



Funding priorities for 2013 Annual Work Plan

European Union Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity – PROGRESS

Committee for the implementation of Progress 2007-13

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Introduction

The EU Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity – Progress¹ – was established to support the implementation of EU policy in the areas of employment, social protection and social inclusion, working conditions, non-discrimination and gender equality.

It is implemented through annual work plans, established in consultation with the relevant policy committees and presented to the Progress committee for approval. The 2013 Work Plan sets out the policy priorities that will guide next year's funding priorities in accordance with the Decision establishing the programme.

The overall policy framework is the Europe 2020 Strategy, which seeks to turn the European Union into a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy with high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion, and puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities:

- smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation;
- sustainable growth: promoting a more resource-efficient, greener and more competitive economy;
- inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion.

The key role of employment and social policy is reflected in particular in three of the Strategy's five headline targets which relate to employment, the fight against poverty and social exclusion, and efforts to reduce the early school-leaving rate.

Furthermore, three of the seven flagship initiatives – An Agenda for New Skills and Jobs, the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion and Youth on the Move – relate directly to these policy areas.

In this context, Progress plays a key role in terms of evidence-gathering, analysis, information-sharing, mutual learning and improving the policy debate. The 2013 Work Plan is based on the need to take emerging policy priorities into account while ensuring the continuity and consistency of its activities.

As part of the Work Plan's implementation, efforts will also be made to improve the programme's performance in the light of the main operational conclusions of the 2011 Annual Performance Monitoring Report². The latter recommends *inter alia* that the communication and dissemination of policy research, analysis and advice outputs be improved.

¹ Decision No 1672/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 establishing a Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity – Progress, OJ L 315, 15.11.2006, p. 1.

² <http://ec.europa.eu/social/keyDocuments.jsp?type=0&policyArea=86&subCategory=987&country=0&year=0&advSearchKey=PerformanceMonitoringReports&mode=advancedSubmit&langId=en>

In addition, the Work Plan takes account of the views expressed by stakeholders during a series of consultations of the relevant policy committees³.

Lastly, in 2013 the candidate countries Turkey, Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will continue to participate on an equal footing with the Member States and EFTA/EEA countries, while Serbia will take part in certain actions.

Policy priorities in the employment and social solidarity fields

The main responsibility for developing labour-market and social policy lies with the Member States. Nonetheless, the main challenges for the future are largely the same for all Member States. The EU's role is to act as a catalyst for reform, as a facilitator and as an enabler between key governmental and non-governmental bodies and between public and private actors:

Delivering on the Europe 2020 goals will involve:

- modernising labour markets to increase the employment rate, in particular among young people;
- fighting poverty, promoting social inclusion and modernising social protection systems;
- adapting the legislative framework to evolving work patterns and new risks to health and safety at work;
- combating discrimination and promoting equal opportunities for all;
- promoting gender equality in all policies and implementing the Strategy for equality between women and men 2010-2015
- promoting the rights of persons with disabilities, as enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to which the EU is a party.

To that end, the Commission supports the Member States in their efforts to deliver on the Europe 2020 Strategy goals by:

- shaping the EU policy agenda in response to the most pressing EU challenges, concerns and expectations;
- developing common EU legal standards;
- supporting, monitoring and reporting on Member States' progress towards achieving their EU objectives within the open method of coordination or towards meeting their EU legal commitments;
- supporting and promoting the involvement of key EU and national stakeholders, by actively encouraging a culture of social dialogue and partnership.

Progress's general operational objectives

Priority activities in 2013 will help the Member States to modernise their labour markets and increase their employment rates, in particular among young people. Other target groups will include the vulnerable and disadvantaged, such as persons

³ Policy committees consulted were the Employment Committee, the Social Protection Committee, the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work, the General Directors on Industrial Relations, Non-discrimination Governmental Expert Group, High Level Group on Disability and High-Level Group on Gender Mainstreaming.

with disabilities, Roma, persons discriminated or under risk of discrimination on ground of their ethnic origin, religion or belief, age, or sexual orientation. Important tasks will involve supporting job creation, promoting a highly skilled workforce and enhancing social cohesion and reinforcing the governance of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

Many of the strategic challenges spelt out in previous work plans are still relevant. Certain actions planned for 2013 are linked to the social impact of the crisis, the implementation of exit strategies and the preparation of the post-crisis economy.

The policy Committees have been consulted on the 2013 Work Plan and have provided their opinions on the main priorities. In overall the policy committees agreed with the proposals for the 2013 PROGRESS Work Plan which reflects well the policy needs. Main comments came from the Social protection and inclusion committee (SPC) on the needs for addressing social cohesion and social innovation and from the High Level Group on Gender mainstreaming regarding the necessity to improve the mainstreaming of gender equality in all policy sections of PROGRESS. The results of the consultations are presented in annex.

Taking into account those priorities, the 2013 Work Plan will:

- address the policy issues outlined above, the consequences of the economic crisis, particularly unemployment and social consequences of the current situation, within a context of budgetary constraints;
- strike a balance between preserving recurring activities (multi-annual partnerships and support to main actors) and effectively responding to new priorities;
- ensure strong prioritisation and optimal alignment of PROGRESS-related expenditure with the goals of Europe 2020 and in particular the social cohesion;
- focus on activities with the highest EU added-value, including new legislative initiatives;
- promote collaboration across policy sections (in particular on gender equality) and links with other EU instruments, such as transnational cooperation under the European Social Fund or support for social dialogue;
- Combat all forms of discrimination and ensure the mainstreaming of gender equality issues in all policy sections of PROGRESS
- address the transition to PSCI and the Rights and Citizenship programme and further develop the valorisation of the actions carried-out.

Designing evidence-based EU policy and legislation

Progress's activities help to ensure that policy and legislation are based on sound, relevant data and analysis. Evidence gathered through studies, analysis and statistics will be used to shape policy development under the European Employment Strategy - EES-) and social protection and social inclusion (SPSI) and the other policy areas covered by the programme and to develop potential new legislative initiatives.

2013 funding priorities:

The planned expenditures amount about €15.7 million, which represent 16% of the appropriations of the 2013 Progress Work Plan.

The **employment** section will continue to support the implementation of the flagship initiatives 'An Agenda for New Skills and Jobs' (e.g. the taxonomy of occupations and skills) and 'Youth on the Move' and the new Employment Package which paves the

way for reinforced coordination and monitoring of employment policies at EU level in line with EU economic governance. PROGRESS will contribute to strengthening knowledge, analytical and statistical capacity. A Eurobarometer survey on undeclared work is foreseen as well as to reinforce methodologies to identify and strengthen the impact assessment capacity. Taking into account the external dimension of Europe 2020, the Work Plan also includes activities which enhance the knowledge of global employment and social policy challenges that may impact on EU policy in these fields (e.g. through cooperation with the Joint Research centre, EUROSTAT and the CEDEFOP) and cooperation with international organisations OECD, ILO and ICMPD⁴. Furthermore PROGRESS will also support OMC in the employment area through a streamlined framework of observatories for employment and mobility, and through mutual learning programmes.

The **social protection/social inclusion** section will continue to support the development of appropriate policy advice, research and analysis relating to the three strands of the OMC (social protection, social inclusion and long term care). The capacity to assess the impact of outcomes policy measures will continue through EUROMOD, including development of dynamic micro-simulation modelling. The analytical work on pensions, taxes and benefits will continue to be given support. The main new activities concern cooperation with WHO, UNECE and the Council of Europe on social protection and social inclusion.

The new activities in the **working conditions** section focus on developing good practices guide regarding the Directive on electromagnetic fields and the promotion of the occupational safety and health strategy (OHS). Researches related to the implementation of the occupational health and safety directives and the impact of EU labour legislation and working conditions will continue.

The new activity relating to evidence-based policy in the **anti-discrimination** section is a study to prepare the implementation of the future legislative proposal on the accessibility of certain goods and services.

In the **gender equality** section it is foreseen to conduct a Eurobarometer survey in view to analyse the evolution of EU citizens' perception since 2009 and the adoption of the Strategy for Equality between women and men.

Effective information-sharing/learning

The information and knowledge gathered will need to be disseminated and used in an efficient and timely manner. Progress will continue to support EU and national policy/decision-makers and stakeholders and identifying good practice to promote high-quality policy-making and policy implementation.

2013 funding priorities:

Activities under the heading "information sharing/learning" represent still the majority of expenditure in the 2013 work programme and amount to €44 million, or about 45% of total operating expenditure.

Peer reviews and mutual-learning exercises will continue to focus on employment and social inclusion/social protection and gender equality issues. Progress will also continue to foster clarity and consistency of rights and obligations under EU law and

⁴ International Center for Migration Policy Development

knowledge of the policies it supports through the provision of guidance and information. To that end, as in previous years, finance will be provided for training relating to social inclusion and social protection policy, non-discrimination and gender equality law (targeted at legal practitioners and policy practitioners, civil society and the social partners). Support will also be given for administrative cooperation between national authorities (i.e. exchanges of national labour inspectors).

Lastly, Progress will continue to communicate on EU law and policy in a way that is responsive to the needs of the various target audiences. The 2013 Work Plan will include a number of communication activities aimed at promoting better understanding and ownership of EU objectives and priorities. Progress will in particular continue to support employment seminars, national awareness-raising activities in the non-discrimination field and gender mainstreaming in national policy and programmes.

Under the **employment** section mutual learning programmes are foreseen in the field of skills and employment EU Sectoral Skills Councils and Restructuring and between employment services (PARES), exchanges of good practices on green jobs and partnerships between employment services.

The **social inclusion/social protection** section will support social policy experimentation, the dissemination of the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion, the pension reforms and the share of best practices of the Europe 2020 priorities in the social fields.

The section on **working conditions** will support the promotion of greater involvement of labour inspectors through the activities of SLIC (Senior Labour Inspectors Committee) such as exchange of national inspectors. The cooperation between the responsible authorities of Member States as well as social partners in the area of posting of workers will be launched.

Under the **non-discrimination** section, together with recurring activities, such as training on EU legislation on anti-discrimination, networks of expert, a new activity will aim at supporting trade unions initiatives on equality. In the area of disability, the Access City Award – the annual award for accessible cities in Europe will contribute to promoting innovative solutions for inclusion and urban accessibility.

The **gender-equality** section foresees to launch a new support to civil society for the implementation of activities on the ground as well as keep working with two networks of experts that will continue to assist the Commission with the analysis of the implementation of legislation and policies in the field of gender equality. New development of trainings for companies on the "business-case" for gender equality is also foreseen.

Promoting high-quality, participatory policy debate at EU and national level

Progress aims to foster a shared understanding of, and consensus among stakeholders on, problem identification and policy options or solutions that respond to real needs. EU policy initiatives need broad-based support at both EU and national level. Progress helps to create such an enabling environment by providing for high-quality, inclusive, participatory policy debates.

2013 funding priorities:

Activities under the heading "promoting high-quality, participatory policy debate" account for about 11.6% (€11.4 million) of total operating expenditure in 2013 which represent the same share than for the previous years.

Progress will support communication activities on the different policy fields and finance activities to mobilise key EU and national policy/decision-makers and stakeholders to provide information on and influence the development of EU law, policy and objectives with a view to creating a critical support base for meeting EU objectives and priorities. In particular, it will support presidency conferences and various EU-level events, such as:

- Presidency events on employment issues in connection with the Europe 2020 Strategy
- Restructuring Forums
- Event on cooperation between employment services
- Labour law conferences
- Conferences on health and safety at work
- Presidency events on social inclusion and social protection
- Equal Pay Day
- The European Day of Persons with Disabilities
- the Work Forum on the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Meetings of the network of National Contact Points for National Roma Integration Strategies

Greater capacity networks to promote and develop policies and objectives relating to Progress policy areas

Progress has a key role to play in promoting the involvement of civil society, in particular through financial support for key EU-level networks. It aims to strengthen their capacity to participate in and influence policy-making and policy implementation at EU and national level in support of EU objectives and priorities. Furthermore, such involvement fosters accountability and transparency, and increases the relevance of policy responses.

2013 funding priorities:

The 2013 Work Plan provides for financial support amounting to about €25 million for EU-level networks which is about 26% of total operating expenditure. The 2013 Work Plan provides for financial support for EU-level networks. It will continue for fight against poverty and social exclusion, active inclusion, fight against discrimination defence of the rights of Roma people integration of people with disabilities, promotion of gender equality and new of financial intermediaries active in the promotion of access to finance with the aim of job creation.

This item reflects the importance of participation by the stakeholders, including people experiencing poverty and organisations active in the field on equality policies.

Better integration of cross-cutting issues

Progress allows subjects that cut across several sections, like gender equality, non-discrimination and the fight against poverty, to be dealt with, which is important in such multidimensional areas as employment, social affairs and equal opportunities.

Gender mainstreaming, which is one of Progress's fundamental principles, will continue to be a feature of the design and implementation of all Progress activities. For example the collection of disaggregated data broken down by sex will be foreseen on in the various analytical activities, as will appropriate gender balance within the different partnerships established to implement projects within relevant policy fields.

2013 funding priorities:

This area of the 2013 Work Plan will be dedicated to results-based management. In 2013 a new service contract is foreseen for the preparation of the launch of the successor to PROGRESS.

Annual financial appropriations

The total cost of the 2013 Work Plan, comprising both operating and administrative expenditure (including EFTA-EEA contributions), amounts to **€102.66 million**.

Operating expenditure

Total operating expenditure for 2013 (including EFTA-EEA contributions) amounts to **€98.16 million**.

Allocation of operating expenditure by policy section

Policy section	2012 budget (€ million)	2013 budget	Change from 2012 to 2013
Employment Budget heading 04.040101	21.10	21.39	+1.37%
Social inclusion and protection Budget heading 04.040102	29.23	29.54	+1.06%
Working conditions Budget heading 04.040103	8.75	8.11	-7.31%
Anti-discrimination Budget heading 33 06 01	21.50	24.03	+10.52%
Gender equality Budget heading 33 06 02	12.78	13.86	+7.79%
Support for implementation Budget heading 04.040106	1.40	1.23	-13.82%
Total	94.76	98.16	+3.59%

Allocation of operating expenditure by policy section (%)

Policy section	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Average 2007-13	Progress Decision
Employment Budget heading 04.040101	21.92	21.82	22.35	22.19	22.17	22.25	21.80	22.07	23
Social inclusion and protection Budget heading 04.040102	30.7	29.40	30.72	30.78	31.13	30.83	30.09	30.52	30
Working conditions Budget heading 04.040103	11.18	12.96	10.31	9.79	9.44	9.23	8.26	10.16	10
Anti-discrimination Budget heading 33 06 01	22.49	25.09	22.71	22.81	22.56	22.73	24.48	23.26	23
Gender equality Budget heading 33 06 02	11.75	9.24	12.11	12.78	13.21	13.48	14.12	12.38	12
Support for implementation Budget heading 04.040106	1.91	1.47	1.76	1.66	1.52	1,48	1.25	1.58	2

Administrative expenditure

Administrative expenditure for 2013 amounts to **€4.5 million** (including EFTA-EEA contributions).

Breakdown of administrative expenditure (€ million)

Administrative expenditure	2013 budget
Experts meetings and technical assistance (Employment, anti-discrimination, working conditions and support Sections)	1.5
Translations	0.2
Information and publication	2.37
IT tools	0.25
Audit	0.18
Total	4.5

Breakdown of budget allocation by Progress immediate outcome

Progress immediate outcome	Total 2012 (€ million)	% 2012	Total 2013 (€ million)	% 2013
Evidence-based policy	20.61	21.75%	15.69	15.98%
Information-sharing/learning	39.20	41.37%	44.17	45.00%
Cross-cutting policy and consistency	1.40	1.48%	1.93	1.97%
Greater capacity of key EU networks	17.91	18.90%	25.00	25.47%
High-quality participatory policy debate	15.64	16.50%	11.37	11.58%
Total	94.76		98.16	