

A new call for papers

Re-visiting social and ethical issues in business – a historical perspective of the development in Europe

During the EBEN Annual Conference held in Leuven on September 18-20, 2007, a special session was organized to present a number of papers on “Re-visiting social and ethical issues in business – a historical perspective of the development in Europe”. The breadth and interest of the subject advise us to launch a new **call for papers** addressed to a **broad, interdisciplinary group of experts** for another **special session** during the **21st EBEN Annual Conference** on “Professional Ethics in Business and Social Life”, to be held in **Antalya, Turkey, on October 17-19 2008**. A selection of the papers submitted to the project will be published as a **special issue of the *Journal of Business Ethics***.

The rationale for this call for papers is the conviction that the recent years’ debate on the role of business in society and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has gradually lost touch with business ethics. The efforts to make CSR operational have produced technical and practical recommendations which, though very useful for companies, have significantly narrowed the scope of CSR and severed it from its ethical roots.

Against this background, we feel it is important to invite relevant experts to broaden the scope of CSR research. And Europe seems a particularly appropriate environment for broadening this research and consolidating its foundations: it is a very varied and plural community, it has numerous philosophical, social and cultural traditions, a rich history, and highly diverse political traditions, which have been maintained despite the convergence that has taken place over the last half century. Moreover, business ethics in Europe traditionally has rested on solid social and public ethics. This far from monolithic, but varied and plural foundation has translated into a wide variety of proposals and initiatives.

All these circumstances argue in favor of conducting research that will relate CR to social, business, economics and political ethics, taking into account the diversity of traditions, cultures and experiences in Europe. Suggested topics include: the development of social ethics in a historical perspective, in different countries; the impact of social ethics on the development of the different European social-democratic models; parties or governments’ programs regarding social and economic ethics, and specifically, the role of companies in society; the ideas of particular authors or schools on corporate responsibility and the role of companies in society; the role and impact of the churches, unions, governments, NGOs, consumer agencies, etc., in understanding and developing CSR; initiatives by companies or business leaders to implement CSR; historical case studies of specific companies with special implications for CSR; teaching at business schools and universities: inclusion of ethical, social, and business-in-society perspectives in courses or as separate subjects, lines of research, etc.

Contributors are asked to send a **full paper** or, alternatively, a **2-page abstract** to the editors of the project, Profs. Heidi von Weltzien-Hoivik (heidi.hoivik@bi.no) and Antonio Argandoña (argandona@iese.edu), **before May 15, 2008**.

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