

Structural funds, social inclusion and the wider EU debate


Elodie Fazi, EAPN
14 June February 2008

EUROPEAN ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK
RESEAU EUROPEEN DES ASSOCIATIONS
DE LUTTE CONTRE LA PAUVRETE
ET L'EXCLUSION SOCIALE
www.eapn.org



1. General context
2. Lisbon
3. The OMC
3. Future of cohesion policy
4. Preparing the 2010 year for combating poverty


1. General context: 2008, a year of intense debate



EP election (2009) and new Commission coming (need to leave legacy)
Arriving at end of 2000-2010 cycle (Lisbon strategy)
Discussion around next Social Policy Agenda (2010 -)
Time is now to prepare next budget round (2014 - 2021)

- > Cohesion policy is at heart of debate
- > We need to work in this wider context


2. Lisbon strategy (1)



Objective: *To make the EU the most competitive and dynamic knowledge based **economy** in the world capable of sustaining more and better **jobs** and with greater **social cohesion**.*

How?
Member States:
National Reform Programmes (three years but updated each year)
EU level:
- Integrated guidelines (2008-2011: macro, micro and employment)
- Annual progress report
- Recommendations and Spring Council conclusions


2. Lisbon strategy and structural funds (2)



A stronger link between structural funds and Lisbon
Earmarking of at least 60% of SF expenditure
Social inclusion through priority 71 « *pathway to employment for marginalised groups* »
NSRF should link with National Reform Programme
Regular reports on structural funds' contribution to Lisbon

Concerns
Lisbon pushing structural funds towards *growth and jobs* only
Where is sustainable development?
Where is social inclusion? Which role for the OMC?

2. Lisbon strategy and structural funds (3)



Next steps
National Reform Programmes presented by Member States (October)

EAPN action (in coordination with other groups)
- Coordinate with other members of National Network (EXCO)
- See where structural funds and social inclusion (line 71 are)
- See EAPN toolkit (sent last week)
- Input in EAPN analysis

3. OMC on social inclusion (1)



OMC on Social Protection and Social Inclusion

Launched by Lisbon Council in 2000

« *Make a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty through* »:

- access for all to resources, rights and services
- active social inclusion
- coordination of social inclusion policies and good governance

How?

EU level common objectives and common indicators

National Action Plans on inclusion

European Joint Report every year highlighting weaknesses

3. OMC and structural funds (2)



Lack of a strong link between the ESF and the OMC

Reference to the NAPs in ESF OPs (theory)

Specific section on structural funds in supplement to Joint Report (2008) but will not be done every year

Opportunity to strengthen structural funds' focus on poverty but OMC invisible in structural funds

3. OMC and structural funds (3)



Next steps

Member States drafting National Action Plans by mid-September:

- Contact members of your National Network
- See where structural funds are
- Read OMC toolkit (April)

Proposals on strengthening the OMC (July). April proposals:

- More coordination and recommendations
- Earmarking for social inclusion
- Real monitoring and evaluation

4. Future of cohesion policy



Debate has just started

Commission consultation (EAPN contribution), linked with budget reform
Presidency conference (April 08, common NGO contribution), strong role of the Member States

Main debates at stake (see Council conclusions)

Who receives the funds? (do richest Member States need SF)

Objectives: competitiveness/cohesion (growth and jobs)

Where is EU added value (economies of scale?)

Subsidiarity and simplification (under-spending)

ESF little present in the debate

5. 2010: the EU Year for combating poverty (1)



Expectations for NGOs

Better dialogue with government and public authorities

Strengthened political commitment

Better awareness of the reality of poverty

Funding for projects and activities

Alliances and coalitions, with NGOs and others

How?

€ 17 million + national co-financing

Not ESF type project but rather awareness raising

5. 2010: the EU Year for combating poverty (2)



Structural funds' contribution to 2010

Low funding: other sources mobilised and « branded » : SF

Lack of support for transnational projects

Mid-term of 2007-2013 programming period: 2010 can help us evaluate structural funds' contribution

Next steps for EAPN

Think of activities, promote and fund raise at all levels (local to EU)

Plan political outcomes expected

SF working group: October discussion: concrete proposals needed!