



Better international cooperation

Lessons learnt from international cooperation

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Why do we need better international cooperation?

“Our world is suffering from the impact of unprecedented emergencies caused by the climate crisis, pollution, desertification and biodiversity loss, the COVID-19 pandemic, by new and ongoing conflicts, and by the ungoverned development of new technologies”.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres, 22 March 2022

Source: <https://press.un.org/en/2022/sgsm21196.doc.htm>

Why is it needed – AT POLICY LEVEL

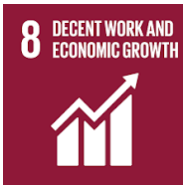
Moving Backwards on Sustainable Development Goals?



GOAL 1

NO POVERTY

- 1.1 Extreme poverty
- 1.4 Access to basic services
- 1.2 National poverty
- 1.3 Social protection
- 1.5 Resilience to disasters
- 1.a Resources for poverty programmes
- 1.b Poverty eradication policies



GOAL 8

DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

- 8.b Strategy for youth employment
- 8.2 Economic productivity & innovation
- 8.4 Material resource efficiency
- 8.5 Full employment & decent work
- 8.6 Youth NEET
- 8.8 Labour rights & safe working env.
- 8.9 Sustainable tourism
- 8.10 Access to financial services
- 8.1 Per capita economic growth
- 8.3 Formalization of SMEs
- 8.7 Child & forced labour
- 8.a Aid for Trade



GOAL 3

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

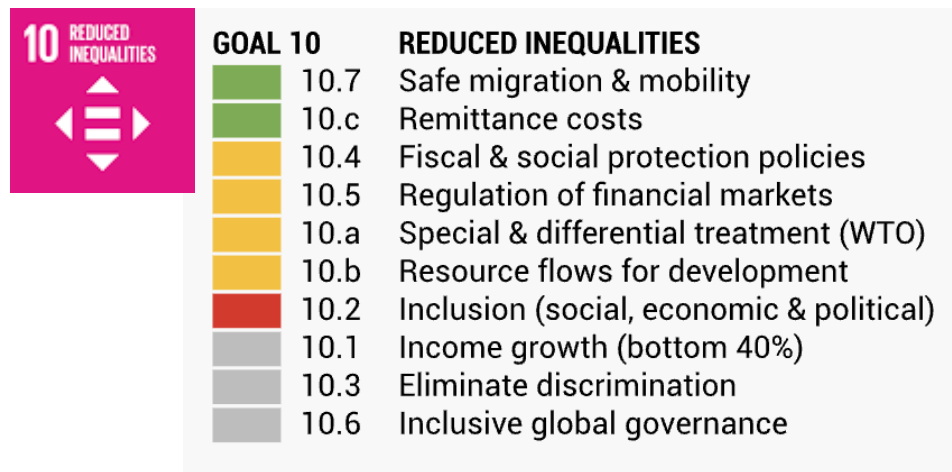
- 3.1 Maternal mortality
- 3.2 Child mortality
- 3.6 Road traffic accidents
- 3.3 Communicable diseases
- 3.4 NCD & mental health
- 3.5 Substance abuse
- 3.7 Sexual & reproductive health
- 3.8 Universal health coverage
- 3.9 Health impact of pollution
- 3.a Tobacco control
- 3.b R&D for health
- 3.c Health financing & workforce
- 3.d Management of health risks

■ **MAINTAIN** progress to achieve target
 ■ **ACCELERATE** progress to achieve target
■ **REVERSE** trend to achieve target
 ■ Insufficient data

Source: United Nations (2021) Our Common Agenda – Report of the Secretary-General. New York: United Nations.

Why is it needed – AT POLICY LEVEL

Moving Backwards on Sustainable Development Goals?



- COVID-19 has pushed a further 124 million people in extreme poverty
- One in three people across the world did not have access to adequate food in 2020
- More inclusive multilateralism needed

■ **MAINTAIN** progress to achieve target
 ■ **ACCELERATE** progress to achieve target
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 ■ Insufficient data

Source: United Nations (2021) Our Common Agenda – Report of the Secretary-General. New York: United Nations.

Why is it needed – AT POLICY LEVEL

Reframing until 2030?

- There is no (governed) balance between the three pillars – the economy, the social and the environmental – as suggested in the UN Agenda 2030. The economy hence must be **governed** and driven by society/humans (the market will not do)
- The environment has no power: **full rights** must be given to the environment with states and the UN acting for the planet – NGO's and citizen's voices alone are too weak
- The believe that **technology** will solve the multiple crises is naive
- Sustainable development within the “growth-agenda” is failing: there is no compromise seen between growth and degrowth



Radical change in the lines of thought and steered/governed actions are required!

Why is it needed – AT RESEARCH LEVEL

- A. Research about vulnerable groups of society** demonstrates that they are hit most in times of crises (COVID-19; Climate change/social benefits; etc.) – **AN INCLUSIVE APPROACH**
- B. Research about integrated policies** proves evidence on links between the three pillars of the UN Agenda 2030 – **A HOLISTIC APPROACH**
- C. Co-creation is promising:** conducting research and implementing joint action by involving different stakeholders – **A PARTNERSHIP APPROACH**
- D. Translating research** into policy action: easy understandable language and recommendations for policy makers are often missing – **THE BRIDGING FUNCTION**

THE INCLUSIVE APPROACH

What did we learn from our work for a better international cooperation?

- **Vulnerable groups** are hit most by the multiple crises and need to be constantly in focus of policy making
 - **Children:** Situational Analysis in Moldova; the situation of children with single parents during the pandemic
 - **People with disabilities:** The impact of Covid-19
 - **Older people:** Loneliness, inequalities and the need for equal opportunities throughout life
 - **Posted workers and migrant carers:** combatting undeclared work, improving cross-border regulations and making inequalities visible
 - **Unemployed and precarious employment:** Analysing multi-ethnic labour markets and social security

Sources: Sandu, Birtha, Kahlert et al., 2022; Fuchs & Premrov, 2020; Scoppetta, 2020; Sandu, Zólyomi & Leichsenring, 2022; Rodrigues, Simmons et al., 2021; Ministerial Declaration on Ageing (Rome 2022): *A sustainable world for all ages: joining forces for solidarity and equal opportunities throughout life*; Danaj & Zólyomi, 2022; Danaj, Kayran & Geyer (forthcoming); Leichsenring, Kadi & Simmons, 2022; Premrov, Geyer & Prinz, 2022

THE INCLUSIVE APPROACH

What did we learn from our work for a better international cooperation?

- **Gender gaps** can be identified and urgently need to be tackled at international level based on policies that promote the **full integration of all forms of work in the economic value chain**:
 - **Care for children and older people**: Inequities and inequalities; unpaid work mainly borne by women; policies to improve the situation of informal carers
 - **Ageing in a life-course perspective**: acknowledgement of unpaid work across the life-course
- **Digitalised labour markets** leave low-skilled and non-skilled behind – **comprehensive training and activation measures are required**
 - **Population ageing and ‘Work 4.0’**: new forms of work and related needs for reforms – also across borders

Sources: Ilinca, Rodrigues, Zólyomi et al., 2022; Leichsenring, 2018; UNECE Standing Working Group on Ageing; Scoppetta, Naegelé & Valmerova (forthcoming)

THE HOLISTIC APPROACH

What did we learn from our work for a better international cooperation?

- **Integrated approaches** are rarely implemented – **Change is required to overcome policy silos**
 - Improving coordination of social protection and employment service delivery: Lessons from Armenia and Tajikistan
 - The integrated policy approach applied for vulnerable groups of society with the Active Inclusion Integration Platform (AIIP) in Kosovo
 - Community of Practice ‘Employment, Education and Skills’: Coordination and integration of health and social care: Factsheets
 - A shared vision on long-term care: Contributions to the EU Care Strategy

Sources: Scoppetta & Sandu, 2022; Scoppetta, Birtha, & Sandu (forthcoming); Scoppetta, 2023 (forthcoming); Ilinca, Kadi & Simmons, 2022; Leichsenring & Kadi, 2022

THE HOLISTIC APPROACH

What did we learn from our work for a better international cooperation?

- **Social benefits** and **social services** strongly interlink but are often perceived and even assessed independently – **Comprehensive assessment on monetary and non-monetary investments is required at all times**
 - Integrated care needs integrated funding structures: InCARE
 - Child protection in need of comprehensive funding
- Impacts of **holistic approaches** cannot be assessed so easily – need for **further research and reduction of expectations from policy makers** (“proving the obvious”?)
 - The case of undeclared work
 - The case of impact assessment and capacity-building

Sources: Rodrigues, Simmon & Leichsenring, 2022; Sandu & Birtha, 2022; Fuchs & Wohlgemuth (forthcoming); Scoppetta & Prinz, 2022; Kahlert & Kayran Meier, 2022

What did we learn from our work for a better international cooperation?

- **Employment** and **social policies** frequently do not go hand-in-hand –
Partnership needs to be fostered by public authorities
 - Examples from the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries – and from the EU
- Locally embedded projects can only contribute to **social change** to a limited extent –
Social change must be steered by governments
 - The example of InCARE
- **Promising ideas** are born when stakeholders of different institutional background act jointly – **The multiple crises require joint action of researchers and policy makers**
 - The European Community of Practice on Partnership as an example

THE BRIDGING FUNCTION

What did we learn from our work for a better international cooperation?

- Findings frequently **miss translation** into clear policy recommendations – **Researchers need to adapt the policy language**
 - The example of undeclared work
- **Research** often does not feed into (evidence-based) **policy making** – **Enhanced dissemination activities are core**
 - The example of ageing policies
 - The example of posting
 - Enhancing dissemination activities in social media and through policy briefs

THE BRIDGING FUNCTION

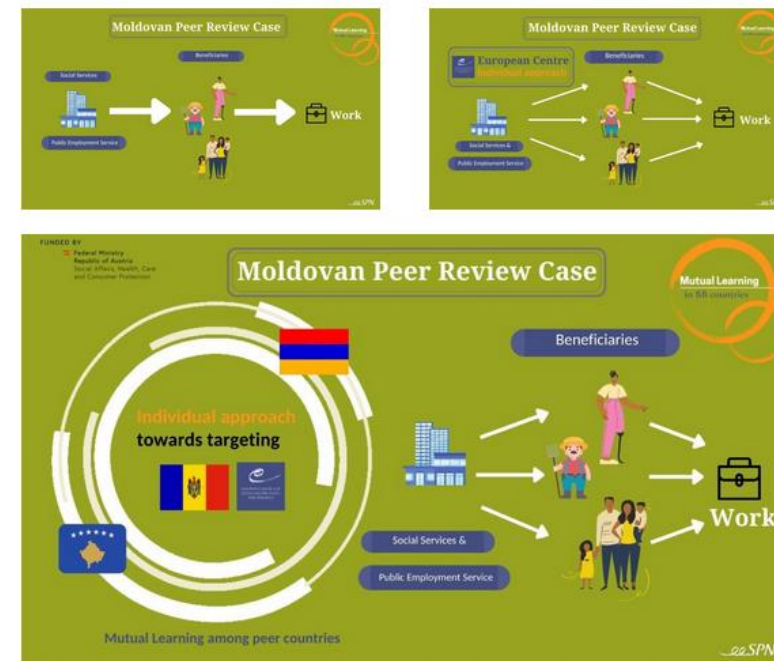
What did we learn from our work for a better international cooperation?

- Cooperation at the **same eye-level** between stakeholders and countries is key – **The bridging function between European regions/stakeholders is essential and requires investments**
 - The Bridge Building flagship project and the experiences of Peer Reviews

Kosovo Peer Review Snapshots



Moldovan Peer Review Snapshots



What needs to be done at the global scale?

- The transformation requires globally coordinated action:
 - Only the international community (multi-lateral initiatives, UN ...) can steer the deep change needed; locally based community actions alone will not succeed
- International and intergovernmental agencies such as the European Centre fulfil a core function as think tank and in implementing an adapted UN policy framework (beyond growth agenda) for a **better international cooperation**
- Evidence-based policy making needs to be made a reality in all areas to secure our lives and the planet in the future



Thank you!



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