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AIM

Adequate Information Management in Europe

D2: Standardized Instruments for 1st Field Study

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Description

In the following, the standardized instrument for the AIM-project's first field study is described. The main question in this first project phase is how the mass media manage and produce EU coverage and assessment in the context of diverse journalistic and editorial cultures, standards and ethical considerations in Europe. The practical conditions that determine if a European issue is set on the news agenda are examined. Overall, we are looking for the lowest common denominator of news management in European journalism cultures which could be strengthened to constitute a European public sphere.

Our three-step research instrument allows a crosscut view through the various journalism cultures in Europe. It is based on a news agenda analysis, which will provide us with a list of EU issues on the national news agendas at a given time. The observation will give further insight into news management procedures and decision-making structures in editorial rooms in the different journalism cultures. The main instrument are the semi-structured in-depth interviews with journalists whom we will ask for the practical conditions that determine whether a topic is set on the news agenda or not. The results will allow a first comparative view on news management in the participating countries and their journalistic cultures.

NAA Codebook (see Annex 1)

Our first research question for this phase of research is how the mass media manage and produce EU coverage in Europe. In particular, we are interested in the differences and similarities regarding EU coverage and reporting in the different countries, the placement of EU topics (sections in the newspaper, sequence in TV-news), whether there is a homogenous European news agenda and if significant differences in the EU-coverage of different media types exist. For these research questions, we have found an agenda-building analysis more suitable than the usual content analysis. For the purposes of the news agenda analysis (NAA), we are only looking at articles and TV casts that mention the EU or its institutions and policies explicitly.

We ensure the comparability across the eleven participating countries through a common 'codebook' and equivalent research material. The data collection for all eleven participating countries took place from March 7 – 28, 2005.

The methodological instrument is easy to apply, efficient in its implementation and leads to the maximum outcome regarding the research question. It consists of the following media types/outlets per country:

- (a) three newspapers
- (b) two television newscasts
- (c) one national news agency

We are aware of the situation that the selection of media outlets is often regarded as problematic in terms of equivalency and elusiveness by traditional approaches. By combining qualitative and quantitative criteria to select "cases" which are the most

representative for a national media market the NAA turns European heterogeneity into its advantage. The following table lists our selection criteria.

	Qualitative criteria	Quantitative criteria
Newspapers	1. national daily newspaper 2. regional daily newspaper 3. popular daily newspaper (tabloid or related) (daily = published at least six times a week)	highest circulation
Television newscasts	Main newscasts in: 1. public service television 2. commercial television	highest audience
News agency	1. general national news agency	market leader

First, the qualitative criteria define typical segments for each national media market. Second, the quantitative criteria determine the medium that is the strongest within this segment in terms of economics.

Particularly for print media, one of the qualitative criteria mentioned above might not be applicable to one country's media market. In that case, we asked the participants to either define another segment which is typical for their media market or to argue for the importance of one of the other segments and choose two media outlets from this kind.

With the help of the described research tool we will be able to provide a set of quantitative key data describing EU issues on the national news agendas. The news agenda analysis will lay groundwork for the observation and the interviews. Its aim is to reconstruct EU issues on national news agendas in a comparative context and therefore operationalizes the question whether an EU issue is put on the news agenda of a media outlet or not.

In addition to the analysis of the national news agendas, we will compare the input which is provided by institutions and actors on EU levels and research how this input is reflected by the media. The data collection of the EU news production is provided centralized by the coordinator and results will have to be evaluated by each consortium partner. In addition, each participant will keep a national diary of the national events that could directly and indirectly influence the respective news agenda.

The consortium agreed to use an electronic version of the codebook. It is accessible online at www.aim-project.net/naa. The username is "apollonatos" and the password is "aim".

Semi-structured qualitative Interviews (see Annex 2)

Semi-structured qualitative interviews are the main instruments of our joint research effort for the first field study. The research questions to be answered with the help of this tool are the practical conditions that determine whether an EU issue is set on the news agenda or not. In particular, we are interested to find out why certain issues are selected and others not. We will identify the major sources for journalists in the coverage of EU-issues. In addition, we are keen to know more about the editorial lines about the EU (are there specific Europe sections in a medium, what is the medium's mission statement with regard to the EU). We will examine the structures and processes of the work in the newsroom and the work routines of the journalists. Also, we are interested in validation of the EU by the journalists and their editors and its influences on the national news agenda. We would also like to know whether or not there is a demand for EU information in regional and local offices.

In this context, journalists are interviewed as "meaning makers" of their experiences with EU-coverage and life worlds in the newsrooms of their medium. Rubin & Rubin describe the main goal of a qualitative interview in listening for the meaning: "Qualitative interviewing is a kind of guided conversation in which the researcher carefully listens 'so as to hear the meaning' of what is being conveyed." (Rubin and Rubin 1995, in: Warren, Carol A.B. (2002): *Qualitative Interviewing*. In: Gubrium Jaber F. & Holstein, James A. (eds): *Handbook of Interview Research: Context & Method*. Thousand Oaks/London/New Delhi, 85.)

In this first field study, our focus is on the national media organisations and editorial offices. Therefore, we will only be interviewing EU-journalists in the home offices and their responsible editors-in-chief. We have decided to interview one journalist mainly responsible for EU-issues and one editor-in-chief for each medium we have selected for the NAA (see above). In addition, we will conduct interviews with representatives of at least three other media organisations as a basis of comparison. Finally, each participating country should deliver at least fifteen interviews. We have developed a common interview manual for interviews in all national contexts. Each interview will last approximately 45 minutes. These are explicitly qualitative semi-structured interview manuals, so interviewers may decide to skip certain questions and add others, change the wording (the questionnaire needs to be translated to the national languages anyway) or the sequence of the questions. Nevertheless, we want certain question complexes to be addressed in order to be able to comparatively answer certain research questions. For this reason, each interviewer is also provided with a matrix of research questions to be able to put his/her questions into the larger context of the project.

The data resulting from the interviews will be evaluated on the basis of country reports. These will be merged and compared under a scheme of certain research questions at a working group meeting in October. In the end, a scheme taking into account the results of our three-step methodological design will reveal the functioning of European journalism in the participating countries.

Observation (see Annex 3)

In order to further investigate the work routines, news management, and editorial decision-making structures in the newsroom, we would have preferred to have a short observational period in all participating countries. However, because of resource limitations and access problems in certain member states, applying this method is optional. Most probably the following countries will use an observation phase in their methodological design: Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Lithuania and Norway. Those countries will use the observation complementary to the interviews.

Since we do not have the possibility to use observation in a longer timeframe, we have agreed upon a period of two to four days to supplement the information and impressions we have gained through the NAA and the interviews. As Warren explains, observation is often used as an additional research tool, consolidating the results gained from interviews: "Where both settings and individuals are available, and are mutually pertinent, researchers often combine ethnographic data with interview data, illuminating both the culture and the biographical particulars of members' worlds. Social researchers use ethnographic interviews and other field-based methods to 'fill in' the biographical meanings of observed interactions." (Warren, Carol A.B. (2002): *Qualitative Interviewing*. In: Gubrium Jaber F. & Holstein, James A. (eds): *Handbook of Interview Research: Context & Method*. Thousand Oaks/London/New Dehli, 85.)

Annex 1: NAA Codebook

IMPORTANT: Please code only topics related to the EU: This means all articles or news items that make explicit reference to EU policy, EU officials or EU institutions.

A topic that has clear EU-dimensions but that is only mentioned in a national context will not be included in the analysis. Example: an article about fishing-policy in your country that has no clear EU-reference should not be included, even if our common sense tells us that fishing-policy in itself is largely connected with EU-policy.

1) REFERENCE NUMBER:

(we suggest a numeric code per country with a alphabetical extension. Proposal: 001BE, 002BE ...for Belgian coders, 001UK, 002UK ... for UK-coders and so on)

2) IDENTIFICATION OF CODER:

(initials of coder for administrative use only)

3) COUNTRY:

(click on corresponding country in input-box)

4) DATE (hour TV/news agencies) OF PUBLICATION:

*(what was the date of the newspaper or of the broadcasting news program)
dd.03.2005; for TV only: hh:mm*

5) NAME OF MEDIUM

(click on list in drop-down--box)

6) MEDIUM:

(click on corresponding category in input-box, we all explained the choice of our newspaper titles for the three categories; this explanation should be added in the final

report to allow the interpretation of the transnational data of the analysis)

1: national newspaper

2: regional newspaper

3: popular press

4: public television news cast

5: commercial television news cast

6: news agency menu card or equivalent

7: other media (third media coded by country, if the national team chose for another

combination: click in pop up box f.i. 1 if this is a national newspaper)

!!!!!!If newspaper (or news agency or other) topic!!!!!!

7) HEADLINE OF ARTICLE IN ORIGINAL LANGUAGE

(Introduce in the blank space the complete headline of the newspaper article, no subtitle to be mentioned)

!!!!!!If newspaper topic!!!!!!

8) PAGE NUMBER

first position only; e.g.: article on page 1 and continuing on page 15→ just mention 1)

!!!!!!If newspaper topic!!!!!!

9) SECTION (newspaper content category)

1. National political news
2. European news
3. Other International news
4. Economic news
5. Culture & miscellaneous
6. Local/regional news
7. Opinion
8. Other → *to be specified in blank space that pops up after clicking this answer category*

!!!!!!If newspaper topic!!!!!!

10) JOURNALISTIC GENRE

1. Editorial (*part written daily by a senior journalist or the editor; this is often a comment that reflects the point of view of the newspaper*)
2. External Commentary (*e.g. comments by opinion leaders*)
3. Letters to the Editor
4. All other journalistic forms (e.g. facts and opinion mixed genres)

11) PROMINENCE ON THE NEWS AGENDA:

- major
- minor

Comment: Please define major and minor topics according to the journalism culture in your country for each title you code and explain these definitions to the coders. Example: For tabloid-format newspapers the appearance on the last page can be as important as appearing on the first one. Attribution of a lot of editorial space on a specific page can also be interpreted as a reason to code 'major'. For broadcast items we can refer to our top-3 of the news agenda for the coding decisions.

12) EU-PROMINENCE OF THE CENTRAL TOPIC

5 possible categories in analogy to foreign news theory:

- 1: EU news (*dealing with internal European policies etc.*)
- 2: EU news abroad (*EU matters with regard to third countries, e.g. USA*)
- 3: EU news at home (*e.g. a German newspaper reports about the German parliament discussing the stability and growth pact*)
- 4: Home news in EU (*e.g. a German newspaper reports about Schröder visiting Brussels*)
- 5: EU news in EU member states except home country (*e.g. a German newspaper reports about a meeting of Chirac and Blair speaking about the EU constitution*)
- 6: Unclear

13) TEXT BOX TO DESCRIBE NEWS TOPIC

Add some lines that describe shortly the topic (*in English please, this description will have to allow 'data-cleaning' and possible recoding afterwards*).

START WITH GEOGRAPHICAL TAGS → *To be mentioned if present names of geographical areas involved; for instance if negotiations between countries this means the names of the countries involved.*

14) CONTENT CODING

Not to be filled in yet.

Later we can come up with a list of major topics that appeared in many countries. These topics can become then the same coding figures, in order to reconstruct the main lines of the news agenda. This does not bring so much work afterwards and can also be done centrally if necessary.

15) PRELIMINARY CONTENT CODING: We give the coders two boxes for coding according to our pre-registered categories, and we include the category 'not clear'.

First box: **PRIMARY TOPIC**

Second box: **SECONDARY TOPIC, only to be coded if necessary**

(Suggested list of topics to appear in input-box)

- 1. Economic and Financial Affairs
- 2. Enterprise and Industry
- 3. Competition
- 4. Consumers Protection
- 5. Internal Market
- 6. Enlargement and acceptance of new possible members
- 7. EU Constitution and Poll
- 8. Taxation and Customs Union
- 9. Budget Control & Stability and Growth Pact
- 10. European Anti-Fraud
- 11. Internal functioning and disfunctioning of the EU
- 12. Trade, Import/Export
- 13. Employment and Equal Opportunities
- 14. Agriculture and Rural Development
- 15. Fisheries and Maritime Affairs
- 16. Environment
- 17. Regional Policy
- 18. Energy
- 19. Traffic, Transport, Aviation, Navigation
- 20. Science & Research
- 21. Education and Culture
- 22. Media Policy
- 23. ICT and Telecommunication
- 24. Health
- 25. Social Issues
- 26. Justice, Freedom, Security
- 27. International Terrorism
- 28. Military, Defense
- 29. External Relations
- 30. Development aid , Third World and Humanitarian Aid
- 31. Migration, incl asylum issues
- 32. Minority Rights
- 33. Human Rights

- 34. Sports
- 35. Crime

- **NOT CLEAR: If you choose this category, please suggest some other keywords.**

16) PLACE OF THE ACTION/ LOCATION OF NEWS TOPIC

- 1. not applicable
- 2. Brussels
- 3. Luxembourg
- 4. Strasbourg
- 5. Capital city of the media country
- 6. Other → to be filled in blank space that pops up after clicking to this answering category

17) INCENTIVE / NEWS HOOK (What kind of information/event prompted the journalist's attention?)

Use this category only if it is clearly recognizable what prompted the journalists attention.

FIRST INCENTIVE:

SECOND INCENTIVE (if necessary) *(example demonstrations against EU legislation; here two kinds of incentive can be coded)*

- not applicable
- not distinctive
- Crisis, Disaster
- Election
- Summit or other Meeting
- National legislation
- EU legislation
- EU-Report
- Demonstration
- Press Conference
- Press Release
- Opinion Poll
- Statement or Declaration
- Other → *to be specified in blank space that pops up after clicking this answer category*

IF APPLICABLE

**18) FIRST MAIN ACTOR (PERSON)
SECOND MAIN ACTOR (PERSON)
THIRD MAIN ACTOR (PERSON)**

- national head of state
- national head of government
- member of the national government (minister etc.)
- national political party leader (government)
- national political party leader (opposition)
- EU-commissioner appointed by the home country
- EU-commissioner appointed by another EU-country → *input box will then offer possibility to enter name*
- President of the EU-commission
- President of the EU council
- MEP from the home country
- MEP from other countries
- non-political celebrity
- foreign head of government
- foreign head of state
- foreign political leader, politician
- other: to be filled in a blank box
- not clear

IF APPLICABLE

**19) FIRST MAIN ACTOR (INSTITUTION)
SECOND MAIN ACTOR (INSTITUTION)**

- National parliament
- National political party
- National pressure group
- Other than national parliament
- Other than national political party
- Other than national pressure group
- EU Parliament
- EU Parliament Committees (e.g. Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights etc, Committee on Budgets, Committee on Constitutional Affairs)
- European Parliament Political Groups and Fractions
- Advisory Committees (e.g. Committee of the Regions, Economic and Social Committee)
- EU Commission
- Commission Directorate Generals
- EU Justice Court(s)
- EU Council and Councils of National ministers

- European monetary and financial institutions (e.g. the European Central Bank, European Investment Bank)
- EU Foreign Policy Intergovernmental bodies (e.g. high representative for common foreign and security policy), political and security committee, military committee)
- EU police and security institutions/cooperations (e.g. Europol, Euratom Supply Agency)
- EU military institutions/cooperations (e.g. Standing Political and Security Committee, Intervention troops under EU flag, EUfor)
- Constitutional Convent
- Decentralised Community Agencies (e.g. European Monitoring Centre for Racism and Xenophobia EUMC)
- EU internal control institutions (e.g. European Anti-Fraud Office OLAF)
- Not clear
- Other: to be filled in a blank box

Please remember to fill in this category only if an institution is named explicitly!

!!!! If newspaper topic !!!!

20) NEWSPAPER PRESENTATION COMPRISES

1. Item with no additional elements
2. Standalone photo with caption
3. Article illustrated by photo
4. Article illustrated by graphics
5. Article illustrated by cartoon
6. Article illustrated with combination of illustrative elements
7. Other, please specify

!!!! If broadcast item!!!!

21) TV NEWS CAST PRESENTATION COMPRISES

1. News item read simply by an anchor/speaker
2. News item simply illustrated by a short news film (off-commented, no reporter, no interviews, no sound bites)
3. Reporters film contribution (incl. e.g. interviews, sound bites etc.)
4. Interview conducted by anchor/speaker with external source (e.g. politicians, experts, analysts, eye witness etc.)
5. Interview conducted by an anchor/speaker with colleague (journalist of the same medium, correspondent)
6. Other → *please specify in the pop-up box*

!!!! If newspaper item!!!!

22) JOURNALISTIC AUTHOR

1. Newsroom staff
2. EU-reporter (if identified as such)
3. Guest Contributor (e.g. expert or opinion leader)
4. Letter to the editor
5. Mainly wire article (if identified as such)
6. Press Review (adapted with permission from other medium, if identified as such)
review)
7. Not identifiable

Annex 2: Semi-structured in-depth interview manual (incentive)

Background information

(to be filled before the interview session or when starting it)

Name: _____

Working years within the profession: _____

Qualifications (education, former experience etc.) _____

Medium the interviewee is currently working at: _____

The current status of the interviewee:
(EU journalist, deputy editor...) _____

Since when are you responsible for EU-topics? _____

How many journalists in your newsroom are responsible for EU news coverage?

Does your newsroom have a correspondent in Brussels?

Which sections normally deal with EU issues (foreign news, domestic, business etc.)

Newsroom policies and daily routines (refer to research question: Journalism cultures)

1. How much importance do you give EU news in comparison to other international or national news?
2. Would you think that your stories are more results of an individual effort or collective choices made by your news organisation?
3. Who or what initiates a EU story?
4. Why or why not do you have a correspondent in Brussels?
5. What are the main constraints for your newsroom concerning EU news coverage?¹

¹ E.g. more resources, correspondents, better qualifications, updating professional standards, problems with bureaucracy in Brussels, lack of interest in the EU etc.

6. How important are the following evaluation criteria in the selection process of EU news? Optional: *To support your questions you are free to use the attached table (appendix 1). Remember: it is not intended to be a quantitative instrument!*
7. Which news media would you consider as reference points of "good EU journalism"?

Questions about sources (**Agenda setting and news management**)

1. Do you think that journalists are sufficiently informed about the EU?²
2. What are your major sources concerning EU issues?
3. How much of your information do you retrieve from official communication or interaction with EU officials, politicians and other EU sources?
4. How would you evaluate qualities of your sources? Optional: *To support your questions you are free to use the attached table (appendix 2). Remember: it is not intended to be a quantitative instrument!*

Perceptions of the audience (**political communication, theories of democracy**)

1. In your opinion, which EU topics are of interest to your readers/viewers?
2. What level of pre-knowledge about EU topics of your readers/viewers do you assume?
3. What are the major professional challenges for EU journalists?

The future (**of journalism, European identity and European public sphere**)

1. Do you think that EU issues are becoming more and more important (in your country)?
2. How do you think EU journalism could be further developed in your medium?

Reflective questions

- With regard to EU coverage, how do you perceive your professional role?³
- Do you see a need for further training for journalists covering the EU?

² In comparison to other institutions: national politics, business, local government etc.

³ E.g. as mediator, educator, watchdog

- In the discussion about European democracy many critics speak about a democracy deficit. In how far do you think journalists can contribute to make European integration processes more transparent?

Questions with respect to the national journalistic culture and media market

Comment: This questionnaire bloc is optional and should be developed by each national team.

Optional: Further ideas for questions

Newsroom policies and daily routines (refer to research question: Journalism cultures)

Can you describe your ordinary working procedures when covering an EU issue? Please give two recent examples of news coverage (one usual and one unusual news item).

Where do the ideas for the stories usually come from (individual work, assignments from desk editors, press releases, information conferences etc.?)

Please describe the editorial decision-making process for an EU topic.

Perceptions of the audience (political communication, theories of democracy)

Do you get feedback about your stories (and by whom)?

Do you think that citizens are sufficiently informed about the EU?

Reflective Questions

Do you think there should be more opinionated and analytical journalism about EU topics?

Can you name a case in which journalism affected political developments or decision-making processes of the EU?

Do you think that journalists can or should play an important role in creating a European identity?

Appendix 1

Special EU-related news factors

How important are the following criteria for the selection of EU news?

1 not important at all

6 very important

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Relevance for the whole EU						
Relevance for national policy						
Geographical and/or cultural proximity						
Possibility to find a regional or local angle to the topic						
Connection to long-term developments (institutional reforms etc.)						
Conflict and crisis						
Possibility to personalize a topic						
Easy to intermediate to the reader/viewer (in contrast to the usual complex EU stories)						
Odd or exceptional topic						
Possibility to give ironical commentary (e.g. the EU requires standardized sizes of bananas)						
Topic is compatible to the editorial policy about the EU						
Topic is compatible to journalist's areas of expertise						
Other: please specify						

Appendix 2

Evaluation of information sources

6-point scale (except importance), 1 = poor, 6 = excellent

Source	Importance (rank order)	Availability	Topicality	Transparency	Accuracy + Reliability	Applicability of content
1. Original documents						
2. EU information services (online and offline)						
3. National information services (online and offline)						
4. International news media						
5. National news media						
6. News agencies						
7. EU officials						
8. National representatives based in the EU						
9. Representatives of other nations based in the EU						
10. Lobby Groups						
11. NGOs						
12. Other international sources						
13. Other national sources						

Annex 3: Adequate Observation Management

In the AIM-project we do not have the possibility to use the method of observation of news organisations over a long period of time to gather data. We recommend, however, that we use short-time (2-4 days) observation of some few news organisations to supplement the information and impressions we will get through interviews and documents.

Research design:

News organisations that we want to observe should 1) belong to the sample of the news agenda analysis and 2) have a Brussels' correspondent (if, in any country, no news organisations have such a correspondent, we recommend to observe a news agency as it will be a major information supplier about European questions).

Given the limited time period for observation it is impossible to get a general overview of the working of the newsroom. We recommend observing the person/people in charge of EU news within the newsroom. That will be the person or the group of people you will have to follow the closest possible.

The basic idea is to be able, in the end, to give an account of the news processing about EU news within a given organisational environment. Relationships with the Brussels correspondent, negotiations internal to the newsroom and influence of the editorial hierarchy will be of crucial importance.

Preliminary work:

In order to maximize the profit of the short period of observation, teams should gather preliminary information about the organisations they are going to visit. Organisational charts and identification of the most relevant people should be collected before the observation period. A phone call to the Brussels' correspondent of the news organisation might also be a good way to identify the main actors (by asking who they are in touch with on the most regular basis).

Each team should first contact the editor(s) in charge, give information about the AIM-project and why the team (you) want access to some editorial meetings. It is also important that the editors inform the journalists whom you will meet (and observe) about your role.

One should not play down the goals of the observation but put people at ease by explaining some basic rules: No quotations from what is said during meetings or informal talks will be published without the person's consent.

Crucial tasks to be achieved:

- 1) Observe a typical day of work of the selected people so as to be able to give an account of the process through which EU information become (or not become) EU news (for example, what are they reading/checking in the first place, who are the people they consult, etc.);

- 2) Attend editorial meetings/desk discussions where news selection is done so as to be able to give an account of the negotiation processes at work;
- 3) Precisely note the interactions between the people/person observed and the rest of the newsroom so as to be able to give an account of the kind of networks they are imbedded in

Practical and ethical advices:

Your workday will be similar to the people observed (so ask for the time you should arrive).

Your notes will be your material so it is crucial that they are as precise as possible. We recommend to write them down every evening as the writing process will help you to organise your thoughts (and notes) and prepare the next day.

A timetable should be prepared (and at hand) so as to easily reconstruct the typical working day.

You are not a "spy"... You will be part of the environment you will observe and will change the interactions' context. The main goal is to disturb this context as little as possible. We assume that a friendly and open attitude will help you to get information better than if you remain mute. This is not to say that you are going to run interviews during this observation, but you should not hesitate to ask for information if you don't understand something. Obviously if someone starts to talk to you you should let the interaction go on (and note it afterwards).

The main methodological rule concerning observation is honesty and discretion. You should not provoke sayings, but not prevent them either. Every "observer" should also write down a small piece where he will explain how the observation has been run, what were her/his connections with people within the newsroom, what kind of preliminary knowledge he/she had, how he/she was accepted (or not).

Observation report:

An intermediary report (5-7 pages) should after the observation be released by every team to the entire consortium so we can organise cross-readings and cross-questionings. This material should be the basis for real comparison. It will be highly recommended to react to reports from the other teams and to oblige people to make explicit what will, otherwise, remain implicit (as natives are the worst observers of national peculiarities). These inter-national reactions should enrich the material and we will invite people to go through their notes and souvenirs again to answer questions coming from foreign colleagues. This material will also enrich the interviewing process.

The observation report should answer some important questions:

- 1) What is the organisational process concerning EU news within this news organisation? In the end, observers should be able to give a formal account (schemas) of these processes from the very beginning (a news agency information, a phone call, an internal discussion, whatever) to the very end (what have been the

negotiations, who intervened in the news content, what were the sources of the paper, etc.)

- 2) What is the organisational design of the newsroom; for example who does the person in charge of EU news rely on (foreign desk, general news desk, economy, etc.), who has the "final cut" over the decision to publish or not, the titles, the content?

Which factors seem to influence EU news coverage: general attitude towards EU news of the hierarchy, resources, devoted editorial space?