

## Horizontal Europeanization

Processes of horizontal Europeanization are characterized by increasing cross-border regulations, increased organizational, economic, political and socio-cultural relationships across national boundaries as well as an increasingly transnational orientation of individual patterns of perceptions and behavior. Horizontal Europeanization thus can be analyzed at the macro level of social structures, at the meso level of organizations and social fields, and at the micro level of social attitudes and interaction.

## Basic Information

- The Research Unit analyzes processes of European Integration that occur in the interaction between administrations, organizations and people.
- We work in seven different empirical fields in order to analyze the horizontal Europeanization of these fields.
- Our team is composed of eleven researchers based in Germany and Austria. Furthermore, there are about 15 PhD students involved in our projects.
- The Research Unit is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the Austrian Science Fund (FWF). It is coordinated by Martin Heidenreich of the Jean Monnet Centre for Europeanisation and Transnational Regulations

## Funded by

**DFG** Deutsche  
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DFG Research Unit (FOR 1539)

*Europe as an emerging social entity  
between national and global scales*



[www.horizontal-europeanization.eu](http://www.horizontal-europeanization.eu)

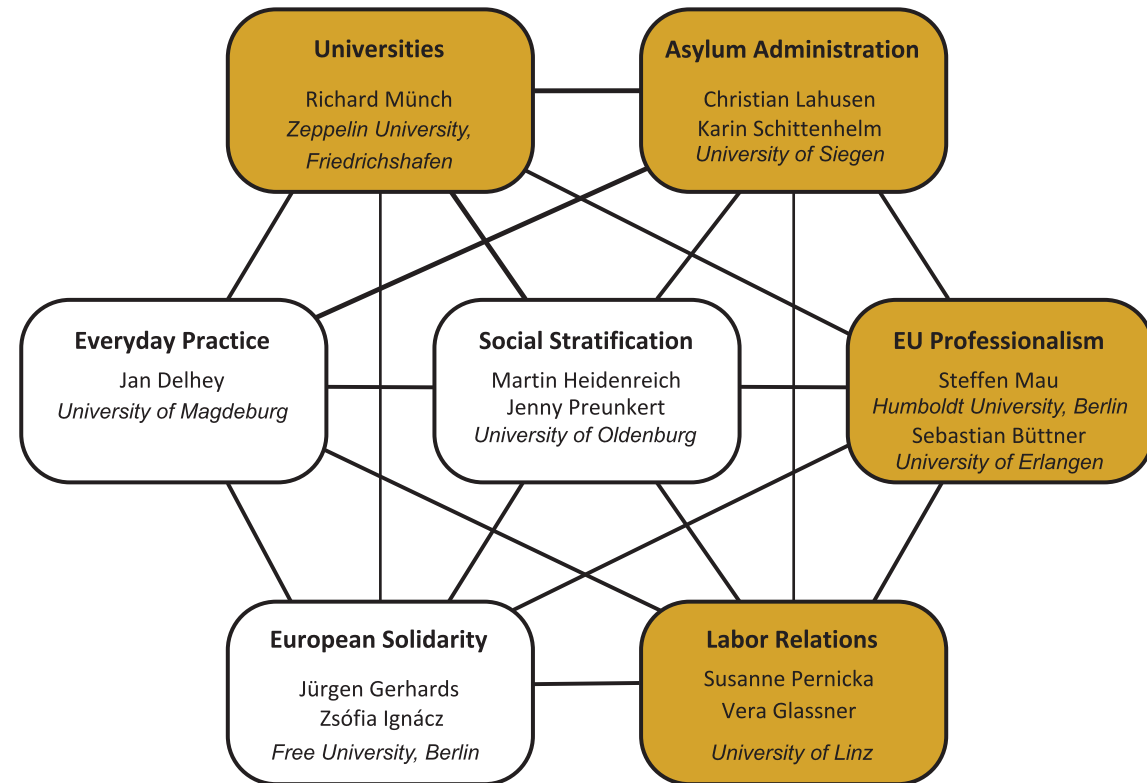
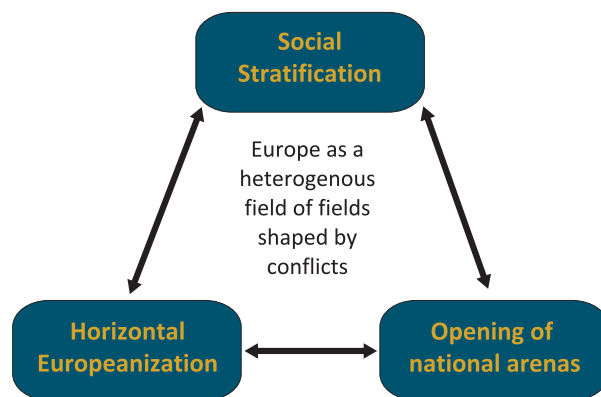
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## Research Context

- European Integration has created a common European market.
- The nation state is no longer the only or the most important frame of reference.
- Transnational social interactions and perceptions become more and more important.
- Everyday life increasingly takes place in transnational social spaces.

## Research Idea

- Contribute to a better understanding of the increasing transnational range of social activities
- Focus on processes of “horizontal Europeanization”, the dense networks of cross-border interactions, relations, transactions and mobility
- Analyze Europeanization of national fields as a social process shaped by conflicts and power struggles
- Consider in how far European social stratification has already emerged



*Empirical fields considered within the Research Unit*

## Research Approach

Our understanding of Europe is based on a concept of field-specific, multi-level and contested processes of horizontal Europeanization. Cross-border activities take place in various social fields which are characterized by institutionally regulated relations between hierarchically ordered social positions. These social positions allow access to field-specific resources and opportunities that influence the social situation and the interaction, interpretation and attitudes of the individuals involved. These patterns are reproduced in symbolic struggles in which actors try to improve their positions and influence.

This approach is based on the social theory of Pierre Bourdieu and on neo-institutionalism. While the former considers fields to be a configuration of positions, interests and capital that are engaged in constant struggles for power and recognition, the latter emphasizes the isomorphic pressures that might engender a convergence between separated entities. This combination of an actor-centered and structural perspective allows us to integrate our empirical research in seven different fields into a common theoretical framework.