



MetropolisNet

Newsletter

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1. **Editorial**
2. **MetropolisNet - Get to know the Network:**
The Co-ordinating Office
3. **News from Projects**
Jump@School
EP-Dem Labs
4. **Equity, Participation and Decision Making
Laboratories - and its Policy Relevance on a
European Level**
5. **Network Notice Board**

Dear Reader,

Today you receive the first Newsletter of MetropolisNet. Being such a diverse network, working on a whole range of projects all over Europe we would be glad to give more insight to everybody about our work.

In this first edition the Co-ordinating Office of the Network, located in Berlin will be presented and we will introduce you to the current activities in the projects EP-DeM Labs and Jump@School.

In the following editions you will get to know our member organisations and gain up to date information about the ongoing projects and important topics and events related to our work.

For additional news about MetropolisNet you can also follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

MetropolisNet – get to know the Network

The Co-ordinating Office

MetropolisNet is a grouping of urban organizations and partnerships involved in social inclusion and labour market strategies at local level in large European cities. The members of the European Economic Interest Group consider the promotion of employment and social inclusion to be essential for the sustainable economic growth of urban areas. The members of MetropolisNet see each other as equal partners sharing the vision on an inclusive European society.

MetropolisNet mission is to offer local solutions and to support sustainable development in metropolitan areas in the European context.

In this first issue of the MetropolisNet Newsletter we would like to make you familiar with the team and the tasks of the MetropolisNet co-ordinating office.

The main task of the co-ordinating office is to fill the MetropolisNet mission with life. This is done by the director Dr. Reiner Aster, the network co-ordinators Jasmin Zouizi and Elena Grilli; Petra König the network administrator; Anita Hebbinghaus the project lead of two MetropolisNet projects and Antonia Restemeier the student assistant. The team is based in Berlin and Paris.



MetropolisNet

European network of local development
partnerships in metropolitan areas



The co-ordinating office- team: Antonia, Anita, Jasmin, Reiner, Elena and Petra

- The co-ordinating office is administrating the exchange of information and transferring experience and know-how between the partner organisations and beyond, supported by the partner's know-how at the local, regional, national and European level.
- We bundle the partner's expertise in different policy areas on a practical and on a research level: employment & labour market, urban development and social policy;
- The co-ordinating office designs and co-ordinates joint European innovative projects

In the next issues of the Newsletter you will find detailed presentations of the MetropolisNet members here.

MetropolisNet members are: Ballymun Job Centre from Dublin (IE), Budapest Chance from Budapest (HU), Centre of Social Innovation from Vienna (AT), City of Tampere, Employment Unit from Tampere (FI), Ciofs-FP from Rome (IT), DublinNet from Dublin (IE), Gsub-Projektgesellschaft mbH from Berlin(DE), Lawaetz Stiftung from Hamburg (DE), Rinova from London (UK).

Jasmin Zouizi

News from Projects

EP-DeM Labs

Ep-DeM Labs Equity, Participation, Decision Making Labs – youth in transition in European cities is a European project, aimed at tackling the issue of youth social disengagement and trying to influence the ways in which employment and training measures are planned, implemented and evaluated. MetropolisNet is leading partner of the project, which is funded by the ERASMUS+ Programme of the European Union, Key Action 3 (KA3). Key Action 3 aims at stimulating innovative policy development, policy dialogue and implementation, and the exchange of knowledge in the fields of education, training and youth¹.

Youth and decision-makers are being addressed in Bologna, Cagliari, Dublin and London, to take part in innovative and participatory Laboratories that are exploring if and how transition measures have been working and effective so far, what would be the desirable changes to make them more equitable and

¹ Most of the actions under KA3 are managed outside the annual general calls of proposals
https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/actions/key-action-3-support-for-policy-reform_en

attractive for youth, and what are the practical engagements that policy makers and youth can agree upon to undertake a significant “journey of change”. In each of the cities, a group of specially trained “Lab facilitators” is organising and managing this challenging path.

So far, the Youth and Policy Makers have evidenced many challenges that have been probably hindering the capacity of Youth Guarantees or similar schemes to reach, or effectively support, especially the most disadvantaged youth, and those who feel disengaged towards institutions and public provisions.

One of the recurrent comments from the youngsters was that they have not a “real say” within the decisions making processes concerning their lives and their employment: *“adults think, in my view, that us, youngsters, are not able to take a decision about our future. So, they don’t give us the chance to have a voice in this regard. We have to stay there, looking straight ahead, trying to understand what we want to do while they are taking decisions for us, even if sometimes they are wrong”*, pointed out a young girl from Cagliari.



EP DeM Lab in Cagliari, November 2016

Policy makers and providers Labs, on the other hand, acknowledged since the beginning the relevance and importance of the topics addressed within EP-DeM, as, even if in very different contexts, a common problem is that different providers and decision-makers involved in planning and delivery transition measures targeting youth do not have many institutional paths to confront among them-

selves about the measures results, their strengths and weaknesses. Even less, they have access to what are the real beneficiaries’ experiences within the measures like the Youth Guarantees.

In June 2017, a European Lab in Dublin will put together youngsters, decision-makers and training and employment providers from all over Europe to gather and discuss the most important findings and recommendations from the City-Labs. Stay tuned!

More information and updates are available on our website www.epdemlabs.eu.



“The journey of change” Cagliari November 2016

«There’s an emerging body of evidence that shows that, as is intuitively obvious and commonsensical, much more than smarts are needed for success in life.

Cognitive skills matter but so do things like motivation, sociability, the ability to work with others, Attention, Self-Regulation, Self Esteem, Ability to defer gratification – these things matter a great deal. “Social” skills matter— they can be shaped, and they are strongly predictive. And along with cognitive skills, they determine success in school, in the labor force, and in life itself».

James Heckman, Nobel Prize Winner in Economics

Elena Grilli

Jump@School - Networking for Early School-Leaving Prevention

The creation of international and local expert networks and the transfer of best practices are two important objectives of the jump@school project besides the realization and scientific measurement of especially created interventions to prevent early school-leaving (ESL). To achieve this goal, 13 exchange seminars were realized in Italy, Austria, Vienna, Poland, Spain and Germany - monitored and evaluated by MetropolisNet.

Local and international experts on education and guidance met for a 2nd exchange seminar within the project in Berlin on the 22nd of February 2017. The seminar gave occasion to share and discuss the first results of the school interventions in Sardinia and Spain. These were based on a special 6-months-curriculum including individual guidance, social group activities, creative workshops and self-assessment tools. 480 youngsters, aged from 14-16 took part.

The presented results of the interventions were scientifically measured by ZSI (Centre for Social Innovation, Vienna) and evaluated through qualitative interviews with teachers, parents and students by our Partner IVAL (Milan). Other than assumed, youngsters who actively took part in the intervention managed to improve their learning and motivation capacities rather than getting better grades. By using these new techniques, through individual guidance and psychological support received by the Jump@school trainers they (re-) gained self-confidence and were able to look more optimistic at their own future.



Nina Staebler in Berlin

Nina Staebler's presentation of the *Work Week*, a program for primary school kids established by 15Billion, a London based organization with a broad experience in supporting youngsters and cooperating with local businesses, gave an excellent example of how children can be regularly involved in activities related to the world of work from a much earlier age on - how school can be fun and at the same time raise different interests.

In the final discussion on the seminar it was agreed that the ESL problem is closely linked to the social background and psychological well-being of every child. Drop-out prevention should therefore start from an early age on and be closely linked to an understanding of individual needs but also competencies of a young person.

More information you can find on the project's website <http://jumpatschool.eu/>

Anita Hebbinghaus

Equity, Participation and Decision Making Laboratories - and its Policy Relevance on a European Level

On occasion of the Mid-Term Management Board Meeting on 30th and 31st January 2017 in London, the Director of the MetropolisNet set out the Policy Relevance of KA3 and of the EP-DeM Labs project as a part of it on a European Level. How can the EP-DeM Labs project being embedded in the broader framework of European policies?

The *‘European Agenda on Security’*² supports the Member States cooperation in tackling security threats – currently a big topic in Europe. The Agenda sets out concrete tools and measures in the fields of fight against terrorism, crime and cybercrime by supporting actions through training, funding, research and innovation. In 2015, amongst other, a *‘Civil Society Empowerment Programme’* had been launched in order to support civil society partners and grass root organisations, empowering these different groups to provide effective alternatives to the messages coming from violent extremists as well as ideas that counter their propaganda³. The European Security Agenda also underlines the need to tackle radicalization that can lead to violent extremism *by participation and active involvement of young people* – exactly the purpose of the EP-DeM Labs project. Moreover, the European Council’s conclusions on the prevention of radicalization leading to violent extremism underline *the preventive role of education and youth work. Cognitive skills remain essential, but also social, civic and intercultural competencies, communication and conflict resolution tools are important.*

² https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-security_en

³ https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation_awareness_network/civil-society-empowerment-programme_en

The *‘Declaration of Paris’* (March 2015)⁴ established after the terrorist attacks in France and Denmark, underlines the *meaning of social, civic and intercultural* competencies by promoting democratic values and fundamental rights, social inclusion and non-discrimination, as well as active citizenship. This also includes the education of disadvantaged children and young people by addressing their needs. As a follow-up of the Declaration the COM and the Council jointly decided to adapt their policy cooperation in the field of Education and Training (ET 2020 strategy). Encouraging *“inclusive education”* is one of the key messages in this respect. It is defined as addressing the increasing diversity of learners and enhancing access to quality and inclusive mainstream education and training for all learners, including disadvantaged groups. *Combatting inequalities in education and training* – currently persisting in the Member States -, *the need of more inclusive and equitable education and training systems* are important elements of the Declaration. EP-DeM Labs is connected with this strategy by promoting *equity, social inclusion and active citizenship as new priorities on European Level after the Declaration of Paris.*

The *‘EU Youth Strategy’* (2010 – 2018)⁵ has two main objectives: to provide *more and equal opportunities for young people in education and the job market* (1) and to encourage young people to *actively participate in society* (2). This is done by specific youth initiatives, encouraging *non-formal learning, participation, voluntary activities, youth work* and cross sector initiatives. The rationale behind is a *participatory approach*, using the open meth-

⁴ Declaration on Promoting citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education, http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/repository/education/news/2015/documents/citizenship-education-declaration_en.pdf

⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/youth/policy/youth-strategy_en

od of coordination via the Youth Council. Peer learning and structured dialogues with young people are embedded in this strategy – a concept that is also applied by the EP-DeM Labs project. The evaluation of the Youth strategy and the council recommendation from March 2016 entails two interesting recommendations with regard to the EP-DeM Labs project: (1) the aim *to achieve broader participation of local and regional policy makers* and (2) the new challenges most frequently reported to the authors of the evaluation: radicalization, *integration of migrants* and digitalization.

The ‘**European Agenda on Migration**’ is one of the 10 priorities of the Political Guidelines of the Juncker presidency. Migration needs must be better managed in all its aspects. It describes further steps to manage migration in a European way, i.e. new steps of legal migration and how to handle the inflow of migrants in Europe. The recognition of qualifications of refugees and migrants is a further topic under this strategy.

The ‘**New Skills Agenda**’, launched in 2016, offers 10 actions, measures, amongst other *strengthening basic skills, building resilience* and a focus on digital skills as well as a proposal of a “Skills Guarantee”. It is stated, that the mission of education and training is to prepare not only for the labour market, but also to contribute *to social inclusion and cohesion*. Validating non-formal and informal learning is an additional requirement.



EP-DeM Lab in Cagliari, November 2016

To summarize it, KA3 and in particular EP-DeM Labs project are well embedded in the overarching European strategies as they provide participation, equity and a better involvement by decision making, taking into consideration the needs, dreams and wishes of young people. Making their voices heard remains a big task – and this is one of the aims of the EP-DeM Labs project.

Dr. Reiner Aster

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Network Notice Board:

- 31. May – 2. June NQCA 5th Partnership Meeting in Eger, Hungary:** presentation of the final draft of the Policy Toolkit. Only for NQCA project partners.
- 2. June NQCA Multiplier Event in Eger, Hungary:** Quality Culture and Quality Assurance in Workplace Learning. Open event with registration. More information on: http://www.nqca.eu/nqca_events/
- 08. June EP-DeM European Lab in Dublin:** this event will bridge all the process and product results produced in Cagliari, Dublin, Bologna and London to a European dimension. Open event with registration. More information on: <http://www.epdemlabs.eu/event/european-ep-dem-lab/>
- 13. June MetropolisNet Development Meeting in Berlin:** the annual development meeting of the network. Only for MetropolisNet Members
- 14. June Euro-iVET Transnational Network Seminar in Berlin:** gathering of international and national experts of iVET training and presentation of the project's research results in European metropolitan areas and presentation of the new European training profile. Open event, for further information and registration please contact: anita.hebbinghaus@metropolisnet.eu or visit <http://euro-ivet.eu/news-and-events/>