



EUROPEAN MEETINGS OF  
PEOPLE  
EXPERIENCING  
POVERTY

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

## REPORTS FROM THEMATIC WORKSHOPS

### Combating Poverty and exclusion of Migrants

*Petra from Norway will deliver the keynotes and questions.*

#### KEY MESSAGES:

- Abandoning of the Dublin 3 agreement.
- Provide migrants a path to regular status and limit processing time.
- Ensure access to basic services and information on rights and obligations to migrants.
- Foster social, self-organised, local initiatives
- Ensure that human rights of migrants are respected and enforced and that international monitoring on situation of migrants is ensured.

#### 1 QUESTION:

How can the EU change policy to value migrants as contributors?

### Wealth and Inequalities

#### Key messages and question

1. The inequality has a huge impact on the self-esteem and mental health of people. This means also a waste of human resources. It's a waste of human potential !
2. The problem is not the resources, but the **unequal distribution**:, 10 % of the population has got 86 % of the Wealth ! The rest has to share 14 % left. The world richest 85 people own the same wealth as the half of the population of the world.
3. This inequality is the consequence of political choices: social and economic policies:there is a link between the rich & powerful and the political elite. This means: change is possible !!! Change takes time

#### 4. Solutions:

- more fair, more progressive tax system and tackling tax evasions
- As well as looking at minimum income, we should maybe also look also at maximum income.
- we need the tax money for decent services (health, education, also forms of inequalities) and social protection systems
- crack down on financial secrecy

5. We have a common interest, equal societies are better for everybody. We are the majority. Change can happen !

Questions: Given that wealth inequality is growing, the need for a progressive tax system is key to move forward. What can the EU do ? Can the EU build a more common, more equal progressive tax system that reduces inequality?

#### Homeless Workshop

Key messages:

participation is not just about re-integration of individuals but also about helping to provide better services.

4P's: Person - Practice - Policy - Perception. It must be good for the person, must be good for the service - must be good for policies - must lead to appropriate perception of homeless people.

Share power all the time

Incentive/motivation but also need for follow-up, need for change, not only tokenistic

The question should be 'what's your dream' not 'what's your problem'

Knowledge - awareness - movement - pressure - that's what going to make a change.

Question: Why aren't you using our resources and knowledge to have a EU legislative framework on participation?

#### Youth and Poverty Workshop

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

1. Give young people their hope and their future back, through trust, empowerment and participation.
2. Invest in quality and durable entry level jobs, that answer not only labour market needs, but also young people's dreams.
3. Guarantee equal access to quality education opportunities, including nonformal, fighting segregation, discrimination and bullying.
4. Prioritise quality youth work, to ensure that young people from key groups (migrants, minorities, with disabilities, from disadvantaged regions etc are not left behind.

## **QUESTION**

How to broaden the focus of policy interventions from youth unemployment to wider social participation, including the fight against youth poverty and social exclusion?

### **Minimum Income Workshop**

1. Decent minimum income schemes are good for the economy and the whole society.
2. Poor quality minimum income schemes trap people in poverty, are often linked to poor quality employment and the two together contribute to growing “grey” economy, which makes difficulties for everybody.
3. Good quality minimum income schemes work. In countries with better schemes many people only need the scheme for a short time, but even in these countries for some people the minimum income scheme is not enough and they need other support such as social and cultural.

Question: When will we have decent minimum income schemes that allow people to live in dignity in every country? What can the Commission and the European Parliament do if countries make no serious effort to implement minimum income schemes? Can other countries help? What can NGOs do?