

***IS EUROPE 2020 DELIVERING ON POVERTY?***  
**EAPN CONFERENCE – 28/09/2012**



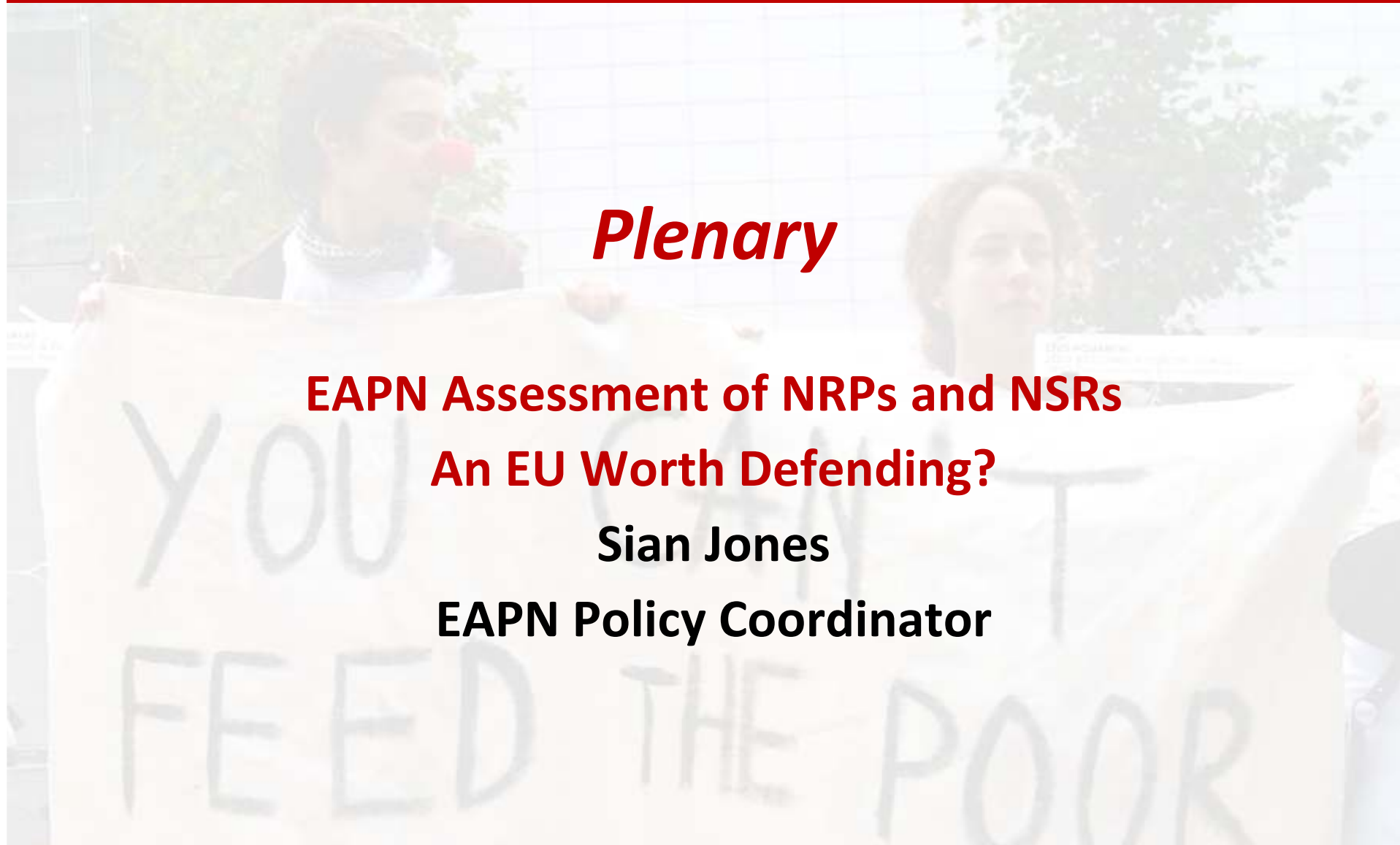
***Plenary***

**EAPN Assessment of NRPs and NSRs**

**An EU Worth Defending?**

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**EAPN Policy Coordinator**



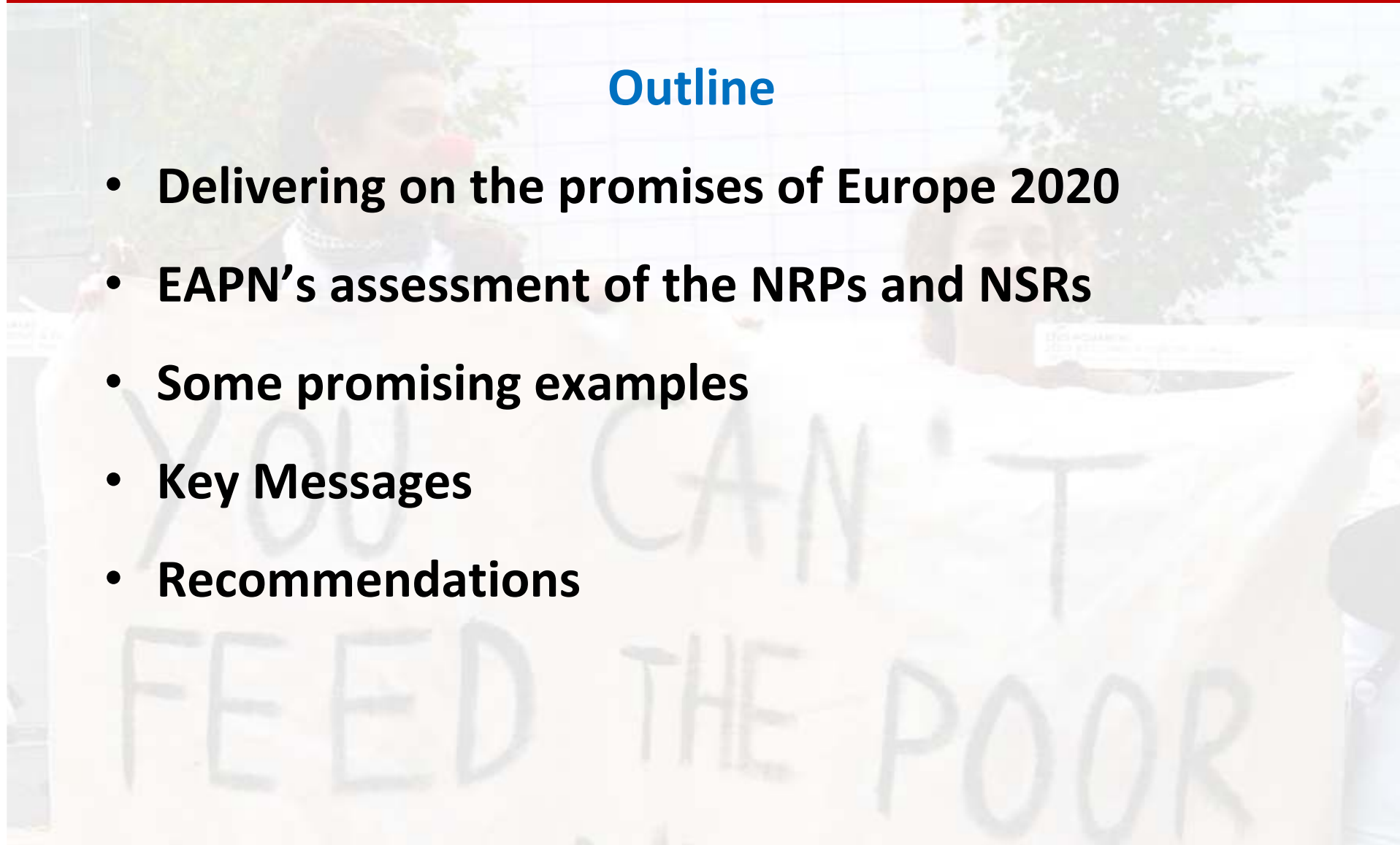
# ***IS EUROPE 2020 DELIVERING ON POVERTY?***

## **Assessing the Europe 2020 Strategy results**



### **Outline**

- **Delivering on the promises of Europe 2020**
- **EAPN's assessment of the NRPs and NSRs**
- **Some promising examples**
- **Key Messages**
- **Recommendations**



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### ***Europe 2020: A step forward?***

- **Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive growth**
- **Poverty Target (1 of 5): at least 20 million by 2020**
- **European Platform Against Poverty and Guideline 10**
- **Participation: Guideline Recital 16**
- **Reinforced Social OMC with National Social Reports**
- **2012 Annual Growth Survey Objective 4: Tackling unemployment and the social consequences of the crisis.**

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### ***But what impact on poverty?***

- **115 million at risk of poverty and/or social exclusion**
- **2 million increase since 2009/10**
- **Shortfall on setting national targets (only 12 million not 20)**
- **Increasingly divided Europe – N/S and periphery: 40% BG/RO cf to 15% in CZ, NL and SE**
- **Increasing inequality – the top/bottom 10%**
- **New risk groups – youth, but also children, single parents, long-term unemployed, homeless, migrants, Roma..**
- **Working poor – 8.4%, most poor parents work.**

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### ***EAPN's engagement and review of NRPs/NSRs 2012***

- **EAPN national and EU members try to engage at national level in NRP/NSR: 12 National Networks in NRP and 8 in NSR**
- **26 Shadow country-specific Recommendations presented to Commissioner Andor and Rehn (July 2012)**
- **EAPN Report: An EU Worth Defending? Beyond Austerity to Social investment and Inclusive Growth: *Based on questionnaire/scoreboard review by 18 national networks (AT, BE, CZ, DK, EE, FI, FR, DE, IE, IT, LU, NL, PL, SL, ES, SE, UK – including separate Scottish NRP) and Iceland, 3 European Organisations: Eurochild, FEANTSA, AGE Platform***
- **Troika countries not expected to prepare NRPs, only letters, but some NRP (IE) and NSRs (PT) – EAPN assessment**

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### ***EAPN NRP Assessment in 2012***

#### ***Macroeconomic driving austerity not inclusive growth***

- **Macro-economic policies undermining poverty target**
- **Some rises to income support but austerity cuts affecting affordability and accessibility of services**
- **Double punishment for Troika countries**
- **Some progress on taxes but growth-friendly not tax justice**
- **Employment only solutions - unlikely to reduce poverty**

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### ***EAPN NRP Assessment in 2012***

#### ***Poverty target will not be met!***

- **Little progress on setting or delivering on poverty targets**
- **Lack of coherent, integrated anti-poverty strategy**
- **Austerity measures undermining integrated Active Inclusion**
- **Some progress on homelessness and child poverty but insufficient integrated actions. Crisis on affordable housing**
- **Anti-discrimination dangerously absent.**

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### ***EAPN NRP Assessment in 2012***

#### ***Employment focus on job creation but not for 'poor'***

- **Job creation not prioritized enough**
- **Quality is the forgotten dimension**
- **Hardening conditionality and little priority to personalized pathways to Active Inclusion.**

#### ***No inclusive Education and Training***

- **Most national policies do not tackle structural causes**
- **Insufficient support for excluded groups – outreach, support and equal opportunities**
- **Austerity undermining fair and affordable access**



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### ***EAPN NRP Assessment in 2012***

#### ***Low Structural Funds support for poverty reduction***

- **Fall short of potential to deliver on social targets**
- **Active Inclusion not implemented / focus on employment for those closest to labour market**
- **Partnership principle remains virtual**

#### ***Step backwards on participation***

- **Limited, low-quality, engagement of stakeholders in NRP/ NSR**
- **Social NGOs and Ministries confined to poverty chapters**
- **People experiencing poverty generally absent**
- **Democratic deficit – from national parliaments**

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### ***EAPN NSR Assessment: a disappointing start !***

- **Only 5 presented on time, skimpy, lack of clarity of role.**
- **Little understanding effective anti-poverty strategies**
- **Missed opportunity on social impact of austerity**
- **Increased information on health, care and pensions but fiscal consolidation not access/affordability**
- **Remain government reports, with weak stakeholder engagement despite experience of NAPs.**

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### ***Some positive practices – antipoverty policy***

- Finland:** no cuts in social benefits, solidarity tax for people with high income, youth guarantee
- Belgium:** reduction in taxes on low wages, experimental projects in Active Inclusion, Federal cooperation agreement to tackle homelessness.
- Austria –** Social and Green investments and Minimum Income scheme
- Sweden –**increase in minimum income 3%, family support
- France –** automatic access to social tariffs for energy.

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### ***Some positive practices - participation***

- ***Part of more regular structured dialogue - Belgium Platform Against Poverty (BE, BG, DK, FR, LU, PL, SE, CY)***
- ***People experiencing poverty (FR, BE Scotland)***
- ***Annexing stakeholder comments to NRP (FR)***
- ***Benchmarking example of Iceland: Welfare Watch – involving NGOs, ministries, employers, trade unions and councils comment on legislation and have impact***

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### ***EAPN Recommendations***

- 1. Back Social Europe: balance economic + social objectives***
- 2. Commit to deliver viable poverty target: restrict austerity and back integrated strategies***
- 3. Social Investment Package to support Inclusive Growth (quality social protection, jobs and services, tax justice)***
- 4. Make Structural Funds key instrument to deliver on poverty – back 25% on ESF and 20% on poverty***
- 5. Relaunch Europe 2020 as a democratic, participative social process in NRP/NSR and in Recommendations***
- 6. Seize the opportunity of NSRs to re-launch Social Process***

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### ***For More Information***

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