Plan Overview

A Data Management Plan created using DMPonline

Title: Building Coherent Social Protection Systems: A comparative analysis of hard and soft law mechanisms in South Africa and Uganda

Creator: Irene Among

Principal Investigator: Irene Among

Affiliation: Erasmus University Rotterdam

Funder: European Commission

Template: ERC DMP

ORCID iD: 0000-0001-6321-1380

Project abstract:

Social protection is increasingly gaining traction as an instrument for addressing poverty and reducing economic and social vulnerability. However, social protection systems in low and middle-income countries face a range of challenges – including fragmentation, inefficiency and a resultant decrease in benefits. Studies of the social protection systems of low- and middle-income countries reveal that, frequently, different institutions are responsible for the various social protection programmes, and the requirements for social benefits are formulated or interpreted differently. In addition, neighbouring policy areas such as labour market programmes and health insurance are not adequately coordinated with social protection systems. This leads to inefficiency and delivery gaps, which directly affect access by the beneficiaries. Consequently, bolstered by the 2030 Agenda's focus on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development, there is a growing interest among scholars and practitioners in the pathways toward more coherent social protection systems. The preliminary research for this project reveals that South Africa and Uganda are not short of legal and extra-legal mechanisms for building coherent social protection systems. South Africa has a more "universal" and relatively robust social protection system than the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa. It also relies heavily on "hard law" mechanisms (based on which the government can be taken to court for inaction) in its attempts toward a coherent social protection system. These hard law instruments include the South Africa Social Security Agency Act and the Social Assistance Act - which integrate eight hitherto disparate social assistance grants; various social protection scheme-specific Acts; and the Constitution. On the other hand, Uganda has a nascent social protection system typical of most Sub-Saharan African countries. It relies mainly on "soft law" instruments such as the National Social Protection Policy and the National Development Plan to coordinate its social protection system. However, incoherence persists in both settings – hence the need to investigate the pathways by which the mechanisms can translate into coherent systems. Therefore, this study will explore the nature of fragmentation and the mechanisms for building coherent social protection systems. The primary question is: "Under what conditions do legal coordination/coherence mechanisms succeed or fail?" Two secondary questions are posed: 1) What is the nature of fragmentation of social protection systems? 2) How do the respective countries coordinate their social protection systems internally and externally? The study will adopt a conceptual framework informed by relevant aspects selected from systems theory,

institutionalism and Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development – a contemporary operational/policy framework for policy coherence. The study will use an interdisciplinary research methodology – drawing mainly on the functional method of comparative legal research and supported by the within-case process tracing method of comparative case study methodology of two contrasting cases: South Africa and Uganda. It will use qualitative research tools, including content analysis of policies, Acts and other documents and expert interviews with policymakers, street-level bureaucrats, academics and other relevant actors.

ID: 108129

Start date: 03-01-2023

Last modified: 19-10-2022

Grant number / URL: https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/956909

Copyright information:

The above plan creator(s) have agreed that others may use as much of the text of this plan as they would like in their own plans, and customise it as necessary. You do not need to credit the creator(s) as the source of the language used, but using any of the plan's text does not imply that the creator(s) endorse, or have any relationship to, your project or proposal

Building Coherent Social Protection Systems: A comparative analysis of hard and soft law mechanisms in South Africa and Uganda

Summary

Project Acronym

BCSPS-ADAPTED

Project Number

108129

Provide a dataset summary

This research project is one of 15 PhD. research projects under grant 956909 titled “Eradicating Poverty: Pathways Towards Achieving the SDGs” also known as ADAPTED. The project is coordinated by Ruhr University Bochum. The specific research project to which this data management plan applies is referred to as ESR 12: Building coherent social protection systems (BCSPS) and is a joint PhD. between Ruhr University Bochum and EUR/ISS. The project recognises that social protection systems in Sub-Saharan Africa are highly fragmented, and yet effective mechanisms for ensuring their coherence are scarcely known or implemented – which affects the coverage of social protection for the poor. Comparative legal research will be used to identify coherence mechanisms in South Africa and Uganda, and process-tracing will be used to examine the conditions under which they work. Data will include a doctrinal analysis of laws and relent cases and content analysis of policies and other relevant programme documents. This will be supplemented with empirical interviews with key policymakers and implementers, civil society and academia in Uganda and South Africa. The interviews will be recorded in audio format and transcribed into MS word/PDF files.

FAIR data and resources

1. Making data findable

This research project will follow data management guidelines provided by ADAPTED for coordinating this and other PhD. research projects under the Grant. Accordingly, data will be shared through the open-access repository Zenodo. ADAPTED will establish a community in Zenodo, where data generated within the project, publications including journal articles, papers and book chapters will be uploaded to make it visible to the scientific community. All datasets provided in Zenodo will be enriched with metadata. The *metadata provided in Zenodo* by default includes publication date, DOI, project, licence, language and abstracts among others. In addition, metadata will be provided through a *README file*.pdf) to identify each data entry so that other users can correctly identify and use it. This will include a summary of the content of the data set, data processing undertaken to make the data usable, and data collection methods among others. ADAPTED will create the necessary templates that will be used by this project as well.

2. Making data openly accessible

The data generated by this study will be shared within the ADAPTED consortium through GitLab and will be made openly accessible through the repository Zenodo. However, interview recordings with names and job titles might be sensitive to the privacy of respondents, and guidance from ADAPTED is to partially opt-out of the open access to research data of such files. Alternatively, details of respondents will be redacted from the files that will be made openly accessible.

3. Making data interoperable

Metadata will be provided as Readme file and key industry words for social policy/social protection will be used. Some include “social assistance” “social insurance” “social security” “policy coherence” "policy coordination"

4. Increase data reuse

The provision of meta-data for each recording/entry, and the use of Zenodo will increase the re-usability of data.

5. Allocation of resources and data security

GitLab and Zenodo, which will be used by the project are free of charge. Publication fees for any journal articles emerging directly from this project will be paid for through the Grant funding.