

TEPSIE NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2014

Welcome to the tenth edition of the TEPsie newsletter.

This newsletter is dedicated to highlighting some examples and trends of social innovation in Portugal.

Portugal has a rich tradition in social innovation. Mayors transform the most deprived areas of towns, the government is trying out policies on how to enable and accelerate social innovation, and the foundation world is actively supporting social innovation too. These are just a few of the many reasons why TEPsie's final conference will be taking place in Lisbon, Portugal from the 12-13th November 2014 (you may find more information about our final conference in this newsletter). As part of the conference we will be hearing from local and global social innovators about the exciting developments in the field of social innovation in Portugal and beyond. Therefore we decided to dedicate this newsletter to social innovation by highlighting several initiatives taking place in Portugal.

Over the summer, we have been working hard on a number of TEPsie publications. Our current research is focussing on three themes:

1. Growing & scaling social innovation – Please visit our webpage to find recent a literature review, a case study report on growing social innovation and a report on Building the Social Innovation Ecosystem in Europe.
2. Knowing what works – In this work package we aim to present and evaluate both emerging and standardized methods and tools for assessing the impact of social innovations.
3. Digital Social Innovation – As a key enabler for social innovation we seek to understand and measure how social innovation is enabled by new networking and collaboration tools made available over the Internet. We have just completed our case study report that will be available on our website soon.

As the TEPsie project is drawing to a close, we are taking stock, bringing insight together, highlighting gaps and formulating recommendations for researchers, practitioners and policy makers. Over the next months we will share our experiences with you.

As usual, we also report back from events we attended in this newsletter. Whilst we attended and were involved in a wide range of events – our partners come to a similar conclusion: It is clear that social innovation research and practice is having influence across the traditional boundaries, but also major areas of policy, both in Europe and beyond.

This will happen increasingly over the next five years, so we need to be aware of and open to the significant opportunities this affords for creating a better world, as well as the need to re-assert the significant identity and value of social innovation in its own right.

Enjoy reading.



Gwendolyn Carpenter
Senior European Policy Advisor, DTI
Director of Dissemination, Tepsie

SOCIAL INNOVATION IN PORTUGAL

Fostering Social Innovation in Portugal – A shared agenda

Luís Jerónimo, Project Manager, Human Development Programme, Gulbenkian Foundation

Portugal is facing an unprecedented crisis – economically and socially speaking: unemployment rate is one of the highest in Europe, especially among the younger generations; debt crisis forced the government to cut on social benefits, namely affecting pensions schemes of older people. In the long run, Portugal will see its demographic landscape changing dramatically with low birth rates, higher flows of emigration and longer periods of morbidity among the elderly.

We have to scope these times of global crisis not just as a state, but as a process, a crucial changing process. In the classic Greek vocabulary, the word crisis meant transformation, change. If we have this in mind, we realize that when we say “*time of crisis*” we are actually also saying “*time of change*”, “*time to change*”.

The big challenge for Portugal nowadays is how to best manage this change. We need an innovation driven structural change, where competitiveness of the economy,

social cohesion and environmental sustainability are interdependent fields. Social innovation plays a decisive role to achieve this big goal as the best way to deal with the complexity of the issues we are facing. Indeed, it is gaining momentum in the social, economic and political agenda.

The role of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation

Established in 1956, the Foundation has a long track record of supporting and delivering innovative work in its four main working areas: Arts, Science, Education and Charity.

Indeed, innovation has been the main driver of our overall approach with examples ranging from supporting mobile libraries across Portugal back in the 1960s to the daily work of our science research institute. But now with our current work on Charity and Human Development, social innovation is at the core of our strategy -- finding new ways of supporting vulnerable groups, fostering new community solutions in the context of big cities, empowering social organizations.

Our approach aims to develop the ecosystem for social innovation to flourish, contributing to each stage of the innovation lifecycle: from prompting and prototyping ideas, to supporting early stage venture development and scaling up processes.



How do we engage local communities throughout redevelopment and regeneration projects by Social Life, The Unusual Suspects Festival
Source: Social Innovation Exchange via Flickr



Urban Sharing Platter Event, The Unusual Suspects Festival – Source: Social Innovation Exchange via Flickr

Here are a few examples of the work the Foundation is currently supporting:

- We are one of the partners of the Map of Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship across Portugal (www.mies.pt), a pioneer effort in Europe with a participatory methodology that includes universities, local councils and community leaders;
- We set up a challenge prize – Ideas of Portuguese Origin (www.ideiasdeorigemportuguesa.org) - that calls for a closer collaboration between the Portuguese diaspora and the ones living here, in order to develop innovative ideas that best meet people's needs. Past winning projects include an innovative solution to reuse neglected ground floor spaces in the centre of Lisbon (www.resdochao.org); a consumer's cooperative called Fruta Feia "Ugly Fruit" (www.frutafeia.pt) which sells fruit and vegetables that would be wasted only because of aesthetic reasons.
- We have established a Social Investment Laboratory (www.investmentosocial.pt) together with the Social Entrepreneurship Institute and Social Finance, in order to scope and test new funding tools to best support the social innovation landscape. This Laboratory aims to develop both research and intelligence of the market in terms of social investment as well as pilot new financial instruments in Portugal, namely social impact bonds.

Social Innovation: a shared agenda

Stakeholders across all sectors in Portugal are increasingly aware of the potential of social innovation and embed this approach in their own strategies. We are seeing promising examples from third sector organizations that have improved their accountability profile; the business sector is expanding their social responsibility practices in a

shared value driven approach; and both local and central government are now also quite committed to social innovation. The new Social Innovation Fund, recently announced by the Portuguese government, has the potential to galvanize the sector and can be a major inspiration for other countries.

Guidelines for future collective action in Portugal include: (i) a better legal framework in order to recognize the social enterprise statute; (ii) support of capacity building activities to empower third sector organizations and raise their investment readiness profile; (iii) dedicated funds for replication and scaling of social innovation initiatives; (iv) outcome-based contracting services from local and central government; (v) focus on prevention work.

For more information about the Gulbenkian Foundation please see www.gulbenkian.pt

MEASURING CIVIL SOCIETY IN PORTUGAL

Americo Mendes, Associate Professor of Economics and Coordinator of the Transversal Area of Social Economy, Catholic University of Portugal (UCP, Porto, Portugal)

The Catholic University of Portugal (UCP) won a call by the Gulbenkian Foundation to study non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Portugal. Funded by an European Economic Area (EEA) Grant, this research is especially salient in the context of the substantial financial, economic and social challenges being faced by civil society in Portugal. This study supports the management of the "Active Citizenship Programme" which provides competitive grants to NGOs in Portugal.

The main deliverables of this project are to:

1. Develop a concept of NGOs which is grounded in theory and capable of being implemented empirically in Portugal;
2. Building on this concept, develop a classification system of NGOs;
3. Using the concept and classification system, collect and analyse quantitative data about the landscape of NGOs and their distribution by main activities, legal status and geographic location;
4. Collect and analyse demographic characteristics of board members, staff and volunteers (e.g., age, gender, professional qualifications, etc.), their management practices, funding sources, investments and structure of operational expenditures, partnerships and networking with public and private stakeholders.

Based on the definition and concept of an NGO we developed as part of this project, we built a database of approximately 18,000 organisations that can be considered NGOs. We also implemented a detailed survey of about 150 NGOs across the country to understand and characterise the internal structure and functioning of NGOs, and conducted several case studies that highlighted NGOs working in the field of advocacy and human rights. The classification system we created is in correspondence with the International Classification of Nonprofit Organizations.

This part of the study also includes results from other research completed by the Social Economy team of UCP-Porto on the economic sustainability of NGOs dealing with the provision of public/social services.

This project contributes to improving the knowledge of and available data on this sub-group of social economy organisations in Portugal. Currently, the more recent data available in this area is the Satellite Account of the Portuguese Social Economy published by the National Institute of Statistics in 2013 with data referring to 2010.

While the Satellite Account covers over 55,000 social economy organisations in Portugal, inclusive of the 18,000 we classified as NGOs, it does not break down the data to the level of NGOs. It also does not include information such as the characteristics of the managers, staff and functioning of the social economy organisations, nor specific geographic breakdowns, which is particularly important given the wide regional disparities across Portugal. As such, this research project serves as the only source of data available for those with specific interest in the NGO sector and aims to improve the knowledge about this group of organisations which are crucial for the social, territorial and cultural cohesion of Portugal.

This project took place over six months. The final report is expected to be available for public consultation in November. The research team included faculty members from the Braga, Porto and Lisbon units of UCP. It was coordinated by the School of Economics and Management of UCP-Porto, in collaboration with its Social Economy team, which is also part of the TEPsIE project team.



THE GREAT CONVERGENCE: BUILDING THE CIVIC ECONOMY IN PORTUGAL – PIONEERING POST AUSTERITY AGENDA IN EUROPE

Filippo Addarii, Head of EuropeLab and Director of International Strategy, The Young Foundation, London, UK

“Europe today accounts for just over 7% of the world's population, produces around 25% of global GDP and finances 50% of global social spending.”

Angela Merkel loves repeating this sentence at every presidential gathering to show that Europe cannot afford its social bill anymore. Its shrinking share of global wealth cannot sustain its current budget for social services. Costs have to be cut. This is the rationale behind the last seven years of austerity.

However there might be an alternative that the German Chancellor hasn't considered yet. Why doesn't Europe turn its social spending into actual investments to power a new type of economic growth? This is the challenge that Portugal has taken in exploring a new frontier for societal development, the civic economy.

On 25 September the Young Foundation and the Platform for Sustainable Growth – the main Portuguese think tank – held a public debate on the strategy for the civic economy in Portugal – a blueprint for Europe.

Portugal undoubtedly deserves the title of the leading laboratory for experimenting with alternatives to austerity in Europe. Despite - or because of - the crisis, Portugal is hosting a real system change conversation that goes beyond the illusion of the silver bullet – either the Social Impact Bond or Social Enterprise. We are witnessing a convergence of top down and bottom up movements.

In July, the Government announced a €150m Social Innovation Fund. It's the first fund of this kind, capitalised with European structural funds. The strategy of the fund was presented by the Minister Miguel Pórigues-Maduro. This is no doubt the kick-starter of this new economic paradigm.

In accordance with the Minister, Government wants the fund to stimulate the transformation of social services provision: from a sector relying on grants and payments for outputs, to a new ecosystem driven by social innovators, entrepreneurs, rewarding outcomes and contextual innovation.

This is a courageous journey of a Government restraining its power to control and instead being open to innovation, creating an opportunity to drive systemic change from the ground, turning capital into a tool for empowerment and entrepreneurship. The fund will unleash the potential to innovate entrepreneurs, non-profit organisations and potentially every citizen. The centre is giving back power to society as a whole to allow innovation to flourish. It's the first recognition that the singular monopoly of public good provision is no longer functional in an emergent and complex society connected to the rest of the world.

Government on its own cannot do the job alone. This capital requires a match coming from society and a movement engaging all stakeholders and citizens. This is the bottom up strategy that the Social Innovation Bank (BIS) has built in the last two years. BIS is the programme for entrepreneurship hosted by the Santa Casa de Misericórdia de Lisboa, the oldest, largest and wealthiest charity in the country.

In an increasingly multi-stakeholder world legitimacy and authority are no longer centralised or singular. It is not enough to make the right decisions but it is also increasingly necessary to build a movement and a constituency along with them. 21st century system change needs more. It needs to drive and build multi-stakeholder movements for change including citizens, NGOs, Public Service Delivery agencies etc, especially if the decisions have a systemic impact and affect the future beyond very narrowly predictable outcomes.

It requires a financial architecture which is democratised. The civic economy must not be a mechanism for just private corporate capital, but a genuine mechanism for society as a whole to invest in the commons and the social infrastructure. The impact finance of Portugal must be a retail proposition at the outset. This new paradigm also requires solid data and a systemic approach to research and impact assessment. It needs to transition from anecdotal and crafted to systemic.

For the civic economy to accomplish its mission and transform the country depends on the development of a whole suite of innovations and institutions. It needs new collective impact and outcome finance models, architectures, tools and instruments, new models of governance and the development of new means to capture or causally infer impact. And this will only occur by taking an approach that goes beyond the notion of a single magic bullet, and embraces systemically economic democracy whilst recognising the need for a system of interventions. This way, it can create a new economy fit for the 21st Century.



Creativity event, The Unusual Suspects Festival – Source: Social Innovation Exchange via Flickr

Many have called for this kind of change including original economists such as the Nobel Prize laureate Elinor Ostrom, but few have taken the same path. The UK has been perhaps the pathfinder in this journey initiating the transformation of its social sector into a new engine for economic growth, starting with the New Labour Government and advanced by The Coalition Government.

The UK during the course of this transformation has created a multiplicity of institutional interventions like Future Builders to help charities become more entrepreneurial and win contracts for public service provision. It has invented new legal forms for social enterprise and supported professional associations like Social Enterprise UK to promote a new type of entrepreneurship and build the skills of young people. An entire new set of institutions (30+) have been built over fifteen years to create the social economy market and empower new generations of innovators and economic players.

But the UK is not an exception. As President Obama took office in 2008 he set up the Office of Social Innovation and Civic Participation at the White House. The same year President Barroso – inspired by organisations like the Young Foundation – brought the social innovation agenda to the European Commission and, in 2010, social innovation became part of the European strategy to support solutions to societal challenges developed by citizens, charities and social enterprises. Pope Francis recently went public in favour of a new type of finance – called impact finance –

that reconciles financial with social and environmental returns, which is in line with previous encyclicals and evokes an economic theory which is unknown to most but is rooted in the civic economy that has flourished in monasteries and free cities since the Middle Ages. And let us be clear that the State, charitable organisations, private philanthropy, the cooperative movement and responsible corporations have always invested in the creation of public good. There is no society without it.

In Portugal this tradition would take us back to the 16th century when the first Misericórdias were established by the Royal family to provide health, educational and social services to the people. Then in the 20th century this became public policy. The State created the public welfare system. Public good became a state monopoly, and free access of every citizen to welfare services a pillar of the social contract. Trillions of value equivalent have been invested in society over the last century. However this capital allocation was not deemed “investment”. There was no need nor real means to identify the returns on investment. Politics dictated the agenda and taxation picked up the bill. Portugal is now evoking the courage to go a step further.

For more information please see <http://youngfoundation.org/events/public-debate-strategy-civic-economy-portugal/>

MAPPING INNOVATION AND SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN PORTUGAL (MIES)

Nuno Frazao, New Business Development Officer and MIES, Research Coordinator, Social Entrepreneurship Institute (IES), Cascais, Portugal

Mapping Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship in Portugal (MIES) is a research project that discovers and maps innovative initiatives by applying the ES+ methodology in the North, Centre and Alentejo Regions of Portugal.

MIES is funded by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, the EDP Foundation and the Operational Competitiveness Programme – COMPETE, and undertaken by the Social Entrepreneurship Institute (IES), in a partnership with the Padre António Vieira Institute (IPAV).

This research grew out of the knowledge that the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) – Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, East Timor, Guinea Bissau and Portugal, experience similar social challenges. At the same time, this community has the potential to identify, support and promote the most effective solutions to these challenges.

We believe that:

- Social entrepreneurship is often small scale, low profile, and not self-aware
- Social entrepreneurship emerges in diverse and unexpected contexts
- Social innovation emerges from high potential social entrepreneurship efforts
- Social innovation needs to be nurtured, codified and disseminated

We sought answers to the following questions:

- How are CPLP countries currently positioned with regards to social innovation and social entrepreneurship?
- How could social innovation and social entrepreneurship provide a response to the economic, financial and social crisis in these countries and especially in Portugal?

What is the ES+ Methodology?

Together with professors from a number of universities, most notably, INSEAD, ISCTE, the Catholic University of Portugal and Lancaster University, IES developed ES+, an innovative mapping methodology that aims to identify and map social innovation and entrepreneurship (SIE) initiatives with the potential to generate significant social impact. ES+ has been tested and validated and is now being applied in more than 87 Municipalities in Portugal and Mozambique. The methodology was first applied in 2008.

In brief, the methodology maps the innovation and local entrepreneurship ecosystem, analyses the competitiveness of the innovative business models identified, and publishes and disseminates national and international success stories and best practices.

Background

The process started by identifying and interviewing Privileged Observers (POs) -- people who are connected to social innovation and social entrepreneurship initiatives, from all municipalities of the North, the Centre and the Alentejo regions of Portugal. We then implemented a screening phase to understand the basic features of the capacities and limitations of the social initiatives referred to us by the POs. We assessed the following criteria for innovation and social entrepreneurship: social/environmental mission; scale of impact and social transformation; local empowerment ability and social inclusion; ability of innovation, inspiration and sustainability; and ability of replication and scalability.

The next stage was a survey that analysed innovation and social entrepreneurship indicators as well as the performance and management skills of the social initiatives. Finally, there was a certification stage through a Scientific Academic Council (SAC) composed of national and international researchers from leading universities who selected initiatives that were seen as having the potential to generate significant social impact.

Key highlights from the last year of the project are as follows:

1. We extended the methodology to the three aforementioned regions and asked key stakeholders, for what reason do they think it is important to map innovation and social entrepreneurship? The top three responses from approximately 400 local experts from the Alentejo Region were: the sharing of knowledge/ experiences, promoting initiatives, and scalability and replicability.
2. We found that suicide, human trafficking, child protection, and domestic violence, are neglected problems in Portugal, with few organisations working to address these issues.
3. We also analysed the main characteristics and the activity areas of those initiatives that didn't meet the criteria for social innovation and social entrepreneurship. We found that these initiatives failed to meet the criteria of impact assessment, innovation, replication and scalability, and local and inclusive empowerment.
4. The in-depth questionnaire allowed us to understand the process and operation of the social solutions throughout the value chain. This knowledge has strong potential for study, research and social investing applications. For instance it was possible to track organisations' performance limitations that affect all the initiatives, including: impact assessment; external communication and marketing; and finding new funding sources.
5. Analysis of Competitiveness from IES powered by INSEAD, is a tool to assess competitiveness of Social Entrepreneurship Initiatives (SEI). It aims to build capacity of social entrepreneurs, social investors and social incubators. The tool assumes that a social entrepreneur has different motivations and behaviours than regular entrepreneurs (i.e., that social entrepreneurs are motivated by value creation for society and not value capture for him or herself). Additionally, this kind of motivation has huge reflexion on the entrepreneurs' competition and customer relations behaviour, as well as on their business model. It's currently being implemented in the ES+ initiatives in Portugal.
6. The tool assesses the following process: (1) Drivers of competitiveness (2) Solutions that are sustainable, able to create value for society and generate spillovers to other agents; (3) Societal change through scaling and institutionalization. The tool provides a competitiveness score for SEI and suggestions for competitiveness improvement through strategic repositioning or capacity building services.
7. The SAC certification process allows us to map social and environmental models with high potential for impact and societal transformation with full autonomy and impartiality. After the project, IES creates and disseminates case study videos from these solutions that focus on the business/process model of the social solution.
8. After the SAC certification, a Public Ceremony is held to celebrate and announce the ES+ Initiatives, and to demonstrate the methodology and results to the public, private and universities ecosystems.
9. In the Portuguese ecosystem, which is also the case in Mozambique, a mentality of apathy, lack of initiative, and lack of culture has been most often identified by stakeholders as barriers to innovation and entrepreneurship, including within commercial and social sectors.
10. We will in the future review the information received from the POs every six months, through a small, representative and geographic committee on a research-action basis combined with training. In the future, the POs with extensive social experience and knowledge will be chosen to form an expert committee within each region. This will allow IES to transform this comprehensive methodology into a simple, interactive, training inclusive of a social innovation observatory that enables the identification and tracking of diversity in in these regions.

For more information about the project please visit www.ies.org.pt/

REPORTING BACK

The Unusual Suspects Festival, London 2-5th September, 2014

The Unusual Suspects Festival, curated by Social Innovation Exchange, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and Collaborate, spanned over four days and focussed on the combination of social innovation and collaboration, highlighting 'unlikely connections for social change'. In keeping with this spirit, the festival featured 28 different events, run by 35 different partner organisations and involving some 1500 attendees.

I was able to attend three different events, which spoke to the wide breadth of subjects covered by the festival and covered collaboration between citizens, the third sector, and the public sector. The first was a launch event at Nesta to mark the publication of their report, 'Making Sense of the UK Collaborative Economy'. This was a perfect event to introduce the festival, as the collaborative economy is a fitting example of the combination of social innovation and collaboration. According to the Nesta definition, it is an umbrella term to refer to the many groups today which use internet technologies to connect distributed groups of people, in order to make better use of goods, skills and other useful things.

Kathleen Stokes from Nesta presented the headline findings of their research, which included the key statistic that 25% of UK adults had used internet technologies to share assets/resources over the last year. Although this is a significant number, Kathleen noted the sector is still nascent, with 64% of organisations surveyed founded since 2010.

Despite this, they invariably claim ambitious goals in terms of their planned impact on society. Organisations represented during the event's discussion included a home swapping website (LoveHomeSwap), a service which allows people to freely connect and share with their neighbours online (Streetbank), and a website which allows people to park in other people's driveways (JustPark). Just from these few examples, one can see how collaborative economy organisations are seeking to free up excess capacity within the economy while making it easier for people to make new social connections and generate extra income.

Discussion focussed on the ways in which UK regulation has not yet caught up with the sector, particularly around tax and insurance, and the more significant questions raised regarding when a private person becomes a business in the eyes of the law. From the perspective of social innovation, the collaborative economy raises questions too about the extent to which value accrues to society rather than individuals.

While Streetbank provides a free service and explicitly aims to foster new social connections, this is not the case for LoveHomeSwap or JustPark, which operate more similarly to a business and allow users to make money from renting out their homes or driveways. Nevertheless, in the case of JustPark, society also benefits from the reduction in traffic fumes generated when a driver does not have to search for a space. I also wondered whether on a systemic level the collaborative economy might in time trigger a shift of power away from businesses and instead to individuals, which could have all sorts of social consequences.



Closing Reflections, The Unusual Suspects Festival – Source: Social Innovation Exchange via Flickr



Unusual Suspects Closing Panel – Source: Social Innovation Exchange via Flickr

Going back to the Unusual Suspects theme of collaboration, one striking aspect of the discussion at Nesta was the broad agreement that the sector tends to be self-regulating and that disputes between buyers and sellers are rare. Websites frequently feature a rating system so that users can openly report back on their experience, and as this is public it means that there is an incentive for everybody to keep to the rules and play fair. I found this to be an interesting point to reflect back on during the second festival event that I attended, 'How do we collaborate to create an ecosystem that supports innovation?' This was hosted by Social Impact Generation Canada in advance of the launch of their report on this subject, and featured a panel discussion involving many experts in social innovation within social enterprise and the third sector.

The panel universally agreed that collaboration was both crucial to successful social innovation yet also difficult to successfully pull off. In particular, it was noted that funding is often structured so as to discourage collaboration and conversely to encourage third sector organisations to compete for the resources that are available. Moreover, the time is often not available for different sectors to interact in meaningful ways, and even when collaboration is written into a project, sufficient time is still rarely allowed for partners to get to know each other and have full and frank discussions when differences arise.

Reflecting on the earlier Collaborative Economy event, I wondered whether there might be scope to change the way that collaboration within the third sector occurs so that there is more potential for feedback, and a moderated space to discuss difficulties. However, it is clear that collaborating to deliver a social project is entirely different from two people who collaborate to share a parking space. And yet, what is exciting about the collaborative economy is the change that may accrue on a systemic level when individuals get together to free up excess capacity within the economy. While third sector organisations often bemoan a lack of funding and resource within the sector to create systemic change, the collaborative economy is able to tap into latent capacity – in the form of parking spaces and home swaps, but also in the form of time, passion and commitment.

The final event I went to was hosted by the Urbact programme, the European exchange and learning programme promoting sustainable urban development. In particular, the event was focussed on Urbact networks which involve food, such as the 'diet for a clean planet' network and another covering 'sustainable food in urban communities'.

As part of these projects, cities are connected so that they can learn from each other's best practice and ensure access to high quality, locally produced and sustainable food for their citizens. Several cities presented on the work that they are already doing in this area, ranging from re-thinking school meals to encouraging local farmers' markets, and constantly sharing their experiences with other cities in the network.

This event looking at the role of the public sector was a great event to finish on, following on from the first two events which had considered the role that citizens and the third sector could play in collaborating to produce social innovation. While third sector organisations often work to solve similar challenges, cities are distinct in that they are seeking to solve similar challenges but necessarily in very different contexts to each other, and for this reason they seem ideal candidates for collaboration rather than competition. It is important that governmental funding structures recognise the importance of investing in policies and structures (like the Urbact network) which can facilitate this.

To conclude, the Unusual Suspects festival certainly provided me with plenty of food for thought, and I found that there were more connections between the three events I attended than might have been expected. Due to demographic and lifestyle changes, understanding urban environments is becoming increasingly important in solving social challenges, and cities with their dense populations are particularly suited to the work of organisations operating within the collaborative economy. I am looking forward to the publication of Social Impact Generation Canada's report on building an ecosystem that supports social innovation, as it is clear that there is plenty of work for all of us to do together to create a society where the third sector, individuals and the state are able to foster and support innovation when it arises.

The International Social Innovation Research Conference (ISIRC), 1-3rd September 2014

Georg Mildenberger, University of Heidelberg

After the summer break the social innovation research community met in Northampton for this year's ISIRC – the International Social Innovation Research Conference. The Northampton Park Campus was a special place for this convention of social innovation scholars and practitioners – it is one of Ashoka's "Change Maker Campuses." This was emphasized by the keynote of Ashoka U's CSO Marina Kim explaining the concept of a Change Maker Campus. Alex Nicholls opened the conference with an overview of the current social innovation research agenda and the new generation of EC funded international research projects focused on different aspects of Social Innovation.

ISIRC 2014 covered a broad range of topics. Standard issues such as investing, growing and scaling and hybridity, governance and organising were complemented by rather new aspects such as health and wellbeing, politics and ethics, science and sustainability and two newcomers to ISIRC: spatial aspects of social innovation (track on regional and geographical particularities) and pedagogy and education. The broad spectrum of topics shows clearly the multitude of disciplinary perspectives. The topic of social innovation cuts across disciplinary boundaries and requires an interdisciplinary multi-method treatment. Conferences like ISIRC are a fruitful opportunity and starting point for such endeavours.

It is impossible for a single person to take part in all panels of a conference. Therefore we can just highlight a few issues that have been picked selectively. Of a conceptual nature was the paper by Stina Preuss and Gorgi Krlev that examined the role of third sector organisations for social innovation. Another conceptual contribution by Gordon Shockley examined the specific innovation roles of policy entrepreneurs as compared to the ones taken by social entrepreneurs. While the former are under public control and therefore at least partially legitimized, it is unclear who controls the social entrepreneurs when they start to change society.

Other scholars presented examples of innovative interventions. Giovanni Mazzanti gave some insights into new ways to treat confiscated assets under control of public authorities. To sell them back to private owners would do no good because the Mafia would just reclaim control. He gave examples of interesting ways to bring resources back into public use by allowing non-profit organisations to realize creative ideas with these assets.

The spatial dimension was addressed by Sang Hun Lim,

who gave insights on the different types of social enterprises in Korea. The type of subsistence businesses found particular interest. Unemployed persons receive government support to build up a business that creates income for the founder as well as other formerly unemployed persons.

Impact investment was dealt with in several ways. While Mary-Lee Rhodes developed a typology of approaches for impact measurement as an integral part of impact investment, Jarrod Ormiston presented the results of a series of interviews with impact investors to find out how important financial returns are compared to social returns for them.

This year's ISIRC was another step for the formation of a social innovation research community. All researchers interested in social innovation should stay tuned for 2015 when ISIRC will take place at the University of York in early September.

Mainstreaming social innovation across related disciplines, August and September 2014

Jeremy Millard, Danish Technological Institute

Late summer and early autumn is the busiest time of year for workshops and conferences after a relaxing summer break with time for connecting the dots and thinking afresh, and 2014 was no exception. This year, however, has seen a rapid rise in interest from other disciplines in what social innovation can contribute to them and how mutual learning and new insights can be nurtured and expanded. At least three new opportunities have presented themselves just over the last month.

First, a major IMISCOE (International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion) Conference in late August in Madrid, focused on the role social innovation can play in increasing understanding of the integration and assimilation of international, and especially non-European, migrants into the EU. Despite basic levels of state support and a myriad of public programmes, such migrants are often left to their own devices and their own communities in coping with their new homes, status and identity.

A highlight contribution to the debate was provided by Ceren Özgen, from the University of Amsterdam, who focused on the immigrants' own innovation potential, derived from their diversity and social capital in creating new social and economic innovations, often in close cooperation with indigenous communities.

For example, there is a clear correlation across Europe between the number of industrial patents and economic

productivity, on the one hand, and the number of foreign workers as a share of the workforce, on the other. Both Jürgen Howaldt (of the Dortmund Technical University) and Jeremy Millard (Danish Technological Institute) enriched this discussion, pointing to both the theories and practices of social innovation in understanding the types of policies, incentives and other supports best suited to encourage such developments.

Second, an early September workshop at the other end of Europe in the Swedish capital of Stockholm, where the Nordic Centre for Spatial Development took time out to get up-to-date on social innovation. The Nordic countries and regions are facing severe demographic changes, such as stagnation or reduction in the share of the working age population, out-migration and a significant increase in the share of the population over the age of 65.

The workshop looked to see whether social innovation can improve understanding and practice in tackling these demographic and welfare challenges. After scene-setting by Åse Ström Hildestrand (Head of Policy at the Nordic Centre), who outlined the potential for social innovation to inspire new collaborative governance approaches for securing the provision of services in all parts of the Nordic countries, Jeremy Millard (Danish Technological Institute) supplemented with a number of detailed examples of the contribution that social innovations have made in other parts of Europe.

Chief among these is the new role the public sector has, particularly at regional and local level, in involving both citizens and businesses, not just in contributing to the policy debate, but also in proactive collaboration to address local challenges. For example, under conducive circumstances, social enterprises, volunteers and others, can lead on certain types of activities for providing local community supports, social services, and small-scale economic activities. The Transit Town movement was seen as a particularly instructive example at local level, given its grassroots dynamic and espoused role “to inspire, encourage, connect, support and train communities as they self-organise to create a healthy human culture that meets our needs for community, livelihood and fun.”

Mid September in Copenhagen saw the Danish Technological Institute (DTI) as hosts of a major global congress on the EU's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. Under the auspices of WAITRO (the World Association of Industrial and Technological Research Organisations, which includes DTI, TNO from Holland, Fraunhofer from Germany and the VTT from Finland), 400 delegates from over 50 countries gathered for three days to discuss how the various WAITRO members can participate in international research collaboration projects.

The highlight keynote was delivered by Professor Maheslkar from India (President of the Global Research Alliance) who outlined the role of inclusive innovation as a global game changer. Inclusive innovation, already being taken up in many national policies as well as by the World Bank, shares many of the basic tenets and approaches of social innovation, with an additional focus on home-grown innovation to solve social and economic problems.

However, it also emphasises the affordability of solutions, whether for individuals, communities or the state, whilst retaining the need for effectiveness, accessibility, high quality, scalability and sustainability. In addition, numerous workshops were held around H2020's seven societal challenges, including the role of social innovation in future research lead by Jeremy Millard (Danish Technological Institute). This examined the likely shift in the 2016-2017 work programme towards inclusive innovation, alongside a stronger focus on tackling inequalities and poverty in Europe.

It is clear that social innovation research and practice is having influence across the traditional boundaries separating, not just disciplines, but also major areas of policy, both in Europe and beyond. This will happen increasingly over the next five years, so we need to be aware of and open to the significant opportunities this affords for creating a better world, as well as the need to re-assert the significant identity and value of social innovation in its own right.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM WWW.SIRESEARCH.EU

Rachel Schon writes about the connections between religion and social innovation. She notes that many social innovations have sprung from a religious context, for example the hospice movement, or the Girl Guides. Moreover, religious organisations have a history of responding to social needs long before the state accepted these as its responsibility, and Rachel notes that we have recently seen the development of secular organisations and practises which use the tools of religion to meet social needs, for example The Sunday Assembly. Rachel argues that while religions systematically develop their thinking around theory and practice through theology, social innovations are generally less theoretically grounded, which can lead to less sophistication in responding to normative questions.

Gunnar Glänzel writes about the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge, the viral phenomenon which involves people pouring buckets of cold water over themselves and posting the evidence on social media, while also making a donation to the ALS Association. He notes that while this is a fundraising stunt and not an innovative solution to a social problem, it nevertheless contains aspects of social innovation in that it has sparked discussion and awareness around ALS, water shortages and the proper use of donated funds. Nevertheless, there are certainly elements of slacktivism and clicktivism in this campaign too, in that not everybody who has participated will have donated or engaged in the ensuing discussion.

Anton Shelupanov writes on the question of whether the Criminal Justice Sector can learn from Apple and Google, particularly when it comes to practices which aim to spark and accelerate the development of innovation. At the moment he believes that the sector is lacking the support structures which can recognise and accelerate innovation where it arises. His organisation, the Centre for Justice Innovation, has recently set up 'Streetcraft Scholarships' which support social entrepreneurs through the Accelerator model and through Innovation Time Off. He describes this as an 'unpredictable experiment', but a necessary one for the sector.

Marlieke Kieboom argues that the principal aim of social innovation research is to re-search, re-visit and challenge existing assumptions, ideas, and theories of socially innovative practices. In order to do this, she believes that social innovation researchers need to revisit their own research cultures to uncover context, barriers and opportunities and challenge values, norms and practices. Using an example from her own work in education, Marlieke expresses the concern that social innovation researchers can be too disconnected from social innovation practitioners, which disempowers the practitioners themselves. She echoes David Phipps in calling for more 'pracademics' who can bridge these two worlds, in addition to offering new suggestions of ways in which the research community could welcome diverse perspectives.

If you would like to contribute to the siresearch.eu website then please contact Rachel Schon at Rachel.Schon@young-foundation.org



WHAT'S NEXT



*Gwendolyn Carpenter and Jeremy Millard,
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Tepsi's final conference - SI Live –12-13th November, 2014, Lisbon, Portugal

We are delighted to announce that TEPsIE's final conference will be part of a two day international conference exploring the future of social innovation research, incubation and action.

SIX, TEPsIE, SI-DRIVE, TRANSITION and BENISI present
SI LIVE -

Bringing together social innovation research, incubation
and action

12-13th November, 2014

The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon

The event will bring together leading social innovators, academics and practitioners to discuss and explore:

- The future research agenda for social innovation
- How best to incubate and scale social innovations
- How the EU can help to strengthen and develop the field of social innovation in Europe

This event is being organised by four of the EU's flagship social innovation projects: TEPsIE, SI DRIVE, TRANSITION and BENISI. As part of this conference, TEPsIE will be sharing its key findings and exploring issues for future research with SI DRIVE and BENISI and TRANSITION will be disseminating their interim results. We'll also be showcasing social innovations from around the world and highlighting examples of local best practice.

The event will be co-ordinated by the Social Innovation Exchange and hosted by The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

Look out for the final batch of Tepsie publications:

- September 2014 – Current practices in assessing the impact of social innovation projects/ programmes aiming to tackle unemployment (D6.3)
- September 2014 – In-depth case studies of online tools supporting social innovation (D8.3)
- October 2014 – Gap analysis of policies and practices in digital social innovation (D8.4), Policy Report digital social innovation(D8.5)
- October 2014 - Policy Paper Scaling (D7.4)
- October 2014 – Policy Paper Measurement (D6.4)
- November 2014 - Policy Paper Overcoming Barriers to Social Innovation (D.3.3)
- December 2014 – Final report(s) (D.1.4)

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