



Social polis

SOCIAL POLIS Newsletter: December 2009

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Future of Social Polis

Dear partners, scientific officers and stakeholders,

The first period of the Social Polis project has come to an end, but the cooperation and the relationships that have been established for the last two years within this platform are worth to be continued. For this reason we will organize a transition programme (website, Newsletter, focused workshops) and we collectively decided to answer to the call on “Mobilisation and Mutual Learning Actions” within the Science in Society programme of DG Research which will be coordinated by Andreas Novy (WU Vienna). Stakeholders are automatically invited to participate in Social Polis+, as we intend to build on the successful work of the last years in contributing to a coherent knowledge alliance of researchers and practitioners in favour of cohesive cities.

Social Polis has shown its great potential and produced different outcomes.

2 Challenges and 5 Topics for further SSH research within FP7 have been proposed to the European Commission, a special issue of Urban Studies with the survey papers produced through Social Polis will be published by 2012, a big conference was organized in Vienna, 13 local workshops were organized, more than 100 organizations and institutions were involved in developing this social platform.

We want to say thank you to all of you for your participation and all important contributions you made to the project, and we trust you will stay on board for SocialPolis+

The end of Katarsis

KATARSIS, parallel project to Social Polis, concluded on 30th November 2009.

The Coordination Action was funded by the 'Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-based Society' section of the FP6. It built a platform on which research teams specialised in the study of the consequences of growing inequality and social exclusion as well as socially creative strategies exchanged their knowledge and work towards a better integration of the research programmes and methodologies.

The project focused on a unique type of response to growing exclusion, namely **the creative and socially innovative strategies** by which people react to conditions of exclusion, at both the individual and collective level. People in situations of need activate particular types of knowledge and combine resources in novel ways. The strategies they develop in response to exclusion often exhibit marked differences in the ways knowledge and practices are mobilised and deployed; these strategies trigger processes of **social innovation** that effectively promote inclusion, empowerment and socio-economic development. As such they open up fresh avenues for policy design and implementation.

KATARSIS was coordinated by Prof. Frank Moulaert and Prof. Jean Hillier with a team of 18 partner institutions representing 14 EU countries and Canada. (For more information: <http://katarsis.ncl.ac.uk/> ; Policy Brief on the CORDIS website: ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/.../katarsis_2009_09_30_en.pdf)

Europe from the bottom up - City Mine(d) 2010

City Mine(d) is organizing a big meeting on the 29th of January 2010, in the KVS, Brussels. The goal of the meeting is sharing experience, information and strategies between civil societies of different European cities for supporting the emergence of an European civil society.

On Friday 29 January at 20:00 will be present in KVS:

- "Active citizens" from Brussels, London, Barcelona Rouen, Göteborg, Ljubljana, Istanbul, Copenhagen, Vienna, Berlin, Sarajevo, Milan and Zürich get together to reflect about strategies and build local-international bridges;
- Prof Erik Swyngedouw, expert in globalisation issues, gives his perspective on things.

From the site of City Mine(d):

"Between 50 and 85% of our Federal Laws are determined by the European Institutions, and still we find most "active citizens" on neighbourhood or city level. To have a real influence on the way their neighbourhood or city are organised, these active people should better get organised internationally. For instance by sharing or by formulating shared objectives.

We are convinced that next to the Europe of Lisbon agreements and European trade unions, there is a place [and even a need] for a European civil society: collaboration between those people who work on a very local level on issues that are influenced internationally, and therefore should also be addressed internationally.

For several years now City Mine(d) has been wondering how that could happen.

Meanwhile groups from 13 European cities - from Istanbul to London and from Göteborg to Barcelona- have become contaminated by the same question.

City Mine(d)'s new year's resolution for 2010 is to settle the matter once and for all with all those concerned."

More information on: <http://www.citymined.org/>

Upcoming events

Date	Title
18 Mar 10 - 20 Mar 10	Conference: Is There a European Model of Governance? A Comparative Perspective – Luxembourg
08 Feb 10 - 09 Feb 10	Seminar: Social Protection and Social Inclusion: What's happening in Europe? - Maastricht

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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