European Science Foundation (ESF)

The European Science Foundation (ESF) is an independent, non-governmental organisation, the members of which are 79 national funding agencies, research-performing agencies, academies and learned societies from 30 countries.

The strength of ESF lies in the influential membership and in its ability to bring together the different domains of European science in order to meet the challenges of the future.

Since its establishment in 1974, ESF, which has its headquarters in Strasbourg with offices in Brussels and Ostend, has assembled a host of organisations that span all disciplines of science, to create a common platform for cross-border cooperation in Europe.

ESF is dedicated to promote collaboration in scientific research, funding of research and science policy across Europe. Through its activities and instruments ESF has made major contributions to science in a global context. The ESF covers the following scientific domains: Humanities; Life, Earth and Environmental Sciences; Medical Sciences; Physical and Engineering Sciences; Social Sciences; Marine Sciences; Materials Science; Nuclear Physics; Polar Sciences; Radio Astronomy; Space Sciences.

European Collaborative Research Projects in the Social Sciences (ECRP)

The European Collaborative Research Projects (ECRP) scheme was launched in 2001 to promote investigator-driven, multinational collaborative research in the social sciences in Europe and beyond. The scheme was designed to offer opportunities to test innovative ideas, pool resources and expertise and generally strengthen research capacity in Europe, in line with the objectives of the European Research Area. At the same time, the scheme was intended to provide a stimulus for multilateral cooperation between research councils in developing links between national research programmes, foreshadowing ERA-NETs and Article 169 initiatives. ECRP operates in the responsive mode and its annual Call for Proposals is open to applications in all fields of the social sciences. Researchers may collaborate across participating countries on any subject which demonstrates a need for international cooperation, while the funding remains at a national level.

ECRP has a one-stage application procedure and a two-stage international peer review process coordinated by ESF. Projects are generally supported for three to five years, depending on national rules.

In 2005 ECRP was re-defined as a EUROCORES programme in order to benefit from coordination and networking support under the ESF’s EUROCORES Support Contract with the European Commission (European Commission support contract no. ERASCT-2003-980409). Projects successful in the 2005 competition therefore fell under the umbrella of what was called ECRP I.

Note that the full final reports from all Collaborative Research Projects can be requested from the ESF.

The Standing Committee for the Social Sciences (SCSS)

The social sciences study the possibilities and constraints that surround human activity. They examine and interpret human beings on different levels, from the neural foundations of individual behaviour to group processes and the functioning of entire societies. Consequently, the social sciences employ a wide variety of methods to ensure scientific rigour and the production of reliable knowledge.

The Standing Committee for the Social Sciences (SCSS) funds and develops a wide range of initiatives in the fields of psychology and the cognitive sciences, pedagogic and education research, social anthropology, sociology, gender studies, economics, business and administrative sciences, geography, demography, environmental sciences, law, political sciences, communication sciences, international relations, social statistics and informatics.
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Foreword

The formal conclusion of the ECRP I programme, which began its research phase in 2006 and culminated in mid-2009, gave the occasion to reflect on what had been accomplished by the research teams.

More than 40 Principal and Associate Investigators, as well as many more junior project members, were involved in the eight Collaborative Research Projects (CRPs) which were funded in the framework of ECRP I. All eight multinational research projects were explicitly designed to take advantage of diversity within and between the various participating countries in order to explore issues and problems of concern to Europe and the wider world. The projects spanned a range of topics in the social sciences in which it is of vital importance to conduct comparative research – migration, integration, labour market, human trafficking, quality in education, eye movements in reading, decision making and social networks – and encompassed a wide array of associated disciplines.

Taking stock of the activities and achievements of the eight Collaborative Research Projects over three years, it is evident that the scheme has allowed researchers across Europe to address topical and widely relevant research questions in a concerted way, as well as to make some pioneering and highly impressive original scientific contributions to the respective fields.

The CRPs demonstrated the added value of the collaborative research framework, establishing and extending international networks and producing joint outputs that exceeded the capacities of national approaches, such as multi-lingual corpora, datasets, software packages and refined comparative methodologies, which were developed and utilised in the projects themselves but can now also be accessed and used by the wider scientific community. Most of the CRP teams disseminated their findings actively and widely, through publications and participation in conferences. Clear evidence of the multinational and multidisciplinary collaboration in many of the CRPs are the cross-national co-publications which have issued from the comparative work. The outreach activity of some of the research teams was also highly laudable in terms of engaging policy makers, local authorities, stakeholders and the general public.

Overall the researchers in ECRP I made good use of the opportunities offered by the programme in terms of collaborative activity and scientific output with the resources at their disposal. Indeed, as several of the projects had not yet concluded at the time of evaluation, the full impact and range of outputs may not be visible for some time after the formal close of the programme.

In sum, the ECRP I programme facilitated fruitful and genuinely bottom-up multinational collaborative research on topical issues and questions put forward by the social science research community. On the whole, the eight diverse ECRP I projects all made valuable contributions to science in Europe and in some cases the projects have already had a tangible and practical impact on people’s lives, for example in tackling the problems of people trafficked for forced labour. Many of the project teams have ideas and plans for post-ECRP follow-up initiatives which would further increase the impact of the research. It is hoped that the ECRP I investigators will find resources to realise the longer-term potential of these projects.

Professor Sir Roderick Floud
Chair, ESF Standing Committee for the Social Sciences
1. Overview of ECRP I

Overview of ECRP I Projects

- **05-ECRP-FP006: Eye-Movement Control in Reading: Basic and Applied Issues of Fixation and Saccade Generation**
  Project Leader: Professor Reinhold Kliegl, University of Potsdam, Germany

- **05-ECRP-FP009: The Integration of the European Second generation (TIES): A Research Project in Fifteen Cities in Eight Countries**
  Project Leader: Dr Maurice Crul, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

- **05-ECRP-FP018: Trafficking for Forced Labour in Industries other than the Sex Industry across Europe**
  Project Leader: Professor Christien Van den Anker, University of the West of England, United Kingdom

- **05-ECRP-FP021: Fabricating Quality in European Education (FAB-Q)**
  Project Leader: Professor Jenny Ozga, University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom

- **05-ECRP-FP025: Decision-Making: ’Exploiting’ Bounded Rationality**
  Project Leader: Professor Robin M. Hogarth, Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, Spain

- **05-ECRP-FP026: Dynamics of Actors and Networks across Levels: Individuals, Groups, Organisations and Social Settings**
  Project Leader: Professor Tom Snijders, University of Groningen, The Netherlands

- **05-ECRP-FP037: New Migration Dynamics: Regular and Irregular Work on the European Labour Market**
  Project Leader: Ms Swanie Potot, Université de Nice Sophia-Antipolis, France

- **05-ECRP-FP041: Migration and Networks of Care in Europe: A Comparative European Research Project**
  Project Leader: Dr Linda Connolly, University College Cork, Ireland

Fact and figures

- The ECRP I Call for Proposals was made in early 2005, with results announced in January 2006.
- 8 Collaborative Research Projects were funded.
- 31 Principal Investigators were supported across 16 countries.
- 12 Associated Partners were involved.
- In sum, more than 170 researchers in 20 countries collaborated on the projects.
2. Highlights of the Collaborative Research Projects

05-ECRP-FP006:  
Eye-Movement Control in Reading:  
Basic and Applied Issues of Fixation and Saccade Generation

Funding organisations: DFG, ESRC, FWF  
Project ran: 01/05/2006–31/12/2009

Reading is a central cultural skill, enabling the pursuit of goals ranging from education to social participation. At the behavioural level, reading comprises alternations of eye fixations and quick eye movements modulated by visual, language-related and oculomotor dynamics that can be simulated by computer programmes. This project conducted research into new, complex reading dynamics with a programme based on the collection of new reading data to isolate language-dependent and language-independent effects and collaborative experiments.

Project Leader  
• Professor Reinhold Kliegl, University of Potsdam, Germany

Principal Investigators  
• Professor Alan Kennedy, University of Dundee, United Kingdom  
• Dr Richard Charles Shillcock (Co-PI), University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom  
• Dr Heinz Wimmer, Universität Salzburg, Austria

Associated Partners  
• Dr Victor Kuperman, Stanford University, United States  
• Dr Petar Milin, University of Novi Sad, Serbia  
• Professor Ronan Reilly, NUI Maynooth, Ireland  
• Professor Grzegorz Sedek, Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities and Institute of Psychology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland  
• Professor Hua Shu, Beijing Normal University, China  
• Professor Shravan Vasishth, University of Potsdam, Germany  
• Dr Françoise Vitu-Thibault, University of Provence, France

Website: http://readingineurope.org

Project highlights
In this project, word-based corpora and eye-movement statistics were collected for three different languages with a common protocol and large samples of participants, yielding a public cross-language benchmark set of reading data. Fifteen corpora will eventually be delivered, due to the additional contribution of Associated Projects. For example, the Edinburgh group developed a computational infrastructure for the analysis of over 2.5M data points concerning eye movements in reading from five different languages. The Potsdam group assembled a corpus with eye movements during oral reading and ‘reading along’, collected another corpus with reading of paragraphs and cooperated in the construction of a Chinese corpus. These corpora will be available on a public website (http://readingineurope.org) along with articles and R scripts.

The corpora were then used to research the influence of visual, language-related and oculomotor processes on fixation durations and probabilities within a coherent framework of hierarchical models (e.g., multivariate random-coefficient models). CRP members have been successful in employing state-of-the-art linear mixed models for statistical inferences about effects in experimental work and in corpus analyses of eye movements in reading.

The Edinburgh group has implemented a computational model of binocular foveation in reading and has also advanced our understanding of the philosophical underpinnings for the computational modelling of eye movements in reading. The Potsdam group has expanded the SWIFT model with dynamical modulation of perceptual span by foveal processing difficulty and has applied the new model to account for individual differences in perceptual span, but the model has not been extended yet to oral reading. Although there has been no cross-language evaluation of competing models, this work will be carried on in other projects.

This research project set new standards in theoretical, data-analytic, computational-modelling and practical/diagnostic issues relating to eye-movement control in reading. Specifically, it will lead to a better understanding of the relative importance of the visual, language and oculomotor processes as well as of individual differences for one of the most complex, culturally acquired human cognitive skills, reading.

Selected outputs
Project highlights

The project has created a unique new dataset on the native-born children of immigrants from three major ‘guest-worker’ destinations in 15 cities in eight countries in Europe. The contribution of this dataset to the field is innovative mainly in four aspects: (a) groups with a very similar starting position (e.g., in terms of educational and rural/urban background of the parents) can be compared across countries and cities to an unprecedented level; (b) the second generation can be singled out from among the total age-group of young adults and independently of nationality; (c) it retraces the educational and labour market trajectories of the respondents and can therefore assess the systemic and institutional effects on the respondents’ performance in these domains can be assessed. The results so far strongly confirm the original hypothesis that in particular the educational trajectories differ greatly across countries (or even cities), despite similar starting positions.

For example, the second generation in a particular country might perform well in education but worse on the labour market; conversely, the second generation might identify strongly with their country of residence but perform poorly in education. Overall, the findings confirmed that no single integration model in any of the countries under study had a positive effect on all the relevant domains of life.
The project’s central message is of the significance of school system characteristics and institutional arrangements in the field of education for the integration of the second generation. Variations in the structure of national education systems and in policy and practice, shape the pathways that children of immigrants take into the labour market, higher education and their lives as citizens.

Internationally, TIES results have been formulated into policy briefs being used by foundations and important policy groups. Academically, the project has led to strongly intensified contacts with similar projects especially in the USA. The project’s research design (including its questionnaire) has already been adopted by colleagues in Australia and Estonia. The project also successfully applied for and established a Marie Curie Research and Training Network, involving two additional post-docs and twelve PhD students in the project.

Selected outputs

1. The TIES Academic Conference with North American, European and Australian scholars in the field (December 2008, Amsterdam: see http://www.tiesproject.eu/content/view/252/1/).
2. The TIES Stakeholders Conference with official representatives and local NGOs from the cities that participated in the survey (May 2009, Amsterdam: see http://www.tiesproject.eu/content/view/256/1/).
3. The seven country reports due to be published separately by Amsterdam University Press (IMISCOE research series) in the course of 2010. The Dutch report was already released in 2008.
4. The publication of the international comparative results in several thematic chapters in two volumes. The first volume will also be published by AUP in 2010; the second one is awaiting approval by a US publisher.
5. Local and national policy workshops in the Netherlands, France and Germany. Additional workshops will be held in Switzerland.

05-ECRP-FP018: Trafficking for Forced Labour in Industries other than the Sex Industry across Europe

Funding organisations: FAS, FWO, GAČR, IRCHSS, PAN
Project ran: 01/01/06 – 01/12/09

This project followed on from research in the UK, Czech Republic, Portugal and Ireland supported by Anti-Slavery International (London), the Centre for the Study of Global Ethics (CSGE, University of Birmingham) and local partner NGOs, which focused specifically on persons trafficked for forced labour, services, slavery or practices similar to slavery and their access to justice in EU countries.

The project addressed the fact that so far the identification, assistance and protection strategies for trafficked persons are designed almost exclusively to address the needs of women and girls trafficked into the sex industry. The research should improve understanding of the issue of trafficking for labour exploitation and ensure that the subject is mainstreamed in EU discourse and policy making.

Project Leader
• Dr Christien van den Anker, University of the West of England, United Kingdom [funded independently]

Principal Investigators
• Professor Martin S. Ronald Commers, Ghent University, Belgium
• Dr Pawel Dabrowski, University of Warsaw, Poland
• Dr Dusan Drbohlav, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic
• Dr Shahram Khosravi, Stockholm University, Sweden
• Dr Gillian Wylie, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland

Website: http://www.natur.cuni.cz/ksgrrsek/eurocore/

Project highlights

Through its work with different groups of migrants in the contributing countries, the project team identified the existence of a continuum of migrant labour exploitation along which people who experience trafficking according to the Palermo Protocol (to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children) are identified as more or less “deserving”. Nevertheless, even clear trafficking cases are either not identified by frontline staff or not pursued according to international and national law. Many migrants experiencing human rights violations, including exploitation and
other violations of labour rights, do not fall neatly into the category of trafficking victim and therefore find it nearly impossible to access their human rights. For example, it often cannot be proved that people engaged in the transport of workers have the intention to exploit their labour; in other cases, the various people arranging for the recruitment, transport and labour exploitation of workers are not linked. There are also cases in which undocumented migrants end up in labour exploitation independently of their mode of travel into the country.

The research confirmed that training efforts need to go further as the relevant law enforcement agencies and social services do not yet act coherently and in accordance with international law obligations. The research findings in relation to human rights violations of trafficked persons were shared widely with academic and non-academic audiences, particularly with stakeholder groups, local authorities, law enforcement, policy makers and in public fora. The project has reached policy makers in the cities and countries of the project partners as well as at international conferences such as Metropolis and IMISCOE (International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion in Europe). Moreover, the project has had an impact through public events at a series of workshops. Results will be published in a Special Section of the Journal of International Political Theory in May 2010 and a series of articles in the Journal of Ethnicity and Migration Studies in 2010.

Selected outputs

Books
4. A. Verlinden, C. Nanu and M. Szulecka (eds). Trafficking for forced labour and global justice (contract to be confirmed)

Articles

05-ECRP-FP021: Fabricating Quality in European Education

Funding organisations: AKA, ESRC, FSE
Project ran: 01/05/2006 – 30/05/2009

Quality assurance and evaluation (QAE) is increasingly important nationally and transnationally in education. It may steer policy and practice at all levels and in all sectors of education in national systems and may be understood as a form of governance of education. This project aimed to identify and analyse, through a variety of theoretical approaches, the ways in which education is controlled, managed and governed through QAE processes (especially data production and circulation). The project contributed to the development of comparative methodologies sensitive to the influence of transnational pressures for QAE on national systems, while also recognising the importance of context in shaping responses to these pressures.

Project Leader
• Professor Jenny Ozga, Centre for Educational Sociology, University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Principal Investigators
• Professor Peter Dahler-Larsen, University of Southern Denmark, Denmark
• Professor Hannu Simola, University of Helsinki, Finland

Associate Partner
• Dr Christina Segerholm, Mid-Sweden University (formerly Umeå University), Sweden

Website: www.ces.ed.ac.uk/research/FabQ/index.htm
2. Highlights of the Collaborative Research Projects

Project highlights
The team carried out detailed individual multi-level studies with a common design which identified significant pressures for convergence and policy learning (and teaching) as a result of national promotion of QAE and the efforts of the major international organisations (including the European Commission) to shape Europe through education, in particular through their work on education data collection and comparison. The project’s data collection developed from interviews with key policy actors in the European Commission and OECD. Developments were then tracked through all levels in national systems, from interviews with policy makers to case studies of local education government and, in some cases, school level enquiry. Finally, a major comparative survey of the effects of data production and use on the work of teachers and head teachers was carried out. This cross-national survey on the intended and unintended consequences of QAE on teachers’ work showed that in some countries the reliance on data in education policy making may be squeezing out local expertise and also that teachers are more in favour of self-evaluation and more critical of top-down regulation in all the countries under study. There has been a degree of policy shift during the research, towards less demanding, more ‘intelligent’ accountability which has moderated some of the more extreme manifestations of QAE systems in some of the countries in the study.

This project will have a major impact on comparative education, through its focus on Europeanisation, data and governance. ‘Europe’ has been rather absent from the field of education research while education, conversely, has been neglected by Europeanisation studies. This work contributes to the growing interest in the area as reflected in the recent work of Dale and Robertson (2009). The team anticipates that its approach to data and governance will offer parallels to and connections with the critical discourse analysis of education in Europe offered by Jessop, Fairclough and Wodak (2008). It is thus anticipated that the research will have an impact on comparative methodology, on the governance of education and on the role of data as a policy technology.

The project’s results are presented in the collaborative book publication to be produced by Routledge in early 2010.

Selected outputs
Because people lack the ‘computational power’ needed to take decisions in a fully rational manner, it is important to understand how and how well simple decision rules that people can use fare both in different kinds of environments and for different types of tasks. An additional and often critical, consideration is to find ways of helping people make decisions in complex tasks.

The methodology involves simulations, theoretical statistical analyses and experiments with human participants. In all cases, it considers in detail how abstract or behavioural rules lead to functional or dysfunctional outcomes in different environments. This approach, therefore, leads to the development of ‘environmental’ theories of decision behaviour.

Project Leader
• Professor Robin M. Hogarth, Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, Spain

Principal Investigators
• Professor Philippe Delquié, INSEAD, France
• Professor Ulrich Hoffrage, Université de Lausanne, Switzerland
• Professor Martin Weber, Universität Mannheim, Germany

Project highlights
This project sought to increase understanding of models of ‘bounded rationality’ in decision making (as opposed to optimal economic models of rational choice). This was done through theoretical analyses (mathematical models), simulations and laboratory and field experiments involving human participants.

As the overall grant awarded was considerably less than initially requested, the project team scaled back its collaborative ambitions with reference to the original proposal. Although the European added value was therefore less than originally envisaged, the team made good use of the resources available.

The team’s work is exemplified by the publications listed below. For example, the researchers used statistical tools to model how the performance of heuristic rules varies as a function of environmental characteristics. The results emphasise that judgmental accuracy depends on matching characteristics of rules and environments and highlight the trade-off between using linear models and heuristics.

In work on rational inattention, the researchers develop the theory that ignoring relevant information is sometimes consistent with good decision making. Rational ignoring requires no decision costs, cognitive constraints or other forms of bounded rationality. This implies that simple decision rules relying on small subsets of the available information can, depending on the environment in which they are used, achieve high payoffs. Ignoring information can therefore be rationalised only as a consequence of the shape of the stochastic payoff distribution.

Selected outputs
05-ECRP-FP026: Dynamics of Actors and Networks across Levels: Individuals, Groups, Organisations and Social Settings

Funding organisations: CNRS, DFG, MICINN, NWO, SNF, VR
Project ran: 01/09/2006 – 31/08/2010

Social networks are increasingly recognised as important explanations for the behaviour and well-being of individuals but also for the performance of organisations. Simultaneously, social actors choose their relationships on the basis of behaviour patterns and network positions of actual and potential interaction partners. Enhanced understanding of these phenomena requires the empirical study of the mutual influence between the social actor and the social network; in addition, the multiplicity of social subgroups and the diversity of organisations and social settings provide further levels that need to be taken into consideration. This project brought together various disciplines with the purpose of elaborating and implementing this new methodology.

Project Leader
• Professor Tom Snijders, University of Groningen, The Netherlands

Principal Investigators
• Professor Ulrik Brandes, University of Konstanz, Germany
• Professor Emmanuel Lazega, Université Paris IX-Dauphine, France
• Professor Alessandro Lomi, University of Italian Switzerland, Lugano, Switzerland
• Professor José Luis Molina, Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona, Spain
• Professor Hakan Stattin, Örebro University, Sweden

Website: http://stat.gamma.rug.nl/ECRP-DANL/

Project highlights
The common research topic of the CRP was the understanding of how a social network in a group of social actors evolves over time, how it affects and is affected by individual properties of these actors. The focus was on the statistical approach of modelling data sets on evolving networks as resulting from the actors’ decisions over time (actor-based modelling). The four main achievements of the CRP are described below:

(1) The application of this method used to be confined to intra-organisational sociology, sociology of health and developmental psychology; this was broadened to other levels of analysis, such as the interorganisational and inter-state level (e.g., on electricity trade networks) and deepened by making use of new and bigger data sets (e.g., on advice among lay judges at the commercial court of Paris, on personal networks of immigrants in Spain and on friendship among all adolescents in a small city in Sweden).

(2) The data type that could be analysed with the method initially was a single binary network evolving over time. During the project, this was extended to discrete valued networks (i.e., intensity scales of social relations), multiplex networks (i.e., several network dimensions on the same set of actors, such as advice-seeking and friendship co-evolving in parallel) and bipartite networks (i.e., affiliation patterns, such as students expressing an interest in a future employer). The necessary model extensions were implemented in the SIENA software.

(3) In the Konstanz subproject, the network visualisation tools of the visone software were enriched to allow for the dynamic visualisation of changing networks over time. In addition, several methods were developed to visualise the goodness of fit of the statistical models central to the CRP. With the help of these tools it is easier to detect outliers in the data. This will be a powerful tool for model selection, i.e., finding the best models for given data sets.

(4) Workshops on the use of the SIENA software have been taught in various places, including at CRP-internal workshops, but also at invited workshops at Harvard University and the Universities of Bologna, Kansas, Kentucky and Oxford. We view the increasing popularity and demand for these workshops over the last years as a sign that our methods are well on their way to becoming a standard for the statistical analysis of empirical data on dynamic social networks.

This project has contributed to the establishment of our methods as a broadly accepted method for the analysis of dynamic networks. The facilitation of data analysis and hypothesis testing which our methods make possible could pave the way for obtaining reliable research results in areas from public health (impact of peers on substance use, spread of disease through networks) to finance (investment patterns of venture capital funds and hedge funds).

Together with John Light (Oregon Research Institute), Tom Snijders won a grant from NIH to transfer the statistical software to new platforms, which has resulted in the transformation of the SIENA programme to the R statistical programming environment, available on a variety of computing platforms. Since April 2009 this new software is publicly available. The new features developed in the CRP will be successively added to this software in the near future.
Selected outputs

Two special issues of journals appeared which were in large part devoted to results from the CRP and which also contained other publications using SIENA: Issue 49.3 of the Revue Française de Sociologie (2008) and issue 32.1 of Social Networks (2010).


Representations of friendships in a school class in Glasgow. Circles are girls, squares are boys; an arrow from one person to another means that the first person mentioned the second as a friend. Colours indicate smoking and drinking behaviour: the bottom colour of the picture indicates smoking, the top, drinking; an orange colour indicates high smoking/drinking, blue indicates a low level. Moreover, the size of the square or circle is proportional to the amount of pocket money each child receives. The data represented by these networks are used to study how friends influence one another in smoking and drinking habits; and how adolescents choose friends based on their own and each other’s smoking and drinking habits. (Picture by Kris Boitmanis, University of Konstanz.)
05-ECRP-FP037: New Migration Dynamics: Regular and Irregular Work on the European Labour Market

Funding organisations: CNRS, MICINN, PAN
Project ran: 01/07/2006 – 31/07/2008

This project dealt with working migrations and gender issues in three economic sectors – agriculture, domestic services and prostitution – in which foreigners and among them, women, are over-represented. The study analysed the contradictory demands in relation to immigration in the EU: on one hand, the political will to reduce extra-EU migration and, on the other, actual economic practice in sectors where low paid jobs make it possible to maintain, in Western countries, an economic activity which would not otherwise survive.

The research addressed both social and economic implications in the areas concerned in industrialised countries and the impact of these types of jobs and mobility on migrants’ careers.

Project Leader
• Ms Swanie Potot, Université de Nice Sophia-Antipolis, France

Principal Investigators
• Professor Marek Okolski, Warsaw University, Poland
• Professor Dolores Redondo Toronjo, Universidad de Huelva, Spain

Associate Partners
• Dr Maurizio Ambrosini, University of Genoa, Italy
• Ms Emanuela Abbatecola, University of Genoa, Italy
• Professor Andrea Rea, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium
• Dr Ralitza Soultanova, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium

Website: http://www.unice.fr/urmis/spip.php?article204

Project highlights

Whether from countries new to the EU or from countries on its outskirts, migrants are facing a number of constraints and circumstances – legislative, social, economic or political – that are new in several aspects. Host countries, confronted with the problem of managing the insecure non-national labour force, talk about temporary migration or seasonal work and in practice tolerate illegal workers in certain sectors in order to contain and suppress the issue.

Through numerous and diverse case studies and a range of approaches and disciplines, the researchers found that these new contexts have given rise to innovative practices on the part of the migrants, who appear to have greater ease today in maintaining their mobility. Anchoring themselves in diverse socio-economic spaces, they take advantage of numerous, often precarious opportunities in increasingly larger territorial spaces, putting their places of origin into relation with the places where they stop, often temporarily, to work. Investigating the most equivocal situations of migrant work – those which combine difficult work, relative opacity in terms of the law and great precariousness of employment (prostitution, agriculture, domestic work, construction, etc.) – it became apparent that the most advanced forms of work deregulation are being established and tested in these labour market gaps before being widened to other sectors. The research hence explained the associations
between foreign/national workers, as well as the ties between legal/illegal, formal/informal. The results will be published in a collective book in 2010 (see below).

The project grant helped create a network of researchers working on the topic of migration and precarious work throughout Europe. As foreseen, the project leaders also offered their methodological perspectives and results to other European researchers by organising an open international conference on the topic. Held in Nice from 6-8 December 2007, this conference brought together over 40 researchers from 14 different countries and 28 universities or research centres, chiefly in Europe, as well as a further 50 observers, including social workers, students, journalists and teachers.

Selected outputs

05-ECRP-FP041:
Migration and Networks of Care in Europe: A Comparative European Research Project
Funding organisations: DFG, ESRC, NWO
Project ran: 01/10/2006 – 14/12/2009

The central aims of this project were to: document and evaluate the contribution that female migrant carers/domestic workers in private households are making to the household economy, the child care sector and to the care of older, frail and disabled people in Europe; identify why caring and domestic work in private households remains one of the most undocumented, unregulated and invisible forms of paid work in the European economy; develop strategies to regularise this employment, using relevant means of action, such as regulatory measures, incentives and tax and benefit reform; highlight the range of violations of rights of domestic migrant workers that occur in Europe, such as absence of written contracts, no pay when employer goes on holiday and no social benefits; identify and address the specific obstacles to social integration experienced by migrant women employed in care/domestic work and make policy recommendations; and provide comparative and theoretical analysis of the ways in which migration regimes, care policy regimes and care cultures interlock in the countries under study.

Project Leader
• Dr Linda Connolly, University College Cork, Ireland [independently funded]

Principal Investigators
• Professor Helma Lutz, University of Münster, Germany
• Professor Thomas Spijkerboer (Co-PI), Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands
• Dr Sarah Katherine van Walsum, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands
• Professor J. Fiona Williams, University of Leeds, United Kingdom

Project highlights
The research team has produced a major body of integrated, comparative and interdisciplinary research and strategy recommendations in the area of migration, gender equality and the provision of care, from a transnational perspective. In terms of policy, the research is centrally related to current debates in the EU concerning: (1) the pressing need for care workers and services (in the arena of childcare and the care of older, disabled and frail people); (2) current migration trends/the prob-
lem of undocumented migrants and informal work; (3) the demographics of ageing; and (4) progress in gender equality.

The understanding of the development of the relationship between welfare states, care policies and migration has been advanced in this project by (i) investigating the relationship between migration regimes, employment regimes and care regimes in cross-national comparison; and (ii) setting out the key elements of a transnational political economy of care.

A detailed comparative and theoretical analysis of the ways in which migration regimes, care policy regimes and care cultures interlock in all of the countries under study, as well as in Spain and Sweden, was undertaken by the UK project. The study showed, for example, that progressive care policies introduced in many European countries in the rather predominant frame of a social investment logic (employability, labour market participation, increasing the birth rate) increases the demand for care, which is then largely met by (migrant) women in a low-paid and precarious service sector. The provision of cash allowances, tax credits, etc. turns individuals into consumers of commodified private care in relatively unregulated markets and may lead to the reproduction of gender and class inequalities in work and care.

The non-academic impact of the project includes a local campaign in the Netherlands for the regularisation of the status of migrant domestic workers with involvement of academics and professionals. The empirical research will continue, involving interviews with employers of domestic workers in the Netherlands and fieldwork in the Philippines.

The findings of the project were presented at a public final conference in Cork on 14-15 December 2009. Invited speakers included experts in the field as well as representatives from the Irish Migrant Rights Centre, the trade unions, the office of the Junior Minister for Integration, community activists and migrant domestic workers groups.

Additional planned publications and policy outcomes based on the research in the Netherlands include a yearly overview of the decisions reached by the Dutch Commission on Equal Opportunities regarding race and nationality (co-authored) and a Dutch translation of ‘Déni de statut’ to be submitted for publication in a Dutch legal journal.

Selected outputs
3. ECRP I Networking and Dissemination Activities

Networking events supported through European Commission contract ERASCT-2003-980409

ESF-initiated migration-based workshop, 29-30 November 2007, Brussels

CRPs involved:
- 05-ECRP-FP009: The Integration of the European Second Generation (TIES);
- 05-ECRP-FP018: Trafficking for Forced Labour in Industries other than the Sex Industry across Europe;
- 05-ECRP-FP037: New Migration Dynamics: Regular and Irregular Work on the European Labour Market;
- 05-ECRP-FP041: Migration and Networks of Care in Europe: A Comparative European Research Project.

TIES Academic Conference, 11-13 December 2008, Amsterdam

Organiser:
- Dr Maurice Crul, University of Amsterdam.

CRPs involved:
- 05-ECRP-FP009: The Integration of the European Second Generation (TIES).

International Workshop: Transnational Domestic Workers and the National Welfare State, 4-6 December 2008, Amsterdam

Organisers:
- Professor Linda Connolly, University College Cork;
- Dr Sarah van Walsum, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.

CRPs involved:
- 05-ECRP-FP018: Trafficking for Forced Labour in Industries other than the Sex Industry across Europe;
- 05-ECRP-FP037: New Migration Dynamics: Regular and Irregular Work on the European Labour Market;
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- 05-ECRP-FP037: New Migration Dynamics: Regular and Irregular Work on the European Labour Market;
- 05-ECRP-FP041: Migration and Networks of Care in Europe: A Comparative European Research Project.

Workshop: Human Rights and Migration: the context for trafficking for forced labour, 10-12 December 2008, Bristol

Organiser:
- Dr Christien Van den Anker, University of the West of England.

CRPs involved:
- 05-ECRP-FP018: Trafficking for Forced Labour in Industries other than the Sex Industry across Europe;
- 05-ECRP-FP041: Migration and Networks of Care in Europe: A Comparative European Research Project.

Note that details of dissemination and capacity-building activities supported by the participating funding organisations in 2009 are available on request from the ESF.
4. ECRP Governing Bodies and Administration

4.1 ECRP funding organisations

**Austria:** Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung in Österreich (FWF) – Austrian Science Fund
www.fwf.ac.at

**Belgium:** Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek – Vlaanderen (FWO) – Research Foundation Flanders
www.fwo.be

**Cyprus:** Ιδρυμα Προώθησης Έρευνας (RPF) – Cyprus Research Promotion Foundation
www.research.org.cy

**Czech Republic:** Grantová agentura Ceské republiky (GAČR) – Czech Science Foundation
www.gacr.cz

**Denmark:** Det Fri Forskningsråd – Samfund og Erhverv (FSE) – The Danish Council for Independent Research – Social Sciences
Secretariat by Forsknings- og Innovationstyrelsen (FI) – Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation
www.fi.dk

**Finland:** Suomen Akatemia/Finlands Akademi (AKA) – Academy of Finland
www.aka.fi

**France:** Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) – National Centre for Scientific Research
www.cnrs.fr

**Germany:** Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) – German Research Foundation
www.dfg.de

**Iceland:** RANNIS – Icelandic Centre for Research
www.rannis.is

**Ireland:** An Comhairle um Thaithde Sna Dána agus Sna hÉolaíochtaí Sóisialta – Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS)
www.irchss.ie

**Luxembourg:** Fonds National de la Recherche Luxembourg
www.fnr.lu

**The Netherlands:** Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (NWO) – Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research
www.nwo.nl

**Norway:** Norges Forskningsråd – Research Council of Norway
www.forskningsradet.no

**Poland:** Polska Akademia Nauk (PAN) – Polish Academy of Sciences (ESF member organisation)
Ministry of Science and Higher Education (funding organisation)
www.pan.pl

**Spain:** Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación (MICINN) – Ministry of Science and Innovation
www.micinn.es

**Sweden:** Forskningsrådet för Arbetsliv och Socialvetenskap (FAS) – Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research
www.fas.forskning.se
4.2 Scientific Committee

Professor Linda Connolly
University College Cork, Ireland

Dr Maurice Crul
University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Professor Robin M. Hogarth
Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, Spain

Professor Reinhold Kiegl
University of Potsdam, Germany

Professor Jenny Ozga
University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Ms Swanie Potot
Université de Nice Sophia-Antipolis, France

Professor Tom Snijders
University of Oxford, UK and University of Groningen, The Netherlands

Dr Christien Van den Anker
University of the West of England, United Kingdom

4.3 ECRP I
Final Evaluation Review Panel

From the ESF’s Standing Committee for the Social Sciences (SCSS):

Professor Sir Roderick Floud
Chair

Mr Glyn Davies
ESRC, United Kingdom

Professor Peter Hooijmeier
Utrecht University, The Netherlands

Professor Anne Kovalainen
University of Turku, Finland

Professor Bogdan Mach
Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland

Professor Pasqualina Perrig-Chiello
University of Bern, Switzerland

Professor Manfred Prenzel
Technical University of Munich, Germany

4.4 ESF coordination

Coordination:
Ms Reija Tuomaala (2005)
Dr Frank Kuhn (2006-2008)
Ms Sarah Moore (2009)

Administration:
Ms Isabelle Vonesch (2005)
Ms Caroline Eckert (2006-2009)