

# **Bourdieusian Fields in Supranationally Supported Multilateral Science Encounters: Practising Occasional Relationality of Algeria and Egypt in the European Research Area**

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## **Abstract:**

This article elaborates on how the European Research Area supports research-intense resilience-building across the European Southern Neighbourhood, with a focus on Algeria and Egypt. Systematically selected Horizon 2020-funded projects serve as the main empirical material to process trace the patterns of specific research engagements that link Algeria and Egypt to Europe-based expertise hubs. The hypothesised straw-in-the-wind leans rather cogently. Horizon 2020-funded projects offer access to a notable variety of entities in Algeria and Egypt in the European Research Area. The diversity of Europe-based project managers offers these opportunities to benefit from outstanding circles of internationally renowned experts. The multitude of themes and sciences covered by the examined projects proves that the European Research Area houses a vast pool of expertise through time-bound capacity-building measures accessible to the European Southern Neighbourhood. Projects provide tailored solutions to diverse issues in an international and Mediterranean-specific context. The acquired diagnostic evidence highlights the considerable value of the European Research Area in translating the goals of the European Union's external action and aspirations conveyed through diplomacy into joint plans and tangible action. The European Research Area is a framework field characterised by a thick layer of networks closely intertwined with other international niche consultative and concerted action formats.

**Keywords:** Practice theory, European Research Area, European Southern Neighbourhood

## **Introduction**

The European Union (EU) has developed a multifaceted approach to resilience-building in the European Southern Neighbourhood (ESN). Not all of these dimensions have been fully explored. This article addresses this underscrutinised area by examining the role that the 8<sup>th</sup> EU

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Framework Programme (FP) for research and innovation, “Horizon 2020” (H2020), played in offering tailored and temporary support to international consortiums comprising entities from Algeria and Egypt. This scholarly enquiry is instrumental in unearthing the recent EU science diplomacy track record from a distinctively supranational standpoint.

Both selected ESN countries share a rather similar position towards the EU. Both countries do not have an association agreement for H2020. Unlike the overall ESN frontrunners, Morocco and Tunisia, both Algeria and Egypt have experienced some sobering episodes in their bilateral ties with the EU and regionally, namely, in the multilateral context of the Middle East and North Africa (Amarouche, 2017, pp. 196-197; Ghafar, 2019, pp. 160, 162; Katsaris, 2016, pp. 668-669). Comparing the project-based ties of Algeria and Egypt to the European Research Area (ERA) is a helpful means to deepen understanding concerning the heterogeneity of engagement patterns of the ESN in EU-supported targeted and time-bound resilience-building efforts that have a pronounced evidence-based and research-oriented approach.

The article responds to the research question of how the ERA contributes to resilience-building in the ESN. To process-trace an answer to this question, the H2020-funded projects are taken as the empirical embodiments of the ERA that are studied to identify specific research activities and their implementers in their capacities as project consortium members. The straw-in-the-wind hypothesis guiding this enquiry is the following: The H2020 projects facilitate the dispersed access of some entities located in Algeria and Egypt to the ERA because a broad range of Europe-based hubs of scientific excellence across a wide spectrum of specialisations and domains welcome them in their coordinated project consortiums. This assumption about the role of Europe-based project managers in enabling the access of ESN-based higher education, research, and public, private, and non-governmental entities to systematic research-focused cooperation is based on the earlier findings obtained from the participation of Morocco and Tunisia in the FP7 and H2020 (Šime, 2021; 2023a; 2023b; 2024a; 2024c).

This article contributes to several strands of scholarly enquiry. Firstly, it enriches the existing literature on the findings, outcomes, and research dynamics facilitated by nationally and EU-funded projects (for example, Franzoni, Scellato & Stephan, 2015, pp. 57-58; Lewis et al., 2022, p. 72; Varga, Pontikakis & Chorafakis, 2014). Many examples of the existing corpus (such as Åm, 2019b, p. 168; Merrill & Revers, 2023, p. 227; Siivonen, Korhonen, Komulainen, Mutanen & Haltia, 2023, p. 343; Solbu, 2018, p. 43; Von Schomberg & Blok, 2023, p. 13) introduce some elements of a single project. In comparison, this article takes a panoramic view of the critical mass of achievements generated by H2020 in favour of EU diplomatic aims. Secondly, this article contributes to the literature on the multifaceted and ever-widening responsibilities

and corresponding “competing demands” placed on researchers in their attempt to respond to the numerous needs of society (Delgado & Åm, 2018, p. 3; Solbu, 2021, p. 918). The full resonance of EU-funded projects in serving the needs and demands of societies across the world, the economic development rationale, and inclusive technological advancement are analytically addressed (for example, Åm, 2019a, p. 456; Hesjedal, Åm, Sørensen & Strand, 2020). However, the existing scholarly corpus does not present a sufficiently thorough examination of the full value of EU-funded projects. This article contributes to unearthing these nuances. Thirdly, from the standpoint of the EU as a well-organised economic actor, this article offers one more insight into the role of EU funding and oversight in driving development, capacity-building, and regionalisation across several geographic scales. Namely, the EU addresses its volatile neighbourhood or ring of perpetual statehood issues and stability challenges, as well as sources of concern in Africa and elsewhere in the world (Galán, 2023, p. 156; Hadjigeorgiou, 2024; Stapel & Söderbaum, 2023). These are continuous efforts with evolving modalities depending on the most urgent needs.

The first part of this article lays the practice theory grounds to explain the importance of field-mapping exercise, relational patterns displayed by project consortiums, and the positionality of agents in the Bourdieusian framework field. The second part articulates the methodological considerations guiding the systematic selection of the projects for the study of research links and project links as a process-tracing endeavour to see where the straw-in-the-wind hypothesis bends. The third part outlines the project portfolios, some analytically special characteristics of institutions involved in specific project consortiums, and corresponding thematic concentrations offered to each of the major H2020 beneficiaries in Algeria and Egypt. The fourth part discusses some noteworthy limitations of the completed data analysis and how the findings can be contextualised in a broader set of recent findings on project-based international collaboration and differentiated integration studies. The concluding part revisits the main findings and outlines a concise list of potential pathways for future research to gain more in-depth insight into the general patterns detected in this project-mapping exercise.

## **1. Practice Theory with a Relational Focus**

Practice theory and the contemporary preoccupation with relationality between individuals, core governing rules, institutions, and technological means offer plenty of useful thinking for theoretical reasoning on the collaborative advanced research frameworks and the fields that characterise their routine operation and evolution (An & Oliver, 2021; Esguerra, 2023, p. 274; Gadinger & Scholte, 2023a, p. 5). The earlier detected “positional competition” (Lambrechts, Cavallaro & Lepori, 2024, p. 3) or nodality aspirations (Zelli, Gerrits, Möller & Widerberg,

2023, p. 82), as well as self-perceived peripheral placement (Lindner, 2023, p. 367) among agents in the framework fields of science in general and those maintained by the EU, prove the enduring salience of the core elements of practice theory in an in-depth study of the supranational governance character of post-Westphalian external action and diplomacy. The structural web and the “patterns generated by these entanglements” of expert-level practices that support EU sterling diplomatic errands deserve more attention (Barnett & Lawson, 2022, p. 511; Glas & Martel, 2024, p. 9).

The topicality of studying various supranationally maintained Bourdieusian fields and relationality patterns within them stems from the latest studies on transnational governance and international bureaucracies (Quack, 2023, p. 125). Regional, multilateral, and international bureaucracies prove their inventiveness in pursuing their own interests and engaging in their own turf wars, fratricidal dynamics, institutional tinkering, and the building of alliances that may surpass the service in the interests of corresponding member or participating states (de Donà, 2024; Song, Temby, Kim & Hickey, 2020, pp. 1-2; Vijge, 2013). Supranationally developed frameworks of research cooperation should not be considered completely immune to such collegial relationality and rapport-building developments. Detecting the structure of the field should be the first step towards exploring in greater nuance such potential peer dynamics.

The logics of its own unique habitus shape the field and its constant evolution. Habitus refers to the shared background knowledge and that context-specific feel for the interactional game developed by its most influential agents (Bonnard, 2023, p. 182; Gadinger, 2023, pp. 217, 225; Graeger, 2024, p. 3). “Habitus is a set” of “semi-conscious dispositions that agents acquire through social conditionings [...]” (Angers, 2017, p. 48). Habitus gives a sense of affordance (Hora, 2023, p. 207). Such social aptness has been a historically praised quality in international research encounters (Huistra & Wils, 2016, p. 127). Mapping the institutional ties can be the first step towards exploring in greater detail these peer dynamics, “habitual disposition”, and the occurrence of relational experiences (Isopahkala-Bouret & Tholen, 2023, p. 57; Qiao-Franco, 2024, p. 3).

When thinking about the operation of agents in the field, Solbu and Sørensen (2023, p. 27) offer an excellent elaboration that socialisation is a process without a definite end-state. Continued socialisation can serve the re-actualisation purposes of an issue to stress its evolving context and temporary situatedness, with unique imprints left on all places involved (Everts, 2016, pp. 50, 57; Solbu & Sørensen, 2023, p. 27). Thus, a snapshot of relational bonds fostered through socialisation-based joint learning and shared knowing across the field is informative (Bode, 2024, p. 3; Bremberg & Hedling, 2024, pp. 3-4). This episode of practices serves the

reconstruction purposes concerning a specific moment of the evolution of the field and the prevailing meaning-making within its sub-fields in that specific moment of time (Bicchi, 2024, p. 3; Bueger, Hofius & Edwards, 2024, p. 6; Gadinger, 2023, p. 230). This bodes well with the contemporary considerations preoccupying scientists. They are in regular search for new cooperation opportunities to retain their cutting-edge research value and comply with the evolving “excellence agendas” (Bengtson, 2022, p. 44; Hesjedal & Åm, 2023, p. 226). Projects offer valuable mutual learning sites that operate based on collaborative practices conducive to advancing institutional and individual professional goals (Søraa, Ingeborgrud, Suboticki & Solbu, 2017, p. 32). The diverse duties characterising contemporary higher education and research routines offer versatile forms of developing individual and institutional Bourdieusian capital ownership and capital transaction mastery across fields (Amelina, 2022, p. 102; Isopahkala-Bouret & Tholen, 2023, p. 57; Pham, 2023, pp. 303-304; Väliverronen et al., 2022, p. 495). Projects are promising capital trading sites for knowledgeable agents to retain their nodal positionality, ambition, and posture in epistemic hierarchies and face a certain level of contestation (Adler, Bremberg & Sondarjee, 2024, p. 4; Amelina, 2022, pp. 99, 101; Gadinger, 2023, p. 218; Gadinger & Scholte, 2023b, p. 365; Kornprobst & Strobl, 2024, p. 4; Liste, 2023, p. 199; Sondarjee, 2024, p. 10). Thus, besides international conferences, projects should be more thoroughly studied as sites of new modes of knowledge production (Giraud & Lallement, 2021, p. 12).

In many respects, the ESN represents an emblematic example of a turbulent environment with constantly evolving challenges that are often referred to as ‘wicked problems’ (Fakhoury & Icaza, 2023, p. 58; Hauge, 2022, p. 147; Mahbubani, 2020, p. 25; Selg, Sootla & Klasche, 2023, p. 85; Throne-Holst, 2025). Echoing some conclusions drawn in the Northern European context by Åm (2015, p. 151), the European relationality to the ESN offers an in-depth insight into the practical and material considerations that support the EU aspirations to translate its discursively upheld international stances linked to sustainability and transformative technological leaps into tangible steps and accomplished actions through project-based activities.

One of the distinct characteristics of recent science diplomacy scholarship is its Westphalian analytical lens with some typical elements of the inception and contemporary practices of public and cultural diplomacies (Roberts, 2006; Von Eschen, 2005, pp. 336-337). A lot of thinking is still channelled through a national perspective (for example, Olšáková, 2023; Rüländ & Rülfin, 2024) or an intergovernmental cooperation view (Neumann, 2022, pp. 240, 249). Partially because a substantial proportion of international cooperation in science remains funded and

steered by countries (for example, Buyuktanir Karacan, Ozsoy & Okay, 2023). Echoing some thinking on sustainable development diplomacy (Moomaw, Bhandary, Kuhl & Verkooijen, 2017, p. 77), studying the national routines of EU Member States or European countries is a worthwhile endeavour. However, the study of supranationally concerted science diplomacy dynamics requires a post-Westphalian approach that goes beyond a concise acknowledgement that research steering occurs via the conditions enshrined in the open calls for project proposals (Lamberg, Ryymin & Vetoshkina, 2022, p. 32; Monsonís-Payá, Iñigo & Blok, 2023, p. 15). The post-Westphalian standpoint requires looking at how supranational institutions with financial support incentives bring together international partnerships and pool expertise from various countries to achieve specific goals aligned with the post-Westphalian aspirations and political priorities of the EU. This is the value of this article. It looks beyond national ambition. This study examines network-based contemporary practices adjacent to diplomacy (Hauge, 2022, p. 150). This article explores how international efforts serve the EU's supranational interests. This article looks beyond the historically routed attempts to strengthen European unity (described, for example, by Jensen, 2018). By learning from past academic fencing accounts (Limerick, 2012, p. 505) and contemporary interest in epistemic diversity (Foulds et al., 2023, p. 68), this study offers a concise account of how supranationally steered tasks bring together international circles of experts to serve the Union's interest in fostering result-oriented and amicable ties.

Furthermore, the study of these expert circles is conducive to better understanding the vast scope of networking environments with which foreign affairs offices, including the European External Action Service, and international bureaucracies can engage to broaden their awareness concerning various factors affecting their devised strategic foresight estimates and preemptive approach (Jütersonke & Munro, 2024, p. 11; Mayer, 2023). Projects with their own unique “atmospherics” or action-shaping sentimental tones attest to the diversity of science expertise and forms of research input offered for evidence-informed policies (Keys & Yorke, 2019, p. 1241).

## **2. Methods**

Process tracing refers to the theoretical unpacking of the causal mechanism and the empirical study of traces “left by the activities associated with parts of the process” (Álamos-Concha, Pattyn, Rihoux et al., 2022, p. 1976). This study adheres to the minimalist variant of process tracing tailored to “explore the field” and obtain a solid understanding of what to look for in greater nuance when proceeding with more in-depth case analysis (Álamos-Concha, Pattyn, Rihoux et al., 2022, p. 1985). Out of all the descriptive elements mined within the cases of two

country contexts, this study unearths a specific type of diagnostic evidence (Crasnow, 2017, pp. 12-13). By using the search function of the open-access Community Research and Development Information Service (CORDIS) data base, this study maps H2020 project consortiums implemented throughout 2017–2020. The chosen minimalist variant displays a more panoramic analysis than some of the within-case process-tracing examples published over the past decade, such as Mahoney (2015).

Process tracing provides a useful tool for grasping “how experience accrual” might shape not only individual professional expertise and lines of further action but also institutional learning and aspirations for future positionality in a given field (Morgan, 2024, p. 228). This study captures a snapshot of rather short-duration collegial encounters that should be seen in the broader context of the ERA framework field, comprising the dynamic reproduction of its sub-structures (Morgan, 2024, p. 236). Thus, this study captures in greater depth a certain temporality of the ERA, not a long-term, persisting relational picture. This backward sense-making or retrospective enquiry into the project-based ties weaving Algeria and Egypt into the ERA throughout 2017–2020 should not be considered informative about the present relational patterns (Derbyshire, 2023, p. 487). Process-tracing “is not a method for projecting forward trends” (Derbyshire, 2023, p. 490). The methodological considerations mirror some thinking revolving around the assemblages (Amelina, 2022, p. 98; Beckman, 2023, p. 321; Bueger & Liebertrau, 2023, p. 244; Overbeek, 2023, pp. 297-298). Consequently, this study captures an attempt to reconstitute the most important relations of the ERA framework field and what keeps Algeria and Egypt involved in. This is done without simply downsizing these ties to the colonial reference point of a narrow claim of history repeating itself in the contemporary setting.

In essence, the analysed snapshot of collegial ties is essential to demonstrate the vast pool of European expertise made accessible to Algeria and Egypt at a certain point in time to tackle some of the mutually recognised pressing challenges. As earlier ESN findings demonstrate, the EU project has a considerable role in translating the mutual interest on the European and ESN sides into time-bound joint activities and tangible results (Šime, 2024b). Without EU funding, a considerable proportion of jointly supported ideas may not come to fruition.

The secondary literature review on EU policies, instruments, and their performative effects on the higher education and research sectors in Europe and worldwide, as well as prior research on the positionality of other ESN countries in the ERA framework field, ensure sufficient contextual awareness, pre-existing generalisations, and theorisations on the chosen topic for the study (Morgan, 2024, p. 229). In the absence of a scholarly consensus on the guiding principles of a thick and rich description, these earlier research stages performed to study other ESN

countries help to build a more comprehensive and thorough explanation of the empirical research findings of this study (Kay & Baker, 2015, p. 17).

A straw-in-the-wind test is used when evidence may support the hypothesis (Kay & Baker, 2015, p. 16). However, the evidence is not entirely sufficient to draw decisive conclusions. In the words of Morgan (2024, p. 231), “[p]assing a straw-in-the-wind test is neither necessary nor sufficient for affirming causal inference, but it does affirm the relevance of a hypothesis”. This study should be seen as an element of a longer sequence of ESN-oriented straw-in-the-wind tests (for example, Šime, 2021, 2023b, 2024a) and scholarly enquiries following other methodological considerations to understand in greater detail the patterns that weave ESN into the ERA framework field and its subfields.

### **3. Findings**

#### **3.1 Overarching Observations**

Overall, Algeria has a dispersed relationality picture of project-based cooperation links, with 18 projects in total. Among the Algerian institutions, the only outstanding institution with an accrual of five projects is the Algerian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. It is an exceptional position in the ERA field because almost all other Algerian institutions are involved on an ad hoc basis in one project. Only two Algerian institutions were involved in two projects each. Generally, Algerian immersion in the ERA framework field, its habitus, and capital transactions rely on a single project access point per beneficiary (consult table 9). It offers an overall picture of sporadic socialisation and a prevalence of ad hoc immersion among the Algerian beneficiaries into the ERA-facilitated co-creation and exchanges of various forms of Bourdieusian capital.

The CORDIS mapping resulted in the identification of 47 projects with Egyptian involvement. To introduce the Egyptian general pattern, the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology was the leading beneficiary of EU projects with 11 projects. The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research was positioned as the second major beneficiary with five projects. The American University of Cairo and Cairo University excelled with four projects each. The Agricultural Research Centre engaged in three projects. Five institutions were involved in two projects each, and seventeen institutions were each involved in one project (consult tables 10-15). Compared to Algeria, this overview indicates a much more comprehensive exposure of the Egyptian beneficiaries to the ERA framework field and its subfields with more diverse socialisation encounters with the ERA prevailing routines.

This notable asymmetry in the project engagement between Algeria and Egypt demonstrates the value of the chosen cross-country comparison. It clearly reveals that the intensity and

exposure of the ESN to the ERA are not equal. Although, with rare exceptions, both countries share an overall dispersed picture of many entities having benefitted from involvement in a project consortium, the fact that Egypt was involved in more than twice the number of EU-funded projects illustrates the noteworthy asymmetry of involvement in the ERA among the ESN countries. This is another comparative angle that attests to the importance of looking at several ESN countries to gain a better understanding of the resonance of EU frameworks and programming tools in this rather heterogeneous context. The exposure of ESN countries to EU frameworks varies. However, they all share the overarching gain from the ERA of having profited from an immersion into diverse expert circles convened by the EU that are explained in greater detail in the subsequent subsections.

### **3.2 Algeria**

The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research is an unparalleled champion in Algeria, with five projects (consult table 1). RINEA, coordinated by the German Aerospace Centre, fostered closer research and innovation ties between the EU and Africa. This is the only instance of this overall project portfolio that is not implemented under French oversight. Moreover, the Algerian Ministry's project portfolio has a pronounced intercontinental dimension. Several projects are thematically attuned to foster closer relations between Europe and Africa. PRE-LEAP-RE, led by the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission, worked on setting good grounds to translate research into tailored innovative applications for the future cooperation modalities between the EU and Africa in sustainable energy. LEAP-AGRI, guided by the French National Research Agency, strengthens the science and technology partnership between Europe and Africa through the development of a flagship initiative on sustainable agriculture with a focus on food and nutrition security.

LEAP-RE, directed by the business consultancy "LGI Sustainable Innovation" based in France, worked on renewable energy solutions for Africa aligned with the overarching rationale of the European Green Deal. This project excels with a remarkably grand consortium because it brings together 96 partners from 34 countries and two international organisations. LEAP-RE stands out as a rare instance of a project that had more than one consortium member from Algeria. Besides the Ministry, LEAP-RE involved the Algerian Renewable Energy Development Centre and the Pan African University Institute of Water and Energy Science. LEAP-RE strengthens the initially observed Europe-Africa dimension of the overall project portfolio of the Algerian Ministry through the engagement of one of the institutions of the Pan African University. Thus, the project is not simply thematically attuned to the specifics of Europe-Africa cooperation. Additionally, the project benefits from the pan-African mission and

perspective represented by an entity of the Pan African University hosted by the Abou Bakr Belkaïd University of Tlemcen (Koli, Tambo, Cheo, Oduor & Nguedia-Nguedoung, 2019, p. 138). Furthermore, LEAP-RE is special for another reason tied to EU diplomatic considerations. Its alignment with the European Green Deal highlights LEAP-RE relevance to the study of green diplomacy practices (Finardi, 2021). Over the past years, the EU has not made a strict demarcation between various novel forms of diplomacy. Scholars were not preoccupied with clarifying this conceptual blurriness either (Šime, 2023c). Thereby, the project has a multifaceted diplomatic value with a pronounced sustainability orientation.

Overall, transcontinental thinking stretches beyond Europe and Africa. FOOSC, led by the French National Research Agency, builds complementarities between different EU initiatives and strengthens cooperation between Africa, Europe, and Latin America in the domain of food security amidst climate change. All in all, the Ministry's project portfolio attests to the pronounced continent-wide considerations of joint solutions crafted mostly under French guidance. The overall research and innovation partnership efforts were directed towards sustainable and renewable energy sources and agricultural sector challenges linked to climate change.

The National Institute of Agronomic Research of Algeria was one of two exceptional institutions with two project participations (consult table 2). Olive-Net, coordinated by the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, developed new technological solutions and products derived from olive trees and olives. The project activities involved researchers' mobility.

5TOI\_4EWAS, led by the Autonomous University of Barcelona, engaged in the quintuple helix interactions to enhance smart specialisation in energy, water, and agricultural sectors across the Southern Mediterranean areas and strengthen EU science diplomacy towards the Mediterranean Partner Countries. 5TOI\_4EWAS stands out as a rare occasion where science diplomacy is explicitly referred to in the basic project description. The project is coordinated by a university based in a city with a pronounced and renowned science diplomacy stance (Šime, 2021, 24; 2024a, 36-37). The CORDIS project description serves as an excellent example of how the city's specialisation is furthered through an EU-supported international consortium.

Moreover, 5TOI\_4EWAS stands out with the consortium membership of two Algeria-based entities. The second one is the Algerian National Agency for the Valorisation of the Results of Research and Technological Development. Similarly to the earlier analysed LEAP-RE, 5TOI\_4EWAS is a rare example of having more than one Algeria-based consortium member

in one project. However, unlike in the case of LEAP-RE, both entities involved in 5TOI\_4EWAS are national authorities without a transnational or pan-African mission. Instead, the main goals of the project and having two national authorities engaged denote the value of 5TOI\_4EWAS in addressing some of the academically acknowledged persisting challenges faced by the Algerian national innovation governance and support framework (elaborated by Casadella & Younes Bouacida, 2020; Younes Bouacida, 2019, pp. 60-61). 5TOI\_4EWAS aims match the Algerian enduring attempts to promote technological uptake in entrepreneurship for the benefit of commercially viable solutions and improved overall economic competitiveness of the country.

The Pasteur Institute of Algeria is the other exceptional Algerian institution with two projects (consult table 3). bTB-Test, directed by Uppsala University, analysed the feasibility of a non-invasive methodology to diagnose bovine tuberculosis in cattle. LeiSHield-MATI, led by the Pasteur Institute in Paris, addressed the public health problem posed by leishmaniasis across Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Iran. LeiSHield-MATI is one of the contemporary examples of the revived “Pastorian teleology”, with the Parisian *maison-mère* being united in a project with four of its historical network institutes (Moulin, 2016; Strachan, 2006, p. 268). An EU-funded project offers support to the contemporary Maghreb under the new tides of the Arab world and other international footprints in the area (Moulin, 2016). Furthermore, LeiSHield-MATI embodies the continuous contribution of Pasteur institutes to tackling pressing international health challenges.

All in all, France-based institutions play a notable role in offering access to both championing Algiers-based institutions to the EU expert circles convened in the project consortium format. Almost half of the analysed projects were coordinated by France. In total, one-third of all projects involving Algeria were directed by an institution located in France. Thus, the French approach to promoting social aptness and joint collaborative project-based routines and the ability to navigate the ERA framework field and its subfields is considered to exert a considerable influence over the mapped beneficiaries. No other European country comes close to the overall share of project leadership roles exerted by France. However, within France, there are no hegemonic characteristics. Meaning, there is no one or several institutions that would be responsible for an overwhelming majority of all Algerian connections to the ERA framework field. This observation corroborates findings of dispersed ties identified in Morocco and Tunisia for the FP7 projects as a contrasting picture to the prior quantitative mappings that gave way to the debate on funding acquisition and consortium membership resembling “‘oligarchic’ networks” and “closed clubs” (Šime, 2021, p. 5). In the Algerian setting, the

French National Research Agency coordinated two projects. The rest of the project management responsibilities were dispersed across various other institutions. Algeria benefitted from exposure to very different project management styles because it had the opportunity to engage in projects coordinated by institutions from across Europe, not only the Mediterranean littoral countries.

### **3.3 Egypt**

The Egyptian Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT) stands out as an unparalleled champion with a portfolio of eleven projects (consult table 4). These projects form several thematic clusters. The first grouping is linked to capacity building among the programme administrators to increase the successful participation of the respective countries' applicants to the EU FPs. Net4Mobility, coordinated by the Swiss association "Euresearch", enabled closer cooperation among the National Contact Points (NCPs) of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCAs). Net4MobilityPlus, coordinated by the Institute of Fundamental Technological Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences, worked on facilitating the project application journey with a focus on improving the quality of services provided by the national contact points. SiS.net2, led by the Icelandic Centre for Research "Rannis", aimed to raise the standard of proposals and facilitate the engagement of entities who are not familiar with the EU FPs. SiS.net 3, again, led by the Icelandic Centre for Research "Rannis", continued to improve the attractiveness of the H2020 specific programme "Science with and for Society" (SWAFS) among potential applicants. This project completed the capacity-building of the national contact points of the SWAFS programme to enable their delivery of better services to the applicants and beneficiaries. These projects are emblematic examples that the ERA framework field and its financial incentives offered via the EU FPs form a supranationally conditioned intellectual habitus with a considerable international appeal. Various future potential beneficiaries are keen to increase their background knowledge and prowess of the collegial interactive dynamics. There is a considerable interest at the academy to craft its more nuanced sense of affordances in relation to various ERA subfields.

5TOI\_4EWAS, facilitated by the Autonomous University of Barcelona, addressed the nuances of the quintuple helix with a focus on energy, water, and agricultural management in the Mediterranean setting. Besides the Egyptian Academy of Scientific Research and Technology, at a certain stage the Egyptian National Research Council joined the project, but its participation was discontinued. The role of this project in explicitly addressing science diplomacy was already elaborated in this article section covering Algeria. Not to repeat what was already mentioned there, it is crucial to pinpoint that through 5TOI\_4EWAS, both Algeria

and Egypt were exposed to the same science diplomacy practices. Thus, they and several other ESN-based beneficiaries from Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, and Tunisia had the opportunity to make the most of a first-hand account of the EU science diplomacy routines.

Water was the thematic orientation of three projects. AquaticPollutants, managed by the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, addressed emerging pollutants, pathogens, and antimicrobial resistance in the whole water cycle by pooling forces from freshwater, marine, and health research expert circles. WaterWorks2015, led by the French National Research Agency, worked to increase the overall value of various investments in water management, the efficiency of water use, and the reduction of soil and water pollution in particular. WaterWorks2017, again led by the French National Research Agency, tackled the fragmentation across the funding opportunities for water management.

Sustainable management of various natural resources aligned with entrepreneurial considerations was addressed in three projects. CLUSDEV MED, directed by Roma Tre University, explored transnational clustering in the Mediterranean area to work on various sustainability and entrepreneurship aspects. LEAP-RE, directed by the business consultancy “LGI Sustainable Innovation”, addressed renewable energy matters in relation to Africa and the European Green Deal. This project was already described in the previous section covering Algeria. Thus, to avoid repetitiveness, it is worth adding that besides the Academy, there was another project participant from Egypt, the National Authority for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences. This is one of those rare occasions when a project assembles more than one beneficiary from Egypt. ForestValue, coordinated by the Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, worked towards modernising and improving the sustainability of forest management by building on the achievements of three ERA networks (ERA-NETs). This project is a good example of the continuity of domain-specific efforts that are co-developed through engagement with various ERA instruments and programming tools.

In sum, the Egyptian Academy of Scientific Research and Technology obtained a comprehensive immersion into various ERA thematic directions under the guidance of institutions characterised by various mandates, diverse professional specialisations, and being located in several European countries. Among the projects were two instances of subsequent projects that were managed by the same Icelandic and French entities. This is an unparalleled portfolio of investment into human capital, competencies, international expertise, and a multifaceted relationality to diverse issue-based collegial networks.

The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research is the second major Egyptian beneficiary, with five projects in its portfolio (consult table 5). MERID, coordinated by the

Piran-based Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI), supported closer cooperation in innovation between the EU and the Middle East. Established following the guidance laid out in the Joint Declaration of the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean, approved in Paris in 2008, EMUNI is not a typical national higher education and research institution in Slovenia. EMUNI stands for one of the six priority areas of the Union for the Mediterranean. Thus, the project benefitted from the guidance exerted by an institution that is working with a macro-regional rather than purely national, regional, or local, mindset in an urban area located on the shores of the Mediterranean.

FOSC, led by the French National Research Agency, fostered complementarities between various EU initiatives and supported cooperation between Africa, Europe, and Latin America to address food security and climate change. This project was already addressed in the previous section covering Algeria. This project stands out because, besides the ministry, it had the second Egyptian project participant, the Science, Technology, and Innovation Funding Authority.

4PRIMA, facilitated by the Italian Ministry for Education, University, and Research, developed a sustainable and coherent partnership for Mediterranean research and innovation in the food and water sectors. LEAP-AGRI, guided by the French National Research Agency, aimed to support science and technology ties between Europe and Africa to address food and nutrition security. The project was already presented in the preceding section, covering Algeria. Thus, to avoid repetitiveness, it is worth contextualising LEAP-AGRI as one of two instances when the Egyptian Ministry joined efforts coordinated by the European colleagues from the peer sectorial ministry to address issues linked to sustainable agriculture and food security.

LEAP4FNSSA, managed by the Ghanaian Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa, aimed to establish a bi-continental platform for scaling and increasing the impact of various initiatives linked to sustainable agriculture, food, and nutrient security. This project is outstanding because it is coordinated by an entity from an African lower-middle-income country. Thus, this example does not follow the overall theorised relationality pattern and the ERA engagement facilitation logic. Another outstanding feature of this project is the engagement of another Egyptian beneficiary, the Knowledge Economy Foundation for Society Development.

Overall, the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education Scientific Research had a pronounced specialisation in food security and sustainable agricultural sectors within either African or Mediterranean contexts. Furthermore, the Egyptian Ministry is a rare beneficiary, with all project coordinators being situated in the Mediterranean littoral countries or Africa. Therefore, this is one of the most homogenous project portfolios, both in terms of thematic coverage of projects and the geographic scope of project managers.

Cairo University (consult table 6) participated in MedReset, coordinated by the Italian Institute of International Affairs. The project crafted new potential pathways for the EU's engagement and role in the Mediterranean region. SIMRA, led by the James Hutton Institute located in Scotland, worked on social innovation in agriculture, forestry, and rural development with a focus on the marginalised Mediterranean areas. OptArch, facilitated by the National Technical University of Athens, developed and tested methodologies to optimise contemporary buildings through the collaborative work of a multidisciplinary team of academics. GLYCAN, managed by the University of Münster, aimed to assist in developing new drugs for cancer treatment, including breast cancer. The Cairo University project portfolio is a great example of the diverse specialisations and multitude of peer encounters offered by the ERA expert networks. Each project has a very different subject and managing authority.

The American University in Cairo (consult table 7) engaged in GlAntiFem, led by the University of Oslo, and studied the organisations and narratives that oppose feminism and the way these efforts are transnationalised to reach beyond specific local Islamic societies. CONNEKT, coordinated by the European Institute of the Mediterranean based in Spain, identified the radicalisation factors among youth. The project developed recommendations to prevent violent extremism in specific areas and in the EU in general. FEUTURE, managed by the University of Cologne, studied EU-Turkey relations to identify potential scenarios of these relations and develop policy recommendations. ODYSSEA, directed by Democritus University of Thrace, integrated networks of observation and forecasting systems to facilitate comprehensive data accessibility concerning the Mediterranean area to tackle its environmental considerations. In sum, the American University in Cairo immersed itself in the ERA under the guidance of a notable variety of project coordinators and had access to expert circles on a considerable variety of topics. However, unlike Cairo University, the American University in Cairo had a prevailing engagement with projects addressing topics in the social sciences and humanities. ODYSSEA was an exception in the overall orientation of this project portfolio towards societal and social challenges, including the policy implications of these issues.

The Egyptian Agricultural Research Centre (consult table 8) was involved in ECOFISH, coordinated by the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest, to promote sustainable fishing among conventional fish farmers in the Black Sea area. ECOFISH stands out for two reasons. Firstly, this is one of those rare project examples of more than one partner from Egypt. The second partner was Kafr El-Sheikh University. Secondly, ECOFISH is exceptional because it is the only example among the mapped projects that is led by an institution from the so-called 'Widening Country'. Except for Luxembourg for the H2020

implementation (Montorio et al., 2022, p. 8), the ‘Widening’ refers to the (non-founding) EU Member States that in recent history have been acknowledged to be in need of improving their competitiveness in attracting EU funding (European Commission et al., 2018; Moagăr-Poladian, Folea & Păunică, 2017)<sup>48</sup>. To briefly contextualise the FP7 and H2020 engagement findings for Morocco and Tunisia throughout 2014–2017 (Šime, 2023b, p. 61), the rarity of coordinators from EU Member States with a meagre FP7 and H2020 acquisition rate in the ESN data sets is not exceptional. Thus, generally speaking, ‘Widening Countries’ are in some instances portrayed as having more peripheral (rather than central) positionality in the ERA framework field collaborative encounters. Nevertheless, the ECOFISH is a telling instance not to fall into an erroneous trap of relegating all research-intense institutions in ‘Widening Countries’ to a less performative positionality. Institutions like the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest can be well reputed and highly trusted by their international peers to lead the collaborative work despite the geographic location in a country with an unimpressive track record in the acquisition of FPs support.

IMAGE, managed by the French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food, and Environment (INRAE), improved the use of genetic collections and animal gene bank management to the benefit of sustainable livestock systems. CURE-XF, directed by the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari in Italy, facilitated the exchange of scientific insights and practical application experiences between European and neighbouring countries concerning a specific pest issue. All in all, the Egyptian Agricultural Research Centre participated in thematically diverse projects guided by European managers from various countries.

Among the leading Egyptian beneficiaries of project engagements, the most represented country among the European managers is France. Three out of five leading beneficiaries were connected through at least one project to an entity in France. This is another noteworthy

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<sup>48</sup> Some of the policy-oriented literature on the EU FPs ‘Widening Countries’ and the research and development divide within the EU refers to specific country groupings and an overlapping number of 15 states that deserves a concise clarification. In many EU policy reports and analyses of EU FPs, the abbreviation “EU13” is used to refer to the countries that joined the EU from 2004 onwards. However, the whole group of H2020 ‘Widening Countries’ comprises 15 countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia. In other words, the ‘Widening Countries’ during H2020 were the “EU13” grouping together with Portugal and Luxembourg. The total number of H2020 ‘Widening Countries’ coincides with the number featured in the abbreviation “EU15”. However, despite having the same number of 15 referent countries, the term ‘Widening Countries’ does not have the same meaning as the abbreviation “EU15”. The abbreviation “EU15” often refers to the EU founding countries and the EU Member States that entered the EU before 2004. Two “EU15” states, namely, Luxembourg and Portugal, were classified among the 15 H2020 ‘Widening Countries’. This ‘Widening Countries’ classification is H2020-unique, not characteristic of all the other EU FPs.

observation concerning the notable role that the French institutions play in facilitating the socialisation and familiarity of the ESN entities with the ERA's prevailing collaborative practices and social conditioning. The second most represented country is Italy, with four projects, followed by Germany with three projects. Spain and Greece were facilitating the implementation of two projects each. This summary refers only to those projects analysed in the portfolios of the leading beneficiaries, not the whole mapped project scope. Nevertheless, this restricted scope mirrors the overall European leading country representation of France and Italy detected in the whole pool of mapped projects with Egyptian engagement. The overall thematic diversity of projects portrays a comprehensive immersion of Egypt into various expert circles and the opportunities to develop niche expertise in multiple directions.

#### **4. Discussion**

The project portfolio mapping results elucidated several conceptual, methodological, and empirical considerations. These aspects are important not only in the comprehensive evaluation of the research findings of this study. The details elaborated in the subsequent paragraphs are equally important for the development of the subsequent, more in-depth research stages.

##### **4.1 Distinction Between Administrators and Researchers**

Just as it was detected in an earlier study period of Morocco and Tunisia (Šime, 2023b, pp. 60–61), Algeria and Egypt attest to the national ministry for higher education and research being among the main beneficiaries of EU-funded projects. Thus, a considerable share of EU-offered capacity-building and expertise-sharing among internationally excelling expert circles is offered to the staff of respective ministries. Having national research management authorities and national policy administrating institutions among the major H2020 beneficiaries indicates a different uptake of the ERA-offered opportunities than would be among research institutions and higher education institutions. The core mandates are different between the major public management authorities, research-oriented institutes, and higher education institutions. The major investment in human resources has been exerted among the policy officers and research administrators. Their noteworthy bureaucratic workload tied to projects is different from the content-intense duties performed by senior researchers and the principal investigator (Parker, 2023, p. 24; Pineda & Salazar Morales, 2023, p. 21). This nuance highlights the importance of properly acknowledging this distinction occurring in the active learning phase during the project implementation. Field navigation strategies and rapport-building with peers are not the same among administrators and researchers. Thus, the way each institution builds its relationality to the ERA and its offered opportunities follows a different rationale.

Furthermore, it should not be neglected that the national ministries responsible for higher education and advanced research are not the only ones involved in H2020 projects. For example, the Egyptian Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation took part in MADFORWATER. Thus, the ERA-offered expertise sharing and co-development opportunities are not accessible only to the Egyptian Academy of Scientific Research and Technology. In Algeria, engagement in H2020 projects was granted to the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research or its affiliated research institutes. This is a noteworthy difference between the two studied ESN countries.

The overall picture of project acquisition in Algeria and Egypt seems relatively dispersed because of the notable number of beneficiaries. Nevertheless, there seems to be an overwhelming geographic concentration of the ERA-offered capacity-building and expertise-enhancing benefits in the capital cities. Of course, it is a widespread practice for EU projects to ensure outreach to various target audiences, including internationally, doing fieldwork in remote areas, etc. Thus, the project participant's or partner institution's headquarters address should not be the only point of reference. However, the capital cities host the championing ESN institutions. And that is the location where most of the routine work, investment in human capital, and circulation of knowledge might occur. More in-depth inquiry into this aspect, such as interviews with project implementers in Algeria and Egypt, would give more thorough grounds for this claim. However, the accomplished project mapping demonstrates that Algiers, Cairo, and their adjacent areas seem to reap most of the benefits of the immersion into the ERA field, its capital transactions, and the relational opportunities offered by the international peer networks. For example, among all mapped projects for Egypt, one consortium member was headquartered outside of the Cairo Governorate, namely in Sohag (the TOXICROP project), and two consortium members were situated in Alexandria (the VI-SEEM and BEYOND projects). On the European management side, concentration in the capital cities does not prevail. In fact, in the case of some of the most represented countries, such as Germany and the United Kingdom, none of the project-managing authorities are located in the capital cities. These are noteworthy nuances to avoid overgeneralisation that a good track record in project participation automatically corresponds to a country-wide familiarity with the ERA framework field and its collaborative routines. Egypt clearly shows that it is not the case.

#### **4.2 Distinction Between Different Networks and Corresponding Relational Dynamics**

The way networks of networks are being brought and shaped in the ERA is complex and may be distinctively context-specific and unique on each occasion. To build upon the Pasteurian

considerations already established in the description of the LeiSHield-MATI project, the Maghrebi Pasteurian dynamics and contemporary ties should be distinguished from the overall international network of Pasteur institutes. Pasteur Institutes, which operated in other parts of the world than the ESN, were established over different periods of time and under very diverse considerations, including geopolitical ones (Bréchet, 2016; Ceschia, 2014; Moulin, 2014). Thus, the science diplomacy dynamics attributed to the global network do not equal those linked to the Maghreb. This is a note on the specificity that is so cherished in the humanities context (Gibson & Bengtsen, 2024, pp. 14-15). Duchêne (2013, p. 907) highlights the role of French expertise in capacity-building in the Global South. In comparison, the Maghreb is characterised by a unique mix of European and Middle Eastern Arab influences that shape the ESN's positionality, geopolitical orientation, and scientific partnership stances and preferences.

Furthermore, LeiSHield-MATI was just one of the complementary activities forming the wide area of the Pasteurian historical specialisation in leishmaniasis. In the contemporary setting, this research strand is embodied by the LeishRIIP international network. This network comprises approximately 30 institutions worldwide (Louzir, Aoun, Späth, Laouini, Prina, Victoir & Bouratbine, 2013, pp. 1155-1156). The scope of leishmaniasis study and the development of medical treatment are vast. Thus, each EU-funded project comes with its own unique considerations that are both geography-specific and unique to the exact addressed medical issue. This longer elaboration on the Pasteurian ties supported by H2020 and maintained long before one of the mapped projects highlights the multidimensional legacies of international relationality and dense international issue-specific networks that are present in parallel to the ERA subfields. Pasteur institutes are involved in parallel and overlapping Bourdieusian scientific subfields addressing leishmaniasis with a complex web of interactions, complementarities and separate processes of research-intensive enquiry that merit a separate in-depth study.

#### **4.3 Differentiated Integration Dimension**

Going back to the ECOFISH project and remarks on its Romanian coordinator indicated in the elaboration on the project portfolio of the Egyptian Agricultural Research Centre, this study challenges the terms used in the EU internal debate over the past decade that discern between the highly performing EU Member States and EU Member States with a 'Widening Countries' label. Besides their poorer track record in the acquisition of H2020 funds, most of these countries share the characteristics of a country that joined the EU in one of the consecutive waves of EU enlargement. This study cautions against using any exact numbers of countries when speaking about the leading performing countries and those with a less competitive profile

in H2020 funding obtention. Depending on the exact years of reference, H2020 has had more than ten Associated Countries. Furthermore, this study offers plenty of empirical examples in the analysed project portfolios to challenge the saliency of using references to the ‘Widening Countries’ and references to strong performers exclusively in relation to the EU Member States based on the following two reasons: Firstly, among the project coordinators are several entities located in the ERA Associated Countries, such as Norway, Iceland, and Switzerland. These are not EU Member States. However, they have internationally renowned and strong research and innovation sectors with scientifically excelling institutions that have proven their competitiveness in EU funding acquisitions. Considering that active participation in ERA is accessible to a broader number of countries than the EU Member States, it seems futile to restrict the competitiveness debate to EU Member States. A narrow focus on EU Member States leaves out a myriad of factors that come into play in shaping the overall relationality, collegial ties, project consortium formation, and functioning across the ERA framework field.

Secondly, the notional pool of laggards might be broader than those 15 countries often referred to as ‘Widening Countries’. For example, Tunisia, with its association agreement to H2020, might just as well be counted in the ‘Widening Countries’ camp. Tunisia is among those ERA Associated Countries that strive to increase their scientific performance through EU-funded project implementation. Similar aspirations to improve the national scientific and innovation base motivate other ESN countries without an H2020 association agreement, such as Algeria and Egypt. It is a conceptual nuance that deserves to be revisited not only in the context of H2020 but also the subsequent EU FPs.

This is where the variation and differentiation studies are helpful to better understand the unique nature of the ERA and the whole range of its integrationist coverage. Variation studies claim to go beyond differentiated integration studies in explaining that policy variation and its respective applicability to certain countries have been a characteristic of the EU since the establishment of the European Commission, the main executive arm that steers sectoral policy planning and its applicability to various countries (Hirsch Ballin, Ćerimović, Dijstelbloem & Segers, 2020, p. 53). In a recent differentiation study, Rieker and Giske (2024, p. 97) concisely explain that “[t]hrough enhanced contact and cooperation with non-Member States to the East and South, the EU seeks to enhance its own security indirectly through stabilising the states closest to it. The spreading of EU laws, policies, and institutions to non-members, either by offering possible accession or by allowing access to the EU market or other institutional bodies, are instances of external differentiation based on non-members’ willingness and ability to accept EU laws and norms”. As the differentiated integration study of FP7 specifies (Šime,

2023a; 2024c), ESN is among regular considerations integrated in the steering and planning of EU-funded research and innovation activities. Consequently, adopting a broader understanding of which are the exact referent countries when speaking about the overall performance in the ERA framework and in relation to the supportive EU funding programmes might offer a more comprehensive and post-Westphalian understanding of the effects unleashed by the ERA supranational governance principles and the way those incentivise agents to engage in relational outreach and the quest for various types of recognition and Bourdieusian capital.

## **Conclusions**

To answer the research question, the ERA contributes to the resilience-building in the ESN in a comprehensive way. The diversity of topics and sciences covered by projects attests to the potential of the ERA to offer a great diversity of expertise and time-bound capacity-building opportunities to the ESN to face various challenges that resonate either internationally or in the Mediterranean context. The hypothesised straw bends rather convincingly. The hypothesis is relevant and sufficient for explaining how the ERA contributes to resilience-building in the ESN. Indeed, the H2020 projects facilitate access among a notable scope of institutions located in Algeria and Egypt to the ERA with the assistance of a wide scope of Europe-based project managing authorities. The main aims and accomplishments of the mapped projects attest to the considerably long list of specialisations made accessible to the Algerian and Egyptian beneficiaries. The access points to the ERA are project-specific and, on very rare occasions, more longitudinal, meaning they span beyond one project's duration. Moreover, the diversity of European countries represented among the European managing authorities proves that Algeria and Egypt have many opportunities not only to improve specialisation in multiple areas but also to gain thorough exposure to various project steering and management styles practiced across Europe. Overall, the obtained diagnostic evidence attests to the great worth of the ERA as a resourceful post-Westphalian construct to translate EU external action aspirations into tangible steps on the ground and in multiple geographic sites working on evidence-informed and research-intense solutions.

The ERA proves itself as a densely networked framework field that is part of an even denser layer of expert consultative and joint action formats maintained by some of the most internationally active European managing institutions, such as the Pasteur Institute in Paris. A more in-depth study of specific occasions of overlaps, complementarities, and the overall structural evolution of some of these networks that were identified when exploring some project consortium patterns might offer further insights into how the ERA framework field is situated or contextualised in certain domain-specific networks of networks. This might give a better

understanding of what pre-existing grounds rely on some of the ERA framework field potential. Equally, it might give a better understanding of whether there are multiple socialisation logics coming into play due to the overlapping networks. Additionally, such a future study direction might reveal to what extent the ERA steering practices incentivise the most internationally active agents to adjust their relationality routines. Perhaps ERA has little or no influence over the way the agents identify themselves with certain habitual spaces and immerse themselves in diverse research-relevant capital transactions within the peer circles. To conclude, geography and its prevailing geopolitical sways matter. The ESN is context specific. The logics weaving ESN entities into the ERA relationalities should not be generalised as prevailing engagement logics among involved parties situated in other parts of the world.

This study attests to the importance of studying the post-Westphalian routines of EU science diplomacy in their full diversity. The project portfolios prove that explicit science diplomacy is rare. 5TOI\_4EWAS, led by the Autonomous University of Barcelona, located in an urban hub of science diplomacy, is an exceptional example. However, that does not mean that many other projects implemented by institutions without an explicitly defined science diplomacy rationale do not display any science diplomacy traits. On the contrary, many of these supranationally guided initiatives are offering substantial contributions to support the EU science diplomacy approach. Broadening future studies to embrace the ERA participation that spans beyond the EU Member States is crucial not solely for the next phases of evolution of the variation and differentiation studies but also for grasping the full scope of engagement dynamics that shape the competition for EU FPs support.

The approach adopted in this study took a broad look at projects. It did not distinguish between the professional considerations and routines of policymakers, researchers, academic administrators, and scientists at various stages of their academic careers. A more nuanced study of these differences in more in-depth subsequent stages of study would help to gain a better understanding of the differences between these professional and academic groups and the way the ERA socialisation processes, its distinctive habitus, and social aptness requirements are perceived and experienced across these professional groups.

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## CORDIS data base entries

- AquaticPollutants <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/869178>
- BEYOND <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/641607>
- bTB-Test <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/777832>
- CLUSDEV MED <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/645730>
- CONNKT <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/870772>
- CURE-XF <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/734353>
- ECOFISH <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/645691/fr>
- ForestValue <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/773324>
- FEUTURE <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/692976>
- FOSC <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/862555>
- IMAGE <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/677353>
- GIAntiFem <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/896274>
- GLYCANC <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/645756>
- LEAP4FNSSA <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/817663>
- LEAP-AGRI <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/727715>
- LEAP-RE <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/963530>
- LeiShield-MATI <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/778298>
- MADFORWATER <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/688320>
- MedReset <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/693055>
- MERID <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/645846>
- Net4Mobility <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/640603>

Net4MobilityPlus <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/785632>  
ODYSSEA <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/727277>  
Olive-Net <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/734899>  
OptArch <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/689983>  
PRE-LEAP-RE <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/815264>  
RINEA <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/645809>  
SIMRA <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/677622>  
SiS.net2 <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/635656>  
SiS.net 3 <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/857769>  
TOXICROP <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/823860>  
VI-SEEM <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/675121>  
WaterWorks2015 <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/689271>  
WaterWorks2017 <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/776692>  
4PRIMA <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/724060>  
5TOI\_4EWAS <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/692523>

## Tables of project portfolios

Source: Own compilation based on the findings obtained from the Community Research and Development Information Service (CORDIS) open access data base.

*Table 1: Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (Algeria)*

<b>Project abbreviation</b>	<b>COR-DIS ID</b>	<b>H2020 Specific Programme abbreviation</b>	<b>Coordinating institution</b>	<b>Country of the coordinating institution</b>
RINEA	645809	H2020-EU.3.6.	DEUTSCHES ZENTRUM FUR LUFT - UND RAUMFAHRT EV	Germany
PRE-LEAP-RE	815264	H2020-EU.3.3. H2020-EU.3.3.2.	COMMISSARIAT A L ENERGIE ATOMIQUE ET AUX ENERGIES ALTERNATIVES	France
LEAP-AGRI	727715	H2020-EU.3.2. H2020-EU.3.2.2.	AGENCE NATIONALE DE LA RECHERCHE	France
LEAP-RE	963530	H2020-EU.3.3. H2020-EU.3.3.2.	LGI SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION	France
FOSC	862555	H2020-EU.3.2. H2020-EU.3.2.1.1. H2020-EU.3.2.1.4.	AGENCE NATIONALE DE LA RECHERCHE	France

*Table 2: National Institute of Agronomic Research (Algeria)*

<b>Project abbreviation</b>	<b>COR-DIS ID</b>	<b>H2020 Specific Programme abbreviation</b>	<b>Coordinating institution</b>	<b>Country of the coordinating institution</b>
Olive-Net	734899	H2020-EU.1.3. H2020-EU.1.3.3.	ETHNIKO KAI KAPODISTRIAKO PANEPISTIMIO ATHINON	Greece
5TOI_4EWAS	692523	H2020-EU.3.6.	UNIVERSITAT AUTONOMA DE BARCELONA	Spain

*Table 3: Pasteur Institute of Algeria (Algeria)*

<b>Project abbreviation</b>	<b>COR-DIS ID</b>	<b>H2020 Specific Programme abbreviation</b>	<b>Coordinating institution</b>	<b>Country of the coordinating institution</b>
bTB-Test	777832	H2020-EU.1.3. H2020-EU.1.3.3.	UPPSALA UNIVERSITET	Sweden
LeiShield-MATI	778298	H2020-EU.1.3. H2020-EU.1.3.3.	INSTITUT PASTEUR	France

*Table 4: Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (Egypt)*

Project abbreviation	COR-DIS ID	H2020 Specific Programme abbreviation	Coordinating institution	Country of the coordinating institution
Net4Mobility	640603	H2020-EU.1.3. H2020-EU.1.3.5.	VEREIN EURESEARCH	Switzerland
Net4MobilityPlus	785632	H2020-EU.1.3. H2020-EU.1.3.5.	INSTYTUT PODSTAWOWYCH PROBLEMOW TECHNIKI POLSKIEJ AKADEMII NAUK	Poland
SiS.net2	635656	H2020-EU.5.f.	RANNSOKNAMIDSTOD ISLANDS	Iceland
SiS.net 3	857769	H2020-EU.5.c. H2020-EU.5.d. H2020-EU.5.f.	RANNSOKNAMIDSTOD ISLANDS	Iceland
5TOI_4EWAS	692523	H2020-EU.3.6.	UNIVERSITAT AUTONOMA DE BARCELONA	Spain
AquaticPollutants	869178	H2020-EU.3.5. H2020-EU.3.5.6. H2020-EU.3.5.4. H2020-EU.3.5.3. H2020-EU.3.5.1. H2020-EU.3.5.2.	KARLSRUHER INSTITUT FUER TECHNOLOGIE	Germany
WaterWorks2015	689271	H2020-EU.3.5. H2020-EU.3.5.4.	AGENCE NATIONALE DE LA RECHERCHE	France
WaterWorks2017	776692	H2020-EU.3H2020- EU.3.5.2.2..5.	AGENCE NATIONALE DE LA RECHERCHE	France
CLUSDEV MED	645730	H2020-EU.1.3. H2020-EU.1.3.3.	UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI ROMA TRE	Italy
LEAP-RE	963530	H2020-EU.3.3. H2020-EU.3.3.2.	LGI SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION	France
ForestValue	773324	H2020-EU.3.2. H2020-EU.3.2.1. H2020-EU.3.2.2.	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY OF FINLAND	Finland

Table 5: Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (Egypt)

<b>Project abbreviation</b>	<b>COR-DIS ID</b>	<b>H2020 Specific Programme abbreviation</b>	<b>Coordinating institution</b>	<b>Country of the coordinating institution</b>
MERID	645846	H2020-EU.3.6.	EVRO-SREDOZEMSKA UNIVERZA	Slovenia
FOSC	862555	H2020-EU.3.2. H2020-EU.3.2.1.1. H2020-EU.3.2.1.4.	AGENCE NATIONALE DE LA RECHERCHE	France
4PRIMA	724060	H2020-EU.3.5. H2020-EU.3.5.2.	MINISTERO DELL'ISTRUZIONE, DELL'UNIVERSITA' E DELLA RICERCA	Italy
LEAP-AGRI	727715	H2020-EU.3.2. H2020-EU.3.2.2.	AGENCE NATIONALE DE LA RECHERCHE	France
LEAP4FNSSA	817663	H2020-EU.3.2. H2020-EU.3.2.1.1. H2020-EU.3.2.1.3. H2020-EU.3.2.1.2.	FORUM FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN AFRICA, GHANA	Ghana

Table 6: Cairo University (Egypt)

<b>Project abbreviation</b>	<b>COR-DIS ID</b>	<b>H2020 Specific Programme abbreviation</b>	<b>Coordinating institution</b>	<b>Country of the coordinating institution</b>
MedReset	693055	H2020-EU.3.6.	ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI	Italy
SIMRA	677622	H2020-EU.3.2.	THE JAMES HUTTON INSTITUTE	United Kingdom
OptArch	689983	H2020-EU.1.3. H2020-EU.1.3.3.	ETHNICON METSOVION POLYTECHNION	Greece
GLYCANC	645756	H2020-EU.1.3. H2020-EU.1.3.3.	UNIVERSITAET MUENSTER	Germany

Table 7: American University in Cairo (Egypt)

<b>Project abbreviation</b>	<b>COR-DIS ID</b>	<b>H2020 Specific Programme abbreviation</b>	<b>Coordinating institution</b>	<b>Country of the coordinating institution</b>
GIAntiFem	896274	H2020-EU.1.3. H2020-EU.1.3.2.	UNIVERSITETET I OSLO	Norway
CONNEKT	870772	H2020-EU.3.6.  H2020- EU.3.6.1.3.  H2020- EU.3.6.3.3.	INSTITUTO EUROPEO DEL MEDITERRANEO	Spain
FEUTURE	692976	H2020-EU.3.6.	UNIVERSITAT ZU KOLN	Germany
ODYSSEA	727277	H2020-EU.3.2. H2020-EU.3.2.5.	DIMOKRITIO PANEPISTIMIO THRAKIS	Greece

Table 8: Agricultural Research Centre (Egypt)

<b>Project abbreviation</b>	<b>COR-DIS ID</b>	<b>H2020 Specific Programme abbreviation</b>	<b>Coordinating institution</b>	<b>Country of the coordinating institution</b>
ECOFISH	645691	H2020-EU.1.3. H2020-EU.1.3.3.	UNIVERSITATEA DE STIINTE AGRONOMICE SI MEDICINA VETERINARA DIN BUCURESTI	Romania
IMAGE	677353	H2020-EU.3.2.	INSTITUT NATIONAL DE RECHERCHE POUR L'AGRICULTURE, L'ALIMENTATION ET L'ENVIRONNEMENT	France
CURE-XF	734353	H2020-EU.1.3. H2020-EU.1.3.3.	CENTRO INTERNAZIONALE DI ALTISTUDI AGRONOMICI MEDITERRANEI	Italy

Table 9: Algeria (members of one project consortium)

Institution	Project abbreviation	COR-DIS ID	H2020 Specific Programme abbreviation	Coordinating institution	Country of the coordinating institution
CENTRE DE RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE ET TECHNIQUE EN ANALYSES PHYSICO-CHIMIQUES	EXANDAS	691247	H2020-EU.1.3. H2020-EU.1.3.3.	ETHNIKO KAI KAPODISTRIAKO PANEPISTIMIO ATHINON	Greece
UNIVERSITE DE TLEMCEM	The Damned	837297	H2020-EU.1.3. H2020-EU.1.3.2.	UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI TORINO	Italy
UNIVERSITE D'ALGER 2	STUSOCSTA	705763	H2020-EU.1.3. H2020-EU.1.3.2.	UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH HIGHER EDUCATION CORPORATION	United Kingdom
UNIVERSITE DES SCIENCES ET LA TECHNOLOGIE HOUARI BOUMEDIENE	ATMOS	872081	H2020-EU.1.3. H2020-EU.1.3.3.	AGENCIA ESTATAL CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS	Spain
AGENCE NATIONALE DE VALORISATION DES RESULTATS DE LA RECHERCHE ET DU DEVELOPPEMENT TECHNOLOGIQUE	STOI_4EWAS	692523	H2020-EU.3.6.	UNIVERSITAT AUTONOMA DE BARCELONA	Spain
UNIVERSITE FERHAT ABBAS SETIF 1	HIGHLANDS.3	872328	H2020-EU.1.3. H2020-EU.1.3.3.	OESTERREICHISCHE AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN	Austria
CENTRE DE RECHERCHE EN ECONOMIE APPLIQUEE POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT	PERCEPTIONS	833870	H2020-EU.3.7. H2020-EU.3.7.3. H2020-EU.3.7.8.	SYNYO GmbH	Austria
UNIVERSITE DE SIDI BEL-ABBES* DJILLALI LIABES UNIVERSITY	WORLD	873005	H2020-EU.1.3. H2020-EU.1.3.3.	POLITECNICO DI MILANO	Italy
CENTRE DE DEVELOPPEMENT DES ENERGIES RENOUVELABLES	LEAP-RE	963530	H2020-EU.3.3. H2020-EU.3.3.2.	LGI SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION	France
UNIVERSITE PANAFRICAINE INSTITUT DES SCIENCES DE L'EAU ET DE L'ENERGIE	LEAP-RE	963530	H2020-EU.3.3. H2020-EU.3.3.2.	LGI SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION	France
UNIVERSITE ORAN 1	GHANA	734708	H2020-EU.1.3. H2020-EU.1.3.3.	UNIVERSITE DU MANS	France
SARL NORD SUD VENTURES	ODYSSEA	727277	H2020-EU.3.2. H2020-EU.3.2.5.	DIMOKRITIO PANEPISTIMIO THRAKIS	Greece

Table 10: Heliopolis University Association (Egypt)

<b>Project abbreviation</b>	<b>COR-DIS ID</b>	<b>H2020 Specific Programme abbreviation</b>	<b>Coordinating institution</b>	<b>Country of the coordinating institution</b>
HYDROUSA	776643	H2020-EU.3.5. H2020-EU.3.5.2.3. H2020-EU.3.5.4. H2020-EU.3.5.2.2.	ETHNICON METSOVION POLYTECHNION	Greece
SustInAfrica	861924	H2020-EU.3.2. H2020-EU.3.2.1.1.	LUONNONVARAKESKUS	Finland

*Table 11: Nile University (Egypt)*

<b>Project abbreviation</b>	<b>COR-DIS ID</b>	<b>H2020 Specific Programme abbreviation</b>	<b>Coordinating institution</b>	<b>Country of the coordinating institution</b>
TACTILENet	690893	H2020-EU.1.3. H2020-EU.1.3.3.	SABANCI UNIVERSITESI	Türkiye
SustInAfrica	861924	H2020-EU.3.2. H2020-EU.3.2.1.1.	LUONNONVARAKESKUS	Finland

*Table 12: Zewail City of Science and Technology (Egypt)*

<b>Project abbreviation</b>	<b>COR-DIS ID</b>	<b>H2020 Specific Programme abbreviation</b>	<b>Coordinating institution</b>	<b>Country of the coordinating institution</b>
NonMinimalHiggs	645722	H2020-EU.1.3. H2020-EU.1.3.3.	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON	United Kingdom
InvisblesPlus	690575	H2020-EU.1.3. H2020-EU.1.3.3.	UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA DE MADRID	Spain

*Table 13: Siemens Industry Software (a Limited Liability Company under the Private Free Zones Regime, Egypt)*

<b>Project abbreviation</b>	<b>COR-DIS ID</b>	<b>H2020 Specific Programme abbreviation</b>	<b>Coordinating institution</b>	<b>Country of the coordinating institution</b>
TAPES3	783247	H2020-EU.2.1.1. H2020-EU.2.1.1.7.	ASML NETHERLANDS B.V.	Netherlands
FOCETA	956123	H2020-EU.2.1.1.	UNIVERSITE GRENOBLE ALPES	France

*Table 14: Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE, Egypt)*

<b>Project abbreviation</b>	<b>COR-DIS ID</b>	<b>H2020 Specific Programme abbreviation</b>	<b>Coordinating institution</b>	<b>Country of the coordinating institution</b>
e-shape	820852	H2020-EU.3.5. H2020-EU.3.5.5.	ASSOCIATION POUR LA RECHERCHE ET LE DEVELOPPEMENT DES METHODES ET PROCESSUS INDUSTRIELS	France
GEO-CRADLE	690133	H2020-EU.3.5. H2020-EU.3.5.5.	ETHNIKO ASTEROSKOPEIO ATHINON	Greece

Table 15: Egypt (members of one project consortium)

Institution	Project abbreviation	COR-DIS ID	H2020 Specific Programme abbreviation	Coordinating institution	Country of the coordinating institution
SOHAG UNIVERSITY	TOXICROP	823860	H2020-EU.1.3. H2020-EU.1.3.3.	CENTRO INTERDISCIPLINAR DE INVESTIGACAO MARINHA E AMBIENTAL	Portugal
NATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE	STOI_4EWAS	692523	H2020-EU.3.6.	UNIVERSITAT AUTONOMA DE BARCELONA	Spain
CAIRO LAB FOR URBAN STUDIES TRAINING & ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CLUSTER	trans-making	734855	H2020-EU.1.3. H2020-EU.1.3.3.	RELAIS CULTURE EUROPE ASSOCIATION	France
ISIS FOR FOOD INDUSTRIES, LTD	HYDROUSA	776643	H2020-EU.3.5. H2020-EU.3.5.2.3. H2020-EU.3.5.4. H2020-EU.3.5.2.2.	ETHNICON METSOVION POLYTECHNION	Greece
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY	IST-Africa 2016-2018	723240	H2020-EU.2.1.1.	IIMC INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT CORPORATION LTD	Ireland
BIBLIOTHECA ALEXANDRINA*LIBRARY OFALEXANDRIA BIBALEX	VI-SEEM	675121	H2020-EU.1.4. H2020-EU.1.4.1.3.	NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURES FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY	Greece
SEKEM DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION - SDF	NEXTFOOD	771738	H2020-EU.3.2. H2020-EU.3.2.4. H2020-EU.3.2.1. H2020-EU.3.2.2.	SVERIGES LANTBRUKSUNIVERSITET	Sweden
KAFR EL-SHEIKH UNIVERSITY	ECOFISH	645691	H2020-EU.1.3. H2020-EU.1.3.3.	UNIVERSITATEA DE STIINTE AGRONOMICE SI MEDICINA VETERINARA DIN BUCURESTI	Romania
ARAB NETWORK FOR ENVIRONMENT & DEVELOPMENT	ODYSSEA	727277	H2020-EU.3.2. H2020-EU.3.2.5.	DIMOKRITIO PANEPISTIMIO THRAKIS	Greece
EGYPTIAN CENTER FOR INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	PERCEPTIONS	833870	H2020-EU.3.7. H2020-EU.3.7.3. H2020-EU.3.7.8.	SYNYO GmbH	Austria
Central Metallurgical Research and Development Institute	DiCoMI	778068	H2020-EU.1.3. H2020-EU.1.3.3.	LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY	United Kingdom
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND IRRIGATION	MADFORWATER	688320	H2020-EU.3.5. H2020-EU.3.5.4.	ALMA MATER STUDIORUM - UNIVERSITA DI BOLOGNA	Italy
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHY AND FISHERIES	MedAID	727315	H2020-EU.3.2. H2020-EU.3.2.3.	Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza / International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies	Spain
KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY FOUNDATION FOR SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT	LEAP4FNSSA	817663	H2020-EU.3.2. H2020-EU.3.2.1.1. H2020-EU.3.2.1.3. H2020-EU.3.2.1.2.	FORUM FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN AFRICA, GHANA	Ghana
THE NATIONAL AUTHORITY FOR REMOTE SENSING & SPACE SCIENCES	LEAP-RE	963530	H2020-EU.3.3. H2020-EU.3.3.2.	LGI SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION	France
ARAB INSTITUTE OF NAVIGATION	BEYOND	641607	H2020-EU.2.1.6.	EUROPEAN SATELLITE SERVICES PROVIDER SAS	France
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION FUNDING AUTHORITY	FOSC	862555	H2020-EU.3.2. H2020-EU.3.2.1.1. H2020-EU.3.2.1.4.	AGENCE NATIONALE DE LA RECHERCHE	France