



European
Commission

Year at a glance **PROGRESS** in **2012**

The European Union programme for employment and social solidarity — Progress (2007–13) — is a key financial instrument supporting a modern, effective and innovative EU employment, social and equality policy. The programme helps the Commission to fulfil its tasks in terms of EU law-making (ensuring that evidence-based legislation meets all the principles of smart regulation) and EU policy coordination among the Member States. Progress focuses on the EU dimension of the employment, social and equality policy. It requires concerted action across the EU and supports the mutually reinforcing actions of Member States. This, in turn, consolidates EU cooperation and encourages mutual learning and social innovation.

In 2012, the majority of analytical, mutual learning, awareness-raising and dissemination

activities funded by Progress contributed to the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy. The outputs of Progress (such as studies and reports, conferences and seminars, and statistics) were driven by the employment and social objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy, as well as the flagship initiatives 'Agenda for new skills and jobs', 'Youth on the move' and the 'European platform against poverty and social exclusion'. The surveyed stakeholders (national officials, social partners, NGOs and others from throughout Europe) appreciated the results achieved through Progress (the extensive list of deliverables produced in 2012 is provided in the annex to the annual performance report).

MORE SPECIFICALLY, IN 2012 PROGRESS CONTRIBUTED TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF EU GOALS BY ...

... MAINTAINING AND DEVELOPING A ROBUST EVIDENCE BASE NECESSARY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF EU EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL AND EQUALITY POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Progress provided the Commission with useful tools to fulfil its commitment to ensure **better compliance and more effective application of EU law in Member States**. It supported studies to analyse and monitor the application of EU law and the transposition and implementation of EU directives into national law, as well as relevant legal developments in Member States. It also funded non-binding good practice guides as practical tools to be used by all stakeholders within their specific work environments.

An example is the 'Protecting health and safety of workers in agriculture, livestock farming, horticulture and forestry' guide, which provides information and examples of good practice in connection with the implementation of health and safety directives. This guide is designed to help all stakeholders (in particular farmers, supervisors (especially in SMEs), employers, and workers and their representatives) to implement directives and to effectively manage the prevention of risks in the workplace. This guide was judged as helpful by more than 58 % of the stakeholders who responded to the annual survey.

Progress also **helped decision-makers across the EU to be better informed on new challenges and possible solutions** by providing robust analyses of situation and policy responses to current challenges. **Eighty per cent of respondents to the annual survey were of the opinion that the EU employment, social and equality policy is grounded in thorough analysis.**

An example is the project 'local strategies for active inclusion of young people' which aims to promote transnational learning and social experimentation to support the integration into the labour market of young adults facing multiple disadvantages.

In 2012, Progress also supported projects on social policy experimentation to develop, test and disseminate innovative solutions and approaches to delivering employment and social policy in the context of the Europe 2020 strategy (such as social inclusion of vulnerable groups, quality of childcare services, active and healthy ageing, and transition from education to work for youth). While the impact of these projects on policymaking is still to be seen, the importance of supporting social policy experimentation and innovation through Progress is increasing as each year both the number of funded projects and participating Member States grows.

The policy initiatives supported by the programme in 2012 which were judged to be the most helpful in various Progress policy fields include:

Employment: *European Employment Observatory quarterly reports (64 % of respondents considered the reports as helpful);*

Social inclusion and social protection: *Mutual information system on social protection (Missoc) database — comparative tables on social protection covering 31 countries and 12 main areas of social protection (82 % of respondents considered this output as helpful);*

Working conditions: *European Agency for Safety and Health at Work — pan-European opinion poll*

on occupational safety and health: results from across 36 European countries (79 % of respondents considered this output as helpful);

Non-discrimination: *Thematic report, 'The prohibition of discrimination under European human rights law: Relevance for the EU non-discrimination directives — an update' (73 % of respondents considered this output as helpful);*

Gender equality: *Database — men and women in key decision-making: data covering 34 countries on the numbers of men and women in key decision-making positions in politics, public administration, the judiciary and various other key areas of the economy (88 % of respondents considered this as helpful).*

... SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE INFORMATION SHARING AND LEARNING ON EU LAW AND POLICY

Progress-funded information sharing and (mutual) learning serve as means to transfer knowledge and provide guidance at both national and European level so that policymaking and policy implementation may be more effective and in line with common EU objectives, policies and laws. Activities supported by Progress thus contribute to **better understanding** and **awareness raising** around EU employment and social issues among the stakeholders. More than 3 800 participants have attended Progress-funded conferences, seminars, peer reviews and other learning events, which were commissioned directly by the Commission; an additional estimated 67 800 people have been reached by the beneficiaries of action grants.

The vast majority of respondents to the annual survey (92 %) indicated that they have gained a better understanding of EU policy objectives by participating in the Progress-funded conferences, seminars, peer reviews and other events which provided them with an opportunity to better align their policy activities with EU objectives. In addition, the representatives of national authorities noted that the events they participated in provided useful examples of policy practices and tools. Over 85 % of the responding national actors confirmed that they intend to use the knowledge acquired during the Progress-funded events for policymaking or policy advocacy in their national settings. They also stated that they would share the knowledge with their colleagues and other stakeholders.

... PROMOTING HIGH-QUALITY AND PARTICIPATORY POLICY DEBATES AT EU AND NATIONAL LEVELS

In 2012, Progress supported a **range of conferences which contributed to the understanding of EU policy objectives among stakeholders** and to steering stakeholders towards common goals. The relevant stakeholders have had the opportunity to be involved in policy debates, which has helped to promote coordination among all of the Member States as well as the EU institutions. It is crucial that the development and implementation of EU employment, social

and equality policy and law takes into account the impact on, and meeting the needs of, those who are directly or indirectly affected. To achieve this, key stakeholders — from public authorities to social partners and NGOs representing civil society at large — should be mobilised and partnerships encouraged.

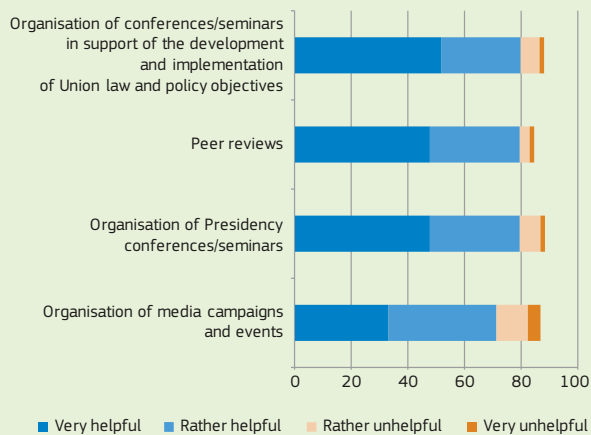
In 2012, **40 high-level events attracted more than 5 100 participants**; the events included both Presidency conferences and other high-profile events organised directly by the Commission such as the annual EU Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty, the European Equality Summit and the biannual meetings of the European Platform for Roma Inclusion. **More than 90 % of the responding participants stated that the issues discussed at the conferences were clear and that all relevant actors and stakeholders were involved.**

Progress also continued to support effective and strong partnerships involving all relevant stakeholders in EU objectives and priorities. Around 87 % of officials working in national, regional or local governments who responded to the annual survey reported a positive sense of collaboration and partnership between the Member States and the EU institutions. The contribution of Progress to strengthening partnerships among the Member States and their authorities was also positively acknowledged by the respondents. Other initiatives that played an important role were Progress-funded annual meetings of the heads of public employment services, annual meetings of the Senior Labour Inspectors' Committee, occasional workshops of the European Employment Observatory, meetings organised by the Mutual Information System on Social Protection and similar initiatives.

... BUILDING GREATER CAPACITY OF NATIONAL AND PAN-EUROPEAN NETWORKS

Progress has a key role in promoting the involvement of civil society by providing funding to key EU-level networks of NGOs, supporting their capacity to influence and participate in policymaking and policy implementation at EU and national levels. In 2012, Progress supported 31 EU-level NGOs in the field of active

Share of respondents stating that activities funded by Progress were responsive to their needs and useful for policymaking or policy advocacy (%)



Source: Progress annual survey 2012.

inclusion to fight against poverty and discrimination (on grounds of racial or ethnic origin, disability, age) and to promote equality between women and men.

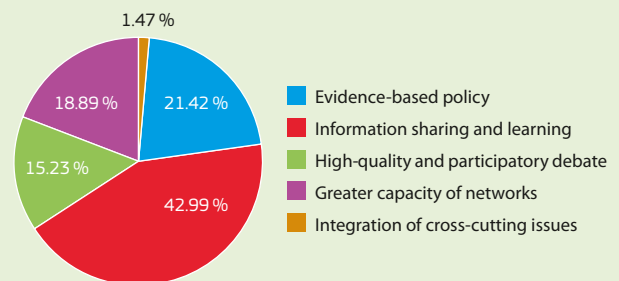
These EU-level NGOs and networks played a key role in representing, promoting and defending the rights and interests of their constituencies, by virtue of their position as the EU's main link to civil society for the implementation of policies. The strength of EU-level NGO networks was in their ability to gather and mobilise relevant members from different Member States in open forums or exchanges of experience. This helped them to inform and influence policymaking. Another strength was their ability to relay EU actions between network members. They also contributed to developing alliances with relevant institutions and

actors and contributed to making other actors involved in employment and social affairs acknowledge existing problems and account for commitments they had made. The results of the annual survey indicate that the Progress-supported EU-level NGOs are perceived as an important source of information for policymaking and advocacy. The annual survey confirmed that the most prominent EU-level NGOs are known by stakeholders across the EU to the same extent as the related EU agencies (such as Eurofound in Dublin or the European Training Foundation in Turin).

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS OUTPUTS

The Progress annual performance report 2012 gives a full account of the programme's headway in achieving its mission and reviews the deliverables produced in 2012 as well as their use by, and benefits for, policymakers, social partners, NGOs and other stakeholders across the EU. The graph below summarises the key types of deliverables (presented as a share of total operational expenditure, which amounted to EUR 94.81 million in 2012) produced by Progress.

Operational expenditure — commitments in 2012, by contribution to Progress' immediate outcomes



Source: European Commission.

This leaflet is available in printed format in English, French and German. The full text of the report in English can be downloaded at <http://ec.europa.eu/progress> (Performance monitoring reports).

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