



SEARCH

SHARING KNOWLEDGE ASSETS:
INTERREGIONALLY COHESIVE
NEIGHBORHOODS



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
European Research Area

Funded under Socio-economic Sciences & Humanities



SEARCH PROJECT

Acronym	SEARCH
Project full title	Sharing Knowledge Assets: InteRegionally Cohesive NeighborHoods
Contract No.	266834
Funding scheme	Collaborative Projects
Coordinator	<p>Dr. Jordi Suriñach jsurinach@ub.edu</p> <p>University of Barcelona Faculty of Economics and Business Department of Econometrics, Statistics and Spanish Economy AQR-IREA Research Group</p>
Duration	01/08/2011 - 31/07/2014
Overall budget	3,265,961.05 €
EU funding	2,636,942.00 €
Website	www.ub.edu/searchproject
E-mail:	search.project@ub.edu
EC Scientific Officer	Dr. Heiko Prange-Gstöhl, Unit B.5 "Social Sciences & Humanities", European Research Area, Directorate-General for Research & Innovation, EUROPEAN COMMISSION
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
Consortium	<p>The consortium is composed by 17 Institutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ AQR Research Group. University of Barcelona, Spain;▪ Urban and Regional Research Centre of Utrecht , The Netherlands;▪ University of Thessaly, South and East European Development Center, Greece (UTH);▪ CRENoS (Centre for North and South Economic Research), University of Cagliari, Italy;▪ London School of Economics and Political Science, UK;

- Institute of Regional and Environmental Economy, Austria;
- Brunel Law School, United Kingdom;
- Economic Research Centre of the University of Saint-Etienne, France;
- Center for Research in Economic Policy. University of Pécs. Hungary;
- Institute of Economic and Cultural Geography, Leibniz University of Hannover, Germany;
- University of Tartu. Estonia;
- The State University - Higher School of Economics, Russia;
- University of Cady Ayyad, Marrocco;
- International Centre for Black Sea Studies;
- European Institute of the Mediterranean, Spain;
- Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel;
- The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey, Turkey.



Advisor Committee

Objective

The external support of an Advisory Board (AB) is crucial to ensure that policy recommendations extracted from the project are practical to be disseminated and implemented.

The board is focused on three main areas:

- To focus the research undertaken by the project based on the issues that public administrations are interested in.
- To monitor the policy recommendations extracted from each work package.
- To validate the final policy recommendations guide.

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).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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) 																					
<p>Priority areas:</p>	<p>Priority areas in order to strengthen the EU-NC cooperation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 																					
<p>Research Programme:</p>	<p>The SEARCH Project is organized in eight work-packages. The first six are related to research, and their objectives are listed below:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">WP</th> <th>Objectives</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>WP1</td> <td>BACKGROUND. ENP: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE</td> <td>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.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WP2</td> <td>TRADE FLOWS AND LOCALISATION CHOICES</td> <td>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.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WP 3</td> <td>PEOPLE MOBILITY AND HUMAN CAPITAL</td> <td>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.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WP4</td> <td>TECHNOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES AND INNOVATION DIFFUSION IN THE EU AND INTERACTIONS WITH THE NEIGHBOURING REGIONS</td> <td>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.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WP5</td> <td>INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT</td> <td>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.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WP6</td> <td>POLICY ISSUES AND RESEARCH IMPLICATIONS: TOWARD AN INTEGRATED ERN POLICY POSTURE</td> <td>To identify and analyse policy recommendations with the objective of contributing to evidence-based policy making and integrated ERN policies.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	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.	WP 3	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.
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<p>Main target</p>	<p>The dissemination actions envisaged in the project addresses 4 main target audiences:</p>																					

<p>audience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 the SEARCH project is to elaborate relevant and valuable policy recommendations, that will be used by public practitioners working in different areas related to ENP, for the alignment and improvement of future design and implementation of ENP policies, programmes and actions at public level. 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: they constitute the stakeholders that have a closer knowledge on the more direct European Neighbourhood Policy implementation through the promotion of different actions and events for cross-border-cooperation, such as NGO, foundations, in the sectoral promotion of companies (chambers of commerce, sectoral associations), etc. ▪ Scientific community at EU and NC level: the research results achieved in the project, will contribute to identify “hot topics and fields in ENP” that will constitute a roadmap for future investigation in ENP and EU-NC relations improvement, establishing the lines that should be further investigated by future projects and studies to improve the future research on NC.
<p>SEARCH Added Value</p>	<p>SEARCH contributes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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)
<p>Methodology</p>	<p>The methodology of SEARCH project is based on the elaboration of different Working papers. Some of them are used in order to elaborate the different Reports of the Project.</p> <p>The project is divided in eight workpackages. In WP1 a background framework will be provided for the theoretical, empirical and policy analyses of the work packages WP2-WP6, trying to base the relationships among the EU and the NCs, analysing as well the results achieved in previous research projects in the field to better focus the research workpackages.</p> <p>In the following four workpackages (WP2-WP5), scientific research will be carried out analysing different aspects that Neighbourhood Policy should strengthen in the future in order to avoid barriers among the EU and NC to emerge. As these research workpackages will be carried out in parallel, a strong cooperation methodology will be established among the WP leaders of the scientific workpackages in order to ensure the progressive coordination and alignment of the research activities, thus building on the relevant findings, allowing for cross-fertilisation and strengthening of the existing interrelation among the scientific workpackages of the project.</p> <p>At the same time, SEARCH places strong emphasis on the policy dimension, and thus dedicates WP6 to the elaboration of applicable policy recommendations for the EU and its Neighbourhood Policy (WP6). The WP will run throughout the duration of the project to ensure that research results from WPs 2-5 can be closely monitored and assessed as they emerge in order to ensure their relevance for the formulation of policy</p>

	<p>recommendations.</p> <p>In order to ensure the dissemination and exploitation of project results, WP7 entails a series of activities aiming to adequately communicate the research results and the policy recommendations through the most appropriate communication channels to the potential users. All partners will be actively involved in order to ensure effective dissemination, thus building a strong network of communication in relevant academic and political-institutional areas.</p> <p>While WPs 1-5 will see the strong involvement of academic partners, WPs 6-7 will be undertaken by political-institutional partners, drawing on the strengths of the consortium.</p> <p>At the end, two Final conferences will be held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Final Academic Conference of research stakeholders (Month 30) ▪ The Policy Conference of public stakeholders (Month 35)
<p>Activities and ongoing services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project Website. The website includes different sections of interest for ENP, information about the project objectives and phases, events for ENP at EU level, results and reports achieved in the project, etc. www.ub.edu/searchproject - Project leaflet. Starting the project it was elaborated a promotional project leaflet, which presents the SEARCH project, objectives, results and consortium. It will be in English and translated to French and Russian - Executive research summary. An executive research summary will be carried out and disseminated to the general public. - Specialised scientific courses, in which the specific methodology developed in the project will be explained to transfer the innovative methodology. The courses will be integrated by the universities of the SEARCH consortium in the summer courses of their respective universities, in order to ensure the participation of the scientific community not only from the university but from other research institutions and communities at national level. - Publications in scientific magazines and attendance to scientific congresses. Research derived from SEARCH will be presented in International Workshops and conferences and published in top international journals or edited books, among others. - Open Source Database. Each partner will put in a common excel file, the main variables used in his research (time series, cross-section, panel data, geographical distribution of them, etc.). - E-newsletters: A six-monthly e-newsletter provides periodic information on the information gathered in the project, and the main documents drawn up are attached. This is a way of publishing the existence of the SEARCH Project and circulating the most relevant papers to universities, research centers and other business and organizations. - Press-release: The Press will be periodically informed of the main events organized by the SEARCH consortium as well as significant information and results through Press releases sent to the main National newspapers and TV channels. - Periodic Electronic policy briefs: Policy Brief will be prepared with information and messages specifically addressed towards public administration practitioners at regional, national and EU level working in policy fields related with the European Neighbouring Policy, such as external relations, international cooperation, research and innovation, immigration, economy and trade, energy, transport and culture.

- **Working papers collection:** A working papers collection will be collected and published in the SEARCH webpage.
- **Special issues:** some papers will be published in an edited book as well as in one special issue in an international highly reputed journal in regional economics. In this sense, some of the partners in the consortium have previous experiences in editing books in known editorials.
- **Internal and open workshops:** The scientific results of the project as well as the policy recommendations specially addressed will be presented in deferent workshops. Theses workshops will be addressed to SEARCH members (internal workshop) and to universities, EU members and policy-makers (external workshops).
- **Interim policy workshop** in Brussels with colleagues from the Commission services/other EU institutions to discuss the interim findings of the project.
- **Final conferences:** two Final conference will be held:
 - The Final Academic Conference of research stakeholders (Month 30), once the research workpackages have finalised and the first policy analysis by means of economic modelling have been developed. The conference will be organised in Barcelona, and will present the main scientific outcomes of the project to scientific community representatives from all over Europe in different fields related to ENP, such as economics, sociology, geography, history and culture.
 - The Policy Conference of public stakeholders (Month 35). A Final Conference will be organised in month 35 of the project in Brussels, in which representatives of different levels of government will be invited (local / regional / national / European levels), as well as other interested stakeholders that might be interested in the results achieved at the end of the project.
- **Policy Recommendations Guide:** A policy recommendations guide will be elaborated extracting research conclusions from the research activities carried out along the project, and will be disseminated through the via previously quoted: web sites of the partners, other web sites and platforms, physical publication sent to at least 300-400 policy makers and Final Conference.

All this information is also available at the SEARCH website: www.ub.edu/searchproject

Deliverables

Del No1	Deliverable Name	WP No	Delivery Date
D1.1	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	1	6
D1.2	Report on ENP policy concerning its objectives and policy measures over time	1	6
D1.3	Conceptual framework for the assessment of the impact of differentiated/incomplete integration on both the new member states (NMS) and the neighbouring countries (NCs)	1	8
D2.1	Interim working paper on patterns of economic interaction between the EU and its NC	2	18
D2.2	Complete report on patterns of economic interaction between the EU and its NC	2	26
D2.3	Report presenting the main findings of WP2 and discussing the policy options	2	28

	D2.4	Report on empirical studies on the development of relations among EU and NC countries	2	28
	D3.1	Interim report on EU-NC country mobility and relationship between migration, social capital & others	3	18
	D3.2	Report on EU-NC country mobility and the relationship between migration, social capital and others	3	26
	D3.3	Report on Policy implications on human capital, social capital and migration	3	28
	D4.1	Interim working paper on internal and external factors influencing innovation activities in NC	4	18
	D4.2	Concluding report on internal and external factors influencing innovation activities in NC	4	26
	D4.3	Final report on policy conclusions of WP4	4	28
	D5.1	Interim working paper on current status of the social, cultural, institutional environment in the NC	5	18
	D5.2	Report on current status of the social, cultural and institutional environment in the NC countries	5	26
	D5.3	Report on Policy implications on legal and political framework conditions	5	28
	D6.1	Report on Models/Guides for Conducting WP2-WP5 Research Tasks	6	6
	D6.2	Detailed Policy Impact Model	6	28
	D6.3	Toward a Working Set of Policy Issues and Inferences	6	31
	D6.4	Understanding Trans-Frontier Innovation Systems and Policies	6	31
	D6.5	Final Policy Recommendations Guide “ Towards and Integrated ERN Policies”	6	34
	D7.1	Dissemination Plan	7	2
	D7.2	Project website and e-Newsletter	7	3
	D7.3	Interim policy workshop	7	18
	D7.4	Dissemination material for European, national and regional administrations	7	36
	D7.5	Dissemination material for social stakeholders	7	36
	D7.6	Dissemination for academia	7	36
	D7.7	SEARCH Free Access Database	7	30
	D7.8	Final Executive research summary of the project	7	30
	D7.9	Dissemination material for Final Academic Conference of research stakeholders	7	30
	D7.10	Dissemination material for Final Policy Conference of public stakeholders	7	35
	D8.1	Project Quality Plan	8	1
	D8.2	Intermediate technical report	8	6
	D8.3	Intermediate technical report	8	30
	D8.4	Minutes from kick-off meeting and each of the progress meetings	8	36
	D8.5	First Project Progress Report	8	18
	D8.6	Second Project Progress Report	8	36
	D8.7	Final Project Progress Report	8	36
Relationship to other EC projects	<p>EU4SEAS – The EU and sub-regional multilateralism in Europe's sea basins: neighbourhood, enlargement and multilateral cooperation Programme: FP7 collaborative research project (2009-2011)</p>			

Project number: 225382

<http://www.eu4seas.eu>

MIRA project coordination action - The Mediterranean Innovation and Research Action (MIRA)

FP7/programme INCO

Programme Acronym: FP7-INCO

<http://www.miraproject.eu/>

IAREG- Intangible assets and regional economic growth

Project Number: 216813

Call_Identifier: FP7 -SSH-2007-1.1-02

www.iareg.org

The IncoNet EECA Project

Project number 212226

Call_Identifier: FP7-INCO

<http://www.inco-eeca.net/en/>

ENEPO - EU Eastern Neighborhood: Economic Potential and Future Development

Project Number CIT5-CT-2006-028736

Call_Identifier FP6-2004-CITIZENS-5

http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/projects/253_en.html

KATARSIS – Growing inequality and Social Innovation: Alternative Knowledge and Practice in Overcoming Social Exclusion in Europe

Project Number: CIT5-CT-2006-029044.

Call_Identifier: FP6-2004-CITIZENS-5

<http://katarsis.ncl.ac.uk/>

EU DIMENSIONS - Local Dimensions of a Wider European Neighbourhood: Developing Political Community through Practices and Discourses of Cross-Border Co-operation

Project Number: CIT5-CT-2005-028804.

Call_Identifier: FP6-2004-CITIZENS-5.

<http://www.eudimensions.org/>

GO-EUROMED - The Political Economy of Governance in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership'

Project Number CIT5-CT-2005-028386.

Call_Identifier FP6-2004-CITIZENS-5

<http://www.go-euromed.org/navigation/>

EUROETHOS - Exploring the scope for a shared European pluralistic ethos; a comparative investigation of religious and secular ethically-derived requests for exemption from the law in an enlarging Europe

Project Number CIT5-CT-2006-028522

Call_Identifier FP6-2004-CITIZENS-5

<http://www.unitn.it>

SeFoNe - Searching for Neighbours: Dynamics of Physical and Mental Borders in the New Europa

Project Number CIT5-CT-2006-518508

	<p>Call_Identifier FP6-2004-CITIZENS-5 Web site http://www.soton.ac.uk</p> <p>CBCED - Challenges and Prospects of Cross Border Co-operation in the Context of EU Enlargement Project Number CIT5-CT-2006-029038 Call_Identifier FP6-2004-CITIZENS-5 Web site http://www.crossbordercoop.net</p> <p>SCOPE-EAST - Scenarios for a co-ordinated approach to sustainable S/T co-operation with the Eastern Neighbours of the EU Programme Acronym:FP6-INCO Project number: 043539 www.scope-east.net</p> <p>Medibtikar - Euromed Innovation and Technology Programme Identification number: MED/2003/070-567 http://www.medibtikar.eu/</p>
<p>Relationship to EC</p>	<p>DG Research: the European Commission has given a strong focus and strengthened the participation of neighbouring countries in the 7th Framework Programme, introducing specific call for proposals and topics of special interest of mutual cooperation, such as energy, migration, employment, socio-economic fields. In this sense the SEARCH project contributes to have a better knowledge on the research field of potential interest and mutual benefit, in order to improve the design and future Framework Programme instrument for cooperation among the EU and neighbouring countries in innovation and research fields. Our concept of “European Research Neighbourhood” indicates the relevance that SEARCH project dedicates to concepts as research, knowledge, education,... in order to close the interaction among EU-NCs.</p> <p>DG External Relations (RELEX), Europeaid, Development and Humanitarian Aid: these directorate generals are responsible for implementing the external policy of the European Union, in close cooperation with other Directorate Generals. Among others, they are responsible for implementing the European Neighbourhood Policy and cooperation programmes, and as such the policy recommendations guide resulting from the project will be of special interest for them. The guide will bring them support to strengthen the previously mentioned policy areas which will need to be improved and further developed, based on the research results of the challenges that the EU and neighbouring policies will face in the coming years.</p> <p>DG Regional Policy: the directorate general for regional policy has also promoted the cooperation with Neighbour countries, through different interregional cooperation programmes, such as Medocc, Archimede, Interreg-MED, PHARE, TACIS, ISPA, SAPARD crossborder cooperation programmes and many others, which have addressed the interregional cooperation gaps with some neighbourhood regions of the European Union. In this sense, the policy recommendations that will result from the project could support DG Regio to shape future Operational Programmes and eligible areas for cooperation.</p> <p>DG Justice Freedom and Security: one of the main research areas of the SEARCH project is focused on legal aspects regarding the EU Neighbouring Policy, and in this sense the</p>

policy recommendations that will be extracted will show the fields in which the European Union should improve the migration, mobility and regulatory policies to increase stability, security and freedom in the EU and neighbouring countries.

DG Culture and social cohesion: recently the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) of the European Commission has recently announced funding opportunities under the theme “Crossing Borders – Connecting Cultures”, Strand 1.3: Cooperation Projects with Third Countries, in the framework of the Culture Programme 2007-2013. More concretely, the Special Action for the years 2009 and 2010, the European Commission has proposed to concentrate on the EU Neighbourhood. In this sense, the SEARCH project is going to analyse the important cultural and social aspects that involves the EU Neighbouring policy, which will be analysed as an transversal framework during the complete duration of the project, and as such the policy recommendations that will be extracted will also point the socio-cultural aspects that will be necessary to reinforce in the ENP to strengthen the cooperation bonds.

DG Enterprise and DG ECFIN: In both DGs, they are studying the ways where innovation can be better diffused among countries, trying to analyse the channels and factors that allows disseminating new knowledge, new products and processes. They are especially interested in to study the rules, variables and the regulatory framework more adequate to generalise the innovation in all EU (core and periphery). In that sense, an examples are the Report on Study on Innovation Diffusion in the internal market (ECFIN/E/2007/020) and the conference held in Brussels in November 2009 (“Building a Systemic approach to innovation: analysis and policy in the context of an exit strategy from the current economic environment”), where members of both DG and even the SEARCH partners were the authors and speakers. Also, subjects as localization choice, creation of new enterprises in NCs or process and product innovation are relevant issues for DG enterprise.