

trade unions. Here, and in relation to other items discussed, the workshop would possibly arrive at some very concrete ideas, proposals and conclusions (possibly also in terms of agreements, follow-up steps...)

Organisation

The workshop is conceived as a 90 minutes exercise started with 2, maximum, 3 input presentations, with most of the time being devoted to open debate and brainstorming. The results will be fixed and presented accordingly.

THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL MODEL

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The social model does exist. It may be defined in terms of common values held by the Member States and common institutions they have built and may be summarized under the following three headings: social state, social market, social partnership.

The Draft Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe sets forth common basic values in the form of an obligation for the European Union to combat social exclusion and discrimination and promote social justice and protection, equality between women and men, solidarity between generations and protection of children's rights. Thus, the Union is endeavoring to ensure sustainable development: based on balanced economic growth and stable prices it seeks to establish a highly competitive social market economy and a high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment.

The common set of values needs to be concretized with a view to the social dimension of Europe. By agreeing on common minimum standards and gradually implementing the common objectives through the process of coordination in the fields of employment, social inclusion, pensions, health and long-term care, Member States have further been developing the European Social Model. In this context, access for everybody to innovative education and training is a priority.

The social partners and civil society have been brought into the decision-making processes and bear responsibility for the implementation of these objectives.

WHAT IS INTEGRATION?

Walter Schmid

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Integration has become a key term in politics and everyday language. Quite literally, many consider integration the key to the solution of a variety of social problems. Then again, the frequent use of the term has contributed little to bringing it into sharper focus. What does integration really mean? Listening to people today, you often get the impression that they are not talking about the same thing. While for some, integration describes the peaceful coexistence of different population groups, for others it means the individual's efforts to secure his or her place in a host society. What for some signifies participating in economic and public life, for others means displaying