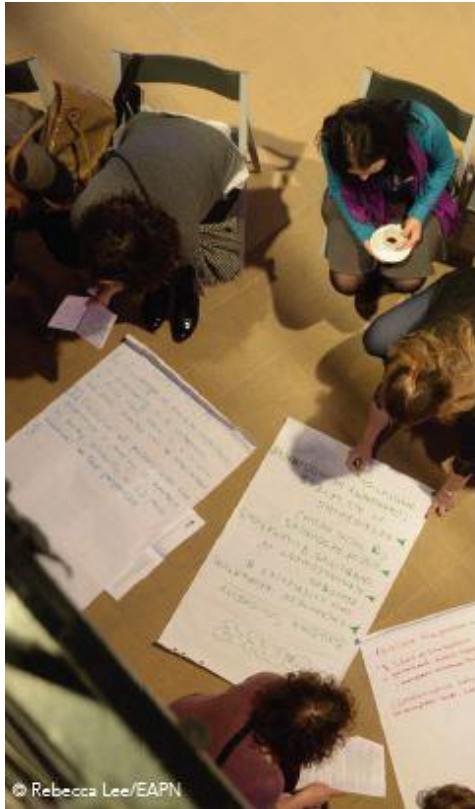


Empowerment through Participation

One of the challenges for the European Pillar of Social Rights!



The European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty is organized by the **European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN)** with the support of the **European Commission**, the **Slovakian Presidency of the Council of the European Union**, and the **EAPN Fund**

15-16 November 2016

#2016PEP

Les Ateliers des Tanneurs, Rue des Tanneurs 58-62, 1000 Brussels



EUROPEAN ANTI POVERTY NETWORK

EAPN Fund

managed by the King Baudouin Foundation



OBJECTIVES OF THE 2016 EUROPEAN MEETING

- To bring forward the views and perspectives of people experiencing poverty from different European countries on what is meaningful participation and how it can be achieved;
- To debate how the European Pillar of Social Rights can enhance participation at national and European level.

RATIONALE FOR THE 2016 EUROPEAN MEETING

The PEP meeting organized last year provided a space for people experiencing poverty to put forward their own vision for a pillar of social rights. During the meeting, discussions on the importance of participation occurred in all workshops, and the question of how participation of people experiencing poverty could be strengthened took an important part of the debates. Therefore, one of the key messages distilled from the meeting has been that participation is an important social right that should be accessible to people experiencing poverty.

People experiencing poverty and marginalisation have the right to value and express their own identity as citizens and create spaces to express their opinions. Participation is a social right that people experiencing poverty should use to shape social policies not only as beneficiaries or consumers in pre-determined programmes but as citizens exercising rights to have a voice and to participate. (Key messages of the 14th European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty)

This 2016 Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty will be dedicated to developing and bringing forward a vision of participation and empowerment and the conditions needed for it to be realized.

For more information: see voicesofpoverty-eu.net

PROGRAMME

Tuesday 15th November

Participative and representative democracy – Sharing experiences

08.45 – 09.20 Registration/Set up of stands

09.20 – 10.15 Opening Plenary: Chair: Sérgio Aires, President, EAPN

- Peter Vittek, Slovakian Delegation to the PEP Meeting
- Branislav Ondruš, State Secretary at the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and the Family, Slovakia
- Michel Servoz, Director General, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

10.15 – 11.00 Tea/coffee break (participants continue to set up the stands)

11.00 – 13.00 First Round of Group Work (Reflections on participative democracy)

Exchanges between national delegations on the following topics:

- Experiences of participation and empowerment at an individual level
- Examples of empowering and transformative participation presented by national delegations
- What are the conditions that make a participative experience empowering or disempowering
 - Lessons learnt

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 15.45 Second Round of Group Work (Reflections on representative/elective democracy)

Exchanges between national delegations on the following topics:

- Experiences with participation in voting processes, reasons for participation and / or abstention, in particular European elections
- Local or national initiatives developed to increase voter participation
- What is needed to improve representative democracy
 - Key messages

15.45 – 16.00 Tea/coffee break

During the tea and coffee break, the flip charts with the outputs of the workshops will be placed near the cluster of stands relating to that workshop.

16.00 – 17.00 Exchanges and interactions with different stakeholders at the stands
Participants will exchange with invited guests around their experiences with participation, voting, and on the collective messages developed during workshops.

Invited guests: Members of the European Parliament, European Commission (officials from DG Employment and other DGs),

representatives of the European Economic and Social Committee and representatives of European Organisations and other relevant actors –

17.00 - 18.00

Plenary session – Reflections on participative and representative democracy

- Sylvie Goulard MEP, Member of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group and Chair of the Inter Group on Poverty
- Bart Staes MEP, Member of the Greens / European Free Alliance Group
- Verónica Lope Fontagné MEP, Member of the European People's Party Group
- Brando Benifei MEP, Member of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats Group

19.00

Preparations for collective action with national delegations (at hotel)

20.00

Dinner and celebration (at hotel)

Wednesday 16th November

Reflections on Participation in the Context of the European Pillar of Social Rights

Collective action

9.00– 10.30

Third Round of Group Work (link to the European Pillar of Social Rights - EPSR)

Workshop discussions on the EPSR with delegations, guests from European Institutions – European Parliament, European Commission, European Economic and Social Committee, and representatives of European Organisations

- Introductions
- Presentations of positions on the EPSR from guests
- Exchanges with delegates on how the EPSR could strengthen the fight against poverty and increase participation

10.30-11.00

Coffee / tea break

11.00-11.45:

Evaluation

- Evaluation of the meeting in small workshops
- Develop feedback messages on how the event has achieved its objectives

11.45-12.00

Family Photo

12.00-12.30:

Closing session: Chair: Fintan Farrell, Acting Director EAPN

- Presentation of evaluation messages from workshops

- Reaction: Raquel Cortés Herrera, Deputy Head of Unit "Disability & Inclusion", DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission
- Reaction: Sérgio Aires, President EAPN

12.30: 13.30: **Participants travel to Schuman – the European quarter.**

13.30: 14.30: **Collective action in the European quarter (Rue de la Loi, in front of the European Commission) to make outcomes of the meeting more visible**

- Audio-visual creative action
- Participants hand-over messages from the meeting to Marianne Thyssen
- Press moment

14.30: **Delegations start the journey home**

Information on Workshops

Reflections on Participative Democracy (Tuesday 11.00 -13.00)

Workshop Colour and (Room)	Delegations	Facilitator	Note Takers
RED Workshop (Halle Vitrée)	Slovakia, Iceland, Italy, Germany, Belgium, Czech Republic	Magda Tancau	Ana Maria Suciu
Orange Workshop (Salon)	Bulgaria, Estonia, Norway, Austria, Croatia, Portugal	Amana Ferro	Veronika Huhn
Blue Workshop (Gamay)	Serbia, Denmark, Luxembourg, Malta, Latvia, Ireland	Robin Hanan	Sian Jones Josee Goris
Green Workshop (Merlot)	Poland, Netherlands, Lithuania, Finland, Macedonia (FYROM), Spain	Mariaam Bhatti	Sigrid Dahmen
Black Workshop (Syrah)	Greece, United Kingdom, Romania, Sweden, Hungary, France	Claire Champeix	Philippe Lemmens

Reflections on representative/elective democracy (Tuesday 14.00 - 15.45)

Workshop Colour and (Room)	Delegations	Facilitator	Note Takers
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RED Workshop (Halle Vitrée)	Slovakia, Iceland, Italy, Germany, Belgium, Czech Republic	Magda Tancau	Ana Maria Suciu
Orange Workshop (Salon)	Bulgaria, Estonia, Norway, Austria, Croatia, Portugal	Amana Ferro	Veronika Huhn
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Black Workshop (Syrah)	Greece, United Kingdom, Romania, Sweden, Hungary, France	Claire Champeix	Philippe Lemmens

Link to the European Pillar of Social Rights - EPSR (Wednesday 09.00 – 10.30)

Delegations/Facilitators/Note Takers: Same as the previous workshops	
	Guest Speakers.
RED Workshop (Halle Vitrée)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karima Delli MEP, Member of the Greens/EFA Group • Hugh Frazer, Coordinator, European Social Policy Network (ESPN) • Mauro Striano, Policy Officer, FEANTSA
Orange Workshop (Salon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Krzysztof Balon, Vice-President of the EESC Social Section • Stephan Burger, Policy Officer, Eurodiaconia • Representative from ETUC (TBC)
Blue Workshop (Gamay)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ragnar Horn, European Commission, DG EMPL • Sian Jones, Policy Coordinator, EAPN
Green Workshop (Merlot)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katalin Szatmari, European Commission, DG EMPL • Pierre Baussand, Director, Social Platform
Black Workshop (Syrah)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jana Hainsworth, Secretary General, Eurochild • Magdi Birta, Policy Officer, Coface

BACKGROUND TO THE EUROPEAN MEETINGS

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 also supports 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 have helped to keep 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 have provided a 'barometer' in relation to social and economic developments in Europe.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE EUROPEAN MEETINGS

- To empower people experiencing poverty and their organisations and communities.
- To strengthen the participation of people experiencing poverty in relevant policy making processes at local, national and EU levels.
- To facilitate exchange and learning and to stimulate further exchanges and joint projects.
- To identify similarities and differences in different countries and to check the reality of measures to fight poverty against the experience on the ground and to adjust their policies and actions as necessary

For further information see

(<http://voicesofpoverty-eu.net/>)