NORFACE Transnational Programme

Migration in Europe:
Social, Economic, Cultural and Policy Dynamics

Programme Proposal

15th February 2008

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Executive Summary

Migration has become a very high level social, economic and policy concern right across Europe. Persistent rates of international migration have become an essential element of the political and economic globalization process. Questions of high societal and political relevance have been raised in connection with these developments. There is also a significant body of research in this area, within individual European countries, at the European level, and from other global regions, notably though not only North America. But the body of research is not yet a coherent cumulative and grounded body of knowledge which allows us to understand more fully the current economic and social dynamics of migration, their impact, and even more importantly their potential future impact, on society, economy and polity. There is a critical need therefore to raise the level of European research to address these issues with a major integrated, and synergetic programme at European level.

It is for this reason that NORFACE (the **N**ew **O**pportunities for **R**esearch **F**unding **A**gency **C**o-operation in **E**urope) network now proposes a major 13-nation programme over the next four years. The programme will have four major objectives:

- To advance globally excellent theoretical and methodological disciplinary, inter-disciplinary and comparative research on migration which builds synergetically on a pan-European basis

- To take advantage of and develop the present informal laboratory of experience, knowledge and data which migration in Europe currently presents

- To motivate and support excellence and capacity building for research on migration on a cross-national basis throughout the NORFACE countries

- To develop understanding and promote research-based knowledge and insight into migration for issues of societal, practical and policy relevance, with theoretical foundations but worked on jointly with relevant users and experts.

In Europe there is a great need to build a new synergetic body of research which will contribute strongly to our theoretical understanding and knowledge in the area of migration research. The proposed research topics are designed to address this need through theory-guided, comparative, multi-level and time-referenced studies to relatively unexplored areas, or fields with unresolved issues. The proposed programme emphasises three main themes: Migration, Integration, and Cohesion and Conflict. These areas and the issues taken up in them should not be conceived as separate phenomena but as parts of a more general social process.

The funding of this major trans-national programme over a period of four years has been set at a minimum of €22.8 million. EU support may also be available for this programme if all countries subscribe.

Migration in Europe: Social, Economic, Cultural and Policy Dynamics
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Migration has become a very high level social, economic and policy concern right across Europe. Persistent rates of international migration have become an essential element of the political and economic globalization process. Questions of high societal and political relevance have been raised in connection with these developments. There is also a significant body of research in this area, within individual European countries, at the European level, and from other global regions, notably though not only North America. But the body of research is not yet a coherent cumulative and grounded body of knowledge which allows to understand more fully the current economic and social dynamics of migration, their impact, and even more importantly their potential future impact, on society, economy and polity. In particular the deficits in current research which can be identified include: a) in the overwhelming majority of cases (for example in the US, the UK and across Europe) research is not comparative and thus important country-level variation disappears; b) research is often too closely tied to specific policy agendas which undermines its wider contribution to knowledge; c) it is often overly specialized, i.e. migration and integration are conceived as separate phenomena and not analyzed as part of more general social processes; d) finally and perhaps most importantly, it is methodologically very often not state of the art, and relevant theoretical developments and techniques of data collection and analysis (e.g. multi-level modelling or panel data-analysis) are still only rarely applied. There is a critical need therefore to raise the level of European research to address these issues with a major integrated, and synergetic programme at European level.

1. Rationale for the Research Programme

It is for this reason that NORFACE (the **N**ew **O**pportunities for **R**esearch **F**unding **A**gency **C**o-operation in **E**urope) network now proposes a major 13-nation programme over the next four years. This will have four major objectives:

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Within the topic of international *migration* there are various especially important questions. These relate to the amount of migration flows between certain sending and receiving countries and regions; the characteristics and motives of migrants; their (formal) status (e.g. as asylum seekers,

refugees, workers, students, family members, citizens, undocumented or "illegal" migrants); the driving forces (e.g. economic, political, religious) and structures of migrations (e.g. individual, household or chain migration), and the effects on both sending and receiving countries. The effects of international migration are in most cases highly productive and innovative. Migration contributes positively to diversity and to the development of more multi-cultural societies. At the same time international migration is accompanied at least to some extent by new problems and issues: Today's societies increasingly identify problems of ethnic, religious and cultural diversity, challenges to societal integration and cohesiveness, and threats of destructive conflicts between majorities and minorities or between different minorities. An indispensable prerequisite to any solution is an adequate understanding of the underlying processes. The problems and issues pertain directly to a comprehension of the various types and causes of (international) migration, as well as to the conditions and mechanisms behind the individual and social consequences of international migration in both the *receiving countries* and the *sending countries*.

Some of the most crucial problematic effects of migration concern the classical question of *integration* of migrants and their host societies. The term "integration" refers to two conceptually different aspects: firstly, the *social integration* of individual migrants and their families as inclusion into (vs. exclusion from) central areas of the receiving countries (over and beyond the generations), touching above all on issues of social and ethnic inequality, for instance in education, the labour market, and access to relevant networks and public institutions; and secondly, the *systems integration* of (complete) societies which refers to issues of social cohesion in the wake of newly risen social and ethnic differentiations, boundaries, and perhaps even manifest conflicts due to cultural, ethnic, and religious differences. Both aspects are (more or less) interrelated and connected to the migration process itself: Ethnic inequalities between individuals and groups can, for instance, give rise to stable ethnic cleavages and segmented ethnic subsystems within a society and possibly motivate the mobilization of ethnic conflicts in various respects and domains of everyday life. A main problem in a world of ongoing or even increasing inter- and trans-national migration is to better understand the mechanisms and processes that lead in a world of ongoing or even increasing inter- and trans-national migration to a convergence of life chances of migrants and ethnic groups and, thus, to the dissolution of ethnic inequalities and ethnic segmentations at least for the follow-up-generations.

2. *Intellectual Reflections on Current Research*

It is not surprising that there is currently an increase in the long and broad tradition of social science research on the topic of migration, integration, and cohesion and conflict. Summaries of research in various countries have been produced as background in preparation of this proposal, and a major bibliographical and research review of all work in the area has been completed by colleagues at the COMPAS Centre on Migration, Policy and Society at the University of Oxford. These are not yet in finalised publishable form, but copies are available upon request.

Certainly there has also been significant work of major impact and merit, within Europe, in North America, and from other regions. In developing this proposed programme we would expect to build upon some of the theoretical foundations of such work as Massey (1987), Durand & Massey (2004), Massey *et al.* (1998), Portes, Guarnizo & Eduardo (2002) in demography; Borjas (1987), Chiswick (2005), Dustmann & Preston (2007), Kogan (2007), Zimmermann et *al.* (2007) in economics; Brown & Hewstone (2005), Deaux (2006), Simon (2004) in social psychology; Alba & Nee 2003, Heath & Cheung (2007), Hirshman, Kasinitz & DeWind 1999, Portes & Rumbaut (2001), van Tubergen (2006) in sociology; focussing upon issues including causes and impacts of migration, social integration of migrants, and cohesion and conflict.

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While this body of work provides a basis upon which to build, there are still very strong needs for major new initiative to build a new synergetic body of research which contribute strongly to our theoretical understanding and knowledge in this area. Much of existing research has - despite its many highly valuable results in some fields – not been particularly successful in providing satisfactory answers in other areas. This is due in part to the complexity of the problem, but above all probably to certain limitations in much of previous research in this field, such as failures to take into account *knowledge from multiple disciplines*, to *integrate multiple theoretical and methodological approaches* within a *systematic overarching framework*, and to adopt a *comparative perspective*. Already the respective explananda vary greatly: individual migration decisions and flows of migrations into and out of regions, processes of social integration of migrants and societal cohesion and conflicts are related, but are treated as different topics. Different theoretical accesses and methodological procedures are necessary, making it indispensable for researchers to be aware of and compile contributions stemming from diverse social, economic and behavioural science disciplines. These include demography and geography, history, anthropology and ethnography, (social) psychology, language and cultural sciences, economics, political science, law, and sociology, in other words, almost the entire spectrum of the social sciences. Moreover, the processes involved pertain mostly and simultaneously to different levels and contexts, such as the level of individual family and migration biographies, the sending countries, the receiving countries, the ethnic groups and the trans-national ethnic networks above and beyond the respective national borders. Of particular importance is also the consideration of the *relational character* of most of the processes, such as the relation between sending and receiving countries, the relations between majority groups and migrant groups in the receiving countries, the social integration of migrants and the interaction of social tolerance and ethnic exclusions with regard to issues of cohesion and conflict. In addition, consideration of the constellations and *causal dynamics* of the processes and conditions of *change over time* is important. These are changes that cannot be reconstructed solely on the basis of ethnographic case studies or cross-sectional survey studies with standard demographic variables.

3. Thematic description for the research programme

Notwithstanding all the difficulties described, social, economic and behavioural science research to date has produced a number of reliable results, some of which are outlined above. Each new programme must proceed from the attained level of knowledge and focus on issues discernible against that background. Against the background of the knowledge available, and the pinpointed research gaps, some easily identifiable, and containable, research topics emerge in three critical areas – the causes and consequences of migration; social integration of migrants at the micro- and meso- levels; and the broader issues of cohesion and conflict at the societal level. These, we recognise, are to some extent issues that have already been intensively studied in some ways, but we wish to develop a programme which will rather allow the proposed design of *comparative, multi-level, and time-referenced studies* to be applied to relatively unexplored areas or to fields with unresolved issues.

3.1. Migration - Causes and Consequences

Every new migration commences with the *decision of the migrant* to move. The way this decision is related to circumstances and characteristics of the migrant, features of the emigration and immigration country, and to expectations and information, is an area that has attracted much research interest across the social sciences. Yet, there are many unexplored and not well understood questions. In addition, there is evidence that the relationship between individuals and places of

settlement is changing, mainly because of developments in technology, transport and communication. The contemporary Diaspora includes an increasing number of people who are directed as much to networks of people as to particular sites. These new trends and trajectories of trans-national individuals concern questions of size of trans-national migrations, of motives and characteristics of trans-national migrants and of the long term behaviour especially of the follow-up generations. In addition to economic motives and attractors (such as labour market opportunities and wage differentials), family and kinship, the embeddedness in networks of kinship and friendship, historical traditions and institutional arrangements, cultural affinities and relative deprivations and conflicts also play an important role. Migration decisions are also related to the particular form a migration eventually takes: migrations could be permanent, or assume various forms of temporariness. The wish to migrate may conflict with legislation, and migrations may become "illegal" from the perspective of the destination region. Illegal migration, migrant trafficking and human smuggling are processes of major significance in international migration, and of particular relevance to Europe; yet, many of these processes are not well understood, partly due to the complexities and lack of good data, and partly due to the novelties, and changing and dynamic nature, of the processes involved. Other questions include: Are immigrants differently selected into different European countries, according to their abilities and backgrounds, and how does possible selection relate to the characteristics of the receiving nation? Equally not well understood are the dynamics of migration and re-migration decisions, and the interaction with socio-economic behaviour. Understanding these may help to structure and understand better important issues like forecasts of future demographic developments in the European countries and regions.

As for the *consequences* of migration, these may be felt in various dimensions for the receiving country. Migration may affect the demographic structures in receiving countries, by way of changing the age-gender- or skill composition, overall fertility, and mortality. Migration has consequences that are to be expected for the various institutions in the receiving countries, like the educational system, public services, and welfare systems. Migration will also necessitate adjustments of the economy; these may be in terms of wages, employment, industry structure, or technology. Migration may impact on prices as well as the housing market. Many of these processes are not yet well explored, in particular not in the European context and with new emigrations flows from particular European countries or from extra-European to European countries. New theory and methodology, coupled with quantitative and qualitative research, is needed.

Migration has also consequences for the sending countries, through remittances, brain drain and possibly brain gain. New research should take advantage of the opportunities the diversity of European migration experiences offer, coupled with availability of new data both of a survey- and administrative nature.

3.2. Integration

The second area concerns the various aspects of immigrants' social integration in its different dimensions (cultural, structural, interactional, emotional) and how these interact and are influenced by institutions and conditions, the native population, and already existing ethnic groups in the receiving country. Social integration and the related processes of (mal-)adaptation have dynamic aspects, over the immigrant's life cycle, but also intergenerational aspects: Processes of social integration include multiple generations, and advantage or disadvantage may be passed from one generation to the next. This intergenerational aspect has particular relevance in the European context, with exclusion of minority youths being a critical issue in many countries. In this regard the aspect of *ethnic stratification* must especially be mentioned: systematic differences between ethnic groups with regard to their economic success (employment, income, occupational status),

social mobility and status attainment. Ethnic stratifications contradict basic norms of universalistically organized and functionally differentiated societies; they are causes of massive losses in productivity and high transaction costs. They also create the potential for problems with regard to the systems integration of societies and the emergence of ethnically motivated violence, conflicts, and societal disruptions. The focal point here is the interplay of cultural and social processes in the distribution of structural opportunities (mainly in education and labour market) and concerning access to central institutions. This is exemplified by the importance of linguistic competency and other forms of acculturation for success in the education and labour markets. Further important issues relate to integration into systems of rules and regulation, violation of which may lead to crime, conflict, and societal disruptions. Here the interplay of cultural and social processes in the distribution of structural opportunities, above all in the labour market and concerning access to central institutions, is important.

In explaining ethnic disadvantage sensitive biographic transitions and decisions such as attending school and education, leaving the parental household, labour market participation, partner choice, and having children need to be studied more thoroughly. It is speculated that, above all, the antecedent processes of the emergence of (friendship) *networks* and the *social capital* of "good" relations, as well as the *cultural capital* of "good" habits and tastes passed down within families are responsible, all of which constitute goods that are for the most part far removed from market processes and institutional procedures. At this point, *collective identities*, emotions, cultural and religious *bonds*, and *social distances or discriminations* play a key role on the one hand, while on the other there are the structural opportunities for everyday interethnic relationships by means of the distribution of migrants over certain residential areas. Special challenges to society are raised by the integration of refugees under post traumatic stress.

Little is known about the emergence of *ethnic segregations* due to the "selective migration" of migrants into certain urban neighbourhoods or about the processes and consequences of the emergence of ethnic communities and their institutional structures. Ethnic segregation may materialise not only at the level of residence, but also at the level of the workplace, and (in particular for the children of immigrants) at the level of the school or preschool. The systematic study of the opportunities and the mechanisms behind the emergence of interethnic relationships, and, particularly, of the processes and conditions of the emergence of interethnic partnerships, marriages and kinship relationships, and of the emergence and consequences of ethnic segregations would be worthwhile perspectives for explaining one of the most crucial, yet still hardly understood aspects within the framework of a broader explanation of the mechanisms of ethnic stratification.

Although research on phenomena as ethnic segregation and stratification are essential, research on integration should broaden its perspective toward aspects of social and political participation and include theory-guided research to address the *civic dimension* of integration, the meaning of *engagement or disengagement* of immigrants and other minorities into/from the *political* system of the wider society. Depending upon the migrant or minority group under study, a significant portion seems relatively successful in educational or economic terms, yet sometimes prone to disaffection and disengagement at the citizen level vis-à-vis the wider society and political institutions. For example, among second-generation Moroccans in The Netherlands, increasing feelings of discrimination, deprivation and disregard together with declining voter turnout or citizenship acquisition can be noticed. Or vice-versa, some groups may be strongly politically engaged, yet socio-economically marginalized (like African-Americans in the US). Little is known, in particular in comparative terms, of the conditions and processes that connect objective and perceived group positions and inter-group relations with the civic (dis)engagement of migrants/minorities in the political realm.

3.3. Cohesion and Conflict

The problem of discrimination, degradation and social exclusion, intimidation and violence against those who are different, and conflicts between social groups, for instance between members of different ethnic minorities and native groups, have been recognized in both public and political opinion. In addition, highly cohesive groups of shared religion, which develop a strong feeling of superiority towards other religious groups, have been established. Apart from the high damage caused by crimes in this context, this situation also carries with it economic costs. Moreover, there is the danger of destabilization of the social cohesion of a democratic society, which was founded on constitutional consensus.

An important element of these problems of cohesion and conflict is constituted by the functioning of social identities. Identities determine the attachment to and solidarity with other members of one's group as well as the distinction and separation from others who do not share that social identity. In other words, social identities define the individuals' place in the community and social world. As a consequence of migration within and into Europe, social constellations arise in which new social identities develop or membership of already existing social groups gain new meanings. Mixed identities emerge that build on or integrate values, norms, and lifestyles of different existing identities. Also, hierarchically nested, hybrid and overlapping identities become relevant, such as identities defined by language, geographical origin, cultural similarity, or being an immigrant. Societies become less based on a single unifying cultural tradition.

Societal changes caused, among other factors, by migration influence the status quo of social identities. Threats to status positions and positively valued identities might challenge coping strategies in order to maintain or restore satisfying status positions. In this way, situations characterised by changes in inter-group relations and the corresponding social identities can be the roots of conflicts associated with out-group derogation or inter-group hostility and violence. In any case they are socially, economically, and politically costly. A main focus of interest, therefore, should be on the development and changes in conflict and cohesion as specific forms of group relations. Special features in this context are the way individuals mutually perceive, evaluate, and influence each other. Especially relevant for the way these mechanisms work are aspects of auto-, hetero- and meta-perceptions, and stereotypes on different levels of self-categorization as individual, group member, or member of a higher order inclusive group. Aspects of action goals and motives for behavioural regulation are connected to that.

Importantly, many immigrants or minority groups are attributed simultaneous insider and outsider status in different ethnic and national categories (e.g. ethnic' immigrants from neighbouring countries, local-born children of immigrants, children of ethnically mixed parentage) or they are pushed to redefine their group status in new circumstances (e.g. in the case of Muslims in strongly secularized host countries). Logically preceding the key questions on ethnic group formation and interethnic relations then is the study of the conditions and processes that affect how ethnic categories and boundaries are defined and how they shift (e.g. towards more restrictive definitions of in-group membership when inter-group contact is experienced as threatening the group's survival). While there is much relevant experimental research, these questions have rarely been investigated simultaneously at the different levels of individual actors, groups, and institutional settings, nor interactively including multiple groups in the same research design, nor comparatively in distinct multi-group settings, nor dynamically in settings where (re)definitions of group membership are historically or politically contested and/or subject to change (e.g. in the Russian case, or in the case of ethnic minorities redefining themselves in religious terms as Muslims). Finally, most research on ethnic categorization and boundaries does not test consequences for "hard outcomes" such as inclusion or exclusion in core institutions, or even violent conflict.

In the area of research on cohesion and conflict, the multi-level, process perspective of the programme will ask also for a political mobilisation perspective. Rather than asking under which conditions "ethnic difference" or "cultural incompatibility" leads to conflict, the question is how to understand the interaction between political opportunity structures, processes of political mobilisation of both minority activists and major political parties, and public discourse. At the individual level, research should illuminate the conditions under which migrants associate themselves with different types of political programmes, are prepared to invest in membership of various types of organisations (including, but not exclusively ethnic or religious community organisations, and also both home-country and host-country organisations), and perceive the political opportunities and constraints they are facing. On the meso-level, research needs to explore the organisational ecologies within which minority political leaders operate, and the specific channelling effects these might entail (producing, for example, a dynamic of diffusion of certain types of organisational models and political claims). At the macro-level, finally, more rigorous research into the discursive, organisational, and institutional incentive structures needs be done to understand how political parties, minority political organisations and public opinion interact and produce varying constellations of conflict and alliance. While important work has been done in this area, there is no systematic connection between these multiple levels of analysis and very little time-sensitive data are available, which would allow tracking of the dynamics of conflict and accommodation over time, and thus, for example, there are limitations to any thorough knowledge about the sequences of political development more likely to lead to conflict and confrontation, and those that make accommodation and political integration more likely.

4. Methodological guidelines for a research programme on migration

Traditionally, the field of migration, integration, cohesion and conflict, is rather close to national public concerns and policies. This results often enough in emotionally loaded and politically connotated terminologies, approaches and data sources, at the cost of conceptual clarity, explanatory theory, and valid measurement. Instead of being overwhelmed by the importance and pervasiveness of the societal problems as presented in the public discourse, we therefore recommend questioning what is often taken for granted:

- Instead of starting with the focus on migration and related topics as research problems, these issues should be theoretically and analytically dealt with as a specific case placed within the broader frame of **general processes** and mechanisms of, for example, residential mobility, social stratification, and social identity and inter-group relations in societies, as general background for the analysis of international migration by people of different ethnic background, ethnic stratification, ethnic identities and interethnic relations. This implies that the various research domains are to be approached from the **conceptual and theoretical perspectives of different disciplines**.

- In order to specify the case of, among others, migration, ethnic conflicts, trans-national networking, or societal segregation, it is necessary to develop **theory-based** criteria for **defining, operationalising**, and **identifying** the phenomena of interest instead of taken them for granted.

- In general the programme will need to prioritise strong commitment to an **analytic and theory-based approach** to the respective research issues. By doing so, we expect advantages with respect to **preciseness** in translating social problems into social scientific research questions and possibilities to do **comparative** research with different sending and receiving countries, different social and political systems, different minority and immigration policy and legislation, and different historical periods.

- Further, we want to recommend a general approach towards the themes conceived in terms of conditions (i.e. the exogenous factors that moderate the mediating mechanisms and hence the expected outcomes), processes, and outcomes at the different but interrelated **levels** and **contexts** and in its individual, social, and societal **change**. Ideally, processes of continuous or discontinuous change (due to migration, ethnic identities, and cultural diversities), and their causes and consequences have to be described and analysed by approaching the micro level of single individuals, the meso level of social groups, organisations or collective entities, and the macro level of social and economic systems.

If the above is true, then there will follow a somewhat changed strategy in the approach of social science to migration, integration, and cohesion and conflict: different from most existing research in this area to date, which has usually restricted itself to a single national context, the micro-level of individual persons, the meso-level of families or the macro-level of sending and receiving countries, respectively specific ethnic groups, cross-sectional studies and secondary analyses that are incomplete with regard to important variables. The most important advantage to a new research effort would thus be to surmount these shortcomings and one-sided approaches within a *few* systematically designed and coordinated studies *focused* on overcoming these and similar problems, at least in part. Such studies would go some way towards fulfilling the following requirements:

- the explicit specification of a theoretical mechanism to explain results and outcomes from respective expert disciplines;

- the transfer of the mechanism into an appropriately oriented research design that would permit both a deepened qualitative insight into the micro-processes as well as the systematic empirical quantitative or experimental verification of the putative theoretical mechanisms;

- the systematic international and intercultural comparison through the inclusion of different receiving countries or local contexts, countries of origin, ethnic groups and networks, and institutional settings;

- the consideration of the multi-level structure of the processes through the inclusion of the various contexts and their effects on the respective explananda;

- the treatment of the temporal dynamics of the processes, especially but not only by means of corresponding panel designs.

Thus, particularly desirable would be research initiatives promoting *theory-guided*, *comparative*, *time-referenced, multi-level* studies, including the primary collection of the corresponding qualitative, quantitative and experimental micro, meso, and macro data in the various contexts and special methods, like the combination of traditional laboratory experiments and extensive longitudinal field research with short-term longitudinal studies with multiple repeated assessments, and experimental approaches including follow-up tests that address the possible fading of effects or their sustained character.

5.   *Advantages of a Cross-European Research Effort*

For Europe, heavy inflows of international migration and its consequences are a rather new experience. In many respects, this cannot be compared with the experiences made by classical immigration countries. Additionally, there are strong differences between the European countries with regard to the development and structure of (post-WWII) migration, historical and political background (e.g. colonial or not), migrant groups, institutional peculiarities (e.g. welfare state and citizenship regimes or educational systems), official politics, legislation and public discourses. Despite a lot of research activities in the different European countries, up to now, coordinated and systematic intra-European comparisons are missing.

Four central gains of a cross-European research effort can be obtained:

- the *systematic comparison* of the different structures and developments of migration, integration and indications of problems of cohesion and conflict in the various countries, including an attempt to compare also different ethnic groups in the different countries

- the possibility of investigating systematically the probable effects of certain *typical "regimes"* of historical traditions, institutional regulations, cultural traditions and public discourses by connecting these macro-conditions systematically <u>and</u> ensuring they are theory-driven with micro-data (and thus avoiding the well-known individualistic and/or institutional fallacies of traditional survey-research on the one hand and institutional descriptions on the other)

- the systematic testing of the *stability of crucial mechanisms* in varying the (national and cultural) conditions, e.g. the mechanisms that lead to vertical ethnic inequalities in education and labour market or to differences in social distances and discriminations.

- the possibility of identifying certain differences and/or similarities in important basic processes and mechanisms in *comparisons to traditional target countries of international immigration* like the US, Canada, Australia and thus to find out, whether concepts developed and discussed there (like "ethnic pluralism", "segmented assimilation" or "new assimilation") can be applied to the European experience, too.

The prerequisite for cross-European gains is the explication of the respective theoretical mechanisms and the systematic connection of macro-level-conditions with theoretical constructs and empirical indicators on the micro-level. It would also be extremely desirable to consider the start of coordinated (long term) panel-studies, possibly concentrated on some key theoretically and empirically interesting cases.

6.   *Research Questions*

The following selection of questions concentrates on a number of defined topics in fields of particular importance and with a great demand for research in the areas of *migration*, *integration*, and *cohesion and conflict*. They should function to further illustrate the programme aims but <u>not to exclude</u> additional foci. These questions are not exclusive in any way, applicants are encouraged to put forward other research questions to frame their research. Whenever relevant projects should pay attention to gender perspectives and also analyse questions concerning children.

Migration

- There is a large literature in many European countries that addresses questions concerning *international migration flows*. However, the key gap in our knowledge is how to put these national views together in order to form a picture, as comparable as possible, of the range of outcomes and situations in different European countries. Therefore, the challenge for researchers will be to produce comparable accounts across European countries of the answers to the following questions: How many international migrants are coming to European countries? Where are they coming or likely to come from? What are their characteristics? How long are they staying or likely to stay (short-term, long-term)? What is their legal status with respect to immigration (asylum, worker, student, family, and citizen)? What about emigration flows from Diasporas in foreign countries, from particular European countries or from extra-European countries to Europe?

- What *contribution* will international migrants make to the populations, the labour forces, the school enrolments, and the older ages of European countries? How do different countries approach this question (e.g. "head in the sand" or detailed multi-group demographic projection model)? How do immigrants become citizens in different countries and what does this mean for societal cohesion?

- What are the conditions and underlying processes of the emergence, reproduction, and change in *trans-national migrations and networks*, including the eventually persisting special forms of migrations between the receiving countries and the countries of origin, such as pendulum migrations, recurrent migrations or seasonal (labour) migrations? How do trans-national migrations and relationships change over the course of generations, what are the conditions under which trans-national relationships are abandoned and permanent integration into the respective receiving countries takes place?

Integration

- Again, comparable accounts across European countries of the answers to the *consequences* of international migrations for the receiving countries are needed: What are the levels of mixing in residence terms in different European societies? What are the experiences of immigrants in the labour market? What are the *economic mechanisms and networks* of integration? What are the experiences of the children of immigrants in school, further and higher education? What are the levels of inter-marriage, cohabitation, family linkages?

- What are the basic mechanisms which explain *ethnic inequalities* in the educational system and in the labour market? Are there systematic differences across European countries? What is the significance of (early) preschool attendance and the composition and quality of preschools in the explanation of ethnic educational differences? Is early second language acquisition possible and what are its effects on educational careers? Are there differences in (elementary) school choice behaviour between natives and ethnic groups and what explains these differences? Are there indications of (institutional or other forms of) discrimination in schools, processes of stereotype threat and effects of teachers' expectations and behaviours in school classes? What are possible (genuine) effects of the social and/or ethno-linguistic composition in school classes? And what are the effects of ability tracking and other characteristics of different educational systems? Can ethnic penalties on the labour market be observed, i.e. differences in outcomes that persist even when controlling for relevant human capital? How could the remaining ethnic differences be explained (e.g. discrimination, access to relevant information or intervening ethnic opportunities)? Are

there special problems in the transition between the educational sphere and the labour market?

- What are the determinants and processes of the formation of *inter-ethnic relations*, especially friendship networks? Which role do opportunity structures, language abilities and social distances play for the emergence of interethnic relations? What are the conditions for ethnic closure and openness of friendship networks? Are ethnic identities and identifications, cultural differences, values and religious affiliations relevant in this context? What are the determinants of ethnic and religious intermarriages? What effects do the ethnic composition of networks and ethnic social and cultural capital have on structural integration? What explains the emergence of ethnic segregation in residential patterns and the emergence of institutionally complete ethnic communities? Do ethnic residential areas and (institutionally complete) ethnic communities have systematic effects on interethnic relations, networks and marriage behaviour? What are the determinants of residential preferences and investments in long term goods, particularly in private property? Are there systematic differences between "trans-national" migrants and others with regard to the formation of interethnic relations and housing behaviour?

- What are the determinants and effects of *civic rights* and naturalization on the social integration of migrants, especially on the dimension of (vertical) structural integration? Are there systematic differences with regard to institutional regimes, historical traditions and public discourses in different European countries? What explains differences in political participation and voting behaviour between natives and ethnic groups? What are the determinants of participation in other and also unconventional forms of civic participation, e.g. in social movements? Which role do different forms of ethnic identification play in these processes? Do we observe a kind of "European" civic society with a respective "European" political identity emerging?

Cohesion and Conflict

- What maintains, what changes and what creates new *social identities* on the different levels of inclusiveness, e.g. on the subgroup level of migrant groups or the super-ordinate level of the common society. Which processes generate hybrid or complex identities? Which processes explain the functional relation between identity and societal or political participation, and societal engagement or disengagement; which is the function of a common super-ordinate identity for inter-group cohesion or conflict?

- What are the conditions for *change of different forms of relationships* and interactions between social groups (migrants and host, or different migrant groups)? What are the crucial perceptions of the inter-group situation, attitudes towards it, and behaviours which can generally be labelled as discrimination and tolerance or hostility and what is the functional relation between these different classes of phenomena. For example, how are negative stereotypes or tolerant attitudes linked to corresponding behaviours like rejection or cooperation? Is there a qualitative difference between biased attitudes and outright hostility towards out groups?

- What are the antecedent conditions and processes that have an impact on the way individuals *deal with inter-group difference*? Answers to this question may create the basis for the identification of mechanisms for improving the relations between groups, for reducing conflict, and for increasing mutual tolerance and acceptance.

- Research on *negative inter-group relations* (e.g., prejudice and its determinants, negative conflictual inter-group processes) and their improvement through reduction of conflicts should be complemented by research focusing on causes and functions associated with

explicitly positive relations between social groups and their members (e.g., in terms of positive judgment and actions like outright out-group support). What are the conditions for initiating, maintaining, or extending *interethnic contact*, for host society (majority) members and migrant group (minority) members?

- What are possible venues for *mass media* to provide *vicarious contact* experience? Which are similarities and differences concerning the processes and effects of real life versus media depicted contact on inter-group attitudes and behaviour?

Research on these and other issues will definitely fill current gaps and substantially promote scientific evidence concerning antecedents, processes and effects of the dynamics of migration as a complex research area.

7. *Funding of the Programme*

The proposed programme will involve the 13 NORFACE countries with which it is also hoped that some other countries will join. This will be a very major programme at a minimum of € 22.8 million, with potentially additional funding available from the European Commission, and from other national funding agencies joining the programme.

It is hoped to fund projects covering the main themes of the programme as set out. It will be important to have a good disciplinary and multi-disciplinary spread of projects, including multi-perspective proposals with different theoretical approaches as appropriate to many of the topics.

Projects will need to involve participants from at least three countries participating in the programme funding, including substantial research from all partners in the project. It is anticipated that the projects will vary in size and scope with a balance of smaller and some larger projects of excellent quality between €0.5 - €4.0 million for up to 4 years in length.

All appropriate direct costs including research assistance will be met from project funds plus an allowance of 20% for indirect institutional costs including accommodation and permanent academic time which will not be chargeable as direct costs.

All project applications will be required to demonstrate how they will build on existing work, including work outside Europe, and how they will develop either the disciplinary or inter-disciplinary base of the work proposed. Proposals involving major surveys or major empirical data collection, or major analytical work, are invited where researchers believe these are appropriate.

As noted there is already a reasonably strong base of researchers within Europe looking at aspects of migration. These will provide a strong competitive core for the programme. The programme sponsors are however also very keen to involve and engage key researchers who have not in the past explicitly committed themselves to research on migration and related issues as such, but will come to this afresh from economics, psychology, political science and sociology, and all other appropriate disciplinary and multi-disciplinary backgrounds with clear affinities to the methodological guidelines mentioned in section 4 above.

The programme will be commissioned from one "common pot" with one joint application for each project and a process of peer review by a central review panel established on the basis of scientific and professional expertise from within and outside the NORFACE countries. The panel will also include experts with appropriate expertise from related areas outside the field of migration. The NORFACE Network Board will make the final funding decisions.

The programme will be supervised and directed by an academic Director appointed specifically for the purpose, who will advise the review panel on the relevance of the projects and whether they fit into the programme. The Director will be responsible for ensuring the integration of the various funded projects into a whole which is more than the sum of its parts, for ensuring good cross-communication and synergy between projects, and appropriate engagement with the wider non-academic community involved in migration issues.

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A much longer and full bibliography and review, including a review of current research, comprising 80+ pages is available on request if required.

Appendix 1

Institutional background

The NORFACE ERA-NET[2] brings together funding agencies in 13 countries, in a five-year European Union-supported effort to build a transnational collaborative framework within which national resources can be pooled to commission and deliver world-class social science on a continental scale. The workplan for NORFACE specifically includes the launching of two joint research programmes, a Pilot Research Programme on a specified theme in 2006, and a large-scale Transnational Research Programme in 2008.

The NORFACE Partner Agencies are:

Austria: Austrian Science Fund (FWF)
Denmark: Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation (DASTI)
Estonia: Estonian Science Foundation (ETF)
Finland: Academy of Finland (AKA)
Germany: Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)
Iceland: Icelandic Centre for Research (RANNÍS)
Ireland: Irish Research Council for the Humanities & Social Sciences (IRCHSS)
Netherlands: Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)
Norway: Research Council of Norway (RCN)
Portugal: Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT)
Slovenia: Slovenian Research Agency (SRA)
Sweden: Swedish Research Council (VR)
United Kingdom: Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)

Development of the programme

The preparation of the Research Programme began with consultations of all Partner Agencies and their networks within research communities on the possible themes of the Programme. The theme proposals were considered by the NORFACE Network Board, the body responsible for high level decision making for the network with participation from each of the Partner Agencies. The Board decided to nominate an International Expert Group consisting of Professor Amélie Mummendey, chair, Professor Karen Phalet, Professor Philip Rees, Professor Andreas Wimmer, and Professor Hartmut Esser as members, to develop a thematic outline for the transnational programme on migration. The expert group delivered its report in June 2007. The report was sent to all Partner Agencies for comments. In addition a review and bibliography on migration research has been commissioned from the COMPAS (Centre of Migration, Policy and Society) at the University of

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[2] NORFACE stands for: *N*ew *O*pportunities for *R*esearch *F*unding *A*gency *C*ooperation in *E*urope. NORFACE receives core funding under the European Union's ERA-NET scheme. ERA-NET is a mechanism introduced in the EU's Sixth Framework Programme to support collaborative working among national research agencies and programmes in furtherance of the goal of establishing a European Research Area. For more information see
http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/index_en.cfm?p=9_eranet

Oxford. All of these documents have formed the basis for the deliberations of the NORFACE Network Board in November 2007. The Board decided to organise a meeting of the members of the International Expert Group, Professor Christian Dustmann and Professor Rinus Penninx to finalise this Programme Proposal on a NORFACE Research Programme "Migration in Europe – Social, Economic, Cultural and Policy Dynamics".