Dear reader,

You are reading the second issue of ENRI-East Bulletin. The project ENRI-East – Interplay of European, National and Regional Identities: nations between states along the new eastern borders of the European Union – is an innovative international collaborative research project, mainly funded by the European Commission through its Seventh Framework Program (FP7). The study has equally strong theoretical, methodological and empirical components.

We have already introduced the main methods and goals of the project in the First issue of the ENRI-Bulletin. Now you may learn more about the on-going and completed project activities, such as the 8-nations “Values and Identities Survey”, a piloting study on “Cultural Identities and Music” in Hungary and Lithuania, cross-national Biographical Interviews, and other pieces of research. Moreover, we will also give an overview about the upcoming ENRI-East sub-studies and surveys and report about the progress and some first findings of the ENRI-East project.

We provide also with an overview of project’s dissemination efforts and of main project events and meetings. If you have any project related questions or just would like to learn more about our work, please feel free to contact the coordinating group at IHS Vienna or any consortium partner.

Sincerely,
Dr. Alexander Chvorostov,
ENRI-East Project Coordinator
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In 2010 we have invited 13 prominent social scientists from 8 countries to join the Advisory Board of the project. These experts shall act as “internal peer-reviewers” of the main project research reports, will take part in various public presentations and discussions of project outcomes and shall advise an effective dissemination strategy. Another task of the Board is to recommend the further project’s research program beyond the official end of the project in September 2011.

Members of the ENRI-Advisory Board:
Prof. Christian Haerpfer (Chair), University of Aberdeen
Prof. Alexander Etkind, Cambridge University
Prof. Ronald Inglehart, University of Michigan
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Prof. Renata Simienska, University of Warsaw
Prof. Stephen White, University of Glasgow
Project’s slogan “Moving borders, moving peoples” captures the essence of national minority politics in the twentieth century. However, the roots of national minority evolution go much further back in time. Migration was not necessarily a pre-condition for the emergence of a national minority in a particular country within the contemporary political borders: an ethnic group could live historically in the same area as another nation. For instance, this was the path of ethnic Slovaks in Hungary and ethnic Hungarians in Slovakia. However, different languages and customs did not in themselves lead to the emergence of a national identity. The Hungarians and Slovaks were different peoples, with different ethnic origins, but lived side-by-side for hundreds of years before either people consolidated themselves into modern nation states. When the Slovaks did emerge as a nation with their own national culture in the 19th century, it was very different from the identity of the Slavs in their area who formed the state of Great Moravia in the 9th century. The same applies to their Hungarian neighbours, whose identity also evolved. National minority identity should not be seen as a list of criteria, but as a process that has its own internal unity according to each specific national minority group. The core of national identity and national minority identity is rather a “shared community”. In most cases, ethnic minority identity today is organically linked to national identity on the part of the kin-nation abroad where it constitutes the majority. However due to the multi-ethnic composition of medieval and feudal Empires, many nations emerged as ethnic minorities before they have successfully achieved their own state in a course of political emancipation in 19th and 20th centuries. A catalyst to this process was provided by the French Revolution, which asserted that the source of political power is the nation, and not monarchs who appealed to divine right. The path of political history on European continent over the last century has re-drown the geographical borders consi-
Within their respective Baltic states, to being a national minority, from being the majority nation, even though they were a minority during World War II. With the fall of the USSR, ethnic Russians went under Russian Tsarism and, more recently, in the Soviet period after World War II, they were discriminated against in their native state, first by the Teutonic Knights and, then, together with the Lithuanians, oppressed by Russian Tsarism and, more recently, in the Soviet period after World War Two. With the fall of the USSR, ethnic Russians went from being the majority nation, even though they were a minority within their respective Baltic states, to being a national minority, without moving or seeing the borders of their state move. The experiences of nationhood and identity practices and feelings of ethnic groups in Eastern Europe are quite different from case to case: they range from the full emancipation into a nation-state, where a particular ethnicity becomes a “titular nation”, being a clear majority in a country (Poland, Hungary, etc.) An unavoidable consequence such a development is the appearance of multiple “residual ethnic groups” constituting ethnic minorities in other countries. As a result, one can observe certain divergence in the patterns of “ethnic identities” of the same ethnicity, depending on their “titular” or “minority” status (actually, this statement constitutes one of the core hypotheses of the series of ENRI-East empirical studies). Furthermore, we witness a variety of policies of different states towards their minorities: these vary historically from aggressive assimilation or national oppression to peaceful cultural, social and economic integration. Critical assessment of such policies builds another aspect of project’s research program.

**ENRI-East in Slovakia: Scientific neutrality of research and charged political discourse**

Prof. Ladislav Macháček  
University of St. Cyril and Methodius (Slovakia)

The scientific disputes among the ENRI-East experts turned up to be very important with regard to several politically sensitive issues. Most notably the status and the development of ethnic minorities in Ukraine, Slovakia, and Hungary, which are located on both sides of the Carpathian Mountains, or is the Carpathian Basin, which was originally suggested in the project description as a common denotation of the region. However, the emerged discussion showed that researchers cannot ignore “political reality” in their countries – the Slovak national discourse would interpret the term as an euphemism for “Great Hungary”, which was of course not meant by the project consortium. Thus, in order to avoid a possible misunderstanding, especially by the public presentation of project results, we decided rather to refer to the region of Central Europe, or just naming the particular countries.

Furthermore, mass-media are often adding “fuel to the fire” by biased and incorrect interpretation of empirical data. For instance, the ENRI-VIS survey outcomes were misinterpreted the following way: “About 4% of Slovak citizens of Hungarian origin speak Slovak at home” (TASR 20.5. 2010). The correct survey outcome says that 75% of our respondents (Hungarians in Slovakia) speak Hungarian at home and about 21% speak both Slovak and Hungarian. Almost 70% of the respondents consider the ability to understand official language of their country important (the fieldwork was carried out by bi-lingual interviewers from the sociological agency FOCUS).
One of the main tools of the empirical program of the ENRI-East study is the large-scale formalized survey that has been conducted among the representatives of 12 ethnic minorities in 8 countries in three project regions: Baltic (Lithuania, Latvia and Kaliningrad province of Russia), Eastern Europe (Poland and Belarus) and Central Europe (Hungary, Slovakia and Ukraine). The main tools of this cross-country survey were a Questionnaire (57 core-questions and batteries, many of which are compatible with other international surveys) and tailored sampling frames (a justified combination of three standard sampling methods).

ENRI-VIS Questionnaire
- Master version designed in English, translated into 6 project languages and localized for each survey country
- 60 questions or batteries (nn coded variables) in the Master Version, up to 10% of questions could vary from country to country (country specific)
- Half of questions (batteries) are the same or compatible with other international surveys: NEB, ESS, WVS, EVS, ISSP
- Average duration of a face-to-face interviews 50 minutes
- Response rates: 0.32 to 0.87 depending on ethnic group and particular sampling method

ENRI-VIS Questionnaire was designed departing from the outcomes of theoretical efforts as well as several desktop studies. The background theoretical efforts included a critical analysis of various theoretical aspects of identity formation among ethnic minorities in Eastern Europe, relationships between nation and state, etc. (see ENRI-East Bulletin Issue #1 and forthcoming project report “Theoretical and methodological backgrounds for studies of Europe, national and regional identities”, edited by Prof. Clare Wallace.) Further inputs have been secured through a thorough inventory of past international surveys dedicated to the relevant issues (research report NNN) as well as detailed review of national statistics with regard to ethnic composition of population up to the NUTS3/LAU2 levels in EU countries or up to province/district levels in CIS countries.

The survey tools were designed by a special task-force in the Spring-Summer 2009, piloted in September in Belarus and Hungary and finally approved in October 2010. Questionnaire and detailed sample frames have been localized and translated into 8 survey languages and the field work was carried out in November 2009 till May 2010.

Sampling methods
- RRS (Random route sampling), applied in the locations (districts or settlements) with density of a target ethnic group is 30% and higher
- RR-FE (RRS boosted with focused enumeration) applied in the locations with ethnic density 10% to 30%
- SB (Snowballing) applied in the locations with ethnic density below 10%

Main themes of the questionnaire:
- Screening section and socio-demographic questions
- Language issues: usage at home, education, media etc. (WVS)
- Ethnic identity and attachment (ISSP)
- Diaspora issues and density of ethnic contacts
- National and ethnic pride (ISSP, EVS, WVS, CCEB, NDB)
- Issues of trust (EVS, CDEB, NDB, WVS)
- Xenophobia scales (Bogardus) (ISSP)
- Issues of discrimination and perception of conflicts
- Music and identity, culture and identity
- Issues of EU, CIS and other supra-regions (CCEB, ISSP)
- Organization and political behavior (WVS, NEB)
- Issues of religion (ESS)
- Household and familial ethnic decent grids
- Prosperity and well-being grids
The ENRI-VIS aims to be representative for all persons belonging to ethnic groups aged 18 and over and resident in private households in the country for at least one year at the time of interviewing, regard less of their citizenship status and/or languages spoken at home. Our respondents are only those persons who see themselves as belonging of the minority ethnic groups, thus we have used a subjective approach while identifying suitable interviewees.

Due to varying regional population patterns, we have deployed a complex sampling system allowing the highest possible coverage of the target population in terms of survey locations. While doing this, we have counted on the experiences of other well-documented studies, such as EU-MIDIS survey and have re-utilized some their technologies. Provinces and districts involved in the ENRI-VIS sampling cover 70% to 90% of particular ethnic groups. Depending on absolute and relative size of a minority group, two sampling targets have been defined: 800 or 400 respondents per ethnic group. (see ENRI-East Bulletin Issue #1 for further sampling details). The survey was done in 653 locations using the Random Route Sampling (RRS) procedures: a classic RRS and RRS boosted with focused enumeration (RRFE). Adding the snowball chains – the third sampling method used in the survey, we have reached a reasonable dispersion of 978 PSU that allows us reliable generalizations about the surveyed populations.

Very strict procedures of quality control have been applied in the course of the survey: first, an internal quality control by national survey agencies (at least 10% of all respondents were contacted a second time as a matter of assurance of the fact of te interview, its length and other related circumstance); secondly, we have undertaken an external per-to-peer control by mutual visits of project partners (detailed checks of survey documentation, such as route sheets, protocols of internal control, etc.); thirdly, there was a technical and logical control at the stage data unification and merging in the course of the production of a unified cross-country data set.

By now, all collected data have been controlled and approved and harmonized into an internal data base. The conducted quantitative survey now provides empirical data for all topics studied in the project.

First presentations of ENRI-VIS data in mass media

Some project partners already made public presentations of preliminary outcomes of ENRI-VIS (ENRI Values and Identity Survey). The regional Vice-Director for CIS countries, and leader of the team from the Belarusian State University Prof. David Rotman gave a short press-conference outlining some results of the survey of Polish minority in Belarus. Some Belarussian papers published these preliminary data (“Narodnaya Gazeta” on 24 February and “Glos” on 26 February), which, subsequently have been re-posted on the web-site of the Belarusian Embassy in Poland. The survey has shown very low rates of the feelings of discrimination among the Polish minority in Belarus (98% of respondents have never experienced any discrimination during the last 12 months); quite high rates of national pride (77% of respondents sad being very or rather proud of being Polish); have very close feeling to the country Belarus (63% of respondent); very low rate of tension between Polish minority and Belarusian majority in Belarus (or between any religious groups in the country (respectively, 80% and 72% of respondents have noticed no such tension).

February 2010 was a month, when mass-media was overloaded with stories reporting about a conflict around a NGO called the “Union of Poles in Belarus” and their building: there were sharp speeches of its leaders, charged meetings, and, of course a series of related statements from official bodies in Poland and Belarus. This local conflict has disappeared from the media space during the following weeks and was replaced by a wave of much more constructive and peaceful discourse. Nevertheless, there is no wonder that the outcomes of the ENRI study have been used by one of the parties in the international debate.

Once these data have been made public, the Project Coordinator was contacted by a representative of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities Dr. Kimens Buescher, who asked about the reliability of ENRI-VIS data and further circumstances of the study. This dialogue has resulted in a personal meeting of the Project Coordinator Dr. Alexander Chvorostov with Dr. Kimens Buescher and an agreement to continue mutual consultations and keep the OSCE experts informed about the further project results.
Qualitative studies of the ENRI-East project: an overview

The project embraces a set of qualitative studies. These surveys purpose to collect “soft data” that will show the different political, social, economic and cultural contexts of life which different ethnic minorities in Eastern Europe have to deal with. Moreover, the surveys aim to provide new insights on socialization in educational, professional and cultural terms as well as on historical and social memories of the investigated minorities.

Project's qualitative studies include a set of inter-related empirical efforts, each of which constitutes a particular sub-study.

Content analysis of web-blogs and online periodicals

Internet communications by members of ethnic minorities or by minority organizations (online-periodicals, blogs, organizations websites, etc.) represent the opinions of the active and organized elites such as journalists, writers, scientists, and politically involved citizens. In the framework of ENRI-East, the content analysis of internet resources complements the surveys, in that it enables a comparison between the investigated minorities. It complements the qualitative studies, because it draws on contextual knowledge. On top of that, it is a non-reactive method and has a high degree of traceability.

Resources are identified by using smart keyword combinations for search. For example, the combination “Russian”+”identity” yields 150,000 hits using various search engines. Apart from the search engines like www.google.com, the web-sites of the organizations like http://kamunikat.org are used which contain a stock of relevant resources addresses online. The available internet resources like online-periodicals etc. are screened and narrowed down according to the criteria of relevance for the main research topic, namely identity. The target sample is 30 documents per source to allow for variance and validity.

Preliminary results show significant diversity between minorities and sources, starting from the purely numerical observation that the Slovak and Ukrainian minorities in Hungary have a very limited internet presence in stark contrast to e.g. Russians in the Baltic, Poles in Belarus or Hungarians in Slovakia. The number of resources, thematic diversity, and not least the ideological pluralism and critical stance displayed suggest a high level of social activity of ethnic minorities.

When it comes to substance, references to “cultural encounter” (implying attempts to arrive at a peaceful co-existence with the host nation, tolerance and mutual understanding with other ethnicities) are most frequent with Belarusians in Poland, Poles and Hungarians in the Ukraine, least frequent with Russians in the Baltic. “Europe” is a popular reference object by Poles and Hungarians, to a much lesser degree by the Russians. “History”, understood as an often dramatic road of the formation of nation and the national state, is the most important aspect of national identity for Ukrainians in Poland and Hungary as well as for Hungarian ethnic Slovaks.

Biographic Interviews

These interviews are designed to complement data collected through document analysis, ENRI-VIS survey and other qualitative studies in the project. Furthermore, the outcomes will provide a better understanding of the “meaning system” in the making of individual identities. They also aim at understanding the mechanisms of ethnic self-identification of the representatives of the ethnic minorities in the selected ENRI-East countries and how geopolitical changes in CEE Countries are reflected in this process.

Main themes of ENRI-East biographic interviews:
1. Respondents’ life story, time-line of main events
2. Ethnic origins
3. Faith, beliefs, religion
4. Attitudes toward the place where they live
5. Attitudes towards education and employment
6. Experience of ethnic tensions:
7. Relationship with the “sending” country
8. European identity:
9. Civil society participation and citizens rights:
10. Lifestyle
11. Travel
**Cultural Identities and Music**

Dr. Lyudmila Nurse  
Oxford XXI

This empirical study is undertaken in Hungary and Lithuania and includes a combination of two main tools: a series of “Three-generation interviews” (school children interviewing their parents and grand-parents) and a series of follow-up events in a form of “Musical focus groups” with selected families who took part in the first stage (3G interviews).

**Hungarian Study**

During October and November 2009, the Cultural Identities and Music survey was conducted in Tótkomlós a small town about 200km from Budapest in South-East Hungary, with 6500 inhabitants. The town was founded in 1746 by 80 Slovakian families, who came to this uninhabited part of Hungary with the permission of the Habsburg Emperor, Maria Therese. In 1946, 3000 Slovaks from Tótkomlós were forcibly removed to Slovakia and 1500 Hungarians were forcibly moved from South Slovakia to Tótkomlós in their place. Most of the population now has a double identity, and Hungarian seems to be the first identity for the majority of Slovakians in Tótkomlós.

Data was collected from 210 respondents in total, with 70 school children completing on-line interviews and 70 parents and 70 grandparents completing semi-structured questionnaires.

34 people participated in 4 focus groups, with 2 groups consisting of school children and 2 groups consisting of 3-generational families.

**Preliminary Findings**

The study found that 13% of the interviewed identified their nationality as Slovakians and 87% as Hungarians. First musical memories of the Hungarians and the ethnic Slovakians were similar - mostly children’s songs and mostly Hungarian. But the place where these songs were first heard differed significantly with Slovaks referring to public places and Hungarians referring instead to their families and home-private places. The variety of sources for the first musical memory was also greater overall in the ethnic Slovakian population, including more media sources such as cinema and TV. This contrasts with the Hungarian community where live performances were far more common.

Over half of Hungarians that participated in the study named the Hungarian folk songs and Hungarian national anthem among their favourite music.

For Hungarians the favourite music to take to a desert island was the Hungarian national anthem, while the Slovaks referred to Hungarian rock/pop music in this case. But when asked why, the Hungarians tend to refer to the tune, rather than its patriotic nature.

So called foreign (not of Hungarian or Slovakian origin) classical and popular music appear to be more of a favourite among Hungarians than Slovakians.

**Lithuanian Study**

Vilnius is the Lithuanian capital with a population of over half a million inhabitants (548 835), making up about 16% of the Lithuanian population. The biggest ethnic minority in Vilnius is Polish, the second is Russian.

The survey was conducted in six schools: 2 Lithuanian schools, 3 Russian schools and 1 Polish school.

Data was collected from 433 respondents. 205 school children completed online interviews and 131 parents and 97 grandparents completed semi-structured questionnaires.

34 people participated in 6 focus groups. 3 groups consisted of school children, with 1 group being Lithuanian, 1 Polish and 1 Russian. The other 3 groups consisted of 3-generational families, again with 1 being Lithuanian, 1 Polish and 1 Russian.

**Presentation of Results**

“Reconstruction of Families’ Cultural Identities Through Musical Memories” was presented to the International Sociology Association at the XVII World Congress of Sociology – ‘Sociology on the move’.
DAAD Conference “Reaching beyond Europe” EU programmes for Higher Education and Research (22 - 23 April 2010 in Brussels, Belgium):

At this conference the ENRI-East consortium was presented by Alexander Chvorostov to an international audience of academic networking organizations involved in cooperative research of EU and neighbouring countries. This was also a place of a consultative meeting of ENRI experts from the UK and the Netherlands and the OSCE expert Dr. Klemes Buescher.

XVII ISA (International Sociological Association) World Congress of Sociology “Sociology on the Move” (11 - 17 July 2010 in Gothenburg, Sweden):

Seven ENRI experts took part in this Congress. ENRI-East was represented in several thematic sessions by Alexander Chvorostov, Natalia Waechter, Lyudmila Nurse, Claire Wallace, Arvydas Matulionis, Elisabeth Schimpfoessl and Victor Cebotari. At the conference Natalia Waechter got elected vice-president of the RC-34 (Sociology of Youth) of the International Sociological Association.

ICCEES (International Council for Central and East European Studies) VIII World Congress “Prospects for Wider Cooperation in Eurasia” (20 - 31 July 2010 in Stockholm, Sweden):

The ENRI-East project has held two thematic panels on Identities in Central and Eastern Europe during this congress. The team also co-organised panel sessions on Post-Cold War Memories in cooperation with the Ludwig Boltzmann Institut as well a special session on Central Asia studies (in cooperation with the HITT-CIS consortium) and conflict resolution in Trans-Dniester region.

9 papers have been submitted and published by ENRI experts, 4 papers resulting fully or partially from the ENRI-East studies have been presented at two thematic sessions chaired by Alexander Chvorostov (Project Coordinator) and Hans-Georg Heinrich (Principal Investigator).

ENRI-East project was represented by Alexander Chvorostov, Hans-Georg Heinrich, Victor Cebotari, Natalia Waechter and Elisabeth Schimpfoessl.

Presentations and papers can be downloaded at the project website www.enri-east.net.

Hans-Georg Heinrich

Project presentations

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