



2008 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT PERFORMANCE AT A GLANCE

WHAT IS PROGRESS?

Progress is the EU's employment and social solidarity programme, set up to provide financial support for the attainment of the European Union's objectives in employment, social affairs and equal opportunities as set out in the Social Agenda. In line with the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs, its mission is to support the Member States in delivering more and better jobs and a more cohesive society.

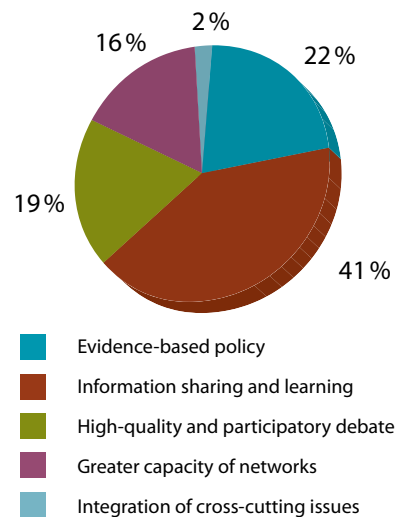
The programme, which primarily targets policy-, decision- and opinion-makers, is instrumental in:

- providing analysis and policy advice in the policy areas concerned;
- monitoring and reporting on the implementation of EU legislation and policies in the policy areas concerned;
- promoting policy transfer, learning and support among the Member States on EU objectives and priorities; and
- relaying the views of the stakeholders and society at large.

Building on objective and subjective performance information collected primarily through desk research and surveys, the 2008 Annual Performance Report gives a full account of how Progress's appropriations have been used and how they have

contributed to the achievement of its mission. The appropriations, which amounted to € 72.8 million in 2007 and € 84.1 million in 2008, have been used in support of the objectives set out in the chart below.

Share of actual commitments in 2007 and 2008 dedicated to information sharing and learning



Source: European Commission, DG Employment's own figures



HOW SUCCESSFUL HAS PROGRESS BEEN? AND WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT IF IT IS TO PERFORM BETTER?

Progress has contributed to improving the quality of EU policies and legislation and their application by maintaining and developing a thorough *evidence base* and by *framing and putting* on the EU agenda *issues relevant* to all Member States.

Progress has contributed to the development of a shared vision of the challenges facing the EU in the social field and to fostering a shared understanding of the EU's objectives by promoting *information sharing and mutual learning* between Member States.

Achievements

- + Evidence produced by Progress in 240 reports has been recognised for its quality and used widely by policy- and decision-makers and other stakeholders at European and national levels for policy-making and advocacy purposes.
- + It fed directly into a number of policy initiatives put forward by the Commission in the fields of employment and social policy, such as scoping studies for the renewed Social Agenda adopted in July 2008, other studies, analytical reports and impact assessments preceding the presentation of EU legislative proposals, good practice and guidance on the implementation of EU legislation and studies evaluating the social and economic impact of EU legislation and policies.

Areas for further improvement

- There is a need, particularly in the social protection and social inclusion area, to develop EU policies that are more in line with the conditions, needs and expectations in the various Member States.

Achievements

- + The relevance of information presented at 1 138 information, communication and networking events was rated highly across all policy areas. Policy- and decision-makers, the social partners and other stakeholders attending the events reported that they acquired relevant information which they used or intended to use for policy-making and/or advocacy purposes.
- + The most successful events were peer reviews/mutual-learning activities. All Progress-participating countries were equally engaged in the mutual-learning process (20 thematic and peer-review meetings), which was designed to underpin national reforms in the social protection, social inclusion and employment areas.
- + The overall awareness of EU objectives and policies in Progress policy areas among policy- and decision-makers, the social partners, NGOs and networks was high.

Areas for further improvement

- There is a need for information-sharing to be more focused and better targeted and for communication initiatives to be more responsive to the needs and expectations of the various audiences.
- There is also a need to step up efforts to engage actively with significant national stakeholders to achieve further multiplier effects.

Progress has also contributed to fostering a productive policy debate at EU and national levels on EU law, policies and objectives and has helped to engage a wider circle of stakeholders.

Achievements

- +** Through the 296 events supported (attended by around 15644 stakeholder participants), Progress significantly motivated involvement among non-governmental and sub-national actors at EU and national levels and allowed other actors, such as ethnic minorities and people experiencing poverty, to voice their concerns and be heeded, a good example being the Roma inclusion debate.
- +** By supporting 25 EU networks and NGOs active in promoting social inclusion, non-discrimination and gender equality, Progress boosted the capacity of national and EU networks to take part in, and influence decision-making and policy implementation at EU and national levels.
- +** Such policy debate fed directly into various Commission policy initiatives on subjects relating to antidiscrimination and Roma inclusion, health and safety, social inclusion and social protection, and gender equality. It also fuelled the European Council Presidency's conclusions and European Parliament resolutions.

Areas for further improvement

- There is a need to identify the most important national stakeholders more accurately and to engage them in policy debate.
- There is also a need to create the scope for closer, more focused dialogue and debate with the stakeholders, mainly through training and peer-reviews.

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/social/main.jsp?catId=659&langId=en>

© European Communities, 2009

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

Printed in Belgium

PRINTED ON WHITE CHLORINE-FREE PAPER

