

Research proposal
Within a small-, medium- or large-scale collaborative research projects

Research project on emerging actors

*By Laurent Vinatier,
Ph D Candidate, Institute for Political Studies, Paris.*

This research project is developed in addition to PhD field studies and writing. I consider indeed essential to tackle both policy-oriented research and pure scientific issues.

I thus would be much interested to join a scientific team initiating a research proposal that could include this particular project on emerging actors.

Short biographical notice

PhD Candidate under Olivier Roy's direction, Diaspora Studies, Institute for Political Studies, Paris.

Having worked for almost a decade in the former Soviet Union on various issues from Islamism in Central Asia to Caspian energy, I have been focusing since 2003 on emerging Chechen Diasporas in the South Caucasus (Azerbaijan, Georgia), in Turkey, Europe and Russia. I travelled quite extensively for field studies during those three years, meeting with Chechen refugees (political leaders, head of NGOs, journalists, combatants) and with local activists. I have gained wide expertise particularly in all refugees and human rights issues, as well as in crisis management and peace-building initiatives.

Main publications: *Islamism in Central Asia*, Armand Colin, 2002; "EU-Russia relations: Moscow lays down its conditions", *Policy Brief*, Notre Europe, March 2006; *Russia: the Chechen Impasse*, Armand Colin, 2007.

Other publications can be found in various journals and reviews (Le Courrier des Pays de l'Est, Chechnya Weekly, Maghreb-Machrek, Caucaz.com ...). An exhaustive list could be provided if necessary.

Research details

The project is focused – for now – on the former Soviet Union. Its main research objects are political alternatives in authoritative states and EU tools of influence abroad.

It could be divided into two steps:

1. Briefings or reports on specific actors from the CIS: political parties, administrative officials, economic or cultural elites.

Laurent Vinatier

Laurent.vinatier@gmail.com

+ 33 6 07 59 03 20

2. Closed seminars or public conferences, depending on the topics.

Those scientific events held in Brussels may be aimed at facilitating contacts and meetings between local actors and European officials/politics.

Work packages to include in an eventual collaborative research project

Either *SSH-2007-4.2.1 “Conflicts and Peace”* or *SSH-2007-4.3.2 “Multilateralism and the new external relations of the European Union”*

I am willing to develop any work package related to one or several previously-mentioned research issues in the framework of those official Cooperation Work Programme topics.

Work packages proposals:

- What is a no-war situation? Case study: Chechnya.
- Conditions for a successful mediation. Case study: Nagorno-Karabagh.
- EU and US towards Russia.

Otherwise, I am ready to help the project leader in the dissemination and use of the project results through the organisation of seminars, workshops and conferences held at the European level. A recently founded NGO in Brussels, called “Project on Emerging Actors”¹, is aimed precisely at this kind of activity and may be included in a further partnership (through my intermediary) if it appears relevant.

¹ On the basis of analytical briefings, the *Project on Emerging Actors* aims at promoting actors from specific geographical areas whose behaviours, activities and/or projects could help to find a way out from politically or socially deadlocked situation.