

GLOBALIZING EUROPE ECONOMIC HISTORY NETWORK (GLOBALEURONET)

Standing Committee for the Social Sciences (SCSS)



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

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

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 19th 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

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



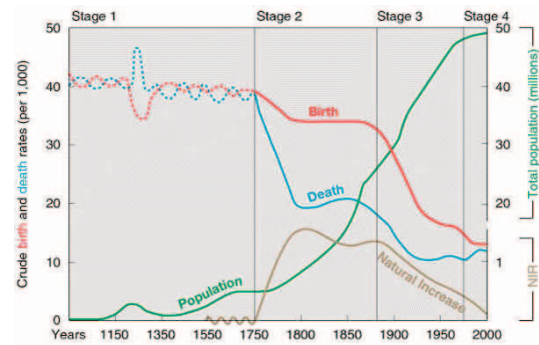
Opportunities to participate

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.

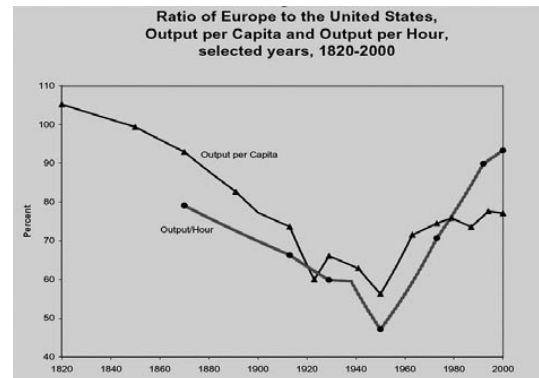
Updated information on the activities promoted by the Programme will be regularly posted on the Programme's website: www.esf-globaleuronet.org. More general information can be found on the ESF web page: <http://www.esf.org/globaleuronet>

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



"Chasing the American frontier"

Funding



ESF Research Networking Programmes are funded by ESF Member Organisations on an *à la carte* basis. GLOBALEURONET is supported by: Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung, Austria; Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek - Vlaanderen, Belgium; Eesti Teadusfond, Estonia; Suomen Akatemia/Finlands Akademi, Finland; Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, Germany; Magyar Tudományos Akadémia, Hungary; Országos Tudományos Kutatási Alapprogramok, Hungary; Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences, Ireland; Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek, Netherlands; Norges Forskningsråd, Norway; Ministry of Education and Science, Spain; Vetenskapsrådet, Sweden; Schweizerischer Nationalfonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung, Switzerland; Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey, Turkey.

GBALEURONET Steering Committee

Professor Stefano Battilossi (Chair)

Professor of Economic History
Department of Economic History
and Institutions
Instituto Laureano Figuerola
Universidad Carlos III Madrid
Campus de Getafe
28903 Getafe
Spain
Tel: +34 91 624 5859
Fax: +34 91 624 9574
Email: stefano.battilossi@uc3m.es

Professor Jörg Baten

(from 01/05/2008 to 30/06/2010)
Wirtschaftswissenschaftliche Fakultät
Universität Tübingen
Lehrstuhl für Wirtschaftsgeschichte
Mohlstrasse 36
72074 Tübingen
Germany
Tel: +49 7071 29729 85
Fax: +49 7071 2951 19
Email: joerg.baten@uni-tuebingen.de

Professor Erik Buyst

Centre for Economic Studies
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
Naamsestraat 69
3000 Leuven
Belgium
Tel: +32 16 326800
Fax: +32 16 326796
Email: erik.buyst@econ.kuleuven.be

Dr. Herman de Jong

N.W. Posthumus Instituut
Faculty of Economics
University of Groningen
PO Box 800
9700 AV Groningen
Netherlands
Tel: +31 50 363 84 55
Fax: +31 50 363 84 54
Email: h.j.de.jong@rug.nl

Professor Riitta Hjerppe

Economic and Social History
Department of Social Science History
University of Helsinki
Snellmanninkatu 14
PO Box 54
00014 Helsinki
Finland
Tel: +358 9 191 24 951
Fax: +358 9 191 24 924
Email: riitta.hjerppe@helsinki.fi

Professor Olaf Mertelsmann

History Department
University of Tartu
Lossi 3-409
50090 Tartu
Estonia
Tel: +372 50 94 521
Fax: +372 737 53 45
Email: omertelsmann@yahoo.co.uk

Professor Kevin H. O'Rourke

Department of Economics and IIS
School of Social Sciences and
Philosophy
Trinity College Dublin
Dublin 2
Ireland
Tel: +353 1 608 3594
Fax: +353 1 677 2503
Email: kevin.orourke@tcd.ie

Professor Michael Pammer

Department of Social and Economic
History
Johannes Kepler Universität Linz
Altenbergerstrasse 69
4040 Linz-Auhof
Austria
Tel: +43 732 24 68 88 46
Fax: +43 732 24 68 85 32
Email: michael.pammer@jku.at

Professor Sevket Pamuk

Department of Economics
Ataturk Institute for Modern Turkish
History
Bogazici University
34342 Bebek Istanbul
Turkey
Tel: +90 212 359 65 80
Fax: +90 212 270 08 15
Email: pamuks@ttnet.net.tr

Dr. Agnes Pogány

Department of Economic and Social
History
Corvinus University of Budapest
Fovám tér 8
1093 Budapest
Hungary
Tel: +361 482 53 44
Fax: +361 482 50 02
Email: agnes.pogany@uni-corvinus.hu

Professor Albrecht Ritschl

(from 01/05/2006 to 30/04/2008)
Department of Economics & Business
Institute of Economic History
Humboldt University
Spandauer Strasse 1
10178 Berlin
Germany
Tel: +49 30 2093 5715
Fax: +49 30 2093 5659
Email: ritschl@wiwi.hu-berlin.de

Professor Lennart Schön

Department of Economic History
Ekonomisk-historiska Institutionen
Lund University
Box 7083
22007 Lund
Sweden
Tel: +46 46 222 74 76
Fax: +46 46 13 15 85
Email: lennart.schon@ekh.lu.se

Professor Knut Sogner

Business History Unit
Centre for Business History
Norwegian School of Management
Innovation and Economic Organisation
Nydalsveien 37
0442 Oslo
Norway
Tel: +47 46 41 06 42
Fax:
Email: knut.sogner@bi.no

Professor Ulrich Woitek

Institut für Empirische
Wirtschaftsforschung
Universität Zürich
Winterthurerstrasse 30
8006 Zürich
Switzerland
Tel: +41 1 63 43 650
Fax: +41 1 63 44 907
Email: u.woitek@iew.unizh.ch

ESF Liaison**Dr. Frank Kuhn**

Science

Ms. Caroline Eckert

Administration

Social Sciences Unit (SCSS)
European Science Foundation
1 quai Lezay-Marnésia
BP 90015
67080 Strasbourg cedex
France
Tel: +33 (0)3 88 76 71 42
Fax: +33 (0)3 88 37 05 32
Email: ceckert@esf.org

For the latest information on this
research networking programme
consult the GLOBALEURONET
website:

www.esf.org/globaleuronet

