



WG2 Case study profile

WG2 Thematic group	WG2.4. Housing and neighbourhood
Name(s) of proposer	Dina Vaiou and Ares Kalandides
Institution	National Technical University of Athens
Title of case study (and priority ranking)	Solidarity initiatives to cope with the crisis in Athens
Country/region/place investigated	Athens, Greece
Social service sector(s) investigated <i>(Erase non relevant ones)</i>	The case study will look at solidarity initiatives which have sprung in many neighbourhoods of Athens in the time of crisis, multiple deprivation and dismantling of social services.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternatives to crumbling social services 	
Category of case study ('what' is investigated) <i>(Erase non relevant ones)</i>	Experiences at neighbourhood level: The range and scope of solidarity initiatives, their micro-geographies and their potential operation as a "laboratory" for reconfigurations of public sphere and space
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project/initiative/experience (micro-level) • Actor(s) • Place (s) 	Greater Athens
Time frame considered <i>(from when to when)</i>	From 2009 to present
Five 'perspectives' <i>(Erase non relevant ones)</i>	The case study touches on all perspectives of the COST Action, but inevitably turns them "upside down", so to speak: the initiatives under study involve practices from below, on a voluntary and self-organising basis, as responses to a kind of "restructuring" of social services which has led to their near disappearance and has contributed to the impoverishment of large sections of the urban population.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost efficiency/quality/user satisfaction • Democratic governance • Social and territorial cohesion • Labour conditions • Gender 	
Three processes in restructuring + crisis <i>(Erase non relevant ones)</i>	Solidarity initiatives in the crisis-stricken neighbourhoods of Athens have started to organise as ways to cope with cuts in social service provision as well as cuts in salaries and lack of income. They constitute a rapidly transforming urban landscape in which people not only "receive" assistance and services but become stakeholders in reciprocal practices of coping/resisting. In some cases, local government is involved; it is doubtful, however, that one can speak of "subsidiarity" as implied in the processes of restructuring+crisis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuts/rationalization/management reforms (NPM, others) • <i>Vertical</i> subsidiarity (administrative re-arrangements between <i>government</i> levels) • <i>Horizontal</i> subsidiarity (involvement of/outsourcing to other suppliers) 	
Specific questions/focus	How does urban population survive at a time of multiple crisis and extreme austerity policies which seriously challenge the bases of social citizenship and cohesion.
Local Stakeholder Network (LSN)	<i>Do you intend to set up a LSN:</i> NO