

***EESC UN Meeting for Sustainable Development:
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Case Studies Panel 1 – putting people first

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***YOU CAN'T
FEED THE POOR***

Outline

- **Introduction**
- **Using the SDG Agenda to fight poverty**
- **National examples of local initiatives**
- **Closing remarks.**

Introducing EAPN



- ❑ **Independent Network of NGOs** committed to fight against poverty + social exclusion, with people in poverty.
- ❑ Receives **financial support** from the European Commission (PROGRESS/now EaSi)
- ❑ **31 National Networks** and **14 European NGOs** as members (10,000+ organisations)
- ❑ Started in 1990 – **key actor** in poverty programmes and development of social OMC, Lisbon and Europe 2020
- ❑ **See SDGs as a key framework** to support movement towards a **rights-based social and sustainable agenda.**
- ❑ **Participation of people** with direct experience of poverty must be part of the solution.

15th EU People Experiencing Poverty Meeting



EAPN and SDG Agenda



- ❑ EAPN engaged with members in **European Semester on Europe 2020 goals**: smart, sustainable, inclusive growth
- ❑ Particular support to **poverty target** – to reduce poverty by at least 20 million by 2020, and other social targets. But instead of progress, **increase in poverty by 4.8 ml.**
- ❑ Welcome **new European Pillar of Social Rights**, but **concerns remains a framework of principles than rights.** Lacking an integrated strategy based on access to minimum income/social protection, services and jobs.
- ❑ **SDGs- a rights-based, social + sustainable agenda could it become the post 2020 framework?**
- ❑ Concerns about **policy coherence, implementation and governance** – how will people in poverty be involved?

EU level: Members of SDG Watch, support **EESC SDG Observatory**, participated in workshop with **Eurostat** on indicators in April, webinar/training with members.

National level: Varied engagement of **national members** in awareness-raising, UN voluntary monitoring and advocacy with governments.

- **Ireland** – member of Coalition 2030. EAPN with other NGO workshops ‘Connecting the dots’ using the SDG goals to strengthen work on poverty. Government links the national Action plan on social inclusion to SDGs.
- **Finland** – 2030 implementation plan to be discussed in parliament with national indicators with SD Committee. 1st country to prepare an national action plan and voluntary UN report. EAPN takes part in NGO recommendations, shadow report, raising awareness and advocacy.
- **Poland** – EAPN involved in advocacy with NGO federation to make connection between SDGs, Europe 2020 and ESF.
- **Serbia** – Government established inter-ministerial working group, but no national framework. EAPN involved in advocating for action on national targets. EAPN Serbia report on methodology for monitoring SDGs related to poverty and social exclusion.

National examples of local integrated approaches to tackling poverty



Access to Quality Services

Belgium: CASO – centre for care and orientation – developed with Mediciens du monde, proactively does outreach to find and support vulnerable people eg homeless with difficult access to health and care.

Belgium: Experience experts [Belgium experience](#) viewing experience of poverty as a skill and tool through training/ empowering community leaders employed at federal level – to work with individuals, make policy proposals and train/mentor staff. 2016 – 15 experts in health service.

Czechia: Roma IQ Servis – NGO providing integrated case management approach to support Roma families, with individual support for children/parents etc on housing, health, social support, employment.

• Access to Decent Work

• Finland: VerkkoNikarit OSK cooperative run by Manna –brings together unemployed people to form a member-driven, democratic social enterprise at creating new employment, but also entrepreneurship and activities in social economy at local level – go beyond project or ILM. Eg ‘social contract model’, combined with research into service provision in Finnish countryside (WISE)

National examples of local initiatives



Minimum Income/Integrated model

Spain – Guipuzcoa: [Integrated well-being model](#): guaranteed minimum income and access to key services. County council works with municipal level and 21 NGOs to provide personalized access for all, combined adequate minimum income designed to take people above the poverty line (60% of medium income/combined with reference budget)

Food security/sustainable provision

France – 100 Territorial initiatives – [AVISE](#) to promote a dignified life with sustainable, quality food – choice/education/empowerment - linking producer and consumer particularly involving vulnerable groups, aim to link to FEAD funding (Fund for the most deprived).

Energy Poverty

Germany – Stromspar Check Energy Advice Project (CARITAS)– trains unemployed people as advisers and install energy saving devices and raises awareness in local communities about role of energy efficiency in reducing energy poverty. ([see Energy Poverty Handbook](#) (Greens/EAPN/Housing Europe/BPIE) and [Good Practices leaflet](#))

Conclusions

- SDG Agenda offers great potential but needs to be coherent, implemented effectively and involve civil society as key actors.**
- Local initiatives could be developed and transferred, with the support of EU funds and peer view through Exchange forums.**
- The primary challenge will be ensuring mainstreaming beyond short-term local projects, that support structural change – ie investment in fairer distributive and redistributive systems – through tax/benefit systems.**
- Participation is key!**

What way forward – people at the heart



EAPN Publications: www.eapn.eu

- ***Energy Poverty Handbook (Greens/EFA, BPIE, Housing Europe, EAPN)***
- ***Nobody left behind: Access to affordable health and housing services.(2017)***
- ***Inclusive Labour Markets (2017)***
- ***What progress on Social Europe: EAPN Assessment of NRPs 2016 (2016)***
- ***Last Chance for Social Europe: EAPN position on the European Pillar of Social Rights (2016)***

For Further Information



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