



PRIORITY SECTOR
Innovation, Research,
Education and
Competitiveness

Programme area n°5 (Norway Grants) Social Dialogue – Decent Work

OBJECTIVE

Strengthened tripartite cooperation between employer organisations, trade unions and public authorities and the promotion of decent work

AREAS OF SUPPORT

- > Social dialogue and tripartite dialogue structures and practices
- > Focus on the benefits of decent work
- > Access to employment and participation in the labour market
- > Gender equality and non-discrimination in the workplace
- > Work-life balance
- > Employee adaptability and life-long learning
- > Youth employment
- > Public sector social dialogue
- > Tripartite dialogue on employment contracts, working hours, pensions and benefits
- > Work-related crime

SUGGESTED MEASURES

- > Policy review, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation on areas where tripartite cooperation is promoted
- > Institutional capacity building and training
- > Cooperation between social dialogue organisations
- > Cooperation between labour inspectorates and other relevant regulatory bodies
- > Information and awareness-raising activities
- > Pilot projects

RELEVANCE OF SUPPORT

Norway and the EU support the principles of social dialogue – the dialogue between workers and employers – and social dialogue is a key element of the Nordic social model. This programme area supports strengthened dialogue and ensures that beneficiary countries are better placed to deal with the challenges of high unemployment and to establish decent work objectives, such as non-discrimination and receiving a living wage.

The turmoil caused by the financial crisis and subsequent sovereign debt crisis has placed enormous pressure on public funds. Unemployment remains high and recovery slow. These factors underline the importance of decent work and social dialogue in creating an equitable and fair future as Europe moves towards recovery.

The programme area supports the objectives of increased employment and the EU's Social Europe Initiative under the framework of Europe 2020. The programme area also builds on the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Decent Work Agenda. Decent work covers social dialogue, strengthened rights of employees, employment and social protection.

The ILO encourages tripartite cooperation to promote harmonious labour relations. Tripartite cooperation brings employers, employees and government together to collaborate, consult, discuss and resolve common concerns related to employment. A tripartite approach has the advantage of informing people and thereby enable them to help design and implement national policies that will achieve fair terms and working conditions that are favourable for all.

PROGRAMME AREA SPECIFICS

> Fund coordinated by a single programme operator across all beneficiary countries

BILATERAL INTEREST

Norway has a strong tradition of tripartite consultation, bringing together workers, employers and governments in formulating and negotiating labour standards and policies. Bilateral cooperation plays a very strong role in this programme area with the opportunity for close involvement of Norwegian social partners, sharing expertise and experience.