



In collaborazione con



International Conference

Participatory local welfare, citizenship and third sector organizations. What is at stake?
Pisa, 31st January – 1st February, 2013

Call for Papers

STREAM 6

Participation for what? Social cohesion and citizens strategies in the context of economic crisis

Stream Coordinator

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Governance institutions and mechanisms have greatly changed in welfare policy with a variety of outcomes. One such outcome is the use of social cohesion in hegemonic discourses, which can contradict with citizens' rights. Economic crisis has clearly an impact on the aims, means and ways of these debated matters.

In this Stream, contributions are here expected to examine citizens' strategies leading to social innovation that aim not only to obtain material or immaterial resources for the socially excluded, but also to redefine norms and values at the root of exclusion. The claims for a redefinition of the notion of citizenship with counter-hegemonic views are clearly along these lines.

Thus questions that require discussion are:

- (1) what are the consequences of substituting policies based on citizenship principles (social justice, identity and political participation) for policies for 'social cohesion'?
- (2) how does the contribution of socially creative strategies make a difference for participatory democratic action and for social citizenship and social justice?
- (3) what new forms of participation processes are emerging within civil society directed to communities and institutions, and which kind of role do they play in the current change of scenarios, particularly in the urban context?

Given the turbulent times we live, the particular and not so well defined challenges which social institutions have to deal with, in this topic call we expect contributions dealing with the following questions:

- (1) Does the use of the concept of social cohesion continues to have relevance in the context of economic crisis, and in which ways?
- (2) Is participation a more central or an increasingly decorative and ephemeral issue? A general resource or a luxury for few privileged situations?

Please remind that:

*a) The deadline **to send an abstract proposal** is **27th September 2012**. Abstract proposals must be sent both to marisolgarcia@ub.edu and to info@volontariatoepartecipazione.eu*

*b) The abstracts must include the research question, methods, results and any of the main references (for a maximum length of **3000 characters**), besides the author's name, affiliation and contact information.*

*c) The **notification of selected abstracts** will be given no later than **8th October 2012**.*

*d) The **deadline to submit a Paper** is **7th January 2013**.*