



## Building up values, philosophy and vision of the A4i project

The steering committee of the A4i project,

on the 13th October 2019,

*Committing* to comply with the European Union policies and programs regarding the design and the outcomes of the project,

*Considering* the social investment and the social protection recommendations related to the social services as valuable EU rules to be implemented throughout the project,

*Being* fully aware that the outcomes of the project might be implemented in the development of the EU policies,

*Wishing* to employ EU resources in the most satisfactory possible way to help the ultimate recipients of the social politics to enjoy their rights as EU citizens,

*Understanding* the importance to assert those fundamental rights while making the States the ultimate responsibility holder of its fulfilment,

*Considering* the leading role of European States in the development of the Welfare States

*Agreeing* on the increasing importance of the introduction of private economic resources into the strengthening of the welfare state

*And observing* that the literature on the providing of social services is not always clear on its relation with the social rights system,

Decides, by unanimity, to:

1. Commit to achieve its goals under a quality framework correspondent to European Union's consolidated policies taking into account but not limiting to, the Quality Framework for Services

The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

of General Interest in Europe; the Voluntary European Quality Framework for Social Services; EU Framework for the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, among others.

2. To focus research and development of the project on the public procurement or any other positive action of the administration (broadly considered) that is aimed to foster and promote social rights. This expands also to non-existing social policies that could, nonetheless, be required to the administration according to European legislation.

3. To agree on understanding the private funding as a way to help out the public interest and to explore the means to make it available to social services providers.

4. To agree on the use of terminology in such a way that social rights are protected and in its utmost consideration, as a starting and ending point to the public policies and the private investment.

5. To ensure that the outcomes of the project lead to private economic intervention/ investment to any of the following situations: First, private economic intervention saves public money while maintaining quality. Second, private economic intervention improves the quality of the services for the final users, also if considered under a cost-effectiveness ratio such (but not limited to) as the lifecycle of the service.

6. To ensure that the outcomes of the project lead NOT private economic intervention/ investment to the situation where the private economic intervention increases the economic profit of the private interests at the expense of the quality of the social services or the scope of the social services.

7. To deny that the private interest may supersede and replace the obligations of the Administration to provide universal access to social services under an equal treatment, non-discriminatory and equal opportunities principle.