



EUROPEAN ANTI POVERTY NETWORK ES

MANIFESTO OCTOBER 17: INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY

More social investment is needed in people living in vulnerable situations

Spain must fulfil the commitments acquired of fighting poverty at the national and international levels

Madrid, October 17, 2017. Within the framework of the 25th anniversary of the United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, EAPN ES underlines the need to recognize and combat the exclusion in fundamental rights of many people living in poverty and / or social exclusion.

An estimated 2.4 billion people do not have access to improved sanitation; 1.1 billion have no access to electricity and 880 million live in urban slums. **Opportunities remain scarce for the world's most vulnerable people: 59 million children of primary school age do not attend school and youth unemployment rate is 15%, more than three times the adults' rate.** This situation has political costs and is at the root of many violent conflicts around the world. It also interacts with environmental risks because the poorest people often live in areas most exposed to natural disasters. Exclusion makes societies not only less cohesive and stable, but also less secure and productive. In the European Union, the rate of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion (AROPE) is 23%, about 119 million people. Infancy is at higher risk than the adult population, with a rate of 27.8%, and women are more affected than men (25.3% vs. 23.6%).

In Spain, the rate of people at risk of poverty and exclusion reaches almost 3 out of 10 (27.9%, almost 5 points above the European average). Young adults have the highest AROPE rate, with 37.6%, followed by childhood, with 31.7%. From the point of view of households, having children increases the risk of poverty, since they have a rate that is 30 percentage points higher than those who do not have children. **Half of single-parent households, mostly headed by women, are at risk of poverty and exclusion.** In order to better understand the above data, it is important to know that Spain presents a high level of inequality, since the 20% of the population with higher incomes has almost 7 times more income than 20% of the population with the lowest incomes (two points higher than the European average).

EAPN ES has estimated that, **for Spain to meet its commitments to the European Union in the Europe 2020 strategy, a reduction of the population at risk of poverty and exclusion of 2,800,000 people will be required before 2020.** In order to achieve this, a strong social investment must be made, aimed at eradicating poverty in an efficient and comprehensive manner, for which we may have to count with a budgetary allocation that does not exist today, as well as a broad and firm political commitment.

It is necessary to eradicate exclusion, inequalities, conflicts and unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, and to seek a more inclusive, equitable and sustainable model in Spain and around the world, as we have committed through the Program of Sustainable Development of 2030 and its 17 Sustainable Development Objectives.