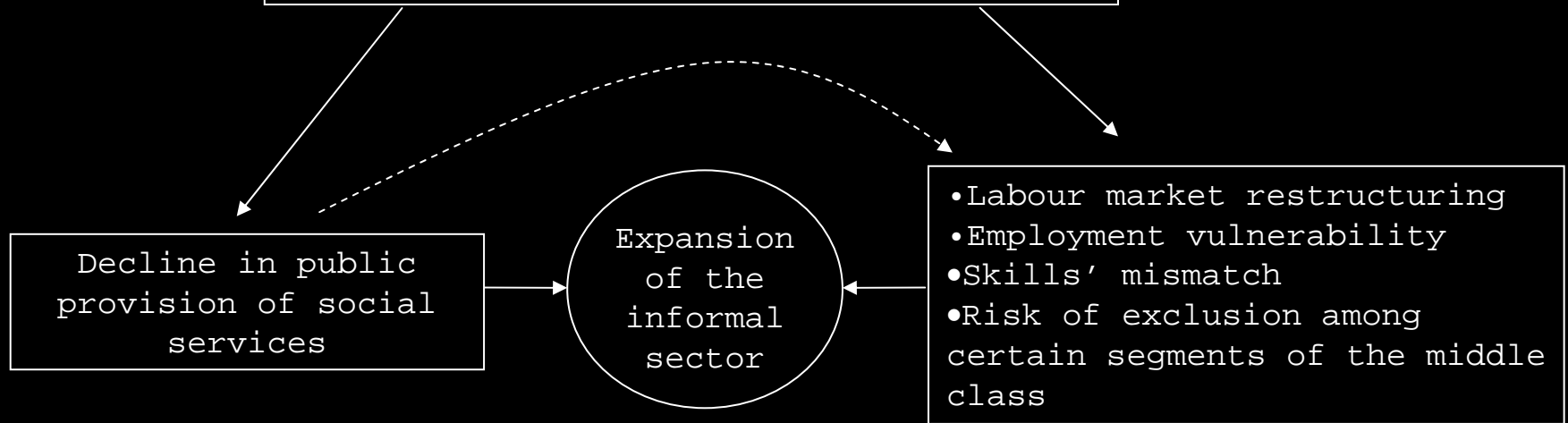# KATARSIS WP1.1

Labour Market, Employment Strategies and Social Economy

LISBON - 28 JAN 08

Isabel André
Alexandre Abreu

The road map

Neo-liberal orientations and consequent erosion of the European welfare state (1970s and1980s)

Decline in public provision of social services

Expansion of the informal sector

•Labour market restructuring
•Employment vulnerability
•Skills' mismatch
•Risk of exclusion among certain segments of the middle class

Neo-liberal orientations and consequent erosion of the European welfare state (1970s and1980s)

Decline in public provision of social services

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- Labour market restructuring
- Employment vulnerability
- Skills' mismatch
- Risk of exclusion among certain segments of the middle class

Public-to-private transfer facilitated by public financial support

Overcoming exclusion dynamics

Creation of cooperatives, micro businesses, social enterprises, etc.

Emergence of socially creative strategies and the relevant role of the 3rd sector social economy
- New institutions – formalization of grassroots movements
- Institutionalization of informal sector initiatives
- "Restyling" of old institutions attracted by public financial support
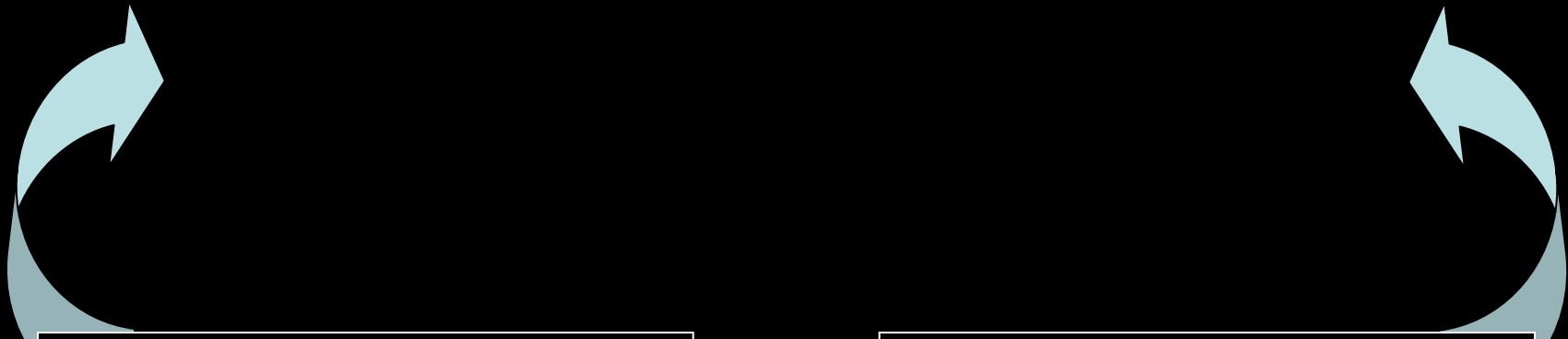
Opportunities and challenges:

•Inclusion of ethical principles
•Reshaping of social relations based on reciprocity, cooperation and empowerment
•Construction of socially innovative milieus at the local level

•Linkage between the local and the global levels through social networking

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Threats:

•Sustainability of social economy initiatives
•Dependence upon the state
•Dependence upon charismatic leaders
•Dependence upon "benevolent" (charitable) capital

•Formatting of social economy initiatives within the framework of state regulation principles
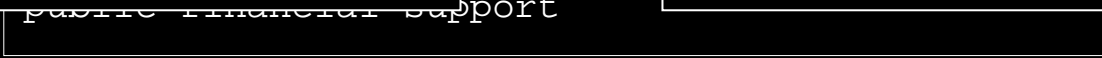
The report contents

1. Definition of the existential field and overview of its main mechanisms of exclusion and inclusion

1.1 The meaning and diversity of socially creative strategies in the labour market, employment and social economy existential field

1.2 The emergence and appropriation of socially creative strategies

1.3 The space, time and place of socially creative strategies in the labour market, employment strategies and social economy existential field

1.4. Core principles driving the social relations underlying SCS in the social economy

1.5 Gender dimensions of socially creative strategies

2. The third sector and the social economy in Europe: A cross-country perspective

2.1 Identifying and characterising Europe's various macro-regions with respect to the significance and functions of the third sector in relation to the welfare state

2.2. A quantitative and comparative analysis of the non-profit sector throughout Europe

3. Overview of theoretical dimensions. Non-profit organizations as key promoters of socially creative strategies and social innovations: what makes the difference?

3.1. Performance criteria as a key factor of organizational differentiation of NPOs

3.2 – Stakeholder behavior and motivations in NPOs as a key source of socially innovative action

4. Survey of "good" and "best" practices

4.1. Mondragón (Euskadi, Spain)

4.2. Job Rotation (Czech Republic)

4.3. Ethnic entrepreneurship (Germany)

4.4. Cova da Moura (Portugal)

4.5. Crédal (Belgium)

5. Relations to other existential fields

6. The third sector as a source of bottom-up creative and socially innovative initiatives

7. Identification of dimensions of multi-level governance

8. Methodology

9. Identification of key researchers

10. Executive summary

Highlights

1. The answers to unsatisfied or alienated needs: What do the Social Economy institutions produce? To meet which needs? Why are these needs no longer satisfied?

2. The allocation of goods and services: many needs are no longer satisfied because the allocation systems do not 'meet' the needy. How can the social economy address this problem?

3. The innovative character of social economy: what does the Social Economy do to promote empowerment, citizenship and new social relations, as regards both the links between supply and demand and labour relations?

Creative new responses to social problems are not neutral – they incorporate in their essence not only ethical principles but also ideological visions of change (more *practice-oriented* or relatively more *ideology-oriented)*

In the last decades, it is within the ambit of *social cohesion policies* (European Union and Canada) that a large portion of today's social economy SCS are born - an ambiguous but inextricable relationship between the state and the civil society – hegemony/resistance - given rise to new governance models

SCS can also proliferate in the informal sector of the economy - in fact, informality *per se* may even be argued (controversially…) to be socially creative

The local scale

Territorial consciousness – sense of belonging to a community

Proximity relationships

Plasticity - flexible enough and, at the same time, reasonably ordered milieux

« La plasticité désigne la capacité qu'ont certains composants à s'in-former (recevoir une forme) et à se dé-former, tout en gardant unité et cohérence. » D. Lambert, 2004

The specific ways in which *places* articulate the space and time dimensions enable the long run to be taken into consideration. It is the time spans of the communities that is at stake, rather than those of the individuals (life cycle) or of the political and economic cycles.

Places introduce a specific form of time-space articulation, which, alongside relational proximity, makes them the optimal scale for the occurrence of social innovation and the emergence of SCS

Reciprocity   Self-help   Self-responsibility

                    Solidarity
     Democracy   Equality

                        Equity

Multifaceted governance:

i) Recourse to hybrid resources - mercantile, non-mercantile and non-monetary

(ii) Plural forms of management (possibly bringing together various types of stakeholders – state, market, third sector, families – under a variety of governance structures and arrangements, such as partnerships and networks)

(iii) Mixed forms of organisation, combining the formal and the informal in a variety of ways

Employment generation

Externalisation of traditional household activities

Conciliation of work-family-personal life

Governance model based on systematic dialogue between supply and demand and the joint construction of the two

Cross-cutting issues

9 questions for debate

1. The emergence of new social relations based on cooperation and on solidarity networks

2. The upgrading and improvement of social services by way of the affirmation of ethical principles such as redistribution and reciprocity

3. The development of new services that are better able to meet social needs beyond the short time horizons faced by for-profit organisations

4. The impacts of new technologies into sources of social progress and innovation

5. The role of arts as powerful ways of social inclusion

6. Culture and arts as social platforms to communication and negotiation

7. The capacity of local leaders and actors to mobilize a great diversity of endogenous and exogenous resources and to combine them

8. The existence or construction of structures and organizations which help to settle conflicts between actors locally and to learn to act collectively

9. The collective identification of strategic goals aimed at using public programs and other structures to support the development of communities