

The Vienna Centre

The European Coordination Centre for Research and Documentation in the Social Sciences (Vienna Centre) was created in 1963, and located in Vienna, Austria, following a resolution of the XIIth UNESCO General Conference. It is an autonomous body of the International Social Science Council and an international non-governmental organization. The aims of the Centre are twofold:

1. To create and maintain a permanent platform for cooperation between social scientists from European Socialist and Western European countries;
2. To stimulate European cross-national studies in the social sciences.

Main Areas of Research

Technology and Work
Environmental Policies
Ecological Economics
Water & Civilization in the
Mediterranean & Black Sea Regions
Tourism
Semiotics of International Relations
Ethnicity
Family

The Social Effects of Planning in the
Locality
Social Policy and Demographic
Developments
Youth and New
Technologies
Peace Research
Information Techn. and Public
Administration

The **Vienna Centre** is jointly supported by 21 countries from East and West Europe. To this end it seeks to establish a balanced participation of researchers from East and West European countries in all its activities.

The Vienna Centre's scientific policy is laid down by a Board of Directors consisting of experienced academics coming in equal numbers from East and West European countries and nominated by the International Social Sciences Council. Two sub-committees, namely the Programme and the Finance Committees, play an advisory role to the Board which meets once a year. The implementation of the Centre's policy falls under the responsibility of the Scientific Secretariat, having as its head the Director of the Centre.

The Vienna Centre's activities are financed by subventions received from Ministries, Academics of Sciences, and Research Councils of 21 European countries. The Centre also receives funds which are especially allocated to particular projects, from such organizations as Unesco and private foundations. Indirect support is provided by the secondment of academic staff members, who are paid by their countries of origin; as well as by the hosting

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of international research meetings organized by research teams participating in the Centre's programme. In this way the Centre has been able to maintain its independent character, making it a truly international non-governmental organization.

The entities of the 21 European countries contributing for the Vienna Centre are the following:

AUSTRIA:	The Federal Ministry for Science and Research
BELGIUM:	The Ministry for National Education and Culture
BULGARIA:	The Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
CZECHOSLOVAKIA:	The Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences
DENMARK:	The Danish Social Science Research Council
FINLAND:	The Academy of Finland
FRANCE:	The Ministry of Foreign Affairs
GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC:	The Academy of Sciences of the G.D.R.
GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF:	The Federal Ministry for Research and Technology
GREAT BRITAIN:	The Economic and Social Research Council
GREECE:	The Ministry of Science, Research and Technology
HUNGARY:	The Hungarian Academy of Sciences
ITALY:	The National Research Council
NETHERLANDS:	The Ministry of Education and Sciences
NORWAY:	The Norwegian Research Council for Science and the Humanities
POLAND:	The Polish Academy of Sciences
ROMANIA:	The Romanian Academy of Social and Political Sciences.
SPAIN:	The Ministry of Education and Science
SWEDEN:	The Swedish Research Council in the Humanities and Social Services
U.S.S.R.:	The Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R.
YUGOSLAVIA:	The Association of Republican/Provincial Councils for Scientific Work of the SFR Yugoslavia

Today the Vienna Centre is found to be very well established, having an impressive record of experience. In its first 25 years since its creation 38 research projects have been initiated; 32 international Symposia, Round Tables and Conferences on topical subjects in the Social Sciences have been organized. The Centre has published a vast number of books in the

course of its existence. Its publication programme comprises also the "Occasional Papers" series, the "Vienna Centre Newsletter" and the "CCSSID Bulletin" on information and documentation exchange in Europe.

Malta, through the **Foundation for International Studies**, has been formally accepted as a member of the European Coordination Centre for Research and Documentation in the Social Sciences known as the **Vienna Centre**. Malta's admission was agreed to at the annual meeting of the Centre's 18-member Governing Board when it met in Aix-en-Provence in June 1989. It was addressed by Professor Salvino Busuttil, Director-General of the Foundation for International Studies. In the past the Foundation and the Vienna Centre have jointly organized seminars on topics related to "Mediterranean Water Resources" and "Medieval Ships and the Birth of Technological Societies". The proceedings of these seminars will shortly be published by the Foundation for International Studies and the Vienna Centre.