The European Data Laboratory for Comparative Social Research – EUROLAB

2014 Annual Report

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1 Introduction

This report presents a detailed overview of all activities during the year 2014 that were carried out at EUROLAB, department DAS, GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences. The EUROLAB was established in 1996 as an access facility to the resources available at the GESIS data archive (formerly ZA). It was supported by the European Commission within the 4th, 5th and 6th Framework Programs. The EUROLAB is recognized as an important international research infrastructure to support high level comparative research in the social sciences. Since 1996 about 360 researchers from over thirty countries all over the world have worked at the EUROLAB for more than 6000 days altogether. Visitors reported more than 110 books, articles and conference papers that have been published on the basis of research at the EUROLAB so far.

The EUROLAB offers visiting researchers on-site access to comparative social research data (including data with restricted access), access to scientific literature via the special GESIS library on empirical social research and through online access to academic journals. The EUROLAB provides access to a personal working place, to standard and highly advanced statistical analysis software and to some extent methodological and theoretical advice from internal and external experts. Furthermore, practical and logistic support as well as partly financial support is provided to EUROLAB visiting researchers. The EUROLAB announces two calls a year for about ten financially supported visits. Applications for visits without financial support, i.e. self-funded visits, are accepted anytime and the share of researchers coming on their own means has been growing continuously in the last years. In addition, EUROLAB organizes international symposia and conferences in cooperation with GESIS colleagues in order to encourage academic debate on major societal issues.

The following sections inform about projects of visiting researchers, present statistical background information about visiting researchers and also report on the scientific activities of EUROLAB team members: Section 2 provides a summary overview of the visiting researchers and some background information regarding, gender, age, nationality and academic position. This is followed by an overview of the projects carried out by visiting researchers, the related scientific publications and the presentations EUROLAB researchers held during their visit at GESIS. Section 4 contains the results of the user evaluation of services offered by the EUROLAB. Finally, a last section contains information about the activities of the EUROLAB staff and lists publications, presentations, functions, memberships and other achievements as well as academic teaching in 2014.
Picture 1.1: The EUROLAB staff: Martin Fritz, Ingvill C. Mochmann, Malina Voicu, Andrea Meckel
2 Overview of visiting researchers at EUROLAB

Overall, in 2014 the EUROLAB hosted 17 visiting researchers who worked altogether at 325 days on their individual projects (Figure 2.1). Out of these 17 researchers 9 were funded fully by EUROLAB (Figure 2.2) after positively being evaluated by the International Selection Panel. 6 research visits were fully self-funded, one visitor had a mixed funding, i.e. the first part of the stay was funded by EUROLAB and the second part was self-funded. Finally, one research visit was a scientist invited by DAS, GESIS, who was hosted by the EUROLAB on 10 access days.

EUROLAB grants are a great possibility to enhance international visibility of GESIS and to attract researchers from all over the world to make use of various GESIS services. Following each call we also receive an increasing number of researchers applying for a research visit with own funding. In 2014, a total of 67 applications were evaluated out of which 8 were for self-funded research visits. This shows the high demand among researchers in Europe and worldwide and indicates that there is a need for on-site access to social sciences data and support within an adequate research environment. Figure 2.1 shows where the researchers came from and the distributions of self-funded vs. granted research visits in 2014.

Figure 2.1: Duration of stay in access days by country of home institution and type of funding of visiting researchers in 2014 (n=325)
Looking at the country of the home institutions, the visiting researchers came from 11 different countries mainly in Europe, but also from the USA and for the first time from Malaysia. Three visitors came from institutions in Italy and Russia, respectively. Two researchers came from Germany and one, in each case, from Austria, Denmark, Malaysia, Portugal, Romania, Spain, the Ukraine and the USA. Italian researchers spent 55 access days at the EURO LAB in 2014, 15 of these days were self-funded. Thereafter, Spain follows with 45 fully self-funded access days and Germany with 40 access days, 15 of them granted by EURO LAB and 25 self-funded. More than one third of all the access days provided by EURO LAB were on own funding (125) and 190 access days were support by EURO LAB grants. The 7 researchers who worked at the EURO LAB with partial or complete self-funding came from different countries: Three came from Russia and one researcher respectively came from Germany, Italy, Romania and Spain.

**Figure 2.2:** Funding of visiting researchers in 2014 (n=17)
Figure 2.3 shows the research status of all 17 researchers who worked at the EUROLAB in 2014 and shows the actual diversity of academic positions held by the visitors: while one researcher was graduated and 6 were PhD Students, EUROLAB also hosted 6 Postdocs and 4 experienced Professors.

Figure 2.3: Research status of visiting researchers in 2014 (n=17)

In 2014, 11 women and 6 men were hosted at the EUROLAB. The age distribution in Figure 2.4 indicates that most visitors were between 25 and 34 years. This coincides with research status (Figure 2.3) as most visitors were PhD Students and postdoctoral researchers.

Figure 2.4: Age of visiting researchers in 2014 (n=17)
Two of the most important reasons for researchers to apply for a stay at EUROLAB are the possibilities to analyse most recent data sets with state of the art statistical software. What are the data sets researchers demanded the most and which programs did they use to analyse them? Similar to the previous year, the most frequently used data sets are international comparative data sets offered by the GESIS data archive: the European Values Study 2008, the International Social Survey Program (ISSP) and the World Values Survey. In 2014 researchers also often used data produced by large international survey projects where GESIS participates and provides important contributions to all parts of the research data cycle from questionnaire design to data archiving. Such studies are the European Social Survey, the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) and, on national level, the Panel of Intimate Relationships and Family Dynamics (PAIRFAM). In addition, EUROLAB visiting researchers bring their own data sets for analysis which they combine with the data available at GESIS. Despite the growing data resources available in the web and the possibilities to analyse them online, researchers profit from conducting their empirical projects in a research environment which includes expert advice, colleagues, technical equipment and the right statistical software: The most popular programs (i.e. nearly all researchers used them) are since years SPSS (incl. the structural equation modelling software AMOS) and STATA. HLM and MPlus, special software designed for multi-level regression analyses, are also used by many of the visiting researchers. In 2014 a growing interest emerged in the use of the open-source statistical software R. While mainly experts and programmers work with R formerly, it has become an attractive option for empirical social research in recent years.
3 Projects, Publications and Presentations of EUROLAB visiting researchers

3.1 Projects in 2014


03.01.2014 - 22.01.2014 Tatiana Karabchuk Job Stability and Fertility Under Different Institutional Background of the Countries

20.01.2014 - 20.02.2014 Gennadii Korzhov Territorial Identities and Post-Materialist Values

27.01.2014 - 07.02.2014 Paula Tufis The Role of Social Class in Shaping Child-Rearing Values. An Analysis of European Societies

10.02.2014 - 07.03.2014 Alexander Seymer A comparison of social milieus across European countries as approach to disentangle similarities and differences in political attitudes

24.02.2014 - 22.03.2014 Vera Lomazzi Women, politics and society. Female participation and solidarity between genders

01.03.2014 - 31.03.2014 Jan-Jan Soon Skilled migration: A regression discontinuity design approach

13.-18.4.2014 Tatiana Karabchuk, Natalia Soboleva, Anna and Ryabchikova Gender attitudes and fertility behavior in comparative perspective

2.-13.6.2014
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02.06.2014 - 04.07.2014</td>
<td>Karoline Harzenetter</td>
<td>Values trade-off and attitudes towards European Integration during the Financial Crisis in Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01.07.2014 - 24.07.2014</td>
<td>Yuying Shen</td>
<td>Life events, social support and trajectory of depression transition among the aged - A comparative study of the U.S., Germany and China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.08.2014 - 12.09.2014</td>
<td>Monica Mihaela Maer Matei</td>
<td>Cross country investigation of educational mismatches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01.11.2014 - 30.11.2014</td>
<td>Daniela Craveiro</td>
<td>Health inequality in later life in Europe: variability of actors and contexts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.2 Publications of former EUROLAB visiting researchers released in 2014


Kozlov, Vladimir (2014): The main determinants of the healthy life at the age of 60 and older. Report for the Laboratory of Comparative Social Research in Moscow, Russia.

Kozlov, Vladimir (2014): The main determinants of the healthy life at the age of 60 and older: healthy life style versus social and healthcare indicators. Report for the Laboratory of Comparative Social Research in Moscow, Russia.


3.3 Presentations of EUROLAB visiting researchers at GESIS in 2014

09.05.2014: Francesco Sarracino: "For a socially sustainable economic system."

01.09.2014: Monica Maer-Matei: "The impact of labour market mismatch on earnings"

01.09.2014: Norman Mukasa: "The effect of conflict and displacement on capabilities and empowerment"

22.09.2014: Peter Lüchau: "Is Christianity losing its social significance? Religiosity and values among the Europeans"


Daniela Craveiro, Portugal

Norman Mukasa, Spain

Monica Maer-Matei, Romania

Peter Lüchau, Denmark

This book is the final outcome of the 2012 EUROLAB authors’ conference which was held under the same title on 26th and 27th of January. In Political Science it is a well-known fact that people become increasingly disenchanted with the political institutions. Usually this is connected to the assumption that all kinds of political participation are affected and declining in the same way. This book contains a number of innovative comparative analyses in European as well as non-European states which show that such a universal connection does not exist. Considering the variety of reasons that lead people to (mis-)trust and to engage in conventional or unconventional political participation this assumption appears as rather unlikely.

The next author conference will take place on 7-8.5 2015 at the GESIS building in Cologne in cooperation with the University of Cologne (http://besatzungskinder.uni-koeln.de/15316.html). On the occasion of 70 years since end of WWII the topic is “Besatzungskinder und Wehrmachtskinder – Auf der Suche nach Identität und Resilienz” (Children born of World War II – In search for identity and resilience). The conference will be held exceptionally in German. The Children born of World War II, which are the children of local women and foreign soldiers either in Germany or in countries which have been occupied by the German army, have been widely ignored in the process of rehabilitation and remembrance after the War. During the conference the topic will be approached from different perspectives scientific paper presentations, an author reading, a panel discussion with Children born of World War II who will talk about their experiences.
4 Evaluation of the EUROLAB by visiting researchers 2011–2014

The following graphs and numbers come from an online questionnaire which visiting researchers are asked to fill in shortly after their stay at GESIS in Cologne. It covers, among others, the satisfaction with different services of the EUROLAB, what services researchers used during their visit, and how they got to know about the EUROLAB. So far, 41 researchers have completed the questionnaire.

Figure 4.1: Kind of Support used, multiple answers in per cent (n=41)

As Figure 4.1 demonstrates the main reason for coming to the EUROLAB still is the access to social science data sets. Also very important for researchers are meetings with GESIS staff to get expert advice on their topics as well as the access to latest and specialized statistical software. Nearly 70 per cent of the researchers stated that made use of the GESIS library and almost every fifth took the opportunity of working at the EUROLAB to conduct a joint research project, either together with other visiting researchers or with EUROLAB and GESIS staff. Five percent, i.e. two researchers used the opportunity to also attend a GESIS training seminar during the visit.
Figure 4.2: Satisfaction with the EUROLAB (Mean values from scales with 1=very poor to 5=very good, n=41)

Figure 4.2 shows the satisfaction of visiting researchers with different aspects of their stay at the EUROLAB. In general, all aspects were evaluated as very good which is reflected by the high overall appreciation of the research visit (4.8). Regarding single aspects, satisfaction with logistic and administrative support score the highest (4.8). This is followed by the satisfaction for scientific support and the intellectual environment as well as technical support (4.7). Overall, the satisfaction of the EUROLAB visiting researchers remains at a high level.
There are different sources from which visitors hear about the services of EUROLAB. The most frequently occurring sources are, as Figure 4.3 demonstrates, previous visitors who spread the knowledge and their experiences at EUROLAB in their home institutions and among their academic networks. This is followed by more formal dissemination activities like the information on the EUROLAB websites and periodically e-mails from EUROLAB. Contact between EUROLAB staff and researchers – usually in the context of conferences and workshops - also plays an important role. Few researchers learnt about EUROLAB and its offers from newsletters of professional organizations or from other mailing lists.
5 Staff Activities

Head of EUROLAB: Prof. Dr. Ingvill C. Mochmann

Publications


Presentations and conference organization


Teaching


Memberships and Functions (selection)

- Fellow Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI), Cambridge, USA, April 1st 2013-June 30th 2014, since September 2014 affiliated expert at HHI.
- Nominated member of AcademiaNet.
- Vice President for Research, Cologne Business School, August 1st 2013-July 31st 2016.
- Supervision of 7 B.A. theses and 1 M.A. thesis.
- Reviewer for ICREA Academia Call 2014, Spain.

Researcher: Dr. Malina Voicu

Publications

Presentations and conference organization

Teaching

Memberships and Functions
- Secretary of the Executive Committee of the European Values Study and of the Theory Group of the European Values Study since December 2013
- Vice-president of the Romanian Society of Sociologists
- Editor of Religion and Society in Central and Eastern Europe, journal published by International Study of Religion in Central and Eastern Europe Association (ISORECEA)
- Member of the board of the International Study of Religion in Central and Eastern Europe Association (ISORECEA)
- Member of Framework Program 7 Program Committee for Social Sciences and Humanities
- Member of the Executive Committee of the European Values Study and of the Theory Group of the European Values Study
- Supervision of MA theses – IMPALLA International Master Program – Leuven University
- Member Editorial Board of “Social Change Review”
- Member Editorial Board of “Journal of Comparative Research in Anthropology and Sociology”

Researcher, PhD Candidate: Martin Fritz, M.A.

Publications

Presentations and conference organization


Teaching


Memberships and Functions

• Member of the DGS Section Arbeits- und Industriesozioziologie (Sociology of Work and Employment)

Student assistant: Andrea Meckel

Andrea Meckel supports the EUROLAB team as student assistant with any upcoming work tasks such as literature and data search, creation of graphics and preparation of data and conference organisation. She studies social sciences at the University of Cologne. During the last year she assisted in a project about children born of war in Norway. Within another project she analyses attitudes towards immigrants. Since April 2014 she assisted also in a social psychological research project about contagion beliefs at the University of Cologne.

Other Projects of EUROLAB staff


• Member of the project: Norwegische Wehrmachtsskinder – Psychosoziale Konsequenzen, Identitätsentwicklung und Erfahrung mit Vorurteilen. Funded by the Günter-Jantschek-Forschungsstipendium 2014–2015.