



RE-InVEST

REBUILDING AN INCLUSIVE, VALUE-BASED EUROPE OF
SOLIDARITY AND TRUST THROUGH SOCIAL INVESTMENTS

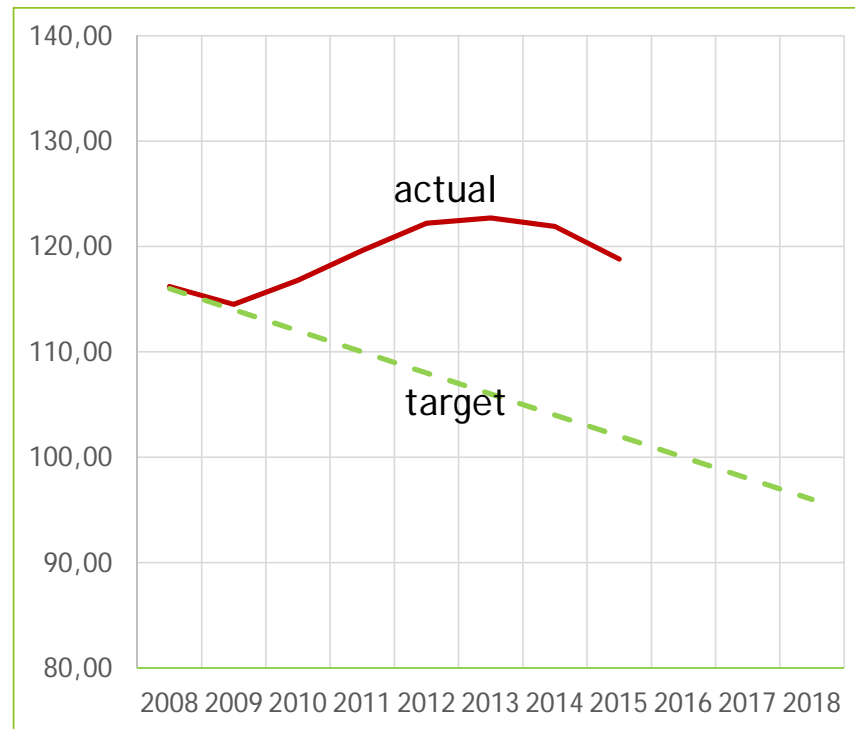
Re-InVEST

Reflections on the proposal writing process
and project management



The context

- Europe 2020 in the aftermath of the crisis: EU gets off-track in relation to social inclusion target (-20 mio poor in 10 years)



The context

- ▶ Macro-economic consolidation => austerity => social exclusion
- ▶ Social Investment Package as a response: 'investing in people' reconciles economic and social objectives



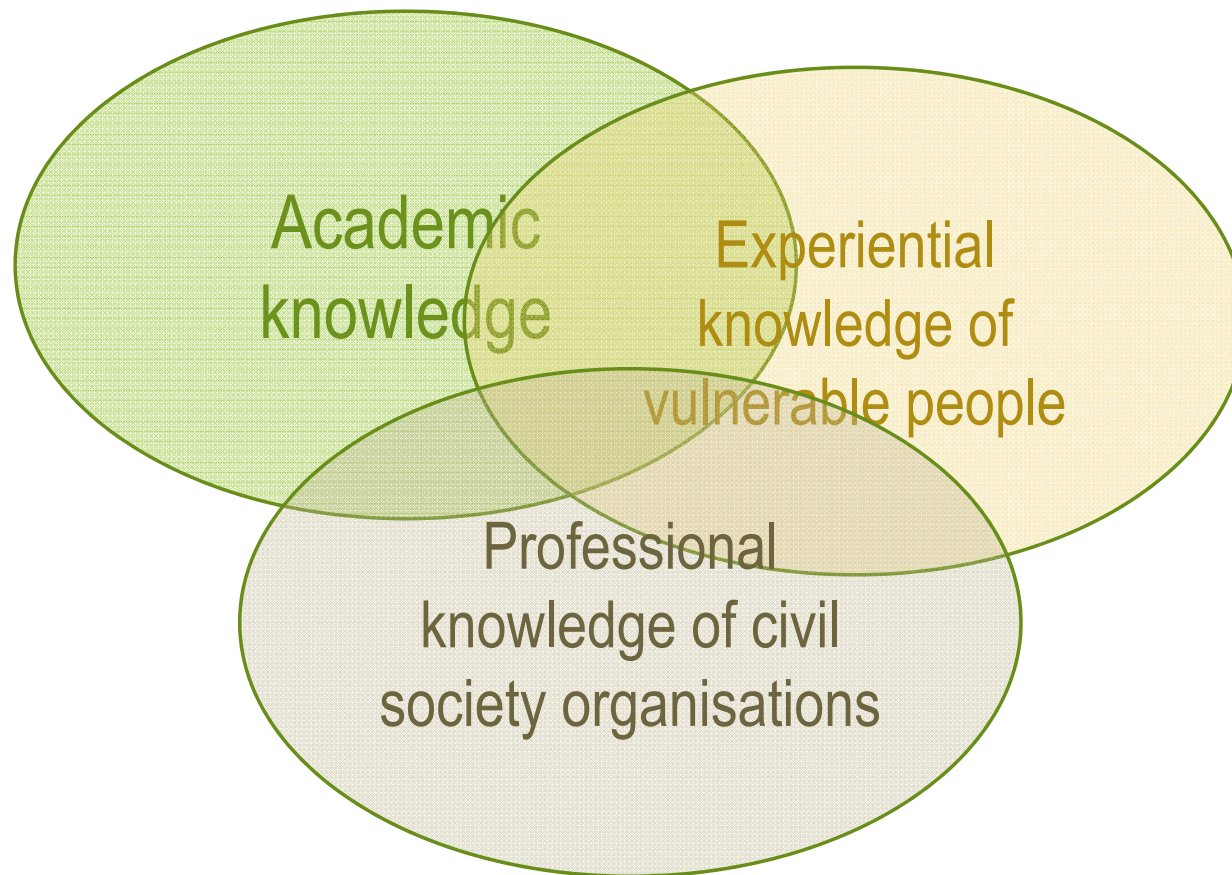
Main Re-InVEST objectives

- ▶ diagnosis of the social damage of the crisis in terms of (the erosion of) human rights, social (dis)investment, loss of (collective) capabilities, loss of trust
- ▶ developing a theoretical model of social investment, with a focus on the effective promotion of human rights and capabilities
- ▶ application of the social investment model to key social policies and services:
 - ▶ active labour market policies and social protection:
 - ▶ Early childhood education, health care, housing, water, financial services
- ▶ Empowering vulnerable groups of citizens through capacity building in participatory research

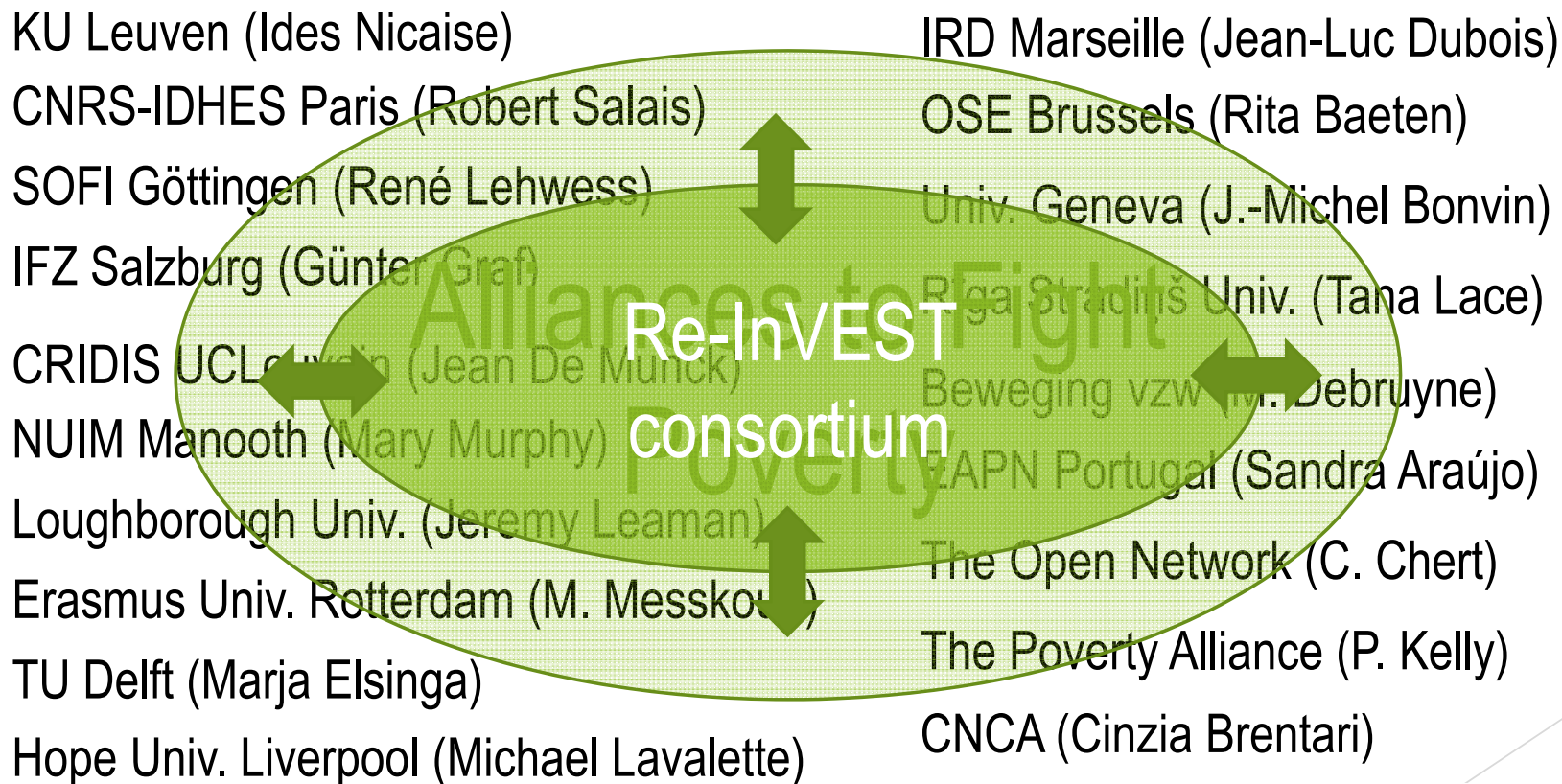


Method: 'merging of knowledge'

mixed research teams at local level



Research team



An extremely diverse team... ...with a strong unity of purpose

- ▶ Geographical diversity
 - ▶ Non-academic co-researchers from various backgrounds / target groups
- => Risks
- ▶ Multidisciplinarity
 - ▶ 'Intercultural experience'
 - ▶ reporting
 - ▶ Alliances to Fight Poverty existed for five years prior to submission of proposal
 - ▶ Investment in several network meetings during preparation process
 - ▶ 'non-profit' purpose

Dual management structure

Scientific management

- ▶ Engineering of research
- ▶ Methodology
- ▶ Management board
- ▶ Reporting to COM
- ▶ Quality control
- ▶ Peer reviewing process
- ▶ Publication strategy

Network management

- ▶ Meetings
- ▶ Internal / external communication
- ▶ Impact management (policy briefs, public events...)
- ▶ Advisory board



Impact starts on day one

Because our research aims to address a societal issue

Because we look at social reality through a specific lense

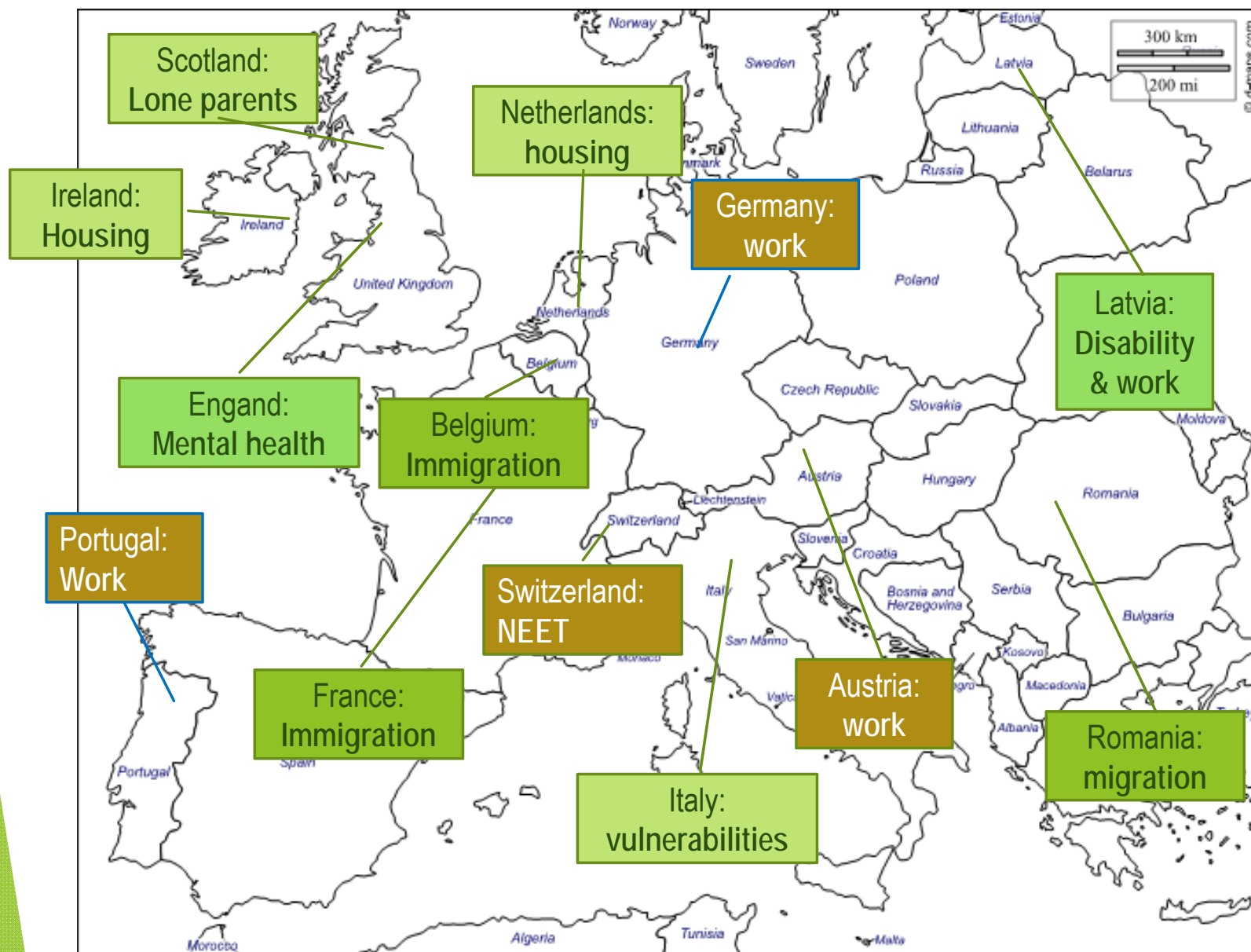
Because we build partnerships with stakeholders in society



Three types of (societal) impact

1. Capacity building: empowerment of vulnerable groups

- ▶ Local vulnerable groups make a critical analysis of their own recent life histories through 'merging of knowledge' and uncover the structural causes of 'social disinvestment'
- ▶ The research feeds into seminars of the 'Alliances to fight poverty' = network of unions and civil society organisations



Three types of impact (continued)

2. Participation in the policy debate

- ▶ Policy briefs on EU policy agenda, e.g.
 - ▶ criticism of (absence of) social investment in the Juncker Investment Plan (Summer 2015)
 - ▶ analysis of social investment dimension in 2016 Annual Growth Survey (Spring 2016)
 - ▶ European Pillar of Social Rights (December 2016)
- ▶ Public events
 - ▶ At EU level: Seminar with Commissioner M. Thyssen + panel discussion with MEPs on social investment (Brussels, Dec. 2015); presentation of Re-InVEST in Social Affairs Commission of EP (Nov. 2016)
 - ▶ National events linked to consortium meetings (Lisbon, Feb. 2016; Antwerp, June 2016; Liverpool, Sept. 2016...)

Participation in policy debate...



Three types of impact (continued)

3. Dissemination and dialogue

- ▶ Webpage: re-invest.eu
- ▶ Facebook page
- ▶ Twitter account
- ▶ Articles in the national press
- ▶ Participation in seminars, conferences
- ▶ Reports: e.g. 2016: 12 national reports + EU synthesis report on the damage of the crisis and anti-crisis policies (from a social investment and human rights perspective)

Re-invest.eu

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL re-invest.eu/documents/policy-briefs. The website has a green and white color scheme. The header includes the RE-InVEST logo and a navigation menu with links: Home, The project, Workpackages, Documents (active), About us, and Links. The main content area is titled 'Policy briefs' and lists three documents:

- Re-InVEST Policybrief issue 0/2015**
Rebuilding an Inclusive, Value-based Europe of Solidarity and Trust through Social Investments
- Re-InVEST Policybrief issue 1/2015**
The Juncker Investment Plan: where are the social investments?
- Re-InVEST Policybrief issue 2/2016**
The annual growth survey 2016: opening the door for social policy?

The footer contains copyright information: © 2016 RE-InVEST | info@re-invest.eu, the European Union flag, and a disclaimer: 'This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 649447. Any dissemination of results must indicate that it reflects only the author's view and that the Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.' The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the date 12/05/2016 and time 23:34.



Conclusion

- ▶ DG RTD wants to see impact
 - ▶ Applied sciences: relevance for industry, climate etc.
 - ▶ Social sciences: relevance for policy-making, system reform...
 - ▶ Link between academia and civil society boosts chances of success
- ▶ Anticipated impact comes first, project design is 'derived' from it
- ▶ Tension between academic output and societal impact ?
 - ▶ Yes, in quantitative terms
 - ▶ No, if academic output is considered as a tool to improve society