



## Deliverable 1.6

### 2. Report on the Meetings with National Stakeholders

Project acronym: LOCALISE

Project full title: "Local Worlds of Social Cohesion. The Local Dimension of Integrated Social and Employment Policies"

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## 1. Introduction

In spring 2013 the project partners of the LOCALISE project met with stakeholders from their national policy contexts. These six meetings were undertaken in order to present the research results from the empirical research on the national and local governance of social cohesion policy.

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 aim of the Second National Stakeholder Meeting was to present the first results and to discuss the next research steps and work packages. In most cases, a short discussion in regard to the implications of the analyses took place. Furthermore, the partners discussed with the stakeholders the design of the empirical analysis in which LOCALISE studies the individualisation of intervention for each given country. In the upcoming work package the project identifies the consequences of an individualisation of interventions of social cohesion policy on the social construction of social citizenship. Many fruitful suggestions were given from the stakeholders, which also influenced the empirical approach for the analysis of the individual level. Overall, the meetings were productive and highly valuable, so that an impact on research can certainly be expected. Continuing exchange and cooperation was agreed upon and the stakeholders expressed interest to be involved further steps of the project.

Due to personal and bureaucratic reasons, the French National Stakeholder Committee was not able to meet in a joint event. Therefore, the French research team decided to contact them individually, as will be outlined in the respective section below.

## 2. National Stakeholder Committee - UK

The second and final meeting of the LOCALISE NSC-UK was hosted at Edinburgh's Napier University Craiglockhart campus on Friday 12 April 2012. The formal meeting lasted from 1pm until 4pm.

John Philpott (previous chief economist at the Chartered Institute of Personnel Development now a self-employed consultant), Mathew Creagh (lead on youth unemployment and skills at the Trades Union Congress), Ramzi Suleiman (expert in public service delivery at the National Council for Voluntary Organisations), Martin McDermott (head of Youth Transitions Team, Employability and Skills Division, Scottish Government) and Eamonn Davern (International Public Employment Services, DWP International Unit) were present at the meeting. From the Employment Research Institute (ERI) at Edinburgh Napier University, Professor Ronald McQuaid (director of the Institute) and Vanesa Fuertes (researcher) attended.

The main purposes of the meeting were to: update stakeholder on LOCALISE progress; disseminate preliminary finding from WP4 national report; seek stakeholder's suggestions and ideas for the national and international comparisons; present upcoming work packages; and seek suggestions for future progress.

The first draft of the WP4 national report was distributed to stakeholders beforehand. Ron McQuaid



opened the meeting giving an overview of progress so far and future steps. Vanesa Fuertes presented the background to the study and the preliminary findings. The discussion around *WP4 theoretical propositions and preliminary findings* prove very

fruitful. New Public Management and its implications for employment policy were explored. It was mentioned that in some cases initiatives do not seem to deliver New Public Management's expected aims of client choice, competition and efficiency. The Work Programme, the national UK activation policy for the long term unemployed, was discussed in great length in terms of: what it signifies for those unemployed with regards to choice and services; the implications for the third sector and service provision in general; and the consequences of different arrangements in the devolved administrations (Scotland and Wales).

The discussion also focused on how national policies affect, and are affected by, devolution and by different territorial arrangements (such as travel to work areas and regions). The report highlighted centralisation as one of the barriers to coordination between various policy levels (national, regional, local) and this was explored.

It was mentioned that coordination between policy areas and stakeholders seem difficult and discussion centred on possible solutions to this problem (pipelines and frameworks, threads, outcomes etc.). The difficulties of partnership working, the importance of having share objectives and opening fields of vision, and the need for trust and leadership, were highlighted. There was consensus on the usefulness of the national and international reports not only capturing differences between cities and countries, but more importantly highlighting what can be done to enable better practice.



In terms of *future work packages* a number of interesting areas to explore were discussed: how street level bureaucrats (or case managers) manage their work? Is policy implemented in spite of rules? Is creaming and parking happening? Do different journeys taken vary sufficiently according to individual needs? What is the impact of the 'black-box' approach to the WP and is it allowing too much discretion? Are individuals and initiative focusing on the easier transitions? What is the typical journey of a client and are different clients being catered for? Possible programmes and initiatives to conduct research as part of WP6 and WP7 were also discussed.

Future action: Reports would be circulated on a confidential basis if not already public for comments.



Stakeholders would be invited in due course to the Final Conference of the project that will take place in June or July 2014 where the final findings would be disseminated.

Close: the attendees were thanked for their excellent contribution and discussions.

### 3. National Stakeholder Committee - Sweden

Date: May 30, 2012, 1pm – 3.30pm

Location: Score, Stockholm University

#### ***Participants***

Christina Garsten, Score, LOCALISE

Kerstin Jacobsson, Score, LOCALISE

Katarina Hollertz, Score, LOCALISE

Linda Grape, The Swedish Trade Union Association (LO)

Jenny Nybom, The National Board of Health and Welfare (Socialstyrelsen)

Susanne Zander, The Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs (Ungdomsstyrelsen)

#### ***Points of discussion***

Christina Garsten presented the project in its entirety, its overall aim, and the research approach. The current stage of research, with completed and planned WPs, was presented and discussed among the participants.

Special attention was placed on research in WPs 4 and 5. Katarina Hollertz presented the results and analysis based on the Swedish report, and the findings were discussed. The similarities and differences between the municipalities studied, in terms of activation programmes and local governance models, were discussed. Special interest was placed on enablers and hindrances to collaboration among agencies, and on factors that may influence the forms of collaboration that arise. Stakeholders gave their views on our analyses and presented additional factors of explanation.

Kerstin Jacobsson gave a briefing on the findings in WP5. Christina Garsten outlined the forthcoming studies in WPs 6 and 7.

The invited stakeholders presented initiatives towards activation and collaboration among agencies taken in their respective organizations. As indicated in the previous NSC report (2012), it was evident that not only were the invitees highly experienced, with a high degree of expertise in their area of work, but had as well pursued academic credentials. Their interest in the project was thus both policy-related and academic.

The invited stakeholders expressed an interest in following up on the coming results of the project. The Swedish team informed about forthcoming reports and the upcoming final conference of the programme.

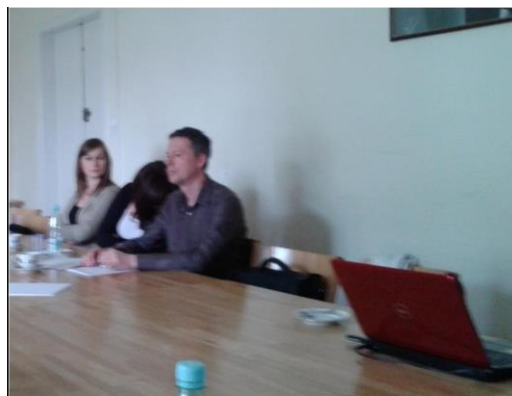
It should be noted that four additional invitees have expressed interest in joining the meeting, but for reasons of illness, vacation, and business trips they were unable to attend.

## 4. National Stakeholder Committee - Poland

**Warsaw, June 2012, 10<sup>th</sup>**

The Stake Holder Committee meeting was organized in July, 10<sup>th</sup>, in the Institute of Sociology, at the Warsaw University (UW).

We invited the representatives of the following institutions, which are in Stake Holder Committee: the Pomerania Forum for Homelessness, the Foundation of Socio-Economic Initiatives, the Institute of Development of Social Service and The Unit for Social Innovation and Research – Shipyard. To broaden the spectrum of the participants we additionally invited our scientific adviser, prof. Stanisława Golonowska (economist), prof. Wiesława Kozek, who is a sociologist of work in Institute of Sociology UW and prof. Ryszard Szarfenberg, who works in the Institute of Social Policy UW. We wanted to validate our conclusions from various perspectives and confront it with perspectives of practitioners.



The seminar was divided into two parts. At first Kaja Sztandar-Sztanderska presented „The National Governance of Integrated Social Cohesion Policy. National Report Poland”. The topic was interesting for all participants and they shared with us their opinion. General valuation was very positive but they pointed to many issues. For example prof. Kozek raised the problem of private stake holders in the evolution of the welfare state in Poland.



After the break there was a presentation of „The Local Governance of Social Cohesion: Polish Country Analysis” by Slawomir Mandes and Czestochowa case study by Maria Rogaczewska. All participants agreed that the analysis of social policy at the local level is very valuable. One of the representatives of Stake Holder Committee kindly pointed that our research fulfill important gap in research area in Poland.

At the end of our meeting we presented the plan for the next research phase. It did not raise many questions. All representatives agreed that it is very important to supplement the perspective of official by perspective of clients. We all agree that organization of that kind of seminar was a very good idea and planed the next one for the end of the project phase.

## 5. National Stakeholder Committee - Italy

2nd Meeting, 14 May 2013



*Bocconi University organized the second meeting in Rome, using the premises of the “Forum of Third Sector”. The meeting took place on the 14th of May from 11 to 14.*

Bocconi University invited five national organizations dealing with either labour or social policies: the Forum of Third Sector (the national coordination of local forums of third sector organisations), Nidil (the trade union for precarious workers – part of CGIL), Caritas (Italian Catholic Charitable Organisation), the Association of Italian Regions and Autonomous Provinces and Cilap - Antipoverty network. The latter

organisation could not attend the meeting. The Bocconi research team was represented by Paolo Graziano (Localise coordinator), while Matteo Bassoli was an invited guest.

After a short presentation of the project and current research activities, for those who had not attended the previous meeting, Prof. Graziano introduced the three main topics of the 2013 meeting: the national comparison of the Italian cases (wp4), the usages of Europe (wp5) and the next steps (wp6 and 7). The meeting was based on a closed interaction, a dialogue rather than a formal presentation. Also physically the stakeholders gathered around the oval table so to allow a direct confrontation among all participants. In the first part Prof. Graziano wrapped up the research focus, methodology and expectation. The presentation of the National Comparative Report on local integration followed suit along with the discussion and clarifications of the main aspects. In the second part each stakeholder raised questions and expressed its own viewpoint on the state of the integration in Italy. Each of them using background documents (previously distributed: WP2 and WP4 national report, WP4 cases’ description) and its own expertise highlighted important aspects. The main issues raised were: the problem of generalizing findings using only major Italian cities, the difference between integration with the private sector (possible positive effect on the decision making process) and subcontracting (neutral), the use of stakeholder consultation to support policies already decided (as pointed out in the participatory literature), the impact of intra - institutional competition (between councillors with different political orientations - or personal approaches), the use of best practices (importance of pointing out background information, clarifying prerequisites). After a general discussion of the points raised by stakeholders the meeting came to an end. Partners left the meeting confirming their interest in the project, asking to be constantly updated about research results.





## 6. National Stakeholder Committee - Germany

2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting; April 25 2013; Berlin

The second German National Stakeholder Meeting of LOCALISE took place April 25th, 2013, in Berlin. Between 9am and 1pm researchers and stakeholders discussed the results of the national case studies on the local dimension of integrated social and employment policies and the next steps for future research.

Six representatives from the German Association on Public and Private Welfare, the European representation of the Federal Employment Agency, the Federation of Welfare Associations in Germany, the Chamber of Industry and Commerce, the Federal Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs and the German Federation of Trade Unions contributed to the meeting. On behalf of the University of Oldenburg, Martin Heidenreich, Deborah Rice, Christina Siebolds and Katharina Zimmermann participated.

After a short introduction into the project, Martin Heidenreich gave an overview on the role of social services in the framework of activation policies in Europe. His insights were based on the results of the first milestone of the LOCALISE project: the investigation of national governance structures of integrated social and cohesion policies in France, Italy, Poland, Sweden, UK and Germany.



After the presentation of the results, all participants discussed the role of social services for labour market integration. Several stakeholders underlined the necessity of a special focus on long-term unemployed with multiple placement obstacles. A division of the unemployed in on the one hand persons easy to place and on the other hand those who have fewer chances at the labour market are helpful, as all participants agreed. However, creaming effects are still a problem and should be avoided. Furthermore, a comprehensive support especially for long-term

unemployed is necessary in order to achieve inclusion and integration into the stable employment, and not only into low-paid jobs.

During a short coffee break, the participants had time to socialise. Afterwards, the preliminary results of the three German local case studies on integrated social and employment policies at the local level were presented by Katharina Zimmermann. A special focus laid on the integration of different actors, different policy fields and different political levels. Large differences in the organisation of such integrated social and employment policies could be observed, strongly influenced by the unemployment structure in a region. In the following discussion with the national stakeholders it was underlined that it is necessary to separate between the national frameworks of labour market instruments, the administrative-political regulations (such as decentralised budget administration) and room for manoeuvre for local actors. In addition, effective labour market integration for all groups is often difficult and creaming-effects remain as a problem (see above). Legal regulations for vulnerable groups need to be improved, because in many cases integration into the first labour market cannot be the main policy aim. Therefore, a stronger focus on vulnerable target groups would be helpful.



In the third part of the meeting, Deborah Rice presented the next steps of the LOCALISE project: the investigation of the individual level of activation policies. On the one hand, the tension between individualised interventions and individual responsibility and on the other hand the relationship between case managers and unemployed will be addressed by future research activities. In the discussion, participant stated that case managers in practice have large discretion in the use of instruments and sanctions and that there are huge differences regarding the duration of meetings or the intensity of support in the Jobcenters. The national stakeholders suggested not to broaden the scope of interviews with case managers and unemployed but to conduct interviews in more than one city. Furthermore, they pointed out that interviewee selection might be problematic due to a pre-selection by the management level of the organisations.

CETRO will take into account these fruitful suggestions in the future research process and stay in close contact with the national stakeholders.

## 7. National Stakeholder Committee – France

June 2013, Bordeaux



The five French national stakeholders committee (NSC) members are: Luc Varenne (Directcte), Luc Paboeuf (CESER), Angélique Cayrac (Aquitaine Cap Métiers), Robert Pierron (Conseil Régional), Martine Valadié Jeannel (ARS). Each of them works in different institutions (local representatives of the national government, decentralised institutions, etc.) and on different policy fields (training, health, labour, employment, etc.). However, two of them have changed occupation since the last meeting. We decided to keep them in the committee, as they were involved since the beginning. Moreover, they are still

working on relative issues, and because of their long experience in the field. Yet, it made a meeting very complicated to organise in summer. We therefore had to postpone it to September / October. We hence decided to communicate via emails on the basis of the WP4 national report and a PPT presentation in French.

The aim of this exchange was to share the main results of WP4. We presented the three cases studies and then the national comparison. We then also briefly presented preliminary results on Europeanization (WP5).

The discussion focused on the different variables that may apply to the local governance of employment and social cohesion policies. It also put the emphasis on the multi-dimensional facet of local worlds of activation, which reaffirms that cross sectoriality, is of paramount importance with regards to our issues.

As a preparation for our September meeting, it is an interesting start that gives them the opportunity to read the national report and to comment it.