

# 12TH EUROPEAN MEETING OF PEOPLE EXPERIENCING POVERTY

2013

## *SLOGANS OF THE NATIONAL DELEGATIONS*



BRUSSELS, 18-20 JUNE 2013

ESPLANADE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, BRUSSELS

## BACKGROUND

The European Meetings of People experiencing Poverty have played an important role in driving the development of the direct participation of people experiencing poverty. The European meeting is a key visible moment in this process but as important is that it acts as a catalyst for national process and meetings of people experiencing poverty.

The meetings have contributed to keeping poverty and social exclusion visible in the European agenda. They have contributed to some key areas of policy development such as adequacy of minimum income, child poverty, housing and homelessness, indebtedness, the links between discrimination and poverty (particularly the

realities for Roma community), and the impact of liberalization on the accessibility and affordability of public services. The meetings also contributed to the adoption of an EU poverty reduction target as an outcome from the 2010 European Year against Poverty and Social Exclusion.

In addition the meetings provide a 'barometer' in relation to social and economic developments in Europe. The processes associated to this meeting also assist in the journey for participants from 'people experiencing poverty' to 'activists with direct experience of poverty' and many past participants are now playing important roles in anti-poverty organisations.

## THE 2013 MEETING

The desire to interact with politicians and Institutional actors remains an important part of these meetings. It is very important that the meetings continue to be seen as an important part of the EU Inclusion Strategy. The 2013 meeting was held in a temporarily constructed Conference Centre on the Esplanade directly in front of the European Parliament. This allowed for greater visibility for the meeting and more interaction with the members of the European Parliament. The meeting was an important event in the calendar of the 2013 European Year of the Citizen.

The European Commission Communication (2013) 'Towards social Investment for Growth and Jobs' calls on members states to fully implement the Recommendation on Active Inclusion (2008) integrating its three pillars, adequate income support, inclusive labor markets and enabling services. The

Communication commits the Commission to develop in 2013 a common methodology for reference budgets as part of the monitoring of adequacy of income supports. The exchanges at the 2013 meeting contributed to this objective by 1) exchanging on what should be part of an essential basket of goods and services to be used in reference budgets, 2) exchanging on what are the current developments for individuals and communities in terms of the three pillars of the Active Inclusion Recommendation and 3) Exchanging on practices that people experiencing poverty and their organisations are developing to fight poverty and exclusion. In addition to this document, you can find the following two documents 1) '[General Report of the 2013 Meeting](#)' and 2) '[background preparation papers](#)' and additional information about the 2013 Meeting on [www.eapn.eu](http://www.eapn.eu).

## SLOGANS FROM THE 2013 MEETING

Delegations were asked to bring to the 2013 Meeting slogans that gives them energy for remaining active in the fight against poverty and social exclusion. These slogans or quotations came from famous people (writers, poets, singers, political activists...) or reflect the insights of people experiencing poverty coming from things said in the preparations for the meeting or by delegates at previous meetings of people experiencing poverty. The inspiration and insights captured by the slogans seem all the more necessary in this time when the policies associated to 'austerity measures' or 'fiscal consolidation' is seen by many experiencing poverty and or engaged in the fight against poverty and inequality, as a "fight against poor people rather than a fight against

poverty". This publication tries to capture the 'spirit' that was released through the slogans at the 2013 meeting and to share them with people from all walks of life, people living in poverty, activists with direct experience of poverty, people active in anti-poverty organisations, trade unionists and business people concerned for social cohesion, officials in local, national, European or International Institution's and all those concerned with developing and preserving a European Social Model.

We hope that all who look at this publication will find energy to remain active in the fight against poverty, exclusion and inequalities and the generosity of vision to fight for a good life for everybody.



Gathering at the Commemorative stone for the victims of poverty on the Esplanade in front of the European Parliament.



# AUSTRIA

Poverty creates culture: we give a bark, not the paw

Out of the dark – into the light

Falco



We can change the world

Eric Clapton

# BELGIUM

La démocratie est beaucoup trop précieuse pour la laisser aux seuls politiciens.

Democracy is too precious to leave it all up to politicians.

Armoede creëren is een schande

Creating poverty is a shame

Touche pas à ma démocratie !

Don't touch my democracy!



# BULGARIA

*Stop playing the theatre of democracy - We need genuine democracy!*

*Inequalities kill societies!*



# CZECH REPUBLIK

*Happiness is a beautiful thing but you cannot buy it with money.  
We just want a normal life.*



# DENMARK

Without the courage to dream – you don't have the power to fight!

**Homeless – not hopeless!**



# ESTONIA

Everyone deserves to live in dignity!



“The future depends on what you do today.”

Gandhi



# FINLAND

*What the expert knows, a person experiencing poverty feels.*

Pirjo Lindgren

Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings.

Nelson Mandela



# FRANCE

*La pauvreté n'est pas une fatalité, combattons là ensemble.*

*Poverty is not a destiny, let's fight it together.*

Quand j'étais petit à la maison, le plus dur c'était la fin du mois, surtout les 30 derniers jours.

When I was little, at home, the hardest was the end of the month, especially the 30 last days.

Coluche



# GERMANY

*Never give up.*

*I have a dream of a world without poverty.*



# Greece

*Poverty and hunger have no country.*



*Be the change you want to see in the world!*



# HUNGARY

*The Hungarian workfare system is a form of slavery which the EU should oppose.*

*Not only the unity in diversity makes the world beautiful, but the diversity in unity as well.*

Umberto Eco



# ICELAND

*No one can do everything but everyone can do something.*

*Never deprive someone of hope, it might be all they have.*

H. Jackson Brown Jr.



# IRELAND



*Overcoming poverty is not a task of charity, it is a task of justice.*

*I put my pride in my pocket a long time ago*

# ITALY

*The poverty of many is the wealth of the few.*

*Since companies exist, a government always has been, by force of circumstances, an insurance contract concluded between the rich against the poor.*

Honoré de Balzac



# LITHUANIA

*The bread cries when it is eaten by an idler.*

Lithuanian folk  
proverb

*We are the world.*

Michael Jackson



# LUXEMBURG

*Donnez la parole aux plus démunis : ils font partie de la solution, pas du problème*

Give a voice to the most deprived; they are part of the solution, not the problem

*Occupons les  
logements vides !  
Let's occupy empty  
houses!*

*Oublions la peur,  
osons demander de  
l'aide !*

Let's forget fear,  
let's dare asking for  
help!





# MACEDONIA -FYROM

*Poverty can turn a person into a flaming torch for change and revolution without which mankind would come to a standstill.*

Jean Sasson

*Minimum income – my right to be always equal part of society.*

Sinolicka Trpkova



# MALTA

*See... reach... empower.*

*Assist me to see a better future.*



# NETHERLANDS

*Let politicians fight against each other instead of fighting poor people.*

Loesje

*The most severe form of violence is poverty.*

Ghandi



# NORWAY

**INCLUSION! NOT EXCLUSION!**

*Poverty is like a punishment for a crime you didn't commit!*

Eli Khamarov



# POLAND

*The situation of the poorest citizens should determine the development of our society.*

Bronisław Geremek



*When you're homeless and jobless, you are treated like nobody!*

# PORTUGAL

*Poverty is not an accident! It's a political choice. Fight Poverty now to save Democracy and Freedom! Break the silence!*

Portuguese Delegation at the 12nd European Meeting

*Fight the poverty of today, not forgetting that of yesterday and preventing the future one!*

Sérgio Aires





# SLOVAKIA

*Dignified life for all, Europe with HUMAN FACE*



# SPAIN

*No to poverty. No to social exclusion. Yes to real change  
Indifference is the worst attitude.*

José Luís Sampedro



# SWEDEN

*If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito.*

Dalai Lama

*Indebted: never free.*



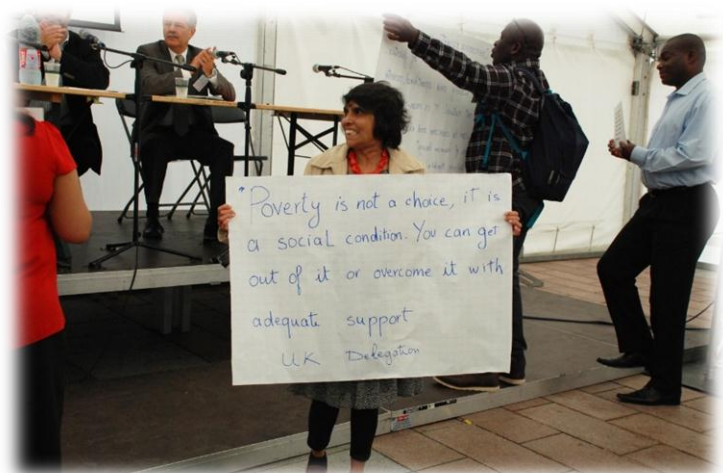
# UNITED KINGDOM

Poverty is not a choice, it is a social condition. You can get out of it or overcome it with adequate support.

UK Delegation at the 12nd European Meeting

*Overcoming poverty is not a task of charity, it is an act of justice. Like slavery and Apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings.*

Nelson Mandela







## Acknowledgments

Coordinator European Meeting: Micheline GERONDAL

Report: Fintan Farrell and Nellie Epinat

Photographs: Cover Photo UK Delegation, 2007 European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty  
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The 12th European Meeting of People experiencing Poverty was organised by EAPN with the support of:

- The EU Commission
- The EU Parliament
- The EAPN Fund
- In association with the Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union



IN ASSOCIATION WITH



The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the position of the Institutional partners who supported this meeting.

ISBN: 978-2-930252-77-3



## INFORMATION AND CONTACT

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See all information linked to Participation on EAPN website here:

<http://www.eapn.eu/en/what-we-do/issues-we-focus-on/getting-more-participation-by-people-experiencing-poverty>

All 2013 EAPN photos can be found on

<https://picasaweb.google.com/EAPNpictures2>

See EAPN publications and activities on [www.eapn.eu](http://www.eapn.eu)



**The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) is an independent network of nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) and groups involved in the fight against poverty and social exclusion in the Member States of the European Union, established in 1990.**

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EAPN is supported by the Directorate – General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion of the European Commission. Its funding is provided for under the European Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity PROGRESS (2007 – 2013).

For more information:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=327&langId=en>

The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the position of the European Commission.