

# GLOBALIZING EUROPE ECONOMIC HISTORY NETWORK (GLOBALEURONET)

Standing Committee for the Social Sciences (SCSS)





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Economic history has emerged in many European countries as a dynamic discipline based on rigorous analytical categories and empirical methods. The demand for education and training in theoretically-driven analysis of the past has been relentlessly growing since the 1980s, and new centres promoting excellence in teaching and research have been established. Economic historians provide now both undergraduate and post-graduate students in economics, business, social and political sciences all over Europe with a long-term perspective of the sources of economic growth, the expansion of international trade, the international movements of capital and labour, and the role of institutions in enhancing (or hindering) economic development. Such a secular view is critical in order properly to understand the economic success or failure of countries, their performances in terms of macroeconomic stability, and their reaction to the deep forces of economic integration and internationalisation-what is usually referred to as globalization.

Thanks to its natural interdisciplinary vocation, economic history has become a fundamental component of the cultural background of any economist, social and political scientist interested in empirical analysis. Having reached a critical mass, European economic historians feel increasingly compelled to overcome their traditional national fragmentation and address old and new issues in a Europe-wide, comparative perspective. By promoting the convergence of quantitative and qualitative research methods, the consolidation of existing and future research projects at national level into a common research agenda, and the organisation of common education and training activities, the Programme will prepare the ground for the emergence of a new generation of scholars truly devoted to the creation of a European Research Area in the field of economic history.

The running period of the  
ESF GLOBALEURONET Research Networking Programme  
is for four years from May 2006 to June 2010.

# Aims and objectives

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Economic history has become a fundamental component of the cultural background of any economist, social and political scientist interested in empirical analysis. History not only provides a laboratory in which alternative theories and methods can be tested, but it also allows social scientists to develop a specific ability to analyze complexity and multi-causality, to apply economic and social theory within an empirical context, to search for, scrutinize and process quantitative and qualitative data. The contribution of economic history, with its strong emphasis on institutional development, is even more important now that economic theory is rediscovering the critical importance of institutions in order to explain economic development and welfare. A sound knowledge of the historical roots of European institutions of present day will be increasingly a necessary component of the cultural background of scientists - let alone political decision-makers - who will be acting in a globalized world in the future.

In order to enhance such interdisciplinary sensibility, European economic historians work together with economists and other social scientists in promoting a truly Europe-wide agenda of comparative research, dissemination and education. In fact, in recent years they successfully undertaken a number of initiatives in order to promote international cooperation both in research and post-graduate education. GLOBALEURONET provides a stable institutional framework within which systematic cooperation can be consolidated and further enhanced.

GLOBALEURONET aims to produce an integrated, Europe-wide data base, covering the highest possible number of European countries (Eastern Europe included), based on a consistent methodology and including a wide range of indicators - both traditional and new - of economic integration, social welfare, and economic growth and institutional developments. The Programme can build upon the productive work of national teams of economic historians during the past decades, supplying new data bases on economic growth, productivity, international trade, foreign investment, mass migration, wages, commodity price convergence and divergence, and alternative historical measures of social welfare and human capital for individual countries.

Since the integration, treatment and cross-country comparison of complex datasets can be optimally achieved only by large teams sharing their experience, GLOBALEURONET will promote the establishment of a strong empirical base, both quantitative and qualitative.

The number and diversity of the participating institutions, the wide geographical coverage of the network, the level of international scientific excellence of the researchers involved and the common research and training agenda promoted by the Programme will represent a true leap forward in the creation of an integrated European research and education area in the field of economic history, open to interdisciplinary contributions of scholars from the whole range of social sciences.

In summary, the Programme's main scientific objectives are:

- to promote the methodological convergence of research methods,
- to enhance the consolidation of both existing and future research projects at national level into a European common agenda,
- to organise integrated education and training activities around that research agenda.

Futuristic industrial architecture...



# Topic Areas

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The main scientific objective of the Programme is to investigate, on a systematic, Europe-wide and integrated (i.e. both quantitative and qualitative) basis, the economic, institutional and social specificities of Europe's participation in the globalization waves that occurred during the last 150 years. Globalization is often said to have started quite recently and to be irreversible. Neither statement is tenable in a historical perspective. A globalizing economy is a challenge that European countries already faced in the past. However, the highly developed and integrated international community of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century dissolved under the pressure of political and social forces, leading the world into a retreat from globalization and finally forcing the collapse of globalism in the interwar depression. This is a scenario that observers of current globalization would find worryingly familiar. Can it happen again? And, if we want to prevent such recurrence, can Europe learn lessons from its past?

We believe that history matters for the future of Europe in a globalized world. European institutions are the outcome of a long historical process of development. Many of them were created or shaped in the past as a reaction to the forces of economic integration. Moreover, in spite of wide differences among countries, we believe that Western Europe offers, in broad terms, a coherent socio-economic model. The fundamental feature of this model is the coexistence and positive integration between market and non-market institutions. The European historical experience demonstrates that regulation, coordination rules and market integration can successfully complement and reinforce each other, and that markets tend to perform better if they are embedded in a range of non-market institutions whose function is to create, regulate, stabilize and legitimate markets. Again, this is exactly the argument some critical observers are putting forward in the current globalization debate. How should European institutions adjust to current globalizations?

In order to answer that question, it is critical to improve our understanding of the historical development of socio-economic development models, with a view to the emergence of a knowledge society, including comparisons of their historical evolution and key determinants between Europe, USA and other relevant world regions. Historical awareness is also essential to address current pressures leading to convergence towards a single socio-economic development model for Europe, within the perspectives of integration, enlargement and globalization.

The research teams coordinating through the Programme will implement a common agenda of data collection, research, dissemination and education activities, on the following main areas, reflecting the key issues on which data are increasingly available and debate advanced more:

## Area 1:

### **The political economy of globalization: trade, migration and social cohesion**

The group of research teams cooperating in this area will make original contributions on issues such as: long-term trends in commodity market integration; the rise of protectionist and liberalizing coalitions; the impact of globalization on standard of living and income distribution; the consequences of migration flows (both international and intra-European) for labour markets; and the comparative development of labour market regulation and social protection.

## Area 2:

### **Economic integration and interdependence**

The group of researchers cooperating in this area will make original contributions on issues such as: the timing and synchronisation of business cycles across Europe; a long-term view of the economic geography of economic activities in Europe; the integration of capital markets and the regulation of financial systems under different monetary regimes.

## Area 3:

### **Globalization, growth and productivity: technological change, human capital and diffusion of knowledge.**

The group of researchers cooperating in this area will make original contributions on issues such as: the empirical investigation on the proximate and ultimate sources of economic growth, the reconstruction of historical national accounting, the comparison of productivity levels and growth in agriculture, manufacture and services; patterns of technological innovation and technology transfer; and the political economy of knowledge.

The Programme's data base will provide a comprehensive source of historical information for all European countries, and will be made accessible to the whole European scientific community.

# Programme Approach

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GLOBALEURONET will address its objectives through a series of integrated scientific activities. They will take place at various locations within participating countries.

In the first stage, organising teams will be created with direct responsibility in planning and implementing research progress in each topic area covered by the Programme. An organising team will include two or three leading researchers with an established expertise and record of international publications. The task of organising teams is to allow researchers from both contributing and non-contributing countries (the latter only on an ad-hoc basis) working on the same research area to get integrated in order to create a critical mass at European level. Each organising team will be responsible for constructing a Data Set related to its research area. The Programme will promote and fund the networking of these Data Sets.

The systematic involvement of young researchers in the activities promoted by organising teams represents a critical objective of the Programme. Young researchers included in these teams will have generally two different profiles: Junior Researchers (normally Ph.D. students working towards their doctoral dissertation) and Experienced Researchers (normally young researchers at post-doctoral level). Both will enjoy preferential (though not exclusive) access to other Programme's activities.

In order to achieve its purposes, each organising team will use different initiatives:

## Methodological Workshops

These will be short meetings (one-two days) in which leading researchers (i.e. the organising team plus one leading researcher for each country/geographical area) will focus on research planning and methodological convergence. The latter will be critical for allowing data collection and processing to be functional to the analytical methodology adopted. For this reason, the Programme will focus on Methodological Workshops in the first year of activity.

## Research Area Seminars

These will be longer meetings (two-three days) in which organising teams will present and discuss the provisional results of their research activities. The papers presented at the seminars will be based on the data collection and processing promoted by each organising team. External experts will be invited as speakers and discussants.

## Visit grants

The Programme will foster researchers' mobility at European level through exchange visit grants. Junior researchers, experienced researchers and senior scholars will have access to such facilities. Visits will be both long (one month) and short (one-two weeks). Each year a call for expression of interest will be published. Funds will be allocated in order to guarantee that, in the medium run, all organising teams will be able to enjoy mobility facilities on an equal foot.

## Summer School

The Programme will organise each year a summer school, under the scientific endorsement of the European Historical Economics Society (EHES). The theme of each summer school will vary and will not be strictly confined to a Priority Area. Speakers will be senior scholars with a recognised expertise and scientific leadership in topics related to the school's theme. Each year a call for participation will be issued, and approximately 30 students will be selected. The main objective of the summer school is to allow PhD students and young researchers to present their research, interact with leading scholars and prepare the ground for their inclusion in the organising teams' activities.

A symbol of  
German recovery  
after WW2



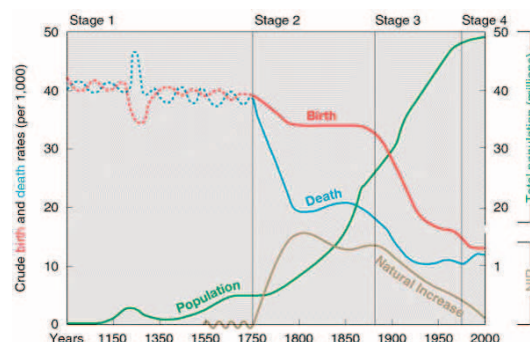
# Opportunities to participate

The demographic  
transition in Britain

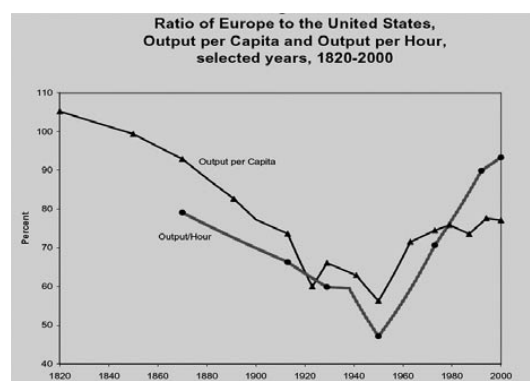
As a rule, participation in the Programme's activities will be limited to researchers from contributing countries. However, outsiders will be invited to participate in workshops, seminars and summer schools on a *ad hoc* basis.

Updated information on the activities promoted by the Programme will be regularly posted on the Programme's website: [www.esf-globaleuronet.org](http://www.esf-globaleuronet.org). More general information can be found on the ESF web page: <http://www.esf.org/globaleuronet>

The Programme's Chair and the Programme Coordinator can be contacted at the following email: [esf-globaleuronet@uc3m.es](mailto:esf-globaleuronet@uc3m.es)



"Chasing the  
American frontier"



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For the latest information on this  
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