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PROJECT ARCHETYPES OF THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA:

exploring the occasional engagement patterns of the european southern neighbourhood¹

Zane Šime²

ABSTRACT: This paper examines the project-based pattern of European Southern Neighbourhood engagement in the European Research Area. Thereby, this study informs about the role of the European Research Area in advancing EU objectives and ambitions in the enduringly salient European Neighbourhood Policy context. The research question that drives this study is: What project archetypes' pattern denotes the European Southern Neighbourhood's participation in the pan-European space intended to facilitate the free flow of talent and ideas? The guiding hypothesis anticipates that the prevailing archetype corresponds to an encounter lasting for one project, and prolonged engagement throughout several consecutive projects is a rarity. This enquiry into the relationality weaved by research collaboration formulates four archetypes. The main empirical material employed to model and study the four archetypes is semi-structured interviews with Europe-based project managers. Insights offered by the leading figures of projects funded by Framework Programme 7 and Horizon 2020 reveal how multilateral research-driven ties contribute to post-Westphalian external action aspirations. Devised analytic narratives attest to the performances of the EU science diplomacy, for example, in the form of technoscientific gifts as well as sharing and jointly developing kn/own/ables. Expert experiences of co-developing research-intensive solutions with Morocco- and Tunisia-based colleagues to address the most pressing challenges faced by the EU and its Southern neighbours are resourceful. They offer new insights into the patterned routines that support the implementation of such supra-nationally steered governance frameworks as the European Research Area, including its external action and science diplomacy dimensions.

1. Z. Šime, *Project Archetypes of the European Research Area: Exploring the Occasional Engagement Patterns of the European Southern Neighbourhood*, in *Latin American Journal of European Studies*, v. 4, n. 1, 2024, p. 210 et seq.
2. Affiliated Researcher at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU). She focuses on the European Union's (EU) science diplomacy towards the Southern Neighbourhood.

Almost half of the studied projects correspond to the archetype with one EU-funded project interaction. This confirms the rather sporadic or ad hoc relational ties of the European Southern Neighbourhood to the European Research Area, facilitated by various Europe-based competence centres.

KEYWORDS: Relational turn; European Southern Neighbourhood; European Research Area.

ARQUETIPOS DE PROYECTOS DEL ESPACIO EUROPEO DE INVESTIGACIÓN: EXPLORACIÓN DEL DIBUJO DE COMPROMISO OCASIONAL DE LA VECINDAD MERIDIONAL EUROPEA

RESUMEN: Este documento examina el modelo de participación de la política europea de vecindad en proyectos del Espacio Europeo de Investigación. De este modo, el estudio aporta información sobre el papel que desempeña el Espacio Europeo de Investigación en la consecución de los objetivos y ambiciones de la UE en el contexto de la política europea de vecindad. La pregunta de investigación que impulsa este estudio es ¿Qué patrón de arquetipos de proyectos denota la participación de la vecindad meridional de la Unión en el espacio paneuropeo destinado a facilitar la libre circulación de talento e ideas? La hipótesis guía anticipa que el arquetipo predominante corresponde a un encuentro que dura un proyecto, y que el compromiso prolongado a lo largo de varios proyectos consecutivos es una rareza. Esta indagación sobre la relacionalidad tejida por la colaboración en la investigación formula cuatro arquetipos. El principal material empírico empleado para modelar y estudiar los cuatro arquetipos son entrevistas semiestructuradas con directores de proyectos radicados en Europa. Las percepciones ofrecidas por los protagonistas de los proyectos financiados por el Séptimo Programa Marco y Horizonte 2020 revelan cómo los vínculos multilaterales impulsados por la investigación contribuyen a las aspiraciones de acción exterior postwestfalianas. Las narrativas analíticas elaboradas demuestran las actuaciones de la diplomacia científica de la UE, por ejemplo, en forma de regalos tecnocientíficos, así como compartiendo y desarrollando conjuntamente 'knowables' (conocimientos/propiedades/habilidades). Las experiencias de los expertos en el desarrollo conjunto de soluciones de investigación intensiva con colegas de Marruecos y Túnez para abordar los retos más acuciantes a los que se enfrentan la UE y sus vecinos meridionales son muy útiles. Ofrecen nuevas perspectivas sobre las rutinas pautadas que sustentan la aplicación de marcos de gobernanza supranacionales como el Espacio Europeo de Investigación, incluidas sus dimensiones de acción exterior y diplomacia científica. Casi la mitad de los proyectos

estudiados corresponden al arquetipo con una interacción de proyectos financiados por la UE. Esto confirma los vínculos relacionales más bien esporádicos o ad hoc de la vecindad meridional de la Unión con el Espacio Europeo de Investigación, facilitados por diversos centros de competencia con sede en Europa.

PALABRAS CLAVE: Giro relacional; Vecindad Meridional Europea; Espacio Europeo de Investigación.

SUMMARY: Introduction; 1. Theoretical Considerations; 1.1. Relationality in Practice Theory; 1.2. Known/ables and technoscientific gifts; 1.3. Archetypes; 2. Methods; 3. Results; 3.1. Overview of Archetypes; 3.2. Archetype 1: Single Cooperation Project; 3.3. Archetype 2: Two Joint Projects; 3.4. Archetype 3: Two Joint Projects and Complementary Activities; 3.5. Archetype 4: Long-term Collegial Encounters; 3.6. Triangulation; 4. Discussion; Final Considerations; References.

INTRODUCTION

More than two decades after the launch of the European Research Area (ERA), there remains a lot more to discover about the multifaceted and formidable value of this supranationally steered governance framework. Moreover, taking into consideration some recent advances in promoting EU external relations studies, the ERA remains a compelling object of study to obtain a more in-depth understanding of the diverse post-Westphalian modalities that characterise EU engagement with the rest of the world. This paper contributes to the fast-growing literature on various dimensions of the EU international standing founded on academic pursuits across a broader realm of EU studies and diplomacy domains.³

3. For example, P.J. Cardwell, E. Moret, *The EU, sanctions and regional leadership*, in *European Security*, vol. 32, no. 1, 2023, p. 1 et seq, available at <https://doi.org/10.1080/09662839.2022.2085997>; F.B. Çelik, *The EU's different faces in climate diplomacy: leadership, interests, and responsibilities*, in *Journal of European Integration*, vol. 44, no. 8, 2022, p. 1019 et seq, available at <https://doi.org/10.1080/07036337.2022.2068538>; A. Dür, M. Gastinger, *Spinning a global web of EU external relations: how the EU establishes stronger joint bodies where they matter most*, in *Journal of European Public Policy*, vol.

The latest thinking on the role of science diplomacy brings new considerations about the foreign policy aspects of science-driven international encounters. Science diplomacy offers more nuanced insights into general themes brushed over within the framework of public diplomacy.⁴ Recognising the persistent saliency of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), this paper puts under a scholarly microscope the European Southern Neighbourhood (ESN) to offer more nuanced insights into the pertinence of the study of the ERA as a major enabler to advance EU aims and aspirations outside its borders.

The literature on the ESN constant flare-ups of one or another geopolitical and socio-economic issue fuels multiple calls for more resilience-building within the EU vis-à-vis the challenges brought to the Union from the neighbourhood.⁵ The area is described as

30, no. 6, 2023, p. 1072 *et seq.*, available at <https://doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2022.2079708>; F. Mattheis, C.F. Diaz, *Maritime strategies in the European Union for the Indo-Pacific - what role for Africa?*, in *Strategic Review for Southern Africa*, vol. 44, no. 2, 2022, p. 46 *et seq.*, available at https://upjournals.up.ac.za/index.php/strategic_review/article/view/4419; Y. Richard, G. Van Hamme, *L'Union européenne, un acteur des relations internationales: Étude géographique de l'actorness européenne*, in *L'Espace géographique*, vol. 42, no. 1, 2013, p. 15 *et seq.*, available at <https://doi.org/10.3917/eg.421.0015>.

4. G.R. Berridge, *Diplomacy: Theory and Practice*, Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2022, available at https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-85931-2_1; K. Ito, M. Rentetzi, *The co-production of nuclear science and diplomacy: towards a transnational understanding of nuclear things*, in *History and Technology*, vol. 37, no. 1, 2021, p. 4 *et seq.*, available at <https://doi.org/10.1080/07341512.2021.1905462>; M. Ratajczak, N. Broś, *Humanitarian Diplomacy: The Case of Switzerland and Sweden*, in *Politeja*, vol. 20, no. 1(82), 2023, p. 143 *et seq.*, available at <https://doi.org/10.12797/Politeja.20.2023.82.08>; Z. Šime, *Educational Diplomacy and Latvia: Broadening the Scope of Diplomatic Studies with a Focus on Asia*, in *AEI-Insights: An International Journal of Asia-Europe Relations*, vol. 9, no. 1, 2023a, p. 6 *et seq.*, available at <https://ejournal.um.edu.my/index.php/AEIINSIGHTS/article/view/47967>.
5. Z. Šime, *The EU and Its Southern Neighborhood Policy: Resilience in the Era of Science Diplomacy*, in *Nordicum-Mediterraneum*, vol. 18, no. 1, 2023c, p. 1 *et seq.*, available at <https://nome.unak.is/wordpress/volume-18-no-1-2023/>

being in a state of “constant ‘bureaucratic reanimation,’” largely defined by tailored and conditionality-driven ENP programming documents with considerably asymmetrical power properties.⁶ Furthermore, these volatilities spark within the EU recommendations to build capacity across the neighbourhood to improve its ability to address various risks.⁷ To go beyond these general observations, this paper addresses Morocco and Tunisia. Both are relatively similar ESN states with long-lasting, close, and diverse collaborative ties with the EU combined with intense exchanges and flows of human, capital, and ideas.⁸ This country choice allows for more fine-grained empirical insights about the relational patterns that characterise the ESN’s involvement in the ERA. The country choice

article-double-blind-peer-review-volume-18-no-1-2023/the-eu-and-its-southern-neighborhood-policy-resilience-in-the-era-of-science-diplomacy/.

6. S. Eylemer, S., N. Söylemez, *Policy Versus Praxis: Has the European Union Failed to Respond to the Refugee Crisis?*, in *World Affairs*, vol. 183, no. 4, 2020, p. 319, available at <https://doi.org/10.1177/0043820020966832>; J. Jean-desboz, P. Pallister-Wilkins, *Crisis, Routine, Consolidation: The Politics of the Mediterranean Migration Crisis*, in *Mediterranean Politics*, vol. 21, no. 2, 2016, p. 317, available at <https://doi.org/10.1080/13629395.2016.1145825>; J.J. Jäntti, B. Klasche, ‘*Losing Leverage*’ in the Neighbourhood: A Cognitive Frame Analysis of the European Union Migration Policy, in *International Studies*, vol. 58, no. 3, 2021, p. 317, available at <https://doi.org/10.1177/00208817211030643>.
7. M. Ratajczak, N. Broś, *Humanitarian Diplomacy*, cit., p. 157.
8. M.-C. Blanc-Chaléard, M.-C., *Transnationalism and Migration in the Colonial and Postcolonial Context: Emigrants from the Souf Area (Algeria) to Nanterre (France) (1950-2000)*, in N.L. Green, R. Waldinger (orgs.), *A Century of Transnationalism: Immigrants and Their Homeland Connections*, University of Illinois Press, 2016, p. 253 et seq, available at <https://doi.org/10.5406/illinois/9780252040443.003.0010>; N. Bremberg, S. Borg, *Ambiguous power? A relational approach to how the EU exercises power in Morocco and Tunisia*, in *Journal of International Relations and Development*, vol. 24, 2021, p. 135, available at <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41268-020-00185-w>; T. Weber, C. Van Mol, *The student migration transition: an empirical investigation into the nexus between development and international student migration*, in *Comparative Migration Studies*, vol. 11, no. 5, 2023, p. 15 et seq. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40878-023-00329-0>.

is made with full consideration that both EU neighbours display a comparatively outstanding cooperation portfolio with the EU. This considerably advanced level of engagement, in some respects, sets them apart from the other eight ESN countries. Several other ESN countries are more severely affected by armed conflicts and other aggravating effects that stand in the way of implementing the full spectrum of good governance routines.

This paper answers the following research question: What project archetypes' pattern characterises the involvement of the ESN in the ERA? Consequently, this paper answers the extended enquiry into the relational patterns that characterise the ESN weaving into the ERA steering and implementation structures through EU FPs-funded projects. The paper tests the following hypothesis: The project archetypes that facilitate the involvement of the ESN in the ERA largely rely on one-off EU FPs-funded project-based encounters, not an extended sequence of projects and other collaborative engagement modalities. To test this hypothesis, this paper formulates four project archetypes as four modalities of collaborative experience that involve ESN-based entities in the ERA. The main source for exploring which of the four archetypes is the most representative is the project preparation, implementation, and follow-up insights offered by 19 experienced Europe-based project managers.

The first part of the paper sets out the theoretical dispositions of practice theory, with a focus on the relational turn in the context of EU external action studies. Furthermore, the theoretical part introduces the archetypes as a conducive element to studying

in greater depth the framework field and subfields' collaborative patterns connecting Europe-based project managers with the ESN-based consortiums' members. To add a new dimension to this continuous enquiry into the external action and diplomatic value of EU-funded research-intensive and challenge-driven collaborative research, this paper incorporates the latest scholarly thinking on the 'relational turn' in international relations and archetypes mostly applied in sustainability studies. The focus on relationality helps to add a new layer to the practice-theory-guided considerations about the interactions occurring within the ERA framework field. Whereas project archetypes provide a more structured model pattern to distil the modes of collaborative engagements that incorporate the ESN in the overall ERA implementation arrangements. The second part explains methodological considerations tied to the pronounced relationality standpoint to model and study a set of archetypes. The elaboration on the main findings informs about the main archetype patterns represented among the 19 studied projects and what those tell about the continuity of ad hoc-ism in collaborative encounters supporting the ERA routine implementation. The discussion part pinpoints some blind spots where further scholarly enquiry would help to build a more comprehensive understanding of the value of studying archetypes in EU external action studies and supra-national governance. The concluding part summarises the main findings in the broader context of international relations.

1. THEORETICAL CONSIDERATIONS

1.1. Relationality in practice theory

Bourdieu has brought a wealth of inspiration to contemporary thinkers in international relations.⁹ This paper taps into this ever-growing contemporary repository of thinking by paying specific attention to the latest scholarly elaboration on relationality. The 'relational turn' brings to the study of supranational field dynamics some new thinking on the way agents immerse themselves in the densely weaved and dynamic field of interactions. In such a manner, this paper appraises the contribution made by each of the international relations 'turns' to the overall, more than a century-old debate founded in Aberystwyth.¹⁰ Acknowledgement that the 'relational one' is only one of the recent 'turns' stresses the alertness of the paper's author to (rather than distancing away from) the dynamism of scholarly thought.

The 'relational turn' is associated with deep relationalism and its scrupulous attention paid to "with whom" one "thinks relationally with and which relations are centred".¹¹ The 'relational turn' and

9. T. Meszaros, *The French Tradition of Sociology of International Relations: An Overview*, in *The American Sociologist*, vol. 48, 2017, p. 334, available at <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12108-017-9339-z>; A. Vion, F. Dudouet, *Penser l'impérialisme à partir de la théorie des champs*, in *Cultures & Conflits*, no. 119-120, 2020, p. 18, available at <https://doi.org/10.4000/conflits.22068>.

10. O. Corry, *What's the point of being a discipline? Four disciplinary strategies and the future of International Relations*, in *Cooperation and Conflict*, vol. 57, no. 3, 2022, p. 299 et seq, available at <https://doi.org/10.1177/00108367221098492>; D.M. McCourt, *The Inquiry and the Birth of International Relations, 1917-19*, in *Australian Journal of Politics & History*, vol. 63, 2017, p. 394, available at <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajph.12376>; T. Meszaros, *The French Tradition of Sociology of International Relations*, cit., p. 298 et seq.

11. B. Klasche, P. Poopuu, *What Relations Matter?*, in *International Studies Quarterly*, vol. 67, no. 1, art. sqad010, 2023, p. 2, available at <https://doi.org/10.1093/>

processual relational thinking resonate so well with the study of EU supranational constructs because relations are viewed as dynamic processes, not static or fixed items.¹² Moreover, scholars of relational turn have an interest in the regionalisation of the world order that corresponds to the study of the ESN as an area covered by the EU extended ties and power projection for the mutual benefit of resilience-building, stability, and sustainable development.¹³

The latest interest in relationality brings more fluidity to the study of capital transactions and conversions. Capital remains a somewhat ambiguous term in practice theory parlance. This paper does not take up the herculean task of defining its typology. Instead, this paper recognises that there are various capital attributes that can be transformed from one into another through interactions among agents. These transactions and conversions are tailored to the needs, future plans, and pursuits of each agent. As recent scholarly estimates in some technical domains attest, these relational ties can span across several scientific disciplines.¹⁴ The relations with the other existing and future cooperation partners are instrumental in estimating and validating the worth of a capital in the selected

isq/sqad010.

12. B. Klasche, *The role of ideations in de-problematizing migration crises (and other wicked problems)*, in *Frontiers in Political Science*, vol. 5, no. 1134457, 2023, p. 03, available at <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpos.2023.1134457>; P. Selg, B. Klasche, J. Nõgisto, *Wicked problems and sociology: building a missing bridge through processual relationalism*, in *International Review of Sociology*, 2022, available at <https://doi.org/10.1080/03906701.2022.2035909>.
13. T. McDonald, B. Klasche, B., M. Juutinen, G. Barbieri, G. Rached, *Globalisation by Other Means? Hegemonic Continuance and Rising Powers – A Framework of Analysis*, in *East-West Studies*, vol. 12, 2022, p. 16 et seq, available at <http://publications.tlu.ee/index.php/eastwest/article/view/1120>.
14. M. Rentetzi, *A Comment on Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection from a Historian of Science*, in *Cancer Studies and Therapeutics*, vol. 6, no. 2, 2021, p. 2, available at <https://doi.org/10.31038/CST.2021614>.

dimension, for example, technical expertise, unique geographical location, or another nuance of special value to the joint planning of upcoming consultations and activities.

1.2. Kn/own/ables and technoscientific gifts

The relational turn, combined with the logic captured in 'kn/own/ables' and 'technoscientific gifts', assists in arguing that no capital exists in the vacuum. 'Kn/own/ables' refers to the mutual conditioning captured by the production and use of knowledge.¹⁵ 'Kn/own/ables' stress the acknowledgement expressed in other compartments of science and technology studies that research is a social process and knowledge exists as an embodied expertise, not alienated from its developers, users, or audiences to which it is shown and communicated.¹⁶ 'Technoscientific gift' refers to the materialisation of the interplay between technoscientific knowledge and international affairs.¹⁷ It is a term associated with science diplo-

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15. D. Schäfer, D., A. Mamidipudi, *Ownership of knowledge: Introduction*, in D. Schäfer, A. Mamidipudi, M. Buning (orgs.), *Ownership of Knowledge: Beyond Intellectual Property*, Cambridge, Massachusetts, London, England: The MIT Press, 2023, p. 4, available at <https://doi.org/10.7551/mitpress/14648.003.0004>.
 16. J. Jeandesboz, *European border policing: EUROSUR, knowledge, calculation*, in *Global Crime*, vol. 18, no. 3, 2017, p. 261, available at <https://doi.org/10.1080/17440572.2017.1347043>; A. Mamidipudi, D. Schäfer, *Excavations of Knowledge Ownership: Theoretical Chapter*, in D. Schäfer, A. Mamidipudi, M. Buning (orgs.), *Ownership of Knowledge: Beyond Intellectual Property*, Cambridge, Massachusetts, London, England: The MIT Press, 2023, p. 16, available at <https://doi.org/10.7551/mitpress/14648.003.0005>; M. Rentetzi, *The Global Experiment: How the International Atomic Energy Agency Proved Dosimetry to Be a Techno-Diplomatic Issue*, in *NTM Journal of the History of Science, Technology and Medicine*, 30, 2022, p. 189, available at <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00048-022-00336-9>.
 17. M. Rentetzi, K. Ito, *The material culture and politics of artifacts in nuclear diplomacy*, in *Centaurus*, vol. 63, no. 2, 2021, p. 238, available at <https://doi.org/10.1111/1600-0498.12394>.

macy studies. Research instruments and other scholarly-praised objects can have an important role in diplomatic encounters and complement their purely scientific worth. Furthermore, scientific outreach installations may serve as a means of meaning-making between geopolitical heavyweights and their partner countries.¹⁸ This is a fruitful parallel that can be drawn between the EU and its Southern neighbours. Taking inspiration from ‘kn/own/ables’ and ‘technoscientific gifts’, any type of Bourdieu-inspired understanding of capital needs the recognition of its attributes and specific worth by at least two entities. In such a manner, the capital is entangled in “active relationships” that provide to the related individuals or entities (in the form of institutional memory) a tacit or explicit understanding and, putting it in more colloquial terms, a sense of “how things work around here”.¹⁹ In this specific case, the known field is the ERA. Doing research and engaging in research activities through the opportunities offered by the ERA as a framework field involves a considerable component of social ordering and legitimisation of certain research approaches and findings.²⁰

Due to the focus of this paper on the ESN’s involvement in the ERA, the attempt to validate the worth of the capital, such as a

18. M. Rentetzi, D. Germanese, *Science diplomacy on display: mobile atomic exhibitions in the cold war: Introduction to Special Issue*, in *Annals of Science*, vol. 80, no. 1, 2023, p. 8, available at <https://doi.org/10.1080/00033790.2023.2166114>.

19. N. Zepke, L. Leach, *Improving student engagement: Ten proposals for action*, in *Active Learning in Higher Education*, vol. 11, no. 3, 2010, p. 173, available at <https://doi.org/10.1177/1469787410379680>.

20. M. Buning, *Teaching intellectual property*, in D. Schäfer, A. Mamidipudi, M. Buning (orgs.), *Ownership of Knowledge: Beyond Intellectual Property*, Cambridge, Massachusetts, London, England: The MIT Press, 2023, p. 108, available at <https://doi.org/10.7551/mitpress/14648.003.0005>.

co-ownership of the project, its deliverables, and achievements, relies not only on the Europe-based project manager. Tapping into the scholarly appraised “tacit, intuitive, and non-rational know-how” of project management,²¹ the eagerness to do so by the ESN-based entity is equally important. Such like-mindedness accomplishes the continuity of the ESN’s ties to some of the notable Europe-based research hubs. In this paper, this matter is addressed by studying the perceptions, estimations, and actions of Europe-based project managers based on their experiences with ESN colleagues.

1.3. Archetypes

Contemporary practice theory and recent enquiry into relationality set a good contextual basis for the study of such a supranational construct as the ERA. Nevertheless, it does not offer an exhaustive inventory of tools to go beyond the acknowledgement of certain sites of curated interactions and relational patterns. Therefore, this paper taps into sustainability studies and brings into the picture archetypes as a helpful approach to examine “detailed configurations of factors” tied to contemporary real-world challenges.²² The value of archetypes is that they are not ideal types. Archetypes do not

21. J. Thomas, S. George, S., P. Buckle Henning, *Resituating expert project managers' praxis within multiple logics of practice*, in *International Journal of Managing Projects in Business*, vol. 5, no. 3, 2012, p. 393, available at <https://doi.org/10.1108/17538371211235281>.

22. C. Oberlack, D. Sietz, E.B. Bonanomi, A. de Bremond, J. Dell'Angelo, K. Eisenack, E.C. Ellis, G. Epstein, M. Giger, A. Heinemann, C. Kimmich, M.T. Kok, D. Manuel-Navarrete, P. Messerli, P. Meyfroidt, T. Václavík, S. Villamayor-Tomas, *Archetype analysis in sustainability research: meanings, motivations, and evidence-based policy making*, in *Ecology and Society*, vol. 24, no. 2, 2019, p. 5, available at <https://doi.org/10.5751/ES-10747-240226>; L. Piemontese, R. Neudert, C. Oberlack, S. Pedde, M. Roggero, A. Buchadas, D.A. Martin, R. Orozco, K., Pellowe, A.C., Segnon, L. Zarbá, D. Sietz, *Validity and validation in archetype analysis: practical assessment framework and guidelines*, in *Environmental Research Letters*, vol. 17, no. 2, 2022, p. 1 et seq, available at <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/ac4f12>.

embody “extreme, hypothetical constructs”.²³ Instead, archetypes facilitate the identification of relational and interaction-oriented patterns without weighting whether one or another archetype is supreme over the others.

In essence, archetype analysis examines a repeated pattern of several modalities that characterise the studied phenomenon.²⁴ “Archetypes are understood as mental representations of relationships between attributes and processes that characteri[s]e systems.”²⁵ Analysts explore archetypes through diverse entry points ranging across archetypical impacts, processes, and conditions.²⁶ Archetypes are instrumental in the devised research design for largely methodological reasons. Archetypes is an approach with a high degree of compatibility with various conceptual and methodological combinations.²⁷ Therefore, a more extensive elaboration on the approach chosen to apply archetypes in this paper is explained in the subsequent section.

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23. C. Oberlack, D. Sietz, E.B. Bonanomi, A. de Bremond, J. Dell’Angelo, K. Eisenack, E.C. Ellis, G. Epstein, M. Giger, A. Heinimann, C. Kimmich, M.T. Kok, D. Manuel-Navarrete, P. Messerli, P. Meyfroidt, T. Václavík, S. Villamayor-Tomas, *Archetype analysis in sustainability research*, cit. p. 5.
 24. K. Eisenack, C. Oberlack, D. Sietz, *Avenues of archetype analysis: roots, achievements, and next steps in sustainability research*, in *Ecology and Society*, vol. 26, no. 2, art. 31, 2021, p. 1, available at <https://doi.org/10.5751/ES-12484-260231>; L. Piemontese, R. Neudert, C. Oberlack, S. Pedde, M. Roggero, A. Buchadas, D.A. Martin, R. Orozco, K., Pellowe, A.C., Segnon, L. Zarbá, D. Sietz, *Validity and validation in archetype analysis*, cit. p. 1.
 25. K. Eisenack, S. Villamayor-Tomas, G. Epstein, C. Kimmich, N. Magliocca, D. Manuel-Navarrete, C. Oberlack, M. Roggero, D. Sietz, *Design and quality criteria for archetype analysis*, in *Ecology and Society*, vol. 24, no. 3, art. 6, 2019, p. 2, available at <https://doi.org/10.5751/ES-10855-240306>.
 26. T. Tribaldos, C. Oberlack, F. Schneider, *Impact through participatory research approaches: an archetype analysis*, in *Ecology and Society*, vol. 25, no. 3, art.15, 2020, p. 9, available at <https://doi.org/10.5751/ES-11517-250315>.
 27. A. Gotgelf, M. Roggero, K. Eisenack, *Archetypical opportunities for water governance adaptation to climate change*, in *Ecology and Society*, vol. 25, n. 4, art. 6, 2020, p. 4, available at <https://doi.org/10.5751/ES-11768-250406>.

2. METHODS

Archetype analysis is a methodological approach.²⁸ Following the suggestion of Eisenack and colleagues,²⁹ this paper adopts the analytic narrative qualitative method based on several considerations. Firstly, “[a]nalytic narratives attempt to resolve historical puzzles by reconciling the benefits of ‘thin’ description with the advantages of ‘dirty’ empirics”.³⁰ The ‘dirty’ empirical techniques refer to the vast repository of qualitative research methods mostly used in the social sciences and humanities, for example, archival study and ethnography.³¹ In analytical narrative, these qualitative materials are used under the guidance of a model to fill a specific knowledge gap,³² in this case specifically defined archetypes. In this paper, the dirty empirics are captured by 19 online semi-structured

28. C. Oberlack, D. Sietz, E.B. Bonanomi, A. de Bremond, J. Dell’Angelo, K. Eisenack, E.C. Ellis, G. Epstein, M. Giger, A. Heinimann, C. Kimmich, M.T. Kok, D. Manuel-Navarrete, P. Messerli, P. Meyfroidt, T. Václavík, S. Villamayor-Tomas, *Archetype analysis in sustainability research*, *cit.* p. 10.
29. C. Oberlack, D. Sietz, E.B. Bonanomi, A. de Bremond, J. Dell’Angelo, K. Eisenack, E.C. Ellis, G. Epstein, M. Giger, A. Heinimann, C. Kimmich, M.T. Kok, D. Manuel-Navarrete, P. Messerli, P. Meyfroidt, T. Václavík, S. Villamayor-Tomas, *Archetype analysis in sustainability research*, *cit.* p. 5.
30. G. Brownlow, *Back to the failure: an analytic narrative of the De Lorean debacle*, in *Business History*, vol. 57, no. 1, 2015, p. 159, available at <https://doi.org/10.1080/00076791.2014.977875>.
31. G. Brownlow, *Back to the failure*, *cit.*, p. 159; R.H. Bates, A. Greif, M. Levi, J.-L. Rosenthal, B.R. Weingast, *The Analytic Narrative Project – Analytic Narratives*. By Robert H. Bates, Avner Greif, Margaret Levi, Jean-Laurent Rosenthal, and Barry Weingast. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1998. 296p. \$65.00 Cloth, \$22.95 Paper.”, in *American Political Science Review*, vol. 94, n. 3, 2000, p. 698, available at <https://doi.org/10.2307/2585843>.
32. P. Mongin, *What Are Analytic Narratives?*, in B. Miller, A. Lieto (orgs.), *7th Workshop on Computational Models of Narrative (CMN 2016)*, vol. 53, 2016, p. 13:8, Dagstuhl: Schloss Dagstuhl--Leibniz-Zentrum fuer Informatik, available at <https://doi.org/10.4230/OASlcs.CMN.2016.13>; D. Skarbek, E. Skarbek, *Analytic Narratives in Political Economy*, in *History of Political Economy*, vol. 55, no. 4, 2023, p. 612, 630, available at <https://doi.org/10.1215/00182702-10620913>.

interviews with project managers and one hybrid focus group with project consortium members.³³ A slightly 'cleaner' part of the (revisited) empirical data is used to triangulate the findings of this paper.³⁴ The earlier completed systematic FP7 and H2020 project mapping based on the open-access Community Research and Development Information Service (CORDIS) data base offers a limited triangulation option.³⁵ The authors offering guidance for analytic narrative refrain from being very specific about the kinds of components a narrative consists of.³⁶ Thus, the selected sources are considered sufficiently informative for the purposes of this study.

The analysis guided by the alternation narrative scheme commences from an inductive position.³⁷ Previous research stages offer

33. Initially covered by Z. Šime, *The Aspiration Towards Centrality in the European Research Area: The European Interest in Bringing the Southern Neighbourhood Into the Picture*, in manuscript under peer review, (n.d.b.).
34. L. Piemontese, R. Neudert, C. Oberlack, S. Pedde, M. Roggero, A. Buchadas, D.A. Martin, R. Orozco, K., Pellowe, A.C., Segnon, L. Zarbá, D. Sietz, *Validity and validation in archetype analysis*, cit., p. 3.
35. Initially covered in Z. Šime, *European Union Science Diplomacy in the Southern Neighbourhood: Mapping the Field and Plurality of Resilience-Builders*, *EU Diplomacy Paper No. 8*, Bruges: College of Europe, 2021, available at <https://www.coleurope.eu/sites/default/files/research-paper/EDP%208%202021%20Sime.pdf>; Z. Šime, *Participation of Morocco and Tunisia in the European Research Area: Research-Intense Collaborative Patterns Across the European Southern Neighbourhood*, in *European Integration Studies*, no. 17, 2023b, available at <https://doi.org/10.5755/j01.eis.117.33909>; Z. Šime, *European Science Diplomacy in the Southern Neighbourhood*, available at manuscript under peer review, n.d.a.
36. P. Mongin, *What Are Analytic Narratives?*, cit., p. 9 et seq; P. Mongin, *Analytic Narratives*, in C. Diebolt, M. Hauptert, M. (orgs.), *Handbook of Cliometrics*, Berlin, Heidelberg: Springer, 2019, p. 30, available at https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-642-40458-0_52-1.
37. K. Eisenack, S. Villamayor-Tomas, G. Epstein, C. Kimmich, N. Magliocca, D. Manuel-Navarrete, C. Oberlack, M. Roggero, D. Sietz, *Design and quality criteria for archetype analysis*, cit. p. 2; C. Hédoin, *History, Analytic Narratives, and the Rules-in-Equilibrium View of Institutions*, in *Philosophy of the Social Sciences*, vol. 50, no. 5, 2020, p. 395, available at <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11099-020-09500-0>.

preliminary insight concerning the four archetypes and the core attributes of each of these four archetypes. This paper studies in greater depth the representation of the four designed archetypes among the studied 19 projects and how the core attribute manifests in each of those projects. While studying more microlevel or project-level interactions, the modelled archetypes are considered transferable and applicable to the study of other EU FPs.³⁸ Moreover, considering projects as temporary or time-bound institutions that are part of the ERA supranational framework structure, analytic narrative is a good choice for the methodological set-up.³⁹

Some of the nascent cases offering “occasionally narrative” historical analysis,⁴⁰ such as Greif’s comparison between late medieval path dependencies of Maghribi and Genoese trade-based economic growth and the way each of these two societies defined and practiced trade rules, address examples from a distant history.⁴¹ The model examples are fascinated by elusive narratives and are preoccupied with explaining choices and decisions to reach gener-

org/10.1177/0048393120903389; D. Skarbek, E. Skarbek, *Analytic Narratives in Political Economy*, cit., p. 613.

38. D. Skarbek, E. Skarbek, *Analytic Narratives in Political Economy*, cit., p. 614 et seq.

39. D. Skarbek, E. Skarbek, *Analytic Narratives in Political Economy*, cit., p. 623.

40. C. Hédoïn, *History, Analytic Narratives, and the Rules-in-Equilibrium View of Institutions*, cit., p. 404; P. Mongin, *Analytic Narratives*, cit., p. 30.

41. A. Greif, *Cultural Beliefs and the Organization of Society: A Historical and Theoretical Reflection on Collectivist and Individualist Societies*, in *Journal of Political Economy*, vol. 102, no. 5, 1994, p. 943 et seq, available at <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2138652>. Greif’s later work with an explicit analytic narrative approach is among the most often referred to in the latest methodological guides, for example in P. Mongin, *What Are Analytic Narratives?*, cit., p. 2 et seq; P. Mongin, *Analytic Narratives*, cit., p. 4 et seq.

alisation that distance away from case-specific givens.⁴² In contrast, this paper addresses a rather recent episode of history. The chosen time frame 2014-2017 goes a little less than a decade back in time. Nevertheless, it captures somewhat distant, completed, rather than ongoing, experiences. It is a "spatiotemporally well defined" choice to examine completed projects and the way collegial ties were organised within these projects.⁴³

Secondly, analytic narratives, especially when it comes to the role of non-observables in institutional analysis,⁴⁴ are highly compatible with the overarching theoretical rationale of the relationality tied to practice theory. The 'relational turn' shows receptiveness to the enduring appraisal of in-depth interviews to explore the nuances of routines and mental dispositions associated with them.⁴⁵ Thus, the chosen 'dirty' empirics respond both to the relationality and archetypal considerations forming the analytical foundations of this paper. Additionally, using practice theory and its relational dimension as the theoretical point of departure offers an innovative distancing from the historical ties of analytic narrative to rational choice. The theoretical anchor comes closer to the recently re-

42. A. Greif, *Self-Enforcing Political Systems and Economic Growth: Late Medieval Genoa*, in R.H. Bates, A. Greif, M. Levi, J.-L. Rosenthal, B.R. Weingast (orgs.), *Analytic Narratives*, Princeton University Press, p. 60, available at <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv131bwhx.5>; R.H. Bates, A. Greif, M. Levi, J.-L. Rosenthal, B.R. Weingast, *Introduction*, in *Analytic Narratives*, Princeton University Press, 1998, p. 13 *et seq.*, available at <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv131bwhx.4>.

43. P. Mongin, *Analytic Narratives*, *cit.*, p. 22.

44. C. Hédoin, *History, Analytic Narratives, and the Rules-in-Equilibrium View of Institutions*, *cit.*, p. 405.

45. B. Klasche, P. Selg, *A pragmatist defence of rationalism: Towards a cognitive frames-based methodology in International Relations*, in *International Relations*, vol. 34, no. 4, 2020, p. 555, available at <https://doi.org/10.1177/0047117820912519>.

invigorated recommendation to use analytical narrative to build middle-range theories of institutional mechanisms.⁴⁶ In this case, the focus is on supranational and post-Westphalian governance frameworks.

To elaborate crucial details about the approach adopted in analysing the interviews, the term 'elite' and references to it might sound somewhat old-fashioned, inappropriate, or simply not the most preferred choice of terminology among some research circles, such as readers of Bourdieu.⁴⁷ Moreover, considerable ambiguity surrounds the contemporary use of this term.⁴⁸ Nevertheless, some of the reviewed literature attests that the term has not lost its currency among contemporary researchers.⁴⁹ To ensure the term's usefulness, this paper strips 'elite' from notions of power and privilege.⁵⁰ In doing so, the term proves its usefulness in demarcating a circle of outstandingly knowledgeable subject-matter experts.

46. C. Hédoïn, *History, Analytic Narratives, and the Rules-in-Equilibrium View of Institutions*, cit., p. 414; R.H. Bates, A. Greif, M. Levi, J.-L. Rosenthal, B.R. Weingast, "The Analytic Narrative Project [...]", cit., p. 700.

47. A. Vion, F. Dudouet, *Penser l'impérialisme à partir de la théorie des champs*, cit., p. 31.

48. T. Salverda, *Elite Culture*, in *The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology*, 2021, available at <https://doi.org/10.1002/9781405165518.wbeose030.pub2>.

49. R. Carrasco, J. Ruiz-Castillo, *Spatial mobility in elite academic institutions in economics: the case of Spain*, in *SERIEs - Journal of the Spanish Economic Association*, no. 10, 2019, p. 141 et seq, available at <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13209-019-0189-5>.

50. A. Mamidipudi, D. Schäfer, *Excavations of Knowledge Ownership*, cit., p. 23 et seq.; P. Korom, *How Do Academic Elites March Through Departments? A Comparison of the Most Eminent Economists and Sociologists' Career Trajectories*, in *Minerva*, vol. 58, 2020, p. 343 et seq, available at <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11024-020-09399-1>; R.S. Natow, *The use of triangulation in qualitative studies employing elite interviews*, in *Qualitative Research*, vol. 20, no. 2, 2020, p. 160, available at <https://doi.org/10.1177/1468794119830077>; Y. Ma, *Academic elites to economic elites? The diversification of Chinese international students*, in *Journal of International Students*, vol. 10, no. 3, 2020, pp. xxiii-xxiv, available at <https://doi.org/10.32674/jis.v10i4.2003>.

By removing all claims of powerfulness and privileged position associated with 'elites', this research does not discard this term as void. Instead, this article uses a slightly modified meaning of 'elite' to match the particularities of the contemporary setting. Consequently, this paper taps into contemporary thinking concerning various 'elites' to better grasp the chosen research topic.

In other words, interviewees represent elites, not because it would be a siloed and socially insulated group of individuals with some outstanding and unparalleled characteristics inaccessible to a wider public. Instead, in this paper, the term 'elite' refers to the noteworthy competence, specific experience, and acquired expertise of the interviewees. Their careers have afforded plenty of insights, not only into theoretical aspects of science but also into vast collaborative encounters supported by EU funding. In such a manner, they are praised because they possess a unique combination of "kn/own/ables" of not only scientifically sound theoretical knowledge but also a solid track record of traditional academic research output. Most importantly, they have experience of how the applied functionalities unfold through international consultative and collaborative encounters guided by a challenge-driven and result-oriented plan of collectively coordinated and jointly implemented activities. Due to the high competition for EU FPs funding, this obtained insight, especially when it comes to executing project coordination and leading management responsibilities, is considered noteworthy and indicates belonging to a specific group of experienced researchers and research administrators.

Unlike some of the recently documented experiences from across the world,⁵¹ the chosen interactive setup for this research project assembled all participants on an equal footing. This video conference setup for all interviews brings a netnographic dimension to this experience. It corresponds to scholarly observations about the increasing entanglement of online and offline elements in the learning process.⁵² Research is considered here to be an active learning process.

Taking into consideration the conceptual modalities outlined in the theoretical part and the methodological aspects explained in this section, this paper coined the following four archetypes (outlined in table 1) to classify 19 FP7 and H2020-funded projects according to at least one of the archetypes. For the sake of clarity, the goal is to categorise each project under (at least) one archetype. However, archetypes are not meant to be mutually exclusive, and real-world collegial research dynamics may represent some difficulties in drawing clear-cut conclusions about the exact nature of research interactions.⁵³ The previously issued guidance that “[n]o

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51. A.M. Solarino, H. Aguinis, *Challenges and Best-practice Recommendations for Designing and Conducting Interviews with Elite Informants*, in *Journal of Management Studies*, vol. 58, no. 3, 2020, p. 652, available at <https://doi.org/10.1111/joms.12620>; L. Li, *How to tackle variations in elite interviews: Access, strategies, and power dynamics*, in *Qualitative Research*, vol. 22, no. 6, 2022, p. 846 *et seq.*, available at <https://doi.org/10.1177/1468794121994475>; S. Gupta, S.W. William, *The Highs and Lows of Interviewing Legal Elites*, in *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, vol. 21, 2022, available at <https://doi.org/10.1177/16094069221078733>.
 52. W. Shumar, N. Madison, *Ethnography in a virtual world*, in *Ethnography and Education*, vol. 8, no. 2, 2013, p. 264 *et seq.*, available at <https://doi.org/10.1080/017457823.2013.792513>.
 53. A. Gotgelf, M. Roggero, K. Eisenack, *Archetypical opportunities for water governance adaptation to climate change*, *cit.*, p. 5; C. Oberlack, *Diagnosing institutional barriers and opportunities for adaptation to climate change*, in

two archetypes can cover exactly the same set of models” does not fit well with the devised limited number of archetypes.⁵⁴ Perhaps this qualitative study is not unique in this struggle. Considering that, with some exceptions, such as the use of semi-structured interviews by Wang, Eisenack, & Tan,⁵⁵ most archetype studies have a quantitative propensity. Consequently, this paper recognises the value of considering each project as eligible for more than one type of the four coined archetypes.

Table 1: *Four project archetypes*

Archetype number	Core attribute	Minimal criteria
Archetype 1 (A1)	One-off EU-funded project encounter	One jointly implemented EU-funded project
Archetype 2 (A2)	A prolonged cooperation throughout two consecutive EU-funded projects	Two jointly implemented EU-funded projects without a major time lapse in between the end of the first project and the start of the second project
Archetype 3 (A3)	A prolonged cooperation throughout EU-funded and otherwise funded projects, programs or other modalities	At least two jointly implemented EU-funded projects combined with other joint activities, such as drafting of new project applications for various funding sources
Archetype 4 (A4)	Occasional cooperation based on collegial acquaintance or mutual familiarity that lasts for more than a decade	Dispersed cooperative research-oriented encounters lasting for more than a decade

Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Global Change, vol. 22, 2017, p. 807, available at <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11027-015-9699-z>.

54. A. Gotgelf, M. Roggero, K. Eisenack, *Archetypical opportunities for water governance adaptation to climate change*, cit., p. 5.
55. R. Wang, K. Eisenack, R. Tan, *Sustainable rural renewal in China: archetypical patterns*, in *Ecology and Society*, vol. 24, no. 3, art. 32, 2019, p. 3, available at <https://doi.org/10.5751/ES-11069-240332>.

Table 1 facilitates a brief description of the core attribute and the minimal criteria that guided the review of 19 semi-structured interviews with Europe-based project managers about their project preparation, planning, implementation, and follow-up experiences. Since some project managers prefer to remain anonymous, anonymity is applied to all projects. This approach helps to depart from project-specific modalities and treat all projects as more generic repositories of collaborative encounters that are comparable and can be depicted in a systematised way according to at least one of the devised four archetypes.

3. RESULTS

3.1. Overview of archetypes

Before addressing the nuances captured by each project cluster categorised under each archetype, it is essential to get a clear picture concerning the obtained statistics. Most of the 19 studied projects correspond to A1 of the one-off EU-funded project encounter. To answer the research question, the prevailing archetype characterising the involvement of the ESN in the ERA is a single project engagement. Consequently, this prevalence of single-project encounters confirms the hypothesis. Indeed, the project archetypes that facilitate the involvement of the ESN in the ERA largely rely on one-off EU FPs-funded project-based encounters, not an extended sequence of projects and other collaborative engagement modalities. However, this result should be balanced with full acknowledgement that prolonged cooperation through a blend of diverse funding sources is relatively common.

The next most popular archetype was A3, which corresponds to enduring collegial ties that span beyond two jointly implemented EU FPs-funded projects.

Table 2: Project classification according to the cluster

Archetype number	Corresponding project number	Total number of projects
Archetype 1 (A1)	P5; P10; P11; P12; P13; P14; P15; P16	8
Archetype 2 (A2)	P2 ; P4; P17	3
Archetype 3 (A3)	P1; P2 ; P3; P7; P8; P17	6
Archetype 4 (A4)	P6; P9; P18; P19	4

This statistical picture (outlined in table 2) should not be taken as completely informative about the various networking and collaborative avenues pursued by the Europe-based coordinating institutions and their ESN-based consortium partners due to a considerably long list of considerations. The specificity of some science domains and the working styles associated with these sciences make them more prone to planning extended rather than one-off encounters. Some additional noteworthy considerations on how to approach this generally presented overview are explained in the discussion section of this article. Due to the standard length of this paper, it cannot accommodate an even longer description of all potential factors that should be factored in when looking critically at this generalisation and confirmation of the hypothesis.

Despite the acknowledged shortfalls of the chosen methodological means and the way those are applied in this study, it is clearly visible that this initial attempt to develop archetypes helps to get a more schematic and structured picture of the relationality

patterns. The detected archetype pattern is informative about the ESN engagement in the ERA during the post-volatile Arab Spring period. The representation of four archetypes goes beyond the particularities and uniqueness captured by each project. Such an ability to zoom out the analytic view is essential for a comprehensive look at the ERA as a supranational governance and steering framework. The chosen approach provides a more generalised picture of the engagement modalities offered by the ERA for external action and diplomatic aims. The subsequent subsections explain in greater detail the reasons for the prevailing sporadic relationality between Europe and the ESN within the ERA.

3.2. Archetype 1: single cooperation project

Correspondence to A1 involves diverse considerations. In the case of P5, the willingness to continue cooperation in the future with the ESN-based consortium member through new project applications was not successful because the project applications did not receive approval and a grant. However, the goodwill and mutual interest do not wane. Collegial ties are kept alive, and viable options for future cooperation are considered.

The P10 one-off encounter with ESN-based entities was an inspiring experience for the representative of the Europe-based coordinating institution. The intensity of exchanges and mutual development of 'kn/own/ables' was attested to by the active engagement of the ESN-based entity in the researchers' mobility offer. The co-creation of knowledge was achieved in active cooperation with the hard-working ESN-based mobile researchers. ESN-based

individuals were very eager to contribute to the project's delivery. The European-based project manager's interest in further cooperation beyond the project time frame is restricted by the funding calls. Most thematically and expertise-wise relevant calls for applications are tailored for European consortium eligibility. This is a great example of the pivotal role of the funding bodies in securing the inclusion of ESN-based entities in consortium formation. The lack of eligibility for financial support plays a crucial role in restricting continued cooperation.

In contrast to P5 and P10, P11 was a difficult experience for the Europe-based manager. The ESN-based entity did not show a satisfactory level of responsiveness and engagement. ESN-based entity was not sufficiently contributing to the project's implementation. This experience has not generated any great interest from the Europe-based project manager to extend collaborative encounters beyond the project time frame.

The P12 experience did not encourage the Europe-based project manager to eagerly seek a consecutive cooperation opportunity because the project suffered from various administrative challenges on the ESN side. Issues encountered by the ESN-based colleague to meet deadlines and offer swift feedback on diverse aspects of the project were not motivating enough to immediately look for new avenues to extend cooperation. Despite prior familiarity among scientists, the project implementation brought new administrative considerations and challenges for smooth interactions. The project experience brought new relational considerations. P12 shows the importance of the broader administrative environment on the

success or limitations of project implementation that might be out of the researchers' control. Institution-wide and national routines may not always be conducive to project-based collegial encounters and smooth cooperation.

The P13 project finished with a myriad of insights, lessons learned, and considerations for future potential pathways on how to structure collaborative plans with the ESN-based entities. P13 gave a more thorough understanding of the risks associated with ensuring sufficient quality of the research data collected in countries with poor domestic support for the higher education and research sectors. The project was not immediately followed up with another cooperation episode due to the mutual incompatibility of the financial estimates of the discussed joint endeavour. Despite this limiting factor, the project manager does not discard potential future cooperation opportunities. However, it is a long-term aspiration, not an immediate urgency tied to the ESN. The project manager has a clear understanding of what potential future cooperation might look like. However, this general outline is not centred around a specific ESN-based collegial tie. Instead, it is a broad idea that might be subject to cooperation with the most suitable partner, not one specific institution or individual.

P14 gravitates more towards A1 because the project coordinator did not have extensive prior familiarity with the ESN-based consortium member. The previous project experience was vaguely remembered by the project manager, with no clear reference to one specific funding source. The level of engagement in the previous project by the project manager was much more limited than in P14.

Based on this consideration, P14 is not considered eligible for categorisation under A2. Interest in extended cooperation depends on financial considerations. Lack of funding for continued cooperation results in the absence of regular collegial interactions.

P15 was one project experience that served as a gateway for an ESN-based entity to subject matter expert circles. The project manager does not know the networking and partnering whereabouts that the ESN-based entity established during or after the project implementation. There was no consecutive project cooperation between the P15 manager and the ESN-based consortium member. Thus, P15 served as an introductory passage to the expert circle and their respective domains of 'known/ables' to the ESN entity. Similarly to other A1 project managers, the P15 representative attested to the administrative challenges. In this specific case, those were the visa requirements of ESN-based individuals. Other project management risks were associated with the fact that, for the ESN-based entity, this was the first EU FPs-funded project experience. However, unlike in other A1 experiences, the ESN administrative challenges did not pose a major challenge to the successful delivery of P15. In comparison, this challenge did not pose as severe implications for P15 as those reported by other A1 projects' representatives. Overall, P15 was a fruitful experience.

P16 was a good project experience. The continued exchanges take place in the expert network because the consecutive project application for EU funding was not approved. The interest in continued cooperation was attested to by the joint drafting of the project application. Overall, the potential for future cooperation

was seen through the EU lens, as was the opportunity to extend collaborative ties based on EU support.

To conclude, the sporadic relationality captured by these eight project accounts inform about the following determining factors for sustained cooperation. Europe-based project managers look for matching expertise to fit future project requirements. They know that the ESN entities come with a substantial administrative challenge because they are not part of the united and border-free European zone of free mobility and administrative harmonisation. Europe-based project managers rely on EU funding support for the engagement of the ESN entities.

3.3. Archetype 2: two joint projects

The A2 project cluster includes P2, with two jointly implemented EU FPs-funded project experiences and some vague notions concerning other EU-supported project encounters. This lack of exact data places P2 eligibility in both the A2 and A3 clusters. It is a collaborative thread that has some ad hoc additional components associated with it, with a different thematic coverage than the one detected in two recent projects that are of primary concern.

In a similar manner, P17 has clearly demonstrated consecutive cooperation in two EU FPs-funded projects with some additional research ties and potentially some other funding sources or rationale. Since during the interview the interviewer did not ask for very specific data on the complementary collegial activities, P17 is classified as more adhering to the A2 core attribute than the A3 one. However, more in-depth research of on-going collegial

activities extended beyond P17 and its consecutive project might offer some new information to re-evaluate whether this estimation should be re-categorised as more attuned to the main rationale of A3. Overall, this combination of joint activities sparked by P17 is based on mutual goodwill, successful cooperation, and a willingness to build on past achievements. P17 is a resourceful example of 'kn/own/ables' and 'technoscientific gifts'. The project manager oversaw the deployment of advanced monitoring instruments in the ESN and facilitated the training of ESN-based researchers to masterfully use the temporarily acquired research items. The sustainability of this initiative to share European expertise and technical measurement practices and the mutual acknowledgment of this learning experience, know-how, and technical objects are proven by the ESN government allocation of funding to cover some of the maintenance costs for the research instrumentation.

Overall, the research findings illustrate that the devised A2 and A3 have commonalities, and both are hard to separate due to gaps in more nuanced information about activities adjacent to P2 and P17. These issues of empirical gaps were spotted only at a late stage of the research process. The initial logic of triangulating the interview insights with the project mapping proves incapable of addressing this lack of detailed data. This is a telling episode that this study deals with truly 'dirty' empirics with lots of unique angles and less detailed generalisations that might turn out to be problematic to fulfil the methodological guidance for the study of archetypes. Having two projects corresponding to the same combination of two archetypes goes against the general methodological guidance for

the archetypal study. Instead of seeing this episode as a research failure, it is treated as an opportunity to illustrate how complex considerations in qualitative research led to contradicting some of the general archetype guidance that was issued to all types of archetype studies (quantitative, qualitative, and mixed method). The murky data aspects of A2 could be addressed in a separate, in-depth study comparing in greater detail P2 and P17.

3.4. Archetype 3: two joints projects and complementary activities

The P1 collegial ties represent a chain of collaboration beginning with the collaborative facilitation of individual PhD mobilities financed by regional and national authorities. After that, two other projects financed by EU FPs were jointly carried out. It is interesting to note that in this example, the collegial ties were strengthened during the period of transition when the project manager moved from one higher education institution to another. This transition happened during the project's implementation. This one-of-a-kind example of a change in the employment institution highlights the value of close personal and professional connections that follow researchers and are crucial for eligibility under A3.

Beyond a single EU FP-funded project, P3 and P7 meetings benefited from other EU funding schemes and other cooperative encounters. The specific project under study was a component of a collection of initiatives that facilitated interactions between the ESN-based counterparts and the organisation located in Europe. P7 involved special information sharing that centred on 'techno-

scientific gifts' and 'know/own/ables'. The project itself did not provide financing for the establishment of a new research centre by the ESN-based organisation. Therefore, the European side did not explicitly offer the 'technoscientific gift' to the ESN side. However, the manager headquartered in Europe provided "kn/own/ables" regarding the circumstances and prerequisites for the ESN-based entity to get closer to installing the envisioned scientific facility. Without this generous sharing of insights by the management situated in Europe, including certain practical and administrative lessons learned from own experience relating to similar facilities elsewhere, the object itself might suffer from a lack of correct setup and skilled management.

P8's reoccurring cooperation with ESN-based entities relies not only on joint interest to implement EU FPs-funded projects. Domain-specific collegial ties are maintained by other means, such as the European issue-based networks and regional offices of such networks. This interaction through various frameworks attests to the importance of studying multiple EU instruments and expert circles to fully grasp the whole intellectual architecture that supports EU external action and science diplomacy. The encounters shouldered by the ERA benefit from mutual familiarity developed through other initiatives and issue-based membership constellations.

In sum, due to the structure of the semi-structured interview template, little additional detail was obtained concerning the complementary collegial activities besides those structured in the form of EU FPs-funded projects. More extensive research with a tailored

research design would help address this matter. Most importantly, the A3 cluster demonstrates that the interviewed project managers are true 'elite' in the sense that they have obtained unique experience in successfully combining supranationally steered funding incentives with other funding sources. Their mastery of sustaining highly performative collegial ties with the ESN through diverse research-oriented means is instrumental in ensuring that the ESN becomes an integral part of the ERA. These project managers are not only scientific project management achievers. They are notable figures in the EU external action and science diplomacy context because their work and its resonance span well beyond the administratively sufficient delivery of EU-funded activity plans and the adequate fulfilment of scientific criteria. P1, P3, P7, and P8 project managers have mastered professional ties of considerable relational worth and a proven understanding of how to facilitate supranationally encouraged expert encounters, including capital transactions, through offering 'know/own/ables'.

3.5. Archetype 4: long-term collegial encounters

Correspondence to A4 is founded on institutional intents and actions to foster bilateral cooperation with expertise-wise relevant ESN-based partners. Prior to P6, researcher mobility paved the way for more than fifteen years of cooperation in diverse formats. These activities are combined with intentions to sustain these exchanges during the upcoming five years and even longer. The project that was at the centre of the interview was the achievement

of an incremental and gradual development of collegial encounters over 15 years.

Similarly, P9 project cooperation relied on prior nationally coordinated encounters with consortium members based on issue-specific expertise hosted by the Europe-based manager. The project is an emblematic embodiment of 'kn/own/ables' and 'technoscientific gifts'. The Europe-based project manager possessed the unique expertise required to install and commence the operation of a scientific measurement infrastructure object geographically transported to Northern Africa. The component parts and the instrument were installed in Northern Africa thanks to the know-how and expertise shared by the Europe-based manager with the ESN-based counterparts. It was a considerably sustainable engagement because this newly installed infrastructure project was kept operational two years after the project ended. The long-term sustainability and performance of the installed research facility deserve to be revisited in the forthcoming years. After P9, collegial ties are maintained through the facilitation of early-career researcher mobility and doctoral theses guidance and evaluations.

P18 adheres to the A4 cluster due to the very individual take of the project manager on one's experiences with the ESN. The project manager attaches great importance to building lasting collegial ties and extending awareness about different hubs of expertise and the individuals working there. On an individual level, the project manager attests to the notable weight of personal ownership and the acknowledgement of 'kn/own/ables' as an asset that is inseparable from researchers as professionals, their

former, present, and future work affiliations, and career trajectories. On the one hand, this project manager perspective adhering to A4 might stem from a personal approach to work, networking, and the building of collegial ties. On the other hand, this correspondence to the A4 specificity might stem from the particularities and unique characteristics of the working environment characterising the science disciplines represented by the project manager. P18 attests that some project consortiums are seen as distilled partnerships in a densely networked environment. For example, finding the most suitable ESN-based partners for P18 took effort and consultation among colleagues. P18 attests to the considerable attention paid by consortium coordinators to tailor the membership composition of the project and invest a substantial amount of time and brainpower in this task.

P19 is, project-wise, the most resourceful example. P19 forms part of a cluster of three EU-funded projects jointly implemented with ESN-based entities. This is not a siloed achievement because the institution represented by the Europe-based project manager attempts to engage ESN-based entities as much as it can. This propensity to link the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean is largely tied to the acknowledgement that proper solutions to contemporary challenges require joint engagement. Various environmental and sustainability issues require looking at them in an integrated manner and well beyond national borders. Joint engagement is essential for a more comprehensive understanding of viable solutions. P19 attests to the importance of co-production

of 'kn/own/ables' to properly address contemporary challenges and build goodwill between the EU and ESN.

To summarise, A4 representation across the interviewed projects is highly dependent on whether the senior leadership of the project responded to the interview invitation. Only the principal coordinator or investigator of the project might have this advanced level of accumulated expertise, awareness about expert networks, and years of productive encounters. Such an individual profile of strong relationality allows to position the EU FPs-funded project in a longer string of acclaimed collaborative initiatives and identify complementarities. Some hard-working and committed junior project implementers are at an earlier career stage and might not possess this broad range of insights to position the project in an equally rich and thick context. This is an important methodological consideration when thinking about how to hone more detailed attributes of the initially devised archetypes in the future and add additional selection criteria for the interviewees. The most experienced and densely networked 'elites' provide the most thorough insight into how the supranational incentives characterising the ERA trickle down to the daily project management and coordination level and how noteworthy 'kn/own/ables' are co-developed. Some of the recently installed 'technoscientific gifts' would benefit from being revisited in a follow-up study after a couple of years to appraise the true resonance of their research and societal value.

3.6. Triangulation

Since sporadic relationality based on one project encounter is the prevailing archetype of this study, it is worth triangulating this finding with the already completed project mapping. This project selection served as the basis on which the sample of interview invitations was devised.

The FP7 project portfolio mapping resulted in the following conclusion: "Re-occurring institutional pairs are an exception rather than a rule. To be precise, there are few outstanding cases. Namely, the Morocco-based National Institute of Fisheries Research and the University of Bergen collaborated consecutively in projects CARBOCHANGE and PREFACE. Mohammed V University in Rabat participated in PEGASO and MOSAIC coordinated by the Autonomous University of Barcelona. The Tunisian National Research Institute for Rural Engineering, Water and Forestry participated simultaneously in MENFRI and BEWATER coordinated the Barcelona-based Ecological and Forestry Applications Research Centre."⁵⁶ "The H2020 data-set observation demonstrated" repeated "collaborative links between the Pasteur Institute of Tunis and the Barcelona Institute for Global Health" during InSPIRES and EUROLEISH-NET projects.⁵⁷ H2020 offered an overall dispersed picture. Most importantly, continued cooperation did not happen only between universities and research institutes. Ireland-based International Information Management Corporation Ltd and the

56. Z. Šime, *European Union Science Diplomacy in the Southern Neighbourhood*, cit., p. 28 et seq.

57. Z. Šime, *European Science Diplomacy in the Southern Neighbourhood*, cit.

Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research collaborated during FP7-funded IST-Africa 2012-13 and IST-Africa 2014-2015, as well as H2020 funded IST-Africa 2016-2018 projects.⁵⁸ These rare examples increase the reliability of the finding of the prevalence of A1 as a widespread mode for engaging ESN-based entities in the ERA. The findings guided by the archetypal considerations confirm earlier project findings of the prevailing research-oriented encounters founded on one single project.

Moreover, not to abuse the requested anonymity among some of the interviewees, it is worth adding that some of the projects named among the reoccurring cooperation examples in the previous paragraph also benefited from the responsiveness to the interview invitation. Four interview projects are named and represent the archetyped project instances. One represents A1, one corresponds to the empirically murky A2, and two projects are part of the A3 cluster. This nuance is important to stress that this paper captures some of those seldom observed repeated collegial ties and taps into more nuances of context-rich A3 experiences. Each A3 project adheres to a unique grouping of interconnected projects and mutually exclusive expert circles. Thus, none of the four archetyped projects are mutually overlapping in terms of thematic coverage and associated collegial networks.

To link these findings about the contemporary research-oriented and knowledge-intensive supranational research infrastructure of

58. Z. Šime, *Participation of Morocco and Tunisia in the European Research Area: Research-Intense Collaborative Patterns Across the European Southern Neighbourhood*, in *European Integration Studies*, no. 17, 2023b, available at <https://doi.org/10.5755/J01.eis.17.33909>.

the ERA with the past glory of the ESN area, this part of the paper acknowledges the enduring and international inspiration that the Library of Alexandria offers to intellectuals and administrators of research and higher education institutions across the world.⁵⁹ Drawing parallels with this emblematic library, in a somewhat similar fashion, the ERA serves as a highly accessible intellectual place occasionally frequented by the ESN-based entities through their adherence to one or another project consortium or outreach activity of a project. While restricting access with tailored criteria and conditions of expertise defined by the project eligibility criteria, the ERA is open to the ESN. The ESN beneficiaries obtain time-bound engagement in supranationally steered expert circles and concerted activities. As the prevalence of sporadic relationality attests, such intellectual engagement with ERA-hosted activities is more ad hoc than sustained.

4. DISCUSSION

One important intervening factor in the classification of project experiences according to the defined archetypes is the size of each institution represented by the project manager. Some institutions are rather compact. Others are large higher education and/or research institutions with multiple large departments. On several occasions, this factor of the size of the institution restricted the opportunity to obtain a full picture concerning all relevant professional encounters between the Europe-based institutions and

59. H. Hsiung, *Complete, Accessible, Now: What Is Living and What Is Dead in the Research Library*, in *Journal for the History of Knowledge*, vol. 4, 2023, p. 16, available at <https://doi.org/10.55283/jhk.12409>.

their ESN-based counterparts partnering in the selected project. The thematic coverage of different institutional entities involved in cooperation episodes was not always known to the interviewed project managers. Thus, the archetype representation cannot be considered fully accurate. For instance, some A2 cases might have unacknowledged A3 adherence. Although interviewees received the interview template with questions, including questions on prior cooperation, before the interview took place, not all interviewees found it necessary to launch a survey among colleagues to acquire a full picture of all cooperation examples. Additionally, they did not always have full details about the exact funding source, project title, and other details related to more distant collegial encounters. These limitations make the archetype pattern explained in this paper prone to some potential limitations in terms of external validity and tests on other samples of projects. Moreover, similar future studies should take this lesson learnt about the implications of limited information acquired during the interview into account and prepare some mitigation and pre-emptive techniques to address this risk.

Furthermore, the interviews attested to the importance of institutional memory and the role that staff turnover plays in maintaining an overall awareness of relational ties to other institutions. On several occasions, interviews were held with representatives of the project-coordinating institution who were not themselves the principal investigators of the project. Thus, they did not have the same understanding about the prior collegial encounters before the project's drafting, implementation, and finalisation. Project representatives with a longer employment history at the project

coordinating institution know some nuances about the project's inception and the way projects are handed over at various stages of their preparation, implementation, and completion. However, depending on the tasks assigned for the project, the seniority level of the interviewee, and the length of employment at the project-coordinating institution, the information shared about the collegial ties may vary. This is one of the limitations of the designed archetypes and the classification of projects under one or another archetype. This classification relies on the institutional memory and the role of the interviewee at the project-coordinating institution. Not all individuals might have the exact same awareness of and engagement in collegial networks. Thus, the estimates offered about the project's inception, management, and follow-up prospects are communicated from different standpoints, angles, and time horizons.

External validity refers to "to the generali[s]ability of the claims emerging from archetype analysis, or the confidence in extending the results outside of the study sample".⁶⁰ The patterns detected within 19 projects deserve to be studied across other EU FPs projects' sample to obtain a clearer picture of how representative the pattern is across other clusters of ERA-supporting projects. The triangulation measure for this article was a rather compact one. The FP7 and H2020 project mapping serve the triangulation purposes of this research design. However, for more thorough

60. L. Piemontese, R. Neudert, C. Oberlack, S. Pedde, M. Roggero, A. Buchadas, D.A. Martin, R. Orozco, K., Pellowe, A.C., Segnon, L. Zarbá, D. Sietz, *Validity and validation in archetype analysis, cit.*, p. 3.

external validity purposes, a consecutive study of broader sets of projects and the archetypes they capture is instrumental.

In comparison to the vast repository of archetype studies, this paper does not entail a nuanced model of independent and dependent variables or a vast quantitative analysis. Instead, this is an introductory study to the topic, inviting readers to take another perspective on the EU-funded projects as valuable components of the supranational architecture maintained and steered by the EU institutions. This initial study has given some useful indications about the existing data bases and information repositories and how those might be employed in future studies with more advanced and complex methodological frameworks. The CORDIS open-access data base proves its value as an excellent springboard for a systematic approach to the exploration of collegial networks and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

This study concludes that, based on the pattern of Morocco- and Tunisia-based beneficiaries, ESN access to the ERA largely relies on ad hoc project engagements. Most of the analysed projects correspond to one-off EU-funded project encounters between ESN-based entities and the Europe-based project manager. In response to the research question, the most widespread archetype describing the involvement of the ESN in the ERA is a single project engagement. Furthermore, this engagement trend confirms the hypothesis. The most widespread project archetype of the involvement of the ESN in the ERA restricts the research encounter

to one project. A list of projects combined with other collaborative engagement modalities is less prevalent. Nevertheless, there are several instances proving that Europe-based managers are eager and capable of sustaining ties with their ESN counterparts based on diverse funding sources. Thus, to a considerable degree, the ERA dynamics and relational ties are embedded in a broader international research landscape, not siloed away from it.

This initial attempt or pilot project of archetype-centred qualitative research comes with challenges and achievements. Future honing of archetypes will require making a clearer distinction between A2 and A3 to avoid an overlap in the categorisation of projects under both archetypes. Further qualitative enquiry into the unique characteristics of A2 data might be informative in this respect. From the present findings, it seems that the answer to this fine-tuning of both archetypes lies in cleaning up some of the 'dirtiness' of the empirical data associated with A2 projects. Despite the identified limitations of empirical sources, their use to categorise projects under four archetypes is very helpful to better understand the ERA structure beyond its major division into Bourdieusian subfields. To understand the modalities of these subfields, archetypes are instrumental. Archetypes demonstrate the relational logic and project-oriented management solutions that put in motion the ERA subfields. Archetypes offer a more nuanced understanding of the considerations guiding experienced research project managers in extending collaborative plans across the ESN. Archetypes better illustrate what pattern of expert circle encounters supports EU external action, in what settings, and for

how long the EU science diplomacy projection unfolds through shared 'known/ables' and new initiatives offered to the ESN through European 'technoscientific gifts'.

The enthusiasm to develop EU external action studies by employing various theoretical and conceptual elements and methodological approaches is important not solely for this emerging field of studies. Seen more broadly, this receptiveness to various stances and the processing of diverse empirical material bring continuous intellectual dynamism to the more than century-old thinking on international relations. EU external action studies, such as this one, may serve as a source of inspiration for other compartments of international relations and indicate prospective pathways for enlivening research agendas with a fresh look at classics and European integration as a reinvented and reinvigorated tradition.

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