

**ATHENS UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS**



**LIBRARY**

# **The Greek EDCs Network in 2006**

**Report in the 2007 Coordination Meeting of EDCs  
Brussels, 23 May 2007**



**Vasiliki Rigakou  
Dimitris Petsas**

**Athens 2007**

**Bibliographic series EDC 26/2007**

## **CONTENTS**

	3
PREFACE	4
INTRODUCTION	5
1. GENERAL DATA	5
1.1 Institutional framework of Greek EDCs in numbers	8
1.2 Operational framework of Greek EDCs in numbers	11
2. DOCUMENTATION FUNCTION	12
3. COMMUNICATION FUNCTION	14
4. NETWORKING FUNCTION	16
5. GENERAL ASSESSMENT	17
6. CONCLUSIONS	

## **PREFACE**

The European Documentation Centre of Athens University of Economics & Business is department of the University' s Library.

Head of the Library: Professor E. J. Yannakoudakis

Academic Responsible of the EDC: Professor Panos Tsakloglou

Director of the Library: Georgia Theophanopoulou

Responsible of EDC: Vasiliki Rigakou

EDC Documentalists:

Maria Adamaki, Eirini Toliou, Thiresia Panagopoulou, Dimitris Petsas.

The present report was prepared by Vasiliki Rigakou (e-mail: [vrigakou@aub.gr](mailto:vrigakou@aub.gr)) and Dimitris Petsas (e-mail: [dimitris@aub.gr](mailto:dimitris@aub.gr)).

## **INTRODUCTION**

This report is compiled by the European Documentation Centre of Athens University of Economics and Business as a national coordinator and representative of Greek EDCs' network. It is based on the evaluation questionnaires for 2006 which have been developed by Civic Consulting and completed by the EDCs' responsible in April 2007. The report provides statistical data about the EDCs' situation and their information services to the public, examining their potential for successfully responding to the growing challenges of the digital era as well as to the demands of qualitative and reliable European information.

## **1. GENERAL DATA**

### **1.1 Institutional framework of Greek EDCs in numbers**

Two new EDCs were established in 2006 by the European Commission increasing the total number of the Greek network to 11 members, improving in this way its effectiveness as well as fulfilling one of the main goals presented in the 2003 Coordination Meeting report:

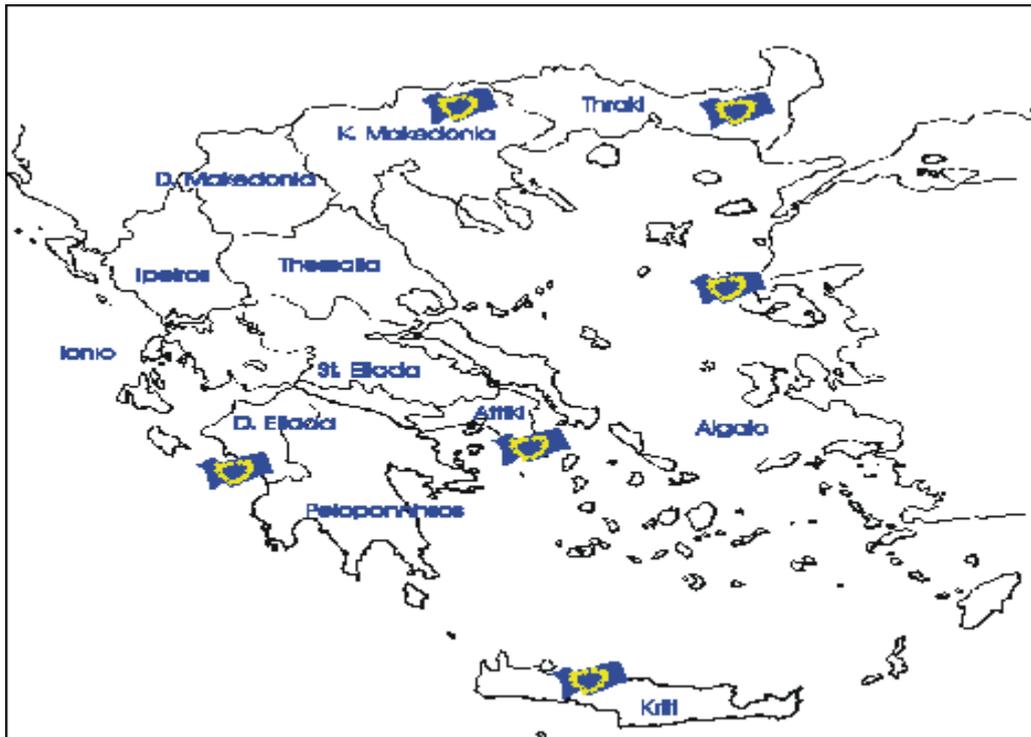
- the EDC of the Hellenic Parliament, established in June 2006
- the EDC of the University of the Aegean, the only one in the remote region of the Aegean islands, established in November 2006

In table 1 there is an alphabetical list with all Greek EDCs:

**Table 1:** Greek European Documentation Centres

<b>Greek EDCs</b>
✓ Athens University of Economics & Business (1992)
✓ Centre of International and European Economic Law (1978)
✓ Democritus University of Thrace (1992)
✓ Hellenic Centre for European Studies (1988)
✓ Hellenic Parliament (2006)
✓ National & Kapodistrian University of Athens (1992)
✓ Panteion University of Athens (1992)
✓ University of Crete (1999)
✓ University of Patras (2000)
✓ University of Piraeus (1990)
✓ University of the Aegean (2006)

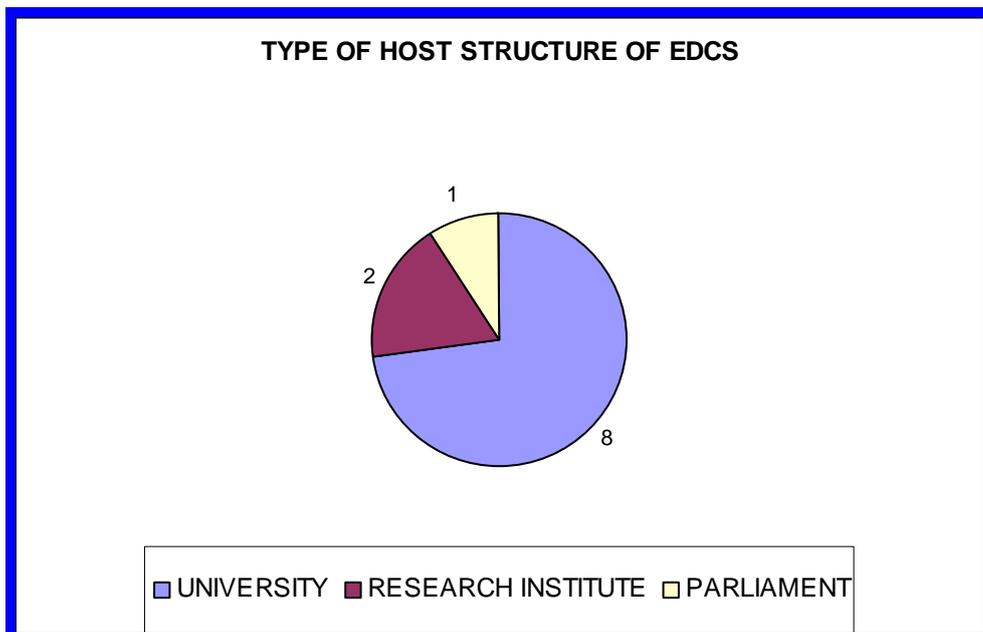
The following map of Greece shows the regions that are covered by at least one EDC.



As regards EDCs' host structure the following diagram shows that:

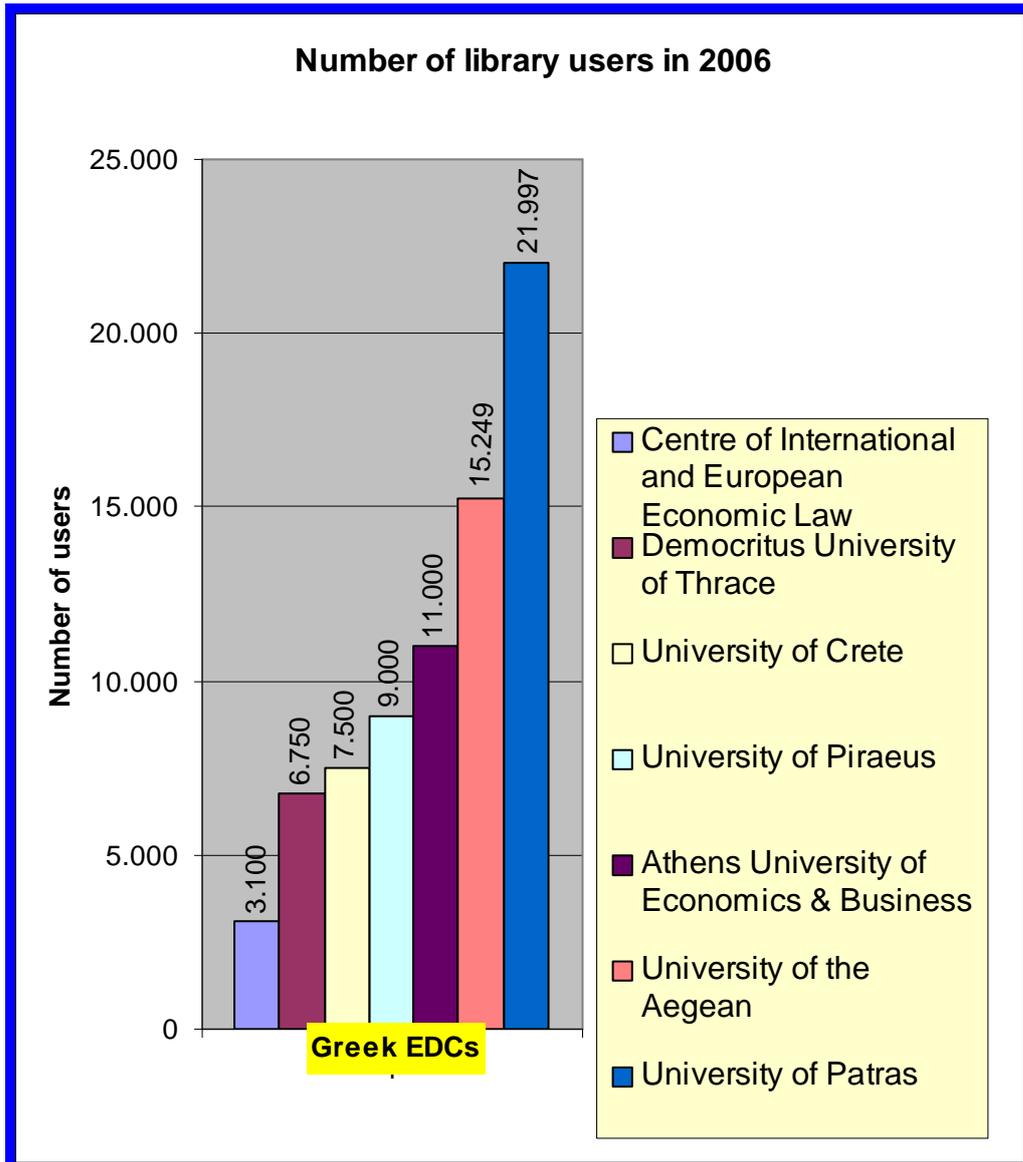
- 8 out of 11 EDCs are hosted by a University
- 2 are hosted by a research institute
- 1 is hosted by the parliamentary library of Greece

Diagram 1: Type of host structure of EDCs



Taking into account that 7 out of 11 EDCs are part of the relevant host structure's library and that all libraries that host EDCs are open to the public without registration required, it is not always easy to indicate the number of library users which varies from 3.100 to 21.997 (see figure 2) while the number of EDC users varies from 250 to 2.180 users (see figure 3).

**Figure 2:** Library users in 2006



There are no data available for the other 4 EDCs

## 1.2 Operational framework of Greek EDCs in numbers

With only 2 out of 11 EDCs being specialized, the national network had in 2006 an average number of:

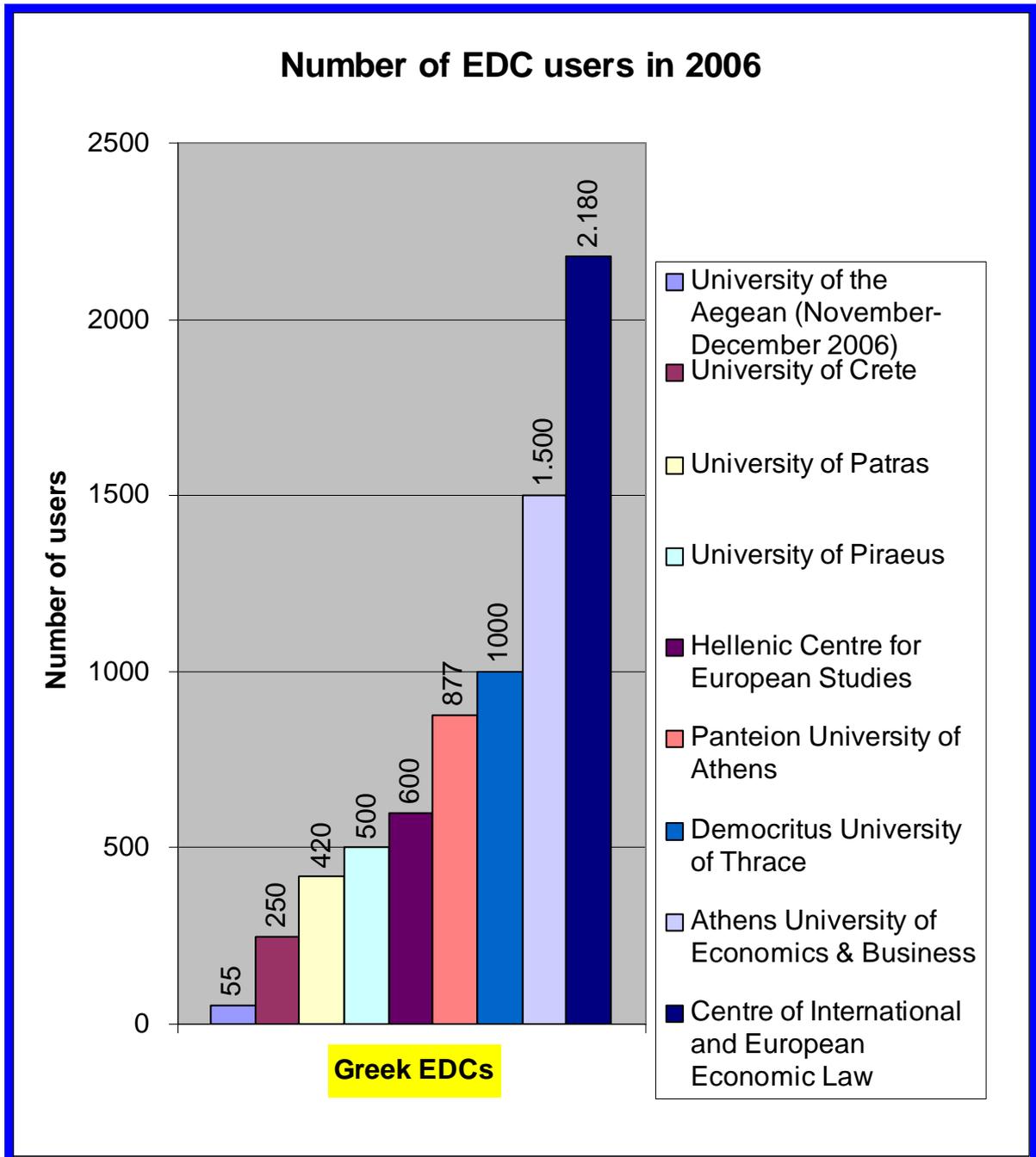
- 809 users (9 out of 11 EDCs provide number of users) (see table 2 & figure 3)
- 36 users assisted by EDC staff per week (see table 2)
- 2,2 EDC staff whose time is used as follows:
  - 45% for documentation
  - 29,1% for communication
  - 25,9% for networking and reporting

It is remarkable the increase in the average number of EDC staff from 1,3 in 2003 to 2,2 in 2006.

**Table 2:** Number of EDC users & EDC users assisted by library staff per week

<b>EDC</b>	<b>Number of users in 2006</b>	<b>Number of users assisted by library staff per week</b>
Athens University of Economics & Business	1.500	60
Centre of International and European Economic Law	2.180	42
Democritus University of Thrace	800-1.000	80
Hellenic Centre for European Studies	600	40
Hellenic Parliament (June - December 2006)	NA	60
National & Kapodistrian University of Athens	NA	15-20
Panteion University of Athens	877	25
University of Crete	250	25
University of Patras	420	5
University of Piraeus	500	30
University of the Aegean (November- December 2006)	55	7

**Figure 3:** Number of EDC users in 2006



As regards the EDCs' financial sources (excluding staff costs) data is not provided in most cases because the EDC budget is integrated into the library's budget (see table 3) which usually includes a percentage for the EDC information sources enrichment.

**Table 3:** EDC budget (excluding staff costs)

<b>EDC</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>
Athens University of Economics & Business	Integrated into the library's total budget – 14.926 €on collection enrichment
Centre of International and European Economic Law	Integrated into the library's total budget - 4.000 €on collection enrichment
Democritus University of Thrace	No budget
Hellenic Centre for European Studies	2.000 €
Hellenic Parliament	30.000 €
National & Kapodistrian University of Athens	Integrated into the library's total budget
Panteion University of Athens	5.000 €
University of Crete	Integrated into the library's total budget
University of Patras	Integrated into the library's total budget
University of Piraeus	Integrated into the library's total budget
University of the Aegean	1.000 €

## **2. DOCUMENTATION**

The Greek EDCs Network offers qualitative documentation services by processing, cataloguing and indexing official community publications according to the international bibliographic rules and standards.

In 2006 an average number of 354 publications were catalogued (9 out of 11 EDCs provided data). There is also a serious effort to collect and catalogue all the EU related publications produced by the host structures, such as papers and theses in order to be available to the community.

As far as EU relevant databases are concerned, all Greek EDCs provide free access to publicly accessible internet databases through their computers with an average number of 32 users per week (8 EDCs provided data). It is important to mention that through HEAL-Link, the Hellenic Academic Libraries Consortium, a wide range of full-text paid sources, covering also European issues, are available free of charge to academic EDCs and their users.

Moreover, the majority of Greek EDCs (7 out of 11) offer courses on EU information sources to train users, aiming at the best possible exploitation of databases and the users' information literacy.

As a general assessment, it is believed that the databases and the assistance by EDCs meet user needs very well. On the other hand, the documents available should better correspond to the research needs of the Greek academic community.

### 3. COMMUNICATION FUNCTION

In addition to their documentation function, EDCs have been turning more and more to organizing communication and promotion activities. The average number of these activities is 7 - mainly seminars, presentations, dissemination of EU promotional material - for 2006 (8 out of 11 EDCs provided data) as shown in the table 4.

**Table 4:** Number of EU related communication and promotion activities and total number of participants

<b>EDC</b>	<b>Total Number of activities</b>	<b>Number of participants</b>
Athens University of Economics & Business	13	950
Centre of International and European Economic Law	4	NA
Democritus University of Thrace	NA	NA
Hellenic Centre for European Studies	9	835
Hellenic Parliament	NA	NA
National & Kapodistrian University of Athens	3	NA
Panteion University of Athens	18	1239
University of Crete	4	470
University of Patras	1	20
University of Piraeus	3	NA
University of the Aegean	NA	NA

It is underlined the difficulty in organizing promotion and communication activities because of the lack of know-how, human and financial resources. Usually activities of this kind such as conferences are organized under the aegis of the host structure.

Using different types of media such as websites, European magazines and local mass media the EDCs have achieved in most of the cases to be very well known to host structure and fairly well known to the general public.

#### 4. NETWORKING FUNCTION

Without doubt, Greek EDCs comprise an active and dynamic network with contacts both in Greece and in other EU Member States as shown in the following table 5.

**Table 5:** Number of contacts (user queries and general networking activities) in Greece and in other countries in 2006

<b>EDC</b>	<b>Number of contacts in Greece</b>	<b>Number of contacts in other countries</b>
Athens University of Economics & Business	32	21
Centre of International and European Economic Law	1	NA
Democritus University of Thrace	2	1
Hellenic Centre for European Studies	11	NA
Hellenic Parliament	22	11
Panteion University of Athens	7	16
National & Kapodistrian University of Athens	3	NA
University of Crete	25	9
University of Patras	12	NA
University of Piraeus	32	12
University of the Aegean	NA	NA

Two annual meetings took place in 2006:

- the annual EDCs meeting, University of Patras, 6 - 7 April 2006.  
Topics: Initiative i2010 – digital libraries, European information policy: virtual reality, institutional repositories.
- the annual meeting of European Information Relays of Greece, Athens, 7 – 8 December 2006. Round EDCs' table about future activities and promotion of the EDC network by the development of a Union Catalogue and a European repository.

The Greek EDCs Network participated in 2006 exchange project entitled “Planning a European electronic repository” by visiting the EDC of the Minho University in Portugal (September 2006). It also took part in an educational visit to the EU institutions in Brussels (6 – 7 July 2006), organized by the EC Representation in Greece.

The EDC of Athens University of Economics & Business is the national coordinator and representative of the national network. The networking tools used by Greek EDCs are the following:

- mailing list
- EUROPE DIRECT intranet
- EURODOC

Also, three EDCs are members of the European Information Association.

Although there are contacts with other European Union information networks, there is no systematic cooperation with these relays.

Regarding the management of the EDC Network, there is a general satisfaction from Greek EDCs about the EUR-OP publications, training, helpdesk and intranet. However less bureaucracy especially in the management of exchange programmes and full economic coverage will help EDC participation.

## **5. GENERAL ASSESSMENT**

There is a common belief that the information provided by Greek EDCs is invaluable for every Greek citizen. The EDCs play a crucial role in:

- collecting and documenting all official European publications in order to be available to the public
- developing and maintaining a dynamic network of European information professionals at national and European level
- establishing contacts with EU officials
- supporting and delivering EU principles and values

In this way there is a continuing and important contribution to the promotion and development of studies and research in the field of European integration.

In order to effectively respond to the tremendous explosion of information and related technologies and to the changing needs of users, Greek EDCs should adopt new information and communication tools.

An online reference desk with a question - answer database, named MITOS, is being developed and is going to be open to all EDCs until the end of 2007. It is foreseen a future extension of this tool with synchronous means of communication such as chat, instant messaging, co-browse, page push, voice and video over IP, virtual reality technology.

Moreover, there is a proposal about the establishment of:

- a union catalogue
- a repository on EU issues in synergy with other national EDC networks

Due to the increasing information and communication demands, EDCs need additional financial resources especially for staff, collection enrichment, hardware and software.

## **6. CONCLUSIONS**

To sum up, we can conclude that the Greek EDC Network is an active and professionally staffed one with strong relationships and support from host structures. However its regional expansion will strengthen its capacity and effectiveness.

The Network promotes the EU information and enhances the European integration at national level. Nevertheless, the environmental changes, now occurring around information centers - the great advance in information technology, the huge production of information that has reached an alarming extent and the increase of users' needs and expectations - have been raising the demands from EDCs.

As a result, it is essential for the EDCs to be assisted in every aspect, specifically in terms of human and financial resources, training, events management, coordination management and networking tools. An important step towards this direction is the cooperative development and implementation of new information and communication tools, which provide added value services, such as web-based question-answer databases, European repositories and a union EDCs' catalogue.

Advanced training following the model of EIPA (European Institute of Public Administration), where even non official trainers take part and issues are presented from different points of view with critical approach, can be a very stimulating and beneficial proposal.

**European Documentation Centres for nearly half a century serve the values and principles of United Europe offering excellent European information and thus constitute an invaluable heritage for Europe.**