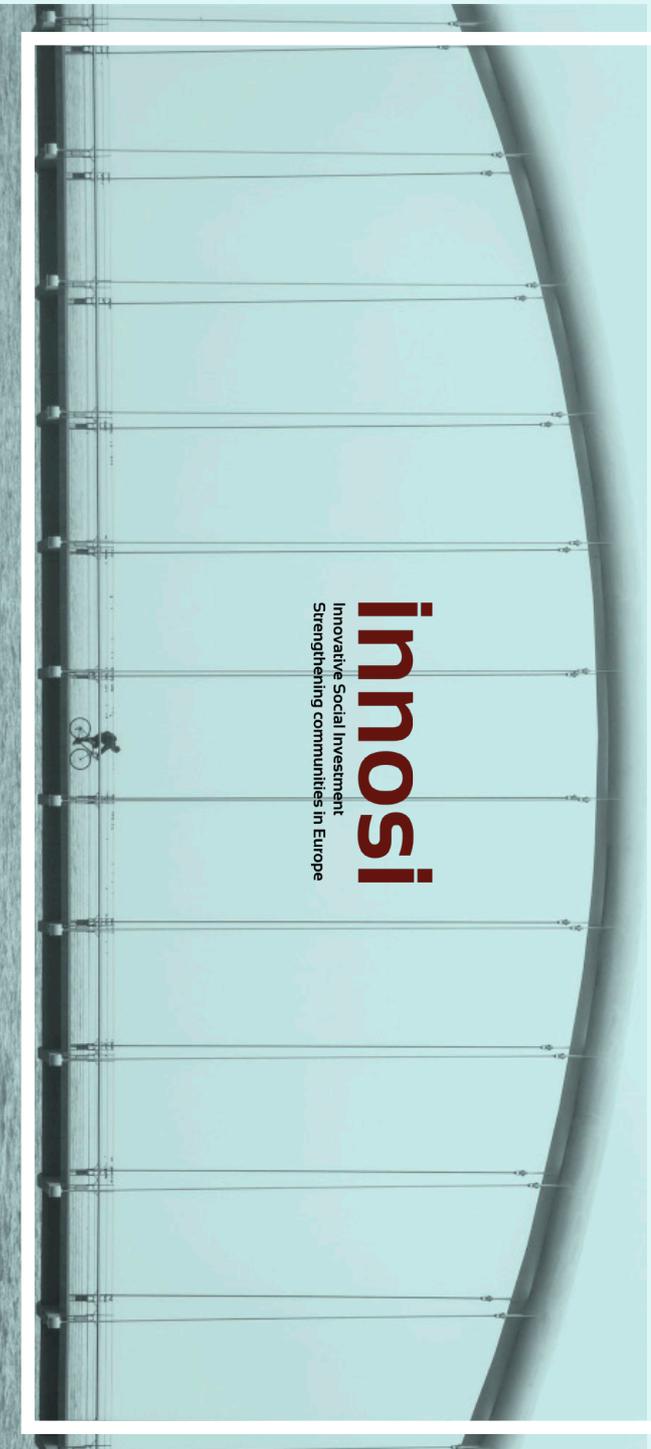


# INNOSI

## Innovative Social Investment Strengthening Communities in Europe

**innosi**  
Innovative Social Investment  
Strengthening communities in Europe



# innosi

Innovative Social Investment  
Strengthening communities in Europe

Material taken from the Innosi  
reports and work packages

<http://innosi.eu>

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# INNOSI

## Innovative Social Investment Strengthening Communities in Europe



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**innosi**  
Innovative Social Investment  
Strengthening communities in Europe

INNOSI asks how we can design robust social investment strategies which can deal with emerging socio-economic challenges and the aftershocks of the 2008 economic crisis.

The research identifies innovative approaches to social investment at national and regional levels in Europe with in-depth case study evaluations taking place in 10 Member States. Within the programme of research, special attention is paid to the legal and regulatory frameworks required for innovation in social welfare policy and different approaches to funding social welfare policy including the potential role for third sector and private sector organisations.

The consortium is made up of ten public universities from different countries, all of which are located in large, but mostly not capital cities, lending the studies carried out by Innosi a regional flavour. One of the main pillars of the project is the close collaboration between academic and impact partners from all over Europe.

Our academic partners are:

Manchester Metropolitan University (UK)  
Stichting Hogeschool Utrecht (NL)  
Turku University of Applied Sciences (FIN)  
Universitat Politècnica de València (ESP)  
University of Debreceen (HUN)  
Karlstads University (SWE)  
Uniwersytet Wrocławski (POL)  
Westfälische Wilhelmsuniversität Münster (DEU)  
University of Bologna (ITA)  
Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences (GRE)

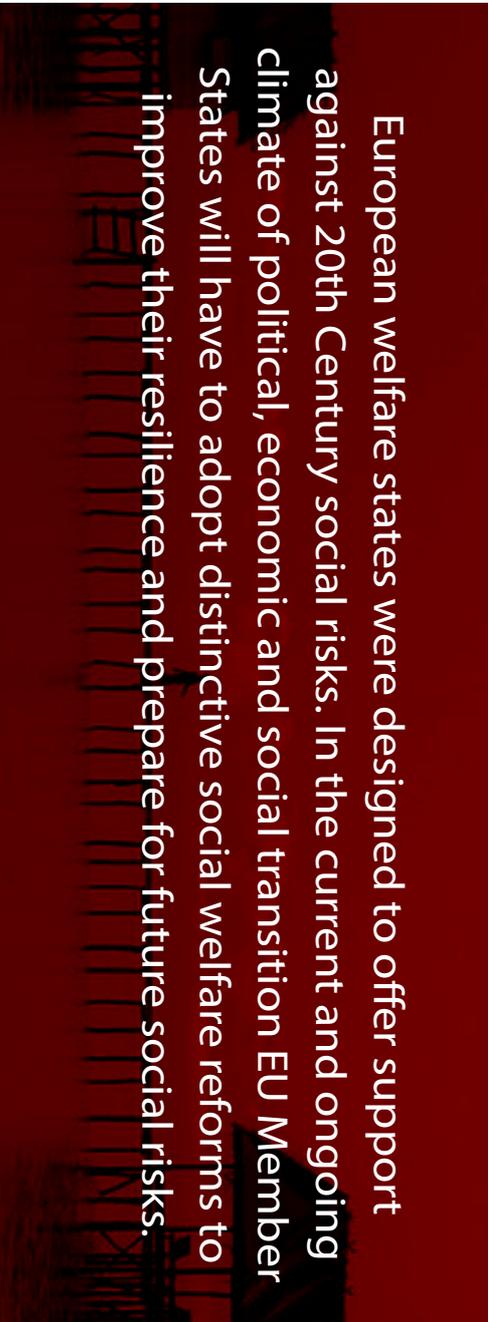
Impact partners:

EUCLID Network  
Peoples Voice Media (UK)  
Locality (UK)  
The Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities (FIN)  
AICCON (ITA)  
Forum Ideburna (SWE)  
Tecnalia (ESP)  
Labour institute of general confederation of Greek workers (GRE)  
Foundation Institute of Public Affairs (IPA) (POL)  
Institut für politikwissenschaft (DEU)

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**THE STATE OF THE  
ART OF SOCIAL  
INVESTMENT**



**European welfare states were designed to offer support against 20th Century social risks. In the current and ongoing climate of political, economic and social transition EU Member States will have to adopt distinctive social welfare reforms to improve their resilience and prepare for future social risks.**

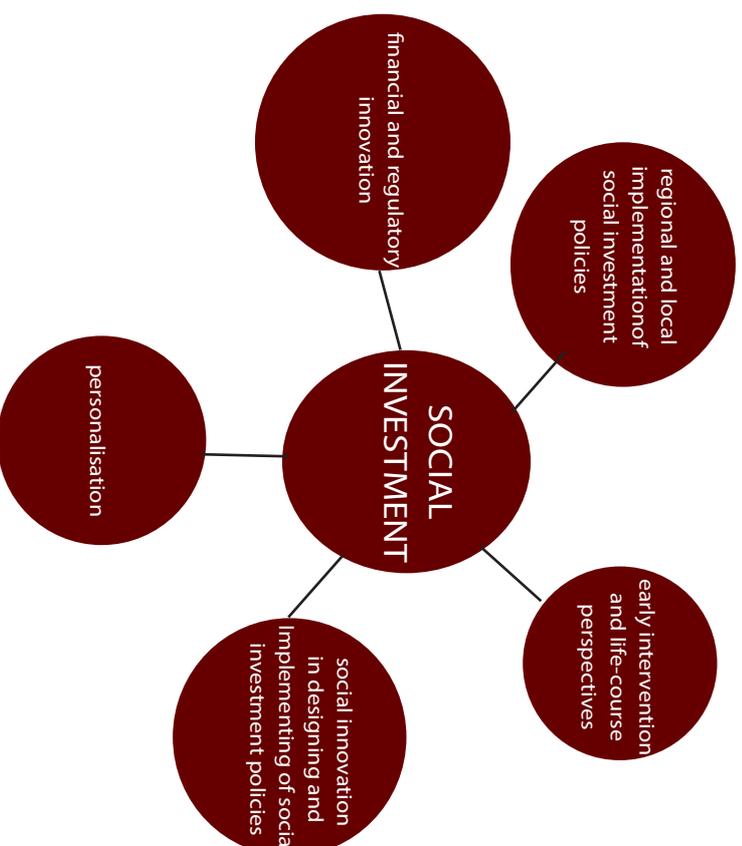
In contrast to a straightforward redistributive approach to social policy, social investment considers welfare as entailing investments to improve prospects for future economic and social participation (Van Kersbergen and Hemerijck, 2012). The emphasis, in other words, is on investments in people to enhance their productive capacities and foster longer-term economic development. Social investment thus stresses the life course dimension of social policies and their long-term benefits for society. At its simplest, the Social Investment paradigm or perspective can be boiled down to viewing social policy as a productive factor, such that the resources employed are not merely used up (or sunk) through current consumption but instead applied to increase some form of capacity for future wealth creation.

Much of the research to date on Social Investment aims to define and promote a 'paradigm', or to assess the extent to which particular nation states are moving towards this paradigm (Morel et al., 2012; Hemerijck, 2013; 2015; Leoni, 2015). Social investment has however, been subject to criticism:

- In its focus on the individual, it de-emphasises the role of redistribution in macro-economic stability and lower inequality that could also be a productive factor.
- There are conceptual difficulties in distinguishing between social consumption and social investment, with most activity comprising a mix of the two. Supposedly passive transfers, for example, to the unemployed, sustain health for the future and enable job searches.
- There are fears that the concept of 'social investment' encourages a focus on the economic return such that some welfare provision is undermined, and that this is likely to penalise the most vulnerable segments of the population.
- There remains a question of how much Social Investment is actually new or merely 'old wine in new bottles' as welfare states in the past have also emphasised 'productive' social policy.

Innovative Social Investment: Strengthening Communities in Europe (INNOSI) asks how to design robust social investment strategies which can deal with emerging socio-economic challenges but that meet the needs of individuals and communities. Many models are possible depending upon how policy, social and managerial roles are distributed between the public, private and third sectors and the specific legal frameworks that are used. Through different models, a range of innovative approaches to financing future social welfare systems can emerge. However, new innovative policies also bring risks: for example, welfare chauvinism and nationalism. Another risk, particularly where the implications of interventions are not fully considered, is that members of social groups which do not contribute to economic growth as measured by GDP may be ignored by the emerging social investment paradigm. It is imperative, therefore, for social as well as economic goals to be considered in evaluating possible programmes.

Our investigation of innovative approaches to implement social investment covers a number of dimensions:



# FROM FORBSIGHT TO WELFARE PRACTICES

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

# WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

## The question

How can we understand the future and support planning and responsible decision-making? In order to plan the next steps as individuals or as communities, we need to think of the world of tomorrow. With the help of methods of futures studies we can try to visualise the possible and probable futures as well as desired and non-desired development.

## Findings

The Innosi foresight process was based on three phases, sensing, sensemaking and seizing. In practice the foresight work consisted of the following tasks:

- > Scanning signals in ten European countries
- > Identifying tentative trends based on weak signals
- > Validating trends in Delphi Survey
- > Building future scenarios and storylines

Nine trends and their driving forces (shown below) which are presented in this report have been used in creating the future scenarios which are presented in the Innosi Storylines. The 'foresightfulness' ideology and its three phases sensing, sensemaking and seizing, is fully described in the Innosi Handbook "From signals to Future Stories".

## The social impact of businesses

- > The rise of consumer awareness of climate change and the shortage of natural resources are posing new requirements to business
- > Companies are exploring innovative and ethically and socially sustainable business opportunities

- > Changes in the regulatory framework and financing arrangements speed up the development of new alliances between the public sector, companies and civil society to address complex societal problems

## Digitalization of everything

- > Digital technologies break down industry barriers and create new opportunities while destroying existing operational models

- > Virtual and augmented technologies permit the simulation of and interaction with the reality. Artificial intelligence and deep learning blur the distinction between machines and humans

**"Foresight is not a mysterious gift bestowed at birth  
but an ability that can be cultivated"**

From the Innosi handbook  
From Welfare to Future Stories

### Rethink education

- > The transformation of work forces the education system to change
- > Multicultural working environments require a new set of soft skills
- > Working with learning robots and machines requires new skills

### Shades of inequality

- > Globalization divides people into winners and losers
- > The stickiness of poverty persists across generations
- > Toughened attitudes towards vulnerable and strangers
- > Polarization of digital abilities between citizens

### Social movements

- > The rapid growth of social media platforms that enable fast, low-cost and boundless communication
- > The emergence of global citizenship and global activism
- > The inward-looking and national movements capture the European political landscape and the post-truth politics becomes something of a new norm

### Impact

Decisions affecting the world of tomorrow are made every day. Future challenges us already today and we can't afford to wait and see it in the horizon. Forecasting future development is not easy, but analysing different phenomena and understanding the drivers of change can support us in making better decisions. The trends in this report are not presented to tell what may or will happen in the future, but to describe interesting phenomena and key drivers which affect the future of the European societies. The target of this report is reached if it manages to challenge one's thinking and to spark discussion about the alternative futures.

**With social investments,  
we refer to investments  
to improve the prospects  
for future economic and  
social participation.**



<http://innosi.eu/wp6-from-foresight-to-welfare-practices>

> Robotization enables either fully or partly automated services  
Intelligent, connected and self-learning machines pose unexpected ethical and existential challenges and threaten the protection of vulnerable groups

> The over-reliance on technology takes away the aspect of human interaction

### Diverse human-centricity

> Big data and internet of things enable the development of smart and tailored/personalized services

> The importance of value-driven organizations in civil society is increasing

> Increasing pursuit of meaningful living in contrast to materialism

> Citizens are seen in service design processes as co-creators, not only as beneficiaries

### Family on the rise

> Family and gender role models are transforming and affecting the labour market.

> Welfare services need to be adaptable to the diverse needs of the new family models: they must take into account the needs of the families with two working parents and single parents.

> Family ties are becoming more important again but diversity is the new standard.

> Digitalization helps to increase the use of flexible working arrangements such as working from home. More people can choose to combine family and work.

### Redefining work

> Globalization benefits high-performing professionals and punishes low-performing workers

> Many occupations become threatened by the automation of work. Traditional employment is significantly reduced, while the sharing economy with digital platforms creates new working opportunities

> Digital crowd platforms enable new forms of organization and innovation, e.g. digital craftsmanship. Digital hobbies – such as gaming and content creation – become valuable assets in labour market. Immigration stimulates

> European economies and immigrants become a source of talent and European bridges to Africa and Asia

### Resourceful seniors

> The rise of the silver economy changes attitudes towards elderly people

> The emergence of intergenerational relations, such as the sharing of a household. Modern medicine enables us to live longer and healthier

> The demographic bias prevents European societies' ability to renew themselves

> The elderly become excluded by digital technology

# USER VOICE

REAL TESTIMONIES FROM PARTICIPANTS AND USERS  
OF SOCIAL INVESTMENT

## USER VOICE

How can storytelling inform social investment? User involvement runs through the heart of the Innovative Social Investment: Strengthening communities in Europe (InnoSI) project and the core aim is to gather 'User Voice' on a range of social investment and innovation programmes from across Europe. Using Community Reporting practices, 11 different 'User Voice' groups from across 10 countries (Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden and the UK) supported people to tell their stories in relation to topics such as family life, unemployment, education, and integration into society.

Community Reporting for Storytelling provides people with the knowledge and skills to become responsible storytellers and to have their say on the issues and topics that are pertinent to them. Community Reporting for Co-Production uses different forms of digital media to present a range of perspectives on a subject matter, creating a dialogue between various points of view on a topic. Community Reporting for Insight uses people's experiences to provide rich qualitative data to projects, taking the insights from their stories to identify themes, inform findings of wider studies and positively impact on local agendas, policies and service design. These models of Community Reporting inform our programme design and can be used independently of each other, or brought together (as the diagram below shows) to create multifaceted storytelling experiences.



**Snapshot Stories:** These stories engage people in talking about their opinions on a particular topic. Rather than the more detailed and nuanced understandings that the latter two techniques provide, this method aims to gather quick insights into the topic and can be used as a 'starter' storytelling activity to engage people in telling their own stories. As part of this technique an open question is asked to an individual and they respond to it with their opinion. The question is determined with the Community Reporters. This technique provided some useful insights into perceptions of gender equality in the workplace in the Community Reporter programme run in Athens, Greece.

**Dialogue Interviews:** These are peer-to-peer 'interviews' that do not have pre-determined questions. Instead, an opening question (i.e. a conversation starter) is asked which enables the storyteller to start to tell their story and then the Community Reporter recording the story may then ask any questions within this storytelling process that naturally occurs to them. In essence, the structure of this practice mimics our day-to-day conversations, and rather than having a set list of questions, the questions and interactions that take place are those that naturally occur as the story progresses. An example of this technique is Marja's story about community activities in Kainuu, Finland.

**Personal Monologues:** In this type of story, people record themselves talking about a particular topic, experience, life journey etc. These stories are planned in a variety of different ways such as mind-mapping exercises, journey story maps, story and ideas boards, and story element planning sheets. These tools enable people to gather their ideas and structure their thoughts in their own way before they tell their story. An example of this practice is Jorge's story about unemployment in Spain.

"Community reporting is all about giving people a voice, so what we've done is to ask the people what they feel about a particular service or structure, but we do it through their own storytelling, their own approach and their perspective."

Gary Copitch  
CEO of Peoples Voice Media

#### Impact

Engaging people in Community Reporting activities as part of InnoSI contributes to the strong element of user involvement and voice that runs through the wider project. For the individuals who have participated in the Community Reporting activities it has also been an enabling experience.

In essence, the storytelling activities were emotional and it has provided them with some release. Since the delivery of the 2-Day Community Reporting for Insight and 1-Day Training-The-Trainer programmes, a number of subsequent Community Reporting activities have taken place.

Storytelling from end users give a different perspective on social investment and allow us to see the way that social impact policy affects people's real lives.



<http://innosi.eu/analysis-of-community-reporter-material>



<https://communityreporter.net/innosi>

Here is an example from the community reporters trained during the InnoSI user voice program. His name is Juan Carlos and he tells the story of Spain's lost generation. Stories such as that told by Juan Carlos can be used by researchers to gain insights to people's real experiences of social investment.



Juan Carlos feels he is part of a lost generation. He finished his studies in philosophy but couldn't find a job. He belongs to the lost generation of people with studies but without experience. After the crisis they fired lot of people with experience and it is impossible to compete with them. The situation is going to get worse because the new generation will be like them, with training, without experience, but younger. The last step is that with all this time without working, they won't have a pension.

This situation makes him feel powerlessness because you cannot help at home, you are without a job and you can't find any objective. He did courses for the unemployed but they give you useless formation in order to find job. He was lucky to find the soup kitchen where he works as a volunteer sharing his knowledge with other people and now he is studying a degree in social education and hopes he can find a job while studying. He is still hopeful about the future.

Hear his whole story at <https://communityreporter.net/story/lost-generation>

# THE INNOSI CASE STUDIES

FROM EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE  
TO OCCUPATIONAL INITIATIVES FOR THE ELDERLY

## The INNOSI case studies

### Description

The INNOSI project contains a series of 20 in-depth case studies, which include a wide variety of concepts related to the social investment paradigm. These studies are designed to

- > Youth guarantee and non-stop guidance centre (Finland)
- > Urban farming in Utrecht (Netherlands)
- > User-driven development of public services in Kainuu (Finland)
- > The Green Sticht (inclusive neighbourhood) (Netherlands)
- > “Active Regardless of Age”: Government Programme for Older Peoples’ Social Activity (Poland)
- > Exploring how a civil society public partnership matters for social impact (Sweden)
- > Assistance from “A” to “Z”: Professional activation of homeless people (Poland)
- > Taking advantage of newly-arrived pupils’ earlier experiences and knowledge – A Swedish School Reform
- > An Integrated Intervention for Connecting Vocational Schools Graduates with the Labour Market (Greece)
- > The Social Land Program in Hungary
- > Promotion and Strengthening of Women’s Participation in Trade Unions and Their Representative Bodies (Greece)
- > Tanoda – The study hall (Hungary)
- > Personalised plans in Sardinia (Italy)
- > Reconciliation of Work and Family in the frame of the “Audit Berufunfamilie” (Germany)
- > The integrated system of early childhood education and care (ECEC) in Emilia-Romagna (Italy)
- > MAMBA – labour market integration for refugees and asylum seekers in the city of Münster (Germany)
- > Troubled families in Greater Manchester (UK)
- > Social investment and the causes of energy poverty: Are cooperatives a solution? (Spain)
- > Working well (UK)
- > The resurgence of active employment policies in the city of Valencia (Spain)

Four of the Innosi case studies are presented in further depth in the following pages. For descriptions of all the case studies, please refer either to <http://innosi.eu/category/case-studies/> or to the Innosi Educational Handbook.

# 'Tanoda'

The Study Hall  
Hungary

## OVERVIEW

'Tanoda' is a complex extracurricular education program and an effective tool for social integration of disadvantaged children

The 'Tanoda' programme is a complex programme that helps increase the chances of disadvantaged (especially Roma) children for social integration and also strives towards the implementation of 'equal opportunity' in education and in the everyday life. The programme aims to help students with multiple disadvantages to be

more successful at school, to continue their studies and, in this way, to boost their chances in the labour market and social integration. It aims to individually develop each participant's personality as a whole using various methods with free time and educational activities.

# Tanoda - The Study Hall

## Key policy implications

- The Tanoda provides safety and impulsive environment for disadvantaged children to compensate for the lack of socialization and to prevent falling behind at school.
- > The program is based on individual needs and alternative, informal items of experiential education.
  - > The Tanoda's are organized by civil associations as a grassroots initiative.
  - > Involvement of volunteering work in the process.
  - > Networking between the people in the children's environment and the institutions.
  - > The program ensures the shared experience of the child and the parent and it develops parental competencies.
  - > The program features methods that assist learning.
  - > It also applies effective forms of community development.
  - > This type of school treats students as partners, it gets them involved in forming and managing a timetable based on individual needs, group work and leisure time activities.

## Main findings

In respect to academic achievements, no significant effects of the program could be detected, but improvement tendencies in the case of the children taking part in the program could be observed. We concluded that 39.6% of children did not perceive any changes, they did not get better or worse school grades. 56% of children could improve their school grades due to the developmental activities, while 44% of them received worse grades from one or more school subjects than a year earlier. Considering the fact that the target group has multiple disadvantages (socio-cultural background described above, the school in the housing estate was closed, so children had to attend another schools with higher expectations and less

acceptance), such results are significant. It is possible that without the study hall program, more students would have received worse school grades and presumably we would not see any improving school grades.

Besides, we also examined how the developmental activities of the program were perceived by educators per students and per school subjects. We could perform this analysis only on 35% of the entire population (N=91) even after data merged. Experts expressed their slightly negative opinion about the result of the development in the case of only 2 children (2.2%) but experts were mostly positive. Generally, we concluded that children achieved 'a slightly positive' change at an average. Educators expressed strongly positive

opinion about the development only in two cases (2.2%). In addition to the abovementioned effects, other improvements could also be detected among children due to program activities, which cannot be measured with school grades. The program was carried out among multiply disadvantaged children who were to prove their abilities in a school with well-targeted, child-centered preparation, programmes, and care of appropriate type and extent. Results were achieved not only in the area of education but also in other fields of life, fostering the integration process of the children.

"I think with us in the Tanoda they did not just receive academic knowledge, which was very important, but attitude as well. They enjoyed coming to us though the main activity was studying. They were to much lagging behind compared to the city schools and to catch up with all those, but they still enjoyed coming... More interested. Several of them go to do sport for example. They also pay attention to healthier eating now, it has become important for them. They are more proudful, more adroit, exactly because they have become wider in their thinking. These children have developed in every area."

#### Impact & Implications

Although 51 children out of the 91 targeted children's could improve their school grades in at least one school subject during the period examined, the outstanding impact for beneficiaries of this short-cycle program were primarily significant on the non-cognitive areas: "works independently with few errors", "has become more reliable", "slow development", "has improved their average result", "the development of these abilities", "better academic results", "the orientation of sense of success", "has become cooperative and motivated", "development of social skills", "solves tasks with little help", "safe solution of basic operations", "good orientation on map", "step by step development", "active participation during classes", "has got to like reading". The analysis of the data also verifies that



the results of the development were considered positive by the teachers too. They learned new methods and developed, in most cases, new relationships also with problematic children, closed by any children with positive evaluation. During the program, it became more and more visible that there were differences in the children's family background, their housing circumstances, their fields of interest and their development. What seems to be visible for the teachers is that success is influenced by several aspects; both the family background and the educational program are determinative.

"The teacher didn't just teach but really nurtured, in the truest sense of the word, played unintentionally, but taught in a playful way during everyday activities. And what was most important, is that, as I said, the teacher taught, nurtured and loved the children. And the language of love, activities carried out through it, those will definitely stick with the children." (Interviewee No. 35 - expert)

An important impact of the program is the network created between the people in the children's environment and the institutions. The program ensures the shared experience

of the child and the parent which develops parental competencies. The parent and the child can also evaluate the child's progress at school and the Tanoda.

In summary, we can state that the project has shown extraordinary success, if we consider the situation of the target group. However, the project was of a low budget, which had to be complimented by the implementers' in-kind and financial contribution. The implementers invested a lot of their own contribution in the project and its follow-up, which also indicates a high risk for the program in the future, because with long-term shortage of funds, these very important integration programs can't operate effectively.

#### Further information

For further information on InnoSI: Innovation in Social Investment: approaches to social investment from the scientific perspective, visit our website at <http://innosi.eu/>

# Exploring how a civil society public partnership matters for social impact

A case of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children reception and integration in Sweden Sweden

## OVERVIEW

Innovative civil society public partnership for the reception and integration of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in Gothenburg, Sweden

The case study analyses the abilities of Gothenburg municipality to address the challenge of newcomer immigrant children without parents: reception and integration through an innovative form of collaborative partnership between municipality and nine voluntary organisations (ideburna offentliga partnerskap, IOP). This unique partnership – the largest and economically heaviest cross-sector collaboration (IOP) in Sweden – is explored against its ambitions to establish new patterns of more equal and long-term relations with civil society, in contrast to traditional contracts and grants, and its

abilities and added value in addressing new challenges of social investment in unaccompanied immigrant children.

This unique IOP partnership, being the largest and economically heaviest cross-sector collaboration (IOP) in Sweden, is explored against its ambitions to establish new patterns of more equal and long-term relations with civil society, in contrast to traditional contracts and grants, and its abilities and added value in addressing new challenges of social investment in unaccompanied immigrant children.

# Civil society public partnerships and social impact

## Key policy implications

How a civil society public partnership matters for social impact

Collaboration with civil society allows increasing public policy capacity, relevance, quality and acceptance thereby benefitting public agencies, civil society and targeted groups. This form of collaboration overcomes important relation and power balancing challenges as it allows civil society a more equal role in local policy and service design, in contrast to a pure service agent, without undermining civil society specificity and critical voice. Arguably the new relations are a major factor for policy/service success.

A few major policy implications of IOP in Gothenburg:

- > Services provided by IOP partnership are difficult to achieve by other dominant collaboration models;
- > The positive mid to long-term economic effects of children wellbeing and integration are outweighed by involved public and civil society costs;

- > Knowledge exchange and innovative resource pooling allows developing more adequate, need based and effective services.
- > The political support truly matters for the implementation and social impact of IOP

## Main findings

Innovative organisational elements

IOP are innovative in regards to their function and design. There are no other partnership/collaboration forms in Sweden that respect and highlight the uniqueness of civil society organizations. Thanks to the partnership collaboration and innovative ways to pool and share the available public resources and knowledge all IOP partners could receive support for developing individual complementary services targeted at the partnership children and their housing personnel. A fixed sum of public money for housing services per child was allocated to the partnership pool to co-finance complementary services to reach partnership goals. This model allowed developing

and coordinating a service while its delivery depended on individual partner contributions and access to volunteers. Thus all services complementary to housing bring the partnership an added value, unlikely to be achieved in collaboration with private for-profit actors.

Services developed through partnership

The partnership offered newcomer children residing in its housings a variety of services to complement the care and integration attempts of their housing personnel. To increase children wellbeing, chances to meaningful free time and integration – the needs identified by the partner organization – children we offered free psychological counseling, friend family matchmaking, summer on-job

practice opportunities and possibilities to establish links with the Swedish civil society, learn more about Sweden and their city, practice language and develop new skills through a variety of summer leisure time services. Thus integration was approached from a holistic perspective. All services, albeit to varying extent, contributed positively to the children wellbeing and integration. Overall access to more than one of services resulted in a cumulative effect. One of the most appreciated and frequently used services among by partnership youngsters was friend family matchmaking and psychological counseling.

#### Friend family

A majority of partnership 130-150 children (fluctuating number) have been matched with Swedish families in 2016 with the aim to establish a longer-term private relation. The interest among children has been great (ca 99%) and almost all matched children have appreciated the friend family relations. For some the relationship implied having a “supplementary family” and ability to receive attentiveness and support in their daily life especially after not seeing their own families for 1-1,5 year. Children especially appreciated possibilities to train Swedish, play sports, take part in family activities, (a picnic, go fishing, play games, family gardening) or just sit and talk. Some youngsters have been offered an own gardening plot. Yet another received friend family help with taking lessons for a driver’s licence. The service had an additional impact also for the friend families who felt satisfaction with being able to give youngsters some meaningful activities and relations.

#### Impact & Implications

##### Partnership Impact for services

The study concludes that the unique partnership impact and the collective value for the targeted unaccompanied minors lies in what the partners can offer and achieve together rather than by individual services. The partnership arrangement not only enabled initiating new personalized services, the coordination and responsibilities for which were placed at different organisations, but it also enabled smoother collaboration around their planning and

implementation and especially their timing, tailoring and complementarity, disregarding all challenges of newly evolving partnership.

Several major factors may be highlighted for partnership success in its policies and their impact so far. Firstly, a shared understanding and commitment to the new social challenge and secondly, understanding that such a complex challenge requires collaboration across organisations and sectors where public sector actors admit their dependency on civil society and where civil society organisations see each other as collaborators rather than competitors.

Thirdly, IOP was designed in a way as to allow the civil society organizations a greater influence in both partnership management tools – such as principles for pooling and sharing the allocated public resources – and in designing the particular partnership policy contents and services. As a result, the partnership agreement serves as an example of a more balanced collaboration form enabling civil society organizations greater influence than in traditional contracts and greater responsibility sharing with the municipality than in traditional grants. These new relations and trust-based steering towards partnership goal legitimises the partnership in the eyes of civil society and as an effect allows developing a unique holistic approach towards qualitative services as a sustainable social investment in newcomer children.

##### Partnership Impact for beneficiaries

While the youngsters did not use all of the partnership services, they have used some or a few and thus often gaining more value and cumulative impact for their wellbeing, meaningful and structured free-time and integration. Several of the partnership services contributed to youngsters’ wellbeing and empowerment by providing psychosocial support structure and meaning to their leisure time. Majority of partnership youngsters have gained access to social networks and some chose to gain labour market experience through summer on-job practice. In short, the unique offer of complementary services have both individually and especially cumulatively achieved a positive impact in increasing newcomer children wellbeing and for those that are allowed to stay chances to integration.

#### Political context matters

Even if partnership results are undeniably positive several important factors hindered more positive effects: Constant fluctuation of youngsters in and out of partnership housings and services often for reasons out of partnership control, youngsters' traumatic war and asylum experiences only worsened by the legal changes in asylum laws, procedures and increasingly harsh political climate. Thus the political context and climate truly mattered for the implementation and social impact of collective partnership action.

#### Economic impact

The Gothenburg IOP partnership is unique in its scale and focus although by 2017 there are ca 56 local and regional IOP partnerships on social and welfare services in Sweden. There has been a discussion in several other municipalities about applying similar model for newcomer reception but the recent changes in government newcomer policy sets new challenges for IOPs in this policy area.

As this partnership has just been initiated in May 2015 and it has taken time to define and develop the services to address children needs the study was not yet able to grasp

all the positive impact and assess its economic effects. It is clear though that the services in their entirety have positive effects that are difficult to achieve by other collaboration models and organisational arrangements, such as commissioning services. The positive mid to long-term economic effects of children wellbeing and integration are outweighed by involved public and civil society costs. However the changing political context and legal amendments produced some negative consequences for the targeted children and to counteract this much higher costs from service delivering actors were required drawing focus from mid-to and long-term to emergency measures.

#### Lessons from Gothenburg IOP

As these partnerships are mainly driven by the political will rather than clear legal frameworks the importance of local and national political culture and driving actors cannot be stressed enough. National governments need to be more supportive in specifying favourable legal frameworks for IOP collaborations. Here knowledge exchange regarding framing similar collaborations in the EU are needed to educate political decision makers.

#### Further information

For further information on Innosi: Innovation in Social Investment: approaches to social investment from the scientific perspective, visit our website at <http://innosi.eu/>

To access the related community reporter material, visit

<https://www.kau.se/innovativa-sociala-satsningar-for-nyanlanda-ensamkommande-ungas-integrations-sverige>

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# MAMBA – Labour Market Integration

Germany

## OVERVIEW

Labour market integration for refugees and asylum seekers in the city of Münster (NRW)  
the case study of the MAMBA-Programme.

In the frame of the case study we evaluated the innovativeness, implementation and impact of social investment in the field of labour market integration of refugees and asylum seekers. The investigation describes ways of implementing social investment and helps to find a strategy to adapt effective and efficient social policy instruments for different policy fields and

countries.  
With the term 'social investment' we refer to social policy instruments which aim at enabling people to cope with future risks through e.g. education, training, social services or universal access to child care. In this view, social policy becomes a preventative long-term strategy with social and economic returns over time instead of merely compensating for income losses.

# MAMBA – LABOUR MARKET INTEGRATION FOR REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS IN THE CITY OF MÜNSTER

## Key policy implications

- > Investment in intersectoral exchange and personalised services are impactful to integrate refugees and asylum seekers into the labour market.
- > Intensive personal support lowers barriers to institutions and helps to offer targeted services for individual problems. Therefore, counsellors must be aware of the target group's needs through trainings and information.
- > Comprehensive case management provides hand in hand assistance to avoid drop outs at transition points. The basis is mutual trust and unbureaucratic interaction of all relevant actors involved in the integration process as well as good connections to third organisations.

## Main findings

The Integrationsrichtlinie Bund has been conceived at federal level by experts and politicians to integrate refugees and asylum seekers with cumulative placement obstacles into society and labour market. Therefore, networks with specific partners (eg. refugee and migrant organisations are not obligatory, but the jobcenter) were intended. These should focus on the individual deficits of migrants compared to the German labour market structure and on a fast job placement for those with the legal right to do so. Tailored, participant-focused measures should lead to enhanced employability of the participants. The regulation of measures and structures to be funded is comparatively strict with limited freedom to manoeuvre for the local actors. Additionally, the funding is short term oriented, since the programme is still seen as experimental even though it is evaluated positively for several times.

- > Desirable spill-over effects: building a network structure reduces institutional prejudices and makes public and social institutions more aware of refugees and asylum seekers needs.

- > Bringing companies and migrants together: clarification of legal and practical hindrances obstacles and opportunities through counselling, information and exchange. Therefore, the reputation of a stable and trustful network is favourable.
- > The integration of migrants into society and labour market is a long-term project and so must be the perspective of funds. Financiers may state conditions of effectiveness and efficiency, but should let the local actors adapt to their specific circumstances.

However, it is evident from the interviews that MAMBA actors with their long term experience, local responsibilities and their individual goals are working as creative as possible with the given regulations and funding restrictive. Thus, they enlarged the focus on individual hindrances to a structural level of barriers, which is basically the residence status connected with work restrictions. For example, the HBZ, with valuable connections to companies and good reputation in negotiations with public authorities, can in some cases achieve a residence permit by vocational training placement.

The advantage of a multidisciplinary network can also be its challenge. As the interviews and internal documents disclose, different approaches and ideas of the actors led to disparities in the beginning. For instance, when the GGUA tries to improve the living conditions of refugees and asylum

seekers and the HBZ intends to ensure a pool of skilled workers in the handicrafts branch, both focusses and targets can concur for one person. However, the network soon got aware of this problem and solved it through a process of understanding and accepting each other. Furthermore, regularly meetings and personal communication guarantee the stability of the network.

The funding insecurity is more severe and leads to a lack of planning, reduces the attractiveness of the MAMBA programme as employer, risks a high staff turnover and prevents the sustainability of services for refugees and asylum seekers. Thereby, important expertise and partnerships could get lost and must expensively be build up again when the situation gets more forcing. Furthermore, the instrument of monitoring is not reliable, since a positive impact must in the long run lead to a stable funding and is in reality dependent on the political agenda.

#### Impact & Implications

The network structure of MAMBA guarantees a targeted and seamless support of refugees and asylum seekers. Low threshold access offers like women cafés lower barriers for the first contact with the target group. At the same time the first contact organisations GJUA and JAZ are experts in stabilizing (young) migrants financially, socially and mentally. With personal counselling, guidance and particularly time, a trustful relationship is built up.

Comprehensive case management provides hand in hand assistance to avoid drop outs at transition points. The individual prospects are developed jointly for each participant. This calls for close interactions and low unbureaucratic hindrances between the usually separated institutions. The MAMBA network was able to establish mutual respect between the members through regularly



meetings, short communication channels and an open door approach. In addition, the MAMBA coordinator stays informed with the legal and practical regulation of migrant's labour market access and regularly offers trainings and seminars for the network partners.

The MAMBA network embraces even more actors: different voluntary organisations, companies, representative bodies or public authorities are regular collaborating partners in integrating clients into labour market and society. Through the committed work of each network partner and the efficient network structure, MAMBA has a good reputation in the local community, earning high trust and open doors. Thus, public and social institutions get more aware of refugees and asylum seekers needs and adopt practices from the network.

Already, many companies would like to hire refugees or asylum seekers, but they hesitate due to legal and practical barriers and the future uncertainty. The MAMBA counsellors reduce these obstacles by clarifying the situation and matching the needs of client and potential employer. Since the first setup started in 2008, more than 1.400 persons participated in the MAMBA programme. In the second round, MAMBA 2 reached about 1.000 participants, of which 340 (34%) could be placed successfully into employment, vocational training or long-term qualification measures. For the ongoing third funding round, MAMBA envisages to support 800 participants until the end of 2019 and to generate a placement rate of 40%. According to the

statements of the involved organizations, MAMBA 3 is on the right track meet this ambitious targets.

For the second round of the MAMBA programme we tried to show the economic impact through calculations of the programme cost compared to savings due to sooner or more permanent labour market access. We can state an economic return of the social investment in the MAMBA project from the second year of labour market participation or vocational training of the participants. For every following year about 12.000 Euro of public payments can be saved per successfully integrated participant. Thus, the MAMBA project can be perceived as a very impactful social investment.

#### Further information

For further information on InnoSI: Innovation in Social Investment: approaches to social investment from the scientific perspective, visit our website at <http://innosileu/>

You can find the case study description also in German at <http://www.uni-muenster.de/IFPol/InnoSI/index.html>

To view the Community Reporting video with a personal experience of the case study please follow the link below:

<https://youtu.be/ORzdaExt3WA?list=PL1vtH0JD7gN1wSC3qh-V9TtOq075zP4P>

# The integrated system of early childhood education and care in Emilia-Romagna Region

(ECEC)

Italy

## OVERVIEW

The Report presents the results of an eight-month research study undertaken under the INNOSI Project framework, pursuing three main objectives:

- Exploring in which ways ECEC services can be beneficial to a wide array of actors –children, families and local communities –who were directly involved in the project.
- Collecting knowledge on how quality and accessibility of ECEC services could be improved through integrated governance (partnership between public, private NFP and community stakeholders).
- Analysing, through a case study approach, the integrated system of ECEC services in Emilia-Romagna Region as an example of good practice of Social Innovation, with particular reference to social economy initiatives that pro-actively engage with local actors, including children, their families and the communities in which they are living.

# The integrated system of early childhood education and care (ECEC) in Emilia-Romagna Region

## Key policy implications

According to the ECCOMM 66/2011, improving the quality and accessibility of ECEC systems across Europe is crucial for all aspects of economic and social growth, as early childhood education lays the foundation for successful lifelong learning, social integration, personal development and later employability.

The case study revealed that no-one model of service fits all. Rather, key success factors for increasing accessibility of ECEC provision reside in the flexible combination of different funding sources coming from the public sector – as well as from the private NFP sector and private sources – within a comprehensive framework of public policies that responsibly addresses the needs identified within each community while striving for universalism.

The case study showed how high quality ECEC provision is achieved through the co-creation and sharing of knowledge, expertise and experiences that are generated by innovative forms of public governance: local and regional networks, partnerships with parents, coalitions for policy advocacy, inter-agency collaboration. The evidence gathered highlights that ECEC quality is more likely to be the RESULT OF JOINT ACTIONS INSCRIBED WITHIN A COMPETENT SYSTEM rather than the direct consequence of practitioners' individual competences. The key-factors contributing to the successful development of high quality ECEC are connected to:

- > The elaboration of a regulatory framework ensuring an even level of structural quality across services.
- > A shared pedagogical vision that actively encourages participation of families and community stakeholders to the management of ECEC institutions.
- > The presence of a coordination infrastructure and of participatory networks at municipal, provincial and regional level which sustain bottom-up innovation and the scaling up of successful initiatives through the documentation and exchange of good practices -pedagogical coordinators as crucial system figures.
- > A strong focus on continuing professional development activities that are organised in the form of 'laboratories for social change' – empowering ECEC professionals – rather than as 'top-down training;
- > Inter-agency cooperation among professionals and institutions operating across different sectors (healthcare, social welfare, education) for the welfare of young children and their families at all levels of the system (from the local community level to the inter-departmental collaboration at regional level).
- > Policy decision-making processes carried out in close consultation with ECEC professionals, pedagogical coordinators, community advocacy groups and other relevant stakeholders.

## Main findings

In line with the findings of the European Commission's study CoRE: Competence Requirements in ECEC (Urban et al., 2011), the evidence gathered from the case study analysis underline that the QUALITY of educational and care practices enacted in early childhood settings is more likely to be the RESULT OF JOINT ACTIONS INSCRIBED WITHIN A COMPETENT SYSTEM rather than the direct consequence of practitioners' individual competences. In the cases of social innovation that were examined, the key-factors contributing to the successful development of high quality ECEC practices are connected to:

- > The elaboration of a regulatory framework ensuring an even level of structural quality across ECEC services in the Region (R.L.1/2000 and amendments) in relation to: coordination, mentoring and guidance of professionals at team level, practitioners' joint work opportunities and non-contact time for participating in collective meetings, in-house professional development, action-research projects (approx. 80-120 hours/year) and meeting with parents;
- > A shared pedagogical vision that actively encourages the participation of families and community stakeholders to the management of ECEC institutions: in this sense, the fact that early childhood institutions are conceived as a public good (see box 1 under par. 4.4.1) implies that parents are perceived as partners rather than as end-users ('service approach') or costumers ('private business approach').
- > The presence of a coordination infrastructure and of participatory networks at municipal, provincial (CPP) and regional level which sustain bottom-up innovation and the scaling up of successful initiatives through the

documentation and exchange of good practices...

- > ... in this sense continuing professional development activities are organised in the form of laboratories for social change (Manini, 2006) –empowering ECEC professionals –rather than as expert led training' aimed to the acquisition of predefined skills.

- > Inter-agency cooperation among professionals and institutions operating across different sectors (eg. healthcare, social welfare, education) for the welfare of young children and their families at all levels of the system (from the local community level to the inter-departmental collaboration at regional level)

- > Policy decision-making processes that are carried out in close consultation with ECEC professionals –such as the pedagogical coordination networks (CPP) –with community advocacy groups and with other relevant stakeholders.

In particular, the analysis of the data collected through interviews and documentary sources emphasise the CRUCIAL ROLE played by pedagogical coordinators as SYSTEM FIGURES. By constantly connecting –in their everyday work –the educational and social needs emerging at local level (regular meeting with ECEC staff and families, services' supervision) with pedagogical practice innovation through guidance and professional development initiatives, the coordinators become catalysers of change both at the level of ECEC services and at the level of local policy advocacy processes. In this regard, the findings from the cases studies highlight that it is precisely the mutual interaction of bottom-up and top-down innovation processes –characterising the connection between experimental pedagogical practices and responsive ECEC policies in E-R –to be key-factors of success of local social innovation initiatives.

## Impact & Implications

The lessons learnt from the case studies analysis point out that CERTAIN CONDITIONS ARE NEEDED for the successful development of social innovation in the ECEC field. Such conditions encompass:

> The presence of a coherent system of public policies providing a regulatory framework according to which funding to public and private-NFP provision could be systematically provided on the basis of accessibility and quality requirement satisfaction (eg. inclusion of children with special needs, income-related fees favoring the participation of low-income families, reasonable adult:child ratio, pedagogical coordination, amount of paid working hours without children allowing staff to participate in collegial meetings and ongoing professional development activities available for staff free of charge).

> A shared commitment to ECEC as a public good at all level of governance – from the regional level, to the local level to the level of ECEC service providers – which encourage bottom-up policy advocacy and sustains innovation through responsive policy-making processes.

The analysis of the data collected through interviews to key-stakeholders at the different locations in which the case studies were based also highlight that social innovation in ECEC is more likely to happen in contexts where.

> Traditions of civic engagement and educational activism are present or emerging in the local community.

> The initiatives aimed to the development of ECEC services are driven by a commitment to children's rights and social justice—starting from parents and communities groups—rather than from a 'return of investment' rationale (eg. ECEC services viewed as profitable assets).

### Further information

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**SCIENTIFIC  
APPROACHES  
TO SOCIAL  
INVESTMENT**

## Impact

**Regional variation:** The key implication for our project is that for effective impact we will need a range of innovative ways of implementing and financing social welfare systems to appeal to a wide range of policy-makers and stakeholders in different European countries.

**Wide range of potential stakeholders:** Stakeholders will include national and European-level policymakers and third and private sector organisations across Europe who currently or who might in the future be involved in implementing and financing social welfare systems.

**Relevance:** There is an extensive literature on knowledge mobilisation that consistently shows that there is no guarantee that even methodologically robust and clearly documented research findings will influence policy and practice. The key implications of this for our project are that research must be translated and that translation should involve research and policy intermediaries.

**Timeliness:** The social welfare policy environment is fast moving. Innovations in social welfare that look promising now, may not be useful in 5 to 10 years' time.

**Fiscal consolidation/austerity:** virtually all EU countries are to some extent affected by the need to reduce spending and tackle debt – not just at national/federal level but also in regions and municipalities. This means that knowledge mobilisation will have to make a convincing case that new approaches are an investment in future growth and cohesion rather than merely an expense.

“Research must be translated and that translation should involve research and policy intermediaries”

**Social economy/private sector capacity:** some INNOSI partners reported weaknesses in the capacity of the social economy sector (e.g. GR, HU, IT, PL) even if they also saw potential for a greater deployment of such organisations; others highlighted the difficulties for private companies of operating sustainably in a fractured market with wide variations between municipalities and regions or providing fee-charging services to people with a low income (e.g. HU, FI) – this may mean that the ideal of community/citizen-led initiatives is difficult to achieve in practice.

**Modalities of partnerships:** building new relationships between organisations in different sectors can be very challenging in terms of legal contracts and financing; this is clear even when creating new forms of joint working within the public sector.



# SCIENTIFIC APPROACHES TO SOCIAL INVESTMENT

## The question

What is the current state of research and scientific debate on the 'Social Investment' policy paradigm in European countries? Why has this new paradigm and strategy of social policy been established and developed by social scientists and policymakers.

## Findings

The "Social Investment" approach and reform agenda are ideas and concepts widespread in the current academic debate and scientific literature.

The existing scientific literature related to the "Social Investment" perspective focuses on both its theoretical background and empirical aspects of social investments in Europe. The literature reviewed includes diverse definitions of "Social Investment". It covers not only the current debate on evolution of welfare and state regimes but also shows nuances related to particular aspects of the concept in terms of social innovation, social impact and entrepreneurship.

Defining a "Social Investment" approach is difficult because the literature contains different ideas about the role of the state in the process of shaping social policy systems. Historically the origins of the social investment perspective can be tracked

back to the early years of the social-democratic Swedish welfare state.

Social investment is often presented as an alternative to neo-liberal welfare models. In Europe, when limits to deficit and debt financing in the 1990s were set, policy makers became more willing to adopt measures of cost containment together with more active labour market policies.

European Union institutions have had a large influence on the social investment model. Important contributions have highlighted the potential of social investment as a new perspective on or even a new paradigm for social policy in European countries.

The "Social Investment" perspective recognizes the importance of market failure, the need for state intervention and the need to control market forces in order to improve both economic and social results of the social policy actions.

Many social scientists, who emphasize the importance of social investment link the concept with the activism of the state and the development of social services, with an emphasis on social integration rather than financial benefit.

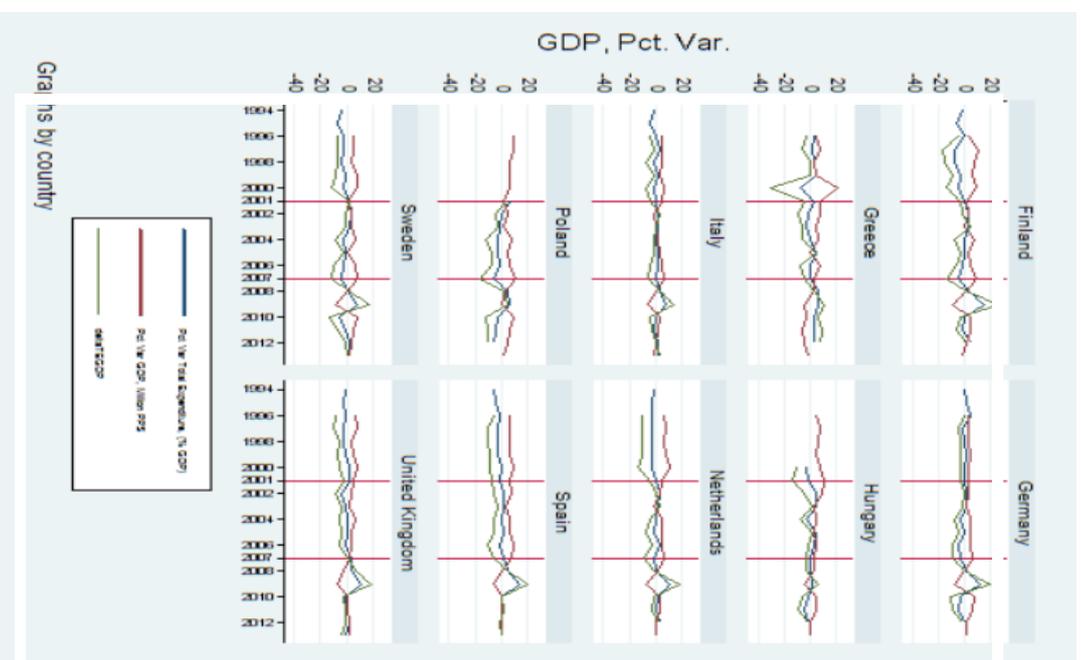
## Impact

The social investment paradigm is a new concept, hence its criticism is based on short-term assessments of implemented solutions and possible future consequences of undertaken actions.

Within this concept different approaches can be distinguished. The social investment strategy is promoted by both social democratic academics and Third Way proponents. Their analyses show many common areas of understanding problems and shortcomings of the welfare state and identify common directions of social investment strategies but differ in many important issues, for example, social policies and their role, understanding equality, productivity of social spending and creation of incentives for activation.

Other theorists and practitioners of social investment concepts refer to one of these approaches or combine elements of both of them. Therefore, some critical arguments apply only to a specific approach to social investment (rather than to the entire concept).

<http://innosi.eu/approaches-to-social-investment>



Innosi Countries Total Social Expenditure, Percentage variation, % of GDP, 1994-2013, adapted from Eurostat

*“The social economy is a more encompassing concept than the market economy.*

*Although money may be involved in the trade of goods and services, the transaction is contextualised in the society of those who take part. The background to, and motivation of, the social economy is comprised of the strengthening of relationships, social norms and communities; the addressing of public goods; and the consideration of non-financial returns.*

*It follows, investors in this economy must consider social as well as financial returns.”*

K. Albertson Manchester Metropolitan University

# SOCIAL INVESTMENT

QUIET REVOLUTION OR SHAKEN WELFARE CAPITALISM?

# Social investment

## The question

How, and to what extent, have EU member countries adopted welfare systems which incorporate aspects of social investment in the last twenty years? The quantitative and comparative study focuses on social investment strategies across 28 European member states. The aim is to map out and explore the effectiveness of different social investment strategies. An overview of macro-level welfare performance indicators consist of a review of available macro-indicators to assess welfare performance in the light of social investment decisions.

## Findings

Data confirm to some extent the interpretation of a quiet revolution (Hemerijck 2015) and for other and fundamental extent challenge it. The thesis of a stable European welfare system proceeding in a slow but progressive way is confirmed.

There are no clear trends towards more social investment spending. In particular there is not a clear trade-off between compensatory and social investment spending, nor between social spending for elderly and social spending for childhood and youth.

By considering total social expenditure, data show an upward trend for almost all countries from 1995–2000 to 2008–2013.

Support for parents' labour market participation is the new real emerging policies field.

European states show a small growth in public expenses for education, but not a trend towards convergence.

The life-course analysis shows the importance of old age expenditure. After 2008 there is an upswing for almost all European nation.

**“QUIET REVOLUTION  
OR SHAKEN WELFARE  
CAPITALISM?”**

The idea of a convergence around the compensatory social policies could mean that the quiet revolution will slow down, giving way to a stronger trend towards austerity.

An important insight, the social investment core shift from the activation policies for market exclusion to policies that support women to save time for work.

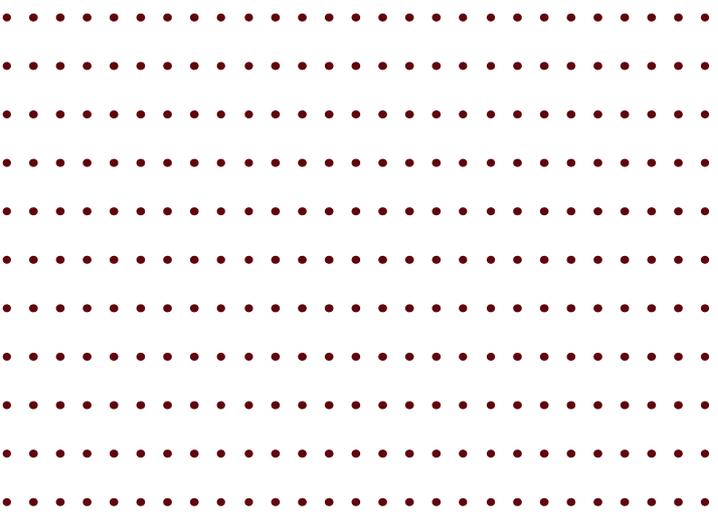
## Impact

The social investment core is shifting from the activation policies for market exclusion to policies that support women to free time for work. The core of activation policies is not as strong as that of time freeing.

If social investment approach advocated policy re-orientation from the “numerator” to the “denominator”, the process to increase the “denominator” pertains the augment of paid workers, but not a process of human capital upgrading.

Since the crisis, things have become more complicated. Data show a double movement: a first moment of Keynesian policies that have an impact on social spending and a second period of the neo-liberal retrenchment.

The idea of a convergence around the compensatory social policies could mean that the quiet revolution is slowing down, giving way to a stronger trend towards austerity. Our statistical analyses provide a different interpretative point of view on Hemerijck’s hypothesis: there could be a recalibration process of welfare capitalism that, while it aims at human capital creation suited to the new knowledge-based economy, it is also forced to buy time through compensatory policies, that serve to prop up the system in crisis.



<http://innosi.eu/social-investment-in-times-of-crisis-a-quiet-revolution-or-a-shaken-welfare-capitalism>

**DELIVERING  
OUTCOMES FROM  
THE SOCIAL  
ECONOMY**  
ASOCIALINVESTMENTPERSPECTIVE

# DELIVERING OUTCOMES FROM THE SOCIAL ECONOMY

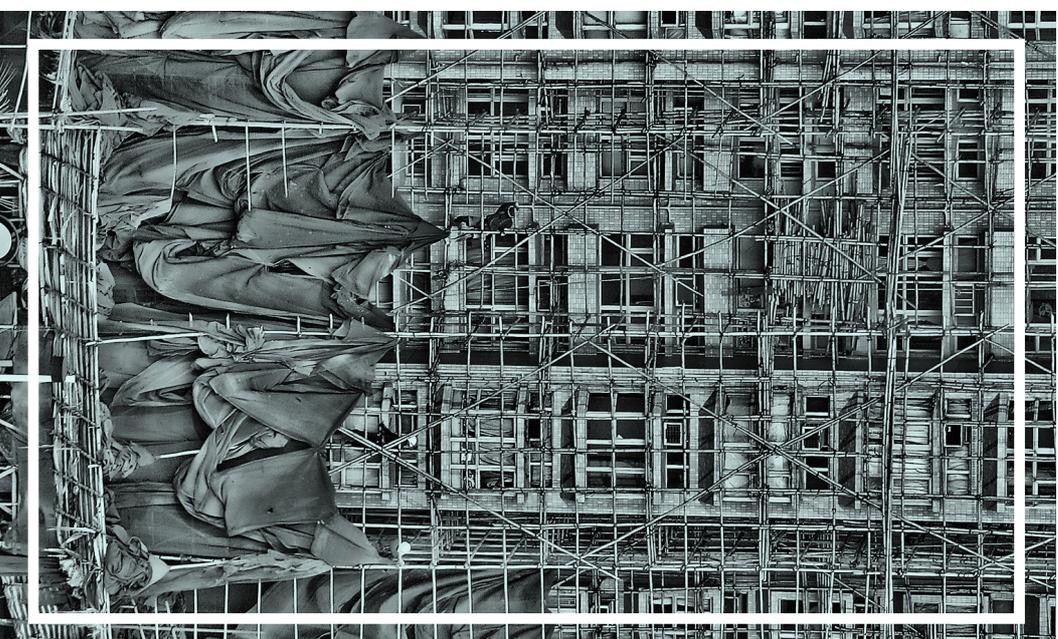
## The question

What role has the social economy played in the welfare policy areas analysed in the innosi project? To what extent is the social economy relevant for the development, implementation and financing of social investments. What is the impact of social investment in European countries on the social economy?

## Findings

All countries under observation invest in the reconciliation of work and family for mothers, but to a different extent and with heterogeneous developments. Historic changes in policies towards the reconciliation of work and family occurred in Germany and Poland. In Poland maternity leave was extended and parental leave for the usage of both parents was introduced with comparatively high benefits. Employers are made more and more aware of the importance of family-friendly company policies.

Comprehensive, coherent reconciliation policies for parents, which are already well established, exist in France, Sweden and Finland. Since these policies are defined as effective, they are less subject to reforms. Leave schemes are very long and generously paid in the Scandinavian countries whereas in France mothers stay at home an average of 4 months, because parental leave is not well paid. On the other hand, family benefits in France are very high and the supply of child care facilities and subsidies for alternative care schemes are widely provided, as is the case for Sweden and Finland. Part-time work ensures the connection to the labour market for mothers and, partly for fathers in Sweden and France - to a lesser extent in Finland. The Netherlands similarly has a comparatively high employment rate of women through the long-term investment in part-time contracts. Part-time workers do not perceive discrimination compared to full time employees. However, the part-time track seems to be very persistent and a barrier for female careers. The Dutch government is investing in childcare and education facilities, but the leave policies are not on the agenda.



Newcomers in reconciliation policies - with incoherent policies and attempts to reform family policies to a social investment perspective with low effectiveness - are Hungary, Spain, Italy, Greece, and the UK. Spain showed efforts to reform the framework for parents' labour market participation until the crisis took its toll. Greece introduced flexible work arrangements, which started with the ESF programme "reconciliation of work and family" and are barely used. Hungary is also promoting part-time work after maternity leave. Reforms in Italy mainly focus on company subsidies to hire women and financial support to found one's own business. However, these reforms do not have an impact on the employment rate of women, which is still very low in Hungary, Spain, Italy, and Greece since reconciliation policies are not comprehensive, do not follow a strategy and are subject to fiscal consolidation measures. The most important threat to a coherent reconciliation policy is the lack of a long-term perspective in the integration of different policies and funding. Thus, even though incoherencies in the countries have different characteristics as visible in Italy, Spain, and Greece the short effective leave is followed by a wide childcare gap. In Hungary, even though the long leave leads to an exclusion of mothers from the labour market, the need for action is the same. The UK provides generous family benefits, but few effective reconciliation measures exist.

#### Impact

The results of our interview analysis show that, although in all countries under study social economy organisations are involved in welfare production we do not notice a general increasing importance of these players in the welfare mix. Quite the contrary: in Finland, Italy, Hungary, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom, interview partners even stated a decreasing importance of the social economy in welfare production. There are different reasons for this development: while countries like the Netherlands and the United Kingdom embarked upon a rigorous budgetary policy which affected the financing of social economy activities, other countries like Finland and Italy rather expanded state activities instead of developing the cooperation between state and social economy.

The greatest growth of importance of social economy organisations can be observed in most of the countries under study in the context of child care policies. In almost all member countries of the European Union the expanding of the child care sector has been the most important concern of welfare policies in recent years. And in contrast to reconciliation policies which are typically based on transfer payments (like parental allowances) from the public budget

**"The most important threat to a coherent reconciliation policy is the lack of a long-term perspective in the integration of different policies and funding."**

C. Fox Manchester Metropolitan University

to the beneficiaries, child care is a generic person based service that requires facilities and human resources.

Social economy organisations are involved in long-term care policies in all countries of observation to a highly differing extent. Where social associations, foundations or co-operations have a traditional role in the long-term care market of Germany, Hungary, Poland or the UK and are strongly present in France, Italy, Spain and the Netherlands, those organisations are rarely involved in the policy field in Finland, Sweden and Greece. Although social economy organisations have a tradition or are governmentally or municipally favoured for their social approach and profit limit in most of the countries, the prospects of the third sector in LTC are not promising. Interestingly, the interviewed experts in many countries do not see an increasing importance of social economy in the field of active labour market policies (FI, FR, GR, HU, IT, PL). In some of the countries the importance of social economy has not increased in recent years or the policy field remains mainly in the responsibility of the public employment bureaus although we recognise a trend of communalisation in some countries.



<http://inmosieur/342-2>



THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION IS THE EXECUTIVE AND MANAGING  
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**imosi**  
Innovative Social Investment  
Strengthening communities in Europe

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