



Setting the Context – Introduction to Social Innovation

EAPN Social Innovation Task Force

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RÉSEAU EUROPÉEN DES ASSOCIATIONS
DE LUTTE CONTRE LA PAUVRETÉ ET L'EXCLUSION SOCIALE





Overview of the Presentation

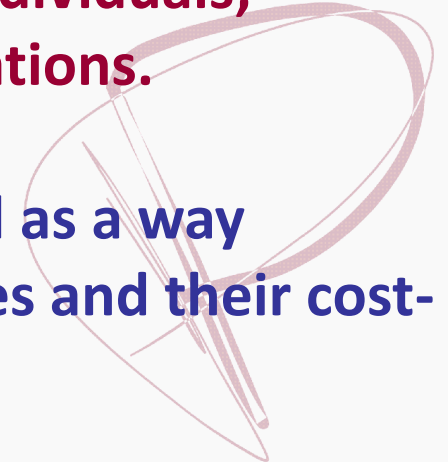
- *What is Social Innovation?*
- *What is the European Commission approach?*
- *Threats and Opportunities*
- *Next steps – mandate of the Task Force*





What is Social Innovation?

- **Social innovation is commonly defined as new ideas (products, services and models) that simultaneously meet social needs and create new social relationships or collaborations**
- **Elements:**
 - **the capacity to address social needs that traditional policy seems increasingly unable to tackle;**
 - **the empowerment of groups and individuals;**
 - **the willingness to change social relations.**
- **Social innovation is often presented as a way to increase the quality of social services and their cost-effectiveness.**



What is the European Commission approach?



- **EC definition:** developing new ideas, services and models to better address social issues. It invites input from public and private actors, including civil society, to improve social services.
- **EC policy approach:** part of the [Social Investment Package](#); must be embedded in policy making, such as implementing [country specific recommendations](#), including through the use of the [European Social Fund](#)).
- **EC funding:** The [Employment and Social Innovation \(EaSI\) programme](#) is a financing instrument at EU level to promote a high level of quality and sustainable employment, guaranteeing adequate and decent social protection, combating social exclusion and poverty and improving working conditions.
- **Further reading:** [Testing Social Policy Innovation \(2014\) Guide](#).
- **More information:** <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1022>

What opportunities and threats for EAPN?



Opportunities:

- smaller / grassroot NGOs can more easily access funding, funding to improve NGO service provision and delivery
- social economy and social entrepreneurship are key areas to be supported
- possibility to create new partnerships and pilot innovative approaches, then expand them if they prove to work.

Threats:

- support for SI can undermine the large-scale commitment and role of the State as main service provider
- funding for new, small-scale initiatives may be used to justify austerity cuts to large-scale services which have actually been proven to work.
- danger of increasing privatization / liberalization of existing social services.



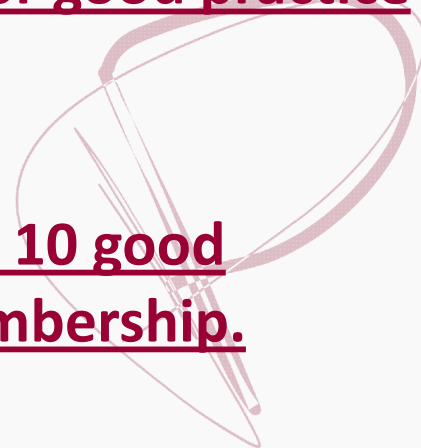
Next Steps – Mandate of the Task Force

1. EAPN Briefing on Social Innovation

- Clarify what EAPN understands by social innovation, looking at several definitions
- Clarify where we see it in the broader policy agenda
- Highlight opportunities and threats for anti-poverty NGOs

2. Development of criteria / checklist for good practice in social innovation

3. Based on the checklist, collect / map 10 good practices, collected from the EAPN membership.





Thank you for your attention!

For more information:

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or visit www.eapn.eu

A photograph of a young boy with dark hair, wearing a blue jacket. His mouth is covered with silver duct tape. He is holding a yellow and white megaphone to his mouth, as if he is about to shout or speak. The background is a plain, light color.

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