



SOCIAL POLIS Newsletter: September 2009

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SOCIAL POLIS – Final Lead Partners meeting

The final Social PolIS Lead Partners meeting was held at Leuven on the 8th and 9th of October 2009. Eight stakeholders have also attended the meeting. The event was quite intense and proficient; different issues have been discussed.

First, all the call texts produced by editors were discussed and re-worked. To better suit the funding opportunities from the European Commission, the texts were merged and reformulated, with the final result of 2 texts meant for Challenges and 5 texts as Topics. Small working groups shared by partners and stakeholders were working on the seven topics: final versions will be ready by the end of this week.

Second, the future of the Social PolIS network has been discussed. Many proposals were presented, and finally the participants agreed to compete for the European SiS call on the building of a Mutual Learning Platform. The Vienna University of Economics will take the role of the Social Platform coordinator.

Milan Bicocca University also invited Partners to join them in a proposal on the topic “Local Welfare System”, present in the 2009 SSH call text.

Third, there is good news concerning dissemination of the survey papers. Urban Studies has accepted to publish a special issue including the Existential Field Survey Papers. The steps in the working procedure and the criteria for paper submission were presented. The special issue will be published in Spring 2012.

Finally, issues concerning project reporting, dissemination and production of educational resources were discussed. The movie of the Vienna Conference was also shown.

Valorization of Survey Papers and FRA- Pedagogical tools

During the Leuven meeting the idea of producing educational materials from the Survey Papers was discussed.

Many proposals concerning this issue were collected during the meeting, including:

- translating the contents of survey papers into other languages
- preparing material for lectures (like power point presentations), giving on-line or tout-court lectures starting from survey papers.
- assigning the role of popularizing survey papers to stakeholders.

For this purpose we will provide a grant of up to 7500 Euro to fund stakeholders willing to produce educational resources from survey papers. If you are interested, please send your application as soon as possible to davide.cassinari@asro.kuleuven.be, describing in detail the proposal and the budget. The deadline for applications is the 31th of October. Another topic of discussion was which format to adopt for the FRA dissemination *If you have any suggestion or proposal on how to produce pedagogical resources from the Survey Papers, or on the FRA dissemination document, please send an e-mail to davide.cassinari@asro.kuleuven.be.*

News from CLIP

CLIP is a network of 35 European cities working together to support the social and economic integration of migrants. Through structured sharing of experiences, scientifically supported by benchmarking and peer review, the CLIP network enables local authorities to learn from each other and to deliver more effective integration policies for migrants.

The four research modules prioritized by the network include:

- housing - segregation, access to, quality and affordability of housing for migrants;
- equality and diversity in relation to employment within city administrations and in their provision of services;
- intercultural policies and intergroup relations;
- ethnic entrepreneurship and employment conditions of migrants.

Case studies

A number of case studies from the research modules are available at

<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/areas/populationandsociety/clipdiversitycases.htm>

Upcoming event

A European conference in Brussels 30 November/1 December on 'Intercultural approaches to community-building and cohesion in European cities - What can European integration policy learn from cities on how to manage migration and diversity in times of economic slump?'

Upcoming events

Date	Title
24 Nov 09 - 26 Nov 09	Conference: "Urban Research and Architecture: Beyond Henri Lefebvre", ETH Zurich
19 Nov 09 - 20 Nov 09	Annual Conference and Awards of the Journal of Neighbourhood Renewal, Central Hall London
11 Nov 09	Conference and call for paper: "Creative industries and creative communities", Staffordshire University, Stoke on Trent
28 Oct 09 - 30 Oct 09	Conference: "Creative Places + Spaces: The Collaborative City", Toronto
21 Oct 09 - 24 Oct 09	WARSAW REGIONAL FORUM 2009 - Networking in the European, regional and local space

Local stakeholder workshop in Vienna

On September 23rd 2009 the third Local Stakeholder Workshop with 10 participants took place at the Vienna University of Economics and Business. The stakeholders and the Social Polis team in Vienna worked together on organizing this additional workshop to finalize the collective work process within the Social Polis platform and to discuss the possible continuation of the local network. Stakeholders from the Vienna city administration, local NGOs and other research institutions attended this workshop and voiced their interest and commitment in fostering the transdisciplinary working process in Vienna that has started with Social Polis.

The first part of the workshop was dedicated to the discussion of the Focused Research Agenda with a special focus on the transversal themes, which were edited by the Vienna team. All stakeholders approved the text because it reflected the topics and concerns that were discussed and elaborated in the first two local stakeholder workshops. Comments of stakeholders were also integrated into the final text.

The second part concentrated on the discussion of a possible future of the local network. It was collectively decided that this process should be continued. The first step will be the translation into German and popularization of the transversal themes of the Focused Research Agenda to use it as a framework and common goal of the local network. This local Social Polis manifesto and the detailed plan for the future of the network will be discussed at the fourth Local Stakeholder Workshop at the end of November.

GDUS seminar

From the 15th of September to the 19th of September the European network GDUS (Gender, Diversity and Urban Sustainability) gathered in Vienna for the annual seminar. The meeting was organized by the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences in cooperation with the City of Vienna (Office for Planning) and Planwind Salzburg.

35 scholars and practitioners from different disciplines - such as spatial planning, urban design, environmental psychology, landscape planning, architecture, sociology, political science - coming from Germany, Finland, Spain, The Netherlands, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, United Kingdom and Austria worked intensively on theory, practice, current and future projects in the field of gender awareness and diversity in spatial planning and urban development.

The Austrian Social Polis partners Sarah Habersack and Andreas Novy from the Vienna University of Economics participated in the event. All the organizers hope to continue this fruitful exchange between the networks through local cooperation and European projects.

GDUS-network partners are interested to participate to research programmes like FP7, ESPON or other European or cross-boarder research and urban/regional programmes.

- If you want to know more about GDUS see <http://www.rali.boku.ac.at/gdus.html>
- If you want to contact them, send an e-mail to Heidrun Wankiewicz (office@planwind.at)

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