

# Policy Research Alert

FROM FLASH-IT, A DISSEMINATION PROJECT RELATING EUROPEAN POLICY PRIORITIES TO EU-FUNDED RESEARCH IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

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## WWWforEurope: Analytical Strength for Europe 2020

**An ambitious research project involving 33 partners in 12 European countries is working to strengthen the analytical foundations of the Europe 2020 growth strategy. Launched in 2012, WWWforEurope<sup>1</sup> is producing evidence-based insights into key concerns surrounding employment, social inclusion and public debt. Over the coming months the consortium members are planning to formulate “comprehensive policy measures needed for a new growth path”<sup>2</sup>.**

The four-year project has already made substantial contributions to the Europe 2020 policy debate. Through multiple stakeholder workshops and scores of peer-reviewed papers, the researchers are systematically exploring the underpinnings of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Many of the project’s findings are conveniently accessible through a searchable publications database on the project’s website<sup>3</sup>. The database currently features more than 40 Working Papers as well as several Policy Papers and Policy Briefs.

While WWWforEurope’s Working Papers elaborate significant results of the consortium’s work to date - covering everything from social innovation and governance to macroeconomics and the welfare state – its Policy Papers explore broader links to Europe 2020 priorities and reflect the inclusive character of the project. Subject to peer review, submissions to the Policy Papers series are welcome not only from consortium partners but also from “policymakers, NGO representatives and academics” who are interested in contributing to the objectives of the project. Expected to be empirical and academic in focus, WWWforEurope’s Policy Papers aim to “further the discussion on the development of a new and sustainable growth path in Europe”. Currency union, industrial policy, social-ecological transition and the European periphery are among the topics addressed in the series so far.

Having completed its analytical phase, WWWforEurope is now moving on to the task of policy formulation. An indication of what direction this might take emerged last month in Vienna at the project’s first Feedback Conference. There the researchers agreed that while income growth remains an important instrument for measuring welfare, the goal of welfare “goes far beyond traditional GDP measures”<sup>4</sup>. They also acknowledged that the project now faces a major challenge in its efforts to show to what extent “socio-ecological transition can work if it is the strategy of only one region in a globalised world”.

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<sup>1</sup> “Welfare, Wealth and Work for Europe” – an EU-funded FP7 research project

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.foreurope.eu/uploads/media/WWWforEurope\\_Newsletter\\_3\\_2013.pdf](http://www.foreurope.eu/uploads/media/WWWforEurope_Newsletter_3_2013.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [www.foreurope.eu](http://www.foreurope.eu)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.foreurope.eu/fileadmin/events/FBC\\_I/WWWforEurope\\_FBCI\\_Summary.pdf](http://www.foreurope.eu/fileadmin/events/FBC_I/WWWforEurope_FBCI_Summary.pdf)