NEWS LETTER

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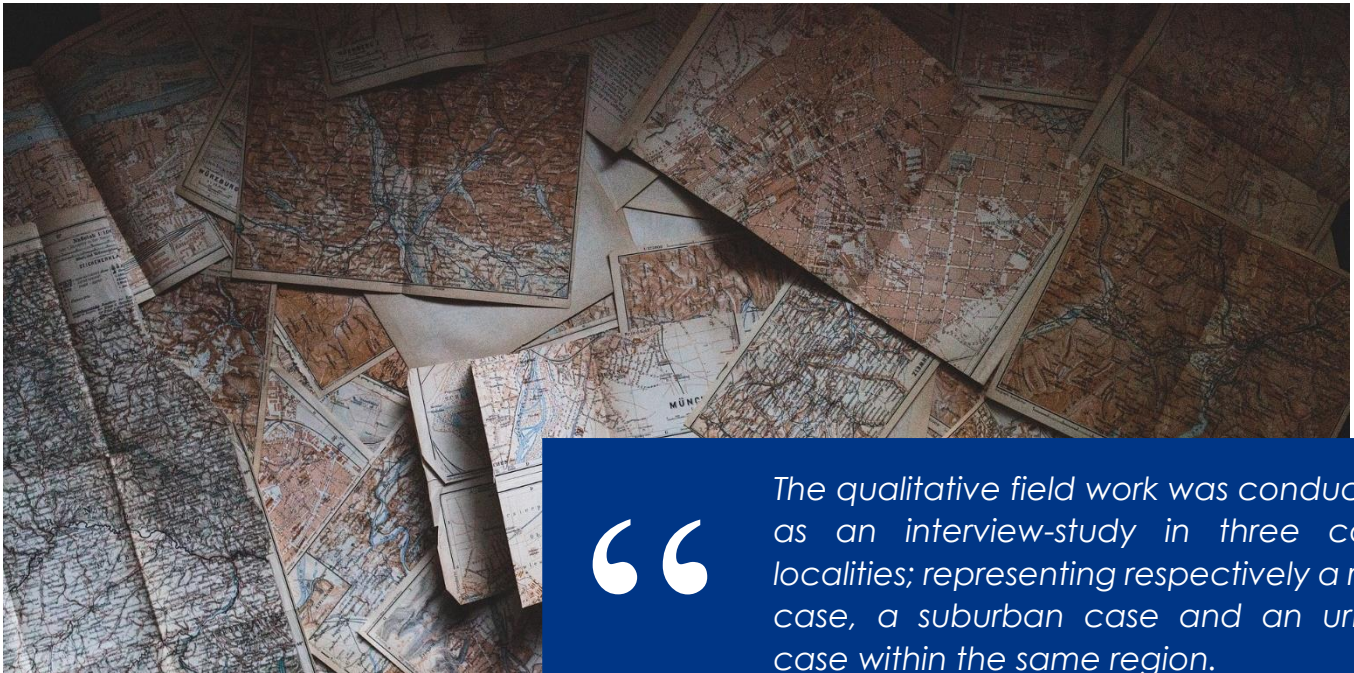## MARCH 2019

Initial analysis of the collected data from the case studies have now begun. This newsletter gives an insight into analytical phase of the COHSMO project and some of the emerged findings and conclusions.

> " *The qualitative field work was conducted as an interview-study in three case-localities; representing respectively a rural case, a suburban case and an urban case within the same region.*

DIVING INTO THE CASES – HOW WAS IT DONE?

Following the previous newsletter (**issue no. 2**), which introduced the COHSMO project's case-specific field research, this issue now goes further into the case studies, and how they were conducted. The case-specific field research consisted of interviews with different local actors in the selected study areas, and revolved around three main research questions concerning local territorial capital, the level of local collective efficacy and involvement in territorial governance. The focus was on specific policy areas; welfare (especially on provision of public social services), active labour market policies, vocational education and training, childcare, and economic growth and development.

The qualitative field work was conducted as an interview-study in three case-localities; representing respectively a rural case, a suburban case and an urban case within the same region. In each of the

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three localities, around 20 interviews have been conducted aiming to achieve a distribution of three kinds of interviewees: governance actors (10), community actors (5) and business actors (5). The interviews focus on the themes of territorial capital, collective efficacy and territorial governance. The interviewees have been picked to differ in relation to their specific professional area of work, e.g. urban planning, VET and disadvantaged neighbourhoods. Furthermore, to the extent possible and relevant, variation in social background, gender, ethnicity and degree of public engagement has been striven for. In most cases, recruitment has been carried out by using the so-called "snowball" method, which means asking interviewees to point to other relevant interviewees on the basis of criteria outlined by the interviewer in accordance with the variations of relevance to the study.

Besides snowballing, special emphasis and document studies were undertaken to identify relevant policies and projects, making the selection of interviewees as informed as possible. Public authority interviewees were selected to represent the policy areas of regeneration policy, VET, labour market and child care. The process is still going on within the project and will be further discussed at the Consortium Meeting in Kaunas in the beginning of April 2019

The interviews have been conducted in most cases by one and in some case by two researchers from each team. The vast majority of interviews were done face-to-face in the three case localities. Some were conducted over the tele-

phone as it was impossible to match dates with physical presence in the case areas.

The interviews were conducted on the basis of interview guides directed at the different types of actors and phrased in accordance with the criteria set out in the guidelines for operationalization for COHSMO.

After having done the initial analysis, each team has now submitted their paper regarding the cases to be comprised in a larger report, which will serve as the stepping stone for further research within the project.

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

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INITIAL FINDINGS AND COMPARATIVE CONCLUSIONS

Diving into the large amount of data collected by each COHSMO-team and looking at it from an analytical point of view, some of the most prominent findings are that historical path dependencies and local territorial problems can be turned into territorial advantages, and that collective efficacy plays a huge role in the success of such a development. However, some demographical challenges related to the structural powers of urbanization and de-urbanization cannot be solved at the local level and demand inter-municipal and regional focus. Collective efficacy and agile local welfare administration can, however, shield some of the effects on local life chances. Moreover, the way collective efficacy is tied to territorial governance differs between the case areas, understanding the need for a locally sensitive regional development strategy.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter **(read it here)**, there is a distinct 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 countries with a high degree of govern mental 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

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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.

More will follow on this topic when deliverable 4.5. has been finished and as Work Package 4 will be concluded during the remaining months of 2019.

THE AUSTRIAN TEAM

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Ruggero Cefalo

Tatjana Boczy

Lukas Alexander

Nina Görgen

Mathias Lipp

PARTNER FEATURE

AUSTRIA

The Austrian project partner is the University of Vienna, Department of Sociology. The University of Vienna is the biggest Research Institution in Austria and one of the oldest and largest Universities in Europe. Prof. Yuri Kazepov is the head of an interdisciplinary team of twelve researchers at the department, working on several national and international projects with a focus on social policy and international urban sociology.

The COHSMO team consists of Prof. Kazepov, the researchers Dr. Ruggero Cefalo and Mag.a Tatjana Boczy, as well as the student assistants Lukas Alexander, Nina Görgen and Mathias Lipp. The Austrian COHSMO team is the leader for the assessment of service provision: conceptualizing the European Social Model.

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A NEW FACE ON THE DANISH TEAM

From May 1st, the Danish Team has a new member – Maja de Neergaard. Maja comes from the University of Malmö in Sweden and will be the driving force in work package 4-7 within the Danish Team. Maja will be taking over this role from Jesper Rohr Hansen, as Jesper no longer will be part of COHSMO. Jesper has accepted a position within the municipality of Copenhagen where he will be working with social relations related to disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

As we give a warm welcome to Maja, we also wish Jesper the best of luck!

MEETING IN THE DANISH NAB

The second meeting with the Danish National Advisory Board (NAB) was held on January 16, 2019.

The purpose of the meeting was to present and discuss the case study findings, the initial analyses and the first conclusions made by the COHSMO-project. Furthermore, there was also a follow-up on the discussions, comments and progress from the first meeting held on February 27, 2018.

The meeting went well with some constructive discussions based on the initial findings and results of the COHSMO-project.

The Advisory Board members were eager to comment on the progress and first results, and the meeting concluded with some interesting feedback and advice for the next stage of the project.

The NAB's primary function is to support the project during its main phases. This involves critical, but constructive debate of objectives, methods, selection of case study areas and results just as advice how to reach both the wider public and the decision makers and stakeholders. Besides, the advisory board members serve as ambassadors for the project; they are important links to a broader realm.

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