



Consortium for Comparative Research on Regional Integration and Social Cohesion(RISC)/United Nations University Center for Comparative Regional Integration Studies (CRIS)

Summer School and Research Symposium:

Analyzing Regional Social Cohesion:

Theoretical and Methodological Training for Advanced Research

2-7 July 2012, University of Luxembourg

Social Cohesion is a concept/paradigm which is utilized by scholars and leaders throughout the world. Despite its widespread acceptance, however, little conceptual clarity has been achieved. Different approaches/definitions of social cohesion exist in different world regions yet all regions are confronted with the same challenge: creating social cohesion across borders. For example, the African Union refers to social cohesion in terms of anti-colonialism, African cultural heritage and continental cooperation. The Andean Community and Mercosur discuss the term with reference to social exclusion/integration and poverty reduction. In Europe definitions vary within the continent as the European Union approaches cohesion as bridging development gaps between regions whereas the Council of Europe focuses on embracing cultural diversity within continental notions of citizenship and the extension of social and cultural rights. Finally, in North America, one finds little regional reference to social cohesion due to the structure and content of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

The RISC/CRIS summer school provides training for Ph.D. candidates, postdoctoral researchers and research-oriented practitioners, on theoretical and methodological aspects of research related to social cohesion. Moreover, because cohesion is an emerging topic in regional integration debates, the summer school explicitly frames discussions in regional terms. Potential participants should work on cohesion-related issues such as: migration, social policy, social integration, security, environmental management, ethnic conflict, development, social risk/vulnerability, the quality of democracy and citizen participation, etc. within a regional or cross-border context. At the end of the school, participants should have acquired:

- 1) an overview of present debates surrounding social cohesion strategies in different world regions;
- 2) methodological skills aimed at cross-regional, comparative analyses of social cohesion issues;
- 3) insight into present and potential future relationships between social cohesion and regional integration;
- 4) comprehension of the practical implications of social cohesion discussions through interaction with governmental officials and representatives of non-governmental organizations



The school will be organized around keynote lectures given by leading scholars from different world regions in the mornings. In the afternoons, students will present their own research during conference sessions. The school includes a field trip to a European institution and break-out sessions with practitioners working in international development.

April 15, 2012: Application deadline

Summer School Organizing Committee:

RISC Consortium: Harlan Koff and Carmen Maganda

UNU-CRIS: Philippe De Lombaerde and Bob Deacon

Lecturers include : Bob Deacon (U. Sheffield and UNU-CRIS), Louise Fawcett (U. Oxford), Harlan Koff (U. Luxembourg), René Leboutte (U. Luxembourg), Carmen Maganda (RISC), Stephen Kingah (UNU-CRIS), Philippe De Lombaerde (UNU-CRIS)

Program Schedule (Length: 6 days)

Day	Morning Activity	Afternoon Activity
Day I	Cross-Regional Analyses of Regional Integration and Social Cohesion	Student Presentations of Individual Research Projects
Day II	Regional Social Cohesion in Europe	Field Trip: European Investment Bank or European Court of Justice
Day III	Regional Social Cohesion in Africa	Student Presentations of Individual Research Projects
Day IV	Regional Social Cohesion in the Americas	Student Presentations of Individual Research Projects
Day V	Regional Social Cohesion in the Middle East	Student Presentations of Individual Research Projects
Day VI	Regional Social Cohesion and Policy-making in Development	Break-out sessions



Calendar:

15 March 2012 : Launch Call for Applications

15 April 2012 : Application Deadline

30 April 2012: Notification of Admissions Decisions

1 June 2012 : Enrollment Deadline

2-7 July 2012: Summer Training Program at the University of Luxembourg

Fees and Costs: Up to 15 students will be accepted for this summer school/research conference for which accommodation and meals will be provided by the organizers. Also, there are no fees but participants are responsible for their own international travel to and from Luxembourg.

Applications: PhD candidates, post-doctoral researchers, project researchers and research-oriented practitioners interested in participating in the Summer School should send their CV, short outline of their current or planned research project, and a short cover letter to Sofie Dewilde (sdewilde@cris.unu.edu) and Pascale Vantorre (pvantorre@cris.unu.edu) preferably before April 15th 2012.