



European Anti Poverty Network Ireland

Ireland in Europe, Tackling Poverty

News Flash February 2014, Issue 2/2014



This flash is adapted from EAPN (Europe) Flash. EAPN Ireland's main funders are the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. The views presented in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views or positions of EAPN Ireland or its members.

1. Events coming up – them in your diary out now!

A. Social Inclusion Forum, 2014

- **The Social inclusion Forum is on 1 April this year in Croke Park.**

This is the main opportunity for anti-poverty groups and people affected by poverty to meet decision-makers to discuss all aspects of policy as it impact. The SIF 2014 themes are:

- Local Government Reform – role of community development, anti-poverty & social inclusion work at local level
- Roma Integration Strategy
- Healthy Ireland Strategy - How poverty impacts on health and/or mental health & a focus on Traveller health
- Homelessness

To register please email social.inclusion@welfare.ie

- **EAPN Ireland workshops to prepare for the Forum will be held ion the week of St Patrick's Day**

These will allow people affected by poverty and organisations working with them to discuss the reality of poverty, the impact of current policies and policies needed for change. Some participants at these meetings will be supported to travel to Dublin for the Forum. See list on the right

- [Last year's Forum report](#) is here

The report back from the EAPN Ireland/CWC workshops is at pages 21 to 24.

- **The four main recommendations from last year were:**

CWC/EAPN Ireland regional workshops

Regional/Local workshops

1. Castleblaney, Co. **Monaghan** – 18th March, Íonats Centre, Conabury
2. **Dublin** – March in the F2 Centre, Rialto
3. Tullamore, Co. **Offaly** – March 19th in Offaly Traveller Movement, Bury Quay (Beside Tullamore Dew)
4. **Donegal** – March 25th in Letterkenny venue to be confirmed
5. **Kilkenny** City – 20th March in 47A Ossary Park, Kilkenny, street opposite Government Buildings on the Hebron Road
6. **Galway** – March 18th Galway City Partnership, 3 The Plaza, Galway (above Argos)
7. **Ennis** – place and time to be confirmed

Thematic Workshops:

8. **Roma & Traveller Health** – March 20th in Pavee Point Traveller Centre
9. **Women** – March 20th in NWCI, 4th Floor, 2/3 Parnell Square East, Dublin,
10. **Homelessness:** Focus Group for people with recent experience of homelessness in

(only the highlighted 'headlines' are given here – full text in the report)

- (in relation to Direct Provision for asylum seekers): “...a moral responsibility to ensure that access to and standards of service equate with that available to Irish citizens.”
- (in relation to bottom-up approaches) “...the partnership approach between the state and community sector needs to be re-established.”
- (in relation to activation): “...The roll-out of Pathways to Work needs to be viewed as a learning model”
- (in relation to ageing) “...It is imperative that the National Positive Ageing Strategy is brought to immediate completion.”

B. European Parliament Elections, 23 May 2014

- **The elections have already started.**

The European parliament is re-elected every five years. This time round, Ireland will be divided into three constituencies: Midlands/Northwest (4 seats); South (4 seats) and Dublin (3 seats), as well as 3 seats in Northern Ireland.

- **We are organising workshops in each constituency for anti-poverty groups**

These workshops, with the co-operation of the European Parliament Office in Ireland, will include an introduction to the workings of the EU, the role of the European Parliament and European social policy in the morning. In the afternoon, we have invited all candidates to take part in a discussion with participants.

South, 29 April, Limerick, with Limerick City Community Development Project

- In Limerick Diocesan Pastoral Centre, St. Michael's Courtyard, Denmark St, Limerick

North and West, 1 May, Longford, with Longford Women's Link

- In Longford Women's Link, Willow House, Ardnacassa Avenue, Longford

Dublin, 2 May

- In Carmelite Community Centre, 56 Aungier St., Dublin 2

- **Meetings are also being organised by the National Women's Council and the Wheel**

- Watch their websites for details

- **EAPN (Europe has launched:**

- A blog on the elections
- A manifesto

Cork Simon Community date to be confirmed

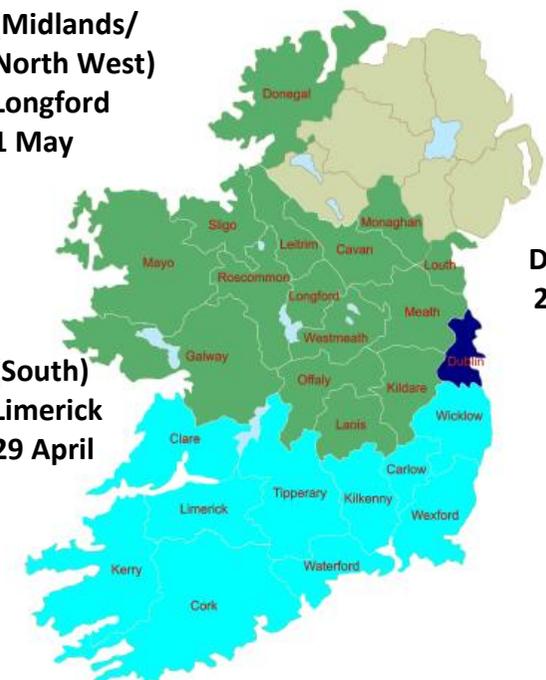
More details and registration form will be posted on www.cwc.ie and www.eapn.ie

EAPN Ireland Meetings in the three constituencies.

(Midlands/
North West)
Longford
1 May

Dublin
2 May

(South)
Limerick
29 April



2. Irish News

A. New Community Platform Publication

Now you see us – The human stories behind poverty in Ireland

A new report by a network of 30 leading Irish national organisations working against poverty and inequality highlights the Government's failure to protect the most vulnerable in society. It warns that the dual attack of unemployment and relentless cuts at national and local level has pushed individuals, families and communities into poverty.

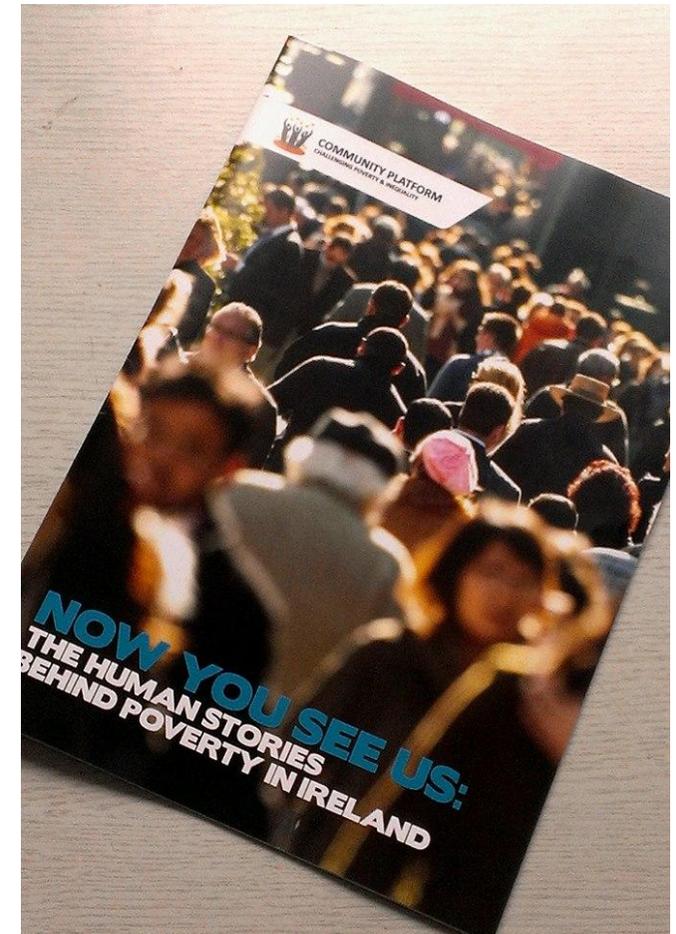
It features a series of interviews with on how the recession and resulting government policies have affected their lives. The publication aims to reveal the human stories of those hardest hit by austerity policies and the devastation suffered by people on low income and social welfare throughout the recession.

The report documents parents going hungry to feed their children, people unable to heat their homes and a young generation at serious risk of being lost to unemployment, drugs and crime. Robin Hanan, speaking for the Community Platform said "As we move out of the recession we must also move away from austerity policies. The Government now has no excuse not to carry out poverty and equality impact assessments as a central part of all policy making. Too often the Government focuses on the bottom line and ignores the impact of persistent cuts on real people and communities".

Below are some of the human stories behind poverty in Ireland.

Patrick – a community worker in Fatima Mansions in Dublin – warned that cuts to local services in Fatima have caused a rise in drug use and criminality in the complex. He said: "I see gangs of young people we had working a few years back. We had broken the cycle of people entering into criminality. But the biggest impact of the austerity of the last four years has been a rise in anti-social gang culture." He added: "Young people who may have been able to get a job a few years back are now drifting in to the drugs scene. They end up in the criminal justice system or with a bullet. It's really that serious."

Patrick said the impact of cuts across community, health, education, training and employment services has slammed the door on a generation of people who now feel "there is no escape." The local services helped to give people a pathway to keep them away from drugs and crime but youth services have been butchered and the community drugs team in the area has been slashed by 35%.



Tariq Chef Dublin:

“I was crying last night because of what is happening to me. I’m an honest person. I’m suffering all the time. Every day I wake up I have in mind it’s the start of a bad day.”

Tariq has been living in Ireland for over 12 years with his wife and two daughters who were born here in Ireland. It is their home yet they have been pushed underground and are living in poverty.

He said: Before the recession I was working in one restaurant for five years, I had a visa at this time but the owner did not renew my work permit. I feel he used me. I don’t have status now.” He said he has been forced into working for low wages off the books in a number of places. He said: “I’m illegally working, but what can I do? If you don’t have a permit there are no permanent jobs. People are using me and not paying properly.”

He added: “I’m not getting one cent off the social welfare. I survive, sometimes eating, sometimes not eating so I can give food to the children.” The continuous stress has seen Tariq’s health deteriorate and his wife is suffering from depression. He said people have been very good to him and his family helping when they can but that the working situation is very bad and he feels trapped with no way out.

His mother is now dying in his country of origin but he can’t even visit her. He said: “I’m scared all the time, my mother is dying now but I am not going to my country, I don’t have a visa.”

Available to download from www.communityplatform.ie and printed copies available from communityplatform@eapn.ie.

B. Other Irish News

Constitutional Convention votes to strengthen economic, social, and cultural rights

The Constitutional Convention has voted to have the right to housing, social security, and essential health care ‘expressly stated’ in the constitution.

It will also be recommended that the rights of people with disabilities, and also linguistic and cultural rights should also stressed. [See article in the Journal.](#)

In the latest [Oireachtas Brief](#)

- **Debates:** Charities, top ups and regulation; Homeless crisis
- **News:** LEADER and local development; Budget for Child & Family Agency
- **Appointments:** Oireachtas committee

Photo Exhibition – Roma, one people many lives

In the Rotunda, Dublin City Hall, from 28 February

Cuts to Diet Supplement

From the 1st February 2014, the Diet Supplement scheme administered under the Supplementary Welfare Allowance scheme will close to new applicants. However, the 6,000 people who were getting Diet Supplement before 1st February will be unaffected for as long as they continue to be entitled to the payment. [Read more](#)

"Are we paying for that?" - Government funding & social justice advocacy report from the Advocacy Initiative:

This research is an account & analysis of the experience of the funding relationship between the state and C&V organisations engaged in public policy advocacy. It tells the community & voluntary side of the relationship under the headings state support, inhibition & suppression of advocacy



3. Fighting Poverty Across Europe

A. News from EAPN (Europe)

European Year of Citizens, 2013 Alliance: Policy Recommendations call for solidarity, equality and participation

20/02/2014 -EAPN has taken an active role in the EYCA (European Year for Citizens Alliance) from its inception in June 2012. The main aim of the EYCA is to give European citizenship its full meaning and

scope to ensure a meaningful citizens' participation in the democratic like of the European Union. The alliance is an informal coordination of 62 EU NGO platforms and civil society actors as well as 22 national coalitions. Its policy recommendations were finalized and publically presented during the Closing Conference of the Alliance in Vilnius last December 2013. EAPN heavily contributed to them to ensure that people experiencing poverty and social exclusion can really play their role as citizens by being fully integrated in society. [Read more...](#)

URBACT III (2014-2020): EAPN participates in EU-level consultation meeting

19/02/2014 - EAPN participated to the EU-level consultation meeting on URBACT III (2014-2020) organized in Brussels and aimed at finalizing the Operational Programme. The URBACT programme is the EU programme co-funded by ERDF and Member States to help cities to build their capacities on sustainable urban development and develop and implement strategies and local action plans around this issue. [Read more...](#)

Background Reports for the 2013 Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty are out!

19/02/2014 - On the occasion of the 2013 European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty, National delegations were asked to make preparatory reports to feed the exchanges of the Meeting. While done with little or no financial support, they represent a goldmine of information and testimonies from those carrying the greatest burden of the austerity measures, with also examples of good practices showing that choices can be made to make a positive difference. These reports were made on the basis of 1) Reference Budgets, 2) The impact of the crisis, 3) Relevant Practices. [Read more...](#)

Report of Minimum Income Seminar held in Paris 9 December 2013

Four key issues emerged from the discussions at the seminar as crucial in developing effective minimum income schemes. These are: defining adequacy and regular uprating of payments, ensuring coverage, addressing non-take-up and integrating minimum income into an active inclusion approach. Building consensus to make progress on these four areas is crucial to the work of the EMIN project. [Read more...](#)

Water is A Human Right: Hearing in the European Parliament

17/02/2014 - The European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) "Water is a human right!" was the subject of a public hearing in the European Parliament and the same day we met the European Commission. In line with the Regulation on ECIs, we will be given the opportunity to explain our demands in both sessions. [Read more...](#)

EAPN Response to the Annual Growth Survey Package 2014 'Business as usual fails the fight against poverty'

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Post-Droste 2020 and achievements of targets at least of the A05.
2. Develop an integrated strategy to reduce poverty and social exclusion that tackles discrimination.
3. Shift from austerity to social investment/social protection, as prerequisites for inclusive growth.
4. Make reducing inequality a new priority including inclusive tax policy.
5. Implement integrated active inclusion to promote inclusion, ensuring adequacy of minimum income and social protection.
6. Invest in quality work and road map to fight in-work poverty.
7. Promote youth inclusion beyond youth employment.
8. Prioritize affordable access to services, including mental health needs.
9. Increase democratic legitimacy with guidelines for meaningful stakeholder engagement.
10. Implement social inclusion priorities through Structural Funds with NSD partners.

ATD Fourth World: 13th European Fourth World People's University "Constructing A Europe Without Exclusion Together"

Next 05/03/2014 at the European Parliament, ATD Fourth World, EEuropean Organisation and member of EAPN, will hold the 13th European Fourth World People's University on the topic of "Reflecting Upon And Constructing A Europe Without Exclusion Together". Only a few weeks before the European Elections, this will be an opportunity for exchange for people living in poverty, political representatives and other stakeholders from the institutions and associations, based around a discussion of challenges experienced and proposals drawn up from the experience and knowledge of people living in poverty. Read more...

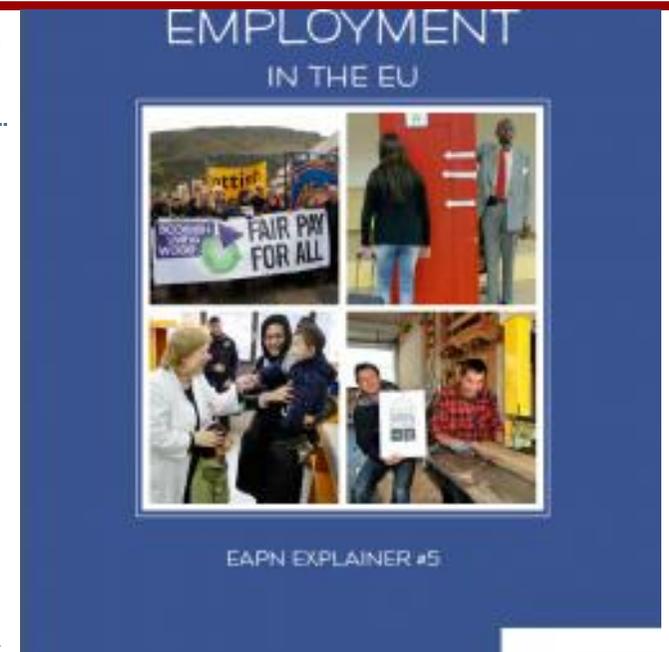
B. EAPN (Europe) and other publications

EAPN Response to the Annual Growth Survey Package 2014: 'Business as usual fails the fight against poverty' - 10 key recommendations

26/02/2014 - On 13 November 2013, the European Commission adopted and launched the **2014 Annual Growth Survey (AGS) package** and EAPN responded to it the next day through a **press release**, welcoming the proposals in the AGS to strengthen stakeholder involvement, but highlighting its concerns about the 'business as usual' approach, with few signs of a move away from counter-productive austerity priorities which are impacting negatively on poverty, exclusion and inequality. EAPN also highlighted the need to re-focus on Europe 2020 and the targets, and to back meaningful stakeholder dialogue to ensure effective policies and reinforced democratic legitimacy. In this paper, EAPN sets out these key messages in more details. [Read more...](#)

EAPN's Explainer on Quality of Work and Employment is out!

03/02/2014 - **Quality of work and employment are the cornerstone of dignified lives, free of poverty, and of cohesive, inclusive societies!** Employment is a concept that holds a double value in our societies. On the one hand, it is an economic resource, providing the economy with a capable and sustainable workforce and, on the other hand, it is a vehicle for inclusion and integration, for breaking isolation and fulfilling people's need to contribute and be relevant in the world. EAPN's new Explainer on Quality of Work and Employment in the EU focuses mainly on this second dimension, and how employment can best respond to this human and social right to dignified lives, free of poverty and exclusion. [Read more...](#)



EC Social Agenda – Youth employment

12/02/2014 - The latest issue of [Social Agenda](#) highlights the need for a new approach to employment, social and inclusion policy to promote youth employment: a combination of urgent, highly targeted measures supporting young people directly and of longer term structural reforms. The [Youth Guarantee](#), which the Heads of State and government have agreed to disseminate throughout the EU, encapsulates this new approach. [Read more...](#)

C. News from EAPN National Networks

Macedonian Anti-Poverty Platform (MAPP) working on Youth in 2014

21/02/2014 In order to meet youth needs and interests, MAPP's goal is to promote youth organizing, establishing measures and recommendations associated with young people and their activities, strengthening their participation in the public life and informing them. [Read more...](#)

Kisa (member of EAPN Cyprus): : Immigration department appears to be accountable to no one

19/02/2014 - Editorial article by the Cyprus Mail: "Immigration department appears to be accountable to no one", which raises the issues of systematic contempt of the Supreme Court's decisions, violation of the rule of law and abuse of power by the Civil Registry and Migration Department (CRMD) of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Cyprus. [Read more...](#)

EAPN & EAPN Hungary support demo against the Hungarian law criminalising homelessness people

14/02 - In many countries, **including Ireland**, demonstrations protested against the Hungarian law that came into effect on 15 October 2013, criminalising homeless people who “reside habitually in public premises”. This law entails that homeless people in most of the districts in Budapest and in the adjoining communes are at risk of being fined, forced to do community-service or put into jail only for staying on the streets and squares of the city. EAPN supports these demonstrations and the Steering Committee of the Hungarian Anti- Poverty Network has also put forward a [statement](#), calling on the Hungarian Government to withdraw this law. [Read more...](#)



Demonstration at the Hungarian Embassy, Dublin, 14 February

FNARS (member of EAPN France): Will the fight against poverty still be a Governmental priority?

Launched in early 2013, the multi-year plan to fight against poverty and social inclusion, initiated a change in the consideration of the precariousness and the fight against poverty in our country. Inter became this struggle would then affect all public policies to finally get specific answers and multiplication associated devices . In this respect, the cancellation of the Interministerial Committee for the fight against exclusion to be held tomorrow is a bad omen. One year after the launch of the plan , where are we ? What are the consequences? [Read more...](#)

EAPN Spain calls for adequate minimum income in Spain and Europe

Madrid, January 24, 2014. EAPN Spain (EAPN-ES) today celebrates 10 years of renewing its commitment to the most vulnerable people in Spain. In these years, the Network has established itself as a firm commitment of NGOs in social action politically influence the achievement of a just and cohesive society. [Read more...](#)

D. MEPS overwhelmingly endorse 'people-centred' €3.5 Billion Programme

The European Parliament overwhelmingly endorsed the new €3.5 billion European anti-poverty programme negotiated with the European Commission and the Member States.

Irish MEP Emer Costello served as the European Parliament's Rapporteur for the new *Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived* (FEAD) since December 2012, and led the European Parliament's negotiating team in the talks with the Commission and the Irish and Lithuanian EU presidencies, which successfully concluded in December.

€20 million will now be made available to Irish organisations under the new seven-year programme, with additional funding coming from the Government.

“Whereas the previous European *Most Deprived Programme* (MDP) was essentially a narrow 'food-based' fund that was primarily concerned with distributing surplus CAP stocks (e.g. beef, cheese, rice and butter) FEAD is very much a broader and more progressive 'people-centred' anti-poverty initiative,” Ms Costello said.

“Up until now, European social funds could only be used to promote 'labour market activation', which obviously could not address the immediate concerns of people 'beyond' the labour market, such as people suffering from food poverty, the homeless or children living in extreme poverty.

EAPN Ireland welcomed the revised report which reflects many of our priorities and those of other anti

Cut the jargon!

We do our best to use as little 'EU policy jargon' as possible, but it sometimes creeps in!

If you get lost, check out our [Policy Jargon Explainer](#)

poverty NGOs.

E. Other News from the EU Institutions

Follow these links for full stories and [click here](#) for more news

- Employment and social aspects of the Troika operations with regard to euro area programme countries
 - Social Investment Package and EU Stakeholder Dialogue: taking stock of achievements one year on
 - Fund for European aid to the most deprived and European Semester in the Plenary
 - Pensions: on-going reforms will help Member States tackle demographic and sustainability challenges
 - Social Investment Package: taking stock of achievements one year on
 - EU elections: Latest across Europe (on Euractiv)
 - Working conditions: time for Member States to implement the ILO domestic workers convention
 - European Semester's increased target on healthcare reform (on Euractiv)
 - Troika: EP report includes measures suggested by ordinary people
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4. Funding and employment

For information on funding in Ireland see <http://www.activelink.ie/content/funding>

For news on European funding see [www. http://www.eapn.eu/en/resources/funding-opportunities-at-eu-level](http://www.eapn.eu/en/resources/funding-opportunities-at-eu-level)

For jobs in the community sector in Ireland, see <http://www.activelink.ie/content/vacancies>

EAPN Ireland is a network of community and voluntary groups in Ireland working against social poverty, affiliated to the European Anti Poverty Network. EAPN aims to put the fight against poverty and social exclusion at the top of the Irish and EU agenda and to empower members through information, advocacy and networking. Further information about EAPN Ireland is available from our website, www.eapn.ie. To join EAPN Ireland you can access an online [membership form](#). **(EAPN) Ireland, Equity House, 16 Ormond Quay Upper, Dublin 7, Phone 0(0 353) 1 8745737, E-Mail: info@eapn.ie**