

“Diversity, Migration and Social Cohesion” (Div/Mig/Soc) RG
11th IMISCOE annual conference *Immigration, Social Cohesion and Social Innovation*, 27-28-29th
August 2014, Madrid
SUMMARY OF MEETINGS

During the 11th IMISCOE annual conference *Immigration, Social Cohesion and Social Innovation*, 27-28-29th August 2014, Madrid, the “Diversity, Migration and Social Cohesion” Research Group (established within the IMISCOE network) met twice – for a kick-off meeting and a creative workshop.

1st Day: Kick-off meeting, 28 August 2014

During the kick-off meeting the Div/Mig/Soc research group was officially launched. Aneta Piekut – the network coordinator – briefly introduced this new research group and presented the goals of this new initiative. The overall aim of the group is to develop a platform for discussion and knowledge exchange for researchers of a diversity effect originating from both Western and Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries. By facilitating ideas exchange and collaboration possibilities, this research group hopes to make a step forward in comparative studies of ethnic and social diversity.

The main part of the workshop was mapping experience and research interests of the group members. Each of the national teams presented results of their research that was most relevant to the relationship between diversity and social cohesion. The workshop attendees were asked to make notes during each presentation to highlight inspiring ideas and main research findings. After all presentations were given, research experience and research interests were mapped on the board, as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Mapping research experience and research interests



Photo: Aneta Piekut

2nd Day: Creative workshop, 29 August 2014

During the creative workshop group discussed the greatest weaknesses and limitations of to-date diversity effect studies, such as a lack of clear and concise definition of diversity and analytical problems with using different size residential areas in the studies. Embracing the limitation we have also identified a few important questions that should be answered by 'diversity-migration-social cohesion' studies in the near future. The main unsolved issue in the diversity studies is related to causality, social sorting, self-selection, longitudinal change and intra-urban mobility. A related issue is a scarcity of studies of mediating and moderating mechanisms between ethnic diversity and social cohesion. The interplay between ethnic diversity and other dimensions of diversity – such as demographic (ageing of European societies), socio-economic, health and disability; but also these more related to ethnic diversity: religious and linguistic differences – should be given more attention in future studies.

After discussing the limitations and future challenges, we had a brainstorming break. Attendees clustered into three teams and discussed their 'dream, collaborative projects', following the instructions of the creative exercise: 'If you had resources, what would your 'diversity-migration-social cohesion' research look like?'. A few really interesting research ideas emerged and were written down as a starting point of a future joint research proposal. The creative workshop ended with drafting a few ideas regarding how to sustain future collaboration.

More information on the "Diversity, Migration, Social Cohesion" initiative can be found on the IMISCOE [webpage](#) and on the Div/Mig/Soc [blog](#). For more 'diversity effect studies' news follow us via Twitter at [@DivMigSoc](#).