Global Justice & Stability
Research & Innovation Projects
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Introduction

Social sciences and humanities research projects funded under the European Union’s Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation cover several aspects relevant for the EU’s external actions and contribute to the evidence base and sound understanding of the external environment that the EU operates in, in particular when it comes to understanding the cultural complexity of the EU’s partners.

As identified by President Juncker in his July 2014 speech to the European Parliament, and re-affirmed in his State of the Union speech in September 2015, the European Union needs a stronger and more assertive foreign policy. The European Council Conclusions from 25-26 June 2015 state that ‘the High Representative will continue the process of strategic reflection with a view to preparing an EU Global Strategy on foreign and security policy in close cooperation with the Member States, to be submitted to the European Council by June 2016’. The global strategy will give the Union’s foreign policy a sense of direction and will set a new level of ambition. The strategy is meant to be global in a geographic as well as a thematic sense.

This publication presents an overview of past and ongoing social sciences and humanities research projects. Some basic information is provided for each project. Readers wishing to explore further are referred to project’s websites.
1. Research on the European Union’s External Actions

This section is divided into three parts:

I. Research on Multilateralism, Global Governance and Conflict Resolution

Research projects presented in this section examine the notion and practice of multilateralism in order to provide the required theoretical background for assessing the linkages between the EU’s current security activities with multi-polarism, international law, regional integration processes and the United Nations system. They also provide inputs on the rule of law and international humanitarian law applicable during armed conflict with regard to effectively promoting and protecting human rights. Linkages between climate change and social tensions and conflicts are also analysed.

II. Research on Global Justice, Human Rights, and Cultural Diplomacy

These research projects analyse the way in which the EU operates in the domains of global justice, human rights and cultural diplomacy, comparing its bilateral and multilateral ties with states, regions, and public and private international organisations.

III. Research on the role of Media and Civil Society Organisations in Foreign Policy.

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) representing Transnational Communities (TCs) can help in
preventing and resolving conflicts in Europe and the world. Media play a fundamental role in being able (or not) to give objective information on trends and conflicts in world politics. Projects presented in this section analyse the complex relationships between various types of media, civil society actors and national authorities and their impact in foreign policy.
1.1 Research on Multilateralism, Global Governance and Conflict Resolution
Armed Conflicts, Peacekeeping, Transitional Justice: Law as Solution

Description

The project ATLAS examined the role and impact of the rule of law and international humanitarian law applicable during armed conflict with regard to effectively promoting and protecting human rights. The overall project objective was to determine how the EU can contribute to promoting human rights and international humanitarian law both during and after armed conflicts. ATLAS compared existing international legal rules with the practice of both Member states and third states in order to support decision-making by decision-makers. It studied violations of international human rights and humanitarian law during and after armed conflicts, comparing EU practices with those of other countries in order to support decision making by policymakers. The project looked at cases in Bosnia, Cambodia, Kosovo and Sierra Leone, examining their experience with peace operations and national reconciliation procedures.
Outcomes

ATLAS provided recommendations on how best to integrate human rights and laws into EU peacekeeping missions. The project compiled best practices on legal and institutional frameworks and measures that ensure respect for human rights and humanitarian law, and developed a code of conduct for civil and military peacekeeping personnel. The overall key project achievement is the identification of legal norms to protect civilian populations in the event of armed conflict and the integration of a human rights component in peace operations.
Good intentions, mixed results – A conflict sensitive unpacking of the EU comprehensive approach to conflict and crisis mechanisms

Description

EUNPACK investigates how and to what extent EU crisis mechanisms have been designed and developed to enable responses that are sensitive to the political and social context on the ground in different crisis areas. The project takes an integral approach to the crisis cycle, EU toolbox and the EU’s operational theatres (i.e. the enlargement, ENP and extended neighbourhood regions). This will provide analyses of the EU’s ‘comprehensive approach’ and how it is implemented in the field, and will identify lessons learnt to suggest how EU crisis management institutions and policies can be improved.
Preliminary Outcomes

EUNPACK will increase the understanding of how EU crisis responses function and are received on the ground in crisis areas. It will explore local agencies and perceptions in target countries without losing sight of the EU’s institutions and their expectations and ambitions. It will examine the full crisis cycle, from the pre-crisis, through-crisis, and post-crisis phase. EUNPACK will provide knowledge on two gaps in EU crisis response: 1) the intentions–implementation gap, which relates to a) the capacity to make decisions and respond with one voice, and to deploy the necessary resources, b) how these responses are implemented on the ground by various EU institutions and member states, and c) how other actors – local and international – enhance or undermine the EU’s activities, and 2) the implementation - local reception/perceptions gap, which refers to the gap between the implementation of EU policies and approaches, and how these are received and perceived in target countries.
EU-GRASP

http://www.eugrasp.eu/

Project reference: 225722

EU contribution: EUR 1 459 150

From 2009 to 2012

Project coordinator:
United Nations University
Comparative Regional Integration Studies, Brugge, Belgium

EU as a global and regional actor • multilateral security governance • effective multilateralism and United Nations

changing multilateralism: the EU as a global-regional actor in security and peace

Description

EU-GRASP analysed the current and future role of the EU as a global and regional actor in multilateral security governance in a context of challenged multilateralism, where the EU aims for “effective multilateralism”. The project examined the notion and practice of multilateralism in order to provide the required theoretical background for assessing the linkages between the EU’s current security activities with multi-polarism, international law, regional integration processes and the United Nations system.
Outcomes

Research led to two sets of recommendations:

1. ‘Achieving Nirvana’ concerns what the EU should do in order to build the political, economic and institutional condition to support the creation of a more ‘favourable’ context for security governance: Support for democracy and citizens’ participation throughout the world, so as to promote a peaceful encounter and exchange between civilizations and cultures. In order to achieve this objective the EU will need to revise some of its core security policies and avoid the temptation of adopting ‘fortress’ legislation.

2. ‘Dance with the wolves’ focuses on how the EU should cope with ‘less welcome’ changes in order to preserve its core values and objectives while exerting some degree of influence (as residual as it may be) at the global level. In this regard the EU should use its influence to keep the global security agenda as inclusive as possible.

In both scenarios, it is likely that certain ‘hard’ security issues will be given a higher priority vis-à-vis softer security challenges.
Global re-ordering: Evolution through European networks

Description

The project studied the current and future role of the EU in an emerging multi-polar world through stock-taking, multi-disciplinary research and complementary activities. It aimed at a better understanding of the prospective directions of the emerging global governance structures and Europe’s place in them. Analysis focused on the extant actors from the 20th century, the 21st century rising powers, the increasingly influential non-state actors (from both civil and non-civil society) and the new transnational regulatory networks of public and private policy makers and regional agencies. While multi-polarity, with Europe as a pole, is foreseen a possible future scenario, alternative plausible scenarios exist: A shift from a trans-Atlantic to trans-Pacific locus of power or the “depolarization” and fragmentation of authority, which could both marginalise Europe’s influence.
Outcomes

The project assumed the residual importance of states as actors, and qualified this focus in two ways. First, the role of regions as originators and deliverers of values and policy preferences rather than states was emphasised. The “actorness” of various regions was analysed by identifying when and how regions can change the configurations of global power. Second, the importance of different forms of European and broader transnational networks in shaping the global governance structures was analysed. The project found that the distribution of power is more fragmented and uneven than a conception of a polar world tends to suggest. The picture of the world that emerges, then, is not one of fixed groups or blocs, but rather one of fluid issue-specific alliances.
just and durable peace by piece

Description

In Iraq, Afghanistan and the Middle East, peace and war exist in parallel: contemporary peace support operations simultaneously involve combat operations and building peace. Hence, the goal of establishing just and durable peace is a fundamental challenge to contemporary peacemakers and academics alike. The project aimed at:

• enhancing the theoretical and methodological conceptualisation of just and durable peace;
• analysing legal and democratic accountability of peacebuilding strategies, including mapping international law and norms on the use of force for humanitarian reasons;
• examining the effectiveness of general peace building strategies and evaluate to what extent they enhance just and durable peace;
• examining and comparing EU peace building strategies in Western Balkans and the Middle East.
Outcomes

The main project result is the systematic refinement of the multidisciplinary paradigm to the study of just and durable peace, which consists of a theoretical and methodological framework. By the use of different theoretical and methodological approaches, new understandings of the complex interplay between justice and peace and how this may produce a self-sustainable peace emerged. A cornerstone of this paradigm is the conceptualisation of just peace as qualitatively different from the notion of positive peace since it makes no universal claims. Methodologically, the state-of-the-art research is advanced by utilising single case analyses, comparative analyses as well as large-statistical correlations. Empirically, the project has generated new insights related to the Middle East and Western Balkans regarding the (1) international-local dynamics, (2) hybridity of peace and justice, (3) development of EU peacebuilding framework, (4) narratives of justice and visions of peace and reconciliation; and (5) amnesty provisions in peace agreements and their effect on durable peace.
Multilateralism and the EU in the Contemporary Global Order

Description

MERCURY analysed the EU’s contribution to effective multilateralism; the EU’s external relations in the light of the Lisbon Treaty and its implications for the Union’s ability to shape multilateralism, and analysed whether and how multilateralism is compatible with the EU’s shift towards inter-regionalism and strategic partnerships. The project critically examined the EU’s contribution to multilateralism and explored multilateralism as a concept, an aspiration and a form of international order. The sheer breadth of the concept demands an interdisciplinary approach, which is why the project included the perspectives of law, politics, economics, and international relations. The project did not only explore multilateralism’s intellectual aspects and evaluated its different methods, but also provided practical and relevant policy guidelines.
Outcomes

The project developed ‘best practice’ criteria to guide choices on how multilateralism should be pursued as a strategic goal of EU external policy. The project also developed recommendations on how resources may be best combined in the pursuit of effective multilateralism. Mercury also improved capacity-building by contributing to the establishment and consolidation of a sustainable international research network.
Politics, economics and global governance: the European dimensions

Description

The main objective of PEGGED was to contribute to the construction and projection of a vision for the EU’s role in a global system. Based on four research areas, the project was designed to cross-cut disciplinary boundaries, including macroeconomics, finance, trade and migration. The project addressed four research domains:

• macro-economic adjustment and governance;
• the integration of markets for finance and investment;
• the integration of markets for trade in goods and services;
• migration and the mobility of labour.
Outcomes

The project’s main objective was to help Europe construct and project a vision of how such a global system should evolve. Based on the four research areas, the PEGGED project was designed to make integration across disciplinary boundaries unavoidable, and to institutionalise these research practices over time. These overlapping research areas include macroeconomics, finance, trade and migration.

The project developed recommendations on international economic cooperation and new proposals for restoring international financial stability. Political scientists and economists worked together to develop practical, real-world policy solutions to promote optimal evolution of the global system.
Policy for natural resources

Description

The project focused on global challenges in respect to access to oil, gas and mineral resources over the next 20 years and proposed solutions for the various policy actors, including the EU. Combined theoretical and empirical analyses drew expertise from a wide range of disciplines, including political science, economics, geology, engineering, technology, law and security studies. The main objective was to understand the causes of past and current conflict and tensions relating to access to these resources and to identify emergent sources of future conflict and tension.
Outcomes

The project found that the EU’s current policy approaches and today’s global institutions are poorly suited to address the emerging challenges relating to access to oil, gas and minerals. As a consequence, the EU should radically re-assess its current policy approaches relating to access to oil, gas and minerals. Availability of resources in Europe up to 2040 will depend on a new regime involving economic, political and technological factors that are hard to predict, requiring a broader and more flexible policy approach from the EU. Key policy messages:

• There is a need to engage with state capitalism as the world is in a phase of transition where state capitalism is becoming more prevalent;
• There is the need to identify sources of future tension and conflict and categorisation of risks;
• There is the need to rethink the external dimension of EU energy and mineral policy.
Regulating privatisation of “war”: the role of the EU in assuring the compliance with international humanitarian law and human rights

Description

The goal of the research project was to assess the impact of the extensive use of private military and security companies in situations of armed conflict and to discuss the regulatory framework at national, European and international levels to assure compliance with international humanitarian law and human rights. Though military and security privatisation is not a new phenomenon, the fear motivating commentators and activists is that private companies operate in a legal vacuum. Although there is growing consensus that the situation actually resembles a more complex patchwork of norms, the key question still remains whether and how these existing norms can be effectively applied and whether they need to be supplemented with new norms.
Outcomes

The research project formulated a definition of Private Military Companies (PMCs), Private Security Companies (PSCs), and examined the reasons why states resort to them, focusing on the nature of their functions, the rules of engagement and chains of accountability. The project clarified the legal status of PMC/PSC employees under International humanitarian law (IHL); fostered knowledge on the impact of private military activities on the human rights; clarified the international responsibility and accountability of corporations; reviewed the criminal and civil liability of PMCs/PSCs and their employees for serious violations of human rights and IHL; examined the existing regulation at the national, European and international levels and explored ways in which the EU could regulate or facilitate the regulation of PMCs/PSCs with a view to assure compliance with human rights and IHL.
Productivity, Non-Tariff Measures and Openness

Description

The first goal of the project is to extend the state of the art of Non-Tariff Measures (NTM) by collecting existing NTM measures, identifying key NTMs not yet measured, and filling those gaps. A key aspect of this is recognition of the ways in which NTMs interact with one another. The second goal is to use these improved measures to estimate the effects of NTMs on a variety of social and economic outcomes, including their impact on income and inequality in the EU, their role in promoting sustainable growth in developing countries, the effects they have on technological growth, and the frictions they create in the global supply chain. This phase also includes an impact analysis of the likely effects of NTM liberalisation.
Preliminary Outcomes

The project will provide new and better data, better methodologies, and better understanding of the impact of NTMs on international investment and trade. In particular, the project will improve knowledge of each of the following research elements within a set of inter-related activity streams:

- Collection of quantitative information on the regulatory measures influencing cross border trade and investment;
- Developing new methodologies for quantifying NTMs and for both quantitative and qualitative analysis of their effects;
- Mapping data availability, identifying scope for improvement by building on existing sources, and mapping onto other databases such as WIOD and EU-KLEMS;
- Analysing the impact of NTM reduction on a range of economic and social objectives.
1.2. Research on Global Justice, Human Rights, and Cultural Diplomacy
Climate change, hydro-conflicts and human security

Description

The project aimed to fill a knowledge-gap on the social dimensions of climate change, by analysing whether hydro-climatic hazards intensify social tensions and conflicts in the Mediterranean, Middle East and Sahel, or if they provide a catalyst for cooperation and peace. It examined why some countries and communities are more vulnerable to droughts, floods and related conflicts, and what types of policies and institutions are necessary to ensure adaptation, security and peace in the face of global and regional hydro-climatic change. The project mobilized 13 research teams from Europe, North Africa, Sahel and the Middle East and brought together some of the world’s leading researchers in water resource, vulnerability, and peace and security studies. Ten cases of hydro-conflicts were studied ranging from Niger, Sudan, the Jordan and Nile basins to Cyprus, Italy and the Sinai desert.
Outcomes

A large dataset – the first of its kind – of hydro-conflicts in the Mediterranean, Middle East and Sahel was regressed against climatic, hydrological and socio-economic variables. The project has produced the following scientific findings:

• The political economy of an area determines which adaptive responses and aspects of human security will be implemented.
• Conflict emerges through societal responses to hydro-climatic stress rather than due to the impact of hydro-climate stress itself.
• Within government architectures, the design of adaptation policies and their implementation are generally determined by the heterogeneity of existing interests, norms, values, cultures, and individual behaviour, and existing social and institutional frameworks but are also related to the frequency, magnitude, and suddenness of a (hazardous) event or change. Case studies confirm that institutional structures and their functioning are key variables that determine a community’s level of adaptive capacity, but also politics, power relations, marginalisation of groups and economy are important factors that determine which adaptations are prioritised, and how adaptation policies are formulated and implemented.
Impact of international criminal procedures on domestic criminal procedures in mass atrocity cases

Description

DOMAC analysed interactions between national and international courts involved in prosecuting individuals in mass atrocity situations. It explored what impact international procedures have on prosecution rates before national courts, their sentencing policies, award of reparations and substantive and procedural legal standards. Although considerable attention has been given to the establishment and operation of international criminal courts and other international or internationalised mechanisms for determining individual and state responsibility in mass atrocity situations, their capacity remains limited and national courts continue to carry most of the burden of prosecuting the vast majority of perpetrators. However, efforts to ensure the proper utilisation of national courts, as well as the coordination of their operations with international courts, have been limited, leading to an incomplete response to highly complicated situations.
Outcomes

DOMAC provided a comprehensive set of data on mass atrocities related prosecutions in 7 countries. The project’s findings reveal that both domestic courts and international criminal tribunals are increasingly taking note of and referring to each other’s findings and that categories of crimes established before international criminal courts influence the sentencing policies of national jurisdictions. With respect to capacity building, there are crucial difficulties in coherence, coordination and sequencing of capacity development initiatives resulting from structural and not merely contingent features of the dynamics in this area. Moreover, existing efforts have been too focused on individuals and their capacities without adequate regard to the institutional and cultural context in which they are immersed. Finally, there are specific considerations relating to the institutional design of international and internationalised courts and the balance of incentives for both domestic and international actors that largely account for the main successes and shortcomings in terms of impact on municipal legal systems.
Fostering Human Rights Among European (external and internal) Policies

Description

Through FRAME, more than 100 leading researchers and practitioners aim to provide the necessary building blocks for a coherent EU human rights policy comprised of: (i) a sound knowledge base taking account of the factors, concepts, institutions and instruments underlying human rights protection; (ii) appraisal of the EU’s full potential to contribute to global human rights governance through its relationship with multiple actors and its manifold policies; and (iii) a set of indicators, tools and policy proposals geared to strengthen human rights implementation in EU policy-making.
Preliminary Outcomes

The project will address the following elements:

- Academic impact: is based on the valorisation of academic reports, seeking to make a significant contribution to the scholarship on the role of the EU in human rights promotion.
- Policy impact is achieved through engagement with policy makers and civil society, in different forms:
- Educational impact: the project seeks to provide information on the EU’s role in human rights promotion to the wider public and target audiences.

FRAME will organise training for human rights professionals having and interest in the EU and human rights. FRAME aims for a very high level of societal impact by directly addressing the wider public and raising awareness on the EU human rights policies.
Reconsidering European Contributions to Global Justice

Description

GLOBUS will establish an analytical model that will be used to specify and assess the EU’s impact on global justice. It will identify pre-requisites and countervailing forces in the construction of a foreign policy that successfully promotes justice in an increasingly multipolar global order. It will establish new empirical knowledge of the EU’s actual impact on key dimensions of global justice related specifically to climate change; migration; trade and development; cooperation and conflict. It will engage with a range of policy stakeholders within and outside Europe, and capture their assessment of the Union’s practice and potential in the pursuit of global justice.
Preliminary Outcomes

The project is expected to provide a theoretically informed, empirically grounded assessment of the EU’s contribution to global justice. It will disentangle the many-faceted principled dilemmas of justice arising in a global context through the use of a conceptual framework that highlights different understandings of justice. It will yield knowledge of different claims of justice and the EU’s handling of these within the fields of climate change, migration, trade and development, cooperation and conflict as well as gender equality. It will deliver new knowledge of differences and similarities between the EU’s and the BRICS countries’ perspectives on global justice, as well as of differences amongst the BRICS themselves.
European Leadership in Cultural, Science and Innovation Diplomacy

Description

EL-CSID provides an empirical and analytical narrative that aspires to offer practical support to the further development and enhancement of the EU’s science and cultural diplomacy. It studies the current and future role of cultural diplomacy, science, and innovation as a feature of its foreign relations. The overarching objectives of this project are threefold:

• To detail and analyse the manner in which the European Union (EU) operates in the domains of culture and science diplomacy in the current era, comparing its bilateral and multilateral cultural and science ties with states, regions, and public and private international organisations.

• To examine the degree to which cultural and science diplomacy can enhance the interests of the EU in the contemporary world order.

• To identify a series of mechanisms/platforms and tools to raise awareness among relevant stakeholders of the importance of science and culture as vehicles for enhancing the EU’s external relations.
Preliminary Outcomes

EL-CSID aims to enhance the European knowledge base on cultural and science diplomacy, and on the choices facing the EU in shaping the present and future order. The ambition is to re-shape the way the applied policy literature develops in the next few years. In this regard, EL-CSID’s aspiration for its generic impact is fivefold:

- To identify and analyse the evolving structures of cultural and science diplomacy in the current context of transition between a waning hegemonic era and an emerging multi-polar one.
- To bring strong analytical lenses to bear on the role of the EU, and especially the impact of its science, innovation and external cultural policies on these structures.
- To develop a composite picture of the multiple external ties in culture and science that the EU has developed, and are developing, with specific countries and ‘world regions’.
- To provide a state-of-the-art analysis through a series of case studies of the key areas of European external cultural relations and its science diplomacy that bear specifically upon the EU’s role as a global actor.
- To examine the way the EU interacts with not only other states but also those increasingly important non-state actors, especially international organisations and transnational policy networks, prominent in global cultural and scientific collaboration.
Museums and Community: Concepts, Experiences, and Sustainability in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean

Description

The objective of the project is to directly meet the challenge of fostering EU-CELAC relations by studying the close connections between Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) in the field of community museology. To address this challenge, EU-LAC-MUSEUMS assembles a team of leading academics, museum professionals and policy makers elected by the European and LAC Regional Alliances of the International Council of Museums (ICOM). The project will explore the cultural, scientific and social dimensions of EU-LAC relations with a view to “supporting the process of EU-CELAC cooperation outlined by the EU-CELAC Action Plan 2013-2015 in defining a common vision for the years to come”.

Preliminary Outcomes

Through a series of thematic work packages, the project will pursue the theme of “Museums and Community: Concepts, Experiences, and Sustainability in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean” to create a concerted bi-regional investigation. EU-LAC-MUSEUMS will create parity of esteem, sustainable dialogue and co-operation between academia, museums and communities in each region by pursuing work packages dealing with the cross cutting societal challenges of: a) «Technology and Innovation for Bi-Regional Integration» (including the creation of an ambitious multi-media Web Portal); b) «Museum Education for Social Inclusion and Cohesion» (including a bi-regional museum youth exchange); c) «Investment and Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Museums” (including new innovative designs of integral management), and d) “Exhibiting Migration and Gender” (including an international touring fine art exhibition). In so doing, the project will push forward the agenda of the EU-CELAC Action Plan in museum practice and theory.
Giving focus to the Cultural, Scientific and Social Dimension of EU – CELAC Relations

Description

The global context of the EU-CELAC partnership has evolved and there is a need to critically review the bi-regional cooperation. The EULAC Focus project intends to study how to link cooperation in the cultural, scientific and social fields, improving cross-cutting interaction and visibility with an emphasis on distinctive initiatives for the direct benefit of civil society. This challenge will be addressed through the following objectives:

- Analysis of the role of social and political actors in promoting cultural and scientific exchange, and social collaboration at the EU-CELAC bi-regional and bilateral levels.
- Proposing a set of high impact actions and initiatives to strengthen cooperation.
- Addressing beneficiaries in both regions through dissemination of the research results, open source publications and conferences, and building partnerships for upscaled pilot initiatives.
Preliminary Outcomes

EULAC Focus’ main goal is to reinforce an EU – CELAC common vision by giving focus to the cultural, scientific and social dimension of the bi-regional relations, proposing a set of realistic policies and initiatives (software) that fits into the institutional bi-regional arrangements (hardware) without overloading it and avoiding the risk of falling into purely rhetorical declarations of intent. EULAC Focus has also launched an appeal to all interested institutions to collaborate with it and promote synergies in order to effectively contribute to the ambitious goal of improving bi-regional relations. Finally, it will feed its results into the activities of the EU-LAC Foundation.
Sustainable Market Actors for Responsible Trade

Description

The overarching objective of SMART is to do research that will serve to promote global, sustainable development within a circular, low-emission economy compatible with the planetary boundaries and in line with the international development goals. The project defines sustainable development as meeting the needs of the present while safeguarding Earth’s life-support system, on which the welfare of current and future generations depends. SMART aims to significantly advance the understanding of how non-development policies and regulations directed at private and public market actors contribute to or undermine development policies. With a focus especially on international supply chains of products sold in Europe, SMART analyses the regulatory complexity within which European market actors operate, both the private sector and the public sector in its many market roles.
Preliminary Outcomes

The preliminary findings of SMART are that no issue – whether it is climate change, ocean acidification, or biodiversity loss – can be managed in isolation. The inclusion of the planetary boundaries research is an attempt to capture this multi-scale, multi-system complexity, identifying essential planetary processes that govern the very basis of our existence. The key scientific challenge remains to explore whether (and under which conditions) the twin objectives of achieving world development aspirations on a stable and resilient planet are possible in the Anthropocene. With this starting point, SMART’s overall methodology is integrated, interdisciplinary, and systemic in its approach, integrating legal, economic, and sociological approaches to the factors that enable or hinders market actors from making sustainable decisions.
1.3. Research on Media and Civil Society Organisations in Foreign Policy
European Union and the world seen from abroad

Description

Based on a worldwide survey, EuroBroadMap sought to capture both the perception of the European Union’s global role, the definition of the European Union from a qualitative and spatial point of view as well as the relative attraction of countries, or even cities that compose it. The survey was realised on a panel of license degree students in a relevant panel of external countries and in different academic fields. The individual mental maps were compared to collective representations: websites of organisations, tourist guides, teaching books, international media, etc. Particular attention was paid to (carto)graphic representations of Europe and other world divisions. The diffusion of results in various formats (report, website, teaching materials) was organised in order to ensure a growing awareness of the complexity of the actual situation of Europe in the world, according to material and spiritual dimensions.
Outcomes

The EU’s actions and perceptions of the EU by international organisations can be summarised as follow:

- The EU is seen in most international institutions as an important but inflexible actor (and as a major contributor), defending positions without any ambition.
- The internal cohesiveness of the EU increased over time and, on nearly all subjects, it is able to ‘speak with one voice’.
- Recent EU member and candidate states are the leaders of this cohesiveness: acting and voting as the EU appears as a strategy to show their goodwill.
- Obtaining common positions on nearly every subject is a time-consuming process that prevents fruitful dialogue with other regional organisations, even when these organisations are like-minded (CANZ – Canada, Australia and New Zealand at UNGA).
- Although the EU speaks with one voice, reception of its discourse remains hostile. The EU is frequently suspected of double standards, promoting acts it does not intend to adopt (human rights position versus migration policy).

Selling the EU project was first done with the ‘continent without war’ idea, but this narrative is no longer valid for young generations. Selling the ‘economic power’ discourse is becoming difficult these days, so developing a narrative on ‘normative influence’ and ‘political power’ appears to be a reasonable rhetorical strategy.
Involving transnational communities - Civil society forum on conflicts

Description

The overall objective of INFOCON was to create a better understanding of how Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) representing Transnational Communities (TCs) can help in preventing and resolving conflicts in Europe and the world.

In particular the specific objectives were to:

- Provide recommendations and strategic tools for CSOs based on the project’s results in order to increase the efficiency and involvement of CSOs in the elaboration of policies related to transnational communities and conflicts.
- Verify past research on TCs and their role in conflicts with the benefit of CSOs’ experience and their involvement in the research process. It also addresses the current gap between civil society knowledge and academic expertise.
- Advance the scientific knowledge on the dynamics and current potential role of CSOs in different conflicts by elaborating new and innovative comparisons of TCs across Europe (four cities: Amsterdam, Berlin, Brussels and London) and the world (three regions of origin: Turkey, Kosovo and Great Lakes).
- Provide conflict-sensitive policy recommendations in order to enhance current conflict policy and to use the leverage and opportunities that transnational community CSOs offer in the field of conflict and peace.
Outcomes

The project produced the following results:

• Recommendations and strategic tools for CSOs in order to increase the efficiency and involvement of CSOs in the elaboration of policies related to transnational communities and conflicts.

• Provided a state of the art on TCs and their role in conflicts with the benefit of CSOs’ experience and their involvement in the research process, and contributed to filling the gap between civil society knowledge and academic expertise.

• Advanced the scientific knowledge on the dynamics and current potential role of CSOs in different conflicts by elaborating new and innovative comparisons of TCs across Europe (four cities: Amsterdam, Berlin, Brussels and London) and the world (three regions of origin: Turkey, Kosovo and Great Lakes).

• Provided conflict-sensitive policy recommendations in order to enhance conflict policy and to use the leverage and opportunities that transnational community CSOs offer in the field of conflict and peace.

• Significantly contributed to public debate on the role of TCs in conflicts and conflict policies by large-scale dissemination activities aimed at fostering global communication and connectivity.
(In)forming conflict prevention, response and resolution: the role of media in violent conflict

Description

INFOCORE provides a systematically comparative assessment of various kinds of media, interacting with a wide range of relevant actors and producing diverse kinds of conflict coverage. It focuses on three main conflict regions – the Middle East, the West Balkans, and the African Great Lakes area. Its findings address both the socially interactive production process behind the creation of conflict coverage, and the dynamics of information and meaning disseminated via the media. Based on this perspective, the project identifies the conditions under which media play specific constructive or destructive roles in preventing, managing, and resolving violent conflict, and building sustainable peace. The project will provide detailed knowledge on the process of conflict news production.
Preliminary Outcomes

The project focuses on the conditions that bring about different media roles in the cycle of conflict and peace building. It generates knowledge on the social processes underlying the production of conflict news, and the inherent dynamics of conflict news contents, in a systematically comparative fashion. Based on this perspective, the project identifies the conditions under which media play specific constructive or destructive roles in preventing, managing, and resolving violent conflict, and building sustainable peace. The project reconstructs the production process of conflict-related media contents, focusing on the interactions between professional journalists, political actors, experts/NGOs, and lay publics. It analyses these actors’ different roles as sources or advocates, mediators, users and audiences in the production of professional news media, social media, and semi-public expert analysis.
Media, Conflict and Democratisation

Description

The project focuses on the interconnections between public communication and the conflicts that accompany processes of democratisation. The research programme investigates how these conflicts are communicated and the impact this has on their dynamics and outcomes (polarisation, violence vs. reconciliation, compromise). Empirical research brings together different, but interrelated spaces of communication: traditional media, social media, campaign communication of civil society groups and government communication. Fieldwork is carried out in Egypt, Kenya, Serbia and South Africa, focusing on a selection of twelve conflict cases that address issues of citizenship, collective identities, power and accountability, election campaigns and transitional justice.
Preliminary Outcomes

First findings can be summarised as follows:

In conflict situations media coverage follows the government’s interpretation of events, while large parts of citizens’ voices and even opposition parties are underrepresented. This favours top-down solutions of conflicts whose sustainability is questionable. Journalists struggle with ethical dilemmas, as in volatile transitional situations recognised norms of balance and critique can have adverse consequences.

The role of social media in democratic transitions is ambivalent. They are innovative spaces of communication, but tend to favour urban, middle-class voices. They can mobilise resistance, but often stabilise existing power structures.

Government communication is often at the heart of unresolved conflicts and escalation. Political officials have adopted sophisticated strategies to control the public agenda, but there are hardly any effective mechanisms in place that enable listening and dialogue.
Multi-stakeholder partnerships in post-conflict reconstruction: the role of the European Union

Description

This project investigated whether, how, and under what conditions multi-stakeholder partnerships can positively impact on human security and thus, facilitate non-violence and long-term peace, and provide a productive framework for relations between local actors and external actors, including third party mediators and international organisations. Widespread agreement exists among both academics and policy-makers on the need to adopt more comprehensive, integrative, and participatory approaches in post-conflict interventions. Within this broader framework, multi-stakeholder partnerships emerge as one of the preferred tools geared towards enhancing participation, legitimacy and effectiveness of post-conflict interventions. However, there is a clear lack of systematic analysis of the multi-stakeholder partnerships and of evaluation of their concrete impact on effectiveness and sustainability of post-conflict reconstruction initiatives.
Outcomes

MultiPart found that MSPs can significantly contribute to the effectiveness of (post) conflict reconstruction programmes, including for human security and peacebuilding. They can also contribute to the emergence of empowering hybrid partnerships to improve conflict sensitivity, governance, reconciliation and development. To achieve this, EU/international actors need to choose between these priorities and refine objectives, as well as consistently pursue implications for design, development and operation for supported MSPs. They also need to review ‘exit strategies’ and sustainability and finally, develop ‘MSP sensitive’ guidelines within policies and programmes for post-conflict engagements. MultiPart findings have provided a substantial baseline study on multi-stakeholder partnerships in (post) conflict reconstruction and can be used to further enhance or re-orientate current processes and practices, as well as frame future studies on MSPs.
2. Research on European Neighbourhood Policy
Political and Social Transformations in the Arab World

Description

ARABTRANS contributes to investigate the root causes of the ‘Arab Spring’; analyses the economic, social, and political changes in Arab MENA countries, and explores the outlook for the region. Based on large-scale cross-national surveys in North Africa, Jordan, and Iraq, ARABTRANS explores respondents’ opinions across a broad range of topics, including political ideals (e.g. democracy, religion, and gender equality), social values, economic conditions, and perceptions of security and of the ‘Arab Spring’ itself. ARABTRANS captures respondents’ perceptions before the Uprisings, at the time of the surveys, and expectations for the future, and it includes new question batteries focusing on previously unexplored areas: individuals’ roles in the Uprisings, the use of media in political life, and the perception of international actors.
Outcomes

ARABTRANS is designed to stimulate research into the relationship between political beliefs, values and practices. The project contributes to evaluating regional socio-economic and political trends based on system-, meso-, and individual-level factors. This analysis contributes to understanding the root causes and results of the Arab uprisings, as well as examining the conditions of possible future developments. ARABTRANS will produce a survey data set, reports on individual countries, and papers focusing on selected themes: MENA trends and transformations, the status and impact of the EU within the region, and youth and use of ICTs. Based on these, the project will also produce accessible analyses and recommendations for stakeholders including the EU, governments, NGOs, the media and the public.
Description

CASCADE’s overarching objective is to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the connections between security and democracy in the Caucasus in support of the development of the EU’s external policy. On the basis of a strong interdisciplinary and comparative approach, CASCADE:

• scrutinises Caucasian states and societies for the root causes of conflict and insecurity,
• conducts synergetic research on democracy and security in the Caucasus and investigates their interaction,
• analyses the links between the region and its wider neighbourhood,
• provides forward-looking analysis on security and democratisation processes,
• and develops a set of proposals on how best the EU could enhance its role in the region.
Preliminary Outcomes

The project’s core academic results will enhance the understanding of the security-democracy nexus in the Caucasus. CASCADE has produced a conceptual framework revisiting the literature on democracy and security and elucidating the links between these concepts. CASCADE’s impact will be considerable in the domain of shaping EU policy toward the Caucasus. The project has set up a database of contacts to which CASCADE outputs are systematically disseminated. It organises workshops gathering leading experts and policymakers on specific topics and delivers policy recommendations. CASCADE also seeks to bring together academic and policy communities from Europe and the Caucasus. The project has established a broader network of research institutions and individuals specialising in the Caucasus.
The EU and sub-regional multilateralism in Europe’s sea basins: neighbourhood, enlargement and multilateral cooperation

Description

EU4SEAS analysed multilateralism and the effects of EU policies and strategies on sub-regional multilateralism focusing on countries around the Baltic, Black, Caspian and Mediterranean Seas. On this basis, the project formulated policy recommendations in order to improve the synergies between the EU and sub-regional multilateralism in achieving shared goals.
Outcomes

EU4SEAS has successfully probed pivotal issues such as enlargement, Europeanisation and inter-regionalism to shed light on healthy sub-regional multilateralism. Through its seminars, publications and discussions, the project has reached out to all stakeholders including academia, civil society, and the media and, of course, policymakers. EU4SEAS analysed security issues, environment, maritime policy, energy and transport, as well as on the free movement of people, goods and capital, including conducting 400 interviews and visiting 30 countries, which served as a basis for producing papers, policy briefs and valuable insights. This laid the groundwork for enhanced debates on improving multilateral cooperation, contributing to policy insights and recommendations that could change the way the EU interacts with its neighbours. New, more inclusive sub-regional policies will mean more security, stability, trade and understanding than ever before.
Intra- and Inter-Societal Sources of Instability in the Caucasus and EU Opportunities to Respond

Description

ISSICEU explores intra-societal frictions and their regional impact in the political regimes focussing mainly on dynamics of communal governance; the interplay of religious and state actors and practices of civic participation. ISSICEU analyses inter-societal sources of (in)stability regarding economic dependencies and political and societal relations between the Caucasus and neighbourhood states. The Caucasus is studied in its diversity and cohesiveness, taking into consideration the historical and contemporary ties among the societies. Case studies are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Nagorno-Karabakh, Dagestan, Kabardino-Balkaria, Karachay-Cherkessia and Chechnya. In the neighbourhood focus is on Iran and Turkey.
Outcomes

ISSICEU will provide an on-spot analysis of emerging ‘hot spots’ of security challenges in the Caucasus. Emerging (non-violent and violent) conflicts of local, regional, national and international dimensions will be mapped and clustered according to their social, economic, political, military and cultural roots. Based on the identified sources of instability and stability, ISSICEU will elaborate on scenarios which suggest potential future security developments. ISSICEU will give concise policy recommendations on opportunities for the EU to positively influence prosperity, conflict solution and long-term stability in the individual Caucasus societies and the whole region.
Maximizing the Integration Capacity of the European Union – Lessons of and Prospects for Enlargement and Beyond

Description

The ‘big bang enlargement’ of the EU has nurtured vivid debates among both academics and practitioners about the consequences of ‘an ever larger Union’ for the EU’s integration capacity. Adopting an inter-disciplinary and mixed methods approach that combines desk research, in-depth interviews and Q-methodology, the research project MAXCAP started with a critical analysis of the effects of the 2004-2007 enlargement on stability, democracy and prosperity of candidate countries, on the one hand, and the EU’s institutions, on the other. MAXCAP currently investigates how the EU can maximize its integration capacity for current and future enlargements and in the context of the European Neighbourhood Policy.
Outcomes

The Eastern enlargement has neither undermined the EU political system nor deepened economic divergence between old and new members. The public perception and political debate, however, do not acknowledge the positive effects of enlargement. Moreover, during the Eastern enlargement the EU did not have tools at hand that would have helped the Central and East European economies to match domestic developmental needs with the requirements of honouring the rules of the single market. Also, the EU lacks tools to ‘lock-in’ political change in the new member states. The EU’s policy towards the Eastern neighbourhood countries has often ignored the interests of dominant, rent-seeking domestic coalitions and underestimated the paradoxes and dangers of embedded local leaders abusing and distorting EU policies to allow charging their political opponents with corruption. Moreover, the EU lacks measures to pay-off high short-term adoption costs, particularly for the three associated countries, with short-term incentives.
Mediterranean Prospects

Description

The MEDPRO project provided foresight scenarios for the long-term challenges in the Mediterranean in light of the Arab Spring in order to support EU policymaking for economic and social development. MEDPRO focused on: geopolitics and governance; demography and ageing; management of environment and natural resources, energy and climate change mitigation; economic integration; financial services and capital markets, human capital, social protection, inequality and migration. The project also analysed scenarios for regional integration and cooperation with the EU, going beyond trade liberalisation to instigating real change in the region.
Outcomes

MEDPRO delivered a comprehensive set of reports, policy papers, recommendations and commentaries on the different topics to support policymakers and further policy guidance. The full texts and abstracts of all MEDPRO publications and also databases can be downloaded from the MEDPRO website (www.medpro-foresight.eu) and the CEPS website (www.ceps.eu). A dissemination platform has been created to continue enhancing the outreach of MEDPRO publications and ideas through (www.euromed-economists.org).
A comprehensive, integrated, and bottom-up approach to reset our understanding of the Mediterranean space, remap the region, and reconstruct inclusive, responsive, and flexible EU policies in it

**Description**

MEDRESET objectives are to:

- reset our thinking, understanding, and definition of the Mediterranean: mapping a region which has changed substantially in terms of geopolitical dynamics and in key policy sectors (political ideas, agriculture and water, trade and energy, migration and mobility), identifying the old and new stakeholders, their interaction, and the major policy issues around which this interaction flows. This is based on an integrated research design and a multi-method approach, which includes a substantive perceptions component of top-down and bottom-up actors through an elite survey and in-depth interviews and focus groups with local stakeholders on both shores of the Mediterranean.

- reset EU policies in the Mediterranean: developing new flexible policy instruments, which include a variety of crucial actors and respond to the needs and expectations of people on both shores of the Mediterranean and to the changing geopolitical configuration of the area. Country-tailored policy commendations will be given for four key countries for the EU in the region: Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, and Tunisia.
Preliminary Outcomes

The project has so far produced working papers, policy reports and briefs, an infographic, a gender report, policy assessment report, and a final policy report, academic articles, and a collective volume. It has organised public conferences, workshops, policy lectures and briefings, and participated in international academic conferences. Dissemination activities are carried out via the project website, bi-annual newsletters, a contact database and a social media platform. A knowledge-user community will be engaged as part of the dialogue with researchers, notably through a close cooperation between MEDRESET and Jadaliyya. The project has launched a young writer’s price to engage students from the Mediterranean.
Description

The MENARA project aims to shed light on the historical, political, economic and social dynamics that are affecting the Middle East and North Africa. Particular attention will be devoted to the specific features of the new regional order as well as to the actors and processes that are influencing its development. The project will outline potential scenarios related to the course of the region in the medium (2025) and long (2050) term, and will analyse elements of continuity and break with the past. Taking advantage from a temporal (past, present, future) and spatial (national, regional, global) research framework, the project will sharpen our understanding of the region with a view to highlighting the potential strategies and policies that the EU is called upon to adopt in order to make its role in the region more effective.
Preliminary Outcomes

The MENARA project will achieve its goal by analysing ideational and material factors and by conducting in-depth research on specific case studies on ongoing dynamics at different levels. This project will combine different research techniques – including fact finding missions in the SEMCs and the Middle East, interviews, focus groups, Delphi surveys and scenario-building. The results of the project will be promoted through innovative dissemination and communication methods aimed at increasing its impact not only within the academic and the stakeholders community, but also in the frame of a wider audience interested in the processes unfolding in the MENA region. This will include the translation of research results into accessible outputs such as audio-visuals, futures notes series, infographics, interactive maps and a Massive Open Online Course.
Description

EU-STRAT sets out to answer two questions: Why has the EU fallen short of creating peace, prosperity and stability in its Eastern neighbourhood? And what can be done to strengthen the EU’s transformative power in supporting political and economic change in the six Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries? Towards this end, EU-STRAT develops a conceptual framework to analyse different dynamics of social orders in EaP countries and their interplay with interdependencies and instruments of the EU and other external actors. It investigates the domestic and external conditions under which dominant coalitions in the EaP countries support open access institutions, allowing citizens to have control over their government and greater access to public services. Based on these analyses, different scenarios for developmental pathways in neighbouring countries will be designed.
Preliminary Outcomes

By putting the EaP countries and their incentive structures centre stage when exploring the success and failure of the EU’s engagement in the region, the project expects to increase considerably the understanding of political, economic and societal dynamics in the EaP countries and to explain the effects the EU can have on their stabilisation or transformation. It will thereby advance the state of the art in multiple research fields in EU studies and beyond, including international democracy promotion, external state-building and post-communist transition. Research will also produce on-the-spot, evidence-based policy recommendations that allow relevant actors to improve the effectiveness of existing and future EU foreign policy instruments. The project will additionally facilitate exchange between scholars and policy-makers from various EU and EaP countries.
The Future of EU-Turkey Relations: Mapping Dynamics and Testing Scenarios

Description

The EU and Turkey face mounting challenges both in relation to one another and internationally. The EU is confronted with several crises in economic and migration policies which are likely to make differentiation a growing phenomenon. Turkey faces polarisation between different political forces, the state and civil society. The neighbourhood is unravelling to the east and south and a power shift is under way at global level. This questions the regional roles of Turkey and the EU. Against this backdrop, FEUTURE aims to: (1) map the dynamics of EU-Turkey relations as to underlying narratives and thematic drivers; (2) substantiate most likely future scenario(s) and assess its implications; (3) draw policy recommendations. FEUTURE provides excellence and pursues an innovative programme in a 3-phased structure of elaboration, exploration and extrapolation.
Preliminary Outcomes

The project applies an inter-temporal, interdisciplinary and international approach by analysing drivers within six thematic dimensions (politics, security, economics, energy, migration, identity) and across four levels of analysis (EU, Turkey, neighbourhood, global). Phases 1 and 2 culminate in an extrapolation phase in which FEUTURE integrates new knowledge and tests the implications of three ideal-type future scenarios for EU-Turkey relations: conflict, cooperation and convergence. It engages in a trans-disciplinary exchange within an elite survey and with the knowledge-user community from the four levels of analysis. FEUTURE's work plan guarantees coherence of its research approach by streamlining work in one conceptual, one synthesis, two organisational and six thematic work packages. FEUTURE will achieve academic, practical and structural impact beyond the project.
INFORM

Project reference: 693537

EU contribution: EUR 2 400 000

From 2016 to 2019

Project coordinator: University College London, UK

informal practices • politics • economics • social change

Closing the Gap between Formal and Informal Institutions in Southeast Europe

Description

The distance between proclaimed goals and existing practices represents the key challenge to the European integration of Balkan societies. The integration process could end with superficial change, behind which the «real» social life of corruption, clientelism, tension, inequality, and exclusion will continue to unfold. The project will explicate the key formal and informal "rules of the game", and identify and decipher the «unwritten rules» which underpin tactical maneuvering between formal and informal institutions, in various spheres and at various levels of social life. These will then be compared to the demands and recommendations laid out in the key EU documents outlining expectations from Southeast European states.
Preliminary Outcomes

The goal is to contribute to the formulation of policy recommendations which will aim to not eradicate informal practices, but to close the gap between formal and informal institutions in Balkan societies. In particular the project will prepare a Joint Conference Declaration from the conference in Slovenia in which representatives of the national offices for EU integration from the Western Balkan countries, representatives of Croatian and Slovenian experts on EU integration and representatives of the DG Enlargement office.
Freedom, Dignity and Justice: a Comprehensive Approach to the Understanding of Youth Exclusion and the Prospects for Youth Inclusion and Overall Change in the South and East Mediterranean

Description

The 2010-2011 youth-led wave of protests in the South and East Mediterranean (SEM) countries can be described as the bursting on the scene of a new generation united by a shared experience of marginalisation and by new ways of protesting and acting. Though important for the future of the SEM, this phenomenon still escapes the main frames of analysis used by academic research. POWER2YOUTH aims at filling this important knowledge gap by offering a comprehensive multi-level, interdisciplinary and gender-sensitive approach to the understanding of youth in the SEM region. Building on a conceptualisation of youth that gives prominence to youth as potential agents of change, the project starts out from the assumption that youth exclusion is the result of unequal power relations in society. The project also posits that effective youth inclusion can only be fostered by the bottom-up process of addressing the systemic inequalities that lead to exclusion in the first place. From this premise comes the project’s emphasis on the study of the potentially transformative impact of individual and collective youth agency viewed as part of a wider social dynamics.
Outcomes

The expected outcomes of POWER2YOUTH are:

• Advancing the state of art of youth studies by providing both improved empirical knowledge and theoretical insight into the youth ‘phenomenon’ in the SEM region and elsewhere;

• Enhancing research cooperation among experts working in disciplines such as political economy, sociology, political science, anthropology and cultural studies;

• Involving stakeholders and researchers of SEM countries in research and policy formulation, thus building a regional knowledge base on youth;

• Producing innovative policy recommendations that address the challenge of fostering youth inclusion in the SEM region.
Researching Arab Mediterranean Youth: Towards a New Social Contract

Description

SAHWA addresses a variety of issues related to the youth in Arab Mediterranean countries. It has four broad objectives: 1) to conceptualise transitions in Arab Mediterranean countries with a focus on youth; 2) to map political, socio-economic and cultural change in the Arab Mediterranean world; 3) to compare these processes to similar transitions in other historical contexts and identify models for the presentday management of political and economic transformations in the Arab Mediterranean; 4) to provide policy-makers with a better knowledge base for understanding the role of youth and with better tools for designing national public policies and EU cooperation actions in support of change in the region. The main thematic areas for the project are education, employment and social inclusion, political mobilisation and participation, culture and values, international migration and mobility, gender, comparative experiences in other transition contexts, and public policies and international cooperation. SAHWA is an interdisciplinary project that brings together socio-anthropological, economic and political, sociological and cultural approaches. It also includes a multi-country youth survey and fieldwork in local contexts.
Preliminary Outcomes

SAHWA will produce policy briefs; scientific papers; a documentary; a ‘cartography of change’, and several participatory tools such as the Shababpedia (a sort of Wikipedia about Arab youth) and the SAHWA Community. Most of these deliverables will be public and open-access. Several dissemination and outreach events will be organised to reach out to policymakers and practitioners in the region.
SEARCH

http://www.ub.edu/searchproject

Project reference: 266834

EU contribution: EUR 2 636 942

From 2011 to 2014

Project coordinator: Universitat de Barcelona, Spain

neighbourhood policy ● EU policy ● trade ● knowledge and innovation ● competitiveness and cohesion

Sharing KnowledgE Assets: InteRegionally Cohesive NeighHorhoods

Description

The main objective of the SEARCH project was to strengthen integration between the European Union (EU) and the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) countries by focusing on the potential of the European Research Neighbourhood (ERN). The SEARCH project analysed the impact of the ENP on the integration of the EU and its neighbouring countries in terms of their trade and capital flows, mobility and human capital, technological activities and innovation diffusion, and institutional environment. The aim was to facilitate a better understanding of the conditions characterising the institutional framework of the ENP countries and their economic interactions with the EU in relation to their peoples, capital, trade, knowledge and innovation.
Outcomes

- A framework for a theoretical and empirical understanding of the relationships forged between the EU and the ENP countries;
- A theoretical and an empirical study of the patterns of economic interaction between the EU and its neighbouring countries (NCs) and to estimate the sub-national (i.e., regional) impact of these interactions;
- An analysis of labour migration and its economic and social consequences (costs and benefits) both for the EU and its neighbouring regions;
- An investigation on the extent to which the innovative performance of the regions (EU-27 and NC-16) depends on endogenous ability in knowledge creation or on the capacity to absorb, adopt and imitate other regions’ knowledge and Innovations;
- The identification of the impact of changes to the institutional structures of the ENP countries and regions on prospects for (a) improved economic development and social cohesion, and (b) for stronger integration with the EU and, in particular, with the New Member States (NMS);
- Country specific policy guidelines for policymakers in the EU and the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) countries to support the development of higher levels of economic integration for the enhanced growth, competitiveness and cohesion of the two areas.
3. Research on Development and International Cooperation
Democratisation of Water and Sanitation Governance by Means of Socio-Technical Innovation

Description

DESAFIO studies socio-technical innovations to eradicate structural inequality in water and sanitation (WSS). It examines how innovations change policies, help developing strategies and interventions, and enhance policy learning. What conditions, factors and processes facilitate innovations? What are the critical requirements and obstacles for their sustainability and replicability? The research engages beneficiary communities, practitioners, local authorities, and other actors in design, implementation, monitoring, validation, and diffusion of the innovations. It studies examples from urban, peri-urban, and rural areas of Brazil, including cases from Argentina and Colombia.
Outcomes

Results show that the following steps are necessary:

- Break with technology-centred, top-down solutions in WSS. Stop promoting policies privileging private profit over public benefits, such as privatisation and mercantilisation of WSS.
- Promote innovations that strengthen public authorities to deliver and regulate safe, quality WSS.
- Invest heavily in the provision and long-term maintenance of infrastructure and management prioritising long-term social “returns” (in public health, quality of life, etc.) over short-term economic gains.
- Enhance inter-sectoral cooperation and strongly support public-public and public-community partnerships in WSS. Strengthen inter- and transdisciplinary coordination.
- Support innovations that promote active and meaningful, not merely tokenistic, involvement of local communities and other relevant actors, especially the poor and most vulnerable.
- Deepen the substantive democratisation of government, management and access to WSS with social participation and democratic control over the decision-making process by common citizens and users.
Description

ECOPAS is an innovative multidisciplinary project designed to provide coordination and support to research and policy communities on issues connected to climate change and other societal challenges in the Pacific Islands region. Overarching objectives are to define better options for sustainable development in the Pacific, and to better inform the European Union’s engagements there. The consortium’s research focus is in the social sciences and humanities, with an emphasis on social anthropology and regional studies, while also developing the role of the performing arts in forging new channels for Europe-Pacific cooperation and communication. ECOPAS is a significant, high-quality research resource for the European Commission’s engagement in policy-making in and for the Pacific.
Outcomes

Results have been accomplished through the stock-taking and open-access provision of research on climate change and related societal dimensions in Pacific contexts, the provision of new channels for dialogue between scholarship and policy-making, and the building of a long-term research agenda for current and future challenges faced by the Pacific.

Through a wide repertoire of encounters, events, reviews and reports, and the building of a massive online database on Pacific research expertise, relationships between Europe and the Pacific and intra-Pacific are built and developed in the broadest sense.
European Development Cooperation to 2020

Description

The EDC2020 project involved researchers from different European countries in its research activities with the aim:

- To produce innovative knowledge on emerging issues with relevance to EU policymaking.
- To disseminate the knowledge to stakeholders in EU development politics to facilitate improved policymaking.
- To provide a platform of debate on global challenges facing Europe on the future role Europe has in the world, and on its relation to developing countries.
Outcomes

The EDC2020 project found that:

• The diversification of the donor landscape provides a timely stimulus for increasing self-reflection on the goals and future direction of European development cooperation. New actors present a challenge for Europe to present a vision of its role in the world and to better embed development cooperation in European foreign relations.

• EU development and energy policies urgently need coordination. At present they often work at odds with each other. This will be a major issue in future years, where the EU needs to reform its policies to make a major impact.

• The EU should adopt principles in relation to how Climate Change funds are mobilised; how funds are managed in terms of transparency, accountability and equitability; and how funds are disbursed in terms of national ownership and timeliness.
Environmental governance in Latin America and the Caribbean: Developing frameworks for sustainable and equitable resource use

Description

The central objective of ENGOV project was to understand how environmental governance is shaped in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and to develop a new analytical framework for environmental governance in the region. The project will focus on both formal and informal practices of management around renewable and non-renewable natural resources, how they are perceived, contested and reshaped in the context of rapid and complex social, political, economic and environmental changes at local, national, and global levels. In order to do so, the concept of environmental governance provides a comprehensive approach linking theory and practice. Latin American and Caribbean countries have come to occupy a key position in the global debate on environmental governance, and the climate crisis has further stressed the international importance of the region. The project uses multi-disciplinary and multi-scalar methods, including stakeholders in all the project phases to discuss and compare contexts and outcomes in different LAC regions, and to develop innovative tools for learning processes and communicating its results.
Outcomes

The research shows first of all that ideological preferences of a government do make a difference for environmental governance. It was found that the post neoliberal governments of Ecuador and Bolivia have enacted a broad range of public policies - from Constitutional reforms to the creation or total re-engineering of previously existing state agencies - that changed the governance of natural resources. Simultaneously, the emergent modes of environmental governance are highly influenced by long term trajectories of development (i.e. dependence on primary exports), and historically persistent views on the relations between state, society, and the natural environment. In addition, the exceptional gains coming from the price boom of the main commodities exported by Bolivia and Ecuador (i.e. hydrocarbons) played an important role. The end result of these four sources of change – ideology, path dependence, deep seated beliefs, and the cycle of the international economy - has been a mode of environmental governance in which the Bolivian and Ecuadorian states have gained more control both over the transnational companies operating in their national territory, and over the organisations of civil society with interests on environmental issues.
Exploring the Future of Global Food and Nutrition Security

Description

One of the biggest challenges facing global society today is the widespread and growing presence of hunger and food insecurity. Given that the lead time for some social and technological solutions is long, a long-term framework on global food and nutrition security (FNS) is required. FOODSECURE aims at improving the resilience of the food system, by providing a means to mitigate risks and uncertainties in the world food system caused by economic and climatic shocks while providing for sustainable economic growth. The project provides an analytical toolbox to experiment, analyse, and coordinate the effects of short and medium term policies, thereby allowing for the execution of consistent, coherent, long-term strategies with desirable consequences.
Preliminary Outcomes

The project has developed effective and sustainable strategies for assessing and addressing the short- and long-term challenges of food and nutrition security. The project will provide a set of analytical instruments to experiment, analyse, and coordinate the effects of short and long term policies related to achieving food security. The purpose is to support stakeholders in the design of consistent, coherent, long-term FNS strategies. FOODSECURE combines rigorous analyses and stakeholder participation in order to:

- Better understand the determinants and different levels of causality underpinning global food and nutrition security;
- Improve the ability of decision makers to foresee and respond to future food and nutrition security crises;
- Provide guidance to stakeholders on critical pathways for technological and institutional change and policies, and on the integration of a diversity of visions in a common framework.
Assessing the Impacts of Multinational Corporations on GLOBAL Development and VALUE Creation

Description

GLOBAL VALUE addresses the measurement and management of business impacts on global sustainable development. It develops an innovative framework for assessing impacts of Multinational Corporations (MNCs) on issues related to the Millennium Declaration/the Sustainable Development Goals, human rights, transparency, and anti-corruption. The project will shed light on institutional arrangements; analyse systems of governance for responsible business practices; explore responsible competitiveness; assess the complementarity of public and private sector activities; and derive recommendations for decision makers in business, policy and CSOs.
Preliminary Outcomes

For addressing MNCs, the project will deliver a modular, user-friendly and customisable toolkit, including a web-based assessment platform, a tool navigator, and training materials. It will take into account the most relevant pathways of impact (through business operations, community investments, regional, supply chain and product related impacts) and link up with powerful management approaches (such as supply chain management, life cycle assessment and base of the pyramid innovation). The toolkit will be tested in close collaboration with leading MNCs: BATA (garment, Bangladesh), OLAM (food, Tanzania) and MONDI (paper & packaging, Russia a.o.). Research organisations, CSOs, and sector experts from these countries are members of the consortium and ensure the involvement of stakeholders and local actors. By establishing the GLOBAL VALUE Expert Crowd, the project continuously takes business, society, and policy perspectives into account. More than 200 experts are involved.
Historical patterns of development and underdevelopment: origins and persistence of the great divergence

Description

The project advanced knowledge regarding the causes of European development and underdevelopment. It did so by quantifying the relative growth experiences of the European core, its surrounding regions and other continents. HI-POD researchers examined interrelationships of these regions from the Middle Ages until today, and analysed the intra-regional and inter-regional causes of the regions’ divergent trends. The project explored the relations between world regions and the factors shaping different development paths from a historical perspective. It is focusing on the experiences of Africa, Asia and Latin America, drawing not only upon European-based scholars but also on a Latin American partner to this end.
Outcomes

HI-POD looked at European development transition from circa 1300 AD. It quantified development over the long run of Europe vs. Asia, as well as African and Latin American economic performance. The project also mapped Europe’s growth transition, looking also at gender, demography and development. Particular attention was given to divergences in this respect between the core of Europe vs its periphery, including implications for each region and ways for the periphery to catch up.
Integrating and developing European Asian studies

Description

Cultural perspective is essential in foreign policy-making, in particular in Asia, where EU decision-makers have acknowledged the enormous need for Area Studies cultural and social science tools to facilitate greater understanding and better geopolitical analysis. The IDEAS project intended to address this need by coordinating a network of 44 research institutions specialised in Asian Area Studies with a view to creating a user-oriented research knowledge base. Particular attention was paid to the sharing of infrastructure (most notably 22 field research centres located in 15 Asia countries), knowledge resources (libraries and catalogues), and exchanging scholars. The main goal in coordinating this institutional network was to ensure a greater connection between the spheres of academic research and the needs of policy-makers. Therefore, the first project’s deliverable is to define priorities for Asian Area Studies research in the next decade.
Outcomes

The IDEAS project acted as a driving force for the coordination of a wide range of institutions and stakeholders in Asian Studies research, including academia, civil society, and policy making. The project made a lasting contribution to the integration of the European Research Area (ERA) through the promotion of joint research programmes and the sharing of European research infrastructure, in particular the EFEO network of field centres in Asia. The project pioneered an innovative strategy for the development of links between the fields of diplomacy and SSH research through the provision of briefing sessions that examine geopolitical and cultural issues from a long-term perspective. In promoting Asian Studies research and highlighting the importance of a quality SESH knowledge base on Asia, the IDEAS project paved the way for more informed policy making in which Member State and European stakeholders have the benefit of pertinent and up to-date data on socio-economic and cultural issues that may well prove to be critical at a time when Europe and European-Asian relations are evolving rapidly.
A Framework Model on MNE’s Impact on Global Development Challenges in Emerging Markets

Description

MNEmerge provides a comprehensive framework for understanding the impact of multinational enterprises (MNEs) on United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in developing countries using case studies, quantitative data as well as policy analysis. The project studies how MNEs manage their activities in FDI; business functioning; technology and innovation strategies; corporate philanthropy or socially responsible investments, and how these issues can contribute to attaining poverty alleviation; food, health and environmental security and electrification in developing countries. The four objectives of the project are:

• Developing a comprehensive framework to analyse the impacts of MNEs towards socioeconomic development;
• Developing a model that describes the relationships between MNEs, FDI and the economy;
• Performing case studies and quantitative analysis to verify the developed model;
• Analysing the role of public policies in supporting responsible business practices and the MDGs.
Preliminary Outcomes

MNEmerge contributes with policy and strategy recommendations to all eight MDGs. These recommendations are based on field and case studies on three continents (Asia, Africa and Latin America) to assess the real impact of MNE activities on developing country host economies. As a result, the project will provide concrete recommendations to support the future decision-making as well as to present best practices for MNE company level actors concerning corporate responsibility, sustainable development and energy efficient behaviour.

The project outputs are targeted to underline critical factors and give recommendations for policy and strategy development.
NOPOOR

Description

NOPOOR generates new knowledge on the nature and extent of poverty in developing countries to provide policymakers with a broader understanding of poverty. It uses a comprehensive approach on different dimensions of poverty in 20+ countries through numerous case studies. It also looks at the dynamics of poverty and at the results of public policy and international aid. The project identifies key mechanisms that explain the persistence and exacerbation of poverty, which have been altered by the globalisation process, including trade, aid, FDI and migration, and by the growing interdependence of economies. As causes may differ between countries, policies and actions must be tailored to each country’s characteristics, including their access to resources, political regime, quality of institutions and governance. These points are developed by various approaches, including political economy, and by different methods: surveys, econometric studies and case studies.

NOPOOR generates new knowledge from original surveys, database work and qualitative work, and pursues an active policy of dissemination and capacity building.
Preliminary Outcomes

NOPOOR has produced academic papers and participated to numerous events, including meetings with policy makers. NOPOOR is now orienting its production towards a wider audience with policy briefs, interventions on social media with an active dissemination policy. Special emphasis is given to the policy implications of its findings and to the dialogue with policy makers and other stakeholders through the participation in different fora.
African Rural-City Connections

Description

The overall objective of the RurbanAfrica project is to explore the connections between rural transformations, mobility and urbanisation processes, and to analyse how these contribute to an understanding of the scale, nature and location of poverty in sub-Saharan Africa. This includes critically scrutinising the assumption that migration from rural areas to cities is one of the major development challenges faced by national and local governments in their efforts to stimulate economic growth and curb poverty. The project focuses on four sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries: Ghana, Cameroon, Rwanda and Tanzania.
Outcomes

Most rural sites are experiencing increasing commercialisation of production. While involved smallholders have benefitted from the increasing diversification of trading channels, competition for land has become one of the main constraints in the livelihood activities. Agricultural diversification, non-agricultural activities, multi-locality and resettlement are some key responses of rural households to reduce vulnerabilities. Destination and purpose for migration differ, and the form and importance of remittances vary greatly and increasingly contribute to rural livelihoods. Urban transformations of cities are highly impacted by intra-urban migration and mobility but not the dominant destination of migrants from dynamic rural regions. Migration to cities and regular mobility are closely linked to livelihood activities, whereas intra-urban residential mobility is more connected to the search for cheaper land/housing/rents in the peripheral areas. These trends impact highly on the diverse access and needs of urban services.
Integration in Southeast Asia: Trajectories of Inclusion, Dynamics of Exclusion

Description

SEATIDE used a field research approach to study the benefits and risks of regional and national integration in Southeast Asia (SEA). Integrative processes offer the promise of economic wealth; the free movement of people; the promotion of citizenship and access to knowledge networks with extensive links to the wider world. At the same time, failure to take advantage of these benefits can result in processes of exclusion that undermine national/regional frameworks, entailing risks in the fields of human development/security, including the danger of framework disintegration. SEATIDE’s research was informed by awareness that dynamics of exclusion and inclusion should be studied in tandem to produce holistic analyses of integrative processes and their contemporary forms, which take into account long-term local perspectives.
Outcomes

The project conducted field research and produced analyses that took into account local knowledge as well as macroeconomic studies and expert perspectives. Qualitative and quantitative data were presented in case studies structured by a common analytical framework, centred on but not restricted to four SEA countries (Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Malaysia), with a unifying focus on transnational issues. Project outcomes were discussed with SEA specialists in Europe and Asia, local stakeholders, and policymakers in ASEAN and the EU. The project also contributed to the coordination of EU-ASEAN scholarly exchange, the improvement of networking capacity, and the promotion of a new generation of field researchers.
4. Research on EU Strategic Partnerships
Towards an Atlantic area? Mapping trends, perspectives and interregional dynamics between Europe, Africa and the Americas

Description

The ATLANTIC FUTURE project was developed in a setting of transformation in the global arena, with the redistribution of power being the main trend in international relations. In this context, the Atlantic remains one of the most dynamic regions in the world. On the one hand, the North America-Europe link continues to be the strongest of the transcontinental relations. On the other, North-South relations between the US and Latin America and Europe and Africa are changing, with both Latin America and Africa increasing their weight in global affairs. This redistribution of power also implies a shift from state actors to non-state actors. Furthermore, in the Atlantic, global challenges present opportunities as well as obstacles. Positive factors, such as the potential for better management of shared resources, and negative ones, like the illegal flow of narcotics that harms the whole region, emerge as potential drivers for cooperation, competition or conflict.
Outcomes

The ATLANTIC FUTURE analysed the fundamental trends in the Atlantic and showed how changing links in key areas such as economy and finance, security, cultural, social and political relations, and resources and the environment are transforming the wider Atlantic Space. Research mapped the interconnections between those areas across the Atlantic and produced an Atlas of the Atlantic. It also tracked the evolution of region-to-region relations between Africa, the Americas and Europe and took in a variety of perspectives from all the Atlantic regions and powers. In addition, the project identified opportunities for and obstacles to stronger cooperation, both on issues limited to the Atlantic and on global challenges. It included a prospective exercise in which future scenarios were projected for the Atlantic Space in 2025. The ATLANTIC FUTURE project also reviewed the European Union’s interregional links with the other continents with direct access to the Atlantic and aimed to produce policy recommendations for the European Union’s Atlantic agenda. Finally, as a result of these outcomes, the ATLANTIC FUTURE published a monograph in which an analysis of the state of affairs in the Atlantic Space was made.
Disaggregating Chinese perceptions of the EU and the implications for the EU’s China policy

Description

Engaging a rapidly rising China is a great challenge for the EU. To do this more effectively, the EU needs a comprehensive understanding of China, especially of how the EU and its China initiatives and strategies are perceived in China itself. Through surveys, interviews, and focus groups, the project looked into how the EU is perceived by the Chinese general public, government officials, intellectuals, business and civil society. It produced a comprehensive picture of how Chinese people see the EU: how China views its opportunities and challenges in dealing with the EU, how different government agencies view the EU, how government views differ from those of business and civil society, and how opinion in Beijing differs from that in the provinces. The recommendations from this study contributed to policies for the EU to deal with China, helping to reduce market restrictions, resolve the conflict over China’s exchange rate policy, lift barriers to EU investment in China, increase EU «green technology» exports, etc. Project findings contributed to a better projection of the EU’s image, enhancing the EU’s “soft power” in China.
Outcomes

The salient concepts of Europe perceived by Chinese public are dominated by impression on the biggest three powers in the Europe, the UK, France and Germany plus Russia regarding country, city, and historical figures. The actual knowledge that Chinese public have on the EU is limited, but the knowledge level is much higher among the elite groups. Both Chinese public and elite have shown positive attitude to different extents toward European political, economic, social and cultural elements. In terms of Chinese affect toward the EU in comparison with other major powers in the world, both Chinese public and elite like the EU and the EU citizens the most over the US, Russia and Japan and their people. According to the survey, while Chinese public hold an overwhelming positive view towards EU’s role in world peace, international economy, environmental protection, scientific progress, fighting poverty in the world, and fighting international terrorism, the elite groups are more cautious in giving positive answers. While Chinese public believe the US is still the most influential actor in the world in both political and economic aspects, the elite groups express such view even stronger.
The role of governance in the resolution of socio-economic and political conflict in India and Europe

Description

The project analysed how socio-economic and political intra-state conflicts are being perceived and dealt with through current governance initiatives in India and the EU. The project provided knowledge on the dynamics of conflict and peace in relation to changes in the political governance of states acting within an increasingly interdependent world. The project analysed the premises and operational initiatives in conflict transformation processes through a combination of fieldwork, statistical analysis and theory development. The case studies of the project encompassed governance practices in Bihar, Bosnia, Cyprus, Georgia, North East India and Kashmir. These studies were conducted in collaboration between Indian and European research teams. The results prepared the ground for systematic analysis, theoretical innovation and policy recommendations.
Outcomes

The most significant result of the project was an emerging understanding of the similarities and differences between India’s and the EU’s governance strategies in conflict countries and their impact on conflict dynamics. The project’s comparative analysis of Indian and EU governance tools, their impacts and limitations flagged shortcomings of those tools for conflict resolution. It elaborated in detail the conditions and contexts in which governance tools are successful in promoting conflict transformation. The CORE project provided analysis of governance strategies in different contexts, highlighted the complexities of the divergent conflict dynamics and elaborated where governance initiatives met political, socio-economic or cultural obstacles. The project’s research also showed that there is often a disconnect between top-down and bottom-up peace initiatives. Local peace agency, which operates based on a deep understanding of the local context and often enjoys stronger legitimacy than external intervention, might not be viable without external political and material support.
EU-India Platform for the Social Sciences and Humanities

Description

EqUIP: the EU-India Platform for the Social Sciences and Humanities will bring together research funding and support organisations in Europe and India in order to develop a stronger strategic partnership. Europe and India have strong historical links, but its research collaboration relationships are relatively new. EqUIP will link and build upon the successful partnerships developed at the European level, using the NORFACE and HERA European Research Area Networks (ERA-NETs) as a focus for expanding interactions with India. EqUIP is linking and building upon successful partner relationships developed at the European level, using the NORFACE and HERA European Research Area Networks (ERA-NETs) as a basis for expanding interactions with India. As in those networks, the EqUIP platform is supporting research funding agencies across Europe and India to increase international collaboration through: sharing best practice, networking and the closer coordination of existing collaborative activities, and the establishment of new relationships. A key element of the work will be to map existing collaborative activity with the aim of identifying and addressing barriers and challenges to effective research co-operation, as well as identifying opportunities and priorities for future research collaboration.
Preliminary Outcomes

The platform will support agencies across Europe and India in stepping up international collaboration: through sharing best practice, networking and the closer coordination of existing collaborative activities and the establishment of new relationships. It will map existing collaborative activity with the aim of identifying barriers and challenges to effective research cooperation, as well as identify opportunities and priorities for future research collaboration. In the Platform’s first year, this important mapping of collaborative activity has got under way with the development of a ‘Scoping Report on the Existing Collaboration and Future Interests and Opportunities’. The report captures information gathered through a survey of partners on the existing networks and partnerships in which they are engaged. The report also explores partners’ strategic and future priorities, and approaches to research funding and support to identify potential alignment of interests. The scoping report identified five broad areas of potentially aligned research themes that would benefit from an EU-India perspective/ collaboration.
Trans-Atlantic Platform for the Social Sciences and Humanities

**Description**

The increasingly complex societal challenges of the 21st century transcend international boundaries. From poverty and inequality to preparing for the impact of an aging society, researchers in the social sciences and humanities on both sides of the Atlantic are working to understand and address these global challenges. Major research funders in Europe and the Americas have therefore decided to join forces to build the Trans-Atlantic Platform to enhance collaborative research internationally in key areas of mutual interest and engagement. The Trans-Atlantic Platform is a global first, representing a collaborative effort of key social science and humanities funders on a scale not previously entertained. T-AP is supported by the EC under the FP7 programme.
Outcomes

The Platform aims to enhance transnational research collaboration and has identified, with the help of the social sciences and humanities research communities, a series of common challenges and strategic priority areas where such collaboration will bring added value. Through workshops, symposia and other such events, the Trans-Atlantic Platform is helping to facilitate the formation of international, interdisciplinary networks of researchers and emphasising the key roles that social science and humanities research can play in addressing 21st century challenges. As an initial focus, the Platform is piloting new principles of transnational collaboration focused on the theme of Digital Scholarship. The Trans-Atlantic Platform has launched the 2016 T-AP Digging into Data Challenge to support research projects that use “big data” to address questions in the social sciences and humanities. This pilot program will lay the groundwork for future collaborative activities.
Redefining the transatlantic relationship and its role in shaping global governance

Description

Transworld, a project involving a network of 13 research centres, universities and a survey company from the US, Europe and Turkey, provided a new approach to the understanding of transatlantic relations and their role in the 21st century world. The project proceeded in three phases:

1. The first phase was dedicated to elaborating a conceptual framework.
2. The second phase of the project focused on redefining transatlantic relations in four policy domains – economy, security, environment, human rights and democracy – and then on illustrating the role US-European cooperation in shaping global and regional governance structures.
3. The third phase of the project was dedicated to the elaboration of a set of policy recommendations.
Outcomes

Transworld has:

• Set up a dedicated website and newsletter to store and disseminate information about the project.
• Produced around 45 working papers, several peer-reviewed articles, and three collective books.
• Conducted the first ever survey of transatlantic elites.
• Conducted four Delphi exercises involving up to 120 experts from Europe, the US, Russia, China, Brazil and India.
• Organized 4 public conferences, a young research course for doctoral and post-doc students and a number of workshop.
• Organized closed-door meetings with officials from the Commission and the EEAS to present research findings.
Sustainable urbanisation in China: Historical and comparative perspectives, mega-trends towards 2025

Description

The URBACHINA project combined the knowledge and expertise from a number of different disciplines to provide new and innovative insights and scenarios that can be used to guide urbanisation in China over the next 40 years. URBACHINA worked on four defined topics:

- The institutional foundations and policies for urbanisation;
- The issue of land property in urbanisation and the development of real estate markets in cities;
- The need for environmental infrastructures delivering connectivity and services for the urban population;
- The relationships between urban development, traditions, and modern lifestyles in cities.

These four topics were approached as different layers within a comprehensive analysis of a single process - urbanisation in China - that links historical experiences, comparative dimensions and possible future scenarios.
Outcomes

URBACHINA’s major outcome was a durable network of Chinese and European research organisations. The project produced knowledge on four themes:

1. Future patterns of urbanisation in China, including shifts to a service economy,
2. Effects of the territorial expansion of Chinese cities, including land property law and the ‘hukou’ restrictions on rural–urban migration,
3. Infrastructures and services for sustainable development, that is, what resources will be needed and how they will affect quality of life, and
4. Urban communities and social sustainability, focusing on urban planning and public space.
5. Research on External Aspects of Migration
Diasporas for peace: patterns, trends and potential of long-distance diaspora involvement in conflict settings. Case studies from the Horn of Africa

Description

DIASPEACE generated policy-relevant, evidence-based knowledge on how diasporas (exiled populations from conflict regions) play into the dynamics of conflict and peace in their countries of origin. The project had an empirical focus on diaspora networks operating in Europe which extend their transnational activities to the Horn of Africa. This is a region where decades of violent conflict have resulted in state collapse and the dispersal of more than two million people. The consortium involved six partners from Europe and two from the Horn of Africa, bringing together cross-disciplinary expertise from the fields of conflict analysis, migration studies and anthropology among others.
Outcomes

The project conducted field research in seven European countries and in Somalia, Ethiopia and Eritrea. In a globalised world diasporas have become new forces shaping the interactions between countries, regions and continents. The project produced the following results:

- devised and tested methodologies of multi-sited comparative research and to develop the conceptual framework for researching migrant political transnationalism in a conflict context;
- facilitated interaction between diaspora and other stakeholders in Europe and in the Horn of Africa;
- provided policy input on how to better involve diaspora in conflict resolution and peace-building interventions, and how to improve coherence between security, development and immigration policies.
Bordering, Political Landscapes and Social Arenas: Potentials and Challenges of Evolving Border Concepts in a post-Cold War World

Description

EUBORDERSCAPES studies conceptual change linked to fundamental social, economic, cultural and geopolitical understandings of state borders. Major paradigmatic shifts in scientific debate are also considered. While state borders are the basic frame of reference, our approach emphasises the social significance and subjectivities of state borders while critically interrogating "objective" categories of state territoriality and international relations. The project is not only focussed on more general and abstract levels of conceptual change but also investigates concrete impacts of borders. EUBORDERSCAPES compares and contrasts how different and often contested conceptualisations of state borders (in terms of their political, social, cultural and symbolic significance) resonate in concrete contexts at the level of everyday life.
Outcomes

EUBORDERSCAPES research activities reflect different ways in which political and social borders condition understandings of Europe and a sense of European citizenship and participation. Strands of conceptual change have been derived through the analysis of political language and discursive shifts:

• Singling out the most important counter-concepts (Europe – non-Europe, East-West, North vs. South, ‘us’-‘them’, etc.)

• The construction of borders and socio-spatial delimitations via discourses of othering, inclusion and exclusion; metaphors of the bridge, the gate, the flank, etc.

• Drawing attention to political and institutional contexts and their implications: who produces the given conceptualisation, what are/ were the stakes?

Description

The project's main goal has been to explore relationships between borders, cooperation and development at the European Union’s external boundaries. Regions on both sides of the EU’s new external borders generally lack many of the employment opportunities available elsewhere. More open borders, the EU enlargement process and “neighbourhood” have increased the international salience of social affairs, economic development, minority rights, cross-border employment and trade, the environment, etc. One question that looms large is whether crossborder co-operation can emerge as a regional development resource as well as promote greater social interaction between the EU and its neighbours. A major challenge in this respect is that of strengthening an enlarged EU while avoiding new divisions that security policies, visas and restrictive border regimes might impose.
Outcomes

The project’s research has resulted in a better understanding of the border as a potential resource. It is clear that national contexts and the gaps between them very much influence policy oriented behaviours at national and subnational levels. As a result the project has observed that stakeholders generally affirm the desirability of CBC (Cross-Border Co-operation) although actual implementation remains patchy. One reason for this are huge gaps between local level needs and interests and (geo)politics that governs the management of borders. Border communities rarely possess political and economic influence to negotiate special border regime conditions with state agencies. However, a degree of local control can be achieved through local networks that create bridges across hard borders. For this reason, civil society needs to be a more important part of a nexus between Cohesion and Neighbourhood policies.
Imagining Europe from the outside. On the role of democracy and human rights perceptions in constructing migration aspirations and decisions towards Europe

**Description**

The project examined how Europe is perceived from outside and how these perceptions affect migration aspirations. It focused on the role of people’s perceptions on democracy and human rights – both in their respective countries of origin as well as in Europe – play in the aspirations to migrate or not. The project also looked into how perceptions on human rights and democracy interact with other determinants of migration aspirations; to what extent migration is perceived as a valuable life project, and how potential migrants compare Europe to other migration destinations. EUMAGINE studied migration-related perceptions among persons aged 18-39 in four countries of origin: Morocco, Senegal, Turkey and Ukraine. These included persons who had previous migration experience, who had no experience but aspired to migrate, and others who had never migrated and did not aspire to do so.
Outcomes

The results demonstrate the relevance of perceptions on human rights and democracy in the home country and the migration destination in explaining migration aspirations. Perceptions of human rights and democracy status were measured by looking at people’s views on job opportunities, corruption levels, educational opportunities and gender equality. The analysis shows that negative views on job opportunities and corruption levels in the country of origin on the one hand and positive perceptions of employment and corruption levels in Europe on the other, positively affect migration aspirations. Evidence was found also for the importance of several individual and household characteristics in predicting migration aspirations, such as gender, age and marital status, as well as wealth and education, albeit to considerably varying degrees across countries and regions.
Transnational Migration in Transition: Transformative Characteristics of Temporary Mobility of People

Description

The aim of EURA-NET is to produce scientifically sound and innovative framings for investigating transformative characteristics and development impacts of temporary transnational migration and mobility in highly industrialised societies, transformation countries and developing countries. Theoretical and empirical studies are being accomplished to attain an understanding of the transformative characteristics of temporary migration in China, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Thailand, Turkey and Ukraine, as well as in wider international and regional contexts. Research data are being gathered through interviews with individual migrants and national and international policy-makers. The findings in the European-Asian context will provide insights to be applied to other world regions.
Preliminary Outcomes

While EU countries try to recruit highly-skilled professionals from Asia and other continents, selective regulations and bureaucratic practices impair their attractiveness in the global competition for talent. There is no commonly accepted definition of what is meant by temporary migration and who is qualified as a temporary migrant, and in many cases no statistical data are available, or the categories of existing statistics do not match the categories of temporary migration. Despite the shortcomings in the existing statistics, the findings indicate that temporary migration between the EU and Asia is on the increase. Not only are growing numbers of Asian highly-skilled and skilled workers, tertiary level students, family migrants, asylum seekers and irregular migrants moving to EU Member States, but Europeans have also adopted increasingly mobile transnational lifestyles.
Gender, Migration and Intercultural Interactions in the Mediterranean and South East Europe: an interdisciplinary perspective

Description

GEMIC studied the dynamics of migration and integration of women migrants in eight countries in Southern Europe and the Balkans, some of which were considered sending, others receiving, and still others transit countries. GEMIC research focused on eight thematic areas: representations of women migrants in the media, intercultural education, religious identity, mixed marriages and transnational families, urban space, and gendered violence.
Outcomes

GEMIC research results highlighted the existence of different intercultural interactions between women migrants and native populations, pointing towards relations of co-existence, rather than exclusion, albeit racialised in the areas of education and family life. In the case of religious practices, migrant women developed hybrid practices of accommodation to local norms. In the neighbourhood context however, significant daily exchanges based on common use of urban spaces allowed migrant women to develop a sense of belonging, much more than in formal institutional spaces. Representations of migration in the media and in film, nonetheless, didn't follow these lived practices, except in rare cases. Migrant women were portrayed either as ‘bad mothers’, exploited domestic workers, or trafficked women. Indeed, in the case of gendered violence, while migrant women were indeed more exposed to different kinds of violence, not only sexual but also labour related, their media and policy.
Migration between Africa and Europe

Description

Despite the attention it raises in the media, the scope, nature and likely development of Sub-Saharan African migration to Europe remains poorly understood, and, as a result, European polices may be ineffective. A major cause of this lack of understanding is the absence of comprehensive data on the causes of migration and circulation between Africa and Europe. MAFE collected unique data on the characteristics and behaviour of migrants from Sub-Saharan countries to Europe. Underpinning this project was the recognition that migration is not simply a one-way flow from Africa to Europe. Rather, return migration, circulation, and transnational actions are significant and need to be recognised in policy design. The project addressed four key areas:

- Patterns of migration: trends, migrants’ characteristics, migratory routes;
- Determinants of migration: poverty, education, gender, policies;
- Migration and economic integration: remittances, investments, integration and reintegration of migrants;
- Migrations and families: family construction, structure and formation, families over time and space.
Outcomes

Comparable data on African migration was collected in both sending and receiving countries. It included background information on individuals as well as data linking their histories to other details in both the origin and destination countries. The workable data sets were released to general users in January 2015. The project identified very clear changes in migration trends and strong differences across countries, in particular with regard to female migration. The MAFE team also studied the family arrangements of migrants by comparing three groups of families: current migrants, non-migrants and return-migrants. In each case, the results indicated significant differences between the three family groups. The MAFE project informed the continuing debate on migration and development, and created sustained and mutual interest in EU–Africa cooperation on migration.
Transnationalisation, Migration and Transformation: Multi-Level Analysis of Migrant Transnationalism

Description

TRANS-NET clarified and compared the complex processes of transnationalism. The research conducted in Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, India, Morocco, Turkey, and the United Kingdom addressed both policy documents and individual migrants, including labour migrants; posted workers; family-based migrants; humanitarian migrants, and foreign degree students. The focus was in their transnational networks and political, economic, and socio-cultural activities. The following transnational spaces were taken as the main units to analyse the border-crossing relationships: Estonia/Finland, India/UK, Morocco/France, and Turkey/Germany. Research data were gathered through content analysis of policy documents and by semi-structured and life course interviews among a selected sample of respondents in each participating country.
Outcomes

There are major circuits in people’s cross-border mobility and the extent and intensity of transnational activities changes during the migrants’ life course. Thus, conceiving of transnational migrants in static categories is failing to appreciate dynamism through the lifecourse transitions, inter-generational shifts and the changing labour market conditions. Not only migratory strategies but also their motivations for departure are mixed. In all cases, but particularly in the cases of Morocco-France and India-UK, it became evident that the transnational spaces are decidedly asymmetric. In all migrants’ receiving countries, both immigration rules as well as integration policies have increasingly been related to what is deemed to serve the national interests. While professional and highly skilled migrants are welcomed as vital in the reproduction of workforce, asylum seekers and refugees have been seen as a threat to the countries’ economy and national security.
6. Relevant H2020 SSH Topics

According to the H2020 Regulation of establishment Societal Challenge 6 «Europe in a changing world – Inclusive, innovative, and Reflective societies» will support research on the Europe’s role as a global actor, notably regarding human rights and global justice as well as research on the mutual influence and ties between the regions of the world, and a view from outside on European cultures.

ENG-GLOBALLY-01-2017: Strengthening Europe’s position in the global context: science diplomacy and intercultural relations

Research under this topic is expected to impact the foreign policies of the EU and its member states and provide enhanced coordination between them and between the EU and its international partners. It will provide in-depth insights into the multiple ties and mutual influences between Europe and its neighbours, former colonies and other countries and regions, especially in the scientific, socioeconomic, historical cultural and religious spheres. It will also provide a sound understanding of contemporary European societies, of the multiple sources and expressions of diversity in the EU and of how non-European influences impact on the formation of European identities. Acknowledging the multiple sources of today’s European diversity will have strong policy implications, not just for scientific and cultural policy, but also for immigration, integration, education and external policies. It will also facilitate Europe’s future engagement with third countries.

ENG-GLOBALLY-02-2017: Shifting global geopolitics and Europe’s preparedness for managing risks, mitigation actions and fostering peace

Research under this topic will lead to an up-to-date appraisal of global and regional risks and, as such, of Europe’s evolving security agenda in the light of recent geopolitical developments affecting its neighbouring regions (in particular East Europe and the southern Mediterranean), and the entire globe. It will generate critical and forward-looking evidence of Europe’s preparedness for effectively facing these threats, guaranteeing its
citizens’ security while managing risks and fostering peace abroad. Based on this evidence, it will provide recommendations on how to improve the EU’s effectiveness as a domestic and global security provider.

**ENG-GLOBALLY-03-2017: The European Union and the global challenge of migration**

The results of research under this topic, with its focus on sending and transit countries, should enhance policy coherence on migration between the EU and its member states. Research is thus expected to bring about greater policy coherence and effectiveness in the field of migration management and relations with third countries by clearly identifying and depicting good practices and effective ways to manage incoming and transiting migration at the benefit of local communities and immigrants. It should also allow a better understanding of the root causes of migration, their interplay with other determinants and the two way interaction between migration and development processes. Research will give EU and national policy-makers stronger conceptual tools to better interpret the role of the EU and its Member States as global actors in the field of migration.

**ENG-GLOBALLY-04-2017: Science diplomacy for EU neighbourhood policies**

This coordination and support action will result in a consolidated corpus of knowledge on science diplomacy in service of the European Neighbourhood Policy as well as research insights in how it could be best deployed in the challenging context of the EU Neighbourhood. It will put together a set of recommendations for EU science diplomacy strategies, policies and concrete actions in these regions and provide an assessment of these activities against criteria that it will develop. Based on these policy-relevant insights, the coordination and support action will feed research insights into the future development of EU science diplomacy in the neighbourhood with an eye to reinforcing stability, promoting democracy and prosperity in its near abroad. It will ensure a wide dissemination of these results to the relevant stakeholders including policy-makers.

**ENG-GLOBALLY-05-2017: The strategic potential of EU external trade policy**

Research under this topic will lead to a set of novel insights into the evolving EU and Member States’ bi- and multilateral trade strategies and their inter-linkages with other external policies, their coherence and
effectiveness. Placing trade at its centre, it will revisit and innovate the debate on coherence and consistency in EU foreign policy so as to provide an understanding of whether and how trade can be utilized strategically in the context of broader EU foreign policy agendas and in support of its foreign and economic policy objectives. Based on these policy-relevant insights, it will formulate recommendations on the institutional, organisational and behavioural adaptations needed to reinforce the EU’s clout in global affairs via enhanced coherence of its foreign policy.

ENG-GLOBALLY-06-2017: The Asia-Pacific as a strategic region for Europe

Research under this topic is expected to provide a comprehensive overview of the strategic challenges that Europe faces in the various zones of the Asia-Pacific region, and on a range of relevant subjects. Based on this, it will inform different foreign policy actors, processes and initiatives at EU and Member State-level either with a sectorial or geographic focus, especially by providing essential insights on the legal, cultural and socio-economic aspects surrounding their implementation.

ENG-GLOBALLY-07-2017: The European Union and Central Asia

The coordination and support measures of this action will contribute to improving the ties of the EU with the region and countries of Central Asia in all socio-economic, political, security as well as cultural and scientific areas. Its findings will primarily be focused on the formulation of short- and long-term priorities for EU policies towards the region, as well as on proposing methods for their achievement. They will be further used for education and media purposes and thus contribute to raising awareness among EU citizens of today’s reality of the countries of Central Asia and of their importance for Europe. By creating a network of European researchers in the field of Central Asian Studies and by proposing new forms of cooperation with counterparts in Central Asia, the action will reinforce mutual research ties between the EU and Central Asian countries and establish a robust basis for their sustained collaboration.

ENG-GLOBALLY-08-2016-2017: EU-China cooperation on sustainable urbanisation

The topic is expected to provide in-depth insights on EU-China cultural and socio-economic aspects on urbanisation highlighting the common
challenges and possible solutions that may apply in both EU and China. Specific impacts are expected in the field of city planning, policy making, regulatory regime, governance and public services. Negative externalities (e.g. environment and public health) should be particularly addressed and exchange of best practices for citizen’s well-being should be encouraged. The Coordination action is expected to increase stakeholder awareness, exchanges and synergies between Chinese and European industrial, academic and public players engaged in sustainable urbanisation research, innovation and application. Improved complementarity and coordination between different sustainable urbanisation funding programmes supported by the EU, the EU Member States and China should be achieved. The CSA should ensure a better match between the supply of innovative technological solutions and the needs of city planners and managers in charge of organising services linked to sustainable urbanisation. It is also expected to increase the capacity of industrial actors to develop and provide more effective solutions for the needs of sustainable urbanisation, and of city planners and managers to make informed choices on innovative technologies.

ENG-GLOBALLY-09-2016: Centres/Networks of European research and innovation

The aim is to create a network of centres in the world’s most dynamic and innovative countries and regions that will connect and support European researchers and entrepreneurs globally, in order to strengthen the position of Europe as a world leader in science, technology and innovation.
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The Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) comprise a range of scientific disciplines examining the relations between humans in their societal contexts. While the Humanities deal particularly with history, culture and various forms of human behaviour, Social Sciences tend to focus on the social interactions of individual human beings and groups. They address questions such as: How do people live and work together in contemporary societies? Why do individuals organise themselves into communities and want to share the same future? What do Europeans think about globalisation and how do they react to it? Why and how do citizens engage in or abstain from electoral and other forms of political participation? Addressing such far-reaching questions, the SSH play a critical role in anticipating and accompanying the evolution of societies, while satisfying humanity’s deep-rooted interest in reflecting on life.

The European Union’s Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation support research on the EU as a global actor. EU funded SSH research projects cover several aspects relevant for the EU’s external actions and contribute to the evidence base and sound understanding of the external environment that the EU operates in.

*Project information*