



## THE END OF THE LEVIATHAN AND THE RISE OF THE BIG SOCIETY<sup>1</sup>

### Metrics, opportunities, risks and practical implications for policies of the Big Society idea

#### CONFERENCE AGENDA

May 13th, 2011 - ROME  
The British School at Rome, Via Gramsci 61

6:00 pm- 6:10 pm ***Opening Remarks, Introduction***

**Christine Melia** (Director British Council)

6:10 pm - 6:30pm ***Session 1: Big Society as a framework for change: patterns, best practices and scale-up mechanisms***

The background, the questions and the “European Social Innovation Index” project

**Francesco Grillo** (Director Vision), **Asheem Singh** (Deputy Director ResPublica)

The main objectives of this session are: to clarify a general framework that attempts to discuss the distinctiveness of the idea; to discuss its potential capability to be a response to the crisis; to identify what needs to be done – at institutional, financial level - in order to start implementing big ideas inspired projects and harness the idea potential. The “European Social Innovation Index” project - that Vision and ResPublica are about to develop – will measure Big Society by policies and by countries and identify constraints and success factors per public service and per state.

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<sup>1</sup> This conference represents the starting phase of the project EUSII (European Social Innovation Index). Six additional papers/ conferences will be delivered in 2011 and 2012. Each one will address the success factors and constraints of Big Society in six different policy areas - Education & Training, HealthCare & Assistance, Tourism & Culture, Security & Urban Re-generation, Energy, Urban mobility – and six different countries – Italy, UK, Hungary, Germany, Romania and Greece.



6:30 pm- 7:30 pm **Round Table: UK and ITALY, different paths towards Big Society**

**Jessica Asato** (Director of Labour Yes, Vice-Chair of the Fabian Society, former Acting Director of Progress)

**Max Wind-Cowie** (Demos, Head of Progressive Conservatism Project)

**Linda Lanzillotta** (President of Glocus, MP, former Minister of Devolution)

**Elio Borgonovi** (President of Institute for Public Administration and Healthcare, President of CERGAS, Bocconi University)

*Chair:* **John Hooper** (Italy correspondent for the Economist and Guardian),

Q&A

Panelists will discuss the paper presented by Vision, matching ideas with national features and strategies. The role of central government is crucial in supporting community flourishing, in deciding which services can be transferred to CSO and how to evaluate results for new providers. Among the questions to be addressed by our speakers: Which are the differences, if any, between David Cameron's idea of the Big Society and the communitarianism of the New Labour? How large is the role that the Internet is playing in terms of lowering the barrier to entry in the "market" of producing and delivering public goods and, thus, making less important economies of scale? Who should select the organizations and through which mechanisms, public services should be delegated? How to reward the new social entrepreneurs, how can we link their remuneration to results? Which are the implications on taxation and representation (democracy)? What does the big society change into the very approach to devolution and fiscal federalism reforms and how could we design flexible institutional layouts so that powers and resources are unevenly and continuously redistributed from less to more productive producers of public goods?

7:30 pm - 7:45 pm **Conclusions and follow-up**

**Paolo Reboani** (President and Managing Director of Italia Lavoro)

**Christopher Smith** (Director of the British School at Rome)