

Ex Co meeting 2020-03-30 on Covid, Poverty and Politics

	What are the biggest worries your network has for PeP following the covid crisis? (Short term and long term)	How will your network respond to these worries?	Other
GROUP 3			
SMES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who are alone at home – isolation and loneliness impacts their mental health. • People working unofficially – no money, no bank account, and are off the radar – they risk falling into severe poverty. • Migrants are being put in camps – this is now a risk to their health. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of solidarity between governments – could EAPN lobby for more solidarity with countries most affected? • Selfishness in society
France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confinement will lead to depression • NGO cannot help PeP now, they have much less social interaction 		
Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old people’s homes being heavily impacted • Migrants being heavily impacted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGOs organising to bring food and medicine to people in need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PeP are starting to revolt – stealing food from supermarkets simply to survive. • Government is giving money to municipalities to deal with this, but it is still a big issue.
Belgium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health, income, indebtedness, homelessness, prisons, migration (short term) • Asked government to establish a task force to coordinate measures regarding the social 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press release on health, income, indebtedness, homelessness, prisons, migration here • Working on long term demands – this will be released in due course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business as usual no longer possible – need to review policies for wellbeing • “Solidarity is needed between the different

	crisis and poverty, and not only concentrate on the impact on the economy (long term)		countries, before people in poverty lose all faith in Europe. This should be a priority for Europe, but also for EAPN.” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Europe could remind impacts of austerity from 2008 crisis and draw out lessons
Norway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loneliness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter sent to government and political parties, focusing on loneliness, impact of covid and what to do after the crisis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to work on solidarity
Czech Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing debt. Medical care for homeless. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Czech Government will be taking many measures to combat this.
GROUP 2			
Malta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PeP not being able to pay rent – want a ban on evictions. • Food distribution difficult – due to a lack of protective equipment. • Employers need support to keep people employed, otherwise we risk seeing increasing unemployment • Carers – increased risk of infection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter sent to government, asking Minister of Social Policy to focus on key issues. 	
Lithuania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of protective equipment for doctors and social workers • Lots of people will lose jobs and thus have very low income. MI is 100 euros, people wont be able to pay rent, bills etc • Social services likely to receive cuts in budgets – access and quality will drop. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter sent to government, about protective equipment and minimum income as key worries • Preparing joint letter with Vilnius University, asking Gov to protect workers and unemployed, 	

FEANTSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeless people cant stay at home • Shelters are overcrowded, potentially centers of infection • Some countries are fining homeless people for being on the street • Public services closed - public toilets, soup kitchens etc • Risk of increased levels of homelessness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect good and bad practice, and guidance (with WHO) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should focus on what we can reasonably ask of the EU
IFSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of protection for social workers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobbying national governments, using EAPN letter – IFSW is overwhelmed so this is useful 	
North Macedonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members were forgotten by government at start, who focused on economy and medical equipment. • Numbers of PeP will rise as focus has been on companies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translated EAPN statement and used it to raise awareness, with some strong images from the street. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are special measures for parents, people who have chronic diseases... a lot of categories can stay at home.
Estonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single parents are very vulnerable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managed to influence the crisis commission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employees still receive 70% of their salaries even if not working
GROUP 1			
Austria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food banks, centres and kitchens used by PeP are mainly closed • Isolation is leading to more depression • PeP can't afford books and leisure items to combat the isolation • PeP are ashamed to ask people to shop for them, as they can only buy the cheapest goods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press release to raise attention for PePs needs in this crisis. • Ask government for one-time payment for PeP of at least 1000€ or to raise the means-tested minimum income to 1000€ as long as regulations and isolation are running. • One member created an online platform for exchange, supervision and ideas of social workers and social organizations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austrian media call EU a "good-weather-alliance". We are worried if all borders will be opened again after the crisis. Germany held back a delivery of millions of euros worth of protective clothing which was already paid

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families with no printers or internet are worried about children falling behind in school Houses have no space dedicated for children's learning Children who would be getting school meals now need to eat at home, causing an extra financial burden All applications for social services are postponed until the crisis ends 		and bought from China. This raises the question of what good the EU brings us.
Netherlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food banks have no food to share, and fewer people to volunteer Pushing for no cuts, no evictions to prevent people falling into homelessness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Started to be more active on social media Start discussion about tax avoidance by certain companies, in relation to paying for the crisis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sees increased solidarity between people, if not governments Most government measures are to prevent unemployment Self-employed people are supported
Sweden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services sector will be badly impacted Children from disadvantaged families who were getting meals through schools – when schools close down, these children will not have enough food Elderly people are suffering from social isolation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EAPN Sweden member, The Salvation Army, has been on the frontline 	
UK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing unemployment – half a million new application for unemployment benefits last week. Social and community services shutting down, no longer available for PeP Social isolation Fuel poverty 		

<p>Greece</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This crisis is making the results of the last 10 year financial crisis worse • Unemployment will increase • Situation of migrants is escalating. 20 000 refugees are now blocked on the Greek islands. What will the impact be on their health? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping what the 32 members are doing • Trying to protect health of migrants and people working in the camps 	
<p>Hungary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major concerns about democracy. Prime Minister has requested emergency powers from the Parliament today and he will receive it because his party has majority in the Parliament. The emergency measures have no time limit. • Unemployment is rising very fast, no benefits in place. All measures taken for the moment are only for people that are working. • Issues with care shelters, homeless shelters, homes for the elderly and for people with disabilities as they cannot leave their shelters at all. All these institutions have very low budgets. 		
<p>Ireland</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closure of social services – people are thus under increasing pressure, with less support • Families who are facing complex issues such as domestic violence are left without any response. 		
<p>Spain</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing energy poverty • School children not receiving the meals they were getting at school • Families lacking computers and internet – increasing inequalities 	<p>EAPN Spain changed its whole working plan, by throwing away our previous work plan and strategic plan and replaced those with work to support member organisations and to defend the rights of the most vulnerable.</p>	

		<p>Government has accepted many proposals, notably:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No-one will be disconnected from power grid during this period• Social services are recognised as essential so professionals in the social field can maintain their freedom and social workers can continue to carry out their work• Increased material support for certain vulnerable groups• Meals are still being provided for children who used to receive food through school food programmes. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Also addressed the issue of democracy and argued that this emergency cannot justify any curtailing of democracy• There is a 2 page summary which could be translated in English if useful, plus a paper on gender issues relating to Covid19.• Having online meetings with Spanish Government to discuss the response, in alliance with other organisations.	
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