

Network news



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Editorial

Child poverty: a public policy test

Fear for their children's future is a worry that social exclusion inflicts on too many parents. The figures that try to gauge child poverty are a disgrace to our "modern" society. So EAPN is pleased that child poverty is firmly on the social policy agenda. But we are keeping a sharp watch: putting the plight of children first must not be used as an excuse for failing to tackle general anti-poverty approaches.

There are three requirements:

The fight against child poverty must be put first within a political philosophy of respect for all. Any strategy to overcome public scepticism about welfare spending by contrasting the "innocence" of children with the failure of "workshy" parents is risky. Likewise, highlighting the inter-generational transmission of poverty and unemployment risks stigmatising individuals and families through emphasising individual responsibilities rather than showing the economic and social determinants of this reality.

Tackling child poverty must be given priority as a likely means of improving the lot of everyone who is experiencing poverty. It is an ambitious policy which must have the means to punch its weight.

Finally, the situation of children will not be improved without participation by the people concerned: children themselves, but also their parents.

Child poverty has been chosen as an issue for discussion in 2007 under the Open Method of Coordination for Social Protection and Social Inclusion. We shall be keeping a close eye on how the policies selected are worded and implemented: they cannot just be about getting parents back into work.

Claire Champeix
EAPN Policy officer

CHILD POVERTY IN EUROPE

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Child poverty in the European Union: the big picture

What sort of indicators to measure child poverty?

There is at present a lack of fully comparable EU-wide data on child poverty so the figures given in this issue of Network News must be handled with care.

Things get more complicated when trying to compare European Union data with that for the rest of the world, like that published by UNICEF. While EU figures work on the share of individuals aged under 16 whose equalised disposable income is below the at-risk-of-poverty line, fixed at 60% of the national median equalised disposable income, UNICEF uses a threshold of 50%.

In 2003, the European Union replaced the European Household Panel with a new system for collecting data on incomes and living conditions in the European Union - EU-SILC.

Although many European countries have already started using the new system, the first series of micro-data and cross-cutting indicators derived from EU-SILC statistics for all the EU25 Member States will not be available until December 2006.

Also, the EU Social Protection Committee's sub-group on indicators recently set up an ad hoc working group on child poverty.

A. Gueudet

See also the European Commission study on child poverty (March 2004):

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_inclusion/docs/child_poverty_study_en.pdf

Much is said about adult poverty, but child poverty often goes by the board...

And yet in the European Union, it is children that are most at risk of poverty. This is official: Eurostat estimates that in 2005, 20% of dependent under-16s in the EU were living in poverty, compared to 16% of adults.

The figures show that Slovenia (9%), Denmark (9%), Finland (10%) and Sweden (11%) have the lowest child poverty rates after social transfers, while Slovakia (30%), Italy (26%), Spain (24%), Poland (23%), Portugal (23%), Ireland (22%) and the United Kingdom (22%) make the worst showings.

Child poverty rates in the EU's new Member States are close to the EU average, bearing in mind that in less affluent countries, living below the relative poverty line can mean living much closer to absolute poverty without even being able to meet the basic needs.

Although there are no comparable long-term data, it is safe to say that European Union countries suffer from entrenched - and in some cases, rising - child poverty.

The case of the United Kingdom

Although registering a very high child poverty rate, the United Kingdom is the only European country to have managed to reduce it significantly since the last decade (down from 28% in 1995 to 22% in 2003). Why and how? The threefold rise in child poverty in the United Kingdom over the last twenty years stirred the Blair government to strong action in 1997. Its pledge to cut child poverty by a quarter by 2005, halve it by 2010 and eradicate it by 2020 has since been closely monitored both by the government, as well as politicians and academics. Although the 2005 goals have only been partly delivered, the child

poverty rate is at its lowest level since 1988/89.

The determinants of poverty

Children's living standards and poverty cannot be taken apart from the households they live in, because a child's standard of living is defined as being that of its parents' household where it counts as a consumption unit benefiting from the household's monetary resources.

The fact is that social and family changes have and still are strongly influencing child poverty rates in all countries. For example, the rising incidence of lone parenthood in many countries has pushed up the child poverty risk.

The second determinant - the labour market - is increasingly fluctuating. The early 1990s was a time of economic recession, steady technological

advance, unskilled labour migration, low pay, and a drive towards privatisation and globalization in most European countries. The opportunities for unskilled workers to earn a decent living shrank generally. These trends in turn

brought changes in children's lives, and made new demands on the state.

Lastly, there were big changes in many governments' spending policies and priorities. The revision of social security benefit entitlement rules and levels hit family incomes. All these changes also affected the positioning and effectiveness of the safety net that governments use to try and shelter children from the worst effects of poverty.

And in the midst of all these forces stands the child.

Growing up poor

Not only is poverty a denial of children's fundamental rights, it also mortgages the future wellbeing of European societies. Because children who grow up in poverty will be likely less to achieve their full potential.

In 2005, 20% of dependent under-16s in the EU were living in poverty

STREET KIDS: NOT JUST A THIRD WORLD PROBLEM...

Numerous studies show that:

- Poor parental health, lack of information and obstacles to accessing the health system have a big impact on children. Poor children have worse health than others.
- Parental poverty and social exclusion significantly affect children's cognitive development and educational attainment.
- Poverty puts the psychological wellbeing of children and adolescents at risk.

Child poverty is a big factor and catalyst in all the circumstances that lead to these problems being handed down the generations. These realities must not be used to stigmatise low-income families but must be understood as the result of structural failures in our societies.

Public policies have a role to play

Even accepting the significance of labour market conditions and social changes, this poverty rate spread between the different European Union countries shows that there is nothing inevitable or unchangeable about child poverty: it is the reflection of national policy choices.

A 2005 UNICEF report on child poverty in rich countries points to a clear link between big public spending on family and social policy, and a reduction of child poverty rates (NB: unlike Eurostat's 60% threshold, the UNICEF figures represent the proportion of under-16s whose equivalised disposable income is below an at-risk-of-poverty line of 50% of the national median equivalised disposable income).

Government intervention has today cut by an average 40% the child poverty rates that would theoretically result from the unbridled operation of market forces. The figures show that governments with the lowest levels of child poverty reduce "market poverty" by 80% or more, while those with the highest poverty rates reduce "market poverty" only by 10 to 15%.

Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Belgium have managed to cut the child poverty rate to under 10%, and are the four countries that allocate 10% or more of GDP to the kinds of social transfer that helps bring down child poverty. In all four countries, the highest share of welfare benefits go to preschool children.

Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal and Spain, by contrast, put the lowest proportion of GDP into social transfers, and the state is much less active in protecting low-income families.

But the UNICEF report also finds wide differences in the poverty rates of countries with more or less similar levels of public spending.

What do we make of this? It suggests that poverty rates are less about how much public help is provided than how it is delivered. UNICEF argues that many European countries could reduce their child poverty rates below 10% without substantially increasing their overall spending.

Audrey Gueudet
EAPN Information Officer

A. Gueudet

The child poverty figures tell only part of the story. They only include children who live in families. But what about the rest? For there are others ... street children ... And street children are not only found in developing countries. Far from it.

From Brussels via Bucharest, Naples, Madrid, Marseilles, Bratislava, Dresden and Birmingham to Tallin, the number of street children is rising steadily, and has even grown to alarming proportions in some new Member States, as well as Romania and Bulgaria.

There are at present no reliable figures on street children. The Polish Organisation "Foundation for Poland" estimates that nearly 15 000 children are living on the streets of Warsaw. In Romania, official figures put it at 5 000, while different NGOs and the international press claim 60 000.

In Europe, the European Foundation for Street Children Worldwide is working to improve the rights and situations of children at risk, especially street children.

More details at <http://www.enscw.org/>

1. Eurostat statistics taken from the European Commission's Joint Report on social protection and social inclusion 2006. The percentages given represent the proportion of people aged under 16 whose equivalised disposable income is below the at-risk-of-poverty line, set at 60% of the national median equivalised disposable income (after social transfers).

Children taken into care: Parents' views

Many studies of children taken into care mention that these children largely come from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds and the reasons for their placement are generally linked to the inability of the parents to provide for them. It is therefore essential to acknowledge this link between poverty and the institutionalisation of children when addressing child poverty at European level.

The family is a source of hope and strength for people living in poverty and as such, acts as a starting point for resisting their situation. In order to fight against child poverty, it is necessary to begin with recognising the poverty of the parents and ensuring that they are considered as the first partners in their children's future and providing the support that they need.

What is now called for in the up and coming year is a discussion on how family policies can be advanced further and made a priority in the fight against child poverty and how we can ensure that those who are directly concerned - the children and the parents - can play an active role in achieving these commitments, thus safeguarding the basic bond between parents and their children and consequently upholding basic human rights as a whole.

Sarah Wellford

International Movement ATD Fourth World

See: ATD Fourth World's publication 'Valuing Children, Valuing Parents':

<http://www.4thworldmovement.org/Publications/text%20book/valuing%20children.htm>

Child Poverty in the EU's Social Inclusion Process²

The importance of child poverty has grown steadily as the EU's social inclusion process has developed. It is now one of the key issues and has also become a much more important political concern for the European Union.

Why a priority?

There are three key arguments. First, there is the sheer scale and persistence of the problem. The issue is not a residual one which will be solved by economic growth on its own. The second reason for action is that child poverty is a denial of children's fundamental rights as outlined in the UN Declaration of the Rights of the Child. The third is that growing up in poverty prevents children achieving their full potential. Member States simply cannot afford to waste their future human resources without undermining sustainable economic growth and development in the future.

The nature of child poverty and social exclusion: lessons from the EU's Social Inclusion process

A lot has been learned since 2000. To summarise just six of these lessons. First, child poverty is a complex and multi-dimensional problem and thus requires coordinated and integrated action across a broad range of economic, social and cultural policy areas. Secondly, child poverty involves inequality of access to resources and opportunities. Thus reducing child poverty entails reducing extremes of inequality whether in terms of income or access to services and opportunities. Thirdly, child poverty limits personal development and has long-term consequences. Thus early intervention is essential to reduce its long-term impact. Fourthly, child poverty is often closely linked to discrimination and some children are at special risk such as those from ethnic minorities, particularly Roma children, children from migrant families, children living in institutions and children with a disability. Thus enforcing strong anti-discrimination legislation is essential. Fifthly, the largest group of children at risk are those in lone parent and large families. Thus improving the financial and employment opportunities of these families and their access to social services is critical. Sixthly, as child poverty is a denial of children's rights it is essential to put the specific needs of the child

at the heart of policy making.

Child poverty in the EU process

The issue has been a priority in many National Action Plans on social inclusion. It has been highlighted in successive reports produced by the European Commission and it has been a key priority of the Community action programme on social exclusion. There have been studies commissioned. Several transnational exchange projects and peer reviews have addressed aspects of the issue. Support has been given to European networks such as Eurochild. It has also been a key topic at events such as the annual Round Table Conferences and the Luxembourg Presidency Conference on Taking Forward the EU Social Inclusion Process.

What is needed now is to deepen and intensify these efforts. Amongst other things this should involve:

Tackling child poverty is vital to the overall success of the EU's social

mainstreaming a focus on child poverty in national and EU policy making; strengthening the indicators for measuring and evaluating progress across the EU on tackling child poverty and improving children's well-being; monitoring and reporting in more

detail on the progress being made by Member States and making recommendations on how to strengthen their efforts; disseminating the learning from the current Community action programme more widely; ensuring that there is a cluster of activities under the new Community programme, PROGRESS, promoting increased exchange and learning on child poverty; deepening the involvement of children experiencing poverty and the organisations that represent them in the process locally, nationally and at EU level; and developing an effective strategy for raising public awareness about child poverty. It is important that we do take such steps because tackling child poverty is vital to the overall success of the EU's social inclusion process and is essential to ensuring greater social justice and sustainable economic and social development in the future.

Hugh Frazer

Independent expert and adjunct Professor National University of Ireland, Maynooth (former Director of the Combat Poverty Agency, Ireland, former National Expert in Commission DG Employment, in the Unit in charge of Social Inclusion)

²This article draws on a paper researched and written for UNICEF on lessons learned about tackling child poverty from the EU's social inclusion process since 2000.

“What we are lacking is a policy-making approach that places children at the centre”

Child poverty in the EU's social inclusion agenda: EAPN interviews Jana Hainsworth, Secretary General of Eurochild

EAPN: Why is it so important to address child poverty at an EU level?

Jana Hainsworth: Firstly, the reality is that children are more likely to live in poverty than other population groups. Secondly, it reflects a growing recognition that children have rights independent of adults or their parents. This is important because it means they are no longer considered as passive recipients of support, but rather active players who have control over their lives and influence over the policies and decisions that affect them. A child's right to be heard is a core principle of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), to which all Member States are signatory. Thirdly, tackling child poverty makes economic and political sense. Children growing up in poverty are more likely to be unemployed and live in poverty as adults. Breaking the recurring cycle of poverty requires that children are given every opportunity to participate and fulfil their potential in society.

EAPN: How is the EU social inclusion agenda helping to address the issue?

Jana Hainsworth: Most Member States have identified child poverty as a strategic priority in the most recent round of national action plans on social inclusion. In fact we can thank the EU's Open Method of Coordination on social inclusion for increasing awareness about child poverty and getting it higher-up the political agenda. Organisations working with and for children across the EU can be happy that the issue is finally getting the attention it deserves and that debate and exchange is taking place about the best way to improve the lives of millions of children across Europe.

EAPN: How do organisations working with disadvantaged children - and the children themselves

- feel about the policy responses emerging in Member States?

Jana Hainsworth: Eurochild has been taking the temperature following the recent submission of the National Action Plans on social inclusion for 2006-2008 (NAPs/Incl 2006-2008).

There is disappointment that children are still rarely recognised as actors in their own right. Despite all the efforts of Member States to implement children's rights – as enshrined in the UNCRC – few are building on this experience in their social inclusion strategies. None consulted directly with children and young people themselves, although good practice in this area exists. This not only disenfranchises children and young people but it also makes for less effective policies.

But there are encouraging signs that Member States are taking a more holistic approach to child poverty. Family income has, until now, been the main indicator of child poverty at EU level and hence the main target of policies. Whilst not denying the importance of income to a child's well-being and chances of success, the picture is of course more complex. Several countries are monitoring children's health, housing, education, access to services and leisure activities etc. And work is on-going at EU level to develop a primary indicator (or set of indicators) that better represent children's well-being – a development Eurochild, and others, have called for in the past.

Overall there are plenty of good ideas in the latest NAPs/Incl. What we are lacking is a policy-making approach that places children at the centre. It means viewing children not just as future workers, but as citizens now. It means giving them a voice and addressing the issues they consider important to their lives today.

Interview: A. Gueudet

Pay a visit to Eurochild's webpage: www.eurochild.org

TOWARDS AN EU STRATEGY ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

On 4th July 2006 the European Commission launched its first ever official Communication on children's rights in EU internal and external policies entitled “Towards an EU strategy on the rights of the child”.

It sets out a number of short-term measures to address urgent issues and seven specific objectives:

- Capitalising on existing activities while addressing urgent needs;
- Identifying priorities for future EU action;
- Mainstreaming children's rights in EU actions;
- Establishing efficient coordination and consultation mechanisms;
- Enhancing capacity and expertise on children's rights;
- Designing a communication strategy on children's rights;
- Promoting the rights of the child in external relations.

Also in the short term, the EU plans to commission a study on the impact of European Community instruments on children's rights. The conclusions of this study will feed into a Green Paper in late 2007/early 2008, which will launch a wide public consultation on an EU strategy on the rights of the child.

See the European Commission's page on the Communication on children's rights:

http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/president/focus/childrens-rights_en.htm

People who live with poverty in their own words

"The EU must do something for the children. What is the sense of my life if I can give no future to my children?"

"Poverty in childhood is discrimination."

"It is impossible for me to invite the friends of my children at home, because my home is so small. So my children at their turn are not invited any more. Thus they become also excluded. We are obliged to lead a hidden life."

"My children will inherit my poverty."

"My children cannot participate in school holidays for skiing or a language week abroad. Training for lifelong learning is not affordable. I cannot afford cultural activities."

All these quotes come from the Fifth European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty held on 12 and 13 May 2006 in Brussels.

The full report is available on our website:
www.eapn.org

Child Poverty in the UK: Where to Now?

Since coming to power in 1997 the Labour Government in the UK has put the problem of child poverty at the centre of its social inclusion strategy. Where to now?

The strength of the UK Labour Government's commitment was underlined in 1999 when the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, announced that the Labour's Government's goal was the eradication of child poverty by 2020. As child poverty moves up the European social policy agenda we look at how the problem has been approached in the UK and whether the current approach is delivering real change for children and families living in poverty.

In 1997 the UK had one of the worst records in Europe for child poverty with around 33% of children living in low income households. The proportion of children living in poor households had doubled in the 1980s and 1990s leaving particular groups of children at risk of poverty. The Government rightly identified that this was not only a problem in the short term but would have a long-term impact on their educational achievements, health and employment prospects. The policy approach since 1999 has therefore focused on both lifting children out of income poverty and providing improved services to tackle educational, health and other aspects of social exclusion.

Since 1999 there have been real improvements in the numbers of children living in poverty with some 700,000 lifted out of poverty by 2004/05. This has helped lift the UK from near the bottom of European league. The UK Government has also missed its first child poverty target (to lift 1 million children out of poverty by 2004/05), casting doubt over whether the current approach will be successful in lifting an extra 1.1 million by 2010 (the next target). The failure to reach this target has led to serious questions in the UK, which have implications for the rest of Europe.

Is work a realistic way to beat child poverty? The UK Government has focused on getting parents into paid employment. However rates for lone parents, whose children are particularly at risk, will have to increase significantly if employment alone is to tackle child poverty. One recent estimate suggests that the employment rate for lone parents would have to increase to 86% to tackle child poverty. Access to the labour market is crucial to the fight against child poverty, but it is questionable whether the current labour market targets are achievable or realistic.

Do welfare benefits life people out of poverty? Rising employment rates have not been the only reason for falling levels of child poverty. The value of benefits targeted at children has also increased. The combined value of in and out of work benefits for people with children has increased more quickly than for other groups of people. Despite these increases a recent report suggested that a further £4.3 billion (€4 billion) per annum would need to be spent on benefits and tax credits just to reach the 2010 target.

Is there political will? Any strategy to tackle poverty requires political leadership to overcome public apathy or hostility to spending money on 'the poor'. In the UK there has been strong political commitment to child poverty. However this leadership has not been accompanied by either an analysis of the true financial implications, or of the need for public support. In asking 'where next for child poverty strategy', campaigners in the UK are increasingly demanding that the Government 'goes public'. If they do not build public support for policies to end child poverty, they are unlikely to meet their own ambitious targets. This is a lesson that campaigners across Europe must learn.

Peter Kelly,
Director of the Poverty Alliance, as member of EAPN

Since 1999 some
700,000 children
living in poverty
have been lifted
out of poverty

Poverty in Germany...

... about average for Europe, but sharply up!

It took upwards of 20 years before National Poverty Conference (NPC) members, representatives of the scientific community and people experiencing poverty

saw the green-socialist coalition government - already in power for three years - heed their call in 2001 and get around to drawing up the first official report on poverty and wealth. The second report - entitled "Life experiences in Germany" - followed in early 2005, and the new conservative-social democrat grand coalition that came to power in late 2005 seems minded to continue publishing this kind of report. A good start!

Unfortunately, the second report's findings were more, not less, embroiled in controversy than those of 2001, revealing a sharp rise in poverty in Germany! In 1993, the at-risk-of-poverty rate was 11.7%, by 1998 it had risen to 12.8% and in 2003, was up to 13.5% (being the percentage of individuals living in households with an equalised net subsistence income below 60% of the average wage on the new OECD scale). This gives Germany a worse record on tackling poverty than the Scandinavian countries, although still within the European average, well ahead of free-market countries like Ireland and Britain, and the southern European countries.

There is a particularly high incidence of poverty and social exclusion among children, adolescents and young adults in Germany, as well as single people, lone parent families, large families and those whose origins lie in immigration. Unemployment and lack of training are among the big risk factors, although Germany has a large population of working poor (Germany still has no minimum wage).

The federal State, the Länder, local authorities,

charities and social security agencies form a highly developed and efficient welfare state compared to much of the rest of Europe. But as well as a minimum wage, Germany has a long-standing desperate shortage of training, education and support provision for the under-3s. The different educational systems and schools in German Länder are also highly socially selective.

The policy solution currently being touted to all these issues is structural change. The NPC and its federations are stepping into this general debate as much as possible.

The shakeup of recent years in the welfare state means that increasingly fewer people retain any hope of an improvement in the situation, especially in light of the latest employment and social policy legislation. This has boosted support for right-wing parties at a time when the turn-out for all elections is plummeting. Even policy-makers themselves are

losing confidence in their legislative abilities. The new guaranteed minimum "unemployment benefits II" (Arbeitslosengeld II) system, which came in at the start of 2005, for instance, has already been heavily amended three times, placing further restrictions on beneficiaries; a fourth amendment in the pipeline will likely cut costs further to the detriment of the unemployed.

The 2006 federal State reform devolved most responsibilities for training (especially youth training) to the Länder. The introduction of registration fees, higher parental contributions to childcare costs and a transfer of the costs of buying schoolbooks onto parents do not leave families with the impression that in their Land, the paradigm shift being operated by the government from a welfare towards a more service-based system is particularly good for them. Quite the opposite, in fact!

As well as a minimum wage, Germany has a long-standing shortage of training, education and support provision for the under-3s.

GERMAN PRESIDENCY'S SOCIAL PRIORITIES

Germany's government presented on 5 November a plan of its priorities when it takes over the EU Presidency at the beginning of 2007.

The German Government promised to clearly emphasise Europe's social and ecological dimension. "This is because our values include a commitment not only to market efficiency but also to social cohesion and environmental protection", German State Secretary Silberberg said. "We need the EU wherever we can preserve and implement these values only on a European scale."

The debate on the services directive having shown that European legislation must always bear in mind its social impact, the German Government said it will therefore make efforts to ensure that in future the social effects of every piece of legislation are carefully examined.

"We must also promote innovative approaches which help people combine family and career. This is essential if we want to tackle the challenges posed by demographic change", Mr. Silberberg added.

In order to mark the start of each Presidency, the Social Platform, of which EAPN is a member, sets out the key social challenges for the next six months. The memorandum is sent to the new Presidency to highlight the expectations of social NGOs.

See the Social Platform's memoranda at: <http://www.socialplatform.org/code/en/camp.asp?Page=623>

There is a growing public awareness of the scale of poverty and social exclusion in Germany, but also that solutions to the problem are being implemented and are working to some extent. The reports on social protection and national action plans are certainly necessary to support that focus and promote policy reforms, but are nowhere near enough. Strong commitment from national and European networks is needed to champion

effective rights-based solutions geared specifically towards people experiencing poverty.

*Dr. Benjamin Benz - Zukunftsforum Familie e.V.
(Forum on the future of the family - Berlin)*

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(Institute for social work and social learning – Frankfurt am Main)*

Spotlight on EAPN Germany

E APN Germany, also called “Die Nationale Armutskonferenz” (the National Poverty Conference (NPC)), is a grouping of charities, self-help groups and trade unions.

Mission: Through its activities, the NPC aims to help tackle poverty and support self-help initiatives by people experiencing or at risk of poverty. The NPC sees its tasks as including the promotion of political changes apt to improve the life of people experiencing poverty and expunging the structural causes of the poverty risk. Its core activities are political lobbying and public awareness-raising campaigns. The NPC tries to raise public awareness of poverty issues through themed day conferences, press conferences, press releases, and publishing annual socio-political assessments on issues like poverty, health, child poverty, and the labour market.

Demands: The Conference aims through its policy stance to influence government policy on poverty; it is also involved in the committee responsible for the national report on poverty and wealth, and in the national action plan for social inclusion. The NPC also demands a transparent and fair procedure open to public scrutiny for setting the minimum subsistence income. It is committed to participation by people experiencing poverty, and in 2006 organised the first meeting of people experiencing poverty, which attracted considerable media interest for its impressive results.

Networking: The formation of the National Poverty Conference in the Federal Republic of Germany led to the setting-up of a new form of cooperation, which has also been rolled out at Länder, district, town and village level. Since then, five regional poverty conferences have been set up in five Länder: Saar, Lower Saxony, Thuringia, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, and Saxony. There are also a wide range of regional bodies, not all of which call themselves poverty conferences, but all focusing on poverty issues.

*Anita Morhard, Arbeiterwohlfahrt Bundesverband e.V.
(Federal Association for the wellbeing of workers)*

See: <http://www.nationale-armutskonferenz.de/>

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Network News aims to generate debates on specific themes. The views expressed are not necessarily those of EAPN. If you want to comment on the content of this issue, send an email to team@eapn.skynet.be



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