

EuroCORECODE – European Comparisons in Regional Cohesion, Dynamics and Expressions

When comparing the historical developments of regions across Europe, it is striking how many unexpected similarities and differences can be found in the complex ways in which societies in the past were created and behaved. During recent decades, monodisciplinary research in this field has grown enormously in depth and quality. This now calls for a new approach that aims at a comparative and interdisciplinary analysis of historical developments (from their very origins throughout historical times) and of the constituent elements of regional cohesion, such as dialect and language, religion, historical geography, ethnogenesis, invented tradition and material culture.

The EUROCORES programme European Comparisons in Regional Cohesion, Dynamics and Expressions (EuroCORECODE) offers the opportunity to build such a three-dimensional analytical framework enabling comparisons across both time and space, as well as comparisons of results from different disciplines.

By exploring in this way the functional dynamics of different aspects of regional development and its modern perspectives, the EuroCORECODE programme aims to create a better understanding of the ways in which regional cohesion developed in the *longue durée* within a changing European context.

EuroCORECODE brings together **18 research projects** from **13 different countries** across Europe.

Running time: 2010–2013

Research budget:
ca. 2.5 million Euros

List of Collaborative Research Projects (CRPs)

Symbols that Bind and Break Communities: Saints' Cults as stimuli and expressions of local, regional, national and universalist identities (CULTICSYMBOLS)

(Funded by: ETF, FKK, FWF, RCN)

The CULTICSYMBOLS project studies how rituals and symbols provide social cohesion, asserting that a key to understanding the development of regional identities lies in the tension between formulated regional traditions and transregional impulses influenced by authoritative concerns at different levels.

The project focuses on a range of different European regions using the cults of medieval saints and their modern appropriations as a vehicle for studying changing cultural and social values. Each of the five subprojects investigates specific materials pertaining to various media and discourses, each with its own methodological framework. Interactions between centre and periphery, between medieval Latin culture and regional interests, political and cultural agendas and their reflections in different media (images, music, literature) are of primary interest to the project. The combination of synchronic and diachronic aspects as well as an intrinsically interdisciplinary approach explicitly addressing socio-political functions of the arts emphasise its actuality as well as its historical foundation.

Further information:

www.teol.ku.dk/english/dept/cskmr/

Project Leader:

Dr Nils Holger Petersen

University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Principal Investigators:

Dr Roman Hankeln

Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway

Professor Gerhard Jaritz

Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria

Dr Anu Mänd

Tallinn University, Estonia

Associated Partner:

Professor Gábor Klaniczay

Central European University, Hungary

Cuius Regio. An Analysis of the Cohesive and Disruptive Forces Destining the Attachment of Groups of Persons to and the Cohesion within Regions as a Historical Phenomenon (CURE)

(Funded by: CNCSIS, ETF, FCT, FKK, GAČR, MNiSW [tbc], NWO)

This project aims at a synthesising analysis of a group of regions, representing a morphological, typological and historical variety of territorial entities, which will allow a comparison of the cohesive and disruptive dynamics of regions over a period of about seven centuries.

The approach is historical while the methodologies and topics are derived from, and touch upon, different disciplines. By questioning the regions with the same set of 'key-elements' and by concentrating the comparison through a combination of 'benchmark-moments' and 'formative periods', understanding will be gained of the relative importance of the factors involved in regional cohesion and identification processes.

The ambition is to combine thorough historical research with theoretical insights about regional formation processes. It will build upon existing regional studies, apply a common methodological framework and add fundamental analysis of (unedited) primary sources to lead to a better understanding of regional cohesion and dynamics.

Further information:
www.cuiusregio.eu/

Project Leader:

Professor Dick de Boer

University of Groningen, The Netherlands

Principal Investigators:

Professor Lenka Bobkova

Universitas Carolina/Charles University, Czech Republic

Professor Luís Adão da Fonseca

Universidade Lusíada do Porto, Portugal

Dr Anu Mänd

Tallinn University, Estonia

Dr Cosmin Popa-Gorjanu

"1st December 1918" University Alba Iulia, Romania

Professor Kurt Villads Jensen

University of Southern Denmark, Denmark

Professor Roscislaw Zerelik [tbc]

University of Wrocław, Poland

Associated Partner:

Professor Flocel Sabate I Curull

University of Lleida, Spain

Unfamiliarity as Signs of European Times: scrutinising historical representations of otherness and contemporary daily practices in border regions (Unfamiliarity)

(Funded by: AKA, FKK, FWO, NWO)

The Unfamiliarity project aims to unravel how mental barriers for mobility are constructed and deconstructed in the minds of EU inhabitants, how historical commonalities and fractures have an impact on their representations of

borders and 'otherness' and what influence political plans and media campaigns may have in changing representations and creating cohesive cross-border regions. The project aims to find out what cross-border unfamiliarity means, how its experience changed during the course of time, how this experience still influences contemporary cross-border behaviour and why, by uncovering historical explanations, experiences have changed and behaviour is influenced.

The project will focus on an analysis of daily life practices of inhabitants in different 'old' and 'new' inner, as well as 'new' outer, cross-border regions across the EU. Their daily life is seen as expressing representations of cross-border unfamiliarity and (re)producing mental borders – generating either international mobility or immobility. Such a focus will also open insights to promote more international interaction and regional cohesion.

Further information:
www.unfamiliarity.eu

Project Leaders:

Dr Bas Spierings

Utrecht University, The Netherlands

Dr Martin van der Velde

Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands

Principal Investigators:

Dr Martin Klatt

University of Southern Denmark, Denmark

Professor Peter Scholliers

Vrije Universiteit Brussels, Belgium

Professor James Scott

University of Joensuu, Finland

Associated Partners:

Professor Alberto Gasparini

University of Trieste, Italy

Professor Jolanta Jakóbczyk-Gryszkiewicz

University of Łódź, Poland

The European Collaborative Research (EUROCORES) Scheme enables researchers in different European countries to develop collaboration and scientific synergy in areas where international scale and scope are required for top class science in a global context.

The scheme provides a flexible framework for national basic research funding and performing organisations to join forces in supporting forefront European research in and across all scientific areas. The national organisations support all aspects including scientific coordination, networking and research funding.

www.esf.org/eurocores

THE FOLLOWING NATIONAL FUNDING ORGANISATIONS SUPPORT THE EuroCORECODE PROGRAMME:

Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung in Österreich (FWF)

Austrian Science Fund, Austria

Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek-Vlaanderen (FWO)

Research Foundation Flanders, Belgium

Grantová agentura České republiky (GAČR)

Czech Science Foundation, Czech Republic

Det Frie Forskningsråd – Kultur og Kommunikation (FKK)

The Danish Council for Independent Research – Humanities, Denmark

Eesti Teadusfond (ETF)

Estonian Science Foundation, Estonia

Suomen Akatemia/Finlands Akademi (AKA)

Academy of Finland, Finland

Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (NWO)

Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research, The Netherlands

Norges Forskningsråd (RCN)

Research Council of Norway, Norway

Ministerstwo Nauki i Szkolnictwa Wyższego (MniSW) [tbc]

Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Poland

Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT)

Foundation for Science and Technology, Portugal

Consiliul National al Cercetarii Stiintifice din Invatamantul Superior (CNCSIS)

National University Research Council, Romania

EuroCORECODE

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Historical map of Lorraine and Alsace
1648 © Thomas Höckmann (2006)

CONTACT DETAILS

For further information, please contact:

Dr Eva Hoogland

Senior science officer, Humanities Unit

Ms Claire Rustat-Flinton

Administrator, Humanities Unit

European Science Foundation
1 quai Lezay-Marnésia | BP 90015
67080 Strasbourg cedex | France
Tel: +33 (0)3 88 76 71 79
Fax: +33 (0)3 88 76 71 81
Email: eurocorecode@esf.org
www.esf.org/eurocorecode

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1 quai Lezay-Marnésia | BP 90015
67080 Strasbourg cedex | France
Tel: +33 (0)3 88 76 71 00 | Fax: +33 (0)3 88 37 05 32
www.esf.org