

EDF Webinar «Poverty and Social Exclusion of Persons with Disabilities»

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EUROPEAN ANTI POVERTY NETWORK

RESEAU EUROPEEN DES ASSOCIATIONS

DE LUTTE CONTRE LA PAUVRETE

ET L'EXCLUSION SOCIALE

www.eapn.eu



Outline

- Poverty – A multidimensional reality & Key data on poverty and social exclusion in Europe
- Recent/current EU-level activities and policy “hooks” to reduce poverty and social exclusion
- Perspectives for 2020 and beyond for policy and legislative „hooks“
- EAPN proposals for advocacy work by disability organisations on the fight against poverty and social exclusion
- Personal testimony and policy proposals by Vera Hinterdorfer

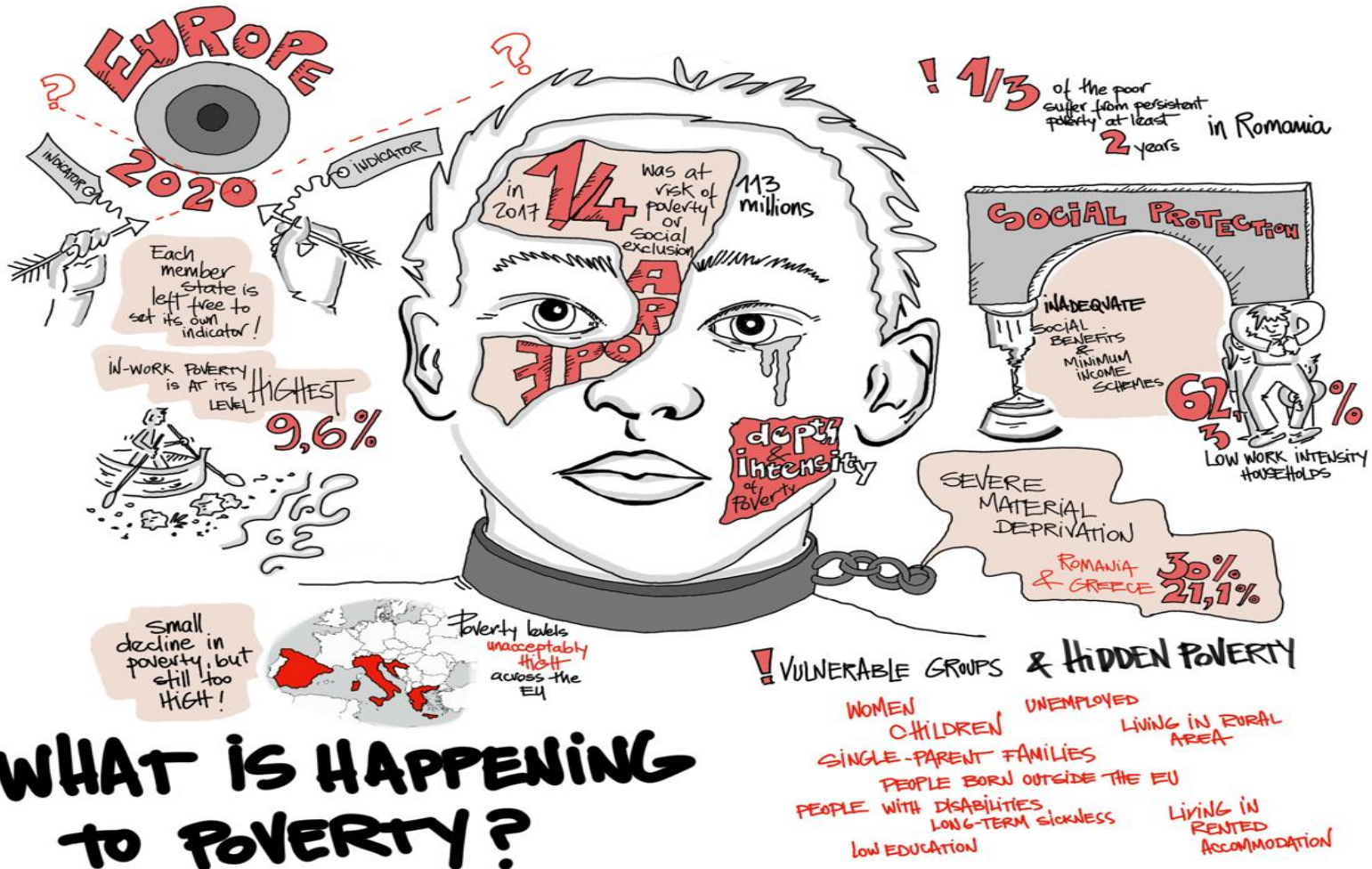
What is the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN)?



- ❑ 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 in poverty programmes and development of Social Open Method of Coordination, Lisbon Strategy, Europe 2020 Strategy and European Semester
- ❑ Receives **financial support** from the European Commission (EaSI Programme) for policy work and for a better participation of (and voice for) people experiencing poverty (incl. Annual Meeting PeP)
- ❑ **32 National Networks** and **13 European NGOs** as members (10000+ organisations)
- ❑ **Participation of people** with direct experience of poverty is part of the solution, including in EU-level meetings and policy processes

*EAPN in mid-April 2020 published a new „Poverty Explainer“

Poverty – A multidimensional* reality & Key data on poverty and social exclusion



WHAT IS HAPPENING TO POVERTY?

Recent/current EU-level activities and policy “hooks” to reduce poverty



- ❑ **(Reformed) European Semester**, delivering on goals and targets (incl. poverty reduction) of Europe 2020 Strategy, policy priorities of the European Pillar of Social Rights and (as of 2020) the SDGs (incl. SDG 1 “End poverty in all forms everywhere”) and also providing monitoring instruments (incl. Social Scoreboard)
- ❑ **European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR)** => launch and implement concrete initiatives for 6 principles: 14 (**minimum income**), 12 (**social protection**), 20 (**access to essential services**), 6 (**fair wages**), 1 (**education, training, lifelong learning**) and 19 (**housing & assistance for the homeless**)
- ❑ European Cohesion Policy and Funds, incl. **European Social Fund (ESF/ESF+, with min. 25% ear-marked to social inclusion and poverty reduction) and FEAD**
- ❑ **EMIN Projects 1 & 2 Campaigns and Reports (2015; 2018); Public Services Network on Minimum Income; SPC Activities & Reports; ESPN Studies**
- ❑ **EC Recommendation “Active Inclusion” (2008)** => integrated approach, combining adequate income support, inclusive labour markets & access to quality services
- ❑ **EP Resolution (2017) and EESC Opinions (2013; 2019) on Minimum Income**

Perspectives for 2020 and beyond for policy and legislative “hooks” to reduce poverty



- ❑ (Renewed) EU Anti-Poverty Strategy(?) as part of Europe 2030 Strategy(?)
- ❑ Thematic integrated strategies for key at risk groups – e.g. Investing in Children or Tackling Homelessness and Housing Exclusion
- ❑ Comprehensive and ambitious **Action Plan for implementation of EPSR** (as of 2021), incorporating an **EU Anti-Poverty Strategy** and **ambitious poverty reduction target**
- ❑ **(Reformed) European Semester**, with **Country-specific Recommendations** on minimum income (schemes), integrated active inclusion, adequate social protection systems and public services, reduction of in-work poverty, etc.
- ❑ Full use/enforcement in EU MS of **provisions promoting the involvement of CSOs in Employment Guidelines** (Guideline 7 & Recital 10)
- ❑ Full implementation/use of **Council Recommendations “Access to social protection for workers and the self-employed”** (2019) and **“Child Guarantee”** (2020?) – based on Investing in Children - and of **EC Guidance on Energy Poverty** (2020?)
- ❑ European instrument/(legal?) framework on fair minimum wages
- ❑ EAPN demand/proposal for an **EU Framework Directive on Minimum Income**

EAPN proposals to support the rights of people with disabilities facing poverty



- ❑ Continue working for including in the **European Disability Rights Agenda (2020-2030)** **specific actions to address poverty and social exclusion** which put PwD at the heart.
- ❑ Continue advocating on the **guarantee/enforcement of work-/employment-related rights of PwD**, freedom from discrimination in access to services, rights to adequate minimum income free from negative conditionality and punitive job-readiness conditions
- ❑ Continue claiming the **direct participation of PwD also in the design of policies, giving voice** to those who face poverty and are currently excluded from decision-making processes
- ❑ Work with EAPN members to make the case and gain political support for an **EU Framework Directive on Minimum Income and an European Framework on Minimum Wage**
- ❑ Work with EAPN and other NGOs on joint **advocacy work, both nationally and at EU level, for an Action Plan for implementation of EPSR** – with a clear focus on the eradication of poverty and the reduction of social exclusion, including for PwD – **comprising a new EU Anti-Poverty Strategy (and a Europe 2030 Strategy as overarching framework)**
- ❑ Engage in **European Semester**, in particular by influencing and monitoring in your country the National Reform Programmes (NRP) and **Country-specific Recommendations (CSR)**

Personal testimony and policy proposals by Vera Hinterdorfer



- ❑ **Own situation** and how it impacts on income and being at risk of poverty
- ❑ **Proposals on how to prevent poverty** – in the context of the Austrian welfare system, but also more broadly – and to strengthen the rights of PwD
- ❑ **Keep income tax exemptions** for PwD; **define and enforce mandatory hiring quota** for PwD; **continue salary for longer periods and of payment of social benefits for in-patient stays** (hospitals; rehabilitation); **install independent contact persons** (not under employer) **for PwD** in enterprises **to support (re-)integration**; **adapt partial retirement arrangements** to comply with needs of PwD; have **poverty-proof levels of minimum income (= adequacy)** and accessible & enabling minimum income schemes
- ❑ How can we **improve the trans-border portability of social security entitlements** for PwD in the EU?
- ❑ **Improve EU-wide job offers and programmes for PwD**; **extend the period of continued payment** of care allowances/similar benefits after a move; **organise and guarantee disease-related medical care across borders**; **fully involve PwD as experts to find appropriate policy solutions**

Putting people and social rights at the heart of policy change!



Thank you for your attention!



For more information, please contact

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Some more reading

EAPN [Webpage](#) / EAPN [Key Documents](#)

Fighting poverty and social exclusion: [EAPN Poverty Explainer](#) (04/2020)

EAPN Proposals for a [Post-Europe 2020 Strategy](#) (11/2019)

EAPN Response [Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy & Joint Employment Report](#) (01/2020)

EAPN Handbook on a [Human Rights-Based Approach to Poverty](#) (03/2018)

EAPN Publications on [Housing & Health](#), [Education](#), [Inclusive Labour Markets](#), [In-Work-Poverty](#)