

Invitation to participate as a member in the European Stakeholder Committee

Closing gaps in social citizenship. New tools to foster social resilience in Europe (EUROSHIP)

Objective

The EUROSHIP project aims to provide an original and gender-sensitive assessment of the current gaps in social protection policies across Europe and formulate evidence-based and innovative policy options for the EU and national governments to better tackle this issue. The project will be carried out by a consortium of nine European research partners and one civil society organization (Social Platform), with OsloMet – Oslo Metropolitan University as coordinator. The planned project period is 2020-2022.

Focusing on how women and men with low education and experience of unemployment cope with *risks of poverty and social exclusion over the life-course*, EUROSHIP will

- Develop new knowledge on how the EU and national governments may prevent poverty through *minimum income schemes*.
- Develop new knowledge on how the EU and national governments may overcome barriers for *young adults to achieve quality jobs* that allows them to qualify for adequate social protection coverage and *avoid in-work poverty*.
- Develop knowledge and proposal on how the EU and national governments may facilitate the reconciliation of *work and family life* for precarious workers (self-employed, contract workers, zero contract workers).
- Examine the need to *adapt social protection policies to the digitalised economy*.
- Analyse how policies towards *social rights to long-term care* shape the opportunities of low-income elderly and disabled people to live the life they have reasons to value.

Overall, a major contribution of EUROSHIP will be a more nuanced understanding of the mechanisms behind the observed differences and gaps in social protection for citizens with diverse needs and interests over the life-course (e.g. with respect to gender, labour market status, care obligations and needs, education levels, disability, minority ethnic background and age).

The Impact of EUROSHIP

Precise knowledge about the mechanisms that cause the current gaps in social protection policies is necessary to identify policy solutions that allow the EU and national governments to realize the ambitions reflected in the European Pillar of Social Rights. EUROSHIP's aim is to produce new, gender-sensitive and comparative knowledge about the current gaps in social protection policies. Together with key stakeholders, the EUROSHIP Consortium will use this knowledge to inform processes of *social innovation*, understood as the development of knowledge-based and effective policies to mitigate risks of poverty and social exclusion over the life-course.

EUROSHIP will inform policies that contribute to the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, the Sustainable Development Goals, and Agenda 2030, thereby leading the EU and national governments closer to successfully delivering Social Europe.

Policy Lessons, Recommendations and Dissemination

Civil society organizations and trade unions are experts on working strategically with decision makers to enhance social rights and may provide expertise complementary to researcher in developing innovative solutions, identifying policy lessons and recommendations.

To achieve innovations and identify solutions that may close current gaps in social policy policies, EUROSHIP funds the active participation of civil society organizations in all stages of the research project. EUROSHIP will ensure advance consultation of European and national stakeholders in the development of templates for data collections, recruitment of interviewees, discussions of preliminary results, identification of policy lessons and the development of recommendations. Policy briefs from the project will be made available in accessible electronic formats and easy to read versions.

EUROSHIP will generate primary data by means of life-course interviews and one focus forum (national policy lab, world café style) with stakeholder representatives. The focus forum will *involve stakeholders as co-researchers* in the project. The focus forum will sensitise the project to what are the critical factors as perceived by stakeholder organisations. National stakeholder organisations will be offered a fee to write up a brief national report from the forum meeting, to be published as a blog on the project website. The blogs will feed into the development of the final policy recommendations from the project. This way, EUROSHIP will avoid that stakeholder representatives become passive recipients of information from the project but rather are involved as active co-producers of the project outcomes.

Additionally, research team members will present and discuss the design and preliminary findings in meetings and seminars organized for and by members of the Social Platform, other NGOs, social partners and public decision makers. This way EUROSHIP will provide a basis for evidence-based promotion of policies *to foster a more inclusive, cohesive and resilient Europe*.

The European Stakeholder Committee and National Stakeholder Committees

Research on effective ways to close gaps in social citizenship across Europe calls for a strong involvement of and intensive cooperation with various national and European stakeholders. Civil Society Organisations and the social partners will constitute a majority in one European Stakeholder Committee (ESC) and seven National Stakeholder Committees (NSC).

The committee members are invited– also at their own initiative – to advise the project on scientific and policy matters. OsloMet and the Social Platform will be the clearing house for advice and will communicate this to all participants. Principles of research transparency will guide stakeholder participation and partnership, fostering close collaboration with stakeholders on different levels throughout the whole project duration. To consolidate the close involvement of the ESC, EUROSHIP will organise

- a kick-off seminar in Brussels (one-day event, month 2)
- two ESC meetings in Brussels to discuss the project and provide advice on data collection and analysis, policy recommendations, and dissemination of project results (half-day events, month 10 and 27)
- a final conference in Brussels (one-day event, month 35)

EUROSHIP will cover reasonable travel and hotel expenses for the ESC members.

RHA, 12.02.2019