

Stakeholder Dialogue and Round Table discussion

Are EU funds delivering on poverty? How to ensure implementation of the 20% of ESF on poverty and partnership principle

Wednesday 2 December 2015: 2.00-5.30pm

World Vision, Square de Meeus 18, 1st Floor, 1050 Brussels.

Background and Objectives

1 in 4 people in the EU are currently at risk of poverty and social exclusion. Disturbingly, since the setting of the Europe 2020 target¹, poverty has **increased** by over 6 million (from 114 million in 2009 to 122,6 million in 2013) rather than being reduced. EU funds clearly have a vital role to play, but it only if the money is spent wisely. The European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF),(2014-20) explicitly support the delivery on the Europe 2020 targets. Following negotiations with the Council and Parliament, 23, 1% of Cohesion Funds are to be spent on European Social Fund (ESF). Within this, an ear-marking of at **least 20% of ESF must be spent on social inclusion and poverty-reduction**. New ex-ante conditionality provisions require that EU funding is focused on results, for example by having a national strategy for poverty reduction in place, and engaging relevant stakeholders including civil society organisations through a new [Code of Conduct on partnership](#). This is a timely moment to assess how far these important provisions are being implemented and if the measures proposed are impacting positively on poverty and participation for all groups.

This dialogue meeting is organized by **European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN)** and its members who have [long experience](#) of attempting to engage in partnership on poverty and social exclusion at national and EU level.² In 2015, EAPN established a Task Force³ to monitor the delivery on the 20% as well as on the code of conduct on partnership. The purpose of this meeting is to share the first findings from this survey, highlighting key national experiences as a basis for exchange with EU institutions and other stakeholders active on this theme. Participation is by invitation only and is targeted at key civil society and social stakeholders concerned about to use EU funds effectively to tackle poverty and promote social inclusion.

The stakeholder dialogue and roundtable aims to:

- Take stock of the state of play implementing the 20% ESF ear-marking on poverty; Assess how far the code of conduct on partnership is being actively supported;
- Debate with decision-makers and stakeholders recommendations to ensure more effective delivery including in the Review of the Multi-Annual Financial Framework.

¹ To reduce poverty by at least 20 million by 2020 by 3 indicators: at risk of poverty, severe material deprivation and low work intensity.

² [EU Money for Poverty Campaign](#) involving 18 EU wide NGOs – campaigning for 20% of ESF on Poverty.

³ EAPN Task Force led by EAPN PT, with Romania, Estonia, Spain, Bulgaria,

Draft Programme

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- 2.00 – 2.15** **Welcome and Introduction**
Chair: Sian Jones, *Policy Coordinator, EAPN*
- 2.15-3.15** **Taking stock of the 20% ESF ear-making and code of conduct on partnership – EAPN Assessment**
- First Findings: Fátima Veiga, *Researcher, EAPN Portugal*
- Snapshots from the national level**
- Rosalia Guntín, *CEPAIM/EAPN Spain;*
 - Andreas Bartels, *EAPN Germany;*
 - Kart Mere, *EAPN Estonia*
- 3.15-3.45** **Round table discussion with participants highlighting experience from national level**
- 3.45-4.00** **Coffee Break**
- 4.00- 4.40** **Reflections from EU Institutions**
- Vincent Caron, *DG EMPL, ESF Coordination*
 - Louis Vervloet, *ESF Managing Authority, Flanders/Belgium (tbc)*
 - Terry Reintke, *MEP, Greens/EFA, rapporteur of own initiative report “Cohesion policy and marginalised communities »*
- 4.40 – 5.15** **Round Table discussion with participants.**
- 5.15 – 5.30** **Wrap up and conclusions – what way forward?**

For more information and registration e-mail: Sian Jones, EAPN Policy Coordinator at sian.jones@eapn.eu