

Active Inclusion in the European Union: Selected Initiatives to Reach the Hard-to-reach

Social Europe

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Active inclusion of disadvantaged groups, fight against poverty – EMPL D/2

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Social welfare: Europe at crossroads

New social challenges:

- transition to a post-industrial knowledge and service economy;
 - globalization, enlargement (with increase of migration and flow of capital)
 - demographic changes (aging societies);
 - social trends such as greater individualisation;
- => need for quality social services and personalised support even more pressing.

In particular:

- Support of those in need it is more pressing in the aftermath of the crisis
- Access to services as a basic pre-condition for being available for work, and increase social participation;
- Support employment since work is the best way to eradicate poverty

The integration of people excluded from the labour market

Target group

“people excluded from the labour market” [art 153(1)(h) of TFEU]: non-employed working-age population suffering from multiple disadvantages (at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion as a proxy): approximately 115,5 million people in the EU-27 in 2010)

Objectives:

- 1/ facilitate the **integration into sustainable, quality employment**;
- 2/ provide resources which are sufficient to **live in dignity**,
- 3/ together with support for **social participation**, for those who cannot work.

The active inclusion approach

Strategy:

- 1) Adequate income support
- 2) Inclusive labour markets
- 3) Access to quality services which are essential to supporting active social and economic inclusion policies: social assistance services; employment and training services; housing support and social housing; childcare; long-term care services; health services.

Key steps:

- Council Recommendation 92/441/EEC
- Recommendation on Active Inclusion 2008/867/EC
- Council conclusions 17 December 2008
- European Parliament resolution – May 2009
- COM (2010) 2020 – Europe 2020 – A strategy for smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth
- COM(2010) 758 – The European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion

Europe 2020 Strategy and Active Inclusion

- Three of the five targets are related to active inclusion policies:
 - Employment:
 - 75% of the 20-64 year-olds be employed
 - Education:
 - reducing school drop-out rates below 10 percent
 - At least 40 percent of 30-34 year-olds completing tertiary education
 - Poverty/social exclusion:
 - At least 20 million people fewer in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion



Active inclusion at the Member State level

- Most MSs have fully integrated active inclusion strategies
- Austerity measures put pressure on the adequate income support pillar
- Labour market activation figures prominently in most MSs active inclusion strategy
- Challenges:
 - Income support: adequacy, non-take-up, coverage, complexity of the system
 - Inclusive labour market: disincentives, in-work poverty
 - Access to services: dispersed service provision, universal vs. means tested

Integrated provision of active inclusion

Source: Country reports on active inclusion, 2011

<i>Does the Member State provide the above three pillars in an integrated manner?</i>	
a.) <u>fully integrated</u> : minimum income scheme is linked to labour activation measures and access to services	AT; BE; CY; DK; FI; DE; HU; LV; LU; MT; NL; PL; PT; SK, SI; SE; UK
b.) <u>partially integrated</u> : minimum income scheme linked with labour activation measures	BG; FR; IE; LT; ES;
c.) <u>partially integrated</u> : minimum income scheme linked with access to services	CZ; RO;
e.) <u>not integrated</u>	EE; EL; IT;

Access to services

Source: Country reports on active inclusion, 2011

<i>On which areas did the Member State improve the access to services for the poor?</i>	
a. <u>employment and training</u>	AT; BE; BG; CY; CZ; DK; EE; FI; FR; DE; EL; IE; IT; LV; LU; MT; NL; PL; PT; RO; SK; SI; ES; SE; UK
b. <u>social assistance</u>	DK;FI; LT; LU; RO
c. <u>health</u>	LV; LT; RO; SI;
d. <u>transportation</u>	BE;
e. <u>housing</u>	AT; BE; BG; DK; FR; LT; LU; RO; SI; ES;
f. <u>childcare</u>	AT; CY; HU; LU; MT; PL;
g. <u>banking</u>	CZ; DK;
h. other _____	EE (in-kind benefits (varies by municipality)); IE (education); IT (social card); PT (in kind benefits/ associated rights (local level in response to the crisis)); UK (school meals for children).

Providing employment to social assistance recipients – Belgium

- Target group: beneficiaries of the *minimum income or social assistance*
- Activation: through a *temporary job* in a recognized work environment
- Financial support: *salary subsidy* and *exemption of social contribution for PSCW* who are the employer
- Promotion of **socio-cultural participation** of PSWC (Public Centers for Social Welfare) clients, specifically children
- Obligation of PSCW to inform the social assistance recipients of his rights and set the necessary steps to ensure that the right is granted
- **Energy**: social rates for gas/electricity
- **Transportation**: reduction card for access to railway network (50% discount)
- **Communication**: social phone rates



Client input into service delivery: Belgium – Expert by Experience

- Involvement of 26 'Experts by Experience' spread over 22 administrations in order to improve access to social services to all citizens (including the poor and most detached from the labour market)
- Problem: legislation and practices are designed by and for middle class - > integration of 'experts by experience' aims to raise accessibility and introduce the perspective of people experiencing/having experienced poverty (to better tailor services)
- Support to experts: training and mentoring system
- Challenges: dissemination of information about EbyE as profession, define/build up profile of EbyE, make sure effective communication of EbyE with colleagues, improve support systems for coaches and mentors of EbyEs

Sweden: reaching out to the migrants

- Target group: recently arrived migrants (refugees + family reunification within 2 years)
- Main features:
 - responsibility for introduction activities shifted from local municipalities to the Swedish Public Employment Service.
 - Introduction plan and an “introduction guide”
 - A new individual benefit – designed to promote labour market participation and gender equality
 - Central government expenditure about 92 million EUR per year
- **Results** so far: 5 620 persons participated in the introduction reform (48 % women and 52 % men, majority under age 40, up to lower secondary school degree, had started employment preparatory activities and/or Swedish education).
- Access to employment preparatory activities much earlier than before.



Ireland: Towards an integrated system of active inclusion amid the crisis

- The poverty reduction effect of social transfers is around 60 percent – the highest in the EU
- The crisis, however, put pressure on social spending (which used to account 40% of total government spending)
- Reform Programme 2011-2015 in context of austerity , aim is to integrate reform of administration, service delivery and income supports
- **Current Challenges:**
 - Service delivery is fragmented across the three delivery services
 - The customer must provide the same data to each organization resulting in a lot of duplication
 - There is limited sharing of IT infrastructure which makes information sharing difficult
 - There are three different services delivered separately with no integration
 - Separate means testing for DSP and CWS customers

Cont.

- ***Moving towards:***
- Integrated service with activation as the key priority, supported by:
 - Income support, employment services and community employment programmes
- Case management: more personalized engagement
 - Assessment, support, Individual Learning Plans, monitoring, evaluation and in some cases sanctions
- Social contract, balancing rights and responsibilities
- Robust IT support infrastructure
 - More access channels for clients
 - Case management system
- Centralized administration centers
 - Allowing more time for personalized service to those who need it



Active inclusion at local level

- **Inclusive Cities for Europe** – partnership between the Commission and EUROCITIES (a network of major European cities) to support active inclusion policies among cities
- A group of nine cities (*Birmingham, Bologna, Brno, Copenhagen, Cracow, Lille-Roubaix, Rotterdam, Sofia, and Stockholm*) within the Network of Local Authority Observatories on Active Inclusion (NLAO) share their experiences to promote mutual learning and carry out research on the implementation of active inclusion strategies at the local level



Innovative approaches to social services: group activation and participatory planning

- **Rotterdam – Group approach for labour activation programmes** (individuals participate in group counselling sessions according to their age instead of having individual interviews). The approach has improved efficiency (less cost) and effectiveness (people like exchanging useful experiences on how to find jobs)
- **Brno – Community planning of social services.** The planning, design, and budgeting of social services is organized through the direct involvement of the municipality, service providers, NGOs, research institutions, and service users.
- The advisory body on social integration of Roma, established by Brno City Council, operates across different social services and policies: social inclusion, housing, employment and substance abuse. It focuses on mapping and problem-solving in deprived areas inhabited by the Roma minority.



Cross-administration cooperation – Copenhagen, Denmark

- **Copenhagen – Joint Strategy**
- Cooperation between three separate administrations (social services, health and care, and employment /integration) delivering integrated welfare services to vulnerable, uninsured and unemployed people to help them into employment
- **Main objectives:** Improving people's health (particularly of young people and in Copenhagen's 10 most deprived areas), job retention and job creation for citizens with chronic health problems
- **Example:** a person with multiple disadvantages (sick, homeless, unemployed) receives support through a single pathway
- **Sustainability:** learning from earlier cross-administration cooperation, Strategy is funded until 2014 (some initiatives until 2013), future political support expected



Active inclusion – key directions in 2012

- Active inclusion figures prominently in the Annual Growth Survey
- Commission report on the follow-up of the 2008 Recommendation on active inclusion foreseen for 2012. The report should reinforce the central role of active inclusion strategies in the fight against poverty and social exclusion
- The report is a good opportunity for the relevant stakeholders to evaluate the state of active inclusion strategies at national level
- Focus on integrated approaches to benefit from the synergies of the three pillars
- Move from local pilot projects on active inclusion towards national implementation (mainstreaming of integrated active inclusion strategies into the national social policies)
- Exploring the role of social innovation (social experimentation) in designing and mainstreaming effective active inclusion strategies



Supporting framework

- Monitoring and evaluation of the common principles in the framework of the **Social Open Method of Coordination**;
- **Social dialogue**: involvement of social partners
- **Network of Local Authorities' Observatories** to monitor and promote best practices on active inclusion policies especially in relation to quality services and to analyse the development and implementation of active inclusion strategies at the local level.
- **EU Financial Instruments**: The Commission encourages use of the provisions of the ESF regulation to support active inclusion measures;
- **PROGRESS** (*until the end of 2013*): funding for mutual learning projects and peer reviews



Thank you for your attention

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