



WG2 Case study profile

Thematic group	WG2.5 Restructuring/crisis of social services in general
Name(s) of proposer	Américo M. S. CARVALHO MENDES & Liliana FERNANDES
Institution	Universidade Católica Portuguesa (Porto)
Title of case study (and priority ranking)	Sustainability of private social welfare organizations: good and bad practices in the context of economic crisis and reform of the Welfare State
Country/region/place investigated	Portugal
Social service sector(s) investigated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older people • People with disabilities • Children/Childcare • Services in social assistance • Housing and neighbourhood • Restructuring of ss in general 	Private social welfare organizations in Portugal (<i>IPSSs - Instituições Particulares de Solidariedade Social</i>) are, by far, the main providers of social services. They deliver a wide range of services to a variety of social groups, namely older people, children and people with disabilities.
Category of case study ('what' is investigated) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actor(s) 	Taking a sample of private social welfare organizations coming from the different regions of mainland Portugal and providing the different types of services typical of this kind of organizations, the study will focus on how they have been coping with the changes in demand and in the public policies related to the services they provide.
Time frame considered	2008 - 2012
Five 'perspectives' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance 	The study will focus on how the private social welfare have been responding to the changes in their social and economic context in terms of their internal organizations and interactions with key stakeholders
Three processes in 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/outourcing to other suppliers) 	The way private social welfare organizations are responding to changes in their social and economic environment include both changes in their internal organization, but also their interactions with other key stakeholders, private and public, (at the same level of work and at wider, or lower scales of intervention).
Specific questions/focus	The intended outcome of this study is to identify good and bad practices concerning the responses of private social welfare organizations to changes in their social and economic environment in the context of the recent economic crisis.
Local Stakeholder Network (LSN)	<i>Do you intend to set up a LSN:</i> YES