



SOCIAL POLIS Newsletter: October 2009

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SOCIAL POLIS – Final Topics and Challenges

After the final Social Polis Lead Partner meeting, the final research agenda was finalized by a small editing team. The outcome is 2 Topics and 5 Challenges, which will be proposed by the end of November to the DG research or to others bodies to be funded:

Challenge 1- Urban social cohesion in the face of global changes, crises, and opportunities

Challenge 2 - Governing cohesion and diversity in urban contexts

Topic 1 - Urban social cohesion and the environmental challenge

Topic 2 - Developing a Plural Economic Approach to Foster Urban Social Cohesion

Topic 3 - Social exclusion dynamics as a challenge to social cohesion in cities

Topic 4 - Drivers and social outcomes of urban regeneration in European cities

Topic 5 - Challenges to Social Cohesion in Cities of the South: Latin-America and Africa

Valorization of Survey Papers and FRA- Pedagogical tools

After a consultation with all the Social Polis Lead Partners and the stakeholders from the Inner Circle, we decided to fund two stakeholder proposals concerning the popularization of Survey Papers. We would also like to thank all the applicants who had their proposals not selected. The two selected proposals are the following:

- Production of a blog/web resource called **SOCIAL SCIENCE FOR NON SCIENTISTS. Knowing more about society and economy of European cities.** This proposal was formulated by SURT.

The proposal focuses on the Existential Field 2, related to social polarisation, labour market and economic restructuring in Europe from an urban perspective. Taking into account the ultimate target audience of the dissemination, the tool proposed is a **blog** with the title '**Social science for non scientists**'. This blog will contain information and pedagogical materials on social polarisation, labour markets and economic restructuring in Europe from an urban perspective. The main objective of this blog is to adapt the academic language into a more friendly and easily accessible format. In doing so, the aim is to get people closer to social science and vice versa. The blog 'Social science for non scientists' will provide different kinds of materials: **Power point presentations, Tables and graphics, Glossary of terms, Forum, Questionnaire. It will be linked to the Social Polis website.**

- Production of a **popularizing report.** This proposal was formulated by Mikael Stigendal and his colleagues from Malmö University

The report will focus on the theme "Cohesion of the city as a whole" but it will also pick up highlights from the other themes as well as from the other work carried out in Social Polis. The report will present Social Polis, its results and how these have been achieved. Social Polis will be presented as a new kind of project, mainly for the innovative structure of the social platform and its transdisciplinary approach. It will be crucial to highlight the impact of this transdisciplinary way of working.

The report has to describe the problems addressed by Social Polis and define an idea of social cohesion. Examples of problems will be picked up from the survey papers. The description of the problems should be tailored to the understanding by stakeholders.

The future of Social Polis

The project "Social Polis I" will culminate by the end of November, but the cooperation and the relationships that have been established for the last two years within this platform are worth to be continued. It is important to build on our collective efforts in developing ways of communication, in working on crucial topics of social cohesion in cities and in building relations between different actors and fields.

Therefore we collectively decided to apply for the call on "Mobilisation and Mutual Learning Actions" within the Science in Society programme of DG Research. This call aims at strengthening democratization and governance of knowledge, promoting a dialogue among a broad range of actors for mutual learning and contributing to scientific research having an impact in society.

The Vienna team under the leadership of Andreas Novy is taking up the role of coordinator for this new project. The provisional working title is "Social Polis Platform for Cohesive Cities".

For more information and if you are interested in participating, please contact Sarah Habersack:
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Upcoming events

Date	Title
05 Dec 09	Conference: The Impact of Cultural and Citizenship Education on Social Cohesion - Vilnius
30 Nov 09 - 01 Dec 09	Conference: Intercultural approaches to community-building and cohesion in European cities, Brussels
27 Nov 09	RSA conference: Global Recession: Regional Impacts on Housing, Jobs, Health and Wellbeing, London
24 Nov 09 - 26 Nov 09	Conference: "Urban Research and Architecture: Beyond Henri Lefebvre", Zurich

Jean Monnet summer course in Romany Studies/Central European University, Budapest

We would like to inform about the Jean Monnet summer course on "*Social integration and the Romany minority in Europe today: linking policy and research to work against poverty, discrimination and ethnic conflict*", funded by the European Commission within the framework of the Jean Monnet Programme, Life Long Learning, Information and Research Activities.

Course dates are from 21 June 2010 to 19 July 2010

The location is the Central European University (CEU) in Budapest, Hungary.

You can find the detailed course description on: <http://www.summer.ceu.hu/romany>

Target group:

This summer school encourages applications from academics (junior faculty, MA or PhD students, researchers) from the fields of anthropology, sociology, European studies, history, public policy, linguistics, political science, law and human rights, economics, human geography, urban studies, public administration and social policy as well as from practitioners, policy-makers, NPOs, and civil servants.

The language of instruction is English.

The deadline for application is February 15, 2010, and you can apply on line (from end of November) on:

http://www.sun.ceu.hu/03-application/howto_apply.php

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