Transnational Co-operation as a strategic instrument for development in South East Europe

SEE Annual conference
21-22 September 2010 Thessaloniki

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Re-assembling the SEE puzzle.
Tackling social challenges for a common future

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Overview of the presentation

-<u>Heterogeneous territory</u> looking for a common vision

-Some remarks focused on the <u>Western Balkans</u> (because of my researching and working experience; the challenge for the future of the EU; they are not part of EU and represent different steps towards membership; both transition and post-conflict)

-Priorities of SEE Transnational Cooperation Programme and <u>EU priorities in the field of social inclusion</u> (principles and tools)

- Inputs and remarks about SEE area (key elements to be considered)

-<u>Suggestions</u>

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Priorities of SEE Transnational Cooperation Programme in the "Demographic change" theme

The main issues are migration and human capital
- The two additional issues are poverty and population diversity

Increasing human capital: while increase in fertility or immigration contribute to a rise in the size of labour, i.e. have a quantitative effect, rise in human capital has a qualitative effect.

The two strategic directions tackling demographic change: alleviation or adaptation

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Priorities of SEE Transnational Cooperation Programme in the "Demographic change" theme

Integrated approach to be applied for further project development

Focussing – amongst others – on land use, environmental protection, infrastructure (in particular housing), public services (healthcare) as well as accessibility

Clearly address transnational potentials

Education and labour market

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Priorities of SEE Transnational Cooperation Programme in the "Demographic change" theme

•Overall Objective: Contributing to sustainable growth in SEE territories by tackling the negative consequences of <u>migration-related demographic changes</u>; <u>expanding and adapting human capital</u> to needs of work force and labour markets

•Specific Objectives:
_ Improving the understanding of transnational migratory streams (<u>unidirectional or circulating</u>) and related losses/gains of human capital in SEE.
_ Analyzing and improving frame conditions and governance mechanisms for effectively tackling losses/gains in human capital caused by migratory processes.
_ Transnational <u>exchange of experiences</u> and pooling of expertise; elaboration of more integrated strategies towards expanding and adapting human capital.
_ Implementing effective (pilot-)measures for raising and adapting human capital through <u>education, training and health services</u> for specific target groups.

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EU priorities in the field of social inclusion (principles and tools)

- Open Method of Coordination

- Community Development

- Tackling social inequalities (e.g. health inequalities)

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EU priorities in the field of social inclusion (principles and tools)

Open Method of Coordination

A framework for political cooperation launched in 2000 as voluntary self-evaluating process with a comprehensive *mix* of legislation

• EU countries work together: this involves agreeing common objectives and common indicators, which show how progress towards goals can be measured.

• The added value of the inclusion process has been to make clear the multi-dimensionality of poverty and exclusion

• It has also promoted good governance, openness and the participation of actors.

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EU priorities in the field of social inclusion (principles and tools)
Open Method of Coordination

Specific objectives in the section 1.1: Making a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty and social exclusion:

•Ensure the active social inclusion of all by promoting participation in the labour market and by fighting poverty and exclusion among the most marginalised people and groups.

•Guarantee access for all to the basic resources, rights and social services needed for participation in society, while addressing extreme forms of exclusion and fighting all forms of discrimination.

•Ensure that social inclusion policies are well-coordinated and involve all levels of government and relevant actors, including people experiencing poverty, that they are efficient and effective and mainstreamed into all relevant public policies, and that they are gender mainstreamed.

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EU priorities in the field of social inclusion (principles and tools)
Open Method of Coordination

The most frequent criticisms regarding the OMC are (1):

- its <u>low political status</u> and importance;

- its low visibility and the <u>lack of public promotion</u> of the process;

- the failure to integrate the process of OMC into <u>national policy making procedures</u>;

- The weak integration of OMC within <u>the Lisbon agenda on growth</u>;

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EU priorities in the field of social inclusion (principles and tools)
Open Method of Coordination

The most frequent criticisms regarding the OMC are (2):

• insufficiently rigorous monitoring, evaluation and reporting of Member States' performance;

• weak governance arrangements (such as limited mainstreaming of social inclusion objectives, weak horizontal and vertical coordination of policies, ineffective strategic planning, poor implementation and insufficient mobilisation and involvement of actors);

• and insufficient development and dissemination of exchange of learning and good practice

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EU priorities in the field of social inclusion (principles and tools)
Community Development

Transition to community-based care

Community approach vs institutional care

Material and non-material aspects of welfare

Development of human resources

Support to informal care givers (such as families)

Risk of maintaining parallel services (double expenses) and purely administrative solutions (no new culture of caring)

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EU priorities in the field of social inclusion (principles and tools)
Health Inequalities

•Geographical and environmental inequalities (rural or mountain, cities'peripheries, laggin behind regions, housing, living conditions)

•Social inequalities (education, vulnerable groups, minorities, gender, children, elderly, disabled, health-related behavior)

•Economic inequalities (employment, income, costs of service)

•Organisational inequalities (governance, supply, access to services, quality health care)

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SEE overview (1)

- <u>Demographic changes</u> similar to EU (less ageing but similar trends)

- <u>Not-balanced territorial development</u>:
    - interregional and internal differences, town vs countryside, metropolitan congestions

- <u>Migrations</u>:
    - Rural-urban internal migration

    - Seasonal migration

    - Out-migration, mostly young people (brain drain)

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SEE overview (2)

• Civil Society in some cases not well-developed (transition process and too dependent on external funds)

• <u>Weak internal market</u> (which attractivity for human capital?)

• Regionalism/nationalism, <u>weak decentralization</u> process

• <u>Divided society</u> (national-cultural homogenization and social fragmentation)

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SEE overview – Cities' socio-spatial dynamics

• Urban explosion ("turbo urbanism")

• Shortage of houses

• Non regulated urbanism, illegal building, real estate speculation

• Informal city (housing, commerce, services..)

• Difficulties on the way from factory-cities to tertiary sector cities

• Socio-spatial polarization

With…

- Lack of services in many areas

- Housing reform (beneficiaries not still well involved)

- Intra-urban and inter-urban (circulating) migrations

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SEE overview – Remarks (1)

- <u>Double exclusion</u> (social groups which are usually fragile and marginalised are even more so in divided societies)

- <u>Minorities</u>, minorities, minorities…(national fragmentation brought about multiplication of minorities)

- Minorities stuck between <u>exclusion and participation</u> (diversity management)

- Social Actors: <u>weak representativeness</u> (self-referencing society), <u>differences of definition</u> (e.g. the disabled are defined in varying ways according to the countries' legislation)

SEE overview – Remarks (2)

•One step before: <u>challenging stereotypes</u> and collective perceptions of vulnerable people (stigma)

•<u>Education</u> remains a crucial challenge: a tool for inclusion (access for all), for creating new democratic leaders and a highly qualified population (curricula)

•Paradox of political and institutional autonomy:
  •weak coordination among different level of government
  •lack of common principles and objectives
  •strong centralised system with lack of knowledge at local level

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Tuning social services to demographic change

- Open questions: accessibility, quality, standards

- Multidimesional aspects of poverty and social exclusion, multidimensional aspects of development, multidimensional approach of policy adaptation to changes (integrated strategies)

- Horizontal measures vs vertical approach (governance)

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Some EU indications for reinforcing projects in the field of social inclusion

• _Setting more concrete targets_
A number of indicators agreed among States in the areas of social inclusion sufficiently robust for having a decisive impact
•_Better reporting, communication and dissemination_
to share knowledge, to stimulate "positive competition" among peers and to contribute to sustained mobilisation and commitment. Information related to the achievements accessible, comprehensible and useful.
•_Mainstreaming_ _(_holistic and cross-cutting approach based on Renewed Social Agenda), social policy considerations must be mainstreamed throughout all policies (evaluation of social impacts).
•_Cross-cutting issues and horizontal coordination_ (these are key points for Strategic direction 4 of the SEE Programme)

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Final suggestions (1)

• To make integrated EU tools and methods in project applications

• Consistency between projects under the different Funding instruments that have an impact on the Programme Area (Transnational coop., cross-border coop., Europaid, etc..)

• Strenghten mutual learning and dissemination of good practices

• Reinforcing the vision of cross-border poles of development in transnational co-operation (see the experience of "cities' triangles")

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Final suggestions (2)

- Rigourous evaluation

- Promoting multidimensional participation and integrated partnerships

- Decentralisation of capacity building (Reinforcing human capital at regional and local level, in public administrations and social organisations)

- Better link between education institutions and other social and economic organisations

- Working together! (not just building project partnership)

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Final "personal" remark: <u>Dialogue for a common future!</u>

Debate: To overcome the past, is it better to promote peace and dialogue reconstruction projects or economic and labour-oriented activities?
....Both of them!

Closed and divided communities have no future. There is no peace without economic growth, there is no development without peace.

<u>Human capital development can be pursued by both socio-economic projects and confidence building/reconciliation actions</u>.

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THANK YOU!

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