



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DG Employment, Social Affairs & Equal Opportunities

Access to transports and the EU co-ordination of Social Inclusion policies

Transport & Travel Research

ECLIPSE project

Perugia, 19 May 2006

Access to transports and the EU co-ordination of Social Inclusion policies

1. policy coordination and exchanges of good practice
2. social inclusion policy measures and access to transports
3. the Transnational Exchange Projects & the ECLIPSE project
4. the review of the Lisbon strategy & the Streamlining
5. new risks and new opportunities ...

Policy co-ordination & exchange of good practices

- Amsterdam Treaty - Articles 136 and 137
- Lisbon European Council
 - social cohesion as part of 10 year strategic goal
 - open method of coordination (OMC)
" to make a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty by 2010 "
- Open Method of Co-ordination
 1. common objectives combined with timetables and targets
 2. indicators & benchmarks a means of comparing best practice
 3. Translating objectives into national/regional policies through national action plans
 4. Exchange of learning and best practice

NAPs/inclusion

- analyse nature/extent of poverty & identify major trends & challenges
- review progress & outline policy measures planned
- present coherent strategy (clear objectives and targets)
- outline institutional arrangements
- identify examples good practice

Social inclusion policy measures and access to transports

Attention from a small number of MSs

Policy approaches:

1. Increase access for all

- expanding supply & improving quality of public transport, particularly in rural areas

2. Target specifically the socially excluded

- eliminating barriers for disabled persons
- special fares for socio-economic disadvantaged
- Difficulties of older people

⇒ In general, failure to integrate transport with other policies and to develop a coherent/strategic approach to connect social inclusion & transport policies

The Action Programme to combat social exclusion

- o support co-operation between MSs in context of OMC
- o enhance effectiveness of policies to combat social exclusion
 1. improve understanding of poverty/social exclusion at EU level
 2. promote the exchange of good practice & mutual learning
 3. develop EU networking & foster mobilisation of social agents

Transnational Exchange Projects

overall expectations

- contribute **new learning** on social inclusion policies & processes
- produce accessible/concrete products & identify effective ways of operating
- contribute to development & implementation of **NAPs**/inclusion
- mobilise actors at all levels & promote partnership
- increase networking & implement effective **dissemination** strategies in: participating countries; other countries & at EU level
- raise **awareness** on poverty & on role of social inclusion process

ECLIPSE project

1. *MATISSE* project, under Preparatory Actions

- ✓ Improving access to means of mobility in cities & rural areas
- ✓ Partnerships & joint strategy planning of social and transport agencies
- ✓ Ensure full engagement of excluded persons/groups
- ✓ Indicators & instructions to assess impact of transport policy on social inclusion

2. **ECLIPSE** project (2nd TEP)

- Increase awareness among transport professionals
- Facilitate strategic partnerships
- Disseminate best practices & tools
- Mainstream transport considerations into NAP process

ECLIPSE project

specific expectations

- better analysis & data
- facilitate setting precise objectives, indicators & targets
- transfer knowledge
- on-going monitoring & evaluation of implementation of policy measures
- facilitate dialogue & co-operation between different levels of governance
- develop a coherent/strategic approach to connect social inclusion & transport policies
- concrete recommendations

PROGRESS

new Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity 2007 - 2013

- tool to support Social Agenda & achieve Lisbon objectives
- simplifying legal/management instruments & streamlining budget structure
- better synergies between the five areas of intervention

Section 1 Employment

Section 2 Social protection and inclusion

Section 3 Working conditions

Section 4 Antidiscrimination and diversity

Section 5 Gender equality

1. analysis
2. mutual learning & awareness-raising
3. support to actors

SEP & Progress

what does it change?

- Extension to social protection
- Larger participation
- Explicit reference to some actions
(evaluations & impact analysis; training; exchange of personnel, etc.)
- Reinforcement awareness-raising & dissemination of information

Review of Lisbon

Brussels European Council, 2005

- reaffirms Lisbon strategy has 3 key dimensions – economic, social & environmental
- overarching Sustainable Development Strategy
- Reaffirms the importance of the social dimension, social cohesion and social inclusion
 - *"Social inclusion policies should be pursued by the Union and by MSs, with its multifaceted approach, focusing on target groups such as children in poverty"*

⇒ OMC and new Lisbon mutually reinforcing through the "**feeding in**" process

The « feeding in » process

interaction between OMC and new Lisbon

A twofold purpose:

1. **FEEDING IN:** to ensure that social protection & inclusion policies contribute to achieving the goals of growth and employment
 2. **FEEDING OUT:** to ensure that policies to promote growth & employment contribute to promoting social inclusion
- Relevant conclusions from OMC on social inclusion & social protection should form basis for treatment of these issues in National Reform Programmes & Annual EU Progress Report

“Streamlining”

- Coordination of processes for social inclusion, pensions, & health care and integration of 3 strands in a common framework (Council October 2003)
- adoption of a new set of common objectives & ways of working (March 2006)
- 1st national strategies for Social Protection & Inclusion – 2006-2008 - (September 2006)

How Common Objectives have changed?

Nice (December 2000)

- promote participation in employment & access to goods, services, resources & rights
- prevent social exclusion
- support the most vulnerable
- mobilise all relevant bodies

New objectives (March 2006)

3 overarching objectives:

- promoting social cohesion
- interacting with Lisbon & SDS
- better governance, transparency & participation

3 specific objectives Social Inclusion:

1. access to resources, rights & services
2. participation labour market
3. co-ordination participation & mainstreaming

1st national strategies for Social Protection & Inclusion – 2006-2008

- Common Overview
 - social situation
 - overall strategic approach (4 key areas: child poverty; migrants & minorities; longer working life; flexi-curity)
 - overarching messages
- Key Challenges, Objectives and Targets
- 3-4 Priority Policy Objectives
 - policy measures (existing and new)
 - resource allocation: level and responsibility
 - indicators and monitoring
- Better Governance
 - preparation process; coordination; mobilisation; mainstreaming; monitoring

1. *NAPs/inclusion* (10-15 pages)
2. *National Strategy Report for Pensions* (3-5 pages)
3. *National Plan for Health and Long-term care* (10-15 pages)

Mainstreaming

- need to improve at all levels of policy making and all levels of governance
 - preparation; policy coordination; mobilisation; monitoring
- Mainstreaming at EU level
 1. more consistently and formally involve relevant DGs in the social inclusion process
 2. start a process of systematically promoting mainstreaming of social inclusion perspective across EU policies
 3. renewed Sustainable Development Strategy
 4. make sure that relevant actions under SEP & PROGRESS are used to systematically engage other DGs as appropriate

The decentralisation of the competencies in social policies

Deep Changes in institutional framework of MSs

Opportunities:

1. integrated approach between policies & different levels
2. longer term planning
3. analysis local needs & monitoring results
4. capacity regional & local actors

However:

- risk of deepening territorial differences
- need to ensure involvement in national strategies through dialogue/consultation structures & mechanisms
- integrate local initiatives & needs in NAPs (e. g. : local regional plans)
- appropriate level of resources including Structural Funds

New risks ...

- emphasis only on productivity & creation of new jobs will not produce the eradication of poverty
- Need of
 - a vision more focused on the longer term
 - more attention on « right-based » approach
 - specific efforts
(housing, education, « working poor », equal opportunities & fundamental rights)

... and new opportunities

- possibility to integrate Lisbon policies (Streamlining gives best possible framework for feeding in/feeding out & "right of analysis" of economic & employment policies)
 - focus on specific priorities (child poverty, migrants, etc.)
 - "less reports" = a more strategic & integrated planning of policies + more efforts for dissemination and exchanges
 - Better governance and better involvement of actors = better policy making
 - synergies between different areas in PROGRESS
- ⇒ nothing is to be "taken for granted": essential role of actors to use opportunities & reinforce social Europe