



SOCIAL POLIS Newsletter: May 2009

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

Dear Scientific Officers, Partners and Stakeholders, thank you very much for your participation in the conference. It was a successful event.

All the material from the conference has been published on a specific blog about the Vienna conference.

You can find it on: <http://socialpolis1.wordpress.com>

The blog is not only meant as a library or archive, but also as a space of discussion where you can leave comments and contribute your opinion.

The main outputs of the conference are suggestions for the research agenda. The ultimate outputs of Social Polis Phase 1 will be:

Focussed Research Agenda (FRA): after the conference, research themes will be refined using the comments formulated by stakeholders and they will be finalized during the Leuven Lead Partner meeting in October. Four themes from the FRA will be delivered to the EC for the work programme of FP7, SSH.

25 themes from the Existential Fields and the Stakeholder Workshops: the most relevant research themes emerging from the discussions in the working groups at the Vienna Conference. . From these 25 themes, ten will be selected through interaction with stakeholders, especially from the inner circle.

Survey papers: the survey papers related to the twelve existential fields will be reviewed taking into account stakeholders' comments before being prepared for publication..

Proposals for the future of Social Polis and on how to improve the methodology of transdisciplinary research. The conference was also a moment for reflection on the future of the Social Platform.

There is still room for expressing your opinion and discussing the research themes as well as the future of the Social Platform. You can do this either on the Social Polis Conference Blog

(<http://socialpolis1.wordpress.com>)

or on the Social Polis Forum

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

A cd-rom with the video of the conference and with all the materials will be available soon.

Katarsis Valorisation Conference

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

A special thank you to everybody for their active participation in the Katarsis valorisation conference, on May 14-15, 2009, at the University of Economics in Vienna. The conference not only aimed to discuss results at the concluding stage of the project, but also provided space for discussion on research and practice of social innovation in Europe.

Methodology development (work package 5) was a special focus at this conference.

For further information see: <http://katarsis.ncl.ac.uk/>

Stakeholder workshop

The housing aspect of dealing with extremely segregated neighbourhoods

On the 25th and the 26th of May a workshop called "The housing aspect of dealing with extremely segregated neighbourhoods" was held in Budapest.

It was organized by the Metropolitan Research Institute and supported by the Social Polis Programme.

The Budapest workshop aimed to explore the present situation of extremely segregated neighbourhoods in different east- and south-central European countries, the national efforts to mitigate the problems and the opportunities for concerted actions, the support of which could become part of the post-2013 EU Structural Funds policy.

The 30 participants of the workshop were researchers, NGO leaders, ministerial officials and politicians of the

concerned countries. The workshop was very useful to explore the extent of the problems of extremely segregated neighbourhoods and the efforts done so far by the different countries to alleviate these problems. But many many more issues need to be clarified.

You can find the main results of the workshop in a more detailed report on the Social Polis website:

http://www.socialpolis.eu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=111&Itemid=218

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

From April 30 to May 2 the Micronomics festival took place in Brussels. The purpose of this festival, organized by City Mined, was to promote and support micro initiatives. The programme included workshops, artistic projects, happenings, theatre and cinema. Some materials reporting on the festival are now available:

For some images look on:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/29542449@N08/>

<http://indymedia.be/en/node/33254>

<http://www.dailymotion.com/micronomics>

For some audio: <http://micronomics.citymined.org/spip.php?article487>

For other info look on <http://www.micronomics.citymined.org/>

In these times of globalisation, social cohesion encounters particular difficulties in the major towns and cities that have to cope with accelerating structural changes, such as an increasing diversity of migratory patterns, the tertiarisation and casualisation of labour markets, difficulties associated with access to housing in the context of volatile property markets on an international scale, an unequal mobility of the residents due to the insufficiency and inappropriateness of transport services, a growing sensitivity to urban pollution and the degradation of the conditions in which people have to live, isolation and solidarity in cities in the context of an ageing urban population and the increase in the number of single-parent families, etc.

Although the countries of the European Union have developed a whole series of policies to support social cohesion, the degree of recognition given to the local residents' capacity to act together, to participate democratically in the development of public policies and to jointly create activities and jobs to improve the urban environment in which they live, varies considerably from one country to the next. Social cohesion is not merely a question of the redistribution of wealth. The current crisis is, first and foremost, a systemic crisis of our economic models and our ways of thinking.

At the 4th International Meetings on "Globalising Solidarity", held in Luxembourg from 22 to 25 April 2009, 700 delegates from the social and solidarity economy demonstrated that another economy does truly exist; namely the innovations of the social solidarity economy. These innovations generate social cohesion and are now waiting to be granted their rightful recognition in terms of public support policies, notably for scientific research, so as to be able to strengthen the theoretical view of the SSE as the third economic pillar and to create appropriate methodological tools.

Eric Lavillunière, Director of INEES

Conferences

Date	Title
25 June 09 – 26 June 09	Call for Papers: Communicative Cities Integrating: Technology and Place Conference
24 June 09 – 26 June 09	QeC-ERAN: Twenty Years of Urban Experience - Brussels
23 June 09 – 25 June 09	Conference - Experience the Creative Economy, University of Toronto

IMISCOE meeting

The University of Lisbon, one of the Lead Partner of Social Polis, is organizing a workshop during the annual IMISCOE (International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion research network) meeting, which will be held on the 10th and 11th of September in Stockholm. The title of the workshop is: "Housing and diversity: Strategies, Conditions, Preferences, Pathways and Encounters".

A call for papers is open. If you are interested please send your abstract not later than 10th July, 2009 to: bs@fl.ul.pt. Abstracts should be not longer than 250 words. The results of the selection process will be available by 17th July 2009. Final papers should be sent no later than 30th August, 2009. Cluster B5 will cover the transport costs and the cost of accommodation for two nights for those who present a paper.

For further information:

http://www.socialpolis.eu/images/stories/event_docs/Call%20for%20papers%20Stockholm.clusterB5.pdf

New Stakeholders

Albanian Albkonsults Ltd Company

Albkonsults Company it is a consultancy which participates in research and projects dealing with the transport sector, in close collaboration with European and regional partners. It started its activity in 2008.

It works with local partners from Albania, from the Balkan area, and it participates in transnational projects on regional development in the field of transportation.

Ali Dedej, Project Manager, and Vera Shiko, Project Assistant, participated in the Social Polis Network Conference in Vienna.

Johannes Novy

Johannes Novy holds a Master of Philosophy in Urban Planning from Columbia University, New York, and a European MA in Comparative Urban Studies from the Universities of Urbino and Milano-Bicocca. He is currently a **researcher at the Center for Metropolitan Studies (CMS) in Berlin** and finishing his PhD in Urban Planning (Columbia University, New York). His research interests cover urban governance, planning and urban development in the United States and Europe as well as the role of urban tourism in processes of urban change.

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