



EAPN: Fighting for a Social Europe Free of Poverty

EUIS work linking the EU and national level

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Brussels, 28 November 2014



EUROPEAN ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK
RÉSEAU EUROPÉEN DES ASSOCIATIONS
DE LUTTE CONTRE LA PAUVRETÉ ET L'EXCLUSION SOCIALE



Outline of Presentation

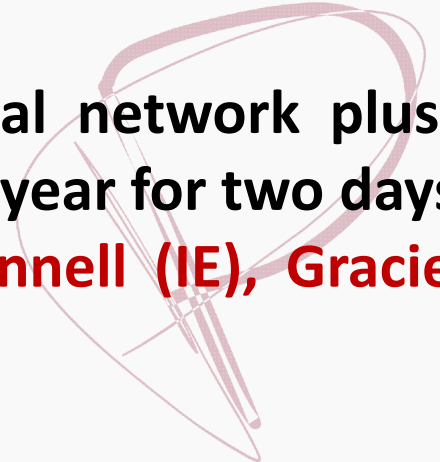
- 1) What is the EUISG? What does it do?**
- 2) How is it trying to link the EU and national level?**
- 3) Key challenges?**



What is the EU Inclusion Strategies Group?



- **Mandated by EXCO to be the main EAPN policy group**
- **Aims to deliver on Objective 1 of the Strategic Plan (2012-14) to impact on EU and national policy.**
 - Goal 1: A social and sustainable development model that tackles poverty, social exclusion and inequalities is at the heart of decision-making in Europe***
 - Objective 1.1 EAPN will work to ensure that the Europe 2020, Platform against Poverty, Social OMC and Employment Strategy, Structural Funds deliver progress on our objectives.***
- **Representatives from every national network plus 5 European Organizations meets 3 x a year for two days.**
- **Steering group – Currently Paul Ginnell (IE), Graciela Malgesini (ES) and Sonja Leemkuil**
- **Annual meeting with EXCO**



Linking EU and national level?



- ❑ **Advocacy Strategy** linking national and EU level to impact on policy
- ❑ **How?** By engaging in national processes of Europe 2020 and Cohesion Policy (Structural Funds) and governance processes.
- ❑ **Why? Dominant EU policy that is intervening strongly in national policies on austerity, and poverty policy, but with potential to deliver more on poverty, with EU funding to poverty.**
- ❑ **What does the EUISG do? – Pincer strategy!**
 - **Members try to influence National Reform Programmes** policies and Commission's recommendations to get better policies for their countries – **build alliances.**
 - **EUISG members review together** what's happened in their countries and the participation, and produce a common assessment, common messages and proposals.
 - **EUISG agrees on advocacy/lobbying** actions at EU and national level, to try to get national and EU demands
 - **EUISG tries to capacity build members** to help engage in Europe 2020 and Structural funds and to monitor what happens.

What activities/outputs?



- Europe 2020: NRP Joint Assessments based on members input: From Austerity to Inclusive growth
- **Alternative proposals on Country-specific Recommendations.**
- Letters/Press Releases and Advocacy actions to influence key policy moments at EU level
- Major Policy conference each year, with capacity-building and participation of people experiencing poverty (until 2013).
- Alliance project with pilot national alliances
- **Tool Kits and capacity building – eg Structural Funds/engaging in Europe 2020**
- 3 Task Forces : eg Joint Explainer on child poverty, Decent work, Giving a voice to citizens, Migration, living wage campaign, Active inclusion leaflet.
- **Youth Inclusion Report – based on mapping.**



Key Challenges

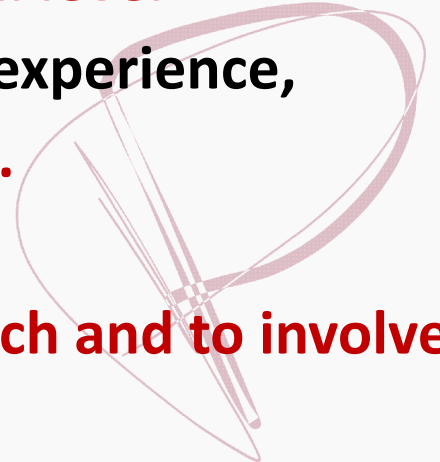
Discussed between EUISG/EXCO

External

- **Little confidence in Europe 2020 or commitment to participation**
- **Role of macroeconomic undermining social agenda**
- **How to be more pro-active but still have a common EU project?**

□ Internal

- **Difficulty of engaging national networks in the work, and ensure joint working at national level**
- **Diversity of needs, knowledge and experience,**
- **Big workload demand for members.**
- **Role of non EU members?**
- **How to ensure a bottom-up approach and to involve people experiencing poverty?**



Key Conclusions from World Cafe

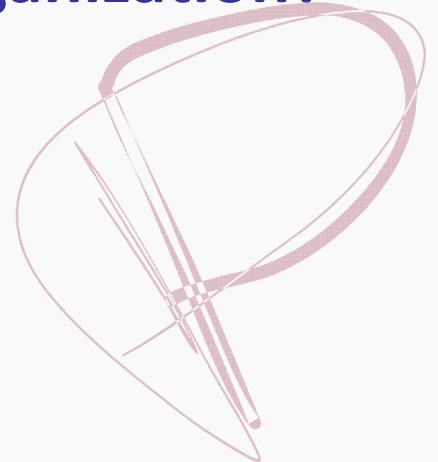


- **Common EU policy project is crucial for coherence of EAPN**
- **Insufficient support from EXCO- needs yearly regular exchange.**
- **Need stronger cooperation within national network to work together on link/issues eg national Europe 2020 groups, national anti-poverty platforms, topic on boards, dissemination of main actions.**
- **More pro-active and less responsive – ie awareness raising, social situation reports...**
- **Simplify documents, processes and invest in capacity building events and tool kits.**
- **Focus more on the policy content – what works/doesn't work in an integrated poverty strategy and for specific groups, and then see how we lobby on this together through Europe 2020 and Cohesion.**

Some Questions



- **How far are you aware of the EU policy context and the work of the EUISG?**
- **What's the link between the core national priorities for advocacy and the EU strategy?**
- **What more could be done to capacity build and work together linking EU and national policy in your network and organization?**
- **What help do you need?**





Thank you for your attention

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See: www.eapn.eu

A photograph of a young boy with dark hair, wearing a blue hoodie. His mouth is covered with silver duct tape. He is holding a yellow and white megaphone to his mouth, as if he is about to speak but is silenced. The background is a plain, light color.

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