



EUROPEAN ANTI POVERTY NETWORK

EAPN's Key Messages

Annual Convention for Inclusive Growth 2019

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A Social and Sustainable post-2020 Strategy that ends poverty and guarantees social rights

The 2019 **Annual Convention on Inclusive Growth** (ACIG) will focus on “*Inclusive Growth post 2020: looking at the Future of Social Europe*”. The Convention comes at a timely moment in the transition to a new European Commission and European Parliament, following the Sibiu Summit debate on the Future of Europe. With 113 million people still at risk of poverty and social exclusion and a widening gap on inequality across Europe, warning signs are clear that the current economic model cannot guarantee a Social Europe based on social rights and free of poverty. There needs to be a paradigm shift, away from a market-led growth project to a more social and sustainable development model. The discussion on a post 2020 strategy opens up an important opportunity to make this change. The most recent Future of Europe Reflection Paper on Agenda 2030¹ explores scenarios for envisaging the Sustainable Development Goals as the overarching framework, with the European Pillar of Social Rights as the key social arm. Whilst this vision offers some hope, unless a transformative shift is made away from a ‘growth and competitiveness’ model, to one which puts people and planet at the heart, it is unlikely to ensure a true social Europe, or inspire the trust of the millions who look to the EU for hope for their future.²

Key Messages

- **An ambitious, sustainable post 2020 strategy, delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Social Pillar (EPSR).**
- **Ending poverty must be a pre-requisite, with an effective poverty target and integrated antipoverty strategy that makes a real difference to people’s lives.**
- **Universal, adequate social protection and minimum income are the foundation of Social Europe.**
- **People experiencing poverty and their civil society organisations must have equal participation rights with social partners in political processes.**

¹ European Commission, [Future of Europe Reflection Paper: Towards a sustainable Europe by 2030](#), January 2019.

² European Anti-Poverty Network, [Position Paper on the Future of Europe](#), July 2018.

An ambitious, sustainable post 2020 strategy, delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Social Pillar (EPSR).

The post 2020 strategy must learn from the mistakes of the Europe 2020 strategy and have a transformative social and sustainable vision, implementing social rights.

- It must be an ambitious strategy promoting Agenda 2030, the 17 SDGs, and 169 targets, driven by the European Commission President with each Commissioner responsible for an SDG.
- Scenario 1 from the Reflection Paper on the Future of Europe offers hope, but must be more than transition to 'green growth', implementing the Agenda 2030 goal to '*balance the three dimensions – economic, social and environmental*' and embedding synergies.
- The focus must be on implementation with a clear action plan to achieve results on all EPSR principles and SDGs, monitored transparently through the European Semester.
- Human rights are for all people living in the EU, including undocumented migrants.

Ending poverty must be a pre-requisite, with an effective poverty target and integrated antipoverty strategy that makes a real difference to people's lives.

Agenda 2030 stresses that: "*eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development*".

- The new strategy must build on Europe 2020 and adopt an ambitious poverty target for all Member States, with a percentage reduction (e.g., the SDGs propose 50%).
- All Member States should use the same EU aggregate indicators (AROE) and aim for progressive realisation with a mid-term goal and review, and transparent monitoring.
- Integrated rights-based EU and national antipoverty strategies, based on integrated Active Inclusion, are essential to deliver results: access to adequate minimum income / social protection, quality jobs, and services (including housing / health), underpinned by social rights.
- Deliver on the pledge to "leave nobody behind", which underpins all SDGs. The EU should acknowledge that extreme poverty is an urgent and growing reality in EU, and that specific measures are required to make sure that EU policy action on the SDGs reaches people exposed to extreme poverty, such as the homeless, including through increased social housing.

Universal, adequate social protection and minimum income are the foundation of Social Europe.

EPSR Principles 12 and 14 are essential to ensure support for an EU that protects, particularly in the context of regressive business models, which exploit new forms of precarious work.

- EU has a key role to play in guaranteeing the right for all to adequate income support / social protection, throughout the life cycle and beyond employment.
- Minimum income must be adequate, accessible, and enabling: empowering people's social participation, as well as providing a foundation to access quality, sustainable jobs.
- An EU Framework Directive guaranteeing adequate minimum income is essential to take people above the poverty threshold, underpinned by reference budgets.

People experiencing poverty and their civil society organisations must have equal participation rights with social partners in political processes.

Agenda 2030 recognises NGOs as key equal stakeholders, underlining the crucial voices of people facing poverty and social exclusion.

- Create a protocol with obligatory guidelines that makes civil society organizations equal partners to other stakeholders in the design, implementation, and monitoring of the Semester.
- Establish a funding line to support direct engagement of people facing poverty, and development of cross-sectoral alliances to engage effectively at national and EU level.
- Transform the Annual Convention on Inclusive Growth into a round table conference where civil society stakeholders can openly raise their concerns / proposals with EU institutions.