The role of social policy research in achieving the SDGs and social policy related targets

Strategic guidelines

Anette Scoppetta, Deputy Director
(on behalf of the Management Team)

How many planets do we have?

*The coming years will be a vital period
to save the planet and to achieve sustainable,
inclusive human development.*
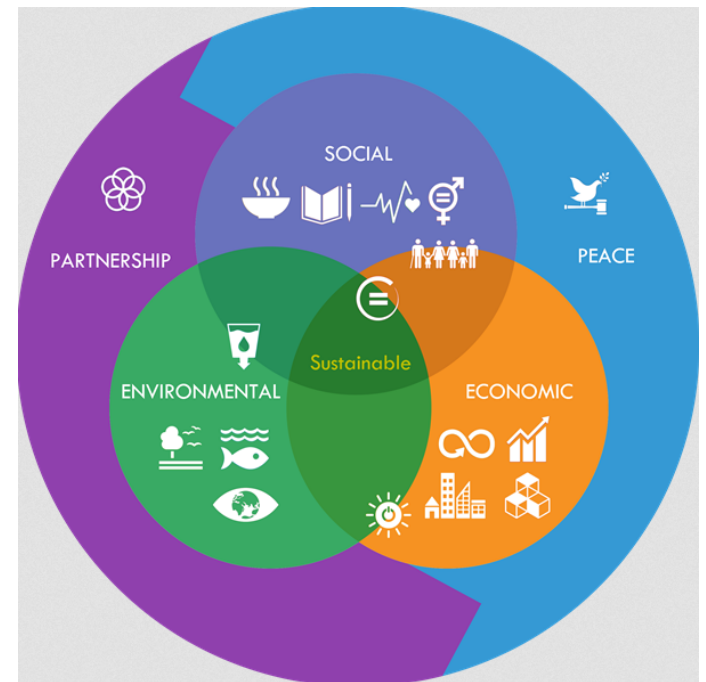António Guterres, Secretary-General, United Nations

Sources of pictures: Times of India, YouTube, UN

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Agenda 2030 & the 3 pillars

The Agenda 2030 and its 17 SDGs is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity with the aim to achieve a **better** and **more sustainable future** for all.

There are **three pillars** of 2030 global goals:

➤ The **economic pillar**

➤ The **social pillar**

➤ The **environmental pillar**

The **three SD pillars** cut across and **intertwine**

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Why do we need the Agenda 2030?

❖ **Misleading** (policy) developments?

❖ Dominance of the **economic** pillar?

❖ **Only lip services** paid to
the **most in need?**

❖ **Who has the say on this planet?**
The economically most valuable,
i.e. the most powerful regions,
businesses or persons/nations?

Growing divide between the rich and the poor
Increasing inequalities
Society as annex to the economy and market forces
Unlimited growth path
Threatening territorial cohesion
Isolation of social groups
Rising poverty
Unbalanced powers
…

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Progress on SDGs

➡️ Developments threaten the SDGs to fail reaching their goals

According to projections based on the 2019 Social Progress Index, at its current pace **the world will not achieve the SDGs until 2073**
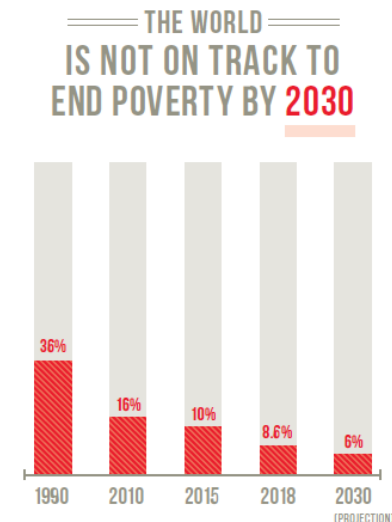
*"It is **abundantly clear** that a much deeper, faster and more ambitious response is needed to unleash the **social and economic transformation needed** to achieve our 2030 goals"*

António Guterres

Sources: United Nations/SDG Report 2019, available at https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/;
Social Progress Imperative, available at https://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/Deloitte/at/Documents/presse/at-social-progress-index-2019-global.pdf

Exemplified by Goal 1

Goal 1: **Progress against poverty continues but has slowed, jeopardizing the achievement of the Goal**
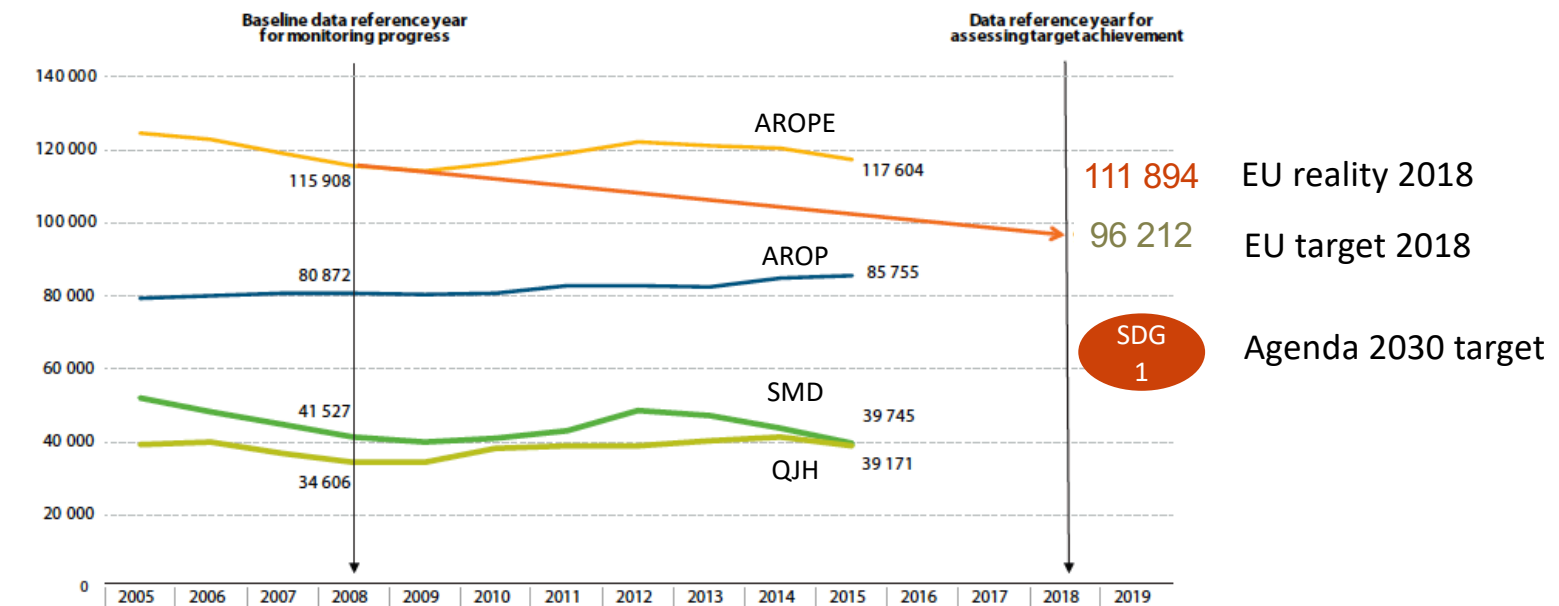

55%
OF THE
WORLD'S POPULATION
HAVE NO ACCESS TO
SOCIAL PROTECTION

THE WORLD
IS NOT ON TRACK TO
END POVERTY BY **2030**

36%   16%   10%   8.6%   6%
1990   2010   2015   2018   2030
(PROJECTION)

Source: SDG Report 2019

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The example of Goal 1

The EU targets, reality – and the SDGs

Progress towards the EU social inclusion target, 2005-2015, EU28, in 1000

Baseline data reference year for monitoring progress

Data reference year for assessing target achievement

AROPE

117 604

111 894   EU reality 2018

96 212   EU target 2018

AROP

85 755

SDG 1   Agenda 2030 target

SMD

39 745

QJH

39 171

115 908

80 872

41 527

34 606

140 000
120 000
100 000
80 000
60 000
40 000
20 000
0

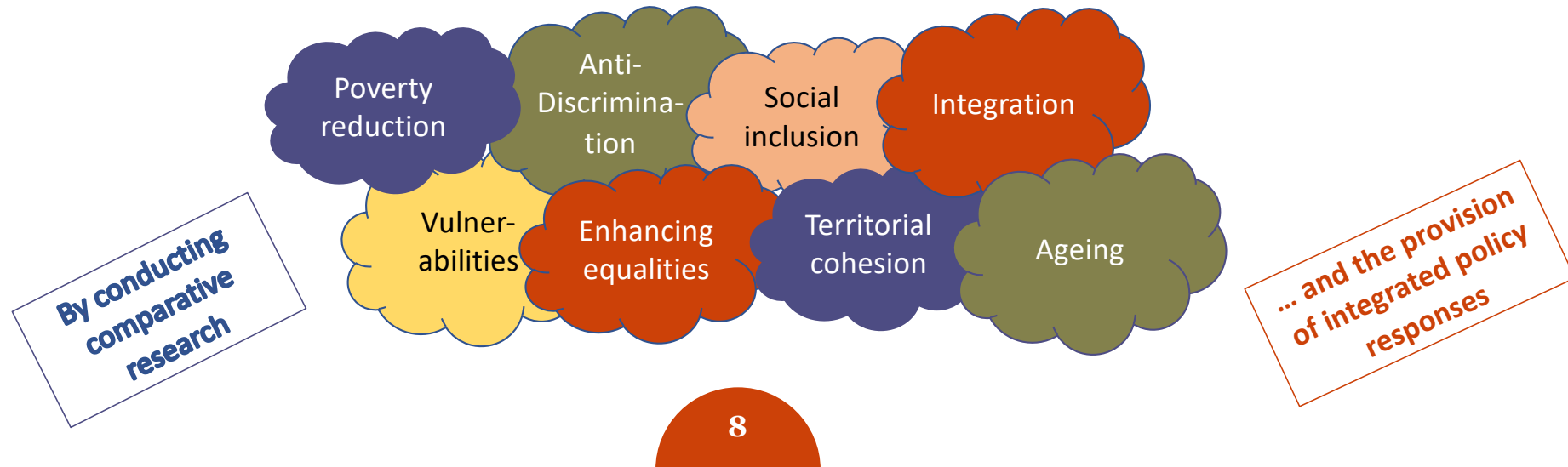2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019

Source: ILO, 2017; Eurostat, EU-SILC (codes t2020_50, t2020_51, t2020_52, t2020_53); SPC Annual Report 2017; Eurostat
Notes: AROPE: at risk of poverty or social exclusion; AROP: at risk of poverty; SMD: severely materially deprived; QJH: (quasi-)jobless households.
SDG 1: Reduce poverty by at least 50% by 2030.

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Our Strategic Approach

The European Centre responds to the challenges with projects in the areas of:

Poverty reduction

Anti-Discrimina-tion

Social inclusion

Integration

Vulner-abilities

Enhancing equalities

Territorial cohesion

Ageing

By conducting comparative research

... and the provision of integrated policy responses

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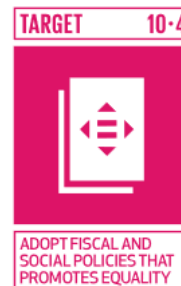# We understand our role of conducting social policy research …

… in contributing to unleash the **social** and **economic transformation** by …

Our contributions

The European Centre's projects contribute to unleash the transformation in various respects
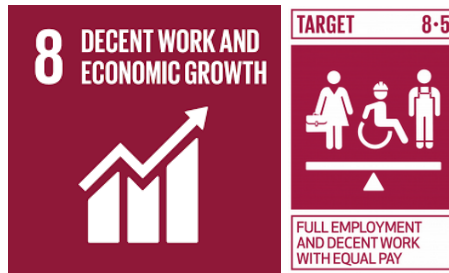
Our activities predominantly address the following SDGs and targets:

Appropriate social protection (SDG 1.3) and greater equality (SDG 10.4)
by Michael Fuchs and Tamara Premrov

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Our contributions

Decent work for all women and men … (SDG 8.5) and increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills (SDG 4.4)
by Leonard Geyer and Anette Scoppetta

Empower the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin or economic or other status (SDG 10.2)
by Magdi Birtha and Veronica Sandu

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Our contributions

Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection and access to quality essential health-care services … for all (SDG 3.8)
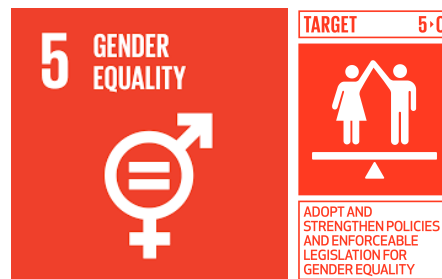by Christian Boehler and Rahel Kahlert

Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration (…) through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies (SDG 10.7) and protect labour rights … (SDG 8.8)
by Sonila Danaj and Leonard Geyer

Our contributions

Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol (SDG 3.5)
by Cees Goos and Günter Stummvoll

Adopt and strengthen sound policies … for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels (SDG 5.c)
by Stefania Ilinca, Eszter Zólyomi and Ricardo Rodrigues

Our contributions

Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development … by multistakeholder partnerships that … share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources (SDG 17.16)
by Anette Scoppetta

… We are looking forward to receiving your reflections on our contributions during the following sessions!

Conclusion - I

In order to save the planet we have to improve working **together** towards the **urgently required social** and **economic transformation**.

Partnerships are key to achieve a **sustainable future** for all:

- Between **various regions** ('BB function' of the European Centre; EU and UN European Region)
- Between **research, policy making** and **practical implementation** (as practiced in many projects of the European Centre)
- Between the **excluded** and the **included,** e.g. via our various projects that focus on the most in need

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Conclusion - II

However, we **cooperatively** have to **think out of our box** if we really want to achieve **social** and **economic transformation** during the time left on our planet:

? How can a **sustainable future for all** be built
if we **continue** (more or less) **as usual**?

Real change looks different! It must be **radical!**

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Thank you

European Centre for

Social Welfare Policy and Research

Berggasse 17, 1090 Vienna, Austria

www.euro.centre.org

ec@euro.centre.org

+43-1-319 4505-0