



EUROCITIES Social Affairs Forum

25-27 March 2019, Glasgow

Updates from WG Smart Social Inclusion



1. Working group meeting in Stuttgart on 24 October

The working group has met after the Social Affairs Forum to discuss about the future plans for 2019. DG GROW has presented the pilot for [European Social Economy Regions Pilot](#) he aim is to build effective networks between stakeholders and raise awareness about the social economy at regional and local level. To promote the added value and benefits of social economy on the ground, the pilot will bring together regional and local stakeholders, social economy enterprises, social innovators and policy-makers.

2. New EURO CITIES report: Cities delivering social rights

Coinciding with the launch of the city pledges at the European Parliament, EURO CITIES also launched a new report mapping cities' existing policy measures in line with the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights. The report covers 20 cities in 12 countries governing a total of 20 million people. We analyse the competences, trends and good practices of cities in 4 policy areas:

- Inclusive education
- Gender equality
- Equal opportunities
- Active support to employment

We found many cities already deliver inclusive social policies to promote social rights for all people, but their efforts are not always known or recognised at national and EU levels. In fact, most city authorities go beyond their legal responsibilities to address the urgent needs of their residents. Inequality is rapidly increasing in cities and is hitting hardest the most vulnerable groups, including migrants and refugees, the long term unemployed, the lowest income earners and people living in the most deprived areas. Read the highlights [here](#) and the full report [here](#).

3. Pledges to support employment in EURO CITIES 'Inclusive cities for all: Social Rights in My City' campaign

On 21 February, EURO CITIES kicked off this new political initiative to show the cities' contribution to a more cohesive and inclusive Europe starting from the local level. Mayors and deputy mayors pledged to act on the principles of European Pillar for Social Rights in line with your city's strategic objectives. Cities pledged to use social economy and to mobilising thousands of local companies to support job creation at local level. More about the campaign [here](#). Find all the cities pledges [here](#)

4. New EURO CITIES handbook on critical friend review

The report is based on a methodology developed and tested in the EURO CITIES Working group on Social Inclusion through Education. It aims at encouraging mutual learning between cities during study visits. Under this method, visiting city experts act as 'critical friend' and provide constructive feedback to the host city. The handbook is a practical manual to guide you through the steps of the process and maximise the learning process and outcomes from a study visit. Read the report [here](#) and watch a video on how to use a critical friend review [here](#).

2019-2020 WG priorities:

1. Support SAF 'Leave no one behind' vision, via Smart Social Inclusion
2. Change and the new: Coping with, and benefiting from change, innovation and disruption (technological, societal trends)

3. Change management and implementing change
4. Innovation in governance and administrative reform (essentially internal for city administrations)
5. Collect evidence on trends in social inclusion, and related, in cities.
6. Finance: alternative sources, vehicles, tools, opportunities
7. Fomenting social enterprise - supportive frameworks, ecosystems, capacity building, brokerage, facilitation (see support for implementing change). Social enterprises understood as: a) A way to provide new solutions and services. B) An element of a city's economic, investment (making and attracting it) and employment strategy

Upcoming meetings and activities:

- **WG meeting of smart social inclusion, in Glasgow on 27 March**
The meeting will invite members to exchange updates from their cities on new financing tools to support innovations in social service delivery. Participants will have the opportunity to visit the Glasgow Social Enterprise Network and learn about Glasgow's Social Enterprise Strategy adopted in 2018. Moreover, members will be able to learn and test the new tool for inclusive and social entrepreneurship recently launched by OECD and the European Commission.
- **WG SSI joining WG Employment meeting in Lille Metropole, on 27-29 May, on 'innovative solutions to combat long-term unemployment through social economy'.**
EUROCITIES is organising a study visit to Lille Metropole to learn in practice from the city's model of using social economy as a solution to combat long-term unemployment. The aim is to build capacity of the participating city experts to learn, transfer and possibly replicate some of the inspiring practices from Lille Metropole while adapting to the specific local conditions and target groups in their cities. The goal is to strengthen the capacity of cities to develop innovative solutions to combat LTU. The WG Entrepreneurship and SMEs are also invited to attend the event.
- **Autumn WG meeting in Warsaw**
This meeting will focus on innovative technological solutions for vulnerable groups.



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