

Dear partners and friends of COPE,

COPE is proceeding very successfully and it is time to update you with the progress of the project. In this issue of our newsletter we will report about the outcome of the research we have undertaken so far and shed light on further steps in the project. Furthermore, you will find information on publications and conference activities.

1. Research outcome

Reports on the national arena of combating poverty: Analyzing the role the national level plays in terms of active inclusion and minimum income policies is one core aspect of the COPE project. We are glad to announce that this task is almost accomplished. All national teams – except NOVA – have spent the past month with extensive research on the role of the national level. Coordinated by the COPE team at the University of Edinburgh (UEDIN), each team conducted about 15 interviews with the core actors in the field of anti-poverty poverty policies on the national level; among them representatives of the relevant ministries, party politicians who are specialized on this policy field, representatives of trade unions and employers' associations as well as representatives of welfare associations. On the basis of these interviews and an extensive document analysis we have written 5 national reports that analyse the governance structures and the main minimum income schemes for working age persons. The reports on [Germany](#), the [United Kingdom](#), [Italy](#), [Poland](#) and [Sweden](#) are published on our web page. The final step, writing a comparative report based on the findings of the five national studies, is about to be completed. We will inform you as soon as the comparative report is available on our web page.

Theoretical aspects regarding poverty and social exclusion: Our Norwegian team in Oslo (NOVA) has provided us with sound analyses on the “[Political Implications of the Current Debate on Poverty, Deprivation and Social Exclusion in Europe](#)”. Against the background of a comprehensive overview of the theoretical debates on these topics in social sciences, they discuss their impact on the current policies in this field.

Progress in the work package on the European level: This work package is under the lead of our Italian team at the University of Milan. As a first important milestone they have presented a comprehensive report on “[The European Arenas of Combating Poverty](#)”. They analyse the impact of the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) on social issues in the Lisbon Decade with a special focus on the peer-review meetings as part of the OMC. Furthermore, the report examines the recent European strategies for combating poverty and fostering social inclusion that were implemented in the EU2020-Strategy.



The Italian and the Polish Team in Milan, September 2012

Three papers on the empirical picture of poverty and deprivation in Europe: Giving empirical evidence how patterns of poverty and social exclusion across Europe can be explained is an important aspect of the COPE project. We have published three papers on these topics on our web page. Two of them each focus on one of our target groups: The first one deals with the question [to which extent family-policies are able to reduce the above average poverty rates of lone parents](#). The task of the second paper is to give an insight into the [patterns of in-work poverty in European countries](#) with a special focus on how these patterns can be explained by national context factors such as employment regimes or social and family policies. Finally we have just recently published a study on [the impact cross-national differences and convergence trends in Europe have on patterns of material deprivation](#).

2. Meetings

Progress Meetings: We have had two successful progress meetings that both proved to be very motivating for the course of our project. Our first meeting in Milan last summer aimed to assess the progress of research activity in the six work packages, in order to orientate further research also by considering comments and suggestions of members of both the Scientific Advisory Committee and the European Stakeholders.

The meeting was also useful to increase COPE partners' commitment to the project and to develop a shared project identity. The meeting was thought to be fruitful by all partners especially in tackling some



common methodological challenges.

Progress meeting in Milan, September 2012

The decisions made at this meeting were very useful in guiding us through the next months of our project. In spring this year we met again in Lund, where we discussed the reports on the national level of combating poverty as well as the findings on the European arena presented by the Italian team. Furthermore we had an intriguing presentation on the policy-relevance of the theoretical concepts of poverty, deprivation and social exclusions. Finally we decided about the next steps in the project which mainly regard the research on the local level and the impact of active inclusion policies on individual life-courses.

National Stakeholder Meetings: In the context of our national-level research (work package 5), each national team has its national stakeholder committee (NSC). The meeting with the NSC last autumn se meetings aimed at discussing our research design as well as facilitating the national-level interviews.

3. Conference activities

COPE has been very visible on international conferences. Among others, we have recently presented our findings on the Reassess-Conference "Shifting to Post-Crisis Welfare States in Europe?" as well as on the twentieth international research seminar of the Foundation for International Studies on Social Security. Currently we are looking

forward to presenting a comparative analysis on the impact of active inclusion policies on entry and exit rates of poverty at the ESPAnet Conference in September this year. Furthermore we are glad to announce that we are planning a joint conference of several FP-7 projects working on topics that are related to COPE's research focus (mainly Localise, Wilco, Flows and Improve). The conference will focus on future challenges for social inclusion, participation and social cohesion in Europe. Further information can be found on the web as soon as they are available.

4. Current research and future tasks

One current focus of COPE is to analyse how active inclusion policies are implemented and delivered at the local level. Under the lead of our Swedish partners in Lund we are conducting five local case studies. In order to facilitate the comparison of our findings each national team has chosen a major city with a strong industrial heritage: Glasgow (UK), Malmö (Sweden), Turin (Italy), Radom (Poland) and Dortmund (Germany). We are very much looking forward to discussing the findings on the local level at our next meeting in Edinburgh in October this year. Furthermore we are about to getting started with the first part of the reports on the national and local usages of Europe. Based on the findings of the interviews on the national and the local level, each team will prepare a preliminary report examining the impact European policies have in the national context. The general course of the project in the next months is to complete the research on the local level by mid-September. The rest of the year and the beginning of 2014 will be dedicated to finalize the work on the European arena and to conduct the research on the individual level. Furthermore, our task for 2014 is to summarize our results in a common comparative frame and to prepare concluding publications.

Further Information and Contact: Further information on COPE can be found on our web page (www.cope-research.eu) or on facebook www.facebook.com/COPEresearch. If you have any questions about the project or know someone who might be interested in the newsletter please contact either Martin Heidenreich, scientific coordinator (martin.heidenreich@uni-oldenburg.de) or Dorothee Spannagel, project manager (dorothee.spannagel@uni-oldenburg.de).

On behalf of the whole COPE team, best regards,

Martin Heidenreich (scientific coordinator) & Dorothee Spannagel (project manager)