

# Exchanging Ideas on Europe

## The Governance of Sustainability

### A Collaborative Research Network

On 23-24 July 2009, 22 academics, postgraduates and practitioners from five EU states came together in Bradford for two days of interesting papers and stimulating discussion around the broad themes associated with the governance of sustainability. The event, the first of the new Collaborative Research Network, was sponsored by UACES and the School of Management at the University of Bradford and organised by Jenny Fairbrass (Bradford), Thomas Hoerber (ESSCA) and Simon Lightfoot (Leeds).



Participants at the CRN meeting

The first panel provided four in-depth case studies of multi-level governance and sustainability, ranging from the local through the regional to the global. A unifying theme of all papers was the issue of civil society participation, whether it be the decision where to site waste incinerators in Hampshire or France or in regional, national or global decision-making on sustainability. This theme was also obvious in the second panel, which formally examined local participation. The discussion here benefitted from the input of Jamie Saunders from the Chief Executive's Office in Bradford Council. To what extent people felt ownership of decisions taken on their behalf when it came to sustainability had a major impact on whether people saw those decisions as legitimate.

The second day began by examining the role of business, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and sustainable development. Case studies of the aviation and biotech industries were discussed along with the topic of environmental management and climate change and CSR in Russia. The unifying themes of all papers were the importance of getting business 'on message' when it came to sustainable development and the dangers of 'greenwash', especially with regard to indicators used to judge environmental performance. The final panel examined a crucial sector for sustainability, that of the energy sector. Papers in this

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## Collaborative Research Networks



News from the four new UACES Collaborative Research Networks (CRNs) can be found on pp. 1, 2 and 4. A new round for 2010-13 is also launched (deadline 1 February 2010). Ana Juncos, pictured, participated in the CRN workshop 'European Foreign Policies in Transition: Continuity and Change in the European Union New Member States' Foreign Policies' held in May 2009 in Bath (see page 2).

## Chair's Column

### Look Back in Angers

This will be my last column as UACES Chair, so I'm permitting myself a somewhat elegiac tone. The three years I have spent in this role have seen the association develop enormously to become the biggest ECSA as well as the most dynamic. We have launched the directory of expertise, [www.ExpertonEurope.com](http://www.ExpertonEurope.com), created a new media award to bolster our links with the journalist and policy-maker communities, developed a new series of Brussels seminars, re-worked the internal functioning of the association, created new collaborative research networks, deepened our international and interdisciplinary links and developed a coherent development strategy. We have held several major conferences and events in addition to our annual conferences and workshops,

***The UACES Blog, Ideas on Europe, will be launched at the UACES Conference in Angers.***  
[www.ideason europe.eu](http://www.ideason europe.eu)

created a new series of scholarships while maintaining those we already supported, and increased the profile and standing of our publications. The newsletter and web-site have been remodelled, and our Student Forum has continued to develop.

None of this would have been possible without the support of active staff in the UACES office, and my gratitude to Sue Davis, Luke Foster and Yolana Pringle is deep. Our growth has also, however, relied upon the efforts, all of them voluntary, of those who have served as officers with me, or on the wider UACES Committee. There are too many such people to thank individually without making this look like the sleeve notes of a Destiny's Child album, but I would like to thank in person my fellow officers over this period: Jenny Fairbrass, Amelia Hadfield, Roger Levy and Nieves Pérez-Solorzano Borragán. I would also like to thank David Phinnemore, who continues to do so much for UACES that he may as well still be an Officer! I must also acknowledge those who

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### The Visitors

Read about Bangor University and the Asia Pacific European Union Studies Association in the 'Visitors' section on page 16.

### Funding Success

UACES has won two contracts for European Commission funding - for Scholarships p. 19 and for Communicating EU Citizenship p.11

### The UACES Blog

Newly launched, do visit [IdeasOnEurope.eu](http://IdeasOnEurope.eu) to take a look and join the debate. See pp. 3 and 5.