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## **Internal Review Report**

### **EURASIA-Net Consortium**

Accademia Europea per la ricerca applicata ed il perfezionamento professionale – Bolzano/Bozen	EURAC
Brunel University – West London	BrUni
Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität – Frankfurt am Main	UniFr
Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group	MCRG
South Asian Forum for Human Rights	SAFHR
Democratic Commission of Human Development	DCHD
University of Dhaka	UniDh

## Scope

The Mid Term Review is part of WP5 and falls under the responsibilities of the Coordinator. Originally this exercise was planned to coincide with the third Project Steering Group, but the postponement of the meeting to month 20 (August 2009) meant that the preparation of the review had to start well before the meeting and that the final report will be used as input for the further discussion within the Project Steering Group meeting instead of being an output of the same.

The review is part of the continuous internal self-evaluation process that the consortium carries out in order to adjust its conduct to the changing conditions and optimize the effectiveness of its work.

Moreover, apart from the regular dissemination of the project, this report illustrates some figures with regard to the people directly or indirectly involved in the project (i.e., contributors to reports and deliverables, audience to EURASIA-Net events, etc.).

## Progress in the scientific coordination and raise of new challenges

The European post-WWII strategy was based on shared security interests and mutual dependence on different levels. Nowadays, the concept of European integration, led by the regional players OSCE, CoE and EU, follows legally binding and soft law mechanisms on economic, political and social issues. One of the primary objectives of this process has been (and still is) peace and confidence building measures between European states.

In South Asia, such kind of collective approach has not played any or only a weak and marginal role (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation - SAARC). After the de-colonialisation process, the entire subcontinent went into a series of fragmentations along linguistic and religious lines under the predominant position of India which is the second most populous country and the largest democracy in the world. Furthermore, India is composed of the only truly multinational, multilingual and multireligious society in the region. Also for that reason, SAARC is an asymmetric regional consultative forum that only exceptionally addresses minority issues. Based on its minority protection mechanism, almost all South Asian countries are increasingly introducing bilateral arrangements, some of them are on the way to a federal state and especially India has introduced cultural and territorial autonomy as a tool for ethnic conflict solution.

The idea of autonomy for the protection of ethnic or national minorities and for the settlement of self-determination conflicts is becoming a political reality in various European states and especially in India. India established a far reaching autonomy in Jammu and Kashmir and provided for regional autonomies with its constitution approved in 1950 (later abolished to a great extent). Religious minorities are enjoying cultural autonomy in India and its federal states; Pakistan is at least formally a federal state following ethnic lines. South Asian countries with their huge ethnic diversity and actual current political complexity, e.g. Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal, find it challenging to find new answers for

self-determination-struggles of smaller communities and the protection of ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities.

In most cases in Europe and recently in the Indian tribal areas, territorial autonomies brought about a stable political setting with the consensus of the majority of the population. Regional autonomy therefore provides the legal-political framework for “internal self-determination“ in order to preserve a specific ethnic-cultural identity or give self-rule to a smaller people, while keeping the sovereignty of the state they are living in.

Only after the experiences of the two World Wars, Europe developed effective forms of bi- and multilateralism and thus achieved a new concept of sovereignty. On the other hand, South Asian countries still stick to the traditional concept of sovereignty by central powers. In Europe, multilevel sovereignty provides (?) the frame for supranational politics and a shift of power to the regions which is enabling Europe to promote cultural diversity, language rights and different forms of minority protection. South Asia still works on this conception of supranational sovereignty and unfortunately became again one of the hottest power kegs of the world in the last months. This had a direct impact on the operational implementation of the EURASIA-Net project.

## **Overview on project implementation**

From an operational point of view, the kick-off meeting in February 2008 (followed by a second PSG meeting in September 2008) was a forum for the consortium partners to agree on final responsibilities and managerial issues. The elaboration of common financial, administrative and reporting procedures contributed to a functional research network and the timely completion and submission of tasks and reports.

On the other hand there are complains by some of the EURASIA-Net partners that one annual meeting is not enough in order to discuss substantive issues. EURAC as coordinator of the project tried to meet the need for greater interaction and dialogue between partners fostering different levels of exchange:

1st level – Exchange/interaction foreseen in the overall project (kick-off meeting, PSG meetings, bimonthly updates, newsletters, project website);

2nd level – Work package activities always run by a minimum of two project partners;

3rd level – Individual exchange between partners (e.g. conferences, in-house seminars, meeting to discuss activities, study visits, etc.).

In addition to in-house seminars, workshops, and conferences very often organized individually or among some regional partners (e.g. Uni Brunel/DCHD, EURAC, MCRG), the regional EURASIA-Net partners SAFHR, Uni Dhaka and MCRG met in Delhi in February 2009 to discuss key aspects of the material produced by South Asian partners and to elaborate thematic foci for the final conclusions of the project.

After the second PSG meeting which will take place in August 2009 in Nepal, the South Asian partners are planning a follow up of the first Delhi meeting in autumn 2009. Yet, there is still the request by some partners, especially by the smaller ones and partners who have been actively engaged only in the last phase of the project, to foster the mainstream of the activities.

Finally, the EURASIA-Net consortium faced serious administrative problems having been directly affected by the political crises in Pakistan which forced the work package leaders DCHD, EURAC, Uni Brunel and Uni Frankfurt to postpone and relocate activities such as the Second Summer School, the EU-Info session in Islamabad and some of the study visits.

Due to security reasons in Pakistan the implementation of the activities has been decided in the very last minute which impeded the participation of the Indian partners because of the time consuming visa procedure between Pakistan and India.

## Key figures and external outreach

Apart from the EURASIA-Net consortium and the staff of the partner-institutions a large number of external people have been involved, directly or indirectly, in the EURASIA-Net project and in its activities. We estimate that the audience of the EURASIA-Net events reached a number of approximately 550 externals (including summer school participants).

Please see the tables below for some key figures.

### Persons directly involved and contributing to the project

Activity	No. of persons involved
<b>Study visits</b>	
<b>Topics: Regional cooperation (EU and SAARC), Religious minorities, South Asian National Human Rights Commissions, Linguistic rights and diversity, Autonomies, Cross-border cooperation, South Asian Indigenous Peoples, Migrant workers, Multiculturalism &amp; Conflict Resolution, Media and Minority Issues</b>	
Scholars on study visits (implemented)	Partners' EURASIA-Net staff (6); externals (6)
Scholars on study visits (currently under implementation – July-August 2009)	External (1)

Scholars on study visits (planned)	Partners' EURASIA-Net staff (2); from project Associates' institutions (1); externals (4)
Study visits TBC	Partners' EURASIA-Net staff (1); externals (2)
<b>Summer school at EURAC premises, Bolzano 2008</b>	
<b>Core themes: international standards on minority and human rights in Europe and in South Asia (including the role of SAARC), soft law mechanisms of minority protection, concepts of federalism and autonomy, indigenous rights and ethnic diversity in Europe and in South Asia</b>	
Participants	16
Lecturers	From project partners' institutions (7); from project Associates' institutions (1); EURAC colleagues (12); external lecturers (3)
<b>Lecturers holding seminars at partner institutions during exchanges or upon invitation</b>	
	From project partners' institutions (5); externals (4)
<b>Contributors to project deliverables with dissemination purposes</b>	
Deliverable No.6, "Issue of <i>European Yearbook on Minority Issues</i> with special focus on South Asia" (WP1) (still under implementation)	From project partners' institutions (7); external contributors (5)
Deliverable No.7, "Minority Rights publication in South Asia" (WP1) (still under implementation)	From project partners' institutions (5); externals (2); from project Associates' institutions (1)
Deliverable No.8, "Set of educational material for stakeholders"	From project partners' institutions/EURAC (3)
Deliverable No.9, "Update of the Set of educational material for stakeholders"	From project partners' institutions (7), of which EURAC (6); 2008 summer school participants (2); externals (7)

Deliverable No.10, "Material for specialized media"	From project partners' institutions/EURAC (5); 2008 summer school participants (10); externals (3)
Deliverable No.11, "Update version of material for specialized media"	From project partners' institutions/EURAC (5); 2008 summer school participants (1)
Deliverable No.16, "Assessment of research policies and resources"	From project partners' institutions/MCRG (2)
Deliverable No.17, "Set of materials on South Asia and regional cooperation for higher education institutions"	From project partners' institutions/UniDh (2)
Deliverable No.18, "Set of materials for South Asian NGOs"	From project partners' institutions/SAFHR (2); externals (14)
Newsletters	From project partners' institutions/EURAC (3); 2008 summer school participants (6); externals contributors (1)
<b>Conferences speakers and chairs</b>	
17-19 February 2008 – EURASIA-Net Kick-off meeting and International Conference (Research funding possibilities, Building Regional Human Rights Cooperation in Europe), at Brunel University (London, UK)	Speakers/Chairs: From partners' institutions (7); from project Associates' institutions (4); EC Officer (1); externals (14)
21 October 2008 – International Conference "Dealing with International Terrorism and Regional Security" (Brunel university – BIICL, London, UK)	Speakers/Chairs: From partners' institutions (3); externals (16)
20-21 March 2009 – EURASIA-Net International Conference on Freedom of Religion, Religious Minorities & The Rule of Law International (Lahore, Pakistan)	Speakers: From partners' institutions (4); externals (13)
24 March 2009 – EU Delegation informative session (Islamabad, Pakistan)	Speakers: From partners' institutions (7); externals (incl. Head of EC Delegation) (4)

## Persons indirectly involved in the project (audience to EURASIA-Net events)

Activity	No. of persons (indirectly) involved
<b>Conferences</b>	<b>Audience</b>
17-19 February 2008 – EURASIA-Net Kick-off meeting and International Conference (Research funding possibilities, Building Regional Human Rights Cooperation in Europe), at Brunel University (London, UK)	50-60
21 October 2008 - International Conference "Dealing with International Terrorism and Regional Security" (Brunel university – BIICL, London, UK)	70-80
20-21 March 2009 - EURASIA-Net International Conference on Freedom of Religion, Religious Minorities (Lahore, Pakistan)	110
24 March 2009 - EU Delegation informative session (Islamabad, Pakistan)	10
<b>Public lectures/Panel discussions at partners' institutions</b>	<b>Audience</b>
17 March 2008 – Public lecture of Dr. A.G. Noorani on "Powder Keg South Asia" Ethnic Conflicts in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka", at EURAC	60-70
28 August 2008 – Public lecture given by Ioannis N. Dimitrakopoulos (European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights) on "Monitoring racism and discrimination against ethnic and religious groups across the European Union: the work of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)" (in the frame of the 2008 summer school,	40  (among which 16 2008 summer school participants)

EURAC)	
18 April 2009 – Nepal Institute of Peace (NIP), Lalitpur, Nepal, Lecture on “An experience sharing on Protection of Minorities in Europe”, by Emma Lantschner (EURAC Senior Researcher on EURASIA-Net study visit)	20
18 June 2009 Public lecture at South Asia Institute of Heidelberg University by Subir Bhaumik, on EURASIA-Net study visits at the University of Frankfurt, on “Insurgent Crossfire or Anti-Terror Cooperation : Insurgency Patro-Nage in Post-Colonial South Asia”	30
21 May 2009 – Public Speech by Mr. Penpa Tsering Speaker of the Tibetan Parliament, on the situation in Tibet, and presentation of the book by Eva Pföstl ( <i>La questione tibetana. Autonomia non indipendenza: una proposta realistica</i> ), at EURAC	60
24 June 2008 - Panel discussion on “Minorities in South Asia”, in collaboration with Prof. Joshua Castellino, by Dr Sumaya Khair and Dr Nazrul Islam (University of Dhaka), on EURASIA-Net study visit to EURAC (in the frame of the Master on European Integration and Regionalism)	40
<b>Seminars at partners' institutions</b>	<b>Audience</b>
15 April 2008 – Inhouse Seminar of Ranabir Samaddar at EURAC on “The Physical World of the Discrimination of the Minorities”	15
2 September 2008 – Panel Discussion at EURAC on “South Asian cultural, religious, ethnic and linguistic diversity as a field of experience for future diversity management in Europe?”, Giovanni Poggeschi (moderation), Gabriel N. Toggenburg, Samir Das, Tapan Kumar Bose)”	30  (among which 16 2008 summer school participants)

8 September 2008 - Inhouse Seminar at EURAC by Samir Kumar Das on " Autonomy Issues in South Asia and Europe"	10
16 October 2008 – Seminar by Afrasiab Khattak (President of the Awami National Party in Pakistan’s North West Frontier Province, former chair of the human Rights Commission of Pakistan) and Kamran Arif (Human rights lawyer) at Brunel University, Darwin Room Hamilton Centre, on “Authoritarianism, Human Rights Violations and the Talibanisation of Afghianistan and Pakistan”	50-60
21 May 2009 – In-house Seminar at EURAC by Mr. Penpa Tsering, Speaker of the Tibetan Parliament, on the situation in Tibet and the newest developments in China	15
13 July 2009 - In-house seminar by Ijaz Khan on his study visit to EURAC, on "General issues of autonomy in South Asia and Europe. Why is the issue of autonomy (regional and cultural) relevant today in both South Asia and Europe?", with the participation of Günther Rautz, Thomas Benedikter, Ijaz Khan, Benedikt Harzl, and Karl Kössler (EURAC).	12

## Further dissemination

As to dissemination, the project activities and the project deliverables are primarily spread on the **project website** ([www.eurac.edu/eurasia-net](http://www.eurac.edu/eurasia-net)).

The website has been **visited 15,554 times** (update: 2 July 2009, EURAC statistics).

The project website has **24 webpages**. Four partner- institutions' websites have a reference to the project (BrUni, UniFr, MCRG and DCHD – last access on 14 July 2009), and have, respectively, five, two, one webpages on the project, and (DCHD) one page only on the summer schools (WP2).

Moreover, a Yahoo Group of the EURASIA-Net project (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/eurasia-net>) was created by the 2008 summer school participants, and currently counts 41 members (4 from partner-institutions; 13 former summer school participants; and 24 externals)

The project website is very visible in the Google search web-search engine: typing the name of the project ("EURASIA-Net") in the Google search bar, the project appears on the first results page between the third and the fifth ranked entries.

In particular, EURASIA-Net project contents and results will be dealt with in one of the training sessions of the FP7 project MY SCIENCE - European Program for Young Journalists (FP7 call FP7-SCIENCE-IN-SOCIETY-2008-1), coordinated by EURAC.

Moreover, the project has been presented on many occasions during events at partners-institutions' (lectures, in-house seminars, etc. ). For details, see *Annex I* of this report.

Finally, the project deliverables have been extensively disseminated, thanks to the website platform, from which these deliverables can be freely downloaded (see <http://www.eurac.edu/Org/Minorities/eurasia-net/PROJECT+DELIVERABLES.htm>).

In particular, approx. **250 copies** of the book "Europe's Ethnic Mosaic" (deliverable no.8) have been distributed to

- Project partners;
- 2008 summer school participants;
- to the General Secretary of the National Democratic Party of Tibet (<http://www.ndpt.net/>), to University of Turku (Finland) (<http://www.utu.fi/en/>);
- University of Pristina (Tempus Project "Master in Civil Society and Local Development", project partners University of Pristina, University of Graz and the National University of Ireland, Galway – project website not available yet);
- Local Development and Public Service Reform initiative/Open Society Institute (LSI/OSI) of Budapest for their course on "Diversity Management" (<http://lgi.osi.hu/documents.php?id=36>);

- University Timisoara - Faculty of Political Science, Philosophy and Communication Science (Master of Arts in “Journalism and Communication in Multiethnic Europe” ([http://www.uvt.ro/index.php?lang=en&pagina=fac/Stiinte\\_Politice\\_Filozofie\\_si\\_Comunicare](http://www.uvt.ro/index.php?lang=en&pagina=fac/Stiinte_Politice_Filozofie_si_Comunicare));
- participants of UN Forum on Minority Issues held on 15 and 16 December 2008 in Geneva (Switzerland) (<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/minority/forum.htm>);
- and, upon request, to any visitor at EURAC.

## Annex I

### Additional project presentations to externals

*(EURASIA-Net conferences and events excluded)*

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Type of audience</b>	<b>Countries addressed</b>	<b>Size of audience</b>	<b>Partner responsible /involved</b>
March-April 2008	Ad hoc EURASIA-Net disseminating and networking meetings with Max Planck Institute for International and Comparative Public law, and the Institute for South Asian Studies at the Heidelberg University	Scholars	Europe and South Asia	5	UniFr
April 2008	Meeting with the Tibetan Parliament in Exile during its visit in South Tyrol.	Human rights activists	Tibet and South Asia	15	EURAC
28 April 2008	Lecture by Jean Louis Halperin, Professor of Law, Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris, "The Impact of Globalization on French Law: An Example of Relations between Democracy and Internationalization"	Scholars, Students, human rights activists, Journalist, lawyers	India	35	MCRG

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Type of audience</b>	<b>Countries addressed</b>	<b>Size of audience</b>	<b>Partner responsible /involved</b>
May-June 2008	Interviews and discussions with the Head of SAARC Social Affairs Division and other officials on the status and implementation of the SAARC Social Charter	SAARC officials	SAARC countries	5	SAFHR
24-26 May 2008	Two-Day Consultative Meeting on Development, Democracy, and Governance: Broad Lessons from Post-Colonial Experiences of India; held in Bhubaneswar	Scholars, Students, human rights activists, Journalists, lawyers, Government officials	India	40	MCRG
June 2008	Meeting with the German/Thai NGO Human Development Forum Foundation ( <a href="http://www.hdff.or.th">www.hdff.or.th</a> )	Human rights activists	Thailand and South-East Asia	3	EURAC
June 2008	Meeting with the Foundation Friedrich Naumannstiftung ( <a href="http://www.fnfasia.org">www.fnfasia.org</a> )	Foundation administrators and coordinators of funding programs	South and South-East Asia	5	EURAC

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Type of audience</b>	<b>Countries addressed</b>	<b>Size of audience</b>	<b>Partner responsible /involved</b>
14 July 2008	Lecture by Vinay Lal, Professor of California, Los Angeles, "Dialogues on Justice"	Scholars, graduate Students, human rights activists, journalists	India	125	MCRG
14 August 2008	Public Lecture by Eva Pföstl, Director, Istituto di Studi Politici S. Pio V, Department of Law and Economics, "Tolerance Established by Law: The Autonomy of South Tyrol in Italy"	Graduate students	Italy and Europe	Approx. 60	MCRG
22 August 2008	Public Lecture by Sanjay Chaturvedi, Centre for the Study of Geopolitics, Department of Political Science, Punjab University, "Climate Change, Globalisation and Environmental Justice"	Scholars, Students, human rights activists, Journalist, lawyers	India	35	MCRG
18 August 2008	Public Lecture by Ranabir Samaddar, Director of CRG, "Sociological Imagination: Situating Charles Tilly", Kolkata	Graduate students and young scholars, senior scholars	India	60	MCRG

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Type of audience</b>	<b>Countries addressed</b>	<b>Size of audience</b>	<b>Partner responsible /involved</b>
20-22 September 2008	Second Critical Studies Conference on "Spheres of Justice", Kolkata	Scholars, researchers, general public	Europe, India and other South Asian countries	120	MCRG
24 September 2008	One Day Workshop with Etienne Balibar, Kolkata	Scholars, researchers, general public	Europe, India and other south Asian countries	40	MCRG
30 September 2008	Public Lecture by Ratna Kapur, Director, Centre for Feminist Legal Research, New Delhi "Citizen and Migrant: The Politics of Justice and (Non) Belongingness "	Law School Students, Lawyers, Rights activists	India	75	MCRG
2-3 October 2008	International Conference - Launch of the OSCE High Commissioner's (Knut Vollebaek) Recommendations on National Minorities in Inter-State Relations, Bolzano/Bozen (Italy)	Scholars, Students, human rights activists, Journalists, lawyers, Government officials	Europe and OSCE countries	80	EURAC
24-25 October 2008	Final Conference MIRICO-Project (Human and Minority Rights in the Life Cycle of Ethnic Conflicts), in Frankfurt (Germany)	Academics and practitioners	Europe and South Asia	60	UniFr

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Type of audience</b>	<b>Countries addressed</b>	<b>Size of audience</b>	<b>Partner responsible /involved</b>
November 2008	Orientation course in Human Rights and Peace Studies organized by SAFHR	Human rights activists	South Asia	29	SAFHR
11 November, 2008	Public Lecture by Samir Kumar Das, Senior Researcher , CRG and Professor of Political Science, Calcutta University "Trends in Researches on the Issues of Minorities in India"	Scholars, Students, human rights activists, Journalist, lawyers	India	35	MCRG
11 November 2008	Public lectures Ishita Dey, Research Associate, CRG " On the Margins of Citizenship: Cooper's Camp in Nadia"  Geetisha Dasgupta, Research Associate, CRG "The Right to Food: Popular Interface with the Rights Institution"	Scholars, Students, human rights activists, Journalist, lawyers	India	35	MCRG
19-23 November 2008	EU-India Workshop on "Cultures of Governance, Democracy and Conflict Resolution", New Delhi and Simla (India)  (see also section 6.2.3 Conferences)	Scholars, Students, human rights activists	Europe and India	No data available	BrUni and MCRG took part

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Type of audience</b>	<b>Countries addressed</b>	<b>Size of audience</b>	<b>Partner responsible /involved</b>
14-15 December 2008	A two-day Conference on “Dialogue on Protection Strategies for People in Situations of Forced Migration” held in Hyatt Regency, Kolkata	Scholars, Students, human rights activists,  Journalist, lawyers	UN system and international audience	40	MCRG
15-16 December 2008	UN Forum on Minority Issues held on 15 and 16 December 2008 in Geneva (Switzerland)	Scholars, Students, human rights activists,  Journalists, lawyers, Government officials	UN system and international audience	Approx. 200	EURAC
18 April 2009	“An experience sharing on Protection of Minorities in Europe”, lecture at Nepal Institute of Peace (NIP), Lalitpur, Nepal	Scholars, Students, human rights activists	Europe and South Asia in regional context	20	EURAC, SAFHR
21 May 2009	“Actual situation in Tibet”, seminar and public speech by Mr. Penpa Tsering Speaker of the Tibetan Parliament; book presentation by Eva Pfösti ( <i>La questione tibetana. Autonomia non indipendenza: una proposta realistica</i> )	Scholars, Students, human rights activists,  Journalists	Tibet	60	EURAC

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Type of audience</b>	<b>Countries addressed</b>	<b>Size of audience</b>	<b>Partner responsible /involved</b>
18 June 2009	“Insurgent Crossfire or Anti-Terror Cooperation : Insurgency Patro-Nage in Post-Colonial South Asia”, lecture by Subir Bhaumik at South Asia Institute of Heidelberg University	Scholars, Students	South Asia	30	UniFr, MCRG
3 July 2009	Academic year closing ceremony, University of Frankfurt (Germany)	Students and faculty members	Europe and South Asia	100	UniFr