EUROPEAN ANTI POVERTY NETWORK

EAPN's draft position on Post 2020

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Outline of the Presentation

1. Why EU needs a rights-based, social and sustainable strategy?
2. Making Agenda 2030 and SDGs the overarching frameworks underpinned by the Social Pillar
3. Linking SDGs and Social Pillar
4. Overarching Vision and Goals
5. 4 Key Priorities:
    - I. Achieving poverty eradication + increasing well-being
    - II. Political pre-requisites to achieve results
    - III. Embedding participation and transforming EU Coordination instruments
    - IV. EU funds to support the strategy

What is EAPN - the European Anti Poverty Network?

- Largest independent **network of NGOs** committed to fight against poverty and social exclusion in Europe, with & for people in poverty

- Started in 1990 – **key actor** engaging at national and EU level in social Open Method of Coordination, the Lisbon Strategy, now Europe 2020 and the European Semester

- Receives **financial support** from the European Commission (EaSI programme)

- 31 **National Networks** and 13 **European NGOs** as members (10000+ organisations)

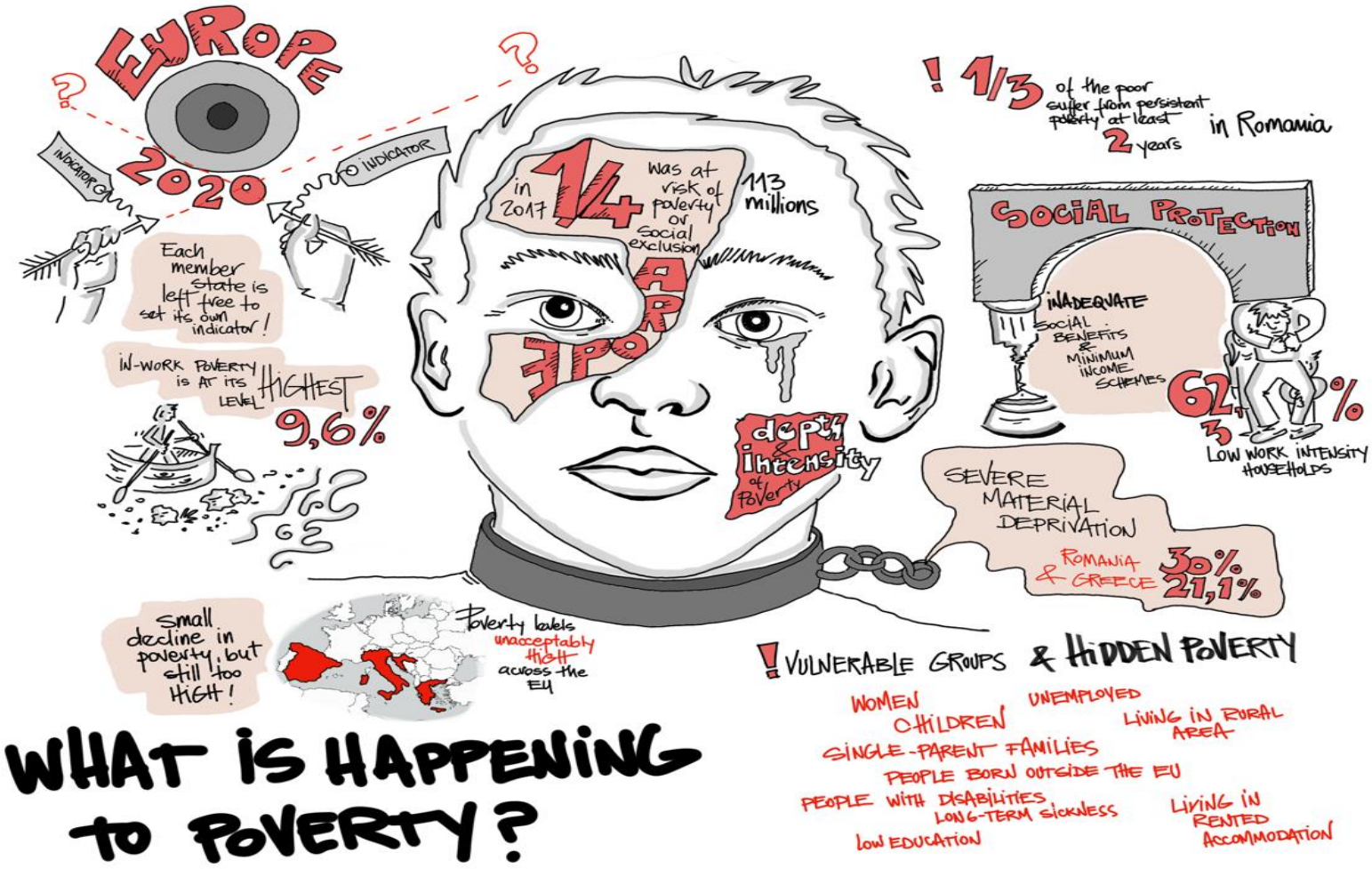
- **Participation of people** with direct experience of poverty must be part of the solution

Why EU needs a rights-based social and sustainable strategy?

- Europe 2020: ‘smart, sustainable and inclusive growth failed to deliver benefits for people.
- Failure of poverty target: 113 million – reduction of 5 not 20 million, widening gap: MS + groups.
- Priority to Stability/Growth justifying austerity, generating more poverty and inequality
- European Pillar of Social Rights key initiative but principles not binding rights - implementation?
- Planet in crisis but failure to act on promises! Green transition + social goals equal partners.
- Current market-led growth model can’t deliver for people and planet!
- Participation is key!

What progress on Poverty?

113 million people at risk of poverty



Making Agenda 2030 and SDGs the overarching framework, with Social Pillar

- Agenda 2030 prioritizes well being for people and planet, through 17 SDGs/169 targets.
- Framed by respect for human rights and dignity.
- All Heads of State have signed up, with EU already committed to implementing it.
- Poverty eradication is a pre-requisite
  "*eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable Development*" ***) with 9 SDGs.***
- High-level monitoring yearly by UN, link to EU monitoring mechanisms ie European Semester
- NGOs and people facing poverty key actors.

SDGS	European Pillar of Social Rights
1. End Poverty	No explicit principle but social scoreboard indicator. Most principles contribute. 11: Children's right to protection from poverty
2. End Hunger	No explicit principle. 6,12, 14, 20 could ensure adequate income.
3. Ensure Healthy Lives and promote well-being for all ages	10, 15, 16, 18 cover healthy, safe work environment, and access to affordable, quality health care.
4. Ensure Inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	1. Right to quality, inclusive education, training and lifelong learning
5. Achieve gender equality and empower women and girls	2. Gender Equality
6. Ensure availability + sustainability of water and sanitation for all	20. Access to essential services – water is mentioned
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full/ productive employment, decent work	2 chapters of EPSR dedicated to employment – 1. Access and 2. Fair Working conditions.
10. Reduce inequality within/among countries	No explicit principle but 3, 17, 19 refer to equal opportunities, disabilities and homeless

Overarching vision and goals of new strategy

❑ Aim

To promote social and sustainable development that eradicates poverty and social exclusion, reduces inequalities and promotes well-being

❑ Goals

17 SDGs form main goals, ensuring continuity with targets of existing Europe 2020 linked to Social Pillar Rights.

❑ Vision

- People and planet first! Environmental/social and economic equal and coherent.
- Requires a paradigm shift from austerity model to social investment in social protection, services, quality jobs, financing through progressive tax/tackling evasion.
- Ending poverty in all its forms must be a pre-requisite, promote human rights and participation

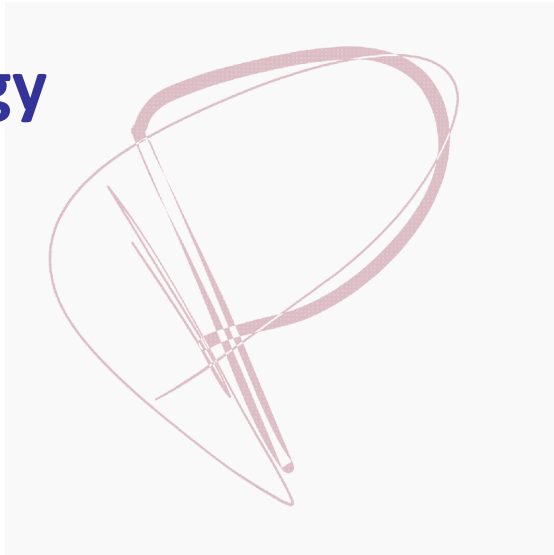
Four Key Priorities

1. Achieving Poverty eradication and increasing well-being

2. Political pre-requisites to achieve results

3. Embedding participation and transforming EU coordination instruments

4. EU funds to support the strategy



1. Achieving Poverty Eradication and increasing well-being.

- **Ambitious EU target with mid-term review**
  - ***End Poverty (SDG1) – 50% AROPE target***
  - ***Commitment to end extreme poverty by 2030, measured by homelessness***
  - ***All MS use AROPE, with separate monitoring.***
  - ***Progressive realization with action plan, interim targets and mid-term review.***

- **Effective Poverty indicators + social scoreboard**
  - ***Use same AROPE, but replace SMD with new material and social deprivation indicator***
  - ***Increase coherence of scoreboard with EPRS, with indicators for all 20 principles***
  - ***Connect scoreboard averages to poverty target to support upward convergence.***

- **A Rights-based integrated antipoverty strategy**
  - ***Implement a right-based, integrated, person-centred strategy of Active Inclusion underpinned by EPSR/SDGs.***
  - ***Implement EU thematic strategies eg Investing in Children and implementation of Child Guarantee***
  - ***Deliver on pledge to leave nobody left behind: recognize extreme poverty needs specific measures eg tackling homelessness***
  - ***Actively monitor/support through Semester/ EU funds.***
- **Urgent guarantee minimum income/social protection**
  - ***Require urgent progress with support of EU funds, monitored by EU adequacy indicator, through Semester.***
  - ***EU framework Directive above the poverty threshold underpinned by reference budge is feasible now!***
  - ***Require increased funding/adequacy of social protection tackling tax evasion/progressive tax.***

- **Concrete results on all social rights**
  - ***Agree action plan with milestones for implementation for all principles.***
  - ***Develop EU framework to guarantee adequate minimum/living wages and provides a positive hierarchy to MI, 60% of average wage.***
  - ***Prioritize investment in universal, free public education through life course – beyond employment, working in partnership with communities and students.***
  - ***Guarantee rights to quality, affordable public services – particularly housing and health – require increase of social housing and regulation private rents, and invest in universal free health systems***

Political Pre-requisites to get results

- **High level political commitment**
  - *Agreement from Presidents of all EU institutions to adopt Agenda 2030, SDGs and 169 goals as overarching frame, underpinned by EPSR*
  - *Driven directly by EC President, with each Commissioner responsible for an SDG*
  - *Road map and action plan for all goals, systematic review involving people in poverty and NGOs*
- **Making well-being the goal**
  - *Rebalancing macroeconomic priorities to promote social/environmental justice and well-being*
  - *Well-being pact rather than Stability and Growth*
  - *Adopt scenario 1 of FoE reflection paper, ensure strategy benefits people as well as planet, ending poverty a pre-requisite*
  - *Create a transparent checklist to ensure ex-ante impact analysis prevent negative economic measures.*

Embedding participation and transforming EU coordination

- **A participative, social / sustainable European Semester**
  - *Social/sustainable development Semester, delivering on SDGs/EPSR, with poverty eradication as pre-requisite*
  - *Road map setting out objectives, actions, role of institutions/stakeholders on all SDGs and targets*
  - *Expand CSRs to at least 2 per area (economic/social and environmental, with full analysis of all SDG in CR*
  - *Clearer connection: Semester and voluntary national reviews of SDGs feeding in high level political forum*
- **Make Civil Society equal partners**
  - *Full protocol to put CSO engagement on a par with social partners (Recital 11), with guidelines, mutual learning/peer reviews on best practice*
  - *Funding for permanent national dialogue processes.*
  - *Appoint a specific Commissioner for participation*
  - *Guidelines for ESO's to ensure equal treatment for CSO*
  - *Yearly bottom up Round table conference with EU*

4. EU Funds to support the strategy

- **Increase effectiveness of EU funds spending on poverty reduction**

✓ *Increase earmarking for poverty to 30%, and enforce enabling conditionalities with clear outcome indicators on quality of integrated active inclusion strategies to ensure real impact.*

✓ *Strengthen partnership principle, implementing code of conduct through ex-ante condition + make obligatory more meaningful participation of NGO in MC*

✓ *Avoid instrumentalization of ESF to finance mainstream public programmes*

✓ *Support innovative longer term projects developed by grass-root organizations with upfront funding/ global grants, avoiding the 20% co-financing requirement*

✓ *Improve monitoring with soft social indicators ie distance travelled to social inclusion*

Conclusion

- Make Agenda 2030, SDGs/ EPSR the framework for ambitious post 2020 strategy
- Overarching goal: promoting well-being, environmental and social justice not GDP!
- End poverty in all its forms: a pre-requisite.
- EU hard law essential to deliver results, with more effective coordination through European Semester linked to EU funding
- Participation of people themselves and NGOs is key to getting sustainable solutions!

Putting participation and social rights at the heart of sustainable development!

Thank you for your attention!

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