



# European Commission Communication on Social Protection in EU Development Cooperation

**Mozambique Social Protection Week**

***European Commission side Event, 21 June 2012***

*Presentation by EuropeAid DG for Development and Cooperation  
Directorate for Human and Society Development*

## The consultation process (Nov 2011 to March 2012):

- *Consultation meetings:*

*Member States, civil society, international organisations, partner countries (roundtables in Casablanca, Addis Ababa and Bangkok and meetings with Embassies in Brussels).*

- *Online consultation:*

[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/public-consultations/6404\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/public-consultations/6404_en.htm)

*(Closed: 24th February 2012 – consultation report available online)*

## Responses to online consultation

| By income level                      | Number     | Share       |
|--------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| <i>High income</i>                   | 96         | 71%         |
| <i>Middle income</i>                 | 28         | 21%         |
| <i>Low income</i>                    | 11         | 8%          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                         | <b>135</b> | <b>100%</b> |
| <b>By type of organisation</b>       |            |             |
| <i>National authority</i>            | 25         | 19%         |
| <i>International organisation</i>    | 18         | 13%         |
| <i>NGO</i>                           | 50         | 37%         |
| <i>Academia</i>                      | 8          | 6%          |
| <i>General Public</i>                | 16         | 12%         |
| <i>Other</i>                         | 18         | 13%         |
| <b>By region</b>                     |            |             |
| <i>Africa</i>                        | 12         | 9%          |
| <i>Asia &amp; Pacific</i>            | 4          | 3%          |
| <i>Europe</i>                        | 96         | 71%         |
| <i>Latin America &amp; Caribbean</i> | 17         | 13%         |
| <i>Mid East &amp; North Africa</i>   | 3          | 2%          |
| <i>North America</i>                 | 3          | 2%          |

## Key findings of the Feb Round table in Addis Ababa:

1. Social protection is **high on the agenda** in the region and **demand is increasing** in response to a number of challenges faced at both the national and regional level.
2. The **core business of social protection** is to respond to poverty and reach vulnerable groups, but social protection should **not focus on welfare alone**, it can also help support **employment** and **decent work** and help develop a contract between the state and its citizens.
3. The **informal economy** includes about 90% of the population in Africa, and is increasing. Social protection is needed to support those in the informal economy who are exposed to **low wages, poor working conditions**, with no opportunity for any **social dialogue**.
5. In supporting the informal economy, we need to consider closely the role of **traditional systems** in filling important gaps.
6. The EU should **develop a more systematic approach** to social protection rather than support uncoordinated and unsustainable small projects.
7. The EU should facilitate more North-South and particularly **South-South cooperation** as it is important that countries learn lessons from each other.

# The Communication

## 1. Why is social protection important?

- Persistent poverty and increasing vulnerability.
- Social protection in support of inclusive development.
- **The Agenda for Change:**  
inclusive sustainable growth for human development;  
focus on sectors which build the foundations of growth and  
help ensure it is inclusive, notably social protection, health  
and education.



# The Communication

The **purpose** of the communication:

**'...to explain the role of SP in underpinning inclusive and sustainable development and the role of EU development cooperation in supporting the strengthening of social protection policies and systems.'**

# The communication

## 2.What is social protection and what can it do?

- Broad definition of social protection.
- A summary of the ways in which SP supports inclusive economic growth

## 4.SP in The European Union.

- SP at the heart of EU social model
- The problems EU faces today.

# The communication

## 4. Social Protection in Developing Economies.

- In MICs the challenges are to broaden coverage and to improve efficiency.
- In LICs funding and institutional capacity are the main constraints.
- The common challenge: sustainable financing, extending coverage, building capacity.
- Renewed commitment by the international community : the Social Protection Floors Initiative



# The Communication

## 5. The future direction of EU Development Cooperation in support of social protection.

***“The goal of EU development cooperation in supporting SP is to improve equity and efficiency in provision, while supporting inclusion and social cohesion.”***



- i) Placing social protection at the centre of dialogue on national development strategies**
- ii) Supporting national policies and programmes**
- iii) Revenue reform for fiscal space**
- iv) Capacity building for strong institutions**
- v) EU Added value in technical cooperation**
- vi) Support for job creation and employment**
- vii) Bring in civil society and the private sector**
- viii) Support for transformative social protection and social justice**
- ix) Gender in social protection**



# Next steps

**Adoption by the Commission: August 2012.**

**Council conclusions: October 2012.**