



Social polis

SOCIAL POLIS Newsletter: March 2009

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Urban and Housing Intergroup

The Urban and Housing intergroup at the European Parliament has opened consultations in anticipation of the next mandate (2009-2014), to review the previous activities and receive suggestions for the future. NGOs, public authorities, experts may send comments and proposals.

For more information see <http://urban-logement.eu/Quel-avenir-pour-l-Intergroupe.html> (in French)

OmniaPolis – Conference in Naples

The conference: “Urban periphery and social periphery, confrontation between Naples and Berlin”, organized by the Doctoral School in Sociology and Social Research of the Federico II University, by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and by Social Polis, was held in Naples on the 23rd and 24th of March, within the framework of the OmniaPolis project carried out by the Goethe-Institut. The conference discussed the socio-spatial transformations in Naples and Berlin due to the changes in welfare systems and in labour markets, as well as to migration flows. The opening presentation “**La ricerca sulla coesione sociale nelle città europee. Idee per un orientamento futuro**” was made by Prof. Frank Moulaert, Social Polis Coordinator. Presentations about integration policies in Italy and in Germany (with a focus on Naples and Berlin), were made during the event. The theme of the conference was illustrated by two photographers, Martin Krumm and Aniello Barone, who took shots of immigrant communities in the two cities. The conference will be followed by two other meetings and by a cycle of films in April. For more information see <http://www.goethe.de/ins/it/lp/ges/mol/omn/2009/itindex.htm> (in Italian or German)

Participation of the Social Polis coordinator to two events in Québec

On 26th March, Frank Moulaert gave a keynote address to the Annual Conference of Solidarité Rurale in Québec. The title of his intervention was "**Développement territorial et innovation sociale : vitalité communautaire et services**".

Solidarité rurale du Québec is an organization which promotes revitalization and development of rural areas, trying to reverse the trend toward decline which affects the countryside in Québec.

On 30th March, Frank Moulaert made a workshop presentation at the Chantier de l'Economie Sociale in Montréal. The title of his presentation was "**Le rôle des sciences et des scientifiques dans l'innovation sociale**."

La perspective d'un scientifique des sciences sociales

Chantier de l'économie sociale is a body which aims to promote social economy as an important part of socio-economic structure in Québec.

Stakeholder workshops

Social cohesion in city, local welfare and social services, 6th March, Milan

On the 6th of March 2009 ASSONIDI, in collaboration with the Bicocca University of Milan, held a local SOCIAL POLIS stakeholder workshop on social cohesion in city, local welfare and social services. The workshop dealt mainly with two topics: the definition of social cohesion from the perspective of social services operators and the consequences on the sector of the current processes of change, in term of accessibility and quality of, and participation in, services. The afternoon session was focused on childcare services.

For further information, you can find the full report on

http://www.socialpolis.eu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=120&Itemid=218

Upcoming SOCIAL POLIS events

30th April – 2nd May 2009 – Brussels: "Micronomics"

The purpose of this festival, organized by City Mined, is to promote and support micro initiatives. The programme includes: a workshop gathering researchers, politicians and social workers; five artistic projects; theatre and cinema. For more info look on <http://www.micronomics.citymined.org/>

Large-scale SOCIAL POLIS Stakeholder Conference in Vienna (11th and 12th of May 2009)

Social Polis is holding an international conference on May 11-12, 2009 at the University of Economics in Vienna. The conference is one of the main events of Social Polis and its aim is to strengthen the platform by creating opportunities for discussion and exchange of experience and knowledge between stakeholders and researchers.

It is designed as an interactive conference on:

Future Directions of Research on Social Cohesion

- What is social cohesion?
- Significance of social cohesion in research and practice
- Challenges for methodology in urban social cohesion research , with a particular focus on the role of stakeholders in research

What is the role of Social Polis?

- Creating a network of researchers , policy makers and other practitioners
- Reflecting on 12 existential fields and their usefulness for orienting research on 'Cities and Social Cohesion' in the future
- Considering the forthcoming steps of the project

For further information please see our website <http://www.socialpolis.eu> or contact Sarah Habersack at sarah.habersack@wu-wien.ac.at

Katarsis Valorization Conference

Social Innovation in Europe: Research and Practice, University of Economics in Vienna, 14-15 May, 2009.

Katarsis is holding its valorisation conference on May 14-15, 2009 at the University of Economics in Vienna. The conference not only aims to discuss results at the concluding stage of the project but it also creates a space for discussion on research and practice of social innovation in Europe.

KATARSIS is a platform on which research teams specialised in the study of inequality and social exclusion exchange their knowledge and work, focussing on creative and socially innovative strategies which may contrast these problems. For further information on the conference programme see: <http://katarsis.ncl.ac.uk/news.html>

Upcoming conferences

Date	Title
1-3 April 09	2009 UK-Ireland Planning Research Conference 'Unequal Places: Planning and Territorial Cohesion', Newcastle, UK
2-3 April 09	Nutopia: Exploring the Metropolitan Imagination, Cardiff, UK
6-8 6-9 April 09	Regional Studies Association, Annual Conference 'Understanding and Shaping Regions: Spatial, Social and Economic Futures' Leuven, Belgium

New Stakeholders

Halleh Ghorashi held the prestigious position of PaVEM-chair in Management of Diversity and Integration in the Department of Culture, Organization, and Management at the **Vrije University Amsterdam**, the Netherlands. She was born in Iran and came to the Netherlands in 1988. She is the author of *Ways to Survive, Battles to Win: Iranian Women Exiles in the Netherlands and the US* (2003, Nova Science Publishers, New York) and several articles on questions of identity, Diaspora, and Iranian women's movement.

Ruben Kaztman is director of the research programme on integration, poverty and social exclusion of the Department of Social Sciences in the **Catholic University of Uruguay**. His main academic interests are changes in the market, in the state, in communities and in households which help us to understand transformations in social structures of cities.

New publications

Social Innovation and Territorial Development

Diana MacCallum, Frank Moulaert, Jean Hillier, and Serena Vicari Haddock. Aldershot, Ashgate

This volume presents a broad-ranging and insightful exploration of social innovation and how it can affect life, society and economy, especially within local communities. It addresses key questions about the nature of social innovation as a process and a strategy and explores what opportunities may exist, or may be generated, for social innovation to nourish human development. It puts forward alternative development options which variously highlight solidarity, co-operation, cultural-artistic endeavour and diversity. In doing so, this book offers a provocative response to the predominant neoliberal economic vision of spatial, economic and social change.

La logique sociale du développement territorial.

Frank Moulaert. Montréal, Presses Universitaires du Québec.

The authors present an historical reconstruction of the evolution of social perspective in territorial development analysis and they explore the different meanings of social innovation in contemporary literature, trying to synthesize various approaches. They propose then two models of social territorial innovation: the integrated territorial development and the social region.

Interesting NGO - SACOM

Students and Scholars Against Corporate Misbehaviour (SACOM) is a non-profit organization founded in Hong Kong in June 2005. SACOM originated from a students' movement devoted to improving the labour conditions of cleaning workers and security guards under the outsourcing policy. The movement attained relative success and created an opportunity for students to engage in local and global labour issues. SACOM aims at bringing concerned students, scholars, labour activists, and consumers together to monitor corporate behaviour and to advocate for workers' rights.

For further information please see: <http://sacom.hk/>

We wish to remind to all of you that you can discuss and exchange opinions and experiences on the Social Polis Forum, which is part of the Social Polis website

(http://www.socialpolis.eu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=95&Itemid=169).

SOCIAL POLIS Newsletter

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