

Newsletter

No. 5 – July 2016

EDITORIAL

CUPESSE has accomplished an important milestone: All teams have completed or are very near to completing the fielding of the survey, which will provide insights into the drivers of economic self-sufficiency of young people and the role their families play therein. The data generated represents the main outcome of the project and all members of the consortium are very eager to analyse the data in the next few months. While the completion of the data gathering is certainly the main news we would like to share, the CUPESSE members were also active with regard to additional research dimensions. For example, we have started to publish the working papers summarizing the in-depth interviews some teams have carried out with employers to learn about their views on what increases the employability of young people. The employer interviews offered an appreciated opportunity for involving students in our research activities. Our students are also essential for the current in-depth interviews with representatives of three generations of families. The teams also had opportunities to disseminate our initial findings to stakeholders and end-users, as well as to present them in academic peers. Altogether, this is a particularly rewarding and enlightening phase of the project, which we hope is reflected by the content of this newsletter.

Prof. Dr. Jale Tosun – CUPESSE Coordinator

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RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT

CUPESSSE Youth Survey completed

During the recent progress meeting, consortium members proudly presented the outcomes of the CUPESSSE Youth Survey. The completion of the survey marks a core milestone in the project implementation.

The survey has been conducted in ten Member States of the EU and associated countries during the past 5 months. Overall, 18,950 young adults and 5,424 of their parents have been interviewed in their national language either online, via phone interviews or face-to-face. The questionnaire included, among others, inquiries as to their social and cultural capital, economic self-sufficiency, work attitudes, personal traits, parental expectations and aspirations.

The next step, led by the team of CEU, is to process and clean the data generated by the survey. Each partner will provide descriptive analyses to the CEU team, which will compile a report on the descriptive survey findings while all partners will carry out statistical analyses. First results and conclusions are expected in autumn of this year.

EVENTS

CUPESSSE partners and stakeholders meet in Barcelona

After two years and thus half way into the project, CUPESSSE coordinator Jale Tosun welcomed consortium partners and other project stakeholders to a stakeholder and project progress meeting. The meeting took place in Barcelona from the 18th to 19th of February 2016. Day one was reserved to discuss feedback and recommendations of first project results, as well as policy implications derived from the project, with the present stakeholders. Presentations by Advisory Board members Lorraine Uhlener, Andrew Kelly, Giorgos Bithymitris and David Durán, representative of the Spanish Ministry of Employment and Social Security, and Ainara Zubillaga from COTEC foundation stimulated fruitful discussions between the scientists, policy makers and practitioners.

The second part of the meeting focused on reviewing work progress and partners' experiences in fielding the project survey and conducting in-depth interviews with employers and families.

The CUPESSSE consortium reconvened again in Athens on 23-24 June 2016, kindly hosted by the CUPESSSE advisory board member Kyriakos Pierrakakis and the team of diaNEOsis.



The CUPESSSE consortium at its 5th Progress meeting in Athens

5th Progress Meeting of CUPESSSE in Athens

In the middle of the hot summer in Greece, the new CUPESSSE partner DIANEOSIS proudly welcomed the CUPESSSE consortium on the premises of the University of Athens for a two-day meeting on June 23-24, 2016.

The first day of the meeting focused on the final outcomes of fielding the project survey on youth unemployment. After a lot of hard work having gone into the preparation and actual implementation of this crucial part of the project, the teams were excited to report their achievements in terms of response rates and share solutions to overcome challenges.

The survey has been conducted in ten Member States of the EU and Associated Countries and aims to obtain a better understanding on how the intergenerational transmission of norms, values and social axioms influences the economic self-sufficiency and entrepreneurship of young people. Further items on the agenda included the next steps to be taken in the coming weeks and months, namely storage, processing and managing the survey data and its analysis.

On meeting day two, country teams presented the progress of the in-depth family interviews and gave initial insights into the collected data. The interviews involved family members of three generations in ten countries to complement the results of the project survey. Last but not least, the consortium discussed and agreed upon a publication strategy for joint publications and made plans for an edited volume presenting the project outcomes, from its conceptual framework to the data collection and country studies on to the results and conclusions.

The next progress meeting of CUPESSE will take place in Catania on January 26-27th 2017.

A smaller group will meet in Heidelberg on September 21st 2016 for a one-day workshop on “Grit”. Grit represents one of the key psychological concepts incorporated in the CUPESSE survey. Recent research attempts have shown that grit may be an important determinant of high achievement in educational and professional settings. The CUPESSE group wants to discuss its grit-related findings with researchers outside the group to receive feedback.

This workshop will be followed by a two-day workgroup meeting to bring forward the edited volume.

Dr. Carolin Rapp wins Jowell-Kaase prize



The CUPESSE consortium congratulates its colleague Carolin Rapp from the University of Bern, for winning the Jowell-Kaase prize. It was awarded to her at the 3rd International ESS conference in Lausanne from 13-15 July 2016 for her paper: “Is It All the Shame? Forms of Racial Prejudice, their Origins and Consequences reconsidered.”

Within her paper, Rapp used the Data of the current European Social Survey to analyse racial prejudice in a more sophisticated way than has ever been done before. By showing four dimensions of racial prejudice, she elaborates how origins and consequences of these different types of racist attitudes vary.

British Sociological Association’s Work, Employment and Society Conference 2016

Jennifer Shore from the University of Heidelberg will present at the British Sociological Association’s Work, Employment and Society Conference 2016, on September 6-8th 2016 at the University of Leeds. Her presentation, “Forging a path to economic self-sufficiency in times of crisis: The origins and effects of young people’s work attitudes and values - Evidence from the CUPESSE project”, is part of a special session on “The Crisis in Youth Unemployment: Attitudes, Policies and Ethnicity” which includes presentations from 4 EU-funded projects on the topic of youth unemployment.

For more information on the conference visit:

<http://www.britisoc.co.uk/events/wes-conference.aspx>

“3-Länder-Tagung 2016”

Carolin Rapp from the University of Bern will give a workshop titled “Beyond the National State - Politische Kultur und politisches Verhalten in sub- und transnationaler Perspektive” at the “3-Länder-Tagung 2016” at the University of Heidelberg, from September 29th until October 1st 2016. The Conference is commonly organized by political science societies and unions from Germany, Austria and Switzerland and this year addresses the topic of regionalism in a globalized world.

Website: <http://www.dvpw.de/kongresse/3-laender-tagungen/3-laender-tagung-2016.html>

UPCOMING EVENTS

24th annual workshop of the European Research network on transitions in youth (TIY)

The 24th annual workshop of the European Research Network on Transitions in Youth (TIY) will take place in Trento, Italy on September 7-10th 2016. The Network brings together social scientists interested in the transitions of young people as they progress towards adulthood. This year’s workshop will be hosted by the Department of Sociology and Social Research jointly with the Center for Social Inequality Studies (CSIS) of the University of Trento. The theme for this year’s workshop is: “Transition to adulthood and life course inequalities: Good entry, good life?”

Website: <http://www.socsci.ru.nl/maartenw/tiy/index.htm>

NEW PUBLICATIONS BY CUPESSE MEMBERS

CUPESSE Working Paper No. 3 and No. 4

The third and fourth working papers of the international research project CUPESSE have been published in the first half of 2016. Throughout the project a series of working papers are being published to reflect state of the art results of the research still in progress. Working Paper N° 3, published in January, deals with young entrepreneurs’ perceptions of business opportunities and their own entrepreneurial skills. Working Paper N° 4, published in June, presents the first results from employer interviews conducted in Austria on the importance of hard skills and soft skills for recruitment decisions.

Monika Mühlböck, Julia Rita Warmuth, Marian Holienka and Bernhard Kittel (2016)

“Working Paper N° 3 – Desperate Entrepreneurs: No Opportunities, No Skills”

Abstract: Promoting entrepreneurship has become an important policy strategy in Europe in the hope to stimulate the crisis-shaken economy. In this paper, we caution against undue expectations. Using data from the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor, we find that a considerable proportion of the new entrepreneurs start a business despite a negative perception of business opportunities as well as lack of confidence in their own entrepreneurial skills. We extend existing entrepreneurship theories to account for this phenomenon. Testing the hypotheses derived from our model, we find that these people turn to entrepreneurship due to lack of other options to enter the labour market.

Nadia Steiber (2016)

“Working Paper N° 4 – First Findings from Employer Interviews, Country Report: Austria”

Abstract: Task 4.1 of the CUPESSE project is to understand the importance of hard skills and soft skills for employers’ recruitment decisions – especially when hiring young employees and apprentices aged 18-35. In this aim, qualitative interviews (i.e., expert interviews with those responsible for hiring new personnel in small, medium-sized and large firms and enterprises) have been carried out to better understand which and to what extent hard and soft skills matter for employers’ recruitment strategies and decisions. The lead partner of this task – the University of Heidelberg (UHEI) – has developed the interview guidelines and carried out eleven interviews in Germany. In Austria, 22 interviews have been carried out in the time between December 2015 and April 2016 — using a slightly adapted version of the interview guidelines prepared by UHEI (see section 7 for interview guidelines). The interviews have been carried out by master’s students at the University of Vienna, taking a course in ‘Employment Relations and Human Resources Management’ given by Nadia Steiber. The interviews were carried out in the Eastern part of Austria, in Vienna and Lower Austria.

Third Policy Brief released

In January 2016, the third policy brief of the CUPESSE project was published. The policy brief series is aiming

to summarize results of the CUPESSE project and to develop policy recommendations for stakeholders and policy makers alike.

The third policy brief analyses youth entrepreneurship in Europe and gives a profound analysis of the Latvian youth entrepreneurship policy as a best practice example by asking “What can the Latvian case teach us about the attitudes towards youth entrepreneurship in Europe?”.

The full policy brief can be found here:

<http://cupesse.eu/publications/policy-briefs>

**PROJECT CONSORTIUM
Advisory Board Members**



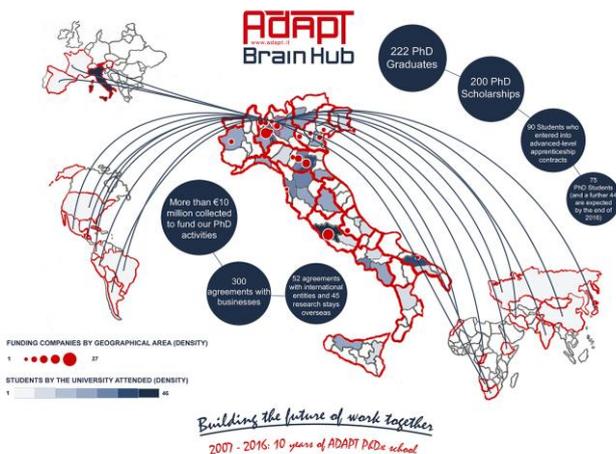
Dr. Stella Ladi joined Queen Mary University of London as a senior lecturer in 2012. She has been a lecturer of Europeanisation and Public Policy at Panteion University, Athens since 2010. She previously worked as a lecturer at University of Sheffield and University of Exeter. She has also been a Research Fellow at the Barcelona Institute of International Studies (IBEI). She has acted as a public policy expert at the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of the Aegean, Greece. In July 2002 she completed her PhD thesis at the University of York. Her research interests include public policy and public administration reforms, Europeanisation, global governance and the role of experts in public policy. Some of her latest publications are: Stone, D. and Ladi, S. (2015), “Global Public Policy and Transnational Administration”, Public Administration, Ladi, S. (2014) "Austerity Politics and Administrative Reform: The Eurozone Crisis and its Impact upon Greek Public Administration", Comparative European Politics. In her forthcoming publication “Discursive Institutionalism, Problem Definition and the Consequences of Crisis for Agenda-Setting” in N. Zahariadis (ed.), Handbook of Public Policy Agenda Setting, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar (2016) she explores why, despite high youth unemployment in Greece in the communicative discourse and in the governmental and EU agenda during the crisis, the definition of the problem is still unclear and a path towards a policy is still to be found.

For more information on Dr Stella Ladi and her role in the Queen Mary University of London visit the following website:

<http://www.busman.qmul.ac.uk/staff/ladis.html>



Dr. Francesca Sperotti holds a PhD in Human Capital Formation and Labour Relations (University of Bergamo, March 2014), a Master of Arts in European Interdisciplinary Studies (College of Europe, June 2010) and a Master Degree in International Relations (University of Rome “La Sapienza”, November 2008). Since September 2010 she is an ADAPT Research Fellow (www.adapt.it). On a yearly basis, she participates in national and international research projects. Research fields of interest include: demography and labour market, work and climate change and future of work. Since May 2012 she is the Head of ADAPT International Relations. For further information on the activities of ADAPT please see the following overview.



Indeed, ADAPT is the only institution that has attempted to implement the dual system for higher education and research purposes.

In 2007 ADAPT created the School of Higher Education in Labour and Industrial Relations, which is internationally accredited as a centre of excellence for research, study and training in the field of labour and industrial relations.

For many years, the school has promoted an innovative apprenticeship scheme for Higher Education in the field of Labour Law, Industrial Relations and Human Capital Development, in order to establish a new approach to academic research and create new opportunities for talented youth in light of on-going changes characterizing the world of work.

In the last ten years the ADAPT School of Higher Education succeeded in financing more than 250 scholarships and as many as 100 apprenticeship contracts for research purposes. Further, and also thanks to its partners - a network of companies, employer’s associations, trade unions and institutions - and newsletter readers, ADAPT has been able to raise funds worth more than €10 million that have been used for contracts, grants and scholarships for young students.

ADAPT thus has a developed expertise in activating apprenticeship contracts for higher education programs in Italy—such as doctoral programs and master’s programs--and it is recognized today as the most important promoter of innovative PhD programs, as well as of apprenticeships schemes for higher education and research purposes.

Consequently, ADAPT managed to attract talent, innovators and forward thinkers, either from Italy – some 500 people if we consider our young talent scouting system and grant recipients – or overseas (countries include: Iran, India, China, Russia, Japan, USA, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Peru, Cuba, Honduras, Morocco, South Africa, Congo, Ethiopia, Namibia, Austria, Spain and France).

This way, ADAPT intends to carry forward the objective pursued by Marco Biagi, the founder of our School: promoting change through a new way of carrying out research, and educating people who are able to think and act “differently” rather than those, who simply devise laws with no application in everyday life.

ADAPT: The Italian “Brainhub” for Young Students and Researchers

By Francesca Sperotti, CUPESSE Advisory Board member

Despite the numerous efforts that have been put forth by the EU to encourage young people’s labour market participation, school-to-work transition and youth unemployment are still vexing and persistent problems in certain countries.

This is particularly the case in Italy, where youth unemployment rate is 36.9% (May 2016). Against this background, and in line with CUPESSE’s objectives

PROJECT PARTNER

University of Granada (UGR), Spain

The UGR's team is composed of five members who are all professors at different departments of the University of Granada. Together they form a research group with diverse but complementary research interests.



Dr. Ignacio Tamayo is currently an Associate Professor at the Department of Management at the University of Granada, Spain. His research focuses on strategic change, innovation, corporate social responsibility, human development and social entrepreneurship. He has published several articles and book chapters related to these topics. Ignacio is also a founder of "LaEditora", a media producer firm focused on "Social Change" and a founding member and Director of a NGO for Development, ASAD, an organization supporting entrepreneurship in countries such as the Dominican Republic, Cambodia, Cape Verde and Guinea Bissau.



Ana María Bojica, PhD, is an Associate Professor at the Department of Business Administration at the University of Granada, Spain. Her research focuses on the relational capacities and processes that enable value creation in specific entrepreneurship domains, such as women's entrepreneurship, social entrepreneurship and corporate entrepreneurship. She is co-author of several articles and book chapters on this topic and took part in several national and international research projects, including Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) in Spain.



Professor Dr. Francisco D. Fernandez has been working at the Department of Developmental and Educational Psychology for the last 10 years. He has extensive experience in implementing public programme evaluations, research studies, and assessments in the Education sector. He has made a couple of dozen publications such as articles and book chapters in internationally-recognized journals and publications, on topics such as bullying, special educational needs, elderly and academic failure and dropout prevention

programmes, research methodological designs and programme evaluation.



Professor Dr. José L. Arco has worked for institutions such as the Andalusia School of Public Health. He has been working at the Department of Developmental and Educational Psychology for the last 15 years. For eight years he was the Director of Counselling and Guidance Services at the University of Granada. He has more than a dozen of publications both in national and international peer reviewed journals. He has also published several books on topics like Special Education, Guidance and Counselling Services in the Higher Education Area, Stress and working conditions and programme evaluation.



Dr. Stephen Hughes has extensive experience in working in Secondary and Higher Education. His areas of expertise lie in quality management in education, bilingual education and language learning and acquisition. He has experience in working in national and international research projects. In addition to publishing in articles, books and chapters, he is on the scientific committee of two international journals.



Professor Francisco Javier Carrillo works at the Department of Didactics of Experimental Sciences since 2007. He has published more than a dozen articles in the JCR Index. He is a member of the Andalusia Earth Sciences Institute (CSIC-UGR) collaborating with companies through research projects. He contributes to numerous scientific literacy schemes and belongs to the Andalusian network of Learning Communities. He coordinates a university volunteering initiative and participates in projects of social-educative Service-Learning.

Because of the diverse academic research profiles of the UGR's team, several of the CUPESSE research objectives were particularly relevant for our team members from a research and publication perspective. The team's contribution is particularly focused on the Educational, Psychological and Entrepreneurial "predictors" of the CUPESSE project's expected main

“outcomes”. While theoretically framing the intervention and building the questionnaire, the team was particularly interested to include the concept of “GRIT” as part of the theoretical model. The “GRIT” concept has been identified as a critical factor for success in the 21st century and was included by several government entities, for example in the education policy of the U.S. Department of Education.

While data derived from the CUPESSE questionnaire are gathered and prepared to be analysed, the UGR’s team has been developing additional research activities, which have translated into two potential publications.

One of the papers has just been finished and consists of adapting and validating the Grit-Short scale on the basis of the Spanish population. After following the methodologically and statistically-standardized protocol to adapt and validate this type of evaluation instruments, the psychometric properties obtained (e.g., acceptable values for internal consistency and excellent adjustment index for the proposed structural model), are compatible. Consequently, this evaluation tool will be available very soon to the Spanish Scientific community.

The other paper, which is currently under review, is a Systematic Review of Grit as a Factor of Educational, Professional and Personal Success. This paper synthesizes the evidences in favour of grit as a predictor and an outcome of educational, professional and personal success. It constitutes an exceptional source of information and data to systematically check to which extent the CUPESSE data, including GRIT, will contribute to a better understanding and prediction of the variables and processes underlying the social and personal differences that impact economic self-sufficiency.

Mirjan Schulz is focusing on values, attitudes and financial, social, and cultural capital and how these are transmitted from one generation to the next. Part of her approach to this issue is to conduct in-depth interviews with family members belonging to three different generations.



Jannes Rupf is a master’s student of political science and sociology. He focuses on qualitative research on (youth) unemployment in the European Union. Within his CUPESSE internship, he looks at how work values and attitudes are transmitted from one generation to another. To answer these research questions, he carried out qualitative family interviews. Aside from his studies, he works for the Federal Agency for Civic Education in Heidelberg.



Julian Erhardt is currently enrolled in the master’s program in Political Science at Heidelberg University. In his studies, he focuses on quantitative research methods and comparative politics, especially career trajectories of political elites and comparative welfare state research. For his research internship at CUPESSE, he is conducting qualitative family interviews. Through these interviews, he hopes to gain insights into how financial, social and cultural capital, as well as values and attitudes are transmitted across generations and how this impacts the economic self-sufficiency of young adults.

Research Interns



Mirjan Schulz studies Political Science, Economics and South Asian Studies at Heidelberg University. She is currently participating in the CUPESSE project as a research intern, which is giving her the opportunity to further enhance her abilities in conducting qualitative interviews. The project also enables her to achieve a comprehensive understanding on how career choices are influenced by the individual family background. Within the project,



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