



EUROPEAN MEETINGS OF
PEOPLE
EXPERIENCING
POVERTY

LISTEN TO THE EXPERTS OF POVERTY, EXCLUSION AND INEQUALITIES

13th European Meeting of People experiencing Poverty

Funding the fight against Poverty

Investing in the EU Poverty Reduction target

Brussels, 22-24 September 2014



#2014PEP

PROGRAMME

Monday 22 September

Venue: Charlemagne Building. Rue de la Loi 170, B-1000 Brussels (Beside Metro Schuman)

Welcoming Ceremony and Formal Opening

13.00 – 14.30 Registration of delegates and guests

13.00 – 14.30 Light lunch for delegations

15.00 – 16.15 **Welcome - Presentation of the delegations and their creative messages**

“Where we find hope”

16.15 – 16.45 Tea/coffee Break

16.45 – 18.00 **Formal Opening**

Welcome and setting the context

- **Chair: Sérgio Aires**, President EAPN
- **Juliy Zhotev**, Bulgarian delegation, **Message from the PeP Meetings**
- **Paul Rosiers and Elke Vandermeersch** EAPN Task Force, **Presentation of EAPN Handbook on Participation and Stakeholder engagement**

Responses and presenting vision for the fight against poverty in the New Institutional Context

- **Franca Biondelli**, Undersecretary, Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs, Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union
- **Stefan Olsson**, Head of Unit, European Commission, Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Responses and Questions from the delegates

18.00 – 19.00 **Continuation of Presentation of delegations and their messages**

19.30 – 20.30 Evening Meal for delegations

Tuesday 23 September

Venue: Auto World Brussels. Parc du Cinquantaire 11, 1000 Brussels

- 9.00 – 9.30 **Family Photo**
(Under the arches beside Auto World weather permitting, or inside Auto World).
- 9.30 – 13.00 **5 Parallel Workshops on the theme of ‘Funding the fight against Poverty – Use of EU Structural Funds** (see next page for details)
- 13.00 – 14.30 Lunch
- 14.00 – 14.30 **Registration of Guests for workshops**
- 14.30 - 17.00 **5 Thematic Workshops** (see next page for details)
- Minimum Income for a decent life
 - Homeless not hopeless (building participation)
 - Youth and Poverty
 - Combating Poverty and the exclusion of Migrants
 - Wealth and Inequality and the fight against poverty
- 17.15 – 18.30 **Market Place - time for informal exchange between delegates and guests**
Opening of the Market Place: László Andor, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
- 20.00 – 22.00 **Conference Dinner**

Wednesday 24 September

Venue: Charlemagne Building. Rue de la Loi 170, B-1000 Brussels (Beside Metro Schuman)

- 9.00 – 9.30 **Morning Energiser** organised by the French Delegation
- 9.30 – 11.30 **Report back from Workshops and Panel Discussion**
Chair: Heather Roy President Social Platform, Secretary General Eurodiaconia
Panel:
- **Zoltán Kazatsay**, Deputy Director-General, European Commission, Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, responsible for the ESF
 - Representative of the European Parliament (*name to be confirmed*)
 - **Thomas Dominique**, President EU Social Protection Committee
 - **Sali Guntín**, Vice-President EAPN Spain, EAPN Task Force on Structural Funds
- 12.00 - 12.15 **Closing of the 2014 Meeting**
- 12.30 – 13.30 Lunch
- 13.30 Delegates start to journey home

BACKGROUND

The European Meetings of People experiencing Poverty have played an important role in driving the development of the direct participation of people experiencing poverty. The European meeting is a key visible moment in this process but more importantly it acts as a catalyst for national processes and national meetings of people experiencing poverty. The European Meetings have been well documented and positively evaluated for their impact on the delegates and the guests who attend (see www.eapn.eu).

The first of these meetings was organised by the Belgian Government in 2001 as part of the EU inclusion process launched by the Lisbon European Council (March 2000). The meetings continue to contribute to key EU processes including the follow up of the poverty target of the Europe 2020 strategy and the EU Social Investment Package. The meetings have helped to keeping poverty and social exclusion visible in the European agenda. They have contributed to some key areas of policy development such as adequacy of minimum income, child poverty, housing and homelessness, indebtedness, the links between discrimination and poverty (particularly the realities for Roma community), and the impact of liberalization on public services.

The meetings help to put faces to the realities behind the numbers of people experiencing poverty, including the different realities for women and men throughout the life cycle. In addition the meetings provide a 'barometer' in relation to social and economic developments in Europe. The processes associated to this meeting assist in the journey from 'people experiencing poverty' to 'activists with direct experience of poverty' and past participants are now playing important roles in anti-poverty organisations.

WHO ARE THE MEETINGS FOR?

Invited National Delegations

- People experiencing poverty who are starting to connect to anti-poverty organisations
- Some previous delegates to help with continuity

Guests

- Rep of National and EU level Institutions (Political and Functionaries)
- Rep of NGOs, Social Partners, Academics and other relevant actors

General Public

- Some elements of the meeting are open to the General Public. The meeting can be followed on website (<http://voicesofpoverty-eu.net/>) and twitter #2014PEP

GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE EUROPEAN MEETINGS

- To empower the delegates in their journey from People experiencing Poverty to Activists with direct experience of poverty engaged in their communities and organisations.
- To strengthen the participation of people experiencing poverty in Anti-Poverty NGOs and relevant policy making processes at local, national and EU levels.
- To facilitate exchange and learning and to stimulate further exchanges and joint projects.
- Reality Check: on the similarities and differences in different countries and for guests to check the reality of their approaches to fight poverty, against the experience on the ground and to adjust their policies and actions as necessary
- To strengthen the participation of people experiencing poverty in relevant EU processes

Interpretation: The plenary sessions on 22 and 24 Sept have interpretation in all the EU languages of the delegations. The workshops on the 23 Sept are in English with informal interpretation.

INFORMATION ON THE WORKSHOPS - Tuesday 23 September

Venue: Auto World Brussels, Parc du Cinquenaire 11, 1000 Brussels
(In the Park between Metros: Schuman and Merode)

5 PARALLEL WORKSHOPS ON FUNDING THE FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY (9-30 – 13.00)

Note: The colour of the room refers to the colour of the writing of the name of the thematic workshop on the roll-ups that are outside each workshop space.

Workshop Information	Delegations
Purple Room Facilitator: Patrick de Bucquois (Caritas)	Estonia, Luxembourg, Czech Republic, France, Spain and Denmark
Orange Room Facilitator: Herlinde Vanhooydonck (Social Platform)	FYROM, Malta, Bulgaria, Portugal and Germany
Green Room Facilitator: Robin Hanan (EAPN Ireland) Support Person:	Iceland, Serbia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland and Norway
Red room Facilitator: Mary Collins (European Women's Lobby)	Belgium, Netherlands, Romania, Poland, Sweden and Latvia
Blue Room Facilitator: Josee Goris (Belgian Service for Social Integration)	Slovakia, Austria, Finland, United Kingdom , Lithuania and Italy

5 THEMATIC WORKSHOPS (14-30 – 17.00)

Workshop Information	Organisers
Minimum Income <i>Purple Room</i>	Organised by EAPN , the EMIN and Reference Budget Projects , with participation of Georges Dassis from the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) .
Homeless not Hopeless – building participation <i>Orange Room</i>	Organised by FEANTSA with support from EAPN . The workshop will look at participative tools to tackle homelessness.
Youth and Poverty <i>Green Room</i>	Organised by the European Youth Forum with support from EAPN . The workshop seeks to promote solutions to Youth poverty that are based on tackling poverty, creating access to income and services, labour market integration and civil and political participation.
Combating Poverty and exclusion of Migrants <i>Red room</i>	Organised by EAPN with support from ENAR and PICUM . The workshop will allow exchange between participants on the realities and causes of exclusion among migrants and identify what works to foster the inclusion.
Wealth and Inequality - <i>Blue Room</i>	Organised by EAPN with inputs from Oxfam and EPSU . This workshop will explore people's perceptions of wealth and inequality and exchange with organisations working on the topic about proposals to have a better distribution of incomes and wealth.

