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Migration and Social Exclusion in European Cities

Thematic Network 1996-2000

Final Report of the Co-ordinator

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1. Introduction

1.1 The documents and papers on this CD-ROM represent the final report of the Thematic Network (ERB-SOE2-CT-96-3011). After a brief introduction this report covers the main activities of the network which was a series of five International Conferences. This section is linked to the original work programme that is appended in Appendix A. Information on the network members is provided in Appendix B. The report also gives information on how the 'Migrants in European Cities Thematic Network' linked with other scientists and specialists. The report includes a section providing details of the publications arising from the network. This report also covers the network administration, including relations with the European Commission.

1.2 The CD-ROM contains a further five folders. These contain the programmes of each conference and the papers presented respectively at the meetings held in the U.K. (Coventry May 1997), Belgium (Liège, November 1997), Italy (Milan, November, 1998), Portugal (Lisbon, November 1999) and Germany (Cologne, April 2000), along with details of the participants at each of these meetings.

2. The Context

2.1 Since the social sciences represent such a small proportion of science budgets, it is inevitable that systems developed for the natural sciences prevail in many funding arrangements. At the national level, problems arising from this can be mitigated by separate research councils. At a European level, however, this is not so and the social sciences simply have to adapt as best they can to prevailing models. One central issue is that in the natural sciences, where it is so much easier to raise research funds, network funding is often used to enhance *already existing* research activity. In the social sciences thematic networks either have to be linked to a parallel RTD application or, where they are not, they have to conduct actions other than linking ongoing research. The 'Migrants in European Cities' ('MigCities') co-operation was originally intended to run both together; that is, to obtain RTD funds with an eight-country collaboration and to link this work together with a separate thematic network. In June 1995 two linked proposals were submitted. They were both graded A1, but the choice was made to fund the network only, apparently on the grounds this put less pressure on a heavily committed budget. The 'MigCities' network was forced, therefore, to do something other than co-ordinate research, and we chose to organise five 'state of the art' conferences on the field of inquiry in order to map the terrain and indirectly to stimulate further research activity.

2.2 Many European cities have continued a demographic and social transformation process that was well underway by the early 1990s. By 2010, perhaps as many as a half of the capital cities of member states will have populations where those with cultural origins different from the society around form a majority. Many of the others will be hardly less 'multicultural' and at local and national levels there will be an even greater need for policies of economic and social inclusion to avoid damaging conflicts and strains on public order. The nature of the problems that cities face, and the best strategies of social integration they can pursue, are proper subjects for social scientific research. While much is already known, much more remains to be discovered, so the central theme of the network has been shown to be highly relevant and valuable.

2.3 The pressing needs for better information and understanding as a guide to effective policy formation have generated a higher level of research activity and public interest in this topic over the past five years. It is impossible to say whether the existence of the network has assisted this process, but at an impressionistic level there are reasons for believing that it has. Members of the network have been even more active in national research activities than they were before and the level of inter-state comparison and co-operation appears to have risen.

3. Network objectives

3.1 The network had the following five original objectives:

- to draw together what is known on the social integration and social exclusion of migrants and minorities in European cities from previous research through supporting five 'state-of-the-art' scientific meetings
- to disseminate this information through books, articles and other means
- to extend the existing network, thereby helping to establish a stronger research base through the *Merger* newsletter and in other ways
- to relate existing research findings to policy priorities
- to support the development of further research proposals

3.2 In general terms the thematic network achieved these objectives. It held five very successful and well-attended conferences. The papers from these meetings either have been or will be published. Through the course of its existence, the network had postgraduate students affiliated to it and in this way it strengthened the research base. It also collaborated with the development of policy-initiatives, notably the Metropolis project and for two years the European arm of the Metropolis Secretariat was run by the Network Co-ordinator in the Netherlands. Moreover the network made two further bids for research funds under the Fourth Framework programme, achieving an 'A' grade evaluation on both occasions but failing to attract actual research monies. Individual members of the network have been very active in pursuing the theme in other contexts and in national settings.

3.3 It is perhaps true that the network was a little ahead of its time in spotting the enormous transition now at work in European cities. For example, the European Commission has itself been developing an urban programme that follows essentially the same interpretation as that of the 'MigCities' network. It would be a pleasure to record a record of *comparative* research arising from the network's existence but this is highly dependent on available funds.

4. Network methodology

4.1 The main methodology used by the network was 'state-of-the-art' scientific meetings, very much along the lines listed in the original work programme. The meetings covered the following topics:

- *Globalisation and Social Exclusion: The Impact on Migrants and Minorities in European Cities*

This meeting brought together leading experts on the economic, spatial and social impact of global economic changes as they impact upon urban labour and housing

markets.

- *The Dynamics of Social Integration and Social Exclusion at the Neighbourhood Level*

The purpose of this meeting was to consider what is known about the effects of macro-level transformations at the *local* level. It provided an overview of the analyses so far prepared at the neighbourhood level and assessed their impact comparatively using the network cities as case studies and other examples.

- *Comparative Research on Migrants in Cities: Data Availability and Data Needs*

This meeting examined the data needs for studies of migrants and minorities in cities. It provided an overview of the current position but also focused on the data needed for new measures of social integration and social exclusion.

- *Migrants in Cities: New Directions in Economic and Social Policy*

This meeting focused on the policy strategies that are needed to overcome problems of social exclusion in cities. It was held in partnership with policy-makers and featured presentations from a number of national and city-based administrators.

- *Ethnic Neighbourhoods and Ethnic Business in European Cities*

This meeting was slightly different from the original design. It reflected growing interest in both the positive and negative developments in cities. On the one hand, new migrants are often associated with entrepreneurship and new companies. On the other hand, they tend also to be disproportionately found in police and crime statistics. The papers at the final meeting reflected these important trends.

4.2 In accordance with the original plan, each meeting was held over a three-day period and included five 3-4 hour sessions. The participants were largely scientists but a particular attempt was made to reflect the work of younger scholars (including a number drawn from migrant communities themselves). An attempt was also made to reflect the findings of North American scientists.

4.3 The original plan had been to ensure the participation of regional, national and local administrations in each conference. Some of this activity was in the event taken over by the Metropolis project (which was strongly linked with the 'MigCities' initiative) but a particular attempt was made to link the thematic network with relevant projects arising from UNESCO MOST, other Fourth Framework projects (for example a paper on the network's activities was presented to the TSER colloquium at the IIS World Congress, Cologne, 7-9 July 1997) and relevant NGOs. For this last reason a special conference was held by the network in Utrecht in the summer of 1998.

5. Role of participants

5.1 Exactly in accordance with the work programme members of the network collaborated in the organisation of the international meetings as follows.

Meeting 1 (UK) Dutch and U.K. partners
Meeting 2 (Belgium) French and Belgium partners
Meeting 3 (Italy) Italian partner
Meeting 4 (Portugal) Spanish and Portuguese partners
Meeting 5 (Germany) German partner

5.2 These collaborations worked exceptionally well although difficulties were sometimes encountered in the prompt paying of bills (see final paragraphs).

6. Work planning

6.1 The work planning for all the activities of the *MigCities Network* was the result of a core group chaired by the co-ordinating partner. This group met after each conference and often also on other occasions. The much more widespread use of electronic communications made the task of the core group much easier and obviated the necessity for more frequent meetings.

6.2 Network communications were aided originally by a *MigCities Supplement* to the *Merger* newsletter that was published three times per annum. Continued information on the *MigCities Network* was then made available on the website of CEMES, an institute run by the co-ordinating partner.

7. Deliverables

7.1 In accordance with the original work plan, the network has pursued an active publishing programme. It has published the following books:

Globalisation and the New City (edited by Malcolm Cross and Robert Moore) Macmillan Press, 2000

Ethnic Neighbourhoods in European Cities (edited by Sophie Body-Gendrot and Marco Martiniello) Macmillan Press, 2000

Three other books are in various stages of production:

Research on Migrants in European Cities: Data Sources and Methodological Issues (edited by Fabio Quassoli)

The North-South Divide: An analysis on European immigration policies focused at a city Level (edited by Carlota Solé and Natalia Ribas)

Ethnic Neighbourhoods in European Cities: Issues of Enterprise and Social Order (edited by Jürgen Friedrichs)

7.2 Papers from the network were also published in the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* including a special issue in partnership with the TSER project on the migrants and informal economy (Volume 24, Number 2, April 1998, special issue on 'Migration and the Informal Economy in Europe').

8. Relations with the Commission

8.1 While relations with individuals within the Commission have always been excellent, there is no doubt that administrative procedures are often immensely time-consuming and lengthy. In particular, legal requirements over the proper completion of contracts with partners can prevent the efficient payment of accounts, even though cost statements have been correctly completed. This meant for this network a delay on one occasion of more than a year in paying hotel accounts and participants' travel costs. These procedures need streamlining and it is very encouraging to see that under the 5th Framework Programme administrative support costs for the co-ordinator are now accepted as a legitimate expense.

9. Conclusion

9.1 As co-ordinator of this thematic network it is my pleasure, first, to thank all the partners and participants in the network's activities for their support and co-operation. Second, it is worth emphasising the high quality of the approximately one hundred papers presented and discussed in connection with the network's activities. It is our belief that the network was a valuable way of stimulating interest in this important topic. We are encouraged in this belief by the growing research activity in member states, by the Commission own agenda for action and by the creation of research-policy partnerships in the field, such as the Metropolis project.

Appendix A

Thematic Network on Migrants and Minorities in European Cities

Work Programme

1. Introduction

1.1 This document sets out the work programme for the Thematic Network on Migrants and Minorities in European Cities (PL953319). It specifies the objectives of the network, the way it will proceed, the role of participants and the expected output. Members of the network are attached at Appendix B.

2. Project title

2.1 The full title for the project is *Thematic Network on Migrants and Minorities in European Cities* but it will be known by the abbreviation ***MigCities Network***.

3. Network objectives

3.1 The network has the following five objectives:

- to draw together what is known on the social integration and social exclusion of migrants and minorities in European cities from previous research through supporting five 'state-of-the-art' scientific meetings
- to disseminate this information through books, articles and other means
- to extend the existing network, thereby helping to establish a stronger research base through the *Merger* newsletter and in other ways
- to relate existing research findings to policy priorities
- to support the development of further research proposals

3.2 These objectives will be pursued at a *European* level and will be initiated by members of the network from eight member states.

4. Network methodology

4.1 The main methodology used by the network will be scientific 'state-of-the-art' meetings and associated literature reviews. These meetings will cover the following topics:

- *Globalisation and social exclusion: the impact on migrants and minorities in European cities*

This meeting brought together leading experts on the economic, spatial and social impact of global economic changes as they impact upon urban labour and housing markets. The meeting was held in the UK in May/June 1997. A book of papers from this meeting will appear in 1999.

- *The dynamics of social integration and social exclusion at the neighbourhood level*

The purpose of this meeting was to consider what is known about the effects of macro-level transformations at the local level. It provided an overview of the analyses so far prepared at the neighbourhood level and assessed their impact comparatively using the network cities as case studies and other examples. The meeting was held in Liège in November 1997.

- *Comparative research on migrants in cities: data availability and data needs*

This meeting examined the data needs for studies of migrants and minorities in cities. It provided an overview of the current position but also focused on new measures of social integration and social exclusion. The meeting was held in Milan in November 1998.

- *Migrants, minorities and the issue of the 'second generation'*

The purpose of this meeting will be to assess the particular position of young people from vulnerable minorities, particularly those of migrant origin. It will examine the research evidence on the factors leading to educational and career success on both sides of the Atlantic.

- *Migrants in cities: new directions in economic and social policy*

This meeting will focus on the policy strategies that are needed to overcome problems of social exclusion in cities. It will be held in partnership with policy-makers and will draw on the expertise and experience of member state governments.

4.2 The methodological devices used in these meetings will be twofold:

1. Critical summaries and evaluations of research findings from known experts
2. Separate reviews of the research literature as a whole

In both cases, the papers will be prepared in advance of the meeting and circulated to all participants.

4.3 Each meeting will have 40-60 participants and will last 2 1/2 days (five sessions). The participants will be drawn from three main categories:

- i) leading scientific opinion from all EU member states with a small number of external (i.e. non-European experts)
- ii) representatives of official agencies at the local (city), national and European level (e.g. Eurocities, CEC etc)
- iii) representatives of migrant organisations, particularly those with a research and policy focus (e.g. Migrants Forum et al)

5. Milestones

5.1 These meetings will form the main milestones of the programme. Their timing will be at the following stages of the programme:

- Month 12
- Month 18
- Month 24
- Month 30
- Month 36

These timings will be adjusted by small amounts to ensure adequate organisation and appropriate

accommodation.

6. Role of participants

6.1 Participating members of the network will collaborate in the organisation of these international meetings. The prime responsibility, however, will fall on national teams working either independently or in collaboration with another network partner. The responsibilities are as follows:

Meeting 1	Netherlands and United Kingdom (Utrecht or Liverpool)
Meeting 2	France and Belgium (Paris)
Meeting 3	Italy (Milan)
Meeting 4	Germany (Köln)
Meeting 5	Spain and Portugal (Lisbon)

The locations after the name of the partner indications the location for the meeting. The exact venue is determined by the availability of appropriate conference accommodation.

7. Work planning

7.1 The work planning for all the activities of the *MigCities Network* will be the responsibility of the core group. This group will consist of at least one member of the national teams. It will be co-ordinated and managed by the co-ordinating partner. The core group will meet every four months in one of the main urban locations participating in the programme.

7.2 Network communications were aided originally by a *MigCities Supplement* to the *Merger* newsletter that was published three times per annum. Continued information on the *MigCities Network* will be available via the CEMES website run by the co-ordinating partner.

8. Deliverables

8.1 The main deliverables from the meetings will be a series of edited volumes (five in total). These books will be published in both paperback and hardback editions.

8.2 Additional publications drawing together the overall findings from the network will also be produced. The production of these publications will be the responsibility of the co-ordinating partner.

8.3 Where opportunities arise the activities of the *MigCities Network* will also be reflected in special issues of the co-ordinating partner's academic journal, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* (formerly *New Community*).

9 Complementary projects

9.1 The *MigCities Network* will be initiating proposals for small additional projects linked to this work programme. The following three proposals will be prepared:

- i) An inventory of local policy initiatives
- ii) The development of a database of statistical information on participating cities
- iii) a *MigCities* observatory detailing the economic, housing, educational and other aspects affecting the social integration or social exclusion of migrants in European Cities.

9.2 In addition links will continue to be built with the *Metropolis Project* that is co-ordinated by a joint Canadian-US management. Co-operation and joint activities with this project will be sought wherever possible.

10. Conclusion

10.1 This work programme describes the activities of a thematic network that will run for three years. At the end of that time, the network will have generated a substantial volume of information and will also support research development and effective communications between researchers with an interest in this field in European member states.

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