

Measuring the impact of active inclusion and other policies to combat poverty and social exclusion

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The National Strategy Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion 2008 – 2010 was adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers on October 7, 2008.

In the *National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2008-2010* the following groups subjected to the risk of poverty and social exclusion were identified:

Main population groups subjected to the risk of poverty in Latvia:

- retirement age persons (especially women and single retired persons);
- pre-retirement age persons;
- large families with several children and single-parent families;
- children.

Specific population groups subjected to risk of poverty and social exclusion in Latvia:

- disabled persons and persons with functional impairments;
- unemployed persons (particularly, long term unemployed);
- homeless persons;
- prisoners and ex-prisoners;
- the Roma;
- victims of people trafficking;
- persons addicted to psychoactive substances (alcohol, drugs, toxic or other intoxicating substances);
- persons with insufficient, low or inadequate to the labour market knowledge and skills;
- needy persons.

To improve the situation of these groups there were defined the following three policy objectives for 2008-2010 period:

1. To facilitate more efficient participation and inclusion in the labour market.
2. To improve the income support systems.
3. To promote accessibility of qualitative services.

Governance at national, regional and local level.

Social inclusion policy is coordinated primarily through the Social Inclusion Policy Coordination Committee (SIPC Committee) established under Ministry of Welfare in 2007 (from 2004-2006 the Committee for Monitoring the Implementation of National Action Plan for Reduction of Poverty and Social Exclusion 2004-2006). The SIPC Committee involves representatives from almost all line ministries and other state administrative institutions as well as representatives from local planning regions, non-governmental organisations, Central Statistical Bureau and Parliament. Within the SIPC Committee the information level of its members on social inclusion issues is being raised - on good practice examples within the social inclusion field, statistical data on social protection and social inclusion, negotiations held on topical problems of poverty and social exclusion in Latvia, priorities identified for the promotion of social inclusion etc.

Objectives, targets and indicators. Monitoring and evaluation.

NAP/incl 2008 – 2010 comprises various measures within competence of several line ministries and local governments. Every year line ministries submit information to the Ministry of Welfare on the implementation of measures defined in the NAP/incl, and the compiled informative report is submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers. During SIPC committee meetings monitoring on implementation of the NAP/incl is made. Line ministries responsible for the effective implementation of the NAP/incl report to SIPC committee members on the results achieved in social inclusion field.

The new initiative that has been taken for the new NAP/incl 2008-2010 and reporting on its implementation is as follows. If previously Ministry of Welfare required information from all line ministries to report on specific measures and indicators without any information on poverty situation, analysis of activities and conclusions, then for the new reporting period the reporting quality has been improved. The informative report now consists of three chapters:

- 1) **characteristics of the state's socio-economic situation**, where information on economic development, changes in prices, employment and unemployment, people income, demographic situation, poverty and social exclusion has been analyzed;
- 2) **matrix on performance of indicators defined for goals and measures** included in NAP/incl 2008-2010, where monitoring of quantified targets, specific measures and indicators of these measures were reported. Line ministries were required to provide information not only on achieved indicators and implemented measures, but for each measure to define its performance status, substantiation for not duly implemented measures and information on further action. Namely, there were proposed seven performance statuses for implementation of each measure ("Not started", "Under process", "Accomplished", "Accomplished delaying", "Accomplished partly", "Delayed", "Terminated". Besides, if status was indicated as "Not started", "Accomplished delaying", "Accomplished partly", "Delayed" or "Terminated", ministries were required to give substantiation on non-performance of measure in time.

- 3) **Conclusions** include analysis on implementation of measures indicating reasons for different statuses and overall assessment of NAP/incl 2008-2010 implementation.

Role of users/beneficiaries within the whole process.

Non-governmental organisations and social partners are widely involved in the processes of the development, implementation and monitoring of various legal acts, policy planning documents etc.