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European Research Area



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RESPECT Research Project

**Towards a “Topography” of Tolerance and Equal Respect.
A comparative study of policies for the distribution of public
spaces in culturally diverse societies.**

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Basic information

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End date: 31st December 2011

EU Contribution: € 1,341,533



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SEVENTH FRAMEWORK
PROGRAMME

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Background

Tolerance has been increasingly invoked as the inspiring ideal of a number of social policies in European democracies. Appeals to tolerance have animated especially the political debates on those policies addressed to accommodate minorities' requests. Among such requests those for the **allocation of public spaces** have recently come to the front in the political agendas of many European and extra-European countries.

Tolerance-inspired spatial policies may (a) represent a threat to the **equality of treatment** of all citizens as they risk creating different categories of citizenship with which diverse rights and obligations are associated, and, in so doing, (b) they may end up undermining the bases of **social cohesion** (causing resentments, and ultimately intolerance).



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Research questions

Does the implementation of tolerance-inspired spatial policies risk undermining the basic democratic commitments to equality and social cohesion?

If so, what conception of tolerance may be invoked to limit such a risk?



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Basic hypothesis

We would like to test the tenability of the hypothesis that **grounding tolerance on equal respect for persons** may contribute to developing spatial policies combining the basic democratic commitment to equality with the aspiration to accommodate cultural diversity without undermining social cohesion.



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Three research areas

The case studies address the following policy areas:

1. the distribution of spaces to build **places of worship** (e.g. Mosques) and faith schools;
2. the provision of **sites for Roma** and other travelling populations; and
3. the **housing policies for migrants**.



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Partners

1. Institute for Advanced Study of Pavia (**Italy**) – political theory, urban studies
2. Københavns Universitet (**Denmark**) – political philosophy, applied ethics
3. Západočeská univerzita (**Czech Republic**) – political theory, social anthropology
4. Université de Rennes I (**France**) – political philosophy, sociology
5. Peking University (**China**) – political philosophy, social studies
6. University of Wales, Newport (**United Kingdom**) – applied and social ethics
7. Università degli Studi del Piemonte Orientale (**Italy**) – political philosophy
8. Ural State University (**Russian Federation**) – history of political philosophy, sociology
9. Cyprus Center for European and International Affairs (**Cyprus**) – legal studies
10. Univerza v Ljubljani (**Slovenia**) – political philosophy, sociology
11. Central European University, Budapest (**Hungary**) – political philosophy, social studies
12. European Humanities University (**Lithuania**) - sociology
13. Tel-Aviv University (**Israel**) – social geography, urban studies
14. Universität Darmstadt (**Germany**) – political theory, social and legal studies



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Objectives

Objective 1: *to advance the state of the art in the field of political theory by developing a **multidisciplinary conceptual taxonomy**.*

Objective 2: *to study how appeals to tolerance have informed the development of spatial policies in culturally diverse societies (**case studies**).*

Objective 3: *to investigate through comparisons the influence of local cultural diversities on the way in which the idea of tolerance has informed the enactment of spatial policies in different national contexts.*

Objective 4: *to extrapolate from the studies above the possible connections between tolerance and equal respect for persons. Besides their theoretical interest, our results will be used to develop **key-messages** addressed to **European and national policy makers**.*



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Main results (deliverables)

- **Project website** (including thematic bibliography, conceptual map, working paper series, calendar of events);
- **Journal special issues;**
- **Policy briefs;**
- **Hearing at the European Parliament;**
- **Major international conference.**



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Perché un progetto europeo?

- **Ricerca collaborativa**
- **Multidisciplinarietà** (non interdisciplinarietà)
- **Contributo concreto** (es. filosofia come formazione di lessico civile)

... ma assicuratevi un buon
Project Administrator!