

St. George's Day Festival and community development in Bermondsey, London Borough of Southwark (United Kingdom)

EU-MIA RESEARCH REPORT Ole Jensen COMPAS

January 2014









St. George's Day Festival and community development in Bermondsey, London Borough of Southwark (United Kingdom)

EU-MIA RESEARCH REPORT
Ole Jensen
COMPAS

January 2014

The materials in this publication are for information purposes only. While ITCILO, FIERI and COMPAS endeavour to ensure accuracy and completeness of the contents of this publication, the views, findings and content of this discussion paper are those of the authors only and do not necessarily reflect the official position of ITCILO, FIERI and COMPAS.

© 2013

International Training Centre of the ILO in Turin (ITCILO)
Forum Internazionale ed Europeo di Ricerche sull'Immigrazione (FIERI)
Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS), University of Oxford



This discussion paper is financed by the European Commission and published in the context of the project "An integrated research and cooperative learning project to reinforce integration capacities in European Cities-EU-MIA, EC Agreement Nr HOME/2011/EIFX/CA/1996".

The content of this discussion paper does not reflect the official opinion of the European Commission.

Index

1.	Intro	duction	6
2.	Oper	ational context	7
	2.1	Key characteristics: demographic mix, socio-economic indicators and main challenges	7
	2.2	Broader policy context	8
	2.3	Key interventions	10
3.	The	Functioning Practice: St. George's Day Festival	11
	3.1	Objective and methodology	12
	3.2	Partners and networks	12
	3.3	Chronology and funding of activities	12
	3.4	Outcomes	13
	3.5	Learning and evaluation	14
	3.6	The next steps	15
4.	Conc	lusions	16
Bibli	ograp	hy	17
Anne	exes		18
	Anne	x 1 Summary table with key facts on interviews	18
	Anne	x 2 Map of South Bermondsey ward and surroundings, with housing estates participating in Big Local	19

1. Introduction

EU-MIA (European Migrant Integration Academy) is a research-based co-operative learning and training initiative targeting and directly involving local stakeholders responsible for the development and implementation of local level integration policies in selected European cities.

The project is structured in three phases:

- 1. Background research, to create a repertoire of promising practices in the field of integration at city and neighbourhood level and selection of 10 Functioning Practices (FP) from throughout the European Union.
- 2. Fieldwork missions in the cities where the selected Functioning Practices are located, based on in-depth interviews with local stakeholders and the production of short videos.
- 3. Development of a cooperative learning kit based on the research component of this project which forms the basis of the training initiative Migrant Integration Academy.

We do not look for perfect models of integration policy which can be adopted wholesale across different city contexts, but we believe there is, across Europe, a wealth of successful initiatives carried out at city level and in partnership with civil society,. Starting from this assumption, we define Functioning Practices (FP) not as the best practices on integration in Europe but as practices relating to successful initiatives that make an outstanding contribution to manage issues at hand.

The selection of Functioning Practices was based on three tools:

- literature review and web browsing;
- consultation of experts and city networks;
- nominations (including a majority of self-nominations) by local stakeholders through a Call for Practices.

These were the criteria used for the selection of Functioning Practices¹:

- a. innovative and successful measures in any fields which have clear goals in terms of integration of people with a migrant background, be they migrant-focused or not;
- b. measures carried out at local level;
- c. measures involving public authorities;
- d. live actions or recently closed actions, i.e. practices concluded within the past two years and consolidated measures that have been implemented for at least two years.

The following sections present the Functioning Practice 'St. George's Day Festival' within the broader context of community and partnership development in South Bermondsey, London Borough of Southwark, (LBS), and the findings are thus also to be considered as part of the Partnership Strand at the Integration Academy in Turin, in February 2014.

¹ For further details see http://www.eu-mia.eu/

Empirical findings in the report are based on analyses of official documents as well as interviews with key actors, stakeholders and beneficiaries.² The report is practically oriented given that its aim is to foster exchanges of functioning practices, learning from experience and development of knowledge-based policies: it analyses how the practice concretely works and assesses the main achievements and assets, on one hand, and pitfalls and difficulties, on the other hand. It ends with a look towards possible follow up and transfers.

2. Operational context

In order to provide an understanding of the institutional landscape that the Big Local and the St. George's Day Festival are part of, this section aims to provide an outline of the demographic and socio-economic context as well as the main stakeholders of the policy community in South Bermondsey ward.

2.1 Key characteristics: demographic mix, socio-economic indicators and main challenges

South Bermondsey is located in the northern part of the London Borough of Southwark (LBS). A densely populated inner-city area dominated by post-WW2 housing estates, the 2011 population of the ward was 13,780. Having suffered from the post-industrial loss of local work places, while not benefitting from the redevelopment and gentrification that have transformed other parts of the area, South Bermondsey is generally a low-income area with high levels of unemployment. There are also pockets of severe deprivation within the ward, with two super output areas in the ward (of an LBS total of five) categorized among the 10% most deprived UK-wide in 2010.³ Projections for the area are also not very optimistic, as concluded in a locally developed strategy paper: 'With the high concentrations of social housing, those who prosper might move out, and new generations of citizens with high needs then take their place. The local purchasing power may only be sufficient to sustain a limited range of businesses and services' (Southwark Alliance (no date):42).

Overall, the 2011 composition of the population by ethnic categories is not very different from the wider picture in the borough, with the increase in the 'white other' category first and foremost reflecting increasing immigration from EU accession countries. But the decline in the White British population in the period 2001-11 has been much more dramatic than at borough and city level. Similar to the rest of the borough, the biggest minority population is Black African, constituting 17.8% of the 2011 total. Altogether, the black population as a proportion of the LBS total is approximately double the London average. Significantly, the group of 'others' has increased significantly in South Bermondsey, providing an indicator that diversity is becoming increasingly multifarious.

Please refer to Annexe 1 for a list of interviews.

³ Super output areas are a set of geographical areas developed following the 2001 census, initially to facilitate the development of indices of deprivation. South Bermondsey consists of a total of nine super output areas https://www.southwarkstats.com/public/download/DIRECT/D0002/Overall_IMD2010_map.pdf.

Table 1. 2011 population by ethnic category (percentage points change from 2001 in brackets)

	South Bermondsey	London Borough of Southwark	London
White British	39.3 (-21.9)	39.6 (-12.6)	44.9 (-14.9)
White other	14.1 (7.2)	12.3 (4.6)	12.6 (4.3)
Black Caribbean	3.5 (-1.0)	6.2 (-1.8)	4.2 (-0.6)
Black African	17.8 (3.2)	16.4 (0.3)	7.0 (1.7)
Other Black	4.5 (3.4)	4.2 (2.4)	2.1 (1.3)
Others	20.8 (9.6)	21.3 (7.1)	29.2 (8.2)
Total	100	100	100

Source: ONS 2011, 2001.

Like the rest of Bermondsey, the population of the ward was up into the 1980s largely white, with Irish as the only significant minority population. Due to structural constraints – locally controlled industries and local control over a housing stock consisting almost exclusively of social housing – it was difficult for outsiders to move into Bermondsey. Furthermore, there has been a longstanding association between Bermondsey and the British National Party (BNP), with BNP staging marches through Bermondsey on St. George's Day, and with Bermondsey as the only part of Southwark where a BNP candidate stands for local elections (typically gaining a maximum of 5% of the votes).

Whereas this has led to a perception of Bermondsey as racist, insular and hostile to foreigners, it's the general impression that BNP support has declined steadily since the mid-1990s. The last decade has seen a co-incidence of declining levels of racial harassment (as evidenced by local residents) and an increasing proportion of non-white residents.

2.2 Broader policy context

Significant at the broader policy level is the emphasis on 'minorities' rather than migrants which has served to restrain policies around migrant integration (Gidley 2012). With a focus on inclusion rather than integration, all policy initiatives at national and local level are subject to overarching equality legislation, tasking public services with the statutory duty to tackle systematic inequalities. Existing anti-discrimination laws were in 2010 replaced by the Equality Act which brings together in one piece of legislation the law on race, gender, disability, etc. Accordingly, all locally implemented programmes and interventions are inclusive in the sense that they do not differentiate on the basis of race or ethnicity, and the mandate of borough staff is to promote communities borough wide.

Another aspect of the overarching policy framework concerns the 2001 Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and subsequent programmes. These initiatives addressed poverty and disadvantage in specific geographical areas, identified on the basis of deprivation indicators – as mentioned above. Such areas would also, in an inner-city context, be areas characterised by higher than average proportions of immigrants and ethnic

minorities. As will be explained in section 2.3, the high levels of deprivation have over the past 10 years resulted in a number of locally managed neighbourhood renewal programmes, some of which have been implemented in South Bermondsey.

Local authority structures and key stakeholders

South Bermondsey was part of the Municipal Borough of Bermondsey up to 1965 when it became part of the London Borough of Southwark (LBS). Today, South Bermondsey constitutes an electoral ward in LBS, represented by three locally elected counsellors. Following the 2003 devolution of local government authority into community councils, Bermondsey community council was established, comprising South Bermondsey as well as the neighbouring wards of Grange and Riverside. Community councils meet approximately 8 times per year, and the meetings constitutes a platform for consultations between service providers, elected counsellors and local residents. But in 2012, Bermondsey and Rotherhithe community councils were merged as part of a cost-cutting exercise.

Apart from local government authorities, Bermondsey is characterized by long-established civil society organisations known as settlements⁴. Initially emerging in the absence of the welfare state, the settlements are significant local stakeholders in community development. The list below includes two of these settlements as well as other stakeholders that are involved in the South Bermondsey Partnership (see section 2.3) and the staging of the St. George's Day event.

Bede House: Bede House was established as a settlement in 1938, with the aim to work alongside poor families in Bermondsey and Rotherhithe. While initially substituting for the welfare state, Bede House has been provided services independently as well as in cooperation with LBS, focusing on a wide range of areas, including learning disabilities and domestic violence⁵. Bede House is based in Bermondsey and also runs a community centre with particular focus on learning disabilities. Bede House provides strategic overview for the Big Local.

Time and Talents: Time and Talents is also a settlement, established in 1887 with the ambition to 'help girls of leisure and education use their Time and Talents in the service of others'⁶. The organisation moved to Rotherhithe in 1962 and has been based here ever since, designing and managing a broad range of community activities. The manager and coordinator of Big Local initiatives works for Time and Talents.

United St. Saviours⁷: is a local charity that has been based on northern Southwark since 1543. With revenue deriving from real estate, the charity funds a broad range of community charities, and it also provides sheltered accommodation for retired residents. The charity awards a total £500,000 to organisations and initiatives in northern Southwark.

Motivated by the appalling, slum-like conditions in parts of London, philanthropists and educational institutions would, in the late 19th and early 20th century, set up settlement houses providing educational and general welfare facilities for the population in these under-privileged areas. Though their remit has changed over the years, some of these settlements are still around, and play a major part in the local associational infrastructure.

⁵ http://www.bedehouse.org.uk/

⁶ http://www.timeandtalents.org.uk/page72/History.html

⁷ http://www.ustsc.org.uk/

Millwall FC: The local football club, based at the edge of South Bermondsey, has been involved in the festival throughout its existence. Whereas the reputation of the football club has been tarnished by a small core of violent and xenophobic fans, Millwall had since the mid-80s been involved in community engagement at the local level. The blue and white Millwall bus that the club uses for community engagement is a familiar sight at local events, and the St George's Day Festival is only one of a wide range of local events that the club supports.

Tenants and residents associations (TRA) constitute an organisational form that is a characteristic of the urban landscape throughout urban England, even more so in areas (like South Bermondsey) characterised by a predominance of social housing. A TRA is typically set up and owned by the tenants and leaseholders living on a specific estate. The TRA thus constitutes a vehicle for the planning and execution of site-based community activities at estate level as well as a platform for communication with service providers, typically housing officers, and locally elected councillors. While the TRAs thus are ever-present elements of social organisation at local level, the role of TRAs has generally been diminishing over the past decades, and one of the ambitions of the Bermondsey neighbourhood programmes has been to work with five local TRAs and strengthen their capacity to become partners in project implementation.

2.3 Key interventions

The neighbourhood interventions carried out in South Bermondsey should be viewed within the context of the National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal, launched in April 2000 and targeting the 88 most deprived local authorities in England.

Pathfinder: In 2003-04, South Bermondsey was identified as one of 35 Pathfinders, areas selected UK-wide in order to test how new models of neighbourhood management could lead to improved community cohesion. In a review of experiences, South Bermondsey was one of five pathfinders selected for a review of how issues of ethnicity, race and culture affect community cohesion. Significantly, the review concluded that cohesion in South Bermondsey is as much to do with territorial insularity and age as ethnicity (Communities and Local Government 2008: 23).

South Bermondsey Partnership: Succeeding the Pathfinder Programme and set up within the framework of the Neighbourhood Management Programme, the South Bermondsey Partnership was part of an the initiative specifically targeting super output areas falling within the 3% most deprived according to the 2004 Index of Deprivation (Winchurch 2009: 8). Implemented in the period 2004-11, initiatives were designed by a small locally based team, working in close cooperation with local partners and stakeholders. This included the establishment of local organisational platforms – for example Bermondsey Youth Forum and Bermondsey Business Association – as well as activities aimed at improving inter-group relations on specific estates. Most locally visible was the work in 2009-11 to renovate The Blue, the market square and traditional community hub in South Bermondsey. The work was designed and carried out in consultation with local residents and stall holders on the square.

Big Local: The seven-year government funding for the South Bermondsey Partnership came to an end in March 2011, but funds from the 'Big Lottery Fund' - £100,000 per year over a 10 year period – had been secured in order to continue the partnership under the auspices of two local organisations, Bede House and Time and Talents⁸, but also building on cooperation with a wide range of local organisations, statuary agencies, religious communities and the local business community. In moving towards the end goal of building the local capacity for independent activity, three key areas of intervention were identified:

- improved use of green and open spaces on and around the local housing estates;
- active involvement of young people, thereby reducing gang violence and anti-social behaviour;
- improvement in community participation by older people in the area.

Whereas the Big Local thus provided an opportunity to build on and expand relationships with stakeholders identified during the partnership, it targeted housing estates more specifically. In practice, this also involved a somewhat changed geographical focus, as the project first and foremost targeted the TRAs of five housing estates in the very southern part of Bermondsey as well as in the neighbouring Livesey ward.

In summary, Bermondsey has over the past ten years seen continued community development, the objectives and design of which should be interpreted against a context of social and economic deprivation. The value of these initiatives has also been widely recognised, as argued in this evaluation commissioned in order to plan the future direction of South Bermondsey Partnership:

'The majority of those interviewed held a consistent view of the value of having a Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder for South Bermondsey. It represented a recognition amongst those responsible for developing approaches to area working and social inclusion, that concerted action had been required to assist the efforts of Southwark Council and its partners to narrow the gap between some of the Borough's most disadvantaged neighbourhoods and the rest.' (Winchurch 2009: 11).

3. The Functioning Practice: St. George's Day Festival

As mentioned above, it is very important to consider the St. George's Day event in the context of ongoing community engagement initiatives involving a range of different stakeholders. As the previous section has provided an outline of these initiatives and introduced some of the central stakeholders, this section will in the main focus on the St George's Day festival.

3.1 Objective and methodology

At the local policy level, interest in the initiative emerged from concerns over levels of racial harassment and the association between Bermondsey and BNP. Previous attempts to deal with this had largely failed, as remembered by the LBS head of community inclusion:

⁸ South Bermondsey Partnership: Annual Review 2011, http://www.southbermondseypartnership.org.uk/30-publication-archive/ (accessed 18.04.2012).

'[we thought that] what we need locally is a hate-crime conference, but we'll put in some football activities. Not one, I think we had two residents turning up. And of course the issue there is that if you call something hate crime, then people feel scared to come forward. But also, people do not want to be associated with something that actually, how can I put it, denigrates the area. And that was a real learning curve for me, and the board [...] actually, we've got to start standing up for the area.'

There was, significantly, initial opposition at LBS policy level, as it was feared that a celebration of St. George's Day might backfire and be perceived as supportive of BNP. But the initiative was also promoted from within Bermondsey. The notion of standing up for the area was shared by the chair of the TRA of the Bonamy Estate. She felt that whereas events would be put on throughout LBS to celebrate diversity – for example St. Patrick's Day for the Irish minority, Bermondsey Carnival and the Black History Month (celebrated borough-wide) – the White-British majority population was being left out. A celebration of St. George's Day provided, she thought, an appropriate occasion that could bring together the local community around a celebration of the English flag.

3.2 Partners and networks

The key partners in the implementation process have been listed in the previous section (2.2). Key here are the TRAs, in particular the Bonamy and Brancote Estate that initiated the festival, as well as the Ilderton Primary School where the event has been staged throughout the years (please see map in annex 2). In addition, the festival organisers work with a wide range of local charities and businesses. Some charities maintain stalls at the actual festival whereas businesses contribute vouchers for the raffle that concludes the event.

3.3 Chronology and funding of activities

The festival takes place every year in late April, on a Saturday afternoon as near the official St George's Day, 23^{rd} April, as possible. The festival was first staged in 2006, with the Bonamy Estate, at the edge of South Bermondsey, as the main implementing partner. It has throughout been held at the grounds of the Ilderton Primary School, situated adjacent to the Bonamy Estate. The first St. George's Festival, staged in 2006, received funding from the Pathfinder programme (see above), but the 2013 festival was funded by St. Saviour's (above). The budgeted expenses for the 2013 St. George's Festival amounted to £3,800. In addition to this, a number of local agencies and other organisations participated free of charge. These included the local fire brigade (displaying a fire engine), and the providers of PA system and a bouncy castle.

Visiting the 2013 St. George's Day festival

At the entrance to the Ilderton School, lunch coupons are sold, and programmes are handed out. On the school yard that constitutes the festival site, a wide range of local organisations and charities have set up stalls. Participants include a gardening programme set up by one of the TRAs, selling plants, stalls selling knitted, heart-shaped St. George's flags. Surrey Docks Farm, a local pet farm, show off some of their smaller animals, and the efforts of the face painters show off in the faces of many of the kids on the venue. Bands from two local schools are playing, one of them a steel band. Millwall is staging a 'beat the goalie' tournament in a separate part of the school yard. A number of local businesses have contributed vouchers to the raffle that concludes the afternoon.

3.4 Outcomes

Now in its eighth year, the St George's Day Festival is well-established, resting solidly on the contribution of local stake-holders that have been involved for a long time. 400-500 local residents take part in the festival. The number has been relatively stable over the past years, and it would, according to the organisers, not be possible to increase numbers much more without starting to look for an alternative venue.

In its application for funding for the 2013 event, the event management team argued that the event would contribute to a reduction in local crime figures, particular anti-social behaviour, as well as an increase in local residents enrolling in education and training. Whereas available figures point to stable or declining numbers of incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour in Bermondsey (compared to previous years and surrounding neighbourhoods)⁹, it is obviously impossible to identify any direct, causal effect between the staging of the festival and a reduction in crime and social behaviour at neighbourhood level. In addition, many local residents were of the view that BNP activities, as well as other kinds of racial harassment, in the area had declined significantly during the period that the St George's Day festival had been staged.¹⁰ In that sense, a key policy objective has certainly been met.

It falls in the nature of its theme that the festival is a celebration of the English flag. But by targeting the entire neighbourhood, it also becomes a highly inclusive event where the profile of participants reflects the increasingly diverse nature of the neighbourhood, with a high proportion of ethnic minority youths. Furthermore, as pointed out by many local respondents and stakeholders, St. George is the patron saint of not just England, but a wide range of countries and cities around the world. As suggested in the poster, announcing the 2011 St George's Day festival, the celebration of the English flag is also framed and depicted as an inclusive event – as observed by a resident:

⁹ http://crimeinlondon.com/southwark/south-bermondsey/

¹⁰ This is consistent with findings from previous, more extensive fieldwork carried out in Bermondsey (Jensen, Jayaweera and Gidley 2012).

¹¹ The list includes Georgia, Egypt, Bulgaria, Aragon, Catalonia, Romania, Ethiopia, Greece, India, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Lithuania, Portugal, Serbia, Ukraine and Russia.

'I think it is quite interesting, because there is a sense that people want to reclaim the cross of St George as something we can be proud of. Being English, and not being racist in that' (White British Bermondsey resident and community activist).



3.5 Learning and evaluation

As it would appear from the above, it is neither feasible nor practical to isolate the learning and evaluation from the St. George's Festival from wider processes of community development outlined above. Very broadly speaking, there are two outcomes of the 'long haul' of community engagement initiatives that have taken place in South Bermondsey since the early 2000s.

One concerns the level of management and strategy. Both the Pathfinder initiative and the South Bermondsey Partnership were local authority led, with LBS staff locally based, developing initiatives in consultation with local stakeholders. But the transition from the South Bermondsey Partnership to Big Local also marked a reduced local authority involvement and increasing autonomy of local stakeholders, as strategy development, management and coordination now are in the hands of Bede House and Time & Talents.

The other outcome relates to the role of local residents. Consultations and capacity building with local residents were, from the outset, a key part of the South Bermondsey Partnership. This approach has over time enabled many of the initial recipients to become stake-holders in the community engagement work. This has been evidenced both in relation to the redevelopment of 'The Blue', the traditional market square and community hub in South Bermondsey, and in the strengthened role of TRAs on the five estates where the Big Local is implemented. These long-term aspects of capacity-building and empowerment were commented on by a stall-holder on The Blue:

'It's only now that they partnership's gone that I can see ... like really their role was, like in the Bible, to sow the seed. And they will never see the fruit of their labour, because what they have done will take years to, you know, prosper'.

3.6 The next steps

As the festival over the years has become consolidated in its format and recognised by a wide range of stakeholders, the wider, forward-looking question concerns the way in which the festival contributes to a continuing process of capacity building and empowerment at the local level, in particular as regards the targeted estates. Whereas the Bonamy Estate has been leading the way with a key role in the staging of the St Festival over the years, it is only over the past couple of years, after the emergence of The Big Local, as a joint platform, that TRAs from other estates have been targeted directly and become more involved in the staging of the event. This development is also in line with Big Local's strategic ambition to move towards cross-estate projects.

The Big Local 'Away day' meeting, held in October 2013 at the auspices of United St. Saviour's in northern Southwark, provided an opportunity for discussing planned activities for 2014. A very broad range of events were tabled, relating to the three Big Local key areas. But the event also provided insights into some of the challenges facing the project:

Scope of activities: Most projects planned for 2014 were events to be carried out at estate level. While this testifies to the strength and capacity of local TRAs, it was more difficult to move the focus beyond the individual estate and identify cross-estate projects. It should be added that the St. George's Day Festival has become such a project, as all the estates are involved in the staging of the event.

Representation: The vast majority of participants at the away day came from the five participating estates. They were almost all women, mostly white and with an average age above 40. Whereas the population of South Bermondsey is becoming increasingly diverse, the movers and shakers in community development are still largely white. This reflects a widely recognised challenge in involving not just immigrants and ethnic minorities, but also younger segments of the population on the estates. It is also a challenge that is widely recognised, and TRAs referred to attempts that had been made to reach beyond the 'usual suspects'. Whereas the mix of participants at the 2013 festival would seem to reflect the demographic and ethnic profile of the local area, it is widely acknowledged that associations working both at estate level and in the wider neighbourhood face the challenge of involving local BME residents. Whereas Bermondsey, in the words of the director of Bede House, Nick Dunne, is becoming 'quietly cosmopolitan', changes to the demography of the area do not translate into involvement in the local community in any straightforward manner.

Follow up at the local level

With the St. George's Festival well consolidated in its present form and location, the team behind the festival is looking into the prospects for staging another, similar community event, potentially as part of the Big Lunch, a UK-wide initiative started in 2009 with aim of strengthening neighbourhood relations at the very local level. With the same stakeholders who are involved in the St. George's Day Festival, the intention is that the event should take place in the grounds of Millwall FC.

¹² http://www.thebiglunch.com/about/why-we-started-it.php (accessed 01.10.2013).

4. Conclusions

The St. George's Day Festival is widely perceived as a highly successful neighbourhood event. Rather than 'just' a celebration of diversity, the festival is an inclusive way of celebrating something that is perceived as a very English symbol – the English flag – and, in the process of doing so, make participants feel that they have a stake in it. In the context of the association between Bermondsey and the BNP, the event is also part of the wider 'project' of 'reclaiming' the St. George's flag from the BNP.

Significant in the context of partnership development is the manner in which the role of the local authority has shifted from key implementing partner in the South Bermondsey Partnership to a largely advisory role in relation to the new partnership and the implementation of the Big Local. Whereas LBS was instrumental in the design and implementation of both the Pathfinder programme and the South Bermondsey Partnership, there is very limited direct LBS involvement in the staging of the St. George's Festival, as well as other Big Local initiatives. Instead, the key actors – at strategic and implementation level – are Bede House and Time Talents.

With local civil society organisations thus leading the community development process, it can be argued that they are acting the vision of the 'big society', one of the ideological flagships of the present British government. But at the same time the huge cuts to statutory funding that have been experienced over the past years have also left these well-established community organisations threatened.

The partnership has throughout its existence been focussed on capacity building and empowerment of local stakeholders. Accordingly, some of those who were recipients in the early part of the partnership are now stakeholders in their own right. This is in particular pertinent for the TRAs that are involved in the implementation of the Big Local.

The strengthened role and capacity of TRAs has resulted in a broad range of projects and events on individual estates, with the St. George's Day event as an exception, as this is an event that brings the different estates together. But the challenge for the future is to strategise around events that cut across post codes and include more estates. Paraphrasing the title of the ongoing programme, the stakeholders are very good at thinking 'local', less so at thinking 'big'.

Whereas the area over the past decades has seen some significant changes in terms of increasing ethnic minority and immigrant populations, these changes are not yet reflected in the make-up of Big Local stakeholders. The vast majority of these are white and female. It should be added that these problems concerning representation of minority populations is a general one, experienced in Bermondsey as well as in other parts of the borough.

Bibliography

Clayton, A. (no date) *Getting people involved in Big Local South Bermondsey*, http://www.localtrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/South-Bermondsey-e-version.pdf (accessed 30.09.2013).

Communities and Local Government (2008) *Community cohesion and neighbourhood management:*A theme report from the neighbourhood management pathfinders' national evaluation. Department for Communities and Local Government.

Gidley, B. (2012) *Monitoring integration in the UK*, in Bijl, R., A. Verweij (eds), Measuring and monitoring immigrant integration in Europe. The Netherlands Institute for Social Research, The Hague.

Jensen, O., H. Jayaweera, B. Gidley (2012) *Diversity, cohesion and change in two South London neighbourhoods*. ESRC Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS), University of Oxford.

South Bermondsey Partnership (2012) *South Bermondsey Partnership annual review 2011: A new future for the partnership.* www.southbermondseypartnership.org.uk/ (accessed 09.09.2013).

Southwark Alliance (no date) *Southwark 2016: Sustainable community strategy*. [online] Available from http://www.southwark.gov.uk/downloads/download/1666/research_reports-southwark_2016_sustainable_community_strategy_2006 (accessed 17.01.2014).

Winchurch, D. (2009) *South Bermondsey Partnership – a review of sustainability options.* A review commissioned by South Bermondsey Partnership & Government Office for London.

Websites:

https://www.southwarkstats.com/public/download/DIRECT/D0002/Overall_IMD2010_map.pdf.

http://www.bedehouse.org.uk/

http://www.timeandtalents.org.uk/page72/History.html

http://www.ustsc.org.uk/

http://www.thebiglunch.com/about/why-we-started-it.php

http://www.southbermondseypartnership.org.uk/30-publication-archive/ (accessed 18.04.2012).

http://crimeinlondon.com/southwark/south-bermondsey/

Annexes

Annex 1

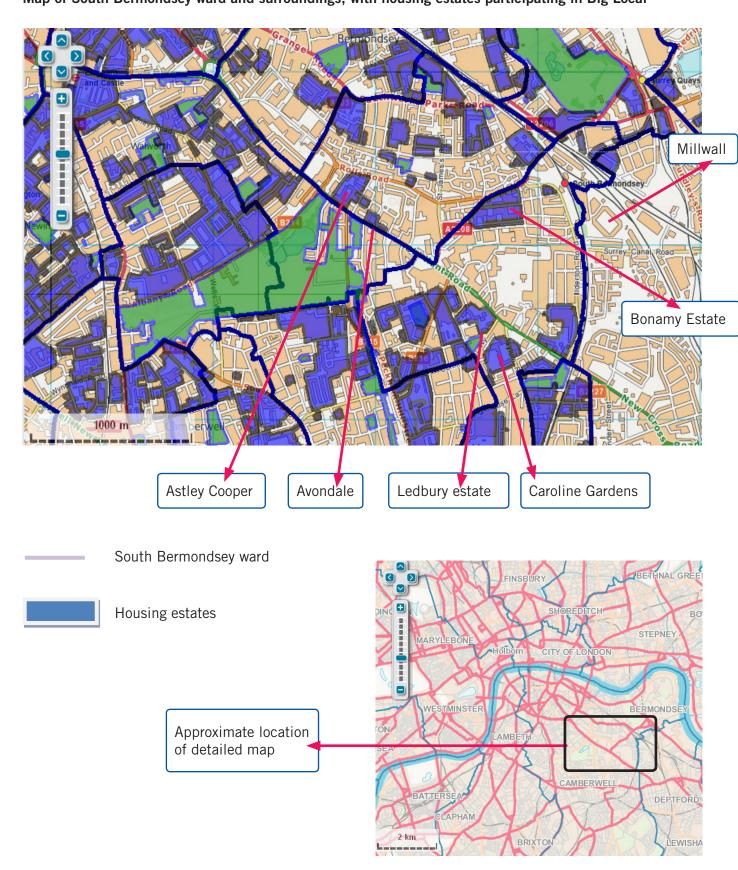
Summary table with key facts on interviews:

#	Date	Name	Position and Project role	
1	17.04	Meeting with festival stakeholders, Bonamy estate		No recorded material
2	20.04	St. George's Festival, Ilderton Primary School		Audio/video recording
3	03.05	Albert	Bermondsey resident	Audio/video recordings, additional environmental material
4	03.05	Pat Hickson	Bonamy Estate	
		Kiri Pieri	Bonamy Estate	
5	07.05	Russell Dryden	Stall-holder, The Blue	Audio recording
6	10.05	Rodney	Librarian, The Blue	Audio/video
7	10.05	Mike Donovan	Proprietor, The Blue	Audio/video
8	10.05	Marc Elliott	Community engagement, Millwall FC	Audio/video
9	14.05	Ann Clayton	Manager and coordinator, The Big Local	Audio/photos1
10	07.06	Darell Telles	Neighbourhood engagement manager, LBS	Audio/video
	07.06	Nick Dunne	Director, Bede House	
	07.06	Jason Vincent	Neighbourhood engagement officer, LBS	
11	16.10	Away-day with Big Local team		No recorded material

^{1:} Additional short interview with video-recording on 25th September.

Annex 2

Map of South Bermondsey ward and surroundings, with housing estates participating in Big Local



The Partners

The International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ITCILO) is the consortium leader in charge of the implementation of the EU-funded EU-MIA project.

The consortium research partners are:

the **Centre on Migration, Policy and Society** (COMPAS) at the University of Oxford and the International and **European Forum of Migration Research** (FIERI).









If you want more information on the project please visit our website: www.eu-mia.eu or contact:

ITCILO

Miriam Boudraa Programme Officer on Labour Migration Social Protection Programme

> Viale Maestri del Lavoro, 10 10127 Torino (Italy) Tel: + 39 011 693 6359 Email: m.boudraa@itcilo.org

> > www.itcilo.org

FIERI

Irene Ponzo Researcher

Via Ponza, 3 10121 Torino - Italy Tel. +39 011 5160044 Email : fieri@fieri.it

www.fieri.it

COMPAS

Ida Persson
Research & Communications Officer
COMPAS, University of Oxford

58 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 6QS Tel: +44 (0) 1865 612358 Email: ida.persson@compas.ox.ac.uk

www.compas.ox.ac.uk

Copyright © International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization, 2012. All rights reserved.

Design Luca Fiore – Printed by the International Training Centre of the ILO, Turin, Italy

