

***Promotion of gender equality and social inclusion of unemployed groups in Portuguese European Funds Support Frameworks (1990-2007): overview and critical reflection***

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The aim of the presentation is to highlight how gender equality and social inclusion of unemployed groups have been defined on the UE funds framework to Portugal, from 1994 till today – the last three ***European Funds Support Frameworks (EFSF)***

From 1990 till now, there have been four EFSF, and each of them have defined programs and projects for social development, above all financed by ESF, mainly training activities for competencies improvement and support to employment.

An overview of the evolution of the theme based on the analysis of the last three EFSF programs, shows that gender equality promotion and social inclusion of unemployed groups have been increased in relevance and scope (mainly in the last two). We may say that gender equality in the EFSF have gained substantial relevance, reflecting the EU determinations and pressures for its integration, mainly after the *Amsterdam Treaty*, *European Social Charter* and the *Lisbon Strategy (Reviewed)*. Concerning the integration of *long-term unemployed people and in risk of social exclusion*, we assist, also, to an increase of projects and programs with the purpose of making social cohesion and social development based on diversity and equal opportunities.

The development of the UE determinations concerning gender equality and social inclusion and diversity, and its reflections in EFSF have been crucial for the enactment and growing relevance of those fields and areas, allowing a diversity and number of initiatives (training, studies, etc.) which otherwise were not possible, but it is not sure its sustainability for the future.