



SOCIAL POLIS Newsletter: September/October 2010

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Feedbacks from the workshop: "Challenges to Social Cohesion in Cities and Social Innovation Responses" - Open days 2010

In the framework of the European Open days 2010 (European Commission DG Region), a workshop called "Challenges to Social Cohesion in Cities and Social Innovation Responses" took place on the 7th of October in Brussels. During this workshop the issues of Social Cohesion and Social innovation were discussed focussing also on some concrete experiences; several speakers from Social Polis made an intervention.

Frank Moulaert discussed the key concepts at stake, social cohesion and social innovation. Four perspectives can be identified in the problematisation of social cohesion in a city: socio-economy (solidarity and social exclusion); culture (common values and identity); ecology (sustainability and ecological justice) and politics (citizenship and participation). Collective action and partnership as well as scientific analysis and transdisciplinarity complement these perspectives. As to social innovation, it is a bottom-up approach to social cohesion where collective problematisation and cohesion seeking initiatives and processes interact. Social innovation involves satisfaction of needs, innovation in social relations and empowerment of communities and their members. It is indispensably multiscalar.

Serena Vicari-Haddock outlined the following areas of the life experience as challenges for social cohesion: work and labour market; education and training; housing and neighbourhood; health and environment; governance and democracy. Social innovation requires multi-level mobilization and coordination of people and resources, multi-objectives as well as conflict/cooperation in local governance structures, i.e. bottom-up experiences developed by civil society and top-down policy making leading to "bottom-linked practices".

Some conclusions of the workshop are:

- Social cohesion is not a clear concept but a human "problématique".
- Social innovation refers to those changes in agendas, agency and institutions that lead to a better inclusion of excluded groups and individuals into various spheres of society at various spatial scales.
- Legal instruments are essential for the effective empowerment of a community.
- Culture seems to be a development engine for social cohesion and inclusion as well as for social innovation on the local level.
- Social innovation initiatives/actions are promoted by policies built through greater democratic participation and by providing legal frameworks and supportive institutions.
- Good practices of social innovation are transferable to other localities but this requires a systematic learning across localities and initiatives and deep understanding of the context.

3rd Annual Festival on cities – This is not a gateway

We would like to promote the 3rd Annual Festival on cities organized by This is not a gateway, one of our stakeholders. The festival takes place from the 21st to the 24th of October, in Hanbury Hall, London.

Several workshops, discussions, exhibitions and movies are present in the programme of the festival.

The festival will open on Thursday 21st, at 19.15.

For further information you can check the website of the organizers: www.thisisnotagateway.net

WPSC 2011 - Call for Abstracts Open

ANZAPS members on the WPSC2011 Local Organising Committee and Strategic Advisory Committee are delighted to announce the official **call for abstracts** for WPSC2011 is now open.

Colleagues can access details on the call for abstracts by clicking on the Call for Papers tile on the front page of the WPSC2011 website: www.wpsc2011.com.au.

Abstracts should be submitted online by [clicking here](#) and completing the online submission form, uploading abstract(s) and paying the abstract processing fee.

ANZAPS, as the local host planning schools region, is keen to encourage submissions from established academics or in early career; PhD students; and policy researchers from around the globe so as to foster a diverse, inclusive and dynamic congress designed to enhance collaboration within and across academia and planning practice.

Abstract Submissions Closes 30th November, 2010.

We look forward to receiving your abstract submissions over the coming weeks.

Upcoming Social Polis events

We would like to promote the two forthcoming Social Polis events which will take place in the month of November:

Local workshop in Naples – Crisis, labour market and social cohesion (November 5th)

As the other local workshops, it targets the popularization of the results of Social Polis for a broader public at the local and European level. It will be focus on crisis, labour market and social cohesion in the city. The seminar will be in Italian.

The European Learning Event – Brussels (November 18th and 19th)

The biggest event of the third year of Social Polis aims at bringing together the Social Platform and representatives from European policy making for promoting a collective learning process in which the knowledge produced in Social Polis can be divulged and multiplied.

The major objectives of this event are:

- To valorise the results of Social Polis by the promotion of mutual learning.
- To reveal the impact of Social Polis at the institutional and individual level by sharing the learning process of actors of the platform.
- To raise awareness on the meaning and importance of social cohesion in the city.
- To discuss the challenges for the future of research-practice dialogue.
- To offer a space for building ideas and partnerships for future collaboration.

The learning event starts on Thursday, November 18, 2010 at 14:00 and finishes on Friday, November 19, 2010 at 13:30.

The Social Polis Learning Event will take place in the Bedford Hotel & Congress Centre, which is located in the historic centre of Brussels (Rue du Midi 135-137)

For further information you can check: http://www.socialpolis.eu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=146&Itemid=239

International conference: Rethinking migration in Times of Economic Crisis in Europe

We would like to promote the International conference “Rethinking Migration in Times of Economic Crisis in Europe”, which will be held in Berlin, in the *Haus der Kulturen der Welt*. The conference starts at 14.00 on December 9 and finishes on December 10 at 19.00.

Times of crisis challenge the governance of migration and seem to heighten the socio-economic vulnerabilities of migrants in Europe. Are there historic paragons to this situation and what are its features? Focusing on the lives of different types of migrants and refugees, which repercussions can be observed? And which policies do governments choose and implement as solutions? The conference questions the impact of the global economic crisis on immigration policies, on migrants, on refugees and on the irregular migrants themselves as well as on the social cohesion in European societies.

You can find more information at: <http://www.network-migration.org/rethinking-migration-2010/>

Upcoming events

Date	Title
30 th /11/10	Deadline - call for abstracts for the World Planning Schools Congress 2011, Perth, Australia.
13 th -14 th /11/10	EUROSPHERE International Project Conference: "Toward a diverse European Sphere?", Osnabrück, Germany

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