# D7.1 Project presentation and storytelling website

**Perception and Evaluation of Regional and Cohesion policies by Europeans and Identification with the Values of Europe**

**PERCEIVE**

GA nr. 693529
D 7.1 ‘PROJECT PRESENTATION AND STORYTELLING WEBSITE’

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1. ‘Project Presentation’

1.1 Medium Project Presentation

PERCEIVE: Perception and Evaluation of Regional and Cohesion Policies by Europeans and Identification with the Values of Europe

Abstract

The PERCEIVE project aims at both mapping and explaining inter- and intra-regional variations in: the experiences and results of Cohesion Policy implementation; citizens’ awareness and appreciation of EU efforts for delivering cohesion; and European identities and citizens’ identification with the EU. In doing so, PERCEIVE will develop a comprehensive theory of “cohesion in diversity”, and use this theory to create a better understanding of the channels through which European policies contribute to create both different local understandings of the EU and different levels of European identification across profoundly different European regions.

Challenge

Regional policies were the second largest part of the EU budget in the period of 2007-2013 and they will maintain a large budget share in the new Multiannual Financial Framework as well. The contribution of these policies towards European economic, social and territorial cohesion has been constantly monitored and critically analysed in recent years.

On the contrary, our knowledge is much less significant on the contribution of this vast European policy to a positive identification with the European project as such or to the emergence of a valued, popular sense of European identity among the beneficiary population.

Europe’s regions are very diverse in terms of institutional history, distinct cultural (or even linguistic, ethnic or national) identities as well as administrative and governance functions. In some regions, indigenous peoples’ issues and demands are affected and challenged by European policies. In
the context of a perceived democratic deficit of the EU and bearing in mind the importance of local practices and mental representations in the construction of identities, it is highly important to analyse the triangular relationship between European regions, the European framework for the application of cohesion, regional and urban policies (including the notion of smart specialisation and the role of creativity in modern development policies) and the impact of European regional policies on a positive identification with the European construction.

**Aim**

The tailor-made, multidisciplinary, geographically balanced and comparative research of PERCEI-VE will aim at exploring the interplay between:
- European regions with highly different administrative roles, civil participation, history, culture, creativity and identity;
- The application of cohesion, regional and urban policies in the EU, including the subsidiarity aspects and decentralised decision-making and the aims of smart specialisation;
- The contribution of regional policies to a positive identification with the value-based European integration project by European societies.

In analysing the potential of EU cohesion, regional and urban policies for fostering a more positive identification with the European project, it is also crucial to incorporate the interplay with regional policy regulatory implementation experiences, both positive and negative. Based on a critical review and assessment of the existing conceptual and methodological background supported by modern creative practice, the research should include a comparative analysis of genuine and innovative case studies from Member States with different current and historical territorial administrative frameworks and regional identities, in order to identify the channels by which European regional policies impact the perception of Europe by its citizens. Finally, the research activities should consider the impact and effectiveness of communication efforts related to EU-financed regional development projects.

**Case Studies**

The number of case study regions per country is closely linked to the level of information in terms of performance heterogeneity with which the regions contribute to the project objectives. Therefore, for two project partners’ countries we selected two regions to better exploit their information power. This is the case of Italy, which displays very different development patterns among its regions that clearly follows a geographical North/South division and are able to influence the Cohesion Policy performance, and the case of Poland, where the Cohesion Policy performance is deeply influenced by a clear rural/urban division. In other project partners’ countries, showing a lower degree of regional variation, we chose only one case study region. The countries and relative regions are:

Romania: Sud-Vest Oltenia
Poland: Dolnoslaskie, Warminsko-Mazurskie
Italy: Calabria, Emilia-Romagna
United Kingdom: Essex  
Spain: Extremadura  
Austria: Burgenland  
Sweden: Norra Mellansverige

**Theoretical Background**

In addressing the aim of the project, PERCEIVE contrasts two different perspectives: a rational choice perspective stressing mainly the idea of institutions as “rules of the game” and the calculative rationality of actors as determinants of European identities and identification, and a social constructivist perspective stressing mainly the idea that European identities and identification emerge from a process of “social learning” associated with different institutional discourses.

PERCEIVE relies on a multidisciplinary portfolio of competences bridging socio-political, regional-economic and public administrative backgrounds. It integrates the use of both qualitative and quantitative analytical methods such as surveys, focus groups, case studies and econometric modelling. In addition, it uses particularly innovative methods such as quantitative discourse analysis to elicit meaning structures in public discourse about the EU, its regional policy and being European.

Finally, we will produce a computer simulation environment and embed it into a virtual platform that cohesion policy stakeholders will be able to use and to produce what-if analysis and long-term scenario analysis of the effects of policies.

**Expected impact**

The research is expected to make major conceptual, methodological and analytical contribution towards a better understanding of the relationship between European regional policies, local and regional identities and the perception of the added value of the EU by its citizens.

These activities will inform communication strategies at the EU, Member States and regional levels regarding the European regional policies and specific projects. They will provide insights on how to adapt these communication efforts to local and regional realities in order to maximise their impact. At the same time the research will consider how to increase the civic appreciation of these policies and how to improve regional policy relevance and efficiency.

**Project Structure**

**PERCEIVE project is composed by nine different work packages:**

WP1: Framework for comparative analysis: differences, implementation, perceptions and data gathering

WP3: The effectiveness of projects’ communication strategies

WP4: Spatial determinants of policy performance and synergies

WP5: The multiplicity of shared meanings of EU and Cohesion Regional and Urban Policy at different discursive levels.

WP6: Virtual learning environment

WP7: Dissemination and communication

WP8: Project Management

WP9: Ethic Requirements

**The Consortium**

PERCEIVE’s partners have the perfect characteristics to take on the challenge of analysing a very complex interplay of regional diversities, policies’ performance and citizens’ perception of the European Union. These aspects will be investigated by taking both an economic and a sociological perspective. Hence, due to diverse backgrounds, excellent research and dissemination’s skills, the final result of PERCEIVE will be a well-balanced project built on every partner’s effort and contribution. An additional value to the project will be also brought by Local Managing Authorities, involved as third parties.

- University of Bologna (Project Leader)
- University of Gothenburg
- Romanian Academy - Institute of Agricultural Economics
- Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics – National Research Institute
- University of Barcelona
- University of Portsmouth
- Vienna University of Economics and Business
- BAM! Strategie Culturali

**Contacts**

**Website**
www.perceiveproject.eu

**Social Media**
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/perceiveproject
Twitter: https://twitter.com/PerceiveProject

Newsletter
http://www.perceiveproject.eu/get-in-touch

Email
contact@perceiveproject.eu
1.2. Short Project Presentation

What

PERCEIVE is a three years research project part of Horizon 2020, the biggest Research and Innovation Programme of the EU. The project investigates, in different European regions, how much do citizens feel European and how do they perceive the implementation of the European Cohesion Policy.

Do European Citizens know what Cohesion Policy is and what does it do for them? How well does the European Union communicate its policies and positive results? Why do Europeans, in different regions, have a significantly different sense of belonging to the EU?

How

PERCEIVE will develop a comprehensive theory of “cohesion in diversity”, and use this theory to create a better understanding of the channels through which European policies contribute to create both different local understandings of the EU and different levels of European identification across profoundly different European regions.

Why

The research is expected to make major conceptual, methodological and analytical contribution towards a better understanding of the relationship between European regional policies, local and regional identities and the perception of the added value of the EU by its citizens. These activities will inform communication strategies at the EU, Member State and regional levels regarding the European regional policies and specific projects. They will provide insights on how to adapt these communication efforts to local and regional realities in order to maximise their impact. At the same time, the research will consider how to increase the civic appreciation of these policies and how to improve regional policy relevance and efficiency.

Who

The countries involved are Italy, Sweden, Romania, Poland, Spain, United Kingdom, Austria, 9 partners from 8 European regions. Some of the most prestigious universities in Europe deploy their research groups to investigate on European Identity and share the research with European citizens:

• University of Bologna (Project Leader)
• University of Gothenburg
When

Get in touch
Have something to say? Get in touch with us and join the conversation!

Website
www.perceiveproject.eu

Social Media
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/perceiveproject
Twitter: https://twitter.com/PerceiveProject

Newsletter
http://www.perceiveproject.eu/get-in-touch

Email
contact@perceiveproject.eu
2. Storytelling Website

Deliverable: go live with a very simple website based on the abstract’s content. This is the first version of PERCEIVE’s website: the structure is basic and, since we are at the very beginning of the project, we are giving the most essential information that will be enriched through the entire length of the project. In the next slide we are going to illustrate PERCEIVE’s website.

You can access it here:
www.perceiveproject.eu

2.1. Homepage

On this page, you can find all the website sections in very short versions, meant to give the overall idea of the project.

Visual identity: PERCEIVE, its acronym explained and its graphic identity (see D7.2);

- This is PERCEIVE: You can find a short description of what PERCEIVE is (linked to the “about” page);
- What we’ll deliver: what is the ultimate aim of the project (link to the “objectives” page);
- Project essentials: a series of basic but fundamental information such as project leader, call, topic, budget, grant agreement number and duration.
A research partnership: to give the idea of a collaborative project between prestigious institutions (link to the “partners” page);

Aims of the project: objectives are clearly stated in the homepage, and linked to the “objectives” page for more in depth description.
**Get in touch:** this section aims at getting people involved in the project (link to the “get in touch” page).

Get in touch

PERCEIVE just started, and this is a temporary website we launched to share essential information on the project from the very beginning. PERCEIVE will work a lot to share its findings. But the project will be concluded three years from now, so we'll look for more and more ways to share the project while working on it. Events, project meetings, focus groups, and temporary findings will be available on this website and on our social media channels.

2.2. About

On this page we have tried to break down the complexity of the project, with some questions that are catchy for a wider audience.

Are you European?

Do you feel European?

What does it mean to be European?

The first paragraph aims at giving a positive identification with the European identity, thanks to the underlining idea that “we share more than what divides us”.

Shared values, culture, identity. What else?

The assumption of the PERCEIVE project is that identity is not a universal or unambiguus concept. We are not looking for the ‘unique’ EU identity, but we rather prefer to observe the process of social production of identity that originate from the individual daily practice and experience. This way identity is not conceived as an output itself, but as the process of construction (and de-construction) we all go through in our identity developments.
The second paragraph casts doubts on the knowledge that European citizens have on EU policies, and the benefits of belonging to the European Union. In this sense, the page is clearly set for non-academic public: this is one of the most important goals of Horizon2020 financed projects, as a consequence, we outlined the website for this segment of public since the very beginning.

2.3. Objectives

This page aims at delivering a more in depth content for the academia: the language is strictly academic and the terms are very specific, as described in the proposal.

In the first paragraph, as a sort of abstract, we illustrate what is the specific challenge of the project.
The second paragraph describes the goals of the research and the third the expected impact on different levels.

What is the aim?

The tailor-made, multidisciplinary, geographically balanced and comparative research will aim at exploring the interplay between:
1. European regions with highly different administrative roles, civil participation, history, culture, creativity and identity.
2. The application of cohesion, regional and urban policies in the EU, including the subsidiarity aspects and decentralised decision-making and the aims of smart specialisation.
3. The contribution of regional policies to a positive identification with the value-based European integration project by European societies.

In analysing the potential of EU cohesion, regional and urban policies for fostering a more positive identification with the European project, it is crucial to also incorporate the interplay with regional policy regulatory implementation experiences, both positive and negative. Based on a critical review and assessment of the existing conceptual and methodological background supported by modern creative practice, the research should include a comparative analysis of genuine and innovative case studies from Members States with different current and historical territorial administrative frameworks and regional identities in order to identify the channels by which European regional policies impact the perception of Europe by its citizens. Finally, the research activities should consider the impact and effectiveness of communication efforts related to EU-financed regional development projects.

Concretely, in which way this project is going to be beneficial for the EU and the European citizens?

What is the expected impact?

The research is expected to make major conceptual, methodological and analytical contribution towards a better understanding of the relationship between European regional policies, local and regional identities and the perception of the added value of the EU by its citizens. These activities will inform communication strategies at the EU, Member State and regional levels regarding the European regional policies and specific projects. They will provide insights on how to adapt these communication efforts to local and regional realities in order to maximise their impact. At the same time the research will consider how to increase the civic appreciation of these policies and how to improve regional policy relevance and efficiency.

Finally, it is shortly described the structure of the project, both as theoretical background and executively, by redirecting to a more detailed page: “PERCEIVE Work Packages”.

What is the structure?

PERCEIVE matches two different perspectives:
- a rational choice viewpoint stressing the idea of institutions, that are ‘rules of the game’, and the calculative rationality of actors as determinants of European identities and identification with the European Project.
- a social constructivist perspective stressing mainly the idea that European identities and identification emerge from a process of ‘social learning’ associated with different institutional discourses.

PERCEIVE relies on a multidisciplinary portfolio of competences bridging socio-political, regional-economic and public-administrative backgrounds. It integrates the use of both qualitative and quantitative analytical methods such as surveys, focus groups, case studies and econometric modelling. In addition, it uses particularly innovative methods such as quantitative discourse analysis to elicit meaning structures in public discourse about the EU. Its regional policy and being European. Finally, PERCEIVE will produce a computer simulation environment and embed it into a virtual platform that cohesion policy stakeholders will be able to use and produce what-if analysis and long-term scenario analysis of the effects of policies.

PERCEIVE Work Packages
2.4. Work Packages

On this page, the web user can find every single work package, its general and more specific objectives. At the end, you can find a link to the “project structure” page and the “partners” page.

The structure of PERCEIVE is organized in 9 Work Packages

WPI. Framework for comparative analysis: differences, implementation, perceptions and data gathering

The general objective of this Work Package is twofold:
1 – to set the framework for the theoretical development for the next stages of the research activities.
2 – to grasp the complexity of the conceptual interactions between the following main constructs of the PERCEIVE project:
• regional diversity;
• the framework of cohesion and its actual implementation experiences;
• the relationship between policy implementation and European identity emergence and citizens’ identification with the value-based European integration project.

A combination of quantitative and qualitative methods will be used to analyze the multiplicity and logical organization of citizens and practitioners’ understandings of Cohesion Policy and its implementation (citizens’ European/national/regional identity nesting and identification). The analysis is divided in the three tasks discussed in the following section which will allow for the following sub-objectives.

2.5. Project Structure

This page aims at explaining in a more visually engaging way the different work packages, and at illustrating a timeline of the project as well.

Three years
Around 12 European regions
Deep research. A lot to be discovered.
2.6. Public Deliverables

Public Deliverables

WP1

D1.1
- Database of the Cohesion Policy projects managed by Local Managing Authorities and SWOT analysis on the governance models in the selected case study regions in the programming period 2007-2013
- Leader: UNIBO
- Due date: month 5

WP2

D2.1
- Report including the database development and implementation and how it supports all the project WPs
- Leader: UCOT
- Due date: month 12
D2.2

2.7. Partners

On this page you can find a general description of each partner’s institution, yet, by clicking on “more info” button, you will be able to see what the partner will do for PERCEIVE and the staff composition (will be updated with emails, photos and short CVs as part of the DCT activity).

**5 major universities, 2 research institutes and 1 audience engagement consultancy.**

Partner Overview

PERCEIVE’s partners have the perfect characteristics to take on the challenge of analysing a very complex interplay of regional diversities, policies’ performance and citizens’ perception of the European Union. These aspects will be investigated by taking both an economic and a sociological perspective. Hence, due to diverse backgrounds, excellent research and dissemination skills, the final result of PERCEIVE will be a well-balanced project built on every partner’s effort and contribution. An additional value to the project will be also brought by Local Managing Authorities involved as third parties.
University of Bologna (Project leader)

The University of Bologna (UNIBO), created in 1088, is recognized as the oldest university in the western world, and one of the largest in Italy (with more than 85,000 enrolled students per year). It is organized in a multi-campus structure divided into 33 departments and 5 operating sites (Bologna, Cesena, Forlì, Ravenna and Rimini). The Department of Computer Science & Engineering is the single reference point for Computer Science and Engineering education, research and technology transfer. The Department of Statistical Sciences promotes excellence in the teaching and research of Methodological and Applied Statistics.

Partner description

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2.8. Get in touch

The web user will be able to find all the social media channels and to subscribe to our newsletter. The tone of this page aims at giving the idea that everybody can get involve and contribute to the project.

Have something to say?
Get in touch with PERCEIVE and join the conversation.
2.9. Social Media Activation

Deliverable: Go live with all the social media channels that the analysis set as strategically important. As we described in the Dissemination and Communication Strategy (D7.2), we chose to activate the following social media:

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Flickr
- Linkedin
- Academia.edu
- Youtube

**Facebook**

[Image of Facebook page]

We decided to activate the Facebook account on the day of the kick-off meeting as the official launch of the project, in order to start gaining visibility and get the partners known and themselves more engaged in the communication activities.
Perceive Project
@perceiveproject

home

Informazioni

Foto

Persone a cui piace

Post

Crea una Pagina

European Culture is diverse but coherent at the same time.

Is it likely for you to care about a theory of cohesion in diversity?

What does it mean to be European?

Europeans do believe in freedom of speech, protection of human rights, democracy and a clean environment. These shared values create a shared culture and identity.

Live Tweeting of the kick-off meeting on: twitter.com/PerceiveProject

Find out more on: www.perceiveproject.eu

#H2020 #PERCEIVEProject #EU #CohesionPolicy #EuropeanIdentity

European Commission Europe in my region Carlos Moedas HORIZON: the EU Research & Innovation magazine

Visualizza traduzione

European Culture is diverse but coherent at the same time.
As we did with Facebook, we decided to use Twitter for a live tweeting of the kick-off meeting.

@PerceiveProject

What makes you feel European?
perceiveproject.eu
Flickr
It is kept as private account for photos storage.
Youtube, Linkedin and Academia.edu

The YouTube account has been activated but not used yet, as not expected from this part of the project yet. Similarly, a dedicated Linkedin group has been activated but not published.

Academia.edu will be activated as soon as we will have working papers or pure academic materials that are feasible for this platform.