5.1 Concept Note for PeP Hearing in EP (FF 10 March 2015)

**Concept note for People Experiencing Poverty**

**Hearing in the European Parliament**

1. **PROPOSAL IN BRIEF:**

Following up on meetings had with Mr Schulz, President of the European Parliament, we now present a proposal for the European Parliament to host a hearing to discuss the key messages from the European Meetings of People experiencing Poverty (PeP). This proposal should form the basis for discussion and the agreement of the Parliament to host such a Hearing.

Ideally three representatives from each country would be invited and facilitated to attend this Hearing: 1) A delegate (person with direct experience of poverty) who attended the last European Meeting of People experiencing Poverty, 2) A delegate to previous EU meetings who has gone on to become an activist with direct experiencing of poverty active in an anti-poverty work and 3) a representative of EAPN National Network. The Hearing would involve an exchange with a wide range of MEPs on the messages from the European Meetings.

1. **PEOPLE EXPERIENCING POVERTY HEARING IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

The European Parliament has played a very supportive role in relation to the European Meetings of People experiencing Poverty, with many MEPs participating in the event and high level representatives including the President addressing plenary sessions. This proposal to organise a ‘Hearing’ would develop this support a stage further and would demonstrate the interest of the Parliament to hear directly from people who live in poverty and to respond to their proposals about how to build a more equal and inclusive Europe, free of poverty.

**2.1) Aim and objectives of the People Experiencing Poverty Hearing**

***Aim:*** To enable the members of the European Parliament to better understand and defend the interests of their constitutions, who experience poverty and social exclusion, in order to build a European Union where all people have access to the right to live free of poverty.

***Objectives:***

* To make known the outcomes and proposals from the European Meetings of People experiencing Poverty
* To facilitate a dialogue based on the proposals coming from the European meetings, between people experiencing poverty and their representatives in the European Parliament
* To make better known the work of the European Parliament to combat poverty, exclusion and inequalities in the European Union

**2.2) Who should participate?**

***The participation of people with direct experience of poverty and their support network***

Three people from each country who participate in the European Meetings, composed as follows:

* A delegate (person with direct experience of poverty) who attend the last European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty.
* A delegate to previous EU meetings who has gone on to become an activist with direct experiencing of poverty, active in anti-poverty work
* A representative of EAPN National Network.

***From the European Parliament:***

* The President of the European Parliament
* At least one representative from each of the Political Groups in the Parliament
* All MEPs who are interested and available to take part

***Others:***

* Representatives of other relevant key EU Institutions and Agencies
* Social Attaches from the Permanent Representations and representatives of National Ministries
* Representatives from other relevant, NGOs, social partners, academic networks and networks of local and regional authorities.

**2.3) Format for the Hearing**

Ideally this event would have two distinct components:

1. **A statement and debate during a full plenary session of the European Parliament**: A statement in the full plenary of the European Parliament drawn from the outcomes of the European Meetings and a response from a representative of each of the political Groups and a statement from the President of the European Parliament.
2. **A half day of workshops:** that would allow the delegations to exchange their experiences in a more informal setting with MEPs and representatives from other relevant actors.

**2.4) Practical Considerations**

***Financing of the Event:***

The support of the Parliament to cover the following costs would need to be secured:

* Travel and hotel costs for the representatives of people experiencing poverty (approximately 93 people)
* Subsistence and meal cost for approximately 100 people
* Meeting venue/s
* Interpretation costs

***Organisation of the Event:***

A committee to organise and support the smooth running of the event would need to be established comprising representatives of the European Parliament, EAPN and a representative of the European Commission to ensure a link to the ongoing process of the European Meetings of People experiencing Poverty.