**National Poverty Watches and 2020 COVID-19 Update**

***Terms of Reference and Template***

**1. 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 lived 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 and Post 2020 process.***

**2. What is the EAPN Poverty Watch report? (full Terms of Reference 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 experience and evidence**.**

**Target audience**

1. National and EU decision-makers (in English translation)
2. National stakeholders and general public

**Process**

The Poverty Watch report will be developed in the national networks own language to use at national level. We propose 6-8 sides as a guide. We would ask members to translate the document into English using the EAPN contract money available so that other networks can read, as well as to provide the basis for an EAPN EU assessment. 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**

1. **Introduction**

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

1. **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 and compare to national level if different/relevant.*
* *Include views of people experiencing poverty you work with on what they think.*

1. **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.*
* *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).*
* *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.*

*.*

1. **What are the key challenges and priorities? What do people in poverty think?**

* *Highlight EAPN main priority issues (for example the 5 key principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights prioritised by EAPN: Minimum Income, Social Protection, Fair Wages and Decent Work, Access to Essential Services (including housing and health), Education, Training and Lifelong learning)[[1]](#footnote-1) and at- risk groups, drawing from discussions with people experiencing poverty on their priorities and their experiences/testimonies.*
* *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.?*

1. **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?*
* *Particularly interesting to highlight integrated antipoverty strategies.*

1. **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? Ie any references to the European Commission’s Country Reports and country-specific recommendations, this year? What about EU funds?*
* *Is your government taking positive steps? Highlight key positive or negative developments on national policy (also from the National Reform Programme 2018)*

1. **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?*

**8. Set out your Key 2019/20 messages and Recommendations** *(for CSRs 2021), 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)
  + National and Regions (including rural-urban) if relevant

**9. References and Bibliography**

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

**3. Poverty Watch in 2020**

**Overview**

* The 2020 Poverty Watch will aim to combine an **assessment of overall situation/trends on poverty, as well as the impact of COVID-19 and make proposals for the future**. It should build on existing work you’re doing as far as possible, rather than create new work! (ie your inputs to the COVID-19 study, EPSR consultation and national work).
* We are looking into providing **additional funding** to support the work at national level but this decision won’t be taken until the 15 June by the EXCO.
* We would ask members to produce their PWs before **15 September 2020** and to launch them as part of the **17 October campaign**, at national and EU level.
* The PW should be produced in **your own language and translated into English** (using the EAPN Contract if necessary), to be shared with EUISG and the policy staff.
* It will be important to work with the **PeP Coordinators and have direct discussions with People facing poverty** to inform particularly the COVID-19 impact and analysis, in line with the Strategic Review.
* Based on the poverty watches received, EAPN Policy team will produce an **EU summary assessment**, timed to launch with the October 17 International Day.

**Contents**

**1. 2020: Overall Poverty Trends: A section on current trends/realities on poverty prior to COVID19**

- this should draw on the most recent official data (EU and national level) and concrete examples tracking trends on poverty **before** the impact of COVID-10 as well as from direct experience of people facing poverty (see the general PW contents page above for a guide), including examples/quotes.

**2. The impact of COVID-19 and government policy on people experiencing poverty.**

**THEMATIC FOCUS 2020: IMPACT OF COVID-19 & Government Action on people facing poverty.**

* **It will be important to work with the PeP Coordinators in your country to organize discussion/s with people with experience of poverty and social exclusion**
* *Present the social and economic impact on PeP: this should build on your existing documents or those prepared for the COVID-19 Study and/or EAPN webinars rather than adding new work!*

*This should include:*

***2.1 What are the main difficulties/challenges for specific groups, which are hardest hit?***

* *Impact of the virus itself: ie health/health inequalities and access to health services/support*
* *Impact of social distancing and lockdown: ie loss of jobs or reduced hours/social distancing, home schooling etc and now with the relaxation measures.*

***2.2 Do Government actions help? What’s missing?***

* *Policy Support measures – how far they’ve ensured that people in poverty have an adequate income/income support, access to key services? What’s missing?*

***2.3 What action has your network/organization taken? What results?***

***2.4 Any examples of promising practices***

**3. What recommendations at national level (short and long-term)**

**4. 2020 Milestones Timeline**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **What** | **Time/Deadline** | **Who** |
| Revised Terms of Reference including COVID-19 Impact | 28 May | EAPN Policy Team |
| EUISG WEBINAR | 2 June | EUISG with Policy Team |
| EXCO Decision on funding | 15 June | EXCO |
| Members discuss with EXCO & PeP Coordinators in their networks and organize an exchange with PeP | June | EUISG/EXCO and PeP Co |
| Draft 2020 Poverty Watches including COVID-19 Impact /Translate into English | July-September | EAPN EU ISG members |
| Send to EAPN Europe and EUISG Poverty Watch with English Translation | Latest 14 September | EAPN EUISG members |
| Draft EU Summary of national PW | 30 October | EAPN Policy Team |
| Proof/Lay-out | 14 October | EAPN Comms Team |

**ANNEX**

***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](%20http:/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](%20http:/ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Main_Page) and
  + <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***.**

6.1.1 People at risk of poverty or social exclusion (Europe 2020 strategy)

[Europe 2020 target on poverty and social exclusion](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_statistics_on_income_and_living_conditions_%28EU-SILC%29_methodology_-_Europe_2020_target_on_poverty_and_social_exclusion)

[Intersections between sub-populations of Europe 2020 indicators on poverty and social exclusion](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_statistics_on_income_and_living_conditions_%28EU-SILC%29_methodology_-_Intersections_between_sub-populations_of_Europe_2020_indicators_on_poverty_and_social_exclusion)

6.1.2 Income distribution and monetary poverty

[Monetary poverty](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_statistics_on_income_and_living_conditions_%28EU-SILC%29_methodology_-_monetary_poverty)

[Monetary poverty of elderly people](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_statistics_on_income_and_living_conditions_%28EU-SILC%29_methodology_-_monetary_poverty_of_elderly_people)

[In-work poverty](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_statistics_on_income_and_living_conditions_%28EU-SILC%29_methodology_-_in-work_poverty)

[Distribution of income](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_statistics_on_income_and_living_conditions_%28EU-SILC%29_methodology_-_distribution_of_income)

6.1.3 Living conditions

[Private households](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_statistics_on_income_and_living_conditions_%28EU-SILC%29_methodology_-_private_households)

[Population structure](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_statistics_on_income_and_living_conditions_%28EU-SILC%29_methodology_-_population_structure)

[Health and labour conditions](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_statistics_on_income_and_living_conditions_%28EU-SILC%29_methodology_-_health_and_labour_conditions)

[Housing conditions](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_statistics_on_income_and_living_conditions_%28EU-SILC%29_methodology_-_housing_conditions)

[Childcare arrangements](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_statistics_on_income_and_living_conditions_%28EU-SILC%29_methodology_-_childcare_arrangements)

6.1.4 Material deprivation

[Material deprivation by dimension](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_statistics_on_income_and_living_conditions_%28EU-SILC%29_methodology_-_material_deprivation_by_dimension)

[Economic strain](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_statistics_on_income_and_living_conditions_%28EU-SILC%29_methodology_-_economic_strain)

[Economic strain linked to dwelling](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_statistics_on_income_and_living_conditions_%28EU-SILC%29_methodology_-_economic_strain_linked_to_dwelling)

[Durables](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_statistics_on_income_and_living_conditions_%28EU-SILC%29_methodology_-_durables)

[Housing deprivation](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_statistics_on_income_and_living_conditions_%28EU-SILC%29_methodology_-_housing_deprivation)

[Environment of the dwelling](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_statistics_on_income_and_living_conditions_%28EU-SILC%29_methodology_-_environment_of_the_dwelling)

6.1.5 EU-SILC ad-hoc modules

[2011 - Intergenerational transmission of disadvantages](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_statistics_on_income_and_living_conditions_%28EU-SILC%29_methodology_-_2011_intergenerational_transmission_of_disadvantages)

[2012 - Housing conditions](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_statistics_on_income_and_living_conditions_%28EU-SILC%29_methodology_-_2012_housing_conditions)

[2013 - Personal well-being indicators](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_statistics_on_income_and_living_conditions_%28EU-SILC%29_methodology_-_2013_personal_well-being_indicators)

* + Tables on EU Policies 🡪 [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database](%20http:/ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Main_Page)

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*](http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1135&intPageId=3589)

1. **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%20)

* **LOCAL LEVEL STATISTICAL AUTHORITIES**

**EXAMPLE: Italy**, as several other European countries has its own statistical system (Sitema 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>)

1. **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.

1. **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>
    - 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 – Tressel 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>

1. See also EAPN Response to the Consultation on the EPSR Action Plan. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)