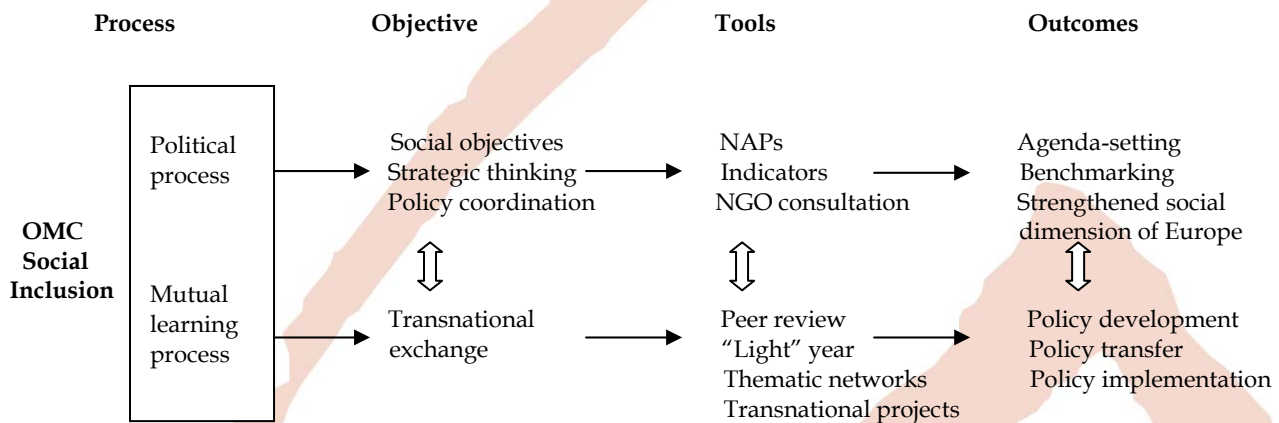


The Open Method of Coordination in the area of social protection and social inclusion

FEANTSA is the main representative European network on homelessness and housing exclusion issues at EU level working actively in the framework of the EU strategy for social protection and social inclusion (which uses the soft law mechanisms of the Open Method of Coordination – or OMC).

The social inclusion OMC process is perceived by FEANTSA as a two-fold process:



Clarification

The diagram above represents the two levels of the OMC social inclusion process ("political" and "mutual learning") which naturally both feed into and reinforce each other. For example, the NAPs set the agenda for the mutual learning in the peer reviews and light years, while mutual learning and policy exchange can lead to the emergence of new issues which can be highlighted as key priorities in new NAP cycles.

It could be argued that the immediate outcomes of the *political* process are to be found more at the European level, while the outcomes of the *mutual learning* process are rather to be found at national level:

- The political process is about national administrations coming together (through the facilitation of the European Commission) to coordinate their policies at EU level through benchmarking, and to make strategic decisions which will set the EU social inclusion agenda and strengthen the social dimension of Europe;
- The mutual learning process is more about bringing together national and local experts to exchange practical information on how to develop and implement policy in specific areas of the multi-dimensional strategies outlined in the NAPs.