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

**YOUTH CARE PLATFORM  
ROTTERDAM, 27 JUNE 2016**

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**Presentation content**

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

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**European Union: how it functions**

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

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

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**Europe's paradox: policies in the social field**

- Social policies are mainly the competence of the member states
- **BUT:**
  - The European social market economy: social policies are a condition for decent economic policies and a functioning market
  - Integration of fiscal and monetary policies urge for integrated social policies (austerity measures, social investment as instrument for social AND economic policies)

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**Main drivers for this interlinking of economic and social policy**

- State aid directives:
  - Preference on tendering services
  - Criteria for funding schemes of services and care
  - De minimis state aid
  - Public procurement
- 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 and spending is to be expected!

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

- 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)
- New skills agenda for Europe
- Public procurement: 'green' and 'social' procurement
- European pillar of social rights (consultation)
- European funding as a tool: Cohesion policies 2014 – 2020, European grants

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### 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, rear diseases, pandemics, food safety)
- Sports, education, life long learning

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

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## What's new in 2016

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### Brexit referendum?

Impact of the Brexit on upcoming EU-policies...

**Stand still?**  
**Steps back?**  
**Steps forwards?**

*Need for more integration to tackle global major threads...*  
*...but how to convince the public opinion?*

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### European pillar of social rights

**Need for a European pillar of social rights?**

- A European social strategy should complement the proces of the European semester?
- Measuring and benchmarking social performance of the €-member states (policies and outcomes) in the proces of the European Semester
- **Consultation on the 'European pillar of social rights' (open up to end 2016)**
- (next steps in the social investment strategy)

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### European semester

- Ongoing attention for the proces of the European Semester and the country specific recommendations is needed!
- COM announces more attention for social monitoring and benchmarking (not binding). Impact to be expected? Upwards or downwards conversion?

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### 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

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### 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.

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### 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.

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### 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)

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### Accessible public data

- Directive to make public sector websites and apps more accessible for disabled, elderly, ...
- Also applicable for NGOs who are funded or controlled by public bodies

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### Commission's new proposals on migration

- No consensus on how to proceed
- See discussion on the UAM

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### 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, culture, sheltered workshops, ...?

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## Sectorial policies

- Poverty reduction and social investments as instruments (minimum income, reference budgets): **Annual convention on Inclusive growth** (organized yearly in May) (Youth Care Platform presented a workshop at the first edition 2016)
- Ongoing attention for active ageing, digital agenda, (social/technological) innovation
- Radicalisation and integration of migrant population!

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## TTIP & CETA agreements

- TTIP: Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)  
CETA: Agreement EU - Canada
- Promises that no impact for social sectors should be expected?
- The lobby work of actors in the social field had an impact already but further attention is needed

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## Implementation directives at nation level: Public procurement

- Implementation of the new procurement directive at national level

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