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## Closer together or further apart? The Dynamics of European Scientific Collaboration Networks

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The study explores the evolution of a dynamic co-authorship network among European countries between 1990 and 2023 arising from the interplay of geographical, linguistic, and historical factors to shape scientific collaboration. Using bibliometric data from OpenAlex, Indirect Blockmodeling and Dynamic Stochastic Blockmodeling (DSBM) are employed in the analysis to examine patterns in three critical periods: rise of the Internet (1994–2003), enlargement of the EU (2004–2013), and the European Research Area (ERA) initiatives (2014–2023). The findings reveal exponential growth in the number of co-authored publications, an overall increase in intra-cluster collaboration, notably in the Balkan, Scandinavian, and Western clusters, coupled with persistent regional disparities. Despite EU policy interventions, collaborations between Western and non-Western regions remain limited. The study underscores the need for targeted measures to foster more inclusive and balanced scientific networks across Europe.

### Keywords/Topics

temporal co-authorship network, European countries, EU research policy, (stochastic) blockmodeling, OpenAlex

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