



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2011/12

Disappointing news from the new centre-left government ...

- We lobbied the Government to put the question of homeless migrants on the agenda during the Danish EU Chairmanship but the government ignored the issue.
- The 2012 reform plan is a disappointment setting the same target for 2012 as the previous right wing government to reduce the number of families threatened by poverty by 22000.

Good news from the Government ...

- It has abolished what has been dubbed the poverty allowance. It was introduced by the previous government as a 50 % reduction of the minimum social security rate.
- It has set up a committee to look into the criteria for a poverty line. The committee has a broad mandate asking it to map out poverty threats and to describe pathways out of poverty.

The committee must report back to the government by the end of February 2013.

Since 2010 we have cooperated with other Danish Social NGOs in an expanded poverty network which was behind three poverty conferences in 2011 co-funded by the Social Ministry. The conferences were very successful and were monitored by a journalist who summarised the discussions in a booklet which gives the reader a strong sense of the everyday life of people experiencing poverty.

The Danish European Board granted us funding for four conferences across Denmark during 2012 with local themes: Homelessness in Åbenrå (South Jutland); Working poor on the island of Bornholm; Housing Association near Copenhagen handling citizens placed in their flats by the municipality; Final debate in Copenhagen in cooperation with the newspaper Politiken. The debates will be edited into a report about the many faces of poverty.

Closer cooperation between the Nordic countries comes up every time we meet each other in European meetings and in this year we actually came together for a successful meeting in Oslo with a lot of good intentions but not yet any concrete model for more structured cooperation. But we agreed to make sure that we always take time to gather all Nordic delegates for a roundtable during GAs.

Rights of homeless migrants was an issue on this year's meeting of People Experiencing Poverty. Our representatives realised that the scope of poverty in Europe is broader than they had been aware of spanning from depressing brutal evictions in some East European countries to the encouraging situation in Scotland who has managed to reduce poverty by 20 percent.

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