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**Abstract:**

This deliverable presents a short summary of COHSMO End Conference, which took place online on June 9, 2021.

**Keyword list:** Territorial cohesion, territorial justice, social investment strategy, territorial inequality, European Social Model (ESM), Dissemination, Communication

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# Table of Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>CONFERENCE PREPARATION AND REGISTRATION .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>CONFERENCE CONTENT .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>CONFERENCE RESULTS AND IMPACT .....</b>	<b>10</b>

# 1 **Executive Summary**

This deliverable presents a short summary of COHSMO End Conference, which took place online on June 9, 2021 with 70 registered participants.

## 2 Conference preparation and registration

The End Conference was planned already in the application phase as an important way of disseminating COHSMO results. It should have taken place originally in M48 (Avril 2021).

It was described in WP8 under Task8.4: “*Objectives of end-conference*

*The end-conference aims at disseminating the findings from the project, thereby disseminating knowledge to politicians, public managers/CEOs, national and EU decision makers, strategic partners and research communities.*

*This event will take place at the very end of the project. The policy conference aims at relating the findings from the project with existing knowledge and practice, raising awareness of the project handbook, reports, analyses and newsletters. Conference themes will be tailored around handbook themes, themes inspired by national and European advisory board recommendations.”*

The organization and time & venue for the end conference was discussed in the consortium during the autumn of 2019 and with the PO during the second review meeting in February 2020. As the COVID-19 situation unfolded, it was agreed with the Project Officer to extend the project by six months. This allowed COHSMO to postpone the dates for the conference, partly in hope for a relief in various restrictions due to the COVID-19, including tight travel regulations. However, due to the continuing difficulties created by the pandemic, the consortium decided to transform the event into an online experience. The End Conference was finally moved to June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Different types of digital platforms were investigated including Morressier and Teams but, at the end, Zoom was chosen as an adequate platform. A main reason is the fact that this platform is largely known by participants (and hence they know how to use it), that Aalborg University has a license for it and it offers great interactive options.

The programme developed during the early spring 2021; the overall aim was first of all to present a few selected key findings from the COHSMO project and discuss these with academics and researchers. However, in order to attract more participants, two keynote speakers (prof. Simin Davoudi and prof. Maurizio Ferrera) were invited. Finally, a third external expert, prof. Michael Woods, leader of the IMAJINE-project (funded by the same call as COHSMO) was invited to present the Imajine-project before commenting on the key outcomes of COHSMO as presented during the day.

An invitation was prepared (see Figure 1 COHSMO invitation below) and disseminated through COHSMO partners’ contacts and the website.

# COHSMO ENDCONFERENCE

June 9, 2021



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



## A SHORT BACKSTORY OF COHSMO

Inequalities between various localities seem to be on the rise, differences that threaten the social cohesion at local, regional and national levels and even produce serious tensions between European countries.

A number of changes have influenced the position of many localities; globalisation and industrial restructuring have triggered a round of changes on the labour market, which have favoured especially larger cities. Intensified urbanization is taking place in many countries as a consequence, a process that includes migration of particularly younger people.

One outcome is that small towns and rural districts have lost a good deal of their population and the average age of the remainders is increasing. The same type of localities have large numbers of uninhabited homes, which slowly deteriorate while larger cities suffer from rising housing costs due to the growing demand.

COHSMO investigates the relation between socioeconomic structures of inequality, urbanization and territorial cohesion, and how territorial cohesion at different European scales affect economic growth, spatial justice and democratic capacities.

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9:15-9:30	Welcome and introduction
9:30-10:00	Keynote: Prof Simin Davoudi: Territorial Cohesion, Spatial Inequalities and a 'Just Europe'
10:00-10:15	Questions/ discussion
10:15-10:30	Short break
10:30-12:00	<p>COHSMO presentations and discussion (15-20 min presentations followed by discussion)</p> <p>10:30-11:10 Anja Jørgensen: Urbanization and the territorialisation of cohesion</p> <p>11:00-11:30 Carolina Pacchi &amp; Wirginia Akstejn: Territorial governance and its reliance on vertical or horizontal policy coordination.</p> <p>11:30-12:00 Jurga Bucaite-Vilke: Territorial cohesion and network governance: the alternatives for territorial development.</p>
12:00-13:00	Lunch break
13:00-13:30	Keynote: Prof. Maurizio Ferrera: Neo-universalism and social investment policies
13:30-13:45	Questions/ discussion
13:45-13:55	Coffee break
13:55-15:25	<p>COHSMO presentations and discussion (10-15 min presentations followed by discussion):</p> <p>14:00-14:20 Yuri Kazepov &amp; Ruggero Cefalo: Territorialising Social Investments</p> <p>14:20-14:40 Mia Arp Fallov: Typologies of how location matter?</p> <p>14:40-15:00 Carolina Pacchi/ Costanzo Ranci: solutions for a more cohesive European territory</p>
15:25-15:35	Coffee break
15:35-16:20	<p>Plenary discussion:</p> <p>Michael Woods/ Yuri Kazepov/ Costanzo Ranci/ Mia Arp Fallov/ Rob Atkinson</p>
16:20-16:30	<p>Wrapping up:</p> <p>Hans Thor Andersen/Anja Jørgensen</p>

Register [here](#)



INEQUALITY, URBANIZATION AND TERRITORIAL COHESION:  
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Figure 1 COHSMO invitation

The COHSMO End Conference invitation was sent to a list of potentially interested participants and [posted](#) in the COHSMO website (see Figure 2 below): the invitation list included members of national advisory boards representing institutions and networks, respondents from several rounds of interviews representing specific institutions and local and national governments, members of staff of the involved universities, international research communities via relevant networks, e.g. European Network on Housing Research, European Urban Research Association, International Sociological Association, The Commission on governance of the International Geographical Union, local research networks in consortium countries, local and national politicians and other stakeholders. The invitation list included also of course Officers from relevant departments of the EU Commission.

MAY 17, 2021 BY FLORA CHAMPETIER

## COHSMO End Conference



It is our great pleasure to invite you to our closing Conference on June 9, where we will present and discuss the most important results of the COHSMO project.

The program of the conference includes two external speakers, **Prof. Simin Davoudi** (University of Newcastle) and **Prof. Maurizio Ferrera** (University of Milan) who will give lectures on territorial cohesion and social investment policies. Additionally, **Prof. Michael Woods** (University of Aberystwyth) will take part in the final panel discussion.

*Figure 2 Post in COHSMO website*

In addition, all COHSMO participants were encouraged to send the invitation through their network,

In total 79 participants had signed up for the end conference but, as some signed up twice, the number of registrations was actually 70. Of these were the three keynote speakers, 23 members of the COHSMO team, five members of the Danish NAB (national advisory board), another ten participants affiliated with Aalborg University and finally 29 others. On the day, 65 participants joined for an average of 243 minutes each.



*Figure 3 Word cloud of the registered participants organisation*

## 6. How did you find out about this conference?

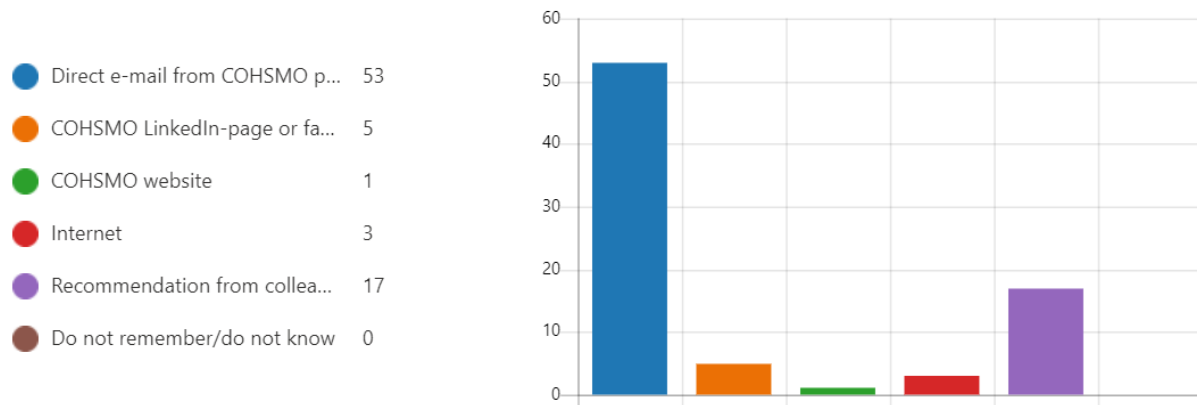
[More Details](#)
[Insights](#)


Figure 4 Answer to the question "how did you find out about the Conference"

## 3 Conference content

The conference had from the beginning two main tracks, reflecting the key elements of COHSMO: One on territorial cohesion and one on the European Social Model or social investment strategy. An external keynote opened each track, followed by three shorter presentations made by members of the COHSMO consortium. The plenary discussion between prof. Michael Woods and four COHSMO members aimed at linking keynote presentations and COHSMO findings as well as discuss the key question: Which role does space play for the construction of resilient communities?

In addition, Maja de Neergaard presented the COHSMO handbook just before the plenary debate.

Presentations at the end conference included:

- Maurizio Ferrera: Social Investment and Neo-universalism.
- Jurga Bučaitė Vilké: Territorial cohesion and governance: the alternatives for territorial development
- Carolina Pacchi & Wirginia Aksztejn: Territorial governance and its reliance on vertical or horizontal policy coordination
- Yuri Kazepov & Ruggero Cefalo: Territorialising Social Investment
- Luca Lazzarini, Carolina Pacchi, Andrea Parma, Costanzo Ranci: Solutions for a more cohesive European territory
- Mia Arp Fallov: Typologies of how location matter –examples from the COHSMO project.
- Anja Jørgensen: Urbanization and the territorialization of cohesion.



## PROGRAMME

- 9:15-9:30 Welcome and introduction/ Hans Thor Andersen
- 9:30-10:00 Keynote: Prof Simin Davoudi: Territorial Cohesion, Spatial Inequalities and a 'Just Europe' Questions/discussion
- 10:15-10:30 Short break
- 10:30-12:00 COHSMO presentations and discussion (15-20 min presentations followed by discussion) - chair: Mia Arp Fallov
- 10:30-11:00 Anja Jørgensen: Urbanization and the territorialisation of cohesion
- 11:00-11:30 Carolina Pacchi & Wirginia Aksztejn: Territorial governance and its reliance on vertical or horizontal policy coordination.
- 11:30-12:00 Jurga Bucaite-Vilke: Territorial cohesion and network governance: the alternatives for territorial development.
- 12:00-13:00 Lunch break
- 13:00-13:30 Keynote: Prof. Maurizio Ferrera: Neo-universalism and social investment policies. Questions/ discussion
- 13:45-14:00 Coffee break
- 14:00-15:00 COHSMO presentations and discussion (10-15 min presentations followed by discussion) - chair: Anja Jørgensen
- 14:00-14:20 Yuri Kazepov & Ruggero Cefalo: Territorialising Social Investments
- 14:20-14:40 Mia Arp Fallov: Typologies of how location matter?
- 14:40-15:00 Luca Lazzarini & Andrea Parma: solutions for a more cohesive European territory
- 15:00-15:15 Coffee break
- 15:15-15:20 Presentation of COHSMO handbook/ Maja de Neergaard
- 15:20-16:20 Plenary discussion—moderator: Anja Jørgensen

*Figure 5 COHSMO End Conference Programme*

## 4 Conference results and impact

There were no technical problems with the online conference. The online format allowed for discussions with participants that would maybe have struggled to travel to Aalborg to participate in the Conference. The two key note speakers, prof. Simin Davoudi and prof. Maurizio Ferrera in particular as well as the comments from the invited project leader of Imajine, prof. Michael Woods, triggered a load of questions and comments. The overall impression was a dedicated debate from a broad part of the participants, not just members of the consortium. The End Conference produced relevant food for thought in particularly related to the current discussions of increase social and territorial cohesion in many member states. The exact impact is naturally difficult to measure at this stage, but key messages were disseminated broadly via several platforms and media, scientific and policy oriented seminars and conferences and is expected to deliver new and sometimes provoking insights into the issue of territorial inequalities and policies to moderate parts of it.

As a follow-up to the Conference, all participants as well as all members of the consortium have received a link to a ready-to-print-version of the handbook (see [here](#)) and to the presentations. The handbook serve as a means to inform local stakeholders and interviewees about key results and particularly provide inspiration to innovation of policies as well as its implementation and scale.