

DFG - Research group “Horizontal Europeanization”

In 2012 the German Research Foundation installed a Research Unit on “Horizontal Europeanization Processes” that is located at German and Austrian universities and comprises seven empirical research project and one project on theory development. The following universities participate in the research group:

University of Oldenburg (Prof. Martin Heidenreich, Coordinator of Research Group)

Jacobs University Bremen (Prof. Jan Delhey),

Free University Berlin (Prof. Jürgen Gerhards)

University of Siegen (Prof. Christian Lahusen)

University of Bremen (Prof. Steffen Mau)

University of Bamberg (Prof. Richard Münch)

University of Linz (Prof. Susanne Pernicka)

Short Description:

At the core of the scientific interest in the European integration process so far has been the economic, legal and political integration of Europe. The research group focuses instead on the emergence and consolidation of European society and on theories which might grasp this process. Europeanization thus is not only understood as a process which takes place between EU institutions and national political arenas, but as a process which transforms the social relations and the lives of people and the relationship between national, formerly relatively closed social fields. These processes of horizontal Europeanization by contacts, interaction and social relationships between different European countries and a stronger transnational integration of social interactions, attitudes and interpretations follow a different logic than the mostly hierarchical integration processes in political and administrative arenas. They are not restricted to areas where collective actors like national governments, companies or international institutions interact, but also occur in the everyday lives of people. Thus, processes of systemic integration are complemented by various processes of social integration.

Research projects:

Sub Project 1: R. Münch: Europeanization of Higher Education

Sub Project 2: C. Lahusen: Europeanization of Asylum Administrative Practice

Sub Project 3: J. Gerhards/D. Glowsky: Collective Memory as a Basis for a European Identity

Sub Project 4: J. Delhey: The New Europeans: Cross-border Interactions and Transnational Identities

Sub Project 5: S. Mau/S. Büttner: Professionalization of EU Expertise

Sub Project 6: S. Pernicka/V. Glassner: Europeanization of Labor Relations

Sub Project 7: M. Heidenreich: Europeanization of Social Inequalities

Sub Project Z: M. Heidenreich Coordination and Organization