

The NORFACE Research Programme on
Migration
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Prepared for Conference
"Crossing Boundaries in Social
Science Research"

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NORFACE – Research Programme on Migration in Europe

NORFACE is a network of 15 national research funding organisations in Europe and Canada, co-operating since beginning of 2004.

NORFACE has launched a major transnational programme on Migration, with a budget of €23 million being funded by the national research councils and additional funding of €6 million from the European Union.

Main scientific objectives of the NORFACE Programme on Migration are:

- To advance globally, excellent theoretical and methodological disciplinary, inter-disciplinary and comparative research
- 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 cross-national research throughout the NORFACE countries
- To develop an understanding of 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.

NORFACE Migration Programme is funding 12 transnational projects relating to the 3 main themes :

1. Migration - Causes and Consequences
2. Integration
3. Cohesion and Conflict

APPROVED PROJECTS

- CHOICES – Understanding Migrants' Choices
- CILS4EU – Children of Immigrants Longitudinal Study in Four European Countries
- THEMIS – Theorizing the Evolution of European Migration Systems
- SIMCUR – Social Integration of Migrant Children: Uncovering Family and School Factors promoting Resilience
- TCRAf-Eu – Transnational child-raising arrangements between Africa and Europe
- SCIP – Causes and consequences of early socio-cultural integration processes among new immigrants in Europe
- LineUp – 500 Families: Migration Histories of Turks in Europe
- NODES – Nordic welfare states and the dynamics and effects of ethnic residential segregation
- MI3 – Migration: Integration, Impact and Interaction
- TEMPO – Temporary Migration, integration and the role of Policies
- MD-RDE – Migrant Diversity and Regional Disparity in Europe
- IMEM – Integrated Modelling of European Migration

NORFACE

(New Opportunities for Research Funding Agency Cooperation in Europe)

- 13-Nation Programme over the next four years
- “Pilot” for future initiatives?
- Three main themes:
 - Migration – causes and consequences
 - Integration
 - Cohesion and Conflict

NORFACE Research Programme on Migration

Why is this a timely initiative?

- Answers to questions relating to migration (and the three main themes of the Programme) have never been so important than at present
- Migration policies and initiatives across European countries highly fragmented
- There is a huge potential to add research at the academic frontier, and, through that, to our knowledge base on migration through a coordinated Pan-European research initiative

NORFACE

What is in for researchers?

- There are unique opportunities to push the scientific frontiers on migration research through a European programme
 - European countries have a unique diversity in migration experiences (across and within), creating exciting situations and variation for analysis, to answer important questions (through e.g. policy changes)
 - There is a unique diversity in policies and institutions across countries
 - There is a unique diversity in changes over time
 - Europe has by now unique data that are available for research purposes (far better than the US)

NORFACE

- Comparative aspects:
 - Over time and cross-sectional:
 - What can we learn from other countries and their specific circumstances?
 - What can we learn from changes in circumstances over time?
- Cross-disciplinary aspects:
 - Bringing together the different comparative advantages of different disciplines to answer a substantive question
- Cross-area aspects:
 - Attracting really good people to the field

NORFACE

- Cross-and Inter-disciplinary:
 - Needs not to be within particular sub-programmes; will be created by combining different programmes under the NORFACE umbrella.
- Creation of new Resources:
 - NORFACE will create a wealth of exciting data sources that allow analysis of issues so far unexplored

Selection of Projects

What were the criteria?

- Do the senior applicants have an excellent track record in research related to the area?
Important: Quality of research, less quantity
(publications in top journals etc.)
- Does the research promise to be of excellent quality?
- Is this an integrated team, and will the top people contribute?
- Are the young researchers well educated and promising, as well as well integrated into the project?

Selection of Projects

Level of subject area

- Is this an important question which advances significantly academic insight?
- Is this a relevant question?
- Does the research promise to be top quality and generate novel insights likely to be of great interest to the research community?
- Does the research draw on comparative advantages provided by migration experiences in Europe?
- Is this the best research that can be done to answer an important and relevant substantive question, not just within the discipline, but across disciplines?

Selection of Projects

Level of the Programme

- Is the research important for the overall programme, and will it advance its objectives?
- Is the research complementary to other research projects?

Why is NORFACE a unique initiative, different from existing ones on EU or national level?

- Draws on a large pool of excellent researchers from different countries
- Builds capacity by creating new networks (rather than drawing on existing ones)
- Will build a legacy through creation of new initiatives and development of young researchers, as well as creation of opportunity for talented researchers to engage in migration research
- Will have a focus on Quality and Excellence

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- Research looks at key drivers of migrants' choices and the constraints they face.
- Six projects which compare these groups in terms of characteristics and outcomes, relative to each other, to natives, and also cross-nationally by host and sending countries, including work on return migration, legal and illegal migrants, income, consumption and asset accumulation of migrants, access to homeownership networks.
- Combine innovative theoretical modelling with rigorous state-of-the-art estimation.
- European data for the Netherlands, Italy, Spain, and Sweden and from the Maghreb.

Disciplines involved: Economic and business studies

Collects primary Data: NO

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- Research aims to address questions in the fields of structural, social, and cultural integration.
- Research will be based on large-scale, strictly comparative, theory-guided, multilevel and longitudinal data.
- Plan: to collect rich panel information on teenagers in four European countries: Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.
- Interviews of children of immigrants and their majority peers at age 14 in 2010 (along with their mothers), follow up the children over the next two years.
- Creates basis for continuing data set: further waves, birth cohorts, and countries could and should be added in future stages.
- Will potentially build enduring infrastructure for continuing research on intergenerational integration in Europe.

Disciplines involved: Social psychology

Collects primary Data: YES

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- Project will explore the conditions under which initial moves by pioneer migrants to Europe result in the formation of migration systems and the conditions under which this does not happen.
- This will be achieved through:
 - a substantially improved theorization of migration system dynamics by integrating theories on the initiation and continuation of migration
 - a comparative, multi-sited, and longitudinal study of the evolution of heterogeneous migrant groups following different settlement trajectories from a range of origin countries to 8 European cities in the UK, Norway, the Netherlands and Portugal.

Disciplines involved:

Anthropology
Geography
Sociology
Development Studies

Collects primary Data:

YES

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- Research will uncover the processes underlying developmental resilience in children from immigrant families during the transitions to primary and secondary education in Germany, the Netherlands, and Norway.
- Processes will be examined on individual, family, school, and community level.
- At each assessment, variables from all levels of functioning will be measured using multiple methods (observations, interviews, tests, and surveys), obtained from multiple sources (children, parents, and teachers).
- Research will provide recommendations for suitable ways to support migrant parents, to organise the educational system to foster equal opportunities for children from migrant families, and to construct policies that will facilitate the overall societal success of migrant families.

Disciplines involved:

Education
Psychology
Development Psychology

Collects primary Data:

YES

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- Restrictive migration policies lead families all over the world to live physically apart, using their local and transnational networks to find new or adapted arrangements for raising children.
- The program will answer:
 - How do TCRAf affect life-chances of children who remain in the country of origin, their migrant parents and their caregivers between Africa and Europe?
 - How do institutions in Africa and Europe influence TCRAf?
- The program will shed light on three important areas of policy formation: Migration & Development; Migration & Integration; and Family reunification policies.

Disciplines involved:

Anthropology
Geography
Psychology
Sociology
Development Studies

Collects primary Data:

YES

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- Research looks at socio-cultural integration of new immigrants in four European countries, Germany, the Netherlands, Ireland and Great Britain.
- Research will uncover whether socio-cultural integration is a consequence or a prerequisite for migrants' structural integration (e.g. in the labour market) – and how and why groups differ in this regard.
- Plan: to collect two cross-national waves of survey data among groups of new immigrants that vary along a number of dimensions, including religion, social status and political identity.
- The feasibility of our methodological approach has been/is currently being tested in Pilot studies conducted in Germany and Ireland.

Disciplines involved: Sociology

Collects primary Data: YES

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- Project will look at the multi-generational transmission of social, cultural, religious and economic resources, values and behaviours, comparing immigrants to those left behind or those who have re-emigrated to the origin country.

- Plan:

- Reconstruct basic migration, family and socio-economic histories of complete lineages generated by a sample of 500 ancestors, born in Turkey between 1930 and 1940 in selected high migration sending areas;
- personally interviewing approximately 6000 family members over up to four generations in Turkey and Europe, investigating patterns of intergenerational transmission of resources and values and their intersection with family migration trajectories.

Disciplines involved:

Social Psychology
Sociology
International Relations

Collects primary Data:

YES

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- Research aims to study the dynamics and effects of ethnic residential segregation in four Nordic countries.
- The program will answer:
 - How are the Nordic welfare states shaping the conditions for ethnic residential segregation and de-segregation?
 - How are the patterns and processes of segregation affecting the wider social and spatial developments in the different host societies?
- Five subprojects analyze international migration flows, housing careers and selective migration patterns, the effects of housing ambitions, strategies, preferences and neighbourhood stigmatisation. The national welfare and integration policies are also critically scrutinised.

Disciplines involved:

Geography
Political science and public administration
Sociology

Collects primary Data:

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- Research looks at :
 - the economic adaptation of immigrants, the effects of institutions and inter-ethnic marriages on the process of intergenerational mobility in immigrant groups
 - the effects of discrimination, networks, productivity spillover effects, and social context on immigrants' segregation, marriage patterns, and criminal activity
 - the impact of immigration on wages and employment across all involved countries within a unified framework, as well as the impact of emigration on wages and employment in the source country
- Unique to the programme is the use of the perhaps best administrative and novel survey data sources in Europe and beyond

Disciplines involved: Economic and business studies

Collects primary Data: NO

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- Project aims at analyzing:
 - the causes and consequences of temporary and return migration decisions
 - patterns of integration of economic and non-economic migrants, and how it relates with the time dimension of the migration decision
 - the information flows within immigrant networks and their effect on the migration decision, as well as on the foreign born prospects for integration
 - the process through which immigration policies are formed, and the welfare effects of immigration policies selecting migrants on the basis of their skills and/or length of allowed stay in both the receiving and sending countries

Disciplines involved: Economic and business studies

Collects primary Data: YES

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- Research addresses the impact of the spatial distribution, composition and dynamics of diverse migration flows on socio-economic disparity and individual wellbeing across regions.
- Project investigates the potentially negative socio-economic externalities associated with greater cultural diversity
- Co-ordinated in The Netherlands and undertaken by teams of researchers in Estonia, Finland, Germany, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom – with networks extending to other EU countries and globally
- Combine meso-level regional analysis of migration and socio-economic outcomes with both micro-level spatial analysis of individual wellbeing and with the impact of public policy and institutions
- The findings will aid the formulation of permanent and temporary migration and integration policies and will provide greater insight into the impact of inter-country differences in welfare systems on migration.

Disciplines involved:

Demography
Economic and business studies
Geography
Sociology

Collects primary Data:

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- Research will combine international migration data to provide overall pictures of population movements
- The methodology will be developed capable of providing a synthetic database with measures of uncertainty for international migration flows and other model parameters
- Combine innovative theoretical modelling with rigorous state-of-the-art estimation.
- Having such a database will allow us to better understand the underlying mechanisms and reasons for recent migration trends

Disciplines involved:

Demography
Economic and business studies
Geography
Statistics

Collects primary Data:

NO

The Next Steps

- Set-up of an expert panel on data collection
- First meeting: November 2009
- Development of a NORFACE website
- Development of Communication Structures
- First workshop: March 25-27, 2010
- Large Interdisciplinary Conference on Migration, London, September 2010



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Norface Research Programme on Migration

NORFACE Research Programme on Migration is a programme of twelve transnational research projects responding to the theme:

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

NORFACE – New Opportunities for Research Funding Co-operation in Europe, is a network of 15 national research funding organisations in Europe and Canada, co-operating since beginning of 2004. For more details about the NORFACE partnership, go to: www.norface.org

The NORFACE Research Programme on Migration is jointly funded by the national research councils and the European Commission. The total funding for the programme is approximately €28 million, including €5 million funding from the European Commission. Each of the 12 research projects consist of research teams from at least three NORFACE countries. The programme was launched in June 2009 and the projects will run for a maximum of four years. The scientific coordinator of the programme is [Prof Christian Dustmann, UCL/CReAM](#)

more...

LATEST NEWS

New administrator hired to facilitate co-ordination of Norface Research Programme on Migration

Norface-Migration website to be launched

Norface-Migration workshop to be held in London

PAPERS

paper proposal no. 1

paper proposal no. 2 - full details to follow

paper proposal no. 3 - project team finalised

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NORFACE – Migration Workshop 25th – 27th March 2010

Thursday 25th March 2010:

- Introductory Meetings with Expert Panel
- Reception

Friday 26th March 2010:

- Registration
- Opening Speech by Vice Provost, UCL
- Welcome Speech by Prof. Christian Dustmann
- Project Presentations
- Dinner

Saturday 27th March 2010:

- Project Presentations
- Closing Speech