SOCIAL POLIS
Social Platform on Cities and Social Cohesion

Coordination and Support Action – CSA (supporting)

Work programme topics addressed: FP7-SSH-2007-2.2.3
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Coordinator: Prof. Frank Moulaert, Newcastle University; KU Leuven.
Starting date: 1 December 2007 Duration: 24 months.

Partners

No.	Organisation	Acronym	Country
1	University of Newcastle upon Tyne – Global Urban Research Unit (GURU)	UNEW	UK
2	Amsterdam institute for Metropolitan and International Development Studies	AMIDSt	Netherlands
3	ITER s.r.l., Centro Ricerche e Servizi	ITER	Italy
4	Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien – Institut für Regional- und Umweltwirtschaft (Institute for Environmental and Regional Development)	WU-Wien	Austria
5	Centre de recherche sur les innovations sociales , Université du Québec à Montréal	CRISES	Canada
6	Centro de Estudos Geográficos da Universidade de Lisboa	CEG-UL	Portugal
7	Dipartimento di Sociologia e Ricerca Sociale, Universita degli studi di Milano Bicocca	UNIMIB	Italy
8	Centre de recherche et d'information sur la démocratie et l'autonomie	CRIDA	France
9	Katholieke Universiteit Leuven – ASRO/P&D and Institute for Social and Economic Geography	K.U.Leuven	Belgium
10	Universitat Barcelona – Departmento de Teoría Sociológica,	UB	Spain
11	University of Manchester – School of Environment and Development,	UNIMAN	UK

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Abstract: Social Platform on Cities and Social Cohesion

Social Polis is an open social platform for dialogue between scientific and policy communities and civil society practice networks, with the objective of developing a research agenda on the role of cities in social cohesion and key related policy questions. The agenda will be proposed to the 7th EU Research Framework Programme, and especially its 'Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities' Theme.

The overall **objective** is approached on two fronts:
- critical analysis of research to date, and
- construction of a social platform of networks for information gathering, dialogue and agenda setting.

The networks will be unrolled, using snowball methods, from the research and stakeholder cores, from which the project will start.

Sub-objectives include:
- the establishment of an open, multi-layered network of actors concerned with research, policy and practice about cities and social cohesion;
- production of critical reviews of research;
- production of thematic strategic texts supporting a coherent research agenda; and
- the promotion of dialogue amongst stakeholders through dissemination and discussion fora.

Since social cohesion concerns society as a whole, at multiple spatial scales, beyond issues of inequality, exclusion and inclusion, and across public, market and voluntary sectors, 'Social Polis' assembles multiple dimensions of relevant debates (on economy, polity, society, culture, ethics) across the city and a variety of life spheres. To facilitate analysis of the highly interlinked dynamics involved in social cohesion, a range of specific **fields** affecting people's existence are focussed upon:
- welfare and social services;
- labour markets and economic development;
- built environment, housing and health;
- mobility, telecommunications and security;
- urban ecology and environment;
- governance;
- education and training;
- urban and regional inequalities;
- diversity and identity;
- creativity and innovation;
- neighbourhood development and grassroots initiatives; and
- social cohesion and the city as a whole.

In addition, particular transversal dynamics running across these will be identified.

A series of specific joint **workshops** and local **conferences** will be held, as well as a large conference, to act as catalysts for research by focussing and fine-tuning research agendas and building the platform. Communication will also include a user-friendly, interactive **website**.

In summary, 'Social Polis' will make four substantive contributions:
(i)   a focussed, critical review of research on cities and social cohesion;
(ii) a focussed agenda of effective research proposed for FP7;
(iii) establishment of a social platform of and for scientific, policy and practice stakeholders for these purposes;
(iv) production of educational resources for stakeholders.

A: Concept and objectives

In general, social cohesion debates focus strongly on social inclusion as a multi-dimensional process with multiple agencies seeking to include effectively- or potentially-excluded workers, citizens, consumers, students, ethnicities, etc … into society. This has recently led to an understanding of social cohesion as cutting across different types of citizenships, group identities and inter-group dialogue, resulting in pleas for enlarged notions of citizenship and treatments of social inclusion as a process of making democracy more democratic, by applying it in a diversity of life spheres and social communities. Table 1 'assembles' different dimensions of the conceptual and analytical debates on social cohesion and social action, with a special focus on the urban in the last two columns, in order to give an overview of the range of the conceptual debates on these questions.

Table 1. Social cohesion: dimensions of conceptual debates (topics addressed)

Life spheres / Issues	Economy	Polity	Socio-cultural	Ethics	Other life spheres (urban focus)	City as whole
Cohesion	Sustainable relations between economic activities	Multidimensional citizenship	Cosmopolitan democracy	Equal opportunity frames	The livable city – The social city – The good city	City as a Polis for All
Inclusion	Labour market inclusion	Democratising governance – Multiple identities	Access to 'other' social networks The sociological 'arts' of inclusion	Respect for diversity	Urban social and economic policy Networked society	Meeting places - Interethnic interaction - Beyond class boundaries
Exclusion	Fragmentation of labour markets, economic structures and their institutions	Elite representation Clientelism Tensions between economic flows and territoriality	Social discrimination	Elitist ethics	Networked society Spatiality of service provision	Threat of crime, terrorism, disease (disaster with city-wide impact) – Ideology of 'dangerous otherness'
Collective action – Public policy	• Peak bodies, corporatism • Collective social enterprises • Micro-credit • Policies promoting economic equality and social economy	• Direct action • Grassroots action • Networked campaigns • Improving citizens rights (public policy)	• Social-artistic arts initiatives • Radical performance movements • Educational and cultural policy	• Fair trade movements • Green movements • Improving democratic control on public policy	• Urban safety movements (Reclaim the Night etc) • Policies addressing urban safety	• Network City - Citizens Arenas and Participation Platforms • Relations between 'new' governance and representative democracy

Social Polis will provide a platform for information gathering, dialogue and agenda setting for future research on Cities and Social Cohesion, in the first place under the EC's FP7.

The Social Polis platform will be organized as an open network gradually integrating the 'Scientific Core', 'Researchers Network', 'Stakeholders Network 1' and 'Stakeholders Network 2', as defined below, as well as additional mechanisms that enable other contributions including those made spontaneously to be engaged and discussed. The different types of stakeholders in the science community, the policy arenas and the existential spheres of urban life will be involved in the process of building the research agenda and the social platform itself in a variety of ways.

The *overall objective* of this support action is twofold:
- ✒ to elaborate a research agenda on cities and social cohesion which focuses especially on the role of cities in social cohesion, and on the key related policy questions, and
- ✒ in doing this to create a platform where stakeholders and researchers can contribute their views and discuss what that agenda should be.. The research agenda is for SSH under FP7, which runs from 2007-2013.

The building of this Social Platform needs to be approached on two conceptual fronts:
- ✒ one for leading the analysis (surveying, synthesising and synergising research and research agendas, thus offering a sound basis for FP7 calls on the subject 'Cities and Social Cohesion'),
- ✒ the other for building the networks and partnerships of the platform.

The two are complementary, and both necessary to the program.

In order to address social cohesion, exclusion and inclusion processes and agencies (collective strategies, public policies) within the socially and spatially embedded city, surveying, synthesising and synergizing tasks will be organised according to eleven Existential Fields. All the Existential Fields have been key objects of attention in previous FP research projects related to social exclusion and/or cities, as well as to the 'Social Cohesion and the City as a whole' (also called the "twelfth" Existential Field).

The term 'Existential Field' refers to different 'fields' or 'spheres' of society in which cohesion dynamics affect people's existence. Sometimes the term refers to a sector of society, at other times it refers more to collective action or coordination (e.g. Governance). Table 2 lists the Existential Fields. It briefly indicates their content and relation to the overall topics, and lists previous FP projects surveyed, along with other research discovered through networking, in Social Polis.

Table 2. Existential fields, relationships to urban social cohesion debates and links to previous FP research (*sources: CORDIS, Moulaert et al 2007*)

	Relationship to topic 'cities and social cohesion'	Previous FP projects*
1. Welfare and social services	• Welfare and service regimes as crucial aspects of city governance, with strong implications for inclusion and exclusion, both socially and spatially at multiple scales. • The major impacts of welfare and service privatisation on patterns of social exclusion. • Grassroots and policy responses.	FP4 – ESOPO, NEW LOCAL POLICIES, URBEX, BETWIXT FP5 – SINGOCOM, LIMITS, GENRE ET LOCALE FP6 – TRESEGY, SUS.DIV
2. Labour markets and economic development	• Structural unemployment, Job (in)security • Changing city economies and spatial impacts on (un)employment, including changes in changes in urban economic structures (e.g. sectoral composition) • Cities as regional/national economic and employment drivers, with implications for interregional and international cohesion. • Grassroots and policy responses.	FP4 – URSPIC, ELSES, NEW LOCAL POLICIES, MIGRINF, MIGRANTS AND MINORITIES FP5 – CRITICAL, ENGIME, InSec, SINGOCOM, LIMITS, SIREN FP6 – ACRE, KATARSIS, DEMOLOGOS, SUS.DIV
3.Built environment, housing and health	• Exclusion from and through housing. • Reduction and/or privatisation of social housing throughout cities. • Urban regeneration and gentrification dynamics. • Neighbourhood environments and well-being – physical activity, pollution, local aesthetics. • Grassroots and policy initiatives for improving residential environments.	FP4 – URSPIC, BETWIXT, RESTATE FP5 – InSec, SOCOHO, LIMITS, GENRE ET LOCALE FP6 – KATARSIS
4. Mobility, telecommunications and security	• Infrastructure and technology as crucial aspects of inclusive and/or exclusive urban environments, enabling and/or disabling access, communications, security and privacy … • … with explicit and significant socio-spatial effects. • Grassroots and policy responses.	FP4 –SLIM, SENESTECH, TELICITYVISION FP5 – CRITICAL, InSec, GENRE ET LOCALE, URBANEYE

	Relationship to topic 'cities and social cohesion'	Previous FP projects*
5. Urban ecology and environment	• Addressing dualisms between people and natural ecology, people interact with nature in profound ways in cities as elsewhere. • Local/regional realisations of global environmental issues (specifically climate change and biodiversity issues), and social/governance responses to these at neighbourhood and city spatial scales.	FP4 – RESTATE FP5 - UGIS FP6 – KATARSIS, SUS.DIV
6. Governance	• Political, legal and regulatory forces of exclusion and inclusion. • Multi- and inter-scalar governance dynamics, and their role in fostering enhanced democracy and social inclusion.	FP4 – URSPIC, ELSES FP5 – CRITICAL, ENGIME, SINGOCOM, LIMITS, GENRE ET LOCALE FP6 – LOCALMULTIDEM, KATARSIS, TRESEGY, DEMOLOGOS, SUS.DIV
7. Education and training	• Access to education and training as a key aspect of social inclusion. • Potential of education and training to reproduce inequalities. • Grass-roots and policy responses. • Contextualised learning • Linking work and learning (community schools) • Linking politics and learning (schools of democracy, e.g. in Porto Alegre) • Priority areas	FP4 – SLIM FP5 –CRITICAL, LIMITS FP6 – KATARSIS, SUS.DIV
8. Urban and regional Inequalities	• Spatial, demographic and socio-economic patterns of inequality at the urban and regional scales. • Cities as drivers of regional and national economies and consequent inter-regional, -national inequalities. • Grass-roots and policy responses.	FP4 – SCENESTECH, ESOPO, URSPIC, NEW LOCAL POLICIES, URBEX, BETWIXT, BORDER CITIES FP5 – ENGIME, SINGOCOM, LIMITS, Changing City Spaces FP6 – KATARSIS,
9. Diversity and identity	• Exclusionary/inclusionary dynamics related to ethnicity, language and faith. • Exclusionary/inclusionary dynamics related to gender and age. • The meaning of 'identity' in an environment of diversity. • Expressions of cultural, linguistic and social diversity in the city. • Relationships between spatial and social identity • Conservation of cultural heritage at different spatial scales • Culture and heritage as means of social promotion and/or economic development.	FP4 – URBEX, BETWIXT, GET=STION PUBLIQUE DE LA DEVIANCE, MIGRINF, MIGRANTS AND MINORITIES, BORDER CITIES FP5 – ENGIME, SOCOHO, LIMITS, Changing City Spaces FP6 – LOCALMULTIDEM, KATARSIS, TRESEGY, SUS.DIV
10. Creativity and Innovation	• Creative strategies to enhance social cohesion within and between various types of urban communities: neighbourhood, economic/industrial, socio-demographic and cultural. • Related creation or renewal of social and economic partnerships, governance relations etc. • Expression of social relationships to place. • Enabling/disabling factors for creativity and innovation, with particular focus on political and policy factors.	FP5 – CRITICAL, SINGOCOM FP6 – ACRE, KATARSIS, DEMOLOGOS, SUS.DIV
11. Neighbourhood development and grassroots initiatives	• Bottom-up responses to social exclusion, particularly focussed on local environmental, physical and political enhancement. • Multi-scalar effects of local urban development. • Governance, political and policy factors enabling and/or disabling grassroots action.	FP4 – ELSES, MIGRINF, BORDER CITIES FP5 – SINGOCOM FP6 – ACRE, KATARSIS, SUS.DIV
Social Cohesion and the City as a Whole	• An open system approach covering the interactions of and the synergies between a diversity of processes affecting social cohesion, including integration and exclusion. • A confrontation of urban imaginaries and change visions • The role of security and insecurity in the reproduction of urban social cohesion • Politics, ideology and security • The role of the media	FP4-URSPIC FP5-SINGOCOM, SIREN FP6-KATARSIS

B: Organizational concept: partners and consortium as a whole

The organizational concept of Social Polis is based to a large extent on a dialogue involving the '**Scientific community'**, consisting of the 'Scientific Core' (all Social Polis partners) the broader *Researchers Network*, and the '**Practice and policy community'** involving different types of stakeholders, practitioners and users.

Stakeholders, practitioners and users are divided into the *Stakeholders Network 1* - i.e. Stakeholders with whom the core partners have traditionally worked together through joint research, action oriented research, policy analysis, consulting, etc. - and *Stakeholders Network 2* whose members have a looser relationship with the Scientific Core or/and have been involved through indirect contacts of the Researchers Network and the Stakeholders Network 1.

The organizational concept for the Social Polis platform starts from the 'Scientific community', which *unrolls* its relations and fields of interest to other communities (communities of practice, policy communities, etc). This approach is used because the Social Polis consortium strongly believes in a continuous learning process in which both communities of research and policy/practice play a significant role. All partners in Social Polis have a strong and long tradition of cooperation with different types of users, practitioners and stakeholders. These represent strong voices with regard to problems, opportunities and policy/strategy exchanges within those urban sectors and communities where cohesion issues are experienced and addressed in practice.

B.1. The Scientific Community

The **Scientific Community** will be 'mobilized' in two main structured forms:

First, the core scientific network, or **Scientific Core** - the 11 partners in this network who have been coordinators, or partners in a large part of the EU research (especially SSH) on cities and social cohesion; (see Table 3)

Table 3. Scientific Core

Partner No.	Organisation	Acronym	Country
1 Coordinator – GATEWAY PARTNER	University of Newcastle upon Tyne – Global Urban Research Unit (GURU)	UNEW	UK
2 Co-coordinator	Amsterdam institute for Metropolitan and International Development Studies	AMIDSt	Netherlands
3 GATEWAY PARTNER	ITER s.r.l., Centro Ricerche e Servizi	ITER	Italy
4 GATEWAY PARTNER	Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien – Institut für Regional- und Umweltwirtschaft (Institute for Environmental and Regional Development)	WU-Wien	Austria
5 GATEWAY PARTNER	Centre de recherche sur les innovations sociales , Université du Québec à Montréal	CRISES	Canada
6 GATEWAY PARTNER	Centro de Estudos Geográficos da Universidade de Lisboa	CEG-UL	Portugal
7	Dipartimento di Sociologia e Ricerca Sociale, Universita degli studi di Milano Bicocca	UNIMIB	Italy
8	Centre de recherche et d'information sur la démocratie et l'autonomie	CRIDA	France
9	Katholieke Universiteit Leuven – ASRO/P&D and Institute for Social and Economic Geography	K.U.Leuven	Belgium
10	Universitat Barcelona – Departament de Teoría Sociológica,	UB	Spain
11	University of Manchester – School of Environment and Development	UNIMAN	UK

Second, the **Researchers Network** - a network consisting of experienced researchers with whom the core network has worked in the past (especially through FP partnerships) as well as experienced researchers from other continents brought on board by the gateway partners..

The *Scientific Core* includes, among others, 6 Gateway Partners. These have the specific task of mobilising their links within regions not already covered by the partners in the Scientific Core. Table 4 provides a short overview of the links that Gateway Partners have in a number of geo-regions inside and outside Europe. Most partners mobilized through these gateways will be involved in the Researchers Network. Some of these will in turn introduce the consortium to candidates for Stakeholders Network 2 (see below).

Table 4. Gateways to partners and stakeholders in other regions of Europe and the World

Partner No.	Organisation	Regions	Networks/ Significant partners (KEY ones only)
1 Coordinator – Gateway Partner	UNEW (Newcastle)	Australasia	• AHURI RMIT-NATSEM Research Centre, RMIT, Melbourne, Australia • Alcoa Research Centre for Stronger Communities, Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia • Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong • China Academy of Urban Planning and Design, Beijing, China • Mirvac Group, Perth, Western Australia Australian Conservation Foundation, Sydney
2 Co-Coordinator	AMIDst (Amsterdam)	South America North America	• Metropolitan Observatory of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and the Catholic University of Uruguay; significant USA partners are at Wayne State University; CUNY (NYC); NYU (NYC); and others
3 Gateway Partner	ITER (Naples)	Southern Europe	• KATARSIS Southern network (Athens, Roma, Salerno)
4 Gateway Partner	WU-Wien (Vienna)	Eastern Europe Latin America	• Cornivus University, Budapest, Hungary • Masaryk University, Czech Republic • UCS - Universidade de Caxias do Sul, Brazil • UFPE-Universidade Federal de Pernambuco, Brazil
5 Gateway Partner	CRISES (Québec)	South America North America	• Instituto de investigación y formación en administración pública (IIFAP), Córdoba Argentina • Red Iberoamericana de investigadores sobre globalización y territorio, Mexico • Innovation System Research Network (ISRN), Canada • Alliance de recherche université-communauté en économie sociale, Canada
6 Gateway Partner	CEG-UL (Lisbon)	Africa	• Universidade Eduardo Mondlane - Centro de Estudos da População (Maputo, Mozambique) • Southern African Migration Project (SAMP) • Afrobarometer

Third, Social Polis will work with three small subcontractors:
<u>Subcontractor 1</u>: Human Geography, Department of Social Sciences, University of Bremen (Prof. Felicitas Hillmann);
<u>Subcontractor 2</u>: Institute for Social Sciences, Humboldt-Universitaet zu Berlin (Prof. Hartmut Häussermann);
<u>Subcontractor 3</u>: Department of Society and Globalization, Roskilde University (Dr. Anni Greve).

B.2. The Stakeholder Networks

The **Practice and policy community** (or **Stakeholders**, as they are referred to) will become involved in two main structured forms:

1st form - Stakeholders Network 1: the stakeholders with whom the core partners have traditionally worked through joint research, action oriented research, policy analysis, consulting, etc.. Stakeholders Network 1 includes members from different sectors (community/civil society, policy, government and private), concerned with a range of themes (shown here in relation to Social Polis' existential fields), and operating within various institutional/governance frameworks. Stakeholders Network 1 involves the users known to the Scientific Core, through experienced research cooperation (privileged witnesses, policy makers and evaluators, policy panel members, grassroots representatives). All the members of Stakeholders Network 1 are listed in Table 5. The large majority of participants in the Stakeholders Network 1 have already agreed to take part in the social platform and to utilise their own professional contacts to develop Stakeholders Network 2.

2nd form - Stakeholders Network 2: stakeholders of the same type as above in Stakeholders Network 1 but who have a looser relationship with the Scientific Core or/and have been involved through indirect contacts of the Researchers Network and the Stakeholders Network 1. Stakeholders Network 2 will be identified at the first Workshop on the basis of recommendations by Stakeholders Network 1 members. Their involvement will broaden both the geographical and thematic scope of Social Polis.

Table 5. Members of Stakeholders Network 1 **

EF	Government•	NGO/Civil Society•	Private•
1	• Stadsdeel Zuidoost (P2) • Amsterdam Zuidoost (P2) • G4 network (P2) • Vereniging van Nederlandse Gemeenten (P2)	• CGD Amsterdam (P2) • Movisie (P2) • AQS (P3) • Fuoricentroscampia (P3) • NM (P3) • Barrio's (P7) • Reti di Famiglie (P7)	• VINCLE (P10)
2	• Gemeente Amsterdam, Dienst Onderzoek en Statistiek (P2) • Regio Randstad (P2) • Kenniskring (P2) • Agenzia per l'impiego della Campania (P3) • Technopole Angus (P5) • MDEIE (P5)	• ISPE (P4) • CES (P5) • Fundação Eugénio de Almeida (P6) • CNLRQ (P8) • SURT (P10)	• Ondernemershuizen in Amsterdam (P2) • Bureau Broedplaatsen (P2) • Chamber of Comerce (P2) • CFIL-FIOM (P3) • CSN (P5) • FTQ (P5) • Fonds action (P5) • LBC-NVK (P11)
3	• Newcastle City Council (P1) • Noordwaarts (P2) • Parkstadt (P2) • NIROV (P2) • INH (P6) • Parque Expo (P6) • INCASOL (P10) • ADIGSA (P10)	• SBWT (P2) • SBWT (P2) • Stichting Eigenwijks (P2) • SIGRA (P2) • KEI (P2) • Olinda (P7)	• Mirvac Fini (P1) • AFWC (P2) • Woningconsortium Far West (P2) • Woningconsortium Westvaarts (P2) • NERCAB (P6) • Agintec (P7)
4	• Barry Hutton (P1) • China academy of Urban Planning (P1) • Wethouder ROGWI (P2) • City Regions New Style (P2) • Pla Estratègic (P10)	• IURS (P1) • De Vrije Ruimte (P2) • Stads (P9) • Bruksel Binnenstebuiten (P11)	

EF	Government°	NGO/Civil Society°	Private°
5	• Wethouder ZMP (P2) • Office of Brussels Minister for EEW (P11)	• ACF (P1) • Local Agenda 21 Vienna (P4) • BRAL (P11) • EEB (P11)	
6	• Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken (P2) • Wiardi Beckman Stichting (P2) • Gouvernement de la Région de Bruxelles-Capitale (P9) • Rubi City Council (P10) • Regidoria de participació ciutadana (P10)	• IPP (P2) • CERPAC (P3) • Terras Dentro (P6) • Contest (P7) • Straten-Generaal (P9) • Samenlevingsopbouw Brussel (P9) • Creu Roja Mataró (P10)	• Bedrijvenvereniging Amsterdam Zuidoost (P2)
7	• Wethouder GSB (P2) • Commune di Napoli (P3) • FEMP (P10)	• African Women Network (P3) • Paolo Freire Centre (P4)	
8	• SPP Integration Sociale (P9)	• Beira Serra (P6) • ANDC (P6) • Leoncavallo (P7) • EIESI (P8) • Basta! (P9)	• Geoideia (P6)
9	• BOW (P1) • PAS (P2) • ADI (P2) • Camara Municipal do Seixal (P6) • Assessorato politiche giovanili (P7)	• QOL (P1) • Care and Repair (P1) • Migranten Platform (P2) • Forum Institutr for Multicultural Development (P2) • Dedalus (P3) • Samenlevingsopbouw Antwerpen (P9) • SOS-RACISME (P10)	• i-nova (P2)
10	• Bureau Broedplaatsen (P2) • Nederland Kennisland (P2) • INEES (P8)	• Krater Theatre (P2) • Studio West (P2) • Westergasfabriek (P2) • NDSM (P2) • Opera Nomadi (P7) • ARDES (P8)	• Fonds de Solidarité (P5) • Terra Culta (P6)
11	• NICIS (P2) • Àrea de Nova Ciutadania (p10) • Malgrat de Mar City Council (P10)	• Graetzelmanagement (P4) • CDECs (P5) • R4R (P9) • CityMin(e)d (P11) • ARAU (P11)	
SC	Different Government Departments re Urban Policy *	SocialPlatform, The European Anti-Poverty Network, EUROCITIES, EURA, CECODHAS, CREA, International Urban Development Association. Urban Logement*	TBC

* To be contacted after signing of contract.
** EF1 = Welfare and social services; **EF2** = Labour markets and economic development; **EF3** = Built environment, housing and health; **EF4** = Mobility, telecommunications and security; **EF5** = Urban ecology and environment; **EF6** = Governance; **EF7** = Education and training; **EF8** = Urban and regional inequalities; **EF9** = Diversity and identity; **EF10** = Creativity and innovation; **EF11** = Neighbourhood development and grassroots initiatives**, SC=** Cocial Cohesion and the City as a Whole
° P.i in brackets after each stakeholders network 1 partner refers to the contact partner in the Scientific Core. Details on the activities of each partner in the Stakeholders Network 1 are provided in Annex 2.

Contacts will be actively established with other perspectives than those engaged in the proposal, to extend further the range of perspectives that will contribute to the platform. Where possible, those who put themselves forward as participants in the platform will be given an opportunity to contribute in an appropriate manner, within the bounds of practicality and within the limitations of the Support Action's budget. The web site will be open to all to contribute.

C: Methodology and associated work plan

C.1. Overall strategy: Stepwise networking

The strategy proposed is a series of steps to *unroll* the social platform:
1. Start with an initial network of European scientists involved in social cohesion research Scientific Core, to review the State of the Art of the social cohesion problematic and develop a report at the Workshop with Scientific Core, Researchers Network and representatives from Stakeholders Network 1.
2. Extend the 'society of stakeholders' from the to other significant stakeholder groups with an interest in social cohesion and/or urban policy, with looser or indirect previous involvement with the scientific core, or no such previous involvement (Stakeholders Network 2).
3. Work with the extended network to refine and focus the research agenda, which will provide the basis for further calls for proposals under FP7, and which will aim to provide a comprehensive picture of the issues for social cohesion and the role of cities.
4. Consolidate the structure and operation of the social platform consortium by establishing a range of ongoing research themes, cooperative forums, dissemination modes, as well as producing educational resources and training sites.

C.2. Detailed work description

The staged work program will consist of 8 work packages (listed in Table 6)

Table 6. Workpackage list

W P no.	Workpackage title	Workpackage objectives	Months
WP1	Survey of existing research and support to initial research call	• Establish an initial network of leading researchers; • Review the State of the Art in eleven existential fields; • Engage a selection of non-academic stakeholders.	1-3
WP2	First Extension of network	• Bring together Stakeholder Network 1 to debate in Workshop in Brussels; • Refine and focus the research agenda.	4-9
WP3	Second extension of network	• Finalise list of Stakeholder Network 2 members; • Prepare for stakeholder conference in Vienna.	10-12
WP4	Consolidation of platform – Second call text	• Organize Stakeholder Conference in Vienna; • Provide the Draft for the Research Agenda for debate at the conference; • Consolidate the structure and operation of the platform.	13-24
WP5	Dissemination and training	• Produce and publish discussion papers and proceedings of the stakeholder conference; • Improve communication between the scientific core and the Stakeholders Networks 1 and 2. • Build tools for training and education.	2-24
WP6	Scientific coordination	• Overall management of scientific workpackages	1-24
WP7	User group coordination	• Build a social platform with strong networks throughout the sectors • Support to the various stakeholder networks as to preparing their inputs for the scientific deliverables.	1-24
WP8	Finance and administration	• Financial management	1-24

The staged work program will consist of 8 work packages with associated deliverables and milestones (7 and 8):

Table 7. Workpackage list

Work Package no.	Work package title	Type of activity	Lead participant no.	Start month	End month
WP1	Survey of existing research and support to initial research call	SUPP	P1, P2, P4	Dec 07	Mar 08
WP2	First Extension of network	SUPP	P1 to P6	Mar 08	Aug 08
WP3	Second extension of network	SUPP	P1 to P6	Sep 08	Nov 08
WP4	Consolidation of platform – Second call text	SUPP		Dec 08	Nov 09
WP5	Dissemination and training	SUPP	P4	Jan 08	Nov 09
WP6	Scientific coordination	MGT	P1, P2	Dec 07	Nov 09
WP7	User group coordination	MGT	P1, P3	Dec 07	Nov 09
WP8	Finance and administration	MGT	P1	Dec 07	Nov 09

Table 8. List of deliverables

Del. No.	Deliverable name	WP no.	Nature	Dissemination level	Delivery date
D1.1.x	State of the Art papers per existential field and 'Social Cohesion and City as a whole' Synthesis: preliminary research agenda	1	R	PP	Feb 08
D1.2	Open research agenda	1	R	PU	Mar 08
D1.3	Report – Contribution to first call for proposals		R	RE	Feb 08
D2.1	Focussed research agenda	2	R	RE	May 08
D3.1	Interim and periodic reports to EC	3	R		Nov 08
D4.1.x	Discussion papers per existential field and 'Social Cohesion and City as a whole'	4	R	PU	Feb 09
D4.2	Conference proceedings	4	R	PU	Nov 09
D4.3	Future research agenda – Consolidation social polis	4	R	CO	Nov 09
D5.i	Various educational resources (website)				
D6.1	Periodic reports to EC	6	R	CO	Nov 09
D6.2	Final report to EC	6	R	PU	Nov 09
D8.1	Periodic management report to EC	8	R	CO	Nov 08
D8.2	Final management report to EC	8	R	CO	Nov 09

D: Implementation

Social Polis is a coordination action involving several complementary activities and a large number of participants. There is a need for strong coordination and clear chains of accountability. The coordinator P1 (UNEW) and co-coordinator P2 (AMIDSt) will manage and coordinate most of the workpackages. They will do so in close cooperation with all other partners (Scientific Core).

Coordination of the scientific and stakeholder networks is central to the building of the social platform.. This will be the responsibility of P1 and P2 who, in cooperation with the other partners, will organise workshops and conferences. They will facilitate relationships with the stakeholders and will maintain up-to-date networking records (regarding involvement of stakeholders),

E: Impact

As a coordination and support action, Social Polis is critically concerned with stakeholder involvement and providing useable outcomes, with the following expected impact:
1. Advance the state of the scientific state of the art on 'Cities and social cohesion';
2. Enhance cooperation between researchers in Europe and in other geographic regions in the covered research areas;
3. Devise strategies to involve relevant communities, stakeholders, practitioners in the making of research and the diffusion of its results;;
4. Provide knowledge that will support relevant policies and other types of collective action and public governance initiatives.

It is envisaged that the benefits from this project will be catalysed by:

1. Active involvement of a wide range of scientific and practice and policy oriented stakeholders. To this purpose a number of instruments to activitate the involvement of stakeholders has been designed (See in Annex: How to become involved?)
2. Project website with both freely accessible resources and password-protected materials available to consortium members, and offering customized discussion fora;
3. Workshops and conferences;
4. The wide discussion and publicising of available research (results, methods) and future research agenda under FP7.

F. Ethical issues

Social exclusion, gender and diversity
Social Polis is explicitly oriented to the inclusion and empowerment of socially excluded groups, and its outcomes will include the identification of opportunities to integrate deprived people and communities into the European economy and society. It will promote improving research to this purpose. Moreover, it will actively subvert unequal power relationships between academic researchers and research participants and/or user groups, including those from socially excluded communities. A gender and diversity coordinator (will be appointed to monitor the integration of issues pertaining to gender, age and culture.

G. How to Become Involved with Social Polis

One of the main tasks of Social Polis is to act as a bridge between scientists, policymakers, practitioners and the general public on the issue of social cohesion in cities.

Our aim is to establish an open conversation between people, groups and organisations who are concerned with research, policymaking and practice about cities and social cohesion. We particularly invite contributions from people and groups who feel they are not normally consulted on such issues.

There are several ways in which to become involved with Social Polis:

1. *Post an item on the Social Polis website socialpolis.eu.*
This could be:
- Some research relating to an aspect of social cohesion as a whole or a Field of Social Polis which you or another group has undertaken;
- Good references which you recommend to others to read or see. They can be from academic journals, books, newspaper articles or websites;
- An example of a policy which you feel is particularly relevant;
- An example of practice – perhaps an innovative organisation or a case study – which you feel would be useful to others;
- Suggestions for future research or policy.

You can post word or pdf files, urls to websites, images (jpeg or tif files), videos etc, but they must not breach copyright regulations or be deemed offensive. All posted items should include a disclaimer that the Social Polis co-ordination team, Newcastle University and the European Commission are not responsible for the specific content which you have posted (see disclaimer: http://www.e-businessguide.gov.au/disclaimer)

You may wish to post your item **either** to a specific theme of Field (such as housing, environment etc) **or** to the general Debate page for others to see and make comments.

2. *Apply for a 'small' grant (maximum 3,000 Euros) to produce a short paper or input in a specific Field or Theme.*
This could be an issue relating to a Social Polis Field – perhaps something you took part in. It should be explicitly related to, *either* ideas for future empirical research on social cohesion and the city, *or* a contribution to the future research agenda (themes, methods, ways of interaction with concerned populations)

You can also suggest to a Social Polis lead partner to cooperate within their specific Existential Field, to contribute to the deliverables to the EC. It could be produced as a written document or in multimedia format.

Proposals should include the following:
- The title of the paper or input;
- Name(s) and contact information for lead person;
- A brief justification for the proposed topic – especially the particular benefits of the topic to the Social Polis as a whole or particular Existential Fields.
- A budget.

3. *Apply for a group project/workshop grant (budget per proposal between 5,000€ and 10,000€).*
Non-academic groups, in particular, are invited to submit proposals for workshops in Social Polis.

The purpose of the workshops is to broaden the network of stakeholders in Social Polis, to enhance cooperation between academic and non-academic participants, and to produce a focused research agenda for the future. Non-academic groups and organisations are invited to take a leading role in selecting topics, recruiting participants, and choosing the place and time of the workshop. Stakeholders from different sectors (community/civil society, policy, government and private), as well as some of the Social Polis partners and members of the Social Polis coordination team must be involved in the project.

Clear suggestions for future research on social cohesion and the city should be a significant output of the project or workshop. The workshop needs to be appropriately costed with respect to its scale (local, regional), number of participants, coverage of sectors, and themes.

Proposals should include the following:
- The title of the workshop;
- Name(s) and contact information for all organizers;
- Social Polis Field or theme;
- A brief summary of the workshop and justification of the proposed topic. This needs to include a discussion of the particular benefits of the topic to the Social Polis as a whole and to particular Existential Fields. The relevance for future research on Social Cohesion and the City must also been shown clearly;
- Procedures for selecting participants, inputs and/or presentations;
- Expected number of participants (this is important!);
- Potential invited speakers, presenters or facilitators;
- The proposed location, day, time and duration of workshop;
- The support facilities required;
- The detailed budget. Co-funding is highly recommended
- Plans for dissemination of notes, minutes and other outputs – especially contributions to future research agendas - from the workshop.

If you wish to discuss an idea for a 'small' or group project/workshop grant, please contact Stuart Cameron, email: s.j.cameron@newcastle.ac.uk

Proposals are due 30 June 2008 by 17.00 UK time. They should be submitted electronically to s.j.cameron@newcastle.ac.uk