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**E10. Prioritising 5-6 themes for EAPN for the next 5 years**

**1. Background**

In Phase 1 of the Strategic Thinking process, we recognised that we tend to focus on too many different thematic areas, and we thus spread ourselves too thin – we don’t make enough of a meaningful impact on the issues, because we don’t spend enough time pushing for change. A clear agreement from phase 1 was that we should focus on no more than 5-6 priority themes over the next 5-year period.

**2. What could these themes be?**

The Theory of Change, agreed in Phase 2, highlighted the following potential priority themes for EAPN:

1. **Social Protection Systems**, with a focus on **Minimum Income**.
2. **Living Wages**
3. **Precarious work** and **digitalisation**
4. Equal access to **high quality social services**
5. **Social and economic rights**
6. The impact of **technological and environmental changes** on poverty
7. A **‘beyond’ SDGs** / Europe specific antipoverty agenda

In 2019, we have agreed (via the Work Programme) to focus on:

1. **Future of Europe**
2. **Policy and Inequality** Watch
3. Principle 1 EPSR: Right to **quality and inclusive education, training and life-long learning**.
4. Principle 6 EPSR: **Wages**: right to fair wages that provide for a decent standard of living.
5. Principle 12 EPSR: **Social Protection:** all workers, and under comparable conditions self-employed, have a right to adequate social protection
6. Principle 14 EPSR: **Minimum Income:** right to adequate minimum income ensuring a life in dignity at all stages of life
7. Principle 20 EPSR: **Access to Essential Services** – of good quality, including water, sanitation, energy, transport, financial services.
8. **Gender equality** (2 pager)
9. **Multidimensional definition of poverty** (2 pager)
10. **Social protection and minimum income** (2 pager)
11. **Participation of PeP** (2 pager, and developing training and methodology)

We have also focused recently on the **MFF**, and on **Financing for Social Protection**.

**3. How these should be agreed?**

Given the clear agreement in June 2018, for EAPN to be impactful and effective, we must select our 6 priority issues, and focus on these issues for the next 5 – 6 year. This will give us the time to develop:

* Structures to develop work on these themes
* A body of expertise on these themes
* Clear positions on these themes
* Clear political strategies

**Bureau Proposal, for decision**

**The Ex Co (which is mandated to provide strategic guidance to EAPN structures), proposes 6 priorities to the General Assembly (which is mandated to set the strategic priorities of EAPN) this September.**

**This proposal should be based on the following procedure:**

1. **Initial discussion in Ex Co in April, selecting top 10 possible themes from the above, based on their strategic importance and EAPN’s ability to make political impact on these themes, working with and through the membership. This discussion should consider the proposals from the EUISG, who discussed this in April.**
2. **Feedback from EAPN members on 10 themes, with priorities. The proposal will be shared electronically with the following EAPN Google Groups: EUISG, PeP National Coordinators, European Organisations, Comm’On.**
3. **Final discussion at Ex Co in June, leading to selection of top 6 which would be proposed to the General Assembly.**

**4. What role of People Experiencing Poverty?**

At this stage of the Strategic Thinking process, where structures are being rethought, the Bureau suggests that it is appropriate for People Experiencing Poverty to be consulted directly via the group of National Coordinators.

In the future, when the Strategic Thinking process has been finalised and EAPN has acted accordingly, there may be more space for people experiencing poverty to have more direct leadership in selecting these topics.