

We are glad to inform you on the start of the new
European collaborative Project:
“Sharing Knowledge Assets: InteRregionally
Cohesive NeigHborhoods (SEARCH)”

FP7-SSH-SSH-2010-2.2.1 (266834)



The Sharing Knowledge Assets: InteRregionally Cohesive NeigHborhoods (SEARCH) is a project financed by the European Union under the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development in the 'Socio-economic sciences and the humanities' area.

SEARCH project started on 1st August 2011 and ends the 31st July 2014

Objective: The main objective of this project is to strengthen the integration process between the EU and the Neighbourhood Countries (NCs) by focusing on the European Research Neighbourhood (ERN). This will facilitate an understanding of the institutional framework conditions of the ENP countries and their economic interactions with the EU in terms of people, capital, trade, knowledge, and innovation. SEARCH aims at improving the implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy taking into account that "one size fits all" policy recommendations will not be appropriate due to the bilateral nature of the EU-ENP countries agreements

SEARCH Consortium

The consortium is represented by 17 Institutions



Forthcoming SEARCH events

March 5th -6th, 2012



First SEARCH Progress Meeting
Next SEARCH meeting will be held in Vienna
The first results of the Project will be presented

June - July, 2012



Second SEARCH progress meeting
All the information about this meeting will be available soon on SEARCH web page.

Recent SEARCH events

September 1st, 2011



SEARCH website online!
All the project progresses, results, good practices and policy recommendations will be published here.

September 12th, 2011



SEARCH Kick off meeting
The first SEARCH progress meeting was held in Barcelona on September 12th, 2010.
The aim of this meeting was to define of the base elements for the project.

26th January, 2012



SEARCH Survey Workshop
The Internal meeting was held in Hannover the on January 20th-21st, 2012.
The aim was to make a collaborative discussion concerning the survey which will be part of WP2 and WP5.

SEARCH NEWS

January, 2012



SEARCH Survey
The LUH team is going to conduct a specific firm survey within the WP2 and WP5 of the SEARCH Project.

March 31st, 2012



Deliverables 1.3 will be submitted to the Commission
Conceptual framework for the assessment of the impact of differentiated/incomplete integration on both the new member states (NMS) and the neighbouring countries (NCs).

Research programme

The SEARCH Project is organized **in eight work-packages**. The first six are related to research, and their objectives are listed below:

WP		Objectives
WP1	BACKGROUND. ENP: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE	To provide a background framework for the theoretical, empirical and policy analyses of the work packages WP2-WP6, trying to base the relationships among the EU and the NCs.
WP2	TRADE FLOWS AND LOCALISATION CHOICES	To study, theoretically and empirically, the patterns of economic interaction between the EU and its neighbouring countries (NCs), to project future trends and identify the effects of higher levels of economic integration on the growth, competitiveness and cohesion prospects of the two areas.
WP3	PEOPLE MOBILITY AND HUMAN CAPITAL	To analyse the actual and potential future role of labour migration and its economic and social consequences (costs and benefits) both for destination (EU regions) and origin regions (neighbouring ones). Particular attention will be given to the role of intangible assets, such as human capital, entrepreneurship and technology diffusion.
WP4	TECHNOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES AND INNOVATION DIFFUSION IN THE EU AND INTERACTIONS WITH THE NEIGHBOURING REGIONS	To investigate the innovative performance of regions (EU27 and NC16) in order to understand the extent that this performance depends on the one hand on the endogenous ability of knowledge creation and on the absorptive capacity of regions to adopt and imitate, on the other.
WP5	INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT	To investigate the current status of the social, cultural and institutional environment in the ENP countries and regions; to identify the impact of current changes and transformations on the prospects for improved economic development, social cohesion, and stronger integration with the EU area.
WP6	POLICY ISSUES AND RESEARCH IMPLICATIONS: TOWARD AN INTEGRATED ERN POLICY POSTURE	To identify and analyse policy recommendations with the objective of contributing to evidence-based policy making and integrated ERN policies.

SEARCH Priority Areas in order to strengthen the EU-NC cooperation

- Trade and economic integration
- Facilitating mobility and managing migration flows
- Knowledge, creation and innovation diffusion/adoption
- Social, cultural and institutional environment
- Improved interregional cooperation strategies

SEARCH Added Value

- To provide decision makers with policy recommendations in order to support them in the future design and implementation of neighbourhood policies.
- To strengthen the integration process between the EU and the Neighbourhood Countries (NCs) by focusing on the European Research Neighbourhood (ERN)

Advisory Board

Objective

The project has an Advisory Board. It is crucial to ensure that policy recommendations extracted from the project are practical to be disseminated and implemented, as well as to merge into regional plans and strategies in support of NC.

Members

- Ernst Aichinger. Country representative for Austria Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs. Head of Dpt. for Scientific and Technical Cooperation (Austria)
- Mr. Iurii Bazhal. Head of Economics Department. National University of "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy" (Ukraine)
- Professor Ivan Bortnik, Former Deputy Minister of Science and Chairman of board of the Russian Foundation for Assistance to Small Innovative Enterprises (FASIE) (Russia).
- Mr. Sergiu Celac, Former Foreign Minister of Romania, Senior Adviser, National Center for Sustainable Development m (Romania).
- Ms. Sana Jelassi. Gender Adviser, UNRWA (Jordan)
- Mr. Jussi Närvi, European External Action Service of the European Commission (Belgium)
- Mr. Norbert Pap, PhD, Habil. MA, MSc, Associate professor, Head of Department of Political Geography and Regional Development. University of Pécs (Hungary)
- Mr. Daniel Shefer Kunin-Lunefeld. Chair in Urban and Regional Economics, Center for Urban and Regional Studies. Technion-Israel Institute of Technology (Israel)

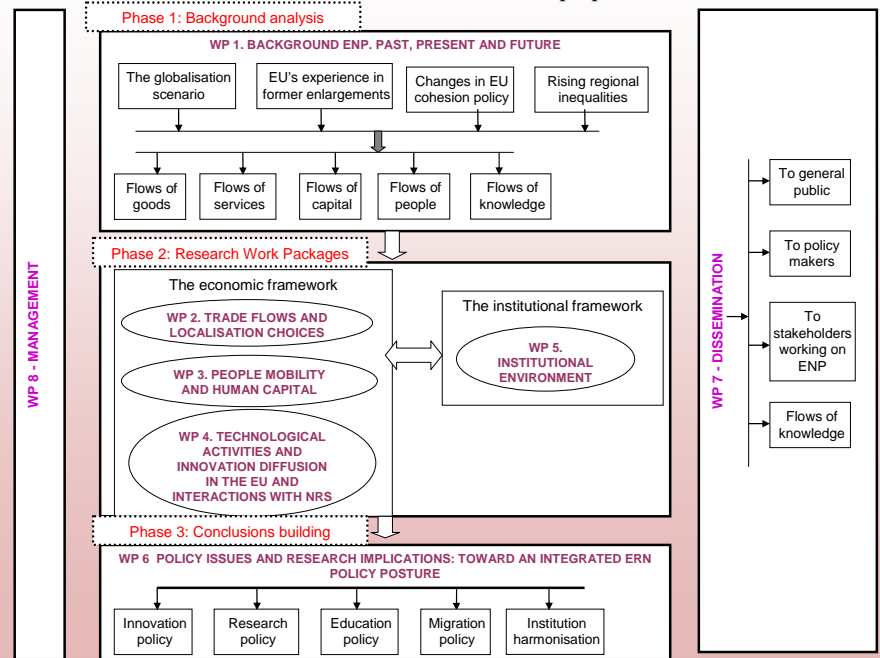
Main target audience

The dissemination actions envisaged in the project addresses **4 main target audiences**:

- The **general public** in EU member states and target countries.
- **Policy Makers - Regional, national, European and NC public administration/institutional practitioners**: the main objective of SEARCH is to elaborate relevant and valuable policy recommendations, that will be used by public practitioners working in different areas related to European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), A Final Policy Guide, reviewed by Partners, Advisory Board and rewritten by a professional dissemination firm will be published
- **Civil Society Organizations - Socio-cultural and economic stakeholders working on ENP**: these stakeholders have close knowledge of the direct implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy. This is reflected in the promotion of actions for cross-border-cooperation involving NGO's, foundations and in the sectoral-level actions promoting companies and involving chambers of commerce, business associations etc.
- **Scientific community at EU and NC level**: SEARCH research results will contribute to identify "hot topics and fields in ENP". These will constitute a roadmap for future investigation of the ENP and EU-NC relations and will establishing ground rules for furthering future research on NC.

SEARCH Overall Strategy and General Description

The next figure summarises the interrelation among the different workpackages of the project to ensure the correct achievement of the proposed results:



SEARCH Survey

The LUH team is going to conduct a specific firm survey within the WP2 and WP5 of the SEARCH Project. The objective of the survey is to provide comparative, task-specific micro data of the survey countries by covering the central themes of the both work packages, namely location choices, institutional environment, business culture, human capital and skills development. The survey is going to be carried out in Ukraine, where there is already an established subcontracting partner, Kiev National Economic University, and in one of the other ENP states, possibly Morocco. Around 900 firms, both domestic and foreign firms from the EU, will be surveyed from two or three regions of the above countries.

The building blocks of the questionnaire for the survey are planned to be: fact sheet, location choices and patterns, business environment, impact of FDI, human capital and skills development. Moreover, firm-level qualitative case studies will be selected from the top European investors (from the EU-15 and from the EU-12) operating in the ENP states, specifically those in the Eastern Europe region and the Mediterranean region in order to gain comparative qualitative insights into the determinants of the location decisions in the areas with special reference to the role of intangible assets

Countries in the project

This project is developed by a well balanced consortium covering a great amount of the UE member states and neighbouring countries.

The partners in SEARCH do also cover different ranges of cultural, economic, environmental, religious and social situations, making the whole consortium being balanced in terms of participation of different partners, creating all the influence needed in a project of these characteristics.

The map shows the multidisciplinary background of the project.



SEARCH Deliverables submitted to the Commission

WP1 Deliverables:



Deliverable 1.1

Submitted to the Commission: January 31st, 2012.

Report on the development effects of both the EU enlargement and the ENP since their implementation in 2004: socio-economic cohesion, regional disparities and intensities of economic interactions



Deliverable 1.2

Submitted to the Commission: January 31st, 2012.

Report on ENP policy concerning its objectives and policy measures over time

WP6 Deliverables:



Deliverable 6.1

Submitted to the Commission: January 31st, 2012

Report on Models/Guides for Conducting WP2-WP5 Research Tasks

SEARCH Working Paper collection

WP1 Working Papers:

WP1.1: Taking Stock of Research Projects on the ENP

WP1.2: New Economic geography and economic integration: a review

WP1.3: Regional economic development: a review

WP1.4: Overview of ENP

WP1.5: Political and political economy literature on the ENP: issues and implications

SEARCH Coordinator

AQR-IREA Research Group

University of Barcelona
Faculty of Economics and Business
Av. Diagonal, 690
08034 Barcelona, Spain
Tel.: 0034 93 403 72 41
Fax: 0034 93 403 72 42
E-Mail: search.project@ub.edu

Coordinator: Dr. Jordi Suriñach



WP Leaders

- Dr. **Ron Boschma**, **WP1 Leader**, Urban and Regional Research Centre Utrecht, The Netherlands (URU)
- Dr. **George Petrakos**, **WP2 Leader**, University of Thessaly, South and East European Development Center, Greece (UTH)
- Dr. **Raül Ramos**, **WP3 Leader**, Universitat de Barcelona. AQR Research Group, Spain (UB-AQR)
- Dr. **Raffaele Paci**, **WP4 Leader**, The Centre for North and South Economic Research (CRENoS)
- Dra. **Simona Iammarino**, **WP5 Leader**, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK (LSE)
- Dr. **Edward Bergman**, **WP6 Leader**, Institute of Regional and Environmental Economy, Austria (WU)
- Dra. **Rosina Moreno**, **WP7 Leader**, Universitat de Barcelona. AQR Research Group. Spain (UB-AQR)
- Dr. **Jordi Suriñach**, **WP 8 Leader**, Universitat de Barcelona. AQR Research Group. Spain (UB-AQR)

How to be informed about the Project?

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All the information about the project and results (working papers, articles, deliverables, events, partners...) will be published on the SEARCH web page, where it is also possible to subscribe to free e-newsletters:

www.ub.edu/searchproject