

# IS EUROPE 2020 DELIVERING ON POVERTY?

*How can we use the  
National Reform Programmes and  
National Social Reports to make  
concrete progress on  
participation and poverty?*

## EAPN CONFERENCE

Friday 28/09/2012 –Brussels

### PROGRAMME



# Programme

*(All speakers are in bold are confirmed)*

8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee

Videos from the [11<sup>th</sup> meeting of People Experiencing Poverty Meeting](#) will be displayed

## 9.00 - 11.00 What is happening to poverty? What progress through Europe 2020 NRPs/NSRs?

**Chair: Sergio Aires, EAPN President**

→ **Welcome from the Chair (5')**

→ **THE CONTEXT: poverty and inequalities are dangerously growing in the European Union (15')**

- Current realities – direct experience from people experiencing poverty
- Poverty and social exclusion, what progress? What is the added value of the NRPs/NSRs process?  
by Hugh Frazer, Coordinator of the EU network of independent experts on social inclusion

→ **How far has Europe 2020 delivered on poverty and inclusion?**

**Assessment of stakeholder engagement and delivery on poverty in the NRPs and NSRs.**

*EAPN'S POINT OF VIEW (15')*

- National example: SPAIN, presentation by Graciela Malgesini, EAPN Spain
- Presentation of EAPN assessment of the National Reform Programmes and National Social Reports 2012, Sian Jones, EAPN Policy Coordinator  
See on EAPN's website : [Kickstart social Europe - Beyond austerity Conference EAPN and Civil Society actors present Shadow Recommendations to Commissioners in European Parliament](#)

*OTHER STAKEHOLDERS' POINT OF VIEW (30')*

- **Jana Hainsworth**, Chief Executive, Eurochild
- **Mary Collins**, Policy Officer, Women's lobby
- **Silvia Ganzerla**, Senior Policy Officer, Eurocities
- **Freek Spinnewijn**, Director, FEANTSA
- **Claudia Menne**, Confederal Secretary, ETUC

*THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL'S POINT OF VIEW (20)*

*The chairs of two of the key Committees involved are asked the following questions:*

- *How far do you share the assessment presented by the Civil society and Social partners?*
- *How do you explain the lack of progress in terms of participation and fight against poverty?*
- *What is needed to make progress on both? for ensuring an effective social reporting process?*

- **Muriel Rabau**, Member of Social Protection Committee
- **Mik Woolley**, Chair of the Employment Committee

→ Debate with the floor (25')

## 11.00 - 11.30 Coffee break

**11.30 – 13.00 What changes are needed to ensure that the EU can deliver on reducing poverty and fostering social cohesion through a socially sustainable EU 2020 Strategy?**

**Chair: Sergio Aires, EAPN President**

→ **Introduction (15')**

- AUSTRIA, presentation by a representative of EAPN Austria
- EAPN's recommendations for the next European Semester and AGSO, Fintan Farrell, EAPN Director

→ **Round Table: How to ensure that the Europe 2020 Strategy achieves poverty eradication in a participative way? (25')**

- **Lieve Fransen**, Director 'Europe 2020: social policies', DG Employment
- **Philippe Lamberts**, Member of the European Parliament, (Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance), Member of the EP Economic and Finance Committee, Co-President of the European Green Party
- **Maureen O'Neill**, European Economic and Social Committee, Employment, Social affairs and Citizenship Section
- **Marcel Haag**, Head of Unit Europe 2020, Competitiveness and Innovation, European Commission

**Debate (30')**

**Key note speech (10')**

- Mrs Soteroula Charalambous, Minister of Labour and Social Insurance, Cyprus

**Conclusions from the Chair (5')**

**13.00 - 14.00 Buffet Lunch**

***Practical information***

**Date:** Friday 28 September 2012 (9:00 – 13:00)

**Venue:** *International Trade Union House, Boulevard Roi Albert II, 5, 1210 Brussels.*

**Languages:** *French & English*

**Participants:** *Approximately 180 participants – consisting of about 100 EAPN members (3 representatives from each national network and EAPN European Organisations' members including people with direct experience of poverty), and about 80 Brussels-based stakeholders social NGOs, social partners, representatives from EU and national authorities, academics...*

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## ***Aim of the conference***

This lobbying conference is targeting mainly EU decision-makers and stakeholders. It aims at:

- Raising awareness regarding the challenges around the rapid deterioration of the situation of the most vulnerable;
- Create a space for the active participation of people experiencing poverty;
- Exchange and promote a constructive debate on ways forward in the fight against poverty and improving participation through Europe 2020, based on EAPN Key Messages and Recommendations;
- Highlight EAPN members' engagement and the expectations towards the Europe 2020 strategy and their expertise as contributors to the NRPs/Social Reports process;
- Alert decision-makers to the malfunctioning of stakeholder engagement;
- Strengthen partnership between Anti-poverty NGOs and EU institutions aiming at achieving the EU poverty target and participation objectives.

## ***Context***

The major economic and financial crisis hurting the EU is having increasingly devastating consequences in terms of unemployment, poverty and despair. Austerity policies encouraged by the EU in all the member states make the situation of people experiencing poverty even more difficult, since social protection, access to services, quality jobs and jobs creation are being dramatically cut. People from 'Troika countries' suffer double punishment as they face huge cuts and seeming exemption from the EU 2020 social targets. Social unrest and social tension are spreading. We talk of the importance of evidence-based policies, but where is the evidence to show that austerity is working as a sustainable way out of the crisis? On the contrary, there is mounting evidence of austerity driving recession, and increasing short and long-term social and economic costs of increased poverty, exclusion and inequality.

Since the June Council, there is a new focus on the Compact for Growth and Jobs, as well as austerity, but is this enough to defend our welfare systems and reduce the social impact? Mounting voices are demanding a different approach that would safeguard our social model and invest in the future.

EAPN brings together NGOs and groups involved in the fight against poverty and social exclusion from all over Europe. We see the social impact rapidly worsening on the ground, impacting on people's health, standard of living, future prospects and confidence in the future.

EAPN has consistently supported the EU's commitment to eradicate poverty and the processes designed to serve this high ambition. We've developed high expectations that the EU poverty target<sup>1</sup> would generate concrete progress and welcome the improved focus on inclusion with the objective 4 'Tackle unemployment and the social consequences of the crisis' in the 2012 Annual Growth Survey. We also consider Recital 16 in the integrated guidelines to be a key commitment to implement partnership with civil society in the NRPs in order to find effective solutions that can have concrete impact.

Despite shrinking resources EAPN members have continued to put enormous effort into trying to engage at national level and to contribute to their National Reform Programmes (NRPs) and National Social Reports (NSRs). But to date the results both in terms of progress on the fight against poverty and of increasing participation of key stakeholders are not encouraging. In May 2012, EAPN members held an assessment workshop on the NRPs and on the NSRs in Brussels, and shared initial key messages with the European Commission and European Parliament.

EAPN sent members' shadow Country-specific Recommendations to the EU institutions (see [EAPN letter to Commissioner Andor](#), 16 May 2012 and [EAPN proposals for country-specific recommendations on the NRPs 2012](#) and presented these proposals as part of a joint proposal of alternative Recommendations organized by the Greens/EFA. EAPN is now finalizing the 2012 EAPN NRP/NSR assessment report whose key findings will be presented in the conference. This conference also builds on EAPN's key work on the social impact of the crisis and need for alternative strategies.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> A poverty target to reduce the number of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion by at least 20 million by 2020.

<sup>2</sup> See EAPN's position paper on the crisis [Re-engaging Hope and Expectations – Getting out the Crisis Together – Alternative approaches for an inclusive recovery](#), February 2012.