

NEWS FROM EAPN

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2010 Coalition Press Release: Social NGOs present their key demands for 2010

On 19 January, two days before the official Opening of the European Year in Madrid by the European institutions, the Coalition of NGO networks – the EY 2010 NGO Coalition - active in fighting poverty and social exclusion have held a press conference to present its key demands for the outcome of 2010, European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, at *Les Petits Riens*, a Brussels-based social economy enterprise. Fintan Farrell, EAPN's Director, was amongst the 5 representatives of the Coalition. Read [more on the 2010 Coalition's website](#).

Spanish Presidency contributes to a strong momentum for the 2010 EU Year for combating Poverty and Social Exclusion

The Spanish Presidency hosted the official opening event for the 2010 European Year for combating Poverty and Social Exclusion in Madrid on 21 January. The presence of the President of the Spanish Government **José Luis Zapatero** and a number of senior Spanish Government Ministers as well as the presence of the President of the European Commission **José Manuel Barroso** and high level interest from the Spanish media, ensured that the Opening event contributed to building a strong momentum for the 2010 year. One of the high points of the Opening event was the round table on testimonies and proposals from persons with direct experience of poverty and social exclusion. In the coming days the Spanish Presidency should present some key conclusions arising from the Opening event.

Read [more](#) (EAPN's short report on the Opening event and EAPN's letter to Prime Ministers as a follow up from the Opening event).

Solidarity with the people of Haiti

The European Anti Poverty Network (EAPN) and Dignity International have joined together to express their solidarity with the people of Haiti at this time of enormous suffering and struggle for survival and recovery in their country. Both organisations call on their members to take concrete measures to support the many actions aimed at assisting the people of Haiti to deal with this humanitarian disaster. Enormous efforts are needed for Haiti while ensuring that financial support and resources needed for other parts of the globe facing humanitarian crisis are not diminished. EAPN and Dignity International commit to continue

their efforts to achieve a world where resources are shared more equally, which would be a world where all countries would be better placed to deal with 'natural' disasters.

EY 2010 Event: EAPN's International Conference

On the occasion of the 2010 European Year for combating poverty and social exclusion, EAPN Ireland will be organizing an international conference on **“Building Social Europe - from Crisis to Recovery”** in Dublin, Ireland, on Friday 19 February 2010. This conference is hosted by EAPN Ireland. Read [more](#).

NEWS FROM THE EAPN NATIONAL NETWORKS

All EAPN National Networks' and European organizations' contact details and websites are available on EAPN's website [here](#).

EAPN's Responses to the EU 2020 consultation

Many EAPN members have responded to the Consultation of the European Commission on the EU 2020 strategy. All contributions should be available on the [Consultation's website](#).

EAPN Portugal

Project Participar +

Several people experiencing poverty were invited to participate in working meetings, which took place in Bucharest and Madrid. The objective, in a certain way, was to achieve a diagnostic of the realities in each country, regarding poverty and social exclusion, to listen, in the first person, about the difficulties, but also about the good practices. The final outcome will be a report destined to the European Commission. The project is called Participar + and it involves Belgium, Romania, Madrid and Portugal. It started in September last year and will end in the following month of July. Read [more](#).

Portuguese schools anticipates the launch of the European Year

In order to mark the European Year combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, EAPN Portugal and the artistic school Escola Artística Soares de Reis (EASS) have designed a common project, which is the creation of a piece of jewellery which symbolises the message that the pupils of the Escola Artística Soares de Reis (EASS) wish to pass on to everybody: the proportion of wealth distribution in the world is unequal. *"It corresponds to a ratio of 80/20, which means that 20% of the population hold 80% of the wealth and the other way around"*, explains Sara Almeida, pointing out to all the symbols incorporated in the jewel. *"The fight against poverty is the responsibility of everyone of us. We need to rethink the European social model. We can't have a two-speed Europe. 80 million people in the European Union live in poverty, 19 million of which are children. We need to act"*, said Sandra Araújo, national technical coordinator of the Portuguese Anti-Poverty Network. Read [more](#).

EAPN Ireland: Closure of Community Development Projects Will Seriously and Permanently Undermine Local Efforts to Tackle Poverty

Responding on the **decision to abolish nearly 30 Community Development projects** across the country, Anna Visser Director of the European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland said that the move *"will seriously and permanently undermine local efforts to tackle poverty and raises serious questions about the Government's commitment to facilitating active participation in European Affairs at local and community level"*. *"EAPN Ireland has worked in partnership with community development projects on issues like European social policy, structural funds, and the future of Europe for over two decades and CDPs have been invaluable advocates for raising awareness about the importance of Europe at local and community level. The decision to cut funding for projects is short-sighted and will have*

serious implications for hard-pressed communities right around the country." To know more, contact mark@eapn.ie.

EAPN Belgium "The future of Europe: a new strategy needed"

On 29 January 2010, the Belgian Anti-Poverty Network (BAPN) organised its first event of the year 2010. This event was part of a reaction to the old Lisbon Strategy (2000-2010) whose aim is to make the European Union *"...The most dynamic and competitive knowledge-based economy in the world capable of sustainable economical growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion..."*... *"If we look at today's Europe that "we have created based on this strategy", we can see that the gap between rich and poor has only risen and the current crisis is a consequence of the inadequacies of the system that does not work"*. On 29 January 2010, people experiencing poverty first took the floor to present their new strategy and recommendations for the post 2010 legacy. Please find more information on EAPN Belgium's website www.bapn.be. Contact: karolien.schepens@bapn.be.

EAPN Austria: International Conference "Growth in Transition"

EAPN Austria (die Armutskonferenz) was invited to contribute to the international conference "Growth in Transition", that took place at the Auditorium of Science in Vienna on 28-29 January. This conference was an event of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management in cooperation with SERI and Karuna Consult as well as various well-known institutions. The topics were fair and sustainable growth strategies for the 21st century based on subjects such as money and finance, growth and resource use, social justice and poverty, sustainable production and consumption, regional aspects, macroeconomics of sustainability, quality of life and measurements of prosperity, work, governance as well as sustainable management. For more information, click [here](#).

EAPN Italy: participation of people experiencing poverty

Within the European project "Europa s.p.a." a new meeting on participation and people experiencing poverty was held in Bologna, on 28 January. The event gathered people in poverty, community organizers, social operators and local authorities to discuss how the expertise of people experiencing poverty may sustain the OMC/inclusion and the fight against poverty and social exclusion.

Hearings of the European Commissioners-designate in the European Parliament

Between 11 and 19 January, the European Parliament held a series of public hearings with the 26 candidate Commissioners put forward by the Council and Commission President José-Manuel Barroso. The "Commissioners-designate" faced three hours of questioning by MEPs sitting on the committees relevant to their proposed portfolios. They were evaluated on their specific knowledge and competence in their field, including their European commitment, their independence and their communication skills. Read [more](#).

EU calls for comments on PROGRESS programme

Progress is the EU's employment and social solidarity programme, set up to provide financial support for the attainment of the European Union's objectives in employment, social affairs and equal opportunities as set out in the Social Agenda.

In line with the Lisbon Strategy its mission is to support the Member States in delivering more and better jobs and a more cohesive society. Read [more and fill in the questionnaire](#).

'Wise men' discuss EU's 2020 strategy

Spanish Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero hosted a meeting with prominent EU 'wise men' in Madrid on 5 January to discuss Europe's economic and social strategy for the next decade. Former European Commission President Jacques Delors and former Spanish Prime Minister Felipe González were the high-level personalities invited to the meeting, hosted at the governmental palace of Moncloa on Tuesday. Read [more](#).

Barroso pledges 'to fight' for EU social agenda

On 16 December 2009, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso faced accusations from MEPs that his draft EU 2020 strategy for economic and environmental renewal lacked a sufficient social dimension. Barroso, responding to a barrage of questions from MEPs during a one-hour 'question time' in Strasbourg, was repeatedly challenged over the lack of social aspects in the strategy. UK Socialist MEP Stephen Hughes cited claims by the **European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN)** that the 2020 strategy was "*a step backwards from the commitments of successive European Councils to strengthen the social dimension*" of EU policies. Read [more](#).

European Council to boosting economic growth

The 27 heads of State and government will be meeting on 11th February for an extraordinary European Council devoted to boosting economic growth said the President of the European Council, Herman van Rompuy on 4th January. "We need more economic growth in view of funding a sound basis for our social model and to protect our European way of life," he explained. Read [more](#).

Andor eyes high ranking in Barroso II

As a result of the financial and economic crises, László Andor, Hungary's commissioner-designate for employment and social affairs, expects to become a heavyweight in the Barroso II executive. "*Employment and social issues will be key areas of EU policy, both in the short and long term,*" Andor declared in a recent hearing before the Hungarian parliament. The crisis is not over yet and tackling the Europe's record-unemployment will be a crucial part of his future job, Andor admitted. Read [more](#).

Eurozone jobless rate jumps to 10%

Eurozone unemployment jumped to an 11-year high in November and is likely to rise further this year, adding to the instability of an economic recovery now based on fickle inventory rebuilding and exports. The European Union's statistics office Eurostat said the number of people without jobs rose by 102,000 in November to 15.712 million, or 10% of the workforce in the 16 countries using the euro - the highest since August 1998. Read [more](#).

Parliament sees crisis as 'opportunity' for tax harmonisation

The economic crisis could present an opportunity to harmonise taxation policy across EU member states, according to officials at the European Parliament who contributed to a major report on the future development of the EU. Policy experts advising the Parliament are predicting deeper integration of European economies and potentially closer ties on direct taxes – a suggestion likely to raise the hackles of several Anglo-Saxon and Eastern European finance ministers.

The comprehensive [document](#), released with minimal fanfare at the end of 2009, was prepared by researchers in the EU assembly's five policy departments. Read [more](#).

Tackling health inequality could boost economy

Addressing health inequality in Europe would provide a long-term economic boost, according to a report launched on 11 January in Paris. Health inequality is estimated to cost around 1.4% of GDP, prompting calls for investment in social and health services.

This comes at a time when governments are looking to curtail public spending, something outgoing EU Health Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou has warned would be counterproductive. Read [more](#).

NEWS FROM NGOs AND OTHERS

Read NGOs specific political demands for the outcome of the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Exclusion on the [2010 Coalition of Social NGOs website](#).

Click on each organisation's page to read their specific messages.

Caritas Europa has launched its Campaign for the European Year 2010 "Zero Poverty - Act Now"

Poverty is a scandal. What else can it be when just over 40 years after man first walked on the moon, there are still humans unable to provide for their most basic needs, like food, shelter, warmth. It is with this central message - poverty is unacceptable in the 21st century - that Caritas Europa launched on 27 January its **Zero Poverty campaign** for the European Year 2010 for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion at the European Parliament in Brussels. For more information, please contact amazella@caritas-europa.org. Petition soon online on the 2010 Coalition's website.

ETUC joins the European campaign against poverty and social exclusion

Poverty and social exclusion are evils still rooted in the European Union. And the crisis has made the situation even worse. Because of its long standing involvement in those fields, the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) will take part in the "European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion" launched by the EU Executive and being implemented by the Commission. Read [more](#).

Permanent Forum of European Civil Society

The European Commission launched an appeal for contributions from civil society under [the future EU 2020 Strategy](#), in preparation to replace the so-called "Lisbon Strategy". The Permanent Forum of European Civil Society forwarded its [contribution](#) (in French) on December 20, 2009 to the Commission.

COFACE

Position paper on siblings and persons with care needs

The paper first explains why the issue of siblings and dependency is a complex one for the quality of life of persons with care needs and their families. It goes on detailing how this challenge is taken up by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The paper then presents key measures to support siblings during childhood and adolescence on the one hand, and in adult life on the other hand. Finally, it stresses what should be the role of the European Union in this respect. This policy position can be [downloaded here](#) and is attached (Word).

Response to the European Commission's Public Consultation on the preparation of a new EU Disability Strategy 2010-2020

In this response, COFACE first wishes to express its support to the European Disability Forum proposal for a European Pact on Equal Rights of Persons with disabilities. It then advocates for an acknowledgement of the family dimension of disability and disability policies in the new strategy. This implies a mainstreaming of this aspect, stronger cooperation and coordination between European Commission's services, and a continuous

involvement of organisations representing families of persons with disabilities. Finally, COFACE asks that special attention be paid to the situation of persons with severe disabilities and/or complex needs. COFACE's response can be [downloaded here](#).

The Roma Virtual Network: Roma are victims of Europe's 'undeclared Apartheid'

Violence, poverty and widespread discrimination have made Roma communities the "punchbags" of Europe and victims of an "undeclared Apartheid" system. These were among the conclusions reached by an expert panel which took part in the Council of Europe's 'Viewpoint' human rights talk show. Read [more](#).

ILGA: Parliament of Portugal takes an important step towards marriage equality

Friday 8 January 2010, the Parliament of Portugal passed a bill to remove marriage discrimination. Sadly, at the same time it rejected the proposal to allow entitlement of adoption by same-sex couples. The bill still needs ratification by the President Anibal Cavaco Silva. The ratification would make Portugal the sixth country in Europe to allow marriages of same-sex partners after the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Norway and Sweden. Read [more](#).

PUBLICATIONS

European Commission: Gearing up for the 2010 European Year

This edition of the Exchange newsletter of the European Commission focuses on the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. In addition to outlining the aims and objectives of the Year, articles focus on the events and activities that will take place at both EU and national level. Read [more](#).

European Commission: Monthly Labour Market Monitor January 2010

Latest data for November/December 2009 show that EU labour markets continue to weaken, although at a more moderate pace. Unemployment is still rising in most Member States, but labour markets have shown stronger signs of stabilising in certain countries, confirming an easing in the deterioration of the EU labour market overall. Nevertheless, despite improving economic prospects and sentiment, the labour market outlook remains unfavourable for this year and is only expected to show a gradual improvement afterwards. This month's edition of the Monthly Labour Market Monitor includes a special focus on the shipbuilding sector. Read [more](#).

European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research: Women's Work and Pensions: What is Good, What is Best?

This publication aims at exploring difficulties women face in working life and retirement - and what could be done to achieve more gender equality and fairness for women and men alike. Leading pension experts, predominantly women, from East and West, North and South of Europe, analyse the basic challenges through single and comparative country studies. The editors provide facts and figures on women's lives, work and pensions and draw theoretical lessons and practical policy conclusions from the studies and gendered statistical indicators. [Access the book's page](#) with more details and the sample chapter by Annika Sundén.

Report on the links between migration and discrimination

This report analyses discrimination based on nationality to identify whether third-country nationals in the European Union are protected from discrimination on grounds of nationality, as well as on grounds of race, ethnic origin or religion in situations where nationality is used as a proxy for these grounds. Written by Olivier De Schutter, it is a product of the European Network of Independent Legal Experts in the non-discrimination field. The report identifies the gaps in the degree of protection afforded to third-country nationals by examining international and European human rights law, national constitutions, and the domestic legislation of EU Member States. Read [more](#).

Newsletter of the project "Raising awareness campaign on social inclusion and social protection in Belgium, Romania and Bulgaria"

The 'Pour la Solidarité' think tank has published its second newsletter of the European project PROGRESS on "Raising awareness campaign on social inclusion and social protection in Belgium, Romania and Bulgaria". This second issue provides information on the activities which took place within the framework of the project and on their impact in terms of participation of the civil society. It also contains interesting data on the question of the minimum income in Bulgaria and an update of the European social inclusion and social protection process. Read [more](#).

Council of Europe book: "The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance - Its first 15 years"

This book provides a detailed assessment of the first 15 years of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance. ECRI's terms of reference deriving from the Vienna Plan of Action were to "review member States' legislation, policies and other measures to combat racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and intolerance, and their effectiveness" and "propose further action at local, national and European level". This book examines how ECRI has developed and fulfilled this mandate. Read [more](#).

Manifesto "Together against Racism and Incivility"

This is an initiative of Czech non-governmental organisations Romea and Slovo 21. With this Manifesto they would like to achieve the improvement of the social climate in the Czech Republic, which is now heavily distorted by extremist speeches and denigration of people from different social groups. Read [more](#).

FEANTSA European Journal of Homelessness: "Governance and Homelessness"

The European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA) has published the latest volume of the European Journal of Homelessness. It looks at the issue of governance in relation to homelessness, examining comparative dimensions of homelessness and governance in Europe and presenting a number of country specific case-studies. A selection of think pieces cover a range of governance issues and reviews of several recent books and reports on governance are included. Read [more](#).

FEANTSA's Autumn 2009 edition of *Homeless in Europe*

FEANTSA's tri-annual magazine, is now available [online](#)!

The theme of this issue is "Participation of People Experiencing Homelessness: Sharing the Power and Working Together".

EPC: EU 2010 – a reappraisal

Europe enters a new decade facing strong internal and external challenges, says this commentary by Antonio Missioli. However welcome, the Lisbon Treaty looks more a response to past rather than future challenges, which cannot generate the required political will or strategic vision. Externally Europe will need to get its act together and fight to make its voice heard among the 21st century's new global players, but it will only be taken

seriously if it can generate growth rates to match those of the emerging economic powers – and reform itself accordingly. Access the [publication](#).

Interesting links

- Website of the Spanish Presidency: www.eu2010.es
- [EC ongoing consultations](#)
- [Engage](#), the Social Platform newsletter, aims to promote the activities of European social NGOs and their fight for a more just and equal Social Europe.

AGENDA

February 2010

3 Feb: Solidar [Silver Rose Awards](#), Brussels.

19 Feb: [EAPN's international conference on "Building Social Europe - from Crisis to Recovery" in Dublin](#), Ireland.

22 Feb: Integrating Cities process, fourth conference in the series, "[Towards a shared vision for migrant integration in European cities](#)", taking place on 22 February 2010 in London, UK.

24 Feb: European Roma and Travellers Forum is pleased to invite you to participate at the **Fifth Plenary Assembly of the European Roma and Travellers Forum**, Palais de l'Europe, Room 1, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France. For all information and registration write to (ertf@ertf.org).

24-26 Feb: [European SMES SEMINAR: "Invisible wounds – Migrants Dignity and Vulnerability"](#), Athens.

March 2010

1 March: CECOP working meeting with stakeholders on social enterprises / enterprises of general interest "Social enterprises: what is their future in Europe?", Brussels. Get the programme in English and French writing to cecop@cecop.coop.

11-12 March: [World Diversity Leadership Summit Europe](#), Vienna, Austria.

18-19 March: MINORITYMEDIA and the research centre MIGRINTER [international conference on ethnic minority media](#), Poitiers, France.

April 2010

29 April: AGE [EU Day on solidarity between generations](#).

TENDERS / GRANTS

Calls for proposals

- Find here [all calls](#) concerning the **7th Framework Programme (FP7)**.
- [Youth in Action - Programme \(2007 - 2013\)](#) - Deadline: **from 01 February 2007 up to the end of 2013**. Deadlines vary according to Action. Please contact the European Commission or your National Agency).
- [Youth in Action 2010 Priorities](#) – several deadlines: see [here](#).
- [Europe for Citizens Programme - Support to projects initiated by civil society organisations](#) - Deadline: **15 February 2010**
- [EURES European Employment Services](#) – Deadline: **22 February 2010**.
- [Europe for Citizens Programme - Action 1, Measure 2.1: Citizens' projects](#) – Deadline: **01 June 2010**
- [Europe for Citizens Programme - Action 4: Active European Remembrance aiming at preserving the sites and archives associated with deportations as well as the commemorating of victims of Nazism and Stalinism](#) – deadline: **30 April 2010**.
- [Lifelong Learning Programme - 2010 call](#)

Deadlines

- Comenius, Grundtvig: **In-service Training**: first deadline: 15 January 2010 - further deadlines: 30 April 2010, 15 September 2010
- Comenius **Assistantships**: 29 January 2010
- Leonardo da Vinci: **Mobility** (including the Leonardo Da Vinci mobility certificate); Erasmus: **Intensive Language Courses (EILC)**: 5 February 2010
- **Jean Monnet Programme**: 12 February 2010
- Comenius, Leonardo da Vinci, Grundtvig: **Partnerships**; Comenius: **Comenius Regio Partnerships**; Grundtvig: **Workshops**: 19 February 2010
- Comenius, Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, Grundtvig: **Multilateral projects, Networks and Accompanying Measures**: 26 February 2010
- Leonardo da Vinci: **Transfer of Innovation multilateral Projects**: 26 February 2010
- Erasmus: **Intensive Programmes (IP)**, **Students mobility for studies and placements** (including the Erasmus consortium placement certificate) and **Staff mobility** (teaching assignments and staff training): 12 March 2010
- Grundtvig: **Assistantships, Senior Volunteering Projects**: 31 March 2010
- **Transversal Programme**: 31 March 2010
- Transversal Programme: **Key activity 1 - Study visits**: first deadline: 31 March 2010 - second deadline: 15 October 2010
- [Europe for Citizens Programme: Active Citizens for Europe, Active civil society in Europe and Active European Remembrance](#)

Deadlines

- Action 1 Measure 1.1 Town twinning citizens' meetings: 1 February, 1 April, 1 June, 1 September 2010
- Action 1 Measure 1.2 The thematic networking of twinned towns: 1 February, 1

September 2010

- Action 1 Measure 2.1 Citizens' projects: 1 June 2010
- Action 1 Measure 2.2 Support measures: 1 June 2010
- Action 2 Measure 3 Support for projects initiated by civil society organizations: 15 February 2010
- Action 4 Active European Remembrance: 30 April 2010
- Information and training measures for workers' organizations – Deadline: **20 April 2010**.
- Europe for Citizens Programme - Active European Remembrance aiming at preserving the sites and archives associated with deportations as well as the commemorating of victims of Nazism and Stalinism - Deadline: **30 April 2010**
- Europe for Citizens Programme - Measure 2.1: Citizens' projects - Deadline: **1 June 2010**

Call for tenders

- Assistance to the Audit Board of the Administrative Commission on Social Security for Migrant Workers – Deadline: **12 Feb 2010**
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SHARING INFORMATION

Do you wish to share information, announce an event or a publication? Please, send it to team@eapn.eu

The EAPN Flash is supported by the European Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity (2007-2013).

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

EAPN is supported financially by the European Commission. The views expressed herein are those of the authors and the Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained herein.