

JPI Urban Europe Conference 2017: “Engaging for Impact – the next step in Urban Transition”

Day II: 30 May 2017; 10.00-12.00

Session: Social Innovation and social entrepreneurship in the Circular Economy

Moderator of the session: Johannes Riegler – JPI Urban Europe

Abstract:

Circular economy has been praised as a core ingredient in the transition to sustainable and liveable urban futures. However, to increase resource efficiency, avoid air pollution and reduce waste, new models or alliances and partnerships are required. In this context, social innovation and social entrepreneurship can play a very important role to facilitate change and transitions.

The session focuses on the role of social innovators in transforming cities and necessary framework conditions for successful and continuous cooperation between public sector and social innovators and entrepreneurs. The session builds on conclusions from the SEISMiC Project dialogues that aimed at strengthening the dialogue between civil society, innovators, research, and policy in urban issues and challenges.

Furthermore, the role of social innovators and social entrepreneurs in urban research and innovation ecosystems will be discussed from various perspectives. The session is organized together with the *Social Innovation Acceleration in Cities network* and discussions will feed into the activities of the JPI Urban Europe *Agora – the Stakeholder Involvement Platform*.

Sequence of Session:

Time	Speakers	Organisation	Input
10.00-10.05	Johannes Riegler	JPI Urban Europe	Introduction to the theme; from SEISMiC to the Agora; Relevance of Circular Economy as a theme in JPI UE
10.05-11.10	Table 1: Erna Bosschart & Arjan Biemans	Social Innovation Acceleration in Cities Network	
	Table 2: Peter Wolkowski	Urbact Expert - BoostINNO Proj	
	Charlot Schans	Pakhuis de Zwijger // New Europe – Cities in Transition	
11.10-12.00	Fishbowl		

Key Messages

1.) Erna Bosschart & Arjan Biemans: Social Innovation Acceleration in Cities Network

Key Messages #1:	Theory and practice of change; getting research results to practice and inclusive participatory design and development; the different roles of all 5 groups needs to be central in getting a real CE possible
Key Messages #2:	Life beyond projects end; how to maintain the results; we need to bridge the gap between research and civic society
Key Messages #3:	We would need a healthy society; empower the civic society and have joint felt psychological ownership as well as real ownership
Key Messages #4:	For an ecosystem organisation of projects, storytelling is an important tool to get to know the local characteristics and implicit knowledge and identify blind spots.
Key Messages #5:	Identifying the blind spots helps to develop tools; slim down the challenge to the very essence and get rid of the fuzzy context around.

Fishbowl

- Circular Economy can be a testbed for Social Innovation
 - o However, social innovation is not necessarily part of circular economy and it's ideas and processes
- The prime motivation of the circular economy for the EC are the positive societal effects including sustainable and societal impact and job creation.
- Society is mainly organised sectoral – an important question is how to use the ecosystem approach for Circular Economy – How can new framework conditions be developed?
 - o Creating ownership is essential: involving stakeholders and giving them a right to contribute to the processes; furthermore, rules could be added to the funding frameworks that support the local urban ecosystems and encourage ownership creation.
 - o Relationships between urban actors need to change to allow and motivate participation

- It is very important to hardwire formal ownerships in projects.
- Explicit knowledge can grow a lot by facilitating the use implicit knowledge
 - A matter of who's talking; often researchers talk too much and listen too little
 - The local stories are important implicit knowledge; this should be the first part of every research conducted; eventually already in the proposal phase.
- Everyone can be a broker: civil servants; city networks; researchers etc.
 - Brokers are the ones who connect the knowledge between public administration, social innovators, researchers/universities, business and civil society.