



**THIRD  
SECTOR  
IMPACT**

Measuring impact.  
Enhancing visibility

## **TSI News Alert #1**

### **News from Third Sector Impact**

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#### **ABOUT Third Sector Impact**

The third sector, consisting of civil society associations and foundations, volunteers, and other citizen organisations and activities, offers unique renewable and sustainable resources for social and economic problem-solving, democracy, and civic engagement in Europe. In times of social and economic distress and enormous pressures on governmental budgets this sector is an important partner in the effort to promote economic development and social cohesion in Europe.

To take full advantage of this resource we need a clearer understanding of the third sector – its scope and scale, existing and potential impacts, and barriers to full third sector contribution to the continent's common welfare. Third Sector Impact (TSI) brings together thirty researchers from 10 European universities in a comparative project, determined to address questions of third sector definition, measurement, impact assessment and ways to support its development. It includes a distinctive stakeholder engagement process to capture the insights of practitioners and include them in conceptualization, methodology and project outputs.

[Know more](#)



#### **MEET the TSI Coordinator**

Bernard Enjolras is responsible for the overall scientific and administrative management of the Third Sector Impact project. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Paris I Sorbonne (France) and a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Québec in Montreal (Canada). He is a Research Director and Research Professor at the Institute for Social Research (ISF).

[Find out more](#)

*"TSI will hopefully help putting the third sector on the policy agenda at the European and national levels. Our research aims at developing a consensual and operational definition of the third sector taking into account the cultural specificities and institutional diversity characterizing third sector organizations in Europe. We also aim at developing indicators of the sector's impact and policy proposals for the enablement of the sector's socio-economic impact. This is an exiting task which entails breaking new grounds within the third sector research field. Coordinating such a project - involving a team of top third sector scholars in twelve European countries - is a challenging responsibility but also a very rewarding endeavor."*

## NEWS from the project

### \*\*\*Third Sector Impact kick-off meeting in Bologna, January 2014\*\*\*

TSI researchers came together in Bologna in January this year to embark on a two-year definition, consultation, research and dissemination effort that involves and informs practitioners across Europe in a new and ground-breaking way.

[Read more](#)

### \*\*\*Launch of TSI website\*\*\*

The Third Sector Impact website [www.thirdsectorimpact.eu](http://www.thirdsectorimpact.eu) went online on July 16th, featuring a detailed project description, partners and contributors, outputs, news and event updates. One exciting tool is the [online consultations forum](#), inviting third sector stakeholders and policy makers from across Europe to share their views and stories on third sector impact.

## STAKEHOLDER Engagement offline



TSI follows a specific stakeholder approach to capture the insights of practitioners on all working areas of the project - [impact](#), [concept](#), [measurement](#), and [barriers](#). One venue for stakeholder engagement are national or European stakeholder meetings, inviting views and opinions of practitioners, to be included in the TSI research agenda.

### \*\*\*First national stakeholder meeting in Oslo, April 9th\*\*\*

This first national stakeholder meeting set the stage for third sector practitioner input to the attempt to identify impact indicators on a range of a set of areas.

[Read more](#)

### \*\*\*First stakeholder definition meeting in Rome, May 19-20\*\*\*

The Third Sector Project working group on conceptualization met with European stakeholder organisations to formulate a common conceptualization of the Third Sector in Europe.

[Read more](#)

### \*\*\*First national stakeholder meeting in Vienna, May 12th\*\*\*

29 participants engaged in lively discussions at the TSI stakeholders meeting on third sector impact at Wirtschaftsuniversität Vienna.

[Read more](#)

### \*\*\*First national stakeholder meeting in Paris, June 20th\*\*\*

French third sector and public policy stakeholders discussed third sector impact, third sector definitions and third sector development.

[Read more](#)

### \*\*\*First national stakeholder meeting in Zagreb, June 23rd\*\*\*

Sixteen Croatian umbrella organizations, large national associations and key informants participated in the first national stakeholder meeting in Zagreb, bringing valuable input and direction to the research on third sector impacts.

[Read more](#)

\*\*\*First national stakeholder meeting in Warsaw, June 25th\*\*\*

The 27 participants present at the TSI Warsaw meeting represented third sector practitioners, experts and policy makers.

[Read more](#)

## STAKEHOLDER Consultations - WE NEED YOU

On the TSI Consultations blog practitioners contribute their observations and thinking and help TSI researchers understand the various impacts of third sector activities at societal, local, and individual levels. Consultations are on different aspects of TSI working areas, each running for several months. Insights and results will be included in TSI outputs.

\*\*\*IMPACT - if only we could SHOW the difference it makes\*\*\*

This first stakeholder consultation feeds into the TSI objective to identify and elaborate a set of priority consensus impact indicators, after having assessed what is reliably known. Please share with us your views and opinions on questions like:

- In what ways do activities of third sector organizations enhance well-being and quality of life?
- Do third sector organizations improve local communities or the lives of poor and vulnerable people?
- Does participation in a voluntary organizations mean exercising a political role?

## [PARTICIPATE NOW!](#)

## CALENDAR



\*\*\*TSI meeting at ISTR Conference in Münster, Germany, 21-25 July\*\*\*

TSI members will present TSI at this major conference on 'Civil Society and the Citizen' at the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, discuss progress so far and tasks ahead.

[More on the TSI meeting in Münster](#)

## PARTNER Profile

**INSTITUTE  
FOR SOCIAL  
RESEARCH**

The Institute for Social Research (ISF) was established in 1950 as an independent foundation in Oslo, Norway.

Multidisciplinary in its orientation, it comprises research within all the social sciences and history, centred around themes as: Civil Society in Transition, Working Life, Gender Equality, Migration, Elections and Democracy, and Political institutions.

ISF took on national management of the Johns Hopkins Comparative Nonprofit Sector Research Project, carried out from 2006-2007, and the Norwegian coordination of the Network Council for "Civil Society and New Forms of Governance in Europe" (CINEFOGO), a Network of Excellence supported by EU 6th Framework Program.

ISF researchers Bernard Enjolras, Karl Henrik Sivesind and Signe Bock Seggaard are in charge of the overall management and

co-ordination of the TSI project. ISF's Karl-Henrik Sivesind coordinates the elaboration and testing of third sector impact indicators. The team will integrate findings in the final report. ISF hosted the first TSI stakeholder meeting in Oslo, Norway.  
[More information on ISF and the Oslo team](#)

## STAKEHOLDER Profile



BBE -Bundesnetzwerk Bürgerschaftliches Engagement is a national network linking organisations and associations from the third sector and civil society with business and work life, federal and community institutions. Goal is the strengthening of civil society and civic involvement. The key objective is the improvement of the general legal, organisational and institutional conditions for civic involvement in Germany.

[Know more about BBE](#)

## STATISTICS

\*\*\*July 2014\*\*\*

National stakeholder institutions featured: 17

European stakeholder institutions featured: 3

News Alert subscriptions: 147

Facebook likes: 161

## PARTNER and Stakeholder News

\*\*\*TSI Stakeholder CEV hosting conference on volunteering in social welfare services\*\*\*

"Volunteering in European Welfare & Social Services (VIEWSS)" Turin, Italy,  
2-3 October 2014.

More info: <http://thirdsectorimpact.eu/?p=1438>

\*\*\*TSI Stakeholder Social Platform at EPSCO Council\*\*\*

Social Platform will make a contribution to the informal EPSCO Council in July 2014. It is relevant to all TSI themes – definition, enabling factors framework bridging from EU to national, impact measurement.

More info: <http://thirdsectorimpact.eu/?p=1078>

Would you like your news and events relevant to third sector impact featured here? Email us at  
[info@thirdsectorimpact.eu](mailto:info@thirdsectorimpact.eu).

For any inquiries about the Third Sector Impact project, please contact Bernard Enjolras ([bernard.enjolras@samfunnsforskning.no](mailto:bernard.enjolras@samfunnsforskning.no)) and Rocío Nogales ([info@thirdsectorimpact.eu](mailto:info@thirdsectorimpact.eu))

TSI research partners:

Institute for Social Research (Norway), The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (Italy), Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien, Austria, University of Kent and University of Birmingham (United Kingdom), University of Münster (Germany), Radboud University Nijmegen (The Netherlands), Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (France), Universitat de Valencia (Spain), Faculty of Law Zagreb (Croatia), and the University of Warsaw (Poland).

TSI Support members: SPES (stakeholders' engagement); EMES Network (communication and dissemination) and ERS (administration).



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