RESEARCH ON
SOCIAL INNOVATION

Inventory of projects funded under the EU Research Framework Programmes

FP7  FP6  FP5
DESAFIO

DESAFIO means “challenge” both in Portuguese and Spanish and the guiding concept of the project is to make a contribution towards tackling what is arguably one of the major challenges facing Brazil and Latin American countries in the 21st century: eradicating structural social inequality in the access to essential water and sanitation services. The overarching objective of the project is of assessing existing experiences and developing new strategies that can bring about sustainable, appropriate, and innovative socio-technical solutions to foster economic and social development through social transformation in vulnerable communities, with reference to access to safe water supply and sanitation in urban, peri-urban, and rural areas of South America, with a particular emphasis on Brazil. The project will examine case studies covering informal settlements in the urban periphery of world megacities (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) or in peri-urban areas of provincial capitals (Cali, Colombia), favelas located in the heart of booming mid-range urban centres (Recife, Brazil), small rural villages (Mondomo, Colombia) and communities in semi-arid areas (Ceará and Minas Gerais, Brazil and Santa Fe, Argentina). Researchers will formulate recommendations to make social innovation truly successful also in other socio-cultural and economic contexts.

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 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.

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.

WWWFOREEUROPE
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.

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.

WELFARE, WEALTH AND WORK FOR EUROPE
Coordinator: Dr. Karl Aiginger, Österreichisches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (WIFO)
Collaborative project
EU contribution: 8 million Euros
Duration: 1 April 2012 – 31 March 2016
Website: http://www.foreurope.eu

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
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.

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.

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.

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;

COORDINATING FOR COHESION IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR OF THE FUTURE
- Coordinator: Prof. Steven Van de Vall, Erasmus University Rotterdam
- Collaborative project
- EU contribution: 2.7 million Euros
- End date: 30 June 2014
- http://www.cocops.eu

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

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
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.

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.

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.
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.

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.

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 question: 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.
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.

RECONCILING WORK AND WELFARE IN EUROPE

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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

RECWOWE

RECWOWE 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.
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.

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.
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.

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

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.

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
More information about project results can be found at:

A more detailed abstract of these projects and the complete list of partners is available at:

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