

# EAPN Proposals of Country-Specific Recommendations Making Progress on Poverty Reduction and Meaningful Stakeholder Engagement!

Europe 2020's ambitious target to reduce poverty by at least 20 million by 2020 is not being met. To the contrary, poverty has increased by 2 million since 2010.

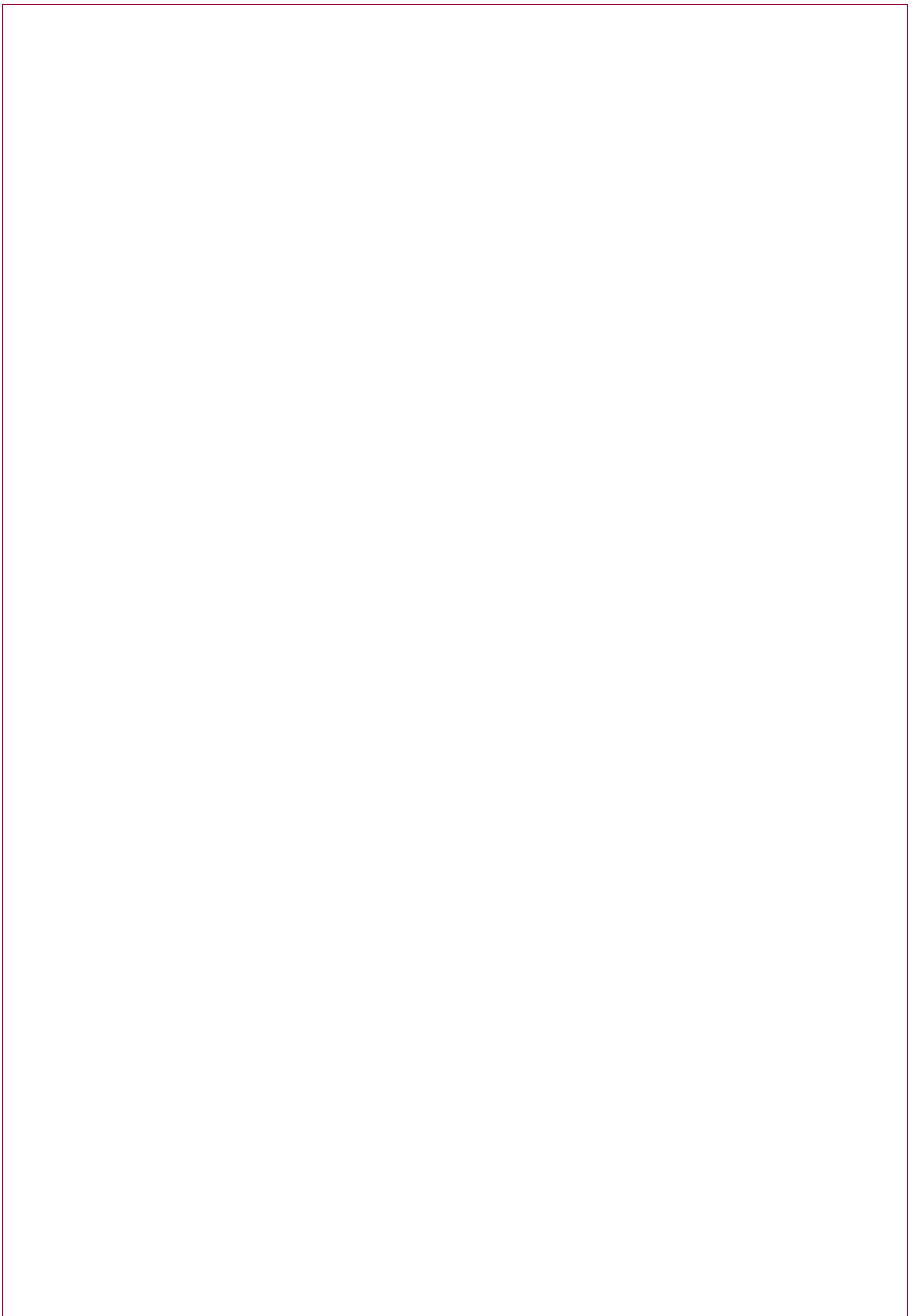
Commitments to actively involve national stakeholders in National Reform Programmes have also largely not been realized.

In this document, EAPN members set out their policy and process recommendations to each Member State, to help achieve the social targets and better stakeholder engagement. They are presented as shadow country-specific Recommendations, providing input to the Commission's review of the NRPs in the economic semester of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

EAPN's Recommendations include proposals on:

- Macroeconomic policies that contribute to social inclusion and support a fairer response to the crisis.
- Integrated, multidimensional policies that ensure adequate minimum income and access to rights, resources and services.
- Inclusive labour market policies offering active inclusion pathways to quality employment.
- Inclusive education and training policy.
- Explicit use of Structural Funds for poverty reduction.
- Meaningful, structured participation of stakeholders, including NGOs, in the NRPs.

**MAY 2012 – Updated in AUGUST 2012**



## INTRODUCTION

At the end of May 2012, the European Commission prepared Country-Specific Recommendations on Member States' National Reform Programmes (NRPs) delivery on the objectives and targets of the Europe 2020 Strategy, as part of the economic semester. The Recommendations were adopted by the European Council in June, and are expected to influence Member States' budget decisions and drive policy delivery in preparation of next year's NRPs.

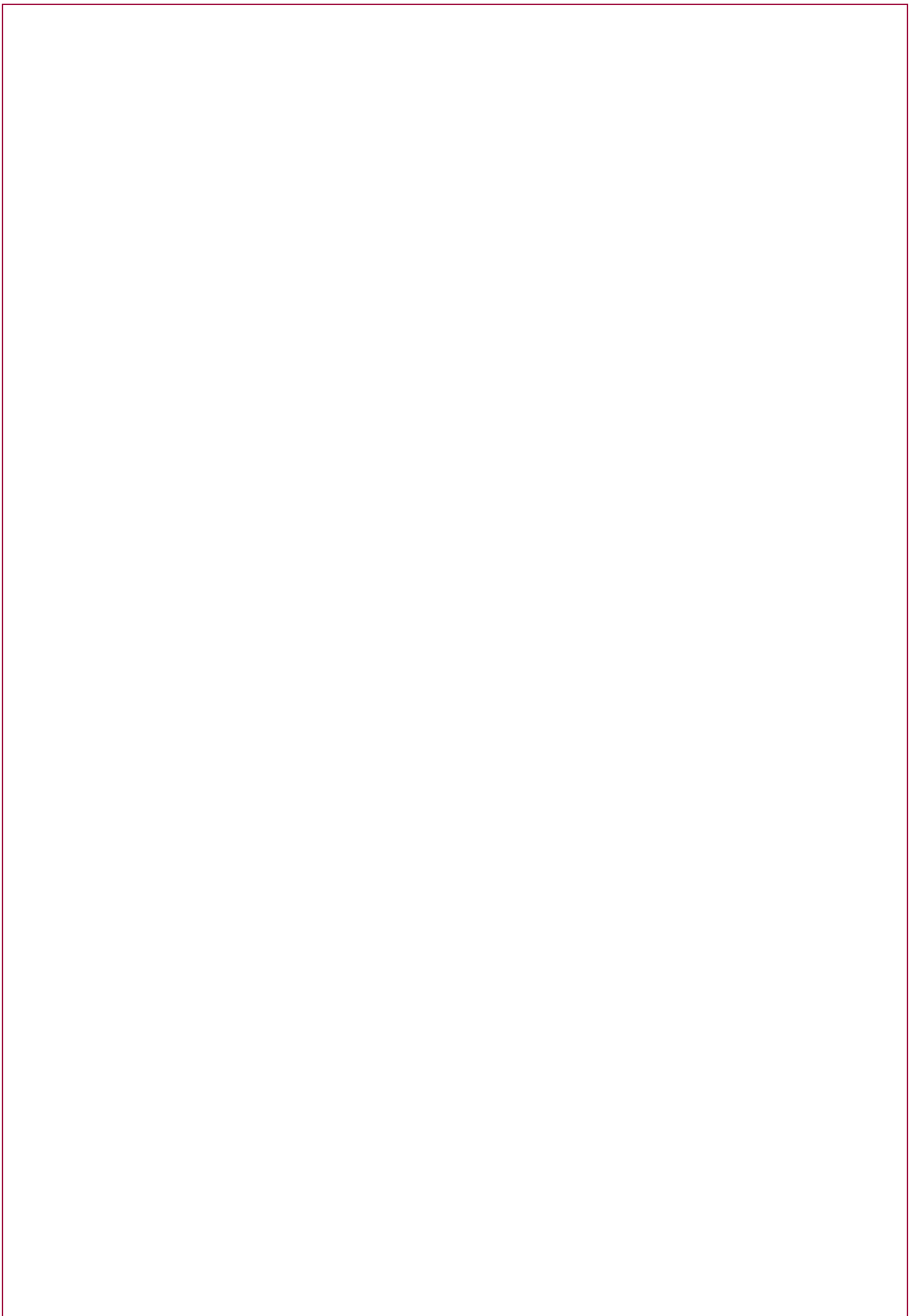
This year, EAPN decided to prepare its own input to this process and developed draft and alternative Recommendations, together with its national and EO members. The Recommendations were developed during a workshop of the EAPN EU Inclusion Strategies Group, held in Brussels on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2012, involving EAPN representatives from 30 national networks and EO members. The participants assessed the effectiveness of the NRPs and NSRs and made Recommendations on policies needed to achieve the poverty and other Europe 2020 social targets, across all fields: economic, employment and social, as well as measures to ensure meaningful stakeholder engagement. Proposals were also made on a better use of Structural Funds for poverty reduction.

A detailed EAPN assessment of the National Reform Programmes was finalized in July 2012, based on a common questionnaire/scoreboard: *An EU Worth Defending - Beyond Austerity to Social Investment and Inclusive Growth EAPN analysis of the 2012 National Reform Programmes (NRPs) and National Social Reports (NSRs)*", available on EAPN's website in the publications' section (<http://www.eapn.eu/images/stories/docs/EAPN-position-papers-and-reports/2012-eapn-nrp-report-en.pdf>).

The Recommendations were sent to the Commission and other EU institutions and presented to Commissioner Andor and Commissioner Rehn in the European Parliament on the 28<sup>th</sup> June, as part of an important initiative on alternative Recommendations by stakeholders developed by the Greens/EFA<sup>1</sup>. This document provides the full list of Recommendations proposed by EAPN members.

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<sup>1</sup> See Greens/EFA: Towards a more democratic and balanced economic governance: Alternative and additional country-specific recommendations 2012, <http://www.greens-efa.eu/kickstart-social-europe-7385.html>.



***EAPN national networks and European Organisations make the following Country-Specific Recommendations to Member State Governments:***

<b>Member State</b>	<b>Country-Specific Recommendations (National Networks)</b>
<b>Austria</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Raise the amount of means-tested minimum income, to introduce an independent minimum income for children and to include costs for housing.</li> <li>2. More labour-market measures and employment opportunities for people most excluded from the labour market, especially for people able to work only part-time.</li> <li>3. A reform of the educational system, which is highly segregating (full time school, common school for children from 10 - 14 etc.)</li> </ol>
<b>Belgium</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Activation measures without quality job creation are not a way out of poverty, but risk being a way into poverty. Invest in quality jobs (sustainable, well-paid and accessible) and support excluded people into these jobs.</li> <li>2. Austerity Measures are not re-launching the economy. A better option is to invest in minimum income systems, secure social protection systems and services and embed a more equal tax system to provide the necessary finances for realizing this.</li> <li>3. Develop clear concrete targets and sub-targets, with related indicators.</li> </ol>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improve the weak EU Governance/participation of stakeholders by strengthening direct democracy.</li> <li>2. Elaborate and enforce income policies and mechanisms for income distribution, including reconsidering of regressive taxation.</li> <li>3. Reformulate the whole design of Structural Funds as public funds including reconsidering groups who have access to them.</li> <li>4. Reformulate poverty lines in an honest way.</li> <li>5. Develop clear monitoring of the political measures to alleviate poverty and social exclusion by answering the question: How many people have escaped poverty and social exclusion thanks to them.</li> <li>6. Develop Youth policy addressing the collapse of educational, social, and economic policies that led to the saying that “young people in Bulgaria have two survival strategies: Terminal 1 and Terminal 2 of Sofia Airport”.</li> <li>7. Reconsider the deep de-regulation of business environment leading to its criminalization.</li> </ol>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Put in practice as soon as possible inclusive and high quality education for socially vulnerable people and Roma as a political priority; increase number of Roma educated in secondary-schools, with main responsibility placed on educational institutions.</li> <li>2. Implement inclusive social housing practice with integrated social services (not ghettos) in private and public housing with possibility of accessing indebtedness- reduction plans.</li> <li>3. Start up a major positive active inclusion labour market policy, with direct responsibility of the employment office to employ rather than indirect responsibility based on private sub-contractors.</li> </ol>

<b>Cyprus</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Embed meaningful participation of stakeholders in the design and full implementation of the NRP.</li> <li>2. Invest in creating decent, quality jobs to fight unemployment.</li> <li>3. Ensure adequate minimum income for all, as a means to preventing and fighting poverty.</li> <li>4. Use Structural Funds better to finance projects that fight poverty for all vulnerable categories. Ensure that funding is also available to (targeted at) projects at the grass-root level, involving NGOs. Fighting discrimination and inequalities must also be ensured.</li> </ol>
<b>Denmark</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Give higher priority to growth and jobs.</li> <li>2. Give access to holistic services, rehabilitation and proper jobs for long term unemployed with complex difficulties.</li> <li>3. Set an official poverty line and minimum income reflecting the actual living costs.</li> <li>4. Address growing inequality. It is a process that is threatening social cohesion and increasing social and health costs.</li> <li>5. Make the EU2020 process more visible and democratic; involve stakeholders more effectively, as with the former awareness-raising programs funded by PROGRESS on the National Action Plans on Inclusion and the Social OMC.</li> </ol>
<b>Estonia</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Focus more on quality jobs and not so much on employment at any price.</li> <li>2. Prioritize more reducing poverty and social exclusion and consider achieving targets through better access to services and raising subsistence level and benefits.</li> <li>3. Poverty target should ensure that a minimum standard of services are guaranteed at state level and are accessible to everybody. Especially for children.</li> </ol>
<b>Finland</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Alleviate the situation and enhance the purchasing power of low-income families with children, which were badly hit by the increase of consumption tax and freezing of the indexation of child allowance in the budget meeting of 22 March 2012.</li> <li>2. Use Structural Funds in an innovative manner to develop a full range of measures that alleviate poverty.</li> <li>3. Expand the social guarantee for youth from mere employment measures to include also other social measures, addressing the risk of social exclusion that exists already amongst very young children.</li> </ol>
<b>France</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Set in place a multi-annual (5 years) and multi-dimensional plan to fight poverty (employment, housing, health, reinforcing access to care, adequate income for a life in dignity, education for all, access to culture, citizenship). This plan would be drafted with the participation of people experiencing poverty. It would contain clear targets, quantifiable objectives (number of measures taken, results, gap between set objectives and what was achieved, and explanations for this gap).</li> <li>2. Raise social benefits to the level of needs, in order to allow people to live in dignity.</li> </ol>

	<p>3. Build 150.000 social dwellings per year, for a period of five years.</p>
<b>Germany</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The promotion of employment must be accompanied with existence-securing wages and obligation to contribute to social insurance.</li> <li>2. In poverty measurement, transparent procedures must be found that for instance take participation and periods spent in the job market into the picture. Beyond that, further factors (the at-risk-of-poverty rate, material deprivation etc.) must be considered rather than only the number of long-term unemployed people.</li> <li>3. To promote the social integration of disadvantaged target groups, appropriate financial means must be made available. Amongst other things this could be realized by the 20 per cent ring-fencing of payments of development funds from the ESF.</li> </ol>
<b>Greece</b>	<p>Greece is not submitting a real NRP, thus the following proposals are directed more to the E.C and relate to the whole policy development pact as result of the EC/ECB/IMF country debt reduction imposed policy measures.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create crisis intervention new safety nets for the significant increase impoverished population, resulting from austerity policies.</li> <li>2. Introduce a meaningful minimum income scheme to prevent further impoverishment.</li> <li>3. Create new activation measures for the increased population of unemployed with emphasis on the young unemployed (50%), the working poor and long-term unemployed with emphasis on women.</li> <li>4. Introduce poverty and inequality impact assessment of all policy measures implemented as part of the ‘bail out’ plans and financial and structural adjustment plans of EC/ECB and IMF.</li> <li>5. Disentangle policy measures to tackle extreme rise of poverty and inequality from a ‘bottleneck’ conception of growth and competitiveness and introduce new social spending through direct income reinforcement schemes (via social transfers, i.e. housing, disability benefits etc.). Thus enhance household consumption power and spending to create a positive short term impact to the real economy.</li> <li>6. Support special activation measures for unemployed target groups who are far from the labor market and facing multiple risks.</li> <li>7. Restore low wages and pensions to their pre- Troika measures level.</li> <li>8. Generally enhance social transfers as a measure to real economy growth. Demystify competitiveness enhancement austerity related measures, as they have been clearly proven to function as crisis deepening factors. Develop a new “EU Development Deal” with EU money reaching the needy EU citizens and not the EU banks.</li> </ol> <p>Engage all stakeholders and specifically the civil society organizations.</p>
<b>Hungary</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction of guaranteed minimum income which ensures a dignified life to everyone.</li> <li>2. Sustainable employment programmes that build on local communities, local needs and capacity, builds skills of people and provide decent wage for them.</li> <li>3. Treat fight against child poverty as a priority – put children’s rights and interests first!</li> </ol>

<p><b>Ireland</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensure active and meaningful consultation with all stakeholders in the development and implementation of the NRP.</li> <li>2. Implement poverty and inequality impact assessment in a transparent and constructive manner across all areas of policy, including those included in its memorandum of understanding with the EC/ECB and IMF, to prevent the negative impact of policy on the most vulnerable and those experiencing inequality.</li> <li>3. Address the growing levels of inequality.</li> <li>4. Implement an integrated active inclusion approach to policy development. Specifically: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Reforms to the welfare system and activation services should ensure that at all times people have access to a decent income and to services, and supports to meet their needs and recognise the first large-scale activation of women, particularly mothers from welfare.</li> <li>II. The focus on growth and job creation should prioritise quality jobs and ensure that everyone benefits. Within this it is important to adopt an approach to tackle the problem of in-work poverty and the existence of poverty traps.</li> <li>III. Cease the cuts in services to the most vulnerable. This includes services that are provided by community groups with huge voluntary community input so “good value for money”.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<p><b>Italy</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The reality of the situation of poverty confirms that the comprehension of the phenomenon and the efficacy of policies is not possible if the government does not promote active and meaningful civil dialogue and consultation with all stakeholders, in particular NGOs implicated in policy to fight poverty, and assure that the contribution is reflected in the content of the NRP.</li> <li>2. Employment is only one of the instruments of the inclusion strategy; the first way is through the support of an adequate minimum income for all people that live in poverty and for the real activation of these, but not through workfare. In the Italian system social transfers are not efficient in reducing poverty, as the level of the transfers is very low. For the efficacy of the fight against poverty it is necessary to have a multi-dimensional and multiannual strategy and integrated policies: (adequate income, housing, health and employment) with the real implication of people living in poverty and of NGOs engaged.</li> <li>3. The promotion of quality of employment is necessary with support to those (enterprise, social economy, voluntary organization’s) that invest in the qualification of employees or support high level profiles (graduates, graduated, specialized) in particular for young people.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Latvia</b></p>	<p>Still building network in Latvia.</p>
<p><b>Lithuania</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Include a clear definition of Social Economy and Social Clustering in Lithuanian law and National Programs.</li> <li>2. Include in National Law an obligation to have permanent consultation with Lithuanian EAPN and other umbrella stakeholders and NGO organizations’ before finalizing the NRP and NSR and prioritize Structural Funds’ needs.</li> <li>3. National Government should make obligatory the organization of public</li> </ol>



	consultations with civil society organizations.
<b>Luxembourg</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Make out of the NRP an integrated strategic programme, better coordinated with the NSR and involving all stakeholders in the drafting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.</li> <li>2. Combine the employment, research, climate/energy and education targets-related measures with the ones for reducing poverty and also evaluate for each measure its contribution to the poverty/social exclusion target and make sure that the sum of the effects of all the measures reaches the target.</li> <li>3. Take strong action in the field of social housing, regarding both the provision of housing at affordable prices in general, as well as the provision of special social housing. At least as an intermediary measure introduce rent subsidies for those parts of the population that cannot afford the high lodging prices; such a measure should be accompanied by a strong control of rent prices in order to avoid that the amounts spent on the measure will not end up in the pockets of the tenants.</li> </ol>
<b>Malta</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Take more seriously the issue of school drop outs. Education is key to opportunities for employment. The government should also see that employers do not abuse their workers by offering them precarious jobs. The right of the workers should be safeguarded at all times.</li> <li>2. It is strongly recommended to raise the minimum wage and introduce an adequate minimum income for all in order to strengthen the purchasing power of families which is of utmost importance. The purchasing power is being weakened with the higher cost of living and utility bills including gas. This measure will alleviate people from poverty and social exclusion.</li> <li>3. The Pension Reform should ensure that it will address the most vulnerable groups of society i.e. the elderly and persons with disabilities and more services should be made available to these groups.</li> </ol>
<b>Netherlands</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>The Dutch Government should not only focus on employment and social counseling – there are more unemployed people than jobs:</b> We also have a job as parent(s) for our children, as grandparents for our grandchild(ren), as a child or carer for our (grand)parent(s), as a human being to another human being. <b>Work-private life balance = adequate balance.</b></li> <li>2. <b>Stop creating a large group of people in poverty in the future (ensure social rights for self-employed):</b> Self-employed people often work too many hours at a low rate, have no money for insurance against occupational disease and to pay a pension premium.</li> <li>3. <b>Stop the penalization of poor households</b> with the introduction of household income penalties/sanctions on the benefits of parents when the young people in the family, living at home manage to get work. Young people should not be dependent on their families, nor families dependent on young people. Recognize the independence of young people and of their families <b>defending individual rights to adequate income.</b></li> <li>4. <b>Stop social dumping:</b> workers from other countries are paid below the minimum wage: back a minimum wage and adequate and more equal income, decent housing and facilities and dignity for everyone who lives and works in the Netherlands.</li> <li>5. <b>Stop inequality:</b> decentralization with local policy creates inequality in Dutch</li> </ol>

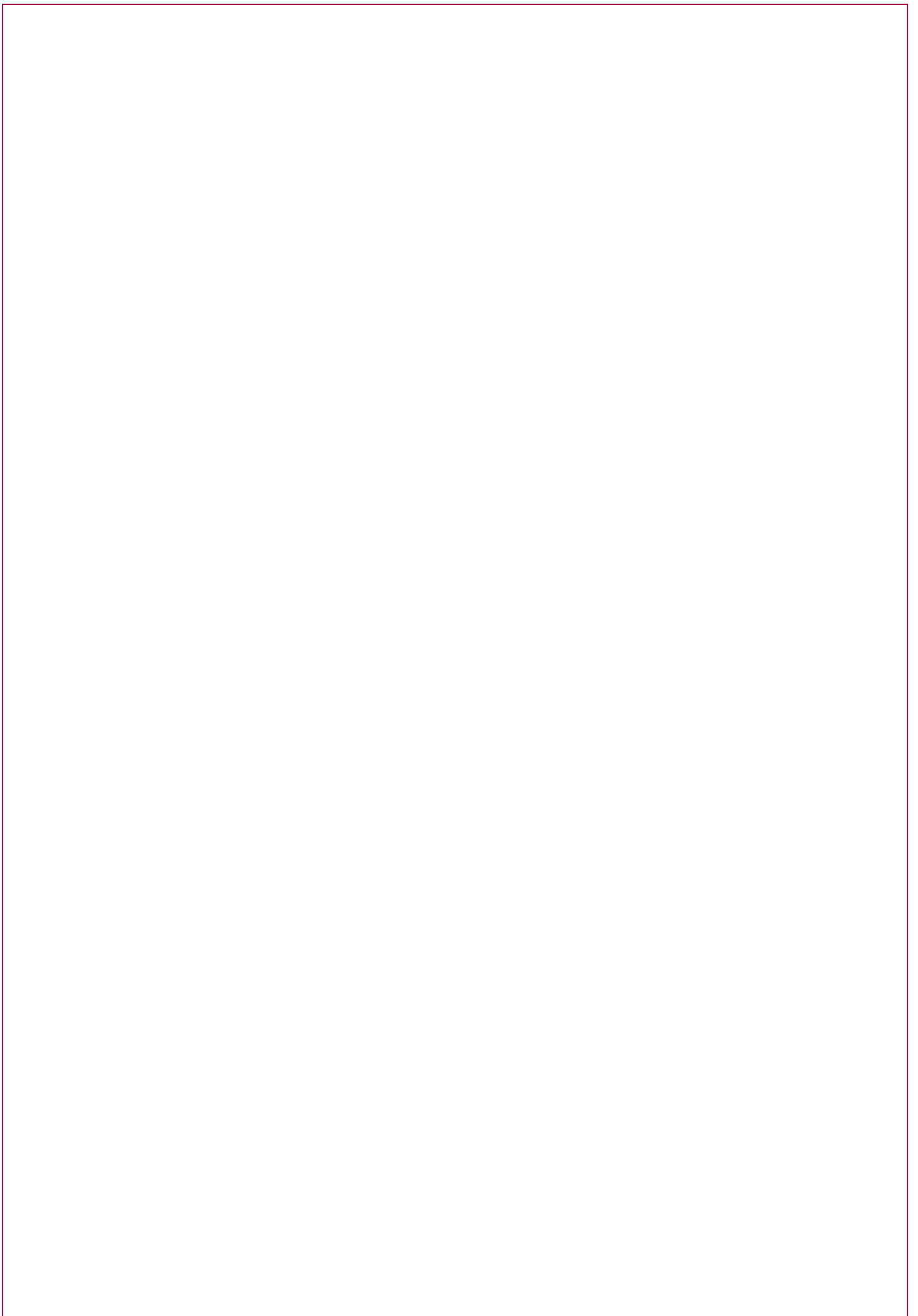
	<p>municipalities. Talk with people with direct experience of poverty and social exclusion about the realities of poverty and about solutions.</p>
<b>Poland</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Take seriously the proposals made by NGOs in a meaningful consultation process on the NRP.</li> <li>2. Develop a comprehensive strategy to fight poverty and social exclusion that is evidence-based.</li> <li>3. Ensure that the poor and excluded are protected from the impact of austerity measures.</li> </ol>
<b>Portugal</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Despite the fact that Portugal is not obliged to present a NRP, it would be desirable that the Portuguese government would do so. Taking into consideration the actual situation and the huge impact of the austerity measures on poverty and social exclusion (particularly for those previously already in disadvantage but also for new “groups” – medium class) it would be crucial that a NRP could follow the implementation of the poverty target and adjacent commitments. Without a NRP there is no space for the poverty target, anti-poverty measures, and above all no space for participation of civil society. The Stability Pact presented to the EC (and not presented or discussed in the Portuguese Parliament) does not reflect any of these issues.</li> <li>2. Urgently put in place employment measures, particularly for youngsters, but reaffirm that it should not be employment at any cost, or whatever kind of employment. Portugal has had an important percentage of working poor in the past and we can't accept increasing this figure as a result of the crisis, accepting also whatever revision of labour laws which are proposed to make the labour market so flexible that it puts everyone at risk of poverty. Low and instable salaries cannot make the economy grow and be competitive. And at the same time, low and instable salaries put at risk the social system (less contributions, less sustainability of the system and availability for the investment in the fight against poverty and social exclusion). Controlling and diminishing social protection is not a condition for growth but exactly the opposite! The “medicine” is killing the “patient” because we are not tackling the real patient.</li> <li>3. Social Economy: recognize the role of social economy but one thing is to recognize it and another to put everything on its shoulders (particularly in a time of so much financial constraints). It's not acceptable that the welfare state will be replaced by solidarity. Anti-poverty and Social NGOs want to be recognized and to participate in the decision-making of the policies and its implementation but also that the State must keep assuming its own obligations (Constitutional ones). If this is not the case, a question can be made: why are we paying our taxes (growing ones, by the way!) if we do not get anything from the State?</li> </ol>
<b>Romania</b>	<p>Starting from the proposals already drafted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A better control on human resource investments and analysis of possible effects.</li> <li>2. Human capital development measures should be increased with compulsory measures for job creation.</li> <li>3. All measures should be start from the local context and conditions and not from a general idea.</li> </ol>

<p><b>Slovakia</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Government should acknowledge the necessity of adequate minimal income and base its level on evaluation and estimation of real living costs. The minimum income should be guaranteed to all the people, with no conditionality.</li> <li>2. NRP should acknowledge other dimensions of social exclusion and poverty, apart from unemployment, such as material deprivation, access to housing, access to education and other public services, discrimination and marginalization of regions. Re-assessment of contribution of some social expenses, especially investments in housing and their contribution to economic development of the society, is necessary. Employment policy should focus not only on creation of jobs, but quality of jobs also.</li> <li>3. NPR should include specific measures and commitments in the area of social inclusion. The inputs, such as height of investments and other resources should be included, as they present important commitments in the area of social inclusion and fight against poverty.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Slovenia</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Involve also the NGO and financial sector in the settlement of the crises; financial sector as main culprits for global crises are not actively involved in solving the crisis while all the burden for that is mainly transferred to individuals – involvement must be present as cooperation in establishing new, quality jobs and as an aid for those who are the most affected by the crises ; in that matter we are missing a governmental long-term strategy about how financial sector will reimburse state money which was used for its saving (e.g. state used a significant amounts of public money for banks stability, banks still need an additional injection of capital for stability). All segments of society must be included in resolving the crisis.</li> <li>2. Raise the minimum wage at least to the poverty line and with combination with first recommendation start to invest into quality, and stimulate decent jobs creation policy. Present NRP employment strategy is focused just on any job creation policy – jobs which pay under the poverty-line wages are not the way out of poverty for individuals and therefore are not so attractive to them. Quality jobs with stimulating environment, decent payment and high added value are a more effective way to get individuals and families out of poverty and how to be more concurrent on world, global market. Such policy could also help to re-launch higher spending and thus help the economy and state sector to get more income (e.g. more tax, contributions, etc.)</li> <li>3. Change the indicators for poverty and social exclusion measurement (or new social legislation); new social legislation already starts to show the negative consequences of these – in combination with chosen indicators (for measuring poverty and social exclusion) the percentage of poverty and social excluded people does not reflect the reality (it is already not realistic!) ; in general this percentage is lower than in reality because in the statistics an important number of people who rejected social transfers although they were eligible are not counted.</li> <li>4. Do not focus and rely just on saving and cuts. Investment into better conditions and opportunities could be more stimulating and expected from people and in the end could produce better results, especially in the medium and longer term.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Spain</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The social chapter and the poverty targets of EU2020 should be reintroduced with full political strength and consequent funding. It should also be included</li> </ol>

	<p>as addenda for 2012. It is a guideline indicated by the EC Annual Growth Survey (priority 4).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. The effort of the way-out of the crisis should be redistributed more equally, with a bigger effort on behalf of the wealthy and the big companies (including the banks that took us into this chaotic situation). The austerity cuts should not touch the red lines of the welfare system, although reforms to improve their efficiency and efficacy are welcome. Vulnerable people, families and children, cannot be neglected any longer. It is urgent to deliver a major strategic plan, with the participation of all stakeholders, to address the nearly 2 million jobless households and those living under the poverty threshold.</li> <li>3. The participative governance of the NRP involving stakeholders should be urgently implemented, and the participation of the whole society should be promoted to get innovative ideas and proposals for solutions.</li> </ol>
<b>Sweden</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Address growing inequality. It is a process that is threatening social cohesion and increasing social costs.</li> <li>2. An active job creation strategy is needed, which should not only focus on the labor supply side.</li> <li>3. A more active housing policy – which in itself can create new jobs, and reduce household debts due to non affordable housing, and reduce social costs for segregation etc. There should be no more privatization of public housing.</li> </ol>
<b>UK</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop a more balanced approach to economic management which includes macro targets for employment and growth as well as inflation reduction. Strong financial regulation is essential to governments' powers to exercise their democratic authority.  A comprehensive and sustainable growth strategy will not rely on deregulation but have a step change in ambition and resources for a transformative approach to innovation and business growth (including not-for-profit enterprise), a low-carbon economy, sustainable housing and transport infrastructure and health and care services for older people and children.</li> <li>2. Rising inequality is inhibiting growth capacity and balance. Reverse the increasing shift of income and wealth to the top by rebalancing the fiscal consolidation strategy to improve tax justice and prevent a race to the bottom on corporation tax. Reversal of the rise in VAT, in cuts in support for children and families and benefit cuts and caps to the vulnerable would produce an immediate stimulus to domestic demand and cut rising poverty.</li> <li>3. Loss of regional agencies and introduction of local strategic partnerships with limited powers inhibits rebalancing regional and sectoral wealth imbalance. Many major cities in the UK have a majority of low-income residents, low skills, high unemployment and little job-rich inward investment. The power and resources for local government to implement city-region and rural development strategies are required.</li> <li>4. A step change in employment policy is needed, linked to a growth strategy focused on sufficient quality, sustainable jobs. Positive active inclusion that integrates adequate income, employment support and quality of services is more likely to lead to sustainable employment.</li> <li>5. The Social Justice strategy should be complemented by an ambitious UK anti-poverty strategy that commits to reducing inequality of income and</li> </ol>

	<p>eliminating absolute poverty. It should address the EU poverty target and indicators and benchmark performance against good achievement in other Member States. A strengthened OMC process with a strong national stakeholder dimension would assist in developing such a strategy, monitoring progress and sharing good practice and service innovation in the new climate.</p> <p>Where there are tough economic ceilings, these must be balanced by strong social floors. Minimum income standards at least at the at-risk of-poverty thresholds and minimum wage and fair employment regulation adjusted to this change are central to anti-poverty strategy and to stimulating quality employment and workplace skills development.</p>
<b>Candidate and Accession</b>	
<b>Macedonia</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adaptation of the Europe 2020 and EU national inclusion strategies within the national policies for poverty and social inclusion.</li> <li>2. Ensuring sufficient financial sources for implementation of the national action plans for social inclusion policies.</li> <li>3. Development of National Policies for active inclusion and minimum income.</li> </ol>
<b>Serbia</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. New government should adopt development strategy that will be strongly profiled towards inclusive development and that will serve as base for short-term and mid-term reform programmes.</li> <li>2. New government should adopt social inclusion and poverty reduction strategy, or at least anti-poverty platform, where it will declare clear objectives and means aiming at achieving better social inclusion and social protection of all groups under various social risks.</li> <li>3. Determination towards socially sustainable development and social inclusion should be clearly recognized in the new budget plan.</li> </ol>
<b>EFTA</b>	
<b>Norway</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Austerity measures which affect the poorest people under European Organisations the poverty threshold will cost much more in the future for countries in rehabilitation costs. Invest in people now!</li> </ol>
<b>European organisations</b>	
<b>AGE</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Address more effectively in the NRPs the social OMC objectives on pension adequacy, access to health and long-term care and social inclusion of the most vulnerable older people i.e. mainstream social protection and social inclusion measures as proposed under NSRs into the NRPs in order to improve eventually quality of life and dignity in old age.</li> <li>2. Disaggregate the headline poverty reduction target and its three components by age and gender in order to address the specificity of poverty risk among older population in general and, in particular, among its specific sub-groups such as older women, single older persons, older people in rural areas, ethnic minorities older migrants etc.</li> <li>3. Analyse and tackle the material deprivation and living conditions of older people in conjunction with national economic, social or cultural contexts in order to address also other poverty factors such as isolation, the</li> </ol>

	<p>consequences of solitude i.e. in terms of suffering or multiple discrimination.</p> <p>4. When implementing the Europe 2020 strategy to restore an inclusive and durable, Member States and Commission are urged to ensure a balanced macro-economic and social policy response i.e. reflected equally in National Reform Programs and National Social Reports.</p>
<b>FEANTSA</b>	<p>1. Support the European Parliament's call for the “development of an ambitious, integrated EU strategy, underpinned by national and regional strategies with the long-term aim of ending homelessness” by building on the measures highlighted in the National Reform Programmes (twelve countries have made explicit reference to homelessness in their NRP), through tools such as peer reviews, research, social policy experimentation, transnational exchange projects, and general policy coordination between ministries dealing with homelessness and housing exclusion.</p> <p>2. Involve relevant organisations, including social service providers and civil society organisations, in the drafting and implementing of the National Reform Programmes. Social services working with vulnerable groups have significant expertise of the complex realities linked to poverty. They can be real partners in all levels of the policy process to ensure policy results and targets are achieved by 2020.</p> <p>3. Further develop national actions on homelessness based on evidence-based strategies; set targets on homelessness to make visible and measurable progress in reducing poverty; promote access to mainstream services (health, housing, employment) for all, especially vulnerable groups; ensure that adequate financial investment is made in social services now in order to avoid spiralling costs of homelessness for society in the future.</p>
<b>Eurochild</b>	<p>1. All MS should recognize that child poverty and social exclusion is a key barrier to achieving Europe 2020 objectives and targets &amp; should set a specific child poverty target in its NRP and NSR as part of its agreed national target contributing to the EU target to reduce poverty and social exclusion.</p> <p>2. All MS should ensure that policy areas covered in the NRP and NSR are proofed to express their potential impact on child poverty and social exclusion so that their positive contribution to tackling child poverty and social exclusion can be maximized and the risk of having a negative impact can be minimized.</p> <p>3. MS should ensure the use of EU structural funds to support measures that promote the social inclusion of children and to overcome educational disadvantage.</p>



## INFORMATION AND CONTACT

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**The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) is an independent network of nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) and groups involved in the fight against poverty and social exclusion in the Member States of the European Union, established in 1990.**



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