*EAPN paper on*

**Education, Training, Lifelong Learning**

Results of Online Survey – June 2019

On 23 May, EU ISG members were invited to select the thematic areas which will be detailed in 10 separate chapters of EAPN’s upcoming paper on ***Education, Training and Lifelong Learning and their Links to Poverty and Social Exclusion in Europe***, according to the Concept Note which was agreed. While the original deadline was 7 June, responses were accepted up to and including 12 June at noon. In total, 21 unique responses were recorded. Please find below the main results of the voting exercise, and the EAPN Europe Policy Team’s proposal on how to take the topics forward, including responding to all comments received.

The most voted 10 topics of the proposed ones are as follows:

1. **Inclusive education, combating segregation, discrimination, bullying** – 17 votes
2. **Training and upskilling for the labour market (for the unemployed as well as on the job**) – 15 votes
3. **Quality, accessibility and affordability of formal education systems** – 14 votes
4. **Young people, including NEETs and early-school leaving** – 13 votes
5. **Digital divide, online learning, access to technology, digital skills** – 12 votes

**Early childhood education and care** – 12 votes

**Exploring the links between socio-economic background and educational attainment / completion** – 12 votes

**Lifelong learning: 2nd chance, formal and informal education** – 12 votes

**Specific barriers in accessing education, training and lifelong learning for key categories (Roma, migrants, etc)** – 12 votes

**10. Specific barriers in accessing education, training and lifelong learning for people with a disability or health issue** – 11 votes

Missed out:

11. **Lifelong learning for older people** – 10 votes

The *proposal is to include this aspect in “Lifelong learning: 2nd chance, formal and informal education”*

Other proposals which received 1 vote each:

* **Education-poverty link - why anti-poverty ngo is interested in education** – The entire paper will be written exclusively from the perspective of the relevance of Education, Training and Lifelong Learning for poverty, as clearly indicated in the Concept Note and the Preamble to the Survey itself. Additionally, the chapter *Exploring the links between socio-economic background and educational attainment / completion* will deal specifically with these links.
* **Homeless people** – This aspect could be integrated in the *Lifelong learning: 2nd chance, formal and informal education* chapter.
* **Basic Literacy and Numeracy Skills** **- could be integrated in another section?** – This aspect could be dealt with in different chapters, such as *Early childhood education and care*, as well as *“Lifelong learning: 2nd chance, formal and informal education”.*
* **Adopt relevant ideas in the PEP conference report 2019. incl refuges possibilities to education** – 1 – The comprehensive discussion paper prepared in advance of the EU ISG meeting in March 2019 in Riga already takes on board all content from the European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty 2018. The specific issue of refugees will be dealt with in the chapter on *Specific barriers in accessing education, training and lifelong learning for key categories (Roma, migrants, etc).*
* **Recognition and validation of skills and knowledge obtained through informal and non formal education –** This aspect is explicitly already included in the chapter onthe *Lifelong learning: 2nd chance, formal and informal education*

*Other proposals which do not constitute separate topics, but are more comments:*

* **Experience experts training for and by experience experts: specific training of PeP executed by experienced experts are of imminent importance**
* **If politicians feel that education is so important, why is it not 100 % free**

Summary of Comments – and responses

* **All topics are important, it is difficult to choose** – For this reason, almost all of them were kept in, as reflected by the voting and ranking above.
* **Every topic should be connected with poverty and inequality –** That is the premise of the entire paper, as outlined in the Concept Note and Preamble to the Survey.
* **Lifelong learning is until we die, so why bring age into it? Most important is the start of our lives and on to young adulthood, then the need might decrease, but will never end** *–* This is why older people were included in the Lifelong Learning chapter.
* **Having different sections for specific groups/categories might be difficult as it can result in some being left out, and we need to highlight more general challenges** *–* The proposals to highlight these specific groups (Roma, migrants, people with a health issue / disability) came from the European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty and was confirmed by the voting and ranking above.The paper will include a mix of general challenges and obstacles specific to some groups, in an effort to respond to the variety of opinions in the Group.
* **Maybe some could be grouped, for example digital skills can go with upskilling for the labour market** *–* Digital skills and the digital divide occupy a prominent place in policy discourse at the moment, and the topic was specifically highlighted at the European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty as deserving of separate attention, as reinforced by the voting and ranking.
* **What do you think about one section on spending on education? Or that can be under quality? The impact of austerity cuts is also very important** – The Discussion Paper includes a comprehensive section on funding for education and training, which can be integrated as a red thread throughout the thematic chapters, as all of them need to have an adequate funding component. The issue will also be picked up in the overarching, comprehensive Introduction to the paper, setting the scene.

**Proposal for discussing the topics in the EU ISG meetings – June and September 2019**

***15 June 2019, Brussels***

It is proposed that this meeting focusses more on the general challenges identified by the survey, thus reinforcing the framing of the issue and anchoring it in an anti-poverty perspective. Subsequently, the following 5 topics are proposed for in-depth discussion and exchange in buzz groups:

1. **Inclusive education, combating segregation, discrimination, bullying**
2. **Quality, accessibility and affordability of formal education systems**
3. **Early childhood education and care**
4. **Exploring the links between socio-economic background and educational attainment / completion**
5. **Lifelong learning: 2nd chance, formal and informal education**

***15 September 2019, Helsinki***

It is proposed that this meeting focusses more on the challenges faced by specific groups, as identified by the survey, thus moving from the general discussion in June to the particular and looking at specific categories. Subsequently, the following 5 topics are proposed for in-depth discussion and exchange in buzz groups:

1. **Training and upskilling for the labour market (for the unemployed as well as on the job**)
2. **Young people, including NEETs and early-school leaving**
3. **Digital divide, online learning, access to technology, digital skills**
4. **Specific barriers in accessing education, training and lifelong learning for key categories (Roma, migrants, etc)**
5. **Specific barriers in accessing education, training and lifelong learning for people with a disability or health issue**

For more details about this work, please contact

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