



WILCO

Welfare innovations
at the local level
in favour of cohesion

Studying social innovation

Lessons from the WILCO project

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Design of WILCO



- ❏ International comparative project: Welfare Innovations at the Local Level in Favour of Cohesion
- ❏ Time period: 2010-2014
- ❏ Funded by the 7th European Framework Programme
- ❏ Coordinated by Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands

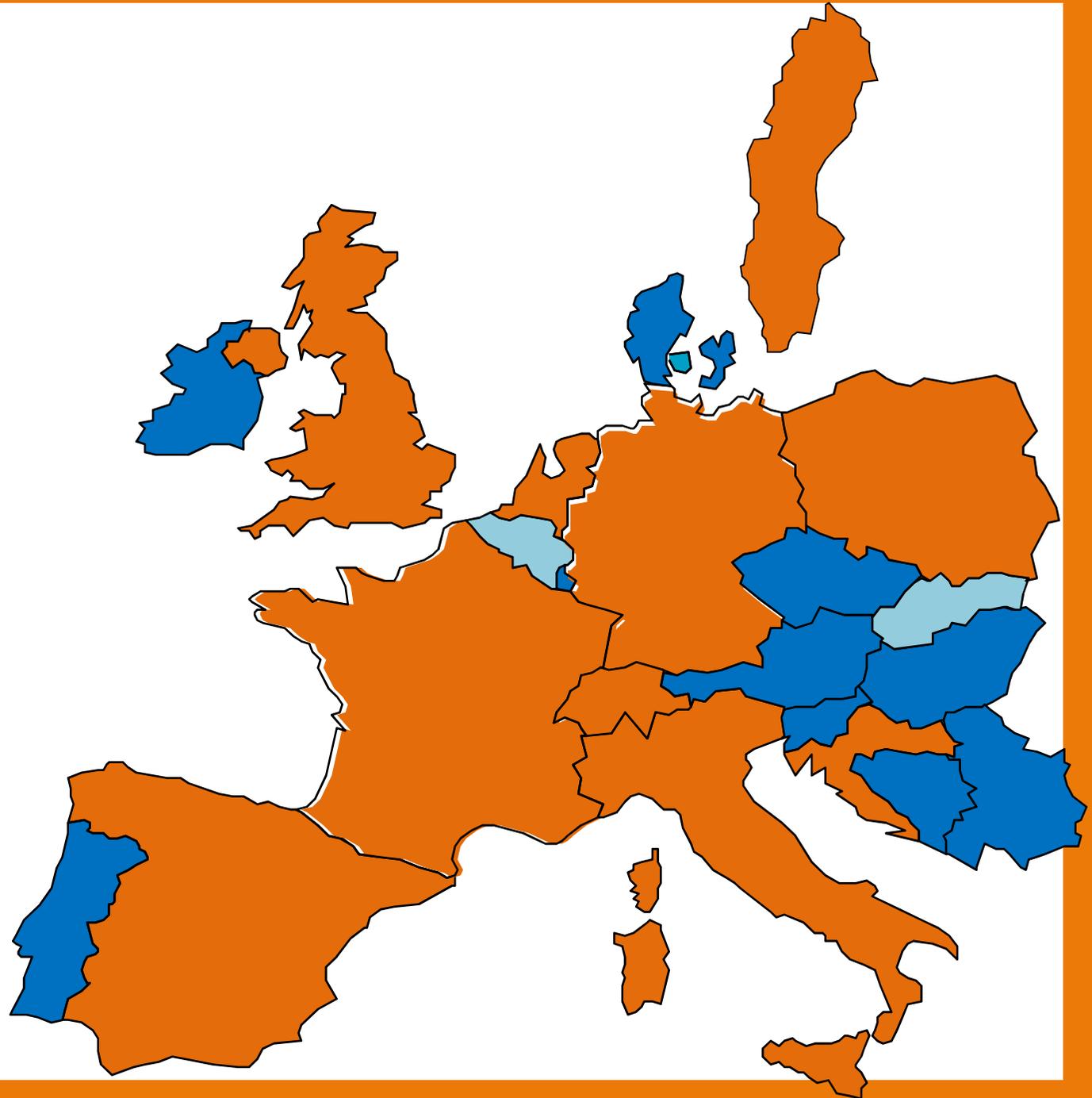


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in favour of Cohesion



Radboud University Nijmegen (Coordinating Institution)
Westfälische Wilhelms- Universität Münster
Politecnico di Milano
Université de Genève
University of Barcelona
University of Zagreb
Centre de Recherche et d'Information sur la Démocratie et l'Autonomie
University of Warsaw
University of Kent
Ersta Sköndal University College
Justus-Liebig University
EMES European Research Network
European Research Services GmbH (ERS)
The Network of Institutes and Schools of Public Administration in Central and Eastern Europe (NISPACEE)



Goals of the WILCO project

- ④ To identify innovative practices in European cities and the factors that make them emerge and spread
- ④ To set them against the context of current social problems and urban policies
- ④ To make recommendations how to encourage local social innovation

Dealing with the complexity

- ☐ Many different types of audiences: professionals, policymakers, academics, general public
- ☐ Multi-level analysis (starting from the most remote point)
- ☐ Fuzzy concept

Which means we had to:

- ☐ Accept that social innovation has different meanings and purposes to the people we work for
- ☐ Assess different needs and build multiple constituencies
- ☐ Integrate multiple objectives and types of messages from the very start

Testing policy assumptions



Goal: challenging policy assumptions and myth-busting, for example:

- ⊞ Economic growth and social innovation always being part of a single, harmonious strategy
- ⊞ The emphasis on successful examples that can be scaled up
- ⊞ The presentation of social innovation as inevitable progress, only needing to overcome temporary barriers'

Academic contribution

- ⊞ Goal: bringing social innovation research in tune with other work from established disciplines + producing sound evidence
- ⊞ For example, placing social innovations in the context of social policy research; innovation transfer research; pinpointing your own contribution





Engaging local stakeholders

- ③ Goal: agenda-setting; trickling down of insights
- ③ Grassroots events: working through local/regional debates
- ③ Training modules



SEMINARIO
PUBBLICO

Le città tra vulnerabilità e
innovazione.

Elementi di discussione a partire
da una ricerca europea

Venerdì 24 gennaio 2014
Sala Marzari
Via San Faustino 70, Brescia

Different products

www.wilcoproject.eu



Conclusion

- ⊞ In studying local social innovations, we faced many of the problems that we studied
- ⊞ A project such as this must recognise and embrace multiple ambitions
- ⊞ If that is done, the generative potential of the research is huge