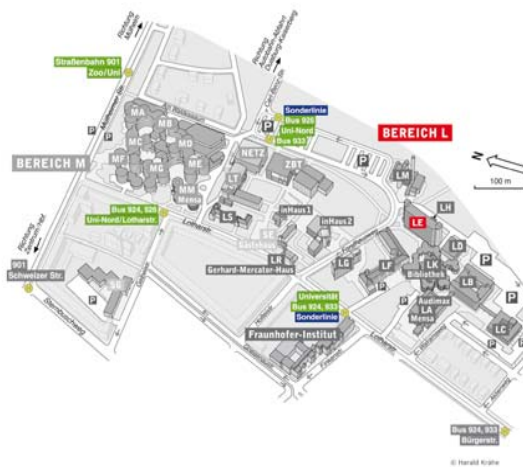## Research Objective

The research project «TransSoft» is conducted in the field of Sociology of Technology, which is in the scope of research at the chair 'General Sociology and Sociological Theory' held by Prof. Dr. Ingo Schulz-Schaeffer at the Institute of Sociology, University of Duisburg-Essen. «TransSoft» is embedded in the main research area „Transformation of contemporary societies: Building order in a borderless world".

Sociology of Technology emphasizes the social terms of formation and enforcement in new technologies and enquires the technological transformation frames due to the social relations and social processes.

The research team of Prof. Dr. Schulz-Schaeffer examines primarily the evolution of information and communication technology, additionally the areas of robotics, nano technologies and medical engineering. The Institute of Sociology at the University of Duisburg-Essen is one of Germany's biggest research institutions within social sciences. The research fields of the institute include amongst others the transformation of the labor market and the social organization of labor. Thus, studies on transnationationalization of labor are gaining in importance.

The TRANSSOFT Team

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UNIVERSITÄT DUISBURG ESSEN

Offen im Denken

Research Project

TRANSSOFT

«Techniques and Practices of Transnational Cooperation within the Software Engineering Sector»

founded by

DFG Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

Mission Statement

The aim of «TransSoft» is to analyze the interplay between technically pre-structured processes of transnational cooperation and their corresponding patterns of work. The study intends to make accessible the impact of digital information and communication on the coordination of transnational distributed working processes.

The objective of «TransSoft»-research is the coordination effectiveness of software engineering tools in terms of professional, organizational and cultural differentiated application practices and vice versa: the coordination effectiveness of software engineering practices in terms of development tools.

Our research examines in particular the role of the integrated development environments (IDEs) as a medium for transnational distributed software engineering processes.

Techniques and Practices of Software Engineering

Within the software engineering sector the use of information technology that enables the outsourcing of work is of significant value. Accordingly, transnational software engineering occurs as an adequate research object as it exemplifies the landscape of transnational cooperations.

The «TransSoft»-research brings into focus the techniques and practices of transnational cooperation and analyses the terms and conditions of a successful distributed transnational software engineering.

Our analysis focuses on two case groups of nearshoring:

● German companies pursuing transnational software engineering within their own corporation (eastern european subsidiaries from german companies - captive offshoring),

● German companies outsourcing software engineering into other ventures abroad (eastern european subsidiaries from german companies - offshore outsourcing).

The TransSoft research team is looking for IT companies interested in taking part in our academic study.

Research Approach

Our qualitative research design is based on field studies on software engineering practices and includes

● expert interviews,

● participant observations (short stay in a software engineering company).

The research will be conducted either in English or German.

Academic Commitment

The «TransSoft»-research applies the most rigorous rules of The German Research Foundation for the anonymity assurance.

The research data will be treated strictly confidential and anonymised.

Every participating company will be informed regarding the results after the study is completed.

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