About the project

Main goal of the ENRI-East project is to develop an in-depth understanding of the ways in which the modern European identities and regional cultures are formed and how these are inter-communicated in the Eastern part of the European continent.

Main objects of the study are approximately ten ethnic groups representing “split nations” along the new Eastern borders of the enlarged European Union. The sample must include major ethnic groups representing “divided nations” in the big region eastwards of the new European frontier.

Main method of the study is the triangulation of theories of identities and empirical “facts of life” through the analytical efforts of ENRI-East experts. Their task would then be the verification and adjustment of existing theories of identity formation, based on the outcomes of a series of specially designed sociological surveys and systematic observations.

The project is an inter-disciplinary effort (sociology, political science, history, ethnography) and its methodological thrust comprises theoretical, empirical and comparative aspects. There are four main cross-cutting research themes in the project:

1. Interplay of identities and cultures; comparing “mother nations” and their trans-boundary “ethnic splits”;
2. Nations between states: attitudes and policies of “mother nations” and “host nations” towards the “ethnic splits” and vice versa;
3. Self-organization and representation of ethnic minorities along the East European borderland;
4. Historical path, collective memories, present status and expected dynamic of split nations in Eastern Europe.

Project components

The project is organized as a chain of several inter-connected components, also called Work Packages. These are of two types, as listed below:

Research work packages:
1. Theoretical and methodological backgrounds for the studies of European, national and regional identities of split nations and ethnic groups in Europe;
2. Contextual reviews and minority histories per country and studied group (“Minority reports”);
3. Secondary data analysis (sociological and statistical data);
4. Cross-national quantitative surveys on values and identities (design and reporting);
5. Cross-national qualitative surveys (interviews, teenager essays, musical 3G survey, contentanalysis, etc.) (design and reporting).

Supporting work packages:
1. Organization and conduct of regional survey fieldworks;
2. Training sessions (Spring schools) to train regional survey supervisors and interviewers;
3. Promotion and dissemination of project results (see details in a box below);
4. Project and consortium management.

Leading experts

Project’s leading experts is a network of experienced sociologists and social scientists cooperating with each other since more than 15 years.

Dr. Alexander Chvorostov, Project Coordinator, IHS-Vienna

Prof. Endre Sik, Project Vice-Director, IHS-Vienna

Dr. Alexander Chvorostov, Project Director, IHS-Vienna

Prof. Mária Gyöngyi Heineich, Principal Investigator, University of Vienna

Prof. Christian Huybrechts, Senior Expert, University of Aberdeen

Prof. Damele Moleka, Senior Expert, University of Aberdeen

Prof. David Rotman, Senior Expert, Belarusian State University

Prof. Sergei Tumanov, Regional Vice-Director, TARKI

Prof. Tariq Ramadan, Senior Expert, Moscow State University

Prof. Sergei Tumanov, Regional Vice-Director, Belarussian University

Leading experts

Geographical scope

The main project areas are the “overlapping” geographic regions that are conventionally labeled as follows:

- Baltic region (including Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, northern parts of Poland and Baltic-bordering provinces of Russia);
- Eastern Europe (including bordering areas of Belarus, Ukraine, Russia, Poland, Slovakia and Hungary);
- Central Europe (including special case of Germany and possible further extensions of the study in the case of secured co-funding);
- Carpathian basin (border regions of Hungary, Slovakia and Ukraine).

In these regions we select approximately ten ethnic minority groups for thorough comparative study, departing from the original compiled list of 21 relevant ethnic minorities along the new Eastern boarders of the enlarged European Union.

Planned dissemination

The following target groups shall be approached for the purposes of dissemination of project intermediate and final outcomes:

- Academic communities from European universities and research institutes;
- Governmental officials at the national, provincial and municipal levels in the four main regions of the project;
- NGO communities and European as well as regional, national and local mass media.

The main dissemination and discussion instruments of the project are:

- ENRI-East web-site (www.enri-east.net), as a main communication platform and primary dissemination channel for the project;
- Project leaflets (two or three multilingual issues), up to three issues of Project Newsletter, two project posters;
- A series of regional workshops (for experts and stakeholders) in the four main regions of the project is planned for the Autumn/Winter season 2010;
- Final open international conference in Vienna in Winter 2011 as a main concluding event.

In addition to that, the UK-Oxford partner organizes a presentation to the European Cultural Parliament, Council of Europe, European Youth Foundation, European NGOs and European media.

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Project funding

Total planned costs for the core components of the project are estimated at €1.7 mln. Primary funding worth € 1.5 mln is provided by the European Commission through an FP7-SSH Grant # 217227.

Co-funding for possible project extensions is sought from various national, international and private sponsors.

Moving peoples and moving borders

Central Europe

Moving peoples and moving borders

Eastern Europe

Four regional case studies

Baltic region

Carpathian Basin

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