

**KATARSIS Workshop**  
**Lisbon, 28 January – 1 February 2008**  
**WP1.1 Labour Market, Employment and the Social Economy**

A users view  
Lawaetz-Foundation Hamburg

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# Content of the presentation

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1. Who we are ...

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# Who we are ..

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Who we are

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## Lawaetz Foundation - background

- Founded in 1986 by the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg
- a non profit organization with an intermediary character (mediating role between local state/administration and citizens, groups and actors of civil society)
- Main financing resources: City of Hamburg (different ministries), European Commission

### Main aims (by statutes):

- enabling socially and economically disadvantaged people to have access to the labour-, training- and housing market via innovative methods of mobilizing the potentials of self-organization

# Lawaetz Foundation - activities

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Activities in the fields of labour market-, social- and city development policies (mainly addressed to the local/regional context)

- Consulting and project management
- project development, building management, neighbourhood development
- technical assistance of program implementation (f.e. European Social Funds)
- evaluation, applied research and knowledge transfer
- cooperation within European exchange projects (mainly regarding the issue of social exclusion)

# Lawaetz Foundation – examples of transnational co-operation

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Preparatory measurements against social exclusion – the case of neighbourhood management (2000)

Who we are

AVALON (Added Value of local Networking) (2001)

Activities

ELIPSE (European to Local Innovation for best practice policy Development combating Social Exclusion) (2002-2003)

Examples

IMINET (transnational networking in order to improve the integration of migrants into the labour market) (2002-2003)

Comments

National awareness raising measurements for social inclusion policy (2004-2006)

PUSH – Publicly Subsidized Employment in Europe (Innovative measurements Art. 6 ESF) (2005-2006)

Young people from exclusion into inclusion (Urbact) (2005-2006)

CASE – Cities against social exclusion (Interreg IV c) (2005-2007)

Active against forced marriages (Daphne project) (2007-2008)

Co-operation with partner organizations from Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, UK

# Working on the edge of social economy – three examples

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- Consulting of start-ups – mainly people coming out of unemployment – in many case establishing a kind of a low-scale entrepreneurship
- Project management and consulting of housing groups – aiming at a mix of different needs, groups and forms of financing (public funding, private ownership)
- Neighbourhood development and management within deprived areas – activation of inhabitants by empowerment, participation and self-help, supporting local economy and access to training

All initiatives are financed by public money (from different ministries at the local level )

# Comments and questions

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Behind restructuring of firms and labour market and the retrenchement of the welfare state *social economy* and *socially creative strategies* are important and indispensable attempts to tackle social exclusion ...

But we should be aware of functional constraints –

- To what extent are socially creative strategies able to substitute deficits of functional and political integration?
- Depending on public money NPOs often embody the decentralisation of states functions (Castells)

# Comments and questions

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According to the survey paper „successfully socially creative initiatives“ are typically *anchored in the local context and tailored to the specific needs and resources of the respective context ...*

But

- to what extent does this context-dependency strengthen the process of decentralisation of states functions?
- Should we understand these characteristics as tension between communities and (nation state) society?
- And if so – does this tendency indicate a change from organizational solutions to practices; f.e. from cooperatives to different kinds of “self-government”?



Thank you for your attention!

Vielen Dank

für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit !

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