

Poverty in Europe

*Over 119 million people in the European Union, 1 in 4 people, live in or are at risk of poverty or social exclusion**

Poverty is a very real problem. It brings misery to the lives of many people, curtails their fundamental rights, limits the opportunities they have to achieve their full potential, and brings high costs to society.

People experiencing poverty, as well as the organisations working with them, must be part of the debate, identifying the causes, challenges & solutions to poverty. Their participation ensures that policies reflect the complex reality on the ground and can be the reference for efficient solutions.

EAPN works to ensure this participation and campaigns for a social and sustainable development model that puts people at the heart of decision-making.

To make real progress we need effective and **integrated rights-based EU and national anti-poverty strategies**. These need to ensure **access to quality services, adequate social protection and quality employment**, and must be **supported by sufficient EU and national funding**.

* 2015 figures

Join the European Anti-Poverty Network and contribute to fighting for a social Europe free of poverty

European Anti-Poverty Network

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Donate to the EAPN Fund

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FIGHTING POVERTY IS A POLITICAL CHOICE!



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EAPN has consultative status with the Council of Europe.



FIGHTING FOR A SOCIAL EUROPE FREE OF POVERTY

The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) is the largest European network of national, regional and local anti-poverty NGOs and grassroots groups, as well as European Organisations active in the fight against poverty and social exclusion



31 National Networks

13 European Organisations

What we do

Support the Direct Participation of People Experiencing Poverty

We lobby for and with people experiencing poverty and their organisations, and seek to empower them to be actors of change.

EAPN organises the European Meetings of People experiencing Poverty (PeP)

The Meetings contribute to the rights of people living in poverty to participate in the decision-making processes that affect their lives. They also act as a catalyst for national participation processes, and foster the participation of PeP in anti-poverty organisations.

Lobby for better European & national policies to combat poverty

We engage in EU and national decision-making processes:

- Participating as active stakeholders in the European Semester, the Social Open Method of Coordination, European Structural Funds and Cohesion policy.
- Monitoring progress towards the Europe 2020 Strategy's targets on poverty-reduction, employment and education, and follow-up on the European Pillar of Social Rights.
- Proposing policy recommendations and highlighting good and bad practices at national level.
- Making key advocacy demands of EU institutions, and campaigning around them.

Inform & Raise Awareness

EAPN publishes a large range of publications (from in-depth position papers and thematic reports to leaflets, books and explainers) on poverty, social exclusion, inequality, employment, social protection, social services, participation and civil dialogue, Structural Funds, the future of Europe,...

Work in Alliances

We work in alliances to enhance our impact, key ones being:



Partner in Projects

We are involved in several projects, key ones being:

- Achieving the progressive realisation of the right to adequate, accessible and enabling Minimum Income Schemes
- Networking of the ESF transnational platform on the theme of inclusion
- Developing the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) Network & online platform



- Fighting fuel poverty, addressing energy and social issues



Membership

We are a member-driven organisation. Our members inform and define priorities for our work. We also aim to be a learning organisation and therefore continually monitor and evaluate what we do.

How we work with our members?

- We set up task forces, working groups and host seminars.
- We provide a forum of exchange of information on national policies for social inclusion.
- We facilitate partnership-building among our members and liaise with relevant NGOs.
- We provide capacity building on network development and European policies.
- We organise learning exchanges, enabling our members to learn from each other and share experiences.

If you are part of an NGO involved in the fight against poverty, we encourage you to be in touch with the National Network in your country or with one of the European Organisations specialising in your area of activity.

Contact details are on www.eapn.eu