Fighting poverty and social exclusion
Committee of the Regions conference
May 29th 2013

Comments

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Outline of the talk

1. Introduction
2. The Social Investment Package
3. Flagship against poverty
4. Regional and local good practice
5. Conclusion
Introduction

Aims:

• To provide feedback on interventions on behalf of the European Social Observatory
• Pose questions to the speakers present
Background note from the Committee of the Regions

Allows for a dialogue between EU and subnational developments

Three main points of interest:
• The Social Investment Package
• Flagship against poverty
• Regional and local good practice
The Social Investment Package

Importance of EU proposals: unknown

Change of language: from “Pact” to “Package”

• **Good** ideas (knowledge bank, active inclusion, homelessness, work on reference budgets, poverty maps)

• Excellent analysis in Working Staff Documents

• However, non constraining
The perspectives of the SIP

Question for Nicholas Costello

• Is there any chance that discourse and the momentum of the SIP may lead, at some point, to an instrument with more bite?
Suggestions for Mr. Aboutaleb

• The Opinion should be made as a strong plea to a more constraining Pact.

• Make the SIP more operational
  - Time frame
  - Stepping stones
  - Division of labour between the actors and institutions

• It should also be made clear that the SIP builds on and compliments the European anti-poverty strategy but does not replace it.
Flagship against poverty

Platform Against Poverty (EPAP)

• Platforms are key to Europe 2020
• But do they really take off?

Call upon the Committee of the Regions to use the EPAP as an opportunity to have a say on things that really matter:

• European Semester
• Multilateral surveillance (NRPs)
• CSRs, incl. on poverty
Two questions:

What **role** can social actors such as stakeholders play in all this?
- Need for **precision and realism**

How do we bring in the regional dimension more generally?
- Regional representatives to EMCO and SPC? Or at least transparency and information about key discussions?
- Regionalization of Europe 2020 targets?
Regional and local good practices

Conviction of learning potential and the sharing of good practices

• Housing project in Skuodas
• Urban development in Rotterdam
• One-stop-shop for Roma
• Adequate budget standards project
• Lifelong living in DK
What has the EU done for you?
What more could be done?

• How do cities and regions really see this “policy learning” from within the EU?
• Can you really learn from other cities, in your own country as well as from foreign experience?
• To what extent have policies, and the “way of doing things” in your city already been inspired by EU or Member State experiences?
• Does the Social OMC influence political objectives, the focus on disadvantaged groups and areas?
Twofold conclusion

1. **Raise awareness** to the fact social Europe is still being developed, is **alive and under the radar**
   - Sectoral European social dialogue
   - Supplementary pensions
   - Women on boards
   - Patient mobility
   - Etc.

2. Social Europe is still in bad shape
   - **Constant struggle**
   - Need for a **constructive** discussion: empower those who still care
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