

Report on the outcomes of a Short-Term Scientific Mission¹

Action number: CA18236 - Multi-disciplinary innovation for social change (SHIINE)

Grantee name: Alina Östling

Details of the STSM

Title: A model of governance for social innovations based on the idea of Digital Commons

Start and end date: 24/04/2023 to 01/05/2023

Description of the work carried out during the STSM

Description of the activities carried out during the STSM. Any deviations from the initial working plan shall also be described in this section.

This STSM took place to contribute to the following Action's deliverables:

11. Establishment of the Pan-European Public Sector Innovation (ePSI) Lab for social challenges with **a sustainable working model** (in particular contributing to the identification of relevant and sustainable governance models).
12. Working paper on the ePSI and a **model of governance** supporting key policy-makers and supporting agencies that have a role in responding to and developing public policy.

¹ This report is submitted by the grantee to the Action MC for approval and for claiming payment of the awarded grant. The Grant Awarding Coordinator coordinates the evaluation of this report on behalf of the Action MC and instructs the GH for payment of the Grant.

In particular, the STSM allowed me to interact with the Center for Research on Democracy and Law, thereby supporting capacity building between this academic institution in Greece on the one side, and the NGO Open Knowledge Sweden and the RISE Research Institutes of Sweden (two institutions to which I am affiliated) on the other side.

With my visit I aimed at supporting Working Group 3, which focuses on developing a [Pan-European Public Sector Innovation \(ePSI\) Lab approach](#). The WG is developing working papers on ePSI labs and a model of governance supporting key policy-makers and other actors that have a role in responding to and developing public policy.

In particular, with the Center for Research on Democracy and Law, we discussed potential topics that we could collaborate on, including a model of governance supporting policy-makers in developing public policy related to social innovation based on Elinor Ostrom's theory of the "commons". In line with this theory, governance mechanisms should represent the collective interests at stake. In recent times, this has been piloted in the form of "digital commons", understood as collective governance over norms and rules of access, as well as collective enforcement of sanctions to benefit the community instead of only the individual or the market players. This is in line with the evolving landscape of social innovations that are increasingly taking place in the digital sphere.

With WG3, we have further discussed ideas on a potential governance structure for the ePSI labs. The WG has gathered data on the existing governance structures through a survey among the WG Member States that could be used for analysis and for outlining ideas about what kind of impact the governance structure might have on the sustainability of the labs. During my stay I have dedicated time to examining the theory of the "commons" as a conceptual model for ePSI labs, e.g. finding that the [LABoratory for the GOVernance of the City as a Commons](#) (a global network that aims to explore methodologies and policies for collaboration and shared management of urban resources through empirical and applied research platforms), has already analysed the efficacy of 'commoning' by using Ostrom's research on cooperative governance strategies. This could be useful as a basis for further work on the ePSI conceptual model and as a contribution to the IFKAD conference (deadline in May), which we are going to discuss with WG3 in the coming weeks.

With the Center, we also discussed social innovations in the field of mobility and data, and identified another collaboration partner - the Greek Transportation Institute (<https://www.imet.gr/index.php/en/research-areas-en/sector-b-en>) that is pursuing a similar project to RISE (where I, as STSM applicant, am working part-time). Through this collaboration, the Greek Transportation Institute and RISE could consider developing joint ideas on social innovation projects focusing on facilitation of public transport through the use of data, citizen involvement and multi-stakeholder collaboration (public/private) - a field where RISE has significant experience.

Description of the STSM main achievements and planned follow-up activities

Description and assessment of whether the STSM achieved its planned goals and expected outcomes, including specific contribution to Action objective and deliverables, or publications resulting from the STSM. Agreed plans for future follow-up collaborations shall also be described in this section.

The main outputs of the visit were:

- A. Established contacts with academics involved in social innovation and governance-related areas at the Center for Research on Democracy and Law.
- B. Development of new research ideas and new collaborations, and capacity-building across countries and institutions.
- C. A draft concept of possible joint working paper on governance of the ePSI by using the concept of the commons. The key ideas have been shared with the COST action's WG3 leader, Peter Meister-Broekema, and we are now jointly preparing contributions for a special track at the IFKAD 2023 conference in Matera, Italy (7-9 June 2023).

As the host of this STSM, I am pleased to approve the report submitted by our visiting researcher Alina Östling.

Yours sincerely,



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