

Preface and introduction

Hans-Dieter Klingemann and Dieter Fuchs

This volume owes its existence to the ‘Wider Europe, Deeper Integration? Network of Excellence,’ co-funded by the European Commission within the Sixth Framework Programme. The lifetime of the project, which was coordinated by Wolfgang Wessels, Cologne University, extended from November 2005 to the end of May 2009. Hans-Dieter Klingemann (Sciences Po Paris) and Dieter Fuchs (University of Stuttgart) organized the current volume. They were asked to contribute to the general theme of ‘Democracy, Legitimacy and Identities: Citizens in the Construction of Europe’ (Work package V) with a specific focus on ‘EU enlargement, cultural diversity and national identity’ (Team 12). Klingemann and Fuchs recruited a team of young, aspiring social scientists coming from various universities: the University of Amsterdam (Catherine E. de Vries), the Free University Berlin (Andrea Schlenker-Fischer), the University of Bordeaux (Isabelle Guinaudeau), Corvinus University of Budapest (Judit Kis Varga), the University of Maastricht (Christine Arnold), Oxford University (Julia De Clerck-Sachsse), Sciences Po Paris (Olivier Ruchet, Vincent Tiberj), the University of Stuttgart (Christian Schneider), and the University of Zurich (Simon Bornschier). Judit Kis Varga and Vincent Tiberj participated in most of the team’s activities, but, for different reasons, were not able to contribute a chapter to this volume. Christine Arnold, Catherine de Vries and Christian Schneider joined the project in a later phase.

The team met four times at Sciences Po Paris in Dijon (9–11 December 2005; 24–26 November 2006; 2–3 November 2007; 23–24 April 2009), and twice each at the Foundation for European Studies – European Institute in Lodz (30 March–1 April 2006; 21–24 February 2007) and the Social Science Research Centre Berlin (23–24 May 2007; 23–24 April 2008).

The volume we now present has been defined as the group’s major product right from the beginning. After intense discussions at the initial meeting in Dijon four basic assumptions were agreed upon: (1) The development of a European identity and a common European culture is a prerequisite for European integration; (2) European identity and a common political culture will not develop rapidly but emerge slowly; (3) In the current historical phase, we can observe the beginnings of a European identity and a common

European culture, both of which are developing as an interdependent process; (4) European identity and culture, and national and regional identities, are not exclusive, rather, they are complementary. Dieter Fuchs and Andrea Schlenker presented a background paper summarizing the theoretical approach and clarifying major conceptual issues at the EU-Consent: Work package V Conference in Lodz in April 2006. The subsequent team meetings focused on the discussion of the individual chapter drafts. The conceptual framework that had been developed earlier on helped to structure the debate and integrate the three broad themes of the volume: EU legitimacy, European identity, and the relation of EU legitimacy and European identity under the condition of cultural diversity between European nations.

The high degree of coherence of the contributions to this volume owes much to the time the team spent together and the *genius loci* of the meeting places. This is particularly true for the workshops that took place at Sciences Po Paris, Dijon campus. Lukas Macek, directeur de 1er cycle est-européen de Sciences Po à Dijon 'Europe Centrale et Orientale,' and his staff proved to be generous hosts. Much has been said about the social functions of comparative research. Team 12 will certainly not forget the excellent cuisine and the wonderful wines of Burgundy, and the Maison Millière at rue de la Chouette, in particular. Thanks also go to Maria Karasinska-Fendler, leader of Work package V, and the European Institute of the Foundation for European Studies in Lodz. The two team meetings held in Lodz on the coat-tails of the Work package V conferences will be remembered for the proverbial Polish hospitality. Last but not least, we want to gratefully acknowledge the hospitality offered by the Social Science Research Centre Berlin.

EU-Consent provided an ideal support structure for the project. Special thanks go to Gaby Umbach and Funda Tekin of the Network's Cologne headquarters and to Vincent Morandi and Linda Amrani, responsables administratifs at Sciences Po Paris' Centre d'Études Européennes. Without their help we would not have managed to live up to the European Commission's reporting standards.

For professional assistance in the editorial work we appreciate the services of Nora Onar; Gudrun Mouna and Helene Rädler prepared the manuscript with competence and care.

Wolfgang Wessels and many other colleagues of the Network of Excellence have been generous with their advice and counsel. We want to say thank you to all of them.

Two babies were born and four dissertations finished during the 48 months our team worked together. We add this volume as the last of this project's happy events.

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