

Social innovation and civic engagement



PROJECT DETAILS

Funding Programme:
7th Framework Programme (FP7)

Sub-Programme:
Socio-economic sciences and humanities (SSH)

Funding Scheme:
Small or medium-scale focused research project

Project Reference:
613177;
UE-14-ITSSOIN-613177

Project Duration:
36 Months (from 2014-03-01 to 2017-02-28)

Total Project Value:
€ 3.128.799

EU Grant-Aid:
€ 2.496.037

Funding to UniOvi:
€ 37.600

Website:
http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/111234_en.html

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Research has made seminal contributions to describing the size and scope of the Third Sector, including volunteering as an essential component. However, most of the research has focused on economic benefits (revenues, employment etc.). We highly value these efforts, but posit that the core contribution and main impact of the sector on socio-economic development lies in the creation of social innovation.

Our claim is that the Third Sector is better equipped to foster social innovation than the market or the public sector. We will build a set of testable hypotheses that relate to its key characteristics, e.g.: (1) strong value sets; (2) persistent multi-stakeholder constellations; (3) the mobilisation of multiple resources.

Against the update of structural data, we aim at testing these hypotheses on the qualitative impacts of the Third Sector in terms of capital building (e. g., social networks, cultural values or political participation) and their direct link to social innovation. We set out to investigate organizations with a special emphasis on volunteering at the micro level, which serves as a bond from and into society. The analysis will include a screening of framework policy conditions and discourses (citizens/media) on the roles and functions of the sector. This strategy will be executed in case studies against major social innovation trends of the last years.

The fields we aim to study across 9 countries are: (1) arts & culture; (2) social services & health; (3) environmental sustainability & consumer protection in finance; (4) work integration & community development; all of which are of vital importance face to current societal challenges.

By doing so we will not only redefine perspectives on the sector to stress its main impact as driver of social innovation, but also relate to recent EU research (SELUSI, TEPsie, INNOSERV, WILCO or CINEFOGO) to lift the investigation of social innovation to systemic level highlighting comprehensive innovation ecosystems.

UNIOVI TEAM

María José Sanzo Pérez ¹
mjsanzo@uniovi.es
Luis Ignacio Álvarez González ¹
alvarezg@uniovi.es

¹ Department of Business Administration

PROJECT PARTNERS

Project Coordinator
Ruprecht-Karls-Universitaet Heidelberg,
Germany

Italy
Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi
Netherlands
Stichting VU-VUmc
Ministerie van Volksgezondheid, Welzijn
en Sport
Sweden
Stiftelsen Stockholm School of
Economics (SSE). Institute for Research
Spain
Universidade da Coruña
Universidad de Oviedo
Czech Republic
Masarykova Univerzita
France
Association Groupe ESSEC
United Kingdom
London School of Economics and
Political Science
Denmark
Copenhagen Business School