



HALMSTAD
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Inclusive Policy-Making in European Borderlands

B-Shapes Winter School on Culture, Landscape and Minorities

Wednesday, January 28 – Friday, January 30, 2026

Halmstad University, Sweden

The Winter School on Borders Shaping Perceptions of European Societies (B-SHAPES) is an inspiring training programme for professionals working in fields impacted by borders and border region challenges in Europe, especially focusing on culture and cultural heritage. The programme is organized by and takes place, at Halmstad University, Sweden. Our training offers a unique opportunity to learn about borders (including challenging the idea and definition of a border), discuss their impact on the daily life of citizens, and, through practice-informed sessions, work on solving practical issues deriving from different types of borders. The programme applies case-based techniques from the interdisciplinary field of public policy to instill inter-cultural collective learning outcomes. The programme relates to the work of the [Horizon Europe B-SHAPES project](#) and will be held entirely in English.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The B-SHAPES Winter School is designed for professionals in the public or private sector who engage with border and border region related challenges in their professional capacities. Young professionals are especially encouraged to apply. The training is primarily intended for EU/EU candidate/EFTA country residents, but it is also open to applications from third countries. Early career researchers (PhD, postdoctoral) are invited to apply if they want to engage in policy-oriented and research-policy bridging works.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

During the programme, lasting January 28th to January 30th, with an optional fieldtrip on January 31, you will benefit from an inspiring international learning environment in Halmstad, Sweden. Situated in a dynamic coastal city, Halmstad offers a unique setting to explore border studies, policy challenges, and regional cooperation. The programme features lectures by international experts, interactive workshops, policy-oriented case studies, and role-plays designed to challenge conventional understandings of borders and their impact on societies. Study visits and cultural activities will further enhance the learning experience, providing practical insights into border-related challenges and solutions. Drawing on evidence-based case studies, you will learn how to develop cultural and heritage policies that are more inclusive, how to create convincing narratives that engage local communities, and how to address recent cross-border challenges in a participatory way.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS?

The B-Shapes Winter School offers all participants free participation, shared accommodation, and lunch. Participants will need to cover their own travel to Halmstad, as well as all other expenses.



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HOW TO APPLY

Please apply by sending a one-page motivation letter and your CV to b-shapes@hh.se by October 10, 2025.

You will be informed about the selection results in November 2025. Approx. 20 participants will be accepted to the Winter School. We highly value active course participation and motivation to engage with other participants and share experiences. Therefore, applicants should have a strong command of the English language. High diversity of perspectives is essential for this school. To ensure this, the organising team reserves the right to give preference to applicants based on their background (occupational sector, country of employment, gender).

CONTACT

Please get in touch with b-shapes@hh.se with any questions about the winter school.

THE B-SHAPES PROJECT

“Borders Shaping Perceptions of European Societies (B-SHAPES)” is a Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Action project coordinated by the Centre of Border Region Studies at the University of Southern Denmark (SDU). B-Shapes analyzes and assesses how borders are still a key factor in understanding societies. In cooperation with Europeans living in border regions, we examine the role of borders through three lenses:

- Euroscepticism in border regions,
- minorities in border regions and
- border landscapes as heritage.

Our focus on borderlands promises new insights into how borders shape perceptions of societies and how the story of borders can be narrated differently than from a purely national perspective.

Project consortium:

Universities and research institutions:

University of Southern Denmark (PI), Brunel University London, Eötvös Loránd University, Eurac Research, Halmstad University, Technical University of Liberec, University of Oulu, University of Strasbourg, University of Wrocław

In cooperation with:

Association of European Border Regions (AEHR), European Network Remembrance and Solidarity (ENRS), National Museum of History (Bulgaria), Kreatus, Lungomare



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