**How to make sure the Mid-Term Review delivers on Poverty and Participation?**

**European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN)**

**Introduction**

In March 2013, the Commission published their Taking Stock[[1]](#footnote-1) assessment of the Europe 2020 process, with a public consultation launched on May 2[[2]](#footnote-2). The Communication in part recognizes new challenges facing Europe following the crisis and underlines key shortfalls particularly the mixed progress on the social targets and failure to get ownership with key stakeholders. However, for EAPN, representing thousands of grass-root organizations working directly with people facing poverty, this assessment does not go far enough. The EU faces a gaping credibility gap, with poverty rates increased to nearly 125 million, an increase of nearly 8 million since the start of Europe 2020 rather than progress towards the target. There is also growing disaffection, with the EU too often identified as pro-actively supporting austerity policies, combined with a weak governance process that is seen as undemocratic and divisive. EAPN’s assessments[[3]](#footnote-3) by its members who have attempted to engage in the European Semester at national and EU level since the start of the Europe 2020 strategy in 2010, only underlines the seriousness of this failure. The question is raised not only how progress can be effectively made on these goals but whether the integration of social objectives into Europe 2020, implying a loss of a distinct social agenda has been too big a price to pay.

**Objectives**

The aim of the seminar is to assess why Europe 2020 and the Semester has failed to deliver on poverty and participation and to discuss concrete recommendations for change to feed into the Mid-Term Review process. The Seminar aims to open a space for dialogue between EU Institutions and other stakeholders with grass-root antipoverty NGOs to build consensus on how real progress can be made on the poverty target involving genuine and meaningful participation with civil society organizations and people in poverty themselves.

**Venue/Programme**

The seminar will take place in ITUC House from 9.00 to 1.00. Coffee and refreshments will be available.

**Participants**

The seminar is free and open to any EU or national decision-maker or stakeholder. Expenses will only be covered e for the 35 EAPN members who will participate from the national level, including people with direct experience of poverty.

**Draft Programme Mid-Term Review: How to make sure the Mid-Term Review on Europe 2020 strategy delivers on Poverty and Participation?**

***Venue: ITUC House***

**Friday, 3rd October 2014**

**9-1.00**

**Chair: Barbara Helfferich, Director of EAPN**

**9.00** **Opening Session: Learning from the Past – what are the key challenges? – A grass roots perspective.**

**Round Table Discussion**

* Sergio Aires, EAPN President
* Voices from the ground: inputs from People with Direct Experience of Poverty (2)
* National Assessments: inputs from EAPN Networks engaged in Europe 2020 (2)
* Commissioner Andor, DG Employment

**10.00 Discussion with the Audience**

**10.30 Coffee Break**

**11.00 Way Forward: Concrete Recommendations to the Mid-Term Review**

* **EAPN Proposals for the Mid-Term Review - Chair of the EAPN EU Policy Group (EUISG)**

**11.15** **Round table discussion with EU stakeholders**

* Marcel Haag, Secretariat General
* Pervenche Bères, European Parliament
* Maureen O’ Neill, EESC, SOC President
* Jozef Niemiec, ETUC
* EU Semester Alliance

**12. 15** **Debate with the audience**

**12.45** **Summing up: Chair**

**Closing speech: Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Commission**

**1.00 Close**

1. [EC Communication: Taking Stock of Europe 2020 (March 2014](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm)) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. EC [Consultation Documents](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/public-consultation/index_en.htm). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. See EAPN assessments of the NRPs – 2013: [Widening the GAP](http://www.eapn.eu/en/news-and-publications/publications/eapn-position-papers-and-reports/eapn-publishes-widening-the-gap-2013-marked-the-3rd-round-of-national-reform-programmes-since-the-launch-of-europe-2020-in-2010-eapn-has-engaged-in-this-process-every-year-) and [proposals for CSR recommendations 2014](http://www.eapn.eu/images/stories/docs/EAPN-position-papers-and-reports/2014-EAPN-CSRs-Analysis-and-CSR-proposals.pdf). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)