

Projects and organisations  
funded by the European Union  
Programme for  
**Employment and Social  
Innovation (EaSI)**



**Report VIII**

Period covered 2014-2017

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February 2018



**European Commission**

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1049 Brussels  
BELGIUM

Manuscript completed in 2018

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Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2018

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# PROJECTS AND ORGANISATIONS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION PROGRAMME FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL INNOVATION (EASI)

## **Report VIII**

Period covered 2014-2017

**Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion**

This report has received financial support from the Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) 2014-2020

## Foreword



“Employment has reached record highs in Europe with more than 236 million Europeans at work. Yet, large disparities remain between countries or age groups. At the same time, employers report difficulties in finding people with the right skills. So there is still work to do.

The Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) is a clear expression of the Commission’s firm commitment to create jobs and growth and improve social conditions across Europe.

This report showcases 7 successful and inspiring projects supported by EaSI in 2014-2017. They highlight for example how young unemployed people have been targeted to help them find jobs. They also present how mobility is improved via the posting of workers. In addition, the report features 10 EU –level NGOs that actively promote social inclusion, poverty reduction and access to finance.

I hope that it will inspire many public, private and civil society actors at large to apply for EU funding and build their own projects in the area of employment and social innovation.”

**Marianne Thyssen**

Commissioner for Employment,  
Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Thyssen', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.



Abstract.....	8
Résumé.....	9
Kurzfassung.....	10
1. Introduction.....	11
1.1. Key facts about the presented project.....	11
1.2. Key facts about the presented organisations.....	12
1.3. How to read this report .....	13
2. Methodology .....	14
3. EaSI-funded projects .....	16
3.1. Social protection.....	16
3.1.1. SHARE 6th Wave Data Collection in Spain.....	16
3.1.2. Policies for an Aged Workforce in the EU – PAWEU.....	18
3.2. Working conditions.....	20
3.2.1. ECMIN 2.0 - Workers’ Information and Portal Website on Applicable Working Conditions .....	21
3.2.2. Posting Fraud and Social Dumping – Trade Unions to Overcome Issues Related to Posting of Workers in the Metal Sector .....	23
3.2.3. Posted Workers in the EU: Joining Forces for Action on Solidarity and Cooperation Mechanisms to Ensure Fair and Competitive Future for European Economy and Society .....	25
3.2.4. Equal Rights for Posted Workers – Raising Awareness About Directive 96/71/EC .....	27
3.3. Employment.....	29
3.3.1. New Communication and Cooperation Model for Better Information About the Youth Guarantee.....	30
4. EaSI-funded organisations.....	32
4.1.1. EAPN.....	33
4.1.2. FEANTSA.....	35
4.1.3. The European Social Network.....	37
4.1.4. EUROCITIES.....	39

4.1.5. EuroHealthNet .....	41
4.1.6. ENSIE .....	43
4.1.7. European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD).....	45
4.1.8. Eurodiaconia .....	47
4.1.9. Caritas Europa.....	49
4.1.10. European Microfinance Network.....	51
<b>5. Afterword.....</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Annex I – List of projects and organisations included in this report .....</b>	<b>54</b>

## Abstract

The European Commission co-finances actions of public, private and civil society actors enabling them to deliver new services, assess existing policies or develop new ones, and exchange good practices in the fields of employment, social protection, working conditions, geographical labour mobility, microfinance and social entrepreneurship. To facilitate the dissemination of the achieved results, this report presents examples of 7 projects and 10 organisations supported by the Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) in 2014-2017.

The aims of the presented projects ranged from supporting reforms of national social protection systems and enhancing administrative cooperation on posting of workers to raising awareness on how young people can benefit from the Youth Guarantee.

Another main part of the report presents EaSI-supported activities implemented in 2016 by 10 major EU-level NGOs active in the promotion of social inclusion, poverty reduction and access to finance. The presented organisations aimed to support the Commission's social investment approach at national and local levels and the implementation of the Social Investment Package, the Social Business Initiative and the Europe 2020 Strategy.

The report also includes a description of the methodology that was applied to collect information on the presented actions and to analyse their results. Among other things, the report seeks to emphasise the European added value of the described actions and to single out potential good practices.

We believe that this report will be beneficial in two major ways. First, it will serve as guidance for public, private and civil society actors wishing to apply for EU funding. Second, it will provide policy-makers with innovative ideas to design and implement new policy interventions to boost employment and ensure adequate social protection across the EU.



## Résumé

La Commission européenne cofinance des actions des acteurs publics, privés et de la société civile, pour que ces derniers puissent proposer de nouveaux services, évaluer des politiques existantes ou en développer de nouvelles, et échanger des bonnes pratiques dans les domaines de l'emploi, de la protection sociale, des conditions de travail, de la mobilité géographique de la main-d'œuvre, de la microfinance et de l'entrepreneuriat social. Dans le but de faciliter la diffusion des résultats obtenus, le présent rapport présente des exemples tirés de 7 projets et 10 organisations financés par le programme pour l'emploi et l'innovation sociale (EaSI) sur la période 2014-2017.

Les objectifs des projets présentés couvraient différents domaines, comme le soutien aux réformes des systèmes nationaux de protection sociale ou l'amélioration de la coopération administrative en matière de détachement des travailleurs, ou bien encore le renforcement de la sensibilisation sur les façons dont les jeunes peuvent profiter de la garantie pour la jeunesse.

Une autre partie importante du rapport présente les activités financées par l'EaSI et mises en œuvre en 2016 par 10 grandes ONG européennes actives dans le domaine de la promotion de l'inclusion sociale, de la réduction de la pauvreté et de l'accès aux financements. Les organisations présentées avaient notamment pour objectifs de soutenir l'approche d'investissement social de la Commission au niveau national et local, et de soutenir la mise en œuvre du paquet d'investissements sociaux, de l'initiative entreprise sociale et de la stratégie Europe 2020.

Le rapport inclut également une description de la méthodologie utilisée pour collecter des informations sur les actions présentées, et pour analyser leurs résultats. Entre autres, le rapport cherche à apporter un éclairage sur la valeur ajoutée européenne des actions décrites, et à isoler les bonnes pratiques potentielles.

Nous pensons que ce rapport aura deux grandes retombées positives. Tout d'abord, il pourra être un guide pour les acteurs publics, privés et de la société civile qui souhaitent faire une demande de financement européen. Ensuite, il apportera aux décideurs politiques des idées innovantes pour concevoir et mettre en œuvre de nouvelles interventions politiques qui permettront de dynamiser l'emploi et de garantir une protection sociale adaptée dans l'ensemble de l'Union européenne.

## Kurzfassung

Die Europäische Kommission stellt eine Kofinanzierung für Maßnahmen staatlicher, privater und zivilgesellschaftlicher Akteure bereit, mit denen diese in den Politikfeldern Beschäftigung, Sozialschutz, Arbeitsbedingungen, räumliche Mobilität von Arbeitnehmern, Mikrofinanzierung und soziales Unternehmertum neue Dienstleistungen erbringen, politische Strategien auswerten oder neue politische Ideen entwickeln sowie bewährte Verfahren austauschen. Um die Verbreitung der dabei erzielten Ergebnisse zu verbessern, stellt dieser Bericht beispielhaft 7 Projekte und 10 Organisationen vor, die von 2014 bis 2017 im Rahmen des Programms für Beschäftigung und soziale Innovation (EaSI) gefördert wurden.

Die vorgestellten Projekte haben unterschiedlichste Zielsetzungen: sie unterstützen Reformen der Sozialsysteme in den Mitgliedstaaten, sie verbessern die Kooperation nationaler Arbeitsverwaltungen bei der Vermittlung von Arbeitnehmern und sie informieren darüber, wie junge Menschen die Jugendgarantie in Anspruch nehmen können.

In einem weiteren Abschnitt des Berichts werden die Maßnahmen von zehn wichtigen europaweit tätigen NGOs vorgestellt, die im Jahr 2016 im Rahmen von EaSI gefördert wurden und sich für soziale Eingliederung, den Kampf gegen Armut und einen besseren Zugang zu Finanzdienstleistungen einsetzen. Die präsentierten Organisationen hatten insbesondere das Ziel, die Strategie der Kommission für mehr Sozialinvestitionen auf nationaler und lokaler Ebene sowie die Umsetzung des Sozialinvestitionspakets, der Initiative für soziales Unternehmertum und der Strategie Europa 2020 zu unterstützen.

Ferner enthält der Bericht eine Beschreibung der Methoden, die angewendet wurden, um Daten über die vorgestellten Maßnahmen zu erfassen und deren Ergebnisse zu analysieren. Unter anderem möchte der Bericht den europäischen Mehrwert der untersuchten Maßnahmen betonen und bewährten Verfahren vorstellen.

Wir glauben, dass dieser Bericht äußerst nützlich sein kann. Erstens kann er öffentlichen, privaten und zivilgesellschaftlichen Akteure, die Fördermittel der EU beantragen möchten, als Leitfaden dienen. Und zweitens bietet er politischen Entscheidungsträgern innovative Ideen zur Entwicklung und Umsetzung neuer politischer Maßnahmen, mit denen Arbeitsplätze geschaffen und europaweit ein angemessener Sozialschutz gewährleistet werden können.

## 1. Introduction

Analysing and disseminating information about the results of the supported projects and organisations are part of the performance monitoring of the EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) 2014-2020. The programme's monitoring approach foresees biannual reports presenting examples of projects and organisations supported by EaSI.

This is the eighth such report, which follows the first seven published in 2014-2017. The report presents the results of EaSI-funded projects and organisations – major EU-level NGOs promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and access to finance for vulnerable groups of society and social entrepreneurs.

The report consists mainly of fiches, which describe in concise and uniform format the results and the European added value of a given successful project or organisation as well as potential good practices among the implemented actions. In addition, the project/organisation fiches were developed with an aim to make them easily accessible as stand-alone documents and useful to all informed stakeholders (decision-makers, social partners, NGOs, academia, media and civil society at large).

**The purpose of this report is to improve learning among the national authorities, civil society organisations and private actors** working in the field of employment & social affairs, to support future policy developments. First, it may serve as guidance for public, private and civil society actors wishing to apply for EU funding in the future. Second, it will provide policy-makers with ideas that can inform the design and implementation of new policy interventions.

Along with this introduction, the report has three other parts. Chapter 2 features a description of the methodology that was applied to collect information on the actions and organisations presented and to analyse their results. Chapter 3 presents projects funded by EaSI and implemented in 2014-2017. In Chapter 4, the reader will find an overview of the EaSI-funded activities implemented in 2016 by major EU-level NGOs. The report concludes with a short afterword inter alia explaining the next steps in monitoring EaSI-supported projects and organisations as well as the overall programme.

### 1.1. Key facts about the presented projects

This report presents **7 recently finished projects** funded by the EaSI programme. Since EaSI-funded projects usually last 2-3 years, below the reader will find the description of the projects implemented in 2014-2017. This report covers projects implemented in the areas of social protection, working conditions and employment.

In the policy area of **social protection**, the report presents two projects that aimed to support the Member States in reviewing some selected aspects of their social protection systems and identifying potential for improving cost-effectiveness, including by strengthening the social investment orientation of the systems.

**Table 1. Calls for proposals in the policy area of social protection and social inclusion (EaSI- PROGRESS)**

Reference number	Title	Number of projects included in the report
VP/2014/006	EaSI-PROGRESS: Support for social protection reforms	2

In the policy area of **working conditions**, the report presents four EaSI-funded projects that aimed to enhance administrative cooperation and access to information on posting of workers (see Table 2).

**Table 2. Calls for proposals in the policy area of working conditions (EaSI-PROGRESS)**

Reference number	Title	Number of projects included in the report
VP/2014/007	EaSI-PROGRESS: Posting of workers: enhancing administrative cooperation and access to information	1
VP/2015/007	EaSI-PROGRESS: Posting of workers: enhancing administrative cooperation and access to information	3

In the policy area of **employment**, the report analyses one project aimed at raising awareness among young people on how they can benefit from the Youth Guarantee scheme.

**Table 3. Calls for proposals in the policy area of employment (EaSI-PROGRESS)**

Reference number	Title	Number of projects included in the report
VP/2015/005	Information sharing and outreach activities to young people about Youth Guarantee offers	1

Please note that the projects within different policy areas as well as projects within the same policy area that are funded through different calls should not be directly compared with each other. They are different in scope, aims, activities, budget and duration. Each project should rather be seen as a distinct action.

## 1.2. Key facts about the presented organisations

The report also presents results delivered in 2016 by 10 EaSI-funded **EU-level organisations** working in the fields of social inclusion, poverty reduction and promotion of access to finance for vulnerable persons and social entrepreneurs<sup>1</sup>. Out of 19 such organisations, this report covers those that are marked in grey in Table 4. Results achieved by the remaining 9 organisations were already presented in the previous report.

**Table 4. A list of presented EaSI-supported organisations**

Title of an organisation	Policy area
Caritas Europa	Fighting poverty and social exclusion
European Social Network (ESN)	Local public social services
EUROCITIES	Reinforcing the role of local and municipal governments
Eurochild	Improving the quality of life of children and young people
EuroHealthNet	Health and health equity
FEANTSA – The European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless	Tackling homelessness and its effects
SOLIDAR	Social policy, international cooperation, education, migration
European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD)	Promoting equal opportunities for people with disabilities
European Network of Social Integration (ENSIE)	Social integration economy
European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN)	Fighting against poverty and social exclusion
COFACE – Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Union	Family
Eurodiaconia – European Federation for Diaconia	Poverty and social exclusion, social and health care services and the future of social Europe
European Microfinance Network (EMN)	Microfinance

<sup>(1)</sup> Funded as a result of the Call for Proposals for operating grants open to EU-level NGOs networks that had signed a Framework Partnership Agreement for 2014-2017 and that are active in the promotion of social inclusion and poverty reduction or active in the promotion of microfinance and social enterprise finance (VP/2015/010).

Eurocarers	Informal care
ERGO – Roma inclusion NGO	Roma inclusion
European Platform for Rehabilitation (EPR)	Providing rehabilitation services to people with disabilities and other disadvantaged groups
Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)	Promoting respect for the human rights of undocumented migrants within Europe
European Venture Philanthropy Association (EVPA)	Social investment and venture philanthropy
Microfinance Centre (MFC)	Microfinance

### 1.3. How to read this report

This report consists mainly of project fiches that were prepared as stand-alone documents. Therefore, we advise the readers to jump immediately to the fiches that they find the most interesting and relevant to their area of work or personal interests (as opposed to reading the report from beginning to end). To understand how these fiches were developed, please also take time to read the introduction and the methodological chapter.

## 2. Methodology

The key components of this report are fiches that present the results of projects and organisations funded by EaSI programme. These project fiches are structured according to policy areas as well as themes of respective calls for proposals. The report presents all projects and organisations that were supported by these instruments and successfully completed in the second semester of 2017.

In addition to an overview of activities carried out by the selected projects and organisations, the report aims to identify and describe **potential good practices**. To single out such practices, we followed a broad definition of the term 'practice' encompassing both policy development and implementation. In our view, a 'good practice' is a process or methodology that has been proven to work well and produce good results and is therefore recommended for others as a model or useful example. What constitutes a 'good practice' can thus include initiatives as diverse as legislation (at the national, sub-national and local levels), regulation, policies, strategies, institutional frameworks, planning and coordination procedures, various interventions (programmes, projects, campaigns, subsidies, financing mechanisms, tariff structures and similar), among many others. When analysing EaSI-funded projects and organisations, the report team aimed to include all information instrumental to distinguishing the most successful activities, so that only effective calls are continued in the future.

To ensure that the collected information is as comprehensive as possible, we relied on **three data collection strategies**:

1. The main sources of information were the final technical implementation reports completed by grant beneficiaries.
2. The report team also used all available additional information about the presented projects provided to them by the European Commission. Such information included various reports and briefings, agendas of organised events, participant lists, financial information, detailed description of deliverables and external/internal evaluations.
3. Finally, data collection was carried out in openly accessible sources, such as project/organisation websites.

The report team then analysed the content of the collected material according to a pre-developed toolkit to produce fiches for each project and organisation. The **toolkit** included a project fiche template (covering pre-defined criteria for analysis), a list of criteria for classifying analysed projects, and a reference grid for indicating potential good practices.

The resulting **17 fiches** consist of two parts. The first part (a table) presents the general administrative data on a given project or organisation as well as policy areas and sub-areas as per the pre-established classification. In the second part, we outline the actions, their aims and results, effectiveness, transferability/up-scalability, sustainability, innovativeness, impact and EU added value. These criteria were also used to assess which of the project activities could be regarded as potential good practices. As the reports on EaSI-funded projects and organisations will be inter alia used by the project auditors, the aspect of effectiveness (i.e. the extent to which projects/organisations achieved their results) was given particular attention.

Box 1 provides a complete list of criteria applied to analyse projects and organisations.

### Box 1. List of criteria for analysing projects and organisations

- **Socioeconomic context.** This part describes why the action was implemented and the policy-related motives behind it. It also describes how the analysed project/organisation fits into the local/national/EU policy, social and economic context.
- **Aims of the project/organisation.** This heading summarises what the action aimed to achieve.
- **Results, measured impacts, achievements, lessons learned.** This part discusses the results, medium-to-long-term impacts of the action (both current and expected), achievements and lessons learned.
- **Identification of potential good practices.** This section identifies processes/methodologies employed by the project/organisation that could be suggested as good practice examples to other similar projects/organisations.
- **Transferability element(s) of the project/activities** (if any). This section discusses the potential for the action or its individual parts to be applied in other contexts/at other levels (these do not necessarily have to be good practices).
- **Innovativeness of the project/activities** (if any). This section presents project/organisation activities that could be considered novel, in terms of standing out in the context of similar actions and settings and elaborates how exactly they are innovative.
- **Policy evidence generated by the project/organisation** (if any). This heading provides an overview of the studies, reports, databases or other evidence produced by the project/organisation to inform policy developments in a respective field.

- **Transnational dimension** (if any). This section focuses on activities that were implemented in more than one country, at the EU or international level. In the fiches featuring transnational networks or projects that by design are transnational, this section was often not singled out and instead the transnational element was emphasised as a horizontal theme throughout the project/organisation description under other criteria.
- **New partnerships created** (if any). This heading elaborates on actions that led to participating organisations finding new partners because of their involvement in a given project/network.
- **Dissemination strategy** (if any). This section provides an overview on how the project/organisation communicated the results of their action to their internal networks, stakeholders and the general public, including relevant intermediary and ultimate target groups.
- **European added value**. In this section, the report comments on whether the action:
  - could have been implemented or reached similar results without EU funding (where exactly did EU funding mostly contribute to?);
  - contributed to the implementation of EU legislation or ensuring that EU legislation is correctly applied;
  - led to economies of scale, ensuring more efficient use of money and better services for citizens;
  - promoted best practice examples learned from the previous EU/national actions;
  - promoted benchmarking for decision-making (e.g. through peer reviews, mutual learning, producing evidence for policy-makers, etc.);
  - due to its transnational character, allowed cross-border risks to be reduced and their consequences mitigated;
  - contributed to the free movement of persons;
  - contributed to networking activities (especially between organisations from different countries).
- **Sustainability measures**. This part explains what measures were taken in order to ensure that the results and impacts of the action are sustainable. Is there any evidence that activities will continue in the absence of EU funding?

The reader should note that even though projects presented in this report were funded under the same programme and many of them had similar aims, each implemented a unique set of actions. Therefore, in overviewing them the research team focused on the most relevant information for each, instead of including a uniform list of criteria in every fiche. This is to say that project fiches feature different combinations of headings, and more emphasis in specific fiches is given to some of the criteria over others, with respect to the nature of the actions themselves.

## 3. EaSI-funded projects

### 3.1. Social protection

#### Support for social protection reforms

This section presents two projects funded in the area of social protection as a result of the call for proposals aimed at helping Member States review some specific aspects of their social protection systems in order to identify potentials for improved cost-effectiveness, including strengthening the orientation of their systems' social investment.

The following types of activities were funded:

- country reviews by international organisations;
- secondments of policy advisers from another country;
- study visits from and to countries with relevant experience;
- provision of empirical evidence needed for international comparisons and mutual learning.

The projects were expected to generate knowledge and evidence that could help steer national reforms, either by facilitating the access to expertise from other Member States and international organisations, or by obtaining empirical evidence needed for international comparisons and mutual learning. In addition, it was expected that the projects would focus on major challenges that have been, or might become, the subject of country-specific recommendations, as well as reforms that could strengthen the social investment dimension of social protection schemes.

#### 3.1.1. SHARE 6<sup>th</sup> Wave Data Collection in Spain

*'The combination of two research dimensions – cross-national and temporal – allowed researchers to get in-depth understanding of various health policy strategies and draw conclusions about policy efficacy and human behaviour.'*

**Call identification number:** VP/2014/006/0061

**Grant identification number:** VS/2015/0195

**Policy area:** Fight against poverty and social exclusion

**Policy sub-area:** Demographic change

**Implementing country:** Spain

**Participating country:** Spain

**Project duration:** 1 June 2015 - 31 March 2017

**EU contribution in euros:** 381 827.28

**Target groups:** Higher education institutions and research institutes



#### Socioeconomic context

The amount of research on demographic changes and the challenges they create has increased over the last couple of years. However, many relevant questions remain to be analysed. Many Member States have launched pension reforms, which have increased the retirement age and decreased pension benefits. There is little data on how these reforms are translated into individual behavioural and societal outcomes – whether people accumulate more savings for retirement, receive more support within the family, or experience more old-age poverty. Also, whether later retirement means continued productivity or more disability insurance applications and higher old-age unemployment.

Population health varies across Europe, and there is little knowledge regarding how much of this is due to differences in health care, social and educational policies or genetic and

(<sup>2</sup>) Call for proposals VP/2014/006: Support for social protection reforms.



cultural differences. Furthermore, there is no final answer on the causes for the especially large differences in life expectancy between more and less wealthy Europeans. Questions like these point to the need for more research and comparable data.

The **aim** of this project was to collect data on health, socioeconomic status and social and family networks of individuals aged 50 or older in Spain. The data collected during the project will contribute to a multidisciplinary and cross-national panel database of micro data called the 'Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE),' which has been successful in providing support for evidence-based policy-making, both at the Union and the Member State level.

More specifically, project implementation included planning and supervision of the fieldwork process, the cleaning and processing of the data, the assessment of the adequacy of the changes in the questionnaire to the Spanish case, the documentation of the Spanish-specific deviations, the evaluation of the entire process, and the production and dissemination of preliminary scientific analysis and results among the scientific community in Spain.

### Project results, measured impacts, achievements, lessons learned

The outcome of this project is a dataset of the 6th SHARE survey in Spain, which will supplement a cross-national SHARE database. Spain joined the project from the very beginning with the aim that SHARE would become a stable and long-lasting infrastructure which provides longitudinal data of the same individuals every two years.

### Policy evidence generated by the project

The SHARE survey has informed policy-makers both at the Union and the Member State level. Though the policy evidence has not been generated yet with Spanish data, the project coordinator hopes the availability of this data will allow researchers to produce scientific results and policy-makers to design fact-based social policies and reforms.

### Transnational dimension and European added value

The project's results – data collected in Spain – will complement the overall SHARE dataset. The SHARE multidisciplinary micro data helps to understand health and ageing in 20 European countries over time. The combination of two research dimensions – cross-national and temporal – allows researchers to observe different health policy strategies and draw conclusions about policy efficacy and human behaviour. Policy-makers across the EU can use the generated research insights to inform decision-making, while improving health care and social systems.

### Dissemination strategy

The project coordinator disseminated the project results to both the wider international academic community and Spanish stakeholders.

#### Activities implemented

- Planning and supervision of the fieldwork process (assessment of how adequate the changes in the questionnaire were to the Spanish case, documentation of the Spanish-specific deviations);
- Cleaning and processing the data;
- Analysis of data to start after the project completion report;
- Dissemination of the study results.

#### Coordinator

Fundacion Centro de Estudios Monetarios y Financieros

#### Partners

SHARE ERIC

#### Project/organisation website

<http://www.share-project.org/>

The data collected through project activities was released six months after the fieldwork, and one year later the project coordinator released it again, cleaned and documented. The Spanish data was deposited in two public data archives that are accessible without user charges through the internet: the German Central Data Archive, a public data archive run by GESIS in Cologne (Germany) and the CentERdata Archive, located at Tilburg University (the Netherlands). After the data is analysed, further dissemination will be conducted through participation in several conferences and the publication of an article.

To make the data visible for Spanish users, the project coordinator updated the Spanish SHARE website (<http://www.share.cemfi.es/>) and made it user-friendly. The website offers a detailed explanation of the methodology followed, provides examples of the data use, summarises the key publications that have used the collected data, and lists Spanish newspaper articles about the conclusions the data analysis has led to.

### Sustainability measures

Since the project results will feed into multinational and longitudinal datasets, they will be relevant even after the project activities are finished.

### 3.1.2. Policies for an Aged Workforce in the EU – PAWEU

*'The project results are expected to have an impact on national policies regarding pension systems and labour market policies geared toward an ageing workforce.'*

**Call identification number:** VP/2014/006/0073

**Grant identification number:** VS/2015/0246

**Policy area:** Employment

**Policy sub-area:** Promotion of a high level of quality and sustainable employment

**Implementing country:** Italy

**Participating countries:** Italy, Belgium and Romania

**Grant duration:** 1 September 2015 – 31 May 2017

**EU contribution in euros:** 183 463.68

**Target groups:** National, regional, local authorities; Individuals aged 50–69



#### Project results and policy evidence generated by the project

The final report, which contains a review of the national policies targeting ageing workers, a detailed assessment of the Italian and Romanian cases, and an empirical analysis of older individuals' workability, is the main result of the project. It is expected to have an impact on national policies regarding pension systems and labour market policies geared toward an ageing workforce.

The research report concluded that gender, marital status, education and perceived health have a different impact in different European country clusters to one's likelihood of being active at an older age or continuing to work after retirement. Therefore, the project partners claimed that multiple policy strategies and employer initiatives should be considered in order to improve economic efficiency, working conditions and the wellbeing of aged workers.

Some of the measures to be considered should include pension policies, passive and active labour market policies devoted to older workers, as well as age-management strategies implemented by employers. Measures related to pension policies might include flexibility of retirement ages, introducing actuarial penalties for early retirement, considering individual health when defining requirements for early retirement, and establishing partial pension schemes, which could combine reduced working hours with the provision of a share of the pension. Passive and active labour market policy measures might feature retraining programmes and public jobs for older workers who are unable to continue performing their previous job tasks. Good age-management practices might touch upon areas such as health care, flexibility, training and redeployment.

#### Transnational dimension and new partnerships created

The action grant resulted in mobilising human resources and creating a consortium of four different organisations in Belgium, Italy and Romania to collaborate and generate knowledge. The project also provided networking activities to both national organisations – in the form of a workshop in Italy – and European organisations. The new partnerships created throughout project activities have the potential to be further developed.

#### Socioeconomic context

The economic recession in the EU and austerity measures that followed have put older workers at a higher risk of unemployment and social exclusion. These factors, together with the ageing EU population and the need to control public spending, make the employment of older individuals a hot topic in all EU countries.

The project partners decided to implement a project, confident that the results would inform the national policy debate, provide useful policy suggestions and identify some practices that could be implemented in all EU countries.

The overall objective of the PAWEU project was to assess the challenges faced by EU countries with ageing workforces and the policies that could help them cope with these challenges. Focusing on individuals aged 50–69, the project **aimed** to:

- review the features of national policies and welfare systems that could affect older workers' employability and their wellbeing;
- identify the main factors limiting or favouring older workers' employability.

## Dissemination strategy

The Italian National Institute of Social Security along with its three partners disseminated project results through three channels: access to the final report, 2 public conferences and e-communication tools.

The main deliverable of the project, the Final Report, has been drafted in 3 languages: English, Italian and Romanian. To improve the dissemination of the Final Report, more than 1 000 flyers have been printed with a QR code providing the right to download the report to electronic devices. The Final Report is also available in all three languages on the web pages of the Consortium. In addition, during the project workshops were organised in Brussels and Rome to support the dissemination of results, and to improve networking and cooperation among partners and with relevant stakeholders. Moreover, information about meetings and conferences throughout the lifespan of the project has been communicated through partners' websites, social media and newsletters.

## European added value

The contribution of EU funding was essential for the development of the project, as it allowed the partners to mobilise human resources from different organisations to work together for more than a year. The mutual learning and networking opportunities have featured as an EU added value in this project. The project has provided empirical evidence relevant for international comparisons and allowed the stakeholders to exchange good practices and lessons learned from past reform experiences. Furthermore, the 2 conferences provided networking opportunities to both national and European organisations.

### **Activities implemented**

- Setting up the Steering Committee;
- Kick-off and interim meetings;
- EU policies and strategies assessment (review of national policies, detailed assessment of the Italian and Romanian cases, assessment of national strategies);
- Empirical analysis of older individuals' workability;
- 2 public conferences/workshops.

### **Coordinator**

National Institute of Social Security (Italy)

### **Partners**

Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini (Italy), European Social Observatory (Belgium), Romanian Ministry of Labour (Romania)

### **Project/organisation website**

<https://www.inps.it/nuovoportaleinps/default.aspx>

## 3.2. Working conditions

### Posting of workers: enhancing administrative cooperation and access to information

With the view to enhancing the implementation, application and enforcement of Directive 96/71/EC on the posting of workers, 2 recurring calls for proposals were launched in 2014 and 2015 aimed at financing specific transnational cooperation projects each involving at least 3 Member States<sup>3</sup>.

The projects were expected to promote the exchange of information, best practices and training among the officials of competent public authorities and relevant social partners, as well as to increase the accessibility and transparency of relevant information.

Below the report presents four projects funded in the area of working conditions addressing the following issues:

- increasing the accessibility and transparency of relevant information to support posted workers in need;
- improving knowledge and building capacity of employees, employers and trade unions, on issues related to posting of workers and the legal frameworks, European directives;
- contributing to the development of posted workers directives (96/71/EC and 2014/67/EU) and their correct application;
- strengthening transnational administrative cooperation between national competent bodies and social partners.

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<sup>(3)</sup> Calls for proposals VP/2014/007 and VP/2015/007: Posting of workers: enhancing administrative cooperation and access to information.

### 3.2.1. ECMIN 2.0 - Workers' Information and Portal Website on Applicable Working Conditions

*'The creation of ECMIN and improvements introduced with ECMIN 2.0 was an important step in encouraging free movement and combating the exploitation of posted workers in the EU market.'*

**Call identification number:** VP/2014/007

**Grant identification number:** VS/2015/0017

**Policy area:** Working conditions

**Policy sub-area:** Posting of workers

**Implementing/participating countries:** All EU Member States

**Project duration:** April 2015–April 2017

**EU contribution in euros:** 175 347 31

**Target groups:** National, regional and local authorities; Social partners; Posted workers; Migrant workers; National workers in the construction sector.



#### Socioeconomic context

The lack of easily accessible and transparent information on the applicable working conditions in other countries is an important reason why many workers still hesitate to work in another EU Member State. It also creates a possibility for social dumping. This issue is particularly relevant in the construction sector where temporary migration and posting of workers are of vital importance. Traditionally, construction workers are an exceedingly vulnerable group in the highly competitive battle between building firms, that create strong pressure to drive down prices. Hence, the high demand for skilled and unskilled workers requires a highly mobile workforce.

EFBWW launched ECMIN (European Construction Mobility Information Net) in 2009 to provide free-of-charge, easily accessible, precise and concise information on the applicable working conditions in the construction industry in EU Member States. However, some weaknesses of the project were identified; therefore, ECMIN 2.0 was launched in 2017. The project aimed to develop and launch a new website and application for mobile devices that would provide information on salary, working time, premiums, holidays, wage deductions, sickness and injuries, highlight specific and issues/exceptions to general rules relevant for posted workers in all official EU languages, as well as share contacts of trade union officials speaking different languages and available to support workers in need. This is an important step toward combating the

exploitation of posted workers, improving the mobility of workers and a fair and more transparent EU labour market.

#### Project results, measured impacts, achievements, lessons learned

The key outcome of the project was making the conditions and terms of employment of construction workers in EU Member States more transparent and easily accessible through the new website and mobile app. This will contribute on a regular, long-term basis to the implementation and enforcement of Directive 96/71/EC.

The project team created a country fiche to collect standardised information on each of the 28 EU countries with the help of EFBWW-affiliated organisations and national labour inspectors. All the information is available in the 24 official EU languages to ensure that all construction workers around Europe who are interested in working in another EU country can easily access it. The [www.constructionworkers.eu](http://www.constructionworkers.eu) website was developed, and both, public and administrator, interfaces were designed and implemented.

The project team organised an evaluation meeting (to gather feedback on the website and suggestions on its use and dissemination) and a training seminar to train those in charge at national level on how to best use and update the information on the website. Strategies on how to better use the network of organisations to support workers and how to disseminate the website were also introduced.

Due to the transnational scope of the project, there were some challenges in finalising the structure of the website due to delays in collecting and translating country specific information. Therefore, constant coordination and liaison between the project team and the affiliated organisations was necessary to achieve the results.

#### Identification of potential good practices

Since more industries (oil and gas, metal, etc.) within the EU rely today on posted workers, it is crucial to ensure effective implementation of Directive 96/71/EC to prevent social dumping and fraud. The website and app launched as part of the ECMIN 2.0 project are an example of how to provide important information on posted workers' working terms and conditions in an organised, transparent and easily accessible

way. The choice to provide information in a consumer-friendly way (24 different languages, support contacts, easy to navigate interface), could be seen as **innovative**, in a sense that the focus is shifted from organisations and companies dealing with posted workers to the most vulnerable group in this setting, the posted workers themselves. Having access to all the necessary information on working conditions within the EU allows the posted worker to take charge of their working environment and make sure their rights are not violated. Such practices could be easily **transferable** to any other sector that deals with posted workers and should strive to provide accurate information in an easily accessible and understandable way.

## Policy evidence generated by the project

To ensure that information provided on the website is accurate and comparable among different countries, the project team created a country fiche. By having such a tool, EFBWW-affiliated organisations and national labour inspectors provided information that could be easily standardised. In addition, it will make it easier to update the information in the future.

## Transnational dimension

The project relied on the EFBWW-affiliated organisation network that spans 33 countries in Europe. Although the website includes information only about the MS, having affiliated organisations in non-Member States allows the area covered to be expanded and issues related to the posted workers to be addressed Europe wide in the future.

## Dissemination strategy

The project coordinator prepared a common press release on the launch of ECMIN 2.0. The press release was then sent out to all the national affiliated members and ECMIN partners who adapted and translated it into their national languages and released it on their national websites, social media and national press. Additionally, a link to the ECMIN 2.0 website has been added on national portals of the ECMIN partners. The variety of information channels used helped reach the targeted audience and ensured wider dissemination and impact of ECMIN 2.0.

In May 2017 ECMIN 2.0 was presented during the seminar 'Tools and approaches to deal with undeclared work in the construction sector' organised by the European Platform on undeclared work, to the Employment Committee of the European Parliament as well as during the conference 'Protecting Mobility through Improving Labour Rights enforcement in Europe' which launched the project.

## European added value

The creation of ECMIN and improvements introduced with ECMIN 2.0 was an important step in encouraging the free movement of and combating the exploitation of posted workers in the EU market. The project has also created a network among the national organisations and social partners, which gave them more ownership at a national level and led to better implementation and enforcement of Directive 96/71/EC.

### Activities implemented

- 4 steering group meetings organised;
- A country fiche to collect standardised information on working conditions for construction workers in each of the 28 countries was created, amended and approved. The information in the EU-28 collected and translated;
- [www.constructionworkers.eu](http://www.constructionworkers.eu) website developed and launched Europe wide on 10 April 2017;
- 2 test phases (to assess the proper functioning of the website and the correctness of the information provided) and evaluation meeting organised;
- A training seminar on how to update the information on the platform organised (50 participants);
- The ECMIN app created and registered.

### Coordinator

EFBWW – The European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (Belgium)

### Partners

-

### Project/organisation website

<https://www.constructionworkers.eu/en>, <http://www.efbww.org>

## Sustainability measures

In order not to lose the good results achieved, the project team has developed new plans for a follow-up project with and without EU funding. The actions planned are:

- to start ECMIN 3.0, with the main objective of making the ECMIN 2.0 tools even more useful and user-friendly. This will be done through further fine tuning of the website and the App;
- to ensure further dissemination of the website and App among workers, authorities and other stakeholders;
- to introduce additional countries and languages in order to cover most of the construction workers working in the EU.

## Gender equality measures

Gender equality was not an issue directly addressed by the project. The total number of participants in the events and activities of the project included 26 women and 44 men.

## 3.2.2. Posting Fraud and Social Dumping – Trade Unions to Overcome Issues Related to Posting of Workers in the Metal Sector

*‘The biggest value of the project was its focus on capacity building of metal sector posted workers when trying to secure their rights while working abroad.’*

**Call identification number:** VP/2015/007

**Grant identification number:** VS/2016/0025

**Policy area:** Working conditions

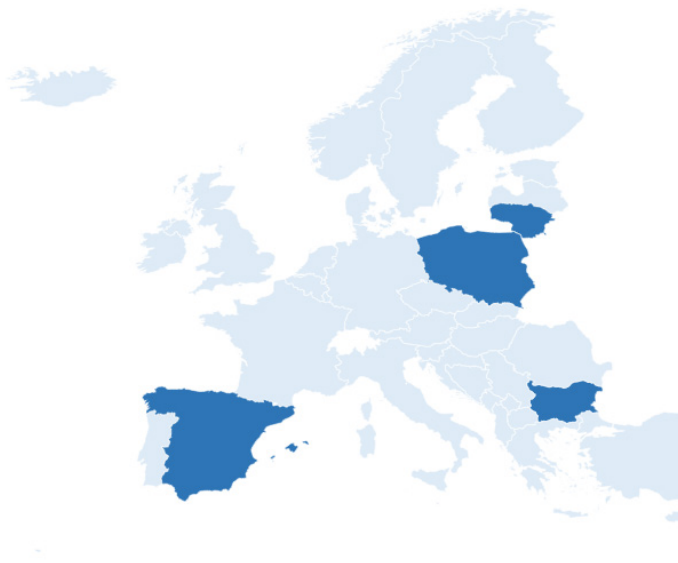
**Policy sub-area:** Posting of workers

**Implementing/participating countries:** Bulgaria, Lithuania, Poland and Spain

**Project duration:** March 2015 – June 2017

**EU contribution in euros:** 146 081.15

**Target groups:** Social partners



- defining the role of trade unions in dealing with posting fraud and social dumping of posted workers;
- identifying the shortcomings in administrative and informational cooperation;
- developing an activity plan among trade unions to combat posting fraud and social dumping.

### Project results, measured impacts, achievements, lessons learned

As there is quite a lot of knowledge about the provisions of Directive 96/71/EC at a higher level of management in workplaces, the key focus of the project team was to ensure that project events would be attended by people directly from workplaces. Meetings were organised to develop practical knowledge of the provisions of the Directive for people who encounter this problem directly and to build trade union capacity to help posted workers.

The project team organised a steering group meeting during which the main objectives and expectations of the project were discussed. This also helped in strengthening relations between representatives of metal workers from Bulgaria, Lithuania, Poland and Spain. National seminars were organised with the focus on improving trade unionists' knowledge about their rights when being posted abroad and to raise their awareness on the main issues posted workers face. Last, two international events were devoted to discussing the results of country research and disseminating project results among project's participants. This allowed ideas, know-how, experiences and best practices to be exchanged between partners on the best actions for trade unions to take in order to target issues related to posting of workers in the metal sector. Finally, a practical action plan for metal sector trade unions concerning better implementation of Directive 96/74/EC was developed and published.

### Identification of potential good practices

The biggest value of the project was the fact that it focused on capacity building of posted workers in the metal sector when trying to secure their rights while working abroad. During national seminars, some practical knowledge of the provisions of the Directive for people who encounter this problem directly was provided: basic rights of posted workers were discussed;

### Socioeconomic context

High workforce mobility and flexibility is becoming more and more important for companies in the metal sector as most of them have plants throughout Europe and the rest of the world. This results in a high volume of posted workers within the sector who need to expand their knowledge about practical aspects of how to deal with issues regarding posting of workers – social dumping, deductions for housing and transport costs, unpaid wages, lack of social protection, the hazardous nature of the work undertaken, unsatisfactory lodgings, etc. Many instruments to monitor the posting of workers have been developed in the past. However, not many of them function as well as they were intended to. Furthermore, trade unions representing steelworkers are not satisfied with their level of influence on the situation of workers, especially during times of economic change.

### Aims of the project

The main goal of the project was to improve the knowledge of employees, employers and trade unions from the metal sector, about posting of workers and the related legal frameworks and European directives. This was done through:

- assessing the current situation regarding posting fraud and social dumping in the metal sector in Bulgaria, Lithuania, Poland and Spain;

applying for an A1 and S1 forms was shown; country-specific case studies were discussed. As this element of the project received very good feedback from participants, such practices could be **transferred** to other sectors with posted workers, too. It would be essential to ensure that seminars match participant needs, and information presented could be applied in practice.

## Policy evidence generated by the project

the final publication consists of consolidated preparatory studies on posted worker situation in the metal sector in Bulgaria, Lithuania, Poland and Spain. The publication can be used as a tool by employees to evaluate potential risks, by trade unions to prepare and better assist posted workers, employers and national authorities to ensure proper regulations are developed and put in place to mitigate the biggest risks. Additionally, the publication includes proposals from the international seminar.

## Transnational dimension

the project created an opportunity for trade unions from Bulgaria, Lithuania, Poland and Spain to participate in the projects and share experiences and good practices from their countries.

## Dissemination strategy

The main message of the project – appreciation for workers' initiatives toward economic and social matters, and the need to develop cooperation between trade unions in the older and newer EU Member States. To increase the visibility of the project and its messages, the project team chose to distribute promotional materials (brochures, posters and website) at various public institutions and offices, workers unions and during events related to the project. Special attention was given to online dissemination channels and tools as it was believed that the project message and results (publication) would reach wide local and international audiences and foster communication between communities via social media, thus ensuring better visibility and reach.

## European added value

As the project promoted employee inclusion and equality, cooperation between trade unions within the EU it contributed to European value added in a couple of different ways:

- by defining trade unions' role in dealing with posted worker issues it increased the effectiveness of measures taken by trade unions aimed at improving labour conditions in the metal sector;
- it also created a platform to share experience, information and to raise awareness on good industrial relations and practices within the EU;
- as organisations from the new and old EU Members participated in the project, it positively influenced European integration.

### **Activities implemented**

- 3 international meetings: steering group meeting (10 participants), international seminar (10 participants), final conference (50 participants);
- 900 copies of a final publication that consists of consolidated preparatory studies together with proposals from the international seminar, translated into every partner language and English, edited, designed, published and distributed in Bulgaria, Lithuania, Poland and Spain;
- 4 national events (15 participants in each, 16 participants in Lithuania).

### **Coordinator**

ArcelorMittal Inter-company Workers' Union Dąbrowa Górnicza (Poland)

### **Partners**

NSZZ - ArcelorMittal Poland Independent Employees Self-Employed Trade Union (Poland)

### **Project/organisation website**

<http://www.mzzpamdg.pl/>

## Sustainability measures

Feedback from the project participants was highly positive, and most of them expressed willingness to continue and strengthen cooperation after the termination of the project. The beneficiaries and the partners plan to create an international network for exchange of experiences and to develop other projects related to the problems of posted workers in the metal sector in all EU Member States. The participants also confirmed that the results of the project will be used during negotiations with employers, cooperation with other trade unions and bodies representing workers.

## Gender equality measures

Gender equality was not an issue directly addressed by the project. The total number of participants in the events and activities of the project included 31 women and 100 men.



### 3.2.3. Posted Workers in the EU: Joining Forces for Action on Solidarity and Cooperation Mechanisms to Ensure Fair and Competitive Future for European Economy and Society

*'The published handbook provides information about the main problematic issues related to the posting of workers in Europe and proposes guidance for decent social protection of posted workers in EU Member States.'*

**Call identification number:** VP/2015/007

**Grant identification number:** VS/2016/0059

**Policy area:** Working conditions

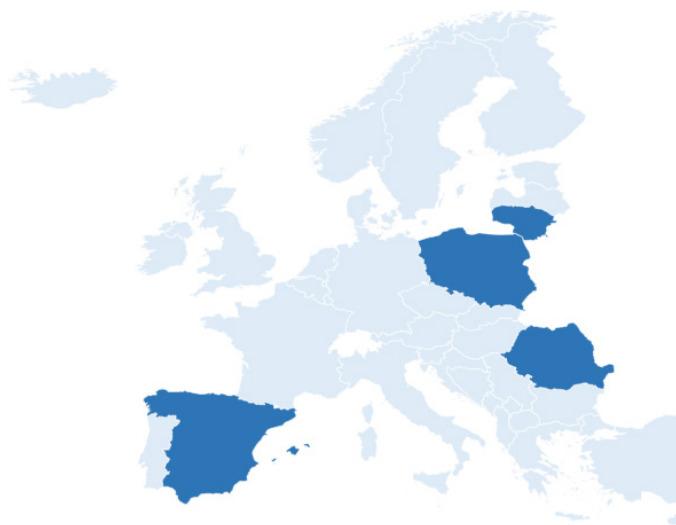
**Policy sub-area:** Posting of workers

**Implementing/participating countries:** Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Spain

**Project duration:** 15 December 2015 – 15 July 2017

**EU contribution in euros:** 124 615.24

**Target groups:** Social partners; Posted workers; Trade unions; International labour organisations; Sectors related to the posting of workers issues.



#### Socioeconomic context

There is a general belief that the development of the single market has made it possible for companies to freely post workers, which unfortunately has led to unfair competition, social dumping and abuse of social rights to the detriment of the workers. Therefore, the purpose of Directive 96/71/EC was to ensure a minimum level of protection for posted workers and to provide a basic set of clearly defined employment conditions. However, poor cooperation between national administrations, lack of and difficulty in accessing information on the rights of posted workers impede proper implementation of the directive.

For this reason, social partners from Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Spain took a joint action to support proper implementation of Directive 96/71/EC and enforcement of Directive 2014/67/EU in their countries with the goal to enhance the accessibility of information on the rights of posted worker. Therefore, the aim of the action was to strengthen mutual learning, exchange best practices, encourage cross-border cooperation and raise awareness about working conditions and issues that posted workers face.

#### Project results, measured impacts, achievements

The key outcome of this action was a printed handbook which was put together after assessing participants' needs and

evaluating their experiences and recommendations related to the posting of workers. The handbook is devoted to enhancing knowledge about posted workers' issues and guidance for the decent social protection of posted workers. The strategy presented in the handbook ensures that each organisation could apply it to contribute to the development of the posted workers Directives (96/71/EC and 2014/67/EU) and its correct application in their countries.

To ensure active social partner involvement and applicability of the strategy developed, the following activities were carried out:

- discussions on raising awareness and sharing experience on irregularities in employment among posted workers were organised;
- provision and access to information on the rights and obligations of posted workers and their employers in four Member States was improved through representative training and project and national websites;
- use of the Internal Market Information System (IMI) in the EU and partner countries was assessed;
- IMI as the primary channel of communication between the Member States about the posting of workers was promoted as a tool to strengthen administrative cooperation;
- training activities to promote the Directives and their correct implementation in practice were developed and facilitated (a total of 121 persons trained).

#### Lessons learned

During the project, it became clear that social partners are more aware of posted workers' rights and obligations than of using IMI. The importance of using IMI was only relatively explained and the awareness of stakeholders was raised. However, the system needs further maintenance and promotion.

#### Identification of potential good practices

As the project had international and national events, it was important to ensure effective knowledge transfer and capacity building on both levels. For this purpose, the project team used a couple of different tools.

First, international event attendees were selected based on their knowledge and ability to disseminate the main project achievements and international experience at a national level to the other members of the trade unions, as well as to the local level stakeholders and administrative bodies (“multiplier” characteristics). Second, participants of national workshops developed strategies/recommendations for the better provision of information on the terms and conditions of employment and on collective agreements applicable to posted workers available on the official national website.

Using such an approach for selecting core participants for international events allows funding to be used in the most effective way as well as ensuring knowledge transfer long after the end of the project.

## Transferability element of the project

The main idea of the project was about exchanging best practices and innovative approaches to problem solving when dealing with posted workers in partner countries. A similar approach of sharing successful approaches in one country and adjusting them to the circumstances of other countries could be applied when involving more representatives from different sectors or opening dialogue and cooperation between different stakeholders within the country and the EU.

## Innovativeness of the project

It was beneficial and useful to involve multiple stakeholders (representatives of external experts, social partners, trade unions, potential posted workers and ex-posted workers) in the international training and international and national workshops. This allowed for a better understanding and evaluation of the different issues related to the posting of workers and helped develop well-rounded recommendations for further implementation of the solutions that address the issues.

## Policy evidence generated by the project

The published handbook provides information about the main problematic issues related to the posting of workers in Europe; contributes to enhancing knowledge about posted workers' rights; and provides guidance for decent social protection of posted workers in the EU Member States.

## Transnational dimension

The project had both transnational and cross-sectoral dimensions. During international events, common conclusions which might improve the correct application of the European regulations were elaborated and then they were adopted into the national framework. Additionally, involving experts and representatives from multiple sectors allowed analysing the whole specifics related to the posting of workers.

## Dissemination strategy

To properly disseminate the project process and results, the project leader developed and implemented the work plan using a website, posters, roll-ups, mailing, face-to-face conversations and contacts. The project website was regularly updated containing all the relevant information in

### Activities implemented

- 1 transnational workshop in Warsaw, Poland (24 participants);
- 1 transnational Meeting in Madrid, Spain (24 participants);
- 5 national workshops (held in each of the partner countries, 30 participants in each. 2 workshops were held in Poland);
- 4 national press conferences (held in each of the partner countries);
- published 1 750 copies of handbook in 5 languages (English, Lithuanian, Spanish, Romanian and Polish);
- project website created.

### Coordinator

LPSK – Lithuanian Trade Union Confederation (Lithuania)

### Partners

OPZZ – The All-Poland Alliance of Trade Unions (Poland); ZPDS – Lower Silesian Employers Association (Poland); ASITECO – Asociación Industrial, Técnica y de Comercio (Spain); Coalición Sindical Independiente de Trabajadores de Madrid – CSIT Unión Profesional (Spain); National Trade Union Confederation Cartel Alfa (Romania)

### Project/organisation website

<http://postedworkers.eu/en/main>

the languages of all the partner organisations. To attract more visitors to the website, it was advertised during each national and international meeting as well as at inter-organisation meetings and discussions.

The main research findings were disseminated during the international and national workshops. In addition, closing press conferences of national workshops were held in every partner country. If there was a low turnout at the press conference, social media were used to disseminate project achievements.

Lastly, 1 750 copies of the handbook in 5 languages (English, Lithuanian, Polish, Romanian and Spanish) were published and distributed. The handbooks were published online, on the project website as well as delivered to partner organisations which shared them among their members, local and other national stakeholders and networking organisations.

## European added value

The main value added of the project is sharing experiences when dealing with problems that arise from posting of workers among different stakeholders. EU funding contributed to creating new, and strengthening existing, networks between international partners who work with posted workers. Additionally, it provided them with an opportunity to participate in international and national workshops and the conference and thus ensure that Directives 96/71/EC and 2014/67/EU are correctly and effectively applied in the partner countries.

## Sustainability measures

To ensure that the results and impacts of the project are

sustainable the handbook was published in the languages of all partner organisations, as well as in English so it is accessible to many target groups and stakeholders. Additionally, selecting participants possessing “multiplier” characteristics for international events helped ensure knowledge transfer long after the end of the project.

## Gender equality measures

The project was implemented with a special focus on gender-related issues in respect of equality and anti-discrimination

policy. At every meeting of the project, experts paid special attention to the needs and issues of posted women workers. This initiative was supported by women participants too, since 54% of total project participants were women (65 out of 121 participants). This was ensured by adopting participation criteria based on the applicant’s knowledge, active participation in trade union activities and their potential for disseminating practical knowledge and skills obtained among a wider spectrum of workers (potential knowledge multipliers) rather than their gender, race etc. Furthermore, the project staff involved 2 women in the project management.

### 3.2.4. Equal Rights for Posted Workers – Raising Awareness About Directive 96/71/EC

*‘Common projects among trade unions in the field of posted workers are absolutely necessary. There is a strong need to raise awareness on this phenomenon and improve the expertise of employee representatives.’*

**Call identification number:** VP/2015/007

**Grant identification number:** VS/2016/0046

**Policy area:** Working conditions

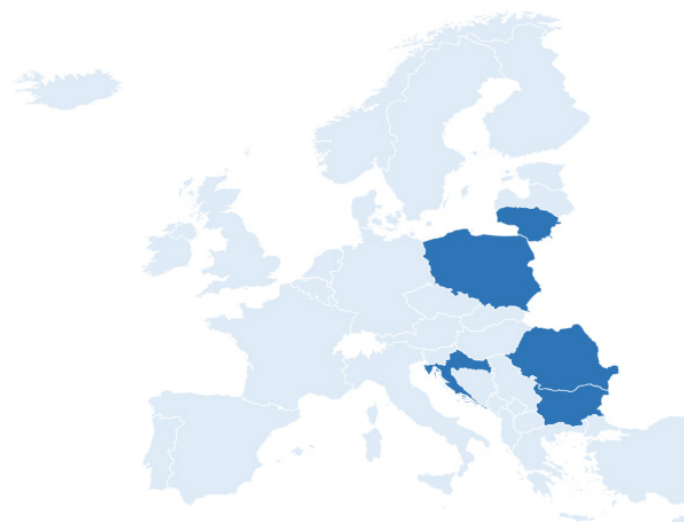
**Policy sub-area:** Posting of workers

**Implementing/participating countries:** Bulgaria, Croatia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania

**Project duration:** December 2015 – June 2017

**EU contribution in euros:** 150 241.44

**Target groups:** Social partners (representatives of trade unions in oil and gas industry)



## Socioeconomic context

Moving from one EU Member State to another for a limited period has become an increasingly important feature of employment for companies and for workers in the oil and gas sector. New Member States especially stand out with a rapid increase of workers being posted outside the country. However, there is a lack of reliable information on posting workers within the EU, and this can result in unfair competition and fraudulent social practices, as many posted workers do not know what to expect while working abroad and what rights they have. While trade unions should be able to assist posted workers concerning these issues, representation in national trade unions is usually weak. Unions very often lack expertise and knowledge not only on how to reach posted workers in the oil and gas industry, but also on legal circumstances in other Member States and in offering them support and help when issues arise.

Therefore, the **aim of the project** is to increase the knowledge of national trade union representatives on Directive 96/71/EC, raise awareness about issues that arise for posted workers and encourage closer cooperation among national trade unions within the EU while providing support to posted workers. Achieving the objective would help not only with improving quality of services provided or ensuring effective implementation of the Directive 96/71/EC, but also with increasing trade union credibility and professionalism when negotiating with companies or government institutions while representing posted workers.

## Project results, measured impacts, achievements, lessons learned

The main outcome of the project was the development and publication of a strategy that contains vital information and recommendations for trade unions and employers showing them ways of using the knowledge obtained in practice when dealing with issues concerning posting of workers in the oil and gas sector.

The strategy was developed during the workshop by trade union representatives, together with an expert, after evaluating the extent of issues concerning posting of workers and on what scale these issues are dealt with by trade unions in each project country. After developing the strategy, the project team made sure to raise awareness about the importance of the posting of workers and the main issues that posted workers face during national seminars. Finally, to ensure effective use of the new strategy and the new tools created, members of trade unions were provided with training.

Since workers from new Member States are the most vulnerable to unequal treatment in the receiving country, international cooperation and communication between social partners (trade unions) and authorities is necessary to provide

support and access to relevant legal and practical information for potential interested workers. Moreover, social partners should be actively involved in the implementation of Directive 96/71/EC and experts in trade unions should be trained to ensure the quality of a service and the accuracy of information provided.

## Identification of potential good practices

Analysing the cases of partner countries and exchanging good practices was crucial in developing and publishing the strategy that contains vital information and recommendations which could be applicable for trade unions when dealing with issues concerning the posting of workers. Having a well-defined strategy also helps trade unions understand their core capabilities, identify and address weaknesses and mitigate risks, makes it possible to focus on the right things that are the most likely to deliver the best performance both now and in the future.

## Transferability elements of the activities

The main transferable element of the project is the scope of exchanged experience on specific problems – social dumping, deductions for housing and transport costs, unpaid wages, lack of social protection, the hazardous nature of the work undertaken, unsatisfactory lodgings, etc. Holding international events, training trade union representatives and creating strategies with practical recommendations offer a platform to share good practices and generate new ideas to secure equal conditions for their posted workers.

## Policy evidence generated by the project

The project has helped trade unions in the oil and gas sector in solving the EU policy implementation issues and provided for a strategy on how to deal with issues concerning the posting of workers in the sector.

## Transnational dimension

The project included partners from five countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania). The transnational discussion of representatives of social partners generated new ideas and suggestions on how to improve the situation of posted workers and how to revise the existing law. **New partnerships** were created between the trade unions in project countries as well as their transnational cooperation strengthened to better inform and defend posted workers in the oil and gas sector within the EU.

## Dissemination strategy

Since the main deliverable of the project was the strategy, it was first presented during the final conference in Warsaw to all project partners. Altogether 750 copies of the strategy were published in five languages (Bulgarian, Croatian, Lithuanian, Polish and Romanian); it is also available on partners' websites in native languages. All partners were responsible for the dissemination of the materials through their close and extended networks. Thus, the results of the projects were presented at every internal meeting of trade union members.

### **Activities implemented**

- 1 international workshop (13 participants);
- national training seminars (12 participants each);
- 1 international closing conference (50 participants);
- Publication on how to deal with issues related with posting of workers (750 copies in 5 different languages).

### **Coordinator**

OZZGniG – All-Poland Trade Union of Polish Oil and Gas Companies (Poland)

### **Partners**

NPS – Naftininku Trade Union (Lithuania); SING – Sindikat naftnoga gospodarstva (Croatia); NFCW-PK – National Federation of Chemical Workers Podkrepa (Bulgaria); FSLCP - Federation of Chemical and Petrochemical Trade Unions (Romania)

### **Project/organisation website**

<http://ozzgnig.pl>

## European added value

The main value added of the project is sharing and promoting best practice examples while dealing with the problems that posted workers face. The EU funding allowed international partners to participate in the workshop, training seminars and the final conference and this strengthened cooperation in trying to ensure the effective implementation of Directive 96/71/EC. Lastly, developing the strategy with practical recommendations on better protection of posted workers in the oil and gas sector and training trade union representatives encourage free movement of posted workers within the EU.

## Sustainability measures

The participants of the project expressed their general satisfaction with the project and affirmed that it was beneficial. The outputs of the project can serve as a basis for the possible implementation of methods, mutual assistance practices and knowledge on how to deal with problems related to the posting of workers in all countries involved.

## Gender equality measures

Gender equality was not an issue directly addressed by the project. The total number of participants in the workshop, closing conference and national training events included 46 women and 90 men.

### 3.3. Employment

#### Information sharing and outreach activities to young people about Youth Guarantee offers

This section presents a project in the field of employment, funded under the call for proposals<sup>4</sup> aimed to better inform young people about the Youth Guarantee, engage with and reach out to them, and bring them into the Youth Guarantee service.

Projects funded under this call were expected to carry out one or few activities of the following types:

- strategy design and monitoring of the dissemination, information sharing and outreach activities;
- dissemination, information sharing and outreach activities;
- actions aiming at the creation and improving of networks, two-way communication, cooperation mechanisms and exchange of good practices among Youth Guarantee provision and governance stakeholders;
- conferences, seminars;
- training activities.

The activities were expected to ultimately lead to an increased number of young people being aware of the Youth Guarantee and of those registered with relevant authorities (national Youth Guarantee providers).

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<sup>(4)</sup> Call for proposals VP/2015/005: Information sharing and outreach activities to young people about Youth Guarantee offers.

### 3.3.1. New Communication and Cooperation Model for Better Information About the Youth Guarantee

*'The project created tools for YG stakeholders that help raise awareness and engage youth to participate in Youth Guarantee schemes.'*

**Call identification number:** VP/2015/005/0032

**Grant identification number:** VS/2016/0023

**Policy area:** Employment

**Policy sub-area:** Youth Employment

**Implementing/participating country:** Lithuania

**Project duration:** 19 February 2016 – 18 July 2017

**EU contribution in euros:** 379 202.10

**Target groups:** National, regional and local authorities; Employment services; Social partners; Non-Governmental Organisations; Experts in evaluation and impact assessment; Media; NEETs.



#### Socioeconomic context

There are many different initiatives and organisations fighting youth unemployment in Lithuania, as well as plenty of publicly accessible information on these initiatives. A young person might be lost in this flow and find it difficult to come across specific information. In this context, the partners saw a need to coordinate communication and marketing activities in a more effective way, and to develop a communication strategy. Even more important was to identify and understand what can attract the attention of young people and motivate them to seek more information about employment opportunities.

#### Aims of the project/organisation

The main objectives of the project were 1) to inform and engage Youth Guarantee stakeholders in Lithuania, develop their capacities, strengthen partnerships and promote personalised information delivery to the target group; 2) to increase awareness among NEETs, society and social partners about YG by building and testing a communication and cooperation model to reach out to young people and help them enter the Youth Guarantee service.

#### Project results, measured impacts, achievements, lessons learned

The main deliverables of the project were a new informative

platform, a mobile application and additional dissemination toolkits. These project outputs have helped to systemise information about Youth Guarantee from various sources and present it to NEETs, social partners and governance institutions. Overall project deliverables made information sharing more effective and improved the work quality of stakeholders.

The awareness campaign reached many citizens: more than 230 representatives of stakeholders participated in project conferences; 188 participants from municipal authorities, police, probation services, NGOs discussed and shared their good practices about how to reach young people who are not registered in labour offices; more than 3 600 NEETs were motivated to contemplate, understand their needs, plan their activities and implement the plans, and were introduced to job opportunities.

The project coordinator specifies that the communication tools created through the project and the campaign led to an increase in the number of young people aware and registered with the national Youth Guarantee provider. The survey showed that NEETs (55%) are more likely to be informed or have heard about the Youth Guarantee initiative compared to young people who are in training or employed (36%). Among all information sources regarding YG, NEETs were most likely to have learned about YG from a labour office (60%), Facebook (37%), a friend (30%), online advertising (23%), Google (24%), television (21%), and YG coordinators (17%).

#### Identification of potential good practices

The project coordinator identified three good practices. First, the availability of structured and quality information about Youth Guarantee initiatives is a key element of successfully communicating with young people. Therefore, it is important to make information understandable and accessible in one place. Secondly, it is essential to engage with young people via channels that they commonly use, such as social media, local events or viral videos. Thirdly, inter-institutional collaboration allows young people to access pertinent information about initiatives much faster.

#### Transferability element(s) of the project/activities

Mobile applications could be used in all EU countries to engage young people who are looking for jobs, traineeships or other education opportunities, as well as for employers who are looking for workers and for social partners, and governmental

institutions or for information sharing. An app is an auxiliary tool for national and European Youth Guarantee Websites.

## Innovativeness of the project/activities

The 'Get to know' open door campaign, which took the form of events for youth in industrial companies in all Lithuanian districts, is considered a successful element of the project. Participants were introduced to internal work rules, job opportunities, salary systems, additional rewards schemes and training and career opportunities at specific companies. It allowed participants to see how companies operate and to hear stories from employers. Young people were encouraged and invited to gain necessary vocational skills, as most of the companies visited need additional workers.

## Dissemination strategy

The target group was exposed to project results – such as a motivational film, video clips, presentations, posters, advertisements – through various means: television, radio, monitors in public transport, magazines, cinemas, social media, etc. Project activities covered the whole country: 60 informative events were organised in youth centres or labour offices and 60 'Get to know' open door campaign events were organised for youth in industrial companies in all Lithuanian districts.

## European added value

EU funding enabled project partners to implement many activities covering the whole country. It also allowed them to experiment, test and find the most attractive ways to reach young people and to get them interested in self-awareness, career opportunities, planning and implementation.

## Sustainability measures

During the implementation of this project a marketing strategy that can help reach out to young unemployed people, inform them about the different options that exist for them, and motivate them to participate was created. This acquired and tested knowledge can be used further throughout Youth Guarantee activities following the completion of the project.

## Activities implemented

- Creation of a new information platform, integrated into the national YG website;
- Creation of a mobile application;
- Organisation of 3 conferences;
- Organisation of 10 round tables in 10 municipalities of Lithuania;
- Creation of 6 motivational clips;
- Organisation of a creative contest;
- 60 informative events in youth centres and labour exchange offices;
- Implementation of "Get to know" open door campaign;
- Organisation of 15 motivational events-seminars for NEETs;
- Production of a publicity package for youth (USB flash drives, umbrellas, touch screen cleaners, water bottles, thermos mugs, head phones, jumpers);
- Press and media relations, advertising;
- Production of an informative film;
- Communication on social media;
- Documentation and dissemination of 5 success stories;
- Sociological survey on the impact of dissemination, information sharing and outreach activities;
- External evaluation of the project.

## Coordinator

Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists

## Partners

The Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania, European Movement Lithuania, the Association 'Langas į ateitį,' the Association of Lithuanian Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Crafts, The Lithuanian Trade Union 'Solidarity,' the Lithuanian Student Union, The Chamber of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania, Public Enterprise Project Management and Training Centre

## Project/organisation website

<https://www.jaunimogarantijos.lt/lt/>  
[www.lpk.lt](http://www.lpk.lt)

## 4. EaSI-funded organisations

The EaSI programme has a crucial role to play in promoting the involvement of civil society through financial support for the key EU-level NGO networks. The programme supports these networks with the aim of boosting their capacity to participate in and influence decision-making and policy implementation at both EU and national levels. Furthermore, such involvement fosters accountability and transparency of authorities and increases the relevance of policy responses.

Below the report describes activities implemented in 2016 by 10 EaSI-supported organisations active in the promotion of social inclusion, poverty reduction, microfinance and social enterprise finance<sup>5</sup>. These organisations are major EU-level networks working in different areas of social policy and holding four-year Framework Partnership Agreements with the European Commission.

The overall goal of the funded organisations is to support the Commission's social investment approach at national and local levels as well as the implementation of the Social Investment Package (SIP), the Social Business Initiative and the Europe 2020 Strategy. **The organisations also contribute to the key principles set out in the new European Pillar of Social Rights**, including gender equality, work-life balance, support to children, the inclusion of people with disabilities and long-term care, as well as to targets of Europe's 2020 Strategy in terms of employment and fighting poverty and social exclusion. To this end, the following types of activities were implemented in 2016:

- **support for the Commission in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of initiatives undertaken toward the policy objectives** of the Europe 2020 Strategy and the Social Investment Package and the Social Business Initiative; support for the main EU-driven processes such as the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) on social protection and social inclusion and the European Semester<sup>6</sup>;
- **support for stakeholders' involvement** in the policy process, including voicing the concerns and expectations of organisations facilitating access for (potential) entrepreneurs from disadvantaged and under-represented groups and social enterprises to finance;
- **strengthening the capacity** of the networks' members;
- **providing data and a strong evidence base** on policy developments and trends as well as collecting relevant information about citizens' concerns and good practices in the social policy field in the Member States, to contribute to better policy-making.

Maps indicating the geographical coverage of actions are not provided in the project fiches of organisations, since most of them cover the whole of Europe and beyond.

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<sup>(5)</sup> Funded under the Call for Proposals for Operating Grants Open to EU-Level NGO Networks that have signed a Framework Partnership Agreement for 2014-2017 and are active in the Area of Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction or Microfinance and Social Enterprise Finance (VP/2015/010).

<sup>(6)</sup> Introduced in 2010, the European Semester provides a framework for the coordination of economic policies across the European Union and addressing common economic challenges. Every year the Commission undertakes a detailed analysis of each Member State's plans for budget, macroeconomic and structural reforms. It then provides EU governments with country-specific recommendations for the next 12-18 months. Policy decisions in response to the country-specific recommendations are made by the national government in question, based on whatever action they deem appropriate.



### 4.1.1. EAPN

*'In 2016, Members of the network assessed progress on Social Europe and delivery on the Europe 2020 Strategy targets on poverty reduction, employment and education.'*

**Call identification number:** VP/2015/010

**Grant identification number:** VS/2016/0038

**Policy area:** Social protection and social inclusion

**Policy sub-area:** Youth employment; Combat long-term unemployment; Fight against poverty and social exclusion; Promotion of a high level of quality and sustainable employment; Guarantee adequate and decent social protection; Combat discrimination; Transnational dimension.

**Implementing/participating countries:** EU Member States, Norway, Iceland, Serbia and FYR Macedonia

**Project duration:** 1 January 2016 – 31 December 2016

**EU contribution in euros:** 938 447.97

**Target groups:** National, regional and local authorities; Specialist bodies provided for under Union law; Social partners; Non-governmental organisations; Higher education institutions and research institutes; Experts in evaluation and in impact assessment; Media.

The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) is the largest European network of national, regional and local organisations, including anti-poverty NGOs and grass-roots groups, as well as European organisations active in the fight against poverty and social exclusion. It was established in 1990 and currently brings together more than 6 000 organisations and grass-roots groups.

#### Aims of the project/organisation

EAPN aims to work for a Social Europe free of poverty and social exclusion with access to economic, social and cultural rights for all. To achieve this, it seeks a fair distribution of wealth, accessible quality employment, high levels of social protection, the combat of discrimination and the meaningful participation of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion through organisations that represent them.

#### Project results, measured impacts, achievements, lessons learned

Through its national networks, EAPN has brought together experiences from all EU Member States into coherent positions, linking them directly to relevant EU policy processes. In 2016, EAPN published its assessment of the 2016 Country-Specific Recommendations (CSRs), which was based on inputs from national networks and European organisations in their membership. Members of the network assessed progress on Social Europe and delivery on the Europe 2020 Strategy targets on poverty reduction, employment and education. The report together with a detailed country-by-country analysis is available on the web.

EAPN also produced the report 'Assessment of the National Reform Programmes 2016 – What Progress on Social Europe?', which was referenced in a letter to the European Commission President Juncker, sent on 11 October, regarding the preparation of the Annual Growth Survey 2017. By this letter the network urged the European Commission to embrace a more transformative social and economic agenda, underpinned by real democratic accountability and participation, starting with the Annual Growth Survey 2017 priorities.

The engagement of EAPN members in the European Semester process resulted in the 'Analysis of the 2017 Annual Growth Survey' and Joint Employment Report called 'Delivering on the Promises of a Better Social Europe?' and the EAPN 'Position

Paper on the European Pillar of Social Rights – Last Chance for Social Europe?' in September 2016.

Another key achievement in 2016 was the hosting of a Policy Conference with the focus on the European Pillar of Social Rights, which resulted in a recommendation on the Social Pillar. Like in previous years, EAPN has organised the annual European Meetings of People Experiencing Poverty as a contribution and a catalyst for national participation process. In total, EAPN organised 5 high-level events, which reached 327 participants and 9 capacity-building actions for its members, which attracted 171 participants.

#### Identification of potential good practices

In 2016, EAPN organised 12 exchanges of good practices, peer reviews and mutual learning events, which attracted 280 participants in total. In addition, it published a selection of good practices aimed at eradicating energy poverty in Europe. This was a side project of the Energy Poverty Handbook, co-authored with MEP Tamas Meszerics, Building Performance Institute Europe and Housing Europe. The booklet presents projects that delivered large-scale physical interventions to offer energy advice, smart metering or financial support for energy poor households, as well as bottom-up projects which actively involve the households in need. Lessons learned are also discussed, and success factors and elements of sustainability are reviewed.

#### Policy evidence generated by the project

In addition to the analytical reports mentioned above, EAPN produced a barometer report 'Monitoring the implementation of the 20% of the European Social Fund that should be devoted to fight against poverty 2014-2020' and the EAPN booklet 'The contribution of meaningful Social Innovation to reducing poverty and social exclusion in Europe' in 2016.

#### Dissemination strategy

The EAPN Flash (electronic newsletter), which includes links to the key documents and outputs, is regularly sent to about 2000 recipients. There is also a key documents page with all documents from multiple years publicly available on the web. EAPN reaches about 1 700 users through its targeted mailing system, as well as users on Facebook, Twitter (@EAPNEurope) and [www.issuu.com \(http://issuu.com/eapneurope\)](http://issuu.com/eapneurope).

## European added value

The key added value of EAPN was that it brought the voice of people experiencing poverty and those working at ground level into the policy debate and the implementation of EU policies at EU, national, regional and local levels.

## Sustainability measures

Some of the key areas for policy follow-up in 2017 identified by EAPN include the following:

- a transformative EU strategy that invests in social rights, and reduces poverty and inequality;
- concrete measures to guarantee social standards, starting with a Minimum Income Directive and Golden Rule on social protection spending;
- using EU funds to deliver on social rights – a new EU poverty and inequality programme, underpinned by an anti-poverty strategy to deliver on the Europe 2020 poverty target;
- use of the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived and the European Social Fund (ESF), specifically monitoring the 20% of ESF for social inclusion;
- rights-based approaches to migration, refugees and asylum seekers;
- adequate minimum income schemes;
- energy poverty;
- mainstreaming the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights explicitly through the European Semester.

### **Activities implemented**

- Key policy work;
- Alliance building;
- Capacity building and funding;
- Engagement of people experiencing poverty;
- Communication;
- Internal governance

### **Coordinator**

Réseau européen des associations de lutte contre la pauvreté et l'exclusion sociale (Belgium)

### **Partners**

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### **Project/organisation website**

[www.eapn.eu](http://www.eapn.eu)

## 4.1.2. FEANTSA

*'In 2016 FEANTSA launched the Housing First Europe Guide and set up a Housing First Europe Hub, which is a new platform to promote and scale one of the most promising approaches listed in the SIP.'*

**Call identification number:** VP/2015/010

**Grant identification number:** VS/2016/0044

**Policy area:** Social protection and social inclusion

**Policy sub-area:** Youth employment; Fight against poverty and social exclusion; Promotion of equality between women and men; Guarantee adequate and decent social protection; Combat discrimination.

**Implementing/participating countries:** Over 130 member organisations in 30 countries, including 28 EU Member States.

**Project duration:** 1 January 2016 – 31 December 2016

**EU contribution in euros:** 963 160.78

**Target groups:** National, regional and local authorities; Specialist bodies provided for under Union law; Non-governmental organisations; Higher education institutions and research institutes; National statistical offices; Media; Others (people experiencing homelessness, young professionals from the homelessness sector, foundations)

FEANTSA was established in 1989 as a European non-governmental organisation to prevent and alleviate the poverty and social exclusion of people threatened by or living in homelessness. It is the only major European network that focuses exclusively on homelessness. Most of FEANTSA's members are national or regional umbrella organisations of service providers that support homeless people with a wide range of services, including housing, health, employment and social support.

### Socioeconomic context

Evidence from across Europe points to a worsening homelessness situation, reaching record numbers across all Member States, except Finland. National upward trends show that millions of people are being left behind by inadequate policies, leading to dramatic consequences for European social cohesion and economic stability.

### Aims of the project/organisation

In 2016, the action aimed to strengthen the evidence base for EU, national and local policies addressing homelessness, and focus on the most promising practices such as Housing First. It also sought the inclusion of homelessness in the most relevant EU processes, especially the European Semester and the European Pillar of Social Rights.

### Project results, measured impacts, achievements, lessons learned

In 2016 FEANTSA supported the Commission by providing inputs for the country reports on homelessness and producing analysis of country reports and CSRs with a special focus on housing and health. Its lobbying efforts resulted in a reference to the right to shelter for homeless people as part of the right to housing (principle 19) in the Pillar.

Based on the guidelines on homelessness provided by the Social Investment Package (SIP), the federation contributed to the development of homelessness strategies for the Basque Country, Catalonia and Flanders.

FEANTSA's annual European policy conference brought

together 300 homelessness practitioners from across Europe and beyond to showcase innovative practices that address homelessness, and to stimulate policy debate on current and future challenges. During the conference, the 2nd edition of the Housing Exclusion in Europe report was presented. It includes trends in homelessness and evictions in Europe, the European index of housing exclusion and monitoring of European case-law in relation to housing.

### Innovativeness of the project/activities

Housing First is arguably the most important innovation in homelessness service design in the last 30 years in the way that it uses housing as a starting point rather than an end goal, especially for people who need significant levels of support to enable them to leave homelessness. In 2016 FEANTSA launched the Housing First Europe Guide and set up a Housing First Europe Hub, which is a new platform to promote and scale one of the most promising approaches listed in the SIP. The Hub includes 15 partners and already has a governance structure, an annual budget, a strategy and a work plan. In addition, the federation was actively involved in the Belgian peer review on Housing First.

### Policy evidence generated by the project

The European Observatory on Homelessness, set up by FEANTSA in 1992, has become a lead actor in transnational homelessness research in Europe and beyond. Three editions of the Journal on Homelessness were published in 2016, as well as analysis and concrete policy suggestions on the link between homelessness and free movement, impact of the asylum crisis on homelessness, and the precarious situation of migrants in transit. The annual research conference, organised in cooperation with the Social Research Institute of Denmark and supported by the Danish Ministry of Social Affairs, attracted 150 participants, mostly academics and presented about 30 research papers on homelessness.

### New partnerships created

In 2016 FEANTSA, together with Friends of Europe, Fondation Abbé Pierre and Housing Europe, initiated the creation of a new European Platform to identify and promote affordable

housing solutions for people who are not 'served' by the existing housing market.

## Dissemination strategy

EU support allowed FEANTSA to redesign its website and run 3 additional websites, which are major European online resources on homelessness. In addition, it published and disseminated 3 thematic magazines, 11 monthly news Flashes, 1 Migration newsletter, 2 Health newsletters and 2 Local homelessness newsletters. In 2016, FEANTSA increased its presence on social media, with more than 6 000 followers of the related Twitter accounts and over 3 000 likes on Facebook.

## European added value

EU funding has contributed to FEANTSA's efforts to put homelessness issues on the EU policy agenda. It provided a platform for homelessness stakeholders to get involved in transnational cooperation and networking. The European Observatory on Homelessness has been a key tool to promote, facilitate and disseminate research on homelessness across Member States and beyond. A housing exclusion index (based on EU-SILC) developed by FEANTSA in 2016 serves as a tool for Member States to monitor and benchmark their performance in the field of homelessness.

## Gender equality

Homelessness is predominantly a masculine problem, but most Member States face an increasing number of homeless women. Because of FEANTSA's lobbying efforts, the EPSCO Council and the European Parliament have put women's homelessness as a priority issue on the agenda for EU activities on gender equality. FEANTSA's lobbying is expected to materialise in a European study on women's homelessness in 2017 or 2018. In addition, FEANTSA has produced a statement paper on the links between violence against women and homelessness. The federation has included women's homelessness as a priority issue for its annual convention in 2017.

### **Activities implemented**

- Academic research (focused on migration);
- Identification and promotion of best practices (focused on Housing First);
- Training (with toolkits focusing on health and free movement);
- Lobbying (focused on gender and youth);
- Communication (focused on the role of the EU in supporting Member States to combat homelessness)

### **Coordinator**

Fédération Européenne des Associations Nationales  
Travaillant avec les Sans-Abri (Belgium)

### **Partners**

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### **Project/organisation website**

<http://www.feantsa.org>

[www.habitact.eu](http://www.habitact.eu)

[www.housingrightswatch.org](http://www.housingrightswatch.org)

[www.housingfirstguide.eu](http://www.housingfirstguide.eu)

### 4.1.3. The European Social Network

*‘The study “Investing in Children’s Services, Improving Outcomes” marked the end of a three-year project implemented in 14 European countries, and is probably the most comprehensive report on cross-comparison of children’s policies and services in Europe today.’<sup>(7)</sup>*

**Call identification number:** VP/2015/010

**Grant identification number:** VS/2016/0048

**Policy area:** Social Protection and Social Inclusion

**Policy sub-area:** Youth employment; Combat long-term unemployment; Fight against poverty and social exclusion; Promotion of equality between women and men; Promotion of a high level of quality and sustainable employment; Guarantee adequate and decent social protection; Combat discrimination; Transnational dimension.

**Implementing/participating countries:** ESN members in 35 countries

**Project duration:** 1 January 2016 – 31 December 2016

**EU contribution in euros:** 858 696.82

**Target groups:** National, regional and local authorities; Employment services; Social partners; Non-governmental organisations; Higher education institutions and research institutes; Experts in evaluation and in impact assessment; Media; Social services users’ representatives; Associations of social services professionals.

Since 1992, the European Social Network (ESN) has brought together key stakeholders from European, national, regional and local level governance with the aim of generating debate, facilitating learning and informing policy-making in the field of social services. Currently ESN unites over 120 member organisations in 35 countries.

#### Aims of the project/organisation

ESN’s strategic objectives for 2016 were aligned to key themes in the European Commission’s agenda, specifically the modernisation of social protection throughout the life-course, the efficiency and adequacy of social policies, social progress and the reinforcement of the social dimension of the European Union.

#### Project results, measured impacts, achievements, lessons learned

In 2016, ESN’s monitoring of the European Semester process achieved the highest level of involvement so far, with the European Semester Reference Group bringing together 25 country reports into an overall report on the Semester process from a social services perspective. The annual report entitled ‘Connecting Europe with local communities – Social services priorities for the European Semester 2017’ provides an input on why and how the role of local and regional authorities in the European Semester process can be strengthened in the future.

In cooperation with the Slovak Presidency of the EU, ESN organised a seminar on social services’ workforce, which brought together 103 participants to discuss issues of service planning and coordination, new technology for planning and training, joint work between professionals, workforce’s role in quality, and EU mobility of the social services’ workforce. The seminar will feed into the ESN’s analytical report that will be published on this topic in 2017.

One of the key results in 2016 was a two-day event at the European Parliament which launched the study ‘Investing in Children’s Services, Improving Outcomes.’ It marked the end

of a three-year project implemented in 14 European countries. The study assesses how key principles of the European Commission’s Recommendation ‘Investing in children: breaking the cycle of disadvantage’ are implemented in practice. According to one of the speakers, this is probably the most comprehensive report on cross-comparison of children’s policies and services in Europe today. More than 100 participants from 21 countries met to discuss key issues identified in the report on unaccompanied children and integrated children’s social services to inform future work on child protection.

Several events were held by ESN thematic working groups to share good practices on how to promote quality services. A second workshop on youth took place in Athens and brought together some of the issues raised in the 2015 workshop around joint work between social services, education and employment for young people with complex needs, with a specific focus on young people in the criminal justice system. Members of the working group on disability met in Bulgaria to address key issues for the development of community-based social services, including service quality and user involvement in service planning, implementation and evaluation. The working group on ageing and care met in Belgium and addressed investment in the social services workforce with a focus on informal care, and ICT-based social services to address social isolation and support care needs at home. In total, 6 mutual learning events were held in 2016, and attracted 154 participants.

#### Identification of potential good practices

The ESN has put together a practice repository, which aims to provide its members and the interested public with an insight into the field of social services across a range of target groups and themes. The repository is regularly supplemented with new practices and is a key resource for social service professionals. It is publicly available through the ESN website.

#### Dissemination strategy

Outputs produced by ESN in 2016 were disseminated through

(7) As expressed by one of the speakers at the European Parliament event launching the study “Investing in Children’s Services, Improving outcomes”.

monthly newsletters to ESN members (sent to about 2 000 members), monthly newsletters to a general audience (sent to about 12 000 contacts) and placements on the website (approached by about 39 305 visitors). They were also shared through targeted communication with stakeholders and media, as well as through social media, the LinkedIn group Social Services in Europe (<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4644372>) with 428 members and the Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/ESNsocial>) with 1 579 followers.

## European added value

During 2016, ESN made considerable efforts to contribute to EU policy debates and development in the social policy field. For example, it made inputs into several of the EU's main social policy initiatives such as the social dimension of the EU semester process, the implementation of the Recommendation on investing in children, the consultation on the disability strategy and the consultation on an EU Pillar of Social Rights. In addition, ESN raised awareness of EU policies among its members at local level, enhanced networking and the exchange of good practices among its members and those active in delivering social services and addressing the issues of poverty and social exclusion.

## Sustainability measures

2017 is the year when ESN will have to decide on its priorities for the coming period. A few areas that are likely to be of concern to ESN members and the EU include the following: the social services work force including issues of mobility and transferability of qualifications; the services for children; the integration of refugees and asylum seekers; ensuring quality in informal care and the role of social services in supporting carers; ensuring quality and developing integrated services.

### **Activities implemented**

- Knowledge exchange activities including a seminar on social services workforce, a workshop on youth and 4 meetings of working groups on ageing and care and disability services;
- Peer-learning programmes, including a report on investing in children's services and peer-learning visits of directors of social services;
- Research-based activities including the mapping of services for young people, the development of children services country profiles and the evaluation frameworks for social services programmes.

### **Coordinator**

European Social Network LBG (the UK)

### **Partners**

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### **Project/organisation website**

[www.esn-eu.org](http://www.esn-eu.org)

## 4.1.4. EUROCIITIES

*'In 2016 a real policy change in Gdansk took place due to the exchange of good practices among cities on refugee and migrant integration and inclusive labour markets.'*

**Call identification number:** VP/2015/010

**Grant identification number:** VS/2016/0039

**Policy area:** Social Protection and Social Inclusion

**Policy sub-area:** Youth employment; Combat long-term unemployment; Fight against poverty and social exclusion; Promotion of a high level of quality and sustainable employment; Guarantee adequate and decent social protection; Combat discrimination; Transnational dimension.

**Implementing/participating countries:** EUROCIITIES

member cities in 39 countries

**Project duration:** 1 January 2016 – 31 December 2016

**EU contribution in euros:** 751 340.72

**Target groups:** National, regional and local authorities; Employment services; Social partners; Non-governmental organisations; Higher education institutions and research institutes; Media.

EUROCIITIES network was founded in 1986 and brings together local governments of over 135 of Europe's largest cities and over 45 partner cities across 39 countries. It offers its members a platform for sharing knowledge and exchanging ideas and aims to shift the focus of EU legislation in a way which allows city governments to tackle strategic challenges at the local level.

### Aims of the project/organisation

The EUROCIITIES Social Affairs Forum (SAF) is one of the six thematic fora through which day-to-day work of the network is conducted. In 2016 its priorities were to promote social cohesion and inclusive labour markets, and tackle deep-seated poverty, with a focus on the reception and integration of refugees. The EaSI grant was used to support activities of the SAF and achieve objectives of the grant agreement.

### Project results, measured impacts, achievements, lessons learned

In 2016 EUROCIITIES improved knowledge of its members on the European Social Pillar through regular policy briefings. It engaged senior policy-makers, both politicians and city administrators, in EU social policy development through a high-level roundtable discussion on inclusive labour markets and other high-level events on affordable housing and refugee integration.

To inform EU social policy-making, EUROCIITIES produced several policy statements and reports, based on consultations with the cities, for example, on the European Pillar of Social Rights, on the reception and integration of refugees and asylum seekers in cities, on the implementation of Youth Guarantee schemes and national Roma integration strategies at the local level, etc. Some of the reports resulted in the development of new EU-level databases, fed into new studies and led to the creation of new partnerships, for example, a group of practitioners from 28 cities willing to exchange knowledge and practice on how to prevent radicalisation and violent extremism.

In 2016 EUROCIITIES carried out several activities for its members aimed at information sharing and learning. For example, 2 meetings of the SAF were held: one in Nantes (focusing on the involvement of citizens in social innovation) and one in Athens (focusing on the inclusion of refugees). These

events were attended by over 100 representatives of the cities, including politicians, who shared transferable practices and discussed opportunities for joint actions (such as the Solidity cities initiative on refugee reception and integration).

### Identification of potential good practices

EUROCIITIES acts as a platform for its members to share knowledge and exchange ideas which have a direct impact on policies at the local level. For example, representatives from Barcelona and Ghent visited Gdansk in April 2016 to discuss the situation of migrant integration in the city and identify some potential areas for development. After intensive discussions with key stakeholders, the participants drew up a series of recommendations and drafted an action plan, which were included in the final 'Gdansk Integration Model' and adopted by the city council in June 2016. This city-to-city mentoring scheme used by the members of EUROCIITIES is considered to be a cost-effective model for local policy development and could be replicated across Europe.

### Policy evidence generated by the project

Policy evidence underpinned most of the activities implemented by EUROCIITIES in 2016 and served as a basis for mutual learning of its members. It focused on high-priority issues, such as anti-radicalisation, the refugee crisis, skills development, homelessness, etc. For example, the report 'City Responses on Preventing Radicalisation and Violent Extremism: Social Inclusion as a Tool?' examines different approaches and strategies used in 28 major cities, and their impact on funding and human resources. The findings show that addressing social inclusion issues such as education, inequality and poverty is key to success.

In 2016 EUROCIITIES launched 2 new thematic websites: 1) Solidarity Cities ([www.solidaritycities.eu](http://www.solidaritycities.eu)) is an initiative on the management of the refugee crisis, launched by the city of Athens. It provides a comprehensive platform for the collection of information, reports and initiatives of member cities in receiving and integrating migrants, and calling for greater solidarity across Europe; 2) Cities at Work ([www.citiesatwork.eu](http://www.citiesatwork.eu)) is a comprehensive platform for information, reports and initiatives of member cities on the promotion of inclusive labour markets, skills development for social inclusion, and social entrepreneurship.

## Dissemination strategy

Publicity measures aimed at awareness raising included: 3 online SAF newsletters, 3 websites, 1 twitter account, 2 videos, 45 articles on EUROCIITIES flash newsletter, 7 Articles in the EU, National or local press and 6 SAF policy updates. There were 2 153 downloads of EUROCIITIES publications from the social affairs publication section of the [www.eurocities.eu](http://www.eurocities.eu) site.

## European added value

With the support of the EaSI grant, EU policy-making has been enriched with good practices from the local level, with the analysis of challenges faced by the cities in implementing such policies as migration and integration, skills, the Youth Guarantee and the EU urban agenda, and with suggestions for their improvement. Dedicated programmes for mutual learning and knowledge transfer have been created among local public administrations on Roma integration, migrant integration, social housing, inclusive labour markets, active inclusion of homeless people, social innovation and inclusive public services. Finally, in 2016 real policy change in Gdansk took place due to the transfer of good practices among cities on refugee and migrant integration and inclusive labour markets.

## Sustainability measures

The network will continue its work on the inclusion of refugees and the creation of inclusive labour markets in cities through the EUROCIITIES Solidarity Cities initiative and the EUROCIITIES Declaration on Work, respectively. It will engage its members in support for the Commission in the development and implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights through EUROCIITIES high-level roundtable discussions and other events.

### **Activities implemented**

- 10 reports (surveys, studies, analyses and expertise);
- 7 exchanges of good practice, peer reviews and mutual learning events;
- 5 conferences, seminars and other high-level events;
- 67 information and communication actions;
- 4 events supporting capacity building actions;
- 16 events supporting networking and cooperation meetings

### **Coordinator**

EUROCIITIES ASBL (Belgium)

### **Partners**

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### **Project/organisation website**

[www.eurocities.eu](http://www.eurocities.eu)

[www.solidaritycities.eu](http://www.solidaritycities.eu)

[www.citiesatwork.eu](http://www.citiesatwork.eu)



## 4.1.5. EuroHealthNet

*'The network collected 85 news items on good practices in tackling health inequalities and their social determinants and made them publicly accessible via the renewed database on the [www.health-inequalities](http://www.health-inequalities) website.'*

**Call identification number:** VP/2015/010

**Grant identification number:** VS/2016/0037

**Policy area:** Social protection and social inclusion

**Policy sub-area:** Youth employment; Fight against poverty and social exclusion; Promotion of a high level of quality and sustainable employment; Guarantee adequate and decent social protection; Combat discrimination.

**Implementing/participating countries:** Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Wales

**Project duration:** 1 January 2016 – 31 December 2016

**EU contribution in euros:** 496 662.32

**Target groups:** National, regional and local authorities; Social partners; Non-governmental organisations; Higher education institutions and research institutes; National statistical offices; Media.

EuroHealthNet, established in 1996, is a not-for-profit partnership of organisations, agencies and statutory bodies working on public health, disease prevention, health promotion and reducing inequalities. Its members are national and regional institutes, academic and research centres, national and regional authorities and government departments. EuroHealthNet supports their work in the EU and associated states through policy and project development, networking and communications.

### Aims of the project/organisation

Two major aims of the EuroHealthNet are: 1) to improve and sustain health between and within European States through action on the social determinants of health, and 2) to tackle health inequalities.

### Project results, measured impacts, achievements, lessons learned

EuroHealthNet acts as a knowledge broker between the health and social systems, and makes sure the public health community is actively engaged in priority areas of EU policy. In 2016, it focused particularly on policy developments around the potential European Pillar of Social Rights, which brings together policy areas related to the social determinants of health. The network further addressed the factors that shape health and social inequalities by supporting the Social Protection Committee and involving it in discussions on social sustainability. A high-level conference 'Sustainable Societies: Health and Social Investment in the EU' took stock of UN, EU and Member State tools that advance investments for a sustainable society and presented examples and good practices of investment from EU Member States and regions. The conference was attended by 116 people from around 25 countries.

Two study visits were organised to create and develop connections between representatives of health promotion agencies from different Member States. The visit in Slovenia addressed cross-sector collaboration for healthy and active ageing, while the visit in Wales focused on sustainable development approaches to health and health equity. Country

visits to 10 other Member States were initiated. Because of extra activities originally not planned, the REJUVENATE framework was developed. This is a ten-point reference tool designed to address and tackle the major health, social, economic and environmental sustainability factors ahead to 2030, globally and locally.

### Identification of potential good practices

The network collected 85 news items on good practices in tackling health inequalities and their social determinants and made them publicly accessible via the renewed database on the [www.health-inequalities](http://www.health-inequalities) website.

### Policy evidence generated by the project

In 2016, EuroHealthNet collected and disseminated data and evidence on policy developments and trends to tackle health and social inequalities through thematic reports, local case studies and good practices. For example, the policy brief 'Making the Link: Migration, Refugees and Health Needs' presents good practices in receiving and integrating refugees and asylum seekers implemented in some members of the EuroHealthNet, and outlines areas where progress can be made.

Another policy brief highlights that the European Pillar of Social Rights can address health inequalities by helping re-integrate vulnerable groups into the labour market, by improving the quality of work and by promoting affordable, high-quality pre-natal and early years' services. The EuroHealthNet analysis of the 2016 EU Semester process concludes that there is an increased awareness of the need for policies related to children and families, and the need for fiscally sustainable health care systems is recognised among most CSRs relating to health. The issue of access to health is increasingly raised, but vulnerable people, children or migrants are not directly mentioned.

### New partnerships created

In 2016, 7 new organisations joined EuroHealthNet. The network has implemented joint activities with EAPN, Eurochild,

Eurodiaconia, Age Platform, Smoke Free Partnership, EPHA, MHE, FEANTSA, European Youth Forum, Eurocarers and other.

### Dissemination strategy

Increased online presence of the network resulted in an increase of 7 960 views and 4 698 visitors since the previous year. The Healthy Ageing site was updated in 2016 and received 9 413 visits between the end of July and December. By the end of 2016, EuroHealthNet had approximately 3 000 Twitter followers, 906 Facebook likes, and 1 114 LinkedIn followers. Hard copies of reports were disseminated at events, conferences and meetings, while digital communications were disseminated through email, websites, social media, newsletters and the EuroHealthNet online magazine.

### European added value

Due to EaSI funding, EuroHealthNet acted as a leader of a thematic network of NGOs and stakeholders that are part of the EU Health Policy Forum and developed a joint statement for action on health and equity. It has worked closely with partners from the health, social, research, environmental, economic and other sectors to stimulate social investment actions and the engagement of stakeholders on the ground. The network has maintained and regularly updated a database of good practices in tackling health inequalities and their social determinants and promoted the exchange of good practices by organising 2 study visits in Slovenia and Wales.

### Sustainability measures

The network will further strengthen the engagement of its members and stakeholders in the strategic issues of a potential EU Pillar of Social Rights, the EU Semester and the EU Solidarity Corps. It will continue a systematic monitoring of relevant sectors and inter-sectoral work, which is essential in implementing policies related to the social, economic and other determinants of health.

### **Activities implemented**

- Development, monitoring and evaluation of initiatives undertaken toward the policy objectives of Europe 2020 Strategy and in particular the Social Investment Package (SIP);
- Supporting stakeholders' involvement in the EU and national policy processes through information sharing and learning activities;
- Strengthening the capacity of EuroHealthNet members to support the implementation of EU priorities;
- Providing data and strong evidence base on policy developments and trends in the social policy field in the Member States, so as to contribute to better policy-making.

### **Coordinator**

EUROHEALTHNET AISBL (Belgium)

### **Partners**

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### **Project/organisation website**

<http://eurohealthnet.eu>

## 4.1.6. ENSIE

*'In 2016 ENSIE developed a methodological tool to measure social and economic impact of Work Integration Social Enterprises (WISE's), which was applied in 10 member organisations from 9 EU countries.'*

**Call identification number:** VP/2015/010

**Grant identification number:** VS/2016/0036

**Policy area:** Social Protection and Social Inclusion, Employment and Social Economy

**Policy sub-area:** Youth employment; Combat long-term unemployment; Fight against poverty and social exclusion; Promotion of a high level of quality and sustainable employment; Combat discrimination; Transnational dimension.

**Implementing/participating countries:** ENSIE members in 21 European countries

**Project duration:** 1 January 2016 – 31 December 2016

**EU contribution in euros:** 129 246.82

**Target groups:** National, regional and local authorities; Employment services; Social partners; Non-governmental organisations; Experts in evaluation and in impact assessment; Others (disadvantaged people).

Since its foundation in 2001, the European Network of Social Integration Enterprises (ENSIE) represents networks and federations of work integration social enterprises (WISEs) with the objective of contributing to a sustainable development within the European Union. At the moment, ENSIE gathers 28 national and regional networks from 21 European countries.

### Project results, measured impacts, achievements, lessons learned

In 2016, ENSIE was engaged in European lobbying work through direct participation in debates, meetings and conferences on topics related to social policies, EU 2020 target and the SIP. It participated in activities of the European Commission Expert Group on Social Entrepreneurship (GECES) and produced, among others, 4 policy recommendations, 2 press releases and 5 contributions to EC consultations regarding the promotion of quality and sustainable job creation for vulnerable groups. The network organised 2 high-level events, which attracted 94 participants.

At the national level, ENSIE organised information and good practice exchange sessions for its members; these focused on the European Semester process, active labour market measures, access to finance (including EaSI guarantee, EFSI Social Equity and ESIF), migrants, NEETs and citizenship and the participation of disadvantaged workers. In total, 14 exchanges of good practice, peer reviews and mutual learning events, which attracted 321 participants, were organised. In addition, the practices of ENSIE members in youth integration were collected in a publication 'NEETs integration and WISEs.'

### Policy evidence generated by the project

ENSIE maintains and regularly updates a database on WISEs in several European countries. It has also developed a methodological tool to measure the social and economic impact of WISE's (Impact WISE's tool). The tool was disseminated among 17 members and applied in 10 member organisations from 9 EU countries. As a result, 12 954 disadvantaged workers from 807 WISEs were interviewed. The interview data shows that WISEs have positive outcomes for 65% of people engaged in them as a pathway to integration:

- 48.5% found a job in the same WISE, in another WISE

or in the open labour market;

- 16.5% became self-entrepreneurs or found a professional training;
- 35% have other outcomes such as unemployment, illness or death.

These figures demonstrate that WISEs are efficient, especially in the framework of active labour market measures implemented by public authorities to develop this type of enterprise and favour the integration of people most excluded from the labour market and society.

Results of a study based on the Impact WISE's tool were presented during a public seminar 'Being WISE toward EU2020 strategy!' held at the European Parliament on 17 November 2016.

### New partnerships created

The network welcomed two new members from Hungary and Czech Republic, and also strengthened contacts with other EU-level organisations, such as members of the Social Platform, Social Economy Europe, Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of Social Solidarity Economy, European Migration Network and others. In total, 42 contacts and meetings with partners took place in 2016.

### Dissemination strategy

Outputs produced by ENSIE were disseminated online through its website, emailing and social media, while printed copies of the reports were disseminated during events at national and regional levels. Online dissemination activities in 2016 resulted in 8 969 website visits, 947 Facebook likes and 702 Twitter followers.

### European added value

The exchange of good practices that took place in 2016, especially that on the integration of migrants and NEETs, was highly appreciated by the members of the network. They placed great value in getting this kind of information to improve their own performance. Therefore, ENSIE plans to continue the exchanges of good practices among its members to increase the European added value.

## Sustainability measures

In 2017, the network will continue its activities linked to the promotion of the social economy, in particular WISEs and provide evidence of their impact on the integration of disadvantaged people in Europe.

## Gender equality measures

Gender equality was not directly addressed by the network in 2016. However, ENSIE contributed to studies carried out by the European Women's Lobby on women social entrepreneurs in Belgium and Luxembourg. The studies showed the impact of women entrepreneurs and set up some recommendations to favour adequate frameworks for entrepreneurship and gender equality in the research countries. Gender balance was kept in all events organised by the network in 2016.

### **Activities implemented**

- European lobbying carried out;
- Networking and lobbying with members;
- The network's structure reinforced;
- The database on Work Integration Social Enterprises (WISEs) in Europe updated, published and presented;
- European tool on social and economic impact measurement for WISEs developed;
- Exchange of practices on the impact of WISEs on disadvantaged groups: migrants and youth;
- Exchange of practices on the impact of WISEs in improving citizenship of vulnerable workers.

### **Coordinator**

European Network of Social Integration Enterprises (ENSIE)  
ASBL (Belgium)

### **Partners**

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### **Project/organisation website**

[www.ensie.org](http://www.ensie.org)

## 4.1.7. European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD)

*'A fundamental milestone has been reached in terms of cooperation with key stakeholders in the disability sector: The Joint Declaration on Developing Together the Support Services of Tomorrow was signed between EASPD and 5 key networks.'*

**Call identification number:** VP/2015/010

**Grant identification number:** VS/2016/0034

**Policy area:** Social Protection and Social Inclusion and Employment

**Policy sub-area:** Active inclusion; Housing exclusion and homelessness; Social Services of General Interest (SSGI); Local development

**Implementing/participating countries:** EASPD members in 33 European countries

**Project duration:** 1 January 2016 – 31 December 2016

**EU contribution in euros:** 484 419.20

**Target groups:** National, regional and local authorities; Social partners; Non-governmental organisations; Higher education institutions and research institutes; Media.

The European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD), a non-profit NGO, represents over 12 000 service providers for persons with disabilities from across Europe and across disability. **The main objective** of EASPD is to promote equal opportunities for people with disabilities through effective and high-quality service systems. They strive to deliver high-quality services promoting the full participation and inclusion in society of all persons with disabilities.

This action supports the implementation of EASPD's strategy 2014-2017 which is to 'reach out' and proactively and horizontally connect with the different stakeholders and cooperate on the ground, with extended focus from the disability sector to the social sector and to the mainstream actors in employment, education and independent living. To do so, the action was structured around the following three interlinked pillars:

- Impact: activities designed to give service providers a voice in Europe;
- Innovation: activities addressed to facilitate the modernization and development of services via evidence-based practice;
- Information: activities that make it possible to update members of the network on relevant policy developments and cooperation opportunities at the European-wide and the EU level, as well as communicating the key issues of grass-roots organisations to the actors at EU level.

### Results

Celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> operating anniversary, the core achievements of EASPD in 2016 can be grouped in 4 main areas:

- The work done around the European Semester. The pillar is seen as a tool to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Numerous reports were produced, seminars and fora organised to promote a more inclusive labour markets for all.
- The DRI team (Development, Research and Innovation) developed a funding information system 'EASPD EU Funding Information System' in order to provide practical guidance to EASPD network members to

increase their knowledge on EU-funded projects and help them to develop project proposals that can bring innovation to the sector.

- The new structure of the EASPD Secretariat and the newly established teams (Policy Team, DRI Team & Operations Team) developed. In addition, a new board, new executive committee and a new president were elected.
- EASPD has produced 14 papers on different issues relevant in the sector. For example, access to health and social services, employment and education for refugees and migrants with disabilities, user-led support services, raising awareness by promoting the exchange of information on the UN CRPD, exchanging and sharing models of good practice, informing its members on new developments in the disability field and raising awareness at the European and national levels.

### Policy evidence generated by the organisation

EASPD has continued intensive cooperation with the EC and the EP and maintained fruitful cooperation with the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), the Council of Europe and many different EU-wide networks. Overall, the network's communication, dissemination and promotional activities increased significantly, with an evident impact on the coverage of EASPD activities and publications. During 2016, EASPD produced 14 different publications on policy, activities and communication work.

### Potential good practices

A fundamental milestone has been reached in terms of cooperation with key stakeholders in the disability sector: *The Joint Declaration on Developing Together the Support Services of Tomorrow* was signed between EASPD and 5 key networks (EDF, ENIL, IE, MHE and COFACE). It represents a commitment to discuss the development of common position papers, research activities and projects on the development of support in the future.

### New partnerships created

EASPD and the European Union of Supported Employment (EUSE) signed a cooperation agreement on 26 May 2016 to work together toward the implementation of Article 27 of

the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) and promote the supported employment methodology. At the end of 2016, the EASPD network comprised of over 15 000 service providers for persons with disabilities from across Europe and across disability.

## Dissemination strategy

The network has a specific focus on striving for and supporting the UN CRPD and the European Disability Strategy (EDS), therefore, it disseminates information on these to its stakeholders via different channels, reaching the wider public through its website, social media and YouTube channel daily. During the year 2016, EASPD publicised more than 290 news items (in English and French) on the website, created a LinkedIn profile and launched a new communication tool – Videoflash which aims to provide news from the sector in a brief news video with interviews and guest speakers.

## European added value

EASPD and its network is an important player in the field of disability at the European level. Their work is essential in developing project ideas and consortia combining different stakeholders as well as disseminating project outcomes and outputs. Because of EASPD's work, its members and partners' capacity has been built in terms of how to effectively participate in the ES processes. EASPD provides a unique EU added value by bringing support services closer to the EU decision-making process and by providing the EU institutions, bodies and networks with first-hand information on the situation at the grass-roots level.

## Sustainability measures

More practical knowledge and work needs to be done to ensure result sustainability. First, more emphasis should be put on raising awareness among support services for persons with disabilities and among public authorities or service commissioners on how to implement co-production in practice. Second, it should be ensured that the EU prioritises the implementation of the UN CRPD. Therefore, it is important to increase activities at the national/local level and seek for a closer cooperation with national, regional and local authorities. Third, innovative services are needed to transform perceptions and ensure the enjoyment of rights for persons with disabilities while improving service sustainability. To this aim, it will be essential to reach out to all actors in society, especially mainstream actors in the employment, education, assistive technologies or community-based services sectors, therefore, the discussion of a new multiannual strategy for 2018 – 2021 started during the conference 'Support services of Tomorrow,'

### **Activities implemented**

- The new structure of EASPD Secretariat established;
- Dissemination to members on relevant policy developments and cooperation opportunities in Europe:
  - EASPD EU Funding Information System created;
  - Videoflash launched;
  - LinkedIn profile created;
  - website version in German created and launched;
- Communication to stakeholders on identified challenges, good practice, research outputs and other activities:
  - 14 publications on policy, activities and communication work;
  - 3 seminars at the European Parliament on job creation for staffs in services, Juncker Investment Plan and employment for persons with disabilities organised;
  - implementation report of the UNCRPD recommendations;
  - 2 side workshops in New-York during the annual meeting of the UN committee on the rights of persons with disabilities
  - developed a position paper detailing their view on what the European Pillar of Social Rights should look like and be able to do;
  - 2 cross-sectoral annual conferences: Early Childhood Intervention (Moldova); Support services of tomorrow and co-production (Brussels).
  - fora in several European countries to address issues of concern to support services and enhance knowledge of the European Semester.

### **Coordinator**

EASPD – European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (Belgium)

### **Partners**

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### **Project/organisation website**

[www.easpd.eu](http://www.easpd.eu)

## 4.1.8. Eurodiaconia

*'In 2016, Eurodiaconia played an important part in the discussion about the European Pillar of Social Rights. The organisation wanted to ensure that the European Pillar of Social Rights delivers on its commitment to upward social convergence and focused on the need for the Pillar to clarify the relationship between the adequacy and sustainability of social protection.'*

**Call identification number:** VP/2015/010

**Grant identification number:** VS/2016/0042

**Policy area:** Social Protection and Social Inclusion

**Policy sub-area:** Ageing; Active inclusion; Social Services of General Interest (SSGI); Housing exclusion and homelessness; Roma inclusion; Migration; Child and Youth poverty and social exclusion; Long-Term Unemployment; Social inclusion of migrants and refugees.

**Implementing/participating countries:** Eurodiaconia members in 32 countries

**Project duration:** 1 January 2016 – 31 December 2016

**EU contribution in euros:** 499 939.23

**Target groups:** National, regional and local authorities; Social partners; Non-governmental organisations; Higher education institutions and research institutes; Experts in evaluation and in impact assessment; Media.

Eurodiaconia is a European federation of social and health care organisations founded in the Christian faith and promoting social justice. Its network represents the needs and unique experiences of 45 national and regional organisations in 32 countries. Eurodiaconia provides its members with political and advocacy support in the field of social inclusion and social services, offering information materials, training and seminars designed to inform members about European policy issues that concern them and at the same time equip them to participate in the policy process themselves at the Member State and the European level. In addition, Eurodiaconia engages directly with the European institutions, basing its policy contributions on the experience of the network organisations.

This action was designed to be year three of a four-year programme to: (i) develop Eurodiaconia's capacity in the social policy field, and (ii) enable and empower its members as participants in the main EU-driven social policy processes.

The **main objectives**, for 2016 were: (1) to advocate for inclusion, care, and empowerment of the most vulnerable and excluded and ensure dignity for all; (2) to engage with other organisations across Europe by facilitating networks, meetings, member partnerships, and best practice sharing; (3) to bring together experts on the European Diaconia from all over the continent, whose shared goals are the further development of practical approaches, identity and community in Christian social care today.

### Results

As an organisation focused on promoting social justice at the policy level, Eurodiaconia's main achievements in 2016 were:

- A number of policy papers, suggestions, guidelines and publications were produced; training seminars and working group meetings hosted; thematic network meetings attended; decision-makers through cross-party meetings and official calls addressed in order to promote the development, adoption and implementation of social policies that overcome the challenges facing people in Europe with regards to poverty, inequality,

social exclusion and unemployment; networking with Eurodiaconia's network members, partner NGOs and the European Institutions.

- In 2016, Eurodiaconia played an important part in the discussion about the European Pillar of Social Rights. The organisation wanted to ensure that the European Pillar of Social Rights delivers on its commitment to upward social convergence. Eurodiaconia's work on the topic focused on the need for the Pillar to clarify the relationship between the adequacy and sustainability of social protection;
- Lastly, Eurodiaconia also worked with its members to build capacity and transfer knowledge on both the architecture of European social policy development, adoption and implementation and on content and orientation, equipping its members to be effective advocates and implementers of effective and, where necessary, innovative social policies. To do so the existing funding toolkit was augmented, and a rapid information tool was launched with information on the EU funds for its members.

### Policy evidence generated by the project

To support its engagement in the key advocacy topics Eurodiaconia developed policy papers on topics such as Upward Social Convergence, addressing inequalities through social services, policy recommendations on ending homelessness through innovation and investment. The organisation provided opportunities for its members to engage in EU-driven social policy topics through study visits to Brussels, participating in EU-level conference and debates such as the Annual Convention, FEAD platform, the Roma Platform and others, provided info on who to contact in the EP, SPC etc. and supported participation in national consultations such as those on the Social Pillar.

### New partnerships created

Eurodiaconia continued to be active in EAPN, Social Services Europe, EFIN, EAV and Social Platform. The organisation also

formed and led an alliance on integrated and long-term care services and developed their cooperation with CESI on common issues such as economic governance and labour mobility.

## Dissemination strategy

Among the activities implemented in 2016, Eurodiaconia continued developing and improving its communication channels. Eurodiaconia raised the visibility of its work in the social field through press and media exposure, online webinars and social media activity. On Eurodiaconia's social media channels, a substantial increase was registered both in terms of numbers of followers, and interaction on Facebook and Twitter and Instagram. Additionally, Eurodiaconia has a weekly E-news that goes out every Friday for around 35 weeks of the year plus a monthly newsletter in French and German. Finally, to reflect Eurodiaconia's ever-diversifying network, developments on the organisation's website were made to ensure an easier and more accessible experience for members communicating in different languages.

## European added value

With the EC funding that constitutes a considerable portion of Eurodiaconia's budget, the organisation was able to continue its activities in the many areas of social development across Europe. The organisation and its members became increasingly engaged due to the various capacity-building activities and tools carried out by Eurodiaconia in 2016. Eurodiaconia and its network member organisations also continued their work in different alliances at the European level with a mission to further the reduction of poverty, inequality, social exclusion and unemployment.

Eurodiaconia continues to be recognised as a trusted and valued partner of the European institutions and other NGO's and organisations. The organisation brings a strong evidence-based contribution to policy development and implementation.

## Sustainability measures

In 2017, Eurodiaconia will continue to work on the proposed Pillar of Social Rights both in terms of content and implementation. The organisation will also continue to work on specific areas such as Roma integration, child poverty etc.; it will also try to give more opportunities for its members to engage in the European Semester. Furthermore, the organisation will look at creating more synergies with national-level actions on the Semester and links with the national semester officers. Lastly, in 2017, due to increased populism and its effect on the social fabric, Eurodiaconia together with its member organisations will try and develop responses to the current trend and to a wider concern regarding youth disengagement from democratic processes.

### **Activities implemented**

- 40 reports, studies and surveys published;
- 19 Eurodiaconia events held;
- 17 study visits organised;
- 2 events in the European Parliament held;
- network meetings and capacity building of member organisations;
- development of policy input.

### **Coordinator**

Eurodiaconia - European Federation for Diaconia (Belgium)

### **Partners**

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### **Project/organisation website**

[www.eurodiaconia.org](http://www.eurodiaconia.org)



## 4.1.9. Caritas Europa

*‘EU decision-makers continued to recognise Caritas Europa (CE) as a relevant partner in policy dialogue and were influenced by CE’s lobbying activities in the domains of social policy, migration and social economy.’*

**Call identification number:** VP/2015/010/0004

**Grant identification number:** VS/2016/0040

**Policy area:** Social inclusion and poverty reduction

**Policy sub-area:** Youth employment; Combat long-term unemployment; Fight against poverty and social exclusion; Promotion of equality between women and men; Promotion of a high level of quality and sustainable employment; Guarantee adequate and decent social protection; Combat discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation; pay particular attention to vulnerable groups, such as young people; Transnational dimension.

**Implementing country:** Belgium

**Participating countries :** Caritas Europa members in 46 countries

**Project duration:** 1 January 2016 – 31 December 2016

**EU contribution in euros:** 740 791.99

**Target groups:** People experiencing poverty; CoE/ EU Institution representations; National, regional and local authorities; Social partners; Non-Governmental Organisations; Media.

### Socioeconomic context

The financial and economic crisis that started almost 10 years ago still affects European societies: more people live in poverty than before the crisis. Even if the labour market is slowly recovering, working conditions have deteriorated, the number of ‘working poor’ has increased from 8.5 to 9.6%. At the same time, serious gaps exist in the social welfare systems of many EU countries. This is partly due to the austerity policies used to address the economic crisis, and partly because a number of countries still have not developed a fully performing social protection system. Caritas Europa (CE) is concerned about the prevailing policy course which prioritises budgetary stability and economic growth over addressing the consequences the economic crisis has had on people’s lives. CE urges to put people first and the economic policies at the service of the people.

### Aims of the organisation

CE is a network of 49 national organisations in 46 European countries serving the most deprived, offering services to people experiencing poverty and advocating for policies affecting them to be changed, humanitarian aid, promotion of voluntary work. The main policy themes of the 2016 Work Programme were:

- Child poverty, including the implementation of the Commission’s Recommendation on investing in Children and the child related Country-Specific Recommendations (CSRs) produced within the European Semester Process;
- Social exclusion among young people, including the implementation of the Youth Employment Package, Youth Guarantee and youth related CSRs;
- Legal, employment and inclusion conditions of migrants, including the CSR addressing social exclusion and legal conditions and unemployment among migrants;
- Social rights, including the Collective Complaints mechanism as an additional tool to ensure that all residents enjoy the social rights they are entitled to,

thus contributing to achieving the SDGs, and reinforcing the significance of the European Social Charter, also as the basis for the forthcoming European Pillar on Social Rights.

- Any other policy area that may affect the objective of poverty reduction and social inclusion in Europe.

### Project results, measured impacts, achievements, lessons learned

In 2016, CE along with its member organisations continued providing relevant inputs to decision-makers, both at national level and EU level, concerning the development and implementation of social policies; their impacts, risks and gaps identified; and constructive proposals concerning the development of the European social model(s) in the future, with special focus on the family.

Furthermore, EU decision-makers continued to recognise CE as a relevant partner in policy dialogue and were advised in the domains of social policy, migration and social economy through CE’s lobbying activities. A major advocacy outcome was achieved in relation to CE’s work on inclusive social models. The Socialists Democrats – centre-left political group in the European Parliament – invited CE to present its views in a seminar on child and family poverty, to comment on the draft position paper on a proposal for an EU Child Guarantee, and present its views on the reconciliation of work and family life in a joint hearing by the FEMM and EMPL committees of the EP.

In terms of capacity building, member organisations of CE have increased their capacity in relation to advocacy and networking, organisational development and financial sustainability by meeting and sharing their experiences. Furthermore, CE and its members have been developing a system to collect and analyse data from the grass-roots level, relying on a mapping system and on the Caritas Poverty observatories. This system allows CE to have more and better evidence regarding the situation of poverty, social policies, good practices in social innovation and the possibility to upscale these practices.

## Policy evidence generated by the project and European added value

CE and its member organisations generated critical inputs regarding the development and implementation of social policies; their impacts, risks and gaps identified; and proposals on the development of the European social model(s) in the future. In 2016, the Caritas report 'End Poverty in Europe' was discussed by the EU Council and recommendations were reflected in the Council conclusions on Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion.

## Dissemination strategy

Both CE and the member organisations engaged in disseminating information about the activities implemented. Some centralised dissemination activities in 2016 included media (11 press releases resulted in 148 media mentions), social media (680 Twitter posts, 231 Facebook posts), intra-network email communication (19 email alerts) as well as events of diverse levels. Communication activities of Caritas Europa target media, decision-makers and other civil society organisations present in Brussels, as well as the whole European Caritas Network and private people.

## Sustainability measures

CE worked toward sustainability empowering its members to contribute to advocacy activities by providing collected information, building capacities, networking. Their inputs, analysis, and country-specific reports were shared with relevant stakeholders in the EU and used in ongoing activities throughout the year. All the activities implemented contribute to dialogue and advocacy strategies toward change for people experiencing poverty.

### **Activities implemented**

- Advocacy and lobbying activities aiming to promote EU initiatives supporting development of conditions for more inclusive societies and for inclusive growth;
- Inputs from Caritas Europa and its Member Organisations concerning the development and implementation of social policies; their impacts, risks and gaps; constructive proposals concerning the development of the European social models in the future.
- Capacity-building activities in advocacy, networking, organisational development, financial sustainability.
- Development of a system between Caritas Europa and its member organisations to ensure the collection and analysis of reliable data from the grass-roots level.

### **Coordinator**

Caritas Europa (Belgium)

### **Partners**

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### **Project/organisation website**

<http://www.caritas.eu/>

## 4.1.10. European Microfinance Network

*'The action grant contributed to the expansion of the European Microfinance Network activities in terms of advocacy and capacity building.'*

**Call identification number:** VP/2015/010/0001

**Grant identification number:** VS/2016/0019

**Policy area:** Social inclusion and poverty reduction

**Policy sub-area:** Combat long-term unemployment, Fight against poverty and social exclusion, Combat discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation; pay particular attention to vulnerable groups, such as young people, Transnational dimension.

**Implementing country:** Belgium

**Participating countries :** 85 organisations in 23 European countries

**Project duration:** 1 January 2016 – 31 December 2016

**EU contribution in euros:** 374 143.84

**Target groups:** National, regional and local authorities; Social partners; Non-Governmental Organisations; Higher education institutions and research institutes; Experts in evaluation and in impact assessment; Media; Microfinance Providers: non-banking financial institutions and banks.

### Socioeconomic context

Microfinance can give European citizens the opportunity to access additional financial instruments in order to create, develop and sustain their economic activities, and to better respond to shocks in the future. The European Union has understood the potential of microfinance to reduce social and financial exclusion and has started regulatory and financial initiatives in this sector. However, the accessibility of microloans across Europe is uneven, and provided by diverse and mostly small organisations.

The action **aimed** to enhance the development of the microfinance sector by advocacy and capacity-building activities.

### Project results, measured impacts, achievements, lessons learned

The action grant contributed to the expansion of the European Microfinance Network's activities in terms of advocacy and capacity building.

Advocacy, which is important to increase the recognition of the sector, took the shape of addressing policy-makers by meeting with them and providing written inputs on different topics affecting the microfinance sector. Regular meetings and events enhanced communication between the microfinance sector and the different policy-makers at the EU and national levels. The other key activities in this area were: provision of feedback regarding the European Code of Good Conduct and the EaSI tools for microfinance, the design of the post-2020 EU tools for the sector, the work on incorporating a reference to microfinance in the Capital Markets Union Initiative, and the proposition of a revised EU definition of microfinance and microcredit.

In terms of capacity building, the action grant contributed to strengthening the skills of EMN member organisations as well as increasing the EMN's organisational capacity. In 2016, EMN members participated in 5 exchange visits and 4 peer-to-peer visits that the EMN co-financed. The EMN collected and shared good practices of the field through its website; organised a good practice award, set up 2 webinars, mobilised members to 8 working groups related to microfinance, financial and social

inclusion and social entrepreneurship; it also provided advice and consultancy to 2 microfinance actors and held an advocacy workshop. Regarding the EMN's organisational capacity, the action grant allowed EMN to develop a communication tool to send targeted information to stakeholders, implement internal and external audits, and provide training to EMN staff on project management, social media strategy, advocacy, languages, etc.

### Identification of potential good practices

The EMN identified a few lessons and recommendations for the network's future activities. First, the network realised that external stakeholders value the input from the microfinance sector and its ability to respond quickly to requests for information with feedback from the field. In addition, since microfinance is a multi-policy tool, it is useful to reach out to a wider range of DGs. Furthermore, having a board member with working experience in the European Investment Bank is a key facilitator of the surge in activity because of knowledge and contacts in the EU system.

### Policy evidence generated by the project

In 2016, the EMN issued two intellectual outputs related to the microfinance sector. A new edition of the EMN's main publication 'Microfinance in Europe: A Survey of EMN-MFC Members. Report 2014-2015' presented key facts and figures of the two microfinance networks operating in Europe, as well as an overall view of the European microfinance market, thus deepening the understanding of core issues, such as scale, outreach, sustainability and social and financial performance. In addition, the EMN published a legislative mapping report for microcredit provision. The aim of this series of national factsheets is to provide a snapshot of the various legislative frameworks treating the provision of microcredit in Europe by non-bank financial intermediaries. A questionnaire was designed and sent to a pre-selected set of 15 practitioners/national networks to gather answers covering the following 10 countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Hungary, Montenegro, Netherlands, Serbia, Spain and UK.

### Transnational dimension

By the end of 2016, the European Microfinance Network had 85 members in 23 European countries. Thanks to the Action

Grant, members were able to meet and learn from each other.

## New partnerships created

The year 2016 was very favourable for networking and partnerships: the EMN participated in 12 joint actions with peer networks. The meetings were effective for discussing collaboration opportunities and agreeing on topics where organisations can unite and promote their positions together at the EU and national levels. In addition, the EMN along with MFC have strengthened their relationship with the European Investment Bank group, and three parties are currently drafting a memorandum of understanding to formalise their cooperation.

## Dissemination strategy

The European Microfinance Network based its dissemination strategy on e-communication channels. To communicate with its members and stakeholders the EMN relied on social media, its website and newsletters. Social media tools were updated regularly throughout the year. The EMN tweeted 369 times, received 306 new followers and 11 391 profile visits. The Facebook page was liked 384 times during 2016, whereas the LinkedIn page received 95 new followers. Their website was updated regularly: its content included 34 microfinance-related news pieces, 22 microfinance-related calls, 17 job opportunities in the microfinance field, 41 microfinance events promoted, 36 microfinance-related reports and documents uploaded. By the end of 2016, the EMN had edited, published and sent 6 newsletters to 4 000 contacts each time.

In addition, the EMN started developing a communication tool that will help to send targeted information by area of interest to separate mailing lists – e.g. researchers, practitioners, policy-makers, partners, etc.

## European added value

In 2016, the EMN implemented multiple advocacy, research, networking and communication activities, which helped to strengthen the microfinance sector. It would not have been possible to carry out most of the project activities without EU support.

### **Activities implemented**

- 18 meetings with EU institutions representatives from DG EMPL, DG REGIO, DG MARKT, DG ENTR, EIF;
- 8 events attended on microfinance, financial and social inclusion and social entrepreneurship;
- 12 meetings/events with peer-networks (MFC, European Parliament Credit Unions Interest Group, European Banking Federation, EFIN, Convergence, UEAPME, Confrontations Europe);
- Social media tools – Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn – regularly updated;
- 6 newsletters edited and published;
- Updated EMN website: 34 microfinance-related items of news published, 22 micro-finance-related calls published, 17 job opportunities in microfinance or related fields advertised, 41 microfinance-related events promoted, 36 microfinance-related reports and documents uploaded, 6 EMN newsletters
- Created promotional products to enhance memberships launched: 2 E-cards and 2 videos;
- Advice and consultancy provided to 2 microfinance actors;
- 4 conference participations to introduce European Microfinance Network;
- Organised meetings of 8 working groups, think tanks, idea-labs
- 1 student internship arranged with MI-BOSPO;
- 15 good practices shared through EMN website;
- 1 good practice award organised;
- 1 exchange visit organised;
- 4 peer-to-peer visits organised;
- 2 webinars set up;
- 5 board of directors' meetings organised;
- 1 General Assembly meeting;
- 9 trainings attended by EMN staff members;
- 1 annual report prepared and published;
- 1 annual internal financial audit;
- 1 annual external evaluation;
- 1 communication tool set up;
- 1 annual conference held;
- 1 European microfinance day organised - 31 local actions were carried out by 27 EMN members in 14 countries;
- 1 event on personal microcredit;
- 5 EMN policy notes published;
- 1 national advocacy workshop organised;
- 1 national mapping report;
- 1 e-magazine published;
- 1 European microfinance research award organised;
- 1 European Microfinance Overview Survey published.

### **Coordinator**

European Microfinance Network

### **Partners**

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### **Project/organisation website**

<http://www.european-microfinance.org/>

## 5 Afterword

This report has provided a review of projects and organisations funded by the EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) and implemented in 2014-2017. A total of 17 project/organisation fiches, which can be read as stand-alone documents, were produced by the research team and presented in the report.

Analysing and disseminating information about the results of supported projects and organisations form part of EaSI performance monitoring for 2014-2020. The programme's monitoring approach foresees biannual reports presenting projects and organisations supported by EaSI and its predecessor programme PROGRESS. This is the eighth such report. It follows the first seven issued in 2014-2017.

It is expected that this report will be beneficial to public authorities of the Member States, civil society organisations and private actors in at least two ways. First, it will serve as guidance for public, private and civil society actors wishing to apply for EU funding in the future. Second, it will provide policy-makers with ideas that can inform the design and implementation of new policy interventions in the covered policy areas.

In addition to these key aims, the results are expected to contribute to further EaSI monitoring and evaluation activities. The developed project/organisation fiches will feed into preparing the EaSI Performance Monitoring Report for 2017-2018. Finally, the report team believes that the results will be useful for the evaluators of the programme.

## Annex I – List of projects and organisations included in this report

No. in the report	Page	Title of the project /organisation	Funding source	EU contribution in euros	website
<b>1.1.1. Social Protection</b>					
3.1.1	16	SHARE 6 <sup>th</sup> wave data collection in Spain	EaSI-PROGRESS	381 827.28	<a href="http://www.share-project.org/">http://www.share-project.org/</a>
3.1.2	18	Policies for an Aged Workforce in the EU - PAWEU	EaSI-PROGRESS	183 463.68	<a href="https://www.inps.it/nuovoportaleinps/default.aspx">https://www.inps.it/nuovoportaleinps/default.aspx</a>
<b>Working conditions</b>					
3.2.1	21	ECMIN 2.0 - Workers' information and portal website on applicable working conditions	EaSI-PROGRESS	175 347.31	<a href="https://www.constructionworkers.eu/en">https://www.constructionworkers.eu/en</a>
3.2.2	23	Posting fraud and social dumping – trade unions to overcome issues related to posting of workers in the metal sector	EaSI-PROGRESS	146 081.15	<a href="http://www.mzzpamdg.pl/">http://www.mzzpamdg.pl/</a>
3.2.3	25	Posted workers in the EU: Joining Forces for Action on solidarity and cooperation mechanisms to ensure fair and competitive future for European economy and society	EaSI-PROGRESS	124 615.24	<a href="http://postedworkers.eu/en/main">http://postedworkers.eu/en/main</a>
3.2.4	27	Equal Rights for Posted Workers – raising awareness about Directive 96/71/EC	EaSI-PROGRESS	150 241.44	<a href="http://ozzgnig.pl">http://ozzgnig.pl</a>
<b>Employment</b>					
3.3.1	30	New communication and cooperation model for better information about the Youth Guarantee	EaSI-PROGRESS	379 202.10	<a href="https://www.jaunimogarantijos.lt/lt/">https://www.jaunimogarantijos.lt/lt/</a>
<b>Key EU-level NGO networks</b>					
4.1.1	33	European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN)	EaSI-PROGRESS	938 447.97	<a href="https://www.eapn.eu/">https://www.eapn.eu/</a>
4.1.2	35	FEANTSA	EaSI-PROGRESS	963 160.78	<a href="http://www.feantsa.org/">http://www.feantsa.org/</a>
4.1.3	37	The European Social Network (ESN)	EaSI-PROGRESS	858 696.82	<a href="http://www.esn-eu.org">www.esn-eu.org</a>
4.1.4	39	EUROCITIES	EaSI-PROGRESS	751 340.72	<a href="http://www.eurocities.eu/">http://www.eurocities.eu/</a>
4.1.5	41	EuroHealthNet	EaSI-PROGRESS	496 662.32	<a href="http://eurohealthnet.eu">http://eurohealthnet.eu</a>
4.1.6	43	ENSIE	EaSI-PROGRESS	129 246.82	<a href="http://www.ensie.org/">http://www.ensie.org/</a>
4.1.7	45	European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD)	EaSI-PROGRESS	484 419.20	<a href="http://easpd.eu/">http://easpd.eu/</a>
4.1.8	47	Eurodiaconia	EaSI-PROGRESS	499 939.23	<a href="https://www.eurodiaconia.org/">https://www.eurodiaconia.org/</a>
4.1.9	49	Caritas Europa	EaSI-PROGRESS	740 791.99	<a href="http://www.caritas.eu/">http://www.caritas.eu/</a>
4.1.10	51	European Microfinance Network	EaSI-PROGRESS	374 143.84	<a href="http://www.european-microfinance.org/">http://www.european-microfinance.org/</a>

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