



## EAPN FLASH No 208 – 19 November 2008

### NEWS FROM EAPN

#### **Save the date! EAPN to organise conference on Structural funds with other social NGOs**

“Structural Funds 2007-2013, a real step forward for social Europe?” will be the central topic of the conference EAPN will co-organise on 8 December with the European Liaison Committee for Social Housing (CECODHAS) and the European Disability Forum (EDF) in the premises of the [European Economic and Social Committee](#).

Bringing together representatives from the social NGO sector, regional and local authorities, and EU institutions, this seminar will aim to confront these principles to the reality of cohesion policy’s implementation for 2007-2013, and propose concrete steps to move forward.

As the 2007-2013 programming period of structural funds is entering its operational phase, strong concerns are emerging around EU Cohesion Policy’s capacity to be a lever not only for *more* but also *better* growth, as well as for social cohesion. There is only little indication that lessons from the past have been acted upon, in particular those from the EQUAL programme, which had been a real catalyst for social innovation, partnership and transnational learning.

An agenda will follow will follow in the next issue of the EAPN Flash. Registration is free of charge. Please send an email with name, organisation, contact details to [secretariat@edf-feph.org](mailto:secretariat@edf-feph.org) by 24th November.

#### **EAPN takes part in meeting on social considerations in public procurement**

On 6 November EAPN participated with other members of the Social Platform in a meeting held by the Commission to discuss the findings of a recent study carried out by the International Training Centre on the social considerations of public procurement.

The study is part of a series of actions carried out under DG Employment’s [Corporate Social Responsibility](#) brief, which aims to support the better use of existing EU legislation enabling the use of public procurement to integrate social responsibilities –to help integration to the labour markets, high levels of social inclusion, more recruitment of disadvantaged groups etc.

The package of actions included a survey of typical applications of public procurement for social considerations, an analysis of policy and regulation frameworks and 6 interesting national case studies on Equal opportunities, Gender, Health and Safety, Employment and Vocational Training, Decent Work, and Accessibility for all. Fair and Ethical Trade is also considered in the main study. The findings of the study will be used to develop a non-binding Good Practice Guide, based on the Commission's Green Guide – aimed at awareness-raising and building capacity of public authorities in this area.

No formal consultation will be carried out on the draft. But stakeholders can send input ( 2 page of comments) for the Guide to DG Employment through a mail box which will be set up shortly on the [Corporate Social Responsibility website](#), or e-mail sent to [Robert.Stauss@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Robert.Stauss@ec.europa.eu), before the end of the year.

The Guide will be produced by late spring.

### **What reform for the EU budget? EAPN takes position**

On November 12 the European Commission hosted a large conference, in which EAPN took active part, to present and discuss the results of the public consultations on the EU budget review.

On the basis of the consultation, the main priorities for the EU budget identified by the Commission on the basis of the consultation are:

1. Climate change
2. EU competitiveness in a global economy
3. Energy security

EAPN is concerned about the limit of the priorities identified and the absence of a priority on solidarity and sustainability. EAPN will work Social Platform and the Civil Society Contact Group to try to impact on the follow up of this consultation.

From the 284 contributions to the consultations, 55 came from NGOs and all Member States responded:

- [European Commission report on the results](#)
- [Presentations given during the conference](#)
- [Video which the EU Civil Society Contact Group contributed to](#)
- [Social Platform contribution to the EU budget Review: The EU budget: more than money - solidarity and democracy for a social and sustainable future](#)

<b>NEWS FROM THE EAPN NATIONAL NETWORKS</b>
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## **Social effects of the financial crisis and active inclusion at the heart of the EAPN Spain's general assembly**

On 8th of November, EAPN Spain celebrated its fifth General Assembly (GA) in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. At this assembly the Spanish Network welcomed representatives from NGOs and social entities from Galicia and Extremadura, where networks are being established, as well as a delegation from EAPN Portugal and Fintan Farrell, the EAPN Europe Director.

New objectives were set out for 2009 and the delegates adopted the General Assembly's final declaration. It stresses an opportunity, provided by the current situation, to redouble efforts in the fight against poverty, social inclusion and for the greatest guarantee of social rights.

Together with the GA, a Seminar on Active Inclusion was held with an opening speech "Active Inclusion – can it contribute to the fight against poverty" given by Fintan Farrell. During the seminar day participants could assist in various workshops focused on Active Inclusion, preparations for the Year 2010, Social Rights, Minimum Income, and Strategic Planning.

For more information check [www.eapn.es](http://www.eapn.es)

[See the GA final declaration](#) (Spanish version only)

## **NEWS FROM THE EU INSTITUTIONS AND OTHERS**

### **MEPs vote on Directive introducing sanctions for employers of irregular migrants**

Employers of irregular immigrants should be punished rather than the workers themselves, according to a Parliament report drafted by Italian MEP Claudio Fava (PES), to be presented to the full assembly for approval in December.

The document, which was adopted by a clear majority of Member of the European Parliament in the European Parliament's civil liberties committee on 4 November, will guide negotiations with EU Member States on a proposed directive to sanction employers of irregular migrants.

The Directive will introduce EU-wide minimum penalties for such employers. MEPs proposed that civil society organisations should be able to help irregular migrants in filing complaints against their employers without facing legal proceedings for assisting them.

[More information](#)

### **European Commission responds to the global financial crisis**

Two weeks ago, the European Commission presented a [framework for an action plan to help Member States combat the global financial crisis](#) and on November 26, it will come up with a more detailed plan.

EAPN will contribute to this with concrete measures to address the social consequences of the crisis.

The Commission's plan has three pillars:

- A new financial market architecture at EU level
- Dealing with the impact on the real economy
- A global response to the financial crisis

On social issues, the plan states that the Commission will:

- Explore with Member States the scope for accelerating investment projects in the framework of the Cohesion policy
- Use national and EU competition to bring prices down and 'take full advantage of the Single Market'
- Work with social partners to find the best response to the crisis (however it is not mentioned that civil society will be involved in the decision-making)

### **More growth, more jobs in 2008-2010? National Reform programmes are out**

Most of the national Action plans and [National Reform Programmes 2008-2010](#) are now available on the European Commission dedicated webpage.

According to the renewed Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs, Member States must undertake reforms at national level to achieve its objectives. These objectives are set out in the National Reform Programmes, and each year, Member States produce reports on the implementation of these programmes.

The 2008 NRPs cover the period 2008-2010 and are based on the 2008-2010 renewed [Integrated Guidelines](#) agreed collectively by all Member States.

### **Third EU Ministerial Conference on Integration leads to a series of commitments for advancing integration**

At the [third Integration Ministerial Conference](#) which took place in Vichy (France) on 3 and 4 November, Brice Hortefeux, the French Minister of Immigration, Integration, National Identity and Development, obtained the agreement of his 26 European counterparts on a series of commitments for advancing integration.

Integration Ministers agreed to give particular attention to several themes when defining and implementing their national integration policies: promotion of the European Union's fundamental values, the integration process, access to employment and the promotion

of diversity, the integration of women and the education of children, intercultural dialogue at the service of integration and integration policy governance.

### **A good day for decent work in Europe: European Parliament adopts report on working time directive**

On 4 November, with the adoption by the European Parliament Committee on Employment and Social Affairs of the Cercas report on the Working Time Directive, the European Parliament marked a good day for Decent Work in Europe.

The adoption of the report by a large majority makes clear the Parliament's disagreement with the decision taken by the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council last June.

According to the report, the maximum working time in the EU should be 48 hours per week and the possibility for a Member State to opt out should be removed within 3 years after the reformed directive enters into force.

The amendments proposed by the employment committee will be voted on in the plenary session in December. In the same week, the ETUC has called for a demonstration in Strasbourg (16 December) to ask that everybody in Europe is ensured a decent working time for a decent quality life.

[Read the draft Cercas Report \(version 3/10/2008\)](#)

### **European Ombudsman reaches out to civil society organisations**

The [European Ombudsman](#) has developed a [two-page-information sheet](#) targeting NGOs and explaining how they can use the Ombudsman to complain about maladministration in the EU institutions and bodies.

It explains what we can complain about (and what we can't), tells us where to get more information and gives examples of cases that the European ombudsman has handled. It's available in 23 languages.

## **NEWS FROM NGOs**

**European Women's Lobby urges leaders of European political parties to ensure equal representation of women**

EWL has written to the leaders of the European political parties to emphasise the importance of equal representation of women on candidate lists for the upcoming European elections.

In the letters the EWL remind that it is going to mobilise its membership to vote for parties who both ensure equal representation of women and men on their candidate lists and commit to put gender equality on the top of their agendas.

The EWL also questions the parties on the steps the European party and its national member parties are taking to reach these aims. The EWL also used the opportunity to ask the parties to declare their support for the [50/50 Campaign](#). The European Socialist Party is already supporting it.

It is now your turn to take action! Participate in the 50/50 Campaign and [contact the national political parties](#) concerning the lists for the European elections 2009!

### **If EU Member States are to take children's rights seriously, they need to involve them in the decision making processes", says Eurochild**

At its annual conference entitled "[Including Children: a child rights approach to child well-being](#)", Eurochild highlighted how EU instruments – and in particular the EU's social inclusion process - can support government efforts to develop long-term, comprehensive children's strategies and to reduce child poverty.

According to Eurochild, the social inclusion strategies do not have child specific targets to reduce child poverty in Europe. They do not frame children's health, education or welfare in terms of their rights.

"If EU Member States are to take children's rights seriously, Eurochild declared, they need to involve them directly in the decision making processes". At its annual conference, Eurochild has invited children and young participants to express their views on the national situations.

See [Eurochild press release](#)

### **AGE points out the barriers of Older Migrants and Access to health and long term care services**

In a policy paper released recently AGE, the European Older People's Platform, points out the main barriers of Older Migrants and Access to health and Long Term care services and outlines recommendations to the European Union as a whole and to Member States in particular to facilitate access to health and social care of their older migrants.

In today's Europe is the fact that migrant populations are also and the challenges to

meet their needs become more urgent. Although family help remains strong, current trends in family care throughout Europe are likely to affect migrant families as well and therefore it is important to manage broad access to general services, and in some cases to create targeted services for specific minority ethnic groups.

[Download it](#)

### **ERIO condemns anti-Gypsyism on the web**

Reacting to the recent creation of Facebook groups to spread hatred about the Roma people, Platform member ERIO (the European Roma Information Office) strongly condemned the moves and welcomed the strong protests coming from the Socialist group in the European Parliament.

Last week, many of the groups were shut down as a result of the calls. However, many others are still present on the famous social networking site.

Read [ERIO's press release](#)

### **ENAR releases latest ENARgy on intercultural dialogue**

ENAR, the European Network against Racism, has issued the latest edition of its newsletter ENARgy, on the theme "Intercultural dialogue: the European Year and beyond".

The articles in this edition of ENARgy clarify the concept of intercultural dialogue from different perspectives. They provide an overview of initiatives to promote this dialogue at different levels, and show-case various projects and debates undertaken in the context of the Year. The edition also features a face-to-face, spirited debate between two actors in the field of intercultural dialogue.

[Download it](#)

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Poverty and social exclusion also exist in rural areas**

Rural poverty represents an important aspect of European poverty, considering that rural areas account for a large part of the European and the relevance of the rural dimension has increased with the last two rounds of enlargement.

The present study conducted by the European Commission is intended to be a knowledge-improving step in the construction of a specific EU strategy for social inclusion in rural areas. It aims at analysing the main and specific features of poverty and social exclusion in rural areas; on the policy side, it analyses the policies, implemented by local, national or EU authorities that have an impact on rural poverty.

[Download the study](#)

### **Guide to locating migration policies in the machinery of the European Commission**

The Migration Policy Group (MPG) and the European Programme for Integration and Migration of the European Network of European Foundations (EPIM) have launched the second updated Guide to locating migration policies in the machinery of the European Commission.

This Guide not only maps the European Commission's policies related to migration, including the relevant cooperation and consultation mechanisms and funding programmes, it also discusses the issue of the evaluation of policies in terms of impact and effectiveness, as well as the use of indicators.

[Download the guide](#)

### **Social protection and social inclusion in Western Balkans in focus**

Over the past two years, the countries of the Western Balkans have moved closer to the EU. In this context, the European Commission has recently published a series of studies in order to inform the process of the accession perspective of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, as well as Kosovo in the area of social protection and social inclusion.

The studies provide an analysis of the social protection systems, the extent and pattern of poverty and social exclusion and the envisaged plans for reform of pension and healthcare systems of each country.

This series of studies on the Western Balkans will be completed with an additional report on Kosovo and the synthesis report for the region still before the end of this year.

[Download the reports](#)

**“After the global economic meltdown”: the new issue of Social Europe Journal is out!**

The latest issue of Social Europe Journal addresses the most pressing political issue of our time: The Global Economic Meltdown.

With this issue, the Social Europe Journal wants to contribute to structuring the ongoing debates and outline new policy directions. Poul Nyrup Rasmussen and Stefan Collignon go right at the heart of the crisis in their contributions on new financial regulation and what the crisis means for social democracy.

[Download the Journal issue](#)

### **Social inequalities “kill people” says WHO**

Social inequities “are killing people on a grand scale” argues the World Health Organization (WHO) in a report published in early September. “A child born in a Glasgow, Scotland, suburb can expect a life 28 years shorter than another living only 13 kilometers away”, claims the WHO.

The report acknowledges that the working environment is an essential area of action to reduce social inequities in health. The UN organization calls for improvements to the working conditions of all workers „to reduce their exposure to material hazards, work-related stress and health-damaging behaviours“.

[Download the report](#)

### **Prevention and assistance to women victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation**

The European Women’s Lobby (EWL) has just released a new publication, which outlines the context for working against trafficking in women for sexual exploitation in Europe, and highlights the achievements of the Nordic Baltic Network in strengthening support and assistance to women victims of trafficking.

The Nordic Baltic Network, comprising of NGOs and government agencies was set up in 2006, to work together to develop the best possible models to support and assist women who are trafficked in all eight participating countries: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden.

[Download it](#)

## AGENDA

### November 2008

- ✚ **20 November:** AGE Conference on "[The situation of older migrants in the European Union](#)", Brussels
- ✚ **20-21 November:** [ESIP European Conference 2008: "European citizenship, free movement and social protection"](#), Brussels
- ✚ **21 November:** [EESC conference: The European way to integration: intercultural dialogue and mutual respect](#), Brussels
- ✚ **21-22 November:** [Forum on Social experimentation in Europe](#), Paris
- ✚ **24-25 November:** [Second European Demography Forum](#), Brussels
- ✚ **24-25 November:** [Committee of the Regions forum "Intercultural dialogue at the heart of Europe's cities and regions"](#), Brussels
- ✚ **25 November:** [European conference on 'Employment in Europe 2008'](#), Brussels
- ✚ **27-28 November:** EFSC Seminar – "[Promote integration of marginalized children and youth from a migration background](#)", Verona (Italy)
- ✚ **28 November:** ECAS conference: "[Migration in the European Union – Focus on vulnerability and health](#)", Paris
- ✚ **30 November – 2 December:** [e-Inclusion Ministerial Conference](#), Vienna

### December 2008

- ✚ **1 December:** [Awareness day: Children in the Streets of Europe](#), Brussels
- ✚ **1-2 December:** European Day of People with Disabilities Conference: "[Acting locally for a society for all](#)", Brussels
- ✚ **2 December:** [EAEA Conference "The Implementation of the European Commission's Action Plan on Adult Learning"](#), Budapest
- ✚ **3 December:** North East England Brussels office conference: "[Social inclusion through financial inclusion](#)", Brussels
- ✚ **4-5 December:** EFSC conference: "[Promoting integration of marginalized children and youth through social inclusion: schooling, vocational training and participation](#)", Verona (Italy)
- ✚ **8-9 December:** [Eurodiaconia Dialogue Seminar - Quality in Social Care: Diaconia and the Person-Oriented Approach](#), Brussels
- ✚ **9 December:** European Cities Against Child Poverty network seminar: "[Tackling child poverty - what works best?](#)", Brussels
- ✚ **9 December:** CECODHAS – EEB conference: "[Energy efficiency in housing: EU tools to unlock the potential](#)", Brussels
- ✚ **9 December:** [Social Platform annual Conference](#), Brussels
- ✚ **11 December:** Conference on: "[Health Systems Governance in Europe: the Role of EU Law and Policy](#)", Brussels

## January 2009

- ✚ **22-23 January:** Picum International Conference on "[Undocumented Children in Europe: Invisible Victims of Immigration Restriction](#)", Brussels

## June 2009

- ✚ **22-24 June:** European Social Services Conference: "[Quality and performance in Social Services in Europe](#)", Prague

## TENDERS / GRANTS

- ✚ Call for proposals: "[Learning for change - Setting up learning networks under the ESF 2007-2013](#)" – Deadline: **28 November 2008**
- ✚ Call for tenders: [Study on social dialogue in the Western Balkan countries](#) – Deadline: **10 December 2008**
- ✚ Call for proposals: [OSI Roma Decade Matching Fund for 2008](#)
- ✚ [Call for Proposals: Youth in Action - Programme \(2007 - 2013\)](#) (Deadline: **from 01.02.2007 up to the end of 2013**. Deadlines vary according to Action. Please contact the European or your National Agency)

## SHARING INFORMATION

Do you wish to share information, announce an event or a publication? Please, send it to [team@eapn.eu](mailto:team@eapn.eu)

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This programme was established to financially support the implementation of the objectives of the European Union in the employment and social affairs area, as set out in the Social Agenda, and thereby contribute to the achievement of the Lisbon Strategy goals in these fields.

The seven-year Programme targets all stakeholders who can help shape the development of appropriate and effective employment and social legislation and policies, across the EU-27, EFTA and EU candidate and pre-candidate countries.

To that effect, PROGRESS purports at:

- providing analysis and policy advice on employment, social solidarity and gender equality policy areas;
- monitoring and reporting on the implementation of EU legislation and policies in employment, social solidarity and gender equality policy areas;
- promoting policy transfer, learning and support among Member States on EU objectives and priorities; and
- relaying the views of the stakeholders and society at large.

For more information see:

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/progress/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/progress/index_en.html)

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