



EUROPEAN MEETINGS OF  
**PEOPLE**  
EXPERIENCING  
POVERTY

*LISTEN TO THE EXPERTS OF POVERTY, EXCLUSION AND INEQUALITIES*

## **REPORTS FROM WORKSHOPS ON FUNDING THE FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY – INVESTING IN THE POVERTY TARGET**

### **Red room**

#### **5 KEY MESSAGES:**

1. It is very difficult for small NGOs to apply for and access funding. PROPOSALS: national EAPNs apply as platforms, and then distribute the money in the network; explore other ways that funds can be made more accessible; language (as in EU jargon and meaningless questions on applications) are a big obstacle.
2. Look at broader social inclusion and participation, beyond labour market needs and narrow employment-only approached.
3. Let's make the partnership principle really work and ensure that NGOs are real partners in the design and delivery of funds. PROPOSALS: Develop user-friendly tools and capacity building for NGOs to participate and take ownership.
4. Combat short-termism and incoherence between projects and policy. PROPOSAL: We need long-term vision, avoiding a fallout in support and services because the project has ended; make social and gender impact assessment mandatory for both projects and policy.
5. Consistency between different types of EU funds, coherent with a holistic approach.

#### **1 QUESTION:**

HOW CAN YOU GUARANTEE THAT 1% OF THE "JOBS AND GROWTH" PACKAGE OF 300 BILLION EURO WILL BE DEDICATED TO BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS AND FOR THE CAPACITY BUILDING OF STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN TACKLING POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION?

### **Green room**

The three recommendations and one question:

Bureaucracy – those giving and managing funds should trust NGOs with the money; often all the requirements are making it easier for consultancies and others with resources to such burdensome rules.

Sustainability – all funding now looks for innovation, although new ideas don't necessarily deliver long-term impact and even when Social Impact Assessment shows the benefit on a community.

Capacity Building – those managing and giving funds and the public authorities should listen to the people who really experience problems and build their capacity to use the money so that they manage to change their lives.

Question: Why is it that NGOs who include the people working directly on the ground are not accessing the money to make a difference in the lives of their communities?

### **Orange room**

Messages:

1. Support small, simple, prefunded and local needs-based projects!
2. Structural Funds will only deliver if we have an EU integrated anti-poverty strategy!
3. Good projects require trusting partnership with NGOs supported by quality technical assistance!
4. Projects need to be evaluated based on quality and successful lessons learned must be translated into policies.

Two Questions to the Plenary delivered by Yogi:

1. Are you convinced that using SF the way it is planned now will actually fight poverty effectively?
2. Listening to our messages, what will be your solution to our problems and how will you ensure a proper balance of social and economic concerns?

### **Blue room**

- Empowerment is the priority – not just employment! – help people's self-esteem, culture, build common initiatives together...
- But pathways support to quality employment is also important – particularly where no safety net..
- Long-term and sustainable funding, which can provide life-long support to people.
- Start from what works, with national evaluation, then support the funding, rather than reinventing the wheel.
- We don't always need a lot of money – to listen, empower and to build the society we want..

Question to Panel:

How is the EU going to make the Government responsible/accountable for the 20% of ESF on poverty – to show it's been spent in the way it's intended? How will they involve people in poverty who are directly impacted with these projects in the evaluation?

### **Purple room**

Facilitator: Patrick de Bucquois

Note taker: Philippe Lemmens

Rapporteur: Catherine Szymanski

Question: The EU2020 goals reach for 20 million people in Poverty (there are even more than before at this moment). The recommendations of European Commission has been to cut in Social Expenses by the Member States. Where is the coherence in policy in this? How will you reach the goals of EU2020?

Recommendations:

- We recommend more transparency from Civil Society to ensure that the funds destined to Structural Funds are being used and that they are using them properly. It's important that people know where their money is going.

- 20% of the money going to Social Funds is not enough. Poor people get less money than animals, they deserve more and better than this!

The % of money fixed to participation of People Experiencing Poverty should be not only to employment, but also to health, housing, culture, ...

- There should be a Council at European level for People Experiencing Poverty.