**EUISG Webinar Exchange: Thursday 24 September 10-12.30**

**2020 Poverty Watches in context of COVID-19 – findings and action**

**Notes**

***Chair****: Marija Babović (EAPN SB) and Graciela Malgesini (EAPN ES), with Sian Jones, Mathias Maucher, Rebecca Lee, Leo Williams, Magda Tancău (EAPN staff)*

***Notes****: Rebecca Lee and Mathias Maucher*

***Objectives***

* *To exchange and promote mutual learning on members’ 2020 Poverty Watches: key findings, messages, recommendations including focus on COVID 19. What action linked to October 17?*
* *To share learning on developing the 2020 Poverty Watch involving people facing poverty: How could this be improved? Progressing towards participative research in 2021?*
* *To clarify common EU demands for EU report*

**Draft Agenda**

**10.00 Welcome/ Tour de table: *Marija Babović, EAPN Serbia/Co-chair EUISG***

**10.05 Introduction/objectives of webinar: *Sian Jones, EAPN Policy Coordinator***

**10.10 Overview of 2020 Poverty Watches and initial messages: S*ian Jones, EAPN Policy Coordinator***

**10.20 Messages/Recommendations from National Poverty Watches 2020:**

* ***What are the 2020 PW main findings/messages and recommendations, including on Covid-19?***
* ***What process – how did you involve People experiencing poverty?***
* ***What advocacy action? Link to October 17?***

**Short inputs:**

* [**EAPN Netherlands – Poverty Watch 2020**](https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/EAPN-Poverty-Watch-2020-final_NL_ENG_PDF-4640.pdf)
* [**EAPN Poland – Poverty Watch 2020**](https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/EAPN-Poverty-Watch-2020-Poland-ENG-4638.pdf)
* [**EAPN North Macedonia – Poverty Watch 2020**](https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/EAPN-North-Macedonia-Poverty-Watch-2020-ENG-4639.pdf)
* [**EAPN UK – Poverty Watch 2020**](https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/EAPN-UK-Poverty-Watch-2020-4637.pdf)

**10.50 EAPN October 17 Campaign/link to Poverty Watch**

* **Reminder of EAPN October 17 Campaign 2020, and how members can link their actions: *Leo Williams, EAPN Director***
* **Discussion/Exchange**

**11.05 Group Work: Sharing main findings/learning/actions and proposing common EU messages:**

* **Introduction before break-out to 3 groups led by Steering Group**
* **Each group to nominate a rapporteur, a staff member will take notes.**

**3 questions:**

**1) *Have you done/planning a PW in 2020? What are your main findings, including on COVID 19? How will you use it in Oct 17 campaign?***

***2) Did you involve people experiencing poverty? If yes, how, what kind of methodology did you use? How could this be improved?***

***3) What common EU messages would you give to the EU report?***

**12.25 Conclusions/ wrapping up/ reminder of next webinars**

**Notes from the meeting**

**Participants**

***National Networks***: Ivo Kaplán, Stanislav Mrozek and Jiří Vraspir, CZ; Jürgen Schneider, DE; Graciela Malgesini, ES; Jeanne Dietrich, Guy Janvier, Helène Justin and Richard Deplanque, FR; Dina Vardaramatou, GR; Aleksandra Selak-Živković, HR; Krisztina Jasz, HU; Guilia Segna, IT; Paul Ginnell, Irene Byrne and Ana Ni Lochlainn, IE; Rimgailė Baltutė, LT; Egils Rupeks, LV; Maja Staleska, MK; Frøydis Jensen, NO; Ryszard Szarfenberg, PL; Paula Cruz, PT; Katherine Duffy, UK

***European Organisations***: Philippe Seidel, AGE; Laura Rayner, Eurodiaconia; Fran McDonnell, IFSW; Luigi Lenori, SMES

***EAPN Staff:*** Sian Jones, Mathias Maucher

**Guest speakers: Filip Tanay, DG EMPL; Maria Baroni, DG EMPL**

**Excused**: Martina Brandstätter, AT; Judith Tobac, BE; Iva Kuchyňková, CZ; Anna Järvinen, FI; Laufey Líndal Ólafsdóttir, IC; Sonja Leemkuil, NL; Iris Alexe, RO; Marija Babović, RS; Živa Humer, SI

**10.00** *Marija Babović, EAPN Serbia/Co-chair EUISG, invited everyone to introduce themselves and share their worst/best COVID feelings*

**10.05** *Sian Jones, EAPN Policy Coordinator, went through the agenda/objectives of the webinar*

**10.10 Overview of 2020 Poverty Watches and initial messages: S*ian Jones, EAPN Policy Coordinator***

See **Sian**’s presentation [**here**](https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/EAPN-Initial-Feedback-on-2020-National-and-EO-Poverty-Watch-4653.pptx)**.**

**10.20 Messages/Recommendations from National Poverty Watches 2020:**

* ***What are the 2020 PW main findings/messages and recommendations, including on Covid-19?***
* ***What process – how did you involve People experiencing poverty?***
* ***What advocacy action? Link to October 17?***

Input from national networks:

Sonja was due to [present](https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/EAPN-Presentation-PW-2020-EAPN-NL-EUISG-webinar-2409-4695.pptx) EAPN NL’s [PW](https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/EAPN-Poverty-Watch-2020-final_NL_ENG_PDF-4640.pdf) but could not attend due to ill health.

**Ryszard** from Poland [presented](https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/EAPN-Polish-Poverty-Watch-2020-overview-4790.pptx) EAPN Poland’s [PW](https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/EAPN-Poverty-Watch-2020-Poland-ENG-4638.pdf).

This report is longer than past reports, with more sub sections (see slide 2). The experiencing multidimensional poverty section was based on quotes from PeP. The experiencing COVID section includes qualitative data produced with partners (mainly homeless organisations). The policies in Covid times section reports also on the strategic framework of ESF+ and the need for services and not only cash transfers.

They used Eurostat data – EU2020 target & AROPE disaggregated data. Poland exceeded the target even, mainly because severe material deprivation steeply decreased. They present their own data on extreme poverty in families. Poverty in families with at least 3 children decreased from 2015. This is the 2nd year that they have used a questionnaire for PeP – including citations in 2 tables in the report.

As well as headline messages, EAPN Poland makes short/long-term proposals (slide 4). The Government is working on a framework, so it is important to input here.

In terms of participation: in addition to the questionnaire there were also 2 focus groups organised by ATD Poland, and 2 meetings with PeP – one via ATD and 1 with an EAPN Poland delegation.

Slides 5 & 6 cover how the PW will be launched and learnings on how to improve the production process for next year.

**Maja** from MAPP (EAPN North Macedonia) then presented their [PW](https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/EAPN-North-Macedonia-Poverty-Watch-2020-ENG-4639.pdf). In addition to her [slides](https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/EAPN-Presentation-on-PW-MK-24.09-4697.pptx), she reported that the unemployed will be a new group in poverty in North Macedonia. Healthcare problems have been very visible in traditional and social media. These problems have been difficult to handle but solidarity was increased. 40,000 children have been lacking technical support for educational purposes; and the processing sector lost the most jobs. She also added that the state had been doing a lot to fulfil criteria for EU membership and that work has now stopped.

Finally, **Katherine** from the UK [presented](https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/EAPN-PW-2020-Presentation-after-v3-EAPN-UK-4696.pptx) the EAPN UK [PW](https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/EAPN-UK-Poverty-Watch-2020-4637.pdf).

The title and key finding, *2020 supercharging poverty,* comes from a community activist. To cover all the EPSR would need 100 pages so they decided to include an Appendix with pre-Covid data and to focus on 3 groups who were at risk of poverty, ill health, insecure work and unemployment before Covid-19 and most affected by it in terms of mortality and policies: *Black and minority ethnic groups; people with a disability and people in poverty who live in the 10% most deprived areas.* Life-expectancy was actually declining before COVID. Section on poverty & mortality before COVID; mortality of the 3 groups due to COVID; the economic impact on employment, (quality of) work, gaps in support and gaps in communication; and extra impact of Brexit which will affect the poorest regions most; effect on NGOs and how to block the supercharging.

She highlighted the methodology (slide 4) and added that she did data research on the 3 groups via the office for statistics. She urged us to read pages 19-20 on the affect on NGOs as this is storing up serious problems for the sector and for those needing this support. Katherine highlighted the figures behind the vulnerable groups’ mortality (sides 5), adding that Roma are in the white ethnic category.

Slide 6 covers those previously in work and how various employed groups have been affected, with a point on discrimination of BAME workers who are asked to do risky jobs that white colleagues refuse to do according to a Union survey. Black people who are not poor, not key or frontline workers are more likely to die than white people who are poor, so a huge difference in terms of race. Slide 7 highlights that the poorest claimants of Universal Credit (social assistance) are not receiving the 20£ extra as are the new claimants due to Covid. The demand to make this permanent is the network’s key demand in the ‘Universal Dis-Credit campaign’. A list has been compiled of where the report has been sent and it’s to be highlighted in Challenge Poverty Week.

**10.50 EAPN October 17 Campaign/link to Poverty Watch**

**Leo** presented this year’s campaign and the link to the PWs at EU level and how members can use the elements in their own campaigns. See his [presentation](https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/EAPN-1710PovertyWatch2020-4656.pptx) here.

Responding to a question about whether Elke (EAPN Communication Officer) will have a meeting with national comms officers, Leo replied that Elke will be reaching out the following week and he will feed this request back to her.

Responding to a question about when the national PWs will be on the EAPN website, **Rebecca** confirmed that they will be online by the run-up to the campaign so latest week of 12 October.

In response to a question on how we will take the floor in the 15 Oct EP Intergroup event, Leo replied that a joint event collaboration has been working well. There are now new chairs of the Intergroup and they want to focus on overall UN theme for Oct 17. They want to start with PeP voices, and EAPN’s idea is to find people engaged in discussions already, perhaps BAPN members. **Sian** commented that it is a pity that the intergroup is not focussing on poverty, as somewhat lost space. **Judith** Tobac/EAPN BE commented that it’s the day of poverty and PeP should be able to put forward what they want to highlight. **Sian** asked Leo to feed this back to the EP as information from the ground.

**11.05 Group Work: Sharing main findings/learning/actions and proposing common EU messages:**

**1) *Have you done/planning a PW in 2020? What are your main findings, including on COVID 19? How will you use it in Oct 17 campaign?***

***2) Did you involve people experiencing poverty? If yes, how, what kind of methodology did you use? How could this be improved?***

***3) What common EU messages would you give to the EU report?***

**11.50 Back to plenary**

* **Feedback from rapporteurs from 3 groups**
* **Discussing main messages**

**Group 1 - Rapporteur: Graciela** (see detailed notes [here](https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/EAPN-EUISG-WEBINAR-Notes-24092020-Break-out-room-1_RL-4787.docx))

* Poverty watches done from all countries except for GR
* FI: Poverty Watch highlighting rising unemployment due to COVID and the fact that those who were most affected by/at risk of poverty and those most disadvantaged before the COVID-19 crisis are in an even worse situation now with COVID
* IE: PW done in June, events in social networks, drawing from testimonies of PeP from previous meetings
* NO: No specific thematic focus in report. PW, however, highlighting increase of those people in persistent poverty and that child poverty keeps on growing. The PW also analysis the COVID-19-related government measures.
* HR: No increase in poverty visible in the statistics as of now, but it’s clear that the anti-poverty instruments in place are not being effective. The drafting of the PW involved the board of EAPN HR.
* ES: Long report, i.a. contrasting the statistics from 2 years ago with the statistics on the new social realities existing since COVID. The PW also includes an analysis of the government’s “social shield” and the guaranteed minimum income (with its pros and cons).
* Common messages for the EAPN EU PW Report
* EU must ensure universal and free access on health and care
* EU must prevent discrimination to the transborder mobility of citizens and workers and fully apply the provisions of the Schengen rules to free movement also in COVID times
* Adequate, accessible and enabling MI is more important than ever, also to support the economic recovery and the convergence of our economies to green and digital
* Involvement of CSOs important and should be imperative, also when it comes to the use of the Recovery and Resilience Funds to have accountability and transparency
* European Semester should not turn again to neo-liberal reforms to condition social policy and employment policy measures and access to EU funding
* Need to re-launch EU Anti-Poverty Strategy
* Proposal to set up a TF to assess and to react to EU Migration Pact (Alexandra, Dina, Graciela, Paul)

**Group 2 - Rapporteur: Irene** (see detailed notes [here](https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/EAPN-EUISG-WEBINAR-Notes-24092020-Break-out-room-2_SJ-4788.docx))

* Group 2 also concluding that that those who were most affected by/at risk of poverty and those most disadvantaged and/or marginalised before the COVID-19 crisis are in an even worse situation now with COVID, also due to short-time measures
* IT: PW informs about a strong focus of COVID19 measures on economic recovery and on a lot of short-term and emergency measures due to COVID, but a lack of not long-term thinking and measures to address the causes of poverty and social exclusion
* IC: Problems with COVID still existing and even worse, e.g. when it comes to the access to health (including additional costs) and when looking at the educational costs
* IFSW: Focus on access to services and need on strategy to have universal access to social and essential services and on MI
* MT: Poverty Watch started a national discussion on the need for MI
* Common messages for the EAPN EU PW Report
* Work on this years’ PW showed need and usefulness of a bottom-up approach when elaborating them
* Importance and benefits to mixing experiences of PeP and “hard data” and also working

**Group 3 - Rapporteur: Philippe** (see detailed notes [here](https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/EAPN-EUISG-WEBINAR-Notes-24092020-Break-out-room-3_MM-4789.docx))

* BE: pw bringing together different report, with focus added on childcare, labour market inclusion, housing, MI: Given limited resources and the additional challenges due to the COVID-19-related restrictions the knowledge and from-the-ground-voices from other meetings was exploited for the Belgian Poverty Watch. Difficulty to use report in national context also due to other good poverty reports already available, but PW will be used by BAPN and for their EU-level work.
* CZ: Focus on election, focus on debt reduction and access to affordable social housing, PW used for advocacy work on those two topics in particular
* DE: Poverty Watch sent to German government and relevant ministries. The European PeP Meeting preparation meeting did not take place this year, therefore no input could be generated or coordinated with the PeP Coordinator
* AGE: No PW done this year, for capacity reasons and as it is felt that some time lag is needed for a substantial analysis.
* How to involve and integrate PeP: Difficulties this year as no physical meetings could be held, e.g. in BE no dedicated meeting, but collection from earlier done meeting, in Scotland two-week online meetings were held and telephone research done, but the most excluded people online. At least for this group the contact and exchange is easier and more personal than holding online meetings.
* Common messages for the EAPN EU PW Report
* Those who were most affected by/at risk of poverty and those most disadvantaged before the COVID-19 crisis are even more so with COVID. Every inequality is getting bigger. This needs to be urgently tackled by EU-level action, initiatives, frameworks, etc.
* In many countries EAPN members feel that there is a distinction made between the “good poor” who became poor because of COVID and now should be supported, and the “bad poor” who were exposed to/at the risk of poverty already before. This differentiation needs to be countered.
* There needs to be a new EU anti-poverty strategy and poverty reduction target for the next decade!

**Sian**: Will write now the EU-level EAPN PW Report. All PW received will be shared with EC. Members should use it with governments, media, ESO and Country-Desk Officers

**12.10 Progressing towards a more bottom-up approach on Poverty Watches 2021**

* **Building capacity for participative research as basis for PW 2021 involving PeP: *Sian Jones, EAPN Policy Coordinator and Magda Tancău, EAPN Development Officer***
* **Q & A/Discussion**

**Sian**: Idea for this year’s PW to join up and connect with PeP coordinators; how to better involve PeP in the design and use of PW; as of next year challenge will be to build bottom-up processes

**Magda**

* Good to see that PW has become a core part of work of EAPN
* Recap of developments which pushed EAPN in this direction: Strategic Review, with focus on participation and policy and the links between both (and how to better link them and make efforts to better connect the work on both strands), messages between EUISG and PeP coordinator, more efforts to connecting the dots between policy and participatory work and overcome working in silos, better connection both at national level and EU-level
* Idea: Better connection of preparatory meetings for PeP meeting with the work on the PW, as a report is being prepared for the EU PeP meeting, based on a common guidance/template elaborated with group of PeP Coordinator, but these reports often used only for preparation of PeP meeting
* Requiring planning and cooperation, framework proposed for better coordination and cooperation between EUISG members and PeP Coordinators, nothing imposed from the top, this process already included in EAPN Work Programme 2021
* Idea to organise a capacity building meeting and mutual learning on how to best work together, e.g. in the format of a joint workshop (which might seem not needed for some national networks whereas for other national networks it is), to help overcoming the work in silos and better support joint work

**Katherine**: Integration of PeP depends on type of organisation you are in your country, PeP being majority or minority in decision making, grass root organisations, how to then best make link to policy work (which is a key challenge here), important to explain to integrate PeP into policy making, how can grassroot organisations only composed by PeP be sustained if they do policy work, but important that PeP drive priorities, need to integrate those most vulnerable, excluded, etc, including BAME (strong need to focus on this group, too, in the year of “Black Lives Matter”), in work

**Sian**: Recognition of diversity of EAPN network, need to drive research and prepare messages more bottom up as general and mid-term aim, need to learn together and then to be applied in own circumstances, it’s about the right direction of travel, need of continued improvements as of next year

**Magda**

* Do pragmatic approach, not starting with lengthy discussions on role of participation and PeP in networks, but rather apply existent different methodologies for participatory research
* Not yet clear when European meeting of PeP 2020 can be organised, most likely in spring 2021
* Small resources would need to be invested in national networks, in contracts with NN some money contained to support participatory work, in such meetings the PW should be looked at and a key message from the report should be highlighted
* Need to continue and/or start with peer learning amongst the national networks (and EO) instead of training on participatory research and work provided by external experts

**12.25 Conclusions/ wrapping up/ reminder of next webinars**

Questionnaire on gender mainstreaming should be finalised, but fully picture on what of is going on is needed, concise questionnaire prepared by Marija in line with earlier EUISG work

Based on this, November 13 Seminar in context of ExCO

Next week EUISG on ES with EC (Filip Tanay and Maria Baroni, Teamleaders in DG EMPL on ES), ASGS already published, no country reports and no CSRs

Invitation to participate in Migration TF (contact Graciela and Dina)