

# How will the Europe 2020 Strategy Mid-Term Review reduce poverty and inequality?



European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN)  
SEMINAR AND ROUNDTABLE DEBATE

Friday 03/10/2014 – Brussels

## PROGRAMME



## Introduction

In March 2013, the Commission published their Taking Stock<sup>1</sup> assessment of the Europe 2020 process, with a public consultation launched in May. The Communication in part recognizes new challenges facing Europe following the crisis and underlines key shortfalls particularly the mixed progress on the social targets and failure to get ownership with key stakeholders.

However, for EAPN, representing thousands of grass-root organisations working directly with people facing poverty, this assessment does not go far enough.

The EU faces a gaping credibility gap, with poverty rates increased to nearly 125 million, an increase of nearly 6.6 million since the start of Europe 2020, and with a growing disaffection with the role that the EU itself appears to have played in the process: supporting austerity policies, with concerns over limited democratic legitimacy.

EAPN's assessments<sup>2</sup> by its members who have attempted to engage in the European Semester at national and EU level since the start of the Europe 2020 strategy in 2010, only underline the seriousness of this failure.

With the new European Parliament just in place, EAPN got the support of more than 10% of elected MEPs from all parties supporting our pledge on poverty. The role of the new Parliament will be crucial to press for a strategy with the new Commission and other EU institutions that can really make a difference on poverty and for Social Europe.

## Objectives

The aim of the seminar is to assess why Europe 2020 and the Semester has failed to deliver on poverty, participation and growing inequality and to discuss concrete recommendations for change to feed into the Mid-Term Review process. The Seminar aims to open a space for dialogue between EU Institutions and other stakeholders on how real progress on the poverty target can be made in the European Semester and Europe 2020 through genuine and

meaningful participation with civil society organisations and people in poverty themselves.

## Venue & Programme

The seminar will take place in:

Jacques Brel gîte, 30 rue de la Sablonnière, 1000 Brussels (room Paul Delvaux) from 9.00am to 1.00pm.

Coffee and refreshments, and lunch will be available.

## Participants

The seminar is free and open to any EU or national stakeholder. No costs can be covered except for the 35 EAPN members who will participate from the national level, including people with direct experience of poverty. Around 100 will participate in total.



This conference is supported by: The European Community Progress Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity (2007-2013). The views contained in this document do not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Commission.

*Photo:* European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty, 2013 © Rebecca Lee, for EAPN.

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<sup>1</sup> [EC Communication: Taking Stock of Europe 2020 \(March 2014\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> See EAPN assessments of the NRPs – 2013: [Widening the GAP](#) and [proposals for CSR recommendations 2014](#).

# Programme

## How will the Europe 2020 Strategy Mid-Term Review Reduce poverty and inequality?

Seminar and Roundtable Debate hosted by EAPN

Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2014, 9.00 am-1.00 pm

Jacques Brel gîte, 30 rue de la Sablonnière, 1000 Brussels

### 8.30 Registration

*Chair Barbara Helfferich, EAPN Director*

### 9.00 Opening Session

- Introduction by Sérgio Aires, EAPN President
- Commissioner László Andor, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (video)
- Opening Speech: Bart Vanhercke, Director of OSE - *Can the EU become a Social Union?*

### 9.30 Session 1: Why is Europe 2020 still failing on poverty?

- Voices from the ground: inputs from People with Direct Experience of Poverty (video)
- Graciela Malgesini, Chair of the EAPN EU Inclusion Strategies Group, EAPN Assessment of Europe 2020/European Semester – 2014 NRPs/CSRs
- Lieve Franssen, Director of Europe 2020 Social Policy, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

### 10.15 Discussion with panel and audience

### 10.45 Coffee Break

### 11.15 Session 2: What needs to change? What recommendations for the Mid-Term Review

- Paul Ginnell, Chair of the EAPN EU Inclusion Strategies Group, EAPN Proposals for the Mid-Term Review

### 11.30 Roundtable discussion with EU stakeholders

- Muriel Rabau, Vice-Chair, Social Protection Committee
- Egbert Holthuis, Head of Unit, European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
- Jean Lambert, MEP, Greens/EF European Parliament
- Ellen Nygren, Advisor, ETUC
- Mary Collins, Policy Officer, EWL, EU Alliance for a democratic, social and sustainable Semester (EU Semester Alliance)

### 12.30 Debate with the audience

### 12.50 Final remarks: Sérgio Aires, President of EAPN

13.00 Light buffet lunch provided for all participants