



EUROPEAN / Research & / Socio-economic Sciences  
COMMISSION / Innovation / & Humanities

# RESEARCH ON SOCIAL INNOVATION

Inventory of projects funded under the EU Research Framework Programmes

**FP7**

**FP6**

**FP5**

## 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*
- *Coordination action*
- *EU contribution: 1.48 million Euros*
- *Start date: 1 February 2012*

## 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*
- *Start date: soon*

## 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: December 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: November 2013*
- *<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: 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.

## CITIES AND SOCIAL COHESION

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

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.

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## 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.

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## 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 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: January 2010*  
*<http://www.servppin.com>*

### 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 April 2011*  
*<http://www.selusi.eu>*

The project places an emphasis on economic, managerial and behavioural perspectives with empirical, theoretical and experimental methodologies. It develops and analyzes 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.

## 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: February 2011*
- *<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. 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.

## COMBATING SOCIAL EXCLUSION AMONG YOUNG HOMELESS POPULATIONS

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

## 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>*

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## 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>*

## 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.

## 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*
- *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>*

## RECOWOE

RECOWOE 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.recwowe.eu>*



## CONSCISE

The concept of social capital is increasingly being used in debates globally (OECD, World Bank) and across Europe in the context of local economic and social development, social exclusion and the emerging social economy. The “main drivers of the creation of social capital are people and non-profit organisations that develop initiatives”, contributing to the creation of employment and strengthening of social cohesion. The CONSCISE project set out to delve deeper into these claims and find out more about the exact role social capital has played.

The project’s overall objective was to examine the extent to which social enterprises in the social economy both use and generate social capital and thereby facilitate local economic development, social cohesion and inclusion.

## THE CONTRIBUTION OF SOCIAL CAPITAL IN THE SOCIAL ECONOMY TO LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN WESTERN EUROPE

- *Coordinator: Evans Melvyn Douglas, MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY, UK*
- *EC contribution: 850.000 Euros*
- *End date: February 2003*
- *<http://www.malcolmread.co.uk/conscise>*

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## PUBLIN

PUBLIN aimed to give a better understanding of public sector innovation and policy learning and to contribute to the development of the theoretical foundation for studies of innovation in the public sector. The project covered innovation in policy-making organisations, regulatory agencies and public enterprises, and took into consideration the influence cultural traits, politics, management, networks and co-operation, entrepreneurship and evaluations has on innovation. Special attention was given to the policy learning as a policy phenomenon and how it affects innovation, including the effect policy decisions have on innovation in public services.

The project used organizational theory, public administration and management theory, and innovation theory as the theoretical framework for analysis. PUBLIN produced several national reports covering innovation in the health sector and social services in participating countries. There were also synthesis reports with thorough analysis of the main findings and reports on innovation in the public sector in general.

## INNOVATION IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

- *Coordinator: Dr. Per Melchior Koch, Stiftelsen Step Norway*
- *Research project*
- *EC contribution: 1.20 million Euros*
- *End date: December 2005*
- *<http://survey.nifu.no/step/publin/index.html>*

## SINCOGOM

SINCOGOM formulated an alternative model for local innovative development especially stressing the role of governance dynamics. The project concluded that social innovation is path dependent and contextual. It refers to those changes in agendas, agency and institutions that lead to a better inclusion of excluded groups and individuals into various spheres of society at various spatial scales. Social innovation is very strongly a matter of process innovation, i.e. changes in the dynamics of social relations, including power relations.

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## PERSE

PERSE developed further the theory of social enterprises and it focused on 'work integration social enterprises' which help poorly qualified unemployed people who are at risk of permanent exclusion from the labour market. Through productive activity, these enterprises integrate disadvantaged workers back into work and society in general. The project constructed an innovative typology on the basis of European work integration social enterprises engaged in a wide spectrum of activities.

## SOCIAL INNOVATION, GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNITY BUILDING

- *Coordinator: Prof. Frank Moulaert, IFRESI-CNRS*
- *Research project*
- *EC contribution: 800.000 Euros*
- *End date: October 2003*
- *<http://users.skynet.be/frank.moulaert/singocom/index2.html>*

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISES IN THE FIELD OF INTEGRATION BY WORK

- *Coordinator: Dr. Marthe Nyssens, Université catholique de Louvain – CERISIS*
- *Research project*
- *EC contribution: 1.14 million Euros*
- *End date: January 2005*
- *<http://www.emes.net/index.php?id=87>*

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)

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