

th CONFERENCE on the Evaluation of EU Cohesion Policy

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Shaping Transitions with Evidence



Contribution of the Urban Initiative 2007-2013 to social inclusion and equal opportunities

Directorate General for European Funds (Ministry of Finance-SPAIN)



FUND COVERED

- ▶ ERDF

PROGRAMMING PERIOD

- ▶ 2007-2013

PROGRAMME COVERED

- ▶ Urban Initiative

THEMATIC OBJECTIVE

- ▶ Sustainable urban development

TYPE OF EVALUATION

- ▶ Impact



YEAR OF COMPLETION

- ▶ 2020

MAIN OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Objective: To enhance the understanding of how urban regeneration projects financed by the Programme contributed to social inclusion and equal opportunities for women and vulnerable groups like ethnic minorities, migrants, children, older persons and persons with disabilities
- ▶ Main question: How and to what extent did funded projects contribute to social inclusion and equal opportunities?

METHODOLOGY USED

The evaluation develops a conceptual framework for analysing the role of the neighbourhood in stimulating social integration and equal opportunities. Using that framework, a multiple case study design is developed, analysing eight urban regeneration projects targeted to city's deprived areas.

DATA SOURCES

For each case, the following sources are used:

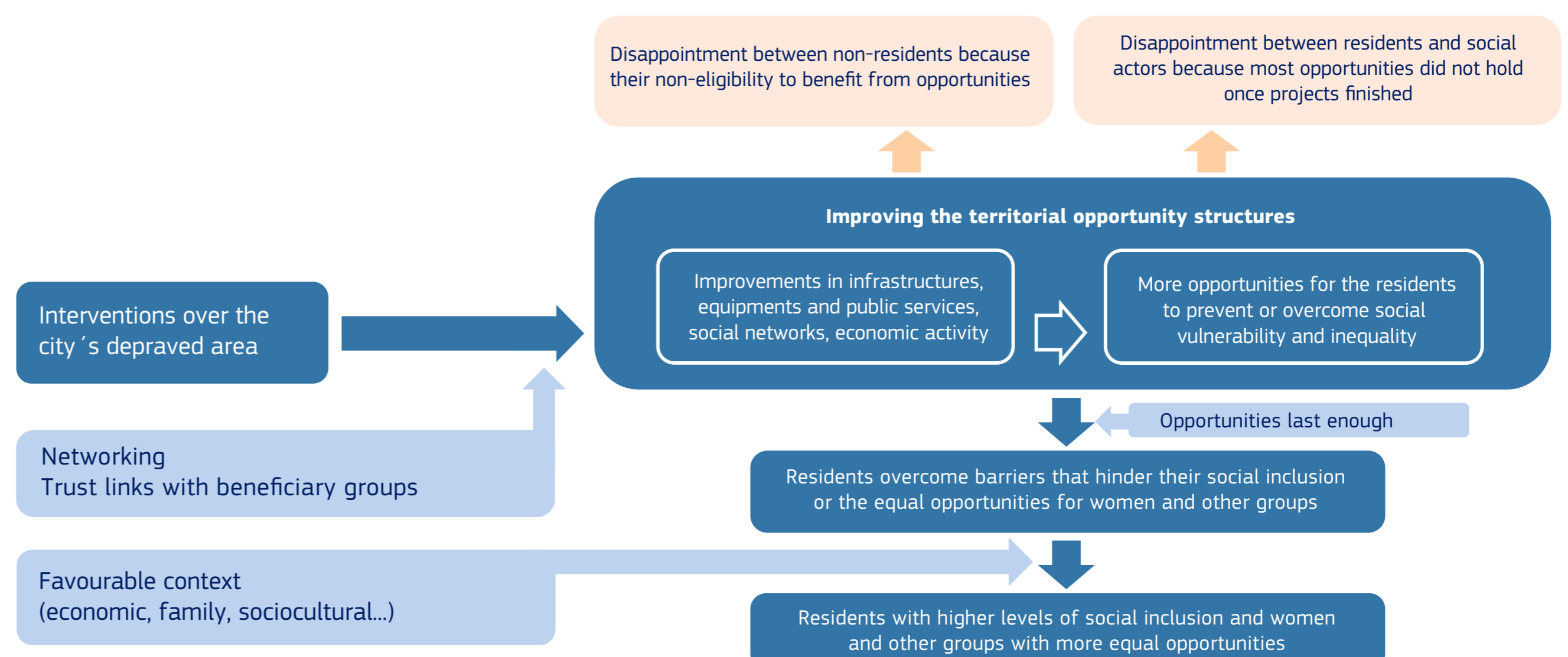
- ▶ Survey with open-ended questions addressed to the city council
- ▶ In-depth semi-structured interviews with municipal leaders, management staff, social actors in the area, beneficiaries and other residents
- ▶ Documentation analysis from different sources
- ▶ Statistical data on the resident population
- ▶ Direct observation on visits to the intervention area.

MAIN FINDINGS

- ▶ The output of the projects were improvements in the territorial opportunity structures, i.e. set of resources available to residents which might enhance their social integration and equal opportunities
 - The main improvements were related to the quantity and quality of infrastructures, equipment and public services in the area
 - The improvements in neighbourhood social networks were more limited, both because the projects devoted less resources and because changes in community dynamics require interventions longer than those implemented
 - The economic and commercial activities were not improved significantly, greatly due to the 2008-2014 Spanish financial crisis and also because the projects devoted less resources
- ▶ The projects that contributed to a greater extent to improvements in the territorial opportunity structures were those which managed to establish trusting links with the beneficiary groups to know in depth their needs and those in which territorial actors worked together
- ▶ The improvements in the territorial opportunity structures contributed to the population preventing or overcoming barriers to social inclusion and equality of opportunities mainly in the spheres related to labour, education, digital use, relationships and social participation
 - Once the projects finished, most of the opportunities did not hold overtime due to budgetary constraints and political changes in the city councils. It led to setbacks in the achievements and disappointment among residents and social actors working in the area.

CONCLUSIONS

- ▶ Urban regeneration strategies should be the general framework for all public and private actors intervening to regenerate the area
- ▶ All those actors should work together to design and implement the strategy.
- ▶ Urban regeneration strategies should be based on a good diagnosis of:
 - the situation of women and vulnerable groups in the different spheres in which processes of social exclusion and inequality can be more easily triggered (spheres related to income levels, labour, education, digital use, health, housing, relationships and social participation)
 - the territorial opportunity structures that are available to people (i.e., the quantity and quality of its infrastructures, equipment and public services, the characteristics of its social and community networks, and the characteristics of its economic activity).
- ▶ Upon the diagnosis, urban regeneration strategies should specify clear objectives on social inclusion and equal opportunities. The progress towards objectives should be monitored
- ▶ The commitment of the city council in the regeneration of the area should be ensured until the achievement of the objectives, even if the financed project by the ERDF is finished



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LINK

https://www.dgfc.sepg.hacienda.gob.es/sitios/dgfc/es-ES/ipr/fcp1420/e/ep/epec/Documents/Evaluacion_IUU_informe_final_11092020.pdf