

# Stakeholders' involvement in the European Semester

## OSE-EPSU Social Dialogue Project

**“Modernising public administration:  
the implications for collective bargaining and social dialogue”**

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# Stakeholders' involvement in the European Semester (I)

The Europe 2020 Strategy called for broad stakeholder involvement in the processes of economic and social coordination

*....some examples....*

## The original Europe 2020 Strategy Communication

“National parliaments and national, local and regional authorities, social partners, stakeholders and civil society **should be involved in delivering and implementing the strategy**”

## The Guidance on the Content and Format of NRPs

Stakeholder participation is considered **crucial to ensure ownership, to facilitate the implementation of CSRs** and to pursue the EU strategy **objectives and targets**

The comments and contributions of social partners and other stakeholders should be summarized in the NRPs or provided in a separate Annex

# Stakeholders' involvement in the European Semester (II)

Although broader stakeholder involvement was considered crucial to enhance the democratic legitimacy of the European Semester



During **the first years** of implementation such **participation has been weak**

The mid-term review of the Europe 2020 strategy is providing a relevant window of opportunity to lobby for improving the quality of stakeholders' involvement

*Different actions have been developed since now:*

*EU institutions*

- 1) Proposals contained in the 2015 AGS (define a more realistic timetable)
- 1) In July 2014, President Juncker, in front of the European Parliament, undertook to give a fresh impetus to social dialogue
- 1) Last March the Commission organized a high level conference to give “a new start to social dialogue”

*Stakeholders*

Various EU stakeholders have published their own position papers that focus on the need to reinforce their role in the EU economic and social governance

# Possible entry points for the social partners (I)

The social partners could become involved in the Semester mainly by participating in:

- ✓ the drafting of NRPs
  - ✓ discussing and implementing the AGSs and the CSRs
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In order to support the development of broader participation, various organizations have prepared some suggestions for engaging with the European Semester procedures



These documents identify some concrete initiatives that could promote stakeholder involvement at national level

# Possible entry points for the social partners (II)

## Building a solid background

### *Aims:*

- ✓ Building a strong and structured dialogue platform, in which stakeholders regularly meet with government representatives to discuss progress of the strategy.

### *Actions:*

- ✓ Identify who is responsible for the EU Semester in national administrations
- ✓ Get information about the procedures for stakeholders' involvement already in place at the national level and ask to be part of them

# Possible entry points for the social partners (III)

## Promoting a structural involvement

### *Aims:*

- ✓ Set up a framework for the structural involvement of social partners and civil society, at all levels of government, in order to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate EU and national policies.

### *Actions:*

- ✓ Organise specific national stakeholder involvement for the design, delivery and evaluation of the NRPs
- ✓ Consult stakeholders in a timely fashion
- ✓ Provide detailed information in the NRPs on the way in which stakeholders have been involved in the process and on how their input was taken into account
- ✓ Review the CSRs for your country
- ✓ Developing key messages. Starting from analysis, define a policy proposal

# Possible entry points for the social partners (IV)

## Building a strong alliance and promoting public debate

### *Aims:*

- ✓ Develop a network of organizations and social partners that share common values and concerns (NGOs, politicians, academics, media, trade unions) and create joint platforms.

### *Actions:*

- ✓ Try to build and work together in a strong alliance with a wide range of organizations by organizing specific meetings
- ✓ Prepare briefings and build a common position. Contributions should rely on broad debates involving all the partners
- ✓ Disseminate messages and promote public debate