

PROGRESS ANNUAL PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT 2010

PERFORMANCE AT A GLANCE

The European Union programme for employment and social solidarity — Progress (2007–13) — is a key instrument to support a modern, effective and innovative EU employment and social policy.

The programme helps the Commission to fulfil its tasks both in the fields of: (a) law-making, to ensure that evidence-based legislation meets all the principles of smart regulation; and (b) policy coordination among the Member States, where the Commission plays the vital role of facilitator and broker.

Progress focuses on transnational aspects of the EU employment and social policy, the promotion of which requires a concerted action across all Member States, and actively supports collective and mutually reinforcing actions of Member States, which consolidate EU cooperation and bring about mutual learning and social innovation.

In 2010, the majority of analytical, mutual learning, awareness and dissemination activities funded by the programme were focused on the contribution to the Europe 2020 strategy.

The variety of deliverables produced was wide and included studies and reports, conferences and seminars, as well as statistics. These fed directly into the formulation stages of Europe 2020's inclusive growth objective, the related headline targets, the flagship initiatives on youth, new skills and jobs, and the platform against poverty and social exclusion.

They were also highly appreciated by the potential users surveyed (national officials, social partners, NGOs and other stakeholders) across Europe. (An extensive list of deliverables produced in 2010 is provided in the annex to the annual performance report.)

More specifically, in 2010, Progress contributed to ...



... a shared understanding of the common challenges addressed by EU policies and ownership of EU objectives

In 2010, Progress supported both the Spanish and Belgian Presidencies and the Commission in steering towards common objectives by:

- producing studies that provide comparative pan-European evidence covering all EU Member States and beyond, as well as advance analysis and understanding of new socioeconomic issues, such as in-work poverty;
- funding presidency conferences to discuss and advance key policy priorities, such as self-employment and green jobs; and
- enabling weaker, disadvantaged stakeholders (e.g. ethnic minority groups and people experiencing poverty) to join the policy debate and be heard at EU level.

The results of the annual survey indicate the significant contribution of specific Progress-funded events to the development of a shared understanding of common EU issues, as well as the usefulness of specific policy evidence for national policymaking and advocacy.

For example, the Belgian Presidency Ministerial Conference on **'Promoting green employment: a major and indispensable driver behind a successful transition towards a competitive and low carbon economy'**, in Brussels on 28 and 29 September 2010, aimed to foster the further development of the European Commission's 'New skills for new jobs' initiative. It overviewed work carried out by international institutions on this subject and focused on experience from specific industries, employment policy instruments, the role of the social partners and the work of the Employment Committee.

A report by the Network of Independent Experts on Social Inclusion, **'In-work poverty and labour market segmentation in the EU'**, analysed in-work poverty and labour market segmentation across the EU and suggested how progress can be made on this issue. Almost three quarters of annual survey respondents found the report helpful.

The **'Ninth EU meeting of people experiencing poverty'**, in Brussels on 25 and 26 June 2010, tested the reactions and expectations of people experiencing poverty in relation to the latest developments at EU level, especially Europe 2020 commitments. It provided a platform for national delegations to debate the most pressing poverty issues in eight separate workshops. Family policies together with those for employment, housing and health were named among the most urgent measures to be taken for fighting against poverty and social exclusion.

The second European Roma Summit 'Promoting policies in favour of the Roma population', in Cordoba (Spain) on 8 and 9 April 2010, and two meetings of the **Integrated Platform on Roma Inclusion** were supported by Progress. These events brought together relevant stakeholders and policy- and decision-makers to address cross-cutting issues and provided participants with useful knowledge for policymaking and advocacy.

Progress facilitated mutual learning and transnational exchanges of good practice by providing a platform at EU level for the Member States. It funded mutual learning events in all policy areas covered by the programme. In total, 22 Member States plus Norway and Serbia were actively involved in the mutual learning programme in the field of employment in 2010, and all but one Member State either hosted or participated in at least one peer review on social protection and social inclusion.

Results of the annual survey indicated that these events gave national policy- and decision-makers the opportunity to align their policy activity with EU objectives.

For example, **the thematic review seminar 'Promoting entrepreneurship and self-employment across Europe'**, in Brussels on 8 and 9 November 2010, was a topical event in the context of overcoming the economic and labour market crises in line with the Europe 2020 priorities. It addressed the role of self-employment in the labour market and examples of national policies taken to promote and increase self-employment. The event was extremely positively evaluated by its participants as being responsive to their needs and providing useful and applicable knowledge.

... compliance in Member States with EU law

Progress has helped the Commission to adhere to its commitment to regularly monitor the implementation of EU law in Member States. As part of this, it supported studies aimed at analysing the application of EU law, monitoring the transposition of EU directives into national law and their implementation, and relevant legal developments in Member States. It also produced non-binding good-practice guides as practical, easy to understand tools to be used in specific work environments.

For example, the *Non-binding guide to good practice for the application of Directive 2003/10/EC 'Noise at work' and Occupational health and safety risks in the healthcare sector: Guide to prevention and good practice* were helpful to two thirds of the respondents to the annual survey.

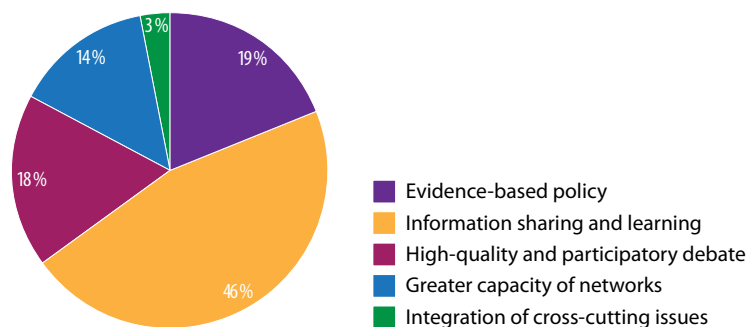
The gender pay gap in Europe from a legal perspective, a detailed pan-European report by the European Network of Legal Experts in the Field of Gender Equality showed that in many countries the gender pay gap is not very high on the agenda of national governments and social partners. Still, the report identified some legislative provisions and other soft-law and non-enforceable measures targeted at social partners or employers, which contain good possibilities for combating the gender pay gap. This report was useful to three quarters of the respondents to the annual survey.

... effective partnerships with national and pan-European stakeholders

Progress contributed to the creation of an enabling environment for building shared understanding and consensus among relevant EU and national stakeholders by funding a number of high-quality, inclusive and participatory policy debating events.

For example, the '**Consensus conference on homelessness**', in Brussels on 9 and 10 December 2010, was an innovative, action-oriented and participatory policy tool which aimed to establish common understanding on fundamental questions about homelessness in order to provide a basis for future policy progress. Participants of the conference who responded to the annual survey were extremely positive about the involvement of relevant policy- and decision-makers and stakeholders, the adequacy of issues discussed and the dissemination of results. The conference resulted in specific policy recommendations on key issues drawn by the jury, with the contribution of experts.

The *Progress annual performance monitoring report 2010* gives a full account of the programme's contribution to the achievement of its mission, provides an overview of the deliverables produced in 2010, as well as their use by and benefits for policymakers, social partners, NGOs and other stakeholders across the EU. The graph below summarises the variety and key types of deliverables (presented as a share in total appropriations for commitment, which amounted to EUR 107.242 million in 2010) produced by Progress.



Source: European Commission



Publications Office

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

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