



EURASIA-Net



PROJECT FINAL REPORT

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EURASIA-Net



Final publishable summary report



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**Europe-South Asia Exchange on Supranational (Regional)
Policies and Instruments for the Promotion of Human Rights
and the Management of Minority Issues**

www.eurac.edu/eurasia-net

*funded under the
Seventh Framework Programme
of the European Commission*





Introduction

EURASIA-Net aimed to explore regional and supranational cooperation in the field of human and minority rights in Europe and South Asia, with the ultimate goal of exchanging knowledge and research between these two regions, as well as promoting an increased role for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) on minority issues.

When dealing with human and minority rights issues at a supranational level in Europe and South Asia, a number of key topics must be taken into account, including regional cooperation, autonomy issues and minority accommodation, and indigenous communities; and these issues, along with examination of the role of SAARC and the National Human Rights Commissions and national legal frameworks were identified as fundamental challenges and relevant cross-cutting topics for research. Additionally, the project sought to rectify a gap in the existing literature, through analysis of case studies of various autonomy arrangements in Europe and South Asia (particularly in India), established in order to accommodate minority claims.

A major challenge facing the protection of minority rights is the divide in perceptions and reality between the developed and post-colonial worlds, with differences existing around issues such as modalities of dialogues and reconciliation, individual rights and group rights, the notion and practices of legal pluralism, the effect on minorities of anti-terrorism drives by states, the depletion of common property resources, the impact of globalization, the emergence of new minority groups, immigrants as new minorities, and the principle of autonomy. These issues have reinforced the reality of discrimination, and rendered some of the earlier legal understandings (as encoded in national and international law) inadequate, while the process of marginalization has worsened the condition of minorities. The central question brought to light by the EURASIA-Net programme is whether the language of rights can fulfill the requirements of the basis of a trans-regional platform, or do we need justice and the language of claim-making, fairness and dialogue? Therefore, these topics and others, have been given attention within the EURASIA-Net research and activities, and the main scientific achievements and findings are briefly illustrated in this summary.



EURASIA-Net



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EURASIA-Net - Associates to the project

To maximise the geographical coverage of the project without heavy burdens on its management, a number of Associates participated and contributed to the project activities.

EURASIA-Net Associates are the following institutions:

Council of Europe - Directorate General of Human Rights www.coe.int

National Human Rights Commission (India)
www.nhrc.nic.in





University of Bielefeld - Faculty of Sociology (Germany) www.uni-bielefeld.de/soz

University Denis Diderot - Paris 7 (France)
www.univ-paris-diderot.fr



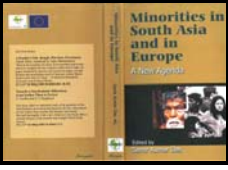
University of Copenhagen - Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies (Denmark)
www.tors.ku.dk





EURASIA-Net deliverables and scientific reports






Summarised below are the deliverables and scientific reports submitted by the EURASIA-Net project over its 30 months of activity. Dissemination of all EURASIA-Net public deliverables has been ensured throughout the project,¹ and Deliverables Nos. 8 and 9 have received particular attention from the European and South Asian public, and have been widely distributed.




| Cover, if any | Deliverables' titles | Dissemination level | Work Package | Description |
|---|--|---------------------|--------------|--|
|  | 1. Stock-taking report | PU | 1 | This report assesses the current state-of-the-art on human and minority rights' issues, and establishes the research focus of the EURASIA-Net project. |
|  | 2. Conclusions and recommendations from Kick-off seminar | RE | 1 | This report summarizes the main issues and findings discussed at the EURASIA-Net Kick-off meeting and Conference, advancing concrete proposals to address the EURASIA-Net challenges. |
|  | 3. Implementation Plan for Study visits | RE | 1 | This plan provides an overall framework for the study visits. A stringent set of requirements for potential applicants were enunciated along with the role of each Consortium partner in ensuring that geographical, gender and topic balance were maintained as per the Consortium Agreement. |
|  | 4. Review of Study visits | RE | 1 | Deliverable no. 4 is the final report and review of the study visit programme which ran from month 1 – month 29 of the FP7 EURASIA-Net Project. It assesses the topics covered by the study visits, the geographical and gender balance, and the impact of the overall study visits programme. |






¹ All the public deliverables and reports have been distributed at various seminars, conferences and *ad hoc* project presentations, as well as published on the project website where they are available for free download (see at <http://www.eurac.edu/en/research/projects/ProjectDetails.html?pmode=4&textId=3349&pid=2029>). Those deliverables falling under Management activities (WP5) and/or restricted to the Consortium and Commission Services have been treated as confidential.





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|  | <p>5. Joint Research Agenda</p> | <p>PU</p> | <p>1</p> | <p>This deliverable focuses on research policies and trends in Europe and South Asia, including the ideas generated by the Final Conference, with special regard to the Trans-regional Platform. The Joint Research Agenda takes a nuanced approach and emphasizes best practice in developing a trans-national/regional platform. The Research Agenda does not aim to simply examine how a European solution can be adapted to 'fit' South Asia, but rather, takes a historical and contextual approach by exploring opportunities for building on and developing existing institutions and infrastructure, and sharing sources of common experience.</p> |
|  | <p>6. Issue(s) of the <i>European Yearbook on Minority Issues</i> with special focus on South Asia: <i>Special Focus:</i> Contemporary Challenges of Globalization; <i>Special Focus:</i> Minority and Human Rights Issues in South Asia</p> | <p>PU</p> | <p>1</p> | <p>This publication showcases contributions by European and South Asian scholars to the twofold aims of flagging South Asian minorities' issues in Europe and fostering research exchange among the academic communities of the two regions. Two special foci have been envisaged. The first deals with challenges of globalization within the South Asian regions, focusing on the indigenous communities and the (draft) South Asian Regional Charter on Minority and Group Rights. The second illustrates the most debated issues on minority rights in South Asia, analysing, <i>inter alia</i>, Hindu nationalism, freedom of religion, linguistic rights, caste-discrimination, Nepal in transition, and the role of SAARC.</p> |
|  | <p>7. Minority Rights publication in South Asia: Samir Kumar Das (ed.), <i>Minorities in South Asia and in Europe</i></p> | <p>PU</p> | <p>1</p> | <p>The aim of this deliverable is to study minorities of South Asia and Europe from a comparative and transnational perspective. In the form of a book, this report fills the literature gap on the comparisons of country-specific studies within the regions (South Asia and Europe) and across them.</p> |

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|  | <p>8. Set of educational material for stakeholders, Thomas Benedikter (ed.), <i>Europe's Ethnic Mosaic</i>, plus <i>ad hoc</i> material</p> | <p>PU</p> | <p>2</p> | <p>This deliverable, which has been published in the form of a booklet, illustrates concisely the recent history of Europe and the creation of minority groups, as well as the European system for the protection of minority rights. This deliverable has served as the main educational material for the First Trans-regional Summer School, complemented by <i>ad hoc</i> material (abstracts, power point presentations, and scientific articles) distributed to the participants both in hard copies and electronic format.</p> |
|  | <p>9. Update of the Set of educational material for stakeholders, Thomas Benedikter (ed.), <i>Solving Ethnic Conflict through Self-Government. A Short Guide to Autonomy in Europe and South Asia</i>, plus <i>ad hoc</i> material</p> | <p>PU</p> | <p>2</p> | <p>This deliverable has been published in a similar format as Deliverable No.8, given the success of this previous version. Deliverable No.9 tackles the topic of autonomy and minority accommodation in Europe and South Asia, analysing the role played by forms of self-government in conflict resolution. As with the previous edition, this deliverable has been complemented by <i>ad hoc</i> material for the Second Trans-regional Summer School in the same modalities as the previous summer school (see above for Deliverable No.8).</p> |
|  | <p>10. Material for specialised media</p> | <p>PU</p> | <p>2</p> | <p>This report offers general information, suggestions and guiding principles to media practitioners dealing with minority issues and cultural diversity (European edition).</p> |
|  | <p>11. Updated version of material for specialised media</p> | <p>PU</p> | <p>2</p> | <p>The structure and the aims of this deliverable reflect the previous edition, focusing on South Asian minority issues.</p> |

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|  | <p>12. Overall programme of events (WP3)</p> | <p>RE</p> | <p>3</p> | <p>This deliverable contains the calendar and the venues of all the WP3 EU information sessions and briefings.</p> |
|  | <p>13. Set of Informative material on South Asia for EU sessions</p> | <p>RE</p> | <p>3</p> | <p>The set of material on South Asia for the EU session illustrates human and minority rights case studies in South Asia on a country by country basis, with a special focus on SAARC (South Asian Association on Regional Cooperation) and different forms of National Human Rights Commissions. The aim of this deliverable is to create background awareness and understanding among a wide range of actors from different countries and institutions in Europe.</p> |
|  | <p>14. Report on EU information sessions</p> | <p>PU</p> | <p>3</p> | <p>This report describes the realization and the results of the WP3 EU information sessions and briefings, included those management challenges linked to visa issues and the sudden cancellation of the 2nd South Asian session (see more <i>infra</i>).</p> |
|  | <p>15. Project website www.eurac.edu/eurasia-net</p> | <p>PU</p> | <p>3</p> | <p>The former website had 24 web-pages. In order to be less dispersive, the project website was renovated during 2010 with the Scientific Officer approval, and has now 15 web-pages. All the web-pages are listed in a box on the right side. Generally, the project website is very user friendly and the access to project information and outputs is immediate.</p> |
|  | <p>16. Assessment of research policies and resources, “Ways of Power, Minorities, and Knowledge on Minorities. An Assessment of Research Policies and Practices”</p> | <p>PU</p> | <p>4</p> | <p>This deliverable assesses the main challenges of South Asian minorities from the perspective of state construction, as tackled by the relevant research policies and practices in the region.</p> |

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|  | <p>17. Set of materials on South Asia and regional cooperation for higher education institutions, Borhan Uddin Khan and Mahbubur Rehman (eds), <i>Protection of Minorities: A South Asian Discourse</i></p> | <p>PU</p> | <p>4</p> | <p>This deliverable provides the reader with a wider analysis on minorities in South Asia. It is intended for use in higher education settings, both at undergraduate and postgraduate level.</p> |
|  | <p>18. Set of materials for South Asian NGOs, Rita Machanda (ed.), <i>New Challenges to Minority Rights in South Asia & New Aspects of Minority Agency</i></p> | <p>PU</p> | <p>4</p> | <p>The aim of this deliverable is to provide, to NGO activists, academics, students, and other human rights practitioners, an overview of the main challenges surrounding minority issues in South Asia.</p> |
|  | <p>19. Set of materials for the Final Conference participants</p> | <p>PU</p> | <p>4</p> | <p>This set includes relevant scientific papers presented at the conference, e.g. “Muslim Women and Change”, by Dr. Asghar Ali Engineer, and “Media and Minorities -- Issues in Europe and South Asia”, by Subir Bhaumik; the “Note on the Discussion on Possibilities of Trans-Regional Platform for Protection of Minority Rights by Dr. Ranabir Samaddar” for the main discussion on the trans-regional platform; “Some European reflections on regional standard setting in Human and Minority Rights in South Asia”, by Günther Rautz on the regional cooperation issues.</p> |

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|  | <p>20. Conclusions and recommendations from the Final Conference</p> | <p>PU</p> | <p>4</p> | <p>This deliverable collects the concluding remarks and the recommendations of the project, addressed during the final Conference, among which were the enhancement of platforms at both governmental and societal level as well as independently; the recognition of the gap in perception between the developed and post-colonial world; the institutionalization of the work realized during EURASIA-Net and the platform; the combination of minority issues with those of major concern in South Asia, such as refugees, climate change; the cooperation of national human rights commissions in both areas; etc.</p> |
|  | <p>21. Consortium Agreement</p> | <p>CO</p> | <p>5</p> | <p>The agreement among partners.</p> |
|  | <p>22. Memorandum of understanding for the cooperation with Associates</p> | <p>RE</p> | <p>5</p> | <p>The agreement with the Associates of the project.</p> |
|  | <p>23. Periodic Report to the Commission</p> | <p>PU</p> | <p>5</p> | <p>Periodic Report to the Commission</p> |
|  | <p>24. Internal review report</p> | <p>PU</p> | <p>5</p> | <p>The review is an internal self-evaluation carried out by the consortium in order to adjust its conduct to the changing conditions and optimize the effectiveness of its work. Moreover, apart from the regular dissemination of the project, this report illustrates some figures with regard to the people directly or indirectly involved in the project (i.e., contributors to reports and deliverables, audience to EURASIA-Net events, etc.).</p> |

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|  | 25. Scientific intermediate report on state of progress | PU | 5 | The Scientific intermediate report on state of progress (Deliverable No.25) addresses the developments and the scientific achievements in the state-of-the-art, regarding the topics tackled by EURASIA-Net in its first 24 months of activity. |
|  | 26. Final Report to the Commission | PU | 5 | Final Report to the Commission |
|  | 27. Financial statements and integrated financial statement + audit certificate, when required | PU | 5 | Financial statements and integrated financial statement + audit certificate, when required |
|  | 28. Minutes of 5 Project Steering Group meetings | PU | 5 | Minutes of 5 Project Steering Group meetings, the deciding body of the Consortium. |

EURASIA-Net Work Package 1 – Eurasia Scholar Exchange

Work Package 1 (WP1 3) linked three activities; Joint Seminars (Kick-off meeting and Final Conference), Study Visits, and Publications.

The **EURASIA-Net ‘kick-off’ meeting** took place on 17-19 February 2008 at Brunel University, and provided the opportunity to highlight and discuss conceptual issues relating to the project. Key questions emerged around the definition of ‘minorities’, the understanding of the ‘management of minority





issues’, and the definition of central notions such as ‘autonomy’ and ‘the right of self-determination’. An additional conceptual issue that emerged at the meeting concerned the articulation of standards and the possibilities of standard-setting within the frame of human rights and minority rights. Particular consideration was given to the question of the extent to which it might be feasible for South Asia to emulate existing European human rights and minority rights standards and institutions, in order to provide better protection for human rights within the South Asian region.

The EURASIA-Net three-day **Final Conference on Trans-regional Platform and Joint Research Agenda on Protection of Minority Rights** took

place on 18–20 March 2010, in Rang Durbar, Swabhumi, Kolkata (India). The conference was organized by the Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group (MCRG) in collaboration with other project partner institutions. The Conference brought to light a need to think of new ways to protect the rights of minority groups in diverse socio-cultural and political fields, such as the media and representative organizations, and special methods to protect vulnerable sections of society, etc.



The **Study Visits** were intended to improve cooperation and exchange between European and South Asian scholars in the field of human and minority rights, with the goal of developing a common agenda for future research. WP1 was concerned with stimulating trans-regional exchange, and targeted scholars and senior researchers from public and private institutions who work in the fields of regional and supranational dimensions of human and minority rights



protection and promotion in Europe and South Asia.

These scholars were encouraged to develop comparative and multi-disciplinary studies on selected topics of relevance to the EURASIA-Net objectives. The main topics addressed were: exploring possibilities for a regional South Asian human rights instruments; the role of religion in the constitutional and legislative frameworks of states of Europe and South Asia; cases of



autonomy and minority accommodation; European and South Asian approaches towards rights of indigenous or tribal peoples; the limitations within SAARC; linguistic and religious minorities.

The study visits were concluded with a fair balance of gender participation and a wide range of early stage researchers and more established researchers.

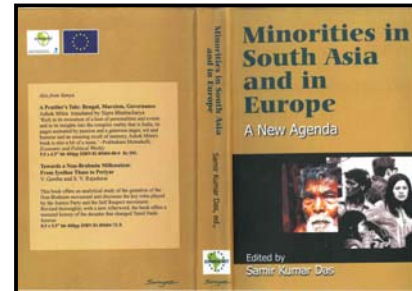
As well as providing an invaluable insight into various issues of relevance to EURASIA-Net, the Study Visits have also allowed a frank, open and scholarly exchange of views and values from scientific practitioners from Europe and Asia. The lectures, seminar and related activities reached out to scholars, human rights practitioners, researchers, governmental officials and to the general public at large. Furthermore, the published versions of study-visits form a valuable repository of research materials, and provide a knowledge-base on a huge range of topics that are intimately connected to human and minority rights in Europe and South Asia.

An overview of the study visits, the scholars involved, and the topics addressed is illustrated in the table below (which is also published on the project website, at <http://www.eurac.edu/en/research/projects/ProjectDetails.html?pmode=4&textId=3351&pid=2029>):

| Name | Home Institution | Host Institution | Topic |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------|--|
| Arif, Kamran | DCHD | Brunel University | The Blasphemy Laws: The Debate in the UK and Pakistan |
| Autissier, Anne Marie | University of Paris VIII of Vincennes in Saint-Denis | MCRG | Multilingual challenges in Indian primary and secondary education. The examples of Tamil Nadu and West Bengal |
| Barbora, Sanjay | MCRG | Brunel University | Media and Minorities in the United Kingdom |
| Benedikter, Thomas | EURAC | MRCG | Rights of India's linguistic minorities in a comparative view with the linguistic rights of minorities in the European Union |
| Bhaumik, Subir | MCRG | University of Frankfurt | Migrant Minorities and the German Media: Integration or 'Glo-localisation' |
| Bhuiyan, Mohammad Nazmuzzaman | University of Dhaka/SOAS | EURAC | Protection of Kin-minorities: An Appraisal of European Developments |
| Bibi, Chand | United Nations World Food Programme – Pakistan Office | EURAC | Minority Child Protection in Pakistan |
| Caruso, Ugo | University of Frankfurt | SAFHR | Comprehensive Security in South Asia: SAARC and the applicability of OSCE standards |

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|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Chakrabaty, Suman | MCRG | University of Paris VII S. Denis | Media in France and the Politics of Integration |
| Chaudhury, Sabyasachi Basu Ray | MCRG | Brunel University | Multiculturalism & Conflict Resolution: A Comparative Study |
| Das, Samir | MRCG | EURAC | Institutionalizing Autonomy: South Tyrol as a Model for India's North East? Principles of 'shared sovereignty' and Minorities |
| Gerharz, Eva | University of Bielefeld | University of Dhaka | Beyond and Beneath the Nation-State: Bangladeshi Indigenous People's Activism between Marginalization and Self-Assertion |
| Gianopolous, Dimitrios | Brunel University | MCRG | Legal responses to terrorism in the EU, with a focus on England and France: Lessons learnt from South Asia |
| Hoffler, Harriet | University of Birmingham | University of Dhaka | A Comparative analysis of the Protection of Indigenous Peoples in Bangladesh, in light of UNDRIP and International Minority Protection |
| Islam, Nazrul | University of Dhaka | EURAC | Minority rights: Can SAARC learn from Council of Europe? |
| Khair, Sumaiya | University of Dhaka | EURAC | Migration and Minority Formation: The Interplay between Economics, Politics and Conflict |
| Khan, Ijaz | DCHD | EURAC | Pakistan: Nation-State, State-Nation or Multinational State? |
| Kinnvall, Catarina | Lund University | DCHD | The impact of political development for Religious Minorities in Pakistan and India since Partition |
| Lantschner, Emma | EURAC | SAFHR | Which Role in Monitoring Human and Minority Rights for National Human Right Commissions? |
| Manchanda, Rita | SAFHR | Brunel University | A comparative analysis of the role of the media in racial /minority profiling |
| Pfaff, Joanna | University of Bielefeld | MCRG | Minorities-in-Minorities in South Asian societies: Between Politics of Diversity and Politics of Difference |
| Poggeschi, Giovanni | EURAC | Social Inclusion Research Fund (SIRF), Nepal | Nepal: Its Past And (Maybe) Its Future Constitution |
| Rahman, Muhammad Mahbubur | University of Dhaka/SOAS | EURAC | Protection of Minorities: A South Asian Discourse |
| Rehman, Javaid | Brunel University | University of Dhaka | Islam, War on Terror and the Future of Muslim Minorities: A Comparative Analysis of Europe & South Asia |
| Wright, Stephen | Universite de Paris III, Sorbonne | MRCG | Visible minorities, invisible citizens: The representation of minorities in the French media (and lack thereof) |

Finally, **two publications** were successfully released; *Issue(s) of the European Yearbook on Minority Issues with special focus on South Asia (Special Focus: Contemporary Challenges of Globalization; Special Focus: Minority and Human Rights Issues in South Asia)* (Deliverable No.7), and *Minority Rights publication in South Asia, Samir Kumar Das (ed.) Minorities in South Asia and Europe: A New Agenda* (Deliverable No.6). Proper dissemination of both publications has been ensured. In particular, the Issue(s) of the European Yearbook on Minority Issues are inserted in one of the most renowned periodicals on minority issues in Europe, and *Minorities in South Asia and Europe: A New Agenda* has been published in form of a book by *Samya*, one of the most renowned publishing houses dealing with human rights in South Asia.



EURASIA-Net Work Package 2 – Summer Schools

The first Summer School was held in Bolzano/Bozen, Italy between 25 August and 5 September 2008. The second summer school was scheduled to take place in Pakistan (organised by the project beneficiary DCHD) in 2009, but due to security concerns the location was shifted to Nepal where it took place between 17 – 28 August 2009.

For the **first summer school** 96 applications were submitted from 29 countries, including Austria/Sri Lanka, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belorussia, Bulgaria, Finland, Georgia, Hungary, India, Italy, Kenya, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Moldova, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway/Denmark, Pakistan, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, and United Kingdom. The applications were categorised according to their region of origin. Persons of non-European origin were classified as Europeans if they are affiliated with European countries and worked (or studied) permanently in Europe and therefore contributed to European research. The breakdown of application received by region was thus; European Union (21), South Asia (20), EU candidate countries (15), European Neighbourhood Countries (ENP), including Russia (38), Africa (2). 19 candidates were short-listed;

seven applicants from EU-countries (including one Sri Lankan, one Lebanese and one Pakistani national who worked or studied within Europe), ten from South Asia (India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan), one from an EU candidate country, and one from an ENP country. Two EU students had to resign due to family issues just before the commencement of the summer school.





Kindly see below the final list of participants.

| Name | Country of origin | Affiliation |
|---|--------------------------|---|
| Abiad Nistrine | Lebanon | British Institute of International and Comparative Law, London (UK) |
| Ablyatifov Rustem | Ukraine - Crimea | NGO Institute for Civil Society |
| Aryal Manisha | Nepal - Pakistan | Internews Network |
| Bulut Serkan (selected, did not come due to personal reasons) | Turkey | Bilkent University Economics and Social Studies Institution |
| Dragos Ioana Angela (selected, did not come due to personal reasons) | Romania | Association of Muslim Social Students, Cluj |
| Faizan Mustafa | India | KIIT Law School & Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh |
| Granhholm Petra Maria | Finland (Åland Islands) | Åland Islands Peace Institute |
| Hussain Malik Jrar | Pakistan | Human rights lawyer and active member in the Human Right Commission for Pakistan |
| Ilieva Lucia | Bulgaria | NGO Club "Sustainable Development of Civil Society" – FRA network member |
| Kamaluddin Ahmed | Bangladesh | University of Chittagong |
| Mahajan Navita | India | Dev Samaj College of Education, Panjab University |
| Naser Mostafa Mahmud | Bangladesh | Dept. of Law, University of Chittagong |
| Niroula Som Prasad | Nepal | Nepal Institute of Peace (NIP) |
| Prabakaran Yoganathan | Bangladesh | MA student University of Graz (Austria) |
| Syed Abdul Kasim | India | Foundation for Human Rights and Development |
| Shaikh Murtaza | UK - Pakistan | Student LLM: International Human Rights Law (University of Essex) and collaborator Minority Rights group (London) |
| Tolstrup Charlotte | Denmark | University of Oslo, Norway |
| Tsomo Tsomo | Tibet, resident in India | National Democratic Party of Tibet |



For the **second summer school** we received 137 applications from 38 countries (Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belorussia, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, India, Iran, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Kosovo, Kurdistan, Latvia, Macedonia, Mexico, Moldova, Nepal, Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tajikistan, Tibet, Turkey, United Kingdom, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and USA). 25 participants and two observers were selected; ten participants more than envisaged numbers. 22 candidates were offered a full scholarship (11 from EU; 1 from EU candidate countries-Turkey; and 10 from South Asia), 2 were offered partial scholarship (from EU), and 2 with no scholarship (from other countries-Australia and US) plus 2 external observers (i.e., with no scholarship provided and attendance limited to only three out of ten teaching days). All of them, with the exclusion of one participant with no scholarship from the US, actively participated in the summer school.





Kindly see below the final list of participants.

| Name | Country of origin | Affiliation |
|---|---------------------------|---|
| Abul Bashar Mohammad Abu Noman | Bangladesh | Department of Law, University of Chittagong, Bangladesh |
| Ahmed Zahid Shahab | Pakistan | University of New England, Australia |
| Alagoz Helin | Turkey | Dogus Universitesi, Istanbul, Turkey |
| Berry Stephanie Eleanor | UK | Brunel University, UK |
| Bhandari Pabitra | Nepal | Nepal Human Rights Awareness Forum |
| Brogelli Leonardo Massimo | Italy | Università degli Studi di Firenze – Florence University, Italy |
| Deegalla Durage Anton Piearathne | Sri Lanka | The Open University of Sri Lanka, Department of Sociology |
| Dolkar Dekyi | Tibet, resident in Europe | International Campaign for Tibet, Netherlands |
| Dubey Naveen | Nepal | Bielefeld University, Germany |
| Jamil Arif | Bangladesh | Department of Law, University of Dhaka |
| Jones Demelza Jade | UK | University of Bristol, Department of Sociology, UK |
| Kálmar Brigitte | Hungary | University of Ulster, Northern Ireland, UK |
| Kalmari Maria Aurora | Finland | University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences, Slovenia |
| Kattan Victor Matthew | UK | School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, UK |
| Måwe Ida Marie | Sweden | Università degli Studi di Trento –University of Trento, Italy |
| McPherson Katharine Elaine | Australia | Freehills Solicitors, Australia |
| Middya Sabir Ahamed | India | Groupe Developpement, India |
| Murad Alwin Vincent | Pakistan | Justice and Peace Commission, Pakistan |
| Parmar Kiritkumar Kantilal | India | Participatory Support Centre, India |



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| Pfaff Christine | Germany | Department of Public Law, Johann Wolfgang Goethe University - University of Frankfurt, Germany |
| Prina Federica | Italy | University College London, UK |
| Rai Dilip Singh | Nepal | Association of Nepal Kirat Kulung Language and Culture Development |
| Steinebach Alexandra | Germany | Department of Public Law, Johann Wolfgang Goethe University – University of Frankfurt, Germany |
| Uittenbogaard Suzanne | Netherlands | London Community Recycling Network, UK |
| Vieru Simona | Rumania/Australia | Murdoch University, Australia |
| EXTERNAL OBSERVERS | | |
| Tek Bahadur Dong (Tamang) | Nepal | British Institute project on “Inequality and Affirmative Action in South Asia”, Nepal |
| Anju Khadka | Nepal | British Institute project on “Inequality and Affirmative Action in South Asia”, Nepal |

In general, the feedback provided by students of both summer schools was very positive. Participants came with the expectation of understanding the status of minorities in both Europe and South Asia, learning about legal instruments for the protection of minority rights, to gain exposure to South Asian and European expertise in the area of minority rights, to network with other academics and activists and researchers, and to explore potential remedies for the problems faced by minorities. Feedback provided by the participants suggested that they were satisfied that their expectations of the summer schools were met, and none reported dissatisfaction in this regard. Overall, they found the programmes to be well-organised and the lectures of good quality. They appreciated the resource materials provided, and considered the focus of the summer schools relevant to their work; with some commenting that the experience helped bring their work into sharper focus or clarified key issues. The opportunity offered by the summer schools to network and build contacts was valued amongst participants, and most expressed their wish to sustain these relationships and continue to work within the collective struggle for minority rights. Participants also appreciated the logistical arrangements and liked the venues of the summer schools, as well as the diversity and balance amongst both participants and resource persons. Some suggested points for further improvement were a slight restructuring of the programme to include less lectures in a day, as some students found it difficult to concentrate equally on all



important subjects. Participants also enjoyed and valued the field visit and practical exposure elements of the programme, and would have liked to have seen more of this. Overall, participants were very happy with their summer school experience, and expressed their desire to contribute further to EURASIA-Net in some form, and work towards the continuity of the network.

EURASIA-Net Work Package 3 – EU officials Information sessions and exchange

Informative sessions and briefings in South Asia and Europe were arranged for EU officials and local stakeholders, on topics related to regional aspects of human and minority rights issues in South Asia. Presentations were preliminarily arranged at the EC Delegation to Pakistan and EU Delegation to India, as well as at the European Commission and European Parliament premises in Brussels. The main stakeholders were to be representatives from DG Research (UNCO and SSH); EuropeAid; DG External Relations and DG Justice, Freedom and Security. Moreover, presentations were to be arranged for the members of the European Parliamentary Commission on Human Rights (DROI) and Foreign Affairs (AFET) and the European Parliament Intergroup for Traditional National Minorities, Constitutional Regions and Regional Languages.

The 1st EU Delegation information session was successfully held in Islamabad, Pakistan on 24 March 2009, and a two-day session in Brussels on 10-11 June 2010.





Kindly see below an overview of participants in the EU information sessions and briefings in Islamabad.

| 1st EU Delegation information session Islamabad, Pakistan on 24 March 2009 | |
|---|---|
| Name | Affiliation |
| Ambassador Jan de Kok | EC Delegation to Pakistan |
| Rainer Hofmann | University of Frankfurt am Main |
| Ugo Caruso | University of Frankfurt am Main |
| Sergiu Constantin | EURAC Institute for Minority Rights |
| Malene Christiansen | Embassy of Denmark |
| Jasmine Ketabchi | UNCHR Islamabad |
| Javaid Rehman | Brunel University |
| Kamran Arif | Democratic Commission for Human Development |
| Ijaz Khan | University of Peshawar |
| Tanveer Jahan | Democratic Commission for Human Development |
| Chaudry Shafique | Parliamentary Commission for Human Rights of Pakistan |
| Matyus Sandor | Embassy of Hungary |
| Kauser Bhuiyan | EC Delegation to Pakistan |
| Saleem Rehmat | IOM Islamabad |
| Ali Rehman Khan | IOM Islamabad |
| Catarina Kinnvall | University of Lund |
| Faqir Hussain | Registrar of the Supreme Court of Pakistan |

A second EU Delegation session was due to take place in New Delhi on 23 March 2010 at the premises of the EU Delegation to India, but unfortunately this was cancelled at the behest of the EU Delegation, apparently due to a high level EU/India meeting on human rights scheduled to take place on Thursday 25 March 2010. Although the EU Delegation requested that the meeting be postponed, this was not possible as it was already drawing close to the project’s conclusion on 30 June 2010. This cancellation meant the project team concentrated further on the EU information session in Brussels, and an additional public conference was planned to take place in Brussels in 11 June 2010 to complement the already-arranged close meeting with EU officials. The cancellation of the New Delhi event was disappointing, and was detrimental to the project’s visibility in the South Asian region. It also illustrates the unfortunate lack of interest in being informed about the EURASIA-Net project amongst EU officials in New Delhi.

The meetings held in Brussels thus proved to be the most suitable occasions for a fruitful discussion on the development and implementation of EU policies vis-à-vis South Asia, in order to gain a better understanding of strategic priorities which could be taken into account when establishing a future Europe-South Asia joint research agenda.



In general, all WP3 events proved crucial to making information and project results accessible to EU officials and local stakeholders.

Kindly see below an overview of participants in the EU information sessions and briefings in Brussels and some pictures of the sessions.

| Meeting at EP premises, 10 June 2009 | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Name | Affiliation |
| Alexandra Tomaselli | EURAC Institute for Minority Rights |
| Angela Liberatore | European Commission, DG Research |
| Carl Haglund | European Parliament, Intergroup of Traditional National Minorities |
| Catarina Kinnvall | Lund University |
| Csaba Sògor | MEP Romania and member of the Intergroup of Traditional National Minorities |



| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Csaba Sándor Tabajdi | MEP Hungary and member of the Intergroup of Traditional National Minorities |
| Davyth Hicks | EUROLANG, European Bureau for Lesser-Used Languages |
| Giovanni Poggeschi | EURAC Institute for Studies on Federalism and Regionalism |
| Guenther Rautz | EURAC Institute for Minority Rights |
| Harriet Hoffler | Brunel School of Law |
| Herbert Dorfmann | MEP Italy, European Parliament, Intergroup of Traditional National Minorities represented by his assistant |
| Iuliu Winkler | MEP Romania and member of the Intergroup of Traditional National Minorities |
| Javaid Rehman | Brunel School of Law |
| Joanna Pfaff-Czarnecka | University of Bielefeld |
| Kamran Arif | DCHD |
| Kata Eplenyi | European Parliament, Intergroup of Traditional National Minorities |
| Kinga Gal | MEP Hungary and member of the Intergroup of Traditional National Minorities |
| László Tökés | MEP Romania, member of the Intergroup of Traditional National Minorities represented by his assistant |
| Maria Eugenia Villegas Terán | Oficina del Gobierno de Cantabria en Bruselas |
| Rainer Hofmann | University of Frankfurt am Main |
| Ranabir Samaddar | MCRG |
| Samir Kumar Das | MCRG |
| Scott Jones | External Evaluator of EURASIA-Net |
| Sergiu Constantin | EURAC Institute for Minority Rights |
| Sonia Dayan-Herzbrun | University Denis Diderot – Paris 7 |
| Tanveer Jahan | DCHD |
| Tapan Bose | SAFHR |
| Ugo Caruso | University of Frankfurt am Main |



| EU information sessions and briefing in Brussels, on 10-11 June 2010 | |
|---|--|
| Meeting at EC premises, 10 June 2009 | |
| Name | Affiliation |
| Maria Lensu | European Commission, DG for External Relations (RELEX) |
| Alain Ruche | European Commission, DG for External Relations (RELEX) |
| Angela Liberatore | European Commission, DG Research (RTD) |
| Catarina Kinnvall | Lund University |
| Christian Behrmann | European Commission, DG for External Relations (RELEX) |
| Gilles Laroche | European Commission, DG Research (RTD) |
| Giorgio Perini | Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia, Liaison Office in Brussels |
| Giovanni Poggeschi | EURAC Institute for Studies on Federalism and Regionalism |
| Guenther Rautz | EURAC Institute for Minority Rights |
| Harriet Hoffler | Brunel School of Law |
| Javaid Rehman | Brunel School of Law |
| Jean-Michel Baer | European Commission, DG Research (RTD) |
| Joanna Pfaff-Czarnecka | University of Bielefeld |
| Kamran Arif | DCHD |
| Mario Catizzone | European Commission, DG Research (RTD) |
| Rainer Hofmann | University of Frankfurt am Main |
| Ranabir Samaddar | MCRG |
| Samir Kumar Das | MCRG |
| Scott Jones | External Evaluator of EURASIA-Net |
| Sonia Dayan-Herzbrun | University Denis Diderot – Paris 7 |
| Tanveer Jahan | DCHD |
| Tapan Bose | SAFHR |
| Ugo Caruso | University of Frankfurt am Main |



Public conference in Brussels, on 11 June 2010

| Name | Affiliation |
|-----------------------|--|
| Abida Islam | Embassy of Bangladesh |
| Alain Ruche | European Commission, DG for External Relations (RELEX) |
| Alexandra Tomaselli | EURAC Institute for Minority Rights |
| Anchelita Gowri | Global Human Rights Defence (GHRD) |
| Andrew Swan | UNPO |
| Angela Dargel | Saxon State Ministry for Higher Education, Research and the Fine Arts |
| Angela Liberatore | European Commission, DG Research |
| Anna Innocenti | Global Human Rights Defence |
| Antonella Passarani | Regione Marche, Delegazione di Bruxelles |
| Augustin De Benoist | Ecole française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO), FP7 Project IDEAS Coordinator |
| Babett Gläser | Saxon State Ministry of Justice and for European Affairs |
| Barbara Chappini | Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea of Italy, EU Task Force |
| Catarina Kinnvall | Lund University |
| Deepak Dhital | Embassy of Nepal |
| Douglas Wickramaratne | Sinhala Association of Sri Lankans in the UK |
| Elisabeth Lacroix | Ecole française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO), FP7 Project IDEAS |
| Eva Pfoestl | Instituto San Pio V |
| Filippo Fiori | Unioncamere del Veneto |



| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Francesco Palermo | OSCE HCNM |
| Gilles Laroche | European Commission, DG Research |
| Giorgio Perini | Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia, Liaison Office in Brussels |
| Giovanni Poggeschi | EURAC Institute for Studies on Federalism and Regionalism |
| Giulia Costantino | IHF – Institut de Haute Formation aux Politiques Communautaires |
| Guenther Rautz | EURAC Institute for Minority Rights |
| Harriet Hoffler | Brunel School of Law |
| Javaid Rehman | Brunel School of Law |
| Jean-Michel Baer | European Commission, DG Research |
| Jenny Lundström | Global Human Rights Defence |
| Joanna Pfaff-Czarnecka | University of Bielefeld |
| Jonas Grimheden | EU FRA |
| Kamran Arif | DCHD |
| Lin Goethals | European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS) |
| Lorenzo Costantino | ETS – European Training and Studies |
| Maria Lensu | European Commission, DG for External Relations (RELEX) |
| M.C.M. Iqbal | Former consultant NHRC of Sri Lanka |
| Madhuka Wickramarachchi | Embassy of Sri Lanka |
| Mahulena Hofmannova | University of Giessen, Member of the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages |
| Maria Eugenia Villegas Terán | Oficina del Gobierno de Cantabria en Bruselas |
| Mario Catizzone | European Commission, DG Research |
| Marte Hellema | European Centre for Conflict Prevention |
| Melina Landén | East Finland EU Office |
| Meri Herranen | East Finland EU Office |
| Michele Petracca | Regione Molise-Delegation to Brussels/Liaison Office for Community Relations |
| Nadarajah Kuruparan | Global Media Network |
| Natassa Antoniou | REGIOEUROPA (Greek Local and Regional Authorities) |
| Paola Panzeri | Fondazione L'Albero della Vita, Brussels Office |
| Rainer Hofmann | University of Frankfurt am Main, Vice-President of the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention on National Minorities |
| Ranabir Samaddar | MCRG |
| Rathika Thevakumar | Media Development Organization |
| Samir Kumar Das | MCRG |
| Samita Das | MCRG |



EURASIA-Net



| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Sara Saturni | Regione Marche, Delegazione di Bruxelles |
| Scott Jones | External Evaluator of EURASIA-Net |
| Sergiu Constantin | EURAC Institute for Minority Rights |
| Shahid Fiaz | SAFHR |
| Sonia Dayan-Herzbrun | University Denis Diderot – Paris 7 |
| Stephan Van Marsoner | European Parliament |
| Sunanda Deshpriya | World Organisation Against Torture |
| Tanveer Jahan | DCHD |
| Tapan Bose | SAFHR |
| Tharshini Thangavelu | European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS) |
| Ugo Caruso | University of Frankfurt am Main |
| Veronica Dapunt | European Commission, DG Competition |



EURASIA-Net Work Package 4 – Transregional Platform

The **Trans-regional Platform** (WP4) functions as a forum for the exchange of knowledge and best-practice between stakeholders (scholars, universities, media, decision makers, activists), as well as coordinating the dissemination of results, and preparing the ground for joint research activities.

Another focus of WP4 is the further evolution of the **Joint Research Agenda**, an initiative through which EURASIA-Net partners gain a stronger collective focus in devising South Asian, European and Eurasian instruments for the protection of minority rights; disseminating lessons from model cases and 'best practices' relating to the solution of minority problems, and assessing their potential applicability across culturally and politically diverse regions.

Two conferences were also arranged within the work package. The first, entitled *Freedom of Religion, Religious Minorities and the Rule of Law*, occurred in Lahore from 20-21 March 2009 and was organised by BrUni and DCHD.

A second conference was held in London on 9 June 2010, and presented the best practices and recommendations for future work explored through the EURASIA-net activities to project partners and selected external participants.



Although not a formal component of this work package, the Final Conference in Kolkata in March 2010 also offered an opportunity to expand dissemination work and officially launch the EURASIA-Net Joint Research Agenda.

This further development of the Joint Research Agenda was accompanied by consolidation of the **Project network and Internet Platform** (www.eurac.edu/eurasia-net). The web-pages of EURASIA-Net have been available to the public since March 2008, and up-to-date documents and news of events are also regularly disseminated via Newsletters. The Project Final Conference in Kolkata, India in March 2010 and the EU information sessions and briefings in Brussels (see WP3) completed the dissemination work, and contributed to the finalization of the EURASIA-Net Joint Research Agenda. In addition, a set of material on South Asian and regional cooperation for higher education institutions (Deliverable No.17), and a set of material for South Asian NGOs (Deliverables No.18) were prepared. All these materials lay the groundwork for the implementation of the Joint Research Agenda, the final conference, and the platform (round table exchange and recommendations).



EURASIA-Net Work Package 5 – Project Management

The EURASIA-Net project management activities have operated in conjunction with the provisions of the Grant Agreement (GA), and have been characterised by a spirit of cooperation and genuine partnership. EURAC, the lead organisation of the corresponding WP, has provided efficient administrative management, adapting its processes to the specific needs of the project and its diverse partners.

All Deliverables associated with this WP have been duly completed to the satisfaction of all partners, and submitted to the Commission.

Overall EURASIA-Net impact

EURASIA-Net has clearly had a strong and positive impact on its participants, who include partner organisations and associates, scholars under the Study Visit program, students of the two transregional Summer Schools, NGO's, and representatives of the media, and regional supranational organisations. The most important EURASIA-Net activities like the building of a network, and information exchange and collaboration in the field of human rights and minority issues, benefited a broader group of stakeholders; policy makers in Europe and South Asia, European and South Asian universities and research institutes, young scholars, governmental and non-governmental organisations, NGO's working at the grassroots level, and finally researchers and practitioners working on minority issues in countries like Afghanistan, Bhutan and Maldives, although no direct impact in the form of project activities was achieved in these countries.

Within the life-cycle of the project, the interdisciplinary consortium of EURASIA-Net partners and associates elaborated major issues in the field of minority protection and human rights. Partners had to agree, for example, on what the problems actually were, and what certain terms meant for different people e.g. terrorism, access to justice or instruments for reducing conflicts. The fact that a number of issues were quite sensitive meant that it was very important to find compromises between those partners taking a more academic approach, and partners from NGO's. These debates are reflected in two textbooks for NGO's and students, academic publications from well-known publishing houses in South Asia and Europe, and finally, in the dissemination activities for a broader audience through the EURASIA-Net webpage, manuscripts, booklets, media tool kits and recommendations. This interdisciplinary expertise achieved over the past 30 months could form a great contribution to the elaboration of a European – South Asian curriculum for higher education institutes (graduate and postgraduate level).

The strong network of partners and associates established over the last 3 years, will continue to work together in order to strengthen the collaboration between those who generate knowledge in



universities and institutes, and those who develop knowledge on the ground. The project can function as a successful model for exchange and collaboration on an equal level among partners and associates from Europe and South Asia, and the EURASIA-Net consortium is currently working on the next steps towards sustainability for the outcomes of the project, in particular targeting EU/SAARC and state level governance bodies, media, and local communities. New challenges like global migration, environmental issues and diversity management have to be met. Therefore new and useful entry points for policy making in the field of human rights and minority protection can illuminate research and activism on transborder cooperation, economic dialogue, water/forestry/energy management and the fight against terrorism. Minorities are often the first to be affected by these phenomena, but they also have the potential to actively contribute to the formulation of problem solving instruments for regional development in the fields of cultural diversity, multilingualism, pluri-identities/ethnicity, and customary law.

EURASIA-Net Impact in comparison with Annex I

In Annex, it was stated the following:

Expected impact in relation with Topic SSH-2007-8.2 (**main Topic**) as from SSH work programme.

Increasing international cooperation in research and better understanding of the other regions, cultures and their socio-economic and policy development.

Expected impact in relation with Topic SSH-2007-4.2.1 and Topic SSH-20074.2.2 (**other Topics** addressed) as from SSH work programme.

- a) *advance the state of the art in the field of conflict and peace studies, as well as knowledge on the state of human rights*
- b) *enhance cooperation between researchers in Europe and in the areas under analysis*
- c) *allow the scholarly community to prepare for future steps toward engaging in a significant joint international research effort*
- d) *improve the contribution to formulation, development and implementation of policy at European or national level including peace keeping initiatives*
- e) *devise and test strategies to involve relevant communities, stakeholders, practitioners in the making and/or diffusion of research*
- f) *where relevant, encourage the involvement of relevant civil society organisations in the research activities*



Therefore, the impact *as planned* is shown alongside the *actual* impact in the tables below:

Considering the main Topic addressed, the project will have a significant impact because:

| Annex I | Actual Impact |
|---|--|
| <p>EURASIA-Net creates the basis for future research cooperation in the field of South Asian regional cooperation on human rights and minority issues, a sector that is an important pre-requisite to lasting peace and economic development in the region. European research must create, together with colleagues from the region, the knowledge basis for an effective and comprehensive EU cooperation policy with South Asia. A first, indispensable step in this direction is to develop a joint research agenda focusing on human and minority rights as one of the most critical factors of South Asian regional stability. The information and exchange sessions with EU officials and institutions (WP 3) as well as the trans-regional Platform (WP4) will certainly create the favourable policy environment for future research. The involvement of your researchers (WP2) will reinforce the basis of future cooperation and raise the interest of South Asian researchers in European studies².</p> | <p>Research on minorities in South Asia is not centrally organized, or is not conducted according to any collaborative plan. In the absence of a clearly coherent research policy on minorities, the research agenda – elaborated by the EURASIA-Net team - can serve as a catalyst for comparing the minorities across the countries of the region. Such a pan-regional approach was the common basis for the project consortium to exchange knowledge and to foster mutual learning between Europe and South Asia. The activities during the implementation phase of WP1-WP4 concentrated on supranational cooperation in the field of minority and human rights protection; interstate relations focusing on the question of bilateral treaties; national building and self-governance based on the concept of territorial and cultural autonomy; migration across nation-states-borders creating new minorities and its affect on the Diaspora living in Europe; security questions using the example of freedom of religion, caste discrimination, Hindu nationalism, “Talibanisation” and media stereotypes; and finally, the management of cultural diversity in Europe and South Asia.</p> |
| <p>The EU’s 50-year record of experience in regional cooperation and integration and the role of the Council of Europe in supra-national human rights and minority rights are assets that European research could certainly fruitfully bring into the South Asian debate. At the same time, the ongoing research work on multi-religious communities and</p> | <p>Studying existing European regional supranational bodies and their mechanisms raised the demand for the constitution of Independent National Minority and Human Rights Commissions. On the state level, existing National Human Rights Commissions have been compared with European monitoring systems, and on the supranational level, the creation of</p> |

² According to a study commissioned by DG Research, the presence of Asian students in Europe is low and it would be in the interest of both parties to increase such number. See Project EURODATA, *European Commission Press Release on ACA study: Perceptions of European Higher Education in Third Countries*, available at <<http://www.eaie.nl/basel/pdf/aca1.pdf>>.



| | |
|---|---|
| <p>coexistence, as well as the political developments both within SAARC and civil society have not yet been adequately circulated in the European research area and fully seized in terms of their political value in international relations. EURASIA-Net seminars and publications will contribute to fill the gap.</p> | <p>Special Rapporteur in the frame of SAARC was recommended. Perhaps for the first time in South Asia the SAARC Social Charter could be considered as an effective first step on the way to a legalization of minority rights. Furthermore the South Asian Charter on Minority Rights and Group Rights and the Charter on Minority Rights in India, elaborated by civil society organisations across South Asia, could be a reference tool for governments, NGOs and SAARC.</p> |
| <p>The project concerns one of the “hottest” regions in the world and includes a country – India – that is a sub-continent experiencing fast economic expansion and a growing presence in international politics as one of the major global players.</p> | <p>South Asian countries, especially India, have increasing linkage with the major European national States and the European Union. So far federalisation and autonomy have been adopted only in India on the sub-state district level, whereas Sri Lankan efforts at conflict settlement through power sharing have failed. In Indian’s North-East neighbourhood, the struggles for autonomy of the indigenous peoples of the Chittagong Hill in Bangladesh is still ongoing. Only Nepal, again under Indian political influence, will probably transform into a federal republic.</p> |

Considering the other Topics addressed, we expect the project to impact on:

| Annex I | Actual Impact |
|--|---|
| <p>a) The project is not a direct contribution to the advancement of research in this field, but – in line with its objectives as Coordination and support action – is set to create a shared vision of the current “state of the art” with a view to drawing a common research agenda and plan joint research work.</p> | <p>At the end of a 30 month project under the heading of “Coordination and support action”, the EURASIA-Net partners are of the shared opinion that European – South Asian comparative research must take into account studies on supranational human rights monitoring systems; on linguistic rights including cultural and identity questions; on policy alternatives for power sharing democracies introducing proportional representations or a multilayered parliamentary system (e.g. Sami in Scandinavia); in the European direction, studies on the Indian example of affirmative action through reservations as best practice for antidiscrimination measures in European states; environmental issues interconnected with customary law and its impact on minorities; climate change as a growing issue and</p> |



| | |
|---|--|
| <p>b) c) EURASIA-Net is expected to have a high impact on enhancing research cooperation within Europe and between Europe and South Asia. The geographical scope of the project is complemented by a sound interdisciplinary approach that is of paramount importance for understanding the political, historical, legal and sociological factors which could lead to a “regionalisation” of human and minority rights protection in South Asia. The steps to bring about this impact are in WP1 “EURASIA Scholar Exchange”, WP2 “Summer Schools” and WP5 “Trans-regional Platform”.</p> | <p>its global impact in form of refugees and migration. According to the project objectives, the cooperation of partners in the form of a European – South Asian Trans-regional platform should be continued beyond the life of the project. Therefore the EURASIA-Net partners and associates are able to contribute their exchange experience during the implementation of the WP’s and their interdisciplinary expertise for the creation of a EURASIA Think Tank. The ongoing cooperation of EURASIA-Net partners and associates is an informal network of European and South Asian universities and NGO’s which should be formalized in an Open Centre for EURASIA Peace Studies, charged with information collection, training, and awareness raising.</p> |
| <p>d) The impact on EU and MS policies is a major concern of the European partners and is considered a challenging opportunity by the Asian colleagues involved. Regional cooperation for the promotion of human and minority rights is a relevant frame in EU cooperation policies with South Asia as well as in security and peace missions (e.g. war against terrorism, MS intervention in Afghanistan). In particular, we expect the project to have a direct impact on EU dialogue with SAARC and on the definition and implementation of the new broader Programme for cooperation with SAARC that – <i>inter alia</i> – is meant to raise awareness about the benefit of regional integration. Additionally, in the implementation of the Regulation (EC) No. 1889/2006 on establishing a financial instrument for the promotion of democracy and human rights there is space for enhancing the regional approach that has proved to be critical in the evaluation of the previous programming period³. Similar considerations are to be done on the new Development Cooperation Instrument (Regulation (EC) No. 1905/2006), which includes a geographical</p> | <p>During, and at the end of the projects, presentations were arranged at the EC Delegation to Pakistan as well as at European Commission and European Parliament premises in Brussels. The main stakeholder, to whom the EURASIA-Net partners presented the results of the project, were representatives from DG Research (UNCO and SSH); EuropeAid; DG External Relations and DG Justice, Freedom and Security. Moreover, members of the European Parliamentary Commission on Human Rights (DROI) and Foreign Affairs (AFET) and the European Parliament Intergroup for Traditional National Minorities, Constitutional Regions and Regional Languages. Furthermore, the results of the project have been presented in a final conference to media, NGOs, EC representatives, representatives of the embassies of Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, as well as FRA and OSCE HCNM representatives. At the final presentation at the European Commission, EC representatives asked the EURASIA-Net partners to present a panel and some research proposals, such as social inclusion, to the next EU-India Strategic Forum for International Cooperation,</p> |

³ A. Phillips, A. Bouvier, B. Kuhn and M. Farquharson, *Evaluation of the EIDHR projects concerning the fight against racism, xenophobia and the promotion of minority rights* (EIDHR, October 2005)



| | |
|---|--|
| <p>programme for Asia that specifically focuses on regional integration and dialogue. The project will make available the research basis for reinforcing regional dimension in the programme cycle from the definition of priorities (Strategy Papers), down to project implementation. Detailed and targeted actions are foreseen in the project to maximise the impact on EU policies (WP4 “EU information sessions and exchange”).</p> | <p>to be held on 10-11 November 2010. In the frame of another EU-funded project called IDEAS, the EC representatives underlined the possible cooperation with EURASIA-Net partners. In order to ensure follow-ups and the continuation of collaboration with the European Commission, the coordinator of EURASIA-Net is in contact with Mr. Augustin de Benoist (EBI consulting in France) in order to find synergies between the two projects (e.g. offering EURASIA-Net expertise to the IDEAS consortium, including EURASIA-Net research outcomes in IDEAS digitalized archive).</p> |
| <p>e) The impact on civil society participation in research cooperation in this field will be considerable, given the presence of two NGOs in the consortium, and the fact that SAFHR is a regional association with 35 NGO members from all over South Asia. But NGO activists, as well as decision makers and representatives from media will also actively participate in the specific activities of the project (see WP2 “Summer School” and WP4 “Trans-national Platform”). We believe the project will positively impact the capacity of research to dialogue with both civil society and decision makers to make future research commitments based on shared visions and priorities.</p> | <p>In order to support the consortium’s intention to continue the work started within EURASIA-Net, the project partner MCRG is planning to apply to the Union of Social Science to hold a conference of networking for NGOs in South Asia. The participation of media representatives and young scholars in the Study Visit program and both Summer Schools encouraged further engagement of the media and scholars with minority rights issues. The exchange between Europe and South Asia should be taken forward by launching a scholarship program. Material for specialised media, published as media tool kits for training in the frame of the project, is a starting point for the elaboration for a guidebook for minority reporting and a code of conduct for the media to adopt instruments of self-regulations in the reporting of minorities and minority issues.</p> |