

UNFOLDING THE CONTENTS OF SOCIAL INCLUSION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

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Abstract:

With the adoption of the Europe 2020 strategy in 2010, social inclusion was incorporated in the growth strategy of the European Union as one of its new elements. The concept of inclusion is rather open and has various interpretations. In this article, relevant literature is reviewed with the aim of unfolding the concept of social inclusion, frequently used by both research and policy. We also analyze EU member states along the indicators under the inclusive priority of the Europe 2020 strategy. We organize member states into geographical groups in order to trace variations in inclusion on a territorial basis as well. Our investigation reveals considerable differences between the core and the periphery of the EU, especially regarding the proportion of severely materially deprived people in society. Based on literature, tackling the competitiveness problem in the periphery requires policy intervention in the social field as well.

Keywords: society, inclusion, education, economy, knowledge