

### 1) Which is the research aim?

The general aim of the European Thematic Network for the Excellence in Operations and Supply Chain Management Education, Research and Practice (THENEXOM) is to bring together academics in European higher education institutes to identify the status of Operations Management, Supply Chain Management and Services Operations Management (OM/SCM/SOM) teaching and research and to promote good practice content, teaching and assessment methods in OM/SCM/SOM courses. It will map the state of the art in the field of OM/SCM/SOM. The network will try to highlight deficiencies in teaching, try to find their root causes and offer solutions. This will lead to proposals of "core" common course contents in order to facilitate the harmonisation. This should contribute to enhancing and developing a European dimension in the field. The network will assess innovation in OM/SCM/SOM teaching methods and materials and disseminate the wider application of good practice across. Additionally the network aims to establish links between academic and non-academic partners.

### 2) Is it intended to augment the number of OM scholars registered in THENEXOM database?

An increase in the number of OM teachers/researchers in the census is desired (as much as possible in order to be representative (it should be as close as possible to a census (it is not a sample) Ej: In UK we have 332 and in Spain 409 which are great figures). You can access directly to your national census through the Thenexom Website. *See the process in the answer to question 9*). The aim is to try to get a true census and to try all teachers to fill in the Internet survey. We will send a message to all scholars but you should follow-up to guarantee that census members fill in the Survey.

### 3) Is it intended to re-collect (with a greater number of respondents) the teaching topics?

Yes, but not only the teaching topics (see answer to 5).

### 4) Is it intended to collect the OM research topics currently investigated?

Not yet, but yes in a future survey.

### 5) Could you send us the detailed survey design? In particular we need the following information:

a) Which is the target population? All OM scholars in each country? OM PhD students are included? Post doc assistants are included? Scholars that did not respond to the first THENEXOM census should be included?

a) At this moment the survey focuses on the teaching aspects (you can access the survey [here](#)). This survey was developed during the first stage of Thenexom.

b) The target population is all OM scholars (teachers/researchers) in your country. During the first stage of Thenexom, it was decided that OM Ph. D. Students were not included.

c) In principle, we will consider OM teachers all those teaching courses of OM in the broad sense or in some subset(s) of its content (e.g. NPD, Project Management, etc.). As you know, Operations Management is concerned with the way organisations produce goods and services, and in particular the tasks, issues and decisions of those operations managers who deliver the services or make the products on which everyone depends.

Traditional topics covered in this field include Operations Strategy, Product&Process design and development, Capacity management, Location and layout, Quality Management and continuous improvement, Production Planning, MRP/ERP Systems, Just-in-Time/Lean Production, Project Management, Process Management, Inventory Systems, Global Operations, Management of Advance Manufacturing Technologies, Service Operations Management, Purchasing and materials management, Logistics, Supply Chain Management, Performance measurement, Internet-enabled operations, Environmental Operations Management, among others.

d) Therefore you must try to update the current census and invite new OM/SMC/SOM teachers/researchers to join.

e) The active researchers in OM, SCM and SOM who do not teach are also invited to enter the profile in the census (they must write “No” in the teaching OM cell on the census form).

## 6. An important aspect of the population definition is “what is OM scholar”? Should we include scholars that study New Product Development?

As we have previously states, Operations Management is concerned with the way organisations produce goods and services, and in particular the tasks, issues and decisions of those operations managers who deliver the services or make the products on which everyone depends. Traditional topics covered in this field include Operations Strategy, Product&Process design and development, Capacity management, Location and layout, Quality Management and continuous improvement, Production Planning, MRP/ERP Systems, Just-in-Time/Lean Production, Project Management, Process Management, Inventory Systems, Global Operations, Management of Advance Manufacturing Technologies, Service Operations Management, Purchasing and materials management, Logistics, Supply Chain Management, Performance measurement, Internet-enabled operations, Environmental Operations Management, among others.

Therefore, scholars/teaching New Product Development or any other subset of OM should be included. We have especially stressed SCM and SOM with a specific part of the survey. The others possible subsets will be treated in the course type T4 (Specialized course) of the Survey.

## 7. Should we include scholars that do not attend EUROMA? There are therefore 3 issues: (1) what is OM, (2) do the scholar see himself as a OM scholar, and (3) do the scholar see himself as a right target of an initiative sponsored by a specific OM scholars association?

7.1. OM was defined by the Network as showed in 6).

It is not a survey only for EurOMA members. You should include as many OM/SCM/SOM scholars in your country as you can.

7.2. In principle yes. Definitions of OM, SCM, and SOM are showed in the survey.

7.3. We think so.

## 8. Which is the procedure to contact respondents? What is our role? When should we act? For example:

- i. you send the invitation letter in English
- ii. after a while we call the non-respondents
- iii. later on we contact personally OM scholars not included in the THENEXOM database.

The process is as follows:

- We send an e-mail with the invitation letter in English signed by the General Coordinator and the Italian Coordinator.
- You should follow-up to guarantee that census members fill out the Survey. You should review periodically the non-respondents list and invite them to fill in the survey.
- At the same time, you should update the census. You have two ways:
  - Contact with the OM teachers/researchers and invite them to join the census directly on (<http://www.thenexom.net/precensus.asp>).
  - Go to this page (<http://www.thenexom.net/inscribeGuest.asp>) to obtain instructions for introducing Guest members to the Census.

## 9. In all cases the country representatives need the lists of OM scholars included in THENEXOM database.

Yes, they need it. You can get it through the Thenexom Website. The process is:

1. From thenexom website (<http://www.thenexom.net>) click on the [REPRESENTATIVES] tab.
2. In the NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES RESTRICTED ACCESS enter your email and the national database password (or your personal password).
3. Now you are in the REPRESENTATIVES RESTRICTED AREA click on:  
Option 1: CENSUS. List of POM teaching & research professionals.

## 10. What are the expected results. In particular we need to clarify: a. What are the global results expected

The first aim of the Thematic Network is to bring together academics in European higher education institutes to identify the European map of Operations Management (OM), Supply Chain Management (SCM) and Service Operations Management (SOM) university education.

As we have previously mentioned the network will try to highlight deficiencies in teaching, try to find their root causes and offer solutions. This will lead to proposals of "core" common course contents in order to facilitate the harmonisation. This should contribute to enhancing and developing a European dimension in the field.

The network will assess innovation in OM/SCM/SOM teaching methods and materials and disseminate the wider application of good practice across. Additionally the network aims to establish links between academic and non-academic partners.

A medium-term additional aim of the network is to establish links between education and research and practice (i.e. companies) in the field.

More specifically the objectives of the Network are to:

1. To obtain an up-dated census of OM, SCM and SOM scholars in participating countries to determine the “capacity” for the “production” of graduates with knowledge in OM/SCM/SOM. This will capture which institutions are teaching OM/SCM/SOM courses, which academics are teaching graduates, what level and type of training do these academics have and what is their experience and background. Given the depth and scope that this study required (for the reasons outlined in the preceding section), the identification of these scholars is a major objective requiring considerable effort, since no official source exists.
2. Obtain a European map of OM/SCM/SOM education and research, through online questionnaires.
3. Help to improve European OM/SCM/SOM education and increase links with the research.
4. Contribute to the harmonisation of OM/SCM/SOM within the European Higher Education Area (tuning methodology).
5. Improve links between education, research and practice.
6. Create and populate an electronic knowledge repository, which when completed, will include data on European map institutions and individuals involved in the field of OM/SCM/SOM, a listing and description of the topics covered in OM/SCM/SOM courses, a description of the teaching and methodologies techniques used as well as related research lines.

More specific goals will be communicated by next week.

**b. What is the specific return for each person that provides collaboration? In that respect we think that each one should have the database of respondents and answers (so that we can investigate (and communicate to our colleagues) the OM research and research in our country)**

The representatives of each country will have full access to their data and prepare a report on the status of OM/SCM/SOM, etc. In their country (the Network will prepare guidelines for homogenization). We will try to publish a book with the results by country (chapters authored by the representatives doing the work). Besides, a special issue (maybe 2) in IJOPM will be published.

Representatives will have always free access to their national census database (the access to other countries will be possible after agreement of the people in the census).