



SECTION B

Space, Place and the Historical and contemporary articulations of regional, national and European identities through work and community in areas undergoing economic REstructuring and regeneration

SPHERE

Collaborative small or medium-scale focused research project

Activity: 8.5 The Citizen in the European Union

Area: 8.5.2 Diversities and Commonalities in Europe

Topic: 5.2.1 Histories and Identities – articulating national and European identities

Co-ordinator: Dr. H. Tarik Sengul

Participant no.	Participant organisation name	Country
1 (coordinator)	Middle East Technical University.	Turkey
2	Working Lives Research Institute (London Metropolitan University)	UK - France
3	Institut fur Arbeitsmarktund BerufsforschungInsitute	Germany
4	Uniwersytet Slaski	Poland
5	Universidad Complutense de Madrid	Spain

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1. Space, place, history and restructuring identities

1.1 Concepts and objectives

SPHERE will investigate the formation and evolution of European cultures and identities rooted historically in specific occupational contexts with a distinct regional base. It focuses on the perceived decline and transformation of what can be termed 'industrial' cultures, formations that constitute specific histories and traditions forged over time. Through historical, theoretical and empirical analysis, the project seeks to understand the significance of these changes for communities, regions and cultures within Europe. It aims to assess the consequences of transformatory economic restructuring for the workplace, family and locality, and to show how such changes impact upon individual and collective identities, traditions and customs.

1.1.1 Core concepts

What constitutes a sense of identity remains complex, the result of a range of factors interacting over time and space. Though often thought of in individualistic terms, identities are lived and experienced collectively – people, it can be argued, come to realise themselves in wider social, economic and political contexts which powerfully shape notions of self, and in turn modes of identification and belonging (or of exclusion). The cultural co-ordinates through which identities are derived or expressed turn upon much wider understandings of culture than those associated merely with the arts, and need to be viewed instead as the components that over time make up a 'shared web of significance' for people (Geertz, 1973). From this perspective culture may be regarded as 'a constitutive social process, creating specific and different ways of life' (Williams, 1977). Consequently, how these 'specific and different ways of life' come into being and are (or are not) sustained becomes a question of central importance, particularly at a time of significant social change.

SPHERE starts from the understanding that the transformation of economic life in many of the former industrial areas of the European Union and beyond leads to a restructuring of identities and to 'cultures in transition'. Although industrial cultures have often appeared as sub-systems of wider formations, they have nevertheless, been central to broader understandings, formations and traditions based around co-ordinates of nation and state, class and community, culture and economy. In the UK one commentator claimed that class cultures, and in particular (male) manual working-class culture, 'has been pivotal' in defining social relations (Savage, 2000). With economic restructuring and de-industrialisation, the decline of industrial cultures embedded in localities has been evident in many parts of Europe. In turn, established notions of 'traditional' identities and their continued significance are called into question.

How far notions of class, culture and community have shifted and how they are understood both analytically and experientially in the present, is still a pressing question, by no means fully resolved. Until recently these categories and formations have represented very characteristic sociological and cultural co-ordinates pertinent to the six European regions explored in this project. They have been used as

explanatory factors for making sense of identity, belonging and place.¹ With radical labour market restructuring comes a 'fragmentation' of such formations. This is manifest, Beck argues (2000), in unstable and precarious conditions, with flexible contracts of work, irregular working hours, and discontinuity in working lives (see also Sennett, 1998). Grasping the effects of these changes on culture is central to SPHERE.

The project will examine how:

- 'new' identities might emerge, and older ones survive, and through what mechanisms this occurs;
- processes of economic change and regeneration impact on the significance of place as central to people's sense of history and feelings of belonging;
- cultural practices have functioned to establish understandings of place and identity for these regions – in the arts, literature and the media;
- communal and collective organisations affect the preservation or renewal of historical identities, in the processes shaping, and re-shaping, histories and traditions as lived through regions, workplaces, neighbourhoods and family structures;
- associative collective action and political participation within these regions and localities – that crucial nexus between people and their sense of place, and 'ownership' of it – have survived.

Recognising the historical importance of the collective identities linked to class and region, SPHERE also investigates the contemporary relevance of such co-ordinates to people's sense of being and belonging, and probes the conditions under which new identities, including those based on consumption, gender, age, ethnicity, nation and European, may emerge following the re-orientation of social and economic life.

The research, therefore, pivots around mapping the transition from old 'male' to new more feminised industries, from older and more stable forms of work, to newer and more flexible ones. It focuses on regions where there have been attempts to locate new industries or services to replace jobs 'lost' from these areas to ask whether new occupational, community, national or European identities are emerging, and in doing so investigate how, and in what ways Europe, and associated EU objectives, can be seen to impact both directly and indirectly on daily life and ways of living and behaving.

The impact of such restructuring and regeneration provokes important questions around cultural change and generational value systems or 'structures of feeling' (Williams, 1977). It demands new understandings of formations of gender as well as of class and nation. It requires, too, an engagement with migration and population shifts in relation to contemporary regional, national and European identities. This leads on to wider questions concerned with civic engagement and social exclusion.

Our emphasis on cultural forms and discourses foregrounds the notion of representation and its importance in the sphere of cultural production where ideas about place are articulated through a range of forms which include the novel and film,

¹ In a British context see Dennis *et al.* 1957; Hoggart, 1957; Lockwood, 1975; Charlesworth, 2000; in a Polish context see K. Wodz and J. Wodz, 2006; for Spain see Alonso (1999, 2000), Castillo (1998), Bilbao (1995). For an overview on the German discussion see Reese-Schäfer, Walter (Ed., 1999): *Identität und Interesse. Der Diskurs der Identitätsforschung*. Opladen: Leske und Budrich

autobiography and social documentary. Much of this material has helped to shape dominant understandings of place, and continues to do so in a number of ways. In seeking a range of narratives about place, we will also focus on 'alternative narratives' of place and identity, interrogating what they may say about residual or emergent (Williams, 1977) identities and their significance.

Representation is another important concept for understanding the discursive modes linked to regeneration processes in these regions. Regeneration literatures, along with other modes of heritage representation, increasingly take on the task of inscribing these former industrial landscapes in culture. This focus on regeneration is not only important for making sense of economic renewal or re-orientation, but it provides the opportunity for speculation on the significance of the physical transformation of landscapes themselves, and how this impacts on people's sense of self, history and identity. This is figured through the notion of 'contours of identity', a concept we use to grapple with the significance of place and space in constituting ideas of belonging.

Through developing these concepts this project will combine major insights on identity formation and articulation, drawn from both the humanities and social science disciplines, to ask questions about the complex interconnections and significances of history, place, culture and identity in rapidly changing times.

1.1.2 Broad objectives

1: To deepen understanding of concepts and definitions with regard to cultural identities in the context of rapid and widespread socio-economic change.

SPHERE's first objective is to identify, refine, share and develop key concepts through which understandings of historical and cultural identities are established, clarifying similarities and differences arising from the different national contexts. What is central is the significance and depth of change and continuity in the experiences of self and place. The research thus seeks to grasp the conditions of possibility for newly emergent 'knowable communities' (Williams, 1958) – conditions produced through a range of intersecting, and sometimes conflicting, factors.

2: To identify the types of work and economic life that have replaced former industries and to examine the impact of these transformations and transitions on traditions, alignments and cultural formations.

Gender is a central thematic concern of the project. SPHERE explores processes of displacement in the wake of the decline of historically significant male-dominated work. It explores how households or families have been absorbed into new or existing occupations and asks whether displacement means inactivity, and how experiences vary by gender? What effects do specific regeneration processes have in reshaping ideas of place, identity and belonging? What are people's attitudes towards these changes? Is there a different attachment to work in these new jobs, and was occupational identity defined by a skill or craft status that is now lost? Are new occupations gendered in the same way that older occupations were? Has occupational and sectoral segregation been reinforced or challenged? What are the generational implications of all this? Are potential tensions contained and negotiated within the household and/or family?

3: To explore how the political and social identities forged under an industrial order of a certain sort operating in a certain place may survive the collapse or radical transformation of that order.

Do any of the political and social identities forged regionally under an earlier industrial order survive the collapse or radical transformation of that order? It is a key purpose of the research to examine how and in what ways distinctive political and cultural institutions and values and related structures of feeling survive following change. Do new occupational communities and identities emerge and if not why not? The ethnographic and oral testimony approach developed for the research will be central for understanding the lived experiences of such changes. .

4: To examine the role of a range of cultural practices in representing ideas of place.

Representation is a key analytical concept, intelligible in two senses for the purpose of this project. Firstly, there is the notion of representation at the political level, and this will be considered when analysing such topics as new political institutional forms, subjectivities and commitments. Secondly, representation is used in its aesthetic sense, in the analysis of cultural production and the arts. This involves analysing art, media and literary production about and for such communities, a range of material created over a long historic period. Some sources refer to the hegemonic function of stories in this context – *representations* that become naturalised as society's 'common sense', as just the way things are. Exploring changing and 'alternative narratives' of place, space and community are important here.

5: To analyse the effects specific regeneration processes have in changing cultural landscapes through reshaping ideas of place, identity and belonging.

Do specific regeneration processes act as a motor to community re-building? What are the effects of the rebuilding of these environments and landscapes following the removal of industrial landmarks of place and identity? In the light of these questions, the project has a strong visual strand that informs all aspects of the research. This emphasis derives from the importance of regeneration and representational processes in fixing ideas of place and space in the public and private spheres. What effect do regeneration processes – in terms of physical changes to landscapes and environments – have in reshaping feelings and responses towards place, identity and belonging? SPHERE therefore examines the physical landscape and its changing contours through regeneration and heritage initiatives; and also explores modes of remembrance and commemoration constituted by local actors, through cultural outputs that represent the components of more vernacular material cultures and help an understanding of how identities are lived in the everyday.

6: To provide the means of constructive and critical dialogue about the nature and extent of cultural change across Europe as a whole.

How do all these changes impact on the core concepts of identity and belonging within Europe? SPHERE will both research the 'Europeanness' of these changes and initiate a comparative and European debate on the findings.

1.2 Progress beyond the state-of-the-art

SPHERE is situated within a number of interconnecting theoretical and empirical debates relevant to each of the countries drawn into the research focus and to the EU. These derive largely from the impact of profound economic restructuring since

1980, leading to the perceived demise of collective cultural and regional identities. In this context it is often argued that new types of work and social organisation result in an eclipse of collective (often, class) identities (Hall, 1988; Giddens, 1991; Beck, 1999). Others criticise a total abandonment of the previous paradigm,² arguing for the continued relevance of older collective categories as major factors in the shaping of cultural identities and modes of being, but tempering this with a concern with *intersectionality* (Brah, 1996) in helping shape identity.

Thus questions of identity have come to prominence in debates around postmodern transformations – perceived as deep shifts in culture and economy making older ways of being radically unstable. As older institutional forms, alignments and traditions fall away, or as they are forced to re-orientate themselves in different ways, important questions emerge around notions of citizenship, civic action and political participation: around feelings of identification and belonging. Programmes of regeneration have, however, often followed in the wake of such transformations in economic life. These represent processes of possible renewal – a remaking of place with the prospect of enabling new identities to emerge or older ones to survive, inevitably impacting on established social identities and cultural formations. This touches on the topic of representation, through a concern with how cultures within these key regions have been and are being depicted in the context of such changes.

SPHERE's innovation lies in its ambition to ground these debates in a series of regional case studies of cultural transition, and within a European context.

1.2.1 Regional restructuring and cultural change

Globalisation of the world's economy through rapid technological transformation and market liberalisation are now powerful forces reshaping social and political life. In the UK, for example, the proportion of service sector workers that stood at 62% in 1978 reached 80% in 2006 (ONS, 2007). In France by 2005 72.8% of the active labour force was in services (INSEE, 2006). Poland witnessed a similar rise: in 1987 the figure for work in the service sector stood at 35.5%, in 2002 it rose to 47.7% and by 2005 had reached 51% (Statistical Yearbook, GUS). Spain saw similar developments: the proportion of service sector workers rose from 41% in 1976 to 65% in 2004 (EPA, 2007), while Germany has faced a rise in service work from 39% in 1960 to 72% by 2006.³ In Turkey the growth of tourism has also favoured the service sector, which contributed 64.5% of GDP in 2005 (World Bank, 2006). The speed and pace of the processes of change have deeply affected local and regional cultures and concomitant ways of being and belonging – structures of feeling articulating identities overwhelmingly formed through familial, workplace and community interactions: feelings of belonging, convictions, traditions and languages are all changing. One central impact of such changes has been widespread economic restructuring in former industrial regions. In region after region throughout Europe, mining, textiles, steel and shipbuilding as well as much engineering industry simply disappeared.

² Recent research in the UK draws attention to the contradictions inherent in the 'politics of difference' (Reay, 1997; Kirk, 2003; Skeggs, 2004; Sayer, 2005), while still recognising the acute effects of restructuring on cultures and communities (Charlesworth, 2000; Kirk, 2006) and the impact on both class and gender formations and ideas of place, belonging and community. In Spain, see Alonso, 1999, 2000; Sanchis, 2004.

³ See Destatis (ed., 1967, 2006, 2007): Statistical Yearbook for the Federal Republic of Germany, (2007): internet edition, Wiesbaden

The deindustrialisation and economic restructuring of former industrial areas represent processes of transition that impact decisively on established cultures nurtured over time, and it is as a result of such deep shifts and transformations that notions of identity and culture loom ever larger. Europe's social and cultural landscapes are marked by these transformations. Their impact on the identities and cultures that derive from the range of experiences, customs and traditions that earlier ways of living and working brought into being, however, is largely under-researched. Yet it remains vital for understanding the future cohesion and identity of the regions themselves, as well as for making sense of the historical formation and cultural diversity of the European Union.

However, the trajectories of historical development, national and cultural differences, and diverse political histories must be accounted for in any comparative study of industrial cultures. There exists no clear-cut or uniform pattern.

In Britain the project examines the South Yorkshire coalfield. With Barnsley as its main town, this region covers some 127 square miles and has a population of 230,000. It has mined coal for nearly 200 years. At the turn of the 1980s it contained 16 pits, employing 15,000 people. South Yorkshire was never fully mono-industrial, however, with manufacturing and industrial sector based around linen and glass making. But by 1994 virtually all of South Yorkshire's coalfields had been closed. Much new work takes the form of call centres or other service-related activities and by 2000 coal mining had all but disappeared. The same can be said for the nearby steel making industry concentrated around Sheffield. A highly distinctive history and industrial culture characterised the area, and South Yorkshire was at the heart of the year-long miners' strike to save jobs and communities in 1984-85, as well as the protests against the final wave of pit closures in 1991. In this region the question of class cultures and community identity has long loomed large (Orwell, 1937; Hoggart, 1957; Charlesworth, 2000; Kirk, 2006). Within Britain, notions of 'the North' as essentially industrial and proletarian and as the province of the working class run deep (Russell, 2004; Kirk, 2007).

There are similarities between coal mining areas like South Yorkshire and the Polish region of Upper Silesia. Upper Silesia's industrial past took shape in the nineteenth century and came to be dominated by coal mining and the steel industries. The process of decline of the traditional industries started in this region only seventeen years ago, however, following the fall of Communism and Poland's independence from Soviet influence. Transition to a capitalist economic system demanded rationalisation of these industries (see Wodz and Wodz, 2006). This led to a major contraction of the mining industry, so that between 1998 and 2002 up to 100,000 employees left the Polish mining sector. In common with areas in the UK like South Yorkshire, the concentration of mining was geographically distinct and specific. Thus the impact is felt powerfully in terms of collective identity based upon occupation and region. Strong trade unions have played an important role in the life of this region, and still take a key role within the mining communities with, in 2004, the formation of the first women coal miners' trade union. The Silesian Voivodship (region) has a long history of industrial labour and associated cultural traditions, centred around Dabrowa Gornicza (with its declining steel industry), Sosnowiec (coal- mine industry-and

some steel industry, Ruda Slaska (coal-mine industry), and Bielsko-Biala (textile industry). These areas form the core of the research in this country.

The Northern Bavarian metalworking region of Germany has also undergone major recent restructuring. The industry began to consolidate a regional and occupational identity from the late nineteenth century, but with quite different skill and gender structures from the coal mining regions of Britain and Poland. The metalworking industry is differentiated internally, with a whole range of different products and different ways to organize the labour process from craft shops, assembly lines to computer integrated metal shaping stations and offices. But this is tied together by employing similar types of labour. The occupational similarities, as well as the good organizing conditions of huge factories, helped to develop strong unionist and social-democrat traditions, involving both institutional frameworks for action and strong neighbourhood bases. The decline of this industry started in the mid-1970s, then intensified in the 1980s and 1990s when it is possible to date the beginning of the 'deindustrialisation' of the area's urban centres (see Promberger et al., 2002). For example, metal manufacturing employment in the central area of Nuremberg, having had its peak in the early 1960s, still dropped from 150,000 in 1980 to 100,000 in 2006. But numeric employment decline only shows a part of the truth, because the internal tertiarisation of the metalworking industry has probably an even stronger impact on regional and labour identities than mere job loss. It replaces norms and values about what it means to be a worker in this region, changing from skilled and semi-skilled manual labour to computer mediated office labour, showing a trend of intersectoral convergence that undermines traditional working habits. But, at the level of the region regeneration and conversion plans are in place; call-centres and shopping malls partially fill the urban spaces left by the declining old factories, and new (ICT) metalworking can be found at green site locations in the south of Bavaria. On the other hand, 'traditional' blue-collar metalworking still employs thousands of people in the area, repeatedly threatened by huge factory closedown conflicts such as at AEG in 2006 (see Artus 2006). Being a product of the 'second wave' of the industrial revolution, metalworking (engineering) has restructured itself several times, but now the shrinking goes beyond internal restructuring. Additionally, there have been large immigration waves, attracting people from the Bavarian countryside up to 1950, people from Italy and Greece in the 1960s and from Turkey in the 1970s, followed by German-speaking Russians in the 1980s and 1990s.

The French study also involves a metalworking and paper manufacturing region to the South East of Paris, Essonnes. This area is now organised around two adjoining towns of about 50,000 inhabitants each, about 5km apart. The first town, Corbeil-Essonnes, was an important industrial centre from the nineteenth century up to the 1980s based on textiles, paper and printing. These industries began to decline in the middle of the twentieth century (earlier for textiles), and were replaced by big engineering companies: Snecma (aircraft engines) and IBM. Corbeil-Essonnes had a Communist town council majority between 1959 and 1995, and a powerful trade union movement throughout the twentieth century. Yet from 1995, the Right has headed the town council. Industrial transformation and political and social change have gone hand in hand (Contrepois 2003). In the middle of the 1960s, the administrative and political leadership of the *département* was handed over by the French government to nearby Evry, the second town in the area. It only had 7,000 inhabitants in 1969 and very few industries apart from the Decauville enterprise

(trains and locomotives). Working-class culture was weak in Evry and the conservative national government of the day chose it as the site for one of five experimental 'new towns'. Thus from this time the industrial decline of Corbeil shaped the context for the development of Evry. Several prominent companies have relocated to Evry since the 1970s: Arianespace, the Genopôle, and headquarters of big groups like Carrefour, Accor, Courte Paille and Snecma. Currently, Evry is dominated politically by the Socialist Party and an important range of local 'solidarity associations' have an important cultural influence. These two crossed trajectories provide a wealth of material to study in terms of changing collective and social identities. And key themes emerge, consonant with our other studies: de-industrialisation/re-industrialisation, development of the service sector; urban questions and housing; political evolution and affiliation; the trade union movement; women's employment; and the increase in migrant labour and residency. Industrial decline in Corbeil-Essonnes is relatively recent, echoing in some respects that of South Yorkshire, Upper Silesia and Northern Bavaria; but there is somewhat greater continuity (as with the German case study), since engineering (metalworking), although not as closely tied to a fixed locality as mining, is not as volatile as the textile industries – particularly when leading firms have made huge fixed investments in plant and equipment.

The Spanish case will focus on the Levante region, which produced 9.8% of the national GDP in 2005. In a highly differentiated industrial region, the textile and tailoring industry has approximately 2,000 firms and 40,000 employees and the shoe industry with 2,000 firms and 30,000 employees (Generalitat Valenciana, 2006). These two industries provided 12.5% of the region's industrial GDP in 2005. Geographically distinct, textile manufacture is located in the area of Alcoia-Comtat (Alicante) and Vall d'Albaida (Valencia), whilst the shoe sector is located in the area of Vinalopó (Alicante). Several generations of these communities have been socialized and qualified into the productive skills characteristic of the different sectors. This kind of labour socialisation may have provided the basis for social integration and also stimulated processes of identification (Thompson, 1989, Becattini, 1992). Both industries were composed of mainly small and medium firms in every productive stage, and characterised by important levels of female working from home and intensive use of the work force (Melis y Canales, 1997; Viruela Martínez y Domingo Pérez, 2000). They endured profound organisational and production restructuring exercises at the end of the 1970s (Contreras, 1997, Jordá Borrel, 1976). The crisis forced the firms into new survival strategies through changes in the labour process (downsizing, increasing work from home) in order to get a reduction of total labour costs. Those strategies provoked the social and political mobilisation of the strong and traditional regional labour movements. However they could not put an end to a rapid increase of unemployment and to several firms closing. This gave rise to a strong development of the informal economy, to an individualisation of industrial relations, to a decline of the unionism, and to an increase of personal instability and precariousness (Tomás Carpi, Torrejón Velardiez y Such, 1997). From the 1970s both industries have responded to global competition with a continuous process of restructuring and competitive strategies based on low wages and prices or (less frequently) or on high quality and added value. This process has accelerated since 2005 when world liberalisation was promoted in the textile sector through the Multi-fibre Agreement. This agreement transformed China, India and Pakistan into primary competitors with every region in Europe, the Levante included. In the last two years

many firms have closed and many jobs have been lost (*Diario Las Provincias*, 14/10/2006). Consequently, these two sectors (textile-tailoring and the shoe industry) reveal profound changes in both culture and economy, powerfully impacting on community life, regional identity and class and gender relations – transformations reflecting the other regions examined here.

The Turkish Black Sea Zonguldak Province, with a total population of just over half a million, provides our sixth case study. The area is divided into six administrative areas, with Zonguldak being the historic centre. Already employing 10,000 temporary and permanent workers in the Ottoman period, the coalfield was the biggest employer in the region (Quateret, 2006).⁴ Coal mining remained central to the economy during the Republican period that began in 1923, and at its peak point it employed more than 70,000. The industry started to experience a decline from the mid-1970s; and under liberalisation policies, the region largely failed to compete in the international markets. Today, unlike the situation in West Yorkshire, but like that in Silesia, the coal industry survives, but with a labour force of just 12, 000 (Ersoy and Sengul, 2001). As a mono-industrial region the decline of coal mining has dramatically affected the overall economy in the area and one of the indicators of this decline is that almost all local towns, including the city of Zonguldak, have lost population over the last two decades. In the process of liberalisation in the post-1980s period, the strikes organised by trade unions found strong support in the local communities. Likewise, the attitudes of the political parties and governments towards the mining sector have always been highly influential in voting behaviours. Coal remains the main employer in the region and coal mining identities and experiences continue to have a deep seated impact in the cultural and social life of the region (Kahveci, 1996). Following decline, however, local economic and political elites sought alternatives to mining, through regeneration: several were tried, ranging from textile to tourism (which is growing rapidly in Turkey), but with only limited success to date. Thus one of the main research questions is what happens to local identities, strongly (manual) working-class in character, when the main pillar of the identity formation process, namely the coal mining industry, undergoes an irreversible decline, but is not clearly replaced? In this context, a special emphasis falls on the role of the 'old cultures' and the practices of emerging ones.

We can see that notions of identity within the particular regions outlined above were always complex and never straightforward. There are powerful commonalities of experience and development between these regions, yet there are also significant path dependent national differences that will be important to trace in the research process.

Accepting that cultural identities cannot take shape in isolation from the wider structural processes out of which they emerge and with which they interact, it is necessary to ask what new factors operate today to impact upon cultural identities in these former industrial regions. In all cases these are key sites across the European Union, spaces of radical social and economic change. Consequently, they are areas where cultural traditions and formations are, or have been, thrown into crisis. Not surprisingly, therefore, there have also been strong arguments for the EU to play a

⁴ According to one theory its name even comes from mid-19th century French and Belgian coal mining companies, who called it 'zone Geul-Dagh' after Göladağ, the highest mountain in the Devrek district.

central role in regional development, as in the 2007 Berlin Declaration,⁵ and much EU investment has been targeted upon offsetting the impact of economic transformation and decline on regions with significant social problems. Thus one of SPHERE's research aims is to assess the implications of such a role in the transformation of the regions and of the effects of EU regeneration funds on identity formation.

1.2.2 Beyond class cultures and occupational communities: new regional identities, new European identities?

How is it possible to make sense of the perceived demise of 'old' identities and the emergence of 'new' ones in these areas? It has been common to think about regions and specific occupational cultures through the lens of class. Arguments around identity and belonging were perceived as disclosing clear class codes, affiliations and ties. Thus regions came to be seen as distinctive in both a geographical and a sociological sense. This is reflected in the discussion above of the identity of 'the north of England' and of the other regions drawn together here. It remains the case that the topographies of place and community, and their representation in a range of forms and practices, have left historical legacies denoting particular ways of being, a specific *habitus* (Bourdieu, 1984) or structure of feeling (Williams, 1977). These embody values, attitudes and feelings that are lived in complex ways and which have endured through time. Often, such modes of being and understanding have been powerfully inflected by the co-ordinates of gender and class – and more recently, and perhaps more intensely – by ethnicity and faith. This highlights the importance of understanding both changes and continuities of experience in such regions. For example, the dominant mode of representation of the industrial north of England has been not only as working class spaces, but also, in large part, as *masculinised* spaces of both production and consumption. Conversely, other industrial activities (notably textiles) did not have a similar connotation, but were more *feminized*. A key question here is how far the shift from industrial cultures to post-industrial ones has modified this complex. Gender thus becomes a powerful analytical category for making sense of new identities and formations.

The material world and cultural life of working class communities across Europe are now regarded as increasingly obsolete, and, within a few short years, likely only to be the object of heritage spectacles and exercises in nostalgia.⁶ With the eclipse of class identity, however, a fresh interest in other modes of cultural belonging emerged, particularly around the categories of, ethnicity, gender and sexuality.⁷ These suggest new forms of identity that were not primarily centred around work, and hence the need to avoid the hasty homogenisation of identity based on assumptions around region, class or community relations. It is also the case that the experience of

⁵ Berlin Declaration of the Assembly of European Regions: Berlin, February 22, 2007

⁶ The notion of heritage as historical documentation of such formations and traditions will form part of the research around the core concepts of regeneration and representation.

⁷ "Identity politics," it could be argued, emerged even earlier in the 1960s, partly evident in the studies of subcultures, at least in a British context, from the turn of the 1970s (Hall et al., 1976). Current manifestations strive to replace a politics of class, based around economic redistribution, for the politics of culture, based upon notions of recognition. The two need not, nor should not, be distinct, nor separate. For commentary, see McGuigan, 1996; Fraser, 1997; Skeggs, 2004; Kirk, 2003, 2006. This is an argument we will explore in the project.

migration and *diaspora* is increasingly important for the construction of place and that this complicates ideas of belonging in a range of ways.⁸

SPHERE will thus take the debates forward. Not just through researching the shaping of cultures of transition in areas of deindustrialisation and regeneration, but also through focusing on the complexity of the intersectionality of identities of class, gender and ethnicity, and how these are positioned in space.

SPHERE will also analyse the significance of EU initiatives in attempting to address the problems thrown up by economic restructuring. EU initiatives have targeted former industrial areas as recipients for financial aid under European Objectives 1 and 2 to promote 'business growth and entrepreneurship, connecting people to opportunities, [while] funding physical developments that promote economic development'.⁹ Re-shaping the physical environment alters both the material and the cultural landscape in which people interact and underlines the importance of the built environment's effect upon identity in the contexts of neighbourhood, community and place. This is the very fabric, the constitutive setting, of community identity. Regeneration efforts are, in large part, about 're-imagining' community and place, 're-inventing' or 're-shaping' traditions and formations, and such objectives can be found in the regeneration literature itself as explicit outcomes. Consequently, our investigation of both the discursive and material 'effects' of regeneration on constituting place and cultural identity will also directly aid policy-makers in understanding more clearly the consequences of their decisions. How places are represented through cultural practices – regeneration discourses, as well as the discourses of the arts and literature – and the effects of this, remain vital to people's understandings of place and feelings of belonging.

Finally, as debates (Harvey, 2000; Baggini, 2007) re-open about the significance of locality and region and its relationship to wider formations and structures as they form over time, SPHERE is very timely. These debates reflect a range of concerns around concepts of integration and attachment (in effect notions of social inclusion and about political and cultural affiliations), and reflect both the impact of economic change that has transformed many areas of social and economic life, as well as the rise of globalisation as a process of de-differentiation and homogenisation of the social world. This study will draw together concepts from sociology, history, human geography and cultural studies. Using comparative analysis, and a wide range of analytical approaches, the project addresses the historical articulation of regional, national and European identities in regions of significant socio-economic dislocation. In doing so it will develop new theories of identity and self in relation to community and place.

1.3 SPHERE methodology and associated work plan

SPHERE will carry out a six-country comparative study of the cultures of transition that appear from the evolution of identities and structures of feeling within regions of

⁸ At the same time the dimension of inward (and outward) migration has historically typified many of the working-class communities where industry flourished, and this has been, and continues to be, a Europe-wide trend.

⁹ See government web-site: www.gos.gov.uk/goyh - both South and West Yorkshire, for instance, are recipients of Objectives 1 and 2.

well-differentiated EU member and candidate nation states that have all experienced significant deindustrialisation and economic restructuring.¹⁰ The six countries were chosen so as to include as broad a range of different national contexts for restructuring and regeneration as possible: two broadly corporatist countries, with France (much more) and Germany (much less) shaped by central government intervention; the broadly neo-liberal UK; the 'Southern' family-welfare Spain; the transitional Poland; and the candidate Turkey. This design of a representative range of countries will allow us to assess the different effects of national restructuring and regeneration policies on changes in cultures and identities.

Below we describe the methodologies to be employed and the project work plan.

1.3.1 Methodologies

The methodologies used are for the main the standard ones available to researchers in the humanities and social sciences. However, our methods stress the importance of analysing the significance of the cultural and material landscapes of people's lives. These are the everyday spaces where people come to understanding and know their world, through lived experience and interaction, experiences often in tension with much wider processes and structures offering alternative or contradictory perspectives. They are places of memory and celebration, but they also invoke feelings of sadness and loss. These places are often best foregrounded through using photographic evidence. The visual analysis of place also enables more detailed and relevant understandings of regeneration within these regions and communities. Our research methods therefore include:

- (1) Analytical and critical reading of cultural studies literatures and more focused European secondary sources discussing the intersectionality of identity, gender and ethnicity with regeneration and restructuring.
- (2) In-depth reading of work on the histories and identities of the different target regions.
- (3) Collection of all statistical data available concerning the deindustrialisation process and economic regeneration, and in particular concerning the record of the EU in investing in the different regions.
- (4) Access to all primary sources available in newspapers, public records and from voluntary associations on each region's political-social-economic life over the thirty years from roughly 1988 to 2007.
- (5) Interviews in each country with 8-12 key respondents and actors in each region with detailed local knowledge of its recent history and the evolution of regeneration. These interviews will be informed by a strong visual dimension, where we elicit comment on photographic imagery linked to local identity but also on the changing nature and features of public spaces of community.
- (6) Discursive life story interviews with 24 individuals from each region, half men and half women, with one third less than 35 years old, one third between 35 and 55 and one third 55 and over. The interviews will capture the variations of experience and life course in terms of age, gender and generation coordinates, as well as taking into account the growing impact of migration in the

¹⁰ We will research six countries from the five partners. As explained below (in 2.2.2 and 2.3) this is possible because the WLRI includes French staff permanently based in France as well as having significant in-house expertise in France, and being only three hours by train from the Essonnes region.

areas. We will use photo-elicitation techniques in these interviews as a means of provoking reflection on a range of issues around place and identity. We will also promote the use of memorabilia and personal keepsakes as a way of making sense of individual and collective identity. These interviews will be transcribed and analysed through key headings, reflecting major thematic concerns, and discursively around changing cultural co-ordinates and identity practice.

- (7) Three focus group interviews in each region with 7-10 participants in each – one to be male, one to be mixed, one to be female. As with the individual interviews the transcripts of these focus groups will be analysed discursively and thematically.
- (8) 5-10 days' involvement of a professional photographer in each region to capture changes in the physical landscape and public space.
- (9) Regular reflexive sharing of the research findings with regional project advisory groups, made up of local experts and stakeholders.

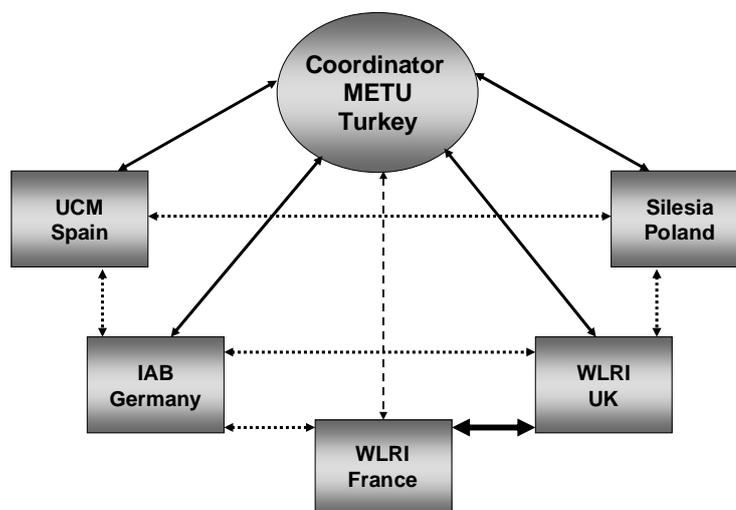
2. Implementation

2.1 Management structure and procedures

SPHERE will be organised and managed as an integrated European project with the co-ordinator in the role of ‘conductor’ rather than as a country-by-country study. The research is divided into four separate research phases and nine workpackages, with different partners taking specific responsibilities.

The project management involves the co-ordination process, the allocation of workpackages and the inter-relation between them, the meetings and the modes of communication. The SPHERE management structure will ensure that deadlines are met and that financial information, including cost-statements are submitted and that audit certificates are obtained as required. The flow chart for the management structure is sketched below in Figure 1. Whilst it is shown as a hierarchical ‘conductor’ structure, it is stressed that this is for project management purposes only, and the academic equality of all partners is fully respected. Solid lines are lines of accountability and communication; dotted lines are lines of communication.

Figure 2 SPHERE project management structure



From the very beginning the Consortium will prioritise the sharing of knowledge and the development of shared objectives among partners. Our proposal is aimed at ensuring that partners adopt the same ethical standpoints. Working to develop these common understandings will also assist in the dissemination and transfer of research findings, during and at the end of the project. At the same time by assigning specific tasks to partner organisations, the project can focus on the particular strengths that each partner brings to the consortium, for example, as experts in a particular field or methodology.

The Consortium has developed a Consortium Agreement based on previous experience in Framework programmes. This legally binding document clearly indicates the different roles and responsibilities within the Consortium, and allows for changes to be made democratically by the International Steering Group if required.

Co-ordination: The Co-ordinator (Partner 1: METU, Turkey) will be responsible for the overall project co-ordination and for liaison with the services and offices of the European Commission.

The Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey makes an excellent coordinator. It has a long experience of European and international research and has a mission to reach, produce, apply and promote knowledge and to educate individuals with that knowledge for the social, cultural, economic, scientific and technological development of society. It aims to ensure the understanding of current knowledge and the discovery of new knowledge. It is a longstanding opponent of dogmatic thought and ideas and supports the right to honest inquiry. METU adopts an interdisciplinary approach enabling its academic staff to work on educational and research projects. Within the Department of Public Administration and Political Science, the Centre for Public Policy and Urban Research has been established specifically to conduct research in relevant fields in association with similar centres and institutes. To this aim the Centre has previously participated in organised joint research with other international universities including the University of Birmingham and Manchester University. There is thus a high level of English used within the Centre, and considerable experience of what is required for excellence in international coordination.

The Co-ordinator will: finalise the Consortium Agreement covering the internal and external workings of the project team; organise the project steering group meetings; maintain contact with all partner members; ensure that all partners have access to internet conferencing and direct communication using Skype; establish an Intranet site for maintaining a continuous record of all internal communications (emails, bibliographies, reports); keep in regular contact with the project official at the European Commission; co-ordinate the partners specialising in particular themes; be responsible for certain workpackages; collate and check the partner cost statements prior to submitting them to the Project Officer; regularly review and assess progress against the project objectives; invite and co-ordinate external expert advice and review of the technical content of the research; work with the Commission to draft detailed risk assessment proposals and communication strategy papers for agreement among the research partners; and co-ordinate all project-wide dissemination and public relations activities.

The International Steering Group (ISG): This group will be made up of the lead responsible researchers in each of the partner organisations and will take all basic decisions on the progress of the research. It will normally meet twice a year to discuss the work of the project, together with any methodological or ethical issues arising.

The function of the six meetings will be to strengthen the research network, ensuring consistency of approach and a positive research atmosphere. They will measure progress against the milestones and agreed targets and also ensure that issues of

gender are built in to every stage of the process. They will consider the next phase of the research and will be regularly supplemented by internet conferencing. In the event of the emergence of problems, either related to ethical issues or that might result in delays to the project work and which could not await the convening of the next programmed Steering Group meeting, the group will convene in emergency session. Its meetings may be enlarged by the presence of 3-4 co-opted (non-voting) “external advisors” bringing major external expertise in the areas being discussed where deemed appropriate.

The meetings will generally rotate through the six countries being researched, but issues of cost and timing will be taken into account.

Workpackage leaders: The phases and the workpackages within the project are all clearly defined. Responsibility for each workpackage has been assigned to one partner, who will ensure that the milestones and deliverables are met. This method of organisation is designed to ensure that each of the partners can play to their particular strengths. Not only does this ensure a high quality delivery but gives a clear sense of ‘ownership’ to each partner and provides a strong motivation to deliver and to excel. All of the workpackages have been designed and broken down in such a way that milestones can be easily identified and progress monitored by the partner itself, generally by the International Steering Group and specifically by the Co-ordinator.

Work package leadership will be as summarised here:

METU	WLRI	IAB	SILESIA	UCM
1, 2, 9	3, 8	4, 6	5	7

Meetings: Meetings are currently scheduled for months 1 and 8 in the first year; months 12 and 20 in the second; and months 24 and 30 in the third year. The EU project officer will be invited to attend all ISG meetings. The first meeting will establish all of the common ground rules, agree targets and detailed timetables and share existing knowledge of the central thematic concerns and how they relate to their own country; it will also discuss detailed definitions of concepts and key terms that will inform the research project throughout its life. The second meeting of all researchers will report back on the national state of the art reviews, and will determine the methodologies to be used for the gathering of fieldwork evidence. In month 12 a meeting will discuss the draft European synthesis of the national state-of-the-art reports, and will adjust the fieldwork methodologies in the light of the pilots undertaken since Month 12. In month 20 the meeting will share the initial fieldwork results and establish a common basis for writing up the national fieldwork reports. In month 24 the four leaders of the thematic report workpackages will present for discussion at the meeting outlines of their analytical approach to drafting the reports. In month 30 there will be detailed discussion of these reports and of the contents of the final (comparative thematic) report. These regular meetings will ensure there is:

- a) a continuous shared consensus about the objectives of the research project;
- b) an interdisciplinary exchange for crucial scientific discussions and exchange of expertise in the respective phases of the project; and
- c) an opportunity to be flexible and to collectively take important decisions.

Communication via the project Intranet: Between meetings regular communication will be kept via an Intranet communication system, Livelink. It allows all members of the consortium access to all documentation and data. It also includes a space for 'virtual' seminar discussions on issues outstanding or arising during the course of the project. This intranet access will also be extended to the Regional Experts, who can have a controlled access to the parts of the Intranet that concern them. Access by other national experts to the project intranet site will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Decision-making processes: As indicated above, basic decisions will be taken by the International Steering Group. Other decisions, for example those concerning internal deadlines and the exact design of the work tasks will be reached through agreement with the partners. The first and second ISG meetings will agree the common working methods and standards, the timetable and delivery requirements and this decision-making process will be continued through the twice-yearly partner meetings. Additional decisions that have to be taken at short notice will be made by the co-ordinator in discussion with the relevant partner, and then reported to all partners. In cases of disagreement the matter would first be the subject of an oral Internet conference; then, if necessary be referred to the Steering Group for a special meeting as indicated in the Consortium agreement.

Regional Advisory Groups: In each country, several expert advisors will be invited to provide expert advice and guidance on the technical content of the programme and assist in reviewing progress, gaining appropriate access and mounting the exhibitions. The lead scientist in each country will be responsible for proposing experts for this role, in consultation with the other partners and national team members. The experts' participation could also be through attendance at certain ISG meetings, or through separate meetings, as well as via telephone, email and Intranet contact.

2.3 Consortium as a whole

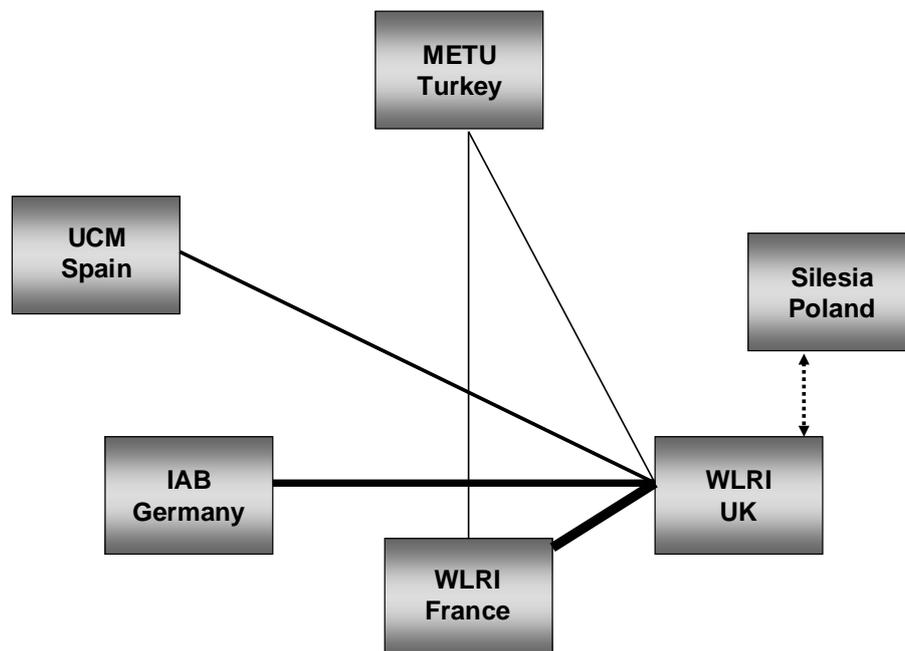
The Consortium partners have been selected because of their experience and excellence in this area of research and in particular research disciplines: history, sociology, political theory, urban renewal, social psychology and culture. They have published widely in the area of cultural identity and the sociology of culture, political theory and issues of economic reconstruction and regeneration within the European Union and beyond. SPHERE thus draws on a wide range of experienced participants have gained working collaboratively in multi-partner research projects.

Participant no.	Participant organisation name	Participant org. short name	Country
1 (co-ordinator)	Middle East Technical University	METU	Turkey
2	Working Lives Research Institute (London Metropolitan University)	WLRI	UK and France
3	Institut für Arbeitsmarkt und Berufsforschung	IAG	Germany
4	Uniwersytet Śląski	Silesia	Poland
5	Universidad Complutense de Madrid	UCM	Spain

With one exception, the partners have all had previous contacts with the WLRI, either working on projects together or exchanging students, or having staff who have worked alongside other colleagues in the consortium. The link between the WLRI and Poland comes at second remove, from a colleague who worked previously with Dr John Kirk. However, in preparation for putting in the bid the Consortium organised an international two-day meeting attended by all the partners. This confirmed the common interests and the range of disciplines being brought to bear.

The prior interconnections between the different research teams are sketched in Figure 3 below:

Figure 3 Consortium research connections



In Turkey, the Middle Eastern Technical University (**METU**) was founded in 1956 to contribute to the development of Turkey and Middle East countries and especially to train people so as to create a skilled workforce in the fields of natural and social sciences. Today it has five faculties running 47 undergraduate programmes and 152 graduate programmes. Most courses are taught in English and the university employs 750 academic staff and more than 1,400 research assistants. The Consortium partner is based in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration in the Faculty of Economic and Administrative Sciences, where they have the support of the Faculty and the university's central administration. Contacts with the WLRI were made through the WLRI's joint organisation of an international conference on 'Turkey and the EU: work, employment and trade unions' in Ankara, taking place May 31-June 1 2007.

The Working Lives Research Institute (**WLRI**) of London Metropolitan University has had the most international research experience among the Consortium. It was established in 2002 to undertake socially committed academic and applied research into all aspects of working lives, emphasising equality and social justice. In a short time it has built up a 20-strong team of researchers with diverse experience in multidisciplinary research across a wide range of important issues covering employment practices, employment law, discrimination and gender issues, nationality, race and ethnicity in employment, migrant experiences and studies in culture, identity and social change. The Institute has acquired an international reputation for its work on the experiences of black and ethnic minority and migrant workers. It has had research commissioned by national and regional governmental bodies. Its researchers have experience of both quantitative and qualitative analysis

and in-depth qualitative interviewing and in running focus groups and through the ESRC Social Identities project in photo-elicitation techniques. The WLRI has also successfully tendered for French government projects, including an on-going one for the French Ministry of Labour. It has thus directly employed French academics to work on research in France and in Central and Eastern Europe. It is for this reason, because the target Corbeil-Essonnes region is only three hours from London, and because it enables the important French case to be included that the WLRI will research regions in both the UK and France.

The Institute benefits from a prestigious Advisory Board including individuals from government agencies, the TUC and its trade union affiliates and community and migrant organisations. The WLRI's experience of European research is extensive. In Framework Five it successfully coordinated the RITU project, (*Racial and ethnic minorities, immigration and the role of trade unions in combating discrimination and xenophobia, in encouraging participation and in securing social inclusion and citizenship*). In Framework Six it is a partner within the WORKS project examining the evolution of work within the knowledge society and a partner in PIQUE, examining the performance of sectors before and after privatisation. WLRI is also coordinator of the FP6 project, 044272 – UWT (*Undocumented Worker Transitions: Compiling evidence concerning the boundaries and processes of change in the status and work of undocumented workers in Europe*) that began its 24-month work on March 1 2007.

The **IAB** (Institut für Arbeitsmarkt- und Berufsforschung) is the Institute for Employment Research of the German Federal Labour Office (Bundesagentur für Arbeit), which is a self-governed, publicly controlled body, attached to the German Ministry of Labour (Bundesarbeitsministerium). The Bundesagentur is independently funded by the obligatory unemployment insurance contributions of workers and employers, and legally installed by German social security laws. The IAB, founded in 1967, consists of about 300 scientists in 11 departments and 5 service units, doing interdisciplinary research on all economical and sociological aspects of labour markets and occupations. Since spring 2003 it has been directed by the sociologist Professor. Jutta Allmendinger PhD. Its research, funded by an internal budget, by other governmental bodies or publicly acknowledged funding institutions, is not only meant for academic purposes, but also to counsel and support labour market policy makers in order to find and evaluate measures and instruments for increasing employment, fighting unemployment and maintaining social security on the labour market in the present era of socioeconomic changes. In conducting such activities, the IAB has not only special access to the Bundesagentur's social security register databases, covering all registered employees and unemployed persons in Germany, but also keeps up own large-scale survey datasources, such as the IAB establishment panel survey, the unemployed persons and unmanned jobs survey, as well as various qualitative surveys and documentation databases collecting many kinds of information on labour market research and publications. The IAB keeps up exchange and cooperation relationships with numerous scientific and policy making institutions from in and outside Germany by contributing to conferences, research programmes and scientific networks, participating in research cooperation, having its fellows teaching at universities and hosting scientists from all over the world. The IAB's activities are supervised by a board of independent scientific advisors, and it is publishing a peer-

review journal, a book series and four different paper series. The IAB's research department on 'Joblessness and Social Inclusion,' was founded in autumn 2005. It focuses on the social contexts of unemployment and the effects of changing welfare policies on unemployed families beyond mere reintegration into the labour market. Core research questions are the conditions for active labour market policies within poor households and their everyday practices and the effects of those policies on households concerning basic needs, social stability of individuals and families as well as social inclusion. The way those changes affect working class families and eventually lead to unemployment and neediness is a crucial condition for the success of active labour market policies but fairly under-observed until now.

The **University of Silesia** was established in Katowice in 1968 as the ninth university in Poland and is an autonomous state university. The University of Silesia offers excellent research and teaching conditions and with about 45000 students and some 1900 academic staff, the University of Silesia is one of the largest in Poland. Located in the heart of Upper Silesia, Poland's old industrial region with a distinct history and cultural identity, the University attracts many scientists and students working in all scholastic, scientific and artistic disciplines. The Institute of Sociology at University of Silesia is one of the leading institutes in the University. The Contemporary Culture Research Unit was established in 1988 by Professor Kazimiera Wódz. It employs eight permanent staff (1 professor, 6 researchers and tutors (with PhD), 1 research assistant (M.A) and 1 PhD student. The Unit cooperates regularly with many researchers from other Universities in Poland and the EU (Durham University, UK, Universite de Bordeaux (F), University of Trento (I), Middlesex University (UK) and many others). Professor Wodz has conducted many field studies in Upper Silesia (the most industrialized region of Poland) and participated in several international projects dealing with the different aspects of regional transformation, including: "Social Poverty in Central Europe: The Polish Case", grant funded by The Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna, 1997-1999: "Organized Civil Society and European Governance" funded through the EU – Fifth Framework Program, co-ordinated by University of Trento, Italy, 2003-2006, and many others realized in cooperation with different partners from the EU. The main fields of research of the Unit are: cultural studies, European studies, ethnicity, gender, community, urban and regional studies, visual sociology, sociology of literature and gender studies, political discourse analysis. The University has signed 106 agreements of scientific and educational co-operation with universities and other research institutions from 32 countries. The University of Silesia has particularly strong links with European partner colleges, but also fruitful joint research with scientists from USA, Japan, Canada, Brazil, Russia and numerous other countries.

The University Complutense of Madrid (**UCM**) is a public institution, the largest, oldest and most important university in Spain in terms of numbers (students and staff), but also in terms of scientific excellence. A similar point can be made concerning the importance of the School (Facultad) of Political Science and Sociology (UCM) in the field of social sciences, especially in Spanish-speaking countries. The School has a long research tradition in the fields of sociology, political science, anthropology, social psychology and history, hosting 13 scientific departments, around 300 professors and more than 4000 students, including 300 postgraduate students. Apart from Spanish students, a large number of Latin-American students choose the School of Political Science and Sociology for

postgraduate training, providing an important sense of internationalism. The School has close teaching and research contacts to many European and Latin-American Universities. The School includes several research teams in the fields of labour relations, organization studies, social movements and cultural identity. The Spanish research team for the SPHERE consortium will benefit from this important experience and long tradition. Furthermore, it belongs to a larger research group, named EGECO (Employment, GEndeR, and COhesion regimes), which is developing several research projects on a collaborative basis, as well as seminars and publications.

3. Impact

3.1 Expected impacts listed in the work programme

SPHERE will have a major impact on understanding the ways histories and identities are formed both through time and in space, as the products of ways of being and living nurtured through a range of cultural practices, traditions and institutional forms, while being shaped and reshaped in fundamental ways by broader economic and political forces operating in a given moment and in often decisive ways. It explores the place of regional and community identities in the context of rapid globalisation and economic restructuring. It focuses on industrial cultures and identities in transition.

SPHERE will:

- *advance the state of the art in the field of cultural diversities and commonalities in Europe*

Through in-depth historical and comparative analysis of key regions across the European Union the impact of profound economic change and reconstruction will be measured in relation to established cultural traditions, identities and formations. It will examine the effect of this on notions of regional and collective identities, and analyse how such changes have developed in the separate localities and how the transitions impact at both an individual and collective level. The project seeks to understand the key co-ordinates that bring collective modes of identity into being and how such identities decline, thrive or modify themselves over time.

- *increase awareness and information for the formulation and implementation of European initiatives*

SPHERE centres its investigation on the notion of 'cultures in transition' by examining regions that have received inward investment from the EU and national governments in regeneration projects. It will bring together significant case studies from across the European Union and candidate states providing key analysis and insights into the importance of such investments in reshaping cultural traditions and making sense of identities and difference in a rapidly changing European and global environment. This cultural audit of regeneration strategies will provide vital information for the implementation of similar future European initiatives.

- *devise strategies to involve relevant communities, stakeholders, practitioners in the making and/or diffusion of research*

SPHERE involves a wide range of key stake-holders in the research process. Regional Project Advisory Groups of local experts will be established in each country. Individual interviews and focus groups within the communities under investigation will open the research to many participants. Report-back meetings to all interviewees will be organised by the national research teams working with local stakeholders and experts in each region in connection with photographic exhibitions on the theme of 'Our Changing Cultural Landscape'.

- *improve the potential to influence the formulation, development and implementation of policy at national or European level*

SPHERE will inform policy around reconstruction of the regions. It will help illuminate how communities across Europe engage with social and cultural changes deeply affecting their everyday lives. The project will produce policy recommendations at national level and to the EU. These will be presented as part of the final report at the International Conference.

3.2 Dissemination and/or exploitation of project results, and management of intellectual property

From the outset the project aims to communicate widely about its work and its objectives. SPHERE identifies four major audiences: the General Public in transition regions; Local Policy Makers and Experts and other Stake holders in transition regions; National experts and stakeholders; National and European-level policy-makers. These audiences will be kept informed throughout of findings and outcomes; they will participate in a wide range of ways – through taking part in the research process itself, as interviewees in an individual capacity and as part of focus groups. Through participation in the development of website material and in contributions to the project website, which will be made available to schools and libraries as well as individual PCs.

The dissemination of project results and the transfer of knowledge will take a range of forms, as a way of ensuring that European policy makers, social partners and stakeholders, and other relevant bodies, are fully informed of and engaged with the project's findings.

3.2.1 Phase 1

- The creation of six national project websites containing all relevant information on the project, with regular additional material and a newsletter.
- The information contained on the website will be wide ranging. This would include material from quantitative data on demographic shifts and employment figures to personal anecdotes and stories from people within the community across a range of gender and generation.
- It would also invite contributions from local actors involved in the project and the more general public, who would be encouraged to send in their thoughts and feelings about changes within the community, and how these have impacted on their everyday life. This could also provide other sources of analysis to complement the material gathered in focus groups and interviews in phase two.
- The aim is to maintain the sites for purposes of further research or educational needs beyond the life of the project.
- Early stage national and European state of the art reports would be made available to all relevant parties. These would also be included on the website.

3.2.2 Phase 2

- The key empirical research will take place during this phase, out of which will begin to emerge key findings. These reports' findings will begin to be made available to representative bodies within the regions and material will be

presented at academic seminars and be used with research participants to advance understanding of the issues raised.

- The visual dimension of the project will be a key focus here, also, though active throughout. This process will be complemented by images produced by our respondents in the regional localities and communities under discussion – contemporary photographs and ones which come from their own collections.
- Single-use cameras would be provided to local schools and community groups, allowing them to produce images of importance to them, reflecting changes within the community or spaces within the community that hold historical and contemporary significance to them. The photographer hired for the project would provide some tutorial sessions for participants. This type of work will complement the oral testimonies of respondents.
- This material will be used in a number of ways (once permission has been granted) in the overall dissemination process. To broaden dissemination beyond the recognised modes of academic journal and conference, the project will arrange photographic exhibitions in the regions, open to the general public and others associated with the work. These exhibitions will be held simultaneously in each partner country. This will take place in phase 4 of the project.

3.2.3 Phase 3

- This phase of the project is dedicated to the integration and analysis of the findings from the earlier phases of the project, including regional expert views.
- Researchers will prepare National and thematic reports whose findings are discussed at workshops held in the partner states. The workshops will disseminate the initial research findings and will discuss the key themes emerging from the research.
- The first main objective is to integrate the findings from Phases 1 and 2, which will make it possible to answer the critical research questions about the changing basis for collective identities.
- By drawing on standardised national summaries of data collected, each thematic report will enable comparative analysis of partner countries, plus additional material from key informant interviews and literature reviews. All of the existing data will be synthesised to create several thematic reports.
- The four key thematic areas will be:
 - Old and new formations of gender and class
 - Landscape and histories
 - Communities and new collective identities
 - Narrative and cultural identities

3.2.4 Phase 4

- Regional report-back events will take place. Open to all the project interviewees and to the Regional Advisory Board members, and organised in local public spaces (such as schools, colleges, museums, municipal buildings) these events

will hear detailed national report-backs and in addition one national summary from one other country.

- This will lead to the production of the final report, as well as conference papers, academic articles and the international conference.
 - The final report to the EU will also be made available on the website.
 - The partners will aim to publish articles and conference papers to gain a wider distribution of the finding, conclusions and policy recommendations from the project. International journals would include: *European Journal of Cultural Studies*; *Space and Culture: International Journal of Social Spaces*; *Journal of Narrative Theory*; *Studia Socjologiczne* and *Kultura i Społeczeństwo* (both co-edited by Polish Academy of Science); *Berliner Journal für Soziologie* and *Soziale Welt* (both SSCI-listed); *Geschichte und Gesellschaft*; *Archiv für Sozialgeschichte*; *Aus Politik und Zeitgeschichte* (a publication widely read across the German community, from the Bundeskanzler's assistants to local mayors, unionists, college students); and a range of other prestigious publications.
 - The international conference will be held at a partner institution, with invited experts in the field from academia and other stakeholding organisations, as well as individuals who have been involved in the project at a range of levels.
- A book proposal will be developed and publisher sought.
- Photographic exhibitions will take place in this phase in each of the regions. An appropriate venue will be chosen from within the regions under investigation. Likely venues would include community centres, local schools, libraries, clubs or museums. A wide local publicity campaign would be mounted to ensure awareness and participation. Local newspapers and radio and television stations would be contacted with a view to publicising the events, as well as poster campaigns in the communities.

4. Ethical Issues

The research teams are very experienced and familiar with procedures and frameworks for dealing with ethical issues that cover the following areas:

- Gaining consent of the research participants
- Respect for confidentiality and clarity about anonymising contributions
- Knowledge and respect for data protection issues.

The study will not involve any children or vulnerable adults so we do not expect any major ethical concerns to arise during the project but we are sensitive to the view that discussing issues around identity and belonging can be a very emotive process and that such discussion must be handled sensitively. Moreover, a number of issues that may arise in relation to participants feeling exposed or wanting to be open about their criticism of others without repercussion.

We will write to potential research participants in the first instance explaining the aims and objectives of the research and their prospective involvement. Further to this, the following steps will inform all ethical issues related to the project:

- the Consortium Agreement reached before the start of the project will set out the duties and obligations of each of the parties and the co-ordinator, and will include a code of ethical conduct.
- the International Steering Group, in its twice-yearly meetings, will consider any ethical issues arising during the project, and in the event of the emergence of problems related to ethical issues which cannot wait until the next programmed meeting, the group will convene in emergency session.
- the proposal to revisit methodologies at the first two ISG meetings involving all partner organisations is aimed at ensuring that partners adopt the same ethical standpoints.
- the project's ethical standards will be communicated to sub-contractors on the project, especially transcribers and interpreters who will be dealing with sensitive data, and procedures for confidentiality will be established.

Data collected on interviewees will be securely stored, in compliance with relevant national data protection legislation of the member states that implement the European Directive 95/46/CE. Interview and personal material stored electronically will be anonymised using a coding system, and will be accessible only to the responsible people working on the project for each partner organisation, including both research and administrative staff. Any data held in paper files will also be stored securely, with access limited to the responsible project partners. High levels of security will protect the means of transferring and sharing data among the Consortium members.

ETHICAL ISSUES TABLE

	YES	PAGE
Informed Consent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Does the proposal involve children? · Does the proposal involve patients or persons not able to give consent? · Does the proposal involve adult healthy volunteers? · Does the proposal involve Human Genetic Material? · Does the proposal involve Human biological samples? · Does the proposal involve Human data collection? 	No No No No No No	
Research on Human embryo/foetus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Does the proposal involve Human Embryos? · Does the proposal involve Human Foetal Tissue / Cells? · Does the proposal involve Human Embryonic Stem Cells? 	No No No	
Privacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Does the proposal involve processing of genetic information or personal data (eg. health, sexual lifestyle, ethnicity, political opinion, religious or philosophical conviction) · Does the proposal involve tracking the location or observation of people? 	No No	
Research on Animals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Does the proposal involve research on animals? · Are those animals transgenic small laboratory animals? · Are those animals transgenic farm animals? · Are those animals cloning farm animals? · Are those animals nonhuman primates? 	No No No No No	
Research Involving Developing Countries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Use of local resources (genetic, animal, plant etc) · Benefit to local community (capacity building ie access to healthcare, education etc) 	No No	
Dual Use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Research having potential military / terrorist application 	No	
I CONFIRM THAT NONE OF THE ABOVE ISSUES APPLY TO MY PROPOSAL	YES	

5. Consideration of gender aspects

The question of gender is central to this study. The type of economic and cultural change characteristic of the regions studied here has impacted in profound ways on identities experienced and lived through dominant understandings of gender difference. In many ways an 'old male' identity is disappearing. It is these understandings which have been powerfully undermined through a range of processes, most tellingly the ones wrought by the reconstruction of local labour markets, the demise of particular types of gendered work and the emergence of new ones. A major research issue is whether these emergent identities

Thus the research partners will ensure the implications of gender equality are at the forefront of all aspects of the research process. This will be reflected, too, in the fact that a significant percentage of the research teams are women and we expect that this will enable the participation of female researchers to draw out the voices of women on this subject matter. Women are taking important and lead roles on the project. The Polish team is led by Professor Kazimiera Wodz, who is joined by two other senior female colleagues with wide research experience in the areas of labour markets, economic reconstruction and gender issues. The French research team from the WLRI will be led by Dr. Sylvie Contrepois; and among the four WLRI researchers two senior female colleagues with wide experience in the field of work identity and gender studies will play major roles. IAB (Germany) will employ a female researcher, Dr. Tina Glug, to take a central role in the project, as will METU (Turkey) through the involvement of Gulcin Tunc. Overall, out of the roughly 20 researchers committed to the project, eight are women.

In terms of the Regional Advisory Groups the Consortium is committed to including half men and half women, while, the stakeholder workshops will encourage the participation of organisations representing women and their interests, among all types of stakeholder groups. The policy recommendations to be prepared in relation to the workshops will also place gender considerations as a central area of concern. Similarly, the final project conference will also specifically encourage the participation of women and contain discussion of gender issues in relation to the findings and recommendations.

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