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THE GENESIS AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION SOCIAL POLICY OVER THE YEARS

The study investigates genesis of the European Union Social Policy and the changes in common social issue over the years. The European Union is not only economic and monetary integration, it is also unify the activities in the social areas. Integration endeavors are not only based on the European Union further enlargement to new members, but also are based on adoption of new regulations on social issues, with the need to enforce them by the Member States. EU regulations only of an economic nature, without social guidelines may lead to incomplete and unstable functioning of the European Union and Single European Market. Over the past decade, the process of European integration has intensified and included more issues and life areas, therefore the position of social policy has strengthen consistently. The increasing globalization and regionalization of economic and social life causes more important role for international institutions such as the European Union, in solving various social matters. European countries are more acutely affected by problems such as high unemployment, poverty, social exclusion and the progressive aging of the population. Consequently cooperation at EU level can lead to stop these processes and can find ways to eliminate the negative effects that appeared among the citizens of Europe.

1. Introduction

European Social Policy is becoming an increasingly important area in the activities of the European Union. All the achievements in this area is already very significant and includes many regulations, declarations and programs. In addition, there is also an advanced coordination of all member states activities in solving specific social problems. However, in the first two decades of the European Communities predominated only economic integration. Social goals and social

services become more and more important over the years. At the beginning freedom of movement for workers within the member states was the main impetus for the development of Community Social Policy. The importance of social policy is constantly increasing, after the member states have achieved the effects of economic integration. Alignment of social and economic processes in the member states over time, started to play an increasingly important role in the evolution of the integration of social policies. The purpose of this article is to draw attention to the beginnings of the formation European Union social policy and further evolution with the expansion of the new member states. These assumptions are realized by discussing the following steps:

1. The genesis of Community Social Policy,
2. The evolution of approach to social issues in the Community,
3. European Social Policy in Lisbon Strategy and Strategy Europe 2020.

2. The genesis of Community Social Policy

In the early functioning of the EEC, social policy does not act an important role, because of vague provisions in the Treaties of Rome, which did not have an implementation function. The role of economic integration was the most important, so social issues have become secondary and limited only to eliminate obstacles to the free movement of workers. The European Social Fund has become the first instrument of European Social Policy, which operated since the late 50s, but initially had a limited budget, which narrowed interventions. The biggest recipient of European Social Fund were Germany (42%), far ahead of France (14%). Both countries had the same contribution to ESF. During this period developed some arrangements for occupational health and safety and mutual recognition of professional qualifications. Also appeared significant social security for workers moving within the Community. In 1971 adopted complementary Regulation on the application of social security systems for employees and members of their families moving within the area of the Community, which is in force today. The beginning of the 70s was a prelude to significant changes in the understanding the role of social element in European Integration. In 1971, the Commission suggested intensification of cooperation in the social field by document Programme outline a common social policy, where the main goals were three issues: full employment, improving the conditions and quality of life and increased social justice. An extremely important event for European social issues took place in 1972 in Paris at the Summit of Heads of State and Government EEC, where announced that activity in the social sphere are as important as the efforts of economic and monetary union and care for the prosperity of each citizen is a Community key task. It was supposed to be a component of

the new governance EEC in the near future²⁰. In 1974, the EEC Council of Ministers adopted the first Social Action Programme. It contained three main issues: full and better employment, improvement, alignment and humanization of living conditions and increasing the participation of social partners in economic and political decisions EEC and employees – in the decisions taken at the levels of enterprises. The program caused stimulation of EEC activities in the social sphere. ESF spending increased in relation to the total Community budget. Appointed European Regional Development Fund in 1975, to relieve ESF from the implementation of activities, which are not related to social issues. The second half of the 70s was very effective time for European labour law and social security. Adopted a number of the directive, mainly relating to gender equality, redundancies, occupational health and employee benefits. The Council of Ministers introduced the Social Action Programme again in 1984. This action strengthened social policy importance, however still lacked clear concepts and fresh ideas in this area. The same applied to further European Integration²¹.

3. The evolution of approach to social issues in the Community

Since the mid-80s changed the whole approach to all social policy issues. The first reason for this situation are the amendments to the provisions of the Treaty and introducing some modifications in the competence and activities of the Community by the Single European Act from 1986. Another reason was the enlargement of the EEC for poorer countries – Greece, Spain and Portugal, and as a result, appeared disproportions in living and working conditions in the area of the Communities. For further development of social policy influenced perspective of the establishment of a Single European Market by the end of 1992 and plan to establish Economic and Monetary Union in the newly formed European Union. During this time were prepared two separate documents for European Social Policy – a Green Paper in 1993 and the White Paper in 1994²². The Green Paper consisted of three parts. The first concerned the Community achievements in the social area, the second contained the needs and challenges in the socio-economic sphere and the third tried to address the problems observed by governments, civil society organizations and social policy actors, presented earlier in Member States

²⁰ Anioł W., *Unia Europejska jako wspólnota socjalna*, [w:] *Europeistyka. Podręcznik akademicki. Tom 2*, (red.) Wojtaszczyk K. A., Jakubowski W., Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN, Warszawa 2012, ss. 111-122.

²¹ Kłós B., *Polityka społeczna w procesie integracji Europy Zachodniej*, Biuro Studiów i Ekspertyz, Warszawa 1997, ss. 3-5.

²² http://ec.europa.eu/green-papers/index_en.htm, 26.11.2015.

debates. The Green Paper contained many social values and vision of European Integration in the social, based on social justice and equal opportunities. The White Paper set a list of 65 key questions relating to the further evolution of social issues in Community, and the second included projects solutions. The White Paper marked the most important tasks for the future in 10 main points e.g creation of new jobs, gender equality, mobilization of society, investing in human resources, creation European common labour market²³.

- I – JOBS - THE TOP PRIORITY
- II – INVESTING IN A WORLD CLASS LABOUR FORCE
- III – ENCOURAGING HIGH LABOUR STANDARDS AS PART OF A COMPETITIVE EUROPE
- IV – BUILDING A EUROPEAN LABOUR MARKET
- V – EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN
- VI – SOCIAL POLICY AND SOCIAL PROTECTION - AN ACTIVE SOCIETY FOR ALL
- VII – ACTION IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC HEALTH
- VIII – TRADE UNIONS, EMPLOYERS' ORGANISATIONS AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS AS PARTNERS IN THE PROCESS OF CHANGE
- IX – INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION - THE ROLE OF EUROPEAN SOCIAL POLICY
- X – TOWARDS A MORE EFFECTIVE APPLICATION OF EUROPEAN LAW

Fig. 1. A White Paper 1994, European Social Policy –
A way forward for the Union – main goals

Source: *A White Paper, European Social Policy – A way forward for the Union.*

The adoption in 1986 the Single European Act was another expression of the transition to a new, more advanced stage of integration, including social sphere. Updated and expanded social provisions of the Treaty of Rome. Introduced provisions for the development of social dialogue at European level and provisions on the need to strengthen cohesion through better disposal of the Structural Funds.

The next step in the development of Community Social Policy was Community Charter of Fundamental Social Rights of Workers. The Commission asked the European Economic and Social Committee to prepare a document concerning

²³ *A White Paper, European Social Policy – A way forward for the Union*, Commission of the European Communities, Brussels 27.07.1994.

workers' rights²⁴. The project was developed in February 1989 and won the support of the European Parliament, expressed in resolution of March the same year. At that time Commission submitted to the Council of Ministers numerous proposals of Charter and ministers dealing with social affairs debated its form in June 1989. Then The Card was subjected to consultations with representatives of employers and employees. The final version is significantly different from the initial project. First of all, the scope of the Charter was narrowed down to the fundamental social rights for workers' rights. In December 1989, the next summit in Strasbourg EEC, countries again raised social issues and all the countries of the Community (except the United Kingdom), signed the Community Charter of Fundamental Social Rights of Workers also known as the Community Social Charter²⁵. Charter finally had a substantial disadvantage caused by the lack of unanimity during adopting. There was no binding force. It was only a declaration that indicated new targets and expanding range of activities in the social sphere, but lacking specific orders. For that reason it did not add anything new to Community Social Policy, and on its basis, the Commission developed a program of action, which was presented in December 1989. It consisted of 47 projects scheduled to be executed before 31 December 1992. Finally to June 1996, only 16 of them were actually adopted. Preamble to the Charter emphasizes that action in its regard cannot go beyond the powers of Community Social Policy that were previously contained in The Treaties. At the same time noted the role of the principle of subsidiarity and the separate functions of the Community, the governments of the Member States and social partners. The main goal of the Charter is consolidates previous achievements. The recipients of The Card are salaried employees, but also those who are self-employed. It lists 12 key rights, which were expounded by 26 paragraphs. Rights that had been already guaranteed, enriched with new elements. The Commission was required to produce a report of the European Council, the European Parliament and European Economic and Social Committee about the application of the Charter by the whole Community and the Member States²⁶.

Basic rights Community Charter of Fundamental Social Rights of Workers:

1. Freedom of movement.
2. Employment and remuneration.
3. Improvement of living and working conditions.

²⁴ *Community Charter of Fundamental Social Rights of Workers* 6/90, Commission of the European Communities, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg May 1990, pp. 2-6.

²⁵ Kłos B., *Polityka społeczna w procesie integracji Europy Zachodniej*, Biuro Studiów i Ekspertyz, Warszawa 1997, ss. 11-13.

²⁶ *Community Charter of Fundamental Social Rights of Workers* 6/90, Commission of the European Communities, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg May 1990, pp. 2-6.

4. Social protection.
5. Freedom of association and collective bargaining.
6. Vocational training.
7. Equal treatment for men and women.
8. Information, consultation and participation for workers.
9. Health protection and safety at the workplace.
10. Protection of children and adolescents.
11. Elderly persons.
12. Disabled persons.

In December 1991 during the summit of the leaders of the Community in Maastricht started the next stage of closer European integration. Social policy issues was one of the most controversial issues that were raised during the negotiation of The Maastricht Treaty. The Netherlands, which then holding Presidency of the Council of the European Union, had prepared the original draft of the social chapter, which assumed issues related to working conditions, health and safety and employee consultation in companies under majority voting. UK opposition led to the creation compromise version, which still has not received the approval of the British. Other Member States were also dissatisfied, because counted on more ambitious provisions on the issue. Finally created a separate protocol about social policy, going beyond the framework of The Treaty. Was signed by 11 countries, except the UK. Decided that matters related to working conditions, health and safety, gender equality in the workplace and the integration of people excluded from the labour market, shall be settled by the Council of Ministers majority vote. Issues related to security and social protection, rights laid off from work, representation and collective defence of the interests workers and employers, conditions of employment of migrant workers from third countries, will be taken unanimously. Representatives of the United Kingdom did not participate in the meetings of the Council of Ministers. Only 11 countries that have signed the protocol, decided by qualified majority voting on social issues. Ratification of the Treaty of Maastricht ended only in November 1993 because of the referendums in Ireland, Denmark and France (where the public earlier rejected The Treaty). It also revived extensive discussion on European Social Policy and future social standardize solutions²⁷.

The narrow approach to social matters in the Maastricht Treaty caused that in the next few years Member States wanted to increase the importance of social issues. Britain's approach to social policy changed when came to power Labour Party in 1997. The United Kingdom joined the Community Social Charter and adopted a number of earlier directives.. For the first time in the history, left-wing groups prevailed in the governments of the Member States. The Amsterdam Treaty was

²⁷ Grewiński M., *Integracja socjalna Wspólnot Europejskich*, „Studia Europejskie” 2000, nr 3, ss. 12-15.

adopted on 17 June 1997 and signed on 2 October in Amsterdam. Social policy agreement of Maastricht included in the new Treaty of Amsterdam in the same year. Appeared an extensive chapter on social policy in Treaty, but also innovative, employment, health, environmental and consumer protection regulations. In Treaty set high hopes, especially in area of effectiveness of social policy, the fight against unemployment and systemic reforms. However, the Amsterdam Treaty does not introduce significant modifications. Included an amendment which abolished the possibility to off states from the decision-making process in social issues. Also introduced need to respect them. Increased importance of the European Parliament in the legislative process, including social law. Since then, consultation a number of legal issues with Parliament was necessary. Parliament can also consult the European Economic and Social Committee.

At the European Council in Cologne in June 1999 approved the European Employment Pact, to reduce unemployment in the European Union and emphasize significance of fundamental rights. European countries Aspiration was also creation the charter of fundamental standards, that flowed from the common traditions of Community and provisions defined in the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms from 1950. In charter had also appeared the rights contained in the European Social Charter of the Council of Europe and the Community Charter of Fundamental Social Rights of Workers. The rules, which were the result of the case law of the Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights, also had to find their place in the Charter. Finally, The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union was adopted as a recommendation and reference text by the European Council in Nice in December 2000 and is also a supplementary text of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, which was created on the initiative of the Council of Europe. It was drafted by a convention, which brings together representatives of European institutions, national parliaments, lawyers, academics and civil society representatives²⁸. Initially, Member States did not establish Charter legal status. This status was given later, when the Charter text was finalized. The main dilemma was the inclusion of the Charter into the Treaties, so that its character would be legally binding for Member States and the EU institutions. Finally it was attached to the Lisbon Treaty in the form of a declaration. At the moment of signing The Lisbon Treaty, Charter of Fundamental Rights, became legally binding for the 25 Member States. Poland and the United Kingdom have limited the application of the Charter in British protocol for some content. The overall aim of the Charter is protection fundamental rights of all citizens in actions that are being taken by the EU institutions and Member States under the Community Treaties. For the first time in the history of

²⁸ http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/justice_freedom_security/combating_discrimination/l33501_pl.htm, 26.11.2015.

the Community, The Charter of Fundamental Rights gathered all civil, economic, social and political rights of European citizens²⁹.

The Charter contains some 54 articles divided into seven titles. The first six titles deal with substantive rights under the headings: dignity, freedoms, equality, solidarity, citizens' rights and justice, while the last title deals with the interpretation and application of the Charter. Much of Charter is based on the European Convention on Human Rights, European Social Charter, the case-law of the European Court of Justice and pre-existing provisions of European Union law. The first title – Dignity guarantees the right to life and prohibits torture, slavery, the death penalty, eugenic practices and human cloning. Its provisions are mostly based on the ECHR, although Article 1 closely reflects Article 1 of the German Basic Law. The second title – Freedoms covers liberty, personal integrity, privacy, protection of personal data, marriage, thought, religion, expression, assembly, education, work, property and asylum. The third title – Equality covers equality before the law, prohibition of all discrimination including on basis of disability, age and sexual orientation, cultural, religious and linguistic diversity, the rights of children and the elderly. The fourth title – Solidarity covers social and workers' rights including the right to fair working conditions, protection against unjustified dismissal, and access to health care, social and housing assistance. The fifth title – Citizen's Rights covers the rights of the EU citizens such as the right to vote in election to the European Parliament and to move freely within the EU. It also includes several administrative rights such as a right to good administration, to access documents and to petition the European Parliament. The sixth title – Justice covers justice issues such as the right to an effective remedy, a fair trial, to the presumption of innocence, the principle of legality, non-retrospectivity and double jeopardy. The seventh title – General Provisions concerns the interpretation and application of the Charter. These issues are dealt with above³⁰.

The preamble of The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union is contained the European Union essence: „The peoples of Europe, in creating an ever closer union among them, are resolved to share a peaceful future based on common values. Conscious of its spiritual and moral heritage, the Union is founded on the indivisible, universal values of human dignity, freedom, equality and solidarity; it is based on the principles of democracy and the rule of law. It places the individual at the heart of its activities, by establishing the citizenship of the Union and by creating an area of freedom, security and justice”³¹.

²⁹ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/aboutparliament/pl/0003fbc4e5/Karta-Praw-Podstawowych-UE.html>, 26.11.2015.

³⁰ *Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union* (2000/C 364/01), Official Journal of the European Communities, 18.12.2000.

³¹ *Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union* (2000/C 364/01), Official Journal of the European Communities, 18.12.2000, p. 8.

The next step in the evolution of European Union Social Policy are the years 1998-2000, when developed the next medium-term Social Action Programme, which defined three key social challenges: high unemployment, changes in the work environment, and poverty and social exclusion. After 1997 the priorities were activities associated with employment and the strengthening reform of social models in Europe. The Lisbon Strategy adopted by the European Council in March 2000, was designed to combine economic and social goals. The European Union planned to create the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy, which will be able to continuous growth and at the same time provides high-quality jobs and social cohesion before 2010. The European Social Agenda adopted at the European Council meeting in Nice in December 2000, coincided with the initialling of the Treaty of Nice, which task was to reform the European Union and preparing for enlargement to 10 new countries in 2004. The Agenda was an important program document, which assumes such purposes as obtaining full employment and quality jobs, eliminating poverty, exclusion or discrimination, gender equality, modernization of social protection systems, achieving social cohesion. The basic tools for implementing the European Social Agenda were actions based on the exchange of information and experiences, common negotiating aims, discussing and consulting all initiatives taken by EU countries on national, regional and local levels. Legislative proposals contained in the Agenda was limited to amendments already functioning Community directives. Implementation assessment of the European Social Agenda since 2002 had annually presented in the consolidated statement by the Commission before the Spring European Council. Unfortunately goals had not been achieved by 2008 and appeared new economic and social problems, which is why the European Union adopted a renewed Social Agenda. Renewed Agenda defined the three equal value, connected together:

- Create opportunities – create more and better jobs and increasing mobility.
- Access – provide European Union citizens easier access to quality education, social security, health care, and the ability to use the services that contribute to eliminating disparities at the start.
- Demonstrating solidarity – help for people in difficult life situations, poverty alleviation and support social inclusion and social dialogue.

Financing of the projects announced in the Renewed Social Agenda was held in the financial perspective for the period 2007-2013, mainly from the European Social Fund. In 2007 was established European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for support workers made redundant by globalization processes. European

Agricultural Guarantee Fund and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development also were used for financing Agenda³².

4. European Social Policy in Lisbon Strategy and Strategy Europe 2020

Some forerunner of the European Constitution became the Lisbon Treaty of 2007, which finally came into force on 1 December 2009. His main task was institutional reform of the European Union, required by the last enlargement. The Treaty simplifies and improves the functioning of the Union and organizes legal basis. The Lisbon Treaty particularly emphasizes the importance of social policy, gives it new goals, but competence in that field have not been substantially amended. Development and implementation of social policy still remain in the range of Member States. A significant change in the Treaty is the possibility of withdrawal from unanimity to qualified majority voting in the Council of the European Union in about 40 issues (also includes matters concerning social policy). The competence of the European Parliament have been extended to co-determination in matters of agricultural, migration and asylum policy, as well as on the manner of distribution of the Structural Funds. An important innovation is the inclusion of the Charter of Fundamental Rights directly to the findings of The Treaty. The adoption of the Charter as a primary law of the European Union provides an opportunity for citizens of the Member States on defence issues and freedom also by the Court of Justice of the European Union³³.

The latest stage in the European Union Social Policy is Strategy Europe 2020 – a 10-year strategy proposed by the European Commission on 3 March 2010 for advancement of the economy of the European Union. It aims at smart, sustainable, inclusive growth with greater coordination of national and European policy. Strategy Europe 2020 assumes development of economy based on knowledge and innovation with greater care of environment and guarantee of high employment and social cohesion. All three increases are complementary to each other³⁴.

³² Wysokińska Z., Witkowska J., *Integracja europejska. Europeizacja polityki ekonomiczno-społecznej w Unii Europejskiej i umiędzynarodowienie rynków Nowych Krajów Członkowskich Europy Środkowej i Wschodniej*, Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN, Warszawa 2010, s. 127-129.

³³ Anioł W., *Unia Europejska jako wspólnota socjalna*, [w:] *Europeistyka. Podręcznik akademicki. Tom 2*, (red.) Wojtaszczyk K. A., Jakubowski W., Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN, Warszawa 2012, ss. 134-137.

³⁴ Communication from the Commission, *Europe 2020 – A European strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth*, European Commission, Brussels, 2010, p. 3.

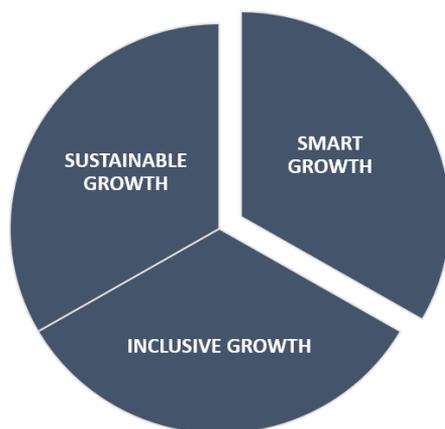


Fig. 2. Europe 2020 – main priorities
Source: own study.

The Strategy identifies five headline targets the European Union should take to boost growth and employment. These are:

- To raise the employment rate of the population aged 20-64 from the current 69% to at least 75%.
- To achieve the target of investing 3% of GDP in R&D in particular by improving the conditions for R&D investment by the private sector, and develop a new indicator to track innovation.
- To reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% compared to 1990 levels or by 30% if the conditions are right, increase the share of renewable energy in final energy consumption to 20%, and achieve a 20% increase in energy efficiency.
- To reduce the share of early school leavers to 10% from the current 15% and increase the share of the population aged 30–34 having completed tertiary from 31% to at least 40%.
- To reduce the number of Europeans living below national poverty lines by 25%, lifting 20 million people out of poverty³⁵.

The realization of these goals is based on the interaction between the various actors at European, national, regional and local levels. The state authorities will design specific national reform programs in order to implement the Strategy 2020. At the same time, the European Commission will support these efforts through seven flagship initiatives – projects concerning on key elements for the success of the Strategy. Three of the initiatives are directly focused on issues related to social policy, namely:

³⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_pl.htm, 28.11.2015.

- Youth on the move – a project focused on improving the quality of higher education in Europe. It also supports a smooth transition from education to the labour market and facilitate labour mobility.
- An agenda for new skills and jobs – an initiative focused on the renovation of European labour markets, increasing economic activity.
- European platform against poverty – to ensure social and territorial cohesion such that the benefits of growth and jobs are widely shared and people experiencing poverty and social exclusion are enabled to live in dignity and take an active part in society³⁶.

From the first years of the European Union, the whole Community was aware that efficiently and effectively can fight with difficulties such as unemployment, discrimination, inequality and social exclusion by combining forces together in developing social problems solutions. Summing up all the Europe 2020 assumptions, is clearly noticeable an integrated and complementary approach to global development issues, emphasizing the harmonious and balanced combination of economic, social and environmental issues. The Europe 2020 is based on the previous strategy experience, appreciates strong points, but also corrects weaknesses. Europe 2020 is a new development plan for the European Union, which comprehensive response to the public problems. The changes taking place in European society caused by technological progress, globalization of trade, transformations in the labour market create scope for social policy. Europe 2020 includes all needed elements to help the European Union and the Member States in obtaining employment growth and increasing productivity and social cohesion.

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- [13] <http://ec.europa.eu>
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GENEZA ORAZ ROZWÓJ POLITYKI SPOŁECZNEJ UNII EUROPEJSKIEJ NA PRZESTRZENI LAT

Streszczenie

Opracowanie to zostało poświęcone genezie polityki społecznej Unii Europejskiej oraz zmianom, jakie dokonały się na przestrzeni lat we wspólnotowych obszarach socjalnych. Unia Europejska to nie tylko integracja gospodarczo – walutowa, to jednocześnie działania w sferze społecznej i socjalnej. Dążenia integracyjne nie opierają się jedynie na dalszym rozszerzaniu Unii Europejskiej o nowych członków, ale również bazują na przyjmowaniu nowych, wspólnotowych wytycznych i regulacji w kwestiach społecznych, wraz z koniecznością egzekwowania ich przez kraje członkowskie. Regulacje unijne jedynie o charakterze ekonomicznym, bez socjalnych wytycznych, doprowadziłyby do niekompletnego i niestabilnego funkcjonowania Unii Europejskiej oraz Jednolitego Rynku Europejskiego. W kolejnych dekadach proces integracji europejskiej intensyfikował się i obejmował coraz to nowe sprawy oraz dziedziny życia, dlatego właśnie pozycja kwestii socjalnych i polityki społecznej wzmacnia się konsekwentnie. Pogłębiająca się globalizacja oraz regionalizacja życia gospodarczego i społecznego sprawia, że coraz większe znaczenie przy rozwiązywaniu przeróżnych kwestii społecznych, odgrywają instytucje międzynarodowe jak Unia Europejska. Państwa Europy coraz dotkliwiej dotyczą takie problemy jak wysokie bezrobocie, ubóstwo i wykluczenie społeczne oraz postępujące starzenie się społeczeństw. Właśnie dlatego intensywna współpraca na poziomie unijnym może doprowadzić do zatrzymania się tych procesów oraz wypracowania sposobów wyeliminowania negatywnych skutków, które pojawiły się wśród obywateli Europy.