



SEMINÁRIO INTERNACIONAL | INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR
SERVIÇOS SOCIAIS DE INTERESSE GERAL
E COESÃO TERRITORIAL: EXPERIÊNCIAS E DESAFIOS

SOCIAL SERVICES OF GENERAL INTEREST
AND TERRITORIAL COHESION: EXPERIENCES AND CHALLENGES

13 novembro/november 2017 | Auditório CCDR Alentejo, Évora



Social services of general interest
and the challenges for territorial cohesion
– *the role of Cohesion Policy*

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1. SGI delivery in Europe

A large part of the European economy:
SGI account for:

- 25% of added-value
- almost 30% of employment
- 22% of all investments

They are an important stabilising factor
in periods of economic crisis



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1. SGI delivery in Europe

**Targeted by competition policy,
important for cohesion**

- Public intervention in the field of SGIs
define Europe's 'social market economy'
- Currently, the judiciary promotes economic liberalisation
at a faster speed than the regulators can preserve
social and territorial cohesion
- Strong tendency towards privatization, now also in health
and social services
- In parallel, social enterprises and NGOs assume
an increasing role



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1. SGI delivery in Europe

Central territorial cohesion issues:

- Improve outsourcing practices
- Build PPPs that preserve the general interest in the best way possible
- Capitalise on social entrepreneurship
- Deal with demographic polarisation / shrinking
- Cross-border integration of SGI delivery



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2. Current ESIF contribution

General observations:

- ESIF support SGI investments, rather than SGI provision
- There are no specific regulatory provisions for SGI-related projects
- Significant role of Transnational ETC programmes in transfers of good practice for innovative SGI provision.



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2. Current ESIF contribution

Intervention logic involving SGI Example: Social housing in Malta

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graph LR
    Regulation --> PA
    PA --> OP
    OP --> Rationale
  
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Regulation

- TO 9, IP 9b: Providing support for physical, economic and social regeneration of deprived communities ...

PA

- Increase of the share of social housing, with new social housing built as energy neutral buildings

OP

- Regeneration of public open spaces and public social housing
- Integration of deprived families through the upgrading of public social housing

Rationale at OP level

- Social housing within the Harbour area in a state of decay.
- Significant impact on quality of life
- Adequate housing infrastructure is a basic need.

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2. Current ESIF contribution

Shortcomings:

- Critical approaches on how SGIs may contribute to regional development need to be further developed
- ESIF mainly contributes to infrastructure investments
- ESIF mostly follows a sectoral logic
- Mainstream ESIF programmes do not support innovative SGI provision

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3. Policy options

Current programming period

- Awareness-raising
- Disseminate good practices with the help of ETC programmes
- Encourage the use of existing instruments for integrated investments



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3. Policy options

Perspectives beyond 2020 (1):

- Use ESIF to define ‘public interest’ in more collaborative ways
 - by sector of activity
 - by geographical area
- Approach ESIF as a complement to competition policy
- Make ESIF contributions to SGI less sectoral and more cohesion oriented



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3. Policy options

Perspectives beyond 2020 (2):

- Monitor SGI provision at the sub-regional level
- Promote SGI-related EGTCs
- Organise transfers of good practices in the field of SGI provision
- Improved assessments of the added-value of SGI provision in remote areas
- Ensure that social economy initiatives benefit from ESIF support

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