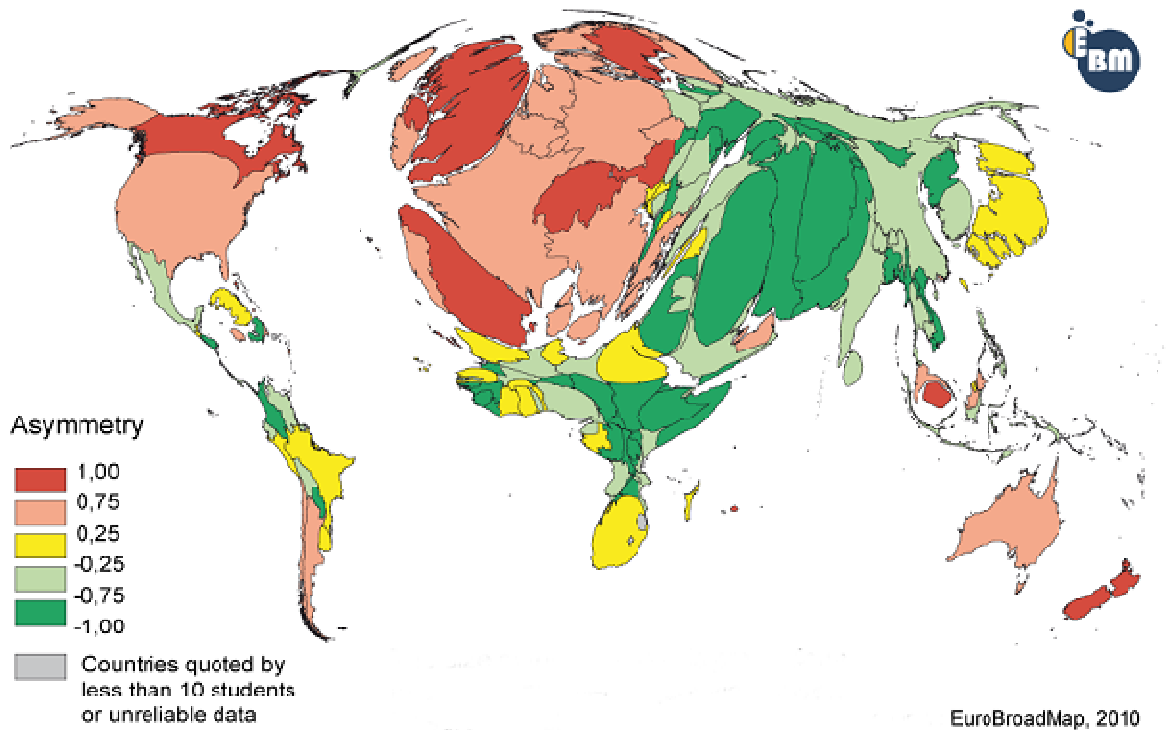




EuroBroadMap

VISIONS OF EUROPE IN THE WORLD



This is an extract from:

Overall Gender Synthesis

2011

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Abstract

The EuroBroadmap EU FP-7 project is aimed at arriving at an evaluation of a shared and coherent vision of Europe's place in the world. In the following analysis we will be looking at the results of a student survey conducted in eighteen countries across four continents, and which represent a section of the research conducted for the project, from a gender perspective. We outline the main differences that emerge in the answers given by both men and women. We argue that these differences point to the existence of a gender hierarchy based on a patriarchal hegemonic structure. By comparing the results of the survey to the results of research conducted on migration at the Southern and Eastern borders of Europe, as well as an analysis of school textbooks, National visions and global trade flows, we single out particular aspects of gender in socio-relational contexts that emerge across most of the country case studies and attempt to provide, where possible, explanations for the exceptions. We further argue that the results collected and the existence of a gender hierarchy is reflective of a persistent structure of inequality that in some cases mirrors colonial structures of control, which are still being replicated today.

Introduction and Outline of the EuroBroadMap Project

The EuroBroadMap EU FP-7 project is aimed at arriving at an evaluation of a shared and coherent vision of Europe's place in the world. The project in doing so aims to construct, through research, an idea of the way Europe is perceived by European and non-European countries. To this effect, part of the Eurobroadmap project is to examine the place allotted to Europe in the visions of Europeans and non-Europeans and to consider the implications of these perceptions in the future development of European society. The research is split across a number of work packages with the aim of arriving at a vision of a) Subjective Europe, b) Political Europe and c) Functional Europe. The results of the above three explorations will lead to an integrated vision of Europe.

As part of the research, a structured questionnaire was developed and given to students in universities in 18 countries and across 4 continents (WP 2). The questions were organised into four sections: 1) Some questions about you (level of family income, feeling of belonging to a particular religion, languages spoken etc...), 2) Your vision of the world (countries and cities students would like or not like to live in), 3) Your own world map (Students draw up their own divisions of the world), 4) your vision of Europe (outline of Europe's perceived borders and the choice of words students associate with Europe).

Looking at the questions provided, the data collected may be split into two categories: 1) Socio-cultural baggage, and 2) Perception. Socio-cultural baggage refers to factual information regarding each student that cannot, at this stage, be altered by outside forces. These are stationary variables such as family level of income or number of countries students have visited. Perception / personal dimension refers to information provided by students that reflects their own preferences and personal views / subjective realities. These are mobile variables that may easily fluctuate, not only from student to student, but also with regard to local / national / international and personal situations. Examples of these kinds of variables could be countries students would like or not like to live in. In most cases students were chosen from six domains of study: Art, Engineering, Health, Social sciences and Humanities, Business and Political science.

Following the collection of answers from each country case study, the results were split by gender in order to identify whether any significant differences exist between men and women's responses, and what these could possibly suggest. Thus, in the following pages we will be looking closely at the key differences in the results (outlined in the GWG reviews and final country reports of WP2) and commenting further on them from a gender-based standpoint. The focus on women in the following sections is an attempt at addressing shortcomings in the analysis of results that seem to be too centred on men, or lacking in sufficient analysis of the overall gender perspective (as identified by Alexandru Rusu, Meenakshi Thapan, Manuela Martini and Marwan Hobeika in their gender reviews).

The project also looks at Migrants' visions of Europe and the world, and research was carried out across the Southern and Eastern borders of Europe as well as in Argentina and Mali, focusing on migrants' trajectories, challenges and hopes with regards to Europe and their projected final destinations. The research conducted with students and migrants is central to the construction of a vision of subjective (and to an extent functional) Europe.

Research on Political and Functional Europe is embodied in an analysis of school manuals and textbooks and national / international visions, as well as an analysis of migration, economic and political flows and networks. The following sections focus on the results of work conducted in each of these areas from a gender perspective, and aim to show how an integrated gender vision of Europe may be constructed from these results.

The following analysis is also a preliminary attempt at integrating the results into a broader discussion of gender (from literature and other projects), a task which may be somewhat constrained by the variety and extent of 'case study countries' involved in the surveys and research. The structure of this document has been moulded on the structure of the GWG review template, where the results obtained are analysed and then incorporated into a broader discussion of gender to determine whether the research conducted is able to provide a new perception of gender behaviour / pattern.