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

**Update October 2015**

**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 sidelined 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 (June/October)**

1. **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.

**Project Coordinator:**

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**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. **Audiovisual 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 October 2015**

As we already communicated informally to Sian Jones, we had to delay a little bit the implementation of some of the actions, mainly due to two circumstances:

* + We had general elections on the 4th of October (and since June / July) it didn’t make much sense to promote these kinds of actions (even if we included in public positions and meeting with political parties our worries about the national dimension of EU 2020, namely its connection (or absence of connection) with the ESF programing.
	+ As we already stated we wanted to promote some of these actions in partnership with the Permanent Representation of the European Commission in Portugal. Since they asked us to wait a bit more in order to know what the revision of the EU 2020 will be, we delayed some actions.

Anyway we’ll restart the project now and we have programmed already (counting with the EC participation):

* The second workshop which will take place in Lisbon on the 20th October
* The third workshop which will take place in Coimbra on the 27th of October
* The final Conference (counting with the presence of EAPN Bulgaria) on the 26th November (also in Lisbon)

In between we will continue to produce the video (some of the most important contributes will be collected during our national meeting of PEP which will take place on 13th and 14th of October).

Concerning the version of the EU 2020 explainer, we are a little bit facing a problem: we think it would be better to wait and see what the revision of the Strategy will bring. We already started to wrote a general version but is doesn’t seem to be very reasonable to present the Strategy as it was and in January everything will be different. Since it is a kind of manual for participating in the EU 2020 implementation it makes sense it should be as accurate as possible. But we’ll try to deal with this until the end of the year.

1. **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.

**Project coordinators:**

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**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 October 2015**

No update received

1. **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 **Project Coordinators:**

**Project Leaders**

Graciela Malgesini, EAPN Spain gmalgesini@hotmail.com

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**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** providing an 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.

**Update October 2015**

* The field research is finished and the final report is in process.
* We may need some more weeks to finalize and revise the outcome.
* The report or, at least, the advanced results will be presented in Madrid, next November, coinciding with EAPN Spain’s general assembly.
* Afterwards, we are going to translate the report into both languages and, if possible, prepare some sort or presentation in Italy.
1. **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.

**Project coordinator:**

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**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 October 2015**

* EAPN HU and HR had their **preparatory methodology meeting** with the participation of the professionals of CAPN (summer), where we clarified
	+ the main messages we want to strenghten and details around our common training,
	+ the training methodology and topics,
	+ details around our press campaigns,
	+ details of our events (*symposia* in Croatia, *„Day of Games to Raise Social Awareness”* in Hungary),
* Next week we travel to Zagreb (Hungarian delegation of 10 persons, 6 of them are activists who experienced poverty) to our common **training** with Croatian PeP and allies. One part of the training will be held by HAPN, the other by CAPN. The topics will be Europe 2020, how to recruit people to spread social messages, how to deal with the media in order that, how to build relationships with the decision-makers, why is it important to bring messages of European poverty closer to the public. After the training we visit a Croatian homeless shelter to see more about the Croatian reality. With the training and visit we would like to encourage our activists to exchange knowledge with the Croatian peers. (The date is: 17-19/09.)
1. **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, and briefing Irish anti-poverty NGOs about the National Reform Programmes, Country-Specific Recommendations and Mid-Term review of Europe 2020 and the Semester more generally.

**Project coordinator:**

**Robin Hanan, EAPN Director:** **robin@eapn.ie**

**Main activities:**

1. **Briefing** on Europe 2020 poverty target and its roll-out in Ireland, disseminated to members of Parliament, key advisors, local councillors 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 October 2015**

* TheBriefing on Europe 2020 and the European Semester has been completed and disseminated widely in early September. It updates and adds to the Briefing done by the Better Europe Alliance (Irish Semester Alliance in 2014). The briefing is available @ <http://www.eapn.ie/eapn/briefing-on-poverty-targets-european-semester-and-europe-2020>
* Work has begun on the second briefing on Poverty with the aim of completing it as early as possible in October. The briefing will be a short document which will highlight the current reality of poverty in Ireland and what needs to be done to address it. It will be actively used to lobby political parties in the upcoming national Elections. It is still possible that the elections will take place in November 2015 so this has increased the urgency to complete the Briefing.
* Although not part of the agreed project EAPN Ireland has continued to coordinate the Better Europe Alliance (i.e. the Irish semester alliance funded in 2014). As part of this the Alliance published its response to the 2015 Country Specific Recommendations for Ireland.