

The EU member States where an ESC or a similar institution has been established:



Belgium



Bulgaria



Czech Republic



Estonia



Ireland



Greece



Spain



France



Italy



Lithuania

Luxembourg



Hungary



Malta



Netherlands



Austria



Poland



Portugal



Romania



Slovenia



Slovakia



Finland



CESlink

Online cooperation
between Economic
and Social Councils

CESlink

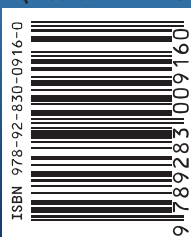
For more information please contact
the central CESlink coordination point at the EESC
or your national Council.



European Economic and Social Committee

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QE-80-08-294-EN-D



EESC-2008-12-EN

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Introduction

In 2000, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the national Economic and Social Councils (ESCs) set themselves the common goal of creating a central information point to help the general public to find out more about their institutions and work. The Internet was identified as the best tool for the job. A working group called CESlink was set up, and the first concrete result was a common portal. This is how the CESlink project began and it has gradually been expanded to cover other common activities.

The EESC became the coordination point of the CESlink project since it is active at EU level. The EESC is a consultative body of the European Union, and it participates in the European Union's decision-making process by delivering opinions to the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission. The Committee also acts as a bridge between Europe and civil society via its Members, who represent the various economic and social components of organised civil society. The EESC and the national Councils also cooperate in other fields.

Mission

- Creating a central information point in order to raise public awareness of how the EESC and the national ESCs work;
- Disseminating information on events organised and documents produced by the EESC and the national ESCs;
- Giving support and further developing cooperation between the EESC and national ESCs in Europe;
- Facilitating the involvement of new Member State ESCs in cooperation;
- Strengthening information and communication on common areas of interest.

The portal

The CESlink portal provides information on events and initiatives organised by the EESC and national ESCs. It also disseminates information on the documents they produce. It provides citizens with easy access to extensive information on the EESC and the national ESCs via one portal. The portal also strengthens debate and information sharing between the EESC and the national ESCs on common areas of interest, such as the Lisbon Strategy, communication and external relations.



<http://www.eesc.europa.eu/ceslink>

The database

The CESlink database contains a selection of recent national ESC publications. The database is freely accessible to all Internet users via the CESlink portal as well as the websites of each participating national ESC.



Moreover, thanks to the database's search engine, users can search for documents by Council, date, document type and subject.

<http://www.portalecnel.it/CES/CesLink.nsf/vwPerPaeseEN?openview>

Areas for future development

- Improving communication on CESlink activities and tools;
- Strengthening cooperation between the EESC and the national ESCs in the EU;
- Integrating new members in the CESlink project, especially following successive EU enlargements;
- Enhancing cooperation with the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (IAESCSI);
- Providing thematic information via the portal and the joint database.