



EAPN: Fighting for a Social Europe Free of Poverty

Active Inclusion – Making It Happen!

Sian Jones, Policy Coordinator, EAPN
European Parliament
12th July 2012



EUROPEAN ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK
RÉSEAU EUROPÉEN DES ASSOCIATIONS
DE LUTTE CONTRE LA PAUVRETÉ ET L'EXCLUSION SOCIALE

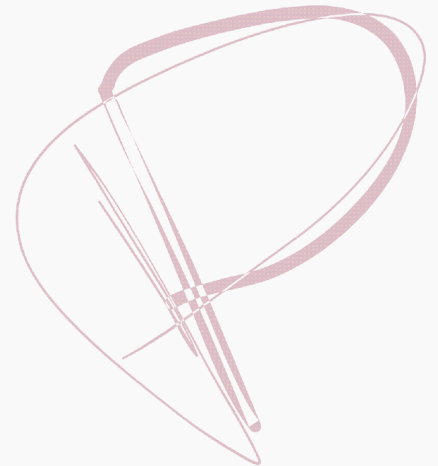


Structure of Presentation

- Presenting EAPN
- What is Active Inclusion?
- What has EAPN done?
- Europe 2020 – what progress for AI?
- Active Inclusion in the Crisis
- Priorities for Action

Presenting EAPN

- **Independent EU Network of NGOs**
- **Fighting for a social EU free of poverty**
- **Started in 1990 – key actor in Social OMC**
- **Working with and for people in poverty**
- **Financial support from EU (PROGRESS)**
- **30 National Networks + 25 European Orgs**



What is Active Inclusion?

- An EU strategy for **Active Social Inclusion**
- *‘Facilitate integration in to sustainable quality employment of those who can work and provide resources which are sufficient to live in dignity, together with support for social participation, for those who can’t’*
- **Commission Recommendation on Active Inclusion of people excluded from the labour market (2008/867/EC)**



An Integrated Strategy

“An integrated and comprehensive strategy to promote active inclusion”

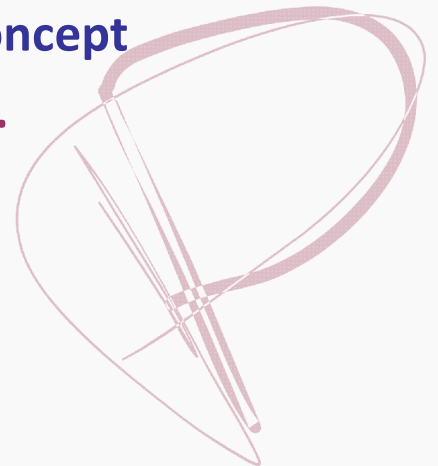
3 Pillars:

- 1) **Adequate income support** - for a dignified life
- 2) **Inclusive labour market** – personalized pathway approaches to quality training and work
- 3) **Access to quality services** - particularly social services



A long time coming...

- **Respect for human dignity** a founding principle of the EU
- **Article 137 (1(h), EU role to support MS in integration of people** excluded from LM
- **1st step: 92/441/ Council Recommendation to guarantee sufficient resources and social assistance to**
- **2000 – Social OMC and Active social inclusion**
- **2005: New Social Agenda: “Community Initiative on Minimum Income schemes and the integration of people excluded from the LM”**
- **2005-7 Commission consultations on AI concept**
- **3 Oct 2008 Commission Recommendation.**
- **Dec 2008 – Endorsed by MS in EPSCO**
- **What Progress?**



What has EAPN done?

- **Lobbied since 1990 for integrated approach** to fight poverty through the Social OMC and NAPs.
- **Supported EU initiative on MI-2005 social agenda**
- **AI consultation in 2008:** Conference launching principles
- **Campaign for Adequate Minimum Income**
www.adequateincome.eu
- **Commission Recommendation not Communication**
- **EP/ on Active Inclusion Report (Lambert) and Resolution**
- **Monitored implementation in NRP and NSRSPSI**
- **2010: working document on MI Framework Directive,** conference, and hearing in EP and follow up
- **Pressed for priority in Europe 2020/EPAP and in the MAFF and Cohesion Report priorities**
- **2011: AI Book- Making It Happen and Input to AI consultation**



Europe 2020 – What opportunities?

- **Poverty target:** to reduce poverty by 20 million by 2020,
- **European Flagship Platform Against Poverty–** Implementation report.
- **AGS Priority 4: Tackling Unemployment and social consequences of the crisis – AI** a priority: activation/ adequate, affordable services, not MI.
- **Cohesion Report proposals (2014-20):** 25% on ESF and 20% on poverty.
- **ESF Regulation proposal lists AI** as component of priority: Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty.

Europe 2020 - Reality?

- **115 Million at risk of poverty** and social exclusion.
- **Increase in 2 million** since 2010
- **Unemployment 10%** and worse for key groups eg Youth, long-term unemployed, migrants, Roma
- **75% of people in the EU say poverty has increased** in the last year, 24% hard to pay bills
- **Shortfall of 8 million on national targets, with nearly ½ not using EU indicators,** and mainly employment solutions.
- **Austerity measures** are generating increased poverty and social exclusion (Irish NRP).

NRPs/NSR 2012: What progress on AI?

- **EAPN Scoreboard Assessment of NRPs (July), shadow country-specific Recommendations.**
- **Members assessment** of 2,4 cf to 2,72 in 2011. Only Finland gave a pass.
- **AI Concept** rarely mentioned (or EMP)
- **Activation not integrated** approaches (AT, BE, DK, EE, ES, FR, IT, LU, PL, PT, SE, SI)
- **Reductions in benefits and cuts to services**, hardened conditionality to incentivise to work,
- **Lack of personalized pathways** (DE, AT)
- **Some initial progress** (AT, DE, ES, IE) undermined by austerity
- **Some promising experimental projects:** eg Flanders and integrated approaches with specific groups – eg homeless (DK)

Steps back and forward?

- **EAPN Germany** *“Drastic fiscal cuts combined with legislative changes (1.4.12) in labour market policies are destroying initial approaches to active inclusion”*
- **EAPN Ireland:** *“NRP update states... continue 3 interconnected themes of income support, activation and services, reflecting AI. While the statement is welcome, it’s clear that the actual policy does not match it, with cuts to income support and services, a much more conditional approach to activation which dominates the discussion as the only route out of poverty, despite lack of jobs and growing barriers”*
- **EAPN Belgium:** *“ AI is not mentioned explicitly, but some experimental projects in Flanders are trying to work via integrated approaches, promoting more structural cooperation between Depts on Work and Social Economy and Well-Being on the other”*

Using Active Inclusion as a response to the crisis

- **Ensures use of social protection as an automatic stabilizer**, and a basis for inclusive growth
 - **Prevents + alleviates poverty**: a firm foundation for integration, inclusion, active participation
 - **Tackles growing inequality** as a de-stabilizer of social cohesion and seedbed for future crisis
 - **Offers effective, tailored, integrated approaches** to support people into decent jobs or social participation
- 

Making it happen (1)

- **1) Political commitment to inclusive recovery** to the crisis and inclusive growth, ensuring that the Poor don't Pay!
- **2) Progress EU frameworks to safeguard social standards** eg Framework Directive on MI, implement effective Social Impact Assessment – Art 9 to defend social protection.
- **3) Make integrated Active Inclusion priority in AGS 2013**, including adequate minimum income and access to affordable quality services, ensuring personalized pathways for all vulnerable groups, including homeless.
- **4) Integrated AI as part of social investment package for inclusive recovery and growth - and mainstream it!**
- **5) Establish a clear Road-Map for Implementation of AI as part of an overarching strategy to fight poverty in Europe 2020: EPAP/ NRPs/NSRs, including indicators, exchange, monitor delivery with Country-specific Recommendations**

Making it Happen (2)

6. Provide EU money: support Commission's proposals on Cohesion

- 20% for ESF and 25% for poverty, with integrated Active Inclusion as themes, ensure NGOs can access funds.

7. Increase Democratic Engagement + Accountability

- ensure National and EP are engaged in monitoring and driving implementation

8. Make NGOs and People in Poverty part of the solution!

- Back funding and ensure access and take-up by grass-roots NGOs delivering integrated, personalized AI solutions to social inclusion (SF/EUPSI/..)
- Ensure meaningful engagement **at national level of stakeholders** in NRPs/ NSRs



Thank you for your attention

For more information

Sian Jones, EAPN Policy Coordinator

Sian.Jones@eapn.eu

See: www.eapn.eu

www.adequateincome.eu



EUROPEAN ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK
RÉSEAU EUROPÉEN DE LUTTE
CONTRE LA PAUVRETÉ ET L'EXCLUSION SOCIALE

SQUARE DE MEEUS, 18 – 1050 BRUSSELS
TEL: 0032 2 226 58 50 – FAX: 0032 2 26 58 69

www.eapn.eu - team@eapn.eu