

Brazil-C-EU Newsletter

Nº 2, May 2016



A New Nucleus for Contemporary European Studies Research at IRI

Kai Enno Lehmann

We are setting up **new multidisciplinary National Research Center** within the Institute for International Relations (IRI) here at the University of São Paulo, to **focus on Contemporary European Studies**. In Portuguese it will be known as the Centro de Estudos Europa Contemporânea (CEEC).

The new CEEC will draw together and connect all the knowledge and research bases already existing within the USP that have a bearing on European studies, including relations between Europe and Latin America as a whole, as well as Brazil.

Importantly, it is intended to act as an **incentive for multidisciplinary research of relevance to contemporary EU studies**.

In addition to trade and economic questions, the focus will cover such matters as international security, the environment and energy, global governance, international law. The study of European society and contemporary history is expressly foreseen within these objectives, and to cover the historical and cultural ties between Latin America/Brazil and the EU, as well as to debate social and political theory in the two regions. Moreover the link between science/academia and practice is foreseen, to



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Also in this issue...

Presenting NAP-Caeni, p. 2

Caeni trainings in international negotiations, p. 3

In the Jean Monnet Supplement this month:

- **Migratory crisis and regional fragmentation, p. 4**
- **Academic international co-operation between Brazil and the EU, p. 5**

accommodate research involving business, NGOs and international organizations.

The CEEC is a very young structure within the USP, and promises to deepen IRI's capacity in Brazil-EU relations generally. We will be reporting on developments here.

Kai Enno Lehmann is Professor at IRI and Co-ordinator at the CEEC

Presenting NAP-Caeni

Foundations

The Center for the Study of International Negotiations – in Portuguese, *Centro de Estudos das Negociações Internacionais* – (Caeni) was initially founded in 2001 as an autonomous think tank to develop research and training in international negotiations. While initially a private research center, in 2005 Caeni was integrated into the Department of Political Sciences within the University of Sao Paulo (USP). And since September 2012, while still formally connected to the Department of Political Sciences, **it has been recognized as a Center for Research Support** (“NAP-Caeni” in Brazil).

In this context, and with the grant of 80% co-financing from the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union, Caeni is stepping up its research and training activities in Brazil-EU relations.



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Deepening the Brazil-EU focus in Brazil's South-South relations

Originally, Caeni's main research focus was on South-South relations, particularly the India-Brazil-South Africa forum, IBSA. Since 2015, with the **co-financing of the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union**, Caeni is now deepening its focus on Brazil-EU issues in all its activities.

Axes of Research

The center's research agenda, within the field of International Relations, is very broad. Some areas of interest are: Brazilian Foreign Policy, South-South Relations, International Coalitions, Compliance with International Regimes, Legislative and Foreign Policy, Businesses and International Negotiations, International Co-operation, as well as Experiments in International Relations and Political Science. Caeni's two main research axes are:

- ***Society and South-South Relations Research***, which explores the Brazilian population's perception of South-South relations. These studies use stratified, experimental research about trade policy in partnership with North Carolina State University (NCSU).
- ***The South-South Observatory***, which is building up a monitoring system to compare the position of developing countries (initially IBSA countries) towards the most important international negotiations processes, emphasizing themes directly or indirectly relate to international trade. The aim is to understand the collective actions of these countries from the perspective of trilateral integration and global governance.

Research Seminars

Regular research seminars are held and are open to the public: see www.caeni.com.br/seminarios **A Call for Papers from Young Researchers will close on 20 June 2016**. This multidisciplinary endeavour will the address “**The Future of the Brazil-EU Strategic Relationship**”. A Young Researcher Seminar will be held on 14 and 15 February 2016 and subsequent book project is foreseen for 2018.

Caeni Publications

Caeni's website provides free access to the results of research conducted in the Center. With the co-financing of the European Union under its Erasmus+ Programme, Caeni is also now publishing the *Jean Monnet Supplement to the Análise Caeni Newsletter* – See p. 4 for abstracts of this month's relevant *Análise Caeni* contributions. *Análise Caeni* publications can be found at www.caeni.com.br/analise-caeni

Caeni Trainings in International Negotiations

Caeni trainings provide specific technical training for professionals and students who are involved in activities related to the field of international negotiations, such as research and specialized advising in both private companies and governmental agencies.

The last newsletter dealt with the **imminent training on international negotiations, from 27 to 30 June 2016**, here at IRI. This training:

- is expressly open to student business, NGOs, journalists, and other civil society groups, and;
- will integrate Brazil-EU issues under the Brazil-Caeni-EU project which is co-financed by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union.

Other Caeni courses are offered sporadically, notably, the **SPSS Training to introduce the most popular statistical package in the social sciences**: SPSS. Having the knowledge to operate this software students are enabled to work with opinion polls, market research, cross-sectional studies and virtually any other database. A further "Introduction to R" introduces the statistical package R in its

latest 2.15.1 version. The objective is to provide researchers and Political Science, International Relations and related majors' students with an introduction to the main functions of this software.

English for Intercultural Negotiations

Finally, Caeni also provides training in the use of the English language in intercultural and international relations. These workshops are conducted in English and offer a cultural immersion experience. They use simulation games and case studies, and provide an understanding of how to deal with the complexities of intercultural negotiations.

For further information, see www.caeni.com.br/cursos



CAENI's EXECUTIVE TRAININGS

*MERCOSUR-EU Dialogue:
building negotiating capacity*



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The next round begins **27 June to 1 July 2016**

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JEAN MONNET SUPPLEMENT
to the
ANÁLISE CAENI NEWSLETTER



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The **Análise Caeni Newsletter** is supplemented by the **Jean Monnet Supplement** (in the Portuguese language) to disseminate research and activities to the Brazil-Caeni-EU project. Summaries in English are provided here.

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Migratory Crisis and Regional Fragmentation

Rafael Schmuziger Goldzweig

Considering the biggest migratory flow since the Second World War, the refugee crisis is further testing the cracks of a European Union's co-ordination. At the epicenter of the crisis, Germany registered over a million asylum seekers up until the end of last year, and the number could increase with the continuing crisis in Syria. Asylum law holds a high priority for the government of Angela Merkel, the German Chancellor, who constantly expresses the willingness of Germany to accomplish its historical and humanitarian obligation in processing the asylum applications. With the terrorism threats prowling the continent adding to the economic risk of overloading the German welfare state already facing the increase in refugees to the country, management of the crisis could reduce electoral support for Merkel, generating criticism of her coalition government, led by her own Christian Democrats (CDU) in the German Parliament.

A structural crisis?

The financial crisis of 2008 revealed one of the biggest risks of the sustainability of the block. A monetary union unmarried by co-ordinated fiscal policies led some of its members to the brink of economic chaos from which only some have as yet recovered. Being the exclusive responsibility of the Member States – just as in the case of fiscal policies), the treatment of the refugees is national by nature and lacking in supranational co-ordination.

These last months, the disproportionate responsibility facing some Member States notably those closest to the originating

countries for the migratory flow (Greece, Italy and Hungary) generated tensions and discord between the Member States. With successive closures of national borders and relocations policies for refugees, the governments hurt the basic precepts of free movement between the countries participating in the Schengen area.

The Dublin Convention stipulates that refugees must seek asylum in the first Member State where they arrive. Although clearly ineffective, the Agreement does not oblige the Member States of the European Union to share the load between them. While Germany took the lead in processing the largest number of asylum applications, it did so voluntarily. At the heart of the Union, countries such as the UK, systematically refused any quota system for sharing the refugees out at the regional level.

Integration is necessary, but not only at regional level

The pressure of the refugees upon the largest EU economy could initiate another economic crisis still more complex than that of previous years: this time however, at the heart of the Union. In Germany, those benefiting from asylum receive temporary residence permits and gain the same access as German nationals to the social security system, including for children, integration subsidies and language courses. Such social benefits, although important, do not guarantee complete integration in social, cultural and labour market terms, which would be necessary to turn the refugees into functioning and contributing citizens. Merkel understands that integration is not just desirable, but indispensable if the country is to develop sustainably. However, knowing this, the political friction will bring a return to uncertainty in Germany on this theme, or an actual change of government in 2017.

Risk or opportunity

The refugee crisis could be seen as an opportunity to compensate for the diminishing man power in the German economy or a risk of instability in the social system. However, the increase in the migratory flow associated with the lack of regional co-operation has exhausted the German State's capacity to cope alone.

At least if the EU could find ways to unite forces and turn the crisis into an opportunity, the increasing political pressure would force the German Chancellor to limit the entrance of migrants to the country. Even more worrying the migratory crisis is being fed by xenophobia and political populism, reinforced by xenophobic discourse in the extreme right of eastern Europe, Germany, Italy and France.

Management of the crisis will not be done with good will of any one Member State, but with a regional strategy combining forces intelligently.

In this context, the EU could face the challenge of regulating the entrance of the refugees without breaching its humanitarian credentials, at the same time as guaranteeing full integration while avoiding the increasing economic risks and also any increase in xenophobic sentiments within the continent. As it was in 2008, the EU's regional resilience is being tested.

Rafael Schmuziger Goldzweig

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Academic International Co-operation

Marketa Jerabek

Erasmus Mundus is a Higher Education Programme of the European Union offering students and researchers the World over, without age limit, the opportunity to participate in courses at the best Universities. The objective is to improve the quality of higher education through grants and academic co-operation between the EU and the rest of the World. The interaction between people of different cultures promotes cultural dialogue and understanding and contributes to the development of human resources and international co-operation among higher educational establishments in third countries.

The project **Brazil-Europe Erasmus Mundus (BE Mundus)** enables Brazilian and European students to study in the best universities in their counterpart countries specifically in the fields of engineering and technology as well as the education and the training of professors and lecturers. BE Mundus promotes understanding between the EU and Brazil and increases the recognition of the diplomas between the counterparts.

Useful Links:

- www.bemundus.eu/
- http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/index_en.php
- <http://www.em-a.eu/>

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