

innosi



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Innovative Social Investment
Strengthening communities in Europe



This project has received funding from the European Commission
Horizon 2020 Programme Societal challenges: European societies
after the crisis under grant agreement no. 649189

Project aims

2

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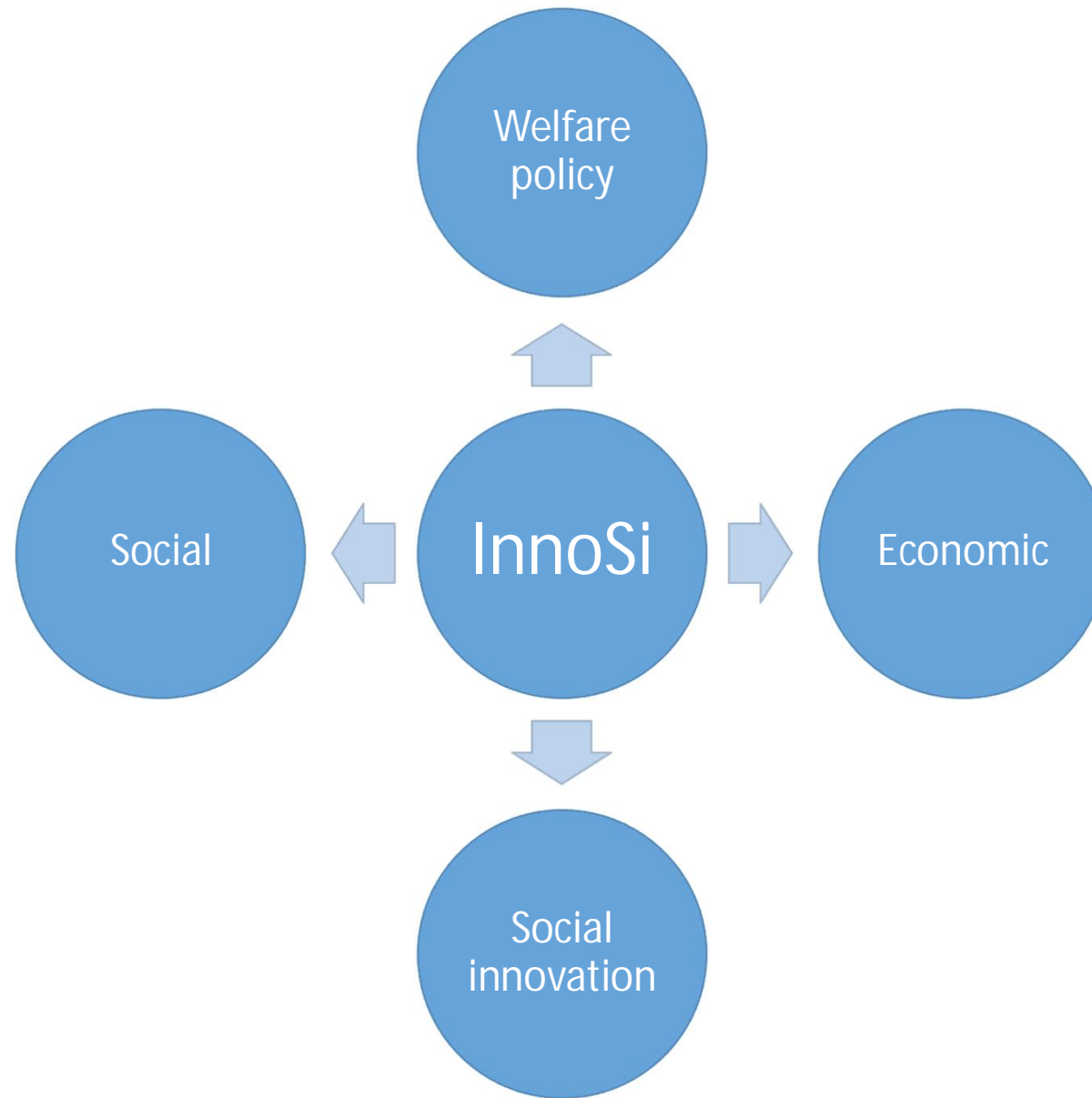
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Aims of innosi



- Aim 1: Identify and evaluate existing innovative and strategic approaches to social welfare reform which utilise social innovation at a regional and local level.
- Aim 2: For those socially innovative and strategic approaches to welfare reform identified during Aim 1, we will explore the social and psychological impact of welfare reform on individuals and communities.
- Aim 3: For those interventions considered in Aim 2 to be successful, we seek to identify ways of implementing effective innovative and strategic approaches to welfare reform (including social financing) and establish pathways to impact for knowledge created during the project.



Context

5

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The changing face of Europe 1

6

Ageing population

- Life expectancy in the EU is amongst the highest in the world
- Fertility rates have reduced over recent decades.
- Labour supply is predicted to contract between 2020 and 2060.
- Result:
 - More dependents
 - Fewer workers
 - Challenge to finance social policies, such as pensions and working age benefits

Immigration and ethnic diversity

- Changing demographic profile of Europe
- Before the current immigration events the EC reported that non EU-citizens represent two-thirds of population growth in the past decade
- Migrants from outside the EU are generally younger than the population they join, better educated than older workers but less well educated than local labour market entrant

The changing face of Europe 2

7

Young people's labour market exclusion

- A priority in Europe
- Youth unemployment and its effects on employment; migration; education, mental health etc. is described as one of the 'wicked issues'

Poverty and inequality

- Exacerbated by 2008 economic crisis
- Uneven progress between EU Member States and within EU Member States

European welfare models and social investments

8

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Different European Welfare models

9

- *Social-democratic or Nordic* welfare model detaches welfare responsibilities from family and emphasises the role of the state.
 - Promotes greater individual independence from families and from the market.
 - Income compensation generous, universal and an effective protection against poverty
 - Activation and support for children, disabled and elderly is strong.
- In *Anglo-Irish or neo-liberal welfare model*, access to the market, limits the need for welfare.
 - Universal (state) assistance is provided but limited to encourage the economically vulnerable towards self-sufficiency
- The *conservative or Continental welfare model* based on a corporatist tradition, familial responsibilities, dependency on the chief (usually male) breadwinner and dominance of employment-linked social insurance.
 - Unemployment benefits determined by previous earnings and payments to public insurance providers.
 - Offers less security to people with weak links to the labour market eg woman and workers with irregular careers.
 - Since the late 1990s some States have seen radical moves towards social investment and move away from the traditional family ideal and passive income compensation.

Re-thinking welfare and public services

10

How to do more for less?

- How to finance welfare and public services?
- How to encourage innovation?

The role of the state?

- What is the responsibility of the state? What is the responsibility of the citizen?
- What role should markets play?
- What role should the social economy play?

What does innosi offer?

11

WHAT NEW CAN EUROPEAN WIDE RESEARCH
PRODUCE FOR DECISION MAKERS AND
CITIZENS?

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Our approach

12

INNOSI asks how we can design robust social investment strategies to deal with emerging socio-economic challenges and the aftershocks of the 2008 economic crisis. We recognise:

- the importance of regional context in social investment policy
- the role for social innovation in social investment
- the need to recognise and measure social as well as economic value when evaluating policies
- that beneficiaries' experiences of social investment policies help shape civic identities in Europe
- that research needs to be practical and make an impact