



NORFACE

New Opportunities for Research Funding Agency Co-operation in Europe

Trans-National Research Programme on

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

Call for Project Outline Proposals

This Call introduces a path-breaking new approach to European social science research: a collaborative transnational programme on a theme of importance to Europe, commissioned and managed by the NORFACE ERA-NET¹. NORFACE, which brings together funding agencies in 14 countries, launches a major transnational programme over a period of four years (2009-2013), within which national resources have been pooled to commission and deliver world-class social science on a continental scale. The budget of the call will be about **€23 million**. Additional EU funding may also be available for the programme.

The NORFACE Research Programme will fund transnational projects relating to the specified theme, the funding available per project will range from €500.000 to €4 million. NORFACE seeks to fund a balance of smaller and a limited number of larger projects. The funded projects should as a minimum include research teams in *three* NORFACE countries. The maximum duration of the projects is 48 months.

The general scientific objectives of the programme are:

- 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 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.

¹ The ERA-NET mechanism was 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

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 the European level.***

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 especially in relatively unexplored areas, or fields with unresolved issues. The proposed programme emphasises three main themes:

- Migration - Causes and Consequences,
- Integration,
- 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. Different theoretical approaches 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, psychology, social psychology, language and cultural sciences, economics, political science, law, and sociology - in other words, almost the entire spectrum of the social sciences and related areas.

Within the topic of ***international and internal European 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 increasing international migration are obvious to all citizens of Europe, whether conceived of as highly productive and innovative, or as raising various kinds of concerns among them. Although evidently contributing to growth and cultural enrichment, migration also puts strains on our societies, challenging societal integration and cohesiveness, and threats of destructive conflicts between majorities and minorities or between different minorities. An indispensable prerequisite to any solution is a detached scientific approach to these processes. The problems and issues pertain directly to a comprehension of the various types and causes of migration, as well as to the conditions and mechanisms behind the individual, economic 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 both economic and labour market integration, and 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.

For full programme text please refer to NORFACE Research Programme Specification.

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The NORFACE ERA-NET is pleased to announce a call for project Outline Proposals relating to the theme: **Migration in Europe – Social, Economic, Cultural and Policy Dynamics.**

The closing date for Outline Proposals is
Wednesday 10th September 2008,
for full details of the call and how to apply
please see the NORFACE Research Programme Specification.
For full details please refer to www.norface.org