

WG 2 social dimension

- ▶ The discussions in the WG on the Social dimension were based on a background document bringing together some of the conclusion of the previous working group on the social dimension
- ▶ In his presentation Martin Unger points to five issues:
 - Too less information and insight in what works and what doesn't work; what is the impact of measures? Martin refers to the PL4SD database that includes a lot a singular measures decided by governments or by institutions but contains nearly no information on the implementation or the impact of those measures
 - We need multipliers in order to multiply grassroots initiatives; there is a problem of scale; too many small initiatives; SD should rise to the top of the institutional agenda (Rectors and academic leaders);



WG 2 Social dimension (2)

- There is a need for exchange of information with regard to student support systems (grants, loans, fee reduction, guidance, ...); what is the context? What is the impact?
- Outreach of HEIs to schools: rising the aspirations of students in the schools; we are losing too much talented students from lower SES
- More research with regard to the sociological, psychosocial and cultural dimensions: 'belonging to', 'identity', 'social and cultural capital', ...

WG 2 social dimension (3)

- Helga Posset has presented the process of developing a national social dimension strategy in Austria
- There are also other areas to be considered:
 - What does it mean 'making higher education more inclusive'? According to the work of Liz Thomas an inclusive approach to learning, teaching and assessment is designed to enable the full participation of ALL students (creating a sense of belonging)
 - Recognition of prior learning
 - Lifelong learning and providing a 'second chance'
 - Teaching and learning: the role of institutions: there is evidence that points to the importance of learning, teaching and assessment within academic programmes: curriculum and pedagogy play a central role;



WG 2 Social dimension (4)

- ▶ Martin Unger also announced that he has submitted a new project proposal in the Erasmus + framework as a follow-up of the PL4SD project. The new project will focus on the development and the implementation of the national strategies for the Social Dimension and the interwovenness between national strategies and institutional strategies. The project will include 5 countries (AT, IE, HR, RO and SE) and ten institutions.
- ▶ 3 events were announced:
 - Hungary: PLA on Roma
 - UK an access to HE summit based on the work done by the Social Mobility Advisory group of Universities UK
 - Austria will dedicate a part of the annual Bologna day to the Austrian SD strategy

