KATARSIS: an overview

Growing Inequality and Social Innovation: Alternative Knowledge and Practice in Overcoming Social Exclusion in Europe

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Overview

- ⊠ Background and catalysts
- ⊠ Objectives
- ⊠ Workpackages
- ⊠ Links between workpackages
- ⊠ Methodology: ontology, theory, empirical research tools
- ⊠ Results from Workpackage 1
- ⊠ Looking ahead

Background

- Social exclusion dynamics at articulated spatial levels: from City to Global - but a strong focus on the Local.

- A two decades long tradition of EC research...

- ... with an increasing interest in social innovation, alternative spaces, diversity in overcoming alienation.

- A EU research approach that is too dependent on the official interpretation of the Knowledge-Based Society and its research approach.

Catalysts

- Growing socio-economic inequality in Europe and the world (place and space-wise): reactions in various existential fields (including scientific communities) …

- 'Alternative research': interdisciplinarity, transdisciplinarity, action research, …

- Connections with social forces and movements : Alter-globalization, Neighbourhood Committees, COMPLETE

- Local development and a revival of the social economy: practice - policy - research

- Human development revisited: from HDI to multi-scalar empowerment

- Our own antecedents: URSPIC, URBEX, SINGOCOM, …A more dialectical approach to the links between exclusion and alienation AND socially creative strategies to overcome them.

KATARSIS cares to ...

Put to the scientific forum the diversity of research methods used or intended to be used – but waiting for proper funding – to study the diversity of existential spheres in Europe and how the users or occupants of these 'existential biotopes' have developed specific strategies to 'make their world work'. To this purpose actors from practice networks participate in KATARSIS;

Develop a methodological framework that will lead future research on strategies to combat the consequences of growing inequality, not only by learning from existing approaches, but also by extracting common trends in theorising and empirical research methods.

Objective 1

Provide a State-of-the-Art review regarding the specific consequences of growing inequality in Europe and how these consequences have been researched. This review focuses on the following questions: "How have specific groups that have suffered badly from growing inequality and exclusion dynamics reacted in a social and/or creative way?" The focus is less on 'the growing bad luck and how bad it is' than on the 'brave people working their creative way out'. We have organised this State of the Art in several categories that we have called "existential fields", because they are related to various sectors of everyday life. For a selection of 5 existential fields we will provide an overview of the severe consequences of inequality and exclusion (minor focus) and creative strategies to handle or overcome these (major focus) and how these have been researched.

Objective 2

Offer an overview of attempts to integrate various approaches to analyse and establish socially creative strategies (SCS) to overcome situations of social exclusion.

Objective 2 is to further these integration exercises, which are by nature usually multi/inter-disciplinary, multi-theoretical and geared towards qualitative analysis:

- by extracting methodological commonalities among teams and fields (but favouring these serving to achieve objective 1);

- by connecting them to broader methodological debates in social science – involving other social science researchers beyond the Katarsis consortium;

- and by involving practitioners working along the lines of these integration exercises (practice users group; transdisciplinarity).

Objective 3

Develop a methodology for the analysis of socially creative strategies out of exclusion and for the coordination of ongoing research, which will later be used to guide a wider scientific and policy- as well as practice-oriented discussion on creative and social strategies against exclusion (see especially WP5).

Workpackages

WP1.i   i = 1,…, 5

✠ **Existential field 1: Labour market, employment strategies and social economy (WP1.1)**

✠ **Existential field 2: Education and training (WP1.2)**

✠ **Existential field 3: Housing and Neighbourhood (WP1.3)**

✠ **Existential field 4: Health and Environment (WP1.4)**

✠ **Existential field 5: Governance and Democracy (WP1.5)**

Workpackages, continued

WP 2, 3, 4

⌘   **Integration exercise 1: Bottom-up Creativity to overcome social exclusion:** the reinvention of culture and arts as platforms for social and creative strategies to overcome conditions of exclusion **(WP2);**

⌘   **Integration exercise 2: Governance:** the renewed interest in the relation between governance and democracy in existential fields, areas and communities where strategies against social exclusion are highly relevant **(WP3);**

⌘   **Integration exercise 3: Social Innovation:** 'readings of social innovation' dynamics in various community contexts and at various scales of society **(WP4).** A strongly theoretical and epistemological workpackage.

Workpackages, cont.

- **WP5: Methodology Development : ongoing and next workshop (June 2008)**
- **WP6: Management of research activities**

The overall coordination of the surveying activities (WP1), the integration exercises (WP2 through 4) and WP5 Methodology Development: responsibility of the General Coordinator in cooperation with the Lead Partners.

- **WP7: Administrative and Financial Management**
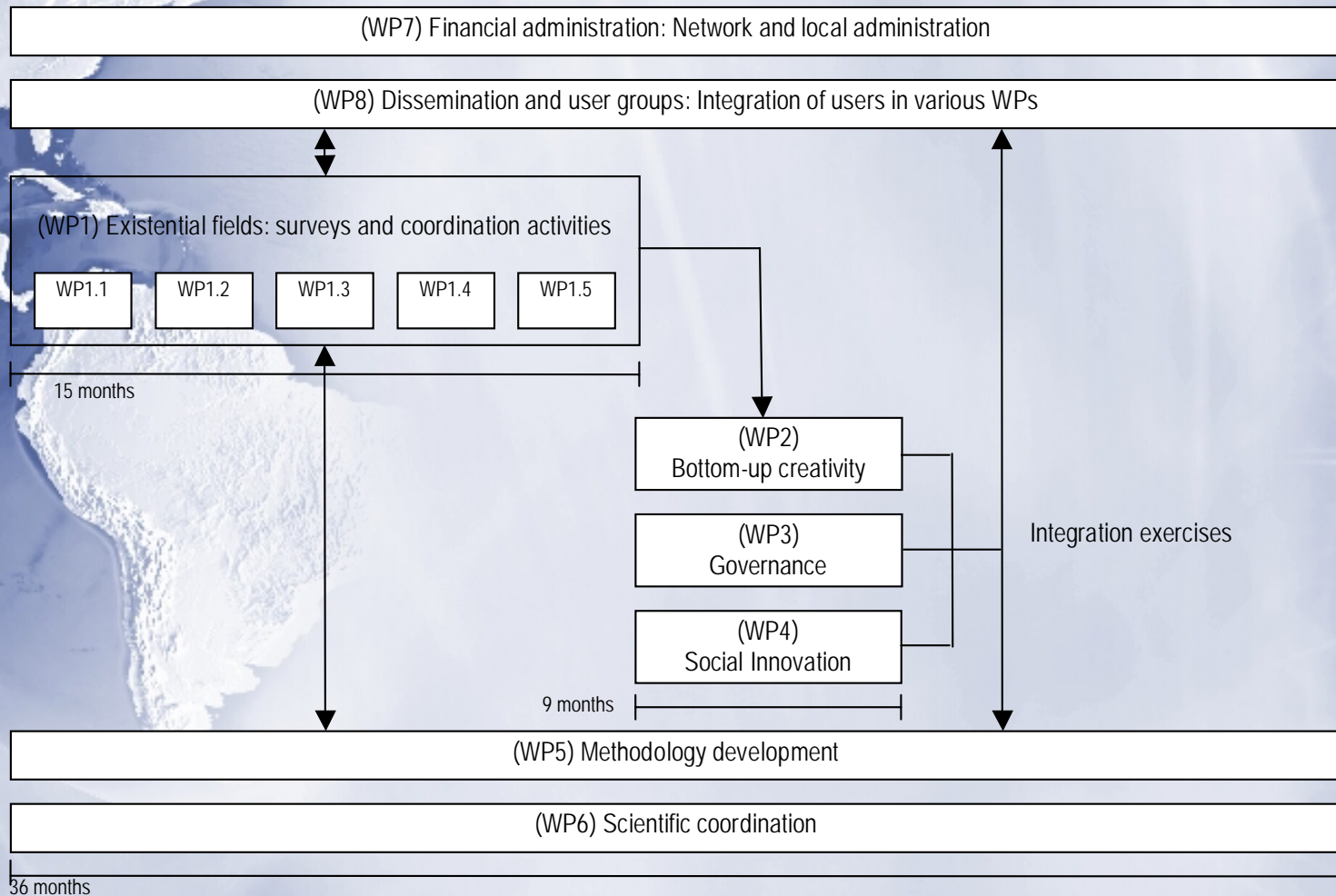- **WP8: Dissemination and User-Groups**

Links between WPs and objectives

Objectives / Workpackages	Objective 1: Surveying of scientific results and its comparability	Objective 2: Overview of integration exercises with involvement of user groups	Objective 3: Methodology for Scientific Analysis and Coordination of Research Š Preparing future research
WP1: Existential fields	Literature surveys, using methods improving comparability	Surveys of literature per existential field as inputs to Integration Exercises	Guidelines for multi-disciplinary scientific developments as learned from existential fields research
WP2: Integration exercise 1	Surveys of literature per existential field as inputs to Integration Exercises	Presenting and communicating integration exercises (IE)	Specific theoretical, methodological and communication ŌlessonsÕfrom IE
WP3: Integration exercise 2	Surveys of literature per existential field as inputs to Integration Exercises	Presenting and communicating integration exercises	Specific theoretical, methodological and communication ŌlessonsÕfrom IE

Links between WPs and objectives

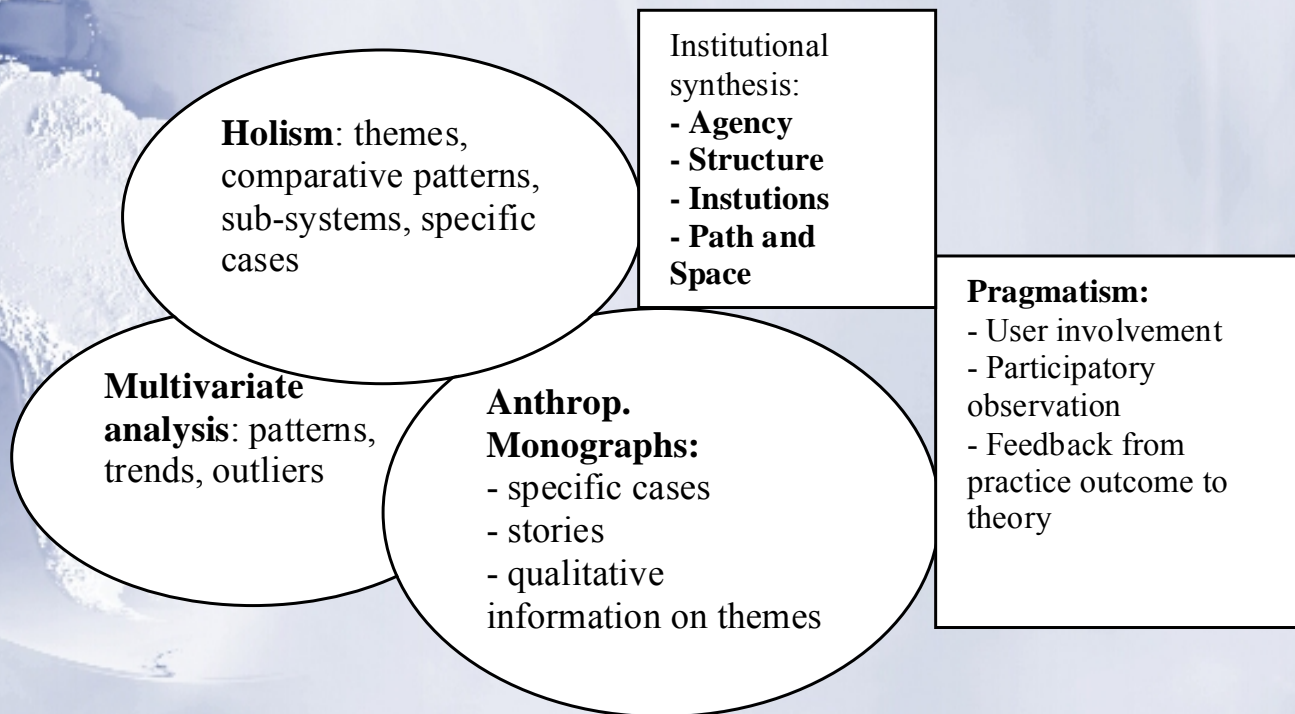| Objectives Workpackages	Objective 1: Surveying of scientific results and its comparability	Objective 2: Overview of integration exercises with involvement of user groups	Objective 3: Methodology for Scientific Analysis and Coordination of Research Š Preparing future research
WP4: Integration exercise 3	Surveys of literature per existential field as inputs to Integration Exercises	Presenting and communicating integration exercises	Specific theoretical, methodological and communication ŌlessonsÕfrom IE
WP5: Methodological Development	Templates for surveys (comparability, communicability, synthesis)	Multi-input model (surveys, peers, practice-community) for integration exercises	Design of multi-dimensional research, training and communication model
WP6: Scientific coordination	Coordination of WP1 to WP5	Coordination of WP1 to WP5	Coordination of WP1 to WP5
WP8: Dissemination and user groups	Occasional involvement of specialists from both types of user groups	Active involvement of practice and policy users in IE	Broader networking and dissemination of results (including methods for scientific research and coordination)

Links between WPs

(WP7) Financial administration: Network and local administration

(WP8) Dissemination and user groups: Integration of users in various WPs

(WP1) Existential fields: surveys and coordination activities

| WP1.1 | WP1.2 | WP1.3 | WP1.4 | WP1.5 |

15 months

(WP2)
Bottom-up creativity

(WP3)
Governance

Integration exercises

(WP4)
Social Innovation

9 months

(WP5) Methodology development

(WP6) Scientific coordination

36 months

Methodology: ontology, theory, empirical research

Figure 7.3 Building the Methodological Framework: methodological perspectives

Institutional synthesis:
- **Agency**
- **Structure**
- **Instutions**
- **Path and Space**

Holism: themes, comparative patterns, sub-systems, specific cases

Pragmatism:
- User involvement
- Participatory observation
- Feedback from practice outcome to theory

Multivariate analysis: patterns, trends, outliers

Anthrop. Monographs:
- specific cases
- stories
- qualitative information on themes

Results from Workpackage 1

Looking ahead

- Valorization:

  Deliverables WP1

  Training moments

  Methodology ...

- ... Methodology: working toward next Workshop in Greece, 4-6 June 2008

- Valorization of WP234: in progress

- The role of an integrated methodology: from bottom-up experiences to sharing methodologies

- Toward a Social Platform: Social Polis

This workshop will ...

⌑ Consolidate the results of WP1 and identify the implications of WP1 in each existential field for each of the integration exercises (Monday):

- ⌑ Bottom-up Creativity
- ⌑ Multi-level Governance
- ⌑ The Concept of Social Innovation.

⌑ Bring these implications together with your practical, political and scientific insights to progress the integration exercises (Tuesday, Thursday, Friday).

⌑ Look forward to WP5 on integrated methodology.