

***Towards a comprehensive,  
personalised, timely and continuous  
intervention, supported by a  
constructive cooperation with all the  
relevant stakeholders involved***

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Graciela Malgesini Rey, Independent Expert

# 'Integrated approach'

## **POLICY RESPONSE**

- Looks at the interconnections
- Avoids fragmentation and working in silos.
- Promotes coherent anti-poverty framework, with a multidimensional definition of poverty.

## **PRACTICAL RESPONSE**

- Focuses on users
- Addresses the complexity of their needs in a holistic manner.
- Can take different forms and levels of intensity, to suit the specific needs and circumstances.
- Determined by the local context in which they operate.

# Social challenges: increased and more complex

- Exposure and increase of pre-existing inequalities.
- Emergence of new profiles of people in poverty and vulnerability: rise in unemployment (esp. youth) and cease of activity of self-employed and SMEs.
- Women continue to shoulder the bulk of care responsibilities in the household and struggle to enter and/or remain in the labour market
- Unaffordable housing and evictions are increasing
- Mental health issues are growing
- Living conditions and poverty gaps among Member States are bigger
- These increasingly complex social needs represent challenges at a large scale and demand urgent attention.

# Addressing fragmentation and supporting holistic policy responses/1

- The EU has developed policies in the domain of employment and social inclusion which addressed fragmentation and supported holistic responses:
- 2008 Recommendation on Active Inclusion: triple focus, income support, inclusive labour markets and access to high-quality social services- a starting point.
- 2017, the European Pillar of Social Rights: 20 key principles towards a 'strong social Europe that is fair and inclusive', grants equal opportunities in employment and social protection and provides active support to employment.

# Addressing fragmentation and supporting holistic policy responses/2

- Europe 2020-European Semester: Country Specific Recommendations and Country Reports promote the socioeconomic integration of vulnerable groups, enhance access to quality services and address material deprivation.
- A 'more social' European Social Fund Plus , to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights.
- ESF Plus (2021-2027), Specific Objective 4, A More Social Europe 'Implementing the EPSR': chapters Employment, Education and Training and Social Inclusion that promote an 'integrated approach'

# Key elements of an 'integrated approach' as a practical response/1

- **Recognises the role of and consequences of poverty for other life domains**
- **Considers the different risks of poverty from a gender perspective and throughout the life cycle**, from early childhood to old age.
- **Focuses at the individual and at the household levels**
- **Implies needs assessment**, screening and profiling to develop individualised pathways or itineraries based on all life domains.

# Key elements of an 'integrated approach'.../2

- **Calls for tailored solutions, with selective and individualised or person-centred actions.** Promotes: Early intervention, prevention of the escalations.
- **Seeks solutions developed in close collaboration with the users ('co-creation'),** rather than through a top-down approach. Empowerment of users.
- **Delivers a process of** comprehensive, timely and continuous interventions aimed at the respective life domains.
- **Is embedded with the local community and requires the cooperation of stakeholders** within relevant public policy domains and across all required disciplines by connecting services between public parties, social partners, private partners, non-governmental organisations, civil society and the people in poverty,.
- **Promotes flexibility, accessibility and efficacy,** avoiding working in silos and red tape that often leads to non-take-up, on behalf of the users, and dropouts.

# In a nutshell...

Multidimensionality of poverty -all life domains-

Gender and life cycle perspectives

Individual and household focus

Needs assessment, screening, profiling

Tailored, selective, individualised solutions

Itineraries co-created by practitioners and users

Comprehensive, timely, continuous intervention

Embedded with the local community

Cooperation, synergies among different stakeholders

Flexibility, accessibility, efficacy in management



# Other elements:

- ✓ Effective cooperation;
- ✓ Information to all actors;
- ✓ Sharing of a common strategy to avoid the potential overlap of initiatives;
- ✓ Focus on long-term planning and the continuity of the intervention;
- ✓ Clear definition of objectives and target groups;
- ✓ Needs-assessment prior to the development of guidelines;
- ✓ Involvement of the local community; regular consultation with local actors to create trusting and collaborative partnerships;
- ✓ Sharing of resources such as facilities or premises

# Tools

- One-Stop-Shop model
- Social community teams
- Case management

# A selection of 14 FEAD- funded practices from eight Member States (ES, DK, FR, MT, DE, HR, SE, IT)

- Contain components of the 'integrated approach'
- Grouped in five categories:
  1. Person-centred focus, with timely and continuous intervention;
  2. Multi-level intervention;
  3. Multidisciplinary teams;
  4. Inclusive partnership working as the foundation for integrated approaches;
  5. Creation of synergies among related or similar projects and funding sources.

# Lessons learnt/1

- 1. Poverty and social exclusion are multidimensional and require comprehensive actions to be addressed.** Integrated approaches to support people in poverty and material deprivation towards their social inclusion means to go one step beyond the basic needs' assistance.
- 2. The adoption of an 'integrated approach',** with a strong role for FEAD end recipients in co-designing of the personalized itineraries, is key to ensure that their real needs are addressed.
- 3. Defining target groups according to the local context is key to prevent and address poverty and exclusion, as well as the escalation of problems.** This explains the need to link up FEAD projects to mainstream social services and other local services to build inclusion pathways for the target groups.
- 4. The screening, profiling and needs assessment of the individual and his/her household to develop the right trajectory or pathway is crucial to properly target the actions.**

# Lessons learnt/2

**5. The role of One-Stop-Shops is important.**

**6. Stabilisation of the individual life situation should be viewed as a success and the first step towards social inclusion.**

**7. FEAD food and emergency assistance can act as a 'hook' in a bottom-up approach.**

**8. Collaboration of multiple stakeholders.** Launch of a FEAD programmes: opportunity for mapping exercise of services. Partnering improves efficiency of programmes by preventing duplication, achieving economies of scale, and favouring of synergies.

# Lessons learnt/3

**9. Social inclusion and activation require the collaboration of multiple stakeholders.** FEAD programme: opportunity for a mapping exercise and increase efficiency through partnering.

**10. Developing successful social inclusion policies and programmes takes time and resources,** so funding should be sufficient and reliable to allow for longer-term planning.

**11. A tool for better coordination and synergy are digital interactive databases**

- To capture the multidimensionality of poverty
- To guide and monitor the set of personalised intervention actions performed towards his/her social inclusion.

# Challenges

1. Projects vary according the understanding of the 'integrated approach' as policy response.
2. Decentralisation is an added value but can lead to inequalities, this requires common frameworks and protocols to grant minimum standards.
3. Difficulties to change from top-down, paternalistic and fragmented solutions to holistic management and person-centred approach.
4. Issues with partnerships: limited links, barriers, lack clear synergies, insufficient knowledge, duplication and competition.
5. Statistical indicators to measure the impact of the 'integrated approach' on the individual are needed.

# Concrete actions towards an 'integrated approach' for FEAD/1

- A profound change
- Reviewing the current work methodology.
- New partnerships.
- **Public-private collaboration**
- **Team training**, to switch from working in silos, to a network effort, and to pass from a top-down approach to an horizontal one, where people in poverty participate in the assessment and co-creation of their individualized itineraries.



Thank you!

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