

CompaRe: what is it, what does it do, and how did it get here?

Prof. Dr. A Cuyvers



**Universiteit
Leiden**
The Netherlands

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CompaRe



Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence on Comparative Regional Integration



Discover the world at Leiden University

How did I get here?

- Kathelijne Smits
- Frederik Behre

- Information session on Jean Monnet and Erasmus+

- Developing existing activities:
 - Leiden Centre on East African Law (LEAC)
 - Erasmus+ exchanges
 - Collaboration in Africa and ASEAN



Specific objectives for a Centre:



- ☒ gathers the expertise and competences of high level experts
- ☒ develops synergies between various disciplines and resources in European Union studies
- ☒ creates joint transnational activities and structural links with academic institutions in other countries
- ☒ ensures openness to civil society

The overarching idea...

- “Regional integration is key to meeting the challenges of our globalizing world. Challenges like climate change, migration, or the social and economic disruption caused by the Fourth Industrial Revolution cannot be solved by individual states. (...) This is why attempts at regional integration are erupting all over the world. Yet getting regional integration right is hard. It requires redesigning government, administration and even democracy itself, whilst respecting the unique political, economic, and cultural context of a region. Consequently, many regional organizations are struggling. (...).
- To meet this need, CompaRe unites currently fragmented Leiden expertise on integration, with regional expertise on Africa, Asia and Latin-America into a centre on comparative regional integration. For the first time, leading experts on EU integration and regional studies from different faculties and institutes will engage in a structured collaboration. This collaboration enables systematic, comparative and multidisciplinary research and teaching on regional integration, with a particular EU focus. (...) Within this overall objective the centre focusses on three core questions:
 1. What can the EU learn from other forms of regional integration, and what can they learn from the EU?
 2. How to reduce the sovereignty, democracy and administrative costs of effective integration (Smart, Lean and Legitimate Integration)?
 3. How to manage the increasing proliferation and overlap of regional organizations?”



Activities required

- Teaching
- Research
- Collaboration (primarily in Leiden and outside)
- Engagement with external actors: leave your bubble and be modern...



Teaching

- **Privatissimum: Capita Selecta of European Law – Critically rethinking the EU through comparative regional integration (Ma, 3 years)**
- **Comparative and Legal Economic Integration (Ba, LUC, 3 years)**
- **Interdisciplinary honours course: Smart regional integration? Comparative lessons for a lean and legitimate EU (Ma, honours, 2 years)**
- **MOOC: Smart integration: how to organize regional cooperation in the post-Brexit era? (Online, last year onwards)**



Research

- Concluding conference on Smart, Lean and Legitimate Regional Integration
- Edited volume on smart regional integration (based on conference)
- 4 journal papers on Assessing current trends of regional integration
- Conference: A regional constitution and currency for East Africa: comparative insights from the EU and other regional organisations (contribution to EAC constitutional process)



Collaboration in Leiden

- Annual Conference of Leiden Researchers on Regional Comparative integration (3 times)
- Collaboration in teaching and research activities
- Joint external events
- Law Faculty, Public Administration, Political Sciences, Africa Studies Centre



External collaboration and outreach

- Project Website
- Research Blog on regional integration (ma students and assistant and external PhD's)
- Database on comparative regional integration
- PhD Network
- The multinational perspective: High level round table with multinationals on a SWOT analysis of regional integration
- The Next Generation: Youth political parties debate the EU
- UNI-CRIS dissemination workshop (Bruges)



The money...

Organisation Name	Leiden University
Project Acronym	COMPARE
Project Title	

	Item	BUDGET (rounded to 2 decimals)
E x p e n d i t u r e	A. Staff costs	97.580,00
	B1. Travel & subsistence costs	5.120,00
	B2. Equipment costs (up to 10%)	0,00
	B3. Subcontracting costs (up to 30%)	0,00
	B4. Teaching Costs	0,00
	B5. Other costs	22.300,00
	Total Direct Costs	125.000,00
	Indirect costs (up to 7%)	
	Total Costs	125.000,00

Personal key take-aways

- Build on existing networks and activities (perhaps using modules)
- Use to kick-start/boost existing ambitions, not for the money itself
- Use existing expertise in Leiden and successful bids (yes this is an offer...)
- Take sufficient time (at least 3 months) to gather network and all required info in correct format (178 pages...)
- Get proper (administrative) support for application and during activities
- Committing yourself works: collaboration is nice and energizing, but needs a form and incentive to take off...



Questions?



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