

socialplatform

Annual Conference 2008

Report for Workshop 1:

*What is the future for the Open Method of
Coordination on social inclusion?*





Objectives of the workshop

- What has worked well in the OMC so far?
- What has not worked ?
- What do we see for the future in particular :
How do we expand out the inner circle ?
How do we deliver better results ?



Challenges

- C1: How to increase the different stakeholders ownership of the OMC process ?
- C2: How to increase accountability at the MS level ?
- C3: How to ensure concrete impact on the levels of poverty and social exclusion.
- C4 How to use the full potential of the OMC ?



What works well

Good examples of developments in:

- Participatory processes: partnerships with European NGO's, involvement of national and regional NGO's into national social policy dialogue
- Improved governance in some cases: Increased horizontal and vertical cooperation at national levels between regions and between regions and central government
- Build up a body of social statistics and indicators
- Build political momentum on key areas of concern such as child poverty , homelessness, financial exclusion
- Contribute to improve the knowledge base on policies to combat poverty



Recommendations

- Exploit synergies between EU processes and the wider international human rights framework (MDG's etc)
- Exploit synergies between the three pillars of the social OMC (social inclusion, health and pension)
- Develop a sustainable social pillar for the post-2010 architecture
- Need for quantitative targets at EU level. Start a debate involving all MS on how this can be achieved
- Move towards the development of national social contracts coupled with funding
- Build consensual policy frameworks that include comparable statistics and definitions in the social area
- Develop measures to prepare civil society in candidate and accession countries for participation in the OMC



Recommendations (cont.)

- Develop measures to prepare civil society in candidate and accession countries for participation in the OMC
- Seek ways to involve the EP as a monitoring body in the OMC process. Also need for debates in national parliaments.
- Strengthen the indicators and target framework within the OMC process. Better use of the indicators in policy drafting. Reinforce indicators below national level.
- More strategic mutual learning: Currently fragmented learning – need clearer framework for mutual learning and greater recognition of the potential of the OMC in policy reform.
- Organizing ad-hoc peer reviews at the need of MS in the context of policy reform.



Outstanding issues

- Conference on setting national and EU targets.
- Be open to the use of new tools: eg. consensus conference.



Thank you!

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