

ESPON 2013 Programme
“The Territorial Dimension of Poverty and Social Exclusion in
Europe” (TiPSE)

Seminar and Workshop

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Case Studies

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Outline

- (1) Aim of the case studies
- (2) The role of space
- (3) Scale issues
- (4) Policy implications

The Case Studies and their thematic focus



- (a) Ethnicity-related social exclusion
- (b) Access to services of general interest in rural areas
- (c) Urban education
- (d) Ethnic and social segregation
- (e) Unemployment

Aim of the Case Studies

- Case studies were selected to cover different European macro-regions & welfare regimes, territorial & socio-economic settings
- They have allowed us to inform the macro-regional perspective with a qualitative, in-depth and micro-scale analysis
- Combining methodological approaches allows for a more coherent picture of PSE processes and underlying factors



Main findings – Space

Space as a driver of social exclusion

- Remoteness or difficult accessibility can aggravate individual situations of social exclusion
- Impact of space on PSE in urban contexts is less obvious and direct
- Ambiguous impact of segregation
- Neighbourhood effects can work on a symbolic, social and institutional level



Main findings - Space

Space as a factor alleviating situations of poverty and social exclusion

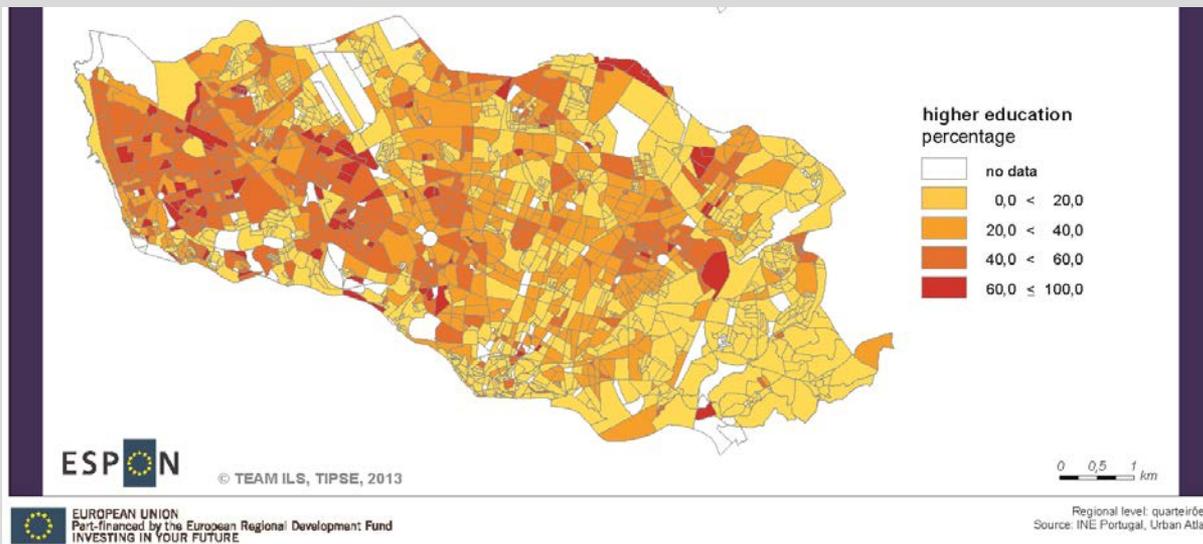
- Locally-embedded social networks can help to overcome situations of PSE
- Social networks are particularly relevant for (newly arriving) migrants
- Resources available via social support networks are under great strain



Main findings - Scale

Implications of scale for recognising patterns

- Scale plays an important role in making trends and patterns visible for policy makers
- Levels and patterns of social exclusion and poverty may vary quite dramatically depending on scale



Main findings - Scale

Social exclusion as relative phenomenon

- Increased political attention towards the relational position of regions is needed
- Intra-EU migration patterns call for further observation

“Almost all of my friends have emigrated to foreign countries. Some already have concrete job offers when they move. There are others, however, who go without having anything planned. They only go with misfortune.” (young unemployed, Porto)

Source: ESPON TIPSE Case Study Report Porto, Ramos Lobato, 2013

Main findings - Scale

Understanding the patterns of social exclusion

- Need to understand how drivers and processes interact at different scales
- Underlying factors are often outside the local sphere of influence
- European-wide trends having a particular impact on PSE patterns

“We received a lot of requests for medical care from our citizens; these are rapidly increasing as the economic crisis deepens. The dramatic rise in unemployment has created a ‘whole army’ of uninsured people without rights and access to health insurance.”
(local expert, Athens)

Source: ESPON TIPSE Case Study Report Athens, Kandylis et al., 2013

Policy implications

Need for integrated and place-specific policies

- Need for an integrated policy approach
- PSE require local, tailored responses
- Need for taking account of the different territorial, socio-economic and institutional contexts

Need for data at small-scale level

- Data on less aggregated level necessary to identify small-scale pockets of disadvantage
- Need for harmonised data sets