



Programme PROGRESS

With the decision 1672/2006 of 24 October 2006 the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union launched a Programme for employment and social solidarity (PROGRESS) for the period 2007 – 2013. The programme aims to support the financial activities of the EU in social and employment areas in the context of the Lisbon strategy.

The Programme “Progress” has six general objectives:

- To improve the knowledge and understanding of member states situation through analysis, evaluation and close monitoring of policies
- To support the development of statistical tools, methods and common indicators in the areas covered by the programme (broken down by gender and age group where appropriate)
- To support and monitor the implementation of Community law and policy objectives in the Member States to assess their effectiveness and impact
- To promote networking and mutual learning and identify and disseminate good practice and innovative approaches at EU level
- To enhance stakeholder and general public awareness about each policy area
- To boost the capacity of key EU networks to promote, support and further develop EU policies and objectives

Tasks of the Programme:

Employment - to support the implementation of the European Employment Strategy (EES) by:

- Better understanding of the current situation and prospects regarding employment through analysis, studies and surveys within the EES
- Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the EU guidelines and recommendations for employment and their results, especially through joint report on employment.
- Analyzing the interaction between EES and common EU policies in employment
- Exchange of policies, best practices and innovative approaches to promoting mutual learning in the context of EES
- Raising awareness, information and encouraging debate on employment, implementation of national reform programs, including regional and local actors, social partners and other stakeholders.

Social protection and social inclusion – to supports the implementation of the open method of coordination (OMC) in the field of social protection and inclusion through:

- Better understanding of social inclusion and issues of poverty, social protection and inclusion policies, through analysis, studies and surveys
- Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the OMC in the field of social protection and social inclusion and the achieved results at national and EU level. Analyzing the interaction between the OMC and other policies
- Exchange of policies, best practices and innovative approaches to promote mutual learning in the context of the strategy for social protection and social inclusion
- Raising awareness, information and encouraging debate on the process of coordinating the EU in the field of social protection and social inclusion, including among NGOs, regional and local actors, social partners and other stakeholders
- Developing the capacity of key networks in the EU in order to support and further develop the policy objectives and strategies of the EU in the field of social protection and social inclusion.



Working conditions – to supports the improvement of the working environment and working conditions, including health and safety at work and reconciling work and family life.

- Support for the implementation of EU labour law through effective monitoring, training people, organizing seminars for employees in this area, developing guidelines and networking among specialized groups, including the social partners
- Introduction of preventive action and promote the method of prevention of health and safety at work
- Raising awareness, information and encouraging debate on working conditions, including among social partners.

Non-discrimination and diversity – to support the effective implementation of the principle of non-discrimination and promotes its mainstreaming in all Community policies through:

- Better understanding of the situation regarding discrimination through analysis, studies, surveys, assessment of the effectiveness of existing legislation, policies and practices
- Support for the implementation of the EU anti-discrimination legislation through effective monitoring, training people, organizing seminars for employees in this area, developing guidelines and networking among specialized groups dealing with anti-discrimination
- Raising awareness, dissemination of information and encouraging the debate on discrimination and the importance of anti-discrimination in all EU policies
- Developing the capacity of key networks in the EU in order to support and further develop the policy objectives and strategies of the EU in the field of anti-discrimination.

Gender equality – to support the effective implementation of the principle of gender equality and promotes gender mainstreaming in all Community policies through:

- Better understanding of the situation regarding discrimination through analysis, studies, surveys, assessment of the effectiveness of existing legislation, policies and practices
- Support for the implementation of legislation on gender equality in the EU through effective monitoring, training people, organizing seminars for employees in this area, developing guidelines and networking among specialized groups dealing with issues of gender equality
- Raising awareness, information and encouraging debate on gender equality
- Developing the capacity of key EU networks to support and further develop the desire to achieve policy objectives and strategies of the EU in the field of gender equality.

Activities:

1 - Analysis:

- Collection and dissemination of statistics
- Development and distribution of common methods and indicators
- Undertaking research, analysis and dissemination of studies and the results of studies
- Assessment and dissemination of results
- Developing and publishing guidelines for reports and results through the Internet and other media.

2 - Mutual learning, awareness and dissemination

- Exchange of experiences, best practices, innovative approaches and organization of mutual learning through meetings, workshops, seminars on European, interstate and state level, taking into consideration specific national conditions
- Organizing conferences and seminars to support the development and application of Community law and the policies and objectives

- Organizing an annual forum for all interested groups to assess the process of implementing the social work plan and the work on the different five sections, including presentation of the results and discussing future goals
- Organization of media campaigns and events
- Dissemination of information regarding the Programme and the results achieved
- The activities of this kind must have a clear European dimension, to ensure that effectively achieve the aims and objectives of the Programme.

3 -Support for the main actors:

- Covering of the running costs of key business networks in the EU, whose activities are related to achieving the aims and objectives of the Programme
- Organization of working networks of officials of national administrations to oversee the implementation of EU law
- Funding of training seminars for lawyers, administrative staff and other workers under the Programme
- Organizing and funding expert networks at EU level
- Funding monitoring centres at EU level
- Exchange of personnel between national administrations
- Cooperation with international institutions.

Beneficiaries:

- Member States
- Agencies and employment services
- Local and regional authorities
- Specialized bodies in European legislation
- Social partners
- NGOs, especially those organized at EU level
- Universities and research institutes
- Experts in the assessment

- National Statistical Office
- Media
- The European Commission also has direct access to the Programme as far as the activities concern Analysis and Mutual learning
- The countries of the European Free Trade Association which are part of the EEA Agreement
- Associated candidate countries and the Western Balkans that have already concluded stabilization and association agreements, in accordance with the terms of the Community Programmes that work or will work in those countries.

Budget:

The budget for implementing this Programme is 628.8 million.

Information:

Further information about “Progress” Programme can be found on:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/progress/index_en.html