

13th Conference
of the European
Sociological Association

(Un)Making Europe:
Capitalism, Solidarities,
Subjectivities

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ABSTRACT BOOK

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administration, city council, district council, and media. Results indicate that the design of the current participatory budgeting system promotes individualist rather than collectivist goals, causes conflicts between groups of citizens and district councils (instead of promoting cooperation and definition of common good) and fails to induce an attachment of the city or the district and a feeling of responsibility for the community. Moreover, analysis of individual stakeholder perspectives showed that the design of the entire programme was questionable, and that city activists, voters, city administration, city council, district council, and media; all presented different views on what the goal of participatory budgeting actually was.

The paper proposes a number of reforms to the current design of the participatory budget programme which has a potential to resolve value clashes in relation to a number of Polish cultural, organisational, and juridical practices.

ICT, learning and the absorption of democratic innovations in local government

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The aim of this paper is to reflect on formal regulations and institutional practice that hinder the absorption of democratic innovations in the Polish local government. In the context of local politics, an innovation can be understood as new procedures, tools and practices that are proposed to amend or replace old procedures, tools and practices not only to deliver community services of higher standards, but also to make the decision-making process socially inclusive, transparent and reflexive. This relates us to the model of deliberative democracy that is used in this study while we operationalize the quality of public consultations.

Three hypotheses are proposed. H1: The reflection on the methodology is hardly observable during public consultations. H2: There is a low level of knowledge and competences among public officials concerning the methodology of public consultations in general, and the role of deliberation in particular. H3: The ignorance of methodology during public consultations can also be explained by the ambiguities in the law and the pursuit of political gains.

Two empirical studies will provide data enabling the verification of hypotheses. The first comprises the results of a survey, in-depth interviews and the analysis of documents (2011-2014). In the second the In Dialogue software, which we have developed, is used to support learning of the methodology of public consultations among the representatives of local government in the real-life situations. We have gathered information on the results of this intervention through participatory observations and interviews in two cities in 2016 and eight municipalities in 2017.

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Judicial reforms “under pressure”: the new map/organisation of the Portuguese judicial system

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The implementation of the new map/organisation of the judicial system in Portugal, approved in 2013, became an example of an externally induced reform. The biggest reform process ever seen within the justice system took place under the rule of the Troika in Portugal, in tandem with budget cuts to the justice system as a result of the Portuguese financial crisis (since external financial support required strict austerity measures). The key word was therefore concentration: concentration of courts, litigation and resources. The reform of the organization/map of the judicial system reduced 232 lower courts to 23 district courts (the concentration process), each with jurisdiction over a larger territory and greater specialization. Most of the former smaller courts were transformed into local sections or branches of the now streamlined judicial system in an attempt to retain some proximity to citizens. However, a significant number of cases are heard in central courts rather than in these local courts. This reorganisation, including a totally new management model, led to profound organisational changes and altered the relationship between citizens and the justice administration.

The aim of this presentation is to discuss the context, actors and politics involved in this judicial reform process as an example of a top-down strategy designed under pressure in response to an external “order” and influenced by internal actors. Within this reform, citizenship and democracy remained outside the courts.

Drug addiction and the justice system in Italy: from criminalization to Public Health Model

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Introduction: in Italy, during the past two decades, relevant normative changes have occurred regarding drug addiction and the justice system. In the 2006 a national law imposed a criminalization of drug use and possession, but it has been declared unconstitutional in 2014. From 2008 the management of the health services in prison has been transferred from Ministry of Justice to Ministry of Health.

Methods: the study is based on a mixed-methods design. A secondary data analysis has been carried out by using dataset from Ministry of Justice