**EAPN’s Pilot Actions on Europe 2020**

**Background**

In 2015, EAPN is supporting its National Networks in launching ‘Europe 2020’ national pilot projects aiming to raise awareness at national level amongst key stakeholders like decision makers, civil-society stakeholders on the Europe 2020 Strategy and European Semester process. They will also aim to build capacity and promote better participation of all stakeholders in policy- and decision-making processes. As this pilot initiative also fosters cooperation and mutual learning amongst the national networks and organisations involved, some of the 5 pilot actions will therefore be carried out by a lead organization or network together with another support organization or network.

The engagement of civil-society and trade union stakeholders is paramount as

1) they have been increasingly side-lined from decision-making and policy-shaping arenas,

2) the European Semester has been primarily driven by economic governance goals,

3) better national instruments must be developed to monitor the social situation and provide quality input and recommendations to decision makers regarding Europe 2020 and the European Semester.

**Objectives of the pilot projects**

1) **Raise public awareness about Europe 2020**, e.g., through a media campaign; new communication tools; organizing a seminar or conference; forum theatre event; creating a partnership with Commission representations; etc.

2) **Organize capacity building events for members to engage in Europe 2020**, e.g., a training workshop; peer review or member exchange; involving people with direct experience of poverty; etc.

3) **Developing instruments to effectively monitor the social situation**: a new social situation, poverty watch or shadow report, which highlights developments on poverty and social exclusion in your country, proposing concrete recommendations to national governments and country-specific recommendations backed by evidence and examples.

**The 5 national pilots (2015) background and update**

**EAPN Portugal, in cooperation with EAPN Bulgaria**

This project will ensure the contribution of the non-governmental sector and its cooperation with governmental actors in the Europe 2020/European Semester process.

It will be led by a large group / partnership of national organisations called Non-Governmental Forum for Social Inclusion (Fórum Não Governamental para a Inclusão Social – FNGIS), including EAPN-member Caritas Portugal.

**Main activities of the pilot**:

1. Communication **strategy** on Europe 2020 and the European Semester, in particular within the monitoring of CSR specially made by and for civil society organizations and people experiencing poverty.
2. Transnational **Seminar** monitoring Europe 2020 Strategy.
3. **Audio-visual product** on the importance of the participation of civil society in the Europe 2020 Strategy, reporting the activities of this project and its outputs.

**Update June 2015**

* **Short summary** **leaflet** about the project, including a logo, and the spread of this information around a large group of national NGO’s;
* **A meeting with the permanent representation** of the European Commission here in Lisbon trying to make them partners to the project. They thought it was a good idea but they told us that it was too soon to develop such a project since the revision of the Europe 2020 is still on the run and won’t be finished until December.
* **We’ll have our first national workshop** of the project on the 29th of June in Oporto;
* **We’re already working on a simplified explainer** of the EU 2020 and on how it is crucial that civil society gets involved (difficult task when we don’t know what will happen to the Strategy, but anyway we are developing it);
* **We’ll already during the first workshop start to produce the video** with the voices from the ground.

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**EAPN Macedonia, in cooperation with EAPN Serbia**

The project aims to increase the visibility of Europe 2020 and the European Semester and Serbia’s government commitments to its targets to the various stakeholders and broader audience, produce and disseminate a shadow report on the implementation and achievements of the Europe 2020 strategy at national level and achievement in reaching targets.

**Main activities of the pilot:**

1. Adopting of **new reporting mechanism** based on indicators.
2. Developing the **shadow report of social situation** under Inclusive growth pillar from Europe 2020.

**Update June 2015**

**Project coordinators:**

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**EAPN Spain, in cooperation with EAPN Italy**

This Pilot Action is twofold, aiming at explaining the impact on women of the EU economic governance, and reflecting reflect women’s situation with regard to the social headline targets of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

**Main activities of the pilot:**

1. **Research**
	* Desk research: a) Analysis of EU and national comparable data, highlighting the lack of statistics relating to the gender dimension of poverty and social exclusion in order to follow the EU2020 headline targets. B) Analysis of Italian and Spanish NRPs and CSRs in relation to the gender dimension of poverty and social exclusion.
	* Field research (qualitative): 20 in-depths interviews in Spain and 20 in Italy to women who suffered directly from the crisis and the austerity policies, and are currently in AROPE (women who live in households in relative poverty, under material deprivation or in low-work intensity households). A third of these interviews will be made to immigrant women, in order to capture the special difficulties they might face, linked to a discrimination increase in accessing social services or facilities.
2. **A Report** available in English, Spanish and Italian providing a general framework for both countries and comparing with available EU data. The report will also include an analysis of testimonies of women and a roadmap for future actions.
3. **Two Seminars on “EU2020 headline targets and the impact of austerity on Mediterranean women”, in Spain and in Italy** providingan intermediate assessment of EU2020 Strategy, in relation to gender and presenting the reports’ findings and proposals. They will also include a roundtable of representatives of political parties, of women’s organisations, social NGOs, public authorities, practitioners and experts as well as direct testimonies of women in poverty and social exclusion.
4. **Advocacy activities, to start a dialogue with political parties and/or members of the respective Congress** around the main Report’s findings and proposals in both countries, with the purpose of getting a commitment of policy change towards current issues in women inequality, and the need to include gender-biased achievements in the EU2020 headline targets.

**Update June 2015**

* **Desk research**: we have a first draft of the research desk document. However, it is under revision, so we cannot forward it.
* **Field research**: we have produced a methodology document. We have also a common questionnaire, which is available in Italian and Spanish, and it is filled on line. We have made a lot of progress with the interviews of women (Italy has already finished, Spain still in progress).
* Although we have not received **funding** from EAPN EU, we are following the proposed schedule.
* **The project has raised a lot of interest** both in Spain and Italy.

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**EAPN Hungary, in cooperation with Croatia**

The pilot project aims to spread information and raise awareness on the European Semester and Europe 2020 by a media campaign and through different events in view of raising media attention, as well as strengthening the relations between EAPN Hungary and EAPN Croatia through close cooperation and capacity-building activities.

**Main activities of the pilot:**

* Bilateral interactive **practice-sharing training** on Europe 2020
* **Forum-theatre event** relaying key messages on Europe 2020 involving people experiencing poverty, aiming also to raise media attention in both countries.
* Wide **public discussion** on the meaning of Europe 2020 for Croatia, initiated by NGOs and other partners and including people experiencing poverty, social sector, governmental and business actors, aiming also to raise media attention in both countries.
* **Media campaign** to raise public awareness, through traditional and social media.
* **Evaluation methodology** and report of the project.

**Update June 2015**

* **Awareness-raising** will be implemented directly by different events over the year (2 meetings, 1 training, 1 Hungarian forum theatre event and 1 Croatian symposia) and through a media campaign in both countries.
* We will start the activities with a **preparatory** **methodology** **meeting** on 17th July in Budapest which will produce a training plan as an output.
* This meeting will help us to plan the **Hungarian-Croatian training** that will take place in Croatia on 17-19 September. The training will be about participatory techniques and how to engage people experiencing poverty with the aims of Europe2020; how to communicate the goals of Europe 2020 and to draw the attention of people and the media to it. It will be bilateral and interactive, involving people experiencing poverty in sharing the joint knowledge accumulated by CAPN (how to involve experts, how to have effective connections with decision-makers, media experiences) and HAPN (how to use participatory techniques in order to involve more people experiencing poverty, how to build coalitions, media experiences).

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**EAPN Ireland**

The pilot project aims to increase awareness among politicians, media and civil society of the commitments in Europe 2020 and the Platform against Poverty, at EU and Irish levels, as they relate to poverty in Ireland, the current issues for people in poverty and the measures needed to impact on them.

This will be achieve through raising awareness though briefings on the Poverty Target at EU and Irish levels among politicians and civil society, discussing with political parties, andbriefing Irish anti-poverty NGOs about the National Reform Programmes, Country-Specific Recommendations and Mid-Term review of Europe 2020 and the Semester more generally.

**Main activities:**

1. **Briefing** on Europe 2020 poverty target and its roll-out in Ireland, disseminated to members of Parliament, key advisors, local councilors and civil society.
2. **Meetings** with all parties about their election manifestos.
3. Short-page **briefing** for EAPN Ireland members and other civil-society groups on understanding and engaging with Europe 2020 and the Semester more broadly.

**Update June 2015**

* **We have begun to draft our Briefing** on Europe 2020 and the European Semester. It will be distributed before the end of July.
* **In September, we will be working on our Poverty briefing** which will be completed in October and used to try to influence the manifestoes of Political parties in the run up to our upcoming national Elections which are due before March 2016.

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**EUROPE 2020 and the European Semester**

In 2010, the EU’s Strategy called ‘**Europe 2020 Strategy’**, broke new ground by establishing **five concrete targets** for delivering on **smart, social and sustainable growth by 2020**, which include:

* reducing **poverty** by at least 20 million
* achieving a 75% **employment** rate for women and men
* reducing **early school leaving** to 10%
* a 20% reduction on **greenhouse gas emissions** and increase in **energy efficiency** to 20%.

This Strategy is currently the subject of a Mid-Term Review, due to be completed in 2016

The **‘European** **Semester’** is the annual coordination cycle with Member States and the main instrument to deliver these targets in the context of economic governance.

**EAPN – Key actor in Europe 2020 and European Semester**

EAPN has been a key actor attempting to engage as a civil-society stakeholder in Europe 2020 and the Semester at national and EU level.

EAPN notably coordinated the [*EU Alliance for a democratic, social and sustainable European Semester* or (‘*Semester Alliance’*)](http://semesteralliance.net/) is a broad coalition bringing together major European civil-society organisations and trade unions, representing thousands of member organisations on the ground at European, national and local levels in the European Union. The ‘Semester Alliance’ aims to support progress towards a more democratic, social and sustainable Europe 2020 Strategy, through strengthening civil dialogue engagement in the European Semester at national and EU levels.