

After having completed the case studies and discussed the following process at the Consortium Meeting in Milan, COHSMO is now entering the analytical phase focusing on the collected data.



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CASE STUDIES AND PRELIMINARY RESULTS

The COHSMO-project has selected 21 specific case-locations – one rural, one sub-urban and one metropolitan location in each of the participating countries. The theoretical framework has been operationalized and interview guides for different types of local actors have been made. Almost all interviews have been conducted and the collection of qualitative data is about to end. The process of analyzing data is

in an initial phase and, therefore, this newsletter only discusses preliminary findings that will be further elaborated, tested and verified in the coming phases of the COHSMO-project.

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INEQUALITY, URBANIZATION AND TERRITORIAL COHESION:
DEVELOPING THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL MODEL OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEMOCRATIC CAPACITY

The 21 COHSMO case-locations consist of seven rural, seven suburban and seven metropolitan locations and the preliminary findings from the ongoing first stage of analysis points to some interesting findings regarding local governmental structure and territorial government.

Decentralized governmental structure seem to foster/nurture/stimulate local leadership in rural case-locations that is based on a high degree of interlocking/interdependent relations between entrepreneurs, business stakeholders, community stakeholders, NGO's and local public authorities. Distances between all categories of local stakeholders are short and communication is easy and effective. In suburban case-locations collaboration seem to happen more between government actors and much more limited with community stakeholders, NGO's and businesses. Distances between all types of stakeholders are longer and communication harder.

In metropolitan case-locations the territorial governance is often not aligned with the functional region (that includes a larger area than the central city). Metropolitan governance is in this way insufficient, fragmented though there seems to be strong traditions of collaborating horizontally across municipality and business.

As a provisional conclusion, the preliminary analyses points to a variation of strengths and weaknesses related to the three types of case-locations. Rural locations appear to be

small effective units that have a high capacity to mobilize and to act but with a limited capacity to address all types of problems within the wide range of problems that these locations are facing. In the metropolitan municipalities, the capacity to address a wide range of problems is present and easy activated while communication, coordination and civic mobilization is demanding and difficult.

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There is a pronounced difference between the COHSMO-partner countries when it comes to the degree of centralization and decentralization and this difference seems to be an important analytical dimension in terms of understanding observed different forms of local leadership as well as different levels of local agency capacity. In countries with a decentralized structure, a high degree of political autonomy, and a system for distribution and territorial equalization of tax revenues, rural locations seem to act more effectively and to be able to overcome the threads of being marginalized than is the case in

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countries with a high degree of governmental centralization, a low degree of autonomy and a low degree of territorial distribution of the tax-revenues. This may call for a new conceptualization of leadership that integrates the complex interrelations among stakeholder's and engaged citizen's sense of attachment, localized cultural interactions, and the level of local experiences with policy programmes aiming at stimulating economic growth.

THE PROCESS OF ANALYZING IS CONTINUING

Within short time, the collection of qualitative data related to the case-locations will end and the analytical process will move into a more systematic process of data crunching and interpretation in order to reach a framework of validated and empirically grounded conclusions.

THE CASE LOCATIONS

Listed urban, sub-urban and rural

AUSTRIA:

Vienna, Ebreichsdorf and Kleinregion Waldviertler Kernland

DENMARK:

Aarhus, Horsens and Lemvig

GREECE:

Athens, Pallini/Peania and Marathon

ITALY:

Milan, Legnano and Oltrepo Pavese

LITHUANIA:

Kaunas, Kaunas District Municipality and Pakruojis

POLAND:

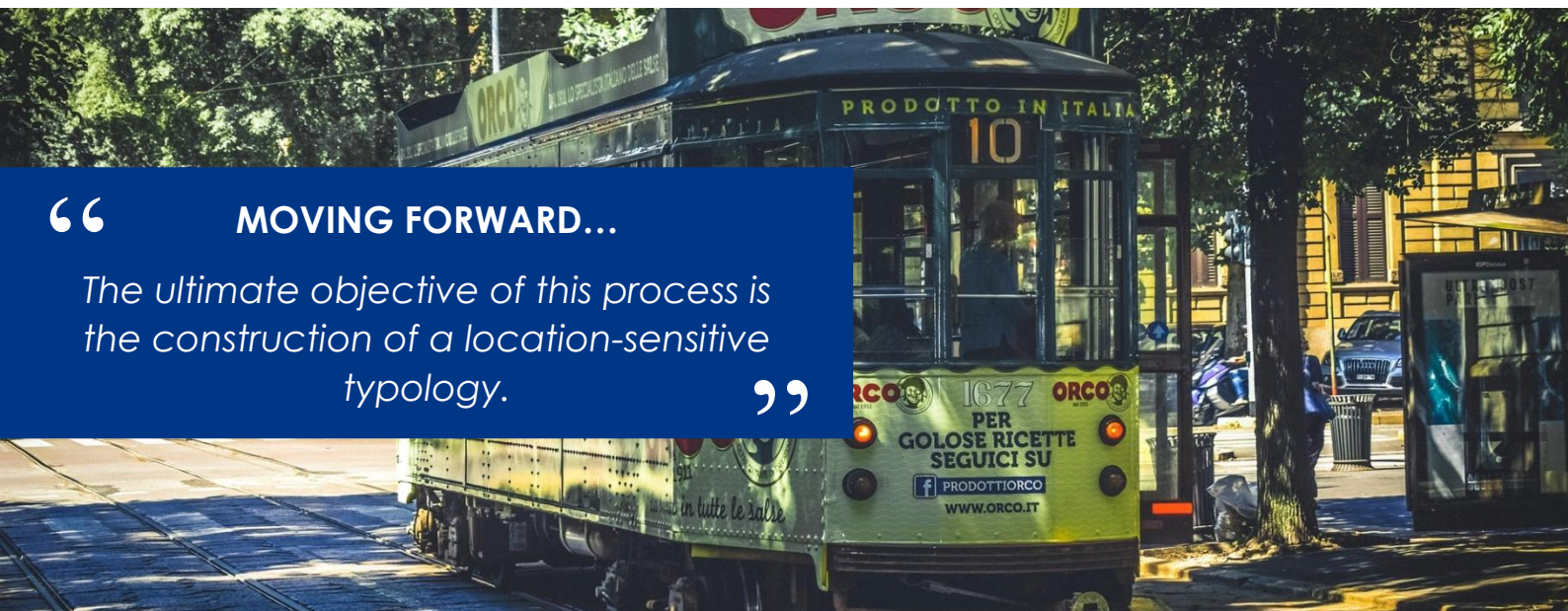
Gdansk, Pruszcz Gedanski and Debrzno

UNITED KINGDOM:

Bristol, North Staffordshire and West Dorset

“ MOVING FORWARD... ”

The ultimate objective of this process is the construction of a location-sensitive typology.



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The analytical phases will be deductive and based on the theoretical clarifications from WP2 as well as inductive and data-driven aiming at establishing concepts grounded in the narratives from the field. The ultimate objective of this process is the construction of a location-sensitive typology.

CONSORTIUM MEETING IN MILAN

In the beginning of October, the COHSMO teams gathered in Milan at the Consortium Meeting to plan the next stages of the project. The meeting was hosted by the Italian partner, Politecnico Di Milano - Department of Architecture and Urban Studies.

The COHSMO-project's European Advisory Board, consisting of Ole Damsgaard, Project Desk Officer at the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme, and Gaya Ducchieschi, Policy Analyst at ENRD Contact Point, also attended the meeting. The role of

PARTNER FEATURE

DENMARK

The Danish project partner is Aalborg University, Department of Sociology and Danish Building Research Institute.

The Danish partner is in charge of project management and coordination, with Dr. Hans Thor Andersen as Project Coordinator, Anna-Grethe Bloch as Project Manager and Anja Jørgensen as Research Coordinator.

Aalborg University is one of eight Danish universities, and is located in North Jutland with branches both in Esbjerg and Copenhagen.

Aalborg University is known for its focus on interdisciplinary studies and research, and the primary area of research is technology with focus on sustainable energy, environment and construction, among other things.



Anja Jørgensen



Anna-Grethe Bloch



Hans Thor Andersen

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the EAB is to give scientific and practical advice and recommendations to the consortium, and thereby supporting the management of COHSMO. The responsibility of the EAB is to provide expert guidance on how to enhance policy impact on a European level.

During the meeting, there was also time for a field trip to look at the semi-central multi-ethnic neighborhood of Via Padova, trying to understand the current and coming social cohesion policies and discussing these with a community representative.

The meeting was successfully completed and the COHSMO-project has now entered the first, out of three, analytical phases.

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THE ADVISORY BOARDS

THE EAB

The primary responsibility of the European Advisory Board is to provide expert guidance in terms of how to enhance policy impact at European policy level, as well as on a continuous basis to help disseminating results and policy recommendations, e.g. identify similar projects or relevant professional and policy networks in need of COHSMO results and knowledge.

THE NAB

Each team has National Advisory Board consisting of different strategic stakeholders with special competences in sustainable territorial growth strategies, policy, strategic inclusion of citizen networks an innovation in public service delivery. The purpose is to help explore the national viability of identified policies for sustainable growth, regulative and financial barriers and contextual conditions necessary for further enhancing policies and social-investment strategies.