



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

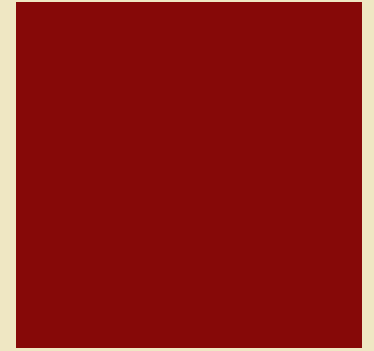
- Social investment **unclear concept**
 - « More with more » & « More with less/same »
 - Efficiency gains possible
 - Preventing & Repairing
- Weak **implementation**
 - Unclear leadership DG EMPL
 - SIP roadmap ad hoc/random

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 »



- EUCO 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 !!*