



# EUROPA 2020

mais participação melhor governação



## EUROPE 2020: MORE PARTICIPATION, BETTER GOVERNANCE

### National Pilot Actions Europe 2020 / European Semester

### Final Report Portugal

January 2015

Promoter



Organization



Financing Entity



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## Summary of Attachments <sup>1</sup>

### Annex 1 – Informative materials

- 1.1 – Leaflet\_ EU2020 more participation better governance – PT version
- 1.2 - Leaflet\_ EU2020 more participation better governance – EN version

### Annex 2 – Europe 2020 Explainer (*product in conclusion*)

### Annex 3 – Training workshops

- 3.1 – Materials from Oporto workshop\_29 June
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### Annex 4 – Transnational Seminar

- 4.1. – Program
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- 4.6 – FNGIS presentation – support document
- 4.7 – EAPN Bulgaria presentation – support document

### Annex 5\_Script for video“Europe 2020: more participation, better governance – The Citizens Voice”

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<sup>1</sup> The attachments are organized and sent in a specific folder, attached to the present report.

## 1. Introduction

In Portugal, the national pilot action on Europe 2020 and European Semester was developed by a project we called “Europe 2020: more participation, better governance”. In first place, before the justification of the pertinence of the present project and it’s objectives, it is important to highlight the entities that have been involved.

This application was carried out by EAPN Portugal in close coordination with the Non-Governmental Forum for Social Inclusion (FNGIS), a representative platform of civil society national organizations. EAPN Portugal is a founding member of FNGIS and chairs the founding committee. The FNGIS works as Non Governmental Platform and is an active member in political debate and in the definition of a national strategy for social inclusion. This Forum works with an inter-sectorial and inter-institutional methodology and currently involves 11 national level member organizations<sup>2</sup>.

Beyond this relevant involvement of a national network as FNGIS, the main objectives of this project was, in our point of view, not only of national interest but also of European interest, making synergies and cooperation with other networks an important scope. EAPN Portugal has already some strategic partnerships with other EAPN national networks, like EAPN Spain and this has already contributed for the development of specific actions in some territories – especially cross-border one’s.

In the present project we introduced a transnational dimension assured by the participation of EAPN Bulgaria. Knowing that in 2014 EAPN Bulgaria was one of the national networks of EAPN granted with a national project under the Semester Alliance, we believed it would be quite interesting to try to transfer some of their experience into our own project – which has also the intention of reinforcing alliances and to explore the possibility of managing a national platform around social inclusion issues. This exchange refers not only to the different realities and contexts of our countries, but also to the different logic of functioning of the internal structures of our networks, which necessarily reflects the role they play in monitoring the Europe 2020 Strategy. In this framework, the partnership with EAPN Bulgaria was concretized by the presence of EAPN Bulgaria at the transnational seminar in 16 December and all the exchanges made based on their experience and documents produced.

After knowing the main actors involved in the project, as important contextual information, we present the 3 **major reasons why we have developed the present project**.

- 1) Lack of knowledge – even interest - and involvement of civil society in the European Semester. The European Semester is almost totally unknown – no matter the efforts of EAPN Portugal – to the majority of the Portuguese society. EAPN Portugal has already developed some workshops for and with other nongovernmental organizations and social professional’s trying to raise some awareness around these subjects and it is clear that they keep too far away from our national reality. The

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<sup>2</sup> For more information about FNGIS: [www.fngis.pt](http://www.fngis.pt). The 11 organizations member of FNGIS are: Dianova Association Portugal - Healing, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Drug Addicts; Association for Family Planning, Portuguese Association for Victim Support, Association for the Promotion and Development of the Information Society (APDSI), Portuguese Association for Local Development - ANIMAR, Caritas Portuguesa, EAPN Portugal, FENACERCI - National Federation of Social Solidarity Cooperatives; FORMEN - Portuguese Federation of Vocational Training and Employment Centres for People with Disabilities, Institute of Child Support and Health in Portuguese.

result is that they keep being unknown and that the participation of civil society is almost absent from the overall process. Of course this is even worse when we realize this happens also at the national parliament level, local authorities and so on. Therefore the major reason to implement this kind of project is to take the European Semester “out of the box”.

- 2) Secondly the lack of mechanisms for participation of civil society at European, and National level especially, at the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Europe 2020 strategy. For us is clear that the participation of civil society in the Social Reporting process in the scope of the European Semester is fundamental. This importance was recently expressed through an invitation of the European Commission to a number of organizations of civil society, including EAPN Portugal and Portuguese Caritas (both FNGIS members), to exchange information in terms of poverty and social exclusion state of play. Through these meetings it was presented to the European Commission a set of key information about the national reality and it was reinforced the gaps that still exists in the official documents of our National Government. This situation highlights the importance of the civil society participation in this kind of processes and the need to build permanent mechanisms to enhance (and provide) that participation.
- 3) The third reason is related to this last issue, the absence of mechanisms of participation and of an open dialog posture by government entities responsible for the management of the Europe 2020 strategy, as well as the preponderance of measures framed by an assistentialistic welfare state logic. Based on this background, civil society and its organizations are not enabled for intervention in Europe 2020. This lack of training, at a first instance, comes from the strategy/mechanisms of information dissemination that do not reach the civil society, limiting its participation.

Assuming these 3 major justifications for the project “Europe 2020: more participation, better governance”, it was developed along 2015 with the follow objectives.

#### **Main objective**

Promote better governance of Europe 2020 through empowerment and participation of civil society.

#### **Specific objectives**

- Raise awareness of the Europe 2020 strategy and the European Semester - including its impact on combating poverty and social exclusion.
- Training for the involvement and more effective influence in the national governance of the Europe 2020 strategy and the European Semester.

Last but not least it is important to mention that **the present report is organized in 4 main chapters:** 1) the introduction, referring a contextual information of the actors involved in the project, the main justifications for it’s development and its objectives. 2) The description of the activities carried out. 3) The evaluation of results and impacts of the activities. 4) Learning points and future recomendations concluded from the activities.

## 2. Description of Activities

The project “Europe 2020: more participation, better governance” was developed by 4 main activities that we will report in the present chapter:

2.1. *Europe 2020 Explainer*

2.2. *Training workshops on the Europe 2020 strategy*

2.3. *Transnational Seminar monitoring Europe 2020*

2.4. *Video – “Europe 2020: more participation, better governance”*

We highlight that the **main adjustments** done to the work programme were in terms of its **calendar**. The **delay was mainly due to two circumstances**, as we presented before in the update requested on October:

- We had general elections on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October and (since June / July) it didn't make much sense to promote these kinds of actions (even if we included in public positions and meeting with political parties our worries about the national dimension of EU 2020, namely its connection (or absence of connection) with the ESF programming.

- We wanted to promote some of these actions in partnership with the Permanent Representation of the European Commission in Portugal. In order to this partnership, at the beginning of the project we had a meeting with them in Lisbon. The feedback about the project was positive but they told us that it was too soon to develop such a project since the revision of the Europe 2020 is still on the run and won't be finished until December 2015. We waited a bit more than expected for some results at this sense. Since there were no conclusive results at this level, we proceed with the actions, counting with the presence of the Representation of the European Commission in Portugal at all the activities.

In terms of **contextual information** is also important to report that at the beginning of the project, in order to a better communication of our objectives, we produced a **short summary leaflet (Annex 1)** about the project, including a logo. This information was spread around a large group of national NGO's and is permanently available at FNGIS website<sup>3</sup>.

### 2.1. Europe 2020 Explainer

This product of the project is a document that presents the Strategy and also the absence of involvement mechanisms, reinforcing the importance of civil society participation in monitoring and evaluation of the European Semester.

The **Annex 2** is the draft version of the Explainer.

#### **Partners involved**

- FNGIS Members
- Europe Direct Centers
- Portuguese European Commission representation
- EAPN local councils of people experiencing poverty

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.fngis.pt/campanhas-e-projectos/europa-2020-mais-participacao-melhor-governacao/>

### **Calendar**

This action was expected to happen from April till July. Because of the reasons already explained at the beginning of this chapter we decided to develop this document only at the end of the project. This change gives us opportunity to include in the document some of the main results of the debates promoted at the other activities of the project.

### **Outputs/ Indicators of impact**

The Europe 2020 Explainer is a short publication organized by the following topics:

- Contextualization of Europe 2020 (namely a short reference to the Lisbon Strategie)
- What is Europe 2020 (objectives and it's main goals of a smart, inclusive and sustainable growth)
- Europe 2020 governance arrangements (namely the European Semester)
- Status of the targets (mainly in Portugal)
- Key priorities for improve Europe 2020 governance. This chapter summarizes some of the results of the discussions provided at the other activities of the project, highlighting the need of a cohesive strategy to guide all actors intervening in the field of social inclusion, possible through the proposed creation of a national platform of NGOs.

This explainer is intended to be a working tool in order to respond to the lack of knowledge of the Europe 2020 and it's governance mechanisms, an assumption that was one of the main purposes of this project and which was frequently assumed by the participants at all the activities.

By promoting this practical knowledge, we also disseminate a critical view about the lack of participation on Europe 2020 by the civil society, giving some proposal points of how to strengthen this participation.

Assuming the partners involved, we have their commitment at the dissemination of this product at different contexts. The *FNGIS members*, because of their national purposes (and some of them their international level), have contact with plural social organizations, acting since micro to macro level of intervention. The *Europe Direct Centers and the Portuguese European Commission Representation* assume this explainer as an important tool for their practical and consistent role of awareness to the Europe 2020. The Europe Direct Centers, in particular, highlight the importance of the contact with the school audiences, namely at university levels. At last, but not least, the work of EAPN Portugal with it's *local councils of people experiencing poverty* will use this Explainer at the development of practical sessions, even enabling its future enrichment with new direct proposals.

## 2.2. Training workshops on Europe 2020 Strategie

These capacity building workshops intend to create debate opportunities around the ability and potential contributions of social organizations and citizens to influence an encompassing strategy as Europe 2020.

The **Annex 3** (3.1 Oporto Workshop<sup>4</sup>; 3.2 Lisbon Workshop<sup>5</sup>) summarizes the documents referent to the workshops (including Program; Registration Lists signed; support documents of the 2 presentations and evaluation inquiry).

The public documents are also available at FNGIS website<sup>6</sup> and the photos published at FNGIS facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/fngis/>).

### ***Partners involved***

- FNGIS Members
- Regional Networks of EAPN
- EAPN local councils of people experiencing Poverty
- Local Authorities
- Europe Direct Centers
- Portuguese European Commission representation

### ***Calendar***

This action was expected to happen in June, September and October.

Assuming again the same reasons already presented, this activity had also another change, besides and resulting of the calendar, comparing to what was expected. We reduced the number of moments from 3 to 2 workshops, focusing the efforts at the realization of the transnational seminar.

The workshops took place at:

29<sup>th</sup> June – Oporto

20<sup>th</sup> October – Lisbon

### ***Outputs/ Indicators of impact***

- These capacity building workshops were developed in direct partnership with Europe Direct Centers (namely the Oporto center) and the Portuguese European Commission Representation. The programs reflect the importance of this partnerships, being organized in two parts. The first part was an official presentation of the Europe 2020 and the European Semester, done by official European entities. The second part, FNGIS responsibility, presented a critical perspective about the development of Europe 2020 and it's relation with the domain of social inclusion, highlighting the lack of participation opportunities by the civil society and presenting some key priorities for improve Europe 2020 governance.

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<sup>4</sup> Photos of Oporto workshop available at <https://www.facebook.com/fngis/posts/1158772350806948>

<sup>5</sup> Photos of Lisbon workshop available at <https://www.facebook.com/fngis/posts/1230429833641199>

<sup>6</sup> Oporto workshop materials available at <http://www.fngis.pt/programa-workshop-europa-2020-mais-participacao-melhor-governacao-porto>  
Lisbon workshop materials available at <http://www.fngis.pt/programa-workshop-europa-2020-mais-participacao-melhor-governacao-lisboa/>

- The Regional Networks of EAPN Portugal were involved in the dissemination of the events and collaborated with logistical matters.
- In the Oporto workshop we counted with 15 registrations and we had 12 participants, in representation of 9 organizations.
- In the Lisbon workshop we counted with 18 registrations and we had 15 participants, in representation of 12 organizations.
- The results of the debate at workshops are taken into account in the Europe 2020 Explainer, synthesizing their impacts.

### **2.3. Transnational Seminar monitoring Europe 2020**

The transnational seminar reinforces the capacity building workshops objective to create debate opportunities around the ability and potential contributions of social organizations and citizens to influence an encompassing strategy as Europe 2020.

This reinforcement was possible by the participation of the transnational partner – EAPN Bulgaria -, sharing the results of their experience integrating in 2014 the group of the national networks of EAPN granted with a national project under the Semester Alliance, with similar proposes.

The **Annex 4** summarizes the documents referent to the seminar<sup>7</sup> (including Program; Registration List signed; support documents of the 3 presentations; script to discussion group and evaluation inquiry).

#### ***Partners involved***

- FNGIS Members
- Portuguese European Commission representation
- EAPN Bulgaria
- ISEG - Lisbon School of Economics and Management

#### ***Calendar***

16th December 2015

#### ***Outputs/ Indicators of impact***

- This Seminar took place in direct partnership with the Portuguese European Commission Representation, ISEG - Lisbon School of Economics and Management, the delegation of EAPN Portugal from Lisbon and EAPN Bulgaria.
- For the seminar we counted with 43 registrations and we had 22 participants, in representation of 16 organizations.

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<sup>7</sup> Photos of the seminar available at <https://www.facebook.com/fngis/posts/1262969063720609>



- The program was organized in 4 parts. The first part was an official presentation of the Europe 2020 and the European Semester, done by Portuguese European Commission representation. The second part, FNGIS responsibility, presented a critical perspective about the development of Europe 2020 and its relation to the domain of social inclusion, highlighting the lack of participation opportunities by the civil society and presenting some key priorities for improve Europe 2020 governance. The third part was developed by EAPN Bulgaria, sharing their creation experience of a national social inclusion platform. The last part was developed in the afternoon, with the format of discussion groups around strategic themes.

- The presence of EAPN Bulgaria responded to our intention of sharing more practical knowledge of how to reinforce alliances and to explore the possibility of managing a national platform around social inclusion issues. Their presence allowed us to compare different realities and contexts of our countries, but also to share the different logic of functioning of the internal structures of our networks, which necessarily reflects the role we may play in monitoring the Europe 2020 Strategy.

- The discussion groups developed in the afternoon, were was conducted by a short script that focused on the following topics:

- Assess to knowledge of Europe 2020 and proposals to raise awareness
- Implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy concerning the fight poverty and social exclusion and proposals to improve its implementation?
- Participation in initiatives related to Europe 2020
- Measures to be taken to combat poverty and social exclusion in articulation with the issue of participation.
- Proposals for improvement of the mechanisms of participation (bottom-up and top-down)

The key priorities for improvement of Europe 2020 reflect the conclusions of the present debate.

#### **2.4. Video « Europe 2020 : more participation, better governance »**

Audiovisual product gathering testimonies of citizens experiencing poverty and representatives of social organizations focusing on the importance of the participation of civil society in the Europe 2020 Strategy, mainly in what regards combating poverty and social exclusion.

##### ***Partners involved***

- FNGIS Members
- People experiencing poverty

##### ***Calendar***

This action was expected to be finished in November but in consequence of the reasons already presented, we also delayed the finishing of this product until the very end of the project in order to also reflect some of the conclusions of the other activities.

### **Outputs/ Indicators of impact**

- The product is a video (Portuguese version) of about 10 minutes, gathering 8 testimonies<sup>8</sup> based on a script (**Annex 5**) disseminating a story in 3 chapters:

- what citizens and organizations of civil society know about Europe 2020
- how they participate in it
- what they want for the future of Europe 2020, focusing on measures to fight poverty and social exclusion

- The video is available on Youtube (<https://youtu.be/rUbNHOkvAIQ>), at FNGIS and EAPN Portugal website and Facebook and will be disseminated to a large number of NGO's and strategic actors in the area of social inclusion. It will also be a working tool for the initiatives of all the partners involved at the project.

## **3. Evaluation of results and impact**

There are two major impacts that we achieved with this project: on one hand, awareness raising and information about Europe 2020 and the European Semester within civil society; and, on the other hand, capacity building of the society to influence this strategy and its operating mechanism.

These impacts are strategic since Portugal was following until May 2014 the Economic Adjustment Program and during this period there was a lack of participation in the mechanisms of the European Semester who weakened, significantly, the possibility of monitoring Europe 2020. There's a need to carry out this process again.

There are also two caveats to the results achieved with the project.

The first regards the difficulties of mobilizing and engaging participants in the project activities, difficulties that are, per se, a result thereof. Above all they are a result that, at a first glance, reflect a reduced impact of the project, but in a more incisive analysis demonstrates that the project goals are, indeed, of the utmost relevance.

The second caveat relates to the political context of Portugal in 2015 marked by strong instability. This context, referred above in what concerns the changes in the project calendar, is also reflected in a persistent difficulty of creating an effective dialogue between the government sector and non-governmental, at once due to the transition in the first sector in result of the elections.

Through the use of information, awareness and training tools (seminar, workshops, explainer and video) were established the conditions to a dialogue between civil society

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<sup>8</sup> Ana Santos e Jorge Cardinali, members of EAPN local councils of people experiencing Poverty; Carmen Rasquete - APAV (Associação Portuguesa de Apoio à Vítima); João Pereira - Cáritas Portuguesa; Luís Vidigal - APDSI (Associação para a Promoção e Desenvolvimento da Sociedade da Informação); Maria João Malho – IAC (Instituto de Apoio à Criança); Olga Fernandes – ANIMAR e Sérgio Aires – FNGIS (Fórum não Governamental para a Inclusão Social).

(citizens and their organizations) and government bodies responsible for the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy. In this context we highlight the strengthen of the relationship with the Portuguese representation of European commission.

Our aim with the results achieved were the effectiveness of this dialogue producing results in terms of a greater number of moments and consultation mechanisms of civil society, enhancing the increased participation of this last one in the existing mechanisms, namely thematic public consultation processes, of which this civil society is often unaware.

Last but not least we intend that this project would give a strong input towards the creation of a national alliance of NGO's to follow, monitor and evaluate the European Semester, also taking in consideration the direct experience of people experiencing poverty which will also be a target group of some of the actions.

## 4. Learning points and future recommendations

Our learning points and future recommendations are drawn assuming that in order to make Europe 2020 deliver on poverty, it is important to establish a transformative agenda for which we propose some key priorities

### 1. Building a coherent economic and social strategy and governance model

#### **Why?**

- Need for debate on sustainable development models and how to rebalance economic and social objectives.
- Refocus on Europe 2020 objectives rather than primarily on the Stability and Growth Pact and ensure that poverty goals are given equal priority.

#### **How?**

- Introduce an Annual Progress Report on Europe 2020 goals and targets as the central document to drive the European Semester and refocus the Annual Growth Survey to mainstream all the core objectives of Europe 2020.
- Restore balance to economic and social Country Specific Recommendations

### 2. Establishing credible poverty reduction and social targets

#### **How?**

- Prioritise a poverty target based on the 3 EU indicators and require a % decrease on each by all Member States. Establish poverty sub targets for key priority groups e.g. children, youth, homelessness, migrants, Roma, long-term unemployment, single parents and people with disabilities.
- Require Member States to make medium and long term strategies and implementation plans to deliver on the targets and provide annual updates on progress and trends. Provide comparable information in the Annual Progress Report and Annual Growth Survey on progress or shortfalls in reaching the targets and reasons for this.
- Invest in timely social data and new indicators or data on the most vulnerable groups. Explicitly monitor and report on the broader dashboard of social indicators and ensure coherence.

### 3. Prioritising an EU integrated strategy to fight poverty and an Investment Plan consistent with this strategy

#### **Why?**

- No target can deliver without a clear strategy to fight poverty
- Thematic strategies need to be placed within this overarching strategy.
- Worsening conditions need urgent measures and investment.

#### **How?**

- EU social infrastructure needs to link to the national level and support participation.
- Urgently priorities the development of an effective, integrated and multidimensional EU strategy to fight poverty and social exclusion requiring Member States to develop integrated strategies along the same lines.

### 4. Establishing democratic and accountable governance

#### **Why?**

- Lack of debate at EU and national level on Europe 2020 or engagement with civil society including anti-poverty NGOs and people with a direct experience of poverty and social exclusion.
- Weak engagement with National Parliaments and weak visibility and ownership in wider society.
- Impacts on the quality of policy solutions and reduces credibility and accountability.

#### **How?**

- Together with Member States and stakeholders develop obligatory, transparent EU Guidelines for the engagement of stakeholders, all stages of the Semester explicitly including people with direct experience of poverty, together with the NGOs that support them.
- In the Annual Growth Survey and Annual Progress Report, make a specific analysis of the state of play on the extent and quality of democratic and stakeholder engagement.
- Transform the European Semester Officers into comprehensive promoters for stakeholder engagement in the Semester.

### 5. Using EU money for poverty

#### **Why?**

- Structural Funds are a crucial instrument to support delivery of the poverty target.
- 20% of ESF budget for social inclusion is important but so far modest delivery and overemphasis on funding delivery of activation measures.
- Ongoing issue of engagement and access for NGOs.
- Missing funding to local level for bottom-up approaches to social innovation.

#### **How?**

- Member States should be required to report in detail of the use and impact of Structural Funds to achieve the poverty target.
- The Commission could help Member States by documenting good practices from countries in the use of the ESF for innovative approaches, in particular on integrated active inclusion strategies.
- The use of Structural Funds to improve administrative capacity to pilot or improve minimum income schemes is welcomed, however, the adequate co-financing and long-term sustainability of financing from national budgets needs to be assured.

It's important to highlight that these key priorities have already been presented by EAPN Europe and FNGIS at the response to the consultation process at the midterm review of Europe 2020. The present project, taking these priorities into discussion at the various activities, strengthens their relevance and enlarged their ownership that potentially will be assumed by a National Platform of civil society organizations.

As we have already assumed in the previous chapter in terms of results, we emphasize that to put in practice the priorities presented, the main recommendation of all the products of the project points to the priority setting of a national alliance of NGO's to follow, monitor and evaluate the European Semester, also taking in consideration the direct experience of people experiencing poverty and the empowerment of citizens and their organizations to an effective and transversal participation at Europe 2020 and the European Semester.

## 5. Conclusions *(in direct speech)*

The conclusions of this project are reflected in the products that directly result from it. Although, and assuming that the main aim of this project is the participation of civil society, we conclude the report with some of the main ideas shared by participants and partners of the project in the video (<https://youtu.be/rUbNHOkvAIQ>).

### **... Concerning the knowledge about Europe 2020**

*"The Europe 2020 Strategy aims to a sustainable growth, particularly in a logic of social inclusion."*

Olga Fernandes\_ANIMAR

*"The Europe 2020 strategy has, at least theoretically, concerns about social inclusion and combating poverty."*

Sérgio Aires\_FNGIS

*"A desire, a dream to have a Europe united and without poverty".*

Maria João Malho\_IAC

### **... Concerning the objective of Europe 2020 in reducing poverty**

*"Without an European and National strategy of support and framework, the goal of poverty reduction is threaten to be not taken seriously by Member States and of not having the necessary monitoring"*

Sérgio Aires \_ FNGIS

*"The goal on poverty is the poor goal of all Europe 2020 goals "*

Carmen Rasquete\_ APAV

*"The desire of taking 20 million people out of poverty is a dream, a utopia, but the world is made of dreams and utopias"*

Maria João Malho\_IAC

### **... Concerning the knowledge of the National Reform Program and the European Semester**

*"What really matters in the context of Europe 2020 and the European semester is to take the issue of poverty in a seriously way."*

Carmen Rasquete\_ APAV

*"I don't know in depth ... The documentation is plenty and varied and it takes time to decode."*

Maria João Malho\_IAC

### **... Concerning the allocation of 20% of EU funds to combat poverty**

*"The decision of the EU to invest 20% of the European Social Fund in combating poverty is a historic decision and a very important milestone for all those who fight poverty and social exclusion."*

Sérgio Aires \_ FNGIS

*"The question is what are these 20% and what in them is, in fact, fighting poverty"*

Luis Vidigal \_ APDSI

### **... Concerning the participation at the Europe 2020 Strategy**

*"Participation is very far from what is desirable ... it's important to hear more the voice of civil society "*

Olga Fernandes \_ ANIMAR

*"We seek to influence the" Country Specific Recommendations (CSR) in their dimension of combating poverty and social exclusion "*

João Pereira \_ Cáritas Portuguesa

*"Even when there is willingness to participate, there are no concrete / formal spaces for such participation."*

Sérgio Aires \_ FNGIS

### **... Reflections on measures to combat poverty and social exclusion**

*"Spaces that allow citizens to participate and that such participation become effective"*

João Pereira \_ Cáritas Portuguesa

*"Bringing these themes - poverty and social exclusion - to the schools (...) and using the media because many people have access to them"*

Jorge Cardinali \_ National Council of Citizens – EAPN Portugal

*"Promote moments of participation"*

Olga Fernandes \_ ANIMAR

*"Ideally, everyone should know the impact of poverty on the lives of any of us"*

Carmen Rasquete \_ APAV

*"To have a representative of disadvantaged people at the Parliament"*

Ana Santos \_ National Council of Citizens – EAPN Portugal

*"Poverty is not only a national problem is an European and Global problem "*

*"All citizens should have voice on the Europe 2020 strategy, in defining, monitoring and evaluation."*

*"Transforming the European Union in Europe of citizens"*

Sérgio Aires \_ FNGIS