



Federal Ministry for  
Family Affairs, Senior Citizens,  
Women and Youth



Observatory for  
Sociopolitical Developments  
in Europe

## Invitation to the European working conference:

### New opportunities or new restrictions?

### Social innovation and providers of social services in Europe

on 17-18 December 2012 in Berlin  
(pentahotel, Grünauer Straße 1, Berlin-Köpenick)

Programme now online

The promotion of social innovation and social entrepreneurs is one of the top priorities of the European Commission. This is reflected in the activities and initiatives that have already been launched in this area and in the fact that promotion of social innovation is included in the proposals for the 2014–2020 Multiannual Financial Framework. What is uncertain, however, is the impact these activities at EU level will have on established structures in individual Member States.

This conference will explore the question of whether established providers of social services see opportunities for themselves in the increasing importance of social innovation at EU level, and if so, what these opportunities might be. In addition to examining developments at EU level, the conference will also look at what innovative approaches are already being pursued by providers of social services, and how these approaches differ from one another.

The conference programme is divided into three parts. Participants will begin by examining current developments in EU policies in the field of social entrepreneurship / social innovation and discussing these developments with various stakeholders. The second part of the conference will look at the evolution of social services and social entrepreneurship in EU Member States. In a third step the three levels – EU, the national level and the providers – will be brought together. Participants will take part in one of three workshops on the following topics: “Innovation processes in organisations”, “Stakeholders and models of cooperation in the field of social services” and “Opportunities and challenges resulting from EU policies”. The aim

will be to identify areas where common interests meet and where mutual learning is possible. The results of the discussions and debates will create a basis for further cooperation.

#### The conference agenda at a glance:

1. Social entrepreneurship and social innovation in EU policies
2. Social innovation made in Europe: learning from the EU Member States
3. Social services in the EU: innovation, stakeholders and interaction with the European level

In the evening, participants will have a chance to network and continue their discussions. The Berlin band Django Lassi will provide dance music.

The working languages will be German and English (simultaneous translation will be provided). On the first day, French (with simultaneous translation) will also be used as a conference language.

For more information and the detailed conference programme, please visit our website: [www.beobachtungsstelle-gesellschaftspolitik.eu](http://www.beobachtungsstelle-gesellschaftspolitik.eu)  
Please address any organisational enquiries to:

[marina.rissel@iss-ffm.de](mailto:marina.rissel@iss-ffm.de)

For questions about the content of the conference, please contact:

[anna.waldhausen@iss-ffm.de](mailto:anna.waldhausen@iss-ffm.de)

You may register for the conference [here](#).