

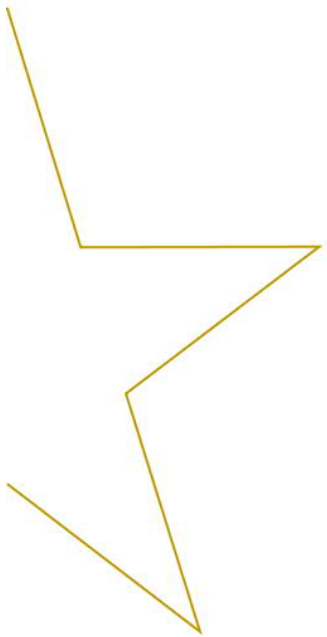


***EUROPEAN POLICIES
WITH RELEVANCE
FOR THE SOCIAL DOMAIN***

**YOUTH CARE PLATFORM
BRUSSELS, 20 MARCH 2017**

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Presentation content

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1. European Union: how it functions
 2. Europe's paradox: policy in the social field
 3. What's new since june 2016

European Union: how it functions

Based on a 'contract' = European treaty governs transfer of authority

- Facts and figures (27/28 member states, 280 regions)
- Institutions and bodies
- Instruments: hard law – soft law

Europe's paradox: policies in the social field

- Social policies are competence of the member states
- **BUT:**
 - The European social market economy: social policies are a condition for decent economic policies and a functioning market, for Europe's core business: "growth and jobs"
 - Integration of fiscal and monetary policies urge for integrated social policies (austerity measures, social investment as instrument for social AND economic policies)
- How to deal with populism in a globalising world?

Main drivers for this interlinking of economic and social policy

- Future of the EU (due to Brexit, populisme, ...):
 - 5 tracks proposed by COM president Juncker
 - More integration = more social policies at EU-level
 - Position Juncker-commission: more focus on social policies.
 - European pillar of social rights: looking for a strategy
- The European semester and social policy:
 - Country specific recommendations: reduction of social spending (binding!)
 - Monitoring of 5 social indicators: unemployment, youth unemployment and training opportunities, spendable budget/income of families, poverty risk and inequalities between citizens (recommendations)
 - More recommendations on social policies issues to be expected!

European strategies with positive impact on the social agenda (1)

- European Pillar of Social Rights
- Social Business Initiative (SBI)... ??
- Social Investment Package (SIP)... ??
- Social policy innovation / social and technological innovation / European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing
- Fight against youth unemployment: Youth guarantee
- Fight against long time unemployment: recommendation to MS
- New skills agenda for Europe
- Public procurement: 'green' and 'social' procurement
- European funding as a tool: Cohesion policies 2014 – 2020, European Fund for Strategic Investments

European strategies with positive impact on the social agenda (2): Social protection

- Fight against poverty, child poverty, energy poverty, financial literacy
- Disability strategy (equal rights of citizens)
- Fight against drugs
- Active ageing and demography, long time care,...
- Roma, migration and integration
- Health (health promotion, prevention, rare diseases, pandemics, food safety)
- Sports, education, life long learning

Overall strategy: EU2020 and the Social Investment Package (SIP)

What's new in 2017



Future of Europe

Brexit; elections in NL, FR, IT, DE and Euroscepticism in PL, Hu, Gr, ...; debate on the future of EU:

- What will be the new project for Europe?
- Impact on policies in near future: stand still???

European pillar of social rights

Need for a European pillar of social rights?

- A European social strategy as next step in European integration?
- Measuring and benchmarking social performance of the €-member states in the proces of the European semester! More coordination & mutual learning on social policies by COM!
Minimum wages? Minimum income? Ensurance of unemployment benefits between MS?
- **White paper on the ‘European pillar of social rights’ announced spring 2017**

European semester (1)

Ongoing attention needed:

- Actual process of SEM is not strong enough to secure stability and cohesion in the €-zone! → stronger follow up?
- General findings in €-zone 2016/2017:
 - + : economic growth in all MS, less unemployment, poverty risk declined but still above 23%, less macro-economic instability
 - : weak public investment and state debts, inequalities in income and welfare to high (growth limited to top level)
- Monitoring of social performance in MS (as announced)
- For first time: monitoring of follow up of CSR in MS

European semester (2)

- Home page:
https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/european-semester_en
- Country reports 2017:
http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-17-308_en.htm
- Fact sheets social performances:
https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/european-semester/thematic-factsheets/social-protection-and-cohesion_en

NEW SKILLS AGENDA FOR EUROPE

"A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment" by addressing three pressing challenges of today's economies:

- the lack of relevant skills to match labour market needs,
- the insufficient transparency of skills and qualifications
- the difficulty to anticipate and forecast skills

New Skills Agenda For Europe: 4 actions (1)

- A Skills Guarantee to help low-skilled adults acquire a minimum level of literacy, numeracy and digital skills and progress towards an upper secondary qualification.
- A review of the European Qualifications Framework for a better understanding of qualifications and to make better use of all available skills in the European labour market.

New Skills Agenda For Europe: 4 actions (2)

- The "Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition" bringing together Member States and education, employment and industry stakeholders to develop a large digital talent pool and ensure that individuals and the labour force in Europe are equipped with adequate digital skills.
- The 'Blueprint for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills' to improve skills intelligence and address skills shortages in specific economic sectors.

Privacy and data protection

- Agreement on a new regulation (14th of April 2016)
- Implementation at national level within 2 years
- Impact for all care and health sectors (registration of sensitive data, transfer of data between services and authorities)

Action plan review VAT-directive

- Aim: a simpler, more fraud-proof and business-friendly VAT system
- More freedom to MS to adapt VAT-% and categories.
- Impact for health care, welfare, culture: VAT is forbidden!
But in future maybe more freedom for MS?

Sectorial policies

- **Annual convention on Inclusive growth: 24 april 2017 (Brussels).** Focus on youth and youth inclusion
- **Social Business initiative: Conference in Bratislava (30/11/2016), Social economy intergroup (7/12/2017).** But: no new initiatives to be expected!
- **Volunteers: European Solidarity Corps (Stakeholder forum 12/4/2017)**

Implementation directives at nation level:

- Public procurement
- Privacy and data protection
Impact for all social authorities, care and health sectors: registration of sensitive data, transfer of data between services and authorities
- Accessible public data
Accessibility of public sector websites and apps more accessible for disabled, elderly, ...



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