



Social Policy and the EEA Agreement

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- What the EEA Agreement covers of EU social policy
- Other types of EFTA –EU cooperation on social policy
- What are the main challenges?



**Articles 66-71 EEA Agreement:
‘Promote improved working conditions and an
improved standard of living for workers’**

- Labour Law
- Health and safety at work
- Gender equality related to working-life



- Coordination of social security
- Free Movement of workers



Not in the EEA Agreement

EU Anti-Discrimination Directives

- The Racial Equality Directive 2000/43/EC
- The Employment Equality Directive 2000/78/EC
- Directive 2004/113/EC* on access to and supply of goods and services.



Cooperation outside the 4 freedoms

The Contracting Parties shall strengthen and broaden cooperation in the framework of the Community's activities in the fields of:
'social policy'

Protocol 31 of the EEA Agreement



EEA EFTA participation in EU Programmes and other activities – social policy

1. European Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity - PROGRESS
2. Daphne III: Combating Violence
3. EU Health Programme
4. Drugs Prevention and Information
5. FP7 ('society part')
6. EY of Equal opportunities for All (2007)
7. EY for combating Poverty and Social Exclusion (2010)*



PROGRESS

Anti-discrimination
and diversity

Social protection
social inclusion

Gender equality

Employment
incentive measures

Working conditions

Total budget: €743.3 million / EEA EFTA 16.5 million €

The programme mainly support:



Analytical activities



Activities involving mutual learning



Activities supporting main stakeholders



Challenges

EU renewed social agenda – integrated approach

Proposal for a Directive on anti-discrimination outside the work-sphere (COM(2008)0426)



Challenges

- New working methods in the EU
- Enhanced power of the European Parliament
- “Soft law”
- Lisbon Treaty