



BRIEF REPORT ON

Results from Workshop I

“Current challenges, trends and scenarios” in Berlin, 17 April 2012

Workshop I (WS) “Current challenges, trends and scenarios” was held in Berlin on 17 April 2012 and aimed at discussing the findings of the questionnaires completed by the external experts in advance to the meeting together with the CE Ageing project partners.

The presentation of the analysis as well as the participants list is regarded as integral part of the report (to be found in the annex).

The report serves as information for interested partners/experts that were not able to attend the meeting.

The following results were achieved during the WS I:

- **Adding's to the vision:**
 - The issue of “recording of talents” should be specified since talents also develop over time;
 - Add the term “transparent” to “sustainable social security system”;
 - Negative aspects should also be listened in the summary of the online survey (which was handed out to the participants); as well as
 - Change the term “Job profession” as it is a duplication.
- **Remarks/adding's to the analysis:**
 - “Family policy” as term is not used as frequently. Hence, it was suggested that instead of using a header “family policy”, the topics concerned should be included in the relevant other policy fields (e.g. all issues concerning care could be included in the policy field of labour market and/or social policy);
 - It was stressed that the share of pension system spending in national budgets is much too high;
 - Information, and in particular transparency in the access to information, should be taken into consideration;
 - The challenge of changing governance settings (national, regional responsibilities in specific policy fields of CE countries with federal systems) need to be added in the strategy.

The first working group session was dedicated to the current challenges of particular CE regions, namely the eastern rural as well as the western rural CE regions and the urban areas in CE. Please find major results of the working group sessions in the following:

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CHAMBER OF LABOUR UPPER AUSTRIA (Lead Partner)

email: bogner.t@akooe.at
phone: +43 732 6906 2445, fax: +43 732 6906 62445

CENTRE FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION (Communication)

email: machacova@zsi.at
phone: +43 699 10932028, fax +43 1 4950442-40

www.CE-ageing.eu



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Specific challenges for eastern rural areas in CE:

- Problem: rural areas lack work places
- Challenge: create jobs by supporting decentralisation of work places and, in particular, welfare working places (to enhance well-being in rural CE) and better combine work and life by organising transport possibilities (including investment in infrastructure) and supporting the establishment of “standard” infrastructure (theatres, etc.)

Specific challenges for western rural areas in CE:

- Problem: outmigration to cities and shortage of skilled workers
- Challenge: maintain/improve the level of infrastructure, transport, internet access and implement specific measures for attracting workers (immigration policy)

Specific challenges for urban areas in CE:

- Problem: 2 “city types” are evident, the productive and the less favoured ones
- Challenge: support entrepreneurial environments (by reducing barriers and by legislative change e.g. in the education system), establish portfolio of options for people without jobs and improve cooperation between employers and labour offices

The second working group session was dedicated to the roles to be taken by key actors, such as the public, the civil society as well as the economy, in order to achieve the vision. Please find major results of the working group sessions in the following:

Roles to be taken by the civil society:

- Civil society has to encourage and empower individuals in changing their attitudes
- Civil society needs to control policy makers
- Civil society has to set up individual integrated programmes providing services for the vulnerable (single mothers, training programmes for older people, etc.)

Roles to be taken by the economy:

- Employers have self-responsibilities which must be taken (e.g. ageing responsibilities of staff – active ageing is required, raise workability of employees)
- A life course cycle approach (holistic approach) needs to be implemented at companies
- A system for the integration of the unemployed is needed at the enterprises

Roles to be taken by the public:

- Establish effective public system (with highly skilled civil servants)
- Establish a balanced system between the national and the regional and local level
- Concentrate the investment of resources to priorities
- Umbrella strategy with clearly defined measures on the transnational CE/EU level is needed

ZSI, 8 May 2012