Social investment: what strategy for France?

Seminar conducted in partnership with the National Family Allowances Office (CNAF), the General Directorate for Social Cohesion (DGCS), the Apprentis d’Auteuil Foundation, France Stratégie and the Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Evaluation of Public Policies (LIEPP Sciences Po Paris).

**Inaugural workshop**

January 26th 2016, 09:00 - 17:30

France Stratégie, Room Jean Monnet
18, rue de Martignac, PARIS 7e
This inaugural workshop aims at delivering a global view and defining the general framework for the seminar *Social investment: what strategy for France?*. Conducted in partnership with the National Family Allowances Office (CNAF), the General Directorate for Social Cohesion (DGCS), France Stratégie (French Policy Planning), the Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Evaluation of Public Policy (LIEPP Sciences Po) and the Apprentis d’Auteuil Foundation, this seminar will continue with five thematic and one concluding workshops until late 2016.

The first session focuses on defining and specifying the notion and issues of a “social investment strategy” through an overview of existing knowledge and debates at the international and European levels. It will notably present different national examples that illustrate diverse social investment strategies and policies, and European Union’s initiatives in this field. These presentations will allow for discovering the diversity of social investment strategies, their impact and their possible unintended effects and drawbacks.

Is the concept of “social investment” essentially metaphorical or can it be made operational? To what degree(s) and by what method(s)? The next session will be discussing the methods and the challenges to be confronted when measuring and evaluating the impact of specific social investment policies (including programs and interventions), on the one hand, and of the social investment strategy as a whole, on the other hand. The issue of integrating the results of evaluation in the elaboration and framing of social investment policies and strategy in the broad sense (i.e. including health, education-training, and employment) will also be discussed.

In the second part of the day, the analysis will focus more especially on France: what are France’s assets and weak points regarding social investment? What does this framework bring in terms of diagnosis and agenda in the French case? In this sense, what are the most critical issues to be addressed in a social investment point of view: increasing inequalities? Segmentation of the labour market and low participation rate of the older workers? Access to quality childcare facilities for all? How can French social expenditures and policies be improved? A progress on these different questions implies to clarify the most relevant dimensions to be analysed and the most relevant and usable indicators. The discussions will aim at specifying the methods (performance approach, policies approach, expenditure approach, measure of the quality of the policies) and will present the existing results.

How could a distinct re-orientation towards a social investment strategy be relevant? A concluding session with the institutional partners of the seminar will debate more particularly about opportunities, risks and feasibility of a social investment strategy in France. It will allow to discuss the prospects of public policies reform and social protection, and the implementation and financing issues which will have to be deeper examined later in the seminar.
08:30 Welcome and coffee

09:00 Opening
Social investment: a strategy for France?
Brief presentation on the overall objectives of the seminar
Selma MAHFOUZ, Deputy Commissioner-General for Policy Planning, France Stratégie

09:10 Introduction
Principles, policies and challenges of the social investment strategy
Frank VANDENBROUCKE, University Professor at University of Amsterdam (UvA), former Minister of Social Affairs (Belgium), former Minister for Education and Employment (Flanders)

09:30 First Session
One strategy or several strategies of social investment?
An overview of policies and debates
Chair and moderator: Bruno Palier, CNRS researcher at the Center for European studies and Co-director of the LIÉPP Sciences Po

Social investment, what are the main issues to be discussed? what can be learned from the experience of Nordic countries?
Jon KVIST, Professor at the Institute of Society and Globalization (ISG), Roskilde University, Denmark. Expert for the Danish and Scottish governments, he is a member of the European Social Policy Network

Social investment, what are the main issues to be discussed? what can be learned from the British experience?
Ilain BEGG, Professor at the European Institute, London School of Economics and Political Sciences. Advisor and expert in British and European institutions

Social investment, what are the main issues to be discussed? what can be learned from the Canadian experience?
Denis SAINT-MARTIN, Professor at the Department of Political Science, University of Montreal, former Policy Adviser for the Canadian Prime Minister’s Office
Social investment, what are the main issues to be discussed? what can be learned from the German experience?
Silke BOTHFELD, Professor at the Bremen University of Applied Sciences, member of the Hans Böckler Foundation

11:15 Coffee break

11:30 Second Session
Evaluation of the impact of a social investment strategy and of social investment policies
Chair and moderator: Bernard Tapie, Director, Directorate for research, studies and statistics, National Family Allowances Office (CNAF)

What impact of social investment?
Anton HEMERIJCK, Professor at the Social Sciences Department of the VU University of Amsterdam, Centennial Professor in the Department of Social Policy of the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), former Director of the Netherlands Scientific Council for Government Policy (wRR)

Impact assessment and cost-benefit analysis of programs and interventions: methodological and social policy issues, from the example of the British What Works Network
David HALPERN, What Works National Adviser, Prime Minister’s Cabinet Office, United Kingdom, Chief executive of the Behavioural Insights Team and Board Director, former Chief Analyst at the Prime Minister’s Strategy Unit

Insights and perspectives from a panel discussion:
Luc BEHAGHEL, INRA Researcher and Director, Associate professor at the Paris School of Economics, J-PAL affiliate and IZA Research fellow
Mireille ELBAUM, President of the High Council on the Financing of Social Protection
Michel HOUDEBINE, Chief Economist, Directorate General of the Treasury
SOCIAL INVESTMENT SOCIAL: WHAT STRATEGY FOR FRANCE?

Programme

13:00 Buffet lunch

14:00 Third Session
France’s situation regarding social investment

Chair and moderator:
Christophe FOUREL, Head of the Mission for strategic and prospective analysis, General Directorate for Social Cohesion

France’s situation regarding social investment
Marine BOISSON-COHEN, Senior Policy Analyst, Department of Society, Social Policy and Public Affairs, France Stratégie and Catherine COLLOMBET, Deputy Director, National Family Allowances Office, Scientific Advisor at France Stratégie

Insights and perspectives from a panel discussion:
Michael FORSTER, Senior Policy Analyst, Social Policy Division, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
Franck VON LENNEP, Director, Directorate for research, studies, assessment and statistics, Ministry of Social Affairs, Health and Women Rights
NathalieMONS, President of the National Council for Evaluation of the Education System
Françoise BOUYGARD, Director, Directorate for coordination, research, studies and statistics, Ministry of Labor, Employment, Training and Social dialogue
Julien DAMON, Associate Professor, Sciences Po Paris, Scientific Adviser at the National School for Social Security (EN3S).

15:45 Coffee break

16:00 Concluding session
Introduction and moderator:
Franck VANDENBROUCKE, University Professor at University of Amsterdam (UvA), former Minister of Social Affairs (Belgium), former Minister for Education and Employment (Flanders)
Jean PISANI-FERRY, Commissioner-General for Policy Planning, France Stratégie
Daniel LENOIR, Director General, National Family Allowances Office
Jean-Philippe VINQUANT, Director General, General Directorate for Social Cohesion, Ministry of Social Affairs, Health and Women Rights
Nicolas TRUELLE, Director General, Apprentis d’Auteuil Foundation
Bruno PALIER, CNRS researcher at the Center for European studies and Co-director of the LIEPP Sciences Po

Thanks to participants and brief summary of the concluding session by Jean PISANI-FERRY

17:15-17:30 CLOSING PRESENTATION
Michel SERVOZ, Director General, General Directorate for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

Working languages: English and French (simultaneous translation will be available)
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