



Project Organisation

New Project Manager

Sebastian Künzel, previous project manager of LOCALISE, left the project in January 2011 to join the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Geneva. His position has been taken over by Patrizia Aurich in April 2012.

Patrizia Aurich previously worked in another FP-7-Project (FLOWS) at the University of Hamburg and is currently finishing her PhD on “Activation Policies in European Societies”. She has published on national typologies of activation and on the background and the drivers of activation policy reform. Her research interests include Comparative Welfare State Analysis, Europeanisation, Labour Market and Social Policies as well as Social Change.



Patrizia Aurich, LOCALISE's project manager

Current research

Local case studies in WP 4 and WP 5

Work package 4 aims to produce comprehensive empirical research on local approaches, interpretations and innovative practices in organizing services for active social cohesion policy. It will permit a systemic, comprehensive international comparison of the organisational challenges to the local governance of social cohesion in Europe. To date a paper on the theoretical background has been completed by ENU (work package leader WP 4), and the survey framework, questionnaire, and related guidance has been widely discussed.

In work package 5 LOCALISE analyses the Europeanisation of inter-organisational practices in the governance of integrated social cohesion policies on the local level. Currently PAM (work package leader WP 5) is developing a theoretical framework which aims at investigating and explaining precisely the inter-states variance in the integration of social cohesion policies at the local level.

According to practical and methodological issues, the partners agreed to move forward the empirical research of work package 5 (Europeanisation) and to organise the local case studies of work package 4 and work package 5 in a joint manner. The empirical research will consist of in-depth case studies in three local regions per partner member state, with about 15 to 20 stakeholder interviews in each local entity. All LOCALISE partners have already started with their first local case studies. Interviewees are local policy makers, senior managers in the Public Employment Service and representatives of local networks in the field of integrated social and employment policies. In order to depict the Europeanisation aspects, the sample of interviewees also includes a number of “EU-experts” at the local level, eg. persons involved in European Structural Funding (especially ESF). An in-depth document analysis completes the empirical research in both work packages. This research at the local level will serve as the basis for profound



comparative papers both on the governance and on Europeanisation of local social cohesion policies in France, Italy, Poland, UK, Sweden and Germany.

Activities and progress in the other work packages

Work package 2: The National Governance of Integrated Social Cohesion Policy

In the context of work package 2, LOCALISE's first comparative report has been completed by CED (work package leader WP 2). The comparative report is based on six national reports written by each team during the first months of the project. It aims at analysing the governance of integrated employment and social cohesion policies at the national level. Based on a dynamic analysis of policies' goals, tools and actors and of different kinds of coordination (multi-level, multi dimension and multi stakeholders), the comparison revealed common changes as well as differences among the countries.

Work package 3: Regional Patterns and Perceptions of Social Inequalities in Europe

Work package 3 aims at analysing regional structures of social inequality in order to provide a basis for case selection in work package 4. Based on EU-SILC data the aim was to identify best performing, under performing and average regions. Classifying countries and regions according to varieties in governing integrated social cohesion and labour market performance thus will be the first milestone serving as a pivotal heuristic for selecting the urban areas to be studied in WP 4. As a second contribution, WP 3 will analyse the dynamics in regional and social inequalities by a multi-level analysis of longitudinal data (e.g. EU-SILC, LFS). This will also serve to identify most vulnerable social groups.

CETRO (work package leader WP 3) already prepared an analysis on regional patterns and perceptions of social inequalities in Europe, which was based on EU-SILC data for the period 2005-2008. However, CETRO has recently acquired the dataset of 2010 and therefore will run the analysis again for more current data.

Work Package 6 and work package 7: The Individualisation of Interventions and the Impact of an Integrated Approach to Social Cohesion

The empirical research in work package 6 and work package 7 is based to a great extent on the findings of the other work packages and is therefore not in the focus of present activities. However, SCORE (work package leader of WP 6) and ISUW (work package leader of WP 7) are currently discussing opportunities to cooperate and integrate theoretical and methodological parts of both work packages.

Meetings and cooperation

First Internal Progress Meeting

In January 2012, the first LOCALISE progress meeting took place in Edinburgh. The first day of the meeting was scheduled as an internal meeting for the LOCALISE national research teams with the aim to present and discuss the reports on national governance of integrated social cohesion policies (work package 2) as well as to discuss the plans for the comparative paper in this work package.



For the second day, the Scientific Advisory Committee was invited to participate in the meeting. Each work package leader presented the theoretical state-of-the-art of his/her work package to the Scientific Advisors and the partners. The extensive and outstanding comments made by the Scientific Advisors were judged as very fruitful by all partners.

The second progress meeting will take place in Milan in August 2012.



LOCALISE's First Progress Meeting

Meetings with National Stakeholder Committees

Research on integrated social and employment policies calls for strong involvement and intensive cooperation with various local, national and European stakeholders. Thus, LOCALISE has established a National Stakeholder Committee (NSC) in each partner's country. The rationale in the selection process was to represent stakeholders from the most relevant organisations involved in the local governance of social cohesion.



UK's National Stakeholder Meeting in April 2012

All national teams are currently organising first meetings with their National Stakeholders in order to present preliminary findings and discuss case selection, interview guideline and other methodological issues.

National Stakeholders will be involved in the on-going research process: the national teams will keep them informed about the national and international research activities and results, a second NSC meeting is scheduled for 2013 and all National Stakeholders will be invited to the final conference.

Visiting WILCO in Brussels

Project manager Patrizia Aurich accepted an invitation to attend the midterm workshop of another FP-7 project called "WILCO – Welfare Innovations at the Local Level in Favour of Social Cohesion". The project investigates how local welfare systems favour social cohesion and whether such innovations can be transferred to other local settings. The meeting in Brussels facilitated a lively discussion with external stakeholders on the promotion and transferability of social innovations.

Dissemination

Activation Conference

As part of the dissemination strategy of the project, CETRO and PAM are organising a conference on "Integrated Employment and Activation Policies in a Multi-Level Welfare System" to take place in Milan in August 30-31 2012. The idea is to produce an edited volume of contributions with a high reputation international publisher. 18 abstracts were selected for presentation.

The six sessions of the workshop try to cover a wide range of aspects of Activation Policies and integrate the work of various excellent researchers in this field.



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