



EAPN: Fighting for a Social Europe Free of Poverty

European Semester & Social Pillar work by EAPN-Finland

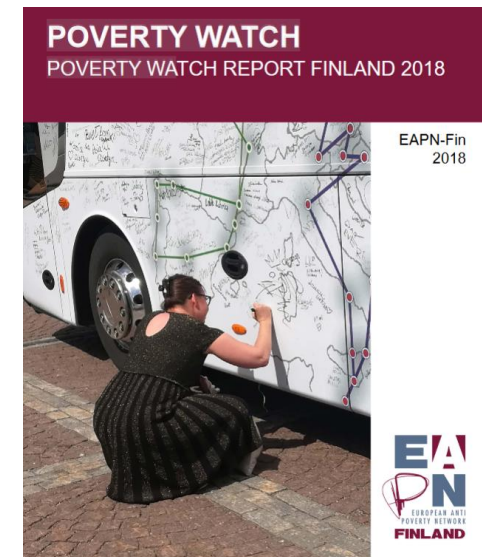
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Board member of EAPN-Finland

14 May 2019

European Semester work by EAPN-Finland

- **Cooperation with the Commission**
 - Trainings, seminars etc.
 - Meeting the delegation on their fact-finding mission
- **Cooperation with ministries**
- **Poverty Watch**
- **Commenting the Country Report**
 - EAPN's summary
 - Blog posts etc.





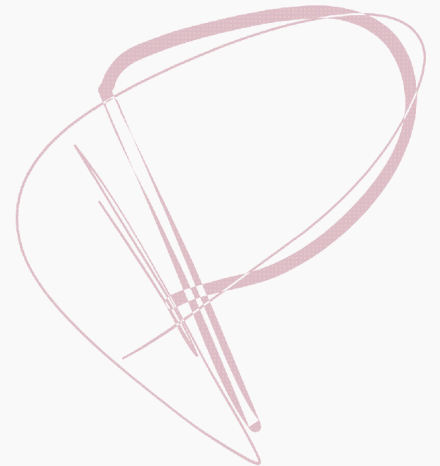
Country Report Finland 2019

- **The Commission sees Finland's situation unrealistically positive**
 - Finland performs well on indicators of Social Scoreboard.
 - "Poverty goal remains achievable although it is currently short of reach by approximately 100 000".
- **Poverty is deeper in many ways**
 - The number of people living exclusively on minimum income benefits is growing (250 000 in 2017, 4,7 %). The number has increased by 55,000 since 2010.
 - Livelihood problems and perceived poverty are increasing.
 - There is also growth in the number of payment defaults, in 2017 a total of 374,000 people had a record of non-payment.
 - Despite the recent economic growth, the demand for food aid has not decreased.



National Reform Programme Finland 2019

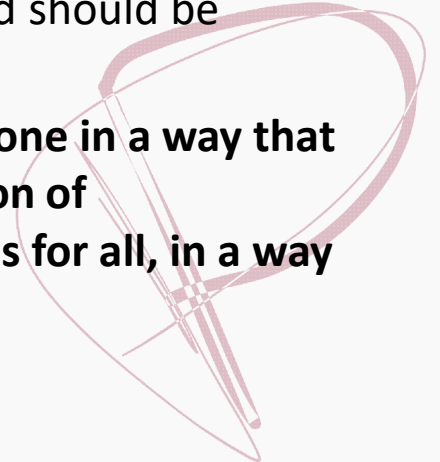
- In 2017 there are more people at risk of poverty or social exclusion than year before, 894 000 people (849 000 in 2016). The target is 770 000.
- The report lists a lot of different actions and projects, but there is not much evaluation, how they will effect.





Alternative Country-Specific Recommendations

1. **The number of people at the risk of poverty or social exclusion must be decreased.** It requires an increase in the level of basic social security and among other things more support for affordable housing. Particular attention must be paid to reduce poverty among families with children.
2. **The wellbeing of children and young people must be ensured by increasing resources for education, adequate services for families with children and child welfare.**
3. **There is still a need to invest extensively in active labour market policy.** Resources for services for the unemployed should be increased and redirected.
4. **The health and social services reform must be done in a way that ensures equality of service system, the realization of fundamental rights and access to quality services for all, in a way that reduces health and wellbeing inequalities.**





Social Pillar work by EAPN-Finland

- We try to bring the Pillar out in different events, statements and publications. E.g.:
 - 17.12.2018 seminar “More human Europe” with a strong focus on the European Pillar of Social Rights
 - 15.5.2019 panel-discussion for candidates for the European Parliament Elections
 - EAPN-Fin and SOSTE launched a publication *Future of Europe – Reforming the policies of the European Union*
- Finland’s EU presidency
 - Wellbeing Economy

SOSTE



Future of Europe
Reforming the policies of the European Union





Thank you for your attention

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A young boy with dark hair and a blue jacket is shown from the chest up. His mouth is completely covered with pieces of silver duct tape. He is holding a yellow and white megaphone to his mouth, as if he is about to shout or speak. The background is plain white.

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