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Coordinator: Prof. Frank Moulaert
Newcastle University; KU Leuven.

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List of newsletters included:

- December 2009
- January/February 2010
- March 2010
- April/May 2010
- June 2010
- July 2010
- September/October 2010
- November/December 2010



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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is published by
the SOCIAL POLIS coordination Team
at Newcastle University and he
Catholic University of Leuven

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Educational materials: Understanding Social Science

The blog Understanding Social Science, elaborated as an educational resource for popularising the Survey Papers of the EF 2, 3 and 5, has been launched. It contains information and pedagogical materials on social polarisation, labour markets, economic restructuring in Europe from a urban perspective, housing policies, social cohesion and environmental politics in cities. It includes slideshows (viewable on-line through the Slideshare platform, as well as downloadable in pdf format), a glossary, thematic fiches, and it has an hypertextual structure.

It was realized by Nuria Francoli and Mar Camarasa from the SURT foundation, who we would like to thank for their excellent job. We hope that you will have a chance to visit the blog, leave your comments and answer to the brief evaluation questionnaire.

You can find the blog on:

<http://understandingsocialscience.wordpress.com/>

Impact of the blog in its launch phase

The blog Understanding Social Science has been on-line since January 15th, 2010. During the launch phase, the blog has been viewed 1,548 times (excluding visits from the blog administrator).

As regards interactivity, 22 evaluation questionnaires were received and 7 comments were published. Questionnaire results show a general positive evaluation of the blog: comments received via evaluation questionnaires showed interest in the initiative and made several suggestions to administrators, such as translating the content to other languages and accompanying diagrams with more elaborate pedagogical explanations.

Visitors' comments posted on the blog showed a positive reception, emphasising the visual clarity of explanations and the usability of the glossary, and pointing out possible further developments, such as encouraging discussion between socialist and neoliberal approaches.

Special issue of the Canadian Journal of Regional Science

A special issue of the Canadian Journal of Regional Science/ Revue Canadienne des Sciences Régionales (Vol 32, no 1) on Territorial Development and Social Innovation was recently published under the direction of Juan-Luis Klein as Guest-Editor. The papers included in this special issue are the following:

1. Juan-Luis Klein/ Jean-Marc Fontan/ Diane-Gabrielle Tremblay : *Social entrepreneurs, local initiatives and social economy: foundations for a socially innovative strategy to fight against poverty and exclusion*
2. Frank Moulaert : *Le développement territorial intégré : le rôle des rapports sociaux*
3. David A. Wolfe: *Social Dynamics of Innovation and Civic Engagement in City Regions*
4. Jean-Louis Laville : *Services aux personnes et innovations*
5. Abdelillah Hamdouch /Oana Ailenei /Bruno Laffort/Frank Moulaert: *Les organisations de l'économie sociale dans la métropole lilloise : Vers de nouvelles articulations spatiales ?*
6. Isabel André/Alexandre Abreu: *Social creativity and post-rural places: the case of Montemor-o-Novo, Portugal*
7. Martin Jayo/ Marlei Pozzebon/ Eduardo Henrique Diniz: *Microcredit and innovative local development in Fortaleza, Brazil: the case of Banco Palmas*
8. Emmanuel Raufflet : *La planification territoriale collaborative sous la loupe : l'expérience du plan municipal de développement de Tlalmanalco au Mexique (1997)*

Upcoming events

| Date | Title |
|-----------------------|---|
| 18 Mar 10 - 20 Mar 10 | Conference: Is There a European Model of Governance? A Comparative Perspective – Luxembourg |
| 14 Apr 10 - 18 Apr 10 | AAG - City of Negotiation: Social Innovations and Urban Living - Washinton DC |
| 22 Apr 10 - 24 Apr 10 | Room in the City: A Forum for the Civic Square - Glasgow |

Santiago, a Neoliberal City

Paper by Alfredo Rodríguez & Paula Rodríguez, from Corporación SUR

The working paper *Santiago, a Neoliberal City* (You can download it on www.socialpolis.eu, in the Fields and Themes section (EF12 section Social Cohesion and the City as a Whole) is a synthesis of the book *Santiago, una ciudad neoliberal* (Quito, Ecuador: OLACCHI, 2009), edited by Alfredo Rodríguez and Paula Rodríguez. Starting from the Santiago case, the authors show the consequences of a neoliberal model of urban development implemented under the unconstrained rules of the market. Resting on theoretical frameworks developed by authors like Harvey, Brenner, Theodore and Hackworth, they analyse the evolution of the city from the 50s, showing the transformations of a rather democratic city, in which, until the military coup in 1973, most of inhabitants were entitled to basic civil liberties and political rights, into a city ruled by business and speculation. The paper shows how the Pinochet dictatorship shaped a territorial and institutional pattern which the subsequent democratic governments have not tried to transform, even though important improvements have been done after the dictatorship. The territorial division of Greater Santiago implemented by force by the government of Pinochet shaped a context in which the spatial fragmentation of the city expressed and reproduced the deep social fragmentation of its society, whose profundity is being revealed by the current events in the country. "What existed continues to exist" the authors say referring to a chapter authored by Carlos De Mattos, asserting that neoliberal urban order is not a natural but a political order, and therefore other options are possible.

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Social PolIS extended till November 30, 2010

We just received the excellent News from the European Commission that the Social PolIS contract has been extended till the end of the year. This will give us the possibility to continue publishing the Newsletter, valorise outputs from the first period and introduce new functions to the Website. Moreover, a number of new stakeholder activities will be launched in the near future. These should reinforce the role of Social PolIS as a learning platform, where participants learn from dialogue. To this purpose, starting from the experiences of Social PolIS, methods of collaboration in research and practice must be further documented, developed, tested and evaluated.

Using the platform for collective design of a strategy to valorise educational resources and a European agenda for the analysis of the challenges of urban social cohesion offers us the frame to structure cooperation in which activities around the application of the educational resources in the practice of stakeholders will further the documentation, dissemination and popularization of methods of collaboration in research and practice, thus allowing a continued production of knowledge that is policy relevant and able to impact on urban spaces.

These activities will follow the line of Social PolIS till now and thus combine research, practice and policy in a networking approach. The knowledge on social cohesion in urban spaces built in Social PolIS will be mobilized to underpin concrete initiatives of stakeholders regarding social cohesion in urban spaces. Knowledge exchange will be achieved by learning events bringing together policy-makers, civil society organisations and academics to apply the knowledge and the educational resources of Social PolIS.

A calendar of the new activities will soon be available.

Educational materials: Toward Knowledge Alliances

The report *Towards knowledge alliances* popularizes the results of Social Polis with regard to the theme “Cohesion of the city as a whole”. It draws mainly on the two survey papers which deal with this theme (EF0 and EF12) but highlights from the other themes have been picked up as well. The report presents Social Polis as part of the current re-contextualisation of science where science and society have started to “reach out” to one another. The relationship between researchers and stakeholders serves as a red thread throughout the report. First of all, the report tries to gain a foothold in everyday European life by questioning the use of the concept of social cohesion. Is it really a general issue and is the issue everywhere known as social cohesion? If not, stakeholders do not know what the researchers are talking about. Moreover, the report makes sense of the European dimension by presenting results from Social Polis which explains differences and similarities respectively. It highlights to what extent practitioners working in urban neighbourhoods around Europe face the same problems. It provides reasons for stakeholders to be interested in each others’ work and learn from each other. Furthermore, the report explains the approach to social cohesion maintained by Social Polis, understanding it as a “problématique”. The profound change of attention that this approach urges on, means that problems have to be redefined, but not on the basis of the dominant approach, called inclusive liberalism, which has come to dominate so much of thinking, policies and problem-solving in the last decades. Instead, a new approach is needed that treats the existing order as something created and temporal. Finally, this new approach has to be developed jointly with stakeholders. Social Polis favours a continued re-contextualisation of science by involving stakeholders on an equal footing.

Workshop: Comparative Research on Urban and Regional Contentious Dynamics

We would like to signal the workshop “Comparative Research on Urban and Regional Contentious Dynamics”, part of the “Social movements and participation” section of the Italian Society for Political Science congress, which will take place in Venice on September 16th - 18th 2010.

The study of local conflicts is at the crossroad of many major debates of contemporary social and political sciences (such as urban segregation and its politicization effects, the transformation of citizens participation, the deliberative turn in public policies design, urban power structure and translocal élite circulation, the new multilevel dynamics of urban politics). Literature on urban conflicts has stressed how regeneration policies become target of protests organized by groups of citizens. Some of these conflicts simply block the implementation process, while others are ineffective. In other cases, local contention enacts institutional innovation, opening up room for discussion and changes in urban plans and resources allocation. Although the study of urban conflicts has developed in the last ten years, most of the research has been based on single case studies.

The workshop aims to collect and discuss *comparative* research in this field.

Papers based on comparative qualitative researches, on comparative – historical approaches, on small-N data sets, as well as comparative research mixing different data collection techniques are welcome. Paper proposals are expected to be around 5.000 character.

Final Papers can not exceed 50.000 characters (spaces, notes and references comprises). To allow maximum time for discussion, we intend that all papers should be circulated by e-mail and put on the SISP website.

Paper proposals should be sent by June 1st 2010.

Please send proposals to both the two convenors: Noemi Podestà, noemi.podesta@sp.unipmn.it; Tommaso Vitale, tommaso.vitale@unimib.it.

For more information about the XXIII Congress SISP, please look on: www.sisp.it

Upcoming events

| Date | Title |
|-----------------------|--|
| 28 May 10 - 30 May 10 | 1st World Congress on Cities and Adaptation to Climate Change - Bonn |
| 21 May 10 - 22 May 10 | Annual Scientific Meeting on Social Enterprise - Rome |
| 22 Apr 10 - 24 Apr 10 | Room in the City: A Forum for the Civic Square - Glasgow |

Post-Doctoral Fellowship York University, Toronto

The City Institute at York University - Towers in the Suburbs: Fixing the Modernist Suburban Legacy in Toronto

The City Institute has developed a profile for suburban research and has been a centre for work on Toronto suburbs in particular since its inception in 2006. We have just completed an Infrastructure Canada sponsored project on infrastructure in the area around suburban York University, and we have been awarded a Major Collaborative Research Initiative on Global Suburbanism. For more information on the City Institute, please visit www.yorku.ca/city

We are seeking a researcher at the post-doc level to work with our MCRI researchers and students on the Toronto part of our "Suburban Redevelopment and Tower Renewal" research project. The post-doc will include work on the renewal of building stock in the older suburbs of Toronto. Concentrating on Toronto's Tower Renewal program, the post-doc will demonstrate the significance of improvements to the built environment of suburban areas that have been characterized by physical and social problems. The decline of the so-called "old suburbs" has perhaps been nowhere as apparent as in the apartment towers built in the 1960s to 1980s which make up large parts of the built residential environment in Toronto. As older housing stock becomes subject to regeneration, often led by the state, gentrification may be a consequence and income disparities rise. The post-doc position will be guided by the overall objectives of the MCRI (<http://www.yorku.ca/city/Projects/GlobalSuburbanism.html>) but also by a specific conceptual lens that is provided by a combination of urban political economy and ecology as well as social and cultural geography in order to understand multiple processes that enter into the renewal of aging suburban housing stock.

Deadline: Applications must be received by May 3, 2010. It is expected that the successful applicant will begin postdoctoral research at York by July 1, 2010.

For more information click on: <http://www.yorku.ca/acadjobs/index.htm>

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The Bauman Institute: 'Re-thinking Global Society' conference

Re-thinking Global Society

We are delighted to announce that the School of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Leeds will formally launch the Bauman Institute in September 2010, established in honour of Leeds's Emeritus Professor of Sociology Zygmunt Bauman.

In recognition of the launch, an International Conference will be hold at the University of Leeds on 6 and 7 September 2010The Conference aims to bring together international expertise amongst scholars, researchers, practitioners, and postgraduate students, working in a variety of fields across the arts, humanities and social sciences. Confirmed plenary speakers include:

- * Zygmunt Bauman - Emeritus Professor of Sociology, University of Leeds
- * George Ritzer - Distinguished University Professor at the University of Maryland
- * Daniel Libeskind – Architect
- * Neal Lawson - Chair of Compass, and writer for The Guardian and New Statesman
- * Saskia Sassen - Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology, Columbia University, and Centennial Visiting Professor, London School of Economics

Final Call for Papers

Following the overwhelming response to our first call for papers, we have accepted over fifty abstracts from scholars around the world. Following numerous requests to extend the deadline, we will welcome papers on our stated key conference themes.

- * Consumerism and sustainability
- * Globalization, risk and uncertainty
- * Renewing politics and civil society
- * The social thought of Zygmunt Bauman

Abstracts not longer than 150 words, tied to any of the above themes, can be submitted not later than 30 April 2010.

They will be subject to peer-review and should be sent to the Director of the Bauman Institute, Dr Mark Davis, at m.e.davis@leeds.ac.uk

NECE conference Trieste 2010: Call for projects

The NECE initiative promoted by the Federal Agency for Civic Education is calling for projects to be presented at this year's NECE conference "Chances for Cultural and Citizenship Education in the Context of the Development of Cities and Urban Spaces", which will be held in Trieste (Italy) from the 29th of September 2010 until 1st of October 2010.

At the conference dialogue between academics and practitioners will focus on current challenges for urban space and on cultural and citizenship education. The conference's workshops aim to exchange knowledge on innovative models, projects and concepts, related to the city/ the urban space and their challenges and to opportunities/chances for cultural and citizenship education in the urban context.

All information about the background, aims, admission requirements and selection criteria can be found on the NECE website www.nece.eu, as well as in the conference programme.

The organisers invite representatives of outstanding projects related to cultural or citizenship education to present their projects at one of the topical workshops of the conference. Travel and accommodation costs will be reimbursed for one person per project/organisation.

The closing date of the call is 18th June 2010.

Workshop: Local and transnational citizenship in Catalonia

Social Polis is happy to participate in the workshop on the project “Ciutadania local i transnacional a Catalunya: la participació i incorporació política dels migrants a Barcelona, Girona, Lleida i Tarragona”, which takes place in Barcelona on the 3rd of June.

This project aims to make a comparative analysis of social inclusion practices of migrants across the provincial capital cities of Catalonia. The researchers are collecting and analysing policies, perceptions and practices from a target group of migrant communities and individuals, as well as local government representatives, with the aim of understanding differences and similarities in the construction of urban citizenship and in the territorial governance in Catalonia. For more information on the project click on: <http://pagines.uab.cat/translocalcat/>

The workshop aims to generate feedback from all the participants to the research project’s survey, and to discuss the results and the policy recommendations which are emerging from the research. Representatives from migrants associations and NGOs, as well as politicians and administrators are invited to the workshop.

The purpose of the seminar is also to create room for debate between the participants, especially promoting discussions on the specific issues relevant to each city. Furthermore, the seminar wants to be a meeting point between groups of migrants and local governments.

Upcoming events

| Date | Title |
|-----------------------|---|
| 25 Jun 10 - 25 Jun 10 | Conference and call for papers - Communicative Cities: Integrating Technology and Place – Columbus, Ohio, USA |
| 24 Jun 10 - 26 Jun 10 | QeC-ERAN: Twenty Years of Urban Experience - Brussels |
| 23 Jun 10 - 25 Jun 10 | Conference - Experience the Creative Economy, University of Toronto |

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Social Polis – Call for educational resources

SOCIAL POLIS (7th Framework Programme) is now announcing **the CALL for EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES.**

All non-academic groups and organisations from NGO, community, private and policy sectors are invited to apply for a small grant (up to 4,000 €) to produce educational resources for popularizing the results of SOCIAL POLIS. Successful applicants will be invited to one of the Social Polis Events in Fall 2010 to present their work to the broader public.

The proposal might include:

- Innovative pedagogical tools
- Translated and popularized texts
- Audio-visual media
- Events and workshops

Contributions may focus on producing relevant and innovative tools for science communication that enable a process of mutual learning between the academic and non-academic spheres. The applicants are required to popularize the results of SOCIAL POLIS and make them relevant and useful for a broader public. Applicants may take the papers written on the existential fields (EFs), the final focussed research agenda (FRA), the already produced educational resources or the outcomes on questions of transdisciplinary research collaborations as starting point and inputs for their proposal. All these materials are available on the Social Polis website.

The contributions can be in English or any other European language. The proposal must be in English.

The proposals should also meet the following criteria:

- The educational resources must be targeted at a non-academic public
- The applicants for this grant should belong to the non-academic sphere (NGOs, activists, policy maker, private actors, etc.). Cooperation with academics is welcome and they can become co-submitters.
- The educational resources must include innovative tools for learning processes or science communication.
- The applicants should show the sustainability and long-term outcome of the proposal.
- Proposals should be properly budgeted with respect to their scale and ambitions; *the budget must not exceed 4,000 Euro.*
- Applicants must provide clear information on the envisaged usage, relevance and output for Social Polis (documents to be delivered to the Social Polis coordinator – with short description of their expected content, plans for dissemination, etc.). All outcomes of this contribution have to be delivered by **30 November 2010**.

Proposals should include the following:

- Name(s) and contact information for all applicants. In case of a partnership, partners and coordinatorship should be clearly identified;
- The title of the educational resource;
- The communication modes that will be applied (word, voice, image, ...);
- Abstract (500-600 words);
- A brief justification of the proposed topic and format (200 words);
- Plans for dissemination including actions and their timing (100 words);
- Short statement on the particular benefits of the proposed contribution for the dissemination and popularization strategy of Social Polis;
- A detailed budget (which must not exceed 4,000 €);
- Information on the addressed target groups.

For more information on this call for educational resources please contact us directly. Proposals are due **15th of July 2010**. They should be submitted electronically to Sarah Habersack at sarah.habersack@wu.ac.at. Unfortunately, no applications will be accepted after this date. Decisions will be taken until 22st of July 2010.

Social Polis has been extended for 12 months. The objective of this third year of the project is to strengthen the results of the two first years and further advance tackling the challenges of social cohesion in the city, especially focusing on:

- Creating a strong awareness of the importance of social cohesion in European cities by dissemination and popularization of the results of Social Polis on cities and social cohesion at different scales.
- Furthering the Social Polis Platform by evaluating and documenting methods of collaboration and creating actual spaces of encounter.

Social Polis Events:

- a. Local workshops: these events target the dissemination and popularization of the results of Social Polis for a broader public at the local and European level. Each workshop will cover a specific aspect of Social Polis and connect it to the interests and working realities of the participants.
- b. A European Learning Event: 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.

More detailed information on the events will be available on the Social Polis Website in due course!

| Event | Date | Contact person | Location |
|--|---|---|----------|
| Transdisciplinary research: lessons for social cohesion in the city | October 14 th and 15 th , 2010 | Sarah Habersack sarah.habersack@wu.ac.at | Vienna |
| Educational resources for stakeholders in the city | 18 th October 2010 | Isabel André isabelandre@campus.ul.pt | Lisbon |
| Crisis, labour market and social cohesion in the city | November 5 th , 2010 | Paola di Martino paola.dimartino@itersrl.org Sarah Habersack sarah.habersack@wu.ac.at | Naples |
| Urban Platform in cooperation with Citymine(d) | November 19 th and 20 th , 2010 | Sarah Habersack sarah.habersack@wu.ac.at | Brussels |
| European Learning Event | November 18 th and 19 th , 2010 | Sarah Habersack sarah.habersack@wu.ac.at | Leuven |

Report: Local and transnational citizenship in Catalonia

On June 3, 2010 representatives from migrant associations, local governments and political parties participated in a workshop on local and transnational citizenship in Barcelona.

The main purpose of the workshop was to discuss preliminary findings and policy recommendations from the research project /Ciutadania local transnacional a Catalunya/. This project has compared different configurations of local citizenship in Barcelona, Lleida, Girona and Tarragona with a strong emphasis on the transnational dimension of both migrant practices and local government policies (codevelopment).

The participants gave very valuable feedback on the main conclusions and proposals. For instance, the fact that the philosophies and practices of incorporation differ greatly among the different Catalan provincial capitals means that the opportunities for political participation for migrant associations are very unequal across the four cities. Moreover, the participants confirmed that codevelopment policies work as an innovative form of local migrant incorporation. Therefore the collaboration with migrant associations on projects based in their countries of origin is a platform for these associations to become further involved in local politics in Catalonia. The participants were particularly eager to discuss a further dimension of the study related to the growing attention of political parties to migrant associations in the light of the coming Catalan elections.

The long and intense discussions have proved very valuable for the elaboration of the final report of the project. In turn, many of the participants welcomed the chance of exchanging opinions and consolidating their networks across associations, local governments and cities.

For more information on the project /Ciutadania local i transnacional a Catalunya: la participació i incorporació política dels migrants a Barcelona, Girona, Lleida i Tarragona/, please consult:
<http://pagines.uab.cat/translocalcat/>

Upcoming events

| Date | Title |
|-----------------------|---|
| 01 Sep 10 - 03 Sep 10 | Annual Conference, Royal Geographical Society / Institute of British Geographers (RGS/IBG) - London |
| 01 Sep 10 - 04 Sep 10 | 10th International Conference on Urban History (with call for paper), Ghent |
| 01 Sep 10 - 03 Sep 10 | The varieties of urban capitalism and the limits of neo-liberalism - London |
| 11 Jul 10 - 17 Jul 10 | XVII ISA World Congress of Sociology - Gothenburg, Sweden |

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European learning event – Change of location!

We had to change the location of the Learning Event due to logistical reasons. The Learning Event is now taking place in Brussels in the Hotel Bedford, on November 18th and 19th, 2010. We will have all conference facilities and rooms there. We will block rooms for you but you will have to book your room directly with the Hotel. Koshina Switil will send you the details on that in due course.

Bedford Hotel & Congress Centre
Rue du Midi 135-137, 1000 Brussels
info@hotelbedford.be
www.hotelbedford.be

Citimine(d) – Urban platform event

On November 19-21, 2010, right after the Learning Event we would like to invite you to another event organized by the Social Polis Inner Circle Stakeholder Citymine(d) and organizations from 13 other European cities.

This Urban Platform will take place from Friday, November 19 evening until Sunday, November 21 in Brussels and Social Polis is cooperating with Citymine(d) in organizing and promoting this event. This will give even more space for creating ideas and building partnerships for future collaboration and offer you interesting insights on local activities in European cities. It would be great if you would join for this event as well. To attend the Urban Platform, please contact as soon as possible shabersa@wu-wien.ac.at.

From the website of city mine(d):

<<On the Urban Platform, individuals and organisations from 13 cities, from Gothenburg to Istanbul and from London to Sarajevo, present activities by which they shape their cities. It is an occasion for meeting among local and international initiators, with the wider public, elected politicians, civil servants, urban planners, researchers and entrepreneurs to exchange knowledge and experience, and to strengthen local initiatives by showing international affinities.

The streets, squares and parks we share with the people we don't know, make up the beating heart of our cities. There is a wealth of initiatives that uses urban public spaces as places of expression, experiment and interrogation. They are cultural, social, economic or political projects stretching from urban gardening over bicycle projects, neighbourhood initiatives to exchange systems and actions to support the rights of citizens of a different colour of skin, sexual orientation or social class.>>

You can find more information on the Urban Platform on:

<http://micronomics2010.citymined.org/spip.php?article608>

Restricted workshop: Prospective Urbaine

The EC's DG Region has encouraged researchers and other actors to participate in reflections on the future of urban Europe and urban policy in Europe. Social Polis as the *Social Platform on Cities and Social Cohesion* has been in touch with the DG Region, with PUCA (Paris) and URBAN-NET. As a result a restricted workshop "Prospective Urbaine en Europe - Exploration of Urban Futures in Europe" will be held on the 9th of November in Leuven.

The objective of this workshop is to bring together specialists of urban development and policy in Europe with Social Polis representatives and to allow them to share their knowledge on and express their opinion on: quantitative and qualitative analyses of urban development in Europe (on the basis of the statistical bases elaborated by ESPON, EUROSTAT, etc. and interesting case-studies described in different documents by various institutions), 'interesting' experiences and scenarios of urban development (ecological neighbourhoods and quarters, sustainable transportation systems, modes and systems of governance, social innovation, plural economy, creativity and culture communities, integrated neighbourhood development, local education, local welfare systems, intra and interurban networks connecting different fields in which urban change takes place.

Call for Interest: two short term visiting professorship vacancies In Vienna

The Interdisciplinary Centre for Urban Culture and Public Space (SKuOR) at the Faculty of Architecture and Planning of Vienna University of Technology, Austria, has recently launched a **Call for Interests** regarding **two short-term Visiting Professorship vacancies in City of Vienna**, for working on the annual topic 2011 '**Urban culture, public space and markets – Economy and innovation**'.

The call is addressed to two expertises, one in the field of *Know How* (spatial planning/ spatial design, or similar), the other one in the field of *Know Why* (urban studies, or similar). Both professors will have to work together in a team composed by a junior and a senior professor.

In close cooperation with the direction of the SKuOR, this team will focus on the relation between theory and practice to promote a critical methodology and a constructive understanding open to more explorative and innovative approaches in spatial research and spatial planning.

This group of scholars, consisting in both City of Vienna Visiting Professors and the local SKuOR team, will develop and realize a joint annual research, teaching and networking programme for the academic year 2011 (1st March 2011 until 29th February 2012).

For further information regarding the [Call for Interests 2011](#), the [Profile of Requirements 2011](#) as well as regarding the formal procedure of declaration of interests, please have a look at the SKuOR's homepage <http://skuor.tuwien.ac.at>. For any further inquiries, please contact Dr. phil. Sabine Knierbein at the Interdisciplinary Centre for Urban Culture and Public Space.

Applications can be submitted via post or email **until 18th August 2010**.

Upcoming events

| Date | Title |
|-----------------------|---|
| 01 Sep 10 - 03 Sep 10 | Annual Conference, Royal Geographical Society / Institute of British Geographers (RGS/IBG) - London |
| 01 Sep 10 - 04 Sep 10 | 10th International Conference on Urban History (with call for papers), Ghent |
| 01 Sep 10 - 03 Sep 10 | The varieties of urban capitalism and the limits of neo-liberalism - London |

Upcoming Social Polis events

| Date | Event | Contact person |
|--|---|---|
| October 14 th and 15 th , 2010 | Transdisciplinary research: lessons for social cohesion in the city – Brussels | Sarah Habersack sarah.habersack@wu.ac.at |
| 18 th October 2010 | Educational resources for stakeholders in the city – Lisbon | Isabel André isabelandre@campus.ul.pt |

SOCIAL POLIS Newsletter

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Editors:
Davide Cassinari
Frank Moulaert

Please send any contributions or comments to
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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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SOCIAL POLIS Newsletter: November December 2010

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Happy New Year from Social Polis

At the end of the third year of Social Polis, we wish you a merry Christmas and a happy 2011. We hope the next year thanks to stakeholder and especially citizens involvement will be a better year for every inhabitant of the world.

Workshop in Leuven: "Prospective Urbaine"

On the 9th of November, the workshop "Prospective Urbaine" took place in Leuven. This initiative was organized by Social Polis, by PUCA and by Urban-net. The aim of the workshop was to discuss urban futures paying attention at the role of policies, with a focus on small-medium cities and lower-scale areas in large cities (neighbourhoods, districts). High level experts and policy makers participated to the workshop, 10 of them answering a detailed questionnaire on how to improve social cohesion in European cities. The discussion and the written material produced by the experts provided very valuable outputs. From the elaboration of these outputs a detailed report on socially cohesive urban futures will be produced.

Social Polis European Learning event in Brussels

The 18th and 19th of November the Brussels Social Polis European Learning Event took place. Almost 50 participants from the Social Platform and representatives of European policy making communities gathered in Brussels for promoting a collective learning meeting, in which the knowledge produced in Social Polis was divulged and multiplied.

6 members of the platform presented their stories . The challenges for the future of research-practice dialogue and the difficulties emerging from reforms concerning social science and humanities at the national and European level were discussed.

On the second day possibilities for future networking between the participants were promoted. A specific session of the conference was dedicated to strengthening contacts between members of the platform with a targeted match-making activity.

You will find a more detailed documentation on the Social Polis website in due course.

We wish to thank all the participants for making this event successful.

Cities of Tomorrow: how to make it happen

On the 20th and 21th of December the DG region organized the workshop "Cities of tomorrow: visions and models". This workshop is the second step (after a first workshop on the 28th and the 29th of June) of a reflection on the future of regional policy bringing together more than 20 European experts. The issues which were discussed included:

- models of territorial governance;
- socially innovative, inclusive and integrated models of multi-scalar governance;
- governance principles for European intervention;
- the urban dimension of future Cohesion Policy.

The presentations are available on line at:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/citiesoftomorrow/programme_december.cfm

Several Social Polis members presented and discussed at the workshop. The talks will be accessible through web-streaming as of early January (same website).

Understanding Social Science: impact report

Recently the final report on the widening of the blog *Understanding Social Science* was produced. The blog is a bilingual tool which gathers summaries and pedagogical materials with a high visual profile, including graphs, diagrams and maps, and it proves to be a good tool to reach a broad non-scientific audience. Now the blog includes sections related to 5 of the Social Polis survey papers, and includes interactivity and communication spaces, namely polls, quizzes and debate spaces.

Once updated, the blog will stay open as a self-sustaining and active tool. Our statistics prove the sustainability of the impact: the blog continues to be regularly visited and used. During the standby phase, when no new content was published and no active dissemination activities took place, the number of visits decreased but remained nonetheless regular: after the launch on January 2010 and its update on October-November 2010, visits and comments continued on a regular basis, the blog received between 250 and 610 views per month, and a total of 4.193 visits and 5 comments; furthermore, the self-corrective test has been played 320 times.

The only weakness is the very limited result of interactive sections added to the blog, showing that the passivity of Internet users is a difficult obstacle to overcome. However, it should not be overlooked that interactivity may increase in the long term, as a result of the multiplier effect of dissemination among Social Sciences lecturers and also the increasing number of links provided on other websites.

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

On the 9th and 10th of December, the International conference “Rethinking Migration in Times of Economic Crisis in Europe” was held in Berlin. The focus of the conference was the challenges posed by the crisis to the governance of migration and the socio-economic vulnerabilities of migrants in Europe. Different papers were discussed, ranging from comparative studies between different European countries, to historical analysis of the past big crises and to analysis at the micro level. Several issues were discussed, including migrants and labour market, voluntary return programs, European migration policies. The conference was concluded by a speech by Frank Moulaert, who related the Social Polis approach to the international migration issue, by showing how international migration is a powerful entry point to problematising social cohesion in the city.

The conference included three sections:

- What can we learn from the past? The current economic crisis in the historical and European context;
- Consequences of the global crisis for asylum and migration policies in Europe;
- Effects of the crisis on the social situation and social cohesion in European cities.

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