

Brussels, 25 May 2021

COST 047/21

## DECISION

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Subject: Memorandum of Understanding for the implementation of the COST Action “Connecting Theory and Practical Issues of Migration and Religious Diversity” (COREnet) CA20107

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The COST Member Countries will find attached the Memorandum of Understanding for the COST Action Connecting Theory and Practical Issues of Migration and Religious Diversity approved by the Committee of Senior Officials through written procedure on 25 May 2021.

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## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

For the implementation of a COST Action designated as

**COST Action CA20107**  
**CONNECTING THEORY AND PRACTICAL ISSUES OF MIGRATION AND RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY**  
**(COREnet)**

The COST Members through the present Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) wish to undertake joint activities of mutual interest and declare their common intention to participate in the COST Action, referred to above and described in the Technical Annex of this MoU.

The Action will be carried out in accordance with the set of COST Implementation Rules approved by the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO), or any document amending or replacing them.

The main aim and objective of the Action is to produce knowledge, to exchange knowledge and to build capacity across Europe in the intersection of migration and religious diversity, with a particular emphasis on bottom-up research.. This will be achieved through the specific objectives detailed in the Technical Annex.

The present MoU enters into force on the date of the approval of the COST Action by the CSO.

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**OVERVIEW**

**Summary**

"Connecting Theory and Practical Issues of Migration and Religious Diversity" (COREnet) is an interdisciplinary network that aims at knowledge production, knowledge exchange and capacity building across Europe in the intersection of migration and religious diversity with a particular emphasis on bottom-up research. The background of the network is the pressing social situation that is characterised by the fact that migrants and Syrian war refugees coming to Europe, have become one of the major political issues and social challenges during the past years. Research, capacity building and exchange are important tools to analyse what lies behind these challenges and possible solutions. The network aims thus to contribute to overcoming divisions within and across European countries with the help of innovative approach that would add to existing social scientific knowledge on migration and religious diversity the study of religions and theological insights explaining the narratives of migrants and refugees. Drawing in researchers from all stages of their careers, and across different European countries, training a new generation of interdisciplinary action researchers capable of connecting study of religions and theology and the social sciences, and working that into action through processes of co-production. This network brings the bridging of knowledge with stakeholders – governmental, non-governmental and media organizations working in the field of diversity management on the local and national levels.

<p><b>Areas of Expertise Relevant for the Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sociology: Migration, interethnic relations</li> <li>● Philosophy, Ethics and Religion: Theology and religious studies</li> <li>● Political Science: Social policies, welfare state</li> <li>● Psychology: Social psychology</li> <li>● History and Archeology: Modern and contemporary history</li> </ul>	<p><b>Keywords</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Migration</li> <li>● Religious Diversity</li> <li>● Social cohesion</li> <li>● Refugee crisis</li> <li>● Diversity management and practice</li> </ul>
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**Specific Objectives**

To achieve the main objective described in this MoU, the following specific objectives shall be accomplished:

Research Coordination

- The overarching research coordination objective is to exchange knowledge and arrange for new, practice-related research about migration and religious diversity and the role of religious narratives in migration in different (European) contexts by bringing together senior researchers, early career investigators (ECI) and non-academic stakeholders through pursuing the six aims below.
- Creating a practice-oriented, scientific state-of-the-art in the field of research into migration and religious diversity that is accessible for different disciplines and for the practice field
- Adding perspectives from study of religions and theology and approaches from different faith and secular traditions to understanding the social-science dominated field of research into migration and religious diversity
- Analysing the use of methods in the field of migration and religious diversity research and developing cross-disciplinary approaches
- Developing interdisciplinary co-operation between empirical and normative approaches
- Strengthening intersectional perspectives in the research about migration and religious diversity, especially in relation to age and gender differences
- Creating a cross-European systemic data collection of research on migration and religious diversity

including links to relevant websites and tools allowing for cross-country analysis

- Creating digital platforms for the communication of the discussions within and results from COREnet related research and the wider thematic field

#### Capacity Building

- Building research-based capacity in the field of migration and religious diversity and to establish European and international research alliances and to carve out a joint agenda for future research by working with the eight aims below.
- Establishing digital platforms for the communication of the discussions and results from COREnet and the thematic field.
- Creating arenas for interdisciplinary exchange where researchers interested in the field of migration and religious diversity can meet.
- Creating settings where researchers, practitioners and policy makers together develop research ideas on migration and religious diversity that improve integration into host societies.
- Providing platforms for European research alliances in the field of migration and religious diversity.
- Establishing in person and digital platforms for exchange between researchers and stakeholders in the field of migration and religious diversity.
- Arranging events and providing publications for stakeholders and policy makers on local, regional, national and EU level.
- Prioritizing cooperation between researchers from ITC countries and other COST countries.
- Promoting ten Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) for PhD candidates and ECIs per year.

## TECHNICAL ANNEX

### 1. S&T EXCELLENCE

#### 1.1 Soundness of the Challenge

##### 1.1.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE STATE-OF-THE-ART

###### *Introduction*

'The Network for Connecting Theory and Practice of Migration and Religious Diversity' (COREnet) is an interdisciplinary network that aims at knowledge production, knowledge exchange and capacity building across Europe in the intersection of migration and religious diversity, with a particular emphasis on bottom-up research. The background of the network is the pressing social situation that is characterised by the fact that migrants and Syrian war refugees coming to Europe, have become one of the major political issues and social challenges during the past years. Research, capacity building and exchange are important tools to analyse and respond to what lies behind the challenges and possible solutions. The network aims thus to contribute to overcoming differences within and across European countries.

###### *State of the Art*

Research about migration is a wide field. The 2015 refugee crisis has contributed to a growth of interest in this area on all levels from masters' theses to large EU funded projects. The field is fragmented since both earlier and ongoing research are situated in various interdisciplinary areas for migration studies and in different disciplinary settings such as sociology, pedagogics, political science, psychology, social work, health studies, law, and gender studies. Within the field, there is an important but underdeveloped strand in the study of religions and theology which this proposal builds on. An appropriate overview of this large field in the intersection of migration and religious diversity will necessarily run into shortcomings, omissions and simplifications. The paragraphs below will nevertheless try to draw some approximate lines between religious diversity and challenges that migration represents. The overview below and the suggested network chooses a broad conception of migration embracing both various forms of voluntary (working) migration and forced migration. The state-of-the-art is structured into six topical sections (1) the changing religious landscape in Europe, (2) the rise of migration to Europe, (3) examples of country-focused research, (4) conflicts in media and politics related to migration and religious diversity, (5) efforts to handle the new religious diversity related to migration and (6) migration and religious diversity seen through lenses of age and gender.

###### *1.) Changing Religious Landscape*

The changing religious landscape in Europe and its effects for the future have been a major issue in the study of religions. Already in 2000 Grace Davie was characterizing Europe as an 'exceptional case' rather than the rule, challenging the idea of a global drift towards various sorts of secularization and the diminishing role of religion in society. Academic debates about secularization have concluded that this social process does not lead to the disappearance of religion, but to the decrease of authority of religion in society and to immense religious diversification, i.e. the coexistence of diverse religious outlooks and groups in society. Diverse scholarly attempts to simulate religious demographics in Europe show decreasing numbers of Catholics and Protestants belonging to the established churches and increasing numbers of other Christian denominations (Orthodox Christianity, Pentecostal Churches), as well as growth among Dharmic traditions such as Buddhism, and especially in Islam due to migration (Bréchon & Gonthier 2017, PEW 2017, PEW 2018). Another trend is the increase of non-religion in European countries (Stolz et al. 2016) though with the important caveat that non-religion is not to be confused with non-belief, which is manifesting in a growing range of belief and values systems from mindfulness to environmentalism. Many European countries are following this pattern even though there are

considerable differences in the extent and advancement of both secularisation and religious and non-religious diversity. Countries with Protestant majority churches are already in the midst of change with decreasing numbers of church membership, church attendance and belief in traditional church teaching (see for example for the Nordic countries or Germany (Furseth 2018, Pollack 2018). Countries with Roman-Catholic majority churches that have been relatively little affected by secularisation are starting to follow the same trajectory (Alisauskiene & Schröder 2012, Kaufmann et al. 2011). Poland is a good illustration for this (Ramet & Borowik 2017), as is Ireland especially (Inglis 2007, Andersen & Lavan 2007). The Statistical Office of the Roman Catholic Church in Poland in 2018 shows that 39.8 % of Poles regularly participate in Sunday worship. At the same time refuse 69% of those who attend church services to accept the Catholic Church as a definite norm-giving authority, a number that has increased by 16% since 2005. This seemingly distinct secularisation as the loss of authority is disrupted by the opposing trend of religious diversification based on growing migration that has become a driving force in the socio-religious field during the last decade. An intense debate results as to whether religion belongs in the public or private sphere engages not only scholars in religion (Vilaça et al. 2014, Day 2018; Baker et al. 2019), but also political scientists (Manuel & Glatzer 2019, Minkenberg 2018) and sociologists (Kivisto 2014, Hidalgo & Pickel 2019). Peter L. Berger identifies two main challenges for the world as well as for Europe. Both are dealing with pluralism, namely the pluralism between religions on the one hand and the pluralism between religions and secularisms on the other hand. Both pluralisms affect conviviality and peace in Europe (Berger 2015). In addition, there are still few studies about Asian traditions in Europe like Buddhism, Hinduism and Sikhism. As a growing group of Europeans is influenced by these traditions this will become a new hot spot of research.

## 2.) *Rise of Migration to Europe*

The European research data base CORDIS reflects how the research interest in migration and refugees has increased together with the number of immigrants during the past few years. In particular after 2015, migrants and new-arrivers to Europe have become major foci for collaborative and individual projects. Some of them include religion as a dimension but only in the project periphery, without the main focus being on the intersection of migration and religious diversity, despite the migrants come almost entirely from parts of the world which are more religious than Europe. The lack of focus on this is itself a reflection of the conundrum that Europe lacks a focus on religion at exactly the point when millions of migrants are bringing their religions with them. Most of the larger projects that study religion as a dimension of (dis)integration and social cohesion in Europe have been conducted before the refugee crisis. Examples for ongoing and completed research projects are:

### *Projects focusing on handling the refugee and migration crisis*

<b>Project</b>	<b>Focus</b>
BROKERING	How third sector staff with the same background as refugees act as cultural brokers
EMILE	Interdisciplinary responses to the European crisis of multiculturalism
EUMARGINS	Social inclusion and exclusion of young immigrants
FOCUS	Forced migration and host community solidarity
MigSOL	How refugees and refugee solidarity groups relate to and use European citizenship along the Balkan route
NiVAMigra	Seeking norms and values in the European migration and refugee crisis
RESPOND	Governance of mass migration in Europe and beyond on different levels
STRENGTHS	Improvement of health help and intervention in the Syrian refugee crisis
TIES	Studying the Integration of Second Generation Immigrants

TRAFIG	Improving the situation of refugees in protracted displacement
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Several of these projects study both migration in general and refugees from Syria in particular.

*Projects focusing on the role of religion in integration and social cohesion*

ACCEPT PLURALISM	Social diversity challenges in the fields of education and politics
GREASE	Regimes of governing religion in Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania
FACIT	FBOs help to prevent social exclusion in urban areas
RELIGARE	Legal consequences of growing religious diversity
SO-CLOSE	Social Cohesion Through Sharing the Culture Heritage of Forced Migration
WaVE	Welfare and values in Europe among minority communities

None of the completed or ongoing projects foregrounds a combination between the study of religions, theology and social sciences and the connection between theory and grassroot practical issues as the proposed project does.

*3.) Examples of Country-Focused Research*

A multitude of projects of very different sizes in the national contexts show that public and religious actors are about to and have to prepare for new scenarios. These range from broad projects with several subprojects like the Religion Monitor in Germany (Bertelsmann without year), comparisons of two countries like studies about differences between the contribution of religious actors in different national contexts, for instance of the Catholic Church in Italy and Croatia (Giordan & Zrinscak 2018) and studies investigating single religious actors like the ongoing research project about integration and traditions of the Syrian-Orthodox Church in Sweden (Nordin 2020) or the analysis of the response of the Islamic Community to the current refugee movement in Croatia (Župarić-Ilić 2017). Research with a focus on the national context investigates both religion as a source for coping (Cetrez 2020, Cetrez 2018) and humanitarian help (Lyck-Bowen & Owen 2018), but also as a target of fear, as in the work of the Polish sociologist, Katarzyna Górak-Sosnowska (2016) who coined the term “platonic Islamophobia” to describe the phenomena of Islamophobia in countries where only few people actually meet Muslims like in many Visegrad countries. Another Polish sociologist Konrad Pedziwiatr (2015, 2017, 2018, 2019) has systematically analyzed the perception of Muslims in Poland since the refugee crisis and the impact of majority religion on the islamophobic discourse.

*4.) Debates about conflicts related to migration and religious diversity*

Since the start of the refugee crisis in 2015 the atmosphere in the population towards migration has changed in various European countries. Conflicts have been emphasised increasingly in media and politics. Researchers have followed these processes for example by analysing opinion polls showing a growing opposition against the reception of refugees and their freedom of religion (Demker 2017). Changes in public opinion affect integration policies, which is an important and complex field of research in particular in political science (for an updated overview see the Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX) at <http://www.mipex.eu/>). At the same time, it is important to note that resentments towards migrants and growing diversity are not only triggered by the refugee crisis. The results of the European Values Study 2010 show for instance that people with religious backgrounds tend to have problems with appreciating diversity and migrants. Media play often an important role in emphasising the potential for conflict in contexts of diversity and where migrants coming to Europe bring different ways of living their faith (Herbert 2015). Analyses of media debates and political discussion in parliaments reveal that the issue of Islam and how it challenges secular ideas of the public sphere in Europe is often given most attention (Furseth 2018; Axner 2013). These debates do often not take into consideration that recent

demographic studies suggest that the Muslim population in Europe will increase even if a “zero migration” factor is included in the calculations (PEW 2017) and that mappings of Muslim populations in different EU countries reveal that the Muslim population in Europe is diverse and will become even more diverse due to migration (Alan et al. 2017). Debates about religion as source of conflicts focus often on value differences related to gender equality (Aune et al. 2017) or age either focusing on the older generation that does not change their values (cf. Welzel 2013) or on the younger generation being susceptible to radicalisation (Lombardi et al. 2014). Public debates tend to generalise and stereotype both local and regional experiences of conflict and coexistence in religious diversity. The study of religions and theology relate these experiences to narratives where plurality is perceived as the constitutive “normality” of humankind, holding an innate theological dignity. These narratives have their roots in ancient stories and experiences of deportation, flight, migration, exile and diaspora (Polak 2019). They exist in all religious traditions but are not necessarily or uniformly culturally inherited across national and local contexts.

#### 5.) *Governing the new (religious) diversity*

Not least the rise of right-wing, populist anti-immigration parties all over the continent has created a need for research that gives evidence-based advice on how hosting and integrating migrants, including their religions in different European countries can be improved and rethought. This search for new and better approaches to integration comes at a time when perceptions of a growing secularisation have resulted in decreasing public knowledge and understanding about religion, especially in parts of the population who are non-believers. Thus, European countries are to become more religiously diversified, while the share of the population which possesses limited or no knowledge about religion is rising – what has been called the problem of ‘religion and belief literacy’ (Dinham 2020). These challenges are both discussed politically and in research. An example of a political contribution to the debate is the EU Briefing Paper of the Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies that emphasizes that dialogue should not only take place between different religious communities, but also with and between European minorities in general, whether they are religious or non-religious (European Parliament 2006). Several European research projects have focused on the role of education for handling religious diversity through migration. In earlier EU projects and in EU exchange programs, education has already been identified as decisive for improving encounters, such as the REDCO project that has the aim to “make room in the classroom for dialogue and discussion between religious and non-religious worldviews” and asks if religion promotes dialogue or conflict in education. This has in turn inspired national projects on reforming religious education in schools (Shaw 2020). An approach that goes beyond education is the concept of religious literacy suggesting a secular framework for everybody to handle religion well when they encounter it, regardless of one’s own religion, belief or none (Dinham & Francis 2015). A parallel development is the increasing interest in interreligious cooperation, for example the Protestant Church of Germany that has published a guide for the promotion of interreligious dialogue between Christians and Muslims (EKD & KRM 2015) and the growing landscape of research about platforms for interreligious collaboration (Griera & Nagel 2018, Burchardt 2017, Nagel 2015).

#### 6.) *Migration and Religious Diversity Through the Lenses of Gender and Age*

Gender and age are perspectives that form the public image of refugees. The characterisations of refugees usually operate between two poles: ‘good refugees’ and ‘bad refugees’. Women and children tend to be categorised as vulnerable human beings who deserve protection while men in general and particularly young men may be perceived as dangerous and possible terrorists. Their perceived dangerousness is frequently related to misconceptions of their cultures and religions (Fiddian-Qasmiyeh 2017). Thus, gender and age affect the constructions that are made of the “other” (Pruitt et al. 2018). At the same time, religion is also perceived and expressed in different ways in different ages (Rykkje et al. 2013) and by different generations (Gareau et al. 2019). To include gender and age in the

conceptualization of and responses to (forced) migration in the context of religious diversity will help to overcome simplistic discourses and replace them by intersectional analyses where several factors are put in play. Intersectional reflections like these are also important for legal decisions that aim at protecting one category of refugees while refusing security to others. Theoretically, there is a strong connection between religious affiliation and national identity because perceiving the religion of "others" critically helps dividing according to the lines of "selfing" and "othering". Thus, religion is a good example of what Tajfel (1982) elaborates as a process in social identity theory that can be instrumentalized in service of in-group cohesion, positive self-image and nation cohesion in the respective countries.

### 1.1.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE CHALLENGE (MAIN AIM)

This overview of the state-of-the-art reflects a wide field of research that is heavily affected by recent social and political developments. The breadth and fragmentation of the field of studies in the intersection of migration and religious diversity makes it difficult to access, in particular for stakeholders working with migration and religious diversity. This large and rather unmanageable research field hampers also building research collaborations and research exchange across Europe, in particular bottom-up research projects in close cooperation with stakeholders from the practice field. The publication of research into migration and religious diversity on the national level in diverse languages further complicates its international accessibility. Moreover, earlier projects studying the interface between migration and religion started often from a functionalist and normative perspective, evaluating if and how religion and religious actors contribute to inclusion and social cohesion within society. They are thus interested in what religion and religious actors can do for society, and not primarily of religious narratives, theology and the faith-based practice themselves. These aspects, along with gender and age, are important missing dimensions in the public and research debate about religion and its role in social conflicts and solutions. They deserve therefore particular attention when studying the intersection between migration and religious diversity.

The main aim of COREnet is to fill the gaps and research needs described in the state-of-the art and to communicate new results and knowledge directly to public debate and the various fields of practice. COREnet aims thus at creating a European platform for critical exchange of research into migration and religious diversity between academia and practice all over Europe. Steps for achieving this aims include a deepened understanding of the European state-of-the-art of research into migration and religious diversity (WG1), the exploration of religious narratives about migration from theological, study of religions and practical perspectives (WG2), the design of practice oriented research projects together with public and private organisations from the grassroots (WG3) and the analysis of earlier research and empirical data through gender and age perspectives (WG4). All these aims and activities are accompanied by a constant endeavour to translate the discussions and results of the network into accessible information for the public and the practice field (WG5). These aims presuppose an interdisciplinary approach and a participation from as many European countries as possible.

## 1.2 Progress beyond the state-of-the-art

### 1.2.1 APPROACH TO THE CHALLENGE AND PROGRESS BEYOND THE STATE-OF-THE-ART

A COST Action is the ideal arena for realising the aims of COREnet since it supports research and researchers across Europe and cooperation with stakeholders/practitioners working with migration and religion. COREnet will have an interdisciplinary approach with researchers coming from various and methodologically different disciplines (psychology, sociology, anthropology, political science, study of

religions, philosophy, social policy and social work, and theology). Gathering researchers from different disciplines who have a primary research interest in the role of religion and religious actors in migration processes will enable new insights. Innovative in the interdisciplinary composition of the network is the close collaboration of social sciences, with empirical approaches, and theology and humanities, with normative approaches. This means for example that religious narratives and faith-based practice are not only collected and/or observed and then analysed in a social science tradition. They are at the same time systematic-theologically interpreted in the light of normative teachings of the religions themselves. Research activities on migration and religious diversity are currently separated by traditional disciplinary boundaries. COREnet will begin with a state-of-the-art report based on a meta-analysis that provides both the points of departure for new interdisciplinary and inter-European analyses, and how they can give rise to new practice-oriented studies. While earlier COST initiatives like the International Ethnic and Immigrant Minorities Survey Data Network have gathered quantitative data all over Europe, COREnet will focus on analysing and developing qualitative research and undertake participative research with various levels of practice. This in itself forms a vital contribution, not only to the research field, but also to social practice in Europe. Given the extent of migration-related challenges and their political importance a network that can contribute to cross European practice-related research, through cooperation with stakeholders, is needed for social development in a pressing area. COREnet can thus contribute to innovation both in the academic, political and educational field. The cooperation between researchers and practice field stakeholders will comprise different European regions. For example, the Visegrad countries that currently host small numbers of immigrants are also among the most immigrant-sceptic countries and therefore strongly represented in the network. To link research and stakeholder and policy debates in these countries with debates in other European countries and globally has the potential to generate new (research) discourses, not least in the analysis of processes of stereotyping. Grounding itself on the current state-of-art COREnet will:

- 1) bring new insights about changes in the European religious landscape on the local and national scale about and related to the role and place of religion in the context of increased migration and growing religious diversity. The inclusion of researchers from countries which usually lie beyond the interest of mainstream academia will allow to raise their voices in the academic debates on migration and religious diversity (WG1 and WG2).
- 2) initiate new academic discussions combining empirical and normative approaches in theory and method that respond to the rise of migration, for example in-depth analyses of the challenges of nationalism and integration making visible both social processes and outcomes related to them by critically investigating the role religion plays in the processes (WG1 and WG2).
- 3) add more examples to the existing country focused research and thereby broaden the European knowledge base through translations and increased accessibility of existing research into migration and religious diversity (WG5).
- 4) contribute with a unique practical dimension with communicating the research results to media representatives, initiating workshops for journalists at national and international level focusing on conflicts in media and politics related to migration and religious diversity (WG5).
- 5) develop the management of the increased religious diversity and migration by adding a practical dimension into research through cooperation with stakeholders such as governmental and non-governmental organizations working in the field of social inclusion. The exchange of scholarly knowledge and practical issues will create unique knowledge and provide solid ground for the preparation of new social cohesion projects and recommendations for social policy implementations that would ease social tensions and counteract the formation of prejudices and stereotypes (WG3 and WG5).
- 6) enrich the study of religions, uniquely connecting theological and social science approaches in the research into migration and religious diversity by applying intersectional perspectives, in particular in relation to age and gender. COREnet gives the ability to challenge and discuss generational and social changes related to gender in the context of migration and religious diversity, incorporating concrete experiences at the personal and local level (WG4).

## 1.2.2 RESEARCH COORDINATION OBJECTIVES

The overarching research coordination objective of COREnet is to exchange and develop knowledge about migration and religious diversity and about the role religious narratives play in migration in different European contexts and internationally. As a research coordination network, COREnet aims to bring together senior researchers, early career investigators (ECI) and non-academic stakeholders from different national contexts to arrange for new, practice-related research. This will be achieved by:

- creating practice-oriented, scientific state-of-the-art in the field of research into migration and religious diversity that is accessible for different disciplines and for the practice field;
- adding study of religions and theological perspectives and approaches from different faith and secular traditions to understanding the social-science dominated field of migration and religious diversity (research);
- analysing the use of methods in the field of migration and religious diversity research and develop cross-disciplinary approaches;
- interdisciplinary co-operation between empirical and normative approaches;
- strengthening intersectional perspectives in the research about migration and religious diversity, especially in relation to age and gender differences;
- creating digital platforms for the communication of the discussions and results from COREnet and the thematic field;
- creating a cross-European systemic data collection of research on migration and religious diversity including links to relevant websites and tools allowing for cross-country analysis

## 1.2.3 CAPACITY-BUILDING OBJECTIVES

The proposed network will contribute to building research-based capacity in the field of migration and religious diversity and to develop a joint research agenda for the future by:

- prioritising learning arenas for PhD candidates and ECIs such as PhD summer schools (3), training schools (3) and research seminars;
- creating arenas for interdisciplinary exchange where researchers interested in the field of migration and religious diversity can meet;
- creating settings where researchers, practitioners and policy makers together develop research ideas on migration and religious diversity that improve integration into host societies;
- provide platforms for European research alliances in the field of migration and religious diversity;
- establishing in person and digital platforms for exchange between researchers and stakeholders in the field of migration and religious diversity;
- arranging events and providing publications for stakeholders and policy makers on local, regional, national and EU level;
- prioritizing cooperation between researchers from ITC countries and other COST countries;
- promoting ten Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) for PhD candidates and ECIs per year

# 2. NETWORKING EXCELLENCE

## 2.1. Added value of networking in S&T Excellence

### 2.1.1. ADDED VALUE IN RELATION TO EXISTING EFFORTS AT EUROPEAN AND/OR INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

There is a growing number of initiatives in the political, public and religions field trying to address the challenge of how to foster cultural and religious diversity and integration in European Society. COREnet will connect and add to this important research and practice. Its specific focus and contribution are pan-

European exchange, and a new interdisciplinarity which connects social science with theology and the study of religion. This has a potential to inspire innovative research with concrete outcomes for improved practices and policies. In particular ECIs are encouraged to develop future research agendas by using the new combinations and connections intellectually and geographically including the following.

Firstly, there are many political initiatives in the area of migration. Some of them mention religion explicitly as a relevant dimension. Others subsume the religious perspective within a larger context, especially culture and values. In 2011, the European Commission published for example a paper on “Pluralism and religious diversity, social cohesion and integration in Europe” which focused on the question: “How can cultural diversity be accommodated within European society?” This paper openly includes religion as an important factor for integration, while most other papers, strategies and networks focus on migration and cultural diversity in general. They neither highlight nor exclude the perspective of religion. United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) is the core organization working in this field. The UN has launched a global compact for migration and a compact on refugees, see <https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/refugees-compact>. Another big international network is the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) that describes itself as “leading intergovernmental organisation in the field of migration, see [www.iom.int](http://www.iom.int). In the EU, the European Migration Network (EMN) has worked for ten years with supporting policy makers through up-dated, reliable and comparable information, see [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european migration network en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network_en). Policy makers and policies facing challenges of migration are a recurrent focus of international networks and research initiatives like the Migration Policy Institute, cf. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/> or the Migrant Integration Policy Index, cf. <http://www.mipex.eu>. In addition to many intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental networks there are also research networks focussing on migration from different national contexts, for instance the flight research network that operates mainly in German, see <https://fluechtlingsforschung.net/>, One of the key tasks of COREnet in this plethora of information is to analyse, catalise and communicate knowledge about the intersection of migration and religious diversity and thus make it more manageable and accessible. This meta-analysis of qualitative research will also include politically initiated overviews and other projects and websites providing summarising information. The COREnet website will publish the results of the analyses European languages, and thereby make them more accessible across Europe.

Secondly, current attention on migration in media and public discourse is overwhelming and omnipresent in all European countries, though with considerable differences in coverage and direction from country to country. As in research discourses, religion is put forward ambivalently, constructing it as potentially both a problem and a resource. Stakeholders from the practice field are much more affected by the ambivalence of public debate than researchers. COREnet will challenge and nuance the public discourse through its interdisciplinary approach that approaches the field from both an empirical and a normative perspective. This means that the network will combine functional approaches focussing on the role of religion in migration processes (which dominate public and research discourses) with theological approaches highlighting migration as a content feature of all religions (and non-religious beliefs). By including these two perspectives that are often presented as conflicting into the scientific cooperation COREnet will be able to contribute from a more holistic and academically sounder platform to the debate. This will in turn contribute instrumentally as stakeholders can improve their understanding of the impacts of theological perspectives and worldviews on migrants’ experiences and reactions.

Thirdly, in many countries religious organisations actively and publicly contribute to the efforts of answering the challenges related to migration. Often, they try to participate with alternative narratives on flight and migration and offer practical help in various aid projects at the local, regional, national and international level and in interreligious cooperation. The examples are many and they are often available on the websites of the religious organisations for instance the Migrants and Refugees Section of Pope Francis/Vatican (<https://migrants-refugees.va/>), the German Bishops, the French Bishops, the Italian

Bishops, Eurodiaconia, Caritas and the Europe Churches Commission for Migrants in Europe, <http://www.ccme.be/>. Furthermore, many religious organisations are also part of religious education in schools. They are related to networks like the European Network for Religious Education through Contextual Approaches (ENRECA) that was set up in 1999 to build a platform for “mutual co-operation and reflection on the changing role of religious education in Europe”. The ENRECA deals with the issue of growing religious diversity in a European context and conducts research to foster greater mutual understanding through intercultural communication. COREnet is in constant contact with these initiatives through some of its major stakeholder members. The close co-operation with the practice field will provide COREnet with a better access to and overview of all the big and small projects that religious organisations conduct across Europe. This overview is an important precondition to be able to critically evaluate the contribution of religious organisations and to create innovative, participative and practice-oriented projects together with them.

## 2.2. ADDED VALUE OF NETWORKING IN IMPACT

### 2.2.1. SECURING THE CRITICAL MASS AND EXPERTISE

The network has three characteristics that will allow it to improve understanding of theory and practices of migration and religious diversity across the geographical, social and political regions of Europe:

Firstly, at the time of the proposal, academic institutions and stakeholder organisations like religious organisations, non-governmental organisations, municipalities and national and European professional and practice networks from 22 countries have obligated themselves to the network. These include 19 COST countries, among them ten ITC countries (Czech Republic, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Malta, Northern Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Serbia and Slovakia), eight other COST countries (Austria, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Norway, Sweden, UK and Turkey), one near neighbour country (Georgia) and two international partner countries (South Africa, USA).

The countries in the network are selected to represent different regions in Europe, including Western, Southern, Central and Northern European countries. In addition, key partners from outside are invited to the network to complement with perspectives from three other continents. The balance between the different European regions will help to realize the main aim of the network, namely to initiate an exchange between different regional traditions in research and practice with the focus on migration and religious diversity, to establish a pan-European knowledge and research base on migration and religious diversity and to develop a future research agenda through cooperation with different sectors of society and practice fields. The aim is to enlarge the network towards and beyond the borders of the EU, towards Romania, Moldavia, Ukraine, Belarus and Russia in Eastern Europe, to France, Netherlands and Spain in Central and Southern Europe and to other partner countries that are either receivers or origins of migrants like Lebanon, Cameroon, Mexico, Philippines, South Korea, Singapore, USA or Bangladesh.

Secondly, COREnet aims deliberately at being visible and accessible all over Europe, connecting contexts that have not so far been visible in research about migration and religious diversity with contexts that have a larger tradition in the field. Therefore, the Visegrad countries where migration is questioned strongly in the public and where some of the representatives of religious communities contribute to resentments against migrants (of other faith) will be made centres of COREnet and together with representatives of other ITC countries part of the leadership structures.

Thirdly, the academic partners represent different disciplines including theology, political science, psychology, sociology, social work and social policy, study of religions, anthropology, philosophy, history, ethics and gender and migration studies. Thus, they bring experiences from both qualitative and quantitative research and different theoretical approaches to the field, which are currently largely cut off from each other within disciplinary boundaries. This is especially true of the relationship between theology and study of religions on the one hand, and the social sciences on the other (Dinham & Baker 2018). Most of the participating academic institutions are involved in the training of professionals in the fields of education, health, welfare and religion and thus closely connected to practice.

In addition to the above-mentioned characteristics, the network has applied the following criteria to guarantee that it has the critical mass to solve the challenge with the suggested objectives:

- the expertise of the network members is broad, ranging from internationally well-known experts in the area of religion and migration to promising and innovative academic newcomers and from locally based practice field actors like religious organisations and municipalities to national, regional and international umbrella organisations and networks.
- academic partners at different stages in their careers are invited into the network. Presently, one fifth of the proposers classify as ECIs. This share will be increased during the course of the Action.
- Gender balance deliberately leans towards a slight majority of women (57.9%) in recognition of their underrepresentation in this field and across research. The balance will be maintained when developing the network and at the same time be reflected in the management structures.

The network of partners represented in COREnet gives the opportunity to approach the field of migration and religious diversity from many scientific and practical angles and contextual backgrounds. The Action will be a good starting point to form new alliances of pan-European, practice-based research that has a large potential of finding new solutions for European practices and policies in handling challenges related to migration and religious diversity.

## 2.2.2. INVOLVEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS

The proposal is put forward by a network of stakeholders representing policies and practices on different levels. Currently, the network consists of key exemplary stakeholders including municipalities and other government actors and public service providers, secular and faith-based NGOS and faith communities on local, national and international level as well as journalists working with topics of migration and religious diversity. COREnet will broaden this network out to include the involvement of the following target groups:

1. Governmental Organisations on national, regional and local level from all regions of Europe;
2. International Organisations;
3. Faith-based organisations working with migration from all regions of Europe;
4. Non-religious NGOs working with migration;
5. For-Profit organisations and companies ;
6. Media representatives working on the topics of migration and religious diversity.

The management committee will present a list of criteria for identifying the most relevant stakeholders in the various national contexts at the kick-off conference. This list will be discussed and agreed upon during the conferences. The Executive Committee and the Working Group leaders will together decide on a plan on including new members and make sure that the composition and size of the network will be manageable and represents a distribution of the different regions of Europe and different religions. COREnet aims to involve the above-mentioned target groups from ten countries that are already included and from five new countries joining the network by the start of year 3 of the Action.

The involvement of stakeholders will be done with the following strategy: (1) An analysis of the national landscape of civil society organisations and religious communities will be used to identify missing stakeholders in a systematic way engaged in coping with increasing religious diversity in the context of migration in a systematic way. The national network members will approach potentially interested stakeholders. (2) It is easier to invite a person/group with whom a member is already collaborating. Thus, the network members will use their existing collaborations, identify stakeholders and ask them to become involved. (3) A snow-ball system will be involved by using young researchers to make contacts in their geographic area and ask for relevant stakeholders to become involved. (4) National umbrella organisations of public, civil society and religions actors and their leaders will be asked to identify the most relevant stakeholders and to invite them to the network.

The stakeholders will not only be invited to take part in the conferences and seminars, but also to organise narrative cafés (WG 2) and develop practice-oriented research ideas and projects, which will in turn profit from the involvement of stakeholders because a variety of practice and theory perspectives is pivotal for the success of innovative work. The stakeholders will also co-design valid research topics for the WGs and the PhD projects included in the PhD schools. Their participation will help to build knowledge from inside of practice, resulting in more accurate and inclusive insights.

### 2.2.3. MUTUAL BENEFITS OF THE INVOLVEMENT OF SECONDARY PROPOSERS FROM NEAR NEIGHBOUR OR INTERNATIONAL PARTNER COUNTRIES OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

In spite of the participation of a plethora of academic and non-academic institutions from inside Europe, COREnet also needs input from academic institutions and practice stakeholders located outside Europe. The following three reasons underpin such a decision: Firstly, partners located outside Europe have the potential to broaden knowledge about new and future migration trends to Europe, which have very limited visibility in Europe so far but are likely to gain in importance in the near future; Secondly, partners outside Europe experience and research similar challenges related to migration and religious diversity and can therefore contribute to specific knowledge on tools for understanding, handling and overcoming differences such as anti-immigrant and anti-refugee discourses; Thirdly, stakeholders can contribute important perspectives on how religion is a factor for (forced) migration but also on how religion helps or hinders their integration in new contexts.

The non-European COREnet partners include: The *Iliia State University in Georgia* as an example of an Orthodox dominated country coping with the issues of internally displaced people. The *University of the Western Cape in South Africa* with several departments with specific research interests in the intersection of religion and migration. South Africa receives many migrants resulting conflicts and an increase of anti-migrant resentments. South Africa is also often characterised as a highly religious in difference to extremely secularised Europe. The international NGO *Over Zero* based in the US with the aim to reduce, prevent and create resilience to violence with particular focus on xenophobic movements. The international partners will help COREnet to understand the European challenges related to migration and religious diversity in a global context. The cooperation will inspire global comparison and innovative, practice-based projects.

## 3. IMPACT

### 3.1. IMPACT TO SCIENCE, SOCIETY AND COMPETITIVENESS, AND POTENTIAL FOR INNOVATION/BREAK-THROUGHS

#### 3.1.1. SCIENTIFIC, TECHNOLOGICAL, AND/OR SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS (INCLUDING POTENTIAL INNOVATIONS AND/OR BREAKTHROUGHS)

##### *Scientific impact*

The Action will develop training schools for PhD students from European countries and internationally. This not only means that a group of young multipliers will be formed but also a network of such multipliers

will be initiated and that the established researchers involved in the schools will both learn from their colleagues and the young researchers. Thus, a network beyond the Action will evolve that will lead to new networks and relationships, enhance new research (projects) have the potential to further the agenda for future research and Action strategies in the intersection of migration and religious diversity. By enabling young researchers to develop innovative and cooperative methods with different practice field partners and in relation to ongoing and polarised social discourses, new approaches, methods and tools will be tested in practice. These methods and tools can be used in multiple other practical contexts. The young multipliers can share the methods in their home settings once the network period is over and start or facilitate the start of similar projects or the application of these methods in practice. By sharing and applying new ways of researching in the intersection of migration and religious diversity, in the long run a new area of research will be explored. Moreover, COREnet has the potential to achieve an academic breakthrough through the innovative dilution of disciplinary boundaries rooted in out-dated binary ideas of society as either secular *or* sacred (rather than being complexly both) and religion as public, not private. This kind of impact is needed in times of comprehensive changes.

#### *Socioeconomic impact*

COREnet will result in culturally specific training programmes in managing religious diversity by bringing together experts from academia and practice across Europe. These experts come from contexts with differing societal developments and political policies concerning migration and religion. The research-based training will be relevant for administration, social workers, health workers and therapists who are responsible for treatment and integration of refugees and migrants in their new countries of settlement. The trainings will help to differentiate and overcome assumptions that refugees are passive victims of war and persecutions. Instead, it will be focused on them as survivors with resilience and agency, as well as skills, both innate and acquired at a time before they became migrants. This could have highly significant implications for improving integration policies and routines.

Another short-term socio-economic impact will be realized by organising the analysis of research from a gender and an age perspective as open webinars eligible not only for scholars and students from participating and other institutions but also for practitioners in the field like NGOs workers, government employees, journalists and schoolteachers. The webinars and their content will be made accessible on open educational platforms. By this, the webinar materials can be used freely in teaching contexts in schools or higher education. But even more importantly, the material will be available on an open source basis so that the knowledge and findings of this project can be taken up and exploited by stakeholders in the practice field of religion and migration. Since a variety of national contexts inform the production of the material a wide coverage of different European backgrounds, histories and challenges will be achieved.

A long-term effect of COREnet will be research-based local and regional policies and strategies that help policy makers and practitioners all over Europe to better manage the consequences of the 2015 refugee crisis and the migrant waves in the years after. European and international research practice networks in this field will make experiences and knowledge available across national and disciplinary borders when it is needed.

## 3.2 MEASURES TO MAXIMISE IMPACT

### 3.2.1 KNOWLEDGE CREATION, TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

The *knowledge creation* of COREnet lies in four dimensions. (1) The network will highlight existing knowledge and produce new knowledge in the intersection of religious diversity and migration. (2) This knowledge will be produced by creating cross-European and other international cooperation that can contribute not least through comparative approaches and assessing best practices. (3) The focus on religious and non-religious narratives about migration explores a field that so far has received little attention. (4) The close cooperation with stakeholders from the practice field and the consequent inclusion of bottom-up research approaches will finally provide new insights and angles for both research and practice. *Career development* will be facilitated by actively involving PhD students and ECIs in the pan-European Working Groups, the organisation and leadership of the Action and the close cooperation with policy makers and stakeholders from the practice field promote potential professional careers in the intersection of religion and migration. Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSM) as well as close cooperation with stakeholders from the practice field will provide employment possibilities. PhD Summer Schools, STSMs and the close cooperation in the Working Groups are the main tools of COREnet to achieve *transfer of knowledge* among researchers and between researchers, policy makers and practitioners. To ensure sustainability COREnet will actively pursue future funding for training efforts such as the Erasmus+ program and other training networks for PhD scholars and ECIs.

#### *PhD Summer Schools*

PhD students and ECIs are at the centre of the network aiming to provide methodological and theoretical training of a new generation of researchers in the field. The three thematic PhD Summer Schools will be organized in three different locations (South, North and Central-Eastern Europe). Each will be related to one of the three thematic WGs. The timing will be scheduled and coordinated ahead of time to avoid overlaps. Each school will have a designated leader. Both Leaders of the Working Groups and PhD Summer Schools will be represented in the Executive Committee. The network's emphasis on participative methods will ensure that the development of this new generation of Action-researchers will naturally start from and include the transfer of knowledge with stakeholders in the practice field. All three PhD summer schools will focus on data-collection, methods, theory and analysis and introduce the students to new and innovative theoretical concepts and methodological perspectives such as the standpoint methodology which helps to understand experience of refugees and migrants from their point of view through including them into formulating research question as well in discussion of achieved results. This is a tool to give a voice to marginalized groups (Sprague 2005). An example for an innovative theoretical perspective is the psychology of place as a background for projects on refugees dealing with loss and trauma (Fullilove 1996). Central to the schools will be new interdisciplinarity. The PhD Summer Schools will focus on:

<b>PhD Summer School</b>	<b>Focus</b>
1. Design of practice-oriented research projects	Introduction into standpoint methodologies and research methods (action research) Introduction into social media communication
2. Narratives on Migration through the lenses of religious and non-religious beliefs	European (religious) narratives on migration Computer Assisted analysis
3. Migration and Religious Diversity through the Lenses of Gender and Age	Analytical approaches from gender and age perspective; Webinar as method for inclusive research

#### *STSMs*

PhD scholars and ECIs are one of the main target groups for altogether five STSMs that will be organized every year. The WGs are responsible for initiating and organising the STSMs considering both thematic, research progress and career development aspects. The STSMs will be planned in

cooperation with practice field stakeholders both to give access to new contexts for research and for developing careers outside academia.

### 3.2.2 PLAN FOR DISSEMINATION AND/OR EXPLOITATION AND DIALOGUE WITH THE GENERAL PUBLIC OR POLICY

The dissemination and exploitation of results, and dialogue with the general public and policy makers, will be secured by a thoroughly planned strategy that is governed and developed in WG 5:

#### Dissemination of results

Appropriate dissemination of COREnet's results is essential for the effectiveness and sustainability of the network and the continued establishment of the research lines and co-operations in the intersection of migration and religious diversity. Therefore, COREnet will prepare a detailed dissemination plan for each relevant group of stakeholders (table below) and update the plan where and whenever needed. To ensure that all dissemination tasks are met COREnet will appoint a dedicated dissemination manager within the Working Group Communication and Dissemination (WG5) and design decided communication liaisons for each stakeholder group.

#### Exploitation of results

The aim of COREnet is to merge the currently separate research fields into a new research area fostering inter- and transdisciplinary studies on the intersection of migration and religious diversity. To ensure that results will reach across societies the Action is planned in a way that policy makers and local stakeholders are involved in an early phase, throughout the whole network phase and beyond.

#### Dialogue with the general public

The general public will be involved in the COREnet dialogue by communicating with them through the website (that provides Open Access research results), social media and traditional media outlets. In addition, the narrative cafés and development of local, practice-oriented research project will involve and inform the local general public in several ways.

<b>Dissemination Tool</b>	<b>Aim and Target Group</b>
3 digital policy conferences that take place before or after the network conferences. These conferences invite local, regional, national and European policy makers and are prepared and conducted by researchers and practice field stakeholders together.	Discussion of research questions and preliminary results with the academic community, and (local) stakeholders
The narrative cafés will be organised together with stakeholders on the local level and communicated through digital platforms.	Communication of the narratives from the cafés to the local media, general public and stakeholders
Practice-oriented projects initiated by local stakeholders and accompanied by researchers and media representatives through digital platforms and social media activities created by the network	Exploitation of the projects in dialogue with local stakeholders, policy makers and media.
Webinars focusing on gender and age using online systems like Zoom, Teams and Webex. The webinars will be made available for both researchers, practice stakeholders, policy makers and media representatives.	Discussion of gender and age perspectives with academic community, policy makers, practice & media representatives
Publications will be submitted to the following journals: Forced Migration Review, East European Politics & Societies and Cultures, Gender and History, Journal of Refugee Studies, Feminist Review, Central and East	Communication and exploitation of research results to the

<p>European Migration Review, Gender Remix Ethnicities, The International Migration Review, Religion, Religion and Society, Sociology of Religion, Journal of Theological Studies, Social Compass etc.</p> <p>An edited volume with an acknowledged publishing house like Brill, De Gruyter, Springer is planned.</p> <p>A publication (like a white paper) for European policy makers.</p>	<p>academic community and policy makers.</p>
<p>Participation in large international conferences in the field of migration such as the “Annual Seminar of the network for International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion” or the annual conferences of “The Migration Conference”.</p>	<p>Communication and exploitation of research results to the academic community</p>
<p>Dissemination as part of the PhD school training. One of the PhD schools will focus specifically on dissemination in social media and include social media experts in the PhD school team of teachers.</p>	<p>Dialogue about ECI research with the general public</p>
<p>Organisation of two digital conferences for regional, national and European policy makers (in the middle and at the end of the funding period) and media representatives.</p>	<p>Dialogue about the results with policy makers and the general public.</p>

## 4. IMPLEMENTATION

### 4.1. COHERENCE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE WORK PLAN

#### 4.1.1. DESCRIPTION OF WORKING GROUPS, TASKS AND ACTIVITIES

The anticipated network will consist of five Working Groups that are inserted in the Action structure consisting of a kick-off conference, a midway-conference and a final conference. These WG’s include:

##### Working Group 1: Meta-study on the intersection between religion and migration

Aims	Activities	Deliverables
<p>Comparative meta-analysis in the intersection of migration and religious diversity in Europe over the last decades (including quantitative &amp; qualitative research, studies on national, regional and local level.</p>	<p>Systematic review and meta-analysis of research including</p>	<p>Meta-analysis report</p> <p>Publication of results in a European Database on Religion and Migration on the COREnet website</p> <p>Five scientific articles</p>

##### Working Group 2: Narratives of migration through the lenses of religions/non-religious beliefs

Aims	Activities	Deliverables
<p>The aim of the Working Group is to discuss migration in relation to religious traditions and non-religious beliefs by using religious texts and narratives. First, the WG will work</p>	<p>Theological analysis of narrative about migration from the perspectives of different religious and secular traditions</p>	<p>Three scientific articles or chapters based on the theological analysis</p> <p>Locally based narrative cafés across Europe</p>

with narratives on religion and migration from a theological perspective. Then, it will work with locally based narrative cafés about everyday narratives about religion and migration. The narratives that will be collected and (anonymised) communicated through digital platforms and analysed together with stakeholders.	Establishment of narrative cafés on religion and migration together with stakeholders  Theological and social science analysis of the collected religious narratives on migration  PhD Summer School	Publication of narratives from the cafés on digital platforms  PhD Summer School in 2023  Three scientific articles or chapters based on the analysis of the material from the narrative cafés
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### Working Group 3: Design of Practice-Orientated Research Projects

Aims	Activities	Deliverables
The WG focuses on developing new, participative research methods to design practice-oriented research projects together with stakeholders at the grassroots on handling migrants and religious diversity, in particular together with PhDs and ECIs. The WG will create local bottom-up pilot projects and aim at developing proposals for external funding.	Systematic mapping of local responses in the area of religion and migration  WG meeting with focus on the exchange of innovative and participative methods  Development of local pilot projects with local stakeholders  PhD Summer School  Work with a research proposal	5 scientific articles based on mapping and selected local pilot projects  Documentation of pilot projects on the Action website  Biannual project development meetings with local stakeholders  Conduction of a PhD Summer School in 2022  Submission of a research proposal for external funding

### Working Group 4 Migration and Religious Diversity through the Lenses of Gender and Age

Aims	Activities	Deliverables
The WG focusses on analysing research and empirical material from a gender and age perspective. It will work with webinars that include external researchers, policy makers and stakeholders. Lists of age and gender topics will be developed for the analyses in WG 1-3. The results from WG 1-3 will be included in the intersectional analysis of the WG.	Collect relevant material from earlier research and from the local pilot studies  Webinars to analyse research and empirical material through the lenses of gender and age  PhD Summer School	Contributions to the European Data Base on Religion and Migration  Conduction of 10 regional webinars  Seven scientific articles or chapters presenting the results of the analysis in the webinars  Conduction of a PhD Summer School in 2024

### Working Group 5 Communication and Dissemination

Aims	Activities	Deliverables
Ensures communication between researchers, practice stakeholders and policy makers using digital platform, narrative cafés, local practice orientated research projects and webinars for journalists. It	Workshops/webinars for journalists.  Publication of results in popular media	Action Website  Social Media Accounts  20 popular publications about the Action in different countries and languages

includes proactive strategies to connect with other networks and conferences.	Create and use digital and social media platforms for the results Create dissemination events in connection with the conferences	Three scientific articles or chapters about dissemination processes.
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WG 1 will work during the first two years of the network while WG 3 and 4 will start halfway through the network period since their work builds on the primary results of WG 1 and 2. WG 2, 3 and 4 will each be responsible for a PhD summer school. WG 5 is working during the whole network period. By focusing on communication and dissemination, it binds together the researchers, policy makers and stakeholders of the other WGs and promotes outside contact and exchange with policy makers and the practice-field.

#### 4.1.2. DESCRIPTION OF DELIVERABLES AND TIMEFRAME

The deliverables are presented in the Working Group overview (4.1.1.). They are closely related to the Working Groups and are addressing both the scientific discourse and the discourse with the practice field and policy makers. Three major conferences (kick-off, midway and final) will provide the framework of the four-year network period. The Working Groups will relate their activities to these major conferences. The conferences will be designed in a way that makes them relevant for both researchers and for practice stakeholders and policy makers to build bridges between research and practice in the field of religious diversity and migration and to initiate innovative projects in research and practice. Another linking activity and deliverable in COREnet are the PhD Summer Schools that are organised by the Working Groups, but open for all PhD students and ECIs from within and beyond the COREnet network.

The Working Groups will have their own timeframe with deliverables including a kick-off, a midway and a final seminar that should be planned in connection with the major conferences and/or the PhD summer schools. Three of the Working Groups will in addition work with regional seminars and meetings. Regional work forms are expected to give the best effect for co-operations with stakeholders in the practice field, policy makers and media representatives. STSMs will also take place within in Working Groups. The exchange of ECIs between different regions in Europe will be prioritised.

The deliverables comprise both scientific and communication/dissemination deliverables. The scientific deliverables include scientific publications, PhD Summer Schools, conference papers, proposals for external funding and a European Data Base on Religion and Migration. They will be produced throughout the project period. The scientific work of the network is planned to be published in Open Access channels as far as possible. The cooperation in the Working Groups will provide favourable conditions for developing comparative (publication) projects across Europe. The communication and dissemination deliverables will be mainly based on digital platforms and local co-operations. To establish digital platforms will be the first task of the network (WG 5). The platforms will work as information channels and mirror for the practice field and policy makers. The work with the communication on these platforms will be followed through the whole network period. The ways and forms of communication will be constantly developed and improved.

Type	Deliverable
Publications	A common edited volume with an acknowledged publisher (OA) 32 scientific articles (5 about the metanalysis, 3 theological, 3 based on the narrative cafes, 5 about local mapping, 5 about local pilot projects, including

	methodological articles, 7 about the gender and age analysis of which 2 which a methodological approach; 3 articles about disseminations processes) 20 articles in newspaper and non-scientific journals all over Europe
Conferences	3 main Action conferences in the beginning, in the middle and in the end of the funding period 3 Working Group conferences per year (as a rule 2 of them digitally)
Digital Platforms	Interactive Actions Website Social Media Accounts
Pedagogical Activities	3 PhD Summer Schools 10 Local Webinars about the Gender and Age Analysis
External Funding	1 Proposal to be submitted during the project period 3 proposals will be submitted after the funding period

#### 4.1.3. RISK ANALYSIS AND CONTINGENCY PLANS

The international and multicultural structure of the network implies not only a potential, but also a risk. The long experience of the team members in international networks will help to meet the challenges. Below, some results of the first risk analysis are mentioned together with potential measures to overcome them. However, since risks most likely will arise in the course of the network period the risk analysis and the contingency plans will be updated regularly.

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Contingency Plan</b>
<i>Delay of tasks</i>	Introduction of compulsory half-way working reports submitted to WG leaders describing what has been achieved so far and what are reasons for possible delays, and how the WG can catch up
<i>Overspending funds</i>	Strict monitoring of costs will be kept. All financial plans will keep 15 percent safety margin of unused funds in the cost allocation, in case of unexpected increase of prices for travel and accommodation connected with conferences and PhD Summer Schools.
<i>Lack of satisfactory cooperation between the members</i>	Compulsory workshop devoted to cross-cultural communication and anti-discriminatory practices during the kick-off conference that establishes commonly agreed rules for interaction in the network Sensitization of WG leaders for possible obstacles which originate from cultural differences between group members in terms of meeting deadlines for various tasks, including responding to e-mails, politeness rules, etc. Sensitization of WG leaders for open communication channels and for encouraging regular conversation within the WGs
<i>GDPR</i>	More participative forms of cooperating and communicating (intermediate) results will make stakeholder and media actors more vulnerable. Results and discussion contributions will be presented as anonymised as possible. The risks of publication of narratives and data will be discussed with all contributors. GDPR plans will be created

#### 4.1.4. GANTT DIAGRAM

