Policy Innovations *for* Transformative Change

UNRISD
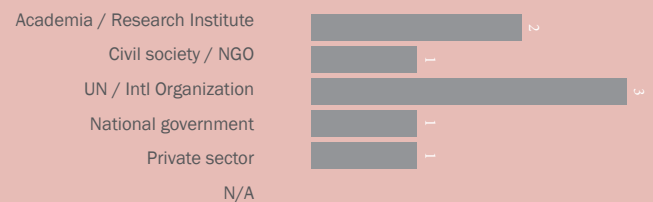United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

New Trends and Innovations in Social Policy
(Chapter 2)

New Trends and Innovations Social Policy

Demographic data about users who read and commented on this chapter:

8

FEEDBACK REVIEWS

Female (2)
Male (6)

SECTOR

Academia / Research Institute	2
Civil society / NGO	1
UN / Intl Organization	3
National government	1
Private sector	1
N/A	
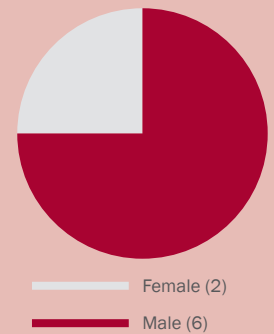
As a learning organization that aims to be inclusive of diverse perspectives and responsive to our constituents, we held a consultation prior to the launch of our 2016 Flagship Report to make sure our work reflects the needs of our users.

On a scale from one (low) to five (high), users rated this chapter based on three criteria:

QUALITY	READABILITY	USEFULNESS
4,1	4,0	3,6

Scroll down to read the full comments

Compendium of substantive feedback

Based on your knowledge and understanding, are we presenting an accurate picture of the topic?

Participant 1
Very sound overview, but missing key components (see below). Many kudos for Figure 2.1 -- very effective summary illustration

Participant 5
As much as I personally support universalization, inclusion and increased participation, I find it hard to agree with your report on two points: first, that these are innovative approaches (I would rather argue that these are traditional social-democratic principles); second, that that is the global trend. One could perhaps argue that that is the trend in some regions (as you do in this chapter). In my book "Welfare State Transformation in the Yugoslav Successor States: From Social to Unequal" (Routledge 2016: https://www.routledge.com/Welfare-State-Transformation-in-the-Yugoslav-Successor-States-From-Social/Stambolieva/p/book/9781472466389) I analyse social policy transformations in selected countries in South-east Europe and find a retrenchment and privatization trend as well as that there is often a mismatch between proclaimed and practiced social rights. Finally my comparative study finds that austerity policies still dominate the discourse (for example in the International Financial Institutions and the EU). I would therefore warn against generalizations on global social policy and governance, but do maintain that inclusive decision-making practices facilitate redistribution and enhance equality and universality (as both my book and your chapter argue).

Participant 6
Why have graduation programmes been omitted?

Participant 7
Thank you for the picture. I think that the assumptions are wrong. In simple terms: you want to produce a transformative change so to say a change which is a real turn and will be sustainable and this change goes toward more social justice. But you assume that the many causes that create social imbalances (only to mention one of them: the reinforced labour flexibility and the reduced job security) are fixed so to say untouchable, unchangeable, so much stuck that you think that the proper answer is to accompany them with more social protection actually with an expansion of social protection and then you hope that this expansion can trigger a transformative change. How can it be? The causes responsible for the problem that you want to confront are still there and are unmovable. How can you assume that palliatives used to mitigate an unbalanced situation can be the decisive factors for the change? All the chapter is under this wrong conceptual scheme: You rightly focus on a problem A then you say that A1 is an element to make A more acceptable. How can you conclude then that an expansion, systematisation of A1 will bring toward B, which is the transformative change you want. I don't understand what makes you believe that a change is going to be generated. I think that what is going to happen is the emersion of a variation of the context A which is not at all B. In order to produce B you have to remove A. I don't see any other escape.

Are the policy conclusions and recommendations useful?

Participant 1
Influence on fiscal policy and macro framework?

Participant 2
Yes it is useful if there is a plan for wide distribution across sectors.

Participant 8
Yes, even though I personally think the policy recommendations have to be implemented as per the specific country contexts.

Are we missing something? (Examples, data, etc.)

Participant 1
There is no discussion of innovations in other key components of social policy: education, nutrition, WASH, protection and participation. Also would be good to discussion more on role of promoting redistribution, highlighting that equity and growth can and should be viewed as complementary.

Participant 5
A Flagship report focusing on innovation and transformative change should consider the aspect of digitalization more strongly. It would be interesting to see how digital trends influence social policy development and what positive or negative consequences can be expected. For instance, mHealth innovations (mobile Health) have been developed particularly in Africa and South Asia, intending to use increased access to mobile technologies for reducing the coverage gap. Some positive examples can be found here: http://www.trendradar.org/en/trend/edoctor/

Participant 6
In several countries eg the new NSSS for Bangladesh graduation programmes are seen as integral. You are behind the times by failing to incorporate them.

Participant 8
More links to the SDGs "no one to be left behind" and the human development approach (people are the engine and the means for sustainable development)