

## KATARSIS – Lisbon Workshop 2008

### Session Report - WP1.1 - Monday, Jan 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Chair: Isabel Andre

#### Program

**10:30 - 10:45** Presentation of D1.1: main issues and crucial debates (Isabel Andreé)

**10:45 - 11:45** Presentations by:

- *Elisa Cricri/Francesco Roberto - Olinda, Italy*
- *Sébastien Lailheugue - AFIP, France*
- *M. Resgate Almadanim - Assoc. João Cidade, Portugal*
- *Thomas Mirbach - Lawaetz Foundation, Germany*

**11:45 - 12:00** Coffee break

**12:00 - 13:00** Discussion

**13:00 - 14:30** Lunch Break

**14:30 - 15:00** Future projects

**15:00 - 16:00** Session report: questions and recommendations

#### Participants

Isabel André	André Carmo
Alexandre Abreu	Marianna D'Ovidio
Frank Moulaert	Pierre Muylle
Abdel-Illah Hamdouch	Bart Lodewijks
Diana MacCallum	Marc Pradel
Elisa Cricri	Patricia Rego
Francesco Roberto	Katherine Gibson
Sébastien Lailheugue	Haris Konstantatos
Maria do Resgate Almadanim	Tomàš Sirovátka
Thomas Mirbach	Jiří Winkler
Bernhard Leubolt	Andreia Lemaître
Laurent Fraisse	Laurent Fraisse
Ana Estevens	

### **Presentations**

After welcoming everyone to the session, Isabel Andre proceeded to present the work done in the context of WP1.1 and the structure and main highlights from D1.1.

**See Isabel Andre's powerpoint presentation [here](#)**

This was followed by four presentations by stakeholders:

In the context of a broader theoretical reflection, Thomas Mirbach presented the work of the Lawaetz Foundation in promoting access by socially and economically disadvantaged people to training as well as to the labour and housing markets, and in mobilising the potential of third party organisations through innovative methods.

**See Thomas Mirbach's powerpoint presentation [here](#)**

Sébastien Lailheugue described the work done by AFIP in the sphere of the labour market integration of visible minorities through 'coaching' and liaising with employers.

**See Sébastien Lailheugue's powerpoint presentation [here](#)**

Maria do Resgate Almadanim provided an emotional account of the story behind Associacao Joao Cidade, a reflection on the specificity of therapeutic engagement with mentally challenged persons, and an account of the trajectory of this association so far, including the difficulties with which it has been faced and the plans concerning the on-going creation of the "Joao Cidade Socio-Therapeutic Community".

**See the text of M. do Resgate Almadanim's presentation [here](#)**

Elisa Cricri and Francesco Roberto presented Olinda's innovative work in "opening up to the city" a psychiatric hospital in Milan and in promoting the integration of persons with mental health problems through a range of economic, cultural and social activities tearing down the walls between the "sane" and the "patients".

**See Elisa Cricri and Francesco Roberto's powerpoint presentation [here](#)**

## **Discussion**

The discussion that followed after the coffee-break touched upon numerous issues of relevance to the emergence, dynamics and governance of socially creative strategies, with a particular focus on those undertaken by social economy organisations. Due both to time constraints and to the primacy of social economy organisations as socially creative agents, this particular subtopic of WP1.1 remained the main focus throughout the discussion and left specifically employment- and labour market-related issues to a relatively secondary position. Overall, the main aim of the discussion (which, to a certain extent, can be considered to have been attained) was to invite the practitioners and researchers present at the session to critically engage with the theoretical insights from D1.1 by highlighting what was possibly right, wrong, incomplete or missing, according to their perspectives and experience.

Thus, the discussion revolved around the following main issues:

- The relations between “practice” and “science” and how to overcome the gap between the two: the importance of theory and strategy in orienting practice and improving its effectiveness; the importance of grounding theory in concrete experience and of the social and political responsibilities of researchers;
- Issues of language, sharing, legitimacy and recognition: the role of both stakeholders and researchers in catalysing diversity, representing the excluded and enfranchising the disenfranchised
- Issues of resources, funding and the consequences that arise from there: dependence vis-à-vis the state; the positive and negative aspects of volunteer work, particularly in social economy organisations; the exclusionary character of user fees; how the main issue often consists of *how* to combine resources from different sources in order to maximise effectiveness, independence and democracy, rather than of opting for some sources over others

- Issues of governance in social economy organisations: internal and external democracy and how it relates to charismatic leadership styles; property relations, control and self-management; spontaneity and democracy *vs.* greater effectiveness and also greater alienation associated with “scientific management” techniques and the pressures towards professionalisation; difference between “being and acting professionally” and “professionalisation”
- Issues of strategy in social economy organisations: struggling against institutions *vs.* showing that “another world is possible”; visibility, image (including public image, self-image and image among users); “vanguard” role of the social economy in *forming* the public opinion and influencing discourse and representation
- The time and scale of socially creative strategies: necessary multiplicity of time horizons, with different associated strategies; interrelationship between time and space; proximity relations and how they relate to (long distance) networking
- Creativity, the arts and social innovation: artistic communication as universal language; how the socially innovative role of creativity and the arts is largely about “taking back control over one’s culture”
- Bottom-up creativity: consensus around the fact that “it does work” – it is a very real creative exercise filled with possibility, though also full of problems and tensions