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**“Social and Solidarity Economy, youth
employment and the fight against poverty: the
case of Public Works and Employment
Programmes in Brazil”**

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Aims:

- To discuss the potential of SSE as a tool to contribute to the generation of employment and income for young people;
- To discuss about the SSE and Public Works and Employment Programme (PWEPS);
- To present the “*Brasil sem Miséria*”
- To show some governmental programmes to insert youth people.

1. SSE and the potential of Public Works and Employment Programmes (PWEPs)

- SSE is cross-cutting and inter-sectoral;
- SSE initiatives and ventures may lead to opportunities for integration into society and employment, particularly for disadvantaged groups such as young people with few prospects from vulnerable communities;
- International experiences currently underway shows that such programmes are becoming increasingly important at global level and can contribute towards socio-economic inclusion, particularly for more socially and economically disadvantaged groups;
- Recent experience in Brazil under the “*Brasil sem Miséria*” programme is a particularly interesting example.

Potential of Public Works and Employment Programmes

According to Lal et al (2010:11), “*Employment Guarantee programmes have multi-faceted economic, social and regional benefits*” (p.11). These programmes include activities such as the regeneration and cleaning of streets and public spaces, road building in rural areas and the extension of basic sanitation. They therefore extend and improve regional infrastructure while prioritizing the integration into society and employment of socially and economically disadvantaged people.

The principal positive effects of these programmes:

- Social inclusion;
- Socio-economic terms;
- Local and regional development;

Other actions and impacts of a successful pro-PWEP policy

“A PWEP may contribute to the identification of direct employment-intensive investment policies and/or the strengthening of services to and ties with more employment-intensive sectors. Other relevant actions and policies include: policies promoting investments in education, training, institutional and human capacities; physical infrastructure development so as to increase productivity and competitiveness; increasing the capacity of the private sector to contribute to job creation; implementing targeted active labour market policies and programmes; and ensuring improved governance of labour markets through improved participation of worker and employer representatives in the formulation of employment policy. Designed appropriately, an employment guarantee can contribute to the creation of assets and infrastructure that themselves help to increase the productivity and competitiveness of the private sector” (Lal et al, 2010: 13).

PAIS

Produção Agroecológica Integrada Sustentável – PAIS [Sustainable Integrated Agro-Ecological Production];

- A recent process that has expanded rapidly throughout Brazil, develops simple technologies for social inclusion based on “**social technology**”;
- *RTS – Rede de Tecnologia Social* [Social Technology Network]: low-cost tools, techniques and processes that can be **reapplied** in different parts of the country;

PAIS and its links with the SSE and PWEPs

- the creation of work and income opportunities for the people involved (particularly young people in regions where there are few prospects of work or income);
- environmental preservation;
- encouragement of the formation of producers' associations or cooperatives;
- the marketing of produce by means of cooperatives, solidarity-based open-air markets and public procurement, where the municipal government purchases surpluses from producers to provide food in state schools.

2. “*Brasil sem Miséria*”: recent Brazilian experience and PWEPs

According to the official site, the objective of the Plan is:

- Combine cash transfers, access to public services in the areas of education, health, social assistance, sanitation and electricity supply and integration into working life;
- With a range of actions involving the creation of new programmes and the broadening of existing initiatives, in partnership with states, municipalities, public and private companies and civil society organizations, the federal government seeks to include the poorest sections of the population (particularly young people) in the opportunities generated by Brazilian economic growth.

<http://www.brasilsemiseriala.gov.br>

Integration with other programmes

- *Sistema Público de Trabalho, Emprego e Renda (SPTER)* [Public Work, Employment and Income Scheme]:
<http://portal.mte.gov.br/spetr/>
- *Programa Nacional de Acesso à Escola Técnica (PRONATEC)* [National Programme for Access to Technical Education]: <http://pronatec.mec.gov.br/pronatec.html>
- *Programa Nacional de Inclusão de Jovens (PROJOVEM)* [National Programme for the Integration of Young People]:
<http://www.projovem.gov.br/>
- *Programa de Aceleração do Crescimento (PAC)* [Growth Acceleration Programme] and the *Minha Casa, Minha Vida* programme [My Home, My Life]:

Integration with other programmes

- *Departamento de Políticas de Trabalho e Emprego para a Juventude – DPJ* [Department for Work and Employment Policies for Young People] was created within the Ministry of Labour and Employment in 2004 to promote more and better opportunities for work, employment and income generation for the young;
- *Política Nacional da Juventude* [National Youth Policy]: Initially dedicated to the task of integrating 14 to 24-year-olds with a low household per capita income and poor schooling into the formal labour market, in 2008 the DPJ adapted some of the vocational training measures for young people;
- *Programa ProJovem Trabalhador* [Young Workers' Programme]: providing training for 18 to 29-year-olds who have concluded basic education - is a compensatory social and vocational training policy that will be developed in partnership with states, municipalities and civil society

Connections with SSE

- Family agriculture and SBEEs in rural environments, the programme seeks to organize food production on the basis of own-consumption, marketing of surpluses and income creation, as well as access to public and private markets;
- Cooperatives of collectors of recyclable and reusable materials, who will receive support for organizing their activities;

3. Other international experiences involving the SSE and PWEPs

- *Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and Community Work Programme, South Africa;*
- *Plan Jefes y Jefas de Hogar Desocupados, Argentina;*
- *Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP), Ethiopia;*
- *Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), India;*
- *Comité Sectoriel de Main-d'oeuvre Économie sociale et Action Communautaire, Canada;*
- *Hilando el Desarrollo, Ecuador.*

Conclusions

- PWEPs have to offer is highly relevant and can help to strengthen SSE activity while seeking to integrate disadvantaged groups and to ensure that the public sector creates work, employment and income;
- Despite the positive effects observed in some countries researched, however, it is still premature to make authoritative judgements (*Brasil sem Miséria*, for example);
- ILO (2012:46): “*there were many experiences but very few impact assessments and evaluations in this area*”.

THANK YOU

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