

“EU Governance: Are we on the right track?”

Thursday, 10 April 2008
Brussels, DG-Research, Square de Meeûs 8, Room 136-137

Aims of the conference

The main aims of this conference is

- to present the main achievements of the CONNEX Network and the NEWGOV project to practitioners and stakeholders in the Brussels arena, that is the European Institutions and other Brussels-based institutions and NGOs.
- to present controversial findings and by doing so question conventional wisdom and dissipate erroneous assumptions
- to demonstrate the value of spending money for social science research on EU governance and legitimacy and reflecting on the merit of large research instruments such as CONNEX and NEWGOV

CONNEX and NEWGOV are the first large FP6 projects on governance coming to an end in 2008. The conference will have a pre-defined and limited thematic focus, in order to avoid a too general debate about ‘New Modes of Governance’. It is organised in addition to the two final academic conferences of CONNEX (6-8 March 2008, Mannheim) and NEWGOV (5-6 June 2008, Florence).

About CONNEX and NEWGOV

The Network of Excellence CONNEX (“Connecting Excellence on European Governance”) is dedicated to the analysis of efficient and democratic multilevel governance in Europe. CONNEX seeks to integrate independent fundamental research and mobilise outstanding scholars from different disciplines to deepen our knowledge on European multilevel governance and build a Europe-wide research community which stands for scientific excellence. It also aims to contribute to the public debate on the future of European governance.

The aim of the NEWGOV Integrated Project is to examine the transformation of governance in Europe (and beyond) by mapping, evaluating and analysing the emergence, execution, and evolution of what is referred to as “New Modes of Governance”. The objective of this Integrated Project is to produce a deeper conceptual, empirical and normative understanding of all aspects of governance within and beyond Europe, giving special attention to the emergence, execution, evaluation and evolution of new and innovative modes of governance.

CONNEX is coordinated by the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES) at the University of Mannheim; NEWGOV is coordinated by the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence. In total, around 70 universities and institutions and more than 250 scholars from all over Europe cooperate within the two consortia.

Programme

- 08:45** **Welcome:** Jean-Michel Baer (European Commission, DG Research)
- 08:50–09:15** **Opening Session: “Why research on governance and democracy matters?”**
- Beate Kohler-Koch (University of Mannheim): “Connecting excellence on European governance”
 - Adrienne Héritier (European University Institute, Florence): “The ‘New Modes of Governance’ project”
- 09:15–10:00** **Session 1: “Electoral representation: Does it function in the EU?”**
- Chair: Beate Kohler-Koch (Coordinator of CONNEX, University of Mannheim)
- Statement: Cees van der Eijk (University of Nottingham): “Realistic and unrealistic expectations about electoral democracy in the EU”
 - Discussant: Monica Frassoni (Member of the European Parliament, Committee on legal affairs)
- 10:00-10:10** **General comments**
- Jérôme Vignon (European Commission, DG EMPL): “Democratic governance in the EU: Some reflections”
- 10:10–10:45** **Session 2: “Governance and Accession”**
- Chair: Adrienne Héritier (NEWGOV Scientific Director, European University Institute, Florence)
- Statement: Tanja A. Börzel (Free University Berlin): “Mission impossible? New Modes of Governance in the Member States”
 - Discussant: Alina Mungiu-Pippidi (Hertie School of Governance, Berlin and Romanian Academic Society)
- 11:00–11:15** **Coffee Break**
- 11:15–12:00** **Session 3: “Does multi-level governance call for multiple forms of accountability?”**
- Chair: Sonja Puntscher Riekmann (University of Salzburg)
- Statement: Yannis Papadopoulos (University of Lausanne) "Multi-Level Governance: More Accountability, Less Democracy?"
 - Discussant 1: Nikiforos Diamandouros (European Ombudsman)
 - Discussant 2: Bruno Kaufmann (The Initiative & Referendum Institute Europe, Brussels/Marburg)
- 12:00–12:45** **Session 4: The effectiveness of governance modes**
- Chair: Wolfgang Wessels (University of Cologne)
- Statement: Waltraud Schelkle (London School of Economics): “New instead of effective? The evolving framework of economic governance”
 - Discussant : Peter Wierts (De Nederlandsche Bank)

12:45–13:30 Concluding statement

- Paolo Ponzano (European Commission, General Secretary): “The implementation of the Commission's White Paper on Governance in perspective”

Wrapping-up discussion

- Chairs: Beate Kohler-Koch (CONNEX Coordinator) and Stefano Bartolini (NEWGOV Coordinator)

13:30–14:30 Lunch

14:30–16:00 Round table: Gains and disadvantages of large research projects / EU Research Policy and the Experience of NEWGOV and CONNEX

- Chair: Jean-Michel Baer (Commission, DG-Research)
- Speakers: Stefano Bartolini (NEWGOV), Beate Kohler-Koch & Fabrice Larat (CONNEX)
- Discussants: Sergio Carrera (CHALLENGE); Eleni Tsingou (GARNET)

Contact

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