

## **7.2 European Reference Index for the Humanities (ERIH) /ESF**

### **a) short general introduction**

The main objective for subtask 7.2 is to compile a categorised list of reference journals in the humanities in order to develop bibliometric tools to be employed by research managers and researchers alike.

### **b) state of affairs**

A project coordinator has been appointed and has been working since 2 May. However, work on ERIH was started by ESF some time ago and initial lists of humanities journals in 15 disciplines have already been collected from ESF Member Organisations. The composition of Expert Panels, whose task it is to analyse and harmonise the lists of journals received, and to rank the journals, will be finalised this month. Guidelines for the panels are in preparation and feedback will be sought during the HERA Research Infrastructures working group meeting on 9 June.

### **c) plans and tasks for the next 12 months**

- During autumn 2005, Expert Panels will meet and prepare the first draft of ranked lists to be sent to ESF by 15 December.
- In January 2006, ERIH Steering Committee will meet to discuss the lists.
- Between February and April 2006, Expert Panels will incorporate feedback received from ERIH Steering Committee and send their second draft to ESF by 30 April.
- In May-June 2006 further input will be sought from ESF Member Organisations via email consultation and during the ESF Core Group/ Member Organisation meeting in June.

### **d) deliverables and time plan for year 1**

WP7.2 Progress reports to HERA WP meeting in September 2005 and during the HERA conference in December 2005
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### **e) risk assessment**

The task is huge for each Expert Panel, each of the 15 disciplines containing many sub-disciplines. There is a risk of a lack of expertise in some areas. As each of the 15 panels works as a unit, there is also a risk of the various lists not being totally comparable in terms of ranking. It is therefore crucial that the composition of the panels is appropriate and that back-up systems are in place. It is also important to provide clear guidelines for the panels and to ensure that they are followed. ERIH Steering Committee with the help of the Coordinator seek to meet these challenges.