

What is RECON?

RECON is an Integrated Project supported by the European Commission's Sixth Framework Programme for Research. It runs from 2007 to 2011 and focuses on the conditions for democracy in the multilevel constellation that makes up the EU.

RECON establishes three models of European democracy, and different options for democratic reconstitution in Europe are delineated and assessed:

Model 1
Reframing the EU as a functional regulatory regime and reconstituting democracy at the national level

Model 2
Establishing the EU as a multinational federal state

Model 3
Developing a post-national Union with an explicit cosmopolitan imprint

RECON assesses which of these approaches to democratisation of the multilevel constellation that makes up the EU that is most viable. We do so by investigating:

- the EU's protracted constitution-making process
- the institutional complex in Europe
- the role and status of gender within the enlarged Europe
- how civil society and the public sphere legitimises delegitimises the European integration process
- the democratic quality and governing capacity of the Union in tax and fiscal policy as well as in foreign and security policy
- the enlargement process and the consolidation of democracy in the new member states
- the conditions and prospects for democratisation in transnational arrangements

Our aim is to identify strategies through which democracy can be strengthened and propose measures for rectifying institutional and constitutional defects in various policy areas.

www.reconproject.eu

RECON's website offers a comprehensive overview of research activities, partner institutions, publications, events and news. Ongoing research from the project is published in the *RECON Online Working Paper Series* and *RECON Report Series*, and the website includes a searchable database with publications and activities by all affiliated researchers. In the press room, you will find brochures, leaflets, policy memos and the *RECON Newsletter*, as well as a collection of press clippings and media coverage.

Sign up for RECON's Newsletter: admin@reconproject.eu

RECON partner institutions

More than 100 researchers participate in RECON, covering a wide range of academic fields: political science, sociology, linguistics, anthropology, information science, law and legal theory, and economics. The consortium consists of 20 universities and research institutions across Europe as well as New Zealand:

ARENA, University of Oslo (<i>coordinator</i>)	Norway
Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic Institute of Sociology	Czech Republic
Austrian Academy of Sciences Institute for European Integration Research	Austria
Eötvös Loránd University , Inst. of Sociology	Hungary
European University Institute , Dep. of Law	Italy
Freie Universität Berlin Otto-Suhr-Institute for Political Science	Germany
Jagiellonian University Centre for European Studies	Poland
Johann Wolfgang Goethe University Institute of Political Science	Germany
London School of Economics and Political Science European Institute Department of International Relations	UK
Peace Research Institute Frankfurt	Germany
Queen's University Belfast Centre for Advancement of Women in Politics	UK
Sabanci University , Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences	Turkey
Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) Institute of Public Goods and Policies	Spain
Université Libre de Bruxelles Institute for European Studies	Belgium
University of Auckland , Europe Institute	New Zealand
University of Bremen Jean Monnet Centre for European Studies (CEuS) Centre for European Law and Politics (ZERP)	Germany
University of Hamburg Institute for Political Science (IPW)	Germany
University of León , Department of Public Law	Spain
University of Reading School of Sociology, Politics and International Relations	UK
VU University Amsterdam , Dep. of Political Science	Netherlands
University of Mannheim (<i>affiliated partner</i>) Mannheim Center for European Social Research	Germany

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University of Oslo

RE/CON

**RECONSTITUTING
DEMOCRACY
IN EUROPE**

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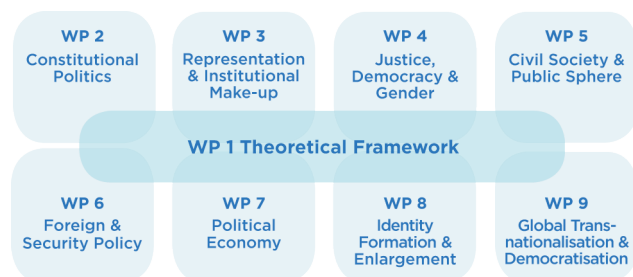


Integrated Project
European Commission's Sixth Framework Programme
'Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-Based Society'

RECON's research

The nation state has been the institutional mainstay of modern democracy. Today, this particular political form is challenged and may be transcended by something new. Can the state form as such be reconstituted in Europe, and if so, at what level? Are alternative forms more viable?

RECON establishes three models of European democracy and tests them with regard to empirical robustness and normative validity. RECON integrates several sub-projects under a common theoretical framework by structuring the project in nine work packages. WP 1 establishes the theoretical perspective underlying the whole project and ensures integration of the research. The three RECON models are applied to a range of research topics, and each of the WPs 2 to 9 is dedicated to a specific empirical field of research.



Work package 1 Theoretical Framework

Leader: Erik O. Eriksen, ARENA

WP 1 ensures overall coherence and integration of the project and develops an overarching theoretical approach to the study of European democracy. It provides a normative assessment of the three different models for reconstituting democracy in Europe and gives a theoretical account of democratic legitimacy in the European multilevel constellation.

WP 1 leads the work of operationalising each of the models, establishing indicators and linking them to the particular analytical challenges raised in the policy fields and issue areas covered by RECON. The critical testing of the models is structured by WP 1 on the basis of the empirical research undertaken in WPs 2 to 9. Finally, the findings are synthesised with the aim of taking stock of European democracy.

Work package 2 Constitutionalisation in Europe and Constitutionalism Compared

Leaders: Ben Crum, VU University Amsterdam
John Erik Fossum, ARENA

WP 2 analyses the impact of EU constitutionalisation and Europeanisation of national constitutions on the reconstitution of democracy in Europe. Which conception of democracy do the constitutional processes speak to – a national, European, or cosmopolitan reconstruction of democracy? Will they undermine or consolidate national democracy? How well do the processes and the results reflect democratic requirements?

Work package 3 Representation and Institutional Make-up

Leader: Christopher Lord, ARENA

WP 3 assesses the status of democracy in Europe. Emphasis is on clarifying the nature of the challenges facing systems of representation at the national and supranational levels in Europe, analysing interactions between these levels, and establishing the direction of change, and finally, evaluating the democratic quality of these arrangements. Towards which of the three RECON models do these systems develop?

Work package 4 Justice, Democracy and Gender

Leader: Yvonne Galligan, Queen's University Belfast

WP 4 explores the status of gender equality within the enlarged EU and suggests recommendations for how gender equality can best be fostered within and beyond Europe. It analyses what level(s) of governance is (are) the most relevant for the rectification of injustice and elimination of gender inequality, as well as the relation between gender equality and democratisation processes in the new member states and candidate countries.

Work package 5 Civil Society and the Public Sphere

Leaders: Ulrike Liebert, University of Bremen
Hans-Jörg Trenz, ARENA

WP 5 analyses how civil society and the public sphere shape the democratic reconstitution of Europe. It explores the conditions and dynamics of democratisation from below: the scope of media communication and public debates as well as the formation and mobilisation of citizens' support and resistance to European governance.

Work package 6 The Foreign and Security Dimension

Leaders: Helene Sjørnsen, ARENA
Wolfgang Wagner, Peace Research Institute Frankfurt

WP 6 assesses the status and prospect for democracy within the field of foreign and security policy in Europe. To what extent and in what ways is the realm of foreign and security policy democratised? And is the state form, the organised capacity to act, required for democratic government? WP 6 uncovers at what level – national, transnational or supranational – mechanisms for democratic control are developed.

Work package 7 The Political Economy of the European Union

Leader: Agustín José Menéndez, University of León

WP 7 analyses the relationship between public finance and democracy in the EU's multilevel political system. It spells out institutional designs and policy options with regard to the financial system and the tax and fiscal policy of the European Union, and links this to the discussion of the European social model. The conception of social integration underlying each RECON model is identified, with particular emphasis on the relationship between solidarity, justice and democracy.

Work package 8 Identity Formation and Enlargement

Leader: Zdzislaw Mach, Jagiellonian University

WP 8 addresses the question of how much trust and commonality is needed to establish democracy, as a means of collective will formation at the various levels of governance of the compound EU polity. WP 8 analyses the formation of collective identities with regard to enlargement processes, with an emphasis on comparing the 'old' and the 'new' member states.

Work package 9 Global Transnationalisation and Democratisation Compared

Leaders: John Erik Fossum, ARENA
Christian Joerges, University of Bremen

WP 9 examines the conditions and prospects of democratisation in transnational legal and political arrangements. One sub-project examines the impact of globalisation processes on nation-state democracies and on the democratisation of the European Union. A second sub-project pursues the issue of regional democratisation from a state-centred perspective.