



SESSION 2:

CONTRIBUTION OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING TO SOCIAL COHESION

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THE IDEA OF SOCIAL COHESION

...as a quasi-concept useful for policy purposes “... it usefully serves as a *framing concept* for thinking through the complexity of policy issues...” (Debeauvais and Jenson, 2002)



However, studies of social cohesion demonstrate that there *is* a connection between the economic and the social, and that it is therefore not sufficient to work on “fixing the economy” alone.

AND...EDUCATION AND TRAINING

There are also national variations in the understanding and application of the concept, by national traditions, education systems, welfare regimes, the composition and institutions of immigrant communities, and so on.



PATTERNS OF CAUSATION IN SOCIAL COHESION

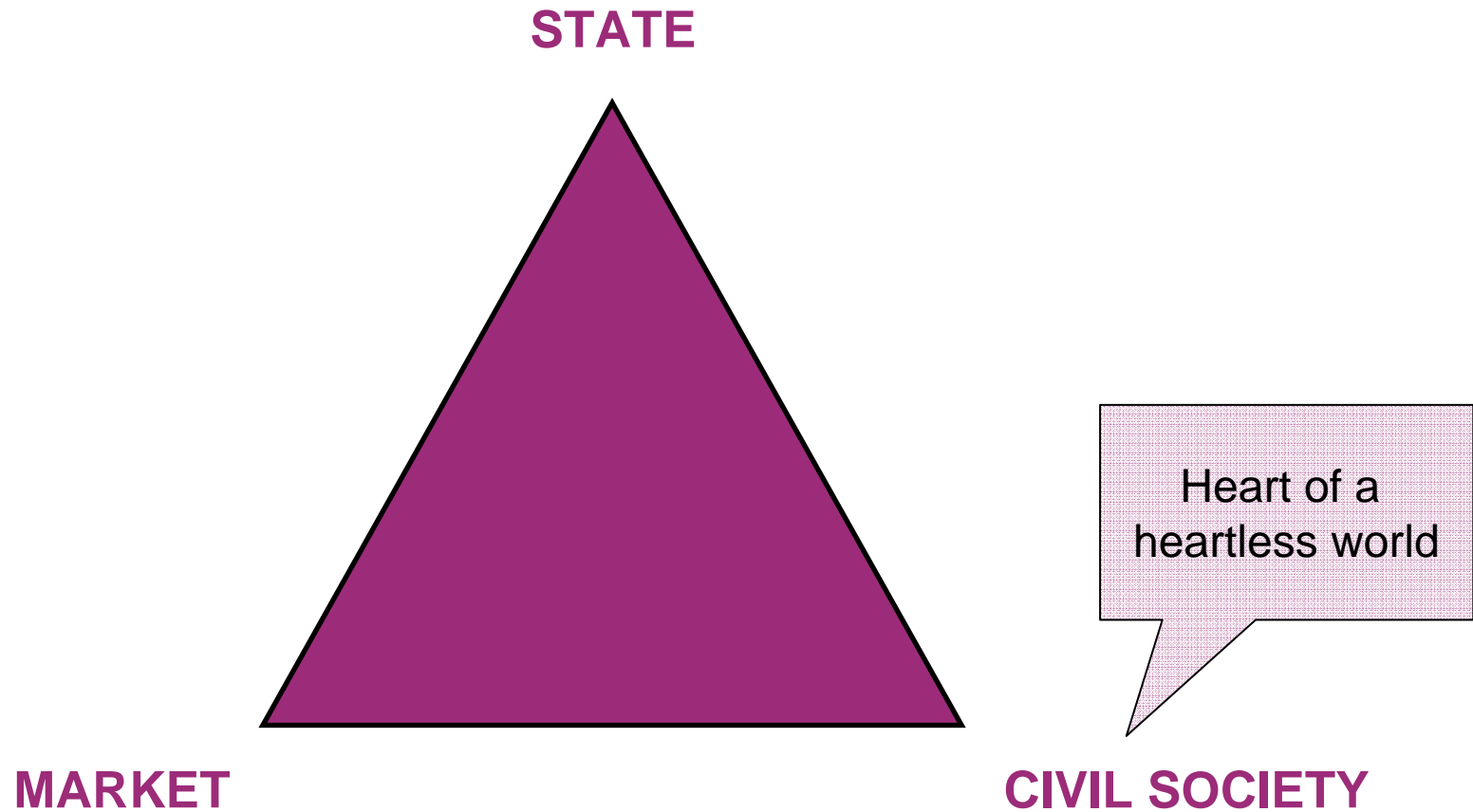
SOCIAL COHESION - *VARIOUS FACTORS*

- Globalisation and new technologies
- Diversity
- Community

SOCIAL COHESION - *VARIOUS OUTCOMES*

- Economic performance and well-being
- Health
- Participation rates and legitimacy of democratic institutions

SOCIAL COHESION, FROM...



TO...

All of these generate different forms of measurement of, and policy implications for, social cohesion – all of these include 'education'

PLACE IN LISBON AGENDA:

- Both a product and a condition of competitiveness/productivity and employment
- Basis of social order *and* social solidarity
- Basis of common values *and* competitiveness
- Associated with social equality *and* social capital
- Territorial belonging *and* civic culture

DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE: THE TEMPO EFFECT

From 2000 European population enters 'negative momentum', with the likely consequence that by 2065 the 'support ratio' (working age to post-65) would shift from around 4:1 to around 2:1 (Lutz et al 2003)

This is due as much to the crucial (*and potentially 'policy-able'*) contribution of Tempo Effect (delayed childbearing), which reduces number of children born during period of 'delay', as to the rate of fertility

Tempo effect is assumed to be 0.3 children per woman, so that Total Fertility Rate in EU would increase from 1.5 to 1.8 if trend in mean age of childbearing came to an end

SO, WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS FOR SOCIAL COHESION IN EUROPE?

Tackling Apathy
Stimulating Debate
Promoting Awareness
Supporting Education
Encouraging Active Citizenship



POSSIBLE POLICY RESPONSES TO 'DEMOGRAPHIC TIME BOMB' (1)

Radical extension of family-friendly employment policies

Radical developments in child care policies



POSSIBLE POLICY RESPONSES TO 'DEMOGRAPHIC TIME BOMB' (2)



RESTRUCTURE EDUCATION CAREER BY:

- Earlier start, earlier finish
- Shorter degrees
(‘will Bologna bring babies?’)
- More flexible H.E.
- Universal right to paid education leave
- Reduce cost to individuals of retraining

POSSIBLE POLICY RESPONSES TO 'DEMOGRAPHIC TIME BOMB' (3)

IMMIGRATION



SOME PERCEIVED CONSEQUENCES OF MIGRATION FOR SOCIAL COHESION



Forestalls/slow down decline in 'Support Ratio'

Increase in scope of both country of origin and country of destination presents new problems

Post 9/11 security regimes identify new problems (threats) from migrants

EDUCATION, SOCIAL CAPITAL AND SOCIAL COHESION (1)

At an individual level, level of education is strongly associated with social capital

‘For any government concerned to increase social capital and social cohesion, the education process is the single most important and effective policy lever’ (Putnam, 2004)

‘Policymakers concerned to raise educational standards need to be as concerned about the social contexts of education as they are about computers, textbooks and teacher certification’ (Putnam, 2004)

EDUCATION, SOCIAL CAPITAL AND SOCIAL COHESION (2)

HOWEVER, IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER SOCIAL CAPITAL CAN BE SCALED UP, BECAUSE:

It may take the form of '**bonding**' (links between people who are similar in age, ethnicity, social class), which may be used, for instance, as the basis of exclusive 'clubs' of parents), as well as of '**bridging**' (links across lines of social cleavage)

Like education credentials it is a 'positional' good; its value is to a degree related to its scarcity

EDUCATION, VALUES, IDENTITY AND SOCIAL COHESION



How should education now relate to ethnic and cultural diversity?

EDUCATION, VALUES, IDENTITY AND SOCIAL COHESION

TWO SETS OF ALTERNATIVES:

'Individualistic' - where cohesion results from extension of individual rights and choices linked to economic growth and increasing personal opportunities for all

'Solidaristic' - based on shared values and investing in the 'repair' of fragmented social cohesion; using education to extend social cohesion through supporting 'communities of communities' and multiculturalism; or as a means of 'managing diversity'/assimilation

BEYOND EDUCATION AS FORMAL SCHOOLING?



Given the demographic time bomb, and the profound and unresolved issues around migration, how far and in what ways can the multiple elements of social cohesion be met through education systems as we have known them—which can undermine as well as ‘grow’ social cohesion?

BEYOND EDUCATION AS FORMAL SCHOOLING?

Do we need to clarify the place of education in a new social policy sector?



BEYOND EDUCATION AS FORMAL SCHOOLING?



How can we
combine these with
education's
contributions to the
Knowledge
Economy and the
Knowledge Society?

THANKYOU

