

UNU-CRIS Annual Report

2006



**UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY
COMPARATIVE REGIONAL
INTEGRATION STUDIES**

www.cris.unu.edu



**United Nations
University**

CRIS

Comparative Regional Integration Studies

About the United Nations University (UNU)

The **United Nations University** (UNU) is an international community of scholars engaged in research, postgraduate training and dissemination of knowledge in furtherance of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The University seeks to contribute, through research and capacity development, to efforts to resolve the pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare that are the concern of the United Nations, its Peoples and Member States. UNU generates and transfers knowledge and strengthens capacities relevant to promoting human security and development, in particular in developing countries. Through its post-graduate training programmes, the University assists scholars to participate in research in order to increase their capability to contribute to the extension, application and diffusion of knowledge. The University disseminates the knowledge in its activities to the United Nations and its agencies, to scholars and to the public, in order to increase dynamic interaction in the world-wide community of learning and research. Headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, UNU operates through a decentralised system of research and training centers and programmes around the world. (www.unu.edu)

About UNU-CRIS

The **United Nations University programme for Comparative Regional Integration Studies** (UNU-CRIS) is a research and training unit of the United Nations University, a global network of centres engaged in research and capacity development to support the universal goals of the UN and generate new knowledge and ideas. Based in Bruges, Belgium, UNU-CRIS specialises in the processes and consequences of regional integration and cooperation. It acts as a resource for the UN system with particular links to the UN bodies dealing with regional integration and works in partnership with initiatives and centres throughout the world that are concerned with issues of integration and cooperation. (www.cris.unu.edu)

The mission of UNU-CRIS is to contribute towards achieving the universal goals of the UN and UNU through comparative and interdisciplinary research and training for better understanding of the processes and impact of intra- and inter-regional integration. The aim is to act as a think tank that generates policy-relevant knowledge about new forms of governance and cooperation, and to contribute to capacity building on issues of integration and cooperation particularly in developing countries.

UNU-CRIS receives its core funding from the Flemish Government (Belgium).



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FOREWORD FROM UNU-CRIS DIRECTOR

Regions can be found at all territorial levels. There are regions within countries, so-called *micro-regions*. There are *cross-border regions* that stretch over different countries, and there are regions that are made up out of different countries, namely *macro-regions* or *world-regions*. Regional integration processes that lead to macro-regional forms of governance are becoming increasingly important and affect governance at the level of micro-regions, states and multilateral organisations.

The mission of UNU-CRIS is to undertake research and training aimed at a better understanding of the processes and impact of regional integration. Its aim is to act as a think tank that generates new and policy-relevant knowledge about new forms of governance and co-operation, and to contribute to capacity-building on issues of integration, particularly in developing countries.

After five years of functioning, UNU-CRIS has made substantial progress in becoming a sound and sustainable actor in the field of regional integration studies. The global relevance of UNU-CRIS' academic output is increasing. This has been reflected in the fact that in the UN Secretary-General's 2006 report of the Organisation a reference was made to UNU-CRIS:

“Our joint working groups have also decided to enlist the support of the United Nations University’s comparative regional integration studies programme to study the organizational, operational and resource capacities of partner organizations in the maintenance of peace and security. Meanwhile, I have moved to ensure that the Secretariat itself is adequately resourced to service the strengthening partnership”.¹

¹ Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization General Assembly Official Records Sixty-first Session Supplement No. 1 (A/61/1) Para. 185, p.39
http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/SGReports/61_1/a_61_1_e.pdf

Also, in the Secretary-Generals' report to the Security Council, UNU-CRIS was mentioned:

“The preliminary results of the survey on the capacities of partner organizations conducted by the United Nations University Comparative Regional Integration Studies programme have shown that capacity exists in conflict prevention both in constitutional mandates and operational mechanisms in all such organizations. This holds great potential for building an effective interactive process between the United Nations and its partners”.²

Next to the growing academic output and the substantial amount of external money attracted, this is also demonstrated by its increasing involvement in research networks and its collaboration with policy-makers both within and outside the United Nations.

Established in 2001, UNU-CRIS has gradually become more focused in its academic activities. Since 2004 the research is now streamlined into five major research themes (following the advice of the UNU-CRIS Advisory Committee). In December 2005, the UNU Council adopted the programme and budget for 2006-2007.

In other words, within the broad area of regional integration studies, UNU-CRIS will continue to focus on monitoring regional integration, on studying the place of regions in the system of world governance and assessing the consequences of regional integration on peace and security, on social and economic development and on identity and other aspects of culture. The research activities will be preferably comparative, taking particular account of regional integration processes that involve developing and transition countries, and prospective, aiming at visioning regional integration in a multi-level governance context. The research programme aims to establish a balance between the UNU-CRIS roles of a research institute and a service provider.

Luk Van Langenhove
UNU-CRIS Director

² United Nations A/61/204–S/2006/590 A regional-global security partnership: challenges and opportunities Report of the Secretary-General Para. 21, p.6
<http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/UNRO%20S2006%20590.pdf>

The research of UNU-CRIS is focused upon understanding processes of regionalisation worldwide and upon generating new ideas on the role of regional integration and cooperation in global governance. Five main questions are driving the UNU-CRIS research efforts:

- What is happening in the world – past, present and future – with regard to regional integration processes?
- What governance structures are emerging through regional integration?
- How can regional integration contribute to peace and human security in the framework of the UN?
- How can regional integration contribute to the sustainable development of LDCs?
- How do people and societies deal with regional integration?

The current work programme includes the following five themes.

THEME 1

Monitoring and Assessing Regional Integration Worldwide



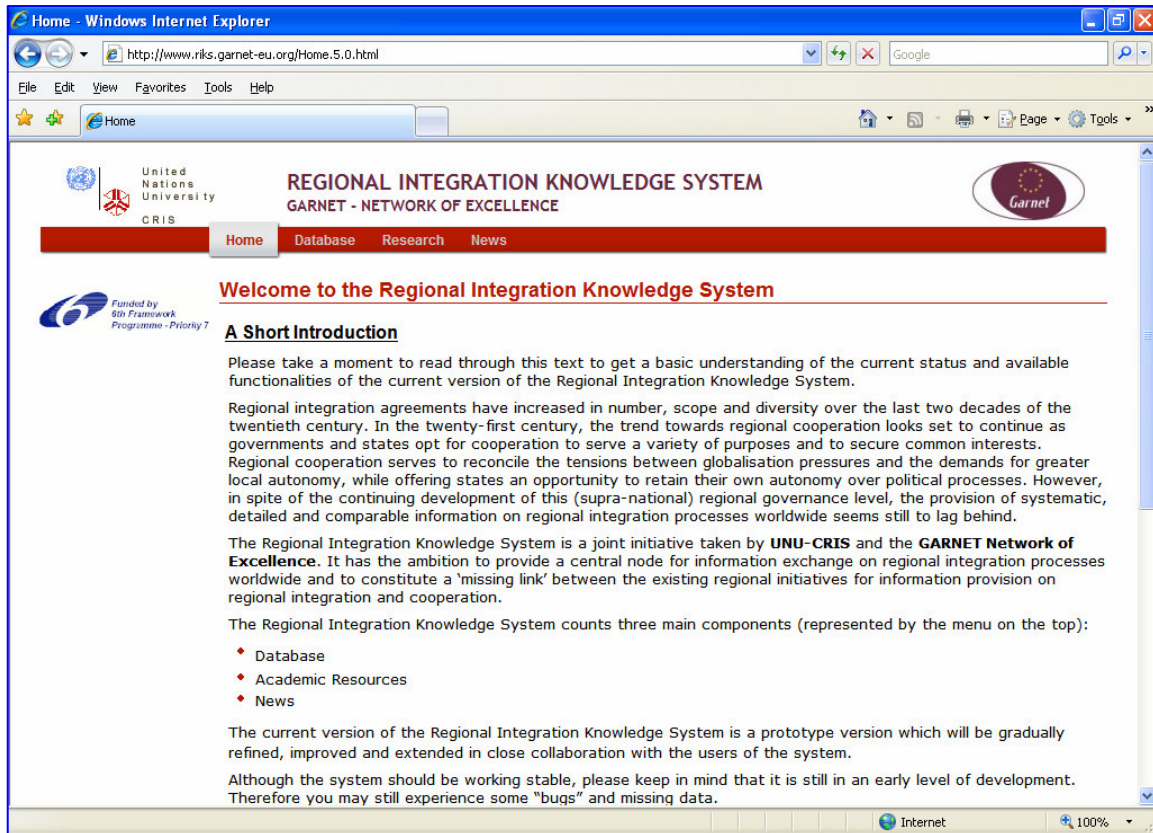
The major objectives of this research theme are to systematically identify and describe the variety and evolution of regional integration agreements through retrospective monitoring and measurement tools. It also aims to generate innovative ideas and policy options through prospective foresight and forecasting tools.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

1) Regional Integration Knowledge System (RIKS)

This project aims to systematically identify and describe the variety and evolution of regional integration agreements that currently exist across the globe, applying different time horizons. It aims to create a web-based information and learning platform, containing both quantitative and qualitative data.

Together with GARNET, UNU-CRIS launched the Regional Integration Knowledge System (RIKS) in August 2006, accessible via the UNU-CRIS website. It contains data on: regional organisations; statistical data on regional trade, GDP, population etc.; links to news providers, databases, research centers etc. (<http://www.riks.garnet-eu.org/>)



UNU-CRIS is also part of a research project on flexible software tools for education and training: Acknowledge – Accessible & Open Knowledge Infrastructure for Flanders. The project focuses on flexible access to repositories of structured content, with a special emphasis on so-called ‘learning objects’, and to unstructured content, through information retrieval techniques. The software to be developed in the framework of this project will be used to develop the news section of RIKS. Start date of the project was the first of September 2006.

2) Monitoring Regional Integration in the South

This book project aims at bringing together experts from regional organisations, universities and independent think tanks in Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, the Pacific, North America and Europe to exchange experiences, analytical insights and proposals for monitoring regional integration processes. The project aims at showing the importance of good governance at the regional level for the effective development of the regional integration processes. The results of the project will be published in a volume edited by Philippe De Lombaerde, Antoni Estevadeordal and Kati Suominen. This project is a co-operation between UNU-CRIS and the Inter-American Development Bank. Publication of the book is foreseen in the course of 2007.

3) World Report on Regional Integration

UNU-CRIS, together with GARNET, the UN Economic Commissions (UN-ECLAC, UN-ESCWA, UN-ECA, UN-ESCAP and UN-ECE), UNCTAD and UNU-WIDER have taken the initiative to launch a new series of World Reports on Regional Integration. The Reports will consist of a thematic part, regional reports, and a statistical annex. Publication of the first volume is foreseen in the course of 2007.



Assessment and Measurement of Regional Integration

Edited by Philippe De Lombaerde

ISBN: 0415366356
Hardback, 280 pages
Routledge

how deep are current processes of regional integration? What is their impact for different countries and how can it be measured? How are they related to globalisation and the quest for global free trade? How important is the macro-regional level of governance?

Using an interdisciplinary approach, this book explores how regional integration can be quantified, evaluated and monitored. It investigates the methodological problems involved in designing and organising systems of indicators of regional integration. The volume is organised into three sections:

Part I discusses general theoretical and methodological aspects of building indicator systems.

Part II focuses on the measurement of regional economic integration and interdependence.

Part III explores the possibilities for monitoring political integration, regional governance and conflict.

The book will be of interest to students and researchers of international relations and economics as well as policy makers and professionals within international and regional organisations.

THEME 2

The Political Dimensions of Regions and Systems of World Governance



Regions occupy a special place in the system of world governance because they can geographically overlap. Such overlapping configurations raise the question of interlinkages between different regions and regionalisation processes. The main research projects that fall under this theme consider the relations between micro-regions and macro-regional integration and with inter-regionalism (region-to-region interactions at macro-level).

RESEARCH PROJECTS

1) Inter-regionalism

In parallel with the evolution and growth of regional integration, a new phenomenon has gradually started to take shape - inter-regionalism - which signifies in the most general sense 'the condition or process whereby two regions interact as regions'. There are several examples of region-to-region relations between regional arrangements. However, inter-regionalism is beginning to have deeper ramifications for world order and it is a new level of interaction and a distinct phenomenon, which needs consideration in its own right. International relations are increasingly also a matter of region-to-region relations and UNU-CRIS tries to study different aspects of that process.



The EU as a Global Player. The Politics of Interregionalism

Edited by Fredrik Söderbaum and Luk Van Langenhove

ISBN: 0415397359
Hardback, 148 pages
Routledge

A new look at the European Union's role as a global actor, with special focus on the theme of inter-regionalism in its relations with key regions around the world: Africa, Asia, South America, North America and Central-Eastern Europe.

This new collection clearly shows how, since the end of the Cold War, the European Union has gradually expanded its external relations and foreign policies and become a global actor in world politics. During the last decade inter-regionalism has become a key component of the EU's external relations and foreign policies. In fact, the EU has quickly become the hub of a large number of interregional arrangements with a number of regions around the world. Promoting regional and interregional relations not only justifies and enhances the EU's own existence and efficiency as a global 'player', the strategy also promotes the legitimacy and status of other regions, giving rise to a deepening of cross-cutting interregional relations in trade and economic relations, political dialogue, development cooperation, cultural relations and security cooperation.

This book was previously published as a special issue of the leading *Journal of European Integration*.

2) Links between Micro-regionalism and Macro-regionalism- Comparative Case Studies

Until recently the study of micro-regions (e.g. Euroregions, the Maputo corridor, growth triangles) and the study of macro-regions (e.g. EU, SADC, ASEAN) have been largely separated discourses. During the last decade it has become evident that micro-regions and macro-regions have become more interlinked and intertwined. The point of departure of this project is that the linkages between micro-regions and macro-regions are both poorly understood and poorly theorised. By better understanding "MICMAC" linkages, we will be able to learn more, not only about micro-regionalism but also about macro-regionalism. The project seeks to generate theory as well as provide empirical and policy-relevant insights. A series of micro-regional cases, situated within distinct macro-regions, will be analysed within a comparative framework. From this comparative analysis, it should be possible to extract general conclusions about the MICMAC relationships and, at the same time, evaluate the importance of

particular contexts for understanding these relationships. A conceptual paper will be prepared by Philippe De Lombaerde and Fredrik Söderbaum, after which the empirical phase of the project will start.

3) Future of Benelux Agreement

The aim of this project was double. On the one hand, it looked back at 50 years of existence of one of the oldest regional integration schemes in modern history. The project evaluated the achievements and added value of Benelux in the different policy areas covered by the treaty. On the other hand, the project looked into the future and assessed what the perceptions and expectations are of the different governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxemburg, in the light of the renewal of the treaty in 2010. The project was financed by the Flemish Government (Administration International Affairs) and was carried out in collaboration with the University of Leuven (KUL). The project has been finalised and a report with recommendations has been presented to the Flemish administration in June 2006.



De Benelux: tijd voor een wedergeboorte?

*Jan Wouters, Luk Van Langenhove, Maarten Vidal,
Philippe De Lombaerde and Wouter Devriendt*

ISBN: 9050956335

Paperback, 280 pages

Intersentia

After six decades of cooperation between Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxemburg, it seems to be that there are signs of wear on the Benelux-formula. Once a forerunner of the European integration project, apparently the Benelux has nowadays been passed by Europe. The organisation is hardly known by the public and the sometimes laborious relationship between Belgian and Dutch members of government reinforces the impression that quite often nothing more than a lip service is paid to a common external action. *The Benelux: Time for a Rebirth* examines the institutional structure of the Benelux and the activities that the organisation has developed recently with a critical look. After all, on 1 November 2010 the current Benelux Treaty will expire, and the partner countries all agree that this is the very moment to rethink the structures and tasks of the organisation. With this book, which builds on a research project commissioned by the Flemish Government, the authors want to boost the debate and involve a broader public in this process of reflection. The book contains not only an up-to-date analysis of the organisation and its activities but furthermore also a prospective reflection on the insecure future of the Benelux.

4) Global Multi-level Governance: European and East Asian Leadership

This single author project by César de Prado is a comparative study on how multi-level governance manifests itself in both Europe and East-Asia. Special attention goes to the role of advisory think tanks and networks in regional cooperation and to the process of regionalisation in the higher education sector and in high-technology industrial policy. The project is finished and a book is in print at UNU Press.

THEME 3

Interlinkages between Regional Integration and Peace and Human Security Issues



Two main issues are central in this theme: linking regional integration to the broadening of the security concept to ‘human security’ and the renewed debate on the role of regional agencies within the UN. With regard to the first issue, UNU-CRIS research focuses upon regional approaches to conflict prevention, peace-building and peace-keeping activities. For the second issue, UNU-CRIS explores the meaning and promise of a ‘new vision of global security’ that includes regional organisations.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

1) Regional Security and Global Governance: A study of Interaction between Regional Organisations and the UN Security Council

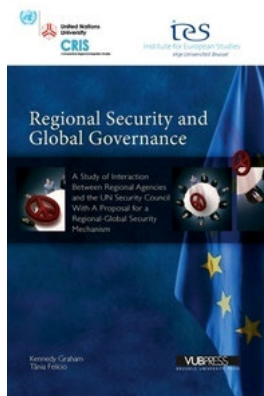
The project objective is to explore the meaning and promise of a ‘new vision of global security’, that as the UN-Secretary General put it would draw upon the resources and legitimacy of a network of “effective and mutually-reinforcing multilateral mechanisms- regional and global – that are flexible and responsive to our rapidly changing and integrating world”. The aim is to ensure that such research stands at the interface between theory and practice, so that the results of the research can be translated into a policy-oriented discussion to inform scholars and policy-makers in the international community. The project therefore analyses the theoretical constitutional provisions of the UN and the related regional organisations for handling conflict, including their relative areas of co-responsibility. It then reviews the historical development in this respect, through both policy-formulation based on the UNSC-RO dialogue,

and selected regional case studies. Conclusions and prescriptive recommendations are drawn, aiming to highlight the relationship between a global approach and a regional approach to differing levels of conflict.

This project has led to a permanent collaboration between UNU-CRIS and the UNDP/PA unit for cooperation with regional organisations, the researchers giving intellectual feeding to the process through tailored background research and assistance in the preparation and management of the meetings pertaining to this process, both at working and high-level.

In February 2006 the First Standing Committee Meeting was held in New York, with the participation of UNU-CRIS and secondment of researchers to New York for the preparations of the meeting. In April 2006 a UN-DPA led Working Group meeting was organised by DPA and UNU-CRIS in Bruges. The preliminary results of the first part of the Regional Capacity Building being conducted by UNU-CRIS in the context of the cooperation between the UN and the regional and other organisations were presented. In April 2006 a UN-DPA / UNU-CRIS Seminar was held in Bruges on “Conflict Prevention and Peace-Building in the Regional Context” to consider the evolving relationship between the UN and regional organisations in conflict prevention and peace-building. In July 2006 a Composite Working Group meeting of the High-level process was held in New York with the collaboration and secondment of UNU-CRIS researchers. The preliminary results of the second part of the Regional Capacity Building being conducted by UNU-CRIS were presented. In August 2006 the Report of the Secretary General “A Regional-Global Security Partnership: Challenges and Opportunities”, pursuant to UNSC Resolution 1631 was released, mentioning the work developed by the United Nations University in this process. UNU-CRIS participated in the drafting of this report. In September 2006 a Security Council Meeting with the regional organisations was held by the Greek Presidency, back-to-back with the 7th High-level Meeting, which was preceded by the second meeting of the Standing Committee. UNU-CRIS collaborated in the preparations of these meetings, seconding two researchers to New York.





Regional Security and Global Governance

A Study of Interaction between Regional Agencies and the UN Security Council – With A Proposal for a Regional-Global Security Mechanism

Kennedy Graham and Tânia Felício

ISBN: 905487404X

Paperback, 362 pages

VUB Press Brussels University Press

This ground-breaking book explores, for policy-makers world-wide, how peace and security might best be attained in the 21st century. Its central message is the importance of realising UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's vision of a 'regional-global security mechanism' within the next decade. The book reviews the historical tussle between universalism and regionalism as the cornerstone of international security over the past century, culminating in the 'new regionalism' that has characterised international relations in recent decades. The complexities of contemporary regional, sub-regional and other organisations, blessed and burdened with overlapping membership, evolving mandates, and ever shifting 'focal areas' are analysed. The 'multidimensional phenomenon' of regional security is explored – cultural, political and legal – with a view to understanding how regional organisations work today. The authors then offer a prescriptive proposal for helping to structure the future 'regional-global security mechanism', by identifying a series of 'security regions' around the world, and associated regional agencies that could be responsible for each region. These agencies would take the lead in partnering with the UN in conflict prevention, peacekeeping, enforcement, and peace-building, as appropriate for each region. And such a future structure might have implications for resolving the continuing impasse over Security Council expansion, sometime in the future. This book is one of those rare offerings – a policy-oriented prescription for peace and security that is based on factual analysis and creative reasoning. As such it is a must for national diplomats, regional officials and international civil servants.

In 2003 the UN Secretary-General first presented his vision of a 'regional-global security mechanism' to handle the new threats and realities of the 21st century. This timely book is a path-breaking exploration of the changing character of the relations between regional security and global efforts to maintain international peace. It is full of empirical insight and intellectual vision.

Prof. Dr. Ibrahim GAMBARI

Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations

THEME 4

Interlinkages between Regional Integration and Social and Economic Development

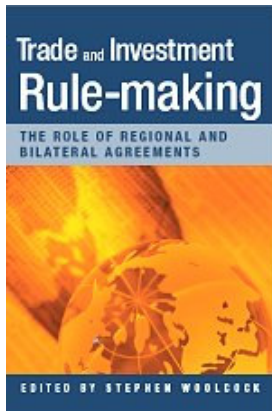


One of the main objectives of the research under this theme is to study the interaction between different levels of governance in the international economy, and in particular the role of regional agreements, regimes or rules. UNU-CRIS studies North-South relationships, such as the ‘Economic Partnership Agreements’ (EPAs) being negotiated between the EU and the ACP member states, as well as intra-regional integration amongst ACP countries. The social dimensions of regional integration also constitute part of the research agenda.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

1) The interaction between different levels of governance in the international economy and in particular the role of regional agreements, regimes or rules

This project aims to assess the interaction between different levels of economic governance and in particular the role of regional agreements, regimes or rules. This project builds on the previous research comprised in the book *Regionalism, Multilateralism and Economic Integration: The Recent Experience* – edited by G. P. Sampson and S. Woolcock, published in 2003 by UNU Press. The project contributes to a major and growing area of study by analysing how regional trade agreements shape the international regimes for investment, rules of origin, agriculture, food safety, intellectual property and services. The project has involved a number of case studies in investment, rules of origin, services, and intellectual property rights as well as a series of dialogues with policy makers and non-governmental actors on the interactions between regional and other levels of regime/rule making. Participants to the dialogue conference included representatives from the World Trade Organisation, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the UN Economic Commission for Europe, a number of national governments, the private sector and the academic and research community. The project resulted in a book on “Trade and investment rule-making: The role of regional and bilateral agreement” edited by Stephen Woolcock (UNU Press).



***Trade and Investment Rule-Making.
The Role of Regional and Bilateral Agreements***

Edited by *Stephen Woolcock*

ISBN: 9280811320
Paperback, 320 pages
UNU Press

Regional trade agreements are playing a greater role in shaping trade and investment rules around the world. To date the study of preferential agreements has focused on their impact on tariff preferences, but as tariffs are reduced rule-making becomes more important in trade and investment. This book addresses the role of regional and bilateral agreements in rule-making; provides an analytical framework for assessing the impact of regional and other preferential agreements on rule-making and illustrates the role of regional agreements in a multi-level process of rule-making. Seven detailed case studies show that regional agreements can make a positive contribution to the evolution of predictable trade and investment rules, but much depends on the kind of rules they promote. To date regional rule-making has gone hand-in-hand with the evolution of multilateral rules, but recent developments give some pause for thought. It is important to understand more fully the interaction between the regional and other levels of rule-making, if the positive aspects are to be furthered and negative aspects contained.

2) Economic Partnership Agreements

The EU is currently negotiating comprehensive trade agreements with the regional groups of ACP countries, known as Economic Partnership Agreements, which are due to be completed by the end of 2007. The aim of this project is to provide ongoing research and capacity building to contribute to informed debate in ACP countries. Inputs from UNU-CRIS include academic research on the technical aspects of trade negotiations to assist the technical advisers to trade negotiators, and trade negotiations skills for senior negotiators. Analysis of previous regional trade agreements (RTAs) of the EU are examined to provide precedents that set benchmarks for the present negotiations. In March 2006 a Research seminar was conducted at Bordeaux University, with Centre for African Studies, on prospects and problems with the EPAs.

3) Global Governance, Regional Integration and Social Policy

The project aims at studying the developments that have taken place in recent years in the field of global social policy and global social governance. Several

regional integration bodies, regional agreements and international organisations have identified the need to develop regional social policies to balance economy-driven integration processes with a social policy dimension. The UN reform and several projects led by the UNDP have also focused on these issues with the aim of improving the effectiveness of the UN interventions in countries and regions in the world, to secure the comprehensiveness of social and employment policies, including stronger social protection and poverty alleviation policies and better provision of health and education services at national and regional levels. The project is designed to contribute to these objectives, by increasing knowledge about these processes in order to strengthen the regional dimension of social policy and governance considering the relationship of this to the ongoing reform of the UN. A High-level meeting symposium on the “Social Dimensions of Regional Integration” was organised in Montevideo (20 to 23 February, 2006). Major papers and policy conclusions have been published on the UNU-CRIS website. A special issue of “Global Social Policy” is being prepared with Montevideo papers and other relevant material. An edited volume “Global Governance, Regional Integration and Social Policy” is also under preparation. Meanwhile contacts with the International Labour Organisation have been developed in order to set up a joint ILO-UNU initiative on these matters.

4) EU and the Global South

The development of coherent and effective relations with developing countries is one of the most challenging tasks faced by the European Union. This project aims to assess the making of the European Union’s policies towards the South. It focuses in particular on three controversial policy areas: economic partnerships, sustainable development and conflict management. The project deals not only with EU’s foreign policies towards the global South but also aims to analyse the tensions and paradoxes between the EU’s foreign policies and those of its member states. The meaning of “the South” is very broad and refers to a considerable part of the world, covering Latin America, Africa and Asia (including the Mediterranean and the Middle East). Several case studies will be performed aiming to answer three important questions: What actors are the most important in the making of the EU’s foreign policies towards the South? What are the dynamics of policy making in the EU’s foreign policies towards the South? What constitutes power and how are different kinds of power executed in the making of the EU’s foreign policies towards the South? A book project is being finalised that assesses the EU policies towards the South, edited by Patrik Stalgren and Fredrik Söderbaum (publisher: Lynne Rienner). The project deals with economic partnerships, sustainable development and conflict management.

5) Asymmetric Trade Negotiations

This research project analyses the present generation of preferential trade agreements, extending their scope well beyond the regional sphere. This proliferation of North-South PTAs and bilateral trade agreements is linked to the slow pace of the Doha Round and the (adaptive) strategies of the EU and US, driven by their strategic interests and the more immediate evolution of the world polity and economy. The objectives of this project are to focus on strategic, design and political economy aspects of North-South trade negotiation

processes. The ambition of this project is, on the one hand, to provide negotiators and policy makers in the South with recommendations, best practices, benchmarks, and, on the other hand, to contribute to the academic debate and understanding of these recent processes. The project is carried out in collaboration with FLASCO (Argentina) and ECDPM. First drafts of chapters are foreseen in June 2007.

THEME 5

Perceptions, Cultures and Regional Integration



While processes of regional integration are often state driven, they require the willingness of the people to cooperate. Although regional cooperation initiatives often declare the objective to enhance human security, they can also lead to social conflict. Many people express fears that their cultures and identities are threatened by processes of globalisation or regional integration. On the other hand, regional integration has also been proposed as a way to protect these interests. UNU-CRIS examines the cultural, social and psychological aspects of regional integration. Particular attention goes to how changing identity constructions can impact peace and human security.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

1) Exploring Identity and Regional Integration

This project's focus is (i) examine the cultural, social and psychological aspects of regional cooperation and integration processes; (ii) analyse the impacts of various social constructions on processes of regional cooperation and integration and on human security and sustainable development; (iii) explore how participatory methods can be employed to address social, cultural and psychological concerns related to processes of regional integration and globalisation; (iv) raise awareness of these processes of social construction and their impacts and to build capacity to construct more actively towards the realisation of UN mission goals. Analyses will examine in what contexts and how identity concepts are employed, the functions they serve, as well as differences between regions. Nikki Slocum-Bradley is editing a book with the preliminary title 'How Identity Constructions Promote Conflict or Peace'.

The fruits of UNU-CRIS research are published in books, scholarly journals and policy-briefs, a list of which is available on our website. UNU-CRIS produces its own working paper series and has also contributed to various policy documents. Complementary downloads of these papers are also available on the UNU-CRIS website.

UNU-CRIS Books



Assessment and Measurement of Regional Integration
Philippe De Lombaerde (ed.)

ISBN: 0415366356
Hardback, 280 pages
Routledge



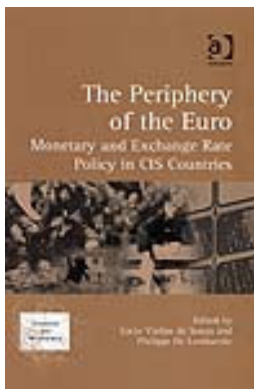
The EU as a Global Player: The Politics of Interregionalism
Fredrik Söderbaum and Luk Van Langenhove (eds)

ISBN: 0415397359
Hardback, 148 pages
Routledge

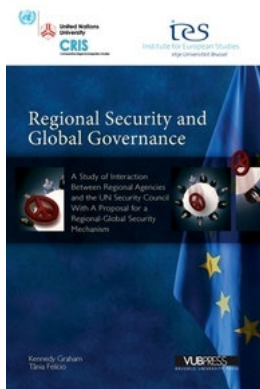


De Benelux: tijd voor een wedergeboorte?
Jan Wouters, Luk Van Langenhove, et. al.

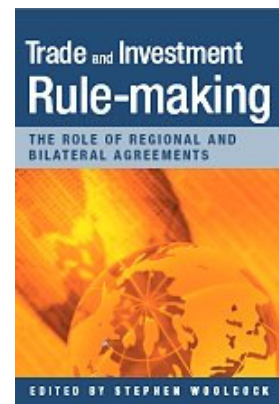
ISBN: 9050956335
Paperback, 280 pages
Intersentia



The Periphery of the Euro
Lúcio Vinhas de Souza and Philippe De Lombaerde (eds)
ISBN: 0754645177
Hardback, 390 pages
Ashgate



Regional Security and Global Governance
Kennedy Graham and Tânia Felício
ISBN: 905487404X
Paperback, 362 pages
VUB Press Brussels University Press



Trade and Investment Rule-making
Stephen Woolcock (ed.)
ISBN: 9280811320
Paperback, 320 pages
UNU Press

UNU-CRIS working papers³

The UNU-CRIS Working Papers Series on Comparative Regional Integration Studies is devoted to the study of regional integration from a comparative and interdisciplinary perspective. It covers theory, empirical work and policy analysis, and includes contributions on the political, economic, social and cultural aspects of cooperation at the level of both macro-regions and micro-regions. While committed to the highest academic standards, the series aims to be accessible to policy-makers and practitioners and seeks to encourage informed debate on comparative regional integration.

In the 2002-2006 period 78 working papers have been published. All these papers can be accessed and downloaded via www.cris.unu.edu.

Academic Output 2006⁴

Published books	Chapters in Books	Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals	Policy Briefs/ Reports	UNU-CRIS Working Papers	Paper presentations
7	23	12	11	30	48

³ Used to be known as UNU-CRIS occasional papers

⁴ Academic output of 2005: published books (2), chapters in books (13), articles in peer-reviewed journals (12), policy briefs/reports (1), UNU-CRIS working papers (21) and paper presentations (27)

As a “think tank” within the UN system, UNU-CRIS also wants to be a forum for scholarly exchange and debate. In 2006 UNU-CRIS hosted some important events in its premises. By doing this, UNU-CRIS creates a forum for academic exchange between host researchers and other international scholars studying regional integration. Also within the framework of GARNET, UNU-CRIS hosted several events (see further). Within the 2006 portfolio of activities, the following events deserve to be highlighted:

**High level Symposium: “Social Dimensions of Regional Integration”,
Montevideo, 20-23 February 2006**

This symposium was organised as part of the UNESCO “International Forum on Social Sciences - Policy Nexus” and consisted of three workshops, one roundtable brain-storming and a concluding meeting. The aim was to analyse the social dimension of regional integration policies. The symposium was contextualised by two background papers one of them commissioned from UNU-CRIS. Several conclusions were drawn on the role of regional integration in the development of social dimensions and on the importance of studying such policies in a comparative way. A final recommendation was addressed to UNESCO to develop a regional social policy research, policy analysis and policy dialogue programme.

Seminar “Reviving Chapter VIII: the United Nations and Regional Organisations-Partners for Peace”, New York, 22 February 2006

UNU-CRIS has organised together with the International Peace Academy (IPA), and the Institute for European Studies (Free University of Brussels) a Seminar on “*Reviving Chapter VIII: the United Nations and Regional Organisations-Partners for Peace*” aiming to launch a debate between policy-makers and academics to discuss how greater synergies between the UN and regional organisations could be developed, focusing on urgent issues in international peace and security. The event was organised in the context of the UN September 2005 Summit, where Member States resolved to forge “predictable partnerships and arrangements between the United Nations and regional organisations”, recognising “the important contribution to peace and security by regional organisations”. The day after the seminar, delegates from Regional Organisations met with UN Officials at the first session of the Standing Committee, created to manage relations between the UN Secretariat and regional organisations and convening in New York to prepare the 7th High-Level Meeting to be held later in the year.

**Meeting of the UNDP-led working group to discuss the results of the
UNU-CRIS “Regional Capacity Survey”, Bruges, 26-27 April 2006**

The DPA-led Working Group meeting for the High-Level Meetings process was convened in Bruges, Belgium on 26 and 27 April 2006. The meeting was attended by 11 delegations from regional, sub-regional and other intergovernmental organisations (CIS, Commonwealth Secretariat, CSTO, Council of Europe, EU [European Commission], ECOWAS, La Francophonie,

LAS, OIC, OSCE, NATO) and 7 delegations from the UN secretariat (UNDPA, UNOWA, UNDPKO) and other UN family organisations (UNU-CRIS, UNEP and UNDP). Proposed points of discussion, as outlined in the agenda, included the UNU-CRIS Capacity Survey, formalised agreements between the UN and regional and other intergovernmental organisations, democracy promotion, the results of the UN-interagency mission to ECOWAS, the work of partner organisations in conflict-prevention and peace building, the participation of partner organisations in the Peace Building Commission, the 10-year process of sustained capacity building for African regional and sub-regional organisations, the preparations for the 7th High-level Meeting and the terms of reference of the Standing Committee and Working Groups created for this process of cooperation between the UN and regional organisations.



UNU-CRIS /UNDPA Seminar “Conflict Prevention and Peace-Building in the Regional Context”, Bruges, 28-29 April 2006

On 28 and 29 April 2006, UNU-CRIS and the United Nations Department for Political Affairs convened a seminar to consider the evolving relationship between the United Nations and regional organisations in conflict prevention and peace-building. Entitled “*Conflict Prevention and Peace-Building in the Regional Context*”, the seminar took place in Bruges, Belgium in the aftermath of a Working Group meeting pertaining to the process of the High-Level Meetings between the UN Secretary-General and the Regional and other Intergovernmental Organisations. It brought together participants from a diverse range of regional organisations, UN Secretariat, UNDP, Academia, research institutes and select non-governmental organisations. Among the main topics of discussion were the evolution of the doctrine and practice of conflict prevention, the recent UN experience and its application to regional and sub-regional organisations; the role of civil society in cooperation with regional organisations in conflict prevention, resolution and peace-building; the interlinkages between youth unemployment, regional instability, conflict prevention and peace-building in Africa and more specifically West Africa

(looking at the experience of AU and ECOWAS); and the evolution of the doctrine and practice of early warning and response in African regional and sub-regional organisations - looking at IGAD, AU and ECOWAS - in cooperation with the UN.

UNU-CRIS Panel discussion: “The interaction between Regional Trade Agreements and Multilateral Regimes”, New York, 5 May 2006

UNU-CRIS and UNU Office in New York organised a panel discussion to present the research findings of a UNU-CRIS project, culminating in the publication *Multilateralism in Neutral: The Interaction between Levels of Rulemaking in International Trade and Investment*. The project aims to assess the interaction between different levels of economic governance, Regional Trade Agreements, and Free Trade Agreements, in the international trade and investment regimes. The seminar begun with Stephen Woolcock, presenting the findings of the research project and the book. Subsequently, panelists commented on these findings before the floor was opened to discussion. The purpose of the seminar was to create an interactive discussion on trade and investment aspects of RTA and FTA, particularly in developing countries.

African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States Ministers of Culture meeting, Santo Domingo, 11–13 October 2006

In support of this meeting, the ACP Secretariat has requested that UNU-CRIS provided a background paper on ‘Regional Cooperation in the Promotion of Human Security and Sustainable Development’. Nikki Slocum-Bradley was invited to attend the preparatory technical expert meetings in the Dominican Republic prior to the Ministerial summit.

PARTNERSHIPS

GARNET Network of Excellence



UNU-CRIS is part of a network of Excellence on “*Global Governance Regionalisation and Regulation: the role of the EU*” (GARNET). Garnet is funded by the European Union’s 6th Framework Programme and it brings together more than 40 institutions from across Europe and aims to enhance interaction and integration among European researches. GARNET includes three levels of activities: integrating actions, jointly executed research programmes and spreading of excellence activities. GARNET also intends to foster a European research space through a mobility programme open to researchers at junior and senior levels. Interaction with the policy community is also enhanced through

dissemination activities such as seminars on topical issues aimed at policy-makers and the publication of policy briefs. (<http://www.garnet-eu.org/>)

UNU-CRIS strongly believes in the importance and added value of the network of excellence and supports and coordinates some of its main elements. UNU-CRIS is coordinator of the mobility programme and hosted several researchers throughout the year, aiming at enhancing cooperation between GARNET partners (Workpackage 2).

In the framework of the GARNET Network of Excellence, UNU-CRIS has been assigned the responsibility of a workpackage on '*Regional Integration Processes-Database and Indicators*', together with Göteborg University. The Second Workshop of this workpackage took place on 20-21 October 2006 at Göteborg University. Together with GARNET, UNU-CRIS launched the Regional Information Knowledge System (RIKS) in August 2006, accessible via the UNU-CRIS website (see above theme 1).

The network of Ph.D. schools within GARNET is jointly coordinated by UNU-CRIS and the Institut d'Etudes Européennes at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, under the scientific supervision of an Academic Council. During the five years of the GARNET project, at least 9 Ph.D. seminars will be organised. In 2006 two Ph.D. schools were organised. UNU-CRIS hosted the Ph.D. school in December.

A key goal on the Network of Excellence is to pool expertise of the different partners in such a way that it can be used in joint research activities to stimulate new research activities. For that a Programme for jointly executed research activities (JERPs) is worked out.

UNU-CRIS is coordinator of the JERP 5.1.1. '*Europe as a model of regional governance*'. A workshop was organised in March 2007.

UNU-CRIS is coordinator of the JERP 5.2.3. '*Theoretical issues on the EU, UN multilateralism and global governance*'. The work package started in September 2006 with the organisation of the seminar on "*Theoretical Issues on the EU, UN, Global Governance and Political Multilateralism*".

UNU-CRIS researchers are also involved in several other jointly executed research themes: 'The EU and Latin America and the Caribbean', 'Global Economic Governance and Market Regulation', 'The EU and Asia', 'North-South Development Issues and the Global Regulatory Framework', 'Gender, Space and Global Governance', 'Normative issues of regional and global governance'.

In the framework of the GARNET Network of Excellence, UNU-CRIS is one of the main partners in the 5.3.5 research project on "North South Development Issues and the Global Regulatory Framework", led by the Institute of Social Studies (The Hague). UNU-CRIS is at present involved in the preparation of 2 studies: "Partnership – A New Model of Governance for Development? The Case of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership" (by Brigid Gavin) and "The EU and the governance agenda for the ACP under Cotonou" (by Nikki Slocum-Bradley).

In the framework of GARNET, UNU-CRIS is participating in a jointly executed research project on “*Gender, Space, and Global Governance*”, coordinated by the University of Bielefeld. UNU-CRIS will contribute to the first part of the project with a research paper by Nikki Slocum-Bradley on “Constructing and Deconstructing the ACP Group Actors, Strategies and Consequences for Development”.

UNU-CRIS is also participating to the other transversal activities of GARNET (the development of a Virtual Network and electronic working space, capacity development activities, dissemination of excellence, annual international conference). In its quality of coordinator of several core activities, UNU-CRIS is a member of the GARNET Management Committee.

OBREAL/EULARO



OBREAL/EULARO is a network set up by 23 academic institutions and research centers in Europe and Latin America with the financial support of the European Commission. As the Commission pointed out in its call, over the last few years the relationship between the EU and Latin America has become closer in every sphere: from bi-regional political dialogue (summits in Rio de Janeiro 1999, Madrid 2002 and Guadalajara 2004) to cooperation, from trade relations to the strengthening of civil society networks. Nonetheless, the fabric of the relations between institutions and organisations in Europe and Latin America has yet to gain momentum and it still seems scattered and lacking in coordination.

In this context, OBREAL/EULARO, in keeping with the European Commission’s regional cooperation strategy for Latin America 2002-2006, has set as its main goal “to identify and develop all the opportunities offered by the partnership between the two regions to create a better understanding of the regional and sectoral problems which shape policy-making”. To reach this goal, OBREAL/EULARO not only depends on the work of its members, it also aims to become a platform for the promotion of and meeting place for the dissemination and research activities carried out in both regions. Similarly, it aims to create synergies between policy-formulators and decision-makers, researchers and civil society actors, to reach a critical mass that can provide answers to the identified problems.

OBREAL/EULARO's focus is on public policy making and its actions are directed towards the research community and political, economic and social actors.

To ensure efficient coordination of work that emphasises the network members' areas of specialisation, research projects have been organised into five thematic working packages:

- Trade and financial relations and regional integration
- Democracy, human rights and the rule of law
- Social and development cooperation
- Global governance and multi-regionalism
- Civil society and institution building

Additionally, horizontal issues have been established, which will cut across the network's research projects. These include: human rights, the environment, minorities, civil society, poverty and the impact of EU enlargement.

UNU-CRIS is mainly involved in Thematic Work Package I on 'Trade and Financial Relations and Regional Integration'. In 2005, UNU-CRIS organised a major Conference on the Future of EU-Andean Community Relations in Brussels, in collaboration with OBREAL, the Egmont Institute (the Royal Institute for International Relations), the IDB and other partners. The results of this conference were published in a special edition of *Studia Diplomatica* in 2006. Philippe De Lombaerde and Luis Jorge Garay are currently involved in an OBREAL research project on 'International Investment Agreements'.

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

The capacity building activities of UNU-CRIS are guided by the overall principle that an understanding of regional integration processes is a first crucial step in facilitating regional cooperation and integration. UNU-CRIS organises Ph.D. Schools and supervises Ph.D. students. Our short training courses, often organised in cooperation with universities or regional organisations, provide support to practitioners and policy-makers in their efforts to develop and sustain regional cooperation frameworks.

Visiting Researchers

UNU-CRIS hosts every year a number of researchers spending a period of time in Bruges and collaborating with the ongoing projects of the centre. Some researchers come in the framework of the Garnet network of Excellency, provided with a Mobility grant. Visiting Researchers within Garnet can stay at UNU-CRIS from a minimum of one month up to a year. In 2006 UNU-CRIS was delighted to host 4 GARNET visitors.

UNU-CRIS also offers the opportunity for university professors, researchers and other professionals with background in regional integration to spend research time in Bruges for periods from 3 to 12 months. Fatimah Wati Ibrahim (Malaysia) spent three months of her sabbatical at UNU-CRIS.

Ph.D. bursary programme

UNU-CRIS offers a bursary to individuals from developing countries who wish to undertake doctoral research on a topic within the field of comparative regional integration, and specifically within the academic programme of the centre.

In 2006 three Ph.D. students (coming from Romania, Burkina Faso and Bangladesh) have continued their training at UNU-CRIS. The Ph.D. research projects cover the following themes:

Golam Robbani (Bangladesh): *The EU as a Model - Implications for Regional Integration and Peace Building within SAARC*

Robert Yougbare (Burkina Faso): *Regional Integration: Complementary and Alternative Frameworks of Governance*

Aurora Mordonu (Romania): *EU-Russia Trade Relations - Towards Integration and Trade Creation.*

Ph.D. Researchers

In 2006, a Ph.D. student from Cameroon has continued his studies at UNU-CRIS in association with the Free University of Brussels, and a Ph.D. student from India registered with the University of Ghent is doing part of his training at UNU-CRIS.

Stephen Kingah (Cameroon): *European Policy Towards Regional Integration in Sub-Saharan in Africa. A Legal Analysis of its Formulation, Implications and Implementation;*

Nirman Arora (India): *Regional Human Rights Protection Mechanism in South Asia as a Step Towards Regional Integration: the Genesis and Lessons to be Learnt from the European Initiative.*

GARNET Ph.D. School

The Network of Ph.D. schools is part of the GARNET Network of Excellence-financed by the 6th FP of the European Commission which focuses on “Global Governance, Regionalisation and Regulation: the role of the EU”. The network of Ph.D. schools is jointly coordinated by UNU-CRIS and the Institut d’Etudes Européennes at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, under the scientific supervision of an Academic Council. During the five years of the GARNET project, at least 9 Ph.D. seminars will be organised. In 2006 two Ph.D. schools were organised:

Global Governance and the Role of the EU: the socio-economic modernisation of the EU and the globalised economy. The Lisbon strategy (June 2006).

Global Governance and the Role of the EU: EU political multilateralism and UN (December 2006).

Short-term training and capacity-building courses

UNU-CRIS staff performs a number of short-term training and capacity-building courses (general and customised) in the area of regional integration mainly aimed at students and administrative personnel in developing countries. A selection of activities in 2006:

Seminar delivered by UNU-CRIS staff at the College of Europe, Bruges (6&13 March)

Brigid Gavin organised two capacity building workshops for government officials in ACP countries: one 4-day workshop for 30 officials in the West African region in April 2006; a further 5-day workshop for 40 officials for the Pacific region in May.

Luk Van Langenhove gave a presentation about the broad aspect of Peace and Development in a UN perspective at the “Le programme des Nations Unies en faveur du développement, journée consacrée à l’O.N.U “ - Université de la Paix, Caen, 17 July.

Traineeships for graduate students

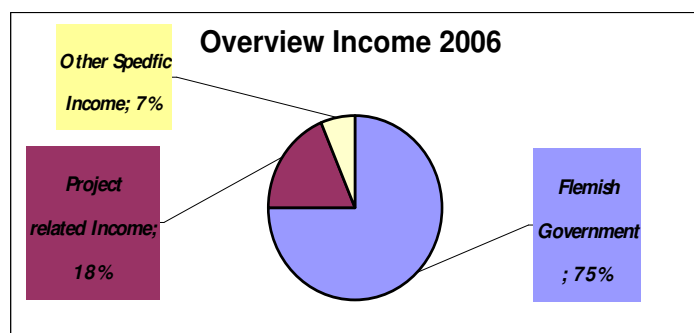
UNU-CRIS has launched at the end of 2004 *unpaid trainee positions* for recent graduates whose background and interests respond to some topics in regional integration that fall within the UNU-CRIS Academic Programme. Duties combine research and administrative tasks based on the needs of the organisation at the time of the internship. The internship could entail flexible hours (full-time or part-time) and is for maximum 6 months. UNU-CRIS welcomed ten interns in 2006:

Daniela Amadio (Italy)
Khadija Arsalan (Pakistan)
Francis Baert (Belgium)
Kutluhan Bozkurt (Austria)
Lindsey Haezebrouck (Belgium)
Elijah Munyi (Kenya)
Meri Maaria Kyyrönen (Finland)
Lee Sang Soo (South Korea)
Malgorzata Wesółowska (Poland)
Marten Witkamp (The Netherlands)

A general overview of the UNU-CRIS 2006 budget is presented to show how the available money has been spent and what kind of income has been generated in 2006.

Income 2006

Contribution from the Flemish Government:	1.035.357,02
Project related income:	254.722,98
Other specific income:	89.203,86
	<hr/>
	1.379.283,86



Expenditures 2006

Personnel:	500.561,25
Costs UNU-HQ Tokyo:	135.000,00
General Operating costs:	99.979,32
Costs Academic Activities:	393.775,80
	<hr/>
	1.129.316,37

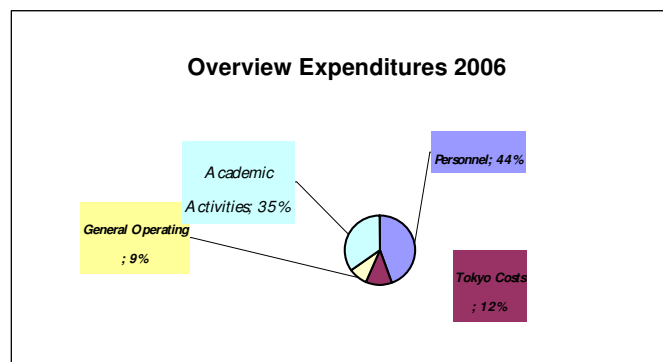


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