

-open reply-(optional)

In order to sustain social protection, long-term political commitments are needed. The awareness of long-term fiscal stability makes the future planning of social protection possible, and this can only be achieved with the support of long-term donors. It is important to make political commitment to social protection as it can contribute to the reduction of poverty and inequality. In the government programmes it is necessary to utilize the synergies of different sectors and their programmes so that far-reaching results can be achieved. First and foremost, the commitment to practice long-term cooperation has to come from the decision makers from both sides.

2.4. Further key issues

i) The role of civil society

Question 20:

The EU should support the participation of representatives of civil society in the process of designing and monitoring social protection strategies and programmes.

-single choice reply-(optional)

Strongly Agree

Comments:

-open reply-(optional)

In order for the social protection programmes to be comprehensive they need local ownership building and domestic support. By empowering key civil society stakeholders the EU can ensure more successful formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the social protection initiatives. State-led processes can be reinforced by creating platforms and building capacity of the civil society. Traditionally the civil society has played a crucial role in strengthening the community system and in social protection. Civil society can foster processes such as creating more accountability, mobilizing the community and demanding better social protection through better services.

Question 21:

The private sector has an important role to play in supporting social protection by ensuring that investments create decent employment in line with the Decent Work Agenda.

-single choice reply-(optional)

Strongly Agree

Comments:

-open reply-(optional)

Good social outcomes can be achieved through combining market principles and best-business practices. The private sector has an important role in the social protection agenda. It can strengthen the government-led projects. New and innovative public-private-people-partnerships should be explored. Using the private sector where it has a comparative advantage could reduce constraints on government capacity. However when it comes to private EU owned companies, they should be pushed to go beyond the concept of corporate social responsibility.

Respondents Information:

Your name -open reply-(optional)

Please state your country of residence -open reply-(optional)

What organisation do you represent? (if private)

Lebanon

ArabNGONetwork for Development

citizen write 'none') -open reply-(optional)	
Please choose from the following categories the most relevant to the organisation you represent. -single choice reply-(optional)	NGO
<h2>1.2 What is social protection and what can it do?</h2>	
Question 1: Social protection systems should be defined according to the priorities of national governments. -single choice reply-(optional)	Strongly Agree
Comments: -open reply-(optional)	
Social protection is a right long being overlooked by the priorities set by the Arab governments and the interventions (programs and cooperation) under the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the European Neighborhood policy.	
Question 2: Social protection is not only about protecting people against risks but also about promoting livelihoods, participating in the economy and finding jobs. -single choice reply-(optional)	Strongly Agree
Comments: -open reply-(optional)	
Given the lack of a rights-based approach to social protection, policies in this area have been limited to short-term targeted measures such as social safety nets. Comprehensive social policy contributes to poverty reduction, increasing economic empowerment and productive capacity, as well as enhances participation of citizens and their contribution to the economy.	
<h2>1.3. What is the EU's position on social protection?</h2>	
Question 3: The European values that are behind European social protection systems should also inform the EU's stance and action in social protection in partner countries. -single choice reply-(optional)	Strongly Agree
Comments: -open reply-(optional)	
Question 4: The European Social model was created for Europe in the mid 20 th century, when full employment in the formal sector was the norm. However, the extensive social security systems characteristic of the European Union Member States are unsuited to the economies of emerging and developing countries, which cannot afford them. -single choice reply-(optional)	Slightly Disagree

Comments:

-open reply-(optional)

A comprehensive social security system is the right of citizens, and should be planned for in all countries, developing and developed. The principle challenges is that economies in many developing countries (including macro-economic policies, especially taxation policies, wage policies, many of which go back to the era of structural adjustment and is linked to the overall adoption of the liberalization process) have been designed in ways that depressed possibilities of sustaining successful and stable social security contexts)

Question 5:

Slightly Agree

Development cooperation for social protection is highly relevant for middle income countries, as well as low income countries, in order to reduce inequalities and eradicate poverty.

-single choice reply-(optional)

Comments:

-open reply-(optional)

While development cooperation can contribute to social protection, it is crucial that social protection policies be part of long term consistent and sustainable social policy and not solely dependent on fluctuating policy such as development cooperation. For those purposes, developing countries need to free fiscal space and other policy tools in order to strengthen social protection policies. As noted by the UN report "Social Protection Floor for Fair and Inclusive Globalization": "International solidarity in the form of aid can help to kick-start and consolidate the process in low-income countries, but over the long run implementation has to be financially sustainable at the national level". Furthermore, to have an impact, financial support under development cooperation should be predictable multi-year financial support for nationally defined social protection floors that is designed with full respect to national ownership.

Question 6:

Strongly Agree

Social protection protects people against the worst effect of global crises (climate change, food price rises, economic downturn).

-single choice reply-(optional)

Comments:

-open reply-(optional)

Comprehensive rights- based social protection policies contribute to limiting the vulnerability of people to external shocks as noted and serving as preventive policies. Furthermore, social protection policies have a proactive role in tackling the root causes of people's vulnerabilities both at income level, poverty, employment, health and education, access to water and food and housing. In this way the resilience of vulnerable groups to exogenous shocks can be reduced. Nevertheless the sound social and economic policies implemented at national level must be complementary to such measures taken.

Question 7:

Slightly Agree

Social protection can contribute to strengthening the compact between citizens and the State, and promotes social inclusion and greater accountability.

-single choice reply-(optional)

Comments:

-open reply-(optional)

It is true that social protection can contribute to strengthening the compact between citizens and the State, but this would occur when social protection policy is designed with a human rights based approach and under a broader and more comprehensive social policy, aiming at the well being of all citizens. Limiting social protection to targeted programs focusing on some communities and for specific time frames would not strengthen the citizen-state compact.

<p>Question 8:</p> <p>The EU is able to make a significant impact on the development of social protection, because of its own long history with social welfare and social security systems, and because the EU is the world's largest donor.</p> <p>-single choice reply-(optional)</p>	<p>Slightly Agree</p>
<p>Comments:</p> <p>-open reply-(optional)</p>	
<p>While the EU can make a significant impact on social protection given its history, the significant impacts on social protection can derive actually only from national policies, whereby the local-ownership of the human rights based social protection is achieved. The social protection programs, conditional to aid and de-linked from the social and economic policies at national level would not result in genuine achievements but only program-based, general, short-term programs that lack sustainable outcomes. Furthermore it is important to acknowledge and address the fact that the economic partnerships between EU and many developing countries, which include adjustment to macro-economic policies (taxation, wage policies, spending priorities...), trade, investment rules, have impact on the fiscal space available for developing countries to design and implement comprehensive social protection policies. Moreover, policies in support of debt cancellation have significant impact on freeing fiscal space to improve social protection policies.</p>	
<p>Question 9:</p> <p>Part of the EU's comparative advantage in social protection lies in the fact that the social protection systems of the European Member States provide a wide range of models and organisational structures that other nations can learn from and from which expertise can be drawn.</p> <p>-single choice reply-(optional)</p>	<p>Slightly Agree</p>
<p>Comments:</p> <p>-open reply-(optional)</p>	
<p>While the EU Member states' experiences could be useful in tracking lessons learned from adapting economic policy tools in support of comprehensive social protection, it is important to stress that there is no one-size-fits all approach in social protection, support should be directed to enhance the national policy space to design and make possible home grown social protection policies to be implemented at national level, with all relevant stakeholders included in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.</p>	
<p>Question 10:</p> <p>The EU Member States and the European Commission should develop a single, coherent policy framework for cooperation in social protection in order to improve the quality of their support for partner countries.</p> <p>-single choice reply-(optional)</p>	<p>No opinion</p>
<p>Comments:</p> <p>-open reply-(optional)</p>	
<p>Question 11:</p> <p>The EU should support cooperation between partner countries (south-south cooperation), which may</p>	<p>Slightly Agree</p>

provide relevant models well fitted to the needs of partner countries.

-single choice reply-(optional)

Comments:

-open reply-(optional)

Regional, South-South, cooperation between developing countries is core to development processes, including increasing productive capacities, employment generation, and poverty eradication. Exchange of experiences and promotion of the social protection is important through South-South. However, it is important to stress that South-South cooperation should be sought not only on economic aspects, but should include a broader agenda including social protection. Cooperation on economic policies should come to support progress on the social front. Unfortunately, this is not how South-South cooperation is being promoted; while it is being confined to the liberalization and deregulation model of mainstream economics. In this respect, EU's support for south-south cooperation should consider the interface between the economic liberalization model that the EU is promoting the potential progress on social protection, including the implications of the former on policy space to develop rights-based comprehensive social policies. Besides reforming the rule of economic policies to increasingly support progress on social policies, there is a need to develop institutionalized assessment of the interface between economic policies and policy space for social protection policies, based on a human rights and development approach.

2.3. How can development aid support social protection and, in particular, how can the European Union enhance its support for social protection in developing countries?

Question 12:

Slightly Agree

The EU should play a leading role in raising awareness of the role of social protection as a key driver for inclusive growth in international fora, such as the G20 and the UN.

-single choice reply-(optional)

Comments:

-open reply-(optional)

While the EU should play a role in making more space available for dialogue and discussion of social protection; the EU itself should consider deepening the human rights approach to understanding social protection and the need to reform economic policy to become conducive and supportive of social protection.

Question 13:

Strongly Agree

Social protection should be included in policy dialogue about national development plans.

-single choice reply-(optional)

Comments:

-open reply-(optional)

Social protection, as part of a comprehensive social policy, should be of broader national development strategies that address social and economic policies, redistribution policies, and social justice measures. Such policy dialogue should involve institutionalized national consultation processes (such as through the national Economic and Social Councils) where all relevant stakeholders are included, including governments, employers and trade unions, civil society organizations and various constituency groups. Such policy dialogue should be rooted in a human rights-based approach to economic and social policy development.

Question 14:

Strongly disagree

Social transfers, including social protection benefits, belong to the recurrent part of national budgets and should not therefore be funded by development partners such as the EU.

-single choice reply-(optional)

Comments:

-open reply-(optional)

Support to social protection that the EU wants to extend through development cooperation should be rooted in the national ownership of the recipient country. Decisions such as use of this support for social transfers should be based on the recipient country needs and based on dialogue between the EU and the recipient country. For those purposes, budget support would prove more beneficial for the purposes of supporting social protection policies, than 'project based' support that do not serve sustainable policy development. Yet, it is important to note that "criticism of the EC's budget support has focused on the fact that it is linked to IMF seal of approval and as such, sets excessively ambitious objectives in relation to inflation and budget deficits" (New challenges, new beginnings: Next steps in European Development Cooperation, European Think-Tanks Group, February 2010 page 11). Such policy conditionality that is associated with such macroeconomic agreements with the IMF potentially would rather limit the recipient countries possibilities to invest adequately in social services such as education and health. Therefore, if used for the establishment of social protection systems in these countries, the financial support should not be tied to any policy conditionality but actually should be designed and implemented in a transparent mechanism to meet the actual needs and necessities of the countries.

Question 15:

Slightly Disagree

The EU should make an exception to this rule in the case of least developed countries, where donor financing may be required in the initial stages of establishing a social protection system and in fragile states where national governments are not able to deliver services.

-single choice reply-(optional)

Comments:

-open reply-(optional)

Please refer to the answer given in Question 14.

Question 16:

Strongly Agree

Social protection programmes and policy dialogue should pay special attention to ensuring that disadvantaged groups (such as persons with disabilities) are also able to benefit from and contribute to inclusive growth.

-single choice reply-(optional)

Comments:

-open reply-(optional)

It is true that disadvantaged groups including women, children, elderly or persons with disabilities should be particularly taking into consideration in the design and implementation of social protection programs. Nevertheless empowerment of these groups should be part of the overall social protection policy, and should not be used as a pre-text to move towards partial targeted interventions that are limited to specific groups. This would require respect for equality and non-discrimination principle that to be at the core of all the policies implemented at the national level. For instance, whereas social benefits to women headed families can be considered as a significant step within the social protection programmes, the root causes of gender inequality and discrimination at work conditions, women's overall productivity and the labor rights and thus economic and social policies should be tackled for a genuine empowerment and social protection of women.

Question 17:

Strongly disagree

The EU should have different approaches to supporting social protection in middle income and lower income countries.

-single choice reply-(optional)

Comments:

-open reply-(optional)

The EU's approach to supporting social protection should be rooted in the national policies of partner countries, full ownership of the policies being supported. The EU should seek to revise the basis of economic partnerships with partner countries in order to make sure economic policy approach promoted does not hinder and limit the policy space for developing comprehensive national social protection policies.

Question 18:

Strongly Agree

The EU should base its approach to social protection in partner countries on the individual country's profile and national priorities.

-single choice reply-(optional)

Comments:

-open reply-(optional)

As mentioned above, with regard to social protection there is no one-size-fits-approach. Indeed there are significant differences in design and implementation among countries. Thus EU support to each and every country should be designed according to the countries profile and national priorities and should be in line with the national development strategies. It is important to recall that these processes should be transparent and inclusive of all relevant stakeholders. Moreover, it is important that EU's support be adequate, predictable and multi-year

Question 19:

Strongly Agree

The EU should be prepared to make a long-term financial commitment to supporting social protection in LICs.

-single choice reply-(optional)

Comments:

-open reply-(optional)

As mentioned in the issue paper, the support of the EU to the low-income countries should be in a more systemic approach rather than supporting a patchwork of uncoordinated and unsustainable small projects. This should extend as well to all developing countries. Long-term financial commitment should be rooted in a predictable, transparent support that includes a political will to look into the implications of economic partnerships (including advice on macro-economic policies, debt policies...) on the space for developing a sustained and comprehensive rights-based social protection policies that is not dependent on aid. This indeed is closely linked to partnership towards social and economic justice.

2.4. Further key issues

i) The role of civil society

Question 20:

Strongly Agree

The EU should support the participation of representatives of civil society in the process of designing and monitoring social protection strategies and programmes.

-single choice reply-(optional)

Comments:

-open reply-(optional)

The EU's support for participation of civil society organizations in design and monitoring of social protection strategies and programs is important, including through capacity building, support to their advocacy role and dialogue with governments. However, the EU can support this role as well through making more transparent its financial flows to developing countries including allocation of development aid, as well as transparency of the policy dialogue that is associated with development cooperation. Moreover, the EU could enhance this support through undertaking genuine and inclusive assessment of its economic partnerships with developing countries and its implications on social protection policies and realities. The role of EU delegations at the national level, in terms of open engagement with wide constituencies of civil society actors is important (unlike the current context where engagement of the EU delegations often happens in an ad hoc way and with a selected and limited groups of civil society organizations).

Question 21:

Strongly Agree

The private sector has an important role to play in supporting social protection by ensuring that investments create decent employment in line with the Decent Work Agenda.

-single choice reply-(optional)

Comments:

-open reply-(optional)

It is true that private sector shares responsibility and plays an important role in supporting social protection by ensuring that investments create decent employment in line with the Decent Work Agenda and ensure respect for social dialogue. The private sector actors should ensure contractual relations with employees that is fully inclusive of social insurance and protection to the employees and which secures their full rights. The role of the private sector should be complementary to a strong and proactive role of the state in developing comprehensive social protection policies.

Respondents Information:

Your name -open reply-(optional)

Andrea

Please state your country of residence -open reply-(optional)

Italia

What organisation do you represent? (if private citizen write 'none') -open reply-(optional)

NO

Please choose from the following categories the most relevant to the organisation you represent.

-single choice reply-(optional)

General public

1.2 What is social protection and what can it do?

Question 1:

Social protection systems should be defined according to the priorities of national governments.

-single choice reply-(optional)

Strongly Agree

Comments:

-open reply-(optional)

Question 2:

Social protection is not only about protecting people

Strongly Agree