

Thinking of the European Social Watch Report 2010

A strategy meeting with the authors who came to Brussels on December the 8th followed the launch event of the first European SW Report for a first assessment about the work made together and for ensuring a follow-up to the launch event. Along with an exchange of ideas and useful evaluations on the process which brought to the production of the first European Report, the strategy meeting was a chance to make a brainstorming on the next European SW Report whose publication is expected by project by the end of 2010. Based on discussion already hold a few months earlier in Accra (during the SW General Assembly) with the representatives of other European SW Coalitions, the proposals which so far came out for the theme of the next report are the following:

- **gender policies:** this might include issues related to women and jobs, human rights, migrant women, the implementation of gender legislation in Europe and in external policies etc. In 2010 there will be the fifteen-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;
- **social inclusion:** this might include issues like the decrease of the social state, decrease in citizens' rights etc. 2010 is the European year for combating poverty and social exclusion. Since this topic is very broad, there is a need to identify some specific issue.

The European SW coalitions have been called to express their opinion and suggest focal themes for the next Report. Taking into account the result of this process of consultation with the current membership of Social Watch in Europe, a final decision on the theme of the next Report will be taken shortly. Eurostep, which is coordinating the process (on behalf of the project's partners), will provide in the coming weeks the national SW coalitions with specific guidelines on the selected theme and a clear timetable for contributed to the new Report.

Overview of the project activities: future steps...

Next period: February 2010 — April 2010

Project Steering

Committee meeting,

Prague, April 2010



Researching and reporting activities

- Production of the national contribution to the International SW Report 2010
- Definition of the Index and Guidelines for European SW Report 2010; drafting of the thematic and country reports
- Finalization of an Advocacy Toolkit on social development addressed to Italian Local Authorities

Raising awareness and lobbying activities

- Production and distribution of SW campaigning materials at the national level
- Planned launch event of the national report
Prague: 25 February 2010
Rome: 9 February 2010
Warsaw: to be planned
- Other Italian local events for promoting SW Report are planned in February and March in Milan, Naples, Trento, Pisa.

For further information...

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Promoting Social Development: building capacities of Social Watch national Coalitions

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Project Information

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Duration: March 2008 – February 2011

Beneficiaries: national Coalitions of Italy, Poland and the Czech Republic

Partners of the project:
Ucodep (IT) Lead Agency;
Karat (PL); Ekumenica Akademie of Prague (CZ);
Mani Tese (IT); Lunaria (IT);
Fondazione Culturale Responsabilità Etica (IT); Oxfam Novib (NL); Eurostep (BE)

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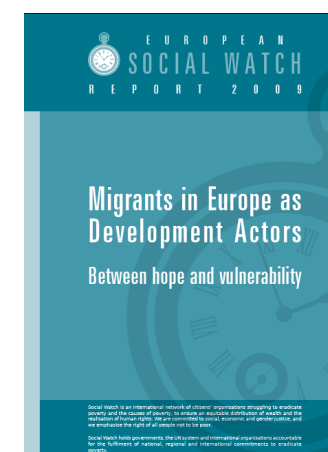
Montevideo, Uruguay

If you are interested in knowing more about SW network
www.socialwatch.org

First European Social Watch Report: a successful story

On December the 8th the launch event of the first European SW Report took place at the European Parliament in Brussels. The event was hosted by the Green MEP Ska Keller and about 40 participants took part at the round table where the main topics of the Report were presented and debated. The launch was intended to be a first opportunity of discussion with MEPs, EC functionnaires and experts working for CSOs or Brussels-based international organizations.

The report whose thematic focus is on migration has been so far very welcomed and appreciated. It has been a timely appropriate publication who got the interest of several European SW Coalitions as well as other



European CSOs that committed themselves by drafting a thematic article or a country report. It was the first time of a SW Report at the European level and finally we can say that the efforts made by all the authors, wisely coordinated by Eurostep, were very successful.

Each national SW coalition is now strongly encourage to promote at the national level the debate on migration and use this European Report as an updated tool for advocacy actions towards politicians and decision makers. Indeed this publication has given the opportunity to the European SW coalitions (to those who decided to participate with their own contribution to the Report) to take position on a very topical and burning issue.

By making a general assessment on the outcome of this experience, surely the added value of this publication is to present an analysis with both internal and external dimension which allows to keep together both the problem's perceptions of organizations working mainly on social issues within the European borders and organizations mainly devoted to development issues in third countries.

Doubtless any process can be improved and there is always a lot to learn from past experiences...however this first experience can be considered a first well achieved result which encourage all to improve the performance for the next European SW Report 2010!

If you want to contribute at drafting this newsletter, please come back with your suggestions and ideas by writing at federica.corsi@ucodep.org

How to measure progress: promoting the debate

The Italian campaign material

The international debate on designing new indicators for measuring progress, wealth and well-being is becoming in the last years always more animated but still too much confined to the insiders. A revolution in changing the ways to assess social, economic and environmental progress is ongoing but in order to become a reality it needs to be widely understood and supported by the general public opinion. The Italian SW Coalition is committed to encourage and widely promote at the national level the debate “beyond GDP”. Economic indicators, as largely proven by SW data and analysis, were never designed to be comprehensive measures of well-being. Nowadays we need



adequate indicators to address global challenges such as climate change, poverty, resource depletion... Coherently with the objective of letting the Italian public opinion aware of this international debate, the Italian SW coalition produced, as campaign material for this project second year, a short publication “Addio PIL” (Goodbye GDP). The publication was produced in collaboration with the monthly Italian magazine Valori. 7.000 copies were distributed with the

A first presentation of the Czech SW Report 2009

The Czech country report to the International SW Report 2009 was presented by the Czech SW coalition in the interdisciplinary conference “The Crisis and Post-Crisis Scenarios of Development” which was organized by the Centre of Global Studies in the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic in Prague on 11-13 November 2009. It was the second time the Czech coalition contributed with a specific country report to the International Report. It focused on the economic crises specifically in Czech Republic and its social, economic, cultural and political consequences especially on women, the Roma population and the poor. In addition to the presentation of the country report, the members of the Czech SW coalition presented as well a selection of the other SW coalition country reports, and reported about the SW General Assembly that a few weeks earlier took place in Ghana. The conference was attended by NGOs, academics, journalists, political advisers, and university students. The news got a good media coverage.

December/January issue of the magazine, while 3.000 copies will be freely distributed by the Italian coalition during national events in the upcoming months. The publication, thorough simple articles, interviews and maps, is intended to take position on the debate and provide the readers with the “state of the art” of what discussed and recommended so far at the international level by researchers, institutions (i.e. OECD, EC) and civil society organizations. *It is available for download at www.socialwatch.it*

Polish SW Report: work in progress

This year experience of the Polish SW Coalition

The theme of the Polish Report 2009 is Social Development and it covers the understanding of the concept itself as well as the evaluation of governmental social policies implemented in Poland in the context of international commitments made by Poland. Members of the Polish Social Watch Coalition (PSWC) felt that more research on Social Development is needed to launch debate in Poland and to better define Coalition's future goals linked to Social Development in Poland.

PSWC developed a common understanding of SD. First, we came to conclusion that it was quite unfeasible to propose clear cut, comprehensive and exhausting definition of SD. However, it is possible to describe what SD means in practice.

A following chart was created:

Legislation system
Other measures >> dignity for all/quality life
(resources) Empowerment (aim)

The understanding of SD was elaborated in relation to this chart. The Coalition also defined its mission which is: Foster putting adequate legislation at place as well as encourage other mechanisms and resources (material and immaterial) to ensure Social Development; Encourage system in which this legislation and other resources are empowering all citizens with the aim of securing basic needs for all (and beyond that).

The structure of the Report includes introduction to the report and seven case studies. Theoretical introduction elaborated by expert will specifically address most important issues linked to SD in Poland, namely: Evaluation of Polish transition to market economy and democracy in the context of SD; Social inequalities in Poland and particularly obscured poverty; Financial discourse vs social development and human rights discourse in politics (Thinking in terms of economic growth, not social development); Neoliberal approach to citizens (... as taxpayers) and its impact on human rights/social development; Concerns about the language of the New Polish Constitution Proposals and how these threaten human rights and social development. Case studies picturing social development issues (in terms of basic capabilities) in Poland will be elaborated by members of PSWC. Coalition named basic needs that would be reflected in case studies: Adequate housing; Food and access to drinking water; Education; Health (incl. reproductive health); Employment; Citizenship.

For a different approach to poverties: Mani Tese's educational tool kit

There is an increasing need to overcome the traditional approach basing the measurement of poverty mainly on income. Social Watch, through its analysis and the creation of new indexes like BCI and GEI, strongly supports a new approach to look at poverty. A multidimensional analysis looking at the same time at different aspects of life such as health, education, public services, quality of life, environment need to be considered. Social Watch in its yearly Report offers this new perspective and Mani Tese, the founder member of the Italian SW Coalition, recently published an educational tool kit which largely refers to Social Watch methodologies of investigation. This tool kit is intended to help people working in the education field (i.e. teachers, trainers, NGOs) to properly use concepts and terms for raising awareness about development issues. The idea behind this publication is to analyze the root causes of poverty from the human rights perspective according to the approach developed by Social Watch and thus enable people to deepen the real and complex concepts of poverty. A smart way to link the educational activities carried out by the NGO at the national level with the researches worldwide developed by the network. *The publication is available for download at www.manitese.it and www.socialwatch.it*



Development cooperation from the women's rights perspective

On 24th of November a training on gender in development took place in Warsaw. It was organized in partnership with experts from London-based One World Action who came to Poland to share their experiences with Polish Social Watch Coalition on working with women from the Global South. A new resource guide on women's rights in development was also published. This is one of the first of this kind publication issued in Poland. The author argues that although CEDAW is the global women's rights bill to be followed on the national level, the Convention also constitutes the framework for development cooperation worldwide. Implementation of CEDAW is a pre-requisite for the MDGs achievement. Publication is divided to 3 sections: 1. Why gender perspective is essential in development cooperation? 2. How does the development practice looks like? 3. Women's as agents for change. Publication is available at: <http://www.karat.org/karat,7,What+is+new%3F,en.html> KARAT Secretariat wish to thank One World Action for their support and sharing their photos to be used in publication.

Miniprzewodnik po współpracy rozwojowej z perspektywy praw kobiet



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