

# **MOST International UNESCO workshop**

**on**

## **“Measuring Social Public Policies: Inclusiveness and Impact”**

**25-26 March 2013**

**Paris**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

SHS/2013/PI/H/10

## **General recommendations**

- Quantitative methodologies should be accompanied by qualitative evidence so as to better understand the underlining mechanisms and interpret data. Thus, statistical information and quantitative data are to be considered also through real life perceptions.
- A participatory approach should be followed, involving different stakeholders, such as excluded people themselves, seeing that economic progress is not the only one affecting social conditions. In addition, involving the civil society is an important element for ensuring transparency and accountability while also disseminating and reaching knowledge in the field of social inclusion. Empowerment and participation should be combined with solidarity, wellbeing and supportive welfare policies.
- Intergovernmental mechanisms should provide assistance and support to Member States by collecting and analysing data, by preparing regular surveys and producing reports. This process would contribute to better understanding of complex issues of social inclusion and its multidimensionality and also to study its evolution and disseminate information on relevant experiences and best practices.
- Universal human rights and dignity have to be taken into account while there is a need for adjusting strategies and perspectives according to the regional, national and local levels. Common definitions and goals should be implemented through contextualised use. It is advisable to address specific needs and objectives of certain populations with a particular approach that fits the context.

## **...Measurement**

- Social inclusion indicators should not only focus on economic growth but also on social spending, access to services and rule of law and democracy. Given its multidimensional aspect, the measurement should cover various areas such as poverty alleviation, material deprivation, habitat, women empowerment, gender equality, cultural identities, age and disabilities, etc. Outcomes should be emphasized in social inclusion indicators so as to go beyond average and “still” data.
- Measuring social inclusion is highly relevant at the national and sub-national levels in order for countries to assess their performance, to determine the progress being made and to evaluate the impact of their policies. What is more, social inclusion indicators are also necessary at a global level in order for countries to achieve an international comparative analysis on the impact of inclusive policies that would allow sharing best practices and implementing new activities.
- In order to have objective data, one could consider consulting several experts, from the local to the regional level that reach a common agreement sufficiently comparable across countries and over time.
- When establishing social inclusion indicators, targeted populations should be consulted in order to create a clearer and more practical framework of analysis.

## **... Assessment of inclusive policies**

- In order to assess inclusive policies, it is necessary to have valid and evidence-based data, from the local to the national and regional levels that allow monitoring and comparing international progress in the field of social inclusion.
- The inclusiveness level of public policies should be assessed both ex-ante and ex-post, evaluating the possible effects and actual consequences.
- It is of utmost importance to have a common understanding of the issues that are assessed in the framework of “social impact”. Good assessment methodologies of projects and policies should take into consideration what difference they make for outcomes of importance to people’s lives in the social, economic and environmental fields; this can be most easily seen by comparing the consequences of implementing the respective project or policy for programme participants to the effects of comparable people who do not participate.
- When assessing public policies, all stakeholders should be consulted in order to ensure transparency and diversity of approaches. In addition, local capacities and timing are essential elements in the evaluation process. Methods chosen according to specific needs of populations should permit them to fully participate in evaluating inclusive practices.

### **... Research-policymaking nexus**

- There is need to bridge efforts between research policy and practice to reinforce a common language and to introduce evidence-based arguments which reflect social reality to political agendas so as to achieve balance between policy frameworks and social action. A possible bridge between researchers and policy-makers could be a web-based platform that would allow continuous dialogue and immediate reactions.
- It is important to take into account locally relevant knowledge, values and concepts in order for all the actors to be involved. Data collection must be accompanied by innovative means of expression, with a clear user-friendly language. That will allow strengthening the capacity to create the connection between all stakeholders -experts, policy-makers, civil society- and to further develop this triangular relationship.
- The civil society should play an important role in elaborating policies in the field of social inclusion as they have a strong influence on public opinion and at the same time they can reflect ground realities in order to avoid contradictory results.
- Timing suitability, accuracy, and fluency of proposals should be among researchers’ criteria while policy-makers should be open to new ideas. In addition, the issue of social inclusion would benefit from more conceptualization and use of the available empirical data so as to make useful research and policies.
- Micro-level research should lead to policy formulation at macro-level. Moreover, states should consider building regional synergies, collaborations and partnerships gradually leading to the development of a complementary regional strategy for change that will empower advocacy on social inclusion.
- When translating research findings in political messages, other actors such as media and NGOs are extremely useful for creating links between researchers and decision-makers.
- Research on research in social inclusion should be reinforced to understand the evolution of paradigms, the issues under question and their impact on decision making.