

Dear partners and friends of COPE,

COPE is proceeding very successfully and it is again 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. And last but not least, we would also like to introduce to you Katharina Zimmermann, who has joined the COPE coordinating team in Oldenburg since Dorothee Spannagel has left CETRO for a next career step. Katharina Zimmermann has worked in another FP7 project (LOCALISE: www.localise-research.eu) before and will accompany COPE in its final year.

1. ACCOMPLISHED AND CURRENT RESEARCH

Reports on local active inclusion policies: After having focused on the national level of anti-poverty policies in five European countries, the focus of the last months in COPE-research laid on the local level. Each country team accomplished comprehensive qualitative case studies, based on expert interviews and document analyses. All reports are available at the COPE-website (www.cope-research.eu). Håkan Johansson and the rest of the Swedish COPE team analysed all national reports very carefully and completed a comprehensive comparative report. This report analyses five cities (Dortmund, Turin, Radom, Malmö and Glasgow) in five European welfare states (Germany, Italy, Poland, Sweden and the UK), belonging to a variety of welfare regime constellations. The cities included in the report moreover share a similar background as industrialised cities, which have undergone extensive changes in recent decades. Each city is characterized by extensive problem pressure (high unemployment rates, low labour market participation, high costs for social assistance, pervasive patterns of marginalization and social exclusion) in their respective national context. By building on the national case studies, the report analyses the implementation and/or adoption of national active inclusion models in the local governance of active inclusion policies. This comparative report is as well available at www.cope-research.eu.

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. After having studied the European arena of anti-poverty policies, in the upcoming months they will focus on the effects of these European policies in the different European countries participating in COPE. In order to provide the Italian colleagues with sufficient information for this challenging task, all country teams are currently preparing comprehensive national reports on multilevel “arenas” for fighting poverty and social exclusion, i.e. Europe 2020 and the “peer review” rounds.



2. MEETINGS

In October 2013, the whole COPE consortium and the Scientific Advisory Committee met



for a very successful and inspiring partner-workshop in Edinburgh. The aim of this meeting was to present the results and the draft publications derived from the recently completed work packages (WP5), take stock of the progress of research activity in the work packages currently underway (WP4 and WP6), and plan the work for the research yet to commence (WP7). The meeting was also an opportunity to discuss conference activities, publication plans and management issues.

Stakeholder Conferences: currently, all country teams are preparing meetings with local and national stakeholders in their countries in order to disseminate their scientific findings to especially policy makers and the interested public. The idea is to bring together local authorities interviewed for the case studies and stakeholders involved in the process of policy making at the national level to share and discuss results for a mutual benefit.



German Stakeholder Meeting, Dortmund 2013

Some meetings have already taken place, others are currently organised.

3. CONFERENCES AND COOPERATION

Conference Activities: COPE has been very visible on international conferences in 2013. Both junior and senior researchers were able to produce high-quality articles, which have been presented at conferences such as the Annual ESPAnet conference in Poznan and the Italian ESPAnet conference in Rende, the REASSESS conference in Berlin or an FP7 phd-seminar in Barcelona. Among the papers were especially articles which focus on poverty on social exclusion from a national perspective, and also in comparative dimensions. A list of the COPE conference activities is available at www.cope-research.eu

ESPANET 2014: Daniel Clegg and Martin Heidenreich coordinate a stream at the Annual ESPAnet Conference in Oslo which has a focus on core COPE-issues: Poverty, Minimum Income Schemes and Active Inclusion. Further information on the stream can be found here: www.nova.no/espanet2014oslo

Policy Conference, Brussels: The Policy Conference “Building inclusive welfare systems – A dialogue between research and practice” will take place on 5 June 2014 in Brussels. Researchers from four FP7 projects (LOCALISE, COPE, FLOWS and WILCO) will present the most policy-relevant results of their research, followed by a panel discussion among researchers and policy-makers. For further information or to register, please contact: kerstin.zemke@uni-oldenburg.de

FP7 Conference 2014: In October 2014, six FP7 research projects (COPE, FLOWS, IMPROVE, INSPIRES, LOCALISE, WILCO) are organizing a conference in Berlin to explore current social trends in Europe as well as the effect of social investment or active inclusion-oriented policies - where they exist - on patterns of social inclusion and exclusion. Further information is available here: www.inclusive-europe-conference.eu

4. NEXT STEPS

European dimension of anti-poverty policies: Completing the research in this field will be on the agenda especially for the Italian team, but as well for the country teams. Here, the national reports are going to be accomplished within the next months.

The individual level of social exclusion is from now on the main focus of the project. In the last research-related work package (*The Impact of Welfare Interventions on Life-Courses of Deprived Groups*), in-depth qualitative research is accomplished in order to address the question: How do anti-poverty policies support/hinder people's ability to get out from difficult positions they are in? The empirical basis for answering this question are problem-centred interviews with ten persons in each city analysed for the local case studies. The results of the individual level research will be presented in national reports. In a next step these findings will be compared by the work package leader, the Polish COPE team.

Third Progress Meeting: In June, all COPE researchers will meet for a final Progress Meeting in Warsaw to discuss both the empirical results of the work packages on the European and the individual dimension, as well as proceed with publication plans and other dissemination strategies.

Preparing an Edited Volume: The first steps towards producing a high-quality edited volume on the basis of the COPE-research results have been taken. The Norwegian team has recently prepared a proposal for the book, which covers the European, the national and the subnational arena for combating poverty and social exclusion.

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 (martin.heidenreich@uni-oldenburg.de) or Katharina Zimmermann (k.zimmermann@uni-oldenburg.de).

On behalf of the whole COPE team,

Martin Heidenreich & Katharina Zimmermann

