

Report on the Work of the National Poverty Conference (nak) in 2008

Delegates' meetings

In 2008 the nak arranged 2 delegates' meetings. On March 28 Dr Wolfgang Gern was reelected spokesman and Erika Biehn was reelected vice spokeswoman. The nak adopted a position concerning the draft of the 3. Report on Poverty and Wealth and prepared: the report's discussion). First steps were taken in scheduling the European Year 2010.

On October 16 the discussion focused on themes of child labour, the standard rate system and on the new rulings of European poverty policy. The nak registered with concern reports on problems within the Federal Association of the Initiatives of Unemployed People and Social Welfare, registered society. Delegates reported on the general assembly of the European Anti-Poverty Network with the focus on the European Year for combating poverty and social exclusion. In conclusion preparations were made for the 3. National Meeting of People Living in Poverty.

Coverage on poverty and wealth / National Strategic Document

Based on the positions adopted at the delegates' meeting the nak participated in the administrative procedure of the Federal Government on the reports as well as in the public discussion. Several press reports were published, radio interviews were given and media enquiries were responded.

In Hanover, together with the Poverty Conference of Lower Saxony, the nak organised the so far sole nation-wide symposium on the 3. Report on Poverty and Wealth with about 100 participants on September 16. State Secretary Lersch-Mense (Federal Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs) spoke on behalf of the Federal Government. On this occasion the Poverty Conference of Lower Saxony demanded a Report on Poverty and Wealth for Lower Saxony.



On the closing presentation of the conference serial “ForTeil” on November 11 several delegates of the nak participated in different platforms.

Inclusion of poor people in political discussion

The nak analysed the 2. National Meeting of People Living in Poverty, which took place in October 2007. Numerous results were recorded in an additional script on the theme of participation (publication is in the pipeline). The nak organised the participation of six poor people from Germany at the 7. European Meeting of People Living in Poverty in Brussels in May 2008 which this time stood under the direction of the Slovenian Presidency of the European Council.

On December 10 the nak hold the 3. National Meeting of People Living in Poverty in Berlin with about 50 people directly affected by poverty (Documentation of the meeting follows). Poor people were asked to express in detail what they expected of the 2010 European Year.

Co-operation with European Anti-Poverty Network

The nak participated in several boards of the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN). Especially the positions in the consultation procedure of the European Commission concerning the strategy of active inclusion, the revision of the social agenda and the advancement of poverty policy by practising the Open Method of Co-ordination were discussed in these boards. Seven delegates of the nak took part in the General Assembly of EAPN in Varna in September. One focal point was the scheduling of the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion.

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