submitted to NSD by 30<sup>th</sup> September. Any further data collected after this deadline to be also submitted to NSD for addition to the aggregate data set.

### Possible integration of ECOL with NSD-Stat

Atle Alvheim and Soren Thomsen to investigate the possibility of integrating ECOL with NSD-Stat.

### Date and place of next meeting

Additional meeting of the participants involved in the aggregate data analysis to be held on 14-18 October 2001 in Aarhus.

### ***Summary of proceedings of additional meeting of FP5 project research group involved in aggregate data analysis, University of Aarhus, 14-18 October 2001***

#### *Status of the project*

Richard Sinnott provided an assessment of the status of the project.

#### *Data holdings*

Atle Alvheim gave a detailed account of progress on the creation of national data sets and a co-ordinated data set.

## *Methods of ecological inference*

Chris Achen discussed various models for ecological inference.

Soren Thomsen outlined the logit method and demonstrated the ECOL programme. He explained how to create ECOL-files using Irish EU referendum data as a simple example. This was followed by a preliminary practical implementation of the programme. He explained how the ECOL programme could be used for more complex analyses. This was followed by analysis of each country's data using the ECOL programme.

## *Decisions*

### Aggregate data analysis in country chapters

There will be four modes of aggregate data analysis in each chapter:

- a. cartography
- b. bivariate plots
- c. multivariate analysis using multiple regression and factor analysis
- d. ecological inference using ECOL.

The fourth of these modes (ecological inference) will take two forms:

- d. (i) estimation of abstention at *time2* relative to behaviour at *time1* with particular attention to transitions from abstention to abstention, abstention to voting and voting to abstention between elections at different levels
- d. (ii) estimation of rates of abstention by socio-demographic groups; in this case the transition matrix will show "movement" from various socio-demographic groups (e.g. social class categories or various levels of deprivation), which can be thought of as "*time1*", to voting or abstention at an adjacent election ("*time2*").

### Country-chapter template

Chris Achen and Richard Sinnott will circulate a proposed template for the country chapters. This will cover the use to be made of both survey and aggregate data and will be finalised in consultation with authors of country chapters.

### List of priority variables by category

Richard Sinnott and Pat Lyons will circulate a list of priority variables selected in the light of the proposed country-chapter template and classified (if possible) according to the typology proposed in Richard Sinnott's Aarhus paper.

### Use of ECOL

Soren Thomsen will circulate any further clarifications and amendments that need to be made to the instructions on implementing ECOL circulated at the Aarhus meeting.

### Next meeting

It was agreed that, subject to the availability of participants not present at the Aarhus meeting, the next meeting would take place on 7-10 March 2002 at a location to be negotiated.