



SOCIAL POLIS Newsletter: January 2012

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Final version of the Focused Research Agenda

The final version of the Focused Research Agenda is finally available on the Social Polis website and will be published on the EC CORDIS website soon. You can download it following the link: <http://www.socialpolis.eu/focusedresearch-agenda/>

Till now only 1 topic and 1 challenge have been integrated to the FP7 working programme. Other topics will be negotiated within the JPI Urban Europe soon. The FRA will also be recommended to actors and scientists in a diversity of sociopolitical and scientific circles.

Please use the FRA as actively as possible. We recommend you to present this document to your national and regional research funding organizations, NGOs, public institutions to convince them to take some of this research on board. We are available to follow-up on new contacts.

Transdisciplinary research in Social Polis

The brochure "Transdisciplinary Research in Social Polis" is finally available on the Social Polis website and will be published on the EC CORDIS website soon. You can download it following the link: <http://www.socialpolis.eu/the-social-polisapproach/transdisciplinarity/>

This paper is addressed to researchers interested in exploring the transdisciplinary approach, to local, national, European and supranational institutions engaged in promoting participatory decision making processes and to European and international research bodies or institutions willing to fund transdisciplinary research.

The text brings some arguments in favour of transdisciplinarity, discusses concrete practical issues, presents and analyzes how transdisciplinary methodology has been employed in Social Polis. It attempts also to draw out some future perspectives for transdisciplinary research and to identify challenges and opportunities for the next few years.

Le Studium Co-Housing conference and call for paper

The conference "Self-managed Co-HOUSING: borne out of need or new ways of life?", organized by Le Studium, will take place on the 12th and 13th of March 2012 in Tours.

This conference aims to look at co-housing initiatives in the perspective of a sustainable spatial development. Its purpose is both to make a review of ongoing researches and practices, to set a research agenda and to establish future collaborations.

In the 21st century, self-organized co-housing is re-appearing in many European countries, in new forms and in a larger number. Cohousing, cooperatives de logement, Genossenschaften or Samenhuizen are types of collaborative housing through which residents actively participate in the design and functioning of their own neighbourhoods.

The conference will be divided in three sessions:

Session 1: Co-housing projects: pilots of eco-engineering?

Session 2: Emerging lifestyles, new communities?

Session 3: Small-scale solution for a minority, or a potential transformation of housing provision?

The organizers welcome contributions on each of these tracks from all disciplines. To be presented on this conference, papers need to be based on empirical research on self-managed co-housing and discuss at least 1 case-study.

For more information please check the Le Studium website: <http://Lestudium.cnrs-orleans.fr>

The Science of Innovation Conference in Brussels

The conference “The Science of Innovation” organized by ESF and STOA will be held on the 28th of February at the European Parliament, in Brussels.

Innovation is a key concept in EU policy. Research and innovation are central pillars in European policy for economic development, competitiveness and job creation in Europe, and are seen as essential for achieving the EU2020 goals of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Consequently, both the European Commission and the European Parliament aim to substantially increase the portion of the funding that is allocated to research and innovation within the overall EU budget. Given that context, it is important to ask: Are European policies on innovation well directed? And, is innovation really understood? Innovation, and the knowledge, creativity and motivation that drive it, are key to human progress and offer a powerful source of new wealth. However, innovation is also a dynamic, complex, multi-level and interdisciplinary phenomenon which is not easy to understand, and challenging to influence. The study of innovation is an important, growing field of research in the social and economic sciences.

This conference will present state-of-the-art, thought provoking insights from the cutting edge of ‘the science of innovation’ on crucial issues for today’s policy makers.

Further information on: www.esf.org/innovation

Stuart Cameron presentation over Housing Policies and Social Cohesion

Stuart Cameron was invited to make a presentation to a seminar entitled 'Local Governments and Housing Policies, Challenges in a crisis time', held on 7-9 November in Barcelona, Spain. The seminar was organised as part of the seminar programme of the Concorci Universita Internacional Menendez Pelayo de Barcelona, Centre Ernest Lluch and was supported by the Barcelona Provincial Council. It was attended by both practitioners and academics.

Stuart Cameron's presentation was entitled 'Housing, Neighbourhood and Social Cohesion in Europe', and drew on the Social Polis EF3 Survey Paper on Housing, Neighbourhood and Health.

Information on the seminar, with a link to download this and other presentations, can be found at: http://www.cuimpb.cat/index.php?page=shop.product_details&flypage=flypage.tpl&product_id=198&category_id=7&option=com_virtuemart&Itemid=53&lang=en

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