Dear reader,

The core programme of the ENRI-East project ends in September 2011, thus this is the final issue of the ENRI-East Bulletin.

The issue starts with the thematic section “ENRI-East empirical studies”, which includes overview articles on three out of five of the project’s qualitative sub-studies: biographical interviews with representatives of 12 ethnic minorities in Central and Eastern Europe, and a series of expert interviews. In addition we are publishing the final piece in a series of articles dedicated to the special piloting component of the study – Identities and Music.

The next thematic section of the Bulletin (“Notes from researchers’ desktops and minds”) contains two contributions. The first one outlines major findings from the integrated report on two relatively new ethnic minorities in Germany, which have emerged during the last two decades in the course of targeted immigration policies of the German government (the return of ethnic Germans and special admittance rules for Jewish migrants). The next article discusses the methodological challenge of correctly comparing survey data on ethnic minorities with data on the ethnic majority population.

The bulletin’s third section reports on the project’s major dissemination activities in 2011: regional workshops with stakeholders in Latvia and Slovakia as well as project presentations at high-level international scientific conferences.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the project coordination team at IHS-Vienna or any other member of the ENRI-East consortium.

Sincerely yours,
The ENRI-East consortium

ENRI-East final open conference for stakeholders

We kindly invite practitioners, representatives of the policy and legislative communities as well as representatives of civil society and the academic sphere to the project’s final open conference for stakeholders, on 26 September 2011 in Brussels, at the premises of the European Social and Economic Committee.

ENRI-East outcomes

Many of the preliminary project results have already been made public in the course of numerous presentations during the last years. However, a most comprehensive collection of ENRI-East outcomes will be compiled by September 2011: a series of 17 research reports covering all major ENRI-East topics, including the studies of ethnic minorities in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as a set of new empirical databases summarizing the results of our unique sociological surveys of a quantitative and qualitative nature (“Values and Identities Survey”, biographical interviews, expert interviews etc.)

For more information, please visit the project’s website www.enri-east.net or contact the project partners.

Read further in this Bulletin

Page 2-4 ENRI-East empirical studies: Biographical interviews, expert interviews, Identities and Music

Page 5-6 Notes from researchers’ desks & minds: Special Case Germany, Minority-Majority comparison

Page 7-8 Outlook and dissemination activities: Regional workshops for stakeholders, overview of recent dissemination activities
ENRI-East biographical study (ENRI-BIO) was one of the 5 qualitative studies conducted among the 12 ethnic minority populations. It was designed to obtain further insights into the meaning systems of self-identified ethnic origin, nationality, citizenship and, in a broader sense, of belonging reflected in the biographical accounts of the respondents from three generations of ethnic minority populations. The method of semi-structured biographical interviews was designed to collect more in-depth information on the way respondents described and perceived their multiple-identities and also to clarify some unusual findings from the quantitative survey which were conducted earlier, enabling us to reveal the multi-dimensional nature of ethnic identities of the ethnic minorities in Eastern European countries.

Although analysis of the biographical data is still in process, the following summary provides a glimpse into the ethnic identities of some Eastern European minorities in their own words (exemplified for three ethnic minority groups: Ukrainians and Belarusians in Poland as well as Slovaks in Hungary).

European identity

Belarusians in Poland seemed to have a relatively developed European identity, with 8 out of 11 declaring that they felt European in some way. In contrast, most Ukrainians in Poland did not seem to identify greatly with Europe, or place any importance on being part of the EU. Both Belarusian and Ukrainian interviewees seemed mostly to view Europe as equal to the European Union. Slovaks in Hungary had mixed opinions, some respondents stating that they felt distinctly European, others mentioning a Central European identity, and several rejecting European identity completely. Views on the EU were also mixed. All agreed that it was good for travel, but some were sceptical that it had any other benefits.

National identity – relationship to country of residence

Belarusians in Poland had a variety of attitudes to their country of residence. These ranged from a Polish nationality enriched by Belarusian origins to outright rejection of identifying themselves as Polish. Ukrainians in Poland were more unified in their feelings on the matter, with all identifying themselves as Ukrainian but viewing Poland as their homeland. Most Ukrainian respondents felt connected to Poland and its traditions, and treated their responsibilities as Polish citizens very seriously; some even felt that they were better Polish citizens than native Poles. It seems that here Polish roots are generally less important but coexist with Ukrainian roots. Slovak Hungarians most-

National identity – relationship to mother country

Both Belarusian and Ukrainian Poles pointed to their faith and their language as being the key defining features of their national identities. No one from either group viewed their mother country as a homeland or expressed any wish to live there. Interestingly, some respondents from both groups mentioned difficulties identifying with their mother country. In the case of the Belarusians this was due to the image of Belarus as an authoritarian regime. For the Ukrainians the reason was that Ukraine is relatively poor and underdeveloped compared to Poland. Music from the mother country was seen as a significant component of national identity in both groups, with folk dancing and singing often mentioned. The vast majority of Slovaks in Hungary regularly returned to Hungary, though many said they felt like outsiders there. Several mentioned that they had heard of Hungarians experiencing discrimination in Slovakia, and one respondent avoided returning for this reason.

Regional Identity

For both Belarusians and Ukrainians in Poland, the older generation typically had a strong sense of attachment to their local community. This attitude was present but less common in the younger generations. One Belarusian respondent commented that particularly in the case of the older Belarusian generation, their regional identity included Ukrainian components. Apparently some Belarusian dialects are in fact a mixture of Belarusian, Ukrainian and Polish expressions. Almost all Slovaks in Hungary mentioned some level of regional identity arising from living in a region highly populated with Slovaks. Yet this was separate from their Slovak identity, a point nicely demonstrated by the claim from residents of Tőkomlos that the traditional Slovak foods they prepare there don’t even exist in Slovakia. Another kind of regional identity frequently seen among the Slovaks in Hungary was a Central European one.

Civic Participation and Ethnic Organisation

Both Ukrainian and Belarusian Poles tended to be involved in ethnic organisations, typically religious or artistic groups. According
to the respondents, neither Belarusians nor Ukrainians in Poland are organised as a political force. All interviewed Slovaks in Hungary mentioned some level of participation in Slovak cultural or political life. The minority self government system means that Slovaks are well represented in local government.

Ethnic Conflicts and Discrimination Experiences

For Ukrainian and Belarusians living in Poland most descriptions of discrimination were related to the First and then Second World Wars. In both cases discrimination during World War II was usually described in terms of violence directed towards minority groups by the Polish Army. Both groups agreed that discrimination in the present day was rare, and was usually related to their faith rather than their nationality as such. Discrimination against Slovaks in Hungary seemed to be very rare, although some respondents did mention they had experienced it. Instead, most references pointed to discrimination towards Hungarians in Slovakia. A common view was that conflicts within Hungary were closely related to ones in Slovakia and were a kind of reaction to it rather than being initiated by Hungarians themselves.

Studying social and political contexts of ethnic minorities: Expert interviews

The ENRI-EXI data base contains 40 expert interviews, including 32 interviews on minorities along the 2004 European borders and 8 interviews with experts from Germany. There are three categories of experts: governmental officials, NGO representatives and activists of ethnic minority organizations. The data base is a collective IPR of ENRI-East consortium and can be made available to researchers outside of the consortium in collaboration with one of ENRI teams, subject to cooperation agreements.

Issues of discrimination and support

Although the states of residence support the cultural activities of minorities and have adopted appropriate legislation recognising minority rights, many minorities along European borders are “structurally” discriminated against. They live in the economically disadvantaged regions (Hungarians in Ukraine, Slovaks in Hungary, Belarusians in Poland) and have lower-than-national opportunities in higher education and the labour market. This limits their integration into the societies or the residential area. Yet government representatives more often cite cultural opportunities for minorities and the absence of significant conflicts with the majority as evidence of the minorities’ successful position.

Support for minorities from their kin states varies across the region. Poland and Hungary provide the highest levels of support, including financial help, educational support, facilitation of cultural activities, a limited form of membership (Polish ID card), or citizenship (Hungary). Russia and Slovakia provide moderate financial, educational, and cultural support to their minorities, coupled with political pressure from Russia on the countries with Russian minorities (Latvia and Lithuania). Ukraine and Belarus provide very limited to no support to their minorities in Poland and Lithuania. In these cases, minorities must rely on European Union institutions for the provision of additional rights.

The interviews suggest that the collapse of communism and a more liberal treatment of minorities by the states of residence have so far been more significant for the status of minorities in Eastern European borderlands than the EU extension in 2004. Nevertheless, the EU extension provided additional institutional safeguards for minorities in Eastern European states, where visions of society remain largely monocultural, with limited recognition of group rights for the minorities.
Identities and Music

Dr. Lyudmila Nurse
Oxford XXI

Identities and Music - a special component of the ENRI-East project - was designed to reveal patterns of identity formation of ethnic minorities through music preferences. There were three elements in this multi-disciplinary study: 'Cultural Identities and Music' – a complex pilot study (conducted only in Hungary and Lithuania); a quantitative survey; and the biographical study. The latter two components were implemented in 8 countries among 12 ethnic minorities.

Analysis of music preferences as identity markers showed that ethnic identities are constantly in a state of flux from the intra- and inter-generational perspective. Although first musical memories often connect people more closely to their ethnic origin, this emotional power tends to decline in intensity from the older to younger generations of ethnic minorities. The study of ethnic Slovaks in Hungary shows that, apart from the first music memories, there is often more similarity in terms of music preferences among the same generations of Slovaks and Hungarians, particularly younger generations, than between different Slovak generations.

The main difference between first music memories of the younger Slovak generation and the same age group from the Hungarian majority is that the former relate more to the Hungarian modern and global music, as compared to the traditional Hungarian tunes of the Hungarian majority. This difference in the parents’ generations is less prominent.

As our pilot study demonstrates, Slovak music as an emotional link to cultural heritage is gradually diminishing in the everyday life experience of the ethnic Slovak minority, replaced mostly by local (Hungarian) music, and to a lesser extent, global music. The inter-generational gap in the formation of identities is much deeper between the younger generations of ethnic minorities (children and parents) than it is between the older generations (parents' and grandparents'); the media intensifies the consumption of recorded music.

In developing the methodology for the quantitative survey, a special module of the ENRI-VIS survey, (6,300 respondents in 8 countries), we considered a range of terms that could measure links between music and ethnic self-identification. These include: liking music; musical preference (which for this study is music associated with the country of ethnic minority origin, country of residence, or 'Global' music, which was neither related to the country of their ethnic origin nor country of current residence); and music styles (classified through a "bottom up" approach, based on people’s favourite pieces of music.)

Furthermore, the ENRI-VIS respondents were asked to indicate to which genres their favourite music belongs, selecting one option out of the list of 10 genres. The chart below shows the results of these preferred genres. Pop music appears to be a favourite genre of all ethnic minorities studied in the ENRI-East project with the second favourite being folk music; one significant exception to this is the ethnic Slovak minority in Hungary. But while these two genres are balanced among Poles in Lithuania, pop is preferred significantly in the other three cases, especially among ethnic Russians in Latvia and in Lithuania. Meanwhile, Slovaks in Hungary prefer light music (musicals) notably more than the other minorities.

Analysis of the clear musical preferences that only relate to ethnic minorities, the ethnic minorities’ countries of residence, or Global music, demonstrates considerable differences between the ethnic minorities. Overall, what is convincingly clear from our analysis is that dynamics of place and identity interact significantly with musical preferences.

In particular, the inter-generational perspective of our study invokes additional layers of “identity” that are not detectable by conventional sociological methods.

Further reading on the findings from this study:


Mag. Hermine Poppeller, Austrian Ambassador to Latvia:

I believe this is a really important project. A study to this extent, which embraces so many countries and so many interviewed representatives from minorities, has never been attempted before. From my experience as the Austrian Ambassador I can say that this is a very important topic. The history of the European continent of the last 200 years has always been the history of moving borders: majorities became minorities and minorities became majorities. If we go back in our own family history everybody will find roots from far away, different nationalities in our own history. We have quite a few identities in ourselves. The best proof is that we live within a pluralistic society.
Although citizens from NIS countries are increasingly moving to European Union states, Germany traditionally hosts the biggest group of immigrants coming from this region. Since the early fifties of the last century Germany has admitted ethnic Germans (Aussiedler) and later (since 1989) also Jewish immigrants (jüdische Kontinentflüchtlinge) on the base of special legal provisions, related to ethnic, political and humanitarian reasons. These movements became particularly relevant after the dissolution of the USSR which allowed a growing number of people to leave the newly independent states.

Meanwhile, ethnic German and Jewish immigrants form distinct communities in Germany: approximately 2.2 million ethnic Ger-

mans and 230,000 Jewish immigrants have moved to the country since 1989. As a matter of fact these immigrant groups are characterized by specific features of identity formation, concerning their admission status, i.e. the institutional setting of group belonging on the one hand and their cultural/ethnic differentiation on the other. In the case of ethnic Germans, a shared history as a (often persecuted) minority in the countries of origin is of relevance, in addition to common values, norms and occasionally the religious affiliation. Interestingly however, the language of communication at the time of immigration is in most cases Russian. This is very similar for Jewish immigrants who strongly relate to the common fate of belonging to a repeatedly repressed minority in their former home countries, although adherence to the Jewish religion is not often evident and their language of communication is Russian.

Besides Russian language competence and a common country of origin, ethnic Germans and Jewish immigrants also share some similarities concerning their economic and social integration in Germany. First of all labour market access is difficult for both groups as their German language competence is initially low and (post)-Soviet education and training hampers job search. Additionally, a lack of socio-structural adaptation and a certain spatial segregation can be observed. Although ethnic German and Jewish immigrants from NIS countries in Germany can hardly be defined in terms of ethnic minorities they nevertheless constitute distinct communities which further strengthen the pluralisation of German society.

I hope that this study will be able to contribute to a better understanding on a political level. I very often hear of occasions when minorities get on well with each other in their personal environment such as friends, at work, in the family etc. These are different nationalities that are on very good terms with each other. But if it comes to the official, the political level, they suddenly turn out to be parallel societies. I think that we, as members of the European Union, have to consider that if we declare that diversity is a positive concept in Europe, then we have to actively take this into account when taking political decisions.

The outcomes of this study would be excellent educational material for all prospective diplomats in the European Union. We are not just separate states in the EU, but there are different national, regional etc. identities which are important and which we have to take into consideration.
ENRI-East empirical studies

A methodological challenge: Comparing survey data on ethnic minorities with data on the ethnic majority of the population

One of the research questions that might be addressed in the course of identity studies is related to the role that ethnicity plays in identity formation. The issue can be addressed, e.g., by comparing sociological “scores” of the majority and a particular ethnic minority group in this country. Several questions included in the ENRI-VIS (“Values and Identity Survey”) questionnaire (see ENRI-East Bulletin # 2, page 4) have been borrowed from other major international sociological surveys, such as ISSP, EVS, WVS, ESS and others. This instrumental compatibility allows for comparison of the main parameters of identities, social well-being and attitudes, social and political capital of the whole population of the country and the particular ethnic minority groups in it.

In order to adjust the methodology for minority-majority comparisons, we implemented a pilot exercise for ENRI and majority samples in three project countries – Hungary, Slovakia and Ukraine; the ENRI-VIS data was compared with majority data from EVS 1999-2000, WVS 2005-2006 and others. From the majority survey data, we have extracted sub-samples related to only those locations, where the ENRI data were collected.

As a next step, we have applied weighting procedures that have brought the majority survey samples to the ENRI-VIS patterns in terms of age and gender of respondents. This means that any difference of opinion is now “pure” and can be referred only to different positions and attitudes of representatives of ethnic minorities and the majority population (first of all the titular nation).

Finally, sets of minority-majority comparative tables have been computed for the following survey questions and batteries: language usage, feelings of closeness, major parameters of self-identification, concepts of nation and pride, issues of trust perceived discrimination, religion, interest in politics, the image of the European Union, participation in civil society organizations.

The minority-majority comparison was executed for the following ethnic minorities: Slovaks in Hungary, Hungarians in Slovakia and in Ukraine as well as Poles in Ukraine.

The comparative tables created during the analysis present three kinds of data: (1) ENRI data for a specific ethnic minority, (2) non-weighted and (3) weighted data from the majority surveys for respective locations.

The elaborated methodology of minority-majority analysis could be applied for other ethnic minority groups studied within the framework of the project or used in other studies. Outcomes of this pilot effort might also provide excellent support for the authorities of the relevant states, in making appropriate policy decisions in future.

Examples of the application of majority-minority comparisons in particular analyses

Institutional trust: trust Ukrainian media

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do not trust them at all</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rather do not trust them</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rather trust them</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust them completely</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Institutional trust among Hungarian Slovaks and Hungarians (average points)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hungarian Slovaks</th>
<th>Hungarians 2005</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parliament</td>
<td>2,5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media</td>
<td>1,5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data for Hungarian Slovaks - ENRI-VIS (2010); Data for Hungarians - World Values Survey (2005)

Nils Mužnieks, Ph.D.: Chairman of ECRI (European Commission against Racism and Intolerance):

Most European researchers, members of the European public and policy makers have to become reconciled to diversity. We have to be very hard-nosed about looking at the kind of diversity we want and how to combine this diversity with some kind of social cohesion with respect for minority rights but also for concerns of the majority. If the majority is not on board than it will be difficult to move forward and then we will be like an eternal opposition movement to the excluded minority, knocking at the door and never getting answers. Some answers are available through the work of scholars! Policy is based on research, not based on political gains. How to convince policy makers to take into account policy research is something we have not yet figured out how to do, so we are hoping for help from outside.
In May and June 2011 the ENRI-East consortium held two Regional Workshops for the wider public. At these events project outcomes as well as first drafts of policy recommendations were presented and discussed with stakeholders, such as international academics, governmental representatives and NGO experts.

**Riga, 26-27 May 2011**

In Riga (Latvia) the event was organized in co-operation with a project on conflict transformation in Latvia (funded by the Berghof Foundation for Conflict Studies) and covered five investigated minorities in North-Eastern European countries: Russians in Latvia and Lithuania, Poles and Belarusians in Lithuania, Lithuanians in Russia (Kaliningrad region), as well as Ukrainians and Belarusians in Poland, Poles in Belarus and the special case Germany (see page 5). All presentations of the two-day-event which took place at the European Commission Representation in Latvia were followed by a lively discussion about the outcomes, the interpretation of facts and findings and the actual situation of minorities. The workshop concluded with an open panel discussion on multiculturalism and integration in post-socialist Eastern Europe, attended by representatives of the Latvian Government, the European Council’s Commission against Racism and Intolerance, the Latvian Association for Support of Schools with Russian Language of Instruction and international experts from the academic sphere.

**Trnava and Bratislava, 16-17 June 2011**

The Regional Workshop in Trnava (Slovakia) addressed the Slovakian minority living in Hungary, the Hungarian minority in Slovakia and Ukraine, as well as the Polish minority in Ukraine. In addition to the presentation of the main outcomes regarding the studied minorities, the first findings of the multidisciplinary pilot effort “Cultural Identities and Music” were presented (see ENRI-East Bulletin 1 and 2). The seminar in Slovakia concluded with a press conference in Bratislava, which resulted in several interviews in local newspapers as well as other international formats, which are reflected on the project’s website.

Thanks to the active participation of representatives of local governments and the Embassies of Austria, Poland, Belarus, the input of NGOs and a large number of interested experts from the academic community, both regional workshops turned out to be successful events with highly productive discussions and consultations.

The final open conference of the ENRI-East project, summing up all of the issues raised, main project outcomes and recommendations for policy makers, will be held on 26 September 2011 in Brussels. Please refer to the project’s website www.enri-east.net/news-events/enri-east-events/final-conference for more information.

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**News in brief**

**Peer reviewing of the other EC FP7 project:** Lyudmila Nurse of Oxford XXI was a discussant to the paper by Lena Inowlocki and Gerhard Riemann “Cultural Contacts: A Biographical Perspective on Youth Exchange and Related Process” at the EC FP7 EuroIdentities project Conference in Brussels in February 2011 at the session: “Europe as a concert of cultural mixing and a questioning of the ideas of European culture”.

The project EuroIdentities - The Evolution of European Identity: Using biographical methods to study the development of European identity, which was successfully completed this year, was led by Prof. Robert Miller, Queen’s University Belfast, and was entirely based on the use of the biographical method in studying European identity. Project partners are all leading Biographical researchers from 7 EU countries, including Prof. Fritz Schütze, Prof. Lena Inowlocki (Germany), Prof. A. Piotrowski and K. Kaźmierska (Poland).
ENRI-East at Woodrow Wilson Center

In April 2011 Project Coordinator Alexander Chvorostov and Natalia Waechter presented the ENRI-East project at the event “Political Systems and Political Identities in Post-Communist Eurasia, 1992-2010”, which took place at the Kennan Institute of the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington DC.

ENRI-East at the 10th Conference of the European Sociological Association “Social relations in turbulent Times” (September 2011, Genève)

The ENRI-East Consortium takes part in the 10th ESA Conference, using it as a most suitable venue for the presentation of the project outcome to fellow social scientists from the whole continent.

Prof. Claire Wallace organizes the Research Stream “European Identities”, which accommodates several papers, inclusive ENRI-East papers.

Furthermore, there will be the Special Session Approaches to “Bottom Up” research in a policy environment, co-organized by Dr. Lyudmila Nurse. This session brings together three FP7-SSH projects (ENRI-East, EuroIdentities and Identities and Modernities in Europe) that have Sociology as their core discipline and address the development or negotiation of European identities.

Topics covered:
(a) the ability of bottom up qualitative approaches to meet the demand of policy-relevant findings; (b) the capacity of bottom up methods to meet the charge that qualitative methods lack the validity and rigour required for informing policy; (c) the extent to which the contrasting approaches to collecting and analysing qualitative data are compatible; (d) the extent to which the contrasting approaches held on ‘Europe’ by their protagonists could lead to findings.

Overview of ENRI-East dissemination efforts in 2010-2011

ENRI-East at ASN Congresses in New York and Moscow

Members of the ENRI-East consortium have organized a number of thematic panels at the 16th Annual ASN World Convention “Charting the Nation between State and Society” (April 2011, Columbia University, New York) and at the conference “Twenty Years after 1991: The Reshaping of Space and Identity” (September 2011, Moscow).

ENRI-East at “Kharkiv Sociological Readings”

Many ENRI-East experts participated in the XV International Kharkiv Sociological Readings (Kharkiv, Ukraine, November 2010). Project Coordinator Alexander Chvorostov gave a keynote lecture on “Ethnicity, nationality, identity and political implications of their interplay in Central and Eastern Europe”. Furthermore ENRI-East researchers presented project findings within the panel “Ethnonational Processes, Borders, Migration, Identities”.

All conference presentations can be downloaded from the project website www.enri-east.net

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Contacts and further information

Project details and subscription: www.enri-east.net

Project Coordinator:
Dr. Alexander Chvorostov (alex.chv@ihs.ac.at)

PR & Communications:
Pauline Oberthaler (oberthaler@ihs.ac.at)

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