

Workshop material Kassel:

Part 1: Plenary session
Presentation of EuroHESC projects

Basic information on EuroHESC and the CRPs:
<http://www.esf.org/activities/eurocores/running-programmes/eurohesc.html>

Questions for presenters:

We kindly invite all presenters of CRPs to address the following questions:

- What is the theoretical research question? What shall be explained?
- What role do case studies play in answering the theoretical question?
- What variation between cases is assumed to produce the variation of effects?
- How many cases shall be studied?
- In which countries will cases be studied?

Part 2: Plenary session
Case studies approach

Background reading: Eisenhardt 1989 (pdf in appendix)

Part 3: Plenary introduction, working groups, report to plenum
Case selection

Questions preparing and structuring the parallel working groups: We would kindly ask presenters of CRP case selection strategies to address the following questions:

- How are cases defined in the project? What constitutes a case?
- Which empirical entities correspond to these cases?
- Which variables should vary between cases, which should not?
- How can information about these variables be collected for all possible cases?
- What role do pragmatic criteria (ease of access to empirical objects, cost etc.) play?
- How can 'cases' be best accessed and co-operation be gained?

Note: These questions presume a rather advanced state of case selection in the CRPs. Since some CRPs might not yet have had the time for internal discussions on case selection, we would like to encourage presenters to share their preliminary thoughts on the topics listed. The questions are there to promote thinking about necessary steps in case selection rather than to solicit perfect answers.

Background reading: Miles and Huberman 1994: 25-34 (pdf in appendix)

Part 4 Plenary introduction, working groups, report to plenum

Data collection

Questions preparing and structuring the parallel working groups: We would kindly ask presenters of CRP case selection strategies to address the following questions:

- What are the variables about which information needs to be collected?
- What possible sources of these data exist (which documents, which people)?
- How accessible are the data (distributed among few or many documents, documents unlikely to be accessible, few or many people, knowledge not easily accessible because its tacit,...)?
- What empirical methods should be used to collect the data?
- How many cases can be investigated with the particular combination of methods used?

Note: Again, these questions presume a rather advanced state of the preparation of case studies in the projects. They are just there to enable the discussion between members of CRPs on topics of general interest.

Background reading: Yin 2009: 99-125 (pdf in appendix)

Part 5 Short plenary introduction, working groups

Country-specific issues

This session addresses practical issues of field work in order to stimulate synergies, to avoid too much overlap in case selection, and to inform others about country-specific peculiarities. The working groups would thus address issues such as the availability of case studies from previous studies, useful data sources, access to the field, mutual information on selection of case studies etc.