

# ENRI-East Bulletin

European, National and Regional Identities

*News and findings of the ENRI-East project & consortium*  
Issue #1 - Fall 2009

## Introducing the ENRI-East research project



Dr. Alexander Chvorostov  
ENRI-East Project Coordinator

### *Dear reader,*

This is a first issue in a series of project's brief news that will be published several times during the lifetime of the ENRI-East project.

We start with a short presentation of the project which is an international comparative study aimed at the detailed investigation of the interplay of European, regional and national identities.

Next, we shall introduce the ENRI-East research consortium that comprises 11 partnering teams from 7 EU and 3 CIS countries (Austria, United Kingdom, Germany, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Lithuania, Ukraine, Belarus and Russia).

And finally, you will learn about the first project's findings and forthcoming project activities. One of the core components of the project is the large-scale cross-country sociological survey that will be implemented in 8 countries in Eastern Europe in the Fall 2009.

We hope that the bits of information compiled for this Bulletin will be useful for you and you will get a good overview of the project. Please feel free to contact the project coordinator and project partners to learn more about the project and the ENRI research network and, perhaps, establish cooperative relationships with us.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Alexander Chvorostov,  
ENRI-East Project Coordinator  
[alex.chv@ihs.ac.at](mailto:alex.chv@ihs.ac.at)

*Interplay of European, National and Regional Identities: Nations between States along the New Eastern Borders of the European Union*

*A cross-national study of trans-boundary social and ethnic groups in Europe*

An FP7-SSH collaborative research project (2008–2011)

## Research consortium

ENRI-East is an international research effort undertaken by a network of scholars embracing more than 50 social scientists and experts from 11 partnering teams from seven EU and three CIS countries.

We work closely together to acquire new knowledge and achieve a deeper understanding of the interplay of European, national and regional identities evolving along the new eastern borders of the European Union.



ENRI East kick-off conference, 26. September 2008, Vienna

## Read further in this issue of ENRI-East Bulletin

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# *Introducing the ENRI-East project*

## About the project

ENRI-East is an international research project dedicated to the studies of socio-ethnic identities in east European countries. This is a study with equally strong theoretical, methodological and empirical components and deploying methods and approaches of a variety of social sciences. By and large, this is a pilot scientific effort: no study like that has been ever done before in terms of its geographical coverage, thematic scope as well as variety of research tools and methods.

## In a nutshell:

- ▶ The **Main goal** of the ENRI-East project is to develop an in-depth understanding of the ways in which the modern European identities and regional cultures are formed and how these are inter-communicated in the Eastern part of the European continent.
- ▶ The **Main objects** of the study are approximately ten ethnic groups representing "split nations" along the new Eastern borders of the enlarged European Union.
- ▶ The **Main method** of the study is the triangulation of theories of identities and empirical "facts of life" through the analytical efforts of ENRI-East experts. Their task would then be the verification and adjustment of existing theories of identity formation based on the outcomes of a series of specially designed quantitative and qualitative sociological surveys and systematic observations.
- ▶ The project is an **inter-disciplinary effort** (sociology, political science, history, ethnography) and its methodological thrust comprises theoretical, empirical and comparative aspects.

## We want:

- ▶ to explore the ways in which identities are building up and negotiated through individual and group narratives and practices within an increasingly complex set of institutional arrangements.
- ▶ to explore the interrelation between individual and group identities and institutional frameworks.

## Project Facts

**Project duration** from 1 April 2008 to 30 September 2011

The project is **primarily funded** by the European Commission through an FP7-SSH Grant #217227.

Project is **also supported** by

- Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research (BMWF)
- Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)

## When it comes to theory-building, the projects aims are:

- ▶ To make inroads in conceptualizing different identity regimes.
- ▶ To re-examine the ways in which the dominant form in which identity and sovereignty blend continues to be significant.
- ▶ To understand the diverse set of nested and interlocking institutional, historical and cultural frameworks within which different European identities are constantly negotiated and reshaped.

**The ENRI-East research project is structured along four cross-cutting research themes that shall be explored as important theoretical issues.**

- ▶ The **first research theme** is the Interplay of identities and cultures: comparing "mother nations" and their "residual groups abroad".
- ▶ The **second cross-cutting theme** addresses Nations between the states: attitudes and policies of "mother nations" and "host nations" towards the "residual groups" and vice versa.
- ▶ The **third research theme** of the project is the Self-organisation and representation of "residual groups abroad" (ethnic minorities) along the East European borderland.
- ▶ And finally, the **fourth research theme** of the project deals with path dependencies, historical memories, present status and expected dynamics of divided nations in Eastern Europe.



**Prof. Hans-Georg Heinrich**  
(Principal Investigator)

"This project seeks not only to generate new knowledge and new data, but tries to find answers to concrete questions and problems that rank high on the political agenda of the EU."

The fracas around the Lisbon Treaty demonstrates that the idea of the Union does not "go over" and that there is a problem with the image it projects. We are, however, confident to be able to deliver and make a contribution in promoting the European idea."

# Introducing project partners



## Institute for Advanced Studies (Project Coordinator, Austria)

[www.ihs.ac.at](http://www.ihs.ac.at)

IHS-Vienna is Austria's leading research and post-graduate education institute in social sciences. The IHS team coordinated many comparative projects funded by the European Commission, World Bank, OECD and other international organizations



## Principal Investigator Prof. Hans-Georg Heinrich - [hans-georg.heinrich@univie.ac.at](mailto:hans-georg.heinrich@univie.ac.at)

Prof. Heinrich is Professor Emeritus of political sciences (University of Vienna). He has extensive background in empirical research in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, and a track record as policy advisor for international organisations and NGOs (UN, OSCE, GTZ)

## Team Leader and Project Coordinator Dr. Alexander Chvorostov - [alex.chv@ihs.ac.at](mailto:alex.chv@ihs.ac.at)

Dr. Alexander Chvorostov is Senior Research Fellow at the IHS-Vienna an director of the IHS' Center for Strategic Development. He is experienced sociologist with extensive international teaching, research and consulting experience since early 1990s



## TARKI Research Institute Inc. (Hungary)

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Prof. Endre Sik is a project manager at TÁRKI and a professor at ELTE (Eötvös Loránd University Budapest).



## Moscow State University (Russia)

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Team Leader Prof. Sergei Tumanov

Prof. Sergei Tumanov, Director of the Center for Sociological Studies at the Moscow State University.



## University of Aberdeen (UK)

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Team Leader Prof. Claire Wallace

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Prof. Wallace is chair at the Sociology Department at the University of Aberdeen, UK. She has taught qualitative research methods in several Universities in the UK as well as in Prague and Warsaw.



## Belarusian State University (Belarus)

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Team Leader Prof. David Rotman

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Prof. David Rotman is director of the Center for Sociological and Political Research and one of the leading specialists at the NIS territory in techniques of organisation and conduct of sociological research.



## Osteuropa Institut Regensburg (Germany)

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Dr. Barbara Dietz is the head of the study group on migration and integration at the Osteuropa-Institut Regensburg.



## East-Ukrainian Foundation for Social Research (Ukraine)

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Prof. Vil Bakirov is President of the East-Ukrainian Foundation for Social Research and Rector of Kharkiv V.N.Karazin National University.



## Institute of Social Research (Lithuania)

Team Leader Prof. Arvydas Matulionis

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Prof. Arvydas Matulionis is a leading sociologist in Lithuania, Elected member expert of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences (1991) and director of the ISR since 2002.



## University of St. Cyril and Methodius (Slovakia) [www.ukim.edu.mk](http://www.ukim.edu.mk)

Team Leader Prof. Ladislav Macháček

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Prof. Machacek is a director of Centre for European and Regional Youth Studies at the Philosophical Faculty (CERYS) at the UCM in Trnava.



## Maria Curie-Skłodowska University Lublin (Poland) [www.umcs.lublin.pl](http://www.umcs.lublin.pl)

Team Leader Prof. Konrad Zieliński

[zielinski\\_2001@yahoo.com](mailto:zielinski_2001@yahoo.com)

Dr hab. Konrad Zieliński is a Professor at the Maria Curie Skłodowska University where he teaches modern Jewish history and culture.



## Oxford XXI (UK)

[www.oxford-xxi.org](http://www.oxford-xxi.org)

Team Leader Dr. Lyudmila Nurse

[lyudmilanurse@oxford-xxi.org](mailto:lyudmilanurse@oxford-xxi.org)

Dr. Lyudmila Nurse is a co-founder of Oxford XXI and a professional sociologist with more than 20 years of experience in sociological research.



## Dr. Barbara Dietz

Osteuropa Institut Regensburg, Germany

"When I got the chance to participate in the ENRI-East project I was fascinated by the idea to study the process of ethnic identity building in the Eastern European borderland. As ENRI-East particularly fo-

focuses on ethnic minorities on both sides of the borders of the enlarged European Union this project is a unique scientific endeavour. It provides an opportunity to compare identity building processes in different social, political and economic settings.



Research report edited by  
**Prof. Claire Wallace,**  
Team Leader  
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UNIVERSITY  
OF ABERDEEN

Project report „*Theoretical and methodological backgrounds for the studies of European, national and regional identities*“ will be published in full in Spring 2010 in a series of project work papers and reports.

Check our website and contact the coordinator for further details.

## Ethnic and National Identity Making among Ethnic Minorities in Eastern Europe



Excerpt from a chapter written by

Dr. Florian Pichler.

University of Aberdeen

(since 2009 – University of Surrey)

Tensions between nation-states are surfacing rapidly especially when national and ethnic minority are involved on both sides of the borders. The most recent heated debates between Hungary and Slovakian governments in the summer of 2009 are a good example of persisting disputes over national issues in Europe. Triggered off by what looks like a quarrel over the erection of a statue of King Stephan of Hungary on Slovak territory, the Hungarian head of state was not permitted to enter the neighbouring country resulting in a severe crisis between the two states.

Exclusive nationalistic tendencies on both sides—notably in many more countries, within the European Union and beyond—can hardly be denied. This also illustrates that national divides are still among the most strongly felt across the world (Epstein 2007). This is what makes the study of national identity—understood in broad terms and from many different perspectives—so important and timely, and even more so in states with multiple ethnic and national groups. It helps understand the contexts of such controversies, strategies of political and other actors, and the consequences for both politic and social climates in affected societies. This is particularly important in the Eastern European context since it has been noted that there ‘the inability to accommodate minority nationalism is a threat, not just to existing boundaries, but to democracy itself’ (Kymlicka 2001, p. 271).

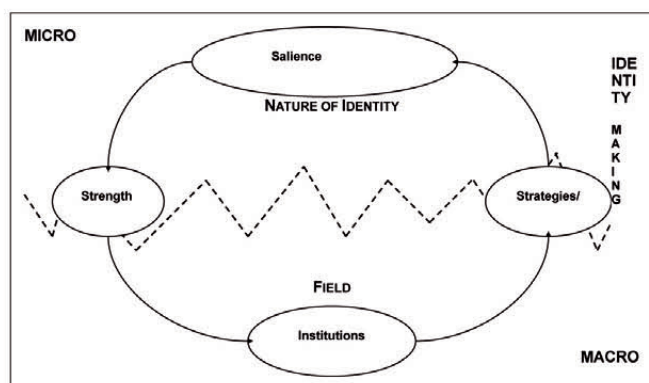
Instead of looking at the ethnic majority population, the FP7 project ENRI-East examines ethnic minority in Eastern European countries to gain further insights into the problematic nature of regional, national and also European identity. By

drawing on an extensive conceptual framework, and a wealth of literature on both ethnicity/nationalism in general (e.g. Anderson 1983; Smith 1986; Kaufmann 2008) and Eastern European nationalism in particular (e.g. Gellner, 1991; Brubaker 1996) ENRI-East aims at a better understanding of identity making and remaking in Eastern European contexts which seems so crucial to get to grips with contemporary conflicts as the one described above.

To assess national and other identities among Eastern European ethnic minorities we draw on the theory of symbolic and social boundary making processes between ethnic groups (e.g. Pachucki, Pendergrass and Lamont 2007). In particular, ENRI-East is using Wimmer’s (2008) multilevel process theory of ethnic boundary making which postulates a continuous shaping of contested boundaries between ethnic groups. In ENRI-East, this is adapted more closely to the particularities of identities of ethnic/national minorities; what we call it identity making. This provides a lens through which it will be studied how identities are made and remade, incorporating different levels of analyses (micro/macro social structures), actors and processes. It will facilitate the examination of identities, its sources, meanings and consequences from different angles and applies a broad set of empirical methods.

Identity making theory dissects various elements closely aligned with Wimmer’s (2008) theoretical explorations. Broadly speaking, it incorporates structures and actors, actions and contexts, and the nature and stability (or strength) of identities in a circular relationship of mutual dependence and influence, where one stage feeds into the other. An illustration of the theoretical links between the elements of identity making is provided in the figure.

Starting in the ‘field’, the specific institutional order and structures in a given context benefit or constrain particular



Explaining Identity Making among Ethnic Minorities in Eastern Europe. Adapted from Wimmer (2008)

actors in the struggle over power and their vision of 'identity'. Such actors could be political parties, governments, cultural or social organizations or the media which have all an interest in promoting their own understanding of regional, national and European identities. Yet, these actors are moving in a particular environment—institutional orders, law, historical legacies—and these broader macro-social conditions shape the 'strategies' about how actors can fare in the making of identity. In other words, the theory postulates that identity making strategies are partly dependent on a broader context. The 'how' identities are made is thus partially determined by contextual factors and relationships between institutions and actors, their resources, abilities and so on. Strategies concern mechanisms and choices of promoting specific types of identities—for instance, more exclusive or more inclusive ones—mark a struggle and make it necessary to negotiate and find a consensus over identity, and, subsequently, what

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the 'nature' of these identities will be like.

What the nature of identities—as a consequence of a consensus between various interpretations—is like can be assessed according to their everyday importance and salience—does national identity matter in daily activities?—, their inclusivity or exclusivity and the meaning of similarity and difference in a variety of contexts, e.g. culture or social. How identities manifest themselves and how individuals subscribe to one or the other notion of identity—be that regional, national, ethnic or European identity—has further consequences for the 'strength and stability' of these identities. Here, one could argue that nationalistic interpretations of national identity would maybe lead toward stronger forms of national identity since these demand stronger commitment due to their more extreme nature. Finally, the stability and strength of identities impact on and feed back to the field since they also constitute certain limitations and opportunities. This then closes the circular process highlighting the continuous making, remaking and unmaking of identities.

Undoubtedly, this theoretical wealth offers numerous ways to study more detailed aspects of ethnic minority identity in Eastern European countries. ENRI-East can thus venture in many directions, including institutional analyses of the field of identity making or discourse analyses of strategies. Large-scale comparative social surveys will focus on the nature and stability of various territorial identities, their sources and consequences. Other research—primarily employing qualitative empirical methods—will be able to dig deeper and elaborate on the formation and understanding of what it means to be a member of a particular ethnic minority, nationality, regional community or even a European.

## Further chapters in the report are from



**Dr. Ivaylo Vassiliev**

University of Aberdeen, 2008

### **Nations, States and Nation-States in the Eastern Border of the European Union.**

- Migration and shifting state borders
- Western Europe and Eastern Europe nation-states
- De-coupling nation and state



**Dr. Timofei Agarin**

University of Aberdeen, 2008

### **Outside of both, the state and the nation. Conceptualising the role of minority across the Centre Eastern Europe.**

- Re-conceptualising the minority-state relations
- Re-framing the relations between identities)

## A cross-country „Values & Identities Survey“ (ENRI-VIS)

The project has a very strong empirical component in addition to the theoretical efforts and historical or statistics desktop studies. Namely, we undertake a series of comparative sociological surveys, of both quantitative and qualitative character. The first survey in the series is the ENRI-VIS survey approaching 12 ethnic minority groups in 8 countries (6.800 respondents)

We shall conduct formalized interviews, selecting respondents in the provinces or districts, where these ethnic groups have a density of at least 10% (systematic random route sampling). In the four cases of highly dispersed ethnic minorities we employ a snowball sampling method (in at least two provinces per country, using at least three different entry points in each province).

**Russia**  
(Kaliningrad region)



**Lithuanians**  
(in Kaliningrad oblast)  
18 thousands  
1.9% of total population  
highly dispersed  
*Snowball survey*  
(N=400)

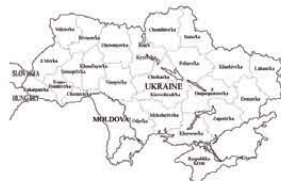
**Poland**



**Ukrainians**  
31 thousands,  
0.1% of total population  
highly dispersed,  
*Snowball survey*  
(N=400)

**Belarusians**  
49 thousands  
0.1% of total population  
mainly in 2 provinces  
*Random route survey*  
(N=400)

**Ukraine**



**Hungarians**  
157 thousands  
0.3% of total population  
mainly in 5 districts  
*Random route survey*  
(N=400)

**Poles**  
144 thousands  
0.3% of total population  
highly dispersed  
*Snowball survey*  
(N=400)

**Lithuania**



**Poles**  
235 thousands  
6.7% of total population  
mainly in 6 provinces  
*Random route survey*  
(N=800)

**Russians**  
220 thousands  
6.3% of total population  
mainly in 4 provinces  
*Random route survey*  
(N=800)

**Belarusians**  
43 thousands  
1.2% of total population  
highly dispersed  
*Snowball survey*  
(N=400)

**Latvia**



**Russians**  
703 thousands  
29.6% of total population  
mainly in 2 districts  
*Random route survey*  
(N=800)

**Belarus**



**Poles**  
397 thousands  
3.9% of total population  
mainly in 18 districts  
*Random route survey*  
(N=800)

**Hungary**



**Slovaks**  
18 thousands  
0.4% of total population  
mainly in 16 districts  
*Random route survey*  
(N=400)

**Slovakia**



**Hungarians**  
214 thousands  
9.5% of total population  
mainly in 15 districts  
*Random route survey*  
(N=800)



**Prof. Vil Bakirov**

East-Ukrainian Foundation for Social Research, Ukraine

"For our team it was of great interest to understand the ways in which the modern European identities and regional cultures are formed, to explore the interrelation between individual identities, group identities and institutional frameworks.

Our motivation for choosing this project is that the topic is very close to our personal interest as sociologists and researchers. The problems of personal identity and its influence on a society are also topical nowadays all over the world. As researchers we're deeply interested in discussing of the most current European challenges and experiences, resulting from "being European" which are quiet necessary ones for European development."

## „Cultural Identities and Music“ – a special component of the study



Team Leader  
Dr. Lyudmila Nurse (left)  
[lyudmilanurse@oxford-xxi.org](mailto:lyudmilanurse@oxford-xxi.org)  
Dr. Chika Robertson (right)  
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Cultural Identities and Music is a multi-disciplinary inter-generational (3G) pilot study designed to link musical preferences and lifestyles with ethnic and national identities by appealing to emotional memories. The pilot study in the ENRI-East project is designed to link information from three data sets:

- ▶ The quantitative survey ENRI-VIS (see page 6)
- ▶ Qualitative interviews with at least three generations of members of families from ethnic groups in Hungary (Hungarian and Slovakian) and in Lithuania (Lithuanian and Russian).
- ▶ Focus groups with some of the families in Hungary and Lithuania

### New 'Cultural Identities and Music' panel highlights video

Oxford XXI has produced a video of highlights from the multi-disciplinary debate exploring the link between music and cultural identities in the era of Globalisation. The panel, organised by Oxford XXI and Music Mind Spirit Trust as part of the Oxford Brookes 'Cultures and/of Globalisation' conference, explored the artistic means - in this case music preferences, singing and dance - through which people express their cultural affiliations. The dimension of the relationship between music preferences and generations ('3 Generations') was also addressed.



Chair of the panel Karl-Erik Norrman, Ambassador, Secretary General of the European Cultural Parliament (centre-right)

### Project activities - past

- April 2008:** Certificate of "Austrian Champions in European Research" awarded by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)
- June 2008:** Project presentation and co-organization of a conference "Regional development in challenges of EU border regions" (Estonia, Tartu)
- May 2009:** Presentation at a conference "The East-Central Europe in the process of transformation and integration" (Poland, Zamose)

### The 'Mapping the Musical Brain' Series comes to Oxford University and the Wellcome Collection, London

Furthering their research into 'Cultural Identity and Music', Dr. Nurse and Dr. Robertson are now joining leading musicians, psychologists, psychiatrists and neuroscientists in special public events at the Wellcome Collection in London and at Oxford University. The series 'Mapping the Musical Brain' enquires into the uniquely precocious formation of musical response, relationship and emotional memory, and investigates the lifelong influences that early experience of music has upon our later health, wellbeing



Dr. Chika Robertson (centre) and Prof. Paul Robertson (far right) at Exeter College, University of Oxford

and identity. Inter-generational musical sessions are being facilitated by internationally renowned composer and conductor Jonathan Willcocks and Chika Robertson, using the Music Mind Spirit Trust's innovative and engaging SongTrees methodology, to bring children and families together to rediscover, learn and then perform music drawn from family members' earliest musical memories. Oxford XXI and Music Mind Spirit Trust specialists are analysing collected data. The events are funded by the Wellcome Trust and are curated by Professor Paul Robertson, Director of the Music Mind Spirit Trust and Advisor to Oxford XXI on the 'Cultural Identity and Music' study.

### 'Music and Migration' conference and 'Sound Bites' concerts

Drs. Lyudmila Nurse and Chika Robertson will also be highlighting the work of the ENRI-East Project as they present their collaborative work at the University of Southampton's 'Music and Migration' conference and for SongTrees' 'Sound Bites' concerts and workshops in the UK throughout the Autumn.



An online interview session for the Sound Bites project, in which some of the questions were piloted

For further information, please see  
[www.musicmindspirit.org](http://www.musicmindspirit.org),  
[www.oxford-xxi.org](http://www.oxford-xxi.org)  
[www.wellcomecollection.org](http://www.wellcomecollection.org).

### Project activities - upcoming

- October 2009:** Training for ENRI-East survey teams (Ukraine, Kiev)
- November-December 2009:** Implementation of ENRI-VIS survey
- Winter 2009/2010:** Special surveys on Cultural Identities and Music (Hungary, Lithuania)
- Series of project presentations in July 2010 are planned at**
- VII World Congress of Sociology (Sweden, Gothenburg)
  - VIII World Congress of ICCEES (Sweden, Stockholm)

## Project results

First project results will be published starting from spring 2010 in a series of project research reports.

**Volume One** will be dedicated to *"Theoretical and methodological backgrounds for the studies of Identities"*

**Volume Two** containing a review of "Values and Identities Survey" (ENRI-VIS)

## Visitors' statistics ([www.enri-east.net](http://www.enri-east.net))

- over 15,000 page views April 2008 - September 2009
- visits came from 108 countries/territories
- on average 9.87 visits per day

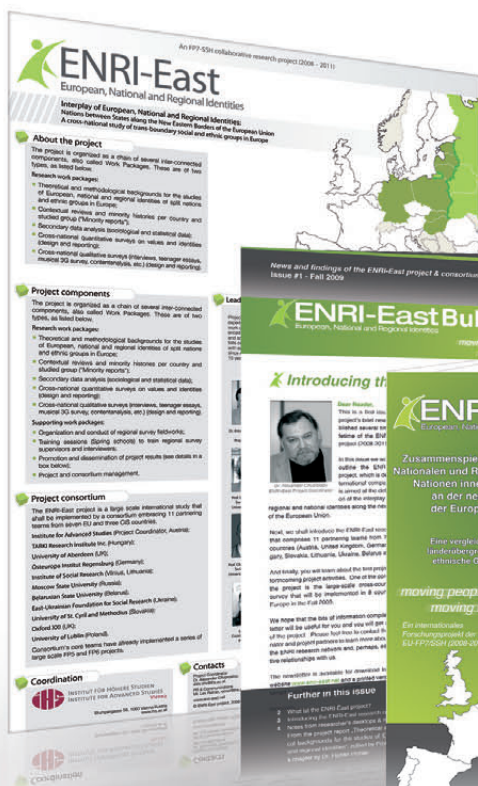
### Traffic sources:

- search engines (61.78%)
- direct traffic (22.48%)
- referring sites (15.74%)

# Project outlook & dissemination efforts

## Project Poster:

Designed mainly for our public appearances on conferences or project workshops the poster aims to quickly attract people's attention and interest in the ENRI-East project.



## Project Website:

The ENRI-East website is the project's main communication platform and primary dissemination tool. Visitors can choose between English, German and Russian versions. The website has a members section where partners can interact with each other in a forum, submit member news, upload documents and browse an archive of all internally submitted documents.



## Project Bulletin:

The „ENRI-East Bulletin“ is the projects newsletter distributed electronically (subscription form on project website) and in a printed version. Among many topics the Bulletin introduces the theoretical and methodological background, the project consortium and the upcoming survey in autumn 2009. Furthermore the Bulletin should be used as a supportive tool during the fieldwork.

## Project Leaflet:

Published in three languages (English, German and Russian) the leaflet represents the ENRI-East project for a multilingual audience. The leaflet explains what the project is about and who is involved in a short and easy to understand way.

## Funding



The project is primarily funded by the European Commission through an FP7-SSH Grant #217227.

Project is also supported by



Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research  
Austrian Research Promotion Agency

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### PR & Communications:

Lev Ratner ([ratner@ihs.ac.at](mailto:ratner@ihs.ac.at))

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