

Dominique Royoux

“Valorisation is consubstantial, it is inherent, it is a natural part of social science research, because there is no social science research without the actors.”



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since 2015, Dominique Royoux has been a Professor of Geography at the University of Poitiers (FR).

Since 2014, Royoux has been the Director of the Ruralities laboratory – currently the only social innovation laboratory in France. This is also connected to the House of Human Sciences and Society of the University of Poitiers.

The concept of valorisation is one that Royoux understands and is familiar with, including past experience as a translator.

For Business, Society, and Territory Dynamics towards Social Innovation

DESTINS is the Joint Laboratory of the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme et de Société of the University of Poitiers (MSHS), and of the cooperative agency in social innovation, Ellyx.

DESTINS focuses on the analysis of social innovation approaches with a strong capacity for social transformation and aims to design a new generation of tools, methodologies and support systems for high impact social innovation, attention from companies, local authorities, public authorities and civil society.

Underpinning their social science research is the relationship to social demand and to bring forth understanding. Through their partnership with Ellyx – a consultancy firm – they can understand and read the societal demands of which their research can be adjusted and contextualised.

Like many stories, issues arose regarding funding which proved to be a difficult task. A key element of the story of DESTINS was to approach willing 'regions' that understood how fundamental research could be useful to social actors, economic actors, territorial actors.

Various stakeholders are involved in DESTINS. There is the university, the region and the The French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) which supports them. They are approached by the city of Poitiers which is an ecological town hall, and which will set up a citizens' assembly.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

& ADVICE

SSH researchers should not do as those in science and technology do, where research is often tied to a company which may not **extend beyond the partnership** afterwards.

National Funding Agencies generate a **higher level of national attention**, therefore, focus on acquiring funding from such places.

Partner with actors that understand the society demand for your research, whom also have the required communicative and translation skills.

"We are the only **social innovation laboratory** in France, so we have high visibility from social innovators. First, we have strong financial support from the national research agency. We are a structure capable of providing new answers to the various players in terms of social innovation."