



LOCALISE Newsletter N°1, September 2011

LOCALISE kick-off in Oldenburg: A successful start

On August 30- 31st, 2011, the European Research Project LOCALISE was kicked off in Oldenburg, Germany. During two days of intensive work and fruitful discussions, 12 researchers from six European countries developed a detailed working plan for the next three years.



The meeting started on Tuesday morning with an initial statement by *Heiko Prange-Gstöhl* from the European Commission. In a welcome lecture, *Martin Heidenreich* (Scientific Coordinator) and *Sebastian Künzel* (Project Manager) from the Jean Monnet Centre for Europeanisation and Transnational Regulations (CETRO) outlined major scientific questions of the project.

The succeeding presentations were dedicated to the single work packages of the project. The research project is based on two administrative (1 and 8) and six contentual (2-7) work packages, each led by one of the European partners.



Leading WP 2, *Thierry Berthet* from the Centre Emile Durkheim (CED) in Bordeaux, France, presented the work package's focus on the national governance of integrated social cohesion policy. The French colleague presented a structure for national reports which will be drawn up until the end of 2011.

The third work package was presented by its coordinator, *Martin Heidenreich* (CETRO). It consists of the analyses of regional income and employment inequalities by multivariate and multilevel analyses of the socio-economic factors shaping regional and national patterns of income inequalities in Europe. This data is crucial for the case selection in other work packages.

In the fourth work package, the researchers focus on the local level and its dealing with reforms in social and employment policies. The introduction by the work package leader *Ron McQuaid* from Edinburgh Napier University (ENU), UK led to an effective discussion on common research methods. The partners agreed to elaborate a common interview guideline for the expert interviews which will be conducted in 2012.

The fifth work package investigates the impact of European social and employment policies on the local level: how does the local level make use of Europe? *Paolo Graziano* from the Department of Institutional Analysis and Public Management at Bocconi University in Milan (IAM), Italy, is the Leader of this work package, on which the partners will concentrate in 2013.



After looking at the national, European and local level, the sixth work package is dedicated to the so called street-level. Case managers and beneficiaries are going to be interviewed in the framework of this work package, which is led by *Christina Garsten* from Stockholms centrum for forskning om offentlig sektor (SCORE) in Stockholm, Sweden.

Stawomir Mandes from the Institute of Sociology at the University of Warsaw (ISUW), Poland, is the leader of the seventh work package, which aims at research on the impact of the policies investigated in the former work packages on the most vulnerable groups in society, like lone mothers.

Besides these very interesting presentations and discussions on the upcoming research, the participants took part in a training course by the sociologist and blogger *Nils Muller* on how to use the LOCALISE homepage. In addition, a presentation of crucial

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management and dissemination issues was held by the project manager, *Sebastian Künzel*, and his colleague, *Katharina Zimmermann*, who are both from the Oldenburg LOCALISE team.

The kick-off meeting was judged as very fruitful and successful by all partners. Detailed theoretical and practical results were achieved and a clear working plan for the next months until the progress meeting in Edinburgh was agreed on. The project manager, *Sebastian Künzel*, closed the meeting by drawing a positive summary: “This kick-off meeting did not only contribute to agree on a work plan but it created something like a common project identity. Everyone is really motivated to get the best out of this ambitious European project.”

LOCALISE opening event: The president of the University of Oldenburg welcomes the researchers



On Monday, August 29, at the eve of the two-day LOCALISE kick-off meeting, an official reception was held by the CETRO at the University of Oldenburg. Barbette Simon, the president of the University of Oldenburg, welcomed the participants of the LOCALISE project. In her speech, she highlighted the scientific and practical values of the LOCALISE project for the university, the research community and the practitioners: “LOCALISE is a great success for the University of Oldenburg as a whole. It will contribute to academic

excellence but it will also have relevant practical outputs for important questions of social cohesion.” After the speech of the president of the University, Mr. Heidenreich, CETRO’s speaker and the scientific coordinator of LOCALISE announced the official start of the three year research project. Later on, the invited researchers, participants of the project, researchers from the University of Oldenburg, international PhD students and representatives from civil society had ample opportunity to exchange their views in personal discussions.



The CETRO Summer School 2011: A great experience



During two intensive days of study, PhD students from all over Europe discussed with senior researchers their contributions on *the governance of activation and employment policies*. Talks ranged from issues like „*From Alimentation to Activation? Continuity and Change in Labour Market Policies in Europe*” to “*The impact of activation policies on immigrants in France*” or “*The Governance of Employment in Romania. A governmental priority or a personal interest?*”. The contributions brought together a wide range of interesting research in the field of European Social and Employment Policies. CETRO’s 3rd international summer school took place in the framework of the EU research project LOCALISE (Local Worlds of Social Cohesion. The Local Dimension of Integrated Social and Employment Policies). The participants had the opportunity to meet LOCALISE consortium members as well as to get in-depth views in research and management of an European Research project.

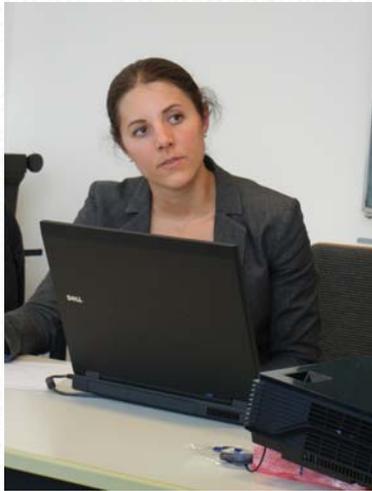
On Sunday August 28 the Summer School started - after an introduction by Martin Heidenreich on activation policies – with a Welcome Lecture by



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Ron McQuaid from Edinburgh Napier University on “Interagency co-operation in activation”, which focused on the role of partnership in activation policies. A barbecue in the evening opened the chance for socializing and making new contacts. The growing importance of partnerships was also reflected by several young researchers presenting



their work on Monday August 29, while the lecture of Christina Garsten from the University of Stockholm on “*Employability, agency and responsabilization in temporary agency work*” gave an outstanding view on the situation of temporary agency workers. In four different sessions, the participants presented their work and benefitted from comments by the discussants and the following debates. The Farewell Lecture by Paolo Graziano from Bocconi University in Milan on “*Converging Worlds of Activation? Activation Policies and Governance in Europe and the Role of the EU*” closed the contentual part with focusing on the European impact on activation policies. In the evening the participants celebrated the successful ending of the 3rd

CETRO Summer School at a farewell party, which was also the official opening event for the LOCALISE project. Having taken part in the summer school, Katharina Zimmermann, phd-student from Oldenburg, drew a very positive conclusion from her participation: “Great conference, it was a lot of work to prepare everything but it paid off as I got a very good feedback on my work and I was able to get to know other researchers in my field from all over Europe. I would not have liked to miss this great experience!”

Next to come: 1st Progress Meeting in Edinburgh

The researchers from the European research consortium LOCALISE will meet to discuss the progress of their work on January, 25-27 in Edinburgh. The meeting will be organised by LOCALISE’s UK team which is led by Ron McQuaid and Vanessa Fuentes. It will be hosted at the Employment Institute of Edinburgh Napier University. Members of LOCALISE’s Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) are invited to take part in the meeting.