
VISIONS FOR AN INCLUSIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP STRATEGY

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THE CHALLENGE: MORE AND BETTER JOBS

- **20 million new jobs have to be created to meet the Lisbon targets**
- **Large multinational firms are no longer creating jobs**
- **Unlocking business potential particularly of SMEs is one of the priorities of revised Lisbon Agenda**
- **The integrated guidelines for growth and jobs call for :**
 - support of integrating entrepreneurship into lifelong learning;
 - improving access to finance;
 - providing relevant business support services

The Role of the Structural Funds

The Community Strategic Guidelines 2007/13:

- ensure a strategic link between the national reform programmes (=national responses and “action plans” to the integrated Guidelines) and the use of the Structural Funds;
- request to ensure inclusive labour markets for people at a disadvantage or at risk of social exclusion, by building pathways to integration
- establish “support for entrepreneurship” as a priority under all new three objectives, and under ERDF and ESF
- ask to capitalise the experience gained through the EQUAL Community initiative

EQUAL experience to be capitalised:

- **132 DPs active in developing and testing promotion of inclusive entrepreneurship, with a focus on support of business start-ups, spread across 10 countries* during the first round of EQUAL**
 - **151 more DPs in the same 10 countries, plus Malta, during the 2nd round of EQUAL**
- * Spain, France, Holland, UK, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Belgium, Ireland and Sweden

1. Strengthening the culture for Entrepreneurship

- Instil inclusive entrepreneurship in **schools** and educational establishments
- Promote **positive attitudes** (role models, media.....)
- Create the **right policy framework** (interdepartmental coordination, training advisors, tax, licenses,)

EQUAL TESTED SOLUTIONS

- Guides, computer games, modules
- Curricula change
- Support for teachers
- Linking schools to business (mentors, placements...)
- Media
- Interdepartmental coordination, training advisors

2. Integrated business support

- Take business **information** and support closer to particular target groups
- Ensure that **mainstream business support** services respond to the needs of specific groups
- Ensure the **coordination** and networking of specialist and mainstream business support providers
- Specially adapted training

EQUAL TESTED SOLUTIONS

- Developing specialised support for certain phases and activities (incubators, mentors, specialist centres)
- Building integrated pathways of business support (developing the concept of one stop shops)
- Using lead agencies as brokers within partnerships between public, community, business and financial players
- Developing tools, quality standards and recognised training for inclusive business support

3. Access to appropriate finance

- Make **microfinance** work in different contexts
- Adapt existing sources of **bank finance** to the needs of specific groups
- Engineer **public funding** mechanisms so that they meet the needs of specific groups

EQUAL TESTED SOLUTIONS

- Better understanding of real financial needs of disadvantaged groups
- Combining mentoring and business support with finance
- Adapting products and methods to meet needs (very small loans, peer lending, no interest loans, waiving guarantees, global and fast track grants, financial capacity building,)
- Using partnerships to build bridges with financial and community organisations

4. Improving Sustainability

- Provide different kinds of **post start-up support**
- Build sustainable **networks** of entrepreneurs and other actors
- Link with **potential growth areas** (care, environment, knowledge economy, culture,...)

EQUAL TESTED SOLUTIONS

- Post start-up systems, IT tools, self screening methods
- Networks – IT support, guides, tools, benchmarks
- Growth areas: Culture, IT, Care, Environment

EQUAL TESTED SOLUTIONS

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/equal/index_en.cfm

GENERAL LESSONS

- Not so much a question of innovation as **implementation**
- Requires measures of cost effectiveness, adaptation to different circumstances and target groups, **transferable procedures**, systems for controlling quality, etc.
- Each region needs to develop **an overview** of the barriers and opportunities faced by different groups
- Need to **coordinate community and national instruments** so they genuinely provide an entrepreneurial ladder out of social exclusion

WHICH ACTIVITIES 2007/13?

- Starting Point: European Exchange Event “Building the tools for opening up entrepreneurship for all” in March 2006 (Amsterdam)
- Main objectives:
 - to agree a set of common priorities for inclusive entrepreneurship strategies in the EU 2007/13
 - to identify and share the main policy lessons, tools and good practice cases from EQUAL
 - to use these “jewels” for building a common framework for accessing inclusive entrepreneurship strategies

WHICH ACTIVITIES 2007/13?

- After the Amsterdam European Event:
 - 8 ESF Managing Authorities of Member States and regions (DE, Flanders, PT, SP, UK/Wales, GR, FR, NL) have started up a Community of Practices (CoP) on “Inclusive Entrepreneurship”
 - They committed themselves to promote Entrepreneurship in their new ESF OPs 2007/13

MAIN OBJECTIVE of CoP

- Create a community of ESF managers and implementers, assisted by experts

CoP: 1st STEP

- Develop a European screening instrument for:
 - Assessing entrepreneurship strategies at different levels
 - Identify good practice already available
 - Offer recommendations and guidelines for entrepreneurship strategies
 - Allow transferring of approaches and of best practice

2nd STEP: HANNOVER

- German Presidency Policy Forum, June 2007, on “Entrepreneurship to all”:
 - Presenting EQUAL lessons learned and validating the “instrument” developed by the CoP

AFTER HANNOVER?

- A European sustainable and broad network of ESF managers and implementers on the theme of “Promoting Inclusive Entrepreneurship”
- Can Denmark join this network?

- **Thank you for your attention!**

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