

Inventing Europe – Technology and the Making of Europe 1850 to the Present

A proposal for an EUROCORES Programme



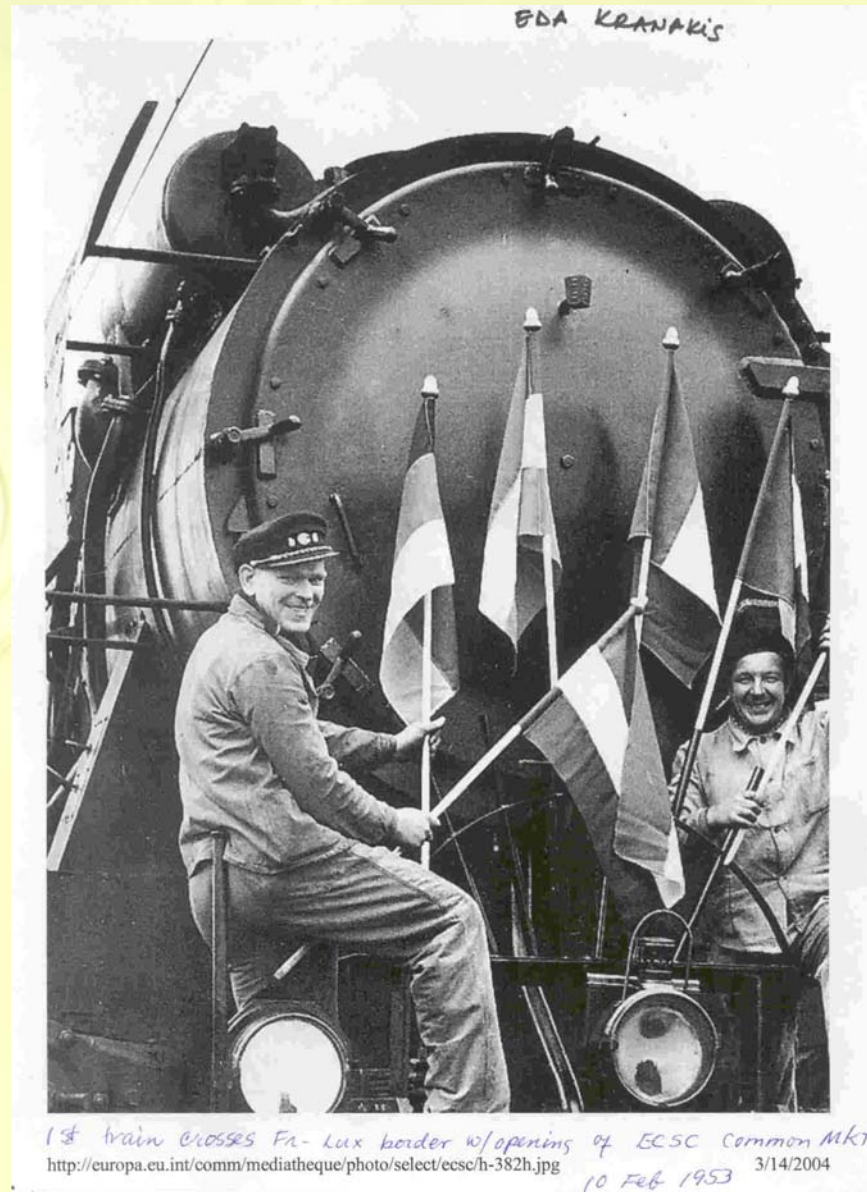
Inventing Europe Technology and the Making of Europe

A Proposal for an EUROCORES Programme

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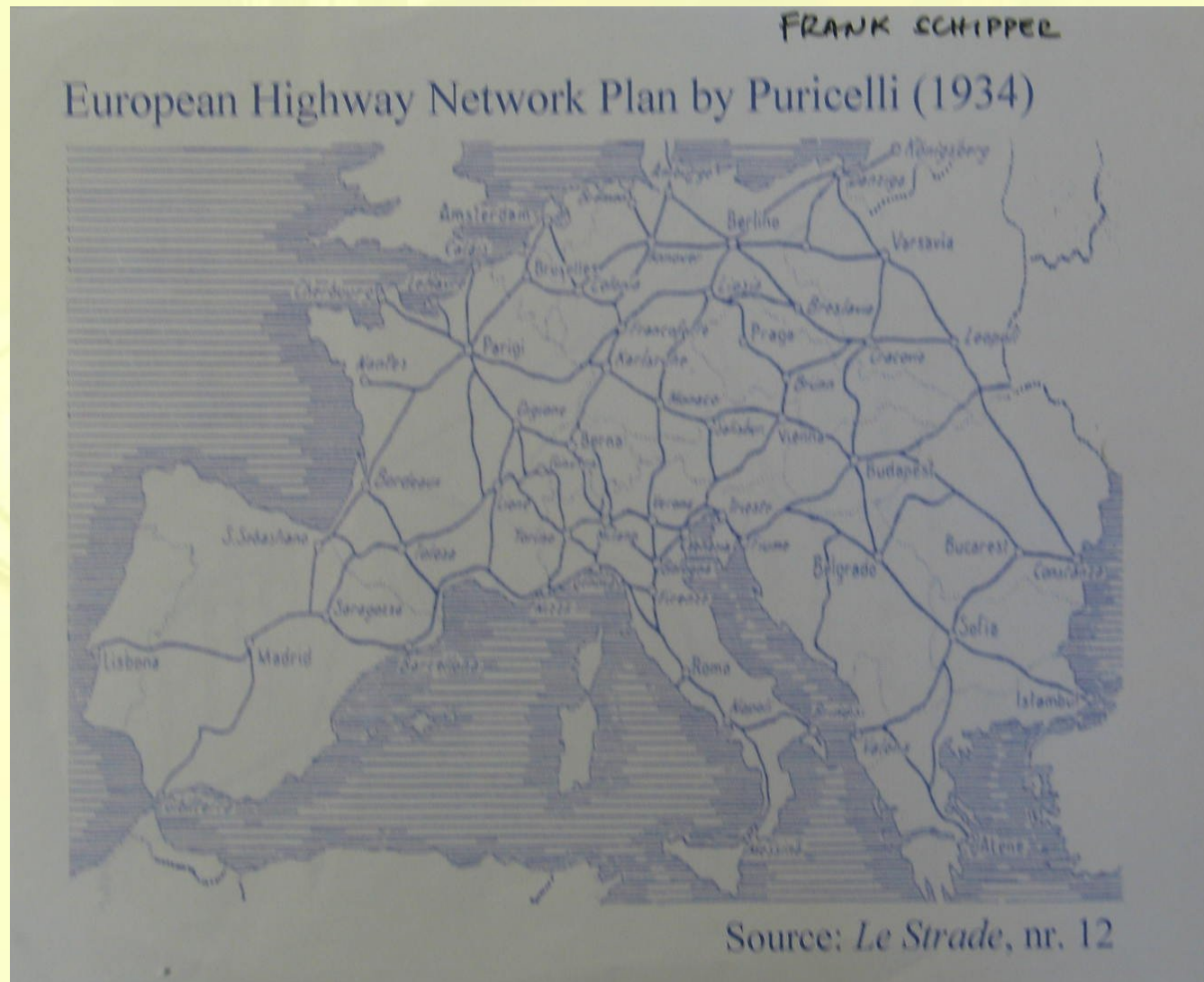
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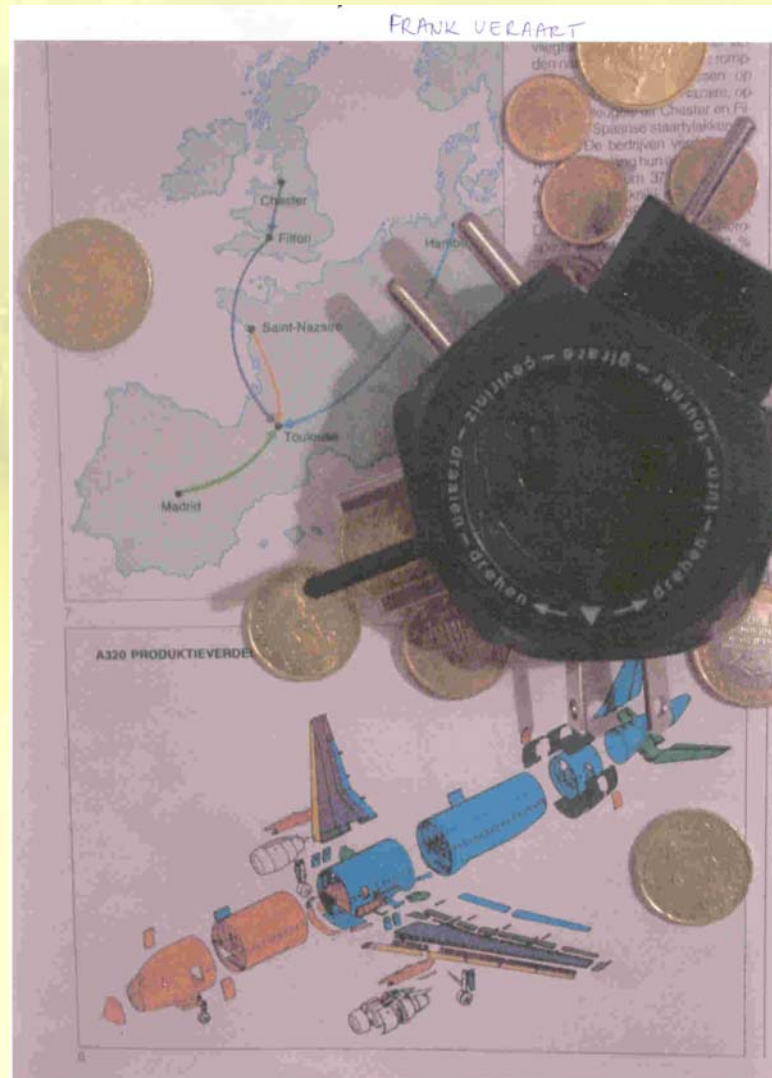
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Inventing Europe

Its main aim:

To develop a novel understanding of European integration
using
the lens of technology



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Informal integration

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To get away from focus on institution building,
treaty history, and history of policy coordination

Instead

Focus on how “Europe” has been constructed and
performed through interaction, networking, projection, and
appropriation



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Summary of other features

- Long-term perspective
- Transnational perspective
- Global perspective;
- Include contested and fragmented nature of process;
- Relate informal process to formal process;
- European integration part of European history



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Using the lens of technology

Technology comprises machines, products, systems, and infrastructures as well as skills, knowledge, and cultural scripts that make them work. Hence, technological change is understood as a deeply political, social, and cultural process involving people, institutions, and choices

This contextual understanding of technology allows to see it as a site for shaping European integration

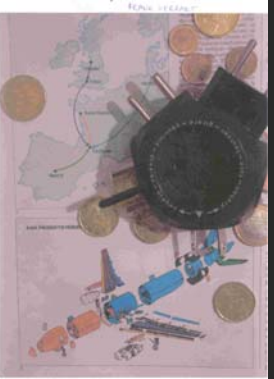


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History of Proposal Based on:

- ESF Network (also funded by NSF, plus range of national sponsors);
- Commitment to international research collaboration;
- Commitment to open up History of Technology to broader questions and other disciplines and fields



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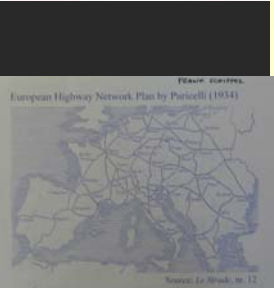
Specific Research Areas

- Building Europe through infrastructures;
- Standardising Europe;
- Consuming Europe;
- Europe in the Global World



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I. Building Europe through Infrastructures

- What specific European ideas have been embedded in infrastructures?
- How have nation-states and other international actors sought to regulate transnational connections?
- How have range of users signified used transnational infrastructures?

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II. Standardising Europe

- How were European perspectives negotiated against rival national, regional and international perspectives in European research collaborations?
- How were European standards and ways of thinking implemented?
- How did research collaborations influence knowledge infrastructure development?

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Two discrete European cases

“Successful” collaboration: ELDO, ESA and the “learning curve” of transnational research network

“Failed” standardisation: European collaboration in computer technology



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III. Consuming Europe

- How have firms tried to define and develop Europe- wide networks and markets?
- How have users and their representatives appropriated consumer products?
- How did the narratives about Europe relate to local, regional, national and global practices?



IV. Europe in the Global World

- How were definitions and practices of European technology development shaped by the colonial and decolonialisation experience?
- What was the influence of competition and comparison between European nations and empires and between Europe and the US and USSR?
- How did international agents serve as sites for negotiating European identities and practices?

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General questions to address in each project

- What kind of history of European integration and Europe is advanced in this project? How to interpret major episodes in European history?
- How has technology shaped emergent European structures and relationships?
- How can we evaluate relationships between informal and formal processes of European integration?



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Building coherence and outreach

- Networking; including workshops, annual conference summerschool. Networking will be open to invited experts & and other scholars, f.e. in associated projects;
- Publishing a book series (flagship); conceptualisations starts immediately;
- Web-based exhibition for a general audience. Portal to museum and other heritage organisations across Europe



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European added value

- Follows quite naturally from its subject: European integration;
- Is located in transnational nature of knowledge to be produced;
- Mapping rich and varied ways in which people have built, explored and opposed Europe since 1850s;
- Inventing Europe proves importance of EUROCORES scheme. It cannot and perhaps should not be funded otherwise



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