



IS EUROPE 2020 DELIVERING ON POVERTY?

*How can we use the
National Reform Programmes and
National Social Reports to make
concrete progress on
fostering participation
and reducing poverty?*

EAPN CONFERENCE

Friday 28/09/2012 –Brussels

PROGRAMME



Programme

(All speakers in bold are confirmed)

8.00 - 9.00 Registration and coffee

Videos from the [11th European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty](#) will be displayed

9.00 - 11.00 What is happening to poverty? What progress through Europe 2020 and the NRPs/NSRs?

Chair: **Sérgio Aires**, EAPN President

→ **WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR (5')**

→ **OPENING ADRESSES (20')**

- The reality of poverty – direct experience of **João Rodrigues Seabra**, Portuguese participant in the European Meetings of People Experiencing Poverty, EAPN Portugal
- **Georgios Papageorgiou**, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, Cyprus

→ **ASSESSING THE EUROPE 2020 STRATEGY RESULTS**

WHAT PROGRESS?

- **THE CONTEXT (10')**: Poverty and social exclusion, what progress? What is the added value of the NRPs/NSRs process? Assessment of stakeholder engagement and delivery on poverty reduction in the NRPs and NSRs
Hugh Frazer, Coordinator of the EU network of independent experts on social inclusion
- **EAPN'S POINT OF VIEW (15')**
National example: SPAIN, presentation by **Graciela Malgesini**, EAPN Spain
Presentation of the EAPN assessment of the National Reform Programmes and National Social Reports 2012¹
Sian Jones, EAPN Policy Coordinator

THE POINT OF VIEW OF OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

- *THE TRADE UNIONS' POINT OF VIEW (10')*
Henri Lourdelle, Political Advisor, European Trade Union Confederation
- *THE NGOs' POINT OF VIEW (15')*
Mary Collins, Policy Officer, European Women's Lobby, **Anna Drozd**, Policy Advisor, Eurocities, **Freek Spinnewijn**, Director, FEANTSA, **Jana Hainsworth**, Secretary General, Eurochild

THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' ADVISORY COMMITTEES (15') AND DEBATE WITH THE FLOOR (30')

- **Mik Woolley**, Chair of the Employment Committee
- **Lauris Beets**, Chair of the Social Protection Committee

11.00 - 11.30 Coffee break

¹ See on EAPN's website: [Kickstart social Europe - Beyond austerity Conference EAPN and Civil Society actors present Shadow Recommendations to Commissioners in European Parliament](#)

11.30 – 13.00 What changes are needed to ensure that the EU can deliver on reducing poverty and fostering social cohesion through a socially sustainable Europe 2020 Strategy?

Chair: **Sérgio Aires**, EAPN President

→ INTRODUCTION (15')

- National example: AUSTRIA, presentation by **Vera Hinterdorfer**, EAPN Austria
- Presentation of EAPN's recommendations for the next European Semester and AGS by **Fintan Farrell**, EAPN Director

→ ROUND TABLE: How to ensure that the Europe 2020 Strategy achieves poverty eradication in a participative way? (35')

- **Marcel Haag**, Head of Unit Europe 2020, Competitiveness and Innovation, Secretariat General, European Commission
- **Lieve Franssen**, Director Europe 2020: social policies, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
- **Philippe Lamberts**, Member of the European Parliament, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance, Member of the EP Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee, Co-President of the European Green Party
- **Christine Chapman**, National Assembly of Wales, Committee of the Regions, Member of the Commission for Economic & Social Policy
- **Maureen O'Neill**, European Economic and Social Committee, Vice President of Group III, Member of the Employment, Social Affairs and Citizenship Section

→ DEBATE (35')

→ CONCLUSIONS FROM THE CHAIR (5')

13.00 - 14.00 Buffet Lunch & opportunity to play the Climbing out of Poverty game (Snakes & Ladders)

Practical information

Date: Friday 28 September 2012 (9:00 – 13:00)

Venue: International Trade Union House, Boulevard Roi Albert II, 5, 1210 Brussels.

Languages: English & French

Participants: Approximately 180 participants – consisting of about 100 EAPN members (3 representatives from each National Network and EAPN European Organisations, including people with direct experience of poverty), and about 80 Brussels-based stakeholders: social NGOs, social partners, representatives of European and national institutions, academics...

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Aim of the conference

This lobbying conference is targeting mainly EU decision-makers and stakeholders. It aims at:

- Raising awareness regarding the challenges around the rapid deterioration of the situation of the most vulnerable;
- Creating a space for the active participation of people experiencing poverty;
- Exchanging and promoting a constructive debate on ways forward in the fight against poverty and improving participation through Europe 2020, based on EAPN's Key Messages and Recommendations;
- Highlighting EAPN members' engagement and the expectations towards the Europe 2020 Strategy, as well as their expertise as contributors to the National Reform Programmes / National Social Reports process;
- Alerting decision-makers to the malfunctioning of stakeholder engagement;
- Strengthening partnerships between anti-poverty NGOs and EU institutions, aiming at achieving the EU poverty target and participation objectives.

Context

The major economic and financial crisis hurting the EU has increasingly devastating consequences in terms of unemployment, poverty and despair. Austerity policies, encouraged by the EU in all Member States, make the situation of people experiencing poverty even more difficult, since social protection, access to services, quality jobs and job creation are being dramatically cut. People from 'Troika countries' suffer double punishment, as they face huge cuts and seeming exemption from the Europe 2020 social targets. Social unrest and social tension are spreading. We talk of the importance of evidence-based policies, but where is the evidence to show that austerity is working as a sustainable way out of the crisis? On the contrary, there is mounting evidence of austerity driving recession, and increasing short- and long-term social and economic costs of soaring poverty, exclusion and inequality.

Since the June European Council, there is a new focus on the Compact for Growth and Jobs, as well as austerity, but is this enough to defend our welfare systems and reduce the social impact? Mounting voices are demanding a different approach, which would safeguard our social model and invest in the future.

EAPN brings together NGOs and groups involved in the fight against poverty and social exclusion from all over Europe. We see the social impact rapidly worsening on the ground, affecting people's health, standard of living, future prospects and confidence in the future.

EAPN has consistently supported the EU's commitment to eradicate poverty and the processes designed to serve this ambition. We've developed high expectations that the EU poverty target² would generate concrete progress, and we welcome the improved focus on inclusion with Priority 4: *Tackling unemployment and the social consequences of the crisis* of the 2012 Annual Growth Survey. We also consider Recital 16 in the Integrated Guidelines a key commitment to implement partnership with civil society in the NRPs, in order to find effective solutions that can have a concrete impact.

Despite shrinking resources, EAPN members have continued to put enormous effort into trying to engage at national level and to contribute to their National Reform Programmes (NRPs) and National Social Reports (NSRs). But, to date, the results, both in terms of progress on the fight against poverty and of increasing participation of key stakeholders, are not encouraging. In May 2012, EAPN members held an assessment workshop on the NRPs and on the NSRs in Brussels, and shared initial Key Messages with the European Commission and European Parliament.

EAPN sent its members' shadow Country-Specific Recommendations to the EU institutions (see [EAPN letter to Commissioner Andor](#), 16 May 2012 and [EAPN proposals for country-specific recommendations on the NRPs 2012](#)) and presented these proposals in June in the European Parliament, as part of a joint proposal of alternative Recommendations put forward by the Greens/EFA. EAPN has now finalized the [EAPN 2012 EAPN NRP/NSR assessment report](#), whose key findings and recommendations will be presented in the conference. This conference also builds on EAPN's key work on the social impact of the crisis and need for alternative strategies.³

² A poverty target to reduce the number of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion in the EU by at least 20 million by 2020.

³ See EAPN's position paper on the crisis: [Re-engaging Hope and Expectations – Getting out the Crisis Together – Alternative approaches for an inclusive recovery](#), February 2012.