

Introduction WP2 Enlargements, borders and the changes of EU political priorities

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WP2 Enlargements, borders and the changes of EU political priorities

WP2 Description and objectives

In recent years, the emergence of new issues, new policy dimensions and new actors at the EU level has opened an unprecedented challenge for both political action and research. On the research side, European Studies constitutes a crucial field of innovation, calling for a reflection also on the role of borders in a transnational perspective, with special regard to EU widening processes. Against this backdrop, the history of the European integration process needs new mechanisms of analysis to develop a more comprehensive examination of the impact of successive enlargements of the European Communities in EU policy evolution. For this purpose, the analysis of evolving contemporary European borders facilitates the exploration of multiple and interconnected dimensions of the European integration process: its multiscalarity (i.e. involvement of different levels of government), its geographical composition (i.e. impact of the EEC/EU enlargements), and its multisectoriality (i.e. action of different policies). In the light of this background, the research activity of WP2 takes into account how the on-going process of bordering, de-bordering and re-bordering of the EU affected the evolution of EU policies and their priorities. Indeed, after the fall of the Iron Curtain, the evolution of EU policies has been clearly intertwined to the debate concerning the limits of Europeanisation. EU political priorities have been increasingly shaped by new strategic choices with a clear impact on borders like the Barcelona Process, the fifth EU Enlargement, the Schengen and the new European Neighbourhood Policy. First of all, the analysis of the changing EU priorities will be developed in a comparative and historical perspective taking into consideration the different EEC/EU enlargements and the EU external relations. Secondly, the selected documentation and the interrelated analysis aim to clarify the relation between border changes and EU policy implementation produces relevant transformations at national and sub-national levels.

WP2 Leader

CRIE Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, University of Siena

Created in 1988, the CRIE Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (University of Siena) brings together experts in European studies (historians, economists, lawyers and political scientists) and is headed by the Jean Monnet Chair in the History of European Integration. A central aspect of the activity of the CRIE is the Master in European Studies 'The Process of Building Europe' that connects a network of 14 European universities, based on the mobility of teachers and students. The Director of CRIE, Professor Ariane Landuyt, was awarded the LLP Silver Award by the European Commission in 2007 for the originality of this pilot educational experience. The CRIE organises several international seminars, conferences and round tables. In particular, once a year it organises 'Lezioni d'Europa' in cooperation with Europe Direct Information Centre (University of Siena). This course for administrative staff of the university and local institutions in the city is also open to the general public.

List of contributors to this WP:

<http://borders.cvce.eu/working-group-2>