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CONSORTIUM

✿ 5 Member States :

Denmark Spain
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Slave Trade, Slavery, Abolitions and their Legacies in European Histories and Identities

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OVERVIEW

EURESCL intends to locate the slave trade and slavery in the history of the construction of the European identity, interpreted at national or local levels, in historical and contemporary dimension, and by investigating the continuity – or discontinuity – between historical processes in which turning points might have been defined by different dates of the abolition of slavery.

Another objective is to study the evolution of the social relationships that arise from the management of the representations of, and social practices inherited from slavery.

The **originality** of **EURESCL** is to:

- think of slavery, slave trade and their abolitions in a global perspective, which involves a broad definition of Europe and includes at the same time the continent of Europe and its colonial and ex-colonial areas;
- connect the national histories of Europe with each other and with their colonies or their extra-European spheres of influence;
- measure the impact of slave trade and slavery in Europe at political, economic, social, cultural, intellectual and memory levels;
- analyse the multiple genealogies of the “Black” issue, of the “Afro-descendants”, of the “black Diaspora” in Europe in order to explore contemporary meanings of the European identity.

Objectives of the THEMATIC AREAS

FRONTIERS, NATIONALISM AND FEELINGS OF BELONGING

- to examine the extent to which the rhetoric of, and debates about slavery and abolition shape and reshape political and national discourses and frontiers throughout Europe, creating popular understandings (or misunderstandings) of slavery and abolition, as manifested in formal constitutional arrangements in both Europe and its former colonial territories, especially in West Africa ;

- to analyse the development of representations and racism between Europe, Africa and Americas, particularly through abolitionist discourses ;

- to observe how frontiers, feelings of belonging, citizenship and identity have been constructed historically in continental Europe and its colonies and how law has supported these constructions in both contexts.

ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADES, TRADE CONNECTION AND FORCED LABOUR

- to redress the neglect of the Atlantic slave trade in the study of the history of Western Europe ;

- to study commercial ties between Europe (notably Portugal, Britain and France) and Africa in comparative and long-term perspective from the 15th to 20th centuries;

- to reveal how African slavery, the Atlantic slave trade and colonial systems of forced labour have contributed to shaping modern Europe, including national identities.

LAW, REGULATIONS, PRACTICES AND SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

- to collect and analyse the formal and official juridical framework of the European countries and their colonies in relation to slavery ;

- to apprehend the efficiency (or inefficiency) of its local application from the XVth to the XIXth centuries.

CONSTRUCTING OTHERNESS: CIRCULATION AND IDENTITY IN EUROPE

- to analyse contemporary social and cultural dimensions of the construction of otherness in relation to the heritage of transatlantic slavery and the collective representations attached to the past and present relations with Africa. It will emphasize their consequences on identity construction and interethnic relations. This multidisciplinary and comparative research will focus on the social experience of afrodescendant populations in European and North American (ex-) metropolitan societies and in Caribbean and Latin American ex-colonial societies.

SLAVERY AND SLAVES IN CONTINENTAL EUROPE

to integrate the history of slavery into the history of European nations through structured historical investigation that involves relating trafficking in people to political jurisdictions and movements across religious frontiers.

INTERACTION OF RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

- to produce a synthesis of major aspects of the slave trade and slavery, with clear and creative teaching strategies and up to date guides and materials, and to make them accessible to teachers and pupils alike.

DISSEMINATION AND TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE

- to inform and educate scientists, associations, the general public and all national stakeholders concerned about EURESCL studies and events. The aim is to reach the widest possible public and to promote dialogue between stakeholders, especially among countries involved in the project ;

- to promote common training to all students involved in the participating institutions in the study of the Atlantic history of slave trade, of slavery, of their abolition, and of their cultural legacies, and to ensure knowledge transfer to non-academic audience.

DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

- Books, Articles
- International Summer Universities, Conferences and Workshops
- Pedagogical tools
- Databases
- Public Festivals presenting research films and public exhibitions
- Website