Our Neighbours

Research and Innovation in support of the EU’s Neighbourhood Policy
EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Research and Innovation in support of the EU’s Neighbourhood Policy

Research projects on European Neighbourhood Policy supported by the European Union’s Research Framework Programmes
Our Neighbours

Setting the Scene

As identified by President Juncker in his July 2014 speech to the European Parliament, and as re-affirmed in his State of the Union speech in September 2015, the European Union needs a stronger and more assertive foreign policy. As the conflict in Ukraine, developments following the Arab Spring in the Middle East, and the current refugee crisis have made urgently clear, there is the need of a common foreign policy that can first and foremost contribute to stabilising the EU’s neighbourhood.

The EU’s foreign policy mainly consists of soft power tools. Development aid, trade policy, EU’s participation in international financial institutions and the European neighbourhood policy and enlargement all work in concert to foster stability and prosperity.

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) was launched in 2004 to help the EU support and foster stability and prosperity in the countries closest to its borders. In the South, the ENP partners are Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine\(^1\), Syria (suspended) and Tunisia. In the East, the partner countries include Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. The ENP is chiefly a bilateral policy between the EU and each partner country. It is further enriched and complemented by regional and multilateral co-operation initiatives: the Eastern Partnership (launched in Prague in May 2009), the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EUROMED) (the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, formerly known as the Barcelona Process, re-launched in Paris in July 2008), and the Black Sea Synergy (launched in Kiev in February 2008).

The means of the ENP have been the progressive integration, including economically, of neighbourhood countries, through the implementation of demanding political, economic and institutional reforms, as well as commitment to shared values of democracy, rule of law, good governance and human rights. This has mainly been implemented through Association

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\(^1\) This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.
Agreements and Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreements between the EU and the neighbourhood countries.

However, in the past 12 years, the European neighbourhood, eastern as well as southern, has witnessed radical changes. While there have also been positive developments, North Africa and the Middle East have been tormented by violent conflicts, rising extremism and radicalisation, and human rights violations, which has resulted in major migration flows of people seeking safety. In the East, an increasingly assertive Russian foreign policy is destabilising the neighbourhood and is putting strains on EU – Russia relations.

In light of this, the purpose of the review of the ENP in 2015 has been to consider how the EU can build more effective partnerships in the neighbourhood. It has become increasingly clear that the ENP must be better tailored to meet the varying circumstances, conditions, needs and aspirations of the neighbourhood countries, and not least that it must be developed in line with the EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) and the Common Foreign & Security Policy (CFSP). As the EU’s own stability is built on democracy, human rights and the rule of law, also the new ENP will take stabilisation as its main political priority.

Stability is promoted through cooperation in security sector reforms, in disrupting organised crime, in dealing with protracted conflicts, in tackling terrorism and preventing radicalisation, and in crisis management linking together humanitarian aid, early recovery and development assistance. A main component of the EU’s contribution to stabilising the neighbourhood is also promoting economic development and prosperity by granting access to the EU market, supporting sustainable economic growth, assisting in improving the employability of the local workforce, and focusing on the creation of opportunities particularly for the young. It is also promoted through migration cooperation, including promoting mutually-beneficial mobility through visa agreements and Mobility Partnerships, ensuring protection for those in need as the EU’s wider neighbourhood contains several major protracted crises and hosts close to 40% of the world’s
refugees and internally displaced populations, and through working together with the wider neighbourhood to tackle irregular migration.

EU funded social sciences and humanities research projects covering several of the above-discussed issues continue to 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.

Research projects addressing how to maximise the integration capacity of the European Union as well as the interactions of neighbourhood countries with the EU in terms of people, capital, trade, knowledge, and innovation have informed the recent review of the ENP. Ongoing research projects assess the root causes of instability as well as the connections between security and democracy in the eastern neighbourhood and the EU’s opportunities to respond to this. Other ongoing research projects analyse the root causes of the ‘Arab Spring’ as well as empirically examine what are the political ideals (e.g. democracy and gender equality), social values, economic conditions and perceptions of security prevailing among youth, focusing also on youth empowerment and inclusion in the region. Other ongoing research projects focus on migration, taking stock of the nature and transformative character of temporary transnational migration; evaluating the effectiveness, pros and cons of recent initiatives and policies promoting circular/temporary migration as an alternative to permanent migration, and analysing empirically perceptions of the EU in non-EU countries and how these perceptions impact on people’s aspirations to migrate to Europe.

In the present publication is presented the various finalised and ongoing social sciences and humanities research projects covering the above mentioned issues as well as presentations of future calls and topics under Horizon 2020 relevant for the European Neighbourhood Policy.
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1.
STABILITY, SECURITY AND GOVERNANCE IN THE EU’S NEIGHBOURHOOD
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.
Expected 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.
Exploring the Security-Democracy Nexus in the Caucasus

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.
Expected 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. Find the latest policy brief at: http://www.cascade-caucasus.eu/cascade-publications
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 honoring 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.
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.
Expected 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

EUBORDERREGIONS identified challenges to economic, social and territorial cohesion as well as regional development potentials as exemplified by different borderlands at the EU’s external frontiers. Euro-regions, economic partnerships, twin-city investments, cross-border urban networks and similar forms of interaction have come into being and a new quality of multilateral relationships between the EU and its “neighbourhood” has increased the cross-border salience of social affairs, economic development, minority rights, and other issues. EUBORDERREGIONS’ cross-cutting approach has analysed socio-economic dimensions of regional change and focussed on selected regional case studies of cohesion challenges and development potentials. The project has also developed multilevel policy options for regions at the EU’s external borders.
Outcomes

The project recommends to:

- Understand the border as a resource. National contexts still dominate policy-oriented behaviours locally and regionally. As a result, stakeholders generally affirm the desirability of CBC but actual implementation remains patchy.
- Critically interpret CBC as “filling gaps” in Cohesion and Neighbourhood Policies. The project’s research reflects tensions between realist regional policy concerns related to national development and more idealistic policy imperatives that seek to create alternative, border-transcending territorial contexts for regional policy.
- Prioritise ‘hard’ factors and physical investment can be problematic. CBC is highly networked, and ‘soft’ in nature: it is about developing social capital and trust.
- Emphasise that civil society needs to be a more important part of a potential ENP-Cohesion-CBC nexus.
Sharing KnowledgE Assets: InteRegionally Cohesive NeigHborhoods

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.
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.
Just and durable peace by piece

Description

JAD-PBP analysed legal and democratic accountability of peace-building strategies, outlining existing international norms on the use of force by states for humanitarian reasons. This project adopted an interdisciplinary approach and drew on insights from peace and conflict research, international law, political science and international relations. The project had four core scientific objectives:

- To enhance theoretical and methodological conceptualisation of just and durable peace;
- To analyse legal and democratic accountability of peace building strategies;
- To examine the effectiveness of general peace building strategies and evaluate to what extent they enhance just and durable peace; and
- To examine and compare EU’s peace building strategies in Western Balkans and the Middle East.

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Outcomes

The main result was the advancement of a multidisciplinary paradigm, consisting of a theoretical and methodological framework to enhance the state-of-the art for the study of just and durable peace. Theoretically, the project provided a critical assessment of the complex relationship between the concepts of justice, durability and how these notions interplay with establishing a self-sustainable peace.

Empirically, the project has generated new insights to the (1) international-local dynamics and the hybridity of peace and justice, (2) evolving EU peace building framework (3) narratives of justice and visions of peace and reconciliation, (4) to the peace processes in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Middle East, and (5) to amnesty provisions in peace agreements.
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.
Expected 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.
Prospective Analysis for the Mediterranean Region

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 looked at 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).
YOUTH IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN
SAHWA

http://www.sahwa.eu

Project reference: 613174

EU contribution:
EUR 2 498 526

From 2014 to 2016

Topic: SSH.2013.4.1-2 - Facing transition in the South and East Mediterranean area: empowering the young generation

Project coordinator:
BARCELONA CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, Spain

youth • culture • employment • education • engagement • gender • revolts • political change • migration

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 present-day 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.
Expected 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.
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.
Temporary vs. Permanent Migration

Description

TEMPER aims at providing a comprehensive assessment of the pros and cons of recent initiatives to promote temporary and circular migration, as an alternative to more traditional forms of permanent migration.

The TEMPER project will pursue three main objectives:

• Identify the main drivers of return and circulation decisions of migrants,

• Measure and explain the role that different programs, and immigration policies at large, have played in shaping those individual decisions and,

• Assess the impact that different types of temporary, permanent and circular mobility have for migrant and non-migrant workers, their families and their employers.

The work in TEMPER is focused on a number of countries of origin in Eastern Europe (Romania, Ukraine), Latin America (Colombia, Argentina), Sub-Saharan Africa (DRC, Ghana, Senegal), North Africa (Morocco). The EU destination countries under analysis are: France, Italy, Spain and UK.
Outcomes

A. Incidence of temporary and circular migration
The available data suggest a relatively low incidence of repeated immigration among both national emigrants and foreign-born immigrants in EU countries. Higher incidence of circulation is associated with short geographical distance, no language difference between origin and destination, legal facilities to enter and circulate, and short-term migration.

B. The role of policies
Temporary forms of migration are not well articulated, since return enforcement measures are either inexistent or extremely weak. Moreover, real opportunities for legal circulation are almost inexistent. There is no guarantee for temporary migrants who fulfil their commitment to return that they will be allowed to re-enter legally the country later on, which stimulates transitions to permanent statuses with scattered irregular stays.

C. Selection into return and impacts in countries of origin
For Moroccan and Sub-Saharan Africans in Spain, Italy and France we found no evidence of negative educational/skills selection into return, which should weaken some of the concerns about brain drain that dominates much of the debate on South-North migration in both EU and origin countries. However, the behaviour of the most highly educated/skilled workers remains a bit more heterogeneous.
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 industrialized 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.
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.
How is Europe perceived from outside the EU?

Description

The EUMAGINE project studied how Europe is perceived from outside the EU, and how these perceptions affect migration aspirations and decisions. The project focused on how people’s awareness of the democracy and human rights status of their home regions and countries and of potential migration destinations, affect their migration intentions. The research population consisted of 2000 individuals aged 18-39 in each of the four research countries: Morocco, Senegal, Turkey and Ukraine.
Outcomes

The project results show that persons are not only motivated by economic opportunities that may come with migration, also perceptions on educational opportunities and gender equality in Europe impact on migration aspiration. At the same time, it was found that factors situated at different social levels also have an influence on migration aspirations. At the macro level, the overall socio-economic situation of the country proves to impact on migration aspiration; at the meso level the project identified the relevance of living in a migration impacted region, belonging to transnational family networks - which are arguably forceful instruments of feedback; and at the micro level, the material wealth of the household, age, gender, marital status, having children, previous migration experience and educational level are proven to have an impact on migration aspirations.

Publications, policy briefs and policy recommendations can be found on the project’s webpage.
4.
HORIZON 2020 SHH TOPICS RELEVANT FOR THE ENP
Topic INT-3-2015: Europe’s contribution to a value-based global order and its contestants:

Research should first look into the criteria for global justice and contrast various understandings of it, exploring European as well as non-European and non-Western perspectives. It should then examine whether and how various criteria for a just and value-based global order are met by the EU and EU Member and Associated countries’ policies, activities and regulations in issue areas that may be of particular importance for the promotion of inter-culturally shared values and justice at a global scale, such as trade and development policy, the defence of human rights, the promotion of gender equality, religious freedom conflict prevention and resolution and the protection of livelihoods. It should also investigate the impact of governmental, non-governmental and transnational actors who contest the EU’s activities and present alternative visions of global justice and how to obtain it. Research should ultimately come to statements about if and how Europe does - or does not - contribute to a value-based global order. It should identify facilitating and inhibiting conditions for European action that effectively promotes its values.

Type of action: Research and innovation actions.

Topic INT-6-2015: Re-invigorating the partnership between the two shores of the Mediterranean:

Research should assess the potential and effectiveness of the policies and measures implemented between the two shores of the Mediterranean and identify the obstacles and prospects for further collaboration. In this context, the concept of bilateralism and regionalism should be defined and assessed in the Mediterranean area, including the pros and cons of both concepts as well as the evaluation of the potential of in-depth cooperation in specific fields like science and technology, water, agriculture, energy, cultural heritage or transport. Research should discuss also from a historical perspective, the different understandings of this region and explore which countries significantly influence the situation and developments in the region. In this context, the citizens’ perceptions of the image, role and influence of Mediterranean collaboration need to be investigated from both Northern and Southern shores. To this end, data on citizens’ perceptions of the Mediterranean will be collected and updated. Research should also identify the best practices, priorities and potential future developments that could improve the relations in this region, taking into account potential new strategies and political priorities that could emerge in the near future.

Type of action: Research and innovation actions.
**Topic INT-7-2015: Towards a new geopolitical order in the South and East Mediterranean region:**

Research should contribute to enhance knowledge of the South and East Mediterranean and the Middle East area in assessing the key factors that affect the former and new leaderships and analysing the main political dynamics of the region in the broader sense of the term (including adjacent regions). It should identify the interconnections between the different countries at the geostrategic level. Research should assess the role of internal and external actors: political bodies, religious factions, communities, elites and minorities but also the role of other players (Gulf countries, China or Russia) in the geopolitical game over time. In order to better understand interrelations of social, cultural, religious, gender and political factors and developments in the region, research should draw on a multitude of disciplinary perspectives including, for instance, sociological, historical, economic and anthropological research. Specific attention should be paid to the role of religions (Sunnis and Shias) and their influence on political factions (such as Wahhabis, Salafis, Islamic movements, Hamas, Hezbollah and Muslim Brotherhood) as well as their use of various media. Research will also identify the role of civil society and the existing cleavages or tensions that may emerge between different groups of the population (such as current and future elites but also the role of both rural and urban citizens and of gender relations) in the geopolitical and political process. Research should also build scenarios about potential developments and futures in the area over the next 20 years.

Type of action: Research and innovation actions.

**Topic INT-8-2015: The European Union and the Eastern Partnership:**

Research should include stock-taking of existing bilateral relations between the EU and all countries in the region as well as between these countries inter se. It should explicitly adopt the perspective of the examined countries so as to promote the understanding within the EU of the region and its challenges. Emphasis should be put on the adaptation of economies and societies of the Eastern Partnership countries to European standards. This is closely linked to the need for determining conditions necessary for the successful implementation of association agreements. Research should also examine societal development such as the evolving activities of civil society in these countries. Given the recent focus on the Caucasus in Call SSH 2013.4.1-1 («Security and democracy in the neighbourhood: the case of the Caucasus»), and based on the findings of the research financed under this Call, specific attention should be paid to Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine.
Key issues forming part of the partnerships and recurring problems in bilateral relations should be addressed, comparing individual EU Member States’ and Associated Countries’ approaches and the EU’s policies. Based on the research findings, EU policy options vis-à-vis Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine per se as well as to the region and its broader geostrategic environment in general should be assessed.

Type of action: Research and innovation actions.

**Topic INT-9-2015: The European Union, Turkey and its wider neighbourhood: challenges and opportunities:**

Research should analyse the economic, social, political and geostrategic challenges and opportunities - for Turkey itself and for the EU - of further integration of Turkey with the EU, taking into account the different forms this collaboration could take as well as its historical, socio-economic and cultural dimensions. Different scenarios and their consequences should be analysed, from the point of view of the strategic interests of both the EU and Turkey. This should include both internal and external dimensions, public debates on EU-Turkey integration as well as the analysis of impacts on relations with other global powers and with other world regions, in particular the Middle East, the South and East Mediterranean, and the Caucasus. Research should also explore the potential consequences of a lack of progress in building stronger ties between Turkey and the EU. It should engage civil society and citizens.

Type of action: Research and innovation actions.

**Topic INT-10-2015: The European Union and integration challenges in the Balkans:**

Research should include stock-taking of existing relations between the EU and each of the countries in the Balkans as well as between these countries inter se. It should explicitly adopt the perspective of the examined countries so as to promote the understanding within the EU of the region its history and challenges. Key issues such as socio-economic and democratic development, identity politics, challenges of state building, linguistic and cultural diversity, ethnic conflicts as well as gender equality and migration should be addressed. Moreover, research should examine if and how scientific cooperation and the mobility of researchers can contribute to an increased understanding between EU actors and the countries and people of the region and to addressing societal challenges of shared concern. The role of macro-regional strategies (e.g. the EU Strategy for the Danube
Horizon 2020 SHH topics relevant for the ENP

Region) and of other strategic powers in this region, like the USA, Russia and Turkey, should also be analysed. Based on the research findings, EU policy options vis-à-vis each country in the Balkans and the region as a whole should be assessed, taking into account the broader geo-strategic environment.

Type of action: Research and innovation actions.

Topic INT-11-2015: European cultural and science diplomacy: exploiting the potential of culture and science in the EU’s external relations:

Research should analyse and compare in depth EU and EU Member States’ bi- and multilateral cultural relations with major third countries and regions in EU’s neighbourhood and beyond, as well as international organisations. It should emphasize the institutional set-up, aims, processes and contents of the EU’s external cultural activities and how cultural issues are embedded into its external relations more generally as well as examine how successful these activities are in building relationships. As part of this exercise, science and technology cooperation - as significant complement of cultural diplomacy - should explicitly be examined. The role of the Council of Europe and the multilateral dimensions of global cultural relations within UNESCO should equally be investigated. Special attention should be paid to the role of non-governmental and private sector organisations as well as cooperation of cultural professionals and scientists. Research could compare the EU and its Member States with other major, and often very active global players (e.g. the US, China or South Korea). The broader social, political and economic developments that EU activities in the cultural and scientific domain are embedded into should be accounted for when researching this issue.

Type of action: Research and innovation actions.

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

Research will focus on the following two dimensions: recent global geopolitical developments and their implications for the European Union and European Union’s preparedness for managing risks and opportunities, fostering peace in a crisis-ridden context. In particular, research should identify and investigate long-standing and novel - global and regional - external risks facing the EU and its Member States, in connection with ongoing initiatives and programmes for risk identification and early warning. Crises in its
neighbourhood (in particular East Europe and the southern Mediterranean), such as the rise of radical Islamic groups exemplified by the expansion of the «Islamic State» in Syria and Iraq, but also conflicts and risks in other regions of the world such as in South Asia (e.g. Afghanistan) and Sub-Saharan Africa (e.g. Mali) should be examined. Moreover, research should comprehensively examine the European Union’s and its Member States’ willingness, capacities, instruments and channels for anticipating and responding to a large array of external threats.

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

An integrated approach to migration and development: Building on existing studies, research should further elucidate the complex interrelation between and the implications of demographic trends, socio-economic development, environment and good governance on the one hand, and migration flows on the other, both in third countries of origin and transit of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

EU policy coherence and migration: Research should focus on the interplay between the Global Approach on Migration and Mobility (GAMM) and the deployment of EU foreign policy tools and processes and other European policies with an external dimension, in particular the European development, humanitarian and neighbourhood policies. Research should examine and clarify the links between the existing legislative framework developed by the EU concerning non-EU migration and the increasing use of new types of policy tools to achieve migration management related goals as well as their legal consequences for involved parties. The analysis will encompass the implementation of these policies in selected geographic areas of interest for the EU and the combined effects that such policies have on countries of origin and transit of migrants.

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

This coordination and support action should provide a stock-taking and critical review of all available research results on the European Union’s neighbouring regions, including on science diplomacy related actions. It should synthesise knowledge regarding each of the neighbouring countries and regions, taking full account of the diversities of the studied entities, and compare transformation experiences both from an EU and a third country perspective, across time. In so doing, it should understand the
success and failures of diplomatic efforts in the regions. It should also consider relevant results of international cooperation projects involving neighbourhood countries and all relevant existing legal instruments in various policy areas (e.g. energy), take into account the role of other state (e.g. US, Russia, and neighbours of the neighbours) and non-state actors in the various neighbouring regions.
European Commission

EUR 27535 - Our Neighbours - Research and Innovation in support of the EU’s Neighbourhood Policy

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The Social Sciences and Humanities 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 Social Sciences and Humanities play a critical role in anticipating and accompanying the evolution of societies, while satisfying humanity’s deep-rooted interest in reflecting on life. Consecutive European Union Framework Programmes for Research have acknowledged the significance of Social Sciences and Humanities research and have supported it at EU level over the past decades. Horizon 2020 recognises Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) as an ensemble of separate disciplines and highlights their particularly high aptitude to fruitfully collaborate with other disciplines in tackling major societal challenges.

*Success Stories*