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**XXXIII Conference on**  
**"Supporting Sustainable Communities in times of Emergency – Participation,**  
**Empowerment and Democratic Innovations at Local Level"**

**Conference Overview<sup>1</sup>**

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The XXXIII Conference on "Supporting Sustainable Communities in times of Emergency – Participation, Empowerment and Democratic Innovations at Local Level" has been organized in Athens on Sept. 14-16, 2011 by the International Sociological Association ISA Research Committee Sociotechnics, Sociological Practice RC26 in collaboration with the Sociology of Work Laboratory, Sociology Department, University of the Aegean, Mytilini, Greece, the Direction of Sociology of Work, Postgraduate Program, Department of Pedagogy, University of Athens, Greece and the University of Central Greece, Lamia, Greece.

The conference has been a forum whereby to discuss the diverse aspects of globalization and the issues of empowering local communities, the role of social capital and the social economy in such processes. The choice of Athens has been indicative of the organisers' commitment to address current policy issues and dilemmas in one of the currently tried areas, whereby social science must respond to a challenging present. Within the conference framework, sociotechnics and sociological practice could produce credible answers to emergent problems of sustainability.

The agenda included the following main topics:

- The contemporary dynamics of social capital, the impact of globalization on local communities and common perceptions of world tendencies
- Social economy innovations and sustainable communities
- Inclusive recovery and local city employment governance
- Cellular Globalization in between Local and Global social dimensions
- Empowerment of citizens/workers/consumers/minorities/youth
- Innovative community social development and Education (NGO's, environ

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<sup>1</sup> Conference overview by Dr. Aikaterini Kokkinou, University of Glasgow