

This newsletter focuses on the ongoing work in relation to WP5, where social investment within ECEC, VET and LMP is a main topic.



Social investment - WP5

Since the last newsletter, Newsletter issues no. 5, work packages 5 is well advanced. The aim of WP5 is to study under what local, contextual conditions a social investment strategy can obtain positive results and what their impact might be in terms of territorial cohesion. Here the specific focus will be on child-care, vocational training and active labour market policies.

In COHSMOs, WP5, governmental pro-

grams and policies are considered as an intermediate structure potentially connecting territorial cohesion and economic growth. These policies are mainly services that, to various degrees, are designed and implemented at local level.

The policies success depends on the contexts they are embedded, i.e. the specific mix of limitations and opportunities that comes, for instance, with

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living in a metropolitan or rural area, in a region in Southern or Northern Europe. In WP5, we tackled these issues from different visual angles analysing territorialized indicators and data on education, labour market, demographic and socio-economic characteristics. With a survey sent out to local social actors within ECEC, LMP and VET in the seven participating countries, it is possible to get an overview of these subjects in the different localities. This survey is followed with some semi-structured interview, that helps us to get a more in-dept understanding on that's going on and a more detailed picture. In total this will give us a better understanding of how we can obtain positive results in the impact of territorial cohesion.

Meetings in Brussels

A smaller group from COHSMO has also been in Brussels for a review meeting and a roundtable discussion with officers from the EU Commission. At the review meeting the project got excellent reviews and the extensive data-collection was high-lighted as particular innovative in the focus of social inclusion regarding economic inequalities, life-chances, providing services, territorial cohesion and economic growth.

At the roundtable discussion the aim was to give recommendations as well as hear and learn what the other party needs and not to present findings. The roundtable is a rare chance to influence future European policies. These re-

commendations are based on the data-collection and analysis, and the ambitions is that it will contribute to a guideline for a more Social Europe, a smarter Europe and a greener Europe. Regarding policies, COHSMO here underlines that we need a place-sensitive policy that is policies designed to the local situation and here the flexibility needs to be framed in a national scheme of minimum standards. The locally bases policies must not imply the idea of 'one size fits for all'. However, many a times, theories and policies remain a-spatial. They do not take account of a space and how space matters in the designing and implementation of policy. We want to play our role in changing that!

COHSMO in Corona-times

Like everyone else, COHSMO is also affected by the COVID19-virus. Most of the universities are closed, so the workplace is now at home. That does also mean that a lot of the communications within and across the teams, are virtual and in a difference way than we are used to.

The seven COHSMO-team should have gattered together in the beginning of April. Of course, this is not an option, so this meeting will also be in a new way where we all meet online.

Despite the situation, the work with WP5 is going well and we look forward to analysing the new collected data.

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THE POLISH TEAM



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PARTNER FEATURE

POLAND

The Polish COHSMO partner is the University of Warsaw, Poland. Currently, the University of Warsaw is the largest university in the country and every year it occupies one of the two highest places in the ranking of the best Polish universities.

The Polish team consists of Wirginia Akstejn – team leader, Dr. Joanna Krukowska, Dr. Adam Gendźwiłł and Sylwia Warsuszezwska. All of the team members work in the Department of Local Development and Policy, attached to the Faculty of Geography and Regional Studies. The Department of Local Development and Policy is a dynamic research and teaching centre involved in many international and national research projects and conducting interdisciplinary studies in the field of local and regional development. The Polish team was the lead partner of work package 4: “Assessment of policies” in the COHSMO project.

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