

## Follow up on the European Pillar of Social Rights: Action Plan 2018

### Introduction

The European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) was adopted on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017. For EAPN, the key elements of the Pillar are: a Proclamation of 20 policy principles, a social Scoreboard of indicators, and a set of mechanisms of implementation, including through the structure of the European Semester, as well as additional policy and legislative proposals. On 13 March, the European Commission has announced the launch of a Social Fairness Package, which will include a number of such proposals for the implementation of the EPSR, including an overarching communication, and action on key issues for EAPN, such as those related to extending access to social protection for all workers, and the creation of a European Labour Authority and a European Social Security Number, among others. Below is a suggested timeline of key priorities and main areas of action for EAPN during 2018, to be discussed with the EU ISG at the March meeting. This builds on and expands from the EAPN EPSR Action Plan and Position Paper from 2017, and is coherent to the overall EAPN and EU ISG Work Programmes for 2018.

<b>Main Aims</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. To influence the content and interpretation of the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights</b></li> <li><b>2. To support the kind of implementation that ensures progress on social rights, social standards, and poverty reduction</b></li> <li><b>3. To use the EPSR to build a stronger role for antipoverty and social NGOs</b></li> </ol>			
<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Target Audience</b>	<b>ACTION EAPN Europe</b>	<b>ACTION Members</b>	<b>Timing / Completion</b>
1. Inform, build capacity with EAPN members	EAPN Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular updates in EU ISG meetings, and by other tools (email, webinars)</li> <li>• Develop and disseminate a Briefing on the Social Fairness Package</li> <li>• Exchange and follow up in EU ISG based on the above</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read the Briefing and use for discussion in EU ISG</li> <li>• Adapt, translate, use for discussions at national level, also to national members</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing throughout the year</li> <li>• <b>completed April</b></li> <li>• As of June meeting</li> </ul>

2. Build consensus on common messages and action	EAPN Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss, amend, and adopt the present Action Plan</li> <li>• Draft response to the Social Fairness Package</li> <li>• Finalise the response</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in the EU ISG discussion at the March meeting in Belgrade</li> <li>• Contribute to the draft response by providing inputs/amendment</li> <li>• Implement the current Action Plan at national level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>completed 8-10 March</b></li> <li>• <b>completed April</b></li> <li>• <b>completed May</b></li> <li>• Throughout the year</li> </ul>
3. Monitor delivery through the European Semester	European Commission, European Council, European Parliament, and Member States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare Toolkit for stakeholder engagement</li> <li>• Include monitoring of the EPSR key priorities in EAPN Semester work, such as AGS &amp; JER, Country Reports, NRPs, and CSRs</li> <li>• Disseminate conclusions and concerns (letters to President Juncker, national Ministers, and Key Messages to the Annual Convention, etc)</li> <li>• Support new Employment Guidelines (input to European Parliament &amp; Council)</li> <li>• Incorporate the monitoring of the EPSR in EAPN's annual EP Semester event</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the Toolkit to get familiarised with the processes</li> <li>• Include monitoring of the EPSR key priorities in their Semester assessment work, such as AGS &amp; JER, Country Reports, NRPs, and CSRs</li> <li>• Maintain constant contact with the Government and other national stakeholders to disseminate conclusions and concerns, attend events</li> <li>• Send template letters and engage with Governments, as agreed, to support key messages on the Employment Guidelines</li> <li>• Include a focus on EPSR key areas of action in the Poverty Watches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>completed March</b></li> <li>• Throughout the year</li> <li>• Throughout the year</li> <li>• January - June</li> <li>• June – September</li> <li>• October - December</li> </ul>

4. React to the Social Fairness Package	European Commission, European Council, European Parliament, and Member States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disseminate response paper through general and targeted mailing, and social media</li> <li>Lobby on response paper, seeking meetings with key people at EU level</li> <li>Participation in events on the Social Pillar (ie, 17 April in Brussels, 27 April Annual Convention in Brussels, 27 June in Sofia etc)</li> <li>Further specific action to be decided once the Package is released</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further specific action to be decided once the Package is released</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>completed June</li> <li>May – December</li> <li>From April onwards</li> <li>June EU ISG meeting</li> </ul>
5. Support the implementation of the EPSR at the national level	Member States and key national stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upon discussion with members, create tools to facilitate this implementation – e.g, Toolkit on Stakeholder Engagement, Briefing on the Social Fairness Package, one-pagers on the 5 key priority areas, template letters, capacity building, social media tools etc</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disseminate position paper and other materials to key contacts (Government, SPC, EMCO, ESOs, desk officers, other stakeholders), attend events</li> <li>Work with EAPN Europe to do joint meetings with Permanent Representations</li> <li>Deliver at least 5 national level events on the Social Pillar (ie Spain on 22 March)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Throughout the year</li> </ul>
6. Get a stronger Social Scoreboard	European Commission European Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meetings with Indicators Sub-Group of SPC and EMCO</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set up a Scoreboard email cluster group of dedicated members, to provide input on proposals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>April – September</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further inputs / mainstreaming</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobby national Governments</li> </ul>	
7. Influence the proposal on access to social protection for all workers	European Commission, European Council and European Parliament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a draft response to the consultation on access to social protection</li> <li>• Respond to proposals as part of the reaction to the Social Fairness Packages</li> <li>• Disseminate messages through Semester work, key meetings and events, and other advocacy opportunities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Send comments to draft joint consultation response, adapt and send your own.</li> <li>• Contribute input and amendments to the joint response to the Package</li> <li>• Disseminate messages through Semester work, key meetings and events, and other advocacy opportunities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>completed January</b></li> <li>• <b>completed May</b></li> <li>• May onwards</li> </ul>
8. Position paper on quality and inclusive education	European Commission, European Council, European Parliament, and Member States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft position paper based on NRP report chapters</li> <li>• Collect and incorporate feedback from members, finalise position paper</li> <li>• Disseminate messages through Semester work, key meetings and events, and other advocacy opportunities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide input to the draft paper prepared by the staff team</li> <li>• Disseminate messages through Semester work, key meetings and events, and other advocacy opportunities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July</li> <li>• September</li> <li>• October</li> <li>• Throughout the year</li> </ul>
9. Organise high-level EU events to support the implementation	European Commission, European Council, European Parliament, and Member States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate members for the organisation of EAPN's policy conference and EP Semester seminar</li> <li>• Coordinate participation in Annual Convention and other events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively engage in the organisation: agenda, content, speakers, input, Key Messages</li> <li>• Try to obtain places to other EU high-level events, through Ministries, national contacts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April - December</li> </ul>

**Horizontal action, to be mainstreamed in the work throughout the year:**

- Specific follow-up on the 5 identified key principles of relevance to EAPN: *Minimum Income; Social Protection; Access to Essential Services; Fair Wages; Education, Training, Lifelong Learning*.
- Lobby for a central role for people experiencing poverty and their NGOs as key partners in the delivery of the Social Pillar, at national and EU level, through requesting and promoting clear guidelines and adequate resources for civil dialogue.

*Further actions are likely to be decided on an ad-hoc basis, depending on specific opportunities that will emerge throughout the year.*