

LOCALISE Newsletter **N°3, December 2012**

By now, LOCALISE has almost completed the first half of the project duration. The work on national governance on integrated social cohesion policy (work package 2) and regional patterns and perceptions of social inequalities in Europe (work package 3) produced very interesting results (papers on both WPs are available at www.localise-research.eu). The LOCALISE-team has increased: Lucie D'Artois and Karine Tourne Languin have joined the French team, Maria Rogaczewska the Polish team and Eva Pocher is now supporting the Scottish team.

All national teams are in the midst of their field work. LOCALISERs all around Europe are travelling to different local entities, conducting in sum about 300 interviews and writing almost uncountable numbers of pages for their case studies. This fieldwork is of course sometimes exhausting, but the results are very exciting and all of us are very much looking forward to the comparable results of this key work package on the local governance of social cohesion. This third newsletter provides some information on LOCALISEs current research, meetings, cooperation activities and dissemination. If you are interested in some more details, please visit www.localise-research.eu.



LOCALISE team in Milan, September 2012

Current research

Local case studies in WP 4

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.

The empirical research consists of in-depth case studies in three local regions per partner member state, with about 15 to 20 stakeholder interviews in each local entity. During the 2nd progress meeting in Milan in August 2012, partners discussed intensively results of the first case studies and were able to get some first comparative insights.

To date all teams are doing their second case study or have started the third one. Most interview partners from public employment agencies, social partners, public administration, welfare association and other stakeholders are highly interested in the project and interviews are



very revealing. We find differences in regard to marketization, target groups and policy delivery. Common problems are the multi-level governance of activation and the often informal character of the integration of different actors.

In April 2013, project partners will present comparative results on the local dimension of integrated social cohesion policies, both in a national and a cross-national perspective.

Local case studies WP 5

In work package 5 LOCALISE analyses the Europeanisation of inter-organisational practices in the governance of integrated social cohesion policies on the local level.

According to practical and methodological issues, the partners agreed to start the empirical research of work package 5 (Europeanisation) early and to organise the local case studies of work package 4 and work package 5 in a joint manner. 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).

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

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 dealing with the individual dimension of social cohesion. Very productive first steps towards a research agenda were taken during the 2nd progress meeting in Milan in August 2012, where all partners discussed and agreed on methodological proposals provided by ISUW and SCORE.

Meetings and cooperation

Second Internal Progress Meeting

In August 2012 the second progress meeting of the project was held in Milan, Italy. All partners



presented first results on the case studies and first comparative results were discussed. The partners agreed on drafting an edited volume in regard to the results of work package 2 and other strategies for disseminating project results (participation in conferences, journal articles) were discussed.

Soon to come: LOCALISE Midterm Workshop

The LOCALISE Midterm Workshop (28.02. – 01.03.2013 in Brussels) consists of two parts.

Part 1, a scientific workshop, is dedicated to the research teams and the Scientific Advisory

Board. The participants will discuss the current scientific work and prepare next steps.

Part 2 is dedicated to the interested public, policy-makers and stakeholders. This policy workshop focusses on the implications of our research for policy development. The following questions will be discussed: *To what extent do integrated policies serve the goal of activation? What are the implications of an integrated activation strategy for local policy making? How can services be designed so as to support an integrated activation strategy? What is the role of Europe for local social cohesion policies?*

The policy workshop is to be held on March 1st and aims at reflecting the implications of our research for policy-making. The workshop starts with a Lunch Buffet at 11.30 am and ends with a Farewell Coffee at 3 pm. Apart from engaging in discussions, there will also be plenty opportunity to network in a pleasant atmosphere. Registration is open to the public and can be done via email: kerstin.zemke@uni-oldenburg.de. Further information on the workshop is available at: www.localise-research.eu.

Dissemination

Activation Conference

Milano, August 30-31, 2012

Organized in the framework of the EU FP7-project LOCALISE (www.localise-research.eu)



Activating employment policies has become a new paradigm for welfare and work. Labour market policies have shifted towards the aim to activate broader parts of society by facilitating the access especially of women, younger and older people, migrants, young mothers and unskilled and disabled people to the labour market. While the activation paradigm has thus been established as principal concept in labour market and employment policies, its implications reach far beyond the labour

market. The activation paradigm implies also important challenges for related policy fields (training and education, social security and assistance, family and life course policy, health policy, migration, integration and even housing policies). Especially in times of crisis, employment-friendly reforms thus raise issues how welfare states integrate and (re-)align the different policy fields according to a coherent logic of activation. Taking up the issue of integrated employment and activation policies, this workshop will discuss the following questions: How are coordination demands of integrated policies handled in welfare states? What different forms of activation policies are pursued in different countries and how far have different strategies shaped other policy fields? What are the governance mechanisms, reform paths, patterns of change and conflict in related policy fields, when countries decide to reform their employment systems? And



finally, what are the implications of integrated activation strategies in a multi-level welfare system including European influences and local implementation?

The conference was based on 15 contributions from international researchers all over Europe. Of 15 papers 6 were selected for a special issue to be published in the International Journal of Social Welfare. The issue will be published in the second half of the year 2013.

Further information on the conference is available at: www.localise-research.eu

To come in 2013:

2nd NSC-Meeting

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 stakeholders were chosen from different national institutions and organisations related to social cohesion policy, for example representatives from ministries, public employment services, welfare associations, trade unions and others. The first NSC-Meeting in summer 2012 had the aim to present with first results from the empirical research on the national governance of social cohesion policy and the design of the empirical analysis with which to study local governance of active social cohesion policy for each given country. Many fruitful suggestions were given from the stakeholders, which also influenced the empirical approach for the local case studies.

The second NSC-Meeting – which is scheduled for May 2013 – will focus on the findings of the local case studies on the governance of social cohesion at the local level. It will also be an excellent occasion to discuss research on individualisation and impact of social cohesion policies, which will start in September 2013.

Policy Brief

LOCALISE has recently published its first policy brief. The aim of a policy brief is to provide project related key observations and policy implications, targeted at policy makers and interested members of the public. The policy brief can be downloaded at www.localise-research.eu.