



SOCIAL POLIS Newsletter: January 2011

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IURS urban movie funded by a Social Polis small grant

A Social Polis small grant has funded IURS - Institut pro udržitelný rozvoj sídel, a Czech non government stakeholder - for realizing an audio-visual education project on Czech urban issues. IURS made seven short movies (8-10min) dealing with urban issues related to the Social Polis Existential Fields, giving a Czech focus. The aim of this action was to raise awareness about a more sustainable and cohesive urban development.

IURS considered that making movies is also a relevant advocacy action at the Czech level for the implementation of a better and more inclusive urban policy. Movies may help to raise public awareness and to popularise the urban problematique, although media so far has had problems in representing the urban complexity. IURS wanted to make these complex topics accessible to a wide Czech public.

The following movies are available on the IURS web www.urbaninfo.cz:

- 1 The Social Polis project
- 2 The Czech Urban Policy
- 3 Planning in the Czech Republic
- 4.IURS and its activities
- 5 Urban designer's role in development
- 6 Brownfield development
- 7 Sustainable transport in cities

IURS is looking for partnerships and funding opportunities in order to realize further urban movies.

Habitat Partner University Initiative E-Forum

In January the second round of the 8-week Habitat E-forum was launched, focussing on tertiary education related to urban issues and on training for mid-career professionals provided by universities. The aim of this round is to stimulate the exchange of good practices and to understand the present challenges / gaps in order to enhance the HPU Initiative's approach to education and curriculum development in the field of sustainable urbanization. How can the HPU Initiative better support the strengthening of curricula, improve teaching methodologies and promote cutting edge urban development education?

The forum on Education will be facilitated by Dr. Carol Archer Dean, Faculty of Built Environment at the University of Technology of Jamaica and Dr. Hans Skotte, Faculty of Architecture and Fine Art of the Norges Teknisk-Naturvitenskapelige Universitet.

The first round of the forum is still open and the moderators Prof. Dory Reeves and Henrik Nolmark are looking forward to your contributions.

The forum is available on-line at: <http://forum.unhabitat.org>

Upcoming events

| Date | Title |
|-----------------------|---|
| 17 Feb 11 - 20 Feb 10 | International Symposium on the Potential for Artistic Expression to Cross Cultural Barriers, Berlin |
| 18 Mar 10 - 20 Mar 10 | Conference: Is There a European Model of Governance? A Comparative Perspective, Luxembourg |
| 07 Apr 11 - 08 Apr 11 | Conference: 3eme Colloque international du CRISES, Montreal |

New books

[In-Between Infrastructure: Urban Connectivity in an Age of Vulnerability](#)

In-Between Infrastructure: Urban Connectivity in an Age of Vulnerability, Edited by Douglas Young, Patricia Burke Wood & Roger Keil. Kelowna, BC: Praxis (e)Press, 2011.

Synopsis: "Canadian urban regions experience new infrastructure challenges in areas that are perceived as not quite traditional city and not quite traditional suburb. Following urban planning theorist Tom Sieverts, we called this area the "in-between city". The City Institute at York University conducted a study of 85 square kilometers in the northwest of the Toronto region, which we considered symptomatic for most new development in Canadian

metropolitan regions. Funded by Infrastructure Canada under their Peer Reviewed Research Studies (PRRS) program and by Toronto Community Housing, our focus was on urban infrastructure. We were specifically interested in connectivity and disconnection, mobility and immobility, and the vulnerabilities associated with variable access and barriers to infrastructures.”

The book can be downloaded at:

<http://www.praxis-epress.org/availablebooks/books.html>

Art and Activism in the Age of Globalization

Art and Activism in the Age of Globalization, Lieven de Cauter, Rubben de Roo, Karel Vanhaesebrouck, NAI Publishers, 2011

Synopsis: “Should artists be activists? Is activist art one of an artist’s primary responsibilities or a pointless sideshow on the fringes of serious politics? The philosopher, writer and art historian Lieven de Cauter, Ruben de Roo and Karel Vanhaesebrouck explore this theme in collaboration with other thinkers and doers in his new book *Art and Activism in the Age of Globalization*.”

A new paper on the Social Polis website: migrants in Salerno

We have uploaded on the website a summarized version of the paper “The immigrants in the Province of Salerno: reading of the phenomenon and possible actions on a provincial basis”, published in Social Quality, n° 34 – years 2011 –ed. Center Research Archè, Italy by Giovanni Russo.

The research wants to provide a picture of the migration issue in the province of Salerno and in the Campania region. During the nineteen-eighties and nineties the region was characterized by transit migration: the migrants (mostly without their family) were mainly waiting for regularization in order to subsequently go working in the North of Italy. Nowadays the second and, in many cases, the third generation of migrants is living there. They are settled down in the region and in the province. They are integrated into the local labour market and are rejoined by their families, their children were born and go to school in the region.

The province of Salerno, where 33,510 residents are foreigners (about 24% of the regional total), is the province which in recent years has seen the most significant growth in the immigrant population, especially in the capital and in some areas with a developed agricultural sector, such as Piana del Sele and Agro-Nocerino Sarnese. The research is focussed not only on the demographic data, but also on the socio-economic consistency, with particular attention to school integration and to the working and living conditions of migrants.

You can download the text clicking on:

http://www.socialpolis.eu/index.php?option=com_docman&Itemid=199&task=doc_download&gid=289

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