

What is SEARCH?

The **Sharing Knowledge Assets: InteRegionally 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 (FP7-SSH-SSH-2010.2.2-266834).

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

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 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.

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.

Partners



Project Coordinator

University of Barcelona
Faculty of Economics and Business
Department of Econometrics, Statistics and Spanish Economy
AQR-IREA Research Group
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

How to be informed about the Project?

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

www.ub.edu/searchproject



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