Social polis

Social Platform on Cities and Social Cohesion

European Agenda for Research on Cities and Social Cohesion

Aimed at international, national, regional and local research funders, researchers and other interested groups

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION
European Research Area

SEVENTH FRAMEWORK
PROGRAMME

This publication has been published thanks to the support of the European Commission, Directorate- General for Research, Seventh Framework Programme for Research- Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (contract nr 217157 – Social Polis).

The SOCIAL POLIS project is co-funded by the European Union FP7 2007-2013, under the Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities programme.

For further information on the Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities programme:
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ssh/
http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/

Table of contents

Introduction

One of the main goals of the Social Polis platform has been the production of a European Research Agenda on “Cities and Social Cohesion”. We believe research on Social Cohesion and Cities is crucial for tackling complex societal problems. We are also convinced that these problems should be addressed by approaching them from different perspectives. The failure of existing integrative mechanisms and the deepening of processes of differentiation and individualization in contemporary societies have led to a broad range of ‘new’ urban problematics.

The perceived systemic failure to hold society together through the labour market, the family and public institutions is at the root of political and academic reflections on social cohesion. Burning societal issues such as poverty, uneven development, malnutrition, ageing, environmental injustice or restructuring of health-care systems can only be addressed in a broad cooperation between social, economic, natural, and technical sciences, and international policy and practice communities. For this reason we believe the production of a research agenda on Social Cohesion and Cities with a transdisciplinary, multi-scalar and multi-dimensional perspective is crucial nowadays.

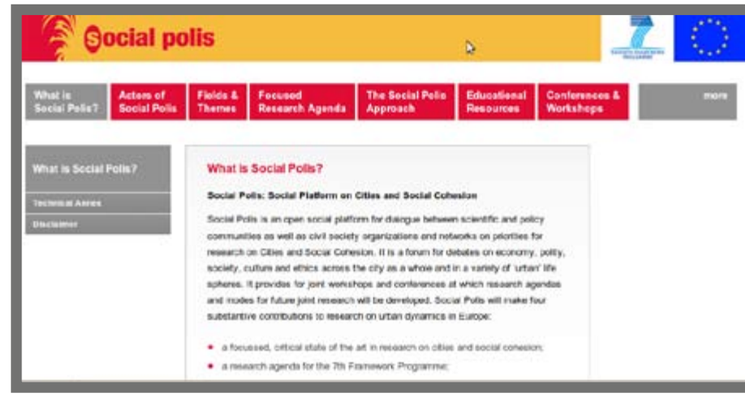
The elaboration of the agenda started from the compilation of a State of the Art review of research themes, results and methods of research on social cohesion and the city. This State of the Art aimed to identify specific gaps and opportunities for further research and was structured in 11 thematic working groups each focusing on a so-called existential field.

One of the main aims of the research agenda is to capture the attention of European and international research bodies or institutions willing to fund research on one or more of its themes and for research groups interested in working on these themes. A first, shortened, agenda is presented in the form of 5 topics and 2 challenges (following the European Commission DG Research classification), making it easier for a funding body to pick up a part of the agenda. The main focus of the agenda is European, nevertheless the research themes have a global relevance and they are suitable for international researchers and institutions as well. This is then complemented by further overall research themes suggested by researchers and stakeholders in Social Polis, but not retained for the shortened agenda, and this is followed by the topics put forward within each existential field. The result is a broad range of research possibilities, probably the most extensive ever developed in this area, which research funders, researchers and others could take up according to their focus of interest.

The first part of this document presents the final version of the Focused Research Agenda comprising proposals for 2 “challenges” and 5 “topics” that were delivered to the European Commission in January 2010. These proposals are a result of a 2-year consultation process. They were collectively elaborated with stakeholders at two large SOCIAL POLIS stakeholder conferences in Brussels (27-28 May 2008) and Vienna (11-12 May 2009), more than 30 local and international stakeholder workshops that took place in various cities in Europe and the Americas, as well as through the project website http://www.socialpolis.eu and other online tools.

Large scale stakeholder conference in Vienna. World Café.

Over 300 stakeholders were brought into multilayered and plural debate, including researchers, prominent EU, UN, national government and local authority representatives, as well as local NGOs, private-for-profit and community organisations of deprived citizens and migrants, and civil society organizations, which are involved in combating social exclusion in different domains in selected cities in Europe, South and North America, Africa, Asia, and Australia.



From the Social Polis website, http://www.socialpolis.eu/

At the last stage of the elaboration of the Social Polis Focused Research Agenda, stakeholders were invited to take a role as co-editors of call-texts for challenges and topics. In the period from July to October 2009, 20 stakeholders worked towards the production of final call-texts. These stakeholders also participated in the Lead Partner Meeting in Leuven (8-9 October, 2009) when final themes for 2 challenges and 5 topics for the future European urban research were decided.

The second part of the document presents the research priorities for 12 Existential Fields that had been elaborated in July 2008; this was before the interaction of the Social Polis consortium with the scientific officers from the European Commission which led to a restructuring of the research agenda into a smaller number of transversal challenges and topics. As the reader will notice, several important research topics brought up by Lead Partners and stakeholders in the Existential Fields no longer figure in the current version of the “Focused research agenda”, which was specifically produced for the needs of the EU Framework Programme. This does not mean these topics have been abandoned. They were communicated to other urban research fora at local, national and European scales, where hopefully they will be validated.

For giving a broader overview of the complex FRA elaboration process, and for presenting other possible alternative ways in which the FRA could have been structured, a list of the original proposals for a transversal Focused research agenda as proposed by Social Polis Lead Partners at a project meeting in July 2008, which served the purpose of defining the final FRA, has been included in this document. Last but not least, a short list of important topics which were discussed during the project meeting but did not find their place in the final agenda is also annexed.

This ‘structured collection’ of research topics must be considered as an overview of research necessities and opportunities from which the research and practice communities in Europe and beyond can draw inspiration for future research on Cities and Social Cohesion. One “challenge”, ‘Governance of cohesion and diversity in urban contexts’, and one “topic”, ‘Local welfare systems favouring social cohesion’ have been taken on board so far by the EC FP7 SSH programme. All other research ideas in this negotiated document are available for preparing new research initiatives which could contribute to making a more cohesive. urban world

Newcastle/ Leuven September 2011

European learning event in Brussels. Presentation.

Proposals for the EC FP7, SSH research agenda:

the **'Focused Research Agenda'**

Challenge 1: Urban social cohesion in the face of global changes, crises and opportunities

1. Editors

Rose Gilroy, Lucia Cavola, Paola Di Martino, Felicitas Hillmann, Konrad Miciukiewicz, Enrica Morlicchio, Hudita Mustafa, Philip O'Connor

2. Title

Urban social cohesion in the face of global changes, crises and opportunities

3. State of the art of research

In the late twentieth century, there has been an intensive research focus on exploring links between financialisation, urbanization, and economic globalization processes. A major contribution highlighted that, since the 1980s, intensified acceleration of global flows of financial capital, technology, labour, expertise and knowledge have been shaping a new global political-economic-spatial order composed of networks of circulation rather than fixed places of production. Changes in the global economy have impacted upon the landscape of employment and income opportunities, in this way rapidly transforming fundamental social units from companies to households and, in turn, social relations of gender, class, age and ethnicity, thereby generating profound mutations affecting urban social cohesion. Thus, there must be a continuation of research into the ways that intensified globalized circulations relate to place specific reconfigurations of both economy and society.

Cohen (1981), Friedmann and Wolff (1982), Mollenkopf and Castells (1991) and Sassen (1991, 1998, 2007) have developed these ideas by arguing that cities at the apex of the global urban hierarchy are characterised by increasing levels of polarisation in income, occupational positions and opportunities. Moreover, social polarisation, fuelled by economic and institutional factors, is prevalent, not only in the most affluent urban hubs, but also in the peripheries of the global economy (Esping-Andersen et al. (1993). The current economic crisis is symptomatic of contradictions inherent in globalised urban economies. It is to be understood therefore not simply as a global economic crisis but as an economic urbanisation crisis. Though the trigger was faulty risk management in the real estate market, the systemic causes and effects are numerous, multi-faceted and multi-scalar, demanding holistic research and policy responses.

A considerable research literature has arisen focused on the profound restructuring of employment which has occurred in European cities over the last decades, and on the relationship between labour markets, social cohesion and polarisation. The INPART project FP4 was concerned with the potential of different forms of work to generate inclusion; the ELSES project (FP4) analysed the spatially uneven distribution of unemployment in European cities and put unemployment at the apex of the 'vicious cycle' that fuels the decline of disadvantaged urban areas; the WORKS project (FP6) – which addressed the changes in the nature of work caused by global restructuring in the knowledge based society - illustrated how different groups of employees and occupations have been influenced by these changes and how restructuring affects different aspects of work: skills and competencies, flexibility and fragmentation, occupational health and safety, and gender issues.

A body of research focuses on the multi-scalar dimension of governance, trying to understand the relation between supranational, national and sub-national scales, as well as the interplay of actors within these scales. In the European context, this line of research has underlined the role of the European Union as a supranational form of governance which is fostering forms of governance at regional and sub-national scales and influencing urban realities through the introduction of territorially competitive forms of funding (Geddes & Bennington, 2001; Bache & Chapman, 2008; Garcia et al., 2004; Hillmann, 2008).

Policies aimed at fostering social inclusion in cities and regions have also become a major concern for social justice movements in Europe, the US, and the developing world. Many of these have recently transformed into more pragmatic and institutionally linked socio-economic responses to crises in employment and social exclusion, urban regeneration, and access to services and environmental goods in deprived areas. In the face of the neo-liberal global economy and the decline of the welfare state, civil society has become the most important actor in the struggle for social change, which involves both the mainstreaming of social movements into NGOs lobbying for appropriate policies and the rise of radical political groups that respond violently to social injustice.

There is a need to pay more strategic attention to the complex matrices of the multi-scalar structure of territory, economy, sovereignty and citizenship. Research is needed on new migration and integration policies shaped at national, regional and EU levels, and on the interplay between policy-making and grassroots initiatives. The new migrations have shaped new social and spatial realities, requiring new instruments of governance.

4. Justification of the scientific relevance and the relevance for activists and policy-makers

Any definition of ways to address this challenge and promote urban social cohesion must take as its foundation an analysis of cohesion as a multidimensional problem intimately related to social exclusion. The re-definition of the possibilities and the spatial reach of “agency” is considered here as one explanation for the changed realities: exclusion and the attempts to establish social cohesion are linked to the shifting of responsibilities among urban institutions. This consideration, in addition to ‘pure’ redistribution policies, and policies of recognition, is a particularly significant issue for cities and social cohesion in the face of global changes. It goes hand in hand with rethinking global-local interactions, and needs to consider cities, neighbourhoods and inhabitants as significant agents in global changes.


Large scale stakeholder conference. World Café.

As urban policies become more decentralised and participatory, the urban place itself becomes an actor. Cities are subject to global changes, but they also become producers of their urban realities. To bring the macro- and micro-level of agency into the dialogue, research should focus on analyzing the effects of global structural change in the social morphology of cities, as well as studying its relations with the production of urban social policy and the attention given to bottom-linked strategies aimed at overcoming social exclusion. With the erosion of the welfare state “space and place” have regained importance for the inhabitants of the restructured cities. “Place” became more important in order to cope with social conflict and crisis.

In order to situate urban policy as a part of urban processes rather than a neutral external factor, there is a need to raise awareness and stimulate public debate on employment, housing, transport, environment, critical issues of planning/policy process, access to public space, and the nature of the public sphere. This debate should be open to non-expert voices and epistemologies, and to the diversity of people who make different claims on the city, so facilitating an examination of, and a challenge to, urban cultures of expertise which shape and control cities. In this way we can re-visit our fundamental concern with social cohesion as both cause and effect of broader geo-political economies and processes of increasingly complex social formations.

5. Text for a call

5.1. The challenge

The current global economic crisis provides a diagnostic event through which to understand and analyze long evolving multi-scalar, diversified processes of change which have been veiled till now and an opportunity to focus on their impacts on urban social cohesion. These shifts in the globalised economy have rippled through labour markets, occupational hierarchies, migration and integration, cultures and conditions of work as well as consumption of services, and gender and family relations in the European urban context.

This period of financialisation and globalisation has also been characterised by accelerated urbanisation and these three processes have enlarged the role of cities as producers of social realities, themselves offering different life scripts and mobility options for residents The rise and spread of neo-liberal regimes has forced the retreat of the welfare state, which may present a further threat to social cohesion by reducing support to those already affected by social fragmentation. Within all of these processes, are there opportunities for new and alternative forms of social and spatial organisation which might have continuance beyond the current crisis?

5.2. Why it matters for Europe

For Europe the global changes of polarisation, segregation and financialisation have a profound and multi-faceted impact at the urban level, with particular regard to the following issues:

- Current economic crises which may be increasing and/or modifying processes of social disintegration/re-articulation already underway as a result of the gradual incorporation of European cities into global networks. These processes may relate to urban labour and real estate markets but impact deeply on the “buffer systems” that traditionally absorbed social conflict and social tensions. They therefore represent a major threat to the future social cohesion of cities.
- The consequent retraction of public and private sector investment impacts on place and life chances of those already marginalised, creating new and strengthening existing socio-spatial inequalities. Rapidly changing economic opportunities and the closing down of pathways to better lifestyle options have not only a profound impact on increasing migration both within the EU and from outside Europe, but also fuel new debates on migration, and raise new fears and hatreds in host countries.

5.3. Addressing the challenge

The challenge should be addressed through a balanced combination of research work and complementary activities. The research should allow different views or disciplines to address the challenge from different perspectives. Scientific steering should enhance transdisciplinary, scale-sensitive and integrative knowledge of globally in-connected urban systems.

Complementary activities (such as stock taking/audits, foresight, dissemination and management activities in particular) should buttress research with a view to enhancing effective management of research and its relevance for research per se and for current as well as future public policies.

5.4. Research dimensions to be taken into consideration

- The impact of the global economic downturn on urban labour markets, occupational hierarchies and the migration flows both between European states and into Europe itself. An assessment of how these processes in the economic arena ripple through to create or accelerate social processes of fragmentation and residential segregation. What effect does this have on social representation of, political thinking on, and policy-making for vulnerable groups in urban society?
- Using the global crisis as a diagnostic event to re-visit multi-scalar structural processes and policy challenges: European integration, the role of Europe in a polycentric global economy, the dismantling of the welfare state, and the increasing role of cities and city regions in the provision of services and the sustenance of economic and occupational restructuring. 'Place' is not considered as a variable of an abstract socio-structural rationale, but as an arena where processes are played out and, even more importantly, as an actor determining social and economic futures. Global-local relationships, inter-urban networks, European, national and city-region dynamics should be examined here together with institutions and agency involved in producing urban social realities and fostering social cohesion at various scales.
- Forms of participation, democratisation, socially creative strategies, and community initiatives that are emerging in attempts to overcome urban fragmentation: how do processes of collective action and modes of governance and association respond to the global crisis?
- The changing condition of social reproduction, social and spatial mobility and disrupted social relations in a global perspective: the disempowerment of male income earners, impact upon women's work, participation of minorities in the labour market, gender equality and family relations.
- Broader and spatially-sensitive understandings of diversity - including not only questions of ethnicity, gender and citizenship, but also inequalities, class and segregation of every kind - exploring the effects of the concentration of diversity in individual residential, employment and leisure environments on social inclusion or exclusion, especially in terms of participation in the labour market.

5.5. Methodology

The current processes of global change, such as migration flows, polarisation and segregation in European cities should be analysed on the basis of theoretically based comparative research addressing wage inequality, occupational and sectoral changes, social class composition and employment structures, formal and informal social networks. There is considerable scope within this research for combining qualitative and quantitative analyses and developing comparable data to bring about a better understanding of the structure of urban realities in the interplay between physical, economic, political and cultural processes in different regions and cities in Europe, with particular attention to the Eastern and Southern "peripheries".

The research should follow three main methodological principles: transdisciplinarity, holistic approach and scale-sensitivity:

1) Transdisciplinary approach - is based on the methodological assumption that, in researching urban social cohesion, knowledge is enriched by research techniques which mobilize the tacit, experience-based knowledge of urban actors. Research must therefore employ methods such as action research and forms of Theory-Practice-Dialogue that integrate the voices of experience with systematic and evidence-based research.

2) Holistic approach - The complexity and multidimensionality of social cohesion must be taken into account by envisaging the city as a whole and this requires a systemic and relational approach, which is structural as well as path-sensitive and context-specific, and includes acknowledging a diverse range of research epistemologies and perspectives to study interplays between physical, economic, political and cultural transformations in cities.


Micronomics festival, organized by citymine(d)

3) Scale-sensitive research should link urban issues and practices with structural dynamics at other spatial levels.. Multilevel governance is central to policy debates since the processes for policy development are not uniform across countries or sectors. Thus all levels of policy intervention deserve thorough attention. This involves researching multilevel-governance arrangements and the relationships and role of institutions (at different levels and scales) in promoting horizontal communication networks between territorial actors.

6. Justification of methodological approach

The abovementioned methodological approach is critical to addressing the challenge for the following reasons:

1) Transdisciplinarity will enable translation and bridge-building beyond disciplinary and sectoral boundaries, foster trans-urban learning and identify the potential of institutions, policy makers, entrepreneurs, NGOs, social movements, and other societal groups to shape urban futures and foster social cohesion. The lack of transdisciplinarity across the boundaries that separate fundamental science from applied research and policy-making may be one of major reasons for the failure of policy-makers to utilise studies on social cohesion in past years.
2) A holistic approach avoids fragmented analyses of complex urban realities and allows an in-depth investigation of the interplay between economic, political and social urban systems shaped in different historic and cultural contexts. Such an approach overcomes the limited and short-term economy-centred view that restricts urban development to growth in monetary terms.
3) Scale-sensitive research engages with the complexity of cities both as whole systems and agents in multi scalar processes and provides opportunities for creativity in research methods which arise from collaboration among researchers, policy makers and civil society actors.

7. Funding scheme

DG Research: Collaborative project (large scale integrated research project)

Challenge 2. Governing cohesion and diversity in urban contexts

1. Editors

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2. Title

Governing cohesion and diversity in urban contexts

3. State of the art of research

a. EU-projects, related international research

Within FP4 the salient research projects tackling issues of diversity, social cohesion and governance, are: URBEX, BETWIXT, GESTION PUBLIQUE DE LA DEVIANCE, MIGRINF, Migrants and Minorities in European Cities, and Border cities and towns: causes of social exclusion in peripheral Europe. In FP5, SINGOCOM, "Neighbourhood Governance Capacity for Social Integration", UGIS, GENRE ET LOCAL, SOCOHO, ENGIME (see ENGIME 2005), LIMITS and the Changing City Spaces project, also addressed the issues related to governing cohesion and diversity. In FP6, LOCALMULTIDEM, TRESEGY, KATARSIS, DEMOLOGOS and SUS.DIV.

b. Literature overview

The multidimensionality of diversity comes strongly to the fore in studies that focus on (spatial) inequality, power and conflict. Bradley (1996), for example, considers the interplay of class, gender, ethnicity and age, showing the interrelation of different forms of inequality (see also Scharf et al. 2004; Daatland & Biggs 2004; Massey 1993; Chriost & Thomas 2008; Harrison et al 2005; Denton & Massey 1988; Massey & Denton 1993). Other literature is concerned with ties (or a lack of them) at different scales (c.f. Webber 1970; Granovetter 1972; Wellman 1979; Stratton & Ang 1994; Schuyt 1997; Wellman & Haythornthwaite 2002; Delanty 2003; Duyvendak & Hurenkamp 2004). Diversity receives special salience in its spatial expression: the segregation of population on the basis of a range of characteristics (Peach 1996; Musterd & Ostendorf 1998; Musterd 2005; Wacquant 2008).

Debates on social cohesion and governance in cities are largely concerned with the relational dimension (Granovetter, 1985; Andreotti, 2006); the cultural dimension (Vranken, 2005) and with the issue of participation of diverse interests groups (Moulaert and Nussbaumer, 2005; Garcia, 2006). Particularly, the unequal opportunities to participate in decision-making processes (Geddes, 2006) and the views of critically conscious communities whose political identities emerge in the margins of the public sphere (Mayer, 2003). Managing diversity is therefore a relevant topic for a research agenda because of the existence of groups not covered by traditional citizenship rights (long term residents and new immigrants) and with distinctive culture values (Allen & Cars, 2001; Veldboer et.al., 2002). One way to address these challenges has been to question existing governance mechanisms and to emphasise new ways of participation in city governance (Bifulco & Centeneri, 2008).

c. Major omissions as signalled in the literature

Cultural diversity gets relatively a good deal of attention. For better understanding, however, diversity should be broadly defined and examined, covering social-economic inequality and difference in terms of language, ethnicity, gender, lifestyle, religion, sexual orientation, age, etc.

More knowledge is needed on the impact of (the spatial concentration of) diversity in the individual residential, employment and leisure environments, on social inclusion or exclusion, social mobility, success in entrepreneurship and homelessness.

Systematic comparative research is needed to map the fragmentation of civic and political rights in cities and to evaluate the negative consequences of the lack of these rights, and also to show how the relationship between citizenship practices and urban governance is featured in different contexts. Moreover, empirical research in this regard would illustrate the ways in which some cities are able to promote ways of providing civic, social and political rights for vulnerable social groups and immigrants.


Large scale stakeholder conference. Exhibition.

More research is needed on the mediation role of local institutions (cities, districts) as well as small organisations from civil society. Thus a clearer connection between civil society, governance and social cohesion should be deployed. More comparative and critical research is needed on the policy discourses and actual policy programmes and instruments developed in EU countries, such asthose concerned with 'social mixing.'

Other research topics include the implications for social cohesion of the restructuring of welfare institutions. Looking at how public institutions and administrative systems innovate and change, it is necessary to evaluate learning experiences by local actors separately from other local experiences. This involves evaluating whether coordinating strategies have contributed to the generation of a local-European space for learning based on social cohesion approaches. The emphasis here is on the specific themes of coordination, communication and management dilemmas which are emerging as conflictive problems of the new dynamics of governance.

4. Justification of the scientific relevance and the relevance for activists and policy-makers

A wide understanding of diversity, its development in a historical perspective, and how to govern it - including not only questions of ethnicity, gender and the development of lived citizenship, but also inequality, segregation and socio-ecological fragmentation in their respective contexts- is needed in order to formulate the right policy answers. Moreover, research on the impact of exposure to diversity will make it possible to evaluate the pros and cons of territorial interventions – such as mixed neighbourhood policies - aimed at enhancing integration.

It is important to learn more about governance dynamics that produce democratic mechanisms for conflict resolution, in order to be able to empower particular disadvantaged groups and to reduce possible tensions between groups. More focus is needed on the role of conflict in urban development agenda building.

From the activists and policy-makers' point of view it is necessary to look at the efficiency and effectiveness of government procedures as related to the production of social cohesion. In this direction it is broadly assumed that the EU should formulate criteria and methods of evaluation of participatory policies that take into account the quality of these processes in the different contexts in which they are promoted.

An awareness that conflicts have in fact moved as a result of major changes in the economic, institutional and social structure, implies the need for consideration of new locations and dynamics of conflicts –from between capital and labour to between local and global interests; between national interests and local interests; between public and private spaces. Governance processes have been heavily reconfigured, and it is worth studying these changes in detail.

Social activists as well as some policy makers emphasise analysis of how to deal with the risk of loss of identity of different social groups which is a consequence of governance processes. Also related to the issue of governing cohesion and diversity, the feminisation of migration in the context of economic globalization, migrant women and domestic/care work, and migrant women and sex work, are considered as relevant research themes by activists and policy-makers.

Concerning intercultural issues, there are questions such as how does the educational system and schools have to change in order to develop an intercultural competence; how could an intercultural competence contribute to strengthening urban cohesion in the global world; or how could intercultural competence be used in town planning - also stressed as interesting themes by activists and policy-makers. This highlights the fact that spatial planners need to acquire an intercultural competence in order to develop spaces where everybody can feel at home.

Europe-wide existing experiences of urban renewal and desegregation policies could, or even should be turned into knowledge for countries facing problems of extremely segregated minority groups such as the Roma. Disegregation/integration/inclusion policies in housing, education, employment should be discussed and coherent multi-sector desegregation models developed that can be adapted to the special circumstances in these countries.

An important theme for research concerns which economic incentives for societal change can be promoted by the use of intercultural competence. The role of this form of competence should be examined as a key to breaking the boundaries between exclusion and inclusion, as well as in coming to terms with structural causes. For social activists and policy-makers it implies the development of methods of validation and implementation.

5. Text for a call

5.1. The challenge

Both understanding and governing diversity in urban areas play a key role in the analysis of the institutional arrangements and mechanisms facing social cohesion challenges in the city. Diversity is regarded as a problem by some but seen as an essential condition for urban development by others. However, tensions between diversity development and social cohesion in the city as a whole have not been systematically researched. There is a need for comparative research on the character, scale and spatial expressions of diversity and on the ways in which it connects to inequality and social cohesion; on the political and social impacts of the distinctive modes of urban multi-scalar governance, the inter-actions between central and local governments, on the restructuring and transformation of inequalities and segregations between ethnic, gender and other inhabitant social categories. The introduction of new tools of urban governance, such as participatory ways of planning, a stronger focus on local development and the inclusion of "strategies from below" into urban policies, provoked a shift in responsibilities

and engagement. Formal and informal citizenship practices help to reinforce the social fabric as well as to incorporate alternative views of societies' well-being.

5.2. Why it matters for Europe

Cities in Member States are almost continuously confronted with the important issue of how to govern (in) diversity. In fragmented urban societies diversity is a complex question.

Cities in Member States have evolved historically with parallel trajectories in population growth, which renders some cities more culturally and socially heterogeneous than others. Moreover, there are important differences between cities in the north and south of Europe and between east and west. It is important at this point in history to collect and compare the different trajectories and challenges experienced by cities, as well as the different strategies adopted.

Presentation: some stakeholder contributions to the research agenda

The European Union favours the competitiveness of European cities at the global level and at the same time is aware of promoting social and territorial cohesion. European institutions need to be informed about the character, scale and spatial expressions of diversity and the ways in which it connects to inequality and social cohesion. Research outcomes should inform the analysis of how some policy choices are more capable than others of producing social cohesion.

5.3. Addressing the challenge

This challenge should be addressed through a balanced combination of research and complementary activities. The research should allow different views or disciplines to address the challenge from different perspectives. Scientific steering should enhance interdisciplinarity as much as possible and allow cross-fertilization and innovative research. Interaction between researchers, policy makers, planners and social actors should complement scientific research with a view to enhancing effective dissemination and application of research outcomes and their relevance for research per se as well as for current as well as future social cohesion public policies.

5.4. Research dimensions to be taken into consideration

- Understanding the gap between policy intentions dealing with social cohesion and diversity, on the one hand, and the actual implementation and outcomes of those policies, on the other. This gap between discourses and policies of "social and cultural mixing" and "multidimensional diversity" (including social inequalities and differences in terms of age, gender, ethnic origin, religion, lifestyles, etc.) and the critical assessments of the rationales behind them as well as their assumed impacts.

- Understanding and governing the new relationships (due to diversity) between the private and the public domain and their impacts on social cohesion. New approaches to the meaning of public urban space, its governance and management often lead to real (or symbolic) privatization. Has this affected the accountability and the 'spaces of democracy', the decision-making spaces

needed for the proper working of democracy? Has it had an impact on social, cultural and political rights in the local arenas and should these rights be redefined and re-institutionalized? One particular focus could be on how multilevel governance affects local practices.

- Understanding and governing conflicting interests in cities of diversity and in fragmented cities. Is there a need for new modes of communication between urban groups and communities, political decision-makers etc.? Research focusing on variations of civic and political organisation, and their role in solving social conflicts and facilitating community development should be included. This research should take into account the importance of governance dynamics in empowering disadvantaged groups and in creating democratic mechanisms for conflict resolution, with a special focus on intercultural competences and learning processes.

- Understanding and managing interculturality and ways of learning to live together while maintaining differences of culture and identities (assessing also the role of urbanism, collective services and welfare in creating collective identities). Taking account of accumulated knowledge from daily practices in society at large (schools, public administrations, neighbourhood communities, etc.).

- The relationship between governing diversity and the management of security in public spaces and the risk of erosion of civic rights.

5.5. Methodology

The multidimensionality of diversity and the complexity of its governance in cities require a combination of historical and comparative perspectives. Historical knowledge of national and local definitions of ethnicity and citizenship needs to be complemented by systematic international comparative research with a time and scale differentiation component. Moreover, critical comparative research requires the development of sound knowledge on socio-economic inequalities by using quantitative approaches as well as longitudinal studies.

Other aspects concerning diversity, such as identity and lifestyles require qualitative, and also longitudinal research. Individual characteristics and 'diversity environments' can be dealt with simultaneously and can be related to social exclusion or inclusion processes: both quantitatively (in order to generalize) and qualitatively (in order to reveal underlying processes and mechanisms). For example, investigating the residential, educational and employment careers and pathways of specific groups and inhabitants, could shed light on structural urban inequalities. Finally, in order to grasp the complexities of the involvement of multi-level governance and multi-actors in dealing with diversity in cities, researchers need to interact with policy-makers, planners and social actors in interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research in which the complexity is covered through a holistic approach.

6. Justification of methodological approach

Transdisciplinarity: Right from the beginning stakeholders should be integrated on an equal footing in order to guarantee the joint specification and execution of a research agenda relevant for policy makers, social movements, NGOs, entrepreneurs, politicians and concerned people in general.

Holistic approach: Research must take into account the complexity and multidimensionality of social cohesion by envisaging the city as a whole. This requires a systemic, relational and holistic approach that is structural as well as path-sensitive and context-specific. It requires context-sensitive models which structure the multiple problems concerning social cohesion and involve a wide array of research epistemologies and perspectives. The meanings assigned – in different contexts and time periods - to key concepts such as 'diversity,' 'identity,' 'social cohesion' and 'equality' in different theories and policy communities should be made explicit to achieve conceptual clarity as well as policy coherence. Attention should be paid to the interplay between physical, economic, political and cultural transformations in cities and how they affect the living conditions and social relationships of particular populations, neighbourhoods, socioeconomic dynamics as well as the role of cities and city regions in sustaining economic and occupational restructuring, in concentrating, centralising and distributing resources.

TIME and SCALE-SENSITIVITY: Research has to link urban practices with structural dynamics. Time and scale-sensitive research links micro- and macro-studies and analyses. There are specific urban accommodations of socio-ecological coherence at different scales with their respective, sometimes opposing dynamics. This involves researching multilevel-governance arrangements and the role of institutions (at different scales) in favouring horizontal networks of communication between territorial actors. It includes longitudinal research on diversity, and on governing diversity.

7. Funding scheme

Collaborative project (large scale integrated research project)

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Topic 1. Urban social cohesion and the environmental challenge

1. Editors

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2. Title

Urban social cohesion and the environmental challenge

3. State of the art of research

In recent years, urban ecological and environmental questions have become increasingly important in considering issues of urban social cohesion and sustainable urban development. The recognition that environmental processes require urgent and specific attention is now generally recognised to also have an important, if not vital, urban component. In the wake of the resurgence of the environmental question on the political and social agenda, a growing body of fundamental and policy-oriented research has emerged on the relationship between urban change and development, socio-ecological sustainability and cohesion, and the physical environment.

European learning event in Brussels. Presentation.

Urban socio-ecological research is a heterogeneous body of work that emphasizes respectively the environmental implications of urban change and socio-ecological injustices (Keil, 2003; 2005; Walker 2009;), the politics and policies of urban socio-ecological metabolism (see Heynen et al. 2005; Fisher-Kowalski,1998; 2003; Fisher-Kowalski and Hutter, 1999;), issues related to urban socio-ecological sustainability (Haugthon and Hunter, 1994; Satterthwaite, 1999; Bulkeley and Betsill, 2005; Krueger and Gibbs, 2007) and research on the urban infrastructures through which nature becomes urbanized (Coutard, 1999; Graham and Marvin, 2001).

These themes have been approached from the twin perspective of understanding the contribution of urban development to global environmental processes like climate change, energy use, resource degradation, biodiversity loss, ecologies and economies of food, infectious diseases, water scarcity and the like on the one hand, and the effects of such global environmental changes on the internal social cohesion of the city on the other. There is, indeed, widespread consensus that urban socio-ecological or socio-environmental processes have significant impacts on and consequences for processes of exclusion, inequality, and social cohesion. There is also general agreement on the urgent need for more in-depth theoretical, methodological, empirical, and policy-oriented research.

This variegated research has largely come together, in policy terms, around the notion and practice of urban and socio-ecological sustainability. However, it remains unclear what exactly needs to be sustained where and how, and what social, political, economic and technological means are required to achieve this.

In sum, the key research outcomes so far obtained from European Union and other state of the art international research can be summarised as follows:

a) Ecological and/or environmental consequences of urban development
b) Sustainability indices
c) Transport and sustainable mobility
d) Neo-liberalisation and the privatisation of nature
e) The socio-ecological consequences of urban change: the urban socio-ecological footprint.
f) The management of ecological flow infrastructures and networks
g) Governing the interrelationships between and considering the impossible balancing between environmental, economic and social sustainability.
h) Policies and participatory governance in environmental affairs (including institutional responses to environmental hazards).
i) Urban sustainability and urban and regional planning systems

4. Justification of the Scientific Relevance

To the extent that a majority of Europe's people live in cities and urban environments, the ecological problematic is primarily an urban problem and one that has major repercussions for processes of social cohesion and social integration. Ecological problems are not only becoming the focus of cities' public agendas, they are increasingly considered as urban social cohesion issues. Unequal access to water, energy, food and land produces new interdependencies between inhabitants and social groups within and between cities, which can be either sources for rethinking urban environmental justice principles or for analysing new forms of urban conflicts and intra- or inter-urban solidarity.


European learning event in Brussels. World Café.

Furthermore, strategies of adaptation to the consequences of, or to urban mitigation of processes of global environmental change equally constitute extraordinary challenges in terms of maintaining or fostering urban social cohesion. Emerging evidence suggests serious potential urban conflict arising from policy and other urban interventions that aim at confronting the global environmental challenge.

A new theoretical and methodological approach is of vital importance to achieving socially cohesive and socio-ecologically sustainable urban policies and strategies. Recent academic advances suggest that the urban socio-ecological condition needs to focus on processes of urban socio-ecological metabolism, the uneven spatialities of these processes and the complex interactions between movements of people, non-human agents, and commodities on the one hand, and the transformation of the social and ecological conditions in cities on the other.

5. Text for a call

The global environmental challenge is arguably the most important single issue that will confront European urbanization in the foreseeable future. In a subcontinent? where 70% of the population lives in cities, many of which are already characterized by severely problematic environmental conditions and confronted with accentuating conditions of social polarization and exclusion, the socio-ecological management of the city in socially cohesive ways constitutes a formidable challenge. A series of empirical and theoretical issues remain unexplored or underdeveloped and require urgent attention. In particular, there are major gaps with respect to documenting and analysing: (1) the environmental implications of processes of urban change and their uneven consequences for different social groups; (2) the existence of profound socio-ecological injustices as a result of uneven access to ecological amenities within the city or uneven protection from negative urban environmental externalities; (3) the uneven ways through which nature becomes urbanized to produce particular urban milieus; (4) the politics and policies associated with maintaining the socio-ecological functioning of the city; (5) the uneven urban socio-ecological consequences of processes of global environmental change, in particular climate change; (6) technological, institutional and political processes related to understanding the making of socio-ecologically cohesive and sustainable urban communities.

Building and regenerating sustainable infrastructures (housing, real estate, urban redevelopment, ICT, transport) and socio-ecological flows (energy, food, CO2, resources, waste, water, fire, sewage, atmospheric gases, etc…) require comparative research and future-looking investigations into creative city models able to transform socio-ecological relations in a more equitable and cohesive manner. Beyond the general consensus on sustainable development, dissecting urban environmental discourses and practices in terms of networks, coalitions of actors and institutional arrangements is key to understanding how urban socio-ecological issues are socially and culturally constructed, and in which manner the representation of future generations and non-human interests will be included within the urban public arena. Furthermore, the emerging tensions and conflicts arising over different pathways for achieving socially balanced and environmentally sustainable cities require attention to new forms of governing and to considering new ways of making nature and society enter the domain of political engagement.

The elaboration of theoretical and methodological perspectives adequate to meet this research challenge requires a trans-disciplinary approach that focuses on the relational interplay between human and non-human conditions and processes, and how they fuse together in the making of the material city. Furthermore, the global character of socio-ecological processes requires a scale-sensitive analysis that relates local, urban, regional, national and transnational scales.

Particular topics to be considered here are:

- Analysis of the socio-ecological metabolism of cities, perceived as the production, reproduction and governance of natural, material and information flows and their socio-technical support structures.
- Comparative analysis of the social and economic dimensions of the design of sustainable infrastructures.
- Sustainability agendas of cities: how are they negotiated, designed, translated into collective action and governed?
- Development of theoretical concepts and methodological tools for the analysis of urban socio-ecological systems.
- Building scenarios on possible socio-ecological futures of cities, including the evaluation of different possible political choices.
- Rethinking fiscal arrangements in an ecological way.

- Socio-environmental cost analysis of the transport, communications and other flow-based systems and qualitative socio-environmental analysis of long-term social and environmental costs and benefits.
- The principles and mechanisms of urban re-development/re-generation as socio-ecological projects.

6. Justification of the methodological approach

The elaboration of theoretical and methodological perspectives adequate to meet the research challenge elaborated above clearly requires a trans-disciplinary approach. Multi-disciplinarity based on combining expert insights from different and distinct academic perspectives has not been able to address coherently the above challenge. A trans-disciplinary approach requires the formulation of trans-disciplinary theoretical and methodological perspectives. In the academic literature on environmental justice (Walker, 2009), science-technology studies (Wilbert and White, 2009), socio-natural perspectives (Heynen et al., 2006), political ecology (Keil, 2005) and post-human analysis (Braun, 2006), a series of promising conceptual, theoretical and methodological perspectives have been proposed that offer scientific frameworks for approaching the above challenge. Moreover, urban socio-environmental civil society organizations and initiatives have pioneered innovative perspectives and proposed new strategies for analysing, governing or publicising urban socio-environmental practices that address the global environmental challenge. These should be an integral part of the project. In addition, innovative urban design principles and the visioning, planning, implementation and governing of eco-cities and urban sustainable practices have to be incorporated within the project.

In addition, the methodological approach requires a holistic perspective that focuses on the relational interplay between human and non-human conditions and processes and how they fuse together in the making of the material city. Furthermore, the global character of socio-ecological processes requires a scale-sensitive analysis that relates local, urban, regional, national and transnational scales.

7. Possible Funding Agencies

National and European research agencies (European Union, European Science Foundation, National Science Foundations)

Regional and urban agencies of planning

International Research Organizations (MacArthur; Ford Foundation, etc….).

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Topic 2. Developing a Plural Economic Approach to foster Urban Social Cohesion

1. Editors

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2. Title

Developing a Plural Economic Approach to foster Urban Social Cohesion

3. State of the art of research

a) EU projects

FP4: ELSES – describes the spatially uneven distribution of unemployment risks and discusses the role of "social enterprises" in relation to social cohesion.

INPART - concerned with the potential of different forms of work to generate inclusion for different people.

MIGRINF - studies the determinants and effects of migration flows. There are vital links between migrants and the informal economy: i) the underground economy is not just a product of clandestine immigration, but in many ways its cause; ii) obstacles to maintaining valid work and residency permits, make it difficult for immigrants to enter, and to remain within, the formal economy.

URSPIC - analyses the impact of large-scale urban development projects on urban development.

SOSTRIS - analyses different meanings of risk.

FP5: ENGIME - tackles immigrants, formal labour markets and self-employment in the context of social networks, innovation and entrepreneurship. Looks at cultural diversity.

SINGOCOM - coordination of inter-firm transactions and the dynamics of entrepreneurial activity, the organisation of local labour markets and social reproduction and the dynamics of community formation and sociability.

FP6: ACRE – issues as above, contrasting "soft" and "hard" location factors.

KATARSIS

EU Clusters: Unemployment, Work and Welfare: the cumulative nature of skill disadvantage; experience of unemployment depends on differential benefits coverage and the cultural role of the family.

b) Other literature:

Morris (2000) – conflicting principles: e.g. the frontier-free market against the bounded welfare state; employers' interests against state regulation; and national controls against trans-national rights.

Amin (2009) – the role of intermediate labour markets.
Gibson-Graham and Cameron (2007) – roles of diverse economies, including household and neighbourhood non-market exchanges, slavery (e.g. the prison system) and voluntarism.
Moulaert and Nussbaumer (2006) – on the artificial duality of market versus cooperative economy.

c) Omissions indicated in the literature.

Important missing key issues are: i) pluralisation of labour markets (e.g. by gender, skills, ethnicity, legal status etc; ii) polarisation of labour markets; iii) the role of migration (within and between countries; temporalities of 'migration', from daily commuting to indefinite stay in host area).

4. Justification of the scientific relevance for activists and policy-makers

Social cohesion research implies not only socio-spatial studies on the inclusion and exclusion processes that affect, in varying degrees, the different socio-professional, ethnic and gender groups in the cities, but also research on the interrelations between polarised urban living conditions and the precarious working conditions in the service sector, occupied mainly by women. A plural economic analysis takes into consideration formal and informal economies, market and non-market resources, social and community entrepreneurship and neighbourhood initiatives to produce and exchange goods and services. Such an analysis is also required for understanding the mixed economy of welfare services in the face of the diversity of urban population needs, inequalities of access and quality of local services of general interest. New subjects and mechanisms of redistribution within and between urban areas need to be examined.

Activists such as Fundació Surt argue that when talking about economics the role and contribution of women have traditionally been ignored. In future analysis and research on this issue it is important to recognise women's situation in, and contributions to, the plural economy, since it affects social cohesion. For example, when analysing the informal economy or the precariousness of the third sector, it is essential to recognise that it mainly affects women and thus requires an analysis of its consequences, from a gender perspective, in terms of social cohesion.


European learning event in Brussels. World Café.

Specific topics that stakeholders find of relevance include:

- Urban labour markets: Which future developments in urban labour markets should be analysed and encouraged? Which professional skills should be trained and made available to creative economic activities in the city? Which informal activities should be selected and promoted?
- Cohesion and gender division of labour (privatisation, familialisation and defamilialisation,…).
- The relationships between formal and informal (mainly gendered) economies, the role of the social economy in urban socioeconomic development and the institutional transformations that 'stifle' or 'foster' the new urban economic structures.
- The creative urban economy: relationships between arts and science, social and artistic innovation.

- The foundations of balanced urban innovation policy combining technological, organizational, social and artistic dimensions of innovation.
- Flexibilization of labour markets, job insecurity and cohesion: how do they affect gender equality? How does the precariousness of third sector workers affect social cohesion?
- The extent to which the urban service economy restructures the segmentation of urban labour markets and regimes in Europe.
- Policies for contrasting unemployment: which are the effects of increasing individualized labour activation policies on social cohesion? How to link education supply to labour policies? How to study the internal division of unemployed people to avoid incohesive labour policies?
- Immigrant integration and labour market, from a gender perspective: contradiction between labour markets and other domains of integration
- Special focus: how can migrant entrepreneurship stimulate social cohesion for different groups?

INEES-OPE suggests that:

A first research task is to launch *a participatory mapping of the social and solidarity-based economy initiatives in the city.* This kind of quantitative and qualitative action-research project could provide the data currently lacking on the economic and social importance of grassroots initiatives in the urban neighbourhood and point out how grassroots initiatives are building a new economic paradigm that intrinsically produces social cohesion (taking examples and best practices from Latin America).

The evaluation of the impact of social and solidarity-based initiatives on social cohesion and, in a broader sense, on the well-being of the neighbourhood also implies "calculating differently". *Collective elaboration of new indicators of well-being and quality of life in local areas* is a crucial research issue for the evaluation of the real contribution of grassroots initiatives. It is only by means of new indicators that we will demonstrate that social cohesion is not only a question of redistribution but also another way to produce wealth. Indicators can also be qualitative rather than quantitative.

Social Platform/Cecodhas also welcome more emphasis on social economy and its role in delivering services to the community.

5. Text for a call

Understanding social cohesion in cities cannot be separated from an analysis of current urban economic transformations. A plural evaluation is necessary of the interactions with, and the impact of cities' competitive aspirations and growth strategies on the urban economic divide. A socio-economic approach is needed which goes beyond a dualistic view of the urban economy. This dualism is often expressed as: market versus public sector, formal versus informal economy, advanced versus traditional activities, contrasts between urban geographic zones, etc. Analysing the inclusion and exclusion processes and agencies which affect, in varying degrees, the different socio-professional, ethnic and gender groups in the cities implies consideration of the urban economy as a hybrid system of modes of production and distribution, types of entrepreneurship, service delivery institutions and labour/capital relations, situated within the 'wider' social relations that form the city.

This topic will examine the nature of existing urban economies, by studying the combinations between different kinds of markets, welfare and redistribution agencies; for profit, public and

not-for-profit enterprises, grassroots initiatives and mutual aid networks, etc.; as well as modes of socio-economic organisation and how they are connected to each other. It will focus in particular on those factors and dynamics that have produced greater integrated development and social cohesion in existing urban economies.

There are two main foci under this topic:

1. Understanding the urban plural economy as a concept;
2. Identifying potential ways of steering plural economies to foster urban social cohesion.


Micronomics festival, organized by citymine(d)

Special issues to be considered include:

- The multi-scalar entanglements of processes, institutions and agencies (including individuals as agents) in plural economies and how they foster social cohesion.
- Developing new theoretical concepts and methodological tools for the analysis of the different aspects and configurations of urban plural economies.
- Potentials and limits of creative grassroots initiatives and social innovation for fostering cohesive plural urban economies.
- Integrative and polarized effects of diverse forms of entrepreneurship (individual, community, social entrepreneurship), especially with regard to youth, gender and ethnicity.
- The role of different forms of financial credit in fostering plural economies and as a possible means of local resilience in the face of the global financial crisis and its urban consequences.
- Impacts of the urban allocation of resources by a mixed economic governance system which is competitive to a greater or lesser extent, is cooperative and redistributive, and which aims to meet the diverse needs of an urban population as well as guarantee equal access to and quality of urban services of general interest.
- Social and institutional initiatives and processes (community economic development, integrated urban development) as a way of integrating diverse forms of economic stakeholders and commitment of inhabitants for a cohesive urban economy.

The research should aim to break the dichotomy of traditional dualistic analytical frameworks and to regard the plural economy as an opportunity. It should be inter- and trans-disciplinary. In addition, research must develop and adopt a working definition of a 'plural urban economy'. A socio-economic approach is recommended to *analyze strategic sectors*. The *role of institutional processes* should be at the heart of the analysis. Through *case studies*, research should analyze the institutions, agencies and conditions which have had (an *historical perspective*) and may have (foresighting methods) significant impacts on a plural urban economy. The role of *multiscalar institutional processes* and conditions of multi-level governance of the plural economy should be studied. Analysis of *different scales of income* should identify the plurality of an urban economic system. Research should also develop possible *criteria and indicators for assessing the effectiveness and performance of the plural economy*. We do not wish to preclude successful tenderers developing appropriate research methodologies, though we particularly welcome hands-on active *learning/ABCD-based approaches* and *partnership based research*, which mobilize policy makers, citizens and stakeholders as participants of the research process.

6. Justification of methodological approach

Inter- and trans-disciplinary bridge-building beyond traditional academic boundaries should foster both learning informed from several relevant perspectives (trans-academic disciplinary boundaries) and also trans-urban learning to identify local power structures and the potential of groups and places to shape urban development (trans-academic spatial boundaries).

Socio-economic approach: For understanding the interactions between urban economic development and social cohesion, a socio-economic perspective provides a valuable interdisciplinary approach to urban economy actions.

History, "path dependency" and learning processes, the social and collective aspects of entrepreneurship, immaterial investment, the mobilisation of non-commercial resources, and stakeholder discourses and representations are all necessary for a better analysis of the cohesive aspects of urban development such as the location of activities, distribution of income, entrepreneurship dynamics, labour market fragmentation, etc.

Characterising the types of social networks (Granovetter) in which motivations and trajectories of residents and of different professional, ethnic and gender groups are entangled is crucial, for instance, to understanding different aspects of social polarisation in the labour market. The social construction of markets in cities also helps to identify positive and negative effects of competition rules in terms of quality and access to urban services, jobs and income.

By integrating the potential and limits of non-capitalistic and non-monetary economic practices to achieving urban well-being and social cohesion, socio-economic methods are well suited to capture the hybrid nature of urban economies. The analysis of hidden economies, such as the economy of care, the non-monetary economy, the social economy and the third sector, highlights different kinds of transactions with their multiple calculations of commensurability, the diverse ways of remunerating labour, the different forms of economic organisation or enterprise with their multiple ways of producing and distributing incomes.

A mixed-resources based methodology (Gardin, 2008) underlines the importance of the combination of market, non-market and non-monetary resources as well as the multi-stakeholders dynamics in the creation and development of neighbourhood initiatives and local entrepreneurship for meeting unsatisfied needs.

A socio-economic approach also implies quantitative and qualitative methods for capturing the invisible distribution of wealth within cities. It is well known that GDP and added value are limited indicators for comparing the wealth of cities and their urban economic development. Plural indicators of well-being, including social cohesion indicators, are needed in order to take into account the multi-scalar redistributive or non-redistributive effects of different income transfers within cities and across scales. Partnership-based and action research methods could also be mobilised in order to identify social cohesion criteria. Such a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods is essential for assessing the potential gap between traditional statistical figures and collective perceptions of well-being,

Case Studies provide a systemic, relational and holistic approach which is structural as well as path-sensitive and context-specific. Case studies provide context-sensitive research methods which explore the multiple aspects of plural economies and involve non-western research epistemologies and perspectives as appropriate. Case studies enable mixed method research appropriate to the study of plural economies where researchers are interested in structures, processes and outcomes and in which stakeholders are regarded as expert partners rather than as merely respondents. They are based on the ontological assumption that the quality of knowledge is improved by research techniques which mobilize the tacit, experience-based knowledge of policy makers, activists and concerned groups in the cities studied.

Foresighting goes far beyond trend extrapolation. One of the common foresighting techniques is backcasting which is well suited to situations where there are normative objectives and uncertain future events that influence these objectives. The role of stakeholder participation is strong and the future vision cannot be realised by a hierarchical approach, or limited stakeholders. The desired future cannot be achieved by simple extrapolation from the present arrangements, but needs a fundamentally different approach. Foresighting-backcasting can provide the necessary co-evolutionary framework which should guide governance in influencing needed changes in institutional, social and organisational domains.

Studies that emphasize the role and the influence of the city and its plural labour markets as a linkage between local actors and broader structural, economic, social and decisional process at global, European and national scales are important.

Transdisciplinary methods like ABCD/action research and forms of Theory-Practice-Dialogue integrate tacit, experience-based knowledge as well as systematic and evidence-based research. ABCD, for example, is a strategy for sustainable community-driven development concerned with how to link micro-assets to the macro environment. It stimulates endogenous, collaborative group capacity building for economic development and acts in the interests of strengthening community, which in turn contributes to further economic development.

7. Possible funding agencies

This topic will in the first place be proposed to the EC DG Research SSH programme. Alternative funders: *DG Employment Progress Programme*.

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Topic 3. Social exclusion dynamics as a challenge to social cohesion in cities

1. Editors

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2. Title

Social exclusion dynamics as a challenge to social cohesion in cities

3. State of the of art research

Since the launch of the EU Poverty III programme, social exclusion dynamics have been the object of numerous investigations at both national and international levels. Comparative research on exclusion processes in different domains of existence have advanced our understanding of, for example, the unfolding of these processes in the urban labour markets (ELSES, INPART, WORKS) as a result of socio-economic restructuring, while research on urban policies, such as regeneration or active inclusion policies, has provided insights into the socio-economic impact of such policies on the urban fabric, in particular on the transformation of social relations and of social capital (URSPIC, SINGOCOM). Much less work has been done on the relation between these processes and the production and reproduction of social cohesion in the urban environment. Also these dynamics have changed dramatically in form and substance. The emergence of new factors of exclusion and inclusion, structural and institutional transformations, collective action and policy have reinforced or weakened existing processes and, at the same time, given rise to new ones. Moreover, the recent economic and financial crash and the deepening of the ecological and energy crises have intensified and accelerated some of the existing exclusionary processes while creating new ones, posing new and urgent questions with regard to social exclusion and social cohesion. Phenomena such as riots and makeshift camps in the periphery of European cities render the link between exclusion dynamics and social cohesion particularly evident, while the response solely in terms of repression of such phenomena reveals the inability to address these questions properly.

The analysis of these recent exclusionary dynamics tends to lag behind real world events and considerable gaps remain in the analysis of processes of social exclusion and in the assessment of their force and capacity to undermine social cohesion, particularly at the city level. In filling these gaps research activity is also called upon to refine the concept of social cohesion, to date too limited in scope according to a definition in which it is perceived as resulting from economic growth and technological innovation.

The literature on social exclusion points to several lacunae. Firstly, the concept of social and spatial exclusion, as a state and as a process, is still lacking a precise definition able to account for and systematize its multidimensional nature; further investigation is thus needed on the conceptual and methodological clarification of the concept and the measurement of the related mechanisms and processes said to produce social exclusion. Clear social exclusion indicators at the micro-level are lacking, and work carried out in this direction remains far from adequate and sensitive to different scales of analysis. Some indicators are too broad, or not sufficiently accurate, to define the different types of dynamics that have led to exclusion. Secondly, though gender has proved to be an increasingly significant variable to be considered in the analysis of social exclusion processes, a gender perspective has not been sufficiently applied; more work is needed in order to identify problems and difficulties, deriving from exclusionary processes, which affect women and men differently. Thirdly, in many analyses of social exclusion dynamics, the level of discourse and the level of practices are not clearly separated; such studies tend to have an ideological and political, rather than an informative and analytical function. Discourses and practices addressing social cohesion and social exclusion should be carefully investigated in their interplay and reciprocal influence; as far as discourses and narratives are concerned, the diversity of roles of discourse (scientific, political, ideological) needs to be acknowledged and linked to different mechanisms of gaining legitimacy and visibility. Of particular interest within this framework is a deconstruction of the discourse (‘the city’ and ‘the other city’) that creates and recreates the perspective of the division of urban space. Fourthly, also particularly lacking is an analysis of the social production of urban change agendas (neighbourhood and community development, priorities for collective action and public policy) addressing the contribution of different social groups in shaping the change agenda. More research is needed on the mechanisms which enable or limit participation in the public sphere. Finally, another issue to be further addressed is the link between knowledge and urban policy in Europe. There is a need not only to improve the transfer of academic research results into knowledge usable by policy makers but also to valorise the knowledge acquired and put into practice by practitioners and activists in the urban field.

4. Justification of the scientific relevance and the relevance for activists and policymakers

Over the last few years, the social exclusion situation in Europe has remained a major concern, despite collective action and policies intended to contrast the dynamics producing it, and to promote social cohesion in general. Social exclusion processes operate in and through the educational system, the labour market, the welfare system, in the access to public goods such as health services and housing, and in citizen participation in the public sphere; urban space adds a further dimension to these processes as social inequalities are also spatially constructed.

The current crisis is expected to result in further deterioration of the situation, leading to even greater threats to social cohesion. Moreover, increasing inequality is becoming less and less justifiable and more and more visible vis-à-vis generalized expectations of social equality and a public discourse of equal opportunities—thus the growing challenge to social cohesion that these exclusionary processes entail.

In light of these new challenges and the shortcomings of previous understanding of the social exclusion issue, scientists should take stock of existing knowledge and call in a plurality of perspectives in order to readdress the issue of social exclusion and social cohesion as a crucial scientific and societal challenge. Among these perspectives, those of activists and policymakers are of great importance, as they contribute to defining both social exclusion and social cohesion as objectives and processes; reflexivity with regard to their activity should be incorporated in the research process, enabling activists and policymakers to pose new questions and to call attention to areas where existing knowledge needs to be further developed.

5. Text for a call

Despite European, national and regional policies intended to promote social cohesion, old forms of social exclusion dynamics in various areas of societal life still persist and new forms are at work. The objective of the research activity is to understand the new challenges that old and new forms of the social exclusion pose to societal cohesion in urban areas, to victims of the economic and financial crisis and to its potential evolution. Research activity should address the new multidimensional nature of inequalities (how class, gender, ethnicity, civil

rights entitlement, age and disability interplay in the production of exclusion), their social and spatial determinants and how they shape paths and dynamics of exclusion and inclusion.

A second axis of research should provide a better understanding of urban social cohesion, the production and reproduction processes which are said to produce it, and the relationship between urban social cohesion and inequalities.

The following research topics and questions should be taken into consideration:

- The new social and spatial construction of inequality in the current crisis. Which social groups are particularly penalised? How do different processes of discrimination and exclusion shape individual life trajectories into marginalisation and deprivation? Spatially, as new urban forms emerge, novel mechanisms of exclusion operate and some are expected to become more severe as a result of the current crisis. How do these social and spatial inequalities translate into threats to social cohesion?
- Public policy and exclusionary dynamics in cities. How does public policy at different institutional levels and in different domains contribute to the creation of new social exclusion dynamics? In the culture domain, for example, how are cultural policies influenced by, and how do they contribute to, producing hegemonic and counter-hegemonic discourses? How do they allow the recognition of cultural diversity and pursue the mediation among different cultural groups?
- The city as the site of privileged social groups, both old and new. So far the problems related to social and spatial polarization have been studied with a focus on the poor. New attention should be given to the presence of economically privileged social groups and how such a presence, and the demands generated by it, contribute to the fragmentation of urban space and to social exclusion. Upper classes should be investigated as agents of processes of de-territorialisation and re-territorialisation by which they are able to enjoy high quality privatized spaces while avoiding the costs. As they no longer have their economic interests firmly located in one city, they no longer contribute to its civic texture through actual residence within that city. How are they to be held accountable for social cohesion? Efforts of the affluent middle classes to segregate themselves from the urban fabric, and the far-reaching consequences of this behaviour, should be studied. How do gated communities, as well as more hybrid urban forms, contribute to exclusion and segregation processes? The residential, educational and employment careers and pathways of inhabitants and specific groups should be investigated in order to shed light on the actual working and unfolding of these processes.

As far as methodology is concerned, the research should allow different disciplines and perspectives to address the theme of social exclusion and urban social cohesion and their interplay. Among these perspectives those of policy makers, activists and concerned groups in the city are of particular importance, as they make sense of the local constraints and resources to be mobilized in opposition to social exclusion and the pursuit of social cohesion. Specific methodologies for knowledge transfer and exchange among researchers and different concerned actors should be provided. Secondly, an interdisciplinary gender perspective should be applied when doing research on social exclusion, and gendered experience of exclusion should be collected and analyzed so that new variables, new themes and new dimensions emerge as a result. Thirdly, in order to provide a better understanding of the multilevel processes involved in the production of social exclusion and social cohesion, research concepts and tools should prove adequate and sensitive to different scales of analysis.


Large scale stakeholder conference. Exhibition.

6. Justification of methodological approach

Social exclusion dynamics and social cohesion research must be guided by a methodology ensuring a sophisticated and articulate conceptualization. This methodology should be informed by three leading principles: transdisciplinarity, holism, and sensitivity to scale issues.

Previous research results lead one to assume that the quality of knowledge is improved by research methods and techniques which mobilize the tacit, experience-based knowledge of policy makers, activists and concerned groups in the city. It follows that all stakeholders should be integrated on an equal footing, right from the beginning, to guarantee the joint specification and execution of a research agenda that is relevant for policy makers, social movements, NGOs, entrepreneurs, politicians and concerned people in general. To make room for a diversity of perspectives, a strong and committed transdisciplinary approach is also required; within this approach, methods such as Action Research and forms of Theory/Practice/Dialogue should integrate tacit, experience-based knowledge as well as systematic and evidence-based research. Translation and bridge building beyond academic boundaries should foster trans-urban learning and identify local power structures and the potential of groups and places to shape urban development.

Second, research activity must take the complexity and multidimensionality of social cohesion into account by envisaging the city as a whole. This requires a systemic, relational and holistic approach that is structural as well as path sensitive and context specific. It requires context sensitive models that structure the multiple problems concerning social cohesion and involve diverse research epistemologies and perspectives. The meanings assigned to key concepts such as ‘diversity,’ ‘identity,’ ‘social cohesion’ and ‘equality’ in different theories and policy communities should be made explicit to achieve conceptual clarity as well as policy coherence. Attention should be paid to the interplay between physical, economic, political and cultural transformations in cities and how they affect the living conditions and social relationships of particular populations, neighbourhoods, socioeconomic dynamics as well as the role of cities and city regions in sustaining economic and occupational restructuring, in concentrating, centralizing and distributing resources.

Third, urban practices need to be understood in conjunction with structural dynamics at different scales. Scale sensitive research links micro and macro-studies and analyses from different levels of complexity. This involves researching multi-level governance arrangements and the relations and role of institutions (at different scales) in favouring horizontal networks of communication among territorial actors.

7. Possible funding agencies

SSH - DG research – Small or medium-scale research projects or BSG-CSO.

The pursuit of social cohesion is a challenge in which many social actors have an interest. Trade union foundations and agencies are the first actors who could be instrumental in assuring funding for this area of research. Secondly, many foundations active in Europe seek to produce knowledge necessary to understand the transformations of national societies and to contribute to the definition of policies promoting social progress in the relevant country. Examples are the Volkswagen Foundation in Germany and the Fondazione Agnelli in Italy. Thirdly, it is to be assumed that cities in particular are concerned with the issue of social cohesion; thus they have an interest in a better understanding of social exclusion dynamics on the part of different associations and formal networks of cities, as well as some large metropolitan areas, which could provide financial support and collaboration.

Topic 4. Drivers and social outcomes of urban regeneration in European cities

1.Editors

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2.Title

Drivers and social outcomes of urban regeneration in European cities

3.State of the art of research

a. Overview of former European research projects and literature

Although well-established in the scientific literature, the term "urban regeneration" is often applied to different kinds of urban interventions. Frequently, it corresponds to large-scale integrated operations that involve the construction (and/or the rehabilitation) of infrastructure and buildings (the "hardware"), combined with the implementation of economic, managerial and social measures. These initiatives gained momentum after the urban crisis of the 1970s as a form of economic competitiveness through the re-introduction of the "obsolete" parts of the city (old industrial plants, abandoned harbour areas and other transport facilities, etc.) into the "active" urban fabric and especially into the urban economy. This kind of planning strategy is part of a more market-driven New Economic Policy (Nussbaumer and Moulaert, 2004), starting to privilege public-private partnerships for the various initiatives (Sandercock, 1998).

In addition to the aforementioned perspective, the term urban regeneration has also been used to describe small-scale interventions taking place in derelict neighbourhoods (URBAN I, URBAN II), not only in the old historic city centres where gentrification processes tend to take place but also in peripheral neighbourhoods that often comprise large public housing estates from the 1950s and 1960s (Murie, Knorr-Siedow and Kempen, 2001; Barata-Salgueiro, 2004). These operations basically aim to renew the physical environment and to improve the socio-economic conditions (e.g. population employability, local security, education, child care…). In these cases, socio-ethnic segregation, considered negative for several reasons (Kempen and Ozuekren, 1998), and exclusion are the main driving elements of the operations, frequently involving the implementation of social mix strategies.

In geographical terms, these regeneration programmes are part of new strategic policies and programmes that generally place considerable emphasis on the neighbourhood (ELSES, NEW LOCAL POLICIES, LUDA). This corresponds with findings that spatial segregation not only affects social exclusion (URBEX, BETWIXT), but also plays an important role in the prosperity of the city (ENGIME). This emphasis on small areas has certain advantages, like mobilising community involvement, enhancing (downwards) accountability to communities, and making efforts more visible. However, by stressing the communities' responsibility in "the construction of the neighbourhood future", these approaches may sustain de-responsabilization discourses and practices from the public authorities, especially in the case of failed interventions. Most of the research on urban regeneration programmes focuses on their political intentions on the one hand and their results and consequences on the other. Often, a big discrepancy between the goals and the means of such policy programmes is found (NEW LOCAL POLICIES). Although

goals of the projects mostly include tackling social exclusion and improving socio-economic conditions besides redeveloping the area and stimulating the local economy (ELSES, NEW LOCAL POLICIES), one must conclude that in many cases the 'grand goals' are only set in order to get funding, but are hardly ever pursued during the concrete realisation of the programme. In fact, many policy makers silently accept the inequalities and do not fully commit to the idea of tackling social exclusion (NEW LOCAL POLICIES). In reality this results in policies focused mainly on economic development rather than on tackling social exclusion, and are then justified by the belief that economic development will generate better socio-economic conditions for the local population.


Large scale stakeholder conference. Presentation.

Indeed, although most of these urban regeneration projects are presented as panaceas to fight social inequality, they actually seem to accentuate socio-economic polarization. Given the often radically new socio-economic functions associated with urban regeneration, a process of transfer and dislocation of jobs inevitably takes place as well, certainly when these actions occur in a context of competitive bidding for funding or investment (URSPIC, LUDA, ELSES).

b. Major omissions as signalled in literature

Former urban research projects suggest that holistic, integrating and enduring strategic planning is necessary for regenerating distressed urban areas, connecting various political sectors (business, social, health, culture, technical) with each other horizontally as well as vertically. This strategic planning needs to involve all stakeholders inside and outside the area in an interactive process of discussion, negotiation, feedback and adaptation, through which a commonly defined policy is developed in order to pursue a vision and common goals (LUDA, ELSES, NEW LOCAL POLICIES). In this perspective, there is need for a deeper analysis of the drivers of regeneration programmes, their agendas and interests. We propose another way of looking at urban regeneration by analyzing the actors that actually drive the regeneration programme. 1) Market-led regeneration can be related to the rent gap theory (Neil Smith) and financialisation which invades real estate operations. 2) Policy-led regeneration refers to necessities for enhancing the fiscal basis of cities (sometimes also triggered by the downscaling of regional and national public duties without decentralizing financial means) and/or city marketing and imaging within the process of geographical competition. 3) Household-led regeneration is determined by the two other processes in most cases, but it can also emerge from new spatial constraints, like employment flexibility, household instability, prices and time constraints.

This opens a whole range of questions about the power relations between public authorities on the one hand and private and civic bodies on the other. The roles of these institutions and their capacity to negotiate and steer urban regeneration programmes that foster social cohesion must be understood. It is very hard, however, to formulate a far-reaching concretisation of such a policy goal. Within Europe, there is considerable variation in the factors which impinge upon what is happening in neighbourhoods, ranging from the overall socio-spatial structures of the cities involved, their economic structures, territorial organisations of their metropolitan areas, local public finance, electoral systems … to the organisation of the welfare state, housing systems and demographic dynamics. Governments should be extremely cautious about accepting

best practice policies and seeking to implement these policies, which perhaps were successful elsewhere, in their own contexts (ELSES, NEW LOCAL POLICIES).

Therefore, future research on urban regeneration should take on board this diversity in European cities.

4. Justification of the scientific relevance and the relevance for activists and policy-makers

The coherence between interventions in the housing stock, its driving mechanisms, social cohesion and social bonds for the quality of life in European neighbourhoods is extremely relevant for activists, policy-makers and local administrators involved in urban regeneration. This is especially the case now as the social outcomes of urban regeneration programmes are becoming increasingly important.

Because of a renewed emphasis on the social goals of urban regeneration, a broad pallet of organisations is now involved in this policy area. The main benefit for stakeholders of further study in this field lies in the detailed scientific assessment of the interaction between drivers of urban regeneration on the one hand, and its social outcomes on the other. More research needs to be done to unravel the interplay between the situational factors - demographical, spatial, institutional - and the (in)direct effects of urban restructuring.

A better comprehension of these factors can enhance policies aimed at urban regeneration fostering social cohesion. Subsequently, the importance and relevance of 'Housing and the neighbourhood' and its effects on social cohesion and mobility can be better understood. Insights following the research might provide baseline data for local administrators, activists and policy-makers involved in urban renewal. Conversely, stakeholders can provide valuable information on these issues for scientists working in the field, as well as actively participating in the research itself.

All things considered, a new form of cooperation between stakeholders and researchers must be developed. This embraces cooperation in the definition of research needs and systematic collaborative work in the research process capable of overcoming the usual one-sided perspectives that tend to see the stakeholders as mere research facilitators (providing data that researchers can use or facilitating the contact with the target public), and the researchers as "producers" of materials that legitimate the action of activists and organizations.

5. Text for a call

This call aims to look at the diversity of drivers and outcomes of urban regeneration programmes in European cities. Over the past 20 years, large or small scale regeneration operations have been implemented in many European cities, targeting obsolete harbour and industrial areas as well as deprived neighbourhoods located in both the historical centres and the city peripheries. Framed within the European urban sustainability policy, these initiatives aimed to increase the urban competitiveness of neighbourhoods and cities and simultaneously to contribute to the improvement of living conditions and to promote social inclusion. The general research question is how urban regeneration processes impact on social cohesion, which is seen as (at least) a two-scalar endeavour: securing livelihood (which entails integration in markets, state redistribution systems and social networks) and participation in discussion about the future of the city (political participation in the urban community).

Therefore the research project should not look at individual regeneration projects and processes, be they large scale or very local , but has to take the whole city as a unit of analysis and comparison. Given the large diversity of European cities in terms of size, spatial configurations, demographic dynamics and welfare state regimes (including the cities from new member states), proposing typologies of these cities and related regeneration processes is necessary. In addition, the diversity of the cities is the source for understanding the conditions under which urban regeneration might foster social cohesion. This yields the following issues to be examined:

-Regeneration drivers: On the one hand the research project should analyse the drivers of regeneration programmes, their agendas and interests. What are these drivers of market-led, policy-led and/or household-led regeneration processes in European cities? How do these drivers interrelate and how do these processes fit into the urban fabric?

Which discourses/dispositifs on the city and its future underpin the attitudes and actions of the institutions and/or individuals involved?

In what way do these actors negotiate the processes with (other) actors in the area? Under what form and conditions can these negotiations foster social cohesion in the sense of political participation in the urban community?

What is the temporality of these drivers and their geography, including spatial dynamics and inter-scalar processes (cycles and spatial shifts in investments, architecture, construction industry, European urban policy, diffusion of policies and "best practices", cultural attitudes towards cities…)?

Finally, one cannot automatically assume that these processes take place in every city everywhere in Europe. Therefore, research on cities in which these drivers and/or processes are absent and on the reasons why, is an absolute necessity in order to broaden our knowledge of urban regeneration.

- Regeneration impacts: On the other hand, the research project should look at the effects of regeneration processes in the neighbourhoods where they appear on both existing and new inhabitants, on social networks and on urban infrastructure. Do urban regeneration processes achieve the goal of social cohesion in the sense of securing the livelihood of old and new inhabitants?

What are the effects of regeneration processes on the housing market and real estate industry, on local government and its fiscal basis, thus reshaping opportunities and constraints for social cohesion?

What are the spatial effects of urban regeneration on the socio-spatial structures of the urban metropolitan area and on other cities through their impact on residential pathways and housing market constraints?

What are the effects of urban regeneration on urban politics and culture and modes of governance, including changes in the electoral structure and the political participation of the urban population?

How do urban regeneration strategies affect the social mix in the cities and/or desegregation?

Are there differences and patterns according to the drivers and main agents of regeneration involved?

Comparative case-studies could lead to production of a synthesis on the conditions under which urban regeneration equals social cohesion. These cases have to include cities of different sizes, capital and non-capital cities, cities in old as well as new member states,… in order to cover the diversity of European cities. Furthermore, cities in which these processes and drivers are absent should also be incorporated in the project. Every case has to be researched in a transdisciplinary, holistic and scale-sensitive way in order to place it in its specific context and to grasp its complexity and multidimensionality.

6. Justification of methodological approach

Former research showed that holistic, integrating and enduring strategic planning is necessary for regenerating distressed urban areas, connecting various political sectors with each other, horizontally as well as vertically. This strategic planning needs to involve all actors inside and outside the area in an interactive process of discussion, negotiation, feedback and adaptation. This means that research on regeneration processes is only meaningful and can only be successful when it involves experts from various research fields, since its nature can only be fully addressed with the combined work of experts from these various fields. In addition, because we assume that research must have a social impact and impinge on social and policy practices, researchers and stakeholders should work together in a **transdisciplinary** way.

This means research methodologies should be used which relate systematic and evidence-based knowledge with practical and experience-based knowledge in a project that integrates researchers and stakeholders on an equal footing; and this must be so right from the first stage of research design to the final stage of dissemination of research results and subsequent incorporation in policy and social intervention.

Furthermore, since the research should address the urban regeneration processes within their specific urban context, a **holistic** approach is called for. The project must take the complexity and multidimensionality of social cohesion into account by envisaging urban regeneration processes as part of the strategies and mechanisms for the city as a whole. In order to set the regeneration in the specific and very diverse contexts of the different European cities, the research should take the whole city as a unit of analysis and comparison. It must therefore try to cover the immense diversity of European cities by including cities of very different types into the project. This holistic approach should lead to the construction of one or more typologies of these cities and related regeneration processes.

Finally, former research has also shown that successful regeneration processes have to tackle local problems by connecting different geographical scales into the planning strategy. This means the research project has to be **scale-sensitive**, taking into account the different scales with their respective, sometimes opposing, dynamics. This involves researching multilevel-governance arrangements and the relations and role of the drivers of urban regeneration (at different scales) in terms of both their horizontal and vertical networks.

Topic 5. Challenges to Social Cohesion in Cities of South: Latin-America and Africa

1. Editors

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2. Title

Challenges to Social Cohesion in Cities of South: Latin-America and Africa

3. State of the art of research

This challenge concerns the need to produce a fundamental re-conceptualisation of the notion of social cohesion according to the diverse realities of the cities of the South, especially in Latin-America and Africa. As urbanization has become a central concern for 21st century socioeconomic development agendas, major international organizations have carried out important research on the countries of the South, and have emphasised social development (OECD), sustainable human development (UNDP), governance and conflict prevention (North South Institute), and municipal financial and structural adjustment (World Bank). In general, the strategies proposed and practised by those organizations aim for the implementation of "good governance," defined as transparent, efficient, accountable and involving a decrease in the presence of the state. Simultaneously, neoliberalism oriented policies applied by many national governments promoted market liberalization as the norm of economic progress. However, to southern actors, these objectives are based on European and Western models of development rather than on the relevant experiences, aspirations or needs of the populations of the southern cities in question.

These populations claim the "right to the city", i.e., the right to urban services, employment, public spaces, decent housing and participation in the decision making process which has effects on the social living conditions, of and by all residents, yet who find themselves deprived of those rights. This deprivation is most severe, for those who, are most alienated from institutions of rights and networks of power, due to conflicts, poverty, or stigmatization by the elites. For this reason, social actors and investigators from the south argue that this socioeconomic development model generates at the same time economic growth, economic injustice, ecological degradation, and social atomization.

Trandisciplinary Symposium in Vienna.

In response to such a model, local communities have turned to grassroots-based experiments in neighbourhoods or at the workplace. In the cities, self-managed neighbourhoods have taken shape. Marginalized populations have expanded various forms of solidarity-based economies and urban settlements to satisfy immediate needs for goods, services and sociality, which governments and the market either

could not or did not want to meet. Such solidarity-based initiatives have become a means for allowing the most marginalized sectors of society to resist disengaged neoliberal governments and to adopt strategies that produce social power, economic opportunity and concrete quality of life improvements. However, a question arises: to what extent and in what conditions can these experiments generate a new integrative urban planning perspective to overcome the vulnerability, fragility, undernourishment, lack of services, and the socio-spatial segregation which prevails in the big cities of the South? Hence it is essential to integrate the experiments and proposals made and implemented by organizations and neighbourhoods into a comprehensive, multiscalar approach to urban development.

4. Justification of the scientific relevance and the relevance for activists and policy-makers

Research identified in this topic will contribute to a better understanding of the new interactions and interdependencies within the South and between the South and the North, the issues and experiments that inhibit or foster social cohesion at the city and neighbourhood level and the implications of these issues for cities of the South and for Europe. At the same time, projects will strengthen the knowledge base for the formulation and implementation of appropriate external policies of European countries concerning cities in Latin-American and Africa and they will enhance the cooperation between European teams and researchers from and outside Europe.

5. Text for a call

The South is not only interesting as a place of deprivation and lack of social cohesion, but also as a source of inspiration. 1) On the one hand, the exceedingly complex cities of the south present intellectual and policy challenges that require much more in-depth research and analysis about the institutional, structural, and socioeconomic contexts of urban environments. There is especially a need to identify factors that inhibit social cohesion, promote exclusion and provoke strong fractures and divides. These problems have important repercussions for both Southern and Northern countries, given that they generate migration and insecurity at the local and global scale. 2) On the other hand, it is important to know more about urban social experiments that respond to persisting and new problems and could contribute to social integration (at the neighbourhood, city and city-region level).

The analysis of these experiments could generate important findings for mutual learning and dissemination throughout different regions of the global south and to developed countries. In this way they could inspire new solutions for fostering social cohesion and participatory territorial planning, as microcredit and the participative budget have already done. Therefore, comparative research and analysis, between countries in the South, and between South and North, is important to developing the pathways and information base for mutual learning about urbanization processes, social experiments, and creating new coordinated solutions to urbanization challenges. Important themes to be researched are:

1) The transformations of the labour market and social inequality provoked by the so called “New Economy” or by public and private investments, affecting above all vulnerable groups, such as young people, women, ethnic and religious minorities, indigenous peoples, elderly and migrants. Such people most severely and immediately experience the dramatic impact of economic divides. Their experiences open important windows onto the contradictory effects of the informal economy, which provides opportunities but also reinforces traditional norms and furthers vulnerability. It is important also to research the reconfiguration of Southern economies, especially the impact of emerging economies like China, Brazil and India, on the productive structure and the labour market of cities of Southern countries.

2) Languages, institutions and lived experience of Rights as the new vehicle for urban movements, and the local emergence of new forms of organization, solidarities and urban movements. Particular attention should be given to struggles around housing tenure, including the right to continue living in gentrifying neighbourhoods, the provision of social services, the protection of jobs, and rights to safe and fair policing. Research should highlight the potential of these experiments to respond to social requirements and to inspire more global strategies and public policies oriented towards rebuilding social cohesion especially in vulnerable contexts. It is also critical to study failed rights based projects, or why some strategies and experiments which seek access to social justice, produce results opposite to the desired goals.

3) The problem of security, one of the most important problems in many cities of the South, namely in Latin-America and Africa, as far as social cohesion is concerned. Poverty and inequalities and the lack of trust in political and social institutions have provoked a climate of increasing violence. This climate has major effects on social and physical segregation at the city level. Public spaces are no longer public and the right to the city is increasingly limited by symbolic, social and physical barriers (gated communities, suburbanization process, ethnic division, cultural stigmatizations), especially for migrants, young people, women, and the elderly.

4) The increasing social and ethnic diversity provoked by international migrations between countries of the South or by interregional migrations. This is a cause for new forms of segregation and social divides, from which new forms of integration and networking emerge at a transnational scale.

This challenge should be addressed through a combination of fundamental, partnership-based and context- and scale-sensitive comparative research carried out by transdisciplinary teams composed of researchers and social and public actors from Europe and from southern cities.

6. Justification of methodological approach

The fundamental research should concern the social and territorial divides that inhibit social cohesion and that call for an adaptation of the social cohesion approach leading to an analytical and policy framework of the reality of the countries of the South. The partnership-based research should discuss the social experiments initiated at the local level by organizations and neighbourhoods, focusing on those that rebuild networks, social links and policies or re-channel social conflicts, so as to identify common social and economic goals. The comparative research should confront and compare specific situations and experiments carried out in cities from different countries and regions of the South in order to stimulate mutual learning, urban inter-connectiveness and transfer of knowledge.

Large scale stakeholder conference. Plenary discussion.

Proposals for research topics by Existential Field (EF)

Introduction

The production of the Focused Research Agenda (section I) was preceded by literature surveys on the state of social inclusion/exclusion in different spheres or fields – so-called Existential Fields (EF) - of urban society. These literature surveys allowed the identification of 'gaps' in the research activity for each of these existential fields, as well as in the study of social cohesion in 'urban society as a whole'.

Proposals for research topics per existential field were produced in working groups that met recurrently in small meetings, but also at the occasion of stakeholder feedback sessions as well as stakeholder conferences in Brussels and Vienna (see introduction to section I).

The following Existential Fields were defined in Social Polis:

Existential field	Relationship to theme 'cities and social cohesion'
EF1. 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. • Grass-roots and policy responses.
EF2. Labour markets and economic development	• Structural unemployment. • Changing city economies and spatial impacts on (un)employment. • Cities as regional/national economic and employment drivers, with implications for interregional and international cohesion. • Grass-roots and policy responses.
EF3.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. • Grass-roots and policy initiatives for improving residential environments.

EF4. 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. • Grass-roots and policy responses.
EF5. 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.
EF6. 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.
EF7. 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
EF8. 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.

EF9. 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.
EF10. 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.
EF11. 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.
EF12. Social cohesion and the city as a whole	• Overall urban dynamics of inclusion, exclusion and cohesion • Relationships between fields of collective action and policy • Social cohesion as a 'problématique'

Existential Field 1: Welfare and Social Services

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In this EF, local welfare is considered as a dynamic process, in which the specific local social and cultural contexts give rise to diversified mixes of actors underlying the strategies for implementing social policies and by consequence social and care services, and to diverse profiles of needy or assisted populations. To analyse local welfare, research should consider both the organization of policies and local services and the needs of population.

1) Diversification of providers

Research topics would address what sort of local articulation of supply of services is emerging in the different local contexts, and which is the most favourable to social cohesion, looking both at the institutional organisation of the services and at the population. How does the presence of the different providers affect access to and quality of services, contributing to the reduction or reproduction of inequalities in that local context? This means examining which social groups have access to which services, who in which groups is excluded, and how these groups differ in different local contexts. How do the different providers interact and change their working rules in the presence of other actors? How does the presence of different providers and the organisations to which they belong affect the emergence of the grey market? And how does it affect the informal care, mainly given by women, within the household, or the proximate social support network?


Trandisciplinary Symposium in Vienna.

The role of the public sector in the diversification of providers

The public sector plays an important role in fostering and managing the diversification of providers, deciding to act or not to act, to regulate or not to regulate: which strategies are chosen, then put into practice by the public sector (if they are) to govern the diversification of providers and with what results in terms of social cohesion? What is the role of the public sector in creating and fostering the market in private care and social assistance services, for instance by the introduction of vouchers? What is the role of the public sector in creating and fostering a real network of public/private actors, based on quality in the different contexts and with what results in terms of social cohesion? (This last issue was particularly emphasised by Donatella De Gaetano, President of the National Association of Private for profit early childcare and education services of Italy).

2) Patterns of re-familisation

There is evidence of a re-familisation of care in different European contexts mainly in Southern and Eastern European countries, which is bringing about new forms of inequality mainly related to households and to the condition of women who are the most important care givers within them. What factors explain the development of this re-familisation of care? What kinds of relationship can be identified in the different contexts between the patterns of re-familisation of care and social cohesion? What does re-familisation of care mean in terms of work and responsibilities both within households and within the broader local social contexts; are the same patterns found across Europe, or is there a confrontation between the South and East European contexts and the Nordic, Anglo-Saxon and Continental ones? (This issue was emphasised by Heloisa Perista, EMES network). What social inequalities are hidden behind ongoing processes of re-familisation of care and/or delayed transfer of care to non-family providers? This question is to be addressed by focusing on the role of women and single parents.

3) The role of power and control in local welfare

The rapid transformations occurring in many local welfare systems in terms of responsibility for planning, implementing and managing services raises questions about where power lies in relation to decisions of which local care and social services are needed, which groups have access to which services (formal criteria of access…)etc. What powers do actors possess to deal with the problems of social cohesion? How and where is the power of actors located in the overall configurations of the international, national and local contexts? What alteration is there in the power of actors in terms of both content and impact as a consequence of changing policy trends (for example the growing importance of workfare) or as a consequence of the rescaling of policy responsibilities?

Existential Field 2: Labour Markets and Economic Development

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In this short document, we have identified a small number of transversal themes which move towards a more focused research agenda. A starting-point is provided by the notion of "socio-spatial polarisation", which could be developed further from the perspective of social stratification and socio-spatial structure, via a collaborative effort involving EF1 (Welfare and social services), EF2 (Labour markets and economic development) and EF8 (Urban and regional inequalities).

1) Trends towards socio-spatial polarisation

This research topic would focus on the process of "socio-spatial polarisation", both in relation to "hyper-exploitation" (linked with labour market segregation and deregulation, inequalities in legal status within the workplace, the weakness of labour movements and heightened economic competition) and "hyper-mobility" (migration flows, mobile lifestyles, transnational families and communities, linked international labour markets, etc.). These trends are driven primarily by changes in the demand for labour, but have far-reaching consequences for residential patterns, housing markets, the provision of services and transport, social interaction, family formation and social cohesion within cities. In this context, policy-makers have frequently been led to endorse – implicitly if not explicitly – the re-familisation of welfare services via the exploitation of cheap female migrant labour, especially from Eastern Europe. (The specific significance of these issues was underlined, in particular, by Mar Camarasa of the Fundacio SURT in Barcelona, a stakeholder of this Existential Field, during the Social Polis workshop in Brussels in May 2008.)

2) Formal and informal strategies

The emphasis on this research topic would mean studying not only labour market segregation, but also the substantial differences that exist in the labour market behaviour of distinct social groups. There is also a need for a broader and more innovative analysis of formal and informal economies, which can shed light on the role of informal, voluntary and unpaid work in the reproduction of urban society as a whole. Once again, gender is at the centre of this analysis. More sophisticated studies of family strategies are also needed, inside and outside the labour market, focusing on the mutually dependent nature of the choices of family members. These choices include whether to participate in the formal labour market, how to coordinate educational strategies, job search, occupational preferences and the intertwining of formal and informal economies. Methodologically these themes would stress the need to examine the factors that discourage women from entering the labour force and the role of the education system, as well as more informal dynamics, in shaping access to employment opportunities. (The key significance of the educational system in the production and reproduction of clusters of disadvantage was suggested by Jeroen Slot of the Statistics Office in Amsterdam in the stakeholder workshop discussion.)

3) Cities as motors of economic growth

The role that cities play in terms of sustaining economic and occupational restructuring, in concentrating and centralising resources as well as mobilising outlets for profitable investment in real estate and infrastructure, would be another key issue to be explored. The incomplete theoretical development of existing accounts of "elevator" and "incubator" regions, "creative" and "global" cities implies a need for more sophisticated research on the role of locational factors, state strategies, agglomeration economies and urban scale in determining competitiveness and profitability. In this context, it is important to include public as well as private actors in the analysis of urban transformations. As far as labour market policy is concerned, it is important to evaluate the impact and prospects of activation policies in different socio-economic contexts and to reflect on the policy lessons that can be drawn from different experiences in this field.


Large scale stakeholder conference. Presentation.

Here it is also worth referring to the differences that exist between large metropolitan areas and smaller, more specialised, cities. Moreover, urban roles tend to develop differently in regions that are economically depressed and those that are economically more dynamic. (This phenomenon was underlined, in particular by Sergio Destefanis of the University of Salerno, during the workshop in Brussels. A strongly inter-disciplinary approach, involving economists as well as sociologists and geographers, was also suggested by Sergio Destefanis.)

4) Comparative research that focuses on Eastern Europe

European enlargement paved the way for a new wave of cross-sectional comparisons. Rather than revealing a common experience of transformation, the divergence of national paths among Eastern European countries seems to refute the notion of a unique "transition" model. At the centre of the comparative research agenda are the emerging patterns of employment-related mobility, commuting and migration mentioned above. New empirical research is also required on the ways in which urban labour markets in different regional contexts can become linked as a result of complex processes of temporary and permanent geographical mobility.

Existential Field 3: Housing, Neighbourhood and Health

Stuart Cameron, Rose Gilroy
Newcastle University, SAPL-GURU

In this EF, housing is considered both as a system or process, and as a physical housing stock; neighbourhood includes aspects of social relations in space and of place dimensions of the built and natural environment; health and well-being consequences of these are specifically considered.

1) Home ownership and pathways

Research topics would address how best to assist access to adequate housing taking into account firstly, the growing importance of home ownership in European housing systems and the changing preferences and aspirations of consumers; and, secondly, the context of changing and more volatile housing and mortgage markets. How can aspiring and marginal owners be helped, given the normative nature of home ownership, and what is the role of the state in the face of rapid and rising owner occupation? In Eastern European countries the rapid transformations of housing systems lead to questions about where power and control lie when there is apparently no regulatory framework. Methodologically this theme would stress the need to consider housing processes from the perspective of the user, rather than emphasizing systems of housing provision. What pathways do individuals and households make through their housing careers and what are people's expectations of tenure and housing type across the life course? (The particular significance of these issues for the countries of Eastern Europe was emphasised in particular in the stakeholder input by Professor Tosics of the Metropolitan Research Centre in Budapest.)


Trandisciplinary Symposium in Vienna.

2) Impact of new housing cultures

There is evidence of a new housing culture created by those who are advantaged in the housing market, with housing now viewed as an investment vehicle. With this comes new forms of housing consumption such as second home ownership; gentrification; gated communities. The impact of new attitudes and choices, especially on localities and neighbourhoods and on the less-advantaged, would be the key issue to be explored. Globalisation and hyper-mobility also create housing impacts through long-distance mobility and international relocation. Methodologies would emphasise the need to look at neighbourhood in a dynamic way since populations move into and through neighbourhoods and housing stocks. (The key significance of hyper-mobility and super-diversity was suggested by Dr Guentner of EUROCITIES and stressed in stakeholder workshop discussions.)

3) Social relations and urban bonds

This research topic would focus on the experience of neighbourhood, both in terms of its social dynamics and its built environment, in an increasingly mobile, diverse and fragmented society. The consequences for social cohesion at the local level of increasing diversity of culture, ethnicity and lifestyle, and neighbourhood expressions of social division and polarisation would be examined, and the health and well-being impacts of living in divided or polarised communities examined. The emphasis on the experience of neighbourhood, on how hyper-mobility leads to super-diversity experiences, would mean that ethnographic approaches to research might be privileged in the research methodology.

4) Well being and quality of place

Exploring this broad research field involves a multi-scalar approach, from the individual dwelling to the neighbourhood, and on to the wider city. The main focus would be on the ways in which the built environment and urban functioning at different scales might in themselves harm or promote health and well-being. Themes might include the health impact of housing and neighbourhood on new "disease" issues such as obesity, and the question of how neighbourhood can promote a flourishing old age. This involves a social and environmental model of well-being, and one which includes the well-being of natural and environmental as well as human systems. Research methods would include ethnographic approaches which explore time and space co-ordination and life-course / biographical transitions, and concepts of ecological metabolism and flows. (The significance of the sustainability agenda was highlighted as an element of health and well-being in the stakeholder workshop combining EF3 and EF5.)

Existential Field 4: Mobility, Telecommunications, Security

Geoff Vigar & David Murakami Wood
Newcastle University, SAPL-GURU

NB: the Brussels Workshop strongly supported the suggestion that these fields be separated: security, for example, is a major concern of the Commission and has its own topic in FP7.

1) Technological Impact Assessment

The EU is both a promoter of technological innovation and a regulatory authority: as such it should be funding and implementing systems for responsible regulation of new technologies in urban space to maximise social cohesion. This is particularly true for systems which restrict freedoms and autonomy. In addition, there needs to be far more integration and broad lesson-learning across disciplinary domains, and an end should be made to the automatic separation of technological development and social effects. The Workshop felt that there should be a far greater emphasis on the bases for legitimacy of proposals, which suggests a more ethically-guided approach to security research. In many ways, the European approach to security based on social cohesion should be characterised by such an ethical framework (which needs elucidation) rather than the generation of threat.

2) Political challenges

There are studies that look at the implementation of policies and policy packages for sustainable mobility and social inclusion. However, much of this work searches for generic lists of policy mechanisms, barriers to implementation and resorts to best practice exemplars. This is helpful but does not ring true in many policy contexts due to the diversity of urban contexts and the lives within them across Europe. We would argue for research that is more sensitive to the socio-political contexts for socially cohesive mobility policies. There are also close connections here to our security agenda: if citizens do not feel secure on transport networks then they will remain excluded from services, education and job opportunities. There is surprisingly little cross-national research into this area. In addition, twenty-first century hypermobility has implications for the routine surveillance of different types of public space and thus for feelings of security in the city of citizens. Again, this area is under-explored.

Large scale stakeholder conference. Plenary discussion.

3) Universal Design and Ambient Intelligence

Security and Mobility share a concern for the provision of an environment in which fundamental rights can be exercised without fear and which provides the maximum opportunity for personal development and social cohesion. This positive aspect of security is in danger of losing out to more restrictive and militarised perspectives. New urban environments should be based on universal design principles that empower, include and enable. The best long-term recipe for safety is for citizens to feel ownership and connection. Further, sensory or enabling environments could be created that would allow a wider range of people to participate in society, rather than creating places that are designed to sort and exclude. (The discussion at the Workshop did not consider this proposal in particular; however there was a strong emphasis on the maintenance of welfare and inclusivity as the basis for urban technological research. This is the core of what social cohesion should mean in a technological society.)

4) Experiential understandings of urban mobility

There is research on social inclusion and transport but it is fragmented and small-scale. Little is known of how issues such as road pricing, security on transport systems and the process of market liberalisation impact on people's experiences of the city from a mobility perspective particularly among immigrant groups, the old and the young, those who are time and income poor etc. Such issues are compounded by a transport planning discipline which has inherited a very particular set of methodological techniques that have a number of perverse effects with respect to cohesion - different valuations of people's time for example. We therefore propose to re-align transport planning methodologies to pay greater attention to urban social cohesion.

5) Understanding the role of privatisation in splintering the urban

There is little work on how the privatisation of public space and of networks acts to drive and reinforce exclusion. Two examples lie in: investigation of how multiple forms of network liberalisation and commercialisation are systematically affecting the urban poor; and in the political economy of the security industry and its implications. The management of urban space is increasingly privatised, and the private organisations involved are poorly regulated and often based in transnational corporations with little concern for the social impact of their actions and activities. The private security industry is becoming responsible for areas previously regarded as state domains such as policing. Yet, despite its growing power, this large employment sector is little understood and under-regulated. Given its transnational nature, the EU level is an appropriate one to investigate and develop methods of regulation, and 'watchers for the watchmen.' (The Workshop agreed in general that privatisation was a challenge not just for security but for many other aspects of urban management and one that needs to be studied in more detail.)

Existential Field 5: Urban Ecology and Environment

Erik Swyngedouw
School of Environment and Development, Manchester University

In this EF, the urban environment is considered as a material, cultural and discursive intertwining of physical and social processes that produce particular and highly uneven urban socio-physical environments, characterized by dynamics of inclusion and exclusion.

1) Dissecting urban socio-environmental discourses and practices

Every urban environmental practice is sustained by a particular, culturally constructed, notion of what is 'nature', how it operates, and what needs to be done to it. Each of these 'fictions of nature' has a profound impact on sustainability discourses and practices.

These multiplicities of meaning enter the urban socio-ecological practice and policy making environments in a distinct manner, resulting in widely varying approaches and policy interventions, and reflecting often radically different understandings of what nature is and how it ought to be articulated with social and economic integration processes and policies. As one of the stakeholders (Citymined) put it, "Who is asking the questions?", "Who is promoting the discourse?" and "What underlying questions are pushed back?". The ecological question cannot be addressed without considering questions of socio-economic inequality. Another stakeholder (ARUP) insisted on the importance of clarifying the notion of Social Cohesion in relation to the Sustainability literature and practice. Dr. Giorgos Kallis insisted also on the need to theorise and understand social power with respect to discourse and practices of urban socio-environmental change, policies, and activities.

2) Governing urban environments

The institutional arrangements of governing cities have undergone rapid change over the past few years, as concerns with competitiveness, social polarization and environmental sustainability came to dominate the urban policy agenda. The inclusion of non-governmental actors in decision-making procedures, together with the enrolment of technocratic and scientific expertise, within stakeholder-based institutional arrangements, transformed the procedures of governance in ways that open important new challenges. In addition, the articulation of global environmental change processes with local policy agendas and configuration has proven to be a difficult exercise, one that has prompted all manner of difficulties, not least with managing the socio-environmental interface in socially cohesive manners. Best practice examples have to be identified and best practice transfer mechanisms have to be operationalised. In sum, the articulation between environmental policy and urban social cohesion processes are a key research target. All our stakeholders insisted on the importance of comparative international research of ongoing experiments (such as BEDZED in London, the British Ecotown Programme, Freiburg Vauban Oekostadt, Masdar in Abu Dhabi and Dongtan Ecocity). In addition, exploring new ways of relating urban production, consumption, and exchange to reduce socio-ecological footprints was considered vital in this respect.

3) Managing urban socio-ecological metabolisms: cities of flows

The socio-physical production of the city reveals how the urban is constituted through socio-ecological metabolic flows (such as energy, CO2, water, food, gas, etc…), sustained by a series of technological infrastructures and social, political and institutional support structures, which produce a highly uneven socio-ecological configuration. There is a need to map, chart, analyze and understand the socio-ecological metabolism of cities and the processes that govern them.


European learning event in Brussels. Presentation.

In particular, attention should be paid to: i) intra-urban socio-ecological inequalities; ii) the uneven socio-ecological urban footprint; iii) the politics of urban metabolism; iv) the sociology of urban metabolism. This would include, according to our stakeholders, examining the prospects of a post-carbon urban world from a social perspective (ARUP) and examining the socio-ecological flow character such things as waste (see Naples and other places), water, carbon, and the like. Absolutely vital in this respect is the consideration, assessment, measurement, and evaluation of the uneven socio-ecological urban consequences of climate change and policies of climate change adaptation (Kallis).

4) Urban environmental justice and urban socio-ecological conflicts: Inclusion/ Exclusion and the urban dimensions of global environmental change

The type and character of urban physical and socio-environmental change, and the resulting socio-environmental conditions are not independent of the specific historical social, cultural, political, or economic conditions and the institutions that accompany them. Processes of urban socio-environmental change are, therefore, never socially or ecologically neutral. Stakeholders suggested considering recent urban interventions of grassroots and civil society organizations which experiment with alternative ways to share limited resources (Citymined, ARUP, Kallis). Urban environmental justice and urban socio-ecological citizenship should be key themes for further research.

5) Constructing urban socio-environmental utopias: scenarios, alternatives, and future visions

All stakeholders insisted on the urgent need to think through, discuss, develop, assess and undertake advanced research (involving stakeholders) on future visions of cohesive socio-ecological urban developments, including themes like ecocities, sustainable development trajectories, alternatives socio-political models and the like. All our stakeholders insisted on the key importance of assessing and developing concrete urban socio-ecological utopias.

Existential Field 6: Governance

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Departament de Teoria Sociològica - Universitat de Barcelona

In this EF Governance is considered as a negotiation mechanism for formulating and implementing policy, representing a new approach to politics different from the perspective based on state-centred and government decision-making. It is a model of decision-making that emphasises consensus and output and that claims to be participatory, incorporating the involvement of stakeholders and civil society. To achieve wide consensus, a climate of trust and political empowerment of citizens is required.

1) How to govern in diversity

In fragmented urban societies diversity is a complex question and we need to know more about the diversity of the social texture in European cities. Diversity includes unequal life chances manifested as social fragmentation in cities. This research topic should address the diverse needs and interests of traditionally based "enclaves" while responding to the needs and aspirations of immigrants and visitors in cities. The impact of diversity in governance cannot be grasped without considering the need to ensure respect for human rights in cities. This implies the study of identity and the politically constructed fears of the 'others'.


Large scale stakeholder conference. Theater piece.

There is a clear fragmentation of civic and political rights in European cities which is causing a challenge for social cohesion. More critical research is needed not only to map this fragmentation in cities, but also to evaluate the negative consequences of the lack of those rights. Moreover empirical research is needed on how and why some cities are more capable of promoting ways of enhancing civic, social and political rights for vulnerable social groups and immigrants despite national legislation and policies and European guidelines. (The particular significance of these issues was particularly emphasised in the stakeholder input by Jirina Bergatt Jackson, from IURS.)

2) Impact of restructuring welfare institutions and policies on governance

Transitions of welfare state policies are generating new regulations and governance variations in local contexts as well as new consumption practices. How is this affecting new governance practices and what are the implications for social cohesion? More concretely, for example: how is subsidiarity and re-scaling of welfare policies and competences affecting new governance practices? In looking at how public institutions and administrative systems innovate and change, it is necessary to evaluate how local actors have learned from other local experiences and if coordinating strategies, such as the Open Method of Coordination, have contributed to

generating a local-European space for learning about social cohesion approaches. Thus emphasis would be put on coordination, communication and management dilemmas in governance.

3) Institutionalisation and social movements

Institutional governance practices are often in tension with urban social movements. Micro-scale governance research is needed on the influence of neighbourhood and district actors in building a broader urban consciousness on how to create a just city. This research topic would focus on the mediation role of small organizations that are fostering bottom-linked initiatives, taking into account the fact that employment in non-profit initiatives is suffering from current highly precarious conditions. Moreover, it would also focus on the role of the European Commission in supporting these initiatives and helping the creation of links between small associations, and on a related question, the demobilisation of social protests and the ways of dealing with open conflict. (The key significance of NGO financial problems was stressed in stakeholder workshop discussions, especially by Isabelle Pauthier from l'ARAU.)

4) Network governance and accountability

Addressing this complex topic would involve research into the implications of contracting out core services to private agencies, the accountability issues that this raises and also the ability of actors to learn and see policy development as an on-going learning experience within complex frameworks. In relation to this research topic specific attention would be given to the role of the local media in communicating between the public sector and other actors, such as civil society and private business.(The significance of these issues was particularly emphasised in the stakeholder input by Rik Bleecker, from Kenniskring Amsterdam.)

5) The gap between discourses and practices

Overall, research needs to confront the tendency to separate politics from policy-making through consensus building processes. Representative and deliberative practices in local democracy need to be studied with emphasis on the failure of representative forms of democracy to integrate the deliberative practices of civil society groups. It is necessary to mention research on the role of social sciences in participatory democracy (consultation processes, expertise, evaluations, etc.) and on the role of EU legislation in stimulating participatory democracy (e.g. revitalization programs). How do cities deal with governance issues in relation to competitiveness/cohesion? It is necessary to stress the role of governance as a mediation mechanism between the ways in which particular interest groups versus citizens' proposals construct cities.

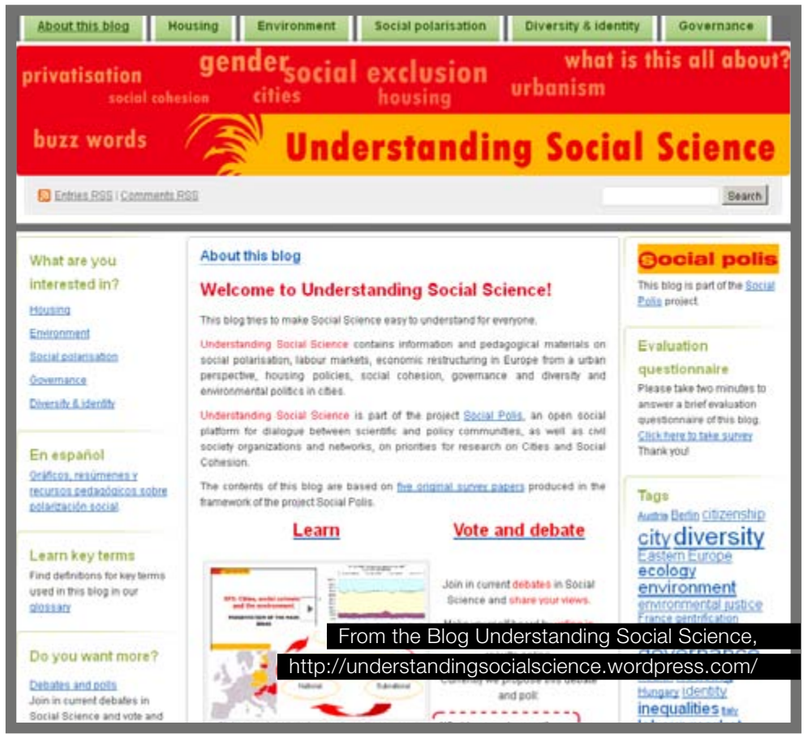
Existential Field 7: Education and Training

Isabel André, Alexandre Abreu, André Carmo, Ana Estevens
CEG-UL, Lisbon

Education and training constitute two interrelated systems that promote learning, a process that is at the core of the social dynamics of both exclusion and inclusion. Moreover, education and training are also strongly related to the production and reproduction of knowledge.

1) Local learning platforms

The city – as a whole – can be regarded as a potentially creative space and as a multi-scalar learning facilitator. In such a context, the neighbourhood level can be considered as a wide framework of learning processes bringing together a variety of stakeholders and actors who are directly or indirectly involved in education and training (such as schools and training centres, local authorities, families, social and cultural institutions), while being "committed to social justice" (Juan-Luis Klein, 2008, Social Polis). Marleen Devrij, 2008, VVSG Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities, highlighted this idea, presenting some good practices from the Flemish experience. This necessarily entails a holistic – and territorially-based – view of the learning process. As Jean-Marie Beaupuy (2008, European Parliament) suggested "institutional and sectorial segmentation significantly diminishes the efficiency of public investment". Research topics would address: i) How to promote the connection between local/neighbourhood learning initiatives and knowledge global networks ("... the role of the school in terms of building capabilities is obscured by the codes of urban segregation", Lorena Farias, 2008, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile); ii) What is the role of symbolic capital and cultural diversity as learning resources? iii) How can learning be regarded as a vehicle for the mobilization and empowerment of local communities, through the integration of different learning trajectories from kindergarten to lifelong learning? iv) What is the importance of personal encounters and interaction for the dissemination of tacit knowledge, i.e. the mobilization of multi-layered learning sources, namely in their non-formal, collective and tacit dimensions? ("In deprived neighborhoods especially, social bridges need to be built between teachers and parents, in order to reduce misunderstanding and suspicion", Marleen Devrij, 2008, VVSG); v) Would the development of learning projects focused on urban realities (urban-problem-based-learning) be an adequate vehicle for social inclusion and urban cohesion? (Kent Anderson (2008, Mayor of Malmö) stressed both the necessity for more thorough studies regarding multi-linguistic school environments and the importance of local integration practices).



From the Blog Understanding Social Science,
http://understandingsocialscience.wordpress.com/

2) Learning spaces as urban landmarks

Urban landmarks related to learning and knowledge can shape urban identities and urban cultures, and facilitate "cultural mediation" (Pierre-Morrissette, 2008, RESO). A number of specific issues associated with the social cohesion implications of these kinds of landmarks have been insufficiently addressed so far and call for additional research and discussion. The main topics for future research can be addressed by the following questions: i) What is the urban added value and the social advantages of the "isolated campus" vs. "city-centre/integrated" location of universities and what are the respective consequences for the city as a whole, the inner city, and the qualification of suburban spaces? ("Quite often, the lack of linkages between universities and their socioeconomic environment owes to the lack of coordination mechanisms and facilitators", Lorena Farias, 2008, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile); ii) How can such learning institutions as arts centres, libraries and museums act as agents of renewal and qualification in problematic urban neighbourhoods or small cities? How do cities adapt to and encourage the dynamics of the knowledge-based society?

3) Impacts of the media and of virtual urban landscapes – between discourses and practices

The ways in which the various types of ICT and media formats - such as cinema and TV - shape and influence the socialization processes of children and young adults, particularly in suburban contexts, constitute an increasingly relevant topic (Gerald Faschingeder, 2008, Paulo Freire Center, argued that the various types of ICT and media formats constitute public spaces, "where encounters and discourse happens and get formatted"). The increasing use of ICT in every sphere of daily life and the transformation of numerous personal relations into virtual ones highlight the relevance of the two following research priorities: i) What is the incidence and the impact of the virtualization and (de)contextualization of learning processes? ii) What defines and describes the detachment between the representations and the experiences of the city for children and young people?

Existential Field 8: Social and Spatial Inequalities on Urban and Regional Level

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Urban and regional inequalities are the spatial reflection of social inequalities at the scale of a city or city region. They result from selective processes which locate different social groups and activities in different parts of the city (region). Each society organises itself in a certain way, which will be reflected in a certain spatial pattern. However, once a certain spatial outcome is created, it will become a factor in the making of society by defining opportunities and constraints for social action. Based on an analysis of previous research (The State of the Art) and the contributions of stakeholders, we put forward five topics which provide a sound basis for a future research agenda on social and spatial inequalities as well as social cohesion at an urban and regional level. We argue that a socially cohesive city is a negotiated city, where every socio-spatial group has access to the public arena and the possibility of defending its interest.

1) Typology of socio-spatial inequalities

Depending on the local context, spatial outcomes of societal organisation may vary. Therefore, we need comparative research which explains the diversity of spatial lay-outs between and within European cities and assesses the variety of situations with which urban policy has to cope. This research could end up in a policy relevant typology of socio-spatial inequalities which might or might not foster social cohesion. Jorge Malheiros added to this that we should go further than the descriptive and try to point out the critical factors in the success or failure of negotiated city practices.

2) Logics behind residential choices

Spatial patterns are not only the outcome of the organisation of the economic processes, but also a result of residential choices made by (young) people. Often, these choices are based on strong feelings about living in an urban environment. We propose a comparative research study on the roots, the geography and the political outcomes of urban and anti-urban feelings in Europe: What is the (geo) political expression of these feelings? What are the different forms of gentrification and their impact on the city? Which residential opportunities and constraints do young urban adults face (as the most residentially mobile group in the city)? In this context, Claire Roumet suggested also considering the role of urban patrimony. And Anne Querrien brought in the role of the unequal spatial division of redistributive systems, like public transport or schools.

3) The role of networks and scales

Several stakeholders put forward the question as to whether ‘networks’ may provide a multi-level view on an otherwise static and area-based approach to socio-spatial inequalities and social cohesion in general. “Is being in the wrong or right map of socio-spatial networks more important then spatial segregation?” asks Jorge Malheiros. And Alain Storme questions the effectiveness of area-based regeneration programmes, which are said to provide a mechanism through which inhabitants can make their way up in society. However, whether or not these inhabitants lack access to the right networks, is access a necessity for success? But a network approach should not overlook the necessarily territorial inscription of the state as a redistribution

system that can regulate and mitigate market forces. Hence, we also need to question the right scale at which to act.

4) Global capital investment and speculation

Intervention capacities of the state in the spatial lay-out of cities are increasingly hindered by the fact that urban land and buildings are the object of global capital investment and speculation. Research is needed to uncover the processes leading to increasingly unbearable housing costs. We should also think of redistribution measures that translate the value of the city into inhabitant and user rights to the city and that re-open possibilities of creating urban socio-spatial structures that foster social cohesion. In relation to this, Alain Storme urged for more research on urban growth coalitions and their role in urban development programmes. Conversely, Anne Querrien drew attention to the objective alliance between big property owners who push housing prices up and small property owners who benefit from this rise.

Large scale stakeholder conference. Presentation.

5) Institutional approach

All 4 themes described above have a political dimension and the challenge is to turn fragmentation into social cohesion by new modes of urban governance on a political level. First of all, there is need for research on governance modes in European cities. What are the local variations of governance? How did they come into being? What are the territorial, fiscal and electoral arrangements of urban local states? Secondly, we need to be clear on the role of institutions. What are their responses to ongoing and new social trends? Which challenges do they face and at what levels? And finally, as put forward by Anne Querrien, the Negotiated City as a means for turning fragmentation into social cohesion demands new models of participation. Therefore, there is need to study the choices offered to local people by the power system and to develop new kinds of public agents devoted to mediation at different level of society.

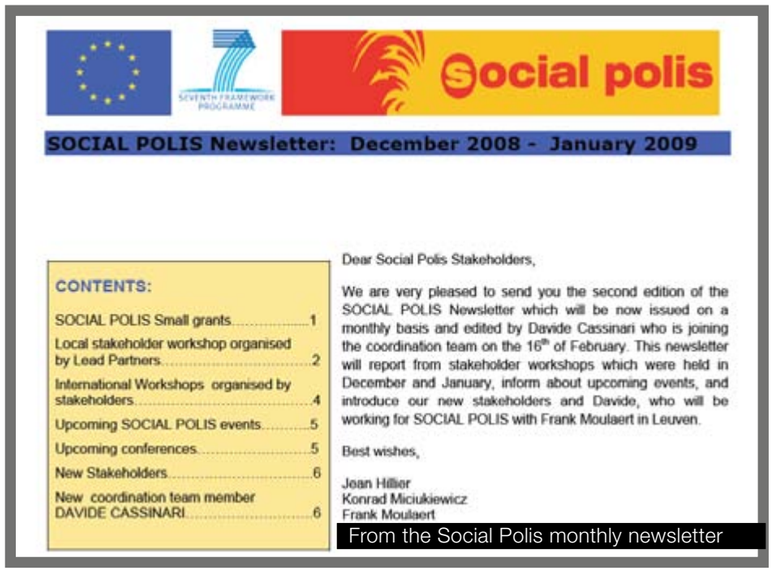
Existential Field 9: Diversity and Identity

Thea Dukes and Sako Musterd
AMIDSt, Amsterdam

The increasing flows of people, information and goods bring a growing diversity of people into interaction across the world. This is most manifest in cities, where diversity occurs in proximity. Policy answers are required on issues such as migration, labour market, education, governance, citizenship and social cohesion. Which research topics require specific attention?

1) Conceptualisation, Discourses and Policy

There is a worrying trend in policy based on primarily negative views of 'us' versus 'others' that puts key values such as solidarity under pressure and builds dichotomies within societies. It is important to clarify the meanings assigned to concepts such as 'diversity,' 'identity,' 'social cohesion' and 'equality' and to make explicit the representations, statements and (policy) assumptions implied in views and policy. An example concerns 'integration discourse' that demands a certain type of integration in society. This might have implications for the identification of immigrants with their environment and for the behaviours and attitudes towards immigrant groups in the host society. (Gilda Farrell and Nola Kunnen were stakeholders who emphasized these issues in particular).



From the Social Polis monthly newsletter

2) Diversity

Although diversity is multi-layered, cultural diversity gets relatively much of the attention. Other often 'underexposed' differences, such as language, age (intergenerational aspects), gender, lifestyle, religion and sexual orientation should be explored as well. In international comparative longitudinal research one should address the impact of (the spatial concentration of) diversity in the individual residential, employment and leisure environment on social inclusion or exclusion (in terms of participation in education among other issues), social mobility, success in entrepreneurship, and homelessness. Moreover, as a whole range of differences produces unfairness and inequality, the concept of full citizenship should be rethought to include both equality (and equity) and the recognition of diversity/difference as related to equal rights. Finally, apart from a focus on integration, one should also address interaction between different groups in relation to perception, conflict, ethics, solidarity, etc. Giving room to conflict is important for reaching agreement, and inter-mediation among the different parties/partners in cities is essential. Little is known about the work of the many institutions/social workers on (social) inter-mediation in cities. This requires evaluation research. (Stakeholders who contributed towards raising and formulating these issues: Joan Simons, Ankie Verlaan, Nola Kunnen and Astrid van der Kooij).

3) Dynamic multiplicities of identities/problems/dimensions and scales

Research should address the way in which space and place influence identity; the relevance of the concept of 'hybrid identity' in relation to young people; how identities of 'minorities' and 'majorities' are formed and how the identity-formation mechanisms of these groups interact with each other; how the identification with particular territories relates to other identities and what their policy implications are; whether 'class' is still an identity factor in contemporary Europe; how the 'diverse other' is positioned in public debates and to what extent concepts such as 'whiteness' (or equivalent exploration of privilege) contribute a useful research perspective for informing a more complete understanding of it; how constructions have changed over time and what their impact has been on policy; what the implications are of virtual networks for identity issues. (Stakeholders who primarily contributed to these issues: Nola Kunnen and Gilda Farrell.)

4) Innovative ways of doing research

In addition to conceptual and policy related research, the following (new) forms of research are crucial. First of all, a focus on contexts and history: How did/do politicians and residents cope with diversity and identification with place of residence in different contexts? How are different periods expressed in various forms of cultural heritage, and what value do these expressions have in terms of (national) identity? Second, diversity, position in the labour market, position in the housing market, and geographic context should be examined coherently in longitudinal studies, and compared at different scales. Which mechanisms and political, economic, cultural and social structures and what extent of diversity produce social exclusion and how do they differ per geographical scale? Third, there should be bottom up research highlighting the individual perspective: to what extent are the individual life courses of diverse inhabitants related to social inclusion? And to what extent is this influenced by the socio-spatial context formed by the labour market, housing market, welfare state, prevailing family systems and by the extent of diversity in contexts at various scales? Is there a relationship between the extent of social, cultural, demographic diversity, level of identification with (various) environments, level of social exclusion and subsequent or expected spatial mobility behaviour? (These issues were endorsed by many stakeholders.)

Existential Field 10: Creativity and Innovation

Juan-Luis Klein
CRISES/Université du Québec à Montréal

This EF merges two fields: creativity and innovation. Creativity is usually viewed in relation to the individual talent or ability to create, to generate and elaborate new ideas, to stimulate and facilitate creative activity. Innovation, in turn, deals with the ways creation is implemented and disseminated at various levels and scales. In this EF, as far as innovation is concerned, we speak specifically about social innovation, by which we mean new organizational and institutional forms, new ways of doing things, new social practices, new social interrelations, new mechanisms, new approaches and new concepts that give rise to concrete achievements and improvements in solving social problems or perceiving social needs. The three stakeholders who addressed the research programme proposed for EF (Maria João Freitas, IHRU-Lisbon; Pierre Morrissette, RESO-Montreal; and Lorena Farías, IEUT-Santiago) approved this description of the EF scope and the programme proposed. Research themes for this EF are the following:

1) The creative city discourse and strategy

Research must focus on the empirical value of Florida's discourse on the "creative city" as well as on the effects of the application of its resulting strategies on social cohesion. Also alternative strategies and practices formulated by researchers and cultural groups opposed to Florida's discourse should be studied. Research must also verify whether those actions and reactions can constitute the basis for an alternative discourse on the creative city. The validity of alternative strategies should be documented empirically with in-depth case studies at the borough level.


Large scale stakeholder conference. World Café.

2) Cultural creativity and its influence on social cohesion

Another important topic in this EF is the impact of cultural creativity on social cohesion. Research should focus on how cultural experiments contribute to building creative and innovative settings and how they contribute to laying the necessary foundation for the revitalization of certain communities and for stimulating both their identity and the self-esteem of disadvantaged citizens and communities. Research should also be carried out on integrating cultural experiments in a broad and inclusive strategy of socio-economic reconversion at both the city and the borough level. The cultural mediation was highlighted by P. Morrissette, addressing the need for more research involving a cultural interaction approach which would valorise creative expression rather than cultural consumption.

3) Reactions to new economic divides

A third topic of research would address creative and innovative responses to various new forms of dualism provoked by the networking society in the contemporary information age. For instance, since the advent of ICT in the 1980s, the digital divide has become consistently deeper. It is important to conduct in-depth research on experiences that promote local digital solidarity at the scale of the boroughs, as well as at the city scale. It is important to study how vulnerable groups build their own networks at the local, regional, national, and international scales and how they use those networks to improve their situation, as well as to increase their capacity for influencing government agents and instances in their boroughs and cities.

4) The fight against different forms of exclusion and collective action

The role of vulnerable people as social actors in the process of building a socially cohesive strategy is an important topic to be addressed. It is important to conduct in-depth studies on the modes and effects of the reinsertion of excluded, marginalized or vulnerable groups into local urban governance and on coalitions established at the local level in which vulnerable and excluded people participate. Research should also address the case of local communities which implement participative modalities of governance, and which create new conditions of participation allowing for cohesion and social debate around development strategies. Some research has shed light on social innovations implemented by social actors which allows them to become actors of economic development at the borough level where they apply a strategy of local economic community development, as well as significant stakeholders at the city level.

That strategy was largely based on the social economy and collective entrepreneurship. Is it possible to build a new, fairer economy by relying on goods and services provided through new forms of entrepreneurship? Is it desirable to promote such a strategy? What innovations must be in operation to allow for their dissemination? On this subject, the role of the State as a facilitator of, or obstruction to, local and community based innovation and social creation appears to be an important issue, according to M. J. Freitas, P. Morrissette and L. Farías. How could collective action influence the building of public policies able to promote a more inclusive development model; this is an important research topic, highlighted by P. Morrissette. Undertaking more empirical research about public policies able to implement a model that allows people to generate value in order to improve their quality of life is also a main concern, said L. Farías.

From a different perspective, the interrelation between growth and competitiveness on the one hand, and cooperation and social innovation on the other was highlighted by M.J. Freitas and L. Farías. How can "competitiveness" and "co-operation" be matched? How can the role of C&I in "individual social mobility" opportunities enhancement (competitiveness) be matched with the desirable effect of C&I in "general change" (co-operation)? How can different roles, expectations, players in C&I "individual" production and development in order to ensure a global be matched with collective C&I production and development? (M. J. Freitas) and would it be possible to elaborate a model for sustainable competitiveness were social and territorial innovation to become a way of balancing competitiveness and equity? (L. Farías).

Existential Field 11: Neighbourhood Development and Grassroots Initiatives

Laurent Fraisse
CRIDA, Paris

Urban neighbourhoods are often recognised as the places where the dynamics of social cohesion (exclusion from the housing market, integration into specific social networks, rights to the use of public space, social and economic consequences of corporate restructuring, etc.) are most tangible within the city. Within overall urban dynamics, urban neighbourhoods have also been the testing ground for socio-economic development projects, grassroots initiatives and social innovation. Grassroots initiatives are projects based on a social network of users, professionals and local policy-makers created to develop local goods and services of general interest. Led by social and civic entrepreneurs, these initiatives mobilize mixed economic resources for social and environmental purposes.

1) Strengthen and compare the characterisation of local and neighbourhood initiatives and their impact on urban social cohesion

The specific nature of local initiatives is recognised, but only partially and in different ways, depending on the situation in different European member states. These economic and social services differ from traditional public services by involving their users more closely in defining and producing services; they also differ from commercial services in terms of service accessibility at the local level and of community commitment. The goal of this research topic is to compare the main dimensions of socio-economic innovations (co-production of services, social entrepreneurship and multi-stakeholder dynamics, mixed sources of funding, voluntary commitment) as well as their outputs and impacts on social cohesion: the integration of disadvantaged people on the labour market and job creation, maintenance and development of activities in disadvantaged neighbourhoods, protection of natural heritage, initiation of and participation in the local public debate, etc.


European learning event in Brussels.

2) Analyse the role of public policies in supporting and developing grassroots initiatives within urban governance systems

This research topic would address the extent to which grassroots initiatives are or are not integrated in the urban governance system and how they contribute to civic participation of the most excluded. Under which conditions can grassroots initiatives be understood as a space of shared responsibilities for producing local public goods by governments and civil society? How can we analyse the programmes for supporting innovative grassroots initiatives, the historical conditions behind their emergence, and their institutional inclusion in local development and social cohesion policies?

The civic and democratic contributions of neighbourhood initiatives have also to be taken into account and assessed as part of future research on urban social cohesion (S. Cameron, EF8/EF11 workshop report). Grassroots initiatives often represent the collective actions and/or intermediary organisations which try to give voice to the claims of excluded and vulnerable persons, to overcome the difficulty of participating in the decision-making process. In an urban context of individualisation (increasing numbers of single households) and diminishing social participation and increasing spatial polarization (S. Guenter, Eurocities), under which conditions do grassroots initiatives create new opportunities for disadvantaged people to take individual and collective initiatives, and act as the conduit for reintegrating them in urban governance and local coalitions and give them a more effective voice in the public arena (Gilda Farrell, Council of Europe)?

3) The impacts of grassroots initiatives on local development strategies and their contribution to a plural economy approach

The goal of this research topic is to identify the conditions and institutional coalitions required for local initiatives to create recognition of a plural economy that turns a community's economic diversity into a positive force for neighbourhood development. How is it possible to ensure that grassroots initiatives neither create unfair competition nor contribute to the dismantling of urban public services (E. Lavillunière, INEES)? Social and environmental clauses on public markets, modification of the criteria for allocating and assessing aid for creating economic activities, platforms for multi-stakeholder cooperation and partnership are some examples of public action which can transcend the opposition between community competitiveness and local initiatives that compensate for the social cohesion deficit.

The analysis of the conditions for upscaling successful grassroots initiatives and the nature of spillover effects on the local community are also crucial to understanding their impact on local development. Grassroots initiatives' capacity to produce locally depends on their capacity to mobilize endogenous and exogenous resources and to build local networks of new actors working on socio-economic projects. Multi-stakeholder dynamics (users, volunteers, workers and local authorities) can link different local levels, grassroots initiatives can go beyond simple micro success – these dynamics should be analysed as well.

4) Local initiatives, welfare-mix and social services of general interest

A number of grassroots initiatives are emerging to answer unmet social needs in deprived neighbourhoods by creating local social services for the local population. An analysis of the role and characteristics of grassroots initiatives in the creation and provision of new social services in urban neighbourhoods as well as their role in the reconfiguration of local welfare could be analysed. In an environment of growing competition for the provision of social services, the added values of the different kinds of providers, especially not-for-profit and social organisations, has been raised (C. Roumet, Social Platform). The need for an evaluation framework looking at the quality of the services of general interest, especially social and care services, in the city must be assessed (M. Calandrino, DG employment). What is the social performance of local initiatives in terms of access to the whole community, sustainability of employment, satisfaction and participation of users, and territorial continuity of services compared to other public and for-profit providers?

Existential Field 12: Social Cohesion and the City as a Whole

Andreas Novy and Barbara Beinstein
Wirtschaftsuniversität Vienna, Institute for Environmental and Regional Development

Frank Moulaert
ASRO- KU Leuven

This existential field (EF) attempts to bring together the multitude of aspects of "social cohesion in cities". EF12 (existential field 12) integrates all dimensions of this phenomenon and builds a bridge between the different aspects covered in the other existential fields. It conceptualises and abstracts from the concrete examples and specific problems in order to paint the bigger picture. Therefore, EF12 has a strong conceptual and theoretical orientation. Emphasis is given to transdisciplinary methods which valorise the experience-based knowledge of stakeholders. As we stress that cohesion is a multidimensional phenomenon and challenge, research on this topic has to be process as well as outcome oriented. It should focus on the processes of exclusion and inclusion (participation mechanisms, governance dynamics, citizenship rights) as well as on the outcomes (access to resources, entitlements, social rights, income opportunities …).

1) Cohesion vs. diversity – conceptualisations

"Social cohesion" forms part of a wide range of related concepts, such as social exclusion, social inclusion, poverty, diversity and differentiation. A clearer understanding of the advantages, limitations and dangers inherent in using the concept of social cohesion instead of others is needed. Good definitions and clear concepts facilitate in-depth analysis as well as adequate policy-making.

How much social cohesion and how much socio-cultural diversity and socio-economic differentiation is desirable? How much cohesion is possible? In which ways do they reinforce each other? Is diversity good or bad?

According to Max Weber cohesion is part of group formation processes. The internal cohesion of the group is only one side of the coin as it goes together with the strengthening of the group identity through the exclusion of "the others". Thus the concept of social cohesion includes the exclusion of "the others". For policy makers as well as the scientific community, the question arises of how to evaluate different processes of social cohesion (cf. inputs by J. Dangschat and I. Shaw).


European learning event in Brussels.

2) Variegated discourses

In line with the analysis in the last section a critical and historical review of the rhetoric-shift from "poverty" to "social exclusion" and finally "social cohesion" is needed. What have been the respective implications for policy making and socioeconomic development in Europe? Why have certain concepts been given priority and what have been the implications for policy making? Whose definition of poverty (exclusion, inclusion, cohesion, …) and whose understanding of poverty count? Why have some discourses become more important than others? How have certain discourses been used to control redistribution of public resources and set limits for transfers to the poorer segment of a population? How and by whom have discourses been transformed and manipulated? (cf. input by J. Dangschat).

3) Structural causes for exclusion and cohesion

Short-term studies, so often demanded by decision-makers, tend to neglect structural causes of social exclusion. Research should focus on the production of poverty and exclusion and on processes of empowerment. What are the causes of social exclusion? How and by whom is exclusion produced and what is the role of participation in overcoming social exclusion? Social cohesion results from a temporary reconciliation of conflicts and power struggles; it does not emerge from consensus. Thus power has to be systematically integrated into the analysis of social cohesion. Latin America offers interesting examples of empowerment as a strategy to foster cohesion (cf. inputs by Nakano and Klein)

4) Questions of scale

Questions of scale in relation to social cohesion and social exclusion need to be explored in more detail as research has shown that more cohesion at one level might lead to less cohesion at other levels. Are there possible ways to avoid this shifting of polarisation processes? How are strategies of social cohesion in the neighbourhood related to processes of urban cohesion and national and Europe-wide territorial cohesion? What is the potential and limit of integrated area development (cf. critique by S. Guentner)?

5) "Good" practices

Research needs to be more comparative. Systematic reflection should be dedicated to context-sensitive good practice examples and knowledge transfer in order to foster social cohesion. How can we devise analyses of context-specific strategies towards social cohesion in a path-sensitive way, which would also permit policy recommendations for other contexts (comparability, cross-city learning)?

Large scale stakeholder conference.

Annexes

A1: Alternative proposals for unified lists of topics presented by Existential Fields working groups

To see possible alternative ways in which the Focused Research Agenda in Section I above could have been structured, as well as to have a more complete overview of the complex FRA elaboration process, the various proposals for the Focused research agenda as put forward by Social Polis Lead Partners at an intermediate project meeting in July 2008, have been included in this document.

1. Integrated proposal: Andreas Novy

1) Governance, social cohesion, and diversity
2) Polarisation, neighbourhood and Scale
3) Transdisciplinarity

2. Integrated proposal: Thea Dukes

Equality and inequality with focus on integration and interaction.

1) Discourses and rhetoric related to issues of minorities (redefinition of normality and urban and social diversity; implicit assumptions)
2) Dynamic multiplicities of identities, problems, dimensions and scales.
3) Elements of diversity and social cohesion.
4) New types of research.

3. Integrated proposal: Santiago Eizaguirre

1) How to govern in diversity
2) How the restructuring of welfare institutions and policies modifies cities and cohesion.
3) Participation and socially creative strategies
4) Networks, scales and accountability regarding the governance of cities and social cohesion
5) The gap between discourses and practices on social cohesion

4. Integrated proposal: Marisol Garcia and Santiago Eiuzaguirre in cooperation with Frank Moulaert

1) Reuniting research on urban social cohesion
2) Social exclusion dynamics as challenges for social cohesion
3) Redefining welfare in cities, sustainability and social justice
4) The governance of the private and the public domains
5) Participation, democratization and socially creative strategies

5. Integrated proposal: Isabel Andre

1) Territory: space, flows and environment
2) Culture: identity, learning and creativity
3) Society: economy, social relations and governance

6. Integrated proposal: Laurent Fraisse

1) Urban social cohesion in the face of global changes
2) Rethinking the cities in the ecological urban age

3) Developing a plural economic approach to tackle the urban economic divide
4) Governing cities as a whole
5) Understanding urban behaviour, community initiatives and neighbourhood development.

7. Integrated proposal: Stuart Cameron

1) Fragmentation, individualization, commercialization of welfare and other systems
2) fragmented systems experienced from below;
3) creation of spaces for creativity and social innovation, spaces where new patterns emerge.
4) Increasing mobility and diversity (neighbourhood relationships)
5) Ecological dimension: urban metabolism as particular issue for social cohesion.

8. Integrated proposal: Erik Swyngedouw

1) Dissecting urban socio-environmental discourses and practices
2) Governing urban environments
3) Managing urban socio-ecological metabolisms: cities of flows
4) Urban environmental justice and urban socio-ecological conflicts: Inclusion/ Exclusion and the urban dimensions of global environmental change and urban mitigations to global environmental change
5) Constructing urban utopias: scenarios, alternatives, and future visions.

9. Frank Moulaert (on behalf of the Naples team)

1) Socio-economic networks, urban labour market and social cohesion.
2) Family strategies in and outside the labour market
3) Capacity of paid employment to generate social cohesion
4) The impact of education on spatial patterns and neighbourhood segregation.
5) Effects of spatial patterns in residential/occupational terms on social cohesion.
6) Comparative research that focuses on Southern and Eastern Europe.

A2: Additional topics that were not integrated in the Focused Research Agenda

A short list of important topics which were discussed during the meetings but did not find their place in the necessarily shortened final version of the research agenda is also annexed. They may also be of interest as potential research subjects in this field.

1) Post-neoliberalism and urban development
2) Social cohesion and the city as a whole
3) Cities as multi-scalar and multicultural learning platforms.
4) Diversity, human rights and citizenship.
5) Creative cities and social cohesion.

A3: List of contributors involved in the elaboration of the Focused Research Agenda

I. SOCIAL POLIS PARTNERS INVOLVED IN THE ELABORATION OF THE FOCUSED RESEARCH AGENDA

Table 1

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Table 3

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