Minimalist or maximalist? Pragmatism as the right approach…

FEANTSA contribution
OSE – Social Developments in EU 2013
Can *EU Semester* drive social change?!

### PROBLEMS
- Link between NRPs and CSRs **artificial**
  - Timing
  - Priority setting
    - Ex. homelessness
  - What ab NSR?!
  - Risk to become bureaucratic process…
- Focus on poverty **little strategic**
  - Vague
  - Grasps only partially reality
    - Scandinavian & corporatist welfare regimes
      - Ex homelessness
    - Logic behind CSR unclear
- Implementation of CSRs **weak**
  - EP study (June 2014)
Can *EU Semester* drive social change?! (2)

- **CONDITIONS** for success
  - Stronger **analytical capacity/monitoring** of EC
    - Logic of *Social Scoreboard* questionable...
      - "Focus to increase impact" disconnected from political reality
    - Ethical flaws in coverage ...
      - "If not measured it does not exist"
  - More **transparent/democratic** process
    - Role National/European Parliament
    - Stakeholder involvement
  - Stronger/more **strategic link** to EC tools
    - EPAP flagship initiative
      - But Mid-Term Review
    - Inclusion OMC
Can SIP reinvigorate social dimension EU?

- **PROBLEMS**
  - Social investment [unclear concept](#)
    - « More with more » & « More with less/same »
      - Efficiency gains possible
      - Preventing & Repairing
  - Weak [implementation](#)
    - Unclear leadership DG EMPL
    - SIP roadmap ad hoc/random
Can SIP reinvigorate social dimension EU?

- CONDITIONS for success
  - Step by step approach
    - Pragmatism required
    - Select realistic objectives
      - Framework Directive minimum income / EU unemployment benefit ?!
  - Thematic strategies on key priorities
    - Child poverty, Homelessness, ...
      - EC independent social inclusion experts (2013)
  - Build on successes
    - Bruegel paper (2014)
  - Careful connection with EU Semester
    - Own space
      - EPAP, E@SI, Mid-Term Review
Need for « Caring Europe »

- **EURO** conclusions (June)
  - Priorities for new Commission

- **Urgent**
  - Popular support for EU
  - Focus on « quick wins »
Homelessness as strategic focus for social image of EU

- **Political demand/consensus** for EU homelessness strategy
  - EP, CoR, EESC, EPSCO, EU Housing Ministers, individual MS/EU Presidency, NGO sector,…

- **Priority** in EU social policy frame
  - Semester & SIP
  - EPAP & Social OMC

- **Urgent**/increasing problem
  - Growing in all EU MS

- **Emerging consensus** on solutions
  - Policy dynamic/change (Semester)
  - Cost-effective (SIP)
  - Rapid/visible results (EU target)
  - Much demand/room for exchange/experimentation (EPAP/ E@SI)
  - Limited budget to drive/encourage change (Structural Funds)

- **Soft/careful entry** into bigger policy issues
  - Migration, Housing, Free Movement, Health,…
**Conclusion**

- **Macro** level important but **takes time** ...
- Should not make blind for quick progress on **micro-level**...

!!Avoid minimalist approach & prevent failure from maximalist approach through pragmatic approach !!