People behind WILCO

The WILCO team includes some of the foremost researchers in the areas of welfare and local governance, each with an excellent reputation and broad knowledge of their field. The involvement in the Advisory Board of leading members of organizations such as EAPN, CECODHAS and Solidar will be crucial for ensuring policy-making and societal relevance.

Advisory Board

Fintan Farrell, European Anti Poverty Network (EAPN).
Claire Roumet, European Committee for social and cooperative housing (CECODHAS).
Mathias Maucher, European alliance of non-governmental organizations (EPSU).
Steven Rathgeb Smith, Association for Research on Nonprofit Organisations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA) and University of Washington.
Anne Skevik Grødem, Institute for Labour and Social Research (Fafo).

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Do you want to learn more about WILCO?
Are you interested in participating in any of the WILCO activities?
Do you want to sign-up for WILCO's periodic email updates?
Please email us at info@emes.net and let us know how you would like to get involved.

www.wilcoproject.eu

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

WILCO — Welfare innovations at the local level in favour of cohesion

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WELFARE INNOVATIONS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL IN FAVOUR OF SOCIAL COHESION

WILCO

December 2010 - December 2013

Coordinator:

Prof. Taco Brandsen,
Radboud University Nijmegen

Understanding innovations in local welfare to strengthen social cohesion and lower social inequalities.

WILCO aims to examine, through cross-national comparative research, how local welfare systems affect social inequalities and how they favour social cohesion with a special focus on the missing link between innovations at the local level and their successful transfer and implementation to other settings.

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What is WILCO?

WILCO is a EU-funded project aiming to examine, through cross-national comparative research, how local welfare systems favour social cohesion. Special attention will be paid on the missing link between social innovations at the local level and their successful transfer and implementation to other settings.

The WILCO project will look into the missing link between innovations at the local level and their successful transfer and implementation to other settings. Innovation in cities will be explored, not as a disconnected phenomenon, but as an element in a tradition of welfare that is part of particular socio-economic models and the result of specific national and local cultures. By contextualising innovations in local welfare, we will be more effective in understanding how they could work in other cities, for the benefit of other citizens.

WILCO will help to understand how the creativity and energy in European cities can be tapped into and used to its full potential.

The problems of inequality and exclusion in urban areas particularly affect people with a specific profile. Past research has shown that age (the young unemployed), gender (women) and ethnicity (migrants) are especially affected. People who combine two or three of these characteristics (e.g. elderly migrants) are statistically a high-risk category.

The lack of social cohesion manifests itself in many walks of life, but particularly in three areas: the care for young children, the labour market and housing conditions. Accordingly, three policy fields are particularly important if we wish to encourage social cohesion: child care, employment and housing.

In this context, the focus of **WILCO** will be on how inequality and exclusion can be effectively challenged. Ultimately, the question that we aim to address if *why are some cities more innovative than others?*

WILCO expected impact

The results will be used, through **strong interaction with stakeholders and urban policy recommendations,** to link **immediately** to the **needs of practitioners**. In doing so, we will connect issues of immediate practical relevance with **state-of-the-art academic research** on how approaches and instruments in local welfare function in practice.

WILCO specific outcomes

- Charts of patterns of social inequality and exclusion among the elderly, migrants and women in European cities across 11 countries.

- A typology of urban policy innovations with a view to identifying and replicating these policies and effective transfer of knowledge in the area.

- A deeper understanding of how innovations emerge within different socio-economic models and traditions of local welfare and the factors that make innovative practices in the fight against social inequality successful (or not).

- Urban policy recommendations about how the fight against social inequality and for social cohesion can be fought better.

WILCO outreach and activities

All the public resources from **the WILCO project** will be published on the website as they become available. They include **project reports, articles, working papers and other publications** as well as materials specialized for PhD students.

In addition to scientific outputs, the project aims to implement a series of activities that **directly involve practitioners, policy-makers and other stakeholders.** Some of them include:

- Local grassroots events.

- Final conference

- Training modules for practitioners, policy makers and PhDs

- Press releases and media events

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