Governance in social innovation dynamics and strategies

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Objectives of the research

- Focusing the relationship between social innovation and governance: governance for SI & governance as SI.

- To understand how socially creative strategies (SCS) emerge to face social exclusion.

- To assess the links of these innovative strategies to governance: how these strategies can be sustained in time, and why and how they provide social inclusion?

Scientific approach/Methodology

- Institutionalist approach:
  - the governance framework and the welfare regime in which SCS take place or to which they react.
  - the internal organisation of the groups performing SCS and the local context in which the SCS take place
- Comparison of the capacity of each strategy to impact on the existing governance framework. Impact on governance is measured analysing three different dimensions:

  a) changes in policies

  b) changes in the ways of approaching the problems and

  c) changes towards transparency and more participation in decision-making.

...Katarsis

Comparative analysis between SCS and their governance regimes

- The governance regime has a clear influence on the different strategies followed.

- Socially creative strategies that have an impact on governance are institutionalised in different ways, depending on the local context and the welfare regime.

- In contexts where market-oriented organisations are salient, civil society groups tend to become service providers without a change in policies. In other contexts such as corporatist or familistic welfare regimes, innovative strategies tend to play a more relevant role in the redefinition of policies and values.

New Knowledge and European Value Added

- SCS need to find a balance between pragmatism and their universal objectives.

- There is a dialectical tension between innovation and institutional path-dependency

- Institutionalisation can also be socially innovative.

- The relationship between bottom-up experiences developed by civil society and top-down policy-making can be better understood with the concept of bottom-linked practices.

...Katarsis

Key messages for policy-makers, businesses, trade unions and civil society actors

- Social innovation has an impact on governance by providing new forms of conceptualising problems of social exclusion and new policy responses
- Bottom-linked approaches in policy making can be recommended to face social exclusion in the local context.

Innovation within public sector: Community Center Gallerup, Aarhus (Denmark)

- The local public institutions are the leading forces. 'Municipal socialism'.
- Various public institutions manage the centre, sharing a common infrastructure and logic.
- Shows a new standard for holistic and user-inclusive method of public services and spaces and generate activities (dancing)
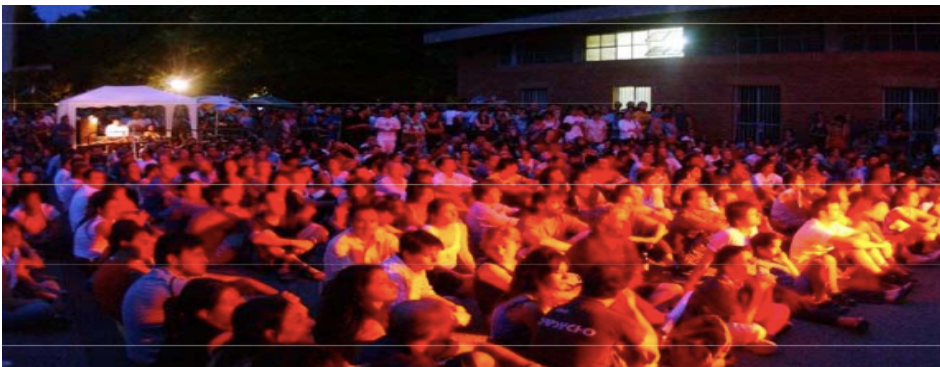- A new approach to welfare provision based on empowerment as the way to equality.

Bottom-up innovation embedded in the territory: Olinda (Milano) and Ateneu Popular de Nou Barris (Barcelona)

- Neighbourhood re-appropriation of outdated spaces.
- The consolidation becomes possible after conflict, negotiations and agreements with the city council.
- Strong social ties within the neighbourhood, promoting enjoyment, civic life and culture.
- Attraction of public from other municipalities of the metropolitan area through the regular programming of cultural events.

Innovation towards market inclusion? Pedestrian and Promo Cymru (United Kingdom)

- Both initiatives work on arts in the community, youth and new job opportunities.

- Both are based on managerial organisation and are oriented towards business.

- Both combine awareness about working on social inclusion with the provision of goods and services through market mechanisms.

- Both organisations show an efficient allocation of resources and are able to export their experiences to other contexts.

SCS in a multi-scalar context: AFIP (France), ARSIS (Greece) and City mine(d) (Belgium)

- ARSIS has developed a strong and large voluntary organisation in order to become nationally influential.

- AFIP has successfully achieved national influence mainly by basing its work on creating networks between its users, companies and other organisations at different levels.

- City Mine(d) (originally from Brussels) works through the creation of different agencies in Europe (Brussels, Barcelona and London), basing its work in the diversification of funding sources.

Concluding remarks

- In most of the SCS, the two objectives (**Service provision & policies redefinition**) can be found at the same time

- SCS depend on the ability of coordination of different actors at different scales: **Multi-level**.

- In terms of governance analysis, the concept of **bottom-linked** initiatives shows the close relationship established between bottom-up initiatives and top-down practices and policies.