



Strategy **EUROPE 2020**¹

ELISAN asks for more “Social”, more innovation!

ELISAN, European network of elected representative in charge of social affairs, welcomes positively the new EUROPE 2020 Strategy and particularly the fact that measurable targets have been identified in the framework of a sustainable development process. ELISAN welcomes the fact that social, environmental and economical issues are at the heart of the objective of a smart, intelligent and sustainable growth.

ELISAN regrets that the objectives of the strategy are declined only at European and national levels. As a network of local elected representatives, ELISAN aspires to the objectives and the resulting proposal of actions to be more rooted in the practices of regions, provinces/department and cities of Europe, including local social action directly aimed to our citizens. According to ELISAN, territorial authorities must therefore be involved in upstream decisions and the EU strategy has to distinguish what should be pursued at national level on the one hand, and local levels on the other.

A – Provide the means to achieve its ambition

The EUROPE 2020 strategy, as ambitious as the Lisbon one, must avoid the Lisbon’s mistakes (adjustment of the Structural funds to the strategy). ELISAN strongly encourages the provision of specific financial means to the implementation of the EUROPE 2020 strategy. The cohesion policy, through the European structural funds, can also converge towards specific objectives of EUROPE 2020 in order to ensure its success.

Considering that the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy should also be declined at local level, ELISAN stresses the importance to have an analysis of the situation on the territories but also to establish indicators to measure progress made by Member States. Indicators, other than GDP indicators (social and environmental), that will make it possible to assess the well being of populations, the level and quality of life (HDI index of human poverty, the work of the Committee Stieglitz ...).

B – More territorial cohesion

Today, too many citizens do not know their rights nor the processes and services implemented on the territories allowing them to have an access. In combating poverty and exclusions, it is important to take into account the individual and particularly his access to rights enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Social Rights and the Union: human and social services, universal rights.

The concern has to be inherent of the territorial cohesion principle and a consultation on the territory with all stakeholders is needed. Territorial authorities have their place and role to play in this debate due to their nearness relation with citizens. **ELISAN believes that networking of social answers created by actors on the territory will occur within the principle of territorial cohesion and will help to improve the fight against poverty and exclusions.**

¹ See synthesis page 4



C - Poverty: measure, identify, observe !

Better observation to elaborate better adapted policies.

Poverty or risk of poverty affects nearly 80 millions of European citizens. Poverty is a phenomenon with multiple manifestations which, in urban or rural areas, engenders different problems: housing problems for some people, problems of employment for others and so on. For ELISAN, it is important to have finer and more precise analysis on the different kind of precariousness and poverty in order to provide more suitable answers.

In this context, failing to reach the ultimate goal of eradication of poverty in Europe, the Europe 2020 strategy has the merit to propose a concrete objective, quantified and planned (less 20 million of poor people in 2020). Nevertheless, and rather than targeting only those people at risk, it's important to enlarge the aim to all people facing serious difficulties. For ELISAN, the priority has to be given to a better understanding of the target group through more precise indicators. This finest, more precise overview

ELISAN's activities

ELISAN participated in a peer review on the measure of the impact of active inclusion policies and other measures for combating poverty and exclusion. This work done with other European partners, illustrate the fact that indicators are not an end but a means. They cannot, by themselves, reduce poverty. The local authorities, member of ELISAN, work on a daily basis and compare their results within those follow-up indicators. In Spain for instance, the city of Santa Coloma de Gramenet has implemented a local action plan for social inclusion (analysis of new form of poverty, action plan and assessment then adaptation of local measures and policies). In France, a guide dedicated to local elected representatives was published by UNCCAS and offers innovative tools to have a better understanding and adapted solutions to emergent form of poverty on the territories.

D – Innovation, social issues included

Europe 2020 put innovation at the heart of its priorities. ELISAN welcomes the initiative and sincerely hopes that this dimension is reflected and is valued even in the social dimension. Indeed, many European local authorities are implementing innovative projects on social issues. In doing so, they provide creative and innovative answers (indicators, tools, experiences, etc..) to social needs in Europe. Frequently, these innovations can be transferable - if adapted - to other regions, other countries, but necessitate also to be encouraged. **For ELISAN, Europe needs to develop financial resources to set up experimentation, evaluation and, if necessary, a refocusing of policies implemented. In this context, ELISAN also supports the establishment of a European Charter for social innovation.**

ELISAN's activities

ELISAN is convinced of the innovative capacity of local authorities. That is the reason why ELISAN has launched in 2009 a European call for award to promote the initiatives implemented by local authorities in the field of people with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers. The results have also shown the need to promote these innovations to enrich the local practices in Europe. These initiatives also contribute to provide information for a databank, of local social action project, which is in process by ELISAN.

E – Promoting new partnerships

The awareness of social issues and problematic but also the way to provide responses, requires involvement of all stakeholders at all levels. In this context, partnership approaches are essential, including those involving public and private partnerships. Especially private enterprises those are more and more preoccupied about their social responsibility. Among them, some provides their own competences and know-how to serve people in difficulties. Far from a "spirit of charity", those companies innovate and invest in the "social business". **ELISAN believes that these new forms of partnerships between local authorities and economic actors are required to provide an economic boom in Europe.**

ELISAN's activities

UNCCAS as French partner of the network has recently launched a think tank « DS ORG-UNCCAS ». Dedicated to social sustainable development, the think tank is aimed at reinforcing and encouraging the innovation, imagination and experimentation abilities of CCAS. Its members will contribute to elaborate some methods that will first be tested on some CCAS to be then developed in the whole network. The two main domains that will first be developed are the search for new partnership between local authorities and enterprises in order to propose common and innovative methods to combat poverty and social exclusion.



F – The social horizontal clause

For ELISAN, the concept of social sustainable development provides perspectives subject to be based on three pillars: economic, social and environmental - the social pillar is often the least developed. The interest of this concept is based on the transverse view it presupposes. In doing so, it meets the objective of horizontal social clause which involves measuring the social impact in all policies implemented at European level. ELISAN hope that this clause could contribute to social cohesion at the heart of the strategy Europe 2020, but without losing sight of its primary dimension: the European social dimension which must now gain force.



The strategy Europe 2020 requires further adjustments before we can really talk about building a sustainable social Europe. If the calendar proposed today unfortunately seems a bit short for the European strategy in 2020 to reach its full development potential, ELISAN commit itself to have a look at the follow-up of the implementation of the EUROPE 2020 strategy in order to lead with concrete and lasting proposals.

EUROPE 2020 still needs some adjustments before we can really talk about the creation of a sustainable social Europe. If the agenda proposed nowadays seems unfortunately a bit short for the European strategy to fully achieve its potential of development, ELISAN commit ELISAN commit itself to have a look at the follow-up of the implementation of the EUROPE 2020 strategy in order to lead with concrete and lasting proposals.

ELISAN is a place for reflection, analysis, proposals and exchange of experiences based on on social proximity action implemented by its members. Because of its capacity for innovation and responsiveness, makes a crucial contribution to the fundamental objective of social cohesion.

ELISAN wishes to contribute to and develop the wealth of policies and procedures implemented by local authorities, in favour of inclusion and social cohesion.

ELISAN would like to bring its expertise in the implementation of the strategy EUROPE 2020 in the elaboration and implementation of the European Union policies.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

★ References

COM(2010) 2020 : EUROPE 2020 : a strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

<http://ec.europa.eu/eu2020/pdf/COMPLET%20FR%20BARROSO%20-%20Europe%202020%20-%20FR%20version.pdf>

★ Information

ELISAN attended the seminar on social innovation organized by the European commission

For further information ,

<http://grips-public.mediactive.fr/workshops/view/6/social-innovation-mobilising-resources-and-people/>

ELISAN took part in the peer review on : Measuring the impact of active inclusion and other policies to combat poverty and social exclusion.

For further information,

http://www.peer-review-social-inclusion.eu/peer-reviews/2009/measuring-the-impact-of-active-inclusion?set_language=en

★ Activities

The main principles of ELISAN

<http://www.elisan.eu/docs/FR-ELISAN-Les-grands-principes.pdf>

Social dimension of territorial cohesion

<http://www.elisan.eu/docs/27-10-2009-recommandations-FR.pdf>

European Alzheimer award

<http://www.elisan.eu/docs/DP-prix-alzheimer.pdf>



Synthesis

EUROPE 2020 : a strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. COM (2010) 2020

Context and objectives

Prepared in the context of economic crisis common to all Member States, the European Strategy 2020 aims to address major challenges such as unemployment, poverty, but also ageing. Conceived as a new impulsion to the European Union, Europe 2020 is a continuation of the Lisbon Strategy's ambition which was to make the European Union's economy the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based in the world by 2010. Guided by the objective of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, Europe 2020 proposes specific quantified objectives and several "flagship initiatives".

The five quantified objectives :

- ★ 75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed
- ★ 3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&D.
- ★ The "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right).
- ★ The share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree
- ★ 20 million less people should be at risk of poverty;

Flagship initiatives

- 1 – "Innovation Union" to improve framework conditions and access to finance for research and innovation so as to ensure that innovative ideas can be turned into products and services that create growth and jobs.
- 2 – "Youth on the move" to enhance the performance of education systems and to facilitate the entry of young people to the labour market.
- 3 – "A digital agenda for Europe" to speed up the roll-out of high-speed internet and reap the benefits of a digital single market for households and firms.
- 4 – "Resource efficient Europe" to help decouple economic growth from the use of resources, support the shift towards a low carbon economy, increase the use of renewable energy sources, modernize our transport sector and promote energy efficiency.
- 5 – "An industrial policy for the globalization era" to improve the business environment, notably for SMEs, and to support the development of a strong and sustainable industrial base able to compete globally.
- 6 – "An agenda for new skills and jobs" to modernize labour markets and empower people by developing their skills throughout the lifecycle with a view to increase labour participation and better match labour supply and demand, including through labour mobility.
- 7 – "European platform against poverty" to ensure social and territorial cohesion such that the benefits of growth and jobs are widely shared and people experiencing poverty and social exclusion are enabled to live in dignity and take an active part in society.

The European Council of last 17th June, validated the Strategy EUROPE 2020.