

1. Final Report – Form part, ref. 94757

Submitted on 29.06.2023 by Nadir Kinossian

Project Data

Initiative: Challenges for Europe

Name of the Grantee: Leibniz-Institut für Länderkunde e.V.

Dr. Nadir Kinossian

Project Title: Agents of change in old-industrial regions in Europe

Homepage: <https://acore-project.eu/>

Project information: Growing socio-economic disparities between prosperous metropolitan regions and poor rural, peripheral, and old-industrial regions pose a threat to Europe's long-term stability and EU goals of social cohesion. This project aims to develop a better understanding of the emergence of new development paths in old-industrial regions and the implications for social and spatial development. It focuses on actors instrumental for conceiving and creating new development paths and links actors located in different institutional contexts. The research identifies (1) agents of change responsible for the creation of new development paths, (2) policies, institutional settings, and cultures that contribute to novelty (3) barriers to change as well as tensions and conflicts. The research uses a comparative perspective to study old-industrial regions in five European countries (Germany, Czechia, Hungary, Sweden, and the United Kingdom). An analysis of two cases in each country is accompanied by a cross-national comparison of all five countries. The data sources include municipal and regional statistics, policy documents, and interviews with stakeholders and experts. The project is implemented by a consortium of five partners led by the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL) and partners, including Lund University (Sweden), Cardiff University (UK), Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem (Czechia), and Békéscsaba Research Group, Institute for Regional Studies (CERS HAS), the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Hungary). The project consortium generates policy recommendations for establishing new development paths in various socio-spatial, historical, and cultural contexts. In addition, the consortium plans a series of engagement events with local and regional governments and their development agencies as well as with EU-wide associations of development agencies.

Positions Paid Through the Grant

1. **Dr. Nadir Kinossian** (Mr.)

Leibniz-Institut für Länderkunde e.V., Leipzig Leipzig , Germany

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2. **Dr. Markus Grillitsch** (Mr.)

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3. **Linda Stihl** (Ms.)

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10. **Anna Saunders** (Ms.)

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11. **Franziska GÖRMAR** (Mrs.)

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currently: Leibniz-Institut für Länderkunde e.V., Leipzig

Selected (Refereed) Journal Publications

1. 2020 **Trinity of change agency, regional development paths and opportunity spaces.**
Markus Grillitsch and Markku Sotarauta
Progress in Human Geography
2020, Vol. 44(4), pp. 704–723
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0309132519853870>
2. 2021 **Crisis, institutional change and peripheral industrialization: Municipal-central state relations and changing dependencies in three old industrial towns of Hungary**
Erika Nagy, Gergo Gajzago, Melinda Mihaly Erno Molnar
Applied Geography
2021, Vol. 136, pp. 1-9
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apgeog.2021.102576>
3. 2022 **Industrial forever? Narratives, place identity, and the development path of the city of Zeitz, Germany**
Franziska Görmar and Nadir Kinossian
Moravian Geographical Reports
2022, 30(4), 270-287
<https://sciendo.com/article/10.2478/mgr-2022-0018>
4. 2023 **Local culture and change agency in old industrial places: spinning forward and digging deeper**
Linda Stihl
European Planning Studies
2023
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09654313.2023.2222145>
5. 2022 **Power relations and local agency: a comparative study of European mining towns**
Franziska Görmar, Markus Grillitsch, Vladan Hruška, Melinda Mihály, Erika Nagy, Jan Piša & Linda Stihl
Urban Research and Practice
2022
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/citedby/10.1080/17535069.2022.2051066?scroll=top&needAccess=true&role=tab>

(Co-)organized conferences / meetings and workshops

1. 2022 **Final project conference: Joint event with RSA Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) Conference "Bridging Old and New Divides: Global Dynamics, Regional transformations" Leipzig (September 14–17, 2022)**

2. 2022 **2022 Germany Project Meeting (in person). The final project meeting took place at the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, IfL in conjunction with the Final project conference in Leipzig (12.09.2022).**
3. 2022 **2022 Czech Republic Project meeting (in person). Finally project partners could come together! The meeting took place at Jan Evangelista Purkyn# University in Ústí nad Labem (27-28.04.2022).**
4. 2021 **2021 Hungary Project Meeting (online due to the restrictions on travel caused by the coronavirus pandemic).**
5. 2020 **2020 Britain Project Meeting (online due to the restrictions on travel caused by the coronavirus pandemic). Online project meeting (31.03-01.04. 2020) | Agents of Change in Old-industrial Regions in Europe (acore-project.eu)**
6. 2020 **2020 Czech Project meeting (online due to the restrictions on travel caused by the coronavirus pandemic).**
7. 2019 **2019 Sweden Project Meeting (in person). The second project meeting was held at Lund University (10-12.09.2019)**
8. 2019 **2019 Germany Project Meeting (in person). The inaugural project meeting of the ACORE project took place at the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (24-25.02.2019)**

Invited talks on project topic

1. 2019 **Nadir Kinossian, Agents of Change in Old Industrial Regions of Europe, Workshop on Innovation Diffusion, OECD, Paris, France.**
2. 2021 **Vladan Hruška, Jan Píša, Introduction of the ACORE project and preliminary results. Meeting of the Regional Development Workgroup of the Euroregion Elbe/Labe - Ústí nad Labem - 14 September 2021.**
3. 2023 **Erika Nagy, Presentation of ACORE project results at the 'Reginar' series of Centre for Economic and Regional Studies – Insitute for Regional Studies. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwwp3_kyIS4 (19.01.2023).**
4. 2022 **Jan Píša, Jak m#žeme zm#nit v#ci kolem sebe? (How can we change our neighbourhood?). Keynote speech at Czech Envi Thesis Competition. 1.12.2022, Ústí nad Labem.**

Other conference contributions (max. five)

1. 2022 **Special Session SS08. Agents of change in old industrial regions - Details (rdmobile.com) (Organised by Kinossian N, Nagy E, Stihl L and Hruska V. 2022 RSA Regions in Recovery Second Edition (March 21–April 1, 2022)**
2. 2021 **Special Session SS26 Agents of Change in Old-industrial Regions of Europe (Organised by Kinossian N, Görmar F, Saunders A, Morgan K and Grillitsch M). 2021 RSA Regions in Recovery (2-18.06.2021)**

3. 2021 Panel 5 Reindustrialization and the agents of new centralities and peripheralities in non-metropolitan spaces of CEE (Organiser: Vladan Hruška). BASEES, Leipzig (20-24 Apr 2021)
4. 2019 Joint Workshop on Socio-spatial inequalities hosted by CERS HAS and Corvinus University, organised by Melinda Mihály. Corvinus University. Budapest (30.05.2019).
5. 2021 Kinossian N and Hruška V (2021) Agents of change in old industrial regions. Volkswagen Foundation Symposium on Challenges for Europe. Hanover (9-10.07.2021)

Measures

1. 2021 Project website: <https://acore-project.eu>
2. 2021 Agents of change in old-industrial towns in Ústí nad Labem. Píša, J., et al. Project promotion video for Jan Evangelista Purkyně University (351 views) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ln3U-OgX4A&t=4s>
3. 2020 Trinity of Change Agency. Markus Grillitsch speaks at the Coffee break with Researchers (331 views) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=62PxAekEBhw>
4. 2021 Challenges for Europe – ACORE (project video, 37 views) <https://vimeo.com/527223528>
5. 2021 Research project 'Agents of Change in Old-industrial Regions of Europe' (ACORE) (74 views) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WaLVDnhq9oU>
6. 2021 ACORE Brochure https://leibniz-ifl.de/fileadmin/Redaktion/Forschung/Multiple_Geographien/ACORE_posterbrochure.pdf
7. 2020 Kevin Morgan speaks at the Coffee Break with Researchers <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EhXwfvD2sk4> (475 views).
8. 2022 Jan Píša – geograf: D#ležité je lidi správn# motivovat (Jan Píša – geographer: It is important to motivate people in the right way). Podcast. 3.11.2022, Most. Online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACJG25-vD2A&t=85s>
9. 2022 Coffee Break with Linda Stihl. Challenging the set mining path: Agency and diversification in the case of Kiruna. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8a5DjHanos> (102 views).
10. 2022 Stihl L, Borås meets. Presentation for the municipal administrative managers, municipal company managers, all presidiums, municipal leading councillors, the University of Borås and members of Borås Näringsliv. 16.05.202
11. 2022 Píša J (2022) V Moste#anech je velká síla, ukázal výzkum zam#ený na zm#ny zezdola (People of Most are strong - showed research focused on bottom-up change). https://mostecky.denik.cz/zpravy_region/workshop-most-zmeny.html

12. 2023 **Nagy E, Presentation of ACORE project results at the 'Reginar' series of Centre for Economic and Regional Studies – Insitute for Regional Studies. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwwp3_kyIS4 (19.01.2023).**

Media response

1. 2020-05-09 **Erika Nagy, Hungarian Academy of Sciences: A live interview on the conditions of and agencies in local economic development, the national broadcaster Kossuth Radio channel 09/05/2019.**

Transfer of project results

1. 2019 **Morgan, K. Policy advice: Enhancing Institutional Capacity: Multilevel Governance and Territorial Development in Wales, OECD.**
2. 2021 **Píša, J. Akté#i zm#ny v Ústeckém kraji: p#edb#žné výsledky výzkumu (Agents of change in Ústí nad Labem Region: preliminary results). Meeting of the Regional Development Working Group of the Euroregion Elbe/Labe - Ústí**
3. 2022 **Czech Republic National Workshop: Co m#žeme ud#lat pro Ústecký kraj? (What can we do for Ústí nad Labem region?). Policy workshop, Ústí nad Labem (7.12.2022).**
4. 2022 **Hungary National Workshop: A national workshop was organised in Budapest.National policy workshop in Budapest, October 2022 | <https://acore-project.eu/2023/02/08/national-policy-workshop-in-budapest-october-2022/>**
5. 2022 **Sweden National Workshop: Participation in national workshops as part of the reference group of a Project for Regional Transformation of the Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis (2021-2022)**
6. 2022 **Britain National Workshop: Post-Brexit Regional Policy in Wales. ACORE national event in partnership with the EPRC at Strathclyde University (12.10.2022).**
7. 2022 **Zeitz Local Workshop: Aus dem Dornröschenschlaf erwacht – Wie nun weiter in Zeitz? Alte Stadtbibliothek Zeitz, ca. 20 participants (03.11.2022).**
8. 2022 **Lauchhammer Local workshop: Lauchhammer –Kunstguss-Stadt und weiter? Mehrgenerationenhaus Lauchhammer, Germany. 15 participants (06.12.2022)**
9. 2023 **Llanelli Local Workshop: ACORE local event in partnership with Carmarthenshire County Council, Llanelli, Wales, UK (18.05.2023).**
10. 2022 **D##ín Local Workshop: Co m#žeme ud#lat pro D##ín? (What can we do for D##ín?). D##ín, Czech Republic (12.10.2022).**
11. 2022 **Most Local Workshop: Co m#žeme ud#lat pro Most? (What can we do for Most?). Most Czech Republic (26.10.22).**

12.	2022	Teplice Local Workshop: Co m#žeme ud#lat pro Teplice? (What can we do for Teplice?) Teplice, Czech Republic (10.12.2022).
13.	2022	Kiruna Local workshop: Together with business association Kiruna Växer ('Kiruna grows'). The purpose was to present findings from the research conducted in Kiruna and to discuss future development of Kiruna (21.12.22)
14.	2022	Borås Local workshop: Together with local civil servants. (15.12.2022).
15.	2022	Tatabánya Local Workshop: Municipal leaders and officials, NGOs, local firms' CEOs, and also external experts of labour market, housing and environmental issues were invited and participated. 28 participants.
16.	2019	Békéscsaba Local Workshop: Growth, polarization, depondencies – urban recovery and uneven development on the periphery (06.12.2019)

Integration in teaching / lecture courses

1.	2020	Jan Píša, Vladan Hruška (2020) Selected issues of economic geography (Bachelor course; J. E. Purkyn# University, Department of geography).
2.	2020	Jan Píša, Vladan Hruška (2020) Spatial planning and regional policy (Bachelor course; J. E. Purkyn# University, Department of geography)
3.	2020	Jan Píša (2020) Trends in economic geography of Czechia (Week of geography, open lecture for teachers of geography in primary and secondary schools)
4.	2022	Vladan Hruška (2020) Development problems of Czech regions (Bachelor course, J. E. Purkyn# University, Department of geography).
5.	2022	Jan Píša, Vladan Hruška, Spatial planning and regional policy (Bachelor course; J. E. Purkyn# University, Department of geography)
6.	2022	Kevin Morgan, Masters in Public Leadership (Cardiff University Business School)
7.	2022	Kevin Morgan, Urban and Regional Development (Cardiff University School of Geography and Planning)

Broader Impact

Effect

What effects does your project have or do you expect? (Please tick. Multiple answers possible.)*

Scientific effects (e.g. scientific findings, data, methods)

educational effects (e.g. on school and higher education systems, learning materials, educational policy)

institutional-political effects (e.g. on the state, administration, justice, democracy)

civil society effects (e.g. interaction with citizens, non-profit actors)

Which effects have actually occurred? How can an occurrence be detected? (Please state in bullet points. Max. 250 characters)

The impact of the local workshops was three-fold: 1) they have created an open and non-hierarchical forum for discussion; 2) people who otherwise would not meet have meet and talked; 3) that generated ideas for to a better future.

Which effects do you expect from the project? How will you be able to detect an occurrence? (Please state in bullet points. Max. 250 characters)

That is the most challenging question. Societal change is very difficult to attribute to a specific cause. We can only hope that ACORE helped old industrial regions to identify new opportunities.