

## Confessional and Ethnic Interactions in the Habsburg Monarchy

### Long Program Description

The countries of the participating universities were one state before, which was called the Habsburg Monarchy. Within this state many ethnic and religious minorities lived together for nearly 400 years. Following the dissolution of the Monarchy the new, independent states started to analyse the ethnic and religious questions of this period separately, mainly focusing on conflicts. Fortunately, in the last decade historians have started to highlight the different forms of symbiosis between these minorities and the way they influenced each other. We would like to maintain using the advantages of the CEEPUS programme to further spread and develop this innovative direction of research and strengthen the cooperation between participating universities.

The participating universities are already cooperating professionally (for example there are Erasmus agreements between PPCU –Babes-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca from 2013/14, PPCU –Matej Bel University from 2011/12), they have a very good personal and professional relationship with each other, but they were not able to operate as a network before. Therefore, the CEEPUS programme enables a more efficient and higher level of cooperation.

The Coordinator Institute, PPCU, has more than ten years of experience in the CEEPUS Programme, as a participating university in the former „CIII-CZ-0029-14-1819 Idea of Europe in European culture, history and politics” network, and is the coordinator of another CEEPUS network (CIII-HU-0809-06-2021 –FISH (French, Italian, Spanish) –Romance Languages and Cultures –Strategies of Communication and Culture Transfer in Central Europe). The CEEPUS programme is already known by the participating universities. The aim of this recently reformed and restarted CEEPUS network is to shed light on this symbiosis between the different ethnic and religious minorities and their strategies of conflict resolution, which contributes to the strengthening of Central European identity. Within the framework of mobility, we could support the attendance and provision of courses which are unavailable at the home universities.

The key points of the mobility of teachers and MA/PhD students will be:

- offering long-needed courses,
- setting up joint programmes,
- curriculum harmonization,

- the exchange of efficient teaching methods,
- conducting research with the help of the teachers and silent partner(s) for MA and PhD students,
- joint consultations/supervisions

Our goal is to help the future researchers, who are now PhD students or are in the final year of their Masters, to familiarize with the partners' results and viewpoints in order to expand their knowledge. On the long term we also intend to use every opportunity of the Erasmus+ programme (e.g. Strategic Partnerships and Joint Master Degrees).

### **Planned professional programmes:**

We would like to continue working on establishing and developing a permanent professional cooperation with the topic of the network in focus, between the historian researchers of the partner universities.

Our planned coordinators' meeting was scheduled to be held in Autumn 2020, in Ljubljana. However due to the restrictions following the COVID-19 pandemic, it had to be postponed among other mobility plans. We hope to have the meeting rescheduled and held in person or online in 2022. This meeting would focus on the evaluation of the past time period of the network, since the restart in 2018. Apart from the evaluation, the other main topic would regard the MA and doctoral thesis supervision and also a possible future joint PhD programme, which has been under discussion for the past years. Another major topic would be the further development of the network in light of the experiences during the pandemic. This would mean discussing the details of expanding the network's online presence, which would most likely benefit all the participants, coordinators, professors and students alike, making the network more versatile. Another task for the new academic year is to further promote the network and its possibilities to bring back the students' willingness to mobilities and to travel to a similar rate as it was before the pandemic.

**1. Short Term Excursions (regular workshops):** Working languages: English and German. We plan to organize joint workshops regularly, in the residence of the partner universities alternately. In the course of the 1-week long exchange of views the MA and PhD students of the universities would report on their results and the participating teachers then would express their opinions on them. The long-term objective of the event is to create doctoral seminars in

the spirit of the network, with inter-institutional supervision as well as joint doctoral instructions. Experience shows that this structure is especially suitable for professional cooperation.

**2. Professional excursions:** To get to know our common past it is indispensable to get familiar with our historical memories. For this very reason we plan to organize professional excursions relating to the subject of the workshops, to visit the traceable monuments in the country of the host university. On these excursions the expert teachers of the host universities would guide the guest lecturers and students.

**3. Teacher mobility:** We would like to continue offering lectures and seminars, integrated into the instruction of the MA and graduate PhD programmes of the participating universities, in the course of which the teachers of the partner institutions would be able to get the students of the host university familiar with their current research results. There are examples for teacher mobility among the partner institutions, for example with the participation of the colleagues of the BBU and the Slovak Scientific Academy, from the Historical Institute. The courses were followed with great interests. Besides these, with teacher mobility we plan to organize master courses by different host universities.

**4. Student Mobility:** It is one of the most popular, most beneficial aspects of the network, therefore it remains one of the major objectives of the program to further increase previously experienced intensity of student mobility between the partner institutions. Within the framework of the network it would become possible to have a more precise and aligned student mobility, in the course of which we would foster the professional cooperation between students carrying out similar researches. Thanks to both the student and teacher mobilities, students have the opportunity to engage in professional discussions and have their theses supervised by professors of the partner universities, thus forming a strong basis for the developing joint program within the network.

**5. Joint Thesis Supervision:** Strongly connected to student mobilities, BA, MA and PhD students have the opportunity to personally meet and engage in consultations with local professionals of their respective field. According to the past year's experience this means a great support for those conducting their thesis research. The close cooperation provided by this joint supervision will be the bedrock of an eventual Joint Program, established later on.