***Task Force 1: Monitoring the implementation of the (at least) 20% of the European Social Fund (ESF) that should be devoted to fight against Poverty during the period 2014-2020.***

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| **Name of Proposed Task Force: Monitoring 20% Poverty) and Code of Conduct on partnership (short name proposed: MESF 20%** |
| **Objective of the Task Force and desired output (please also indicate the main objective in our Strategic Plan (2012-2014):**    **Aim and Objectives**  The main *aim* of the TF would be to monitor the implementation of the 20% on poverty and the partnership principle and to propose guidelines for better implementation.  The *specific objectives* of the Task Force would be to:   * To produce a key instrument to easily monitor the implementation of the ESF with a concrete focus on the commitment of using at least 20% in the fight against poverty and social exclusion and the partnership principle/code of conduct confirming what our vision of what the fight against poverty should measure. * To produce an assessment of implementation, based on member’s inputs, * To highlight good practices, * To provide guidelines for actions that would deliver on the commitments. * To disseminate and lobby on the findings.   **Justification**  The fact that the European Union came to a historical decision of devoting at least 20% of the ESF to the fight against Poverty, supported by EAPN’s successful [campaign EU money for poverty](file://\\eapn-cloud\elc\Shared\EAPN\1.%20Policy\EU%20Inclusion%20Strategies%20Group\Task%20Forces\7.%20Structural%20Funds%20Task%20Force%20(2014)\Strategic%20Objective%201.1:%20EAPN%20will%20work%20to%20ensure%20that%20the%20Europe%202020%20Strategy,%20the%20Platform%20against%20Poverty%20and%20the%20Social%20Inclusion%20strategy%20(Social%20OMC),%20the%20European%20Employment%20Strategy%20(EES)%20and%20Cohesion%20Policy%20(Structural%20Funds)%20deliver%20progress%20to:%20effectively%20mainstream%20social%20concerns,%20reduce%20poverty%20and%20inequality%20and%20ensure%20that%20public%20policies,%20programmes%20and%20intervention%20reach%20people%20living%20in%20poverty,%20including%20the%20most%20disadavantaged.), and the agreement of a new Code of Conduct on partnership, it is an opportunity that EAPN must seize as a top priority. In the actual context, where the revision of the 2020 strategy is delayed and may not introduce sufficient relevant changes, the use of SF for poverty and the implementation of the new obligations on partnership, becomes an increasing priority and a key area where National Networks and European Organization’s could have a concrete role. Even in the absence of a transparent set of EU guidelines for the implementation of this recommendation, there is a concrete compromise and the European Commission is actively monitoring what’s going on at the national level. On the other hand, this is also an opportunity to clearly specify what is fighting poverty and what is not, and how the EU funds can best help, as well as to provide support to NGOs considering applying for SF to deliver under this principle. It is a powerful *momentum* to set clear criteria (in different areas and priorities) and to monitor the implementation. This work should build on the existing work of EAPN, particularly the recent [Tool Kit](http://www.eapn.eu/images/stories/docs/EAPN-position-papers-and-reports/2014-Toolkit-StructuralFunds-EN.pdf) to support engagement in the managing authorities, new round, Handbook on Good Practices, as well as the [mapping document](http://www.eapn.eu/en/news-and-publications/publications/eapn-position-papers-and-reports/structural-funds-2014-2020-what-room-for-social-inclusion-and-the-involvement-of-ngos): (what room for social inclusion and the involvement of NGOs). The work should feed directly to EAPN’s input to the Structured Dialogue working group, organized by the European Commission, and to EP and other actors.  **Strategic Plan reference:**  Knowing that EAPN is in a process of reviewing the Strategic Plan (a new one should be approved in June 2015), but taking in consideration that this kind of action must be developed in the framework of a strategic approach, the work of this TF should deliver on the current Strategic Plan:  *Goal 1: A social and sustainable development model that tackles poverty, social exclusion and inequalities is at the heart of decision-making in Europe, Objective 1.1 and 1.2*: *EAPN will work to ensure that the Europe 2020 Strategy, the Platform against Poverty and the Social Inclusion strategy (Social OMC), the European Employment Strategy (EES) and Cohesion Policy (Structural Funds) deliver progress to: effectively mainstream social concerns, reduce poverty and inequality and ensure that public policies, programmes and intervention reach people living in poverty, including the most disadvantaged; working to support its members to effectively engage in public debates and national and EU policy-making on poverty, social exclusion and inequality.*  **Proposed actions:**  The in-depth of the actions and its concrete programming / planning will be the first task to be developed by the TF members. However, and in coherence with the proposed objectives, we would like to already propose a minimum framework of what should be done.   1. On a basis of a set of indicators to be identified (based on available literature about criteria to fight poverty at different levels and EAPN’s Tool Kit’s and other publications and priorities) to develop a **permanent Barometer** of the implementation of the ESF. These indicators should be drawn having as a basis the code of conduct on partnership and social impact measurement procedures. There should be possible to draw a European Barometer but also national Barometers. 2. On the basis of the barometer, carry out a **first mapping** involving members of the EUISG on the current implementation in the form of a short report and an interactive display on the EAPN Website 3. In order to enhance what’s working and inspire other stakeholders to follow the same kind of approaches, **a section on good practices** on the basis of the same indicators identified should be produced. In this first year, given lack of resources and the time limit, this could be based on two or three priorities (Child Poverty, Homeless, Roma, integrated active inclusion, for instance). 4. Develop a set of **short guidelines** to support better implementation of the objective and partnership principle. 5. Agree an short **Advocacy and Dissemination** Action Plan. |
| **Membership of Task Force:**  The Task Force would be led by the TF proposer (EAPN Portugal), and supported by the EAPN secretariat (Sian Jones), and include 5 full members. There should be 4 representatives from national networks and preferably one from the EOs. It will be vital to involve at least 3 members who have concrete experience of Structural Funds implementation or monitoring, or who have experience of participating in a Structural Fund project at national level. Even if there is a limited number of direct participants involved in the work of the TF, we must be open to the indirect participation of other members which specific expertise could support our work – even if they don’t have the availability to fully follow the work of the TF, namely its meetings (i.e. for instance on supporting the research by inputting with recommendations, reading documents, disseminating the outputs…). During the implementation, members should ensure the participation of people with direct experience of poverty. The proposals and follow up will be discussed with the EUISG.  **Criteria for selection**:   * 1. Experience in the monitoring and/or the implementation of ESF programmes / projects (at least 3 members).   2. Experience of engagement at national level in structured dialogue on poverty with national institutions and feeding into EU Inclusion strategies   3. Experience in dealing with financial analyses and building up indicators of social impact   4. Direct experience of participating in a Structural Funds project   In the application form candidate should demonstrate their specific experience in the different areas and attach a CV if possible.  **Note:** Geographical and gender balance should also be taken in consideration in the membership selection of the participants. |
| **Structure/working method and timeline for the work of the Task Force:**   * The deadline for applications is the 8th March. * The selection will take place on the 19th March by the Steering Group of the EUISG. * The group would meet 3 times during 2015. * The 1st meeting would take place in April 2015, and fully scope the proposals, division of work and timeline. * The second meeting would discuss the first drafts of the Barometer and mapping document (early June). These would be taken to the EUISG in June as the start of the information collection process. * The 3rd meeting following the session with the EUISG, will finalize the documents (late September).   The timings for the meetings will be finalized in the first meeting**.** |
| **Indicative proposal re follow up (of course this will be further developed or may change during the life of the Task Force):**  Taking in consideration the issue that this TF will follow, it will be necessary that at least one of the products finalized (particularly the Barometer) can be integrated in the core business of EAPN – at least until the end of the ESF running period (2020). The proposed instrument to be developed (Barometer) must be updated (at least) every two / three years. |