

## LOCALISE Newsletter N°4, February 2014

Dear partners and friends of LOCALISE,

LOCALISE has just entered the final half year of the project phase. Much has happened since the publication of the third newsletter: LOCALISE has a new project manager (Deborah Rice, formerly VU University Amsterdam) and is on the way towards completing the final research packages (WP 6 & 7). In addition, two conferences are being prepared in collaboration with other FP7 projects: A policy conference in Brussels entitled “Building inclusive welfare systems – A dialogue between research and practice” on 5 June 2014, and the scientific conference “Towards Inclusive Employment and Welfare Systems – Challenges for a Social Europe” in Berlin on 9-10 October 2014. Hence, there are interesting times ahead for LOCALISE – stay tuned!



The LOCALISE team in Stockholm, September 2013

### CURRENT RESEARCH:

#### *Interviews with caseworkers and clients in WP 6 & 7*

The aim of WP6 is to identify the processes and consequences of the individualisation of interventions in the area of social cohesion policy on the social construction of citizenship. WP6 is closely related to WP7, the aim of which is to analyse how social and employment policies change the lives and well-being of individuals.

The empirical research on WP 6 & 7 is completed, comprising close to 100 interviews with caseworkers and clients in local welfare organizations. All teams are currently working on two parallel national reports that the Swedish and Polish teams will combine into two comparative reports for WP6 and WP7. As soon as the comparative reports are ready, they will be published on the project website (see bottom of page).

### MEETINGS AND COOPERATION:

#### *LOCALISE Midterm Workshop, Brussels*

On 28 February – 1 March 2013, the LOCALISE Midterm Workshop was held at the Committee of Regions in Brussels. The Midterm Workshop consisted of two parts: a first part dedicated to an exchange between the six national project partners and the Scientific Advisory Committee, and a second part in which the interested



public, policy-makers and stakeholders could participate. In the first part of the Workshop, the academic results achieved in the first half of the project were discussed and the next steps under Work Packages 5, 6 and 7 were prepared. The second part of the Workshop was more practice-oriented, focusing on the implications of the preliminary LOCALISE research result for policy development. In particular, the following questions were 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 the EU in local social cohesion policies?

Both parts of the Workshop were very fruitful for the participants, and important impulses were received for the further collection and analysis of our empirical data that will certainly contribute to an even more successful project performance in the second half of the project phase.

### *Third Internal Progress Meeting*



In September 2013, the third LOCALISE progress meeting was held in Stockholm, Sweden. During the meeting, final decisions on the empirical research for WP6/7 were taken. Also the recently completed Work Packages 4 and 5 were discussed. Another focus of the discussions lay on publication projects, such as an edited volume to be published with Edward Elgar (see below).

## **DISSEMINATION:**

### *PhD Summer School, Barcelona*

The “FP7 Summer School on Local Welfare Systems and Social Cohesion” on 10-12 June 2013 was organized in cooperation with the COPE, FLOWS and WILCO FP7 projects and was a very fruitful, enjoyable and successful event for all participants. 18 PhD students had the opportunity to present papers and receive comments from five senior researchers associated with the LOCALISE, COPE, FLOWS and WILCO projects. Papers covered a broad range of topics related to social cohesion, local welfare systems and social innovation.

## **TO COME IN 2014:**

### *Fourth Internal Progress Meeting*

In March 2014, the LOCALISE team will have a final internal progress meeting in Warsaw. At the centre of the discussion will be the empirical results of Work Packages 6 and 7, as well as our final book (see below). Also plans for future cooperation will be an important topic of the meeting.

### *Local Authority Meetings*

In April/May 2014, all country teams will conduct Local Authority Meetings in order to present the policy-relevant results of the LOCALISE project to the stakeholders interviewed in the course of the empirical research. We look forward to this opportunity to share our findings with the practitioner community.



### ***Early-Stage Researchers Conference, Bordeaux***

The Early-stage Researchers Conference “Delivering integrated employment policies: Cross-sectorial policies in practice” will take place in Bordeaux, France, on 12-13 May 2014. The conference seeks to shed more light on the challenges associated with implementing integrated activation policies in Europe. Early-stage researchers will have the opportunity to present papers and receive comments from senior researchers. More information on the conference is available at: [http://www.localise-research.eu/?page\\_id=1160](http://www.localise-research.eu/?page_id=1160)

### ***Policy Conference, Brussels***

The Policy Conference “Building inclusive welfare systems – A dialogue between research and practice” will take place on 5 June 2014 in Brussels. Researchers from four FP7 projects (LOCALISE, COPE, FLOWS and WILCO) will present the most policy-relevant results of their research, followed by a panel discussion among researchers and policy-makers. For further information or to register, please contact: [kerstin.zemke@uni-oldenburg.de](mailto:kerstin.zemke@uni-oldenburg.de)

### ***Joint FP7 Scientific Conference, Berlin***

The Joint FP7 Conference “Towards Inclusive Employment and Welfare Systems: Challenges for a Social Europe” will take place on 9-10 October 2014 in Berlin. The conference is organized by six FP7 research projects (LOCALISE, COPE, FLOWS, IMPROVE, INSPIRES, WILCO) and will explore the policy, governance and outcome dimensions of social investment or active inclusion-oriented policies. More information can be found on the conference website: [www.inclusive-europe-conference.eu](http://www.inclusive-europe-conference.eu)



### ***Edited volume***

The LOCALISE team has signed a contract with Edward Elgar for publishing an edited volume on “Integrating Social and Employment Policies in Europe: Active Inclusion and Challenges for Local Welfare Governance”. The volume will not only include in-depth country studies on local active inclusion practices across Europe, but also four overarching chapters that embed our research results in a broader analytical framework.

### ***Special Issue of the “International Journal of Social Welfare”***

Articles:

1. Lost in activation? The governance of activation policies in Europe (*Heidenreich/Graziano*)
2. European worlds of employment and social services: The local dimension of activation policies (*Heidenreich/Aurich-Beerheide*)
3. Towards ‘activation-friendly integration’? Assessing the progress of activation policies in six European countries (*Berthet/Bourgeois*)
4. One-stop shops: Increasing employability and overcoming welfare state fragmentation? (*Minas*)
5. Towards standby-ability: Swedish and Danish activation policies in flux (*Bengtsson*)
6. Between cooperation and competition: The organisation of employment service delivery in the UK and Germany (*Fuertes/Jantz/Klenk/McQuaid*)
7. Active inclusion in Continental Europe – Or: What’s next after the activation agenda? Activation! (*Künzel*)