



European  
Commission

# RESEARCH ON SOCIAL INNOVATION

Inventory of projects funded under the EU Research Framework Programmes

**FP7**

**FP6**

Research and  
Innovation

## SI-DRIVE

SI-DRIVE extends knowledge about social innovation (SI) in three major directions:

- Integrating theories and research methodologies to advance understanding of SI leading to a comprehensive new paradigm of innovation.
- Undertaking European and global mapping of SI, thereby addressing different social, economic, cultural, historical and religious contexts in eight major world regions.
- Ensuring relevance for policy makers and practitioners through in-depth analyses and case studies in seven policy fields, with cross European and world region comparisons, foresight and policy round tables.

SI-DRIVE involves 15 partners from 12 EU Member States and 11 from other parts of the world. The approach adopted carefully interlinks the research process to both the complexity of the topic and the project workflow. First, cyclical iteration between theory development, methodological improvements, and policy recommendations. Second, two mapping exercises at European and global level. Initial mapping will capture basic information about 1000+ actual social innovations from a wide variety of sources worldwide, leading to a typology of SI (testing the SI perspectives proposed by the BEPA report) and using this to examine the global SI distribution. Subsequent mapping will use the typology to focus on well documented SI, leading to the selection of 10 cases each for in-depth analysis in the seven SI-DRIVE Policy Fields. Third, these case studies will be further analysed, used in stakeholder dialogues in 7 policy field platforms and in analysis of cross-cutting dimensions (e.g. gender, diversity, ICT), carefully taking into account cross-sector relevance (private, public, civil sectors), and future impact.

The outcomes of SI-DRIVE will address all objectives required by the Call, cover a broad range of research dimensions, impacting particularly in terms of changing society and empowerment, and contributing to the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

## SOCIAL INNOVATION: DRIVING FORCE OF SOCIAL CHANGE

- *Coordinator: Antonius Schröder, Technische Universität Dortmund*
- *EU contribution: 4.9 million Euros*
- *Duration: 1 January 2014 – 31 December 2017*

---

## TRANSIT

The aim of TRANSIT (Transformative Social Innovation Theory) is to build a theory of social innovation that is useful not only to academics, but also to policy makers, social entrepreneurs, and other stakeholders. The starting point for TRANSIT is the need to understand transformative social innovations: social innovations that contribute to systemic changes that address urgent societal challenges. TRANSIT unpacks the relation between social innovation and systemic change in the context of a rapidly changing world that faces 'game changing' developments (e.g. financial crisis, climate change or the ICT-revolution). TRANSIT will explore constituent links in the causal chain between social innovation and systemic change. The main research question is: How and under what conditions do social innovations lead to systemic change, and how are actors (dis)empowered in transformative social innovation processes?

## TRANSFORMATIVE SOCIAL INNOVATION THEORY PROJECT

- *Coordinator: Flor Avelino, Dutch Research Institute For Transitions*
- *EU contribution: 4.9 million Euros*
- *Duration: 1 January 2014 – 31 December 2017*

TRANSIT will develop a new theory of transformative social innovation, drawing upon a range of existing theoretical and methodological approaches to innovation and social change, and using a systems innovation and sustainability transition research framework as a starting point. Empirically, TRANSIT takes an embedded case-study approach to conduct a multi-level, cross-national comparative analysis of social innovation projects and networks across Europe and Latin America, combining in-depth case-study analysis with quantitative meta-analysis. The new theory of transformative social innovation is thus both grounded in in-depth case-studies as well as tested and generalised in a cross-national data-base. The research concept of TRANSIT is to create an iterative interplay between: empirical research on social innovation; the development of a new empirically-grounded theory of transformative social innovation; and transdisciplinary translation to capacity building tools to be co-developed with policy-makers, civil society organisations and social entrepreneurs.

## CRESSI

The CRESSI project will explore the economic underpinnings of social innovation with a particular focus on how policy and practice can enhance the lives of the most marginalized and disempowered citizens in society. Overall, the bid will take an institutionalist view of the key issues exploring the drivers and structures that lead to marginalization and disempowerment and then setting out how interventions drawing on social innovation can address major economic, social and power imbalances and inequalities. The project draws upon three interlinked strands of theory to provide an overarching conceptual framework: Beckert's social grid model; Sen's Capabilities Approach; Mann's analysis of institutional power structures and their enactments. The main work packages will focus on: establishing an economic theory and context for social innovation across the EU; contextualizing social innovation within established research and practice on technological innovation; exploring emergent social innovation ecosystems and lifecycles; setting out effective policy agendas and instruments for fostering social innovation; establishing best practice metrics for capturing the impact of social innovation. In addition, discrete work packages will focus on the overall management of the project and the dissemination of its key findings and contributions. The conceptual and theoretical elements of the project will be tested and revised with a rigorous programme of empirical data collection encompassing qualitative case studies and linked quantitative analyses with a focus on key topic areas across several member states that can inform the EU Commission debates on building smart economies that reduce inequality and socio-economic marginalization.

## CREATING ECONOMIC SPACE FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION

- Coordinator: Alex Nicholls, University Of Oxford
- EU contribution: 2.5 million Euros
- Duration: 1 February 2014 – 31 January 2018

## SIMPACT

SIMPACT advances understanding of social innovation's economic dimensions, creating new concepts, models and instruments for policy makers, innovators, investors and intermediaries. It systematically investigates how social innovations can enable the most vulnerable in society to become economic assets, integrating critical analysis of current and previous work with future-oriented methodologies, new actionable knowledge and continual stakeholder participation.

SIMPACT's multidisciplinary mixed-method approach advances knowledge and the state of the art by (i) elaborating a theoretical model of the economic dimensions of social innovation throughout its lifecycle; (ii) generating new empirical knowledge on the economic dimensions through rich, theoretically informed analysis of successful and less successful cases; (iii) analysing drivers and barriers shaping the economic impact of social innovations, and levers for their scaling and diffusion; (iv) developing indicators to measure social innovations and tailored methods to evaluate social and economic impact; (v) enhancing modes of public policy production, instruments and guidelines; (vi) generating foresight knowledge through agent-based modelling and scenario building.

SIMPACT integrates theoretical, empirical and actionable knowledge to create evidence-based approaches to business development, public policy and research. A participatory research approach actively engages policy makers, innovators, investors and intermediaries of vulnerable groups. Action learning, indicator labs and stakeholder experiments facilitate processes of co-creation, stimulating shared learning, strengthening practitioner knowledge and enhancing conceptualisation of the economic base. Partners' understanding of welfare regime diversity, including New Member State specificities, will ensure tailored, actionable deliverables. Eight high profile associate partners will help ensure the success of SIMPACT's dissemination activities.

## BOOSTING THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL INNOVATION IN EUROPE THROUGH ECONOMIC UNDERPINNINGS

- *Coordinator: Judith Terstriep, Westfälische Hochschule Gelsenkirchen, Bocholt, Recklinhausen*
- *EU contribution: 2.5 million Euros*
- *Duration: 1 January 2014 – 31 December 2016*

## EFESEIIS

The project has four main objectives: To provide advices to stakeholders on how to foster Social Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation; to draft an Evolutionary Theory of Social Entrepreneurship to explain the different evolutionary paths of Social Entrepreneurship in Europe and how Social Entrepreneurship and institutions co-evolved during time; to identify the features of an enabling eco-system for Social Entrepreneurship; to identify the New Generation of Social Entrepreneurs, its features, needs and constraints as well as their contribution to Social Innovation.

In pursuing these four main objectives other objectives will be reached: increasing the understating of their functioning of Social Enterprises, increase the visibility of the local, domestic and international role of Social Entrepreneurship, understand which are the main problems in accessing resources for Social Entrepreneurs, understand the degree of inappropriateness of the legal environments in relation with the daily operation of the Social Enterprise

## ENABLING THE FLOURISHING AND EVOLUTION OF SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR INNOVATIVE AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

- *Coordinator: Enrico Testi, Università Di Firenze*
- *EU contribution: 2.5 million Euros*
- *Duration: 1 December 2013 – 30 November 2016*

## SEFORIS

The “seforis” research project seeks to understand the potential of social enterprise in the EU and beyond to improve social inclusiveness of society through greater stakeholder engagement, promotion of civic capitalism and changes to social service provision through a) investigation of key processes within social enterprises for delivering inclusion and innovation, including organisation and governance, financing, innovation and behavioural change and b) investigation of formal and informal institutional context, including political, cultural and economic environments and institutions directly and indirectly support social enterprises. The methodology will be to start from policy and social enterprise practitioner issues to develop a theoretical framework for inclusion and innovation processes in context, followed by novel experimentation with social enterprises and in depth case study analysis to expand and enrich. Longitudinal survey data will be used to test and validate conclusions. Representative policy makers and social enterprises will be engaged throughout the process to ensure relevancy and transmission of results and findings.

### SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AS FORCE FOR MORE INCLUSIVE AND INNOVATIVE SOCIETIES (SEFORIS)

- *Coordinator: Koenraad Debackere, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven*
- *EU contribution: 2.5 million Euros*
- *Duration: 1 January 2014 – 30 April 2017*

## THIRD SECTOR IMPACT

The main objective of the research project is to create knowledge that will further advance the contributions that the third sector and volunteering can make to the socio-economic development of Europe. These unique ‘renewable resources’ for social and economic problem-solving and civic engagement in Europe are needed more than ever at this time of social and economic distress and enormous pressures on governmental budgets—not as an alternative to government but as a full-fledged partner in the effort to promote European progress. To take full advantage of this resource we need a clearer understanding of the third sector’s scope and scale, its existing and potential impacts, and the barriers to its full contributions to the continent’s common welfare. Building on our previous work, this project seeks to:

- 1) Clarify the concept of the third sector in its European manifestations;
- 2) Identify the major contours of the sector so defined—its size, structure, composition, sources of support, and recent trends;
- 3) Identify the impacts of this sector, its contributions to European economic development, innovation, citizen well-being, civic engagement, and human development, and to create capabilities to measure these contributions into the future;
- 4) Identify barriers both internal to organizations and external to them and suggest ways these barriers might be overcome; and
- 5) Forge a partnership between the research community and European Third Sector practitioners so that the understanding of the Third Sector generated by this work remains grounded in reality and enjoy sufficient

### THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE THIRD SECTOR TO EUROPE’S SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- *Coordinator: Bernard Enjolras, Institutt For Samfunnsforskning*
- *EU contribution: 2.5 million Euros*
- *Duration: February 2014 – January 2016*

support among key stakeholders to ensure respectful attention from policy makers and sector leaders long after the project is completed. By drawing on the combined strengths of the academic community, government, and the third sector itself. As such, the proposal provides a solid embodiment of the FP7 theme of “science in society,” of generating knowledge to advance the quality of life.

---

## ITSSOIN

Research has made seminal contributions to describing the size and scope of the Third Sector, including volunteering as an essential component. However, most of the research has focused on economic benefits (revenues, employment etc.). ITSSOIN highly values these efforts, but posits that the core contribution and main impact of the sector on socio-economic development lies in the creation of social innovation.

The project’s claim is that the Third Sector is better equipped to foster social innovation as the market or the public sector. The research will build a set of testable hypotheses that relate to its key characteristics, e.g.: (1) strong value sets; (2) persistent multi-stakeholder constellations; (3) the mobilisation of multiple resources.

Against the update of structural data, the project aims at testing these hypotheses on the qualitative impacts of the Third Sector in terms of capital building (e.g. social networks, cultural values or political participation) and their direct link to social innovation. The project will set out to investigate organizations with a special emphasis on volunteering at the micro level, which serves as a bond from and into society. The analysis will include a screening of framework policy conditions and discourses (citizens/media) on the roles and functions of the sector. This strategy will be executed in case studies against major social innovation trends of the last years.

The fields to study across 9 countries are: (1) arts & culture; (2) social services & health; (3) environmental sustainability & consumer protection in finance; (4) work integration & community development; all of which are of vital importance face to current societal challenges.

The project will not only redefine perspectives on the sector to stress its main impact as driver of social innovation, but also relate to recent EU research (SELUSI, TEPsie, INNOSERV, WILCO or CINEFOGO) to lift the investigation of social innovation to systemic level highlighting comprehensive innovation ecosystems.

---

## CITISPYCE

This project builds on research that shows the disproportionate impact of the economic crisis on young people across Europe. This is compounded by the 'coming of age' of the descendants of recent migrant communities - who now form significant proportions of the young population in major European cities. They are Europeans in language, social habit and cultural repertoire, yet continue to face longstanding barriers as a result of membership of communities already marginalised from mainstream

## SOCIAL INNOVATION AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

- *Coordinator: Helmut K. Anheier, Ruprecht-Karls-Universitaet Heidelberg*
- *EU Contribution: 2.5 million Euros*
- *Duration: 1 March 2014 – 28 February 2017*

## COMBATING INEQUALITIES THROUGH INNOVATIVE SOCIAL PRACTICES OF, AND FOR, YOUNG PEOPLE IN CITIES ACROSS EUROPE

- *Coordinator: Ms. Jill Robinson, Aston University*
- *EU contribution: 2.5 million Euros*
- *Duration: 1 January 2013 – 31 December 2015*
- *Website: <http://www1.aston.ac.uk/citispyce/>*

labour markets and wider civic life. The project brings together stakeholders from civil society experienced in practical policy-making and implementation with well-established academic researchers to uncover innovative strategies for navigating, surviving and overcoming inequalities that have emerged, and are emerging, among young people (16-24) in deprived parts of large cities through ethnographical research with young people themselves. It will examine the extent to which these strategies might be regarded as socially innovative, explore through a series of pilot projects how such strategies might be transferable across Europe and use the findings for reshaping policies at EU, national and local levels.

---

## SOCIETY

The Project will both focus on and integrate disadvantaged young people into the research process to improve their quality of life and to foster social innovation. Therefore SocIEtY will extend the given informational basis for designing and implementing policies to reduce inequalities by giving voice and opportunities for developing aspirations to young people facing multifaceted inequalities while living in deprived city districts. The approach is to bring to the fore young persons' concerns and voices about their self-perception and social participation in society. SocIEtY will refine a coherent theoretical and methodological framework on the basis of the Capability Approach and will develop an innovative participative research methodology bringing different stakeholders and different narratives together. Traditional empirical research is combined with a participation methodology, broadening the informational basis for social innovation in public policies.

---

## LIPSE

The project identifies drivers and barriers to successful social innovation in the public sector.

Through studying social innovation and co-creation practices and processes in 11 European countries and seven policy sectors, LIPSE will create and disseminate essential knowledge about public innovation. The project will collect new insights on five building blocks of social innovation in the public sector: innovation environments; citizens' innovation inputs; innovation tools and processes; innovation outcomes, diffusion and up-scaling; and feedback loops in innovative systems. It will also examine the use of risk management in innovation processes. Work on innovation diffusion and adoption will assess what factors contribute to the successful up-scaling of ICT-driven social innovations, with a focus on teleworking (as a new way of working) and e-procurement. Finally, the project will develop a comprehensive set of public sector social innovation indicators and explore future trends in social innovation through scenario-mapping with academic and practitioner experts.

### SOCIAL INNOVATION – EMPOWERING THE YOUNG FOR THE COMMON GOOD

- *Coordinator: Prof. Hans-Uwe Otto, University of Bielefeld*
- *EU contribution: 2.5 million Euros*
- *Duration: 1 January 2013 – 31 December 2015*
- *Website: <http://www.society-youth.eu/>*

### LEARNING FROM INNOVATION IN PUBLIC SECTOR ENVIRONMENTS

- *Coordinator: Prof. Victor Bekkers, Erasmus University Rotterdam*
- *EU contribution: 2.5 million Euros*
- *Duration: 1 February 2013 – 31 July 2016*
- *Website: <http://www.lipse.org>*

## IMPROVE

This project takes as its starting points: (a) the long standstill in poverty reduction, especially for people of working age, (b) the complementarity between employment, economic growth and social inclusion that is focal in the EU 2020 strategy, and, (c) the emergence of socially innovative policies and actions in the margins of the European welfare states. It aims at the evaluation of the Lisbon decade in terms of policies and actions against poverty at European, national and sub-national level and at improving the understanding of the interrelationships between employment, social protection and social inclusion and between institutionalised macro level social policies and innovative local action. The project views sustainable growth strategies, effective employment policies and adequate social designs as the drivers of every strategy to reduce and eliminate poverty and social exclusion. It considers local socially innovative practices as laboratories to complement and modify these macro-level policies. The quantitative analysis of poverty trends in the past, the adequacy of existing policies and the implications of alternative scenarios for employment and tax-benefit-services schemes to meet the 2020 poverty targets will therefore be complemented with in-depth studies of selected cases of local social policies. The research will develop new tools for monitoring poverty, social policy and social innovative practices. For the first time reference budgets will be computed for several member states.

---

## WWWFOREUROPE

The objective of project is to provide the analytical basis for a socio-ecological transition in Europe: the change to a new growth path with smart, sustainable and inclusive growth as is envisaged in the EU 2020 strategy (including the potentials of social innovation and social entrepreneurship).

In order to support the transition the project analyses the need, the feasibility and best practice for change, specifying the institutional changes needed at all policy levels to implement these options. The old and new challenges Europe is facing define the starting point: globalisation, new technologies and post-industrialisation, demographic change and ecology in the context of welfare systems that have come under stress due to high public deficits. The consortium will carry out and synthesise robust research in research areas covering the challenges to the welfare system (including social innovations for the provision of welfare state services), the biophysical dimension of socio-economic development, the identification of drivers towards socio-ecological transition, the role of governance and institutions on the European as well as the regional level.

## POVERTY REDUCTION IN EUROPE: SOCIAL POLICY AND INNOVATION

- *Coordinator: Prof. Bea Cantillon, University of Antwerp*
- *Collaborative project*
- *EU contribution: 2.5 million Euros*
- *Duration: 1 March 2012 – 29 February 2016*
- *Website: <http://improve-research.eu>*

## WELFARE, WEALTH AND WORK FOR EUROPE

- *Coordinator: Dr. Karl Aiginger, Österreichisches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (WIFO)*
- *EU contribution: 8 million Euros*
- *Duration: 1 April 2012 – 31 March 2016*
- *Website: <http://www.foreurope.eu>*



## INNOSERV

InnoServ will investigate innovative approaches in three fields of social services: health, education, and welfare. To do so, the project will focus on two levels: (i) the status quo of research in these fields and (ii) the input from practitioners who have developed innovative social services. Special attention will be paid to the transferability of elements, the European value, effects on gender and migration issues as well as on promoting equality and building sustainability, future scenarios involving the quality of services in different perspectives (policy makers, service organizations, user groups etc.), and the accessibility and affordability of services. The final product will be a report indicating the key trends and key elements of innovative services in the fields of health, education, and welfare. It can be used to identify further research agendas as well as to develop new models of social services or to implement existing innovative approaches.

---

## TEPSIE

The objective of this project is to prepare the way for developing the tools, methods and policies which will be part of the EU strategy for social innovation. Its purpose is to strengthen the foundations for other researchers, policy-makers and practitioners so that they can analyse and plan with greater confidence. As such the research programme will map the field, reviewing theories, models, methods and identifying gaps in existing practices and policies, as well as pointing towards the priorities for future strategies.

---

## WILCO

WILCO will examine, through cross-national comparative research, how local welfare systems favour cohesion through social innovation. It will look into a missing link between social innovations at the local level and their successful transfer and implementation to other settings. The project will examine social innovation in cities, not as a disconnected phenomenon, but as an element in a tradition of welfare that is part of particular socio-economic models and the result of specific national and local cultures. The results will be used, through strong interaction with stakeholders and urban policy recommendations, to link immediately to the needs of practitioners.

## SOCIAL PLATFORM FOR INNOVATIVE SOCIAL SERVICES

- *Coordinator: Prof. Johannes Eurich, University of Heidelberg*
- *Support action*
- *EU contribution: 1.5 million Euros*
- *Duration: 1 February 2012 – 31 January 2014*
- *Website: <http://www.inno-serv.eu>*

## THE THEORETICAL, EMPIRICAL AND POLICY FOUNDATIONS FOR BUILDING SOCIAL INNOVATION IN EUROPE

- *Coordinator: Dr. Jeremy Millard, Danish Technological Institute*
- *Collaborative project*
- *EU contribution: 2.5 million Euros*
- *Duration: 1 January 2012 – 31 December 2014*
- *Website: <http://www.tepsie.eu>*

## WELFARE INNOVATIONS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL IN FAVOUR OF COHESION

- *Coordinator: Prof. Taco Brandsen, Radboud University Nijmegen*
- *Collaborative project*
- *EU contribution: 2.47 million Euros*
- *End date: 30 November 2013*
- *<http://www.wilcoproject.eu>*

## COCOPS

COCOPS seeks to comparatively and quantitatively assess the impact of New Public Management-style (NMP) reforms in European countries, especially addressing citizens' service needs and social cohesion, drawing a team of leading European public administration scholars. The project focuses on national level and the important policy domains of health and employment services, and the utilities of water, energy and transport. It will implement a major on-line survey of 3000 respondents.

---

## COORDINATING FOR COHESION IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR OF THE FUTURE

- *Coordinator: Prof. Steven Van de Valle, Erasmus University Rotterdam*
- *Collaborative project*
- *EU contribution: 2.7 million Euros*
- *End date: 30 June 2014*
- *<http://www.cocops.eu>*

## SPREAD

The objective of the SPREAD European Social Platform is to answer to questions such as: What is a sustainable lifestyle? What will a sustainable future mean for the way we live, move, and consume? How do we know if our lifestyles are sustainable or not? How can our aspirations for life and well-being improvements be enabled sustainably (within one planet)? As an interactive multi-stakeholder dialogue, SPREAD brings together people from civil society organisations, business, research and policy to collaboratively work towards a better understanding of how to enable more sustainable lifestyles. Interactive scenario-building, back-casting and road-mapping are techniques used within the SPREAD Sustainable Lifestyles 2050 project.

---

## SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES 2050

- *Coordinator: Dr. Cheryl Hicks, UNEP/Wuppertal Institute Collaborating Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (CSCP)*
- *Support action*
- *EU contribution: 1.4 million Euros*
- *End date: 31 December 2012*
- *<http://www.sustainable-lifestyles.eu>*

## SOCIAL POLIS

The overall objective of the "Social Polis" Social Platform is twofold: to elaborate a research agenda on cities and social cohesion which focuses especially on the role of cities in social cohesion, and on the key related policy questions, and in doing this to create a platform where stakeholders and researchers can contribute their views and discuss what that agenda should be. Social Polis is an open social platform for dialogue between scientific and policy communities as well as civil society organizations and networks on priorities for research on Cities and Social Cohesion. It is a forum for debates on economy, polity, society, culture and ethics across the city as a whole and in a variety of 'urban' life spheres. It provides for joint workshops and conferences at which research agendas and modes for future joint research will be developed.

Social Polis will make four substantive contributions to research on urban dynamics in Europe:

- a focussed, critical state of the art in research on cities and social cohesion;
- a research agenda for the 7th Framework Programme;
- establishment of a social platform uniting the research and stakeholders communities in furthering urban studies and research;
- the production of educational resources for analysing the challenges of urban cohesion.

## CITIES AND SOCIAL COHESION

- *Coordinator: Prof. Frank Moulaert, University of Newcastle Upon Tyne*
- *Support action*
- *EU contribution: 1.48 million Euros*
- *End date: 30 November 2010*
- *<http://www.socialpolis.eu>*

## SERVPPIN

The project focuses on the role of public and private services on growth and welfare and the particular role of public-private innovation networks (PPIN). Public-private innovation networks are considered as an organizational device in which public and private services can perform complementarities and synergies in many ways. The aims of the project are:

- To investigate the linkages between services, economic and social growth, in understanding the contribution of service innovations in the current economy and society and any differences that may exist between the public and private sectors.
- To understand how public-private sector interactions function, and how they can be better managed by private and public sector policy-makers to increase performance and welfare
- To understand the characteristics of public-private service networks which induce innovation, growth, employment and welfare.

## THE CONTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SERVICES TO EUROPEAN GROWTH AND WELFARE, AND THE ROLE OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE INNOVATION NETWORKS

- *Coordinator Dr. Luis Rubalcaba, Universidad de Alcala*
- *Collaborative project*
- *EU contribution: 1.48 million Euros*
- *End date: 31 January 2011*  
*<http://www.servppin.com>*

## SELUSI

The project focuses on two distinct but synergetic research pillars. One pillar aims at furthering our understanding of emerging social ventures across Europe. The other pillar strives to further our understanding of open service innovations, exploring the possibility to link-up emerging social entrepreneurs as “lead users” with established corporations in open innovation projects geared towards generating novel service design concepts.

The project places an emphasis on economic, managerial and behavioural perspectives with empirical, theoretical and experimental methodologies. It develops and analyses a unique panel dataset on the organizational behaviours and founding decisions of 800 emerging social ventures in early phase of firm maturity and conducts various lab experiments with the purpose is e.g. to better understand innovation performance under a variety of incentive schemes given heterogeneity in pro-social preferences. The project experiments with action-oriented research: it designs and tests service innovation mechanisms with companies and social entrepreneurs.

## SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS AS "LEAD USERS" FOR SERVICE INNOVATION

- *Coordinator: Dr. Marieke Huysentruyt, London School of Economics*
- *Collaborative project*
- *EU contribution: 1.45 million Euros*
- *End date: 31 August 2013*
- *<http://www.selusi.eu>*

## GUSTO

The project is concerned with coping with economic uncertainty while seeking security in a globalising economy, and it aims to find new modes of governance, or new combinations of old ones, and changes in the societal models by analysing the social policy.

In the course of conflict a number of different institutions engage in new practices; and there is a new diversity of employment forms and tenures. Social policy becomes increasingly integrated with employment and industrial relations practices, while both the sustainability of the institutions themselves and their impact on the natural environment require consideration. Challenges are also presented by the different forms of governance at work in the various policy fields.

## MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY AND SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH EMPLOYMENT, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

- *Coordinator Prof. Colin Crouch, University of Warwick*
- *Collaborative project*
- *EU contribution: 1.5 million Euros*
- *End date: 31 July 2012*
- *<http://www.gusto-project.eu>*

## CSEYHP

The project studies how to combat social exclusion among young homeless populations with different ethnic and migrant statuses. It applies an innovative approach by inviting the homeless young to participate in the research process rather than to stay mere objects of research.

## COMBATING SOCIAL EXCLUSION AMONG YOUNG HOMELESS POPULATIONS

- *Coordinator: Dr. Thea Meinema, Movisie – Netherlands Centre for Social Development*
- *Collaborative project*
- *EU contribution: 770.173 Euros*
- *End date: 30 April 2011*
- *<http://www.movisie.nl/homelessyouth>*

The project also involves European NGOs from the sector in its activities. Specifically, it studies the life trajectories of homeless youth populations in different national contexts, identifying risk, processes of social exclusion and points of reinsertion. It also investigates the use of the '8' step and 'Safe Moves' programmes with NGOs working with homeless youth in different member states.

The project also studies the roles of trusted adults, lead professionals, peer mentors and family members in delivering reinsertion strategies. Finally, it develops the concepts of risk, social exclusion and shelter exclusion both theoretically and practically.

## INCLUD-ED

The project aims to analyse educational strategies that contribute to social inclusion and cohesion and educational strategies that lead to social exclusion, in the context of the European knowledge based society, providing key elements and action lines to improve educational and social policy. It studies, for example, those communities involved in learning projects that have developed the integration of social and educational interventions that contribute to reduce inequalities and marginalisation, and to foster social inclusion and empowerment.

The project will produce the following: effective educational practices containing empirical evidence of mixture, streaming and inclusion; types of community participation that lead to educational success; policy implications.

## STRATEGIES FOR INCLUSION AND SOCIAL COHESION IN EUROPE FROM EDUCATION

- *Coordinator: Dr. Ramón Flecha García, Universitat de Barcelona*
- *Integrated Project*
- *EC contribution: 3.4 million Euros*
- *End date: August 2010*
- *<http://www.ub.es/includ-ed>*

---

## LIFELONG LEARNING 2010

The project aims to examine and report on national differences in approaching formal lifelong learning, but also to assist policy-makers and practitioners in learning appropriate lessons from contrasting practice in other countries. Within the project a number of empirical studies are being carried out in order to take into account macro-structural factors and national policies, as well as institutional factors and actors' motivation and actions, which are all considered to influence the role of educational systems in promoting lifelong learning.

The project contributes to social innovation in terms of context sensitive usage of the best inclusive practices on lifelong learning as follows: in all the countries the best inclusive formal practices on lifelong learning as the research focuses on the participation in lifelong learning of groups at risk of being socially and economically excluded; the links between these practices and their institutional context will be considered, both at the level of the workplace as well as in the higher education institutions. The qualitative survey of SMEs training practices is revealing and innovative, and will contribute to developing context-sensitive European typologies and best practices in lifelong learning in Europe.

## TOWARDS A LIFELONG LEARNING SOCIETY IN EUROPE: THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

- *Coordinator: Dr. Ellu Saar, Tallin University, Institute for International and Social Studies*
- *Integrated Project*
- *EU contribution: 3.2 million Euros*
- *End date; August 2010*
- *<http://lll2010.tlu.ee>*

## CIVICWEB

The project looks at how young people use the Internet for the purpose of civic participation (ranging from political activism to issues of sexual orientation or more leisure-oriented issues), thus building organisations, movements and (both online and offline) communities. The social innovation aspect resides in the bottom-up discovery process whereby the young establish or enhance their personal and collective identities and engage in societal debates, as well as through the innovative use of "new media" (including "Web2.0" interactive features). While the project recognizes the considerable potential of the internet in terms of connecting with emerging youth civic and political cultures, it also warns for an over-optimistic or utopian approach: the use of networked technologies is not inherently democratic, nor does it automatically have democratic consequences. Thus, it is rather the process than the tool which is the key driver of the social innovation in civic participation.

---

## YOUNG PEOPLE, THE INTERNET AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION

- *Coordinator: Dr. David Buckingham, Institute of Education, University of London*
- *Research project*
- *EC contribution: 1.1 million Euros*
- *End date: August 2009*
- *<http://www.civicweb.eu>*

## RESPONSE

The project aimed to understand the nature of societal expectations regarding corporate behaviour and the nature of corporate response to these demands.

There are four major objectives:

- 1) To study two overarching questions: What do companies understand as their responsibilities towards society, and how does that differ from the actual expectations from social actors; How can companies cope with both rising societal demands on their activities and with a consequently wider gap between what they are prepared to contribute and what society expects from them?
  - 2) To understand how the answers to these questions vary across cultural, legal, industry and organizational contexts.
  - 3) To identify and quantify the factors that contribute to explain why certain companies understand their stakeholders' expectations better than others.
  - 4) To test the effectiveness of different types of training approaches on the development of social consciousness in managers.
- 

## UNDERSTANDING AND RESPONDING TO SOCIETAL DEMANDS ON CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

- *Coordinator: Dr. Maurizio Zollo, INSEAD*
- *Research project*
- *EC contribution: 1.1 million Euros*
- *End date: May 2007*
- *[http://www.insead.edu/v1/ibis/response\\_project](http://www.insead.edu/v1/ibis/response_project)*

## KATARSIS

The project studies the consequences of growing inequality and social exclusion, as well as socially creative strategies for overcoming them. It applies an approach that is similar to a social platform. Newcastle University in the UK, with a team of 18 partner institutions has established a forum for researchers to exchange their knowledge on the themes of social inclusion and social innovation, and it enables them to work towards better integration of their research programmes and methodologies. A number of actors, consisting of practitioners and policy makers in the field of social inclusion, empowerment and participation, are providing 'sparring' in the process. In doing so, Katarsis is creating better models of communication and coordination between various types of actors, especially through interactive methods that give citizens a voice.

From Katarsis researchers, social innovation is understood as a means and a process for addressing a social need or an ensemble of individual needs that has not been adequately responded to; it can be carried out by public, non-profit or private (for profit) actors. The 'social' innovation refers to both the satisfaction of unmet human needs and to transforming social relations leading to more solidarity, cooperation and easier communication.

## GROWING INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL INNOVATION: ALTERNATIVE KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE IN OVERCOMING SOCIAL EXCLUSION IN EUROPE

- *Coordinator: Prof. Frank Moulaert, University of Newcastle Upon Tyne*
- *Coordination action*
- *EC contribution: 767.220 Euros*
- *End date: November 2009*
- *<http://katarsis.ncl.ac.uk/project.html>*

---

## RECOWWE

RECOWWE is a Network of Excellence creating a European-wide research network capable of overcoming the fragmentation of existing research on questions of work and welfare in Europe. The network encourages innovative research in the fields of labour market and social protection research. The common focus on tensions gives rise to perspectives and questions for research that are currently lost in the 'void' between existing research domains and academic disciplines.

The activity of the network promotes new institutional and individual partnership, based on novel combinations of disciplinary and geographical expertise, thus also contributing to social innovation.

## RECONCILING WORK AND WELFARE IN EUROPE

- *Coordinator: Dr. Denis Bouget, Maison des Sciences de l'Homme Ange-Guepin*
- *Network of Excellence*
- *EC contribution: 4 million Euros*
- *End date: September 2011*
- *<http://www.recowwe.eu>*



More information about project results can be found at:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/index_en.html).

A more detailed abstract of these projects and the complete list of partners is available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/synopsis-fp7-ssh-projects\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/synopsis-fp7-ssh-projects_en.pdf)

CONTACT:  
Monica Menapace  
EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
Directorate-General for Research & Innovation  
Directorate "Innovation union and European Research Area"  
Unit B.6 "Reflective Societies"  
BE-1049 Brussels

Tel.: +32-2-2993462  
E-mail: [monica.menapace@ec.europa.eu](mailto:monica.menapace@ec.europa.eu)  
[http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/index_en.html)