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MORE INFORMATION

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TECHNICAL DETAILS OF IMPROVE

PROJECT REFERENCE: 290613
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PROGRAMME ACRONYM: FP7-SSH
SUBPROGRAMME AREA: SSH.2011.2.1-
COMBATING POVERTY IN EUROPE: A KEY QUESTION OF HUMAN DIGNITY AND SOCIAL COHESION

CONTRACT TYPE: SMALL OR MEDIUM-SCALE FOCUSED RESEARCH PROJECT

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POVERTY REDUCTION IN EUROPE: SOCIAL POLICY AND INNOVATION

(IMPROVE)

THE PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE 7TH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN UNION.



The starting points of the European research project **Poverty Reduction in Europe: Social Policy and Innovation (ImPRovE)** are the absence of poverty reduction in Europe for many years, the link between economic growth, employment and social inclusion that is established by the EU 2020 strategy and new forms of social innovation at the margins of the welfare state.

We would like to determine how to:

1. achieve social cohesion in the European Union;
2. complement, reinforce and modify the European welfare states by social innovation.

The research goals: Our main goal is to contribute to evidence-based policy making in the EU. We will therefore evaluate the Lisbon decade and the impact of the economic crisis and austerity measures on poverty and inequality. In addition, we will study the links between institutionalised macro level social policies and local initiatives of social innovation.

More specifically, we will:

- Evaluate the effectiveness of tax-benefit systems;
- Design cross-country comparable reference budgets for six countries;
- Contrast targeted vs. universal (child) benefits;
- Identify the best policy designs of childcare provisions;
- Map the adequacy of minimum income protection schemes;
- Develop budget-neutral policy scenarios for meeting the EU 2020 social inclusion target;
- Analyse the situation of non-standard workers, migrants, Roma and young people;
- Complement the quantitative analyses by thirty case-studies of social innovation;
- Examine how Europe 2020, the EU social agenda and cohesion policy can be brought closer together (at all levels).

By developing and evaluating policy scenarios that contribute to meeting the EU 2020 social inclusion target, we will also look at the future. Finally, we will contribute to the development of new cross-national indicators in the areas of minimum income protection and poverty measurement.

A Sound Scientific basis: The project builds on state-of-the-art data and tools. For instance, we will extensively use and extend the European microsimulation model 'EUROMOD' for calculating the effects of taxes and benefits on incomes and work incentives in a comparable manner.

In addition, we will improve the CSB Minimum Income Protection Indicators database (CSB-MIPI) which contains a large number of cross-temporary and cross-country comparable simulations of minimum income policies.

An international network: The ImPRovE network consists of ten outstanding research centres and a broad network of internationally renowned researchers in the field of poverty, social policy, the labour market and social innovation. We can rely on a Scientific Advisory Board and a Civil Society Organisation & Policy Advisory Board, which consist of leading personalities in the field. In addition, ImPRovE is embedded in an international network of associated experts who will contribute papers to the project.