



STUDIES CARRIED OUT IN 2011

COMPENDIUM



European Economic and Social Committee
Communication Department



*European Economic and Social Committee
Communication Department*

Studies carried out in 2011

Compendium

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2012-2013 political forecasting and the positioning of potential civil society/EESC actions

The aim of this study is to describe the long-term trends in global and EU internal policies, as well as to present ten emerging key challenges for civil society at EU level. The study also points out possible changes to the policy agenda. Lastly, it formulates recommendations as regards the role of the EESC in civil society consultations at EU level. In this context, 6 issues and opportunities for the EESC are highlighted. According to the authors, the EESC should (1) set the EU agenda by identifying and promoting issues that can no longer be dealt with at national level; (2) focus on neglected issues to ensure that significant subjects remain in the policy debate; (3) engage citizens (i.e. take debate to citizens and identify areas with direct relevance to them); (4) provide a forward-looking strategy for the EU's overall direction; (5) improve European policy-making mechanisms and (6) focus on issues of particular relevance to employers' organisations, trade unions and wider civil society.

Reference number: EESC/COMM/19/2011
Language: EN
Pages: 24
Author: European Policy Centre; Rosa Balfour, Janis A. Emmanouilidis, Josef Janning, Yves Pascouau, Fabian Zuleeg; Belgium
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The impact of anti-crisis measures and the social and employment situation: Greece

The study aims to provide a better understanding of the economic and social impact of the measures implemented in Greece. It takes stock of the anti-crisis programme to explain its multiple impact on fundamental social and employment issues. Alongside economic measures and their outcome, the extensive measures of labour market restructuring are reviewed and their wide ranging effects assessed. Issues of social exclusion, inequality, poverty, social protection are discussed. The state of play as regards social dialogue in the current situation is also examined. A question central to the study is whether – and to what extent – the particular economic adjustment policy which is unfolding in Greece has been adequate in addressing the problems it meant to resolve. The focus of the study rests on the Greek reality.

Reference number: EESC/COMM/11/2011
Language: EN, FR
Pages: 13
Author: Zoe Lanara-Tzotze; Greek General Confederation of Labour; Greece
Requesting service: Group II
Availability: Downloadable
<http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.group-2-studies.22511>
Contact person: Francisco Soriano (francisco.soriano@eesc.europa.eu)

The impact of anti-crisis measures and the social and employment situation: Ireland

This paper outlines the social and economic consequences of the anti-crisis measures adopted in Ireland since 2008. The paper attempts to put the Irish case in an international context, comparing its experience with that of other selected EU countries. Furthermore, it examines the impact of anti-crisis reforms on social (unemployment, migration, poverty and deprivation) and economic (wages and wage fixing mechanisms) issues.

Reference number: EESC/COMM/15/2011
Language: EN, FR
Pages: 10
Author: Peter Rigney; Irish Congress of Trade Unions; Ireland
Requesting service: Group II
Availability: Downloadable
<http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.group-2-studies.22510>
Contact person: Francisco Soriano (francisco.soriano@eesc.europa.eu)

The impact of anti-crisis measures and the social and employment situation: Italy

The aim of this study is to identify and summarise anti-crisis packages and to assess their economic and social impact between the beginning of 2008 and the end of 2011 in Italy.

The study presents a series of measures aimed initially at counteracting the effects of the economic crisis and subsequently at mitigating the impact of the crisis of confidence in government debt in Italy. Moreover, it examines the impact of anti-crisis reforms on the labour market and on households.

Reference number: EESC/COMM/14/2011
Language: EN, FR, IT
Pages: 12
Author: Elisa Borghi; Università Bocconi; Italy
Requesting service: Group II
Availability: Downloadable
<http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.group-2-studies.22512>
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The impact of anti-crisis measures and the social and employment situation: Portugal

The aim of this study is to identify and summarise anti-crisis packages and to assess their economic and social impact between the beginning of 2008 and the end of 2011.

The study divides the crisis into three stages and highlights the relevant measures taken during each stage. Then, the impact of the anti-crisis measures on economic and social issues is examined.

Reference number: EESC/COMM/12/2011
Language: EN, FR, PT
Pages: 13
Author: José Castro Caldas; University of Coimbra; Portugal
Requesting service: Group II
Availability: Downloadable
<http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.group-2-studies.22513>
Contact person: Francisco Soriano (francisco.soriano@eesc.europa.eu)

The impact of anti-crisis measures and the social and employment situation: Spain

The study reviews anti-crisis measures that were taken in time of the economic crisis in Spain from 2008-2011. First, it highlights reforms aimed at reducing the public deficit and "structural" reforms of legal origin regarding employment relations are discussed. Then actions changing the conditions for receiving social security benefits and the reform of the legal system for collective bargaining are described. In conclusion, it appears that the structural measures to reform the labour market have had no real impact in terms of improving the situation of the labour market, in which unemployment is still extremely widespread.

Reference number: EESC/COMM/13/2011

Language: ES, EN, FR

Pages: 33

Author: Antonio Baylos Grau, Francisco Trillo Párraga; University of Castilla-La Mancha; Spain

Requesting service: Group II

Availability: Downloadable

<http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.group-2-studies.22497>

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The social economy in the European Union

The aim of this study is to update the report “The social economy in the European Union” published by the EESC in 2008, including now all the 27 EU Member States and two candidate countries (Croatia and Iceland). It examines the impact of the economic crisis and public policies on the social economy. The second objective of the study is to identify the different agents which form part of the social economy in each of the Member States. The third objective is to provide macro-economic data on the social economy in the Member States and the two candidate countries. Finally, it analyses how the social economy can contribute to the implementation of the “Europe 2020 Strategy”.

Reference number: EESC/COMM/13/2011
Language: Study: DE, EN, ES, FR
Executive summary: DE, EN, ES, FR, IT, PL
Pages: 111 + executive summary
Author: CIRIEC International; University of Liège; Belgium
Requesting service: Group III
Availability: Study and executive summary downloadable in due course
<http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.publications>
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Policies, programmes, activities, ICT tools and services aimed at alleviating obstacles causing the exclusion of EU citizens from the information society (preparatory study for "Click IT!")

The study identifies European inclusion policies, programmes, activities as well as ICT (information and communication technologies) tools and services that are aimed at alleviating obstacles causing the exclusion of EU citizens from the information society. The study is a preliminary research carried out to prepare the "Click IT!" Forum which took place in Gdansk in October 2011. It gives recommendations on the list of potential exhibitors to be invited to the forum and of initiatives to be displayed. The initiatives are divided into three categories: initiatives geared towards people who are located in geographically isolated areas, who are elderly, and who need to upgrade certain sets of skills. The stakeholders (civic partners and employers) are mentioned and the initiatives are assessed according to their innovation and replicability.

Reference number: EESC/COMM/02/2011
Language: EN
Pages: 10
Author: The Castlegate Consultancy; Diane Whitehouse; United Kingdom
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Participation and activities of Roma and/or non-governmental organisations in the development and approval of national Roma integration strategies

The aim of this study is to find out how the involvement of the Roma community has been ensured during the developing and negotiation process of the national integration strategies in EU Member States. An online survey was conducted among European NGOs representatives, academics and civil servants involved in Roma issues. The analysis shows that after most of the national strategies came into force, the majority of Roma and pro-Roma NGOs were completely dissatisfied of how the results were achieved. In this case, according to the researcher, the EU should engage with the Roma community to find the right solutions to the integration problems.

Reference number: EESC/COMM/17/2011
Language: EN
Pages: 33
Author: Balázs Krémer; Kontra Ltd.; Hungary
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Investments in improving the environment and in remediation of environmental damage – Comparative study of different measures funded through the use of economic environmental instruments

The aim of this study is to determine what constitutes best practice in terms of implementing market based instruments (MBIs) that achieve environmental improvements, while considering the role of civil society in so doing. It provides an overview of current practice with regard to investing the revenues from economic environmental instruments into environmental projects across the EU, and in particular the re-investment of proceeds from the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme (EU-ETS). Furthermore, it evaluates the effectiveness of these investments in bringing about environmental improvements (on the basis of eight case studies). Lastly, best practices in the field are presented and recommendations are developed with a special emphasis on the role of organised civil society in this process.

Reference number: EESC/COMM/09/2011
Language: EN
Pages: 55
Author: Institute for European Environmental Policy; Jane Desbarats, Tomas Badura, Patrick ten Brink; United Kingdom
Requesting service: NAT Section
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Rio world summit on sustainable development 2012 – Governance for a green economy

This study presents findings from an online survey and a number of expert interviews on the perspectives of European civil society on sustainable development and the green economy in the run-up to the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development. The survey was sent out to civil society organisations in six selected European countries to gain a better understanding of their views on specific aspects of the green economy concept. The data analysis also allows comparing respondents' answers across different groups of civil society as well as between countries.

Reference number: EESC/COMM/04/2011

Language: EN

Pages: 75 pages

Author: Freie Universität Berlin, Environmental Policy Research Centre (FFU), Department of Political and Social Sciences, Otto Suhr Institute of Political Science; Holger Bär, Dr. Klaus Jacob, Stefan Werland; Germany

Requesting service: NAT

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Sustainable urban development and the role of civil society

The aim of this study is to present the challenges of sustainable urban development and the role of civil society in the development of sustainable cities, with a specific focus on Europe and China. It describes the instruments of urban governance and various urban models proposed in Europe and China. It furthermore highlights the initiatives put forward for the development of sustainable cities, the tools that municipalities have to influence a city's sustainable development, as well as the obstacles and problems to be tackled. The study also calls for coherence, sufficient funding, monitoring and evaluation, capacity building anticipation and information sharing in order to make the development of sustainable cities possible. Moreover, it highlights the role of organised civil society and the EESC. In this context, the author suggests address the paradox of a multitude of consultative bodies and the simultaneous sense of a deficit in the dialogue with civil society by simplifying procedures and creating a better framework for open consultation and public discussion. The study furthermore recommends to use the Sino-European dialogue to create a shared vision of sustainable urban development. Lastly, it proposes to create a learning platform to foster the exchange of experience and information and to facilitate the convergence of technical standards.

Reference number: EESC/COMM/16/2011
Language: FR; shorter version available in DE, EN, FR
Pages: 11
Author: Tancrède Voituriez; Institut du développement durable et des relations internationales (IDDRI); France
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