Borderlands: Expanding Boundaries, Governance, and Power in the European Union's Relations with North Africa and the Middle East

Fact Sheet

Project information

BORDERLANDS

Grant agreement ID: 263277
Status
Closed project

Start date
1 October 2011
End date
31 March 2017

Funded under:
FP7-IDEAS-ERC

Overall budget:
€ 1 353 920

EU contribution
€ 1 353 920

Hosted by:
EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE
Italy

Objective

Challenging the notion of Fortress Europe, the research investigates relations between the European Union and its southern periphery through the concept of borderlands. The concept emphasises the disaggregation of the triple function of borders demarcating state territory, authority, and national identity inherent in the Westphalian model of statehood. This process is most visible in (although not limited to) Europe, where integration has led to supranational areas of sovereignty, an internal market, a common currency, and a zone of free movement of people, each with a different territorial span. The project explores the complex and differentiated process by which the EU extends its unbundled functional and legal borders to the so-called southern Mediterranean (North Africa and parts of the Middle East), thereby transforming it into borderlands. They connect the European core with the periphery through various legal and functional border regimes, governance patterns, and the selective outsourcing of some EU border control duties. The overarching questions informing this research is whether, first, the borderland policies of the EU, described by some as a neo-medieval empire, is a functional consequence of the specific integration model pursued inside the EU, a matter of foreign policy choice or a local manifestation of a broader global phenomenon. Second, the project addresses the question of power dynamics that underwrite borderland governance, presuming a growing leverage of third country governments resulting from their co-optation as gatekeepers. Thus, while adopting an innovative approach, the project will
enhance our understanding of EU-Mediterranean relations while also addressing crucial theoretical questions in international relations.

**Field of Science**

/social sciences/sociology/governance
/social sciences/economics and business/business and management/commerce

**Programme(s)**

**FP7-IDEAS-ERC** - Specific programme: "Ideas" implementing the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2007 to 2013)

**Topic(s)**

**ERC-SG-SH2** - ERC Starting Grant - Institutions, values, beliefs and behaviour

**Call for proposal**

ERC-2010-StG_20091209

*See other projects for this call*

**Funding Scheme**

**ERC-SG** - ERC Starting Grant

**Principal Investigator**

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**Host institution**
EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE

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Activity type
Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

EU Contribution
€ 1 353 920

Website
Contact the organisation

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Beneficiaries (1)

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