



## Consortium

Centro de Estudos Sociais (CES),  
Universidade de Coimbra  
(COORDINATOR)  
Professor Boaventura de Sousa Santos  
Portugal



Det Nationale Forskningscenter  
for Velfærd (SFI)-  
Dr. Tina Gundrun Jensen  
Denmark



Europa-Universität Viadrina –  
Frankfurt (EUV)  
Dr. Frank Peter  
Germany



Centro de Estudios sobre  
la Identidad Colectiva:  
Universidad del País Vasco (UPV)  
Dr. Gabriel Gatti  
Spain



Grupo para el Estudio de las  
Identidades Socioculturales en  
Andalucía: Universidad de Sevilla (US)  
Dr. Ángeles Castaño  
Spain



Centre for Ethnicity & Racial Studies:  
University of Leeds (CERS)  
Dr. Salman Sayyid  
United Kingdom

## Scientific consultants:

Prof. David Theo Goldberg  
(University of California Humanities  
Research Institute, United States)  
Dr. Linda Herrera  
(Institute of Social Studies,  
The Netherlands)

## Project Information

Project Coordinator: Prof. Boaventura de Sousa Santos

Centro de Estudos Sociais  
Universidade de Coimbra  
Colégio de S. Jerónimo  
Apartado 3087  
3001-401 Coimbra, Portugal  
Tel.: +351 239 855 570  
Fax: +351 239 855 589

Consortium contact: Dr. Silvia Rodríguez Maeso  
E-mail: srodrig@ces.uc.pt

Website: [www.ces.uc.pt/projectos/tolerace](http://www.ces.uc.pt/projectos/tolerace)

## European Commission Officer

Halina Walasek  
E-mail: Halina.WALASEK@ec.europa.eu

## Funding scheme

7th Framework Programme of the European Community:  
collaborative research (SSH-2009-3.3.1  
Tolerance and cultural diversity)

## Duration

March 2010 – February 2013 (36 months)

## Budget

EU contribution: 1.813.735 €

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Funded under Socio-economic Sciences & Humanities

education diversity multicultural  
context socio-political anti-racism  
intercultural analysis tolerance  
employment comparison semantics  
public diversity computations  
sociology of migration  
discourse post-colonialism  
immigration post-colonialism  
measures of diversity  
structural racism  
discrimination religions languages

# TOLERACE

## The semantics of tolerance and (anti-)racism in Europe:

Public bodies and civil society  
in comparative perspective

# TOLERACE

## What is TOLERACE about?

**TOLERACE** starts from the assumption that public policies in Europe do not adequately take into account **racism**, resulting in precarious anti-racist measures. The project proposes a comparative analysis that explores how the different meanings of racism/anti-racism and tolerance/intolerance have been historically embedded in wider ideas and discourses on **citizenship** and **identity** in different European contexts (**Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Germany, Denmark, and UK**). We defend that a historically informed approach is required to question widespread views of racism as a matter of beliefs or attitudes arising from specific (extremist) ideologies, and that fail to challenge discriminatory social structures. We focus on two key life spheres with a strong level of regulation concerning the processes of **social integration**, and where denunciations and public issues often emerge: **employment** and **education**.

## Who TOLERACE addresses?

- **National policy-makers** from public institutions focusing specifically on integration and anti-discrimination practices.
- **Mediation agents** networking at local and regional levels: local public servants, NGOs, anti-racist activists, religious organizations, immigrant grassroots organizations.
- **European policy-makers and policy practitioners**, particularly those working on Justice and Citizenship, Education and Culture, Employment and Social Affairs.
- **European monitoring bodies**: the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) and The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI).
- **The media**: journalists specialised on issues concerning racism and discrimination, religious and cultural diversity and immigration policies.

## European added value

The **TOLERACE** project aims at:

- Developing an interdisciplinary and comparative approach for the understanding of contemporary racism/anti-racism that it is grounded in the specific cases under study and that takes into account the relevance of racism within the historical formation of the European national states.
- Exploring the extent to which the idea of tolerance/intolerance in European public political cultures is related to anti-racism/racism.
- Adding relevant knowledge both to public bodies and grassroots organisations committed to anti-racism.
- Elaborating proposals regarding anti-racism policies within a multiple discrimination approach, jointly with public bodies and civil society representatives working at local and regional level.

## Thematic research fields

### Academic narratives, public discourses and policies on racism/anti-racism and tolerance/intolerance.

The analysis of the different meanings of these concepts and political processes within the academic production (e.g. history, sociology, political theory, anthropology and social psychology), and its interrelations to current public discourses and policies in the national and wider European contexts under study.

### Local policy responses, discrimination and employment.

The empirical study of cases regarding employment, to analyse the role and effectiveness of local mediation agents (e.g. city councils, grassroots organisations) and to examine how the localisation of (anti-)racist measures is shaping conceptions of racism and related discriminations.

### Difference and integration in education.

The analysis of official policies and school responses to situations of complex cultural diversity (particularly, linguistic and religious). The empirical study of cases will be used to understand how questions of tolerance, integration and (anti-)racism are deployed in everyday discourses and practices.

### Public issues and denunciations.

To examine the role of the media in the construction of racism as a public issue and thus as a key social and political problem. This will be achieved through the analysis of the framing of cases in each national/regional context.

## Expected Results

- A **Toolkit** for the analysis of racism and related discrimination and institutional responses, with a specific emphasis on education and employment. A web-based resource aimed at promoting and informing the development of anti-racist policies, illustrated with examples from the **TOLERACE** case studies.
- An online **database** with the most representative mass-media coverage of the cases selected for the study of public issues and denunciations in each European context.
- **Scientific publications** in national and international social sciences journals, and in different languages, making available the main findings to wider academic audiences.
- **Policy briefs** that will emphasise the key policy messages that emerge from both the analysis of public policies and empirical case studies.
- **Participatory workshops**, to promote discussions between state-endorsed institutions and civil society representatives and academics. These policy dialogues will focus both on provisional research findings and on measures being proposed by public policies regarding racism and related discriminations.