

# Anti **POVERTY** MAG

Magazine of the European Anti Poverty Network

NO. 131 | 2010

I, 2010

[www.eapn.eu](http://www.eapn.eu)

## Will 2010 mark a turning point for Social Europe?



### TAKE ACTION!

→ One week for each country: check what's going on in yours!

→ MEDIA WEEK in MAY 24–30

2010 BUILDING A  
EUROPE FOR ALL  
[www.endpoverty.eu](http://www.endpoverty.eu)





## 2010 must contribute to a strong political legacy

BY LUDO HOREMANS, PRESIDENT OF EAPN

After Years of anticipation and planning the 2010 Year has arrived. The Spanish Presidency contributed to ensuring a good momentum for the Year by organising a high level event to mark the official opening of the Year in Madrid on 21 January. The presence of the President of the Spanish Government José Luis Zapatero, the President of the Commission José Manuel Barroso and Jean Lambert from the European Parliament, ensured high level interest from the Spanish media and created the expectation that the Year would be treated seriously across all EU Member States. The highlight of the Opening session in Madrid was the round table of people experiencing poverty who, from their experience, gave clear directions about what is needed for a real effort to make a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty.

This issue of the EAPN Mag informs you about the Year and about key events and activities at European level and within Member States to mark the European Year. You will also find information about the type of awareness raising that is needed to ensure the right policies and strategies to combat poverty and social exclusion. We need people to have a real awareness that poverty and social exclusion is a denial of fundamental rights. We need also to see the impact of growing inequalities not just on 'poor' people but also on the whole of the society.

The 2010 year is not an end in itself but needs to contribute to a strong political legacy which will reverse the trends of growing levels of poverty and inequality. In this issue you will also find the key shared messages from social NGOs for what should be the content of this political legacy from 2010.

In reading this issue I hope you will be inspired to join in the activities and events organised to mark the 2010 year and also inspired to organise your own events, to ensure that 2010 is not just another EU year.

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<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=327&langId=en>

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# NGOs together for 2010... to be a turning point!

BY PAULINE GEOGHEGAN, COORDINATOR OF THE 2010 COALITION OF SOCIAL NGOS

EAPN has been promoting a European Year Against Poverty and Social Inclusion since 2004. Now that it is here, what are the expectations? What is happening on the ground and how are NGOs working together? For NGOs, there are two main objectives for 2010: awareness raising about the causes and effects of poverty and social inclusion and creating a strong message for the outcomes of the Year.

## Good, or bad timing, at a critical turning point for Europe?

The timing of the Year is crucial: 2010 is the date by which the EU had committed itself to making a decisive impact on poverty and social exclusion. 2010 marks the end of the Lisbon strategy and hard decisions are needed to ensure that the 'post Lisbon' 2020 strategy will increase rather than decrease support for the fight against poverty and social exclusion at European level, but also at national and local level. 2010 also marks a renewal in the European institutions: a new European Parliament was elected in June 2009, and a new Commission is now in place. Finally, last but not least, by cruel coincidence, 2010 also arrives amidst a global economic and social crisis. A European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion has become even more relevant than ever before. NGOs have high hopes that this year will give them the chance to highlight the conditions that lead to poverty and social exclusion, and to draw attention to key issues which need to be addressed to remedy these conditions.

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## NGOs form a coalition at European level

Giving meaning to the Year means creating an outcome. At European level NGOs have decided that working together will be the best way to make sure that the Year marks progress in social Europe. They have formed the EY2010 NGO Coalition, coordinated by EAPN through a Steering Group, to share activities and to draft joint messages for the outcomes of 2010. These shared demands include

- an awareness-raising campaign on the **structural causes of poverty** and the role of the state in the realisation of **economic and social rights for all**
- **financial investment at local, national and EU levels** to achieve enhanced **dialogue** with people in poverty and anti poverty NGOs
- a strong **political legacy from 2010**, to include a new overarching and sustainable EU strategy based on fundamental rights, a revitalised EU Social Inclusion strategy which ensures progress on agreed National and EU poverty targets, progress on the accessibility and affordability of services of general interest and a framework directive on minimum income schemes
- **an EU poverty programme and the use of structural funds** to underpin EU commitments to fight poverty and social exclusion.

## Cooperation at local level

At local level NGOs are planning activities, cultural events, meetings, awareness raising events, cultural events. The variety is widespread. Coordinating this means sharing information: this is one of the objectives of the EY 2010 NGO coalition

at European level. What is the tool we use? A shared website [www.endpoverty.eu](http://www.endpoverty.eu), and a common identity: the "END POVERTY building a Europe for all" logo.

## Working with the European Commission

EAPN has tried to ensure that the Year be prepared in close collaboration with NGOs from the start. Though NGOs have not been included in the overall planning and management of the Year, a number of structures are now in place, where NGOs are present.

### The European Year EU Stakeholders Expert Group

gathers all those concerned with the European Year to gather and exchange information. This is the main tool for consultation with the Commission and takes place at six monthly intervals, bringing together NGOs, regions, European and international bodies.

### The European Year Consultative Committee

consists primarily of the National Implementation Bodies (NIBs). NGOs have been invited to speak to the NIBs during these meetings, and have called for closer cooperation at national level between NIBs and NGOs.

### The European Year NGO Communications Experts Advisory board

is where NGOs have the opportunity for direct interaction with the communications campaign.

Awareness raising means examining the stereotypes that are associated with those experiencing poverty and social exclusion. This is why the Commission organised a **media event on 'Poverty between reality and per-**

**The Coalition is made up of** AFEM (Association des Femmes de l'Europe Méridionale), AGE (The European Older People's Platform), ATD QUART MONDE (ATD QUART MONDE), AUTISM EUROPE (Autism Europe), CARITAS EUROPA (Caritas Europa), CEBSD (The Combined European Bureau for Social Development), CECODHAS - Housing Europe (CECODHAS - Housing Europe), CECOP (European Confederation of Workers' Co-operatives, Social Cooperatives and Participative Enterprises), CEV (The European Volunteer Centre), COFACE (Confederation of Family Organisations in the EU), Conference of European Churches (Church and Society Commission of the Conference of European Churches), EAEA (European Association for the Education of Adults), EAPN (European Anti Poverty Network), EAPSD (European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities), EBU (The European Blind Union), EDF (European Disability Forum), EFSC (European Federation for Street Children), ENAR (European Network Against Racism), EMN (European Microfinance Network), EPHA (European Public Health Alliance), EPPF (International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network), EPR (European Platform for Rehabilitation), ERIO (European Roma Information Office), ESAN (European Social Action Network), EURAG (European Federation of Older People), EUROCHILD (Eurochild), EURODIACONIA (Eurodiaconia), EWL (The European Women's Lobby), FAI (The International Federation of the Christian Associations of Italian Workers), FEANTSA (European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless), FEFAF (European Federation of Unpaid Parents and Carers at Home), ICSW (International Council on Social Welfare), IJJO (International Juvenile Justice Observatory), ILGA EUROPE (The European Region of the International Lesbian and Gay Association), INCLUSION EUROPE (The European Association of Societies of Persons with Intellectual Disability and their Families), MHE (Mental Health Europe), RED CROSS EU OFFICE (Red Cross EU office), SMES-EUROPA (SMES-MHSE Mental Health & Social Exclusion - Europa), SOCIAL PLATFORM (Platform of European Social NGOs), SOLIDAR (Solidar), WORKABILITY EUROPE (Workability Europe), YES FORUM (Youth and European Social Work), YJF (European Youth Forum).



2010 Coalition of Social NGOs, Press Conference, 19 Jan 2010

## TAKE ACTION !

### ONE WEEK—ONE COUNTRY

In your own country, things are happening and you can also organize your own events!

→ check <http://endpoverty.eu/-COUNTRY-focus.html> to know all about national focus weeks and what's going on in your country throughout the year...

### MAY MEDIA WEEK

From 24 to 30 May 2010, we call on ALL MEDIA throughout the EU to get involved and create a space for the poverty debate

→ Ready to help? Everyone's involvement is useful!

Check <http://endpoverty.eu/MEDIA-week-in-MAY-We-need-you.html>

### 12<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2010

Step forward!

Join the Human Ring around the institutions

On 12<sup>th</sup> October, in towns and cities all over Europe events small and large will be organised at relevant locations to give thousands of people the chance to engage in this action. Details of events near you will be advertised locally and/or will be available on the website [www.endpoverty.eu](http://www.endpoverty.eu).

Check already [http://endpoverty.eu/IMG/pdf/pp\\_human\\_ring\\_en.pdf](http://endpoverty.eu/IMG/pdf/pp_human_ring_en.pdf)

Join in these actions and show your support for building a Europe for all.

ceptions: the communication challenge' on October 28<sup>th</sup>–29<sup>th</sup>, gathering journalists, NGOs and people experiencing poverty.

### Tools for NGOs during 2010

On behalf of the NGO Coalition we are developing tools to increase participation in the Year at local and national level.

The NGO Website [www.endpoverty.eu](http://www.endpoverty.eu) includes pages about the Year, about the coalition of NGOs, using the NGO EY2010 logo, country information, taking action, a joint calendar, and stories of people experiencing poverty.

The Media guide put together by EAPN gives guidance to NGOs to help them achieve the objectives of the year, such as running an information campaign, preparing press releases, organising a press conference etc, but also information relating to the European Year, such as key events and National Focus Weeks.

### Visibility during the year

As well as the many campaigns and activities during the Year at national level, NGOs at European level are planning highlights which they hope will be reflected at local, national and European levels:

National Focus Weeks for the Year have been chosen by EAPN members in all but one Member State (plus Norway and Iceland). NGOs plan to work with their respective NIBs and other national partners to attract the spotlight onto one country during a week throughout the Year.

The European MEDIA Week (May 24–30) will encourage media across Europe to focus on issues of poverty and social exclusion. This is the occasion for NGOs, and the people experiencing poverty that many of them work with at local level, to be consulted, drawing on EAPN's experience of working with people living in poverty, notably during the annual European meeting of people experiencing poverty (The 9<sup>th</sup> European meeting of people experiencing poverty will be held on 25 and 26 June 2010).

Around the International Day of Poverty, October 17<sup>th</sup>, the October European Focus Week (October 11–17) will be organised culminating in a human ring on October 12<sup>th</sup> around the European institutions in Brussels (Commission, Parliament, Council, Committee of the Region...). The aim is to gather thousands of participants to draw attention to a message about the Europe we want. Far from shutting in thousands of workers in the European Parliament, we will invite them to join us in building a better Europe for all. Rendez-vous around the institutions on October 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:10! We won't all be in Brussels, so STEP UP too, organise events in your own country, region, locality, with the same message, "A better Europe for all!". Check also what is already planned in your area on the Coalition's website on the calendar's page <http://endpoverty.eu/-Calendar-of-EVENTS>.

### → KEY LINKS

EY 2010 NGO coalition website [www.endpoverty.eu](http://www.endpoverty.eu)

European Commission website for 2010 [www.2010againstopoverty.eu](http://www.2010againstopoverty.eu)

# NGOs participation at national level in the 2010 European Year

BY FINTAN FARRELL, DIRECTOR OF EAPN

## An EU decision that has an enormous impact on NGO participation

The decision of the EU Institutions not to create National level Committees, that would involve representatives of anti-poverty NGOs and other stakeholders in the direct management of the Year, has enormous impact on the participation of anti-poverty NGOs in, and ownership of the 2010 European Year. Such National Committees have existed for previous European Years, for example the European Year of People with Disabilities (2003) and the European Year against Racism (1997). For the 2010 Year, the EU Institutions have decided that the Year should be managed by National Implementing Bodies (NIBs) which due to the criteria for these bodies are essentially part of the structures of National Ministries. This decision has meant that the participation of national level anti-poverty NGOs in the running of the Year is dependent on the good will, expertise and experience, of the officials responsible for the Year in the NIBs.

## In some Member States, anti-poverty NGOs are left outside of the process

Given this context for the organisation of the 2010 year, there emerges a mixed picture with regards to the participation of anti-poverty NGOs. In some instances, they are in a position to develop and implement a programme of activities and actions relating to the Year, which may or may not be supported by the 'official' programme of the Year. In many instances NGOs (including the EAPN National Network) have been actively engaged by the NIBs in the development and delivery of the 'official' national programmes for the Year.

However, in other Member States, anti-poverty NGOs are left outside of the process and left with the feeling that their expertise and contribution to the fight against poverty and social exclusion goes unrecognised and that the available finances for the Year goes to promoting the work of the Ministries and the engagement of professional public relations companies.

Calls for proposals for activities to contribute to the Year help to illustrate this point. In some



2010 planning workshop following Austria's 2010 Opening conference organised by EAPN Austria. Participants are holding spoons, the logo and symbol of Austrian NGOs 2010 activities, focusing on "distribution"

countries, these calls have been a source of support for anti-poverty NGO activities relating to the year. However, in a number of countries, the outcome of these calls for proposals have been a source of great frustration as NGOs, who have been working primarily in a voluntary capacity to promote and engage with the EU Inclusion policies, still find they receive no funds to support their work.

## When they do get funding, NGOs face administrative burden

A related structural problem is the decision to apply the Structural Funds regulations to the required financial control of the Year. The application of this heavy regulation is in no way proportionate to the amounts of money involved in the European Year. The administrative burden associated to the application of this regulation has had the effect that even when NIBs are open to create 'small grant programmes' to fund NGO activities in relation to the year', they are deterred from doing so.

## A clear commitment to the direct participation of people experiencing poverty and NGOs?

There has been a clear commitment to the direct participation of 'people facing poverty' in the activities of the Year. The round table

of 'people with direct experience of poverty' in the Opening Session of the Year in Madrid clearly demonstrated the added value of this engagement. However, it is important that this direct engagement of people experiencing poverty is not a replacement for the participation of anti-poverty NGOs. The sustainability of the direct participation of people experiencing poverty in policy discussions requires their engagement in anti-poverty NGOs, be it self-organised NGOs, or as part of broader based anti-poverty NGOs. Therefore, it is important that the EU year supports the mutually reinforcing objectives of ensuring the direct participation of people experiencing poverty and the strengthening of the anti-poverty NGO infrastructure. The evaluation of the impact of the Year should assess to what extent these two mutually reinforcing objectives have been met. The evaluation must also make an honest assessment of the extent to which anti-poverty NGOs have been supported to have a meaningful engagement in the 2010 Year.

# What the 2010 EU Year against poverty and social exclusion can deliver at EU level—EAPN's expectancies

BY SIAN JONES, EAPN POLICY COORDINATOR



Fintan Farrell, Director of EAPN

**The European Year comes at the start of the new institutional life of the European Union, following closely on the election of the members of the European Parliament and the appointment of the new European Commission. The focus that the 2010 Year will bring on tackling poverty and social exclusion should deliver a strong EU policy legacy which guarantees a visible step forward for the fight against poverty, social exclusion and inequality in the next decade.**

Achieving this step forward requires that poverty and social exclusion be clearly identified as one of the main challenges to be addressed EU 2010-2020 strategy. EU leaders are still reluctant to make this commitment despite the reality that nearly 80 million people in the EU live in, or at risk of, poverty and that recent Eurobarometer surveys show that 73% of Europeans consider poverty to be a widespread problem.

However, it is not enough just to tackle poverty. We must also tackle the *causes* of poverty and to make it understood that the reduction of inequalities in income and wealth through effective redistribution mechanisms is a prerequisite for delivering a better, fairer EU. 2010 is a chance to get across the message that **more equal societies are better for everyone.**

We need **political leadership** to move forward in the fight against poverty and social exclusion. 2010 must be the occasion when the EU Heads of States and Governments make a solemn declaration, drawn from the obligations in the EU Treaties and commitments made in international Human Rights instruments, and commit to concrete steps to make progress in the fight against poverty and inequality.

We need **effective instruments** at EU level to move from words to real delivery in the fight against poverty. Now, there is much more awareness of the shortcomings of GDP as a measure of the well being of the society. Work that has been done to develop measures beyond GDP, including at risk of poverty and inequality indicators and targets, must now be used systematically to measure progress under the EU 2020 strategy.

The **EU Strategy to fight poverty and social exclusion** (called the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) on Social Protection and Social Exclusion) must no longer be the EU's best kept secret. 2010 must be the occasion to re-launch a tougher more effective version of this strategy which includes National and EU level targets to reduce poverty and inequalities. Opportunities and support for real participation in the strategy must be promoted and monitored through guidelines, indicators and benchmarking.

**Progress on areas of policies** where commitments have already been made at EU level is possible during 2010. The follow up of the Recommendation on Active Inclusion which commits to "implementing an integrated and comprehensive strategy... combining adequate income support, inclusive labour markets and access to quality services" must be a top priority. Follow up of this commitment must ensure monitoring progress on the adequacy of *minimum income schemes* in the Member States and progressing on a framework directive in this area. Attention must also be directed to reversing the trend towards 'working poor' which is an increasing problem in the EU as well as progressing the EU Framework Directive aimed at guaranteeing the right to affordable quality services.



Signature of the Coalition's messages in Ireland (15–21 Feb 2010)



Signature of the Coalition's messages in Austria (22–28 Feb 2010)

The 2010 year must also see real commitments to follow up on the thematic years within the EU Inclusion strategy on child poverty (2007) and on housing and homelessness (2009). A further challenge at policy level is to mainstreaming equality and anti discrimination in anti-poverty policy so as to combat xenophobia and racism against migrants and ethnic minorities, especially Roma.

In 2010, **financial commitment** must be made to realise the narrative about the importance of the participation of people experiencing poverty. It is time to commit to a future EU poverty and social inclusion programme which includes 1) funds to build the capacity of anti-poverty NGOs within Member States and enhances their ability to engage in relevant EU debates and policy dialogues, 2) facilitates the participation of people living in poverty and 3) supports pilot projects to combat poverty at local and national level. Commitments should also be made to ensure that EU Structural Funds can be accessed by anti poverty NGOs using technical assistance and global grants mechanisms and that programmes funded under the structural funds really deliver the social inclusion agenda.

At European level EAPN is facilitating a **coalition of social NGOs** who have come together to cooperate in joint activities and press for a strong political legacy from 2010. More information about this can be found on the website [www.endpoverty.eu](http://www.endpoverty.eu).



People experiencing poverty, EAPN's 2010 Opening Conference in Dublin, 19 Feb 2010



2010 photo exhibition in Portuguese regional networks, EAPN Portugal



Painting activity on 17 Oct 2008, EAPN Belgium

## Useful documents

**EAPN's demands for the outcome of 2010 on**

→ [www.endpoverty.eu/IMG/pdf/eapn\\_s\\_messages\\_for\\_2010\\_en\\_eapn\\_only.pdf](http://www.endpoverty.eu/IMG/pdf/eapn_s_messages_for_2010_en_eapn_only.pdf)

**EAPN's position paper An EU we can trust on**

→ [www.eapn.eu/content/view/1000/82/lang,en](http://www.eapn.eu/content/view/1000/82/lang,en)

**EAPN's report on the social impact of the crisis and of the Recovery package**

→ [www.eapn.eu/content/blogcategory/42/82/lang,en](http://www.eapn.eu/content/blogcategory/42/82/lang,en)

# European Year combating Poverty and Social Exclusion

# 2010

## ...in BELGIUM

BY KAROLIEN SCHEPENS, EAPN BELGIUM



### Situation in BELGIUM

**1 in 7 of the people in Belgium is living below the poverty line. In Europe, this number is even higher: 1 out of 6 people experience poverty daily.** As if these findings were not worrying enough, figures of the OECD indicate that the percentage of people experiencing poverty is increasing as well as the gap between rich and poor.

Often forgotten is that this concerns PEOPLE: the poverty rate reflect the fact that a lot of people are excluded from basic human rights. In daily life of our inhabitants, basic needs can no longer be met. More and more people are getting further and further away from their rights on housing, health, education, and so on. Although the Belgian government already

realized some great initiatives, as we see that concerning the participation policy efforts have been made, the results don't lie: 1 out of 7 citizens in Belgium live below the poverty line.

### Outcome expected in Belgium for 2010

The Belgian Presidency has to step forward in the fight against poverty and social exclusion. We expect them to have a great influence on the future EU-policy and on the new European strategy for the coming ten years in the sense of combating poverty. Within this scope, BAPN developed—together with her three regional anti-poverty networks—10 demands for a 'New Europe', A Europe that CAN deliver on the eradication of poverty. These demands are formulated with and by people experiencing poverty.



Stop Armoede.Nu action in Antwerp, 1 March 2010

tives. **We do not only need hard promises, we also need ACTIONS that can support and follow up the made promises.** Member States need to be more encouraged—or obligated—to deliver on this field, on the eradication of poverty, on the access to human rights.

Also on participation of people experiencing poverty in policy making, we want Belgium to be an example. Already now there are good practices of cooperation with people experiencing poverty and policy-makers. We must encourage these initiatives for sure, but on the same time we need to invest in a constant effort to optimize this way of working. The heart of effective and efficient policy lies there were people themselves have a voice in important decisions that affect their own lives.

**In 2010, BAPN will persist to make the EU-policy deliver on human rights and thereby deliver on the fight against poverty.**



EAPN Belgium, Redrawing (the RIGHT to) health, Brussels, 26 Feb 2010

## ACTIVITIES → BELGIUM → 2010

Event 'Redrawing (the RIGHT to) health'

**26<sup>th</sup> of February 2010**

Address: National Bank, Berlaimontlaan 14, 1000 Brussels

Event on housing and homelessness

**26<sup>th</sup> of March 2010**

Address: Rue Paul-Joseph Carpay 22, 4020 Liège

More events on [www.bapn.be](http://www.bapn.be)

Press Conference

Cycle against Poverty

### → USEFUL LINKS

EAPN Belgium Network

[www.bapn.be](http://www.bapn.be)

More about EY 2010 activities in BELGIUM on

[www.armoedebestrijding.be](http://www.armoedebestrijding.be)

BELGIUM National Implementing Body (NIB)

[www.mi-is.be](http://www.mi-is.be)

# European Year combating Poverty and Social Exclusion

# 2010

## ...in PORTUGAL

BY JULIO PAIVAS, EAPN PORTUGAL



2010 photo exhibition in Portuguese regional networks

### Situation in Portugal

The fight against poverty remains a big challenge, in Portugal. The most recent figures show the severity of the situation, although they reveal only part of the harsh reality. The at-risk-of-poverty rate is significant (18%), only being higher in Latvia (23%) and Greece (21%), followed by Spain, Italy and Lithuania (all 20%). This figure has been steady since 2005; however, it is worth highlighting the increase of the at-risk-of-poverty rate among the younger population (increase of 2 percentage points during the last year) and the decrease of the at-risk-of-poverty rate among the elderly (4 percentage point in the last year). This strong reduction among people over 65 can be explained by the creation of the measure Solidarity Supplement for the Elderly<sup>1</sup>. Even though, the vulnerability to poverty is still high within these two age groups (children and the elderly) with a difference of 5 percentage points for people with less than

18 years of age and 4 percentage points for the elderly.

### Outcome expected in Portugal for 2010

After 10 years since the Lisbon Strategy we came to a crucial moment that we need to reflect on what the fight against poverty has been and to renew the commitments to the eradication of poverty.

Thus, our expectations aim mainly at:

- To combat the causes and the cost of poverty.
- To reinforce the citizens' participation.
- The mobilization of all citizens, including those who face grater vulnerability.
- More equity in the access to social rights: education, health, housing and adequate income.

- Mainstreaming of policies and measures, promoting the cross-cutting feature of the fight against poverty.
- To reinforce social protection.
- To guarantee the protection in employment and promoting Active Inclusion.
- To reinforce the role of the social economy organizations.
- To promote public awareness and information on the key role of the fight against poverty, creating a space for an effective solidarity.
- The expectations may be ambitious, but they are necessary if our main objective is to fight poverty and exclusion and to promote social justice and well-being for all citizens.

<sup>1</sup> Monthly cash supplement paid in addition to invalidity and old-age social pensions (non-contributory scheme).

## ACTIVITIES → PORTUGAL → 2010

### Project Schools against Poverty

(Awareness raising activities aimed at the school community on the eradication of poverty; during; National)

### National Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty

(Facilitating participation of PEP, **4-10 October**, Lisboa)

### Focus week

(A number of activities to be carried out within the scope of the AY2010; **4-10 October**; National)

### Children/Youth Publication

(Edition of a children's book with stories addressing the poverty and social exclusion phenomena; during de year; National)

**18 projects submitted to the call for proposals of the EY2010 National Program**

### → USEFUL LINKS

EAPN Portugal Network

[www.reapn.org](http://www.reapn.org)

More about EY 2010 activities in PORTUGAL

[www.2010againstopoverty.eu](http://www.2010againstopoverty.eu)

Portugal National Implementing Body (NIB)

[www.seg-social.pt](http://www.seg-social.pt)

# European Year combating Poverty and Social Exclusion

# 2010

BY KATARINA KLAMKOVÁ,  
EAPN CZECH REPUBLIC

## ...in the CZECH REPUBLIC

### Situation in the Czech Republic

Among Czech citizens threatened by social exclusion and poverty or experiencing such, belong mainly unemployed people, socially excluded Roma communities and members of other ethnic communities, young & elderly people, people with serious health conditions, families with children. The main challenges are in the field of social housing, education and labour market successfulness of disadvantaged groups, transformation of health care, pensions, employment and social services.

Although, the Czech Republic is a country with the lowest level of poverty (roughly 7–10%), there are alarming numbers of people balancing on the verge of poverty and social exclusion (approximately 8%). Due to the financial crisis in 2008–2009, there has been an increasing number of unemployed people (comparing to the year of 2008, the difference was up to 2,2% in 2009), therefore the numbers of people potentially threatened by social exclusion are raising.

### Outcome expected in the Czech Republic for 2010

We, the NGOs that have joined the European year for combating poverty and social exclusion had created a group called NAPSÍ together! (in Czech NAPSÍ spolu!, which consists namely of EAPN CZ, People in Need – Clovek v tísni, SKOK, Socioklub, IQ Roma servis). We have therefore conducted a country-wide campaign in order to achieve **three main goals**. Firstly, by means of initializing several lectures, meetings, newsletters, workshops and a videospot on this issue, we intend to spread the principle of dignity, **tolerance**



& **understanding** among Czech citizens towards people experiencing poverty and social exclusion. Our public message is: *“Everyone is lacking something. Poverty does not deserve your contempt (and disregard)”*.

Secondly, we are aiming to improve **political & governmental involvement** and encourage discussions on this subject. Last not least, we are looking into **resolving** several important issues resulting in poverty & social exclusion such are housing, debts, education, discrimination based on racial and ethnic prejudice. Our political message is: *“Better and more SMART NAPSÍ, increase of participation, and increased attention towards social mainstreaming.”*



IQ Roma service systematically develops a method of complex work with the family

### ACTIVITIES → CZECH REPUBLIC → 2010

Opening and press conference of the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion:

January 22, 12:00 a.m., European House, Address: Jungmannova 24, Prague 1

Meeting of people experiencing poverty:

April 15-16, Prague-Toulcův Dvůr (tbc)

Ministerial round table:

May 19, European House, Address: Jungmannova 24, Prague 1

Launch of national video-spot campaign:

February 2010

### → USEFUL LINKS

EAPN Czech Republic Network

[www.eapncr.org](http://www.eapncr.org)

More about EY 2010 activities in the Czech Republic on:

[www.mpsv.cz/en](http://www.mpsv.cz/en)

[www.2010againstpoverty.eu/extranet/cz\\_national\\_programme\\_en.pdf](http://www.2010againstpoverty.eu/extranet/cz_national_programme_en.pdf)

# European Year combating Poverty and Social Exclusion 2010

## ...in IRELAND

BY MARK BYRNE, EAPN IRELAND

### Ireland's economic and social position remains precarious

Ireland's economic and social position remains precarious and the effects of the recession continue to have a severe impact on hundreds of thousands of people across the state. The 2010 Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion represents an opportunity for the Government to prove that it is serious about tackling poverty, unemployment, and the devastating social legacy of the economic crash.

**Ireland's at-risk-of-poverty rate for 2008 was 14.4%.** However, the figures from 2008 also show that much work remains to be done in reducing at-risk-of-poverty levels for vulnerable groups; particularly children (18%), lone parents (36%) and the unemployed (23%).

**The unemployment crisis is a huge threat** to Ireland's social and economic future and a failure to address the problem in 2010 will drive thousands of people and families below the poverty line. Just 6.7% per cent of employed people are at risk of poverty in Ireland but that figure rises to 23% for unemployed people. There are over 420,000 people on the live register in Ireland and the 2010 Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion represents an

opportunity for the Government to set out a serious and ambitious plan for getting people back to work.



Anna Visser, Director of EAPN Ireland

### ACTIVITIES → IRELAND → 2010

**International Conference—“Building Social Europe: From Crisis to Opportunity”**

February 19<sup>th</sup>, Croke Park, Dublin.

**EAPN Ireland Stories Campaign—Communicating the Experiences of People living with Poverty and Social Exclusion**

May 2010.

**20:20 Vision—Launch of a Book that Examines the Impact of Social Europe and Looks to the Future Development of the Social Europe Project**

May 2010.



Winners of the Young Social Innovators Competition 2009 & Fifth year students from St. Peter's College Dunboyne, Co. Meath

### Outcome expected: reversing the spiral

At a national level, the 2010 Year can play an important role in tackling the destructive legacy of the economic crash, as well as addressing structural social problems such as long-term unemployment and exclusion.

Successive Irish governments, in cooperation with the European Union, have made considerable progress in tackling poverty in Ireland. Relative poverty decreased year on year and now stands at 14.4%, down from 21% in 2001. Significantly, consistent poverty has been reduced to 4.2%, and the Government is now within touching distance of its stated objective of reducing consistent poverty to between 2 and 4% by 2012 and eliminating it entirely by 2016.

But Ireland still needs to learn from the mistakes of the past. The 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion represents a major opportunity to develop a vi-

sion of a better Ireland while contributing to the development of a European Union that can finally make a decisive impact on poverty at home and globally.

The social and economic fortunes of Ireland and the European Union are bound together. The 2010 Year will see the negotiation and adoption of a new Lisbon Strategy, a common programme for all member states and a roadmap for our collective recovery over the next ten years. Ireland has a major opportunity to lead the way in calling for an ambitious new agenda that prioritises people, society, and quality of life ahead of profits, property and the primacy of the market. EAPN Ireland will work to put poverty at the top of the national agenda and we will set out a vision for change that involves a more equal, sustainable society, policy making based on participation, and a political commitment to tackle and eliminate poverty in Ireland. 2010 is a chance to set out a powerful and progressive vision for the future; one that has the potential to genuinely unite people in a common project to create fairer, sustainable, more equal societies in Ireland and across the European Union.

### → USEFUL LINKS

EAPN Ireland Network

<http://www.eapn.ie>

Irish national website on the 2010 Year

<http://www.welfare.ie/EN/eu2010/Pages/eu2010.aspx>

# Social NGOs call for...

2010 BUILDING A  
EUROPE FOR ALL  
[www.endpoverty.eu](http://www.endpoverty.eu)



## An awareness-raising campaign on the structural causes of poverty and social exclusion

Launch a high-profile awareness-raising campaign on the structural causes and consequences of poverty and social exclusion as well as the causes and social impact of the current crisis. This campaign should highlight the growing gap between rich and poor and the role of the State in regulating the creation of wealth and redistributing its benefits towards the universal realisation of economic and social rights.

## Enhanced dialogue with people in poverty and anti poverty NGOs

People in poverty, and the organisations that support them, are essential parts of finding long-term solutions to poverty. EU and National Guidelines must be developed and implemented to foster their participation and active involvement in governance. Financial investment at all levels, local, national and European is needed to support the implementation of the guidelines and to ensure the resourced and active participation of anti poverty NGOs as equal partners in decision-making processes at all levels.

## A strong political legacy from 2010

**A new overarching social and sustainable EU strategy, based on fundamental rights**, which puts people and planet first and makes progress on eradicating poverty and inequality a pre-requisite in the development of all EU policies.

**A special European Council on Poverty and Social Exclusion**, with a declaration by Heads of States and Governments which asserts the fight against poverty and social exclusion as a key priority for the EU agenda. This declaration should lead to a revitalised EU Social Inclusion Strategy (as part of the Social Open Method of Coordination) which engages all stakeholders and ensures progress on agreed national and EU poverty targets. The declaration should commit to tangible steps forward on guaranteeing access for all to decent work and affordable, quality universal services – a decent home, affordable heating, education, health and long-term care, adequate minimum income, training and employment services...

**Real progress on the adequacy of Minimum Income Schemes**, so as to be capable of lifting every child, adult and older person out of poverty and delivering on their right to a dignified life. The agreement of a common EU definition of adequacy and of common methods to establish adequacy as well as regular updating in line with the cost of living, should inform an EU Framework Directive on Minimum Income which would mark a historic breakthrough in EU cooperation to achieve higher level social standards.

**A commitment to ending street homelessness**, building on the European Parliament's written declaration and the development of a European framework definition of homelessness to enable the gathering of comparable and reliable data and to provide annual updates on action taken and progress made in EU Member States towards ending homelessness.

## Funding to underpin EU Commitments to fight poverty and social exclusion

**An EU poverty programme:** a new programme should build on the social inclusion section of the existing EU programme (PROGRESS) and provide additional support for activities within Member States to enable national level stakeholders to engage with the EU strategies and to support exchange of knowledge and learning through national and local level 'demonstration projects' in the fight against poverty and social exclusion. This programme should allocate sufficient funds to support the participation of people experiencing poverty in policy making and for the capacity building of their organisations. New commitments to ensure that EU **Structural Funds deliver on the fight against poverty and social exclusion.**