

Challenges for the Belgian Model for participation in social OMC and national policy making on poverty

[Belgian Anti Poverty Network]

- established in 1990 // EAPN
- Belgium = 3 regions → 3 networks
 - Flanders / Wallonia (+ German Community)/
Brussels
- Federal Anti-Poverty Plan: Recognition of BN and BN made responsible for participation of people experiencing poverty in 2010 (Presidency)

[Flemish Network]

- Flemish Network: Legal basis
 - 12/03/2003: an anti poverty decree of the Flemish government (March 2003), changes 2009
 - Coordination and organisation
 - an anti poverty action plan after 12 months: Flemish base for NAPIncl
 - preparation of an anti poverty policy in each department (ministry)
 - permanent anti poverty consultation between all Flemish ministries: horizontal
 - Each ministry consultation with Flemish Network at least twice a year
- with the participation of people experiencing poverty

[Flemish Model for participation]

- Associations of people experiencing poverty
 - as a non-profit association
 - with active participation of people experiencing poverty
 - working on the basis of 6 criteria

- Experience Experts in Poverty and Social Exclusion

- Thematical Working Groups: Network !

[Participation on federal level]

- General Report on Poverty (1994): designed with active participation of the associations of people experiencing poverty
- Cooperation Agreement (1998) between the 6 governments
- Anti Poverty Agency
 - Management Committee: 6 governments
 - Steering Committee: MC + all actors (associations of people experiencing poverty)
 - two years report on poverty (ass. p.e.p.)

[Participation on federal level]

- federal government: NAP inclusion
 - Flemish Action Plan:
 - based on the 10 basic rights, as they are indicated in the 'General Report on Poverty'
 - Participation in design
 - Each year actualisation
 - WG NAP Actions
 - WG NAP Indicators

[Participation on federal level]

- NAP inclusion:
 - WG NAP Actions: challenges for participation:
 - Preparation with support from belgian government
 - In Nap 2003-2005: conditions for serious participation
 - adoption of list with recommandations for following NAP:
 - Raise of minimum income
 - Interdiction to take away income of families with children



Challenges:

- Solid participation vs symbolic participation
- Conditions: time, stable structure, comprehensive language
- Cooperation and coordination of different policy levels
- important decisions with decisive impact on poverty are made without participation of pep, but with consultation of Social Partners