

SUCCESS STORY

INSITE/The Innovation Society, Sustainability, and ICT

Research area: FP7 – Cooperation/ICT – Future and Emerging Technologies Open scheme
Number of partners: 12 among which the University of Lausanne (UNIL)

Start date – End date: 2011-03-01 to 2014-02-28
Duration: 36 months
Funding: € 963 172/ UNIL: € 20 223
Type of contract: Coordination and support action (CSA)



CÉLINE ROZENBLAT



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PROCESSES OF THE EMERGENCE OF INNOVATION

To spot the conditions and the processes of the emergence of innovation is the objective of Céline Rozenblat's research. Within the project INSITE, the professor at Lausanne University of urban geography and spatial analysis coordinates a group that works on network thematics.

“As a researcher one shouldn't give in to discouragement. Eventually, in spite of moments of doubt, there is always a result.”

Which paths did you follow to become a researcher?

Chance paved the way of my career. I wanted to become a journalist but the prerequisite was to obtain the level of the baccalaureate plus three years further study. I chose the University of Paris 7, where I discovered a new geography which used statistics and models, tools that make it possible to understand how the world operates. Then Denise Pumain at Paris 1 suggested a thesis with the theme: the networks of multinationals in European cities. I took it on, as I felt it was a subject of prime importance. Today, this means I can claim an original and singular specialisation on the networks and systems of cities in geography and regional economy. The domain is booming, all the students I train find a job, as their competences are as rare as they are sought after.

What appealed to you in research?

I love to discover new ideas. When elements click and all of a sudden consistency takes place, it is very satisfying! Work is undertaken in a team, which demands reli-

ability, intellectual honesty and the recognition of each and everyone's contribution. The human qualities of collaborators are essential.

How was your European project born?

I arrived at UNIL in 2006 and I first participated in an ESPON 2008-2011 project (European Spatial Planning Organisation Network), then I discovered a call for FP7 proposals on the "Future of Europe in a multipolar world". There were the cities, the economy, possibility to integrate a quantitative and multi-scale approach, the networks and their vulnerability. This proposal obtained an excellent mark (second out of 14 requests) but its financing was lacking. However, it opened the door to a community of researchers and since then, I have been involved in other European projects (INSITE, Multiplex).



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ABOUT THE PROJECT

The project INSITE (*The Innovation Society, Sustainability, and ICT*) aims at identifying the conditions, and the cascade effects that lead to the emergence and spreading of innovations. The method associates simulations and interdisciplinary approaches of complexity. INSITE only benefits from a small budget, its calling being above all to create networks of researchers who are susceptible of fostering more operational projects. Within this frame Céline Rozenblat has notably collaborated in the elaboration

of Multiplex (*Foundational Research on MULTILEVEL comPLEX networks and systems/ FP7 – FET Proactive*) which deals with the physical and mathematical aspects of systems called "complex" (in particular multi-level). This "large-scale integrating project" (IP) associates 17 countries and more than 30 teams.

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