

# Social Protection For All

*How can the Social Pillar and SDGs build stronger welfare states?*

Crowne  
Plaza  
Brussels

9.00 am -  
1.00 pm

Thursday  
5/7/2018

#2018EAPN

EAPN  
CONFERENCE



## What

EAPN will organise its 2018 policy conference on how to get progress on the right of universal social protection for all, at all ages and beyond employment - building on the Social Pillar and the SDGs. We hope to promote discussion and get support for how to build a stronger welfare state for all.

## When & Where

The seminar will be held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July in Brussels, as a half day event (9.00-1.00), in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Rogier.

## Objectives

- To raise awareness of current challenges facing people experiencing poverty in accessing social protection and promising practises.
- To support the adoption of an ambitious Recommendation on Access to Social Protection under the Social Fairness package.
- To promote debate on how to move forward on building stronger Welfare States that ensure adequate Social Protection for all across the life cycle, linked to the SDGs and the Social Protection floor, and in the context of the new Commission and Parliament.

## Who

The Policy Conference will involve 80 EAPN national members, and European Organisation members, and aim to get to promote a dynamic debate between 50 external participants, including people experiencing poverty, key stakeholders and decision-makers from the Commission, Council and European Parliament.

# Why

***What is Social Protection for all? How can we ensure that all people, children, adults and older people get the right to adequate and equal protection against all life risks? Do we need a new concept of ‘Welfare States’? How can this be achieved ensuring fairer redistribution?***

Access to Social Protection and social inclusion is the third chapter of the European Pillar of Social Rights, with social protection specifically quoted in principle 12 ***“regardless of the type and duration of their employment relationship, workers, and under comparable conditions, the self-employed, have the right to social protection”***. It is now a key element of the Commission’s new Social Fairness Package, with a proposal for a Council Recommendation to improve access to social protection, which will attempt to ensure that all ***‘workers’*** get access to ***‘social protection’***, including those currently categorized as ***‘self-employed’***. Principle 14 on ***‘Minimum Income’***,<sup>1</sup> aims to provide a basic social assistance safety net for those who fall outside the ‘social protection’ net and is currently a key focus on EAPN’s work coordinating the EMIN project and Bus awareness-raising journey<sup>2</sup>.

However, the current definition of social protection at EU level, is limited to only those who are in employment, and ‘pay’ for coverage through work-based contributions. Those who fall outside receive only basic income support safety nets (minimum income). Such an approach fails to ensure equal rights to social protection, at all ages and to all groups, regardless of their employment status, risking increasing poverty and inequality, and undermining a more inclusive and sustainable development model.

The SDGs<sup>3</sup> and in particular the ILO’s Social Protection Floor takes a broader definition on social protection as ***“basic social security guarantees which secure protection aimed at preventing or alleviating poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion”*** aiming to cover all groups’ income security and access to public health and other services, throughout the life cycle<sup>4</sup>. In the context of the future of work carrying major threats of unemployment and/or increasingly precarious work, an employment contributions model will increasingly leave more people behind and widen the inequality gap. A new approach to strengthening the welfare state and financing is needed, based on tax justice and equal rights,<sup>5</sup> to ensure everybody enjoys the means to live a dignified life, and the full range of social protection services including adequate income support and free universal health care. This concept would contribute to the development of more equal, inclusive societies based on a sustainable economic model.

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<sup>1</sup> EPSR: Principle 14: Minimum income ***“Everyone lacking sufficient resources has the right to minimum income benefits ensuring a life in dignity at all stages of life, and effective access to enabling goods and services. For those who can work, minimum income benefits should be combined with incentives to integrate into the labour market”***.

<sup>2</sup> European Minimum Income Network: <https://www.eapn.eu/the-european-minimum-income-network-emin-2-2017-2018/> & its bus journey throughout Europe: <http://eminbus.eu/>

<sup>3</sup> SDG Objective 1: ***End Poverty, in all its forms, includes the target: Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.***

<sup>4</sup> a) ***Access to a nationally defined set of goods and services, constituting essential health care, including maternity care, that meets the criteria of availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality;*** b) ***basic income security for children, at least at a nationally defined minimum level, providing access to nutrition, education, care and any other necessary goods and services;*** c) ***basic income security, at least at a nationally defined minimum level, for persons in active age who are unable to earn sufficient income, in particular in cases of sickness, unemployment, maternity and disability;*** d) ***basic income security, at least at a nationally defined minimum level, for older persons.***

<sup>5</sup> EAPN’s position paper on access to social protection.

# Programme

8.30 Registration

9.00 Introduction and Opening: **Why social protection for all is key!**

Chair: Leo Williams, EAPN Director

- **Sérgio Aires**, EAPN President/EAPN PT
- **Cidália Tomé Barriga**, Activist with direct experience of poverty/EAPN PT

9.15 Coffee table discussions with participants

*What is Social Protection for all? What are the challenges? What are the promising practices from the national level?*

10.00 Group feedbacks and presentation of post-its

10.15 Coffee break

10.30 **How can we use the Social Pillar to improve access to Social Protection and Minimum Income?**

*Interactive debate: short inputs (5 mins), then questions/debate with the audience:*

- **Réka Tunyogi**, Head of Advocacy, Eurochild
- **Sian Jones**, EMIN/EAPN
- **Ignacio Doreste**, Advisor, ETUC
- **Jan Farzan**, Federal Ministry of Labour & Social Affairs, Germany/SPC

11.00 Q and A/Discussion

11.30 **Social Protection for all: How to build stronger Welfare States? How to finance it?**

*Short presentations, then discussions around coffee tables:*

- **Valérie Schmitt & Christina Berhendt**, Deputy Director & Head of the Social Policy Unit, Social Protection Department, ILO
- **Francine Mestrum**, Founder of Global Social Justice
- **Maria Jeliaskova**, EAPN EXCO and EAPN Bulgaria/Perspekt
- **Conny Reuter**, General Secretary, Solidar

12.00 Coffee table discussions with participants, involving speakers

*What are the key elements needed to achieve stronger welfare states that provide social protection for all, through the life cycle? How to finance it?*

12.30 Feedback and exchange

12.45 Response

- **Joost Korte**, Director General, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

12.55 Conclusions and Wrapping up

- **Sérgio Aires**, EAPN President
- **Leo Williams**, EAPN Director