

Centro de Estudos Sociais - CES 2010

The Centre for Social Studies (CES), affiliated with the University of Coimbra, was founded in 1978 as a research institution in the area of the social sciences and the humanities. The team is composed of 115 full-researchers, 49 associate researchers, 40 junior researchers, and 18 members of the administrative staff. By becoming an Associate Laboratory in 2002, CES committed itself not only further to pursue and consolidate its research, following a long-standing strategic orientation, but also to pay special attention to the public impact of research and the dissemination of results. Simultaneously, the training of young researchers and the promotion of advanced studies, particularly at the postgraduate level, became an important part of the strategic development of CES. The investment in North-South cooperation and in the development and consolidation of relations with Portuguese-speaking countries is another important aspect of the Centre's agenda (consolidated through the promotion of the creation of CES-Latin America, in Brazil, and CES-Aquino de Bragança, in Maputo, Mozambique).

The objectives pursued by CES are organised within the framework of four broadly conceived thematic areas that provide the underlying structure for the overall organization and integration of research. The thematic areas, in which the 11 Research Groups and 7 Observatories are embedded, are: Institutions, Regulation and Citizenship; New Solidarities: Local, National, Global; Sciences, Technologies and the Humanities; and Cultures and Social Dynamics. During the last 5 years, CES' researchers published 165 books, 365 book chapters and 378 peer review articles, among other publications.

1. The Centre's research activities are structured along five main axes (68 currently funded projects):

a) International research projects, partnerships and networks

CES is involved in three main areas of international research: projects funded by international agencies/entities; projects funded by the European Union; and research networks. As examples of these different types, the following projects can be singled out:

- *Early Warning Systems: from Analysis to Action*, funded by International Alert, coordinated by Tatiana Moura;
- *TOLERACE - The semantics of tolerance and (anti-)racism in Europe: Public bodies and civil society on a comparative perspective*, funded by the European Union (FP7) and coordinated by Boaventura de Sousa Santos;
- *EAW - European Arrest Warrant in law and in practice: a comparative study for the consolidation of the European law-enforcement area*, funded by the European Union/Justice, Internal Affairs and freedom Unit and coordinated by Boaventura de Sousa Santos;
- *Menu for Justice. Toward a European Curriculum Studiorum on Judicial Studies* - ERASMUS Academic Networks/EU, 35 European partners led by the University of Bologna, coordinated at CES by Conceição Gomes.

b) International public policies assessment

The development of the assessment of international agencies and entities, in the field of public policies, has increased in the last years, as the recognition of the international research credibility and impact of CES' work in several parts of the world. As examples of these international assessment activities the following may be highlighted:

- *Participatory Budgets in Sweden*, funded by the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions/SALAR and coordinated by Giovanni Allegretti;
- *Plurality of legal and justice systems in Luanda, Angola*, funded by University Agostinho Neto, Luanda (Angola) and coordinated by Boaventura de Sousa Santos and José Octávio S. Van Dúnen;
- *Conflict, violence and state fragility in West Africa*, funded by Norwegian Peacebuilding Centre/NOREF and coordinated by Silvia Roque;
- *Creation of the Permanent Observatory for Brazilian Justice*, funded by Brazilian Ministry of Justice and PNUD and coordinated by Boaventura de Sousa Santos (this consultancy presents itself as a good example of technology transfer in the social sciences).

c) National public policies assessment

The contribution to the evaluation and informing of public policies has been increasing through direct requests by governmental agencies for CES' expertise and through the Centre's participation in calls for tenders. As examples of this kind of projects, one can mention:

- *Evaluation of the impact of financial and social costs of disability*, funded by National Institute for Rehabilitation and coordinated by Silvia Portugal;
- *Evaluation of the national plan against human trafficking*, funded by the National Commission for Equality and Women's Rights and coordinated by Boaventura de Sousa Santos and Conceição Gomes;
- *Portuguese cooperation in the sector of justice in African Portuguese speaking countries (2000-2009) - an evaluation*, funded by Portuguese Institute for development Aid – IPAD and coordinated by Boaventura de Sousa Santos and João Carlos Trindade;
- *External evaluation of the "Critical Neighbourhoods Initiative"*, funded by National Institute for Housing and Urban Rehabilitation and coordinated by Paulo Peixoto.

d) Observatories – public assessment through systematic evaluation and data collection

The observatories are an important tool in CES's activities, resulting from protocols with public national and international agencies, and allowing the building up of databases and the issuing of relevant policy proposals. At the present moment, there are seven active observatories at CES: the Permanent Observatory of Portuguese Justice; the Observatory of Consumer's Indebtness; the Observatory of Local Government; the Observatory of Risk; the Observatory of Participative Practices; the Observatory of Cultural and Religious Diversity in Southern Europe; and the Observatory on Gender and Armed Violence.

The observatories' activities diverge on nature, funding and performance. In this sense, we highlight the continuation of the Permanent Observatory of Portuguese Justice and the new Observatory on Gender and Armed Violence. The former, coordinated by Boaventura de Sousa Santos, under contract with the Portuguese Ministry of Justice since 1996, has produced several reports on the judicial system over the years, such as, more recently, the "Monitoring the Reform of Criminal Law Code and Process" or the "Assessment of the Judicial Map Reform". The latter, coordinated by Tatiana Moura and funded by the Ford Foundation, is currently developing several studies on gender issues in armed violence contexts in Portugal, Brazil and in some African Portuguese speaking countries.

e) National research projects

Other projects, funded mainly by national institutions, such as the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation or other private and public entities, have a more basic research oriented profile. These projects reflect the diversity of the research areas in which CES is engaged and, quite often, they include international cooperation through partnerships or invited consultancy. As examples, we can cite the following projects:

- *'Race' and Africa in Portugal: a study on history textbooks*, funded by the National Foundation for Science and Technology and coordinated by Marta Araújo;
- *Evaluating the state of public knowledge on health and health information in Portugal*, funded by the National Foundation for Science and Technology/Harvard Medical School Programme and coordinated by João A. Nunes;
- *Formal access to local political spaces in the local context: immigrant voters and elected in Portuguese municipalities and parishes*, funded by the National Foundation for Science and Technology/ACIDI and coordinated by Fernando Ruivo;
- *Digital Alberti - Tradition and innovation in the architectural theory and practice in Portugal*, funded by the National Foundation for Science and Technology and coordinated by Mário Krueger;

2. Post-Graduate Programmes

Centro de Estudos Sociais hosts a diversified series of PhD Programmes (with currently more than 180 students), closely connected to the advanced research it carries out. At present, CES offers the following 9 courses in cooperation with four faculties – Economics, Law, Arts and Humanities, and Science and Technology – and with the Institute of Interdisciplinary Research of the University of Coimbra:

- Cities and Urban Cultures
- Heritages of Portuguese Influence
- International Politics and Conflict Resolution
- Law, Justice, and Citizenship in the Twenty First Century
- Labour Relations, Social Inequality and Trade Unionism
- Democracy in the Twenty-first Century
- Governance, Knowledge, and Innovation
- Languages and Heterodoxies: History, Poetics, and Social Practices
- Postcolonialisms and Global Citizenship

CES also hosts currently 35 post-doctoral researchers that contribute significantly to the scientific activities carried out at the Centre, not only related with research, but also with outreach and dissemination events.

3. Outreach Activities

The stimulation of a wide range of outreach activities is a long-standing goal at CES. One basic example of this priority is the recent opening of CES-Lisbon, designed to enlarge the scope of CES' constituencies by offering an increasing number of advanced training courses and other public scientific activities. Apart from this important new initiative, CES has started in 2009 to offer international Summer Courses and has increased its outreach activities in the form of international seminars, conferences, colloquia, and other similar events, part of them related with the ongoing research projects and PhD programmes. Yearly, CES organises an average of 150 scientific events, most of them international, a number that will be consistently enlarged in the future. CES also cooperates with the national programme "Ciência Viva" by offering yearly training activities for high-school pupils.

4. Dissemination

The dissemination of research results and, in general, of relevant scientific outputs, is another long-standing goal at CES. Along with its outreach activities, CES promotes a consistent publication strategy that was significantly reinforced in 2009 by the launching of 10 thematic book series at Edições Almedina. Ongoing cooperation with other publishers, namely with Edições Afrontamento, is being further pursued. CES has been publishing since 1978 a peer-reviewed scientific journal, *Revista Crítica de Ciências Sociais*, and is making available an increasing number of digital open-access collections.

Some images of CES:

Boaventura de Sousa Santos – Scientific Director of CES

