



EuroCORECODE

European Comparisons in Regional Cohesion,
Dynamics and Expressions

**Master's Degree Thesis Award:
Competition Call and Guidelines**



Applications are now being accepted from outstanding early-career candidates for the EuroCORECODE Master's Degree Thesis competition. The goal of the award is to recognise and award distinguished scholarship and research at Master's Degree level.

- **Majorities/minorities.**

The relationship between majorities and minorities is a recurrent theme in the study of regional cohesion. Ethnicity and language often marked social difference and social hierarchy; religion (notably the impact of conversion and of the Reformation) could generate or reinforce minority identities

- **Environment.**

The relationship between physical geography and regional identity; the structuring of space in terms of cores and peripheries; the role of distance from centres of power

For further details on the exact nature and intended scope of each of these topics, applicants are referred to the EuroCORECODE web-site: http://www.esf.org/activities/eurocores/running_programmes/eurocorecode/background.html

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- **Eligibility**

All applicants must have **graduated** from their Master's Degree no earlier than 2009 and no later than **April, 2013**. Please note that if candidates are scheduled to graduate in the time between December 2012 and April 2013, then official proof of graduand status must be submitted along with the application. Submissions will be accepted from both Taught and Research Master's, though will be examined on equal footing, i.e. no differentiation will be made in assessment between theses that are/were part of Taught or Research Master's Degrees. All submitted theses must be sole-authored and cannot be the result of group-work

There is no word limit on theses, and although there are no restrictions on an applicant's nationality, all nominees must have been affiliated with a recognised European institution while completing the Master's Degree thesis under consideration. Submitted theses and application materials must be in English, and all theses must describe original work. Please note that this language requirement is necessary for facilitating the international assessment of applications and that ability in English will not form part

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- **The Scope**

Submitted theses must be relevant to the scope and aims of the EuroCORECODE programme, and fit under the programme's original Call for Proposals. Nominated theses should deal with at least one of the scientific goals of the programme as a whole, thereby addressing the subject of regional cohesion through one or more of the following themes:

- **Expressions** of regional cohesion and identity, including language and dialect, material culture, customs, myths
- **Discourses of identity and power.** The different tools and instruments used to exercise authority and to create attachment to their 'region': ideology (history, myth, ancestors), symbols (heraldry, architecture, images of the ruler, symbolic discourse), rituals (entrees, veneration of patron saints), the invention of tradition both in historical and in modern times etc.
- **Institutions.** Dynasties, political, juridical, economic and social institutions. The Church and educational institutions
- **Hierarchies.** The concept of region is in a sense fluid, in size, in degrees of attachment to the region and depending on whether viewed from 'inside' or 'outside'. Borders of regions may have changed over time. Regions that functioned in a historical period as strong entities may have been cut through by modern national (post-/supra-regional) borders

of the evaluation. If applicants are unsure of their eligibility they can raise the issue with the competition's Managing Committee (eurocorecode@esf.org).

Failure to comply with any of the requirements indicated above is likely to result in exclusion from the evaluation phase of the competition, due to ineligibility. Decisions on eligibility issues are the sole responsibility of the Managing Committee of the EuroCORECODE Master's Degree Thesis Award. Applicants of ineligible submissions will be notified as soon as the ineligibility issue is discovered, and the reasons motivating their exclusion from the competition will be duly explained. The Managing Committee's decision on these matters is final.

Submission

Only electronic submissions will be considered. Applicants should submit their nomination as e-mail attachments to eurocorecode[at]esf.org. Only the following electronic formats will be accepted: Word document (.doc), Rich Text Format (.rtf), or Portable Document Format (.pdf).

Applicants will be sent an acknowledgment upon receipt of their submissions. Each submission must include the following documents:

- *An electronic copy of the full thesis including all graphs, references, and bibliographies*
- *A letter of application stating how and to what extent the thesis addresses one or more of the EuroCORECODE themes*
- *A letter of recommendation from the thesis director of the nominated thesis*
- *An abstract of the thesis (between 1000–1500 words)*
- *A CV which includes the grade awarded to the thesis*

If the candidate is to graduate in the time between December 2012 and April 2013:

- *Official proof of graduand status*

The closing date for submissions is **14th December, 2012** after which no further applications will be accepted.

Evaluation

All applications will be reviewed by a dedicated Selection Committee associated with the EuroCORECODE programme. All applicants will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

- **Scientific excellence**
- **Originality**
- **Relevance to the EuroCORECODE Call for Proposals**

Nominations will be narrowed down to three finalists who will each be invited to the EuroCORECODE Final Conference in 2013. Part of an afternoon session will be dedicated to the finalists who will be given the opportunity to present their work to the conference delegates. The eventual winner will then be announced and awarded their prize money of €1,000. The ESF will cover the finalists' costs for attending the Final Conference.

The jury reserves the right not to award the prize, or to invite a smaller number of finalists, if the theses fail to meet the required standards.

Organisers and Contacts

Members of the Award Scheme Managing Committee:

Dr Nils Holger Petersen

(CULTICSYMBOLS Project Leader)

Professor Dick de Boer

(CURE Project Leader)

Dr Bas Spierings

(UNFAMILIARITY Co-Project Leader)

Dr Martin van der Velde

(UNFAMILIARITY Co-Project Leader)

Contact details:

All inquiries concerning the EuroCORECODE Master's Degree Thesis Award should be addressed to eurocorecode@esf.org

The following national funding organisations support the EuroCORECODE Programme:

- **Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung (FWF)**
Austrian Science Fund, Austria
- **Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek – Vlaanderen (FWO)**
Research Foundation Flanders, Belgium
- **Grantová agentura České republiky (GAČR)**
Czech Science Foundation, Czech Republic
- **Det Frie Forskningsråd – Kultur og Kommunikation (FKK)**
The Danish Council for Independent Research – Humanities, Denmark
- **Eesti Teadusfond (ETF)**
Estonian Science Foundation, Estonia
- **Suomen Akatemia/Finlands Akademi (AKA)**
Academy of Finland
- **Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (NWO)**
Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research, the Netherlands
- **Norges Forskningsråd (RCN)**
The Research Council of Norway
- **Ministerstwo Nauki i Szkolnictwa Wyższego**
Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Poland
- **Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT)**
Foundation for Science and Technology, Portugal
- **Consiliul National al Cercetarii Stiintifice (CNCS)**
National Research Council, Romania

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