Community-university research partnerships

Hall, Peter V., MacPherson, Ian

Published by University of Victoria Libraries

Hall, Peter V. and Ian MacPherson.
Community-university research partnerships: Reflections on the Canadian social economy experience.

University of Victoria Libraries, 2012.
APPENDIX A7

Québec Node: The Alliance de recherche universités-communautés en économie sociale (ARUC-ÉS) and the Réseau québécois de recherche partenariale en économie sociale (RQRP-ÉS)

The Goals of ARUC-ÉS and RQRP-ÉS are:

• to lead social-economy related research and to produce knowledge that is useful to community development by coordinating networks of researchers and community partners;

• to stimulate and support social-economy related education by organizing workshops and involving students in all activities;

• to disseminate research findings by issuing various publications and organizing seminars, conferences, and conventions; and

• to promote the sharing of knowledge between universities and communities and the use of research findings within the social economy movement.

This desire to bring the spheres of research and action closer together is reflected in how ARUC-ÉS and RQRP-ÉS are organized. Both centres are jointly headed by a Professor from the Sociology Department at UQAM and the head of the Chantier de l’économie sociale. A representative of the academy and a representative from the social economy sector supervises work teams. This same collaboration is found on governing bodies (management teams, coordinating committees, research teams, etc.).

Two Complementary Structures

While ARUC-ÉS and RQRP-ÉS have a common research focus and approach, what distinguish them are the spheres of action of their respective work teams: ARUC-ÉS’s teams are dealing with issues related to different sectors of the social economy (housing, social tourism, finance, services for people, development), while RQRP-ÉS teams work on these issues but on a territorial basis.

ARUC-ÉS coordinates five partnered activity teams (chantiers d’activités partenariales - CAPs) that focus on five work areas: services for individuals;
community housing; recreation and social tourism; responsible financing; and local and regional development.

In the spring of 2006, the groups were engaged in more than 50 active research projects. The following illustrate the variety of issues that are being addressed in the different fields.

- Portrait of the co-operative housing movement in Québec.
- Factors affecting access to recreation.
- The role of the social economy in reconverting the garment industry: The path to developing new job skills.
- Marketing practices of social economy businesses.
- Mergers among health and social services establishments.

What is the future mandate and mission of the Centre local de services communautaires (CLSC)? Research findings are published in booklets that are added to the Cahiers de l’ARUC-ÉS series, and are presented at seminars and conferences.

The RQRP-ÉS consists of eight regional partnered activity groups - Groupes régionaux d’activités partenariales (GRAPs) that are set up in regions of Québec with a university: Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Outaouais, Estrie, Montréal, Mauricie, Québec/Chaudière-Appalaches, Saguenay/Lac-Saint-Jean, and Bas-Saint-Laurent. Bringing together the social economy hub and the local university in each region, the GRAPs organize their research programs in response to the locally identified social economy research needs.

In the spring of 2006, RQRP-ÉS was involved in coordinating more than 20 research projects. The following are examples of issues that are being dealt within five of the eight regions covered by GRAPs.

- The contribution of the social economy to rural development: The case of Bas-Saint-Laurent,
- Linking income support policies and workforce development in Montréal,
- Conditions for the emergence of social economy businesses in Saguenay/Lac-Saint-Jean,
- A portrait of the social economy in the Mauricie region, and
- Inventory, benefits, and the contribution of community gardens to the regional economy in the Québec/Chaudière-Appalaches regions.

Leading partners in ARUC-ÉS and RQRP-ÉS:
- Association des groupes de ressources techniques du Québec
Community-University Research Partnerships

- Chantier de l’économie sociale
- Comité sectoriel de la main-d’œuvre en économie sociale et en action communautaire (CSMO-ÉSAC)
- Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN)
- Conseil québécois du loisir
- Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec (FTQ)
- Fondaction de la CSN
- Fonds de solidarité de la FTQ
- Pôles régionaux d’économie sociale
- Réseau d’investissement social du Québec (RISQ)
- Concordia University
- Université de Sherbrooke
- Université du Québec à Chicoutimi (UQAC)
- Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)
- Université du Québec à Rimouski (UQAR)
- Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières (UQTR)
- Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue (UQAT)
- Université du Québec en Outaouais (UQO)
- Université Laval