

## National Poverty Watch Update 2019

### *Scoping Note*

#### Introduction/Background

EAPN is a network dedicated to the fight against poverty. Our aim is to work together to achieve a reduction of poverty, through an effective integrated antipoverty strategy based on participation, at national and EU level. Monitoring trends on poverty is part of this process, holding governments to account, and raising awareness to the general public. The proposal of national poverty watch report ***gives priority to members' own assessment of what is happening to poverty in their country, drawing on the experience/voice of people experiencing poverty. This document can serve as an awareness-raising and advocacy instrument at national level first, as well provide the basis for useful inputs to the EU level, particularly to the European Semester/Europe 2020 process.***

#### What is a Poverty Watch? (see full background note below)

#### What will we do in 2019?

We agreed in the EUISG to aim to do a full poverty watches only every 2 years. However, the Bureau is keen to launch the EU Poverty Watch Summary report at EU level in September, timed with the State of the Union Address. We will, therefore, provide only an update of our 2018 report, combined with an Op Ed highlighting our key messages. This report will not be a 'new report' but revise/update the 2018 report, including updated figures and info from the inputs we receive, include any new Poverty Watches, more proposals/testimonies from people experiencing poverty, as well as an update on minimum income, drawing on your EMIN work.

#### What you can do:

- **A) If you have not produced a Poverty Watch in 2019**, please send us your report based on the template agreed and outlined in the note below.
- **B) If you produced a PW in 2018**, you can provide us with an update on any key aspects or issues that are key for you this year.
- In both cases, **please include a specific box on minimum income** (a box on latest developments on the fight for an adequate, accessible and enabling minimum income). You can draw this from the last EMIN report and/or more recent information.
- Please also include a **specific box outlining key priorities and/or testimonials** from people experiencing poverty, ie by discussion with your PEP coordinators.

#### 2019 Milestones Timeline

What	Time/Deadline	Who
Revised Scoping note agreed	30 <sup>th</sup> May	EAPN Policy Team with Comms/Leo/Magda
Discussion of scoping note and action in EUISG	14-15 June	EU ISG with input from Policy Team and Steering Group.
Members Research and draft Poverty Watch reports/updates	June - 31 July	EAPN EU ISG members and European Organizations

Send updates or full Poverty Watches to EAPN Policy team (Sian Jones) with English translation/summary	31 July	EAPN EU ISG members/EOs
Draft Revised EU Report	30 August	Policy Team
Draft Op-Ed.	6 <sup>th</sup> September	EUISG rep plus Staff/Bureau
Dissemination of Op-Ed with link to revised report.	11 <sup>th</sup> September	Comms Team.

### **What is the EAPN Poverty Watch report? (full background note and model template)**

The EAPN Poverty Watch Reports do not attempt to be comprehensive national research reports on poverty, although individual members may decide/already do this for their own use, depending on resources. It starts from the reality of EAPN members' work, and the experience/priorities and voice of people experiencing poverty. Above all, it should be an effective communication tool aiming to signpost key developments/trends on poverty, the impact of the policy: national/ EU, identifying the key issues that impact on the people in poverty and proposing solutions. The template provided below is a guide – but members should adapt to their own needs/priorities.

#### **Objectives**

- 1) To monitor key trends and policy on poverty and social exclusion in Europe.
- 2) To raise awareness about priority issues and impact/reality for people experiencing poverty
- 3) To propose concrete recommendations backed by example and evidence.

#### **Target audience**

- 1) Stakeholders and general public at national level.
- 2) National and EU decision-makers (in translation)

#### **Process**

The poverty watch report will be developed in the national networks own language. We propose 6-8 sides as a guide. We would ask members to translate the document into English using the EAPN contract money available. A summary of the key points in English is also possible. National networks can decide to adapt/enlarge in their own language for their own use and in their own style to make it useful for national level. European Organizations are welcome to forward specific input on national contexts to relevant NN.

### **Content Guide (6-8 pages)**

#### **1. Introduction**

- *Who you are, why you are writing the report and what your main messages are.*

EAPN Czech Republic, representing its member organizations, NGOs whose scope of work contains the issue of poverty and social exclusion etc., people experiencing/threaten by poverty and social services providers. Currently, we focus on following topics: Minimum income and improvement of MI schemes, quality of life of seniors and over-indebtedness.

#### **2. What do we mean by poverty?**

- *Present common EU definition and how it's measured at EU level with at risk of poverty and social exclusion 3 indicators, MS based on EU SILC (a draft of this will be sent by EAPN Europe which you can use/adapt if you wish) and compare to national level if different/relevant.*

*“The main measure of monetary poverty included in the EU list of indicators is a relative one (net income less than 60% national median), known as the “at-risk-of-poverty” rate. Since the EU Council of Ministers in 1975, poverty in the EU has been conceived of as relative to a particular country at a particular time. There was and is strong justification for this approach rooted in social science understandings. Poverty in the post war period has been understood as a relative concept that went beyond the notions of poverty as a lack of basic physical needs but aspired to social participation standards or human functioning.”* (Source: THE MEASUREMENT OF EXTREME POVERTY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION European Commission Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion Manuscript completed in January 2011)

People at risk of poverty or social exclusion 12.2 (EU average 23.5, both in 2018) Source: [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=t2020\\_50&plugin=1](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=t2020_50&plugin=1)

People at risk of poverty after social transfers 9.6% (EU average 17.3%, both in 2018) Source: [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/refreshTableAction.do?tab=table&plugin=1&pcode=t2020\\_52&language=en](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/refreshTableAction.do?tab=table&plugin=1&pcode=t2020_52&language=en)

Unemployment rate September 2019 2.1% (EU average 6.3%) Source: [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/File:Unemployment\\_rates\\_seasonally\\_adjusted\\_October\\_2017\\_\(%25\)\\_F2.png](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/File:Unemployment_rates_seasonally_adjusted_October_2017_(%25)_F2.png)

Other statistics important to mention:

821 337 individuals having at least one execution on property (7.9% of Czech population) (Source: <http://www.statistiky.ekcr.cz/docs/statisticky-list-II.pdf>)

- *Include quote/quotes from people experiencing poverty you work with on what they think.*
- 3. What is happening to poverty? Who are the groups most affected?**
- *Present key EU data on poverty from EU SILC. (EAPN Europe will send a short summary of this basic data by country which can be used/adapted)*

*Europe 2020 eg 3 indicators: at risk of poverty, material deprivation, low intensity of work, analysing trends and gap on achievement on the targets.*

*Material deprivation 6.0% (12.9% EU average, 2018) Source: [http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=ilc\\_mdsc07&lang=en](http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=ilc_mdsc07&lang=en)*

There are some statistics on low work intensity: [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Material\\_deprivation\\_and\\_low\\_work\\_intensity\\_statistics](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Material_deprivation_and_low_work_intensity_statistics)

- Present a selection of other data you consider relevant ie other key EU SILC indicators – including in-work poverty, housing need or by breakdown of group (See data list below and additional info from EAPN Europe).

In-work poverty 3.8% (EU average 9.6%, 2016),

<http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/submitViewTableAction.do>

Housing deprivation 2.3% (EU average 3.9%, 2018)

[http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=ilc\\_mdho06a&lang=en](http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=ilc_mdho06a&lang=en)

- National, regional/local data or from research reports is often very **useful and powerful** and particularly interesting to the Commission eg number of people going to food banks, homeless, getting free school meals, using your social services etc.

#### 4. What are the key challenges and priorities? What do people in poverty think?

- Highlight EAPN main priority issues and at risk groups, drawing from your work with people experiencing poverty, with their priorities and testimonies if possible.
- You do not need to cover all issues, highlight your/their main priorities- eg
  - Is there a lack of adequate minimum income and social protection?
  - Are there problems with low quality, precarious jobs, in-work poverty?
  - Is there shrinking access to universal affordable, quality services (Housing, health, education..Are there particular services that are more problematic?)
  - Are there particular groups affected worse than others? ie homeless, Roma, families/single parents Are there problems of discrimination/gender etc?
  - Other more specific issues arising in your country which EAPN is active around.?

Over-indebted people – it is estimated that there can be around 0.5 million people in a debt trap. These people are often excluded from legal labour market and threaten by homelessness. We advocate for measures to prevent both active and passive indebtedness, respecting of basic rights of the debtor in the debt collection procedures and accessible debt relief procedures.

#### Decent minimum income and push for increasing wages and salaries in general –

Even if EU-SILC statistics (displayed above) indicate very positive figures for the Czech republic, we advocate for improvements in minimum income schemes (see the Context report for EMIN2 Czech Republic) and for increase of wages and salaries. The minimum wage will be increased in January 2020 from 13 350 CZK to 14 470 CZK (this is currently in negotiation process), which will increase also so called guaranteed wages in different kinds of professions. The worrying problem is the increase of costs of housing, caused by lack of real estate properties available on the market, which decreases the disposable income of households (Costs of housing statistics:

[http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Housing\\_price\\_statistics\\_-\\_house\\_price\\_index](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Housing_price_statistics_-_house_price_index)).

Active and decent life of seniors – namely elderly women, seniors living in rental housing and seniors living alone are threaten by poverty. EAPN Czech Republic recently published about the needs of seniors, the publication us called “*Active and autonomous in the old age*”, we also prepare Methodologies for municipalities regarding support of adequate housing, decent income, informational and functional literacy and accessibility of social and healthcare services.

#### 5. Are there good /promising practices in your country/area?

- *Its important to recognize promising practices which can take a step towards reducing poverty – either in terms of policy or practice, particularly of your own organizations!*
  - *What good/promising practices are there? What results? Any quotes from people involved? particularly people experiencing poverty? Any photos?*

#### 6. Are EU and national governments helping?

*(This section can draw and cut/paste from your inputs on this over the year on the Semester)*

- *Has the European semester helped to progress these priorities on poverty reduction? le any references to the European Commission’s Country Reports and country-specific recommendations, this year? What about EU funds?*

Even if the Social housing Act was cited as a priority in the European semester, it didn’t pass the legislative process and due to unclear situation after the parliamentary elections, it is hard to predict its future.

- *Is your government taking positive steps? Highlight key positive or negative developments on national policy (also from the National Reform Programme 2018)*

Former government boosted the economic prosperity and gradually increased the minimum wage, but failed to put into practice following policies, that were planned: Social Housing Act, Social Entrepreneurship Act, Amendment of Insolvency Act in terms of making debt relief accessible for all over-indebted people or Advanced Alimony Act.

#### 7. What is EAPN doing? Are you having an impact?

- *Highlight what your EAPN network or organization is doing to fight poverty – positive examples of lobbying and advocacy, activities, services you provide, projects, or campaigns.*
- *Any examples/evidence/quotes about impact?*

EAPN Czech Republic currently runs two projects: EMIN2 project, which advocates for improvement of minimum income schemes, and project “Priorities of support of the active life of seniors in the municipalities”, described above. Recently, we organized 4 regional seminars for municipalities representatives within the Seniors project and one focus group with active seniors in Pilsen. We also organized “National meeting against poverty and social exclusion” which was focused on in-work poverty (namely of indebted people), minimum income and poverty of seniors.

**8. THEMATIC FOCUS 2018: WHAT PROGRESS ON IN-WORK POVERTY?**

- *Present the trends on in-work poverty in your country? Is it getting worse/better?*
- *What are the main causes? (low wages, precarious/temporary contracts, involuntary part-time, others? Does it hit particular groups worse?)*
- *What's the government/EU approach? Is it helping?*
- *What would help? Your recommendations*
- *Any promising examples of practice or policy? Eg living wages, strengthening employment contracts, tax credit, childcare to help access FT work. .Any negative examples?*

**9. Key Recommendations**

- *Set out your Key 2018 messages and Recommendations (for CSRs 201), drawn from your priority areas. Ideally these have been developed together with people experiencing poverty. These will be used at:*
  - EU level (to feed into the European Semester – Country Report/CSRs)

Focus the issue of over-indebtedness – conceive measures to prevent indebtedness, protection of rights of the debtors and accessibility of insolvency procedure (Amendment of Insolvency Act mentioned above) (see our document “Let’s prevent debt traps!”)

Recommend to the Czech Republic conceiving the above mentioned measures (Social housing Act, Social Entrepreneurship Act, Amendment of Insolvency Act in terms of making debt relief accessible for all over-indebted people or Advanced Alimony Act.)

- National and Regions (including rural-urban) if relevant

Same as Above

**10. References and Bibliography**

- *Give a list of the references and sources for your data and your examples.*

**DATA SOURCES****1. EU LEVEL**

- **EUROSTAT** → <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>  
Statistical Office of the European Union. Main database to work with an immense variety of variables. Particularly relevant in the EUROSTAT web system are:
  - *Statistics explained* → [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Main_Page)  
Eurostat website presenting statistical topics in an easily understandable way, with very useful graphs, charts and tables ready to be used
  - *European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC)* → <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/income-and-living-conditions/data/database> and [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Living\\_conditions](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Living_conditions)
  - Instrument aiming at collecting timely/ comparable cross-sectional and longitudinal multidimensional microdata on income, poverty (AROPE indicators), social exclusion and living conditions.

- Key EU-SILC datasets – with national breakdown.

<p>6.1.1 People at risk of poverty or social exclusion (Europe 2020 strategy)  <a href="#">Europe 2020 target on poverty and social exclusion</a>  <a href="#">Intersections between sub-populations of Europe 2020 indicators on poverty and social exclusion</a></p> <p>6.1.2 Income distribution and monetary poverty  <a href="#">Monetary poverty</a>  <a href="#">Monetary poverty of elderly people</a>  <a href="#">In-work poverty</a>  <a href="#">Distribution of income</a></p> <p>6.1.3 Living conditions  <a href="#">Private households</a>  <a href="#">Population structure</a>  <a href="#">Health and labour conditions</a>  <a href="#">Housing conditions</a>  <a href="#">Childcare arrangements</a></p> <p>6.1.4 Material deprivation  <a href="#">Material deprivation by dimension</a>  <a href="#">Economic strain</a>  <a href="#">Economic strain linked to dwelling</a>  <a href="#">Durables</a>  <a href="#">Housing deprivation</a>  <a href="#">Environment of the dwelling</a></p> <p>6.1.5 EU-SILC ad-hoc modules  <a href="#">2011 - Intergenerational transmission of disadvantages</a>  <a href="#">2012 - Housing conditions</a>  <a href="#">2013 - Personal well-being indicators</a></p>
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- *Tables on EU Policies* → <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>  
 Datasets providing quantitative support to the development, implementation, and monitoring of European policies, such as: Europe 2020 Indicators, Sustainable Development Indicators, Employment and Social Policy Indicators & European Pillar of Social Rights Indicators.

▪ **SOME RELEVANT EU PUBLICATIONS/SOURCES**

- *Social Scoreboard for the European Pillar of Social Rights* → <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52017SC0200&from=EN>  
 Established in order to monitor the implementation of the Pillar by tracking trends and performances across EU countries in 12 areas and to be fed into the European Semester process
- *Employment and Social Developments in Europe* → <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=738&langId=en&pubId=7952&visible=0&>  
 Annual review of Employment and Social Developments in Europe. It considers the latest available data and provides analysis of key employment and social developments and challenges in the EU and its Member States
- *Social Protection Performance Monitor & Social Protection Committee (SPC) Annual Report* → <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=758>  
 The SPC monitors through its publications social conditions in the EU and the development of social protection policies in member countries. It reports on social inclusion, health care, long-term care and pensions under the social open method of coordination
- *Joint Employment Report (JER)* → <http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-6887-2017-INIT/en/pdf>

JER provides an annual overview of key employment and social developments in Europe as well as Member States' reform actions

- *European Social Policy Network*: Network of independent experts reporting on social inclusion and protection policy. National thematic and EU synthesis reports in key areas. Recent national reports include access to social protection, minimum income, social investment, recent social policy developments.

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1135&intPageId=3589>

## 2. NATIONAL LEVEL

### ▪ **NATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTES (NSIs) & OTHER NATIONAL AUTHORITIES**

Institutions responsible in each Member State for the development, production and dissemination of European and national statistics. Member States collect data and compile statistics for national and EU purposes. The European Statistical System (ESS) is a European authority that functions as a network. Eurostat's role in the ESS is to lead the way in the harmonization of statistics. ESS has an updated list of NSIs & other national statistical authorities →

[http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/747709/753176/20170529\\_List\\_ONAs\\_HR/982a6005-7225-45f5-be42-5803e526410e](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/747709/753176/20170529_List_ONAs_HR/982a6005-7225-45f5-be42-5803e526410e)

### ▪ **LOCAL LEVEL STATISTICAL AUTHORITIES**

**EXAMPLE:** Italy, as several other European countries has its own statistical system (Sistema Statistico Nazionale), which comprises Italian NSI (Istituto Nazionale di Statistica) and a network of other public statistical authorities, but also statistical offices of each local authority (from the regional to the municipal level), which provides access to a large variety of data, mostly on macroeconomic and labor indicators. With respect to Poverty, Italy adopts both a relative and an absolute indicator (see ISTAT Report on 'Poverty in Italy' (2015) → [https://www.istat.it/en/files/2016/07/Poverty\\_in\\_Italy\\_2015.pdf?title=Poverty+in+Italy+-+14+Jul+2016+-+Poverty+in+Italy+2015.pdf](https://www.istat.it/en/files/2016/07/Poverty_in_Italy_2015.pdf?title=Poverty+in+Italy+-+14+Jul+2016+-+Poverty+in+Italy+2015.pdf))

## 3. OTHER INTERNATIONAL SOURCES

### ▪ **ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION & DEVELOPMENT (OECD) STATISTICS →**

<http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/statistics>

Indicators for the 35 Member States of OECD (mostly high-income economies) include: Income Inequality, Poverty Rate, Poverty Gap, but also indicators referred to access to services or to the labor market. Database is very rich.

### ▪ **WORLD BANK (WB) DATA → <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator>**

Global database that comprises a set of various categories of indicators such as: Poverty, Health, Education, Economy and Growth, Social Protection & Labor. Even though the International financial institution has the global aim to reduce poverty, data are not always updated for all countries.

### ▪ **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG) INDICATORS →**

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/>

Dataset compiled through the UN System in preparation for the Secretary-General's annual report on "Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals". The first SDG Goal comprises mostly absolute poverty indicators like the proportion of people below the international or the national poverty line.

## 4. CIVIL SOCIETY/ACADEMIC LEVEL

### ▪ **NGOS SURVEYS AND PUBLICATIONS**



- **EAPN Explainer `Poverty and Inequality in the EU`** → <http://www.eapn.eu/new-update-of-the-explainer-on-poverty-and-social-exclusion/>

Explainer focused primarily on current perspectives on the nature and extent of poverty, its causes and its links to inequality: it analyses how poverty is understood and measured currently in the EU, and highlights some of the shortcomings of these approaches

See also other EAPN Publications → <http://www.eapn.eu/news-and-publications/publications/>

- Other interesting NGOs Publications EU level:

- Caritas Europa, `End Poverty in Europe`, 2016 → [http://www.caritas.eu/sites/default/files/caritas\\_europa\\_cares\\_report2016\\_-\\_end\\_poverty\\_in\\_europe.pdf](http://www.caritas.eu/sites/default/files/caritas_europa_cares_report2016_-_end_poverty_in_europe.pdf)
- FEANTSA, `Second Overview of Housing Exclusion in Europe`, 2017 → <http://www.feantsa.org/en/report/2017/03/21/the-second-overview-of-housing-exclusion-in-europe-2017?bcParent=27>
- FEBA: Information on foodbanks across Europe. <https://www.eurofoodbank.org/>

- NGO surveys/data at national level

- EG UK – Trussell Trust provides data twice yearly on use of food banks in UK. <https://www.trusselltrust.org/news-and-blog/latest-stats/>

## ▪ **ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS**

- *Some prominent portals*

- *European Social Observatory – research institute* → <http://www.ose.be/EN/publications.htm>
- *Combating Poverty in Europe (COPE) – European network of researchers and stakeholders* → <http://cope-research.eu/>

- *Horizon 2020 research programme results on poverty/social inclusion* (<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/sites/horizon2020/files/External%20advice%20and%20societal%20engagement-SC6-2016-2017.pdf>)