

Report on the European semester for policy coordination: Employment and Social Aspects in the Annual Growth Survey 2017

Contents

A briefing paper on the effects of EASPDs suggested amendments to the report on the European Semester for economic policy coordination: Employment and Social Aspects in the Annual Growth Survey 2017. From the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

EASPD had a significant impact on the [European Parliament's final report](#) and several of [our suggested amendments](#) were accepted.

EASPD suggested amendments	Final report
“whereas people with disabilities continue to be significantly excluded from the open labour market, with very little improvement over the past decade, in part due to a lack of investment in appropriate support measures; understands that this often leads to negative consequences on their levels of poverty and social exclusion.”	“whereas people with disabilities continue to be significantly excluded from the labour market, with very little improvement over the past decade, in part due to a lack of investment in appropriate support measures; stresses that this often leads to poverty and social exclusion and therefore negatively impacts on the Europe 2020 targets.”
“highlights that Member States should ensure that the Youth Guarantee is fully open to all groups, including persons with disabilities”	“Highlights that member states should ensure that the Youth Guarantee is fully accessible, including to vulnerable persons and persons with disabilities;”
“Notes that micro-enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), as well as health and social services and social enterprises are important for sustainable and inclusive development and job creation;”	“Notes that micro-enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), which represent more than 90 % of all businesses in Europe and are the engine of the European economy, as well as health and social services and social and solidarity enterprises, ”



Furthermore, EASPD stressed that the European Semester **must support the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**. The motion for a European Parliament Resolution on the European Semester for economic policy coordination now includes; *“having regard to the concluding observations of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the initial report on the European Union (September 2015)”*

Further amendments were made to highlight **the prevalence of labour market exclusion of persons with disabilities**. Paragraph 69 *“Calls on the Member States to **increase the coverage, efficiency and effectiveness of active and sustainable labour market policies**, in close cooperation with social partners; welcomes the call made in the AGS 2017 for more efforts to develop measures aimed at supporting labour market inclusion for disadvantaged groups, in particular persons with disabilities, in view of the long-term positive economic and social impact;”*

EASPD highlighted that **the European Structural and Investment Funds must continue to be used independently** of the semester process in order to ensure that it covers the full diversity of investment needs throughout all European regions. Paragraph 26 now states: *“**Stresses that EFSI has not deployed sufficient investment in social infrastructure** and that this is a lost opportunity that must be urgently addressed”* and paragraph 53 calls *“on the Member States to make more active use of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIFs) and the YEI to **address employment and social priorities** and support the implementation of the CSRs that address”* but stresses *“that these funds should not be used solely to implement the CSRs, since this could potentially lead to other important investment areas being left out; highlights that further efforts should be made to simplify procedures, notably in the case of horizontal and sectorial financial rules, and to **remove barriers for civil society to accessing funds.**”*

Paragraph 57 notes that **the EFSI has not been successful** in improving social and economic convergence between Member States or **in targeting social infrastructure** and *“calls urgently on the Commission to support social enterprises and SMEs in being able to access the EFSI; calls on the Commission and the European Investment Bank to take additional and proactive steps to ensure that all Member States and sectors are being appropriately targeted with a view to accessing EFSI, in particular those contributing directly to tackling poverty and social exclusion”*



EASPD continues to highlight the importance of including civil society in the process and Paragraph 74 emphasises “that social dialogue and dialogue with civil society are key to achieving sustained change for the benefit of all”

Conclusion

Many of EASPDs suggested amendments were accepted and are now included in the final report. Including EASPDs recommendations to highlight the difficulties that people with disabilities encounter in the labour market. The continued risk of poverty and social exclusion that people with disabilities face in Europe and the role of social services in addressing these problems. Furthermore, EASPD made several suggestions regarding the difficulties that the sector encounters in accessing funding which are now in the final report.

Resources

European Parliament: [Report on the European semester for policy coordination: Employment and Social Aspects in the Annual Growth Survey 2017](#)

[EASPD suggested amendments to draft report](#)

Note to editors

The European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities is a non-profit European umbrella organization, established in 1996, and currently representing over 15.000 social and health services for persons with disabilities. EASPD advocates effective and high-quality disability-related services in the field of education, employment and individualised support, in line with the UN CRPD principles, which could bring benefits not only to persons with disabilities, but to society as a whole. EASPD is accredited to the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD.

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