



Project no.  
006164

Project acronym  
**CLIOHRES.net**

Project title:  
**“Creating Links and Innovative Overviews for a New History Research Agenda for the  
Citizens of a Growing Europe”**

Instrument: **Network of Excellence**

Thematic Priority: **“Citizenship and Governance in a Knowledge-Based Society”**  
[Priority 7 of FP6; particularly objective 7.1.3 (aspects of 7.1.1, 7.1.2)]

Title of report

**PERIODIC ACTIVITY REPORT:  
FOURTH YEAR ACTIVITIES  
CLIOHRES.net**

Period covered: **1 June 2008 to 31 May 2009**

Date of preparation: **June-August 2009**

Start date of project: **1 June 2005**

Duration: **60 months**

Project coordinator name: **Ann Katherine Isaacs**

Project coordinator organisation name: **University of Pisa**

**Version of 31 August 2009**

## CLIOHRES.net, Fourth Year Executive Summary (max-4 Pages)

### Objectives



The CLIOHRES.net Network of Excellence is specifically designed to address the novel historical challenges, needs and research opportunities emerging from today's context of a growing and expanding Europe. In the view of the partners, this is a vital area of endeavour, perhaps the most important and urgent task for building and strengthening the foundations of a peaceful, productive European community of citizens. Basic and unquestioned attitudes about ourselves and others are rooted in the ways that the scientific community in each country defines its research agenda. Historians create and cultivate selective views of the national or local past, which in turn underpin pervasive ideas about identities and stereotypes: national, religious, gender, political, etc. National historiographies today are

still largely shaped by problems and preoccupations reflecting previous political and cultural contexts. CLIOHRES.net aims to create and promote a new structure and agenda for the community of historical research, redirecting its critical efforts along more fruitful lines. The consortium is uniquely placed to accomplish this very ambitious goal. It has developed as a partnership over the past twenty years; it includes almost all member states, as well as neighbouring and third countries; it possesses an unrivalled knowledge of national and local differences in the use and abuse of history. The Network includes six thematic groups organised to conduct research in six interlocking areas, promoting cooperation and synergy between historians, geographers, philologists, art historians and other human scientists of different national background so as to redirect and redefine approaches. Its broad networking capacity allows it to disseminate its findings effectively. With its links with other important European projects and networks it can exert a powerful influence in shaping the future structure of historical research, both popular and academic.

### Structure



In order to reach its objectives, the CLIOHRES Network of Excellence had to be extensive, both in geographic and thematic scope, and thus truly to represent the diversity of European scholarship. Based on partnership that has developed through many years, CLIOHRES.net includes members from 45 partner universities in 31 countries. Each university is represented by two senior scholars and two doctoral students, which means that the network has in total 180 members.

The network is divided into six Thematic Workgroups in which staff and doctoral students organise their work and compare and confront their own views and methodologies with those of their colleagues. This provides in depth understanding and examples of research organised thematically.

The Thematic Workgroups are designed to allow all the members of the consortium to contribute using their personal research experience and knowledge to the general research project. Each Thematic Workgroup has a leader and a reference person in the central management structure; the logistics of the activities and the primary scientific responsibility for the project lie with the theme leader and his/her institution, with the reference person in the central management group, and with other partner institutions which assist in organising conferences and promoting research on the Theme in various ways.

The six thematic areas and coordinating institutions are as follows:

1. States, Legislation, Institutions  
Coordinated by the Autonomous University of Madrid (thematic leader), and University of Graz
2. Power and Culture  
Coordinated by the University of Latvia, Riga (thematic leader), and the University of Cardiff
3. Religious and Philosophical Concepts

- Coordinated by the University of Coimbra (thematic leader), and St Kliment University of Sofia
- 4. Work, Gender and Society  
Coordinated by the University of Utrecht (thematic leader), and the University of Bologna
- 5. Frontiers and Identities  
Coordinated by the Charles University of Prague (thematic leader), and the National University of Ireland, Galway
- 6. Europe and the World  
Coordinated by the University of Debrecen (thematic leader), and the National University of Ireland, Galway

Participation in the Workgroup is open to other researchers in the Inner and Outer circle of the partnership, with different levels of financial support. The events and activities designed and guided by the Thematic Workgroups are coordinated at an overall level to ensure that the results of each feed into the work of the others.

In addition to the themes of each workgroup, the network works on coordinated transversal research projects that are designed to cut across and link the work of the Thematic Workgroups. Each year, one such transversal theme is discussed, both in the workgroups and between the groups in the annual plenary meetings. The transversal themes, which are ‘citizenship’, ‘identity’, ‘gender’, ‘migration’, ‘discrimination’, and ‘tolerance’, have been chosen for their importance in European citizenship today and because of the light with the Thematic Work Groups can throw on them from their different perspectives.

## Operation



CLIOHRES.net aspires not only to integrate the actual partners into a solid and effective network, but also to have access to a large number of research communities and to have impact on how Europeans understand their past. This reflects the basic commitment of all CLIOHRES.net partners, as well as of the parent network, to the ethical imperative that proposes using the insights gained in scholarly research to do everything possible to bring about a new critical and self-critical vision of the existing frame of historical reference, both in academic and in popular culture, with the ultimate aim of enabling citizens to place in context, understand and view critically the divisive and confrontational ideas that many hold today about their role within their country and their country’s role in Europe and the world.

The idea of the network is, therefore, to progress gradually from a critical awareness of the diversity in European scholarship towards developing new paradigms in European historical research. The work of the network is conceived in five phases, each corresponding to one year in the life of the project. The first phase was dedicated to reconnaissance, or mapping, of how the questions perceived as important for the thematic area of each workgroup appear in the different national historiographies. During the second phase the workgroups defined transversal problems which are relevant in a more general context, investigating and illuminating the relation between the two levels. In the third phase, the workgroups concentrated on comparing and reviewing sources and methodologies, and in the fourth on cross-fertilisation, that is on showing how problems defined in other historiographies can be developed in new contexts. Finally, the workgroups are to assess their findings and define new and relevant projects, in the broadest sense, for future research in the sector.

## Outcomes – the Fourth year

In the sphere of the general objectives indicated above, the Network has a variety of activities and products of which here we single out a) the publications with which it presents the results of its research; b) the dissemination of its publications and results; c) its contribution to educational policy.

### *a. Fourth year publications:*

During the each year,, the Network produces at least 7 volumes, 6 of them on the research areas of the Thematic Working Groups and one general volume, prepared by the entire Network, on one of the ‘transversal themes’. Furthermore doctoral theses from CLIOHRES doctoral candidates are published in abridged form.

At the end of the fourth year, CLIOHRES.net has finished its fourth year of activities, dedicated to ‘cross-fertilisation’ or applying methods and approaches to chronological or geographical areas in a novel way. The work is now ready for publication on-line ([www.cliohres.net](http://www.cliohres.net)) and in book form by PLUS, the University Press of Pisa.

The network has prepared fourth year contributions to all three of its publication series, each with its own character and mission. The first is dedicated to the work of the workgroups, the second to the transversal themes and the third to the doctoral dissertations of doctoral students that have been active in the NoE.

#### *I. Research volumes by the six Thematic Work Groups:*

1. A. Gémes, F. Peyrou, I. Xydopoulos, (eds.), *Institutional Change and Stability. Conflicts, Transitions and Social Values*;
2. H. Jensen (ed.), *Rebellion and Resistance*;
3. B. Borstner, J. Carvalho (eds.), *Routines of Existence. Time, Life and Afterlife in Society and Religion*;
4. A. Peto, K. Schrijvers (eds.), *Faces of Death. Visualising History*;
5. S.G. Ellis, R. Esser with J.-F. Berdah, M. Řesník (eds.), *Frontiers, Regions and Identities in Europe*;
6. M. N. Harris, M. Klemenčič (eds.), *European Migrants, Diasporas and Ethnic Minorities*.



#### *II. Transversal Theme, "Gender":*

A volume on the fourth year's transversal theme, "gender", has also been prepared. It is entitled *Paths to Gender. European Historical Perspectives on Women and Men*, edited by B. Waaldijk and C. Salvaterra.



#### *III. Doctoral dissertations:*

Two doctoral dissertations are in the final stages of preparation for publication and printing: the first is by Momir Samardžić of the University of Novi Sad, entitled *The Railway Issue in Serbian Politics (1878-1881)*. The text is in English and it includes an extended Serbian summary; the second is by Claudia Bertazzo, and entails a comparative history of 13th-century Italian cities, in Italian with an extended English summary.

#### **Dissemination**

The Network dedicates great energies to disseminating its publications and knowledge about its activities. It has presented its activities in various venues, at public meetings and conferences of its sister Network CLIOHnet2, of the new Erasmus Academic Network CLIOHWORLD (Ghent, April 2009), at the HUMAN PLUS, the Archipelago of Humanistic Thematic Networks (Brussels, July 2008), and at the Conference of the Deans of the History Faculties of the Russian Federation (Moscow, June 2008). On occasion of the Fourth Plenary Conference and Working meeting, held in Prague in November 2008, a lively press conference was held, resulting in a number of publications and a transmission on the Czech radio.

A unique dissemination opportunity was offered by the French Ministry of Research's event for the Presidency of the EU, the "Ville Européenne des Sciences": CLIOHRES successfully bid for a stand and was awarded a space -- the Citadelle de l'Histoire? -- at the centre of the Grand Palais, in the so-called 'Place d'Europe'. Here for three days in November 2008 the CLIOHRES coordinating committee held public debates, gave information, distributed materials in a 50 m2 space, surrounded by panels showing the Joanina Library of Coimbra and the covers of the CLIOHRES books in full colour. The event was visited by 42,600 people; our stand was honoured

by the visit of Commissioner Potochnik and the French Minister of Research. All age groups were catered for, including small children thanks to our 'Dragon Mu'. DVDs and graphic materials were specially designed for the Paris event (now available from the [www.cliohres.net](http://www.cliohres.net) website).

The publications are all available free of charge from our website; hundreds of copies of each volume have been sent to independent or university based scholars, libraries, universities and reviews. The books are available on Google books. We have developed CLIOHRES postcards and posters as an inexpensive dissemination tool; we also printed a third edition of the CLIOHRES presentation booklet which is available on line. Again during the fourth year our books have been included in the catalogues of the American Association of University Presses: the Course Adoption catalogue for European History and Multicultural Studies and the Library Catalogue for University and Secondary School Libraries.

### ***Website:***

Our website ([www.cliohres.net](http://www.cliohres.net)) is a unique networking and dissemination tool. It contains public spaces, news and information, as well as offering all the publications of the Network for free download and use. In order to monitoring access to the books the user must register, but access is swift, simple and free. The part of the site devoted to 'Production', restricted to the people responsible for the actual mechanics of publication (editing, indexing, proof reading) has been further perfected, allowing us to streamline the electronic editing and production process.

### ***Contribution to higher education***

The strong links with the sister Networks, CLIOHnet2 until 30 November 2008 and now with CLIOHWORLD, an Erasmus Academic Network (1 October 2008 to 30 September 2011) have continued to constitute a privileged route for the dissemination and use of the NoE results. A special commission "on materials" has designed teaching units based on CLIOHRES publications; it has produced 'virtual books', composed of chapters from CLIOHRES publications, forming on-line volumes for topics where teachers have difficulties in finding texts for learning/teaching (e.g. Balkan History, Baltic History, History of the Mediterranean, Language and History). More virtual publications and course units are in preparation.

CLIOHRES is coordinated by the University of Pisa.

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