

TEPSIE NEWSLETTER – ISSUE 2: SEPTEMBER 2012

Welcome to the second newsletter from the TEPSIE project! In this issue we give a taster of our forthcoming research, report back on the Social Innovation Summer School in Vienna and the International Social Innovation Research Conference 2012, highlight a new social innovation prize and introduce our recently launched online research portal – siresearch.eu

RESEARCH COMING SOON

Over the last three months, the TEPSIE team has been busy working on a number of papers that will be publicly available later this autumn. Here are some of the themes we've been researching:

Measuring social innovation (work package 2)

Effective metrics about the scale, scope and impact of social innovation are critical to help guide policy makers in developing and supporting the field.

There are a range of indicators that have been used as proxies for the size of the field of social innovation - such as the size of the third sector, comparative studies of the non-profit sectors and the number of co-operatives and social solidarity organisations. However none of these indicators are adequate on their own.

The aim of work package 2, led by the University of Heidelberg, is to pull together and analyse available data to better understand the growth, impact and potential for social innovation in Europe. Shortly, we'll be publishing a paper on the meaning of the social economy in Europe and a comparative report including national case studies giving an insight into the state of the social economy in Denmark, Germany, Greece, Poland, Portugal and the United Kingdom.

Removing barriers to social innovation (work package 3)

The development and growth of social innovation is impeded by a range of factors such as limited access to finance, poorly developed networks and intermediaries, limited skills and support structures and issues around leadership and enabling cultures. These do not exist in isolation and there is a complex interplay between these different factors.

Work package 3, led by the Catholic University of Portugal will analyse these barriers and outline various methods and policies required to overcome them. The first paper will provide a conceptual framework for analysing the major barriers to social innovation at the different stages of the innovation process.

Generating capital flows (work package 4)

The relationship between the social economy, social investment and social innovation remains under-researched and poorly understood both theoretically and empirically. To address this research gap, work package 4 which is led by the University of Heidelberg, will seek to answer the following questions: how is the social economy funded? What are the pros and cons of different forms of funding? How does funding influence the strategy and organisational development of social economy organisations in relation to social innovation? How can we better measure social impact to attract new forms of investment?

In a first step to answering some of these questions, we will shortly be publishing the first two deliverables of this work package. The first paper investigates social investment instruments currently being used and developed in the EU while the second paper examines social finance markets and cultures in Denmark, the UK, Poland, Greece, Portugal and Germany through a series of in-depth case studies. The next set of deliverables will be published in the summer of 2013.



Impressions from the seventh SOQUA International Summer School on Social Innovation, July 2012. Find more information here: www.zsi.at/object/event/2276

Involving the public (work package 5)

Over the last decade there has been a proliferation of methods and approaches to citizen engagement. From idea banks and competitions to co-creation workshops and on-line petitions, governments, public services and businesses are increasingly keen to garner insights and information from citizens, service users and customers.

Work package five, led by the Young Foundation, explores the importance of citizen engagement in developing successful social innovations. Our first deliverable proposes a typology for mapping disparate methods of citizen engagement according to the type of input that they provide to the social innovation process. The paper also includes discussion of the many innovations in citizen engagement that are emerging in the context of participatory democracy.

Using online networks to maximum effect (work package 8)

Work package 8, led by the Danish Technological Institute, focuses on how online networks and media are substantially changing the character of communication, relationship building, collaboration platforms, information access and data usage, social choices, service models, financing and much more. It is not possible to understand the future of social innovation without a qualified framework for reflection on the impact of online networks.

There are two related conceptual and theoretical tasks involved in the work package. The first is an overview and a conceptual understanding of the present and future multi-faceted development of online networks, media and collaboration tools, as well as other relevant Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

The second task is to come to a conceptual understanding of social innovation using or driven by ICT resulting from the interactions, forms of collaboration and practices of specific sets of actors and stakeholders; specific communities and networks with potential as well as constraints in terms of innovation and impact, scale and scope. The work packages's first deliverable addressed the first task and is already available. Work on the second task has recently started with the first report available in the summer of 2013.

These papers will all be available on our project website – do take a look and let us know your feedback.

Social Innovation Events we have attended

- International Summer School on Social Innovation, Vienna, July 2012
- International Social Innovation Research Conference, September 2012
- Social Innovation Conference, Bridging the Gap - New Survival Strategies: The cow and the squirrel, September 2012

Lots of inspiration for our Tepsie work. Thanks to the organizers for making this conference happen!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE EVENTS, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE www.tepsi.eu.



A captive audience at the Kick-off of the Danish Municipality Network on Social Innovation, September 2012 – More information here: www.teknologisk.dk/32158 (in Danish)

NEW SOCIAL INNOVATION PRIZE

On 1 October 2012, the President of the European Commission José Manuel Durão Barroso will launch the Europe Social Innovation Prize in memory of Diogo Vasconcelos. The launch event will take place in Lisbon at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

This new prize is intended to raise awareness of the contribution that social innovation can make in fostering growth, entrepreneurship and developing solutions to complex challenges. The prize will seek to engage businesses (including start-ups), social economy institutions and citizens in Europe across a huge range of sectors, thereby creating new connections and job opportunities. A ceremony to award the first prize is expected to take place in May 2013.

Diogo Vasconcelos' enthusiasm and support to social innovation was instrumental to developing social innovation in Europe. The competition is dedicated to his memory and the launch event will provide an opportunity to pay tribute to him.

NEW: THE DANISH MUNICIPALITY NETWORK ON SOCIAL INNOVATION

The Danish welfare system is traditionally based on a large public sector. With the average working Dane paying 44,2% in marginal tax, the public sector is expected to be the actor that detects social needs, formulates appropriate solutions and implements them effectively. The municipalities are the ones responsible for making this happen. However, as in the rest of Europe, Danish municipalities are finding themselves on a burning platform.

With shrinking budgets and an expected 60% growth in the 65+ age group over the next thirty years, Danish municipalities

are desperately looking for new ways to address a growing number of social challenges.

The Danish Municipality Network on Social Innovation is run by the Danish Technological Institute as a platform for local government representatives to receive and exchange knowledge and inspiration related to social innovation.

The network addresses a number of crucial questions:

- In which areas of public service provision can companies, volunteers, organisations, citizens groups and ordinary citizens contribute successfully to solving social challenges?
- How can we make sure that new partnerships between these actors are structured in the most efficient way?
- How can we make sure that no educated or trained professionals working in the public sector are made redundant?
- How can we maintain a high-quality service provision when new non-professional partners are increasingly becoming involved?
- What incentives could encourage companies and ordinary citizens to take responsibility for their communities?
- How do we ensure optimal interaction between new partners and public professionals?
- How can we make promising initiatives sustainable and scalable?

Currently, 30 municipalities, representing roughly half of the Danish population, have joined the network – and the number is increasing.

For more information, please contact John Lauritzen at the Danish Technological Institute, E-mail: jrla@dti.dk

SOCIAL INNOVATION RESEARCH PORTAL GOES LIVE

With momentum growing around social innovation as a distinct area of study, there are now numerous projects researching empirical and theoretical questions in the field. In September, we launched a new social innovation research portal which will provide a central repository for these projects.

By compiling European research, our aim is to inform and support the work of researchers, practitioners and policymakers working in the fields of social innovation, social enterprise and public sector innovation.

The site features descriptions of current and recently completed European projects as well as papers and reports as they become available. The TEPSIE partners will also be using the site as a platform for blogging about our research, and to highlight upcoming events in the social innovation space. Do take a look at the site and please use the comments function in the blog to let us know what you think.

Do you have research you'd like to see featured on the portal? Please do get in touch.

The screenshot shows the website layout for the European Social Innovation Research Portal. At the top left, the logo reads 'European Social Innovation Research'. A navigation bar contains links for 'SI Research', 'SIE Home', 'SIE Directory', and 'SIE Magazine'. The main content area is divided into sections: 'Featured' with a 'Welcome to European Social Innovation Research!' message and a 'TEPSIE' link; a 'WILCO' project highlight featuring a photo of children and text about welfare innovations; and a 'Blog' section with two articles. The right sidebar includes a 'Join the Conversation @tepsie_eu' call to action and a section for 'Upcoming ev'.

The new Social Innovation Research Portal went live, 31. August 2012 – find it here: www.siresearch.eu/



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WHAT'S NEXT FOR TEPsie?

Over the next few months we will be developing and populating the online research portal as part of the existing Social Innovation Europe (SIE) site.

This will provide a platform social innovation practitioners, researchers and other stakeholders to access and respond to research, case studies and policy reports from TEPsie and other relevant projects.

We'll also be blogging regularly on our research insights, developments in the fields and highlighting great social innovations as we come across them.

To be alerted when the portal is updated, and to receive regular updates on progress on TEPsie as well as news in the social innovation space, sign up to our newsletters at the project website: www.tepsie.eu.

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