

How European are ECER VETNET papers?

**Interim outcomes of a Proceedings
analysis 1998-2010**

www.ecer-vetnet.wifo-gate.org

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Our ECER VETNET Proceedings include more than 400 papers collected over 14 years. This is a valuable resource of shared knowledge about vocational education in Europe.

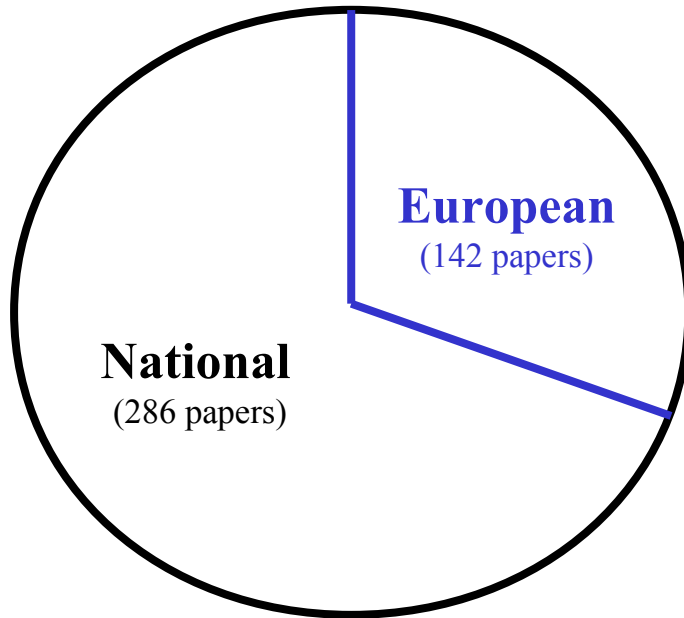
Now the question: How European are these Proceedings papers?

I will present just a few results of an analysis of these papers, focused on 3 aspects: contents, authorship and the countries involved.

NOTE

The Proceedings analysis refers to a total of 428 papers presented at ECER 1998 to 2010 and published at www.ecer-vetnet.wifo-gate.org.

(1) Contents of papers

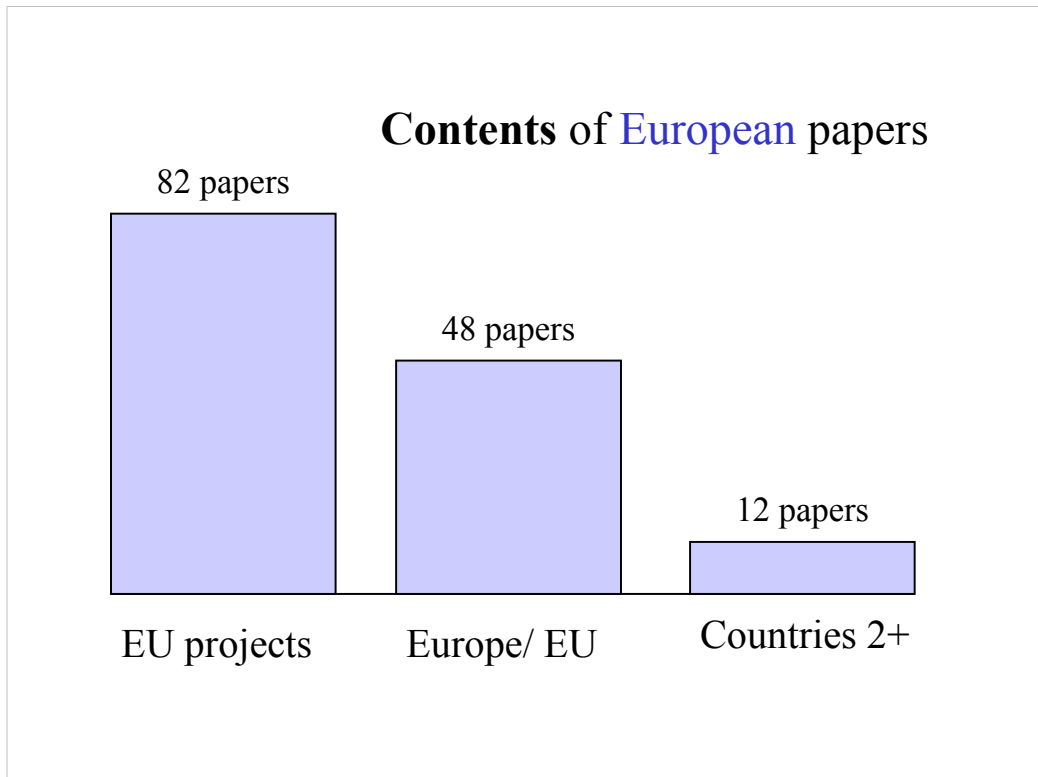


How European is the contents of the Proceedings papers?

A third of all papers are European - in that they study European or EU issues or compare European countries.

The other two thirds are papers on single countries or on general issues, such as theoretical models.

A lot of these national papers may have introductory references to Europe or the EU, suitable for ECER, but not as part of the main analysis.

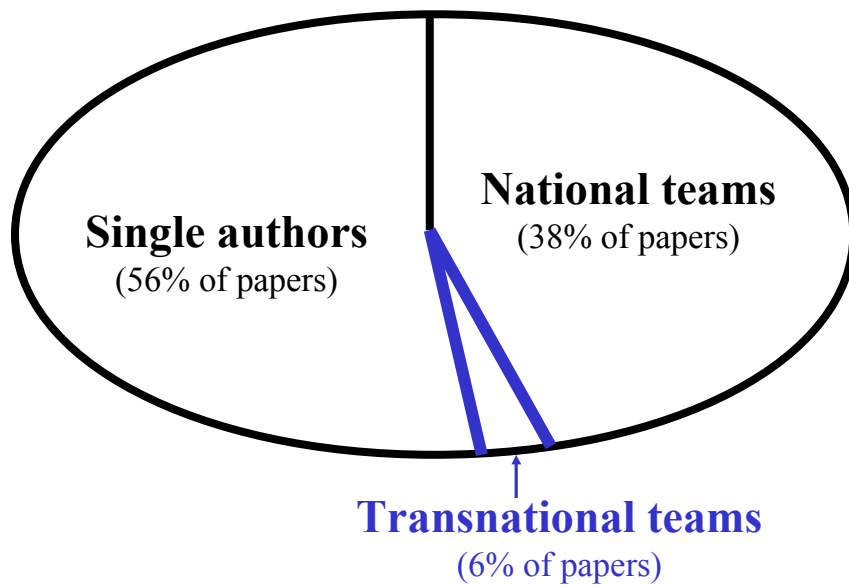


Within the group of European papers

- the largest proportion is related to EU projects,
- followed by a group of studies on Europe or the EU, partly in an international context,
- and a small set of transnational studies involving two or more countries.

Particularly interesting among EU project papers are in-depth studies of a selected country in relation to issues and outcomes of the whole project. This pattern of analysis could be more widely applied by project partners, especially from countries that are rarely presented.

(2) Authorship of papers



How European is the authorship of the Proceedings papers?

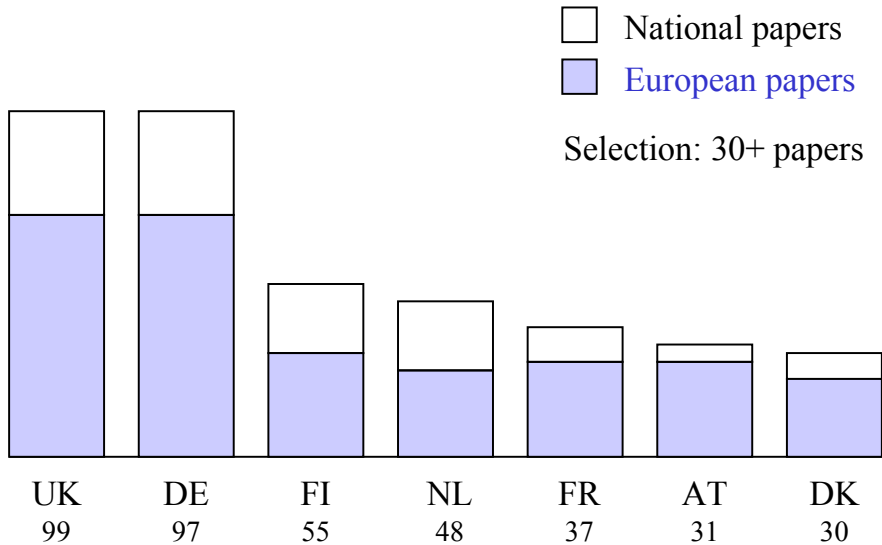
Only 6% of all papers were produced by transnational teams.

The large majority, however, are papers produced by single authors or national teams, often related to single institutions. Even 50% of the European papers were written by single authors.

This outcome suggests that the process of writing is still largely confined to individuals or institutional teams. More stimulus is needed for European authorships!

An interesting example was the *collaborative writing process* developed as part of the EU project POST-16.

(3) Countries analysed in papers



Which countries are mostly represented in national and European papers? This is - hardly surprising - a group of countries from Western and Northern Europe, with the UK and Germany competing at the top.

The strong representation of these Western and Northern countries undoubtedly has an impact on the European picture emerging from the Proceedings papers.

Analysis of **CEE countries** in national or European papers

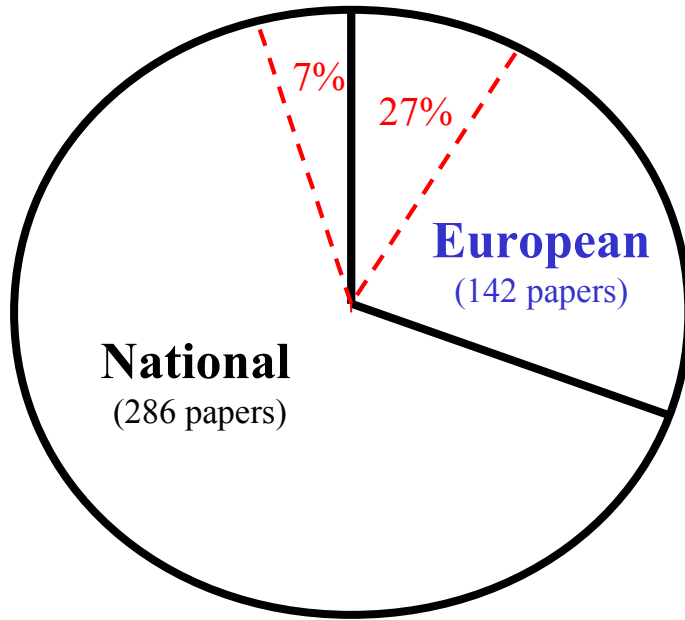
10-15 papers each	CZ / EE / HU / LT / SI
1-2 papers each	BG / PL / RO / SK / TK
0 papers	HR / LV

Much less represented are the Central and Eastern European countries, even if two of them - Hungary and Lithuania - reach a total of 15 papers, followed by Estonia, the Czech Republic and Slovenia, with 11 or 10 each - mostly as part of transnational studies.

Among the least represented is Poland - one of the biggest countries in this region. What are the reasons for this?

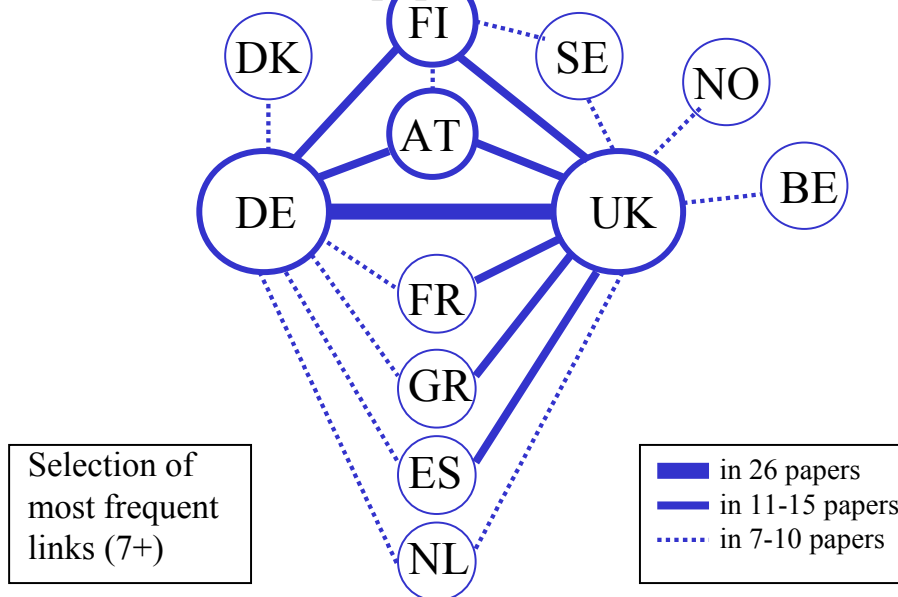
On the other hand, each paper relating to countries like Bulgaria, Romania or Turkey is a little success story of its own.

Papers analysing **CEE countries**



Altogether, Central and Eastern European countries turn up more frequently in European papers (38) than in national papers (21). In particular EU projects offer a great potential for involving these countries in European research.

Links between countries in European papers



In most European papers, countries are related or linked to one another, whether in comparison or in mutual learning. This is an essential part of knowledge creation.

On the chart, only the most frequent links between countries are visible - links turning up across 7 or more papers from various years and on various subjects.

These aggregated links reflect patterns of collaborative research:

- above all the focal role of the UK and Germany in transnational studies, followed by Finland and Austria,
- but also more links across regions: Spain and Greece are linked in, mainly via EU projects.

However, other Southern and Central Eastern countries have far fewer links.

So there is still a lot to achieve before we can regard our Proceedings as a truly European resource!