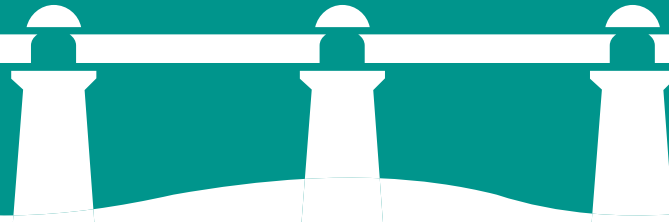
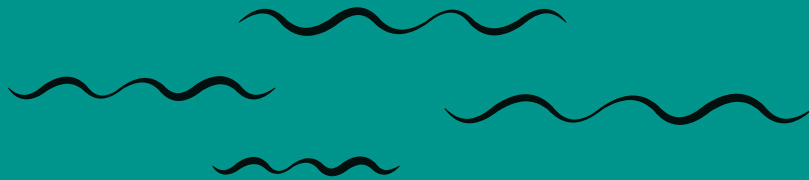


Welfare Services



Atlantic Social Lab

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Welfare state and social services

There are three predominant welfare state conceptions, that can be summarised as: 1) welfare for the poor, vulgarly referred to as handouts; 2) welfare based on social insurance, social rights and social services; and 3) state intervention on the economic and private spheres.

Welfare policies frequently bear the consequences of austerity measures and have changed a great deal over the last decade. The political trend towards a smaller state and less governance under neo-liberalism has negatively impacted the provision of welfare services across Europe. The potential of social innovation to offer solutions to the increasing demands, arising as a consequence of the reduction in welfare resources, has led to the growth of social innovation-related policies and research. Social innovation solutions can engage the private and non-profit sectors, alongside with the public sector, in delivering viable and sustainable provision of welfare.

Social Clauses in Public Procurement in Avilés, Spain

The 2008 crisis was particularly harsh for Spain and the country has one of the second highest unemployment rates of the EU (13,6%), which is particularly



nefarious for groups such as migrants, women, youths and disabled. Avilés decided to promote the professional inclusion of these individuals by enacting a regulation that established an annual percentage of marketed jobs reserved for vulnerable groups, while improving the working conditions of these individuals. A Municipal Work Commission was created to oversee the results and was charged with the evaluation and monitoring tasks of this initiative.

Wellbeing of isolated senior citizens in Pau, France

France faces several social problems stemming from the rapid aging of its population. The financial and economic consequences of this rapid ageing and the larger number of senior citizens will require new policies and approaches in order to ensure their wellbeing.

The Agglomeration Community of Pau-Béarn-Pyrénées elaborated an action called ENSEMBL' in order to deal with the social isolation of the elderly and their growing loss of autonomy by using an online platform. The objectives are the management of volunteers, communication facilitation and the provision of information regarding the services for the elderly, so to deliver answers for the needs that the elderly might express and coordinate all the involved partners.



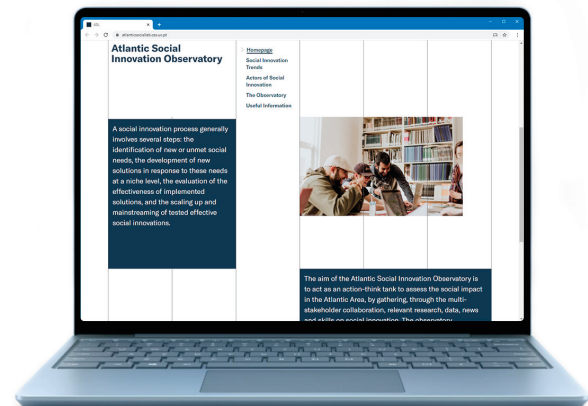
Conclusion

The demographic transformations to the structure of the population will certainly affect how countries govern themselves and force many changes to social policies. The provision of social services, public healthcare and education systems, unemployment assistance and retirement pensions, are but a few services that are facing hardships as the active population dwindles. Currently, many countries

already struggle with underfunded social services and troubling times are expected to follow in the near future, due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. Social innovation initiatives have had positive impacts at territorial scale and have shown to be particularly effective at dealing with local issues and creating support networks amongst organizations, private sector and public institutions.

The Atlantic Social Innovation Observatory

The Atlantic Social Innovation Observatory is a monitoring tool that aims to act as an action-think tank, gathering relevant research, data, news and skills on social innovation. The observatory is developed and implemented by the **Centre for Social Studies of the University of Coimbra** (Portugal) in the context of the Atlantic Social Lab project.



Partners

