



OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS N° VP/2008/008

BUDGET LINE 04-04-01-01

PROJECTS CONTRIBUTING TO IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMON PRINCIPLES ON FLEXICURITY IN THE FRAMEWORK OF NATIONAL REFORM PROGRAMMES

In view of the large number of enquiries, please do not telephone.

Questions should be sent by e-mail only to: empl-d2-cfp@ec.europa.eu

To ensure a more rapid response it is helpful if applicants send their queries in English, French or German

The English version of the call is the original

1. Introduction

The Social Agenda (2005-2010) has fixed as its overall strategic goal to promote more and better jobs and to offer equal opportunities for all. The realisation of the Social Agenda relies on a combination of instruments comprising EU legislation, the implementation of open methods of coordination in various policy fields and financial incentives such as the European Social Fund.

The Decision n°1672/2006 establishing a Community programme for employment and social solidarity – PROGRESS was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council on 24 October 2006 and published in the OJ on 15 November 2006.

PROGRESSSS aims at supporting the core functions of the European Community towards fulfilling its Treaty-delegated tasks and powers in its respective areas of competence in the employment and social sphere. PROGRESS mission is to strengthen the EU contribution in support of Member States' commitments and efforts to create more and better jobs and to build a more cohesive society. To that effect, PROGRESS will be instrumental in:

- providing analysis and policy advice on PROGRESS policy areas;
- monitoring and reporting on the implementation of EU legislation and policies in PROGRESS policy areas;
- promoting policy transfer, learning and support among Member States on EU objectives and priorities; and

- relaying the views of the stakeholders and society at large.

More specifically, PROGRESS will support:

1. the implementation of the European Employment Strategy (section 1);
2. the implementation of the open method of coordination in the field of social protection and inclusion (section 2);
3. the improvement of the working environment and conditions including health and safety at work and reconciling work and family life (section 3);
4. the effective implementation of the principle of non-discrimination and promotion of its mainstreaming in all EU policies (section 4);
5. the effective implementation of the principle of gender equality and promotion of its mainstreaming in all EU policies (section 5).

The present Call for proposals is issued in the context of the implementation of the 2008 annual plan of work which is consultable at

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/progress/annwork_en.htm

2. Context

In order to achieve the Lisbon objectives of more and better jobs, new forms of flexibility and security are needed for individuals and companies, as well as for Member States and the Union. In particular Guideline 21 of the Integrated Guidelines for Growth and Jobs stresses the need to promote flexibility combined with employment security and reduce labour market segmentation, having due regard to the role of the Social Partners. Also other guidelines, in particular Guideline 18 on modern social protection systems, Guideline 19 on Active Labour Market Policies, and Guideline 23 on Life Long Learning strategies play important role since they refer to flexicurity components as defined by the European Commission and the Council.

On 27th June 2007 the Commission adopted a Communication "Towards Common Principles of Flexicurity: More and better jobs through flexibility and security"¹ proposing the establishment of common principles of flexicurity to promote more and better jobs by combining flexibility and security for workers and companies. Integrated flexicurity strategies can help modernise European labour markets and better address the opportunities and challenges of globalisation. They include at the same time flexible and reliable contractual arrangements, comprehensive lifelong learning strategies, effective active labour market policies and modern social protection systems. The Commission also set out a number of typical pathways to help Member States draw up their own national strategies for flexicurity and learn from each other's experiences and best practices. In line with EU's Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs, the common principles of flexicurity aim to ensure that more Europeans get the most out of today's fast-changing economy

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/employment_strategy/flexicurity%20media/flexicurity_publication_2007_en.pdf

On the basis of the Commission's Communication, the common principles of flexicurity were agreed by the EPSCO Council on the 5th December 2007² and adopted by the European Council on the 14th December 2007. The Social Partners, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions also contributed to the development of common principles of flexicurity at the EU level.

Throughout the next cycle of the Integrated Guidelines 2008-2010, Member States will be invited to use their National Reform Programmes (NRPs) to report explicitly on their national flexicurity strategies developed in line with the common principles of flexicurity and pathways that can be shared by other Member States in the form of mutual learning.

3. Objective of the call for proposal

Objective

The objectives of the projects under this call for proposal should aim at one the following activities:

- To develop and/or implement integrated flexicurity policies in line with the common principles of flexicurity in the framework of National Reform Programmes;
- To encourage mutual learning process in the framework of Lisbon Strategy through development of flexicurity pathways that can be shared by other Member States.
- To make suggestions how to monitor the process of development and/or implementation of flexicurity policies, for example by means of indicators (ref. EMCO indicators)³.
- To involve social partners in the development and/or implementation of integrated flexicurity policies.

Geographical coverage

The projects should focus on the development and/or implementation of integrated flexicurity policies at national level. They should include the possibility of sharing experience in the area of flexicurity policy with at least one other Member State. Projects focusing on the regional level are in principle not the subject of this call for proposal, unless there is a clear relevance for the integrated flexicurity policy, notably from the point of view of governance e.g. cases where regional or local authorities play a substantial role in the flexicurity policy of a Member State. Public authorities at national level can associate regional or local authorities to the proposed projects.

² See <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/07/st16/st16201.en07.pdf>

³ See http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/employment_strategy/emco_en.htm

Scope

Project should preferably focus on the development and/or implementation of integrated flexicurity policies and pathways. The proposals could address one or several specific challenges listed below:

- tackling contractual segmentation;
- developing flexicurity policies at the enterprise level;
- tackling skills and opportunity gaps among the workforce;
- improving opportunities for benefit recipients and for the unemployed.

Projects addressing within the integrated flexicurity policies and pathways the situation of disadvantaged groups like young and older people, women, inactive people, (long-term) unemployed, people with a handicap, migrants and people trapped in undeclared work are particularly welcomed.

4. Total available budget

The total available budget is EUR 1.500.000,00. The intention is to finance about 8 projects from the total budget.

5. Exclusion and Eligibility criteria

Exclusion and Eligibility of the applicant

- Applicants must be in conformity with Articles 93(1)⁴, 94⁵ and 96(2)(a)⁶ of the Financial Regulation;

⁴ Situations referred to in Article 93 of the Financial Regulation are the following:

- (a) bankrupt or being wound up, having their affairs administrated by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
- (b) convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgement which has the force of res judicata;
- (c) guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify;
- (d) not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country where the contract is to be performed;
- (e) the subject of a judgement which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Communities' financial interests;
- (f) currently subject to an administrative penalty referred to in Article 96(1): 1. The contracting authority may impose administrative or financial penalties on the following: (a) candidates or tenderers in the cases referred to in point (b) of Article 94; (b) contractors who have been declared to be in serious breach of their obligations under contracts covered by the budget. In all cases, however, the contracting authority must first give the person concerned an opportunity to present his observations.

- Applicants must be properly constituted and registered legal persons;
- Eligible applicants are public authorities or state or semi-state agencies⁷ at central or regional level from the EU Member States and other participating EEA/EFTA countries.
- Non-profit organisations active mainly in the area of employment policy, quality of work or social inclusion may also submit proposals on the condition that they are active at international, national or regional level and submit a proposal in partnership with a public authority or state or semi-state agencies as described above;
- In application of article 114 of the Financial Regulation, social partner organisations without legal personality are also eligible provided that their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf and assume financial liability.

Eligibility of the proposal

Grant applications must be made in writing, on the standard application form and be sent by the deadline indicated in section 11 below. The project must be linked to the objective of the call (as described under section 3 above) and not benefit from other Community funding. It must comply with the European Community co-financing percentage of maximum 80% and with the rules of start dates and duration of the project defined in section 10 below.

The application must be submitted electronically online and by post in 3 hard copies (1 original and 2 copies) by the deadline for submitting the application set out below.

The application must be complete and include all the documents indicated in the checklist (Point 13).

Proposals which do not comply with the above criteria are not eligible and will be rejected.

⁵ Situation referred to in Article 94 of the Financial Regulation are the following:

- (a) are subject of conflict of interest;
- (b) are guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in the contract procedure or who fail to supply this information.

⁶ Administrative or financial penalties shall be proportionate to the importance of the contract and the seriousness of the misconduct, and may consist in: the exclusion of the candidate or tenderer or contractor concerned from the contracts and grants financed by the budget, for a maximum period of ten years.

⁷ Public authorities and agencies with decision-making competencies in the area of employment policies, ie. in particular relevant ministries or other governmental bodies at national or regional level. This does not cover all public bodies like public universities or research institutes, which may be, however, involved as project partners.

6. Selection criteria

Applicants must provide evidence of their operational and financial capacity, based on the following criteria:

1. The applicant's operational capacity for performing the required work must be confirmed by:
 - A list of the main projects carried out in the last three years relating to the objective of the call. In the case of work done for the Commission, applicants must also indicate the reference number of the contract and the department for which the contract was performed;
 - The curriculum vitae of the proposed project manager/co-ordinator and the persons who will perform the main tasks;
 - A declaration of the project manager/co-ordinator certifying the competence of the team to carry out the proposed activities;
 - In the case of proposals from partnership: written confirmation from each partner of the partnership that they are willing to participate in the project and briefly describing their role;
2. Financial capacity to carry out the project activities (*not applicable for public authorities or agencies*).
 - Declaration on honour;
 - The applicant must provide proof of turnover in the last financial year at least equivalent to 100% of the grant requested;
 - Balance sheets from the last financial year.

7. Award criteria

The proposals which fulfil the eligibility and selection criteria will be awarded following a comparative assessment according to the following criteria in order to determine those which:

- (i) best meet the objectives of the call
 - a) The proposal should clearly show how the project will address point 3 under "objective" above. The proposal should also identify possible lasting effects and follow-up measures.
 - b) The proposal should clearly specify what methodology, including the work plan, is intended to be applied for the project and its innovative character. In case of projects consisting of several working packages, the methodology should be clearly described for each working package. The feasibility and clarity of the work plan will be assessed as well as proposed structure of the team and its relation with the tasks to be performed. In case there are

different partners involved, the division of tasks between applicant and partners should be stated.

(ii) have an adequate cost/efficiency ratio

Only projects with an adequate cost/efficiency ratio will be financed. Therefore the proposal must include a **detailed budget breakdown** (see part G of the online Application form) enabling the Commission to identify the efficiency in relation to the cost of the various tasks. In particular, the cost distribution and unit costs will influence the assessment of the project.

(iii) have a genuine transnational dimension

The projects should focus on the development and/or implementation of integrated flexicurity policies at national level. They should include the possibility of sharing experience in the area of flexicurity policy with at least one other Member State. Projects focusing on the regional level are in principle not the subject of this call for proposal, unless there is a clear relevance for the integrated flexicurity policy, notably from the point of view of governance e.g. cases where regional or local authorities play a substantial role in the flexicurity policy of a Member State. Public authorities at national level can associate regional or local authorities to the proposed projects.

(iv) the arrangements to publicise the operation and the dissemination methods envisaged

The potential of the proposal for informing the stocktaking of the employment strategy at national level or at EU level should be spelled out. Methods of dissemination of results and possibility of transferability of results to other countries/regions should be identified.

This procedure will approximately take four months after the date for submission.

8. Guide on how the activities shall be carried out

a) Requirements concerning equal opportunities

The PROGRESS Programme aimed at promoting gender mainstreaming in all its five policy sections and commissioned or supported activities. Consequently, the Beneficiary will take the necessary steps to ensure that:

- Gender equality issues are taken into account when relevant for the drafting of the proposal by paying attention to the situation and needs of women and men;
- Implementation of the proposed activities includes a gender perspective by considering systematically women and men dimension;
- Performance monitoring includes the collection and gathering of data disaggregated by sex when needed.
- Its proposed team and/or staff respects the gender balance at all levels.

Equally, needs of disabled people shall be duly acknowledged and met while implementing the action. This will in particular entail that where the Beneficiary organises training sessions, conference, issues publications or develops dedicated websites, people with disabilities have equal access to the facilities or the services provided.

Finally, the European Commission encourages the Beneficiary to promote equal employment opportunities for all its staff and team. This entails that the Beneficiary shall foster an appropriate mix of people, whatever their ethnic origin, religions, age, and ability.

The Beneficiary will be required to detail in its activity report accompanying the request for the final instalment the steps and achievements it made towards meeting these requirements.

b) Publicity and information requirements

1.- As a matter of principle, with a view to favouring valorisation by the European Commission of all results obtained and outputs delivered under PROGRESS programme, the Beneficiary will be required to provide - either upon specific request or in any event with the final activity report - for each of the activities co-financed under the present Call the following:

- Presentation of their key points in one page. Key points should be concise, sharp and easily understandable. They shall be provided in English, French and German. Other Community languages would be welcome even if not compulsory.
- And an executive summary in 5/6 pages in English, French and German.

2.- In accordance with the General conditions, the Beneficiary is under the obligation to acknowledge that the present activity has received funding from the European Community in all documents and media produced, in particular final delivered outputs, related reports, brochures, press releases, videos, software, etc, including at conferences or seminars. In the context of PROGRESS, the following formulation shall be used:

This (publication, conference, training session) is supported by the European Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity (2007-2013) - PROGRESS. This programme is managed by the Directorate-General for Employment, social affairs and equal opportunities of the European Commission.

This programme was established to financially support the implementation of the objectives of the European Union in the employment and social affairs area, as set out in the Social Agenda, and thereby contribute to the achievement of the Lisbon Strategy goals in these fields.

The seven-year Programme targets all stakeholders who can help shape the development of appropriate and effective employment and

social legislation and policies, across the EU-27, EFTA-EEA and EU candidate and pre-candidate countries.

PROGRESS mission is to strengthen the EU contribution in support of Member States' commitments and efforts to create more and better jobs and to build a more cohesive society. To that effect, PROGRESS will be instrumental in:

- *providing analysis and policy advice on PROGRESS policy areas;*
- *monitoring and reporting on the implementation of EU legislation and policies in PROGRESS policy areas;*
- *promoting policy transfer, learning and support among Member States on EU objectives and priorities; and*
- *relaying the views of the stakeholders and society at large*

For more information see:

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

For publications it is also necessary to include the following reference: "The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Commission"

With regard to publication and any communication plan linked to the present action/work programme, the Beneficiary will insert the European Union logo, and if any another logo developed for the employment and social solidarity fields.

c) Reporting requirements

PROGRESS will be implemented through a results-based management - RBM. Managing for outcomes and results is about working to maximise results for European citizens. This includes:

- Identifying the most important results for European citizens;
- Managing for these results, including setting clear desired results, implementing plans based upon these results and learning about 'what works' in the process;
- Seizing opportunities to work together whenever this helps achieve the results.

As a first step, a Strategic Framework for the implementation of *PROGRESS* has been developed in collaboration with Member states and organisations from the civil society. The Strategic Framework provides the framework for implementing *PROGRESS*, complemented by the Performance Measurement, which defines *PROGRESS* mandate, its long-term and specific outcomes. See in Annex the overview of *PROGRESS* performance measurement framework. For more information on the strategic framework, please visit *PROGRESS* website.

The Commission will in that context monitors the effect of PROGRESS supported or commissioned initiatives and considers how these initiatives contributes to PROGRESS outcomes as defined in the Strategic Framework. In that context, the Beneficiary will be asked to loyally work in close cooperation with the Commission and/or persons authorised by it to define their expected contributions and the set of performance measures against which their contribution will be assessed. The Beneficiary will be asked to collect and report on its own performance on a regular basis to the Commission and/or persons authorised by it. In addition, the Beneficiary will make available to the Commission and/or persons authorised by it all documents or information that will allow PROGRESS performance measurement to be successfully completed and to give them the necessary rights of access.

9. Financial conditions⁸

- The Community's financial contribution will not exceed **80% of the total eligible costs** of the activities involved. Sources of co-financing can be public or private.
- Only costs directly linked to the performance of the action will be accepted. Contributions in kind are not eligible. For further details concerning eligibility of costs, including the regime applicable to staff costs, see the **Financial Guidelines for Applicants**.

10. Start date and duration of projects

The projects should start after signature of grant agreements, expected within five months of the date of submission. Duration of each project is 12 months maximum, unless specific circumstances require longer duration (to be justified).

11. Date for submission

The proposals must be submitted electronically online and by post in 3 hard copies to the Commission **not later than the 14th of August 2008**.

12. Practical modalities

Applicants are invited to fill in the application form and present the project proposal preferably in **English, French or German**, in order to facilitate the treatment of the

⁸ For detailed provisions on Community grants, please refer to Title VI of the Council Regulation 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (http://ec.europa.eu/budget/documents/implement_control_en.htm).

proposals and carry through the evaluation as soon as possible. However, it should be noted that proposals in other Community languages will be accepted.

The **Application form, the Financial Guidelines for Applicants** and further information related to the call for proposals is provided on the following website: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/tenders/index_calls_en.cfm

Questions can also be sent by e-mail to empl-d2-cfp@ec.europa.eu

The Application form is an electronic form which must be filled in online. Annexes, which are compulsory, must be also filled in and uploaded online (see part E of the online Application form). For this purpose, the Internet Web application SWIM must be used. SWIM enables you to introduce, edit and submit a grant application. You can access to SWIM at the web site <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/swim/external/displayWelcome.do>.

Before starting, please read carefully the "User's guide", which you will find at the top of the page ("Help on SWIM").

Applications accompanied by the annexes and all the required documentary proof should also be submitted in hard copy in triplicate to the addresses cited below **by the 14th of August 2008** (their submission date will be taken as the date of dispatch, as evidenced by the postmark or the express courier receipt date and proposals submitted after this date will not be eligible:

- a) by post to the following postal address:

European Commission
Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG
Unit D2-Employment Strategy – Call for proposals VP/2008/008
Archives-Courier service J27 0/115
B-1049 Brussels

- b) or by personal delivery against a signed receipt from the Commission's central mail service (direct or through any authorised representative of the applicant, including private messenger service etc.) by 16.00 hours on 14 August 2008 at the latest to the following address:

European Commission
Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG
Unit D2-Employment Strategy – Call for proposals VP/2008/008
Central Courier Service
Avenue du Bourget, 1
1140 Evere

Failure to submit the application by post and online by 14 August 2008 will entail the ineligibility of the request for subsidy. Complementary documents sent by post, by fax or by electronic mail after the deadlines mentioned above will not be considered for evaluation. Please do make sure that the full set of the application form and all accompanying documents as listed above are included in your sending by post by the closing date.

Incomplete or unsigned application forms, hand-written forms and those sent by fax, will not be taken into consideration.

The **Financial Guidelines for Applicants** annexed to the present call for proposals provides more detailed information for the applicants, especially as regards guidelines for presenting the proposal's provisional budget along with the rules governing which categories of expenditure are eligible and which are not.

The information contained herein together with the Financial Guidelines for Applicants provides all the information you require to submit an application. Please read it carefully before doing so, paying particular attention to the priorities that have been set for the programme.

Regarding the presentation of the application file, it is recommended to:

- Follow the order of documents as listed in the checklist (Point 13);
- Print the documents double-sided, where possible;
- Use only 2-hole folders (please do not bind or glue).

13. Checklist of the required documents to accompany your application

Please send in the following documents **in triplicate** (original + two copies or three copies where original is not required). The Application form must be submitted also **electronically**.

Regarding the presentation of the application file, it is recommended to:

- Follow the order of documents as listed in the checklist;
- Print the documents double-sided, where possible;
- Use only 2-hole folders (please do not bind or glue).

	<i>Document</i>	<i>Check</i>
1	Original letter of application quoting the reference of the call (VP/2008/008) duly signed and dated by the legal representative of the applicant organisation.	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Print-out of the online Application form (https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/swim) duly completed, dated and signed by the legal representative of the applicant organisation. NOTE: The electronic form must be electronically submitted before printing. After the electronic submission no further changes to the application are possible	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Printed version of Annex E1: Declaration on honour on compliance with Articles 93 and 94 of the Financial Regulation, duly filled in, dated and signed by the legal representative of the applicant organisation.	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Printed version of Annex E2: CO-funding commitments signed by the legal representatives of the organisations concerned and specifying the amount of each cash contribution.	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Printed version of Annex E3: Financial identification form duly filled in, dated and signed by the legal representative of the applicant organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>

	<i>Document</i>	<i>Check</i>
	and bearing the bank stamp and signature of the bank representative. The Financial identification form must correspond to the Legal entity form (see above).	
6	Printed version of Annex E4 Legal entity form duly filled in and signed by the legal representative of the applicant organisation.	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Copy of the official registration certificate or any other official document attesting to the legal establishment of the organisation (not necessary for public bodies).	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Copy of articles of association/statutes or equivalent , proving the eligibility of the organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Copy of a document confirming the applicant's tax or VAT number, if available.	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Description of the action (free format) dated and signed by the legal representative of the applicant organisation.	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Work Programme of the project (free format) dated and signed by the legal representative of the applicant organisation, including a timetable linking months to activities and outputs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Declaration of the project manager/coordinator certifying the competence of the team to carry out the proposed activities.	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Detailed CVs (educational and professional qualifications) and job specification of the proposed project manager/coordinator and of persons who will perform the main tasks, with a brief description of their outputs related to the subject of the proposal.	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	The proof of turnover in the last financial year at least equivalent to 100% of the grant requested (<i>not necessary for public bodies</i>).	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	A list of the main projects carried out in the last three years relating to the objective of the call. In the case of work done for the Commission, applicants must also indicate the reference number of the contract and the department for which the contract was performed.	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Annual balance sheet and profit and loss account for the last financial year, duly dated and signed by the legal representative of the applicant organisation,	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	For grant requests over € 500.000,00 or for organisations subject to statutory audit of their annual accounts, an external audit report produced by an approved auditor, certifying the accounts for the last financial year available.	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	Others any additional/optional annexes which you may wish to add, e.g. if you wish to provide longer answers to the questions concerning your project under heading B of the online application.	<input type="checkbox"/>

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT FRAMEWORK

PROGRESS Ultimate Outcome

Member States implement laws, policies and practices in a manner that contributes to the desired outcomes of the Social Agenda

PROGRESS works toward its ultimate outcome by helping strengthen the EU's support for Member States' efforts to create more and better jobs and to build a more cohesive society. PROGRESS seeks to contribute to (i) an **effective legal regime** in the EU in relation to the Social Agenda; (ii) **shared understanding** across the EU with regard to Social Agenda objectives; and (iii) **strong partnerships** working toward Social Agenda objectives.

In operational terms, support provided by PROGRESS facilitates (i) provision of analysis and policy advice; (ii) monitoring and reporting on the implementation of EU legislation and policies; (iii) policy transfer, learning and support among Member States; and (iv) relaying to decision-makers the views of the stakeholders and society at large.

Legal Regime

Outcome:

Compliance in Member States with EU law related to PROGRESS areas.

Performance Indicators

1. Transposition rate of EU law on matters related to PROGRESS policy areas
2. Effectiveness of application in Member States of EU law on matters related to PROGRESS policy areas.
3. EU policies and legislation are grounded in thorough analysis of situation and responsive to conditions, needs and expectations in Member States in PROGRESS areas
4. Extent to which PROGRESS-supported policy advice feeds into the development and implementation of EU legislation and policies
5. Cross-cutting issues are addressed in PROGRESS policy sections
6. EU policies and legislation display a common underlying logic of intervention in relation to PROGRESS issues
7. Gender mainstreaming is systematically promoted in PROGRESS

Shared Understanding

Outcome:

Shared understanding and ownership among policy/decision-makers and stakeholders in Member States, and the Commission, of objectives related to PROGRESS policy areas.

Performance Indicators

1. Attitudes of decision-makers, key stakeholders and general public regarding EU objectives in PROGRESS policy areas
2. Extent to which national policy discourses or priorities reflect EU objectives
3. Extent to which principles of good governance (including minimum standards on consultation) are respected in policy debate
4. Extent to which the outcomes of policy debates feed into the development of EU law and policy.
5. Greater awareness of policy-and decision-makers, social partners, NGOs, networks regarding their rights/obligations in relation to PROGRESS policy areas
6. Greater awareness of policy-and decision-makers, social partners, NGOs, networks regarding EU objectives and policies in relation to PROGRESS policy areas

Strong Partnerships

Outcome:

Effective partnerships with national and pan-European stakeholders in support of outcomes related to PROGRESS policy areas.

Performance Indicators

1. Existence of common ground/consensus among policy and decision-makers and stakeholders on EU objectives and policies
2. Identification and involvement by the EU of key actors in a position to exert influence or change at EU and national levels
3. Effectiveness of partnerships in relation to outcomes related to PROGRESS policy areas.
4. Number of individuals served or reached by networks supported by PROGRESS.
5. Extent to which advocacy skills of PROGRESS-supported networks have improved
6. Satisfaction of EU and national authorities with the contribution of networks
7. Extent to which PROGRESS-supported networks take a cross-cutting approach