**EUISG Webinar Exchange: Thursday 17 September 10-12.30 am**

**EAPN Advocacy on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights**

**Notes**

**Draft Agenda**

**Objectives**

* *To encourage/ exchange on members’ response/action on the EPSR action plan consultation to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights and review EAPN Europe advocacy action including on Child Guarantee Road Map.*
* *To update and agree EAPN advocacy next steps on Minimum Income and Minimum Wage aiming for progress on an EU framework directive on MI and EC initiative on Minimum Wage.*

**10.00 Welcome/Tour de table: *Graciela Malgesini, co-chair/EAPN ES***

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

***Part 1: EAPN response and action on EPSR Action Plan consultation***

**10.10 Presentation of EU state of play on EPSR implementation – building** [**on EAPN Consultation response**](https://www.eapn.eu/eapn-input-to-the-consultation-on-the-implementation-of-the-european-pillar-of-social-rights-eapn-position-paper/)**, including new consultation on** [**Roadmap for the Child Guarantee**](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12565-European-Child-Guarantee-): ***Sian Jones, EAPN Policy Coordinator***

**10.20 Q & A/Discussion**

**10.30 Exchange with members on their action on EPSR consultation:**

* ***What advocacy/action are national and EO members taking on EPSR implementation? Responding to consultation? Engagement in meetings? What results? What more?***
* **Short 5’ inputs: *EAPN ES, EAPN PT, EAPN FI, EAPN LT***

**10.50 Exchange with other members on their inputs/action**

**11.00 Conclusions on next steps, including Child Guarantee: *Sian Jones, Policy Coordinator***

***11.10 Part 2: Progress on EU frameworks on Minimum Income and Minimum Wage***

***Chair: Philippe Seidel, AGE-Platform/EUISG co-chair***

**Presentation of EU state of play and EAPN advocacy plan/action on Minimum Income and Minimum Wage, building on** [**EAPN’s position**](https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/EAPN-6e-EAPN-Position-Paper-Adequate-Income-MI-MW-DRAFT-30-03-20-4245.docx) **on** [**Adequate Income**](https://www.eapn.eu/eapn-position-paper-on-adequate-income/)**: *Mathias Maucher*, *EAPN Policy Officer***

**11.30 Q & A/Discussion in plenary**

* ***What action can EAPN members take to support the German Presidency Council Conclusions on Minimum Income?***
* ***Do you agree with proposed next steps for an effective advocacy campaign to achieve an EC proposal of an EU framework directive on MI? What can you do?***
* ***What further action to support an EU framework for a decent Minimum Wage?***

**12.15 Conclusions on next steps: *Mathias Maucher, Policy Officer***

**12.25 Wrapping up and next webinar: *Philippe Seidel/co-chair and Sian Jones: EAPN Policy Coordinator***

**Notes from the meeting**

**Participants**

***National Networks***: Judith Tobac, BE; Iva Kuchyňková and Ivo Kaplán, CZ; Jürgen Schneider, DE; Graciela Malgesini, ES; Anna Järvinen, FI; Jeanne Dietrich, FR; Aleksandra Selak-Živković, HR; Krisztina Jasz, HU; Laufey Líndal Ólafsdóttir, IC; Paul Ginnell and Irene Byrne, IE; Egils Rupeks, LV; Jo Bothmer, NL; Frøydis Jensen, NO; Ryszard Szarfenberg, PL; Paula Cruz, PT; Iris Alexe, RO; Marija Babović, RS; Anna Szuhová, SK

***European Organisations***: Philippe Seidel, AGE; Stefan Kitzmann, Eurodiaconia; Fran McDonnell, IFSW

***EAPN Staff:*** Sian Jones, Rebecca Lee, Mathias Maucher, Magda Tancău, Leo Williams

**Excused**: Martina Brandstätter, AT; Dina Vardaramatou, GR; Rimgailė Baltutė, LT; Maja Staleska, MK; Sonja Leemkuil, NL; Živa Humer, SI; Katherine Duffy, UK

**10.00 Welcome/Tour de table: *Graciela Malgesini, co-chair/EAPN ES***

As Graciela could only join the webinar with some delay due to technical problems, **Sian** introduced the topics and objectives of the meeting and took over the chair. She informed the participants that the first part would be dedicated to the EC Consultation on an Action Plan to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights (EAPN), EAPN’s input/reply and the follow-up advocacy, communication, and dissemination activities by EAPN members. It would also deal with updates on the Child Guarantee Roadmap and possible advocacy work by EAPN members. The second part of the webinar would provide time and space to update and agree EAPN advocacy next steps on Minimum Income and Minimum Wage aiming for progress on an EU framework directive on MI and EC initiative on Minimum Wage. Sian finally invited everybody to shortly introduce themselves.

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

***Part 1: EAPN response and action on EPSR Action Plan consultation***

**10.10 Presentation of EU state of play on EPSR implementation – building** [**on EAPN Consultation response**](https://www.eapn.eu/eapn-input-to-the-consultation-on-the-implementation-of-the-european-pillar-of-social-rights-eapn-position-paper/)**, including new consultation on** [**Roadmap for the Child Guarantee**](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12565-European-Child-Guarantee-): ***Sian Jones, EAPN Policy Coordinator***

In her [presentation](https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/EAPN-WEBINAR-17092020-State-of-play-EPSR_SJ-4642.ppt) **Sian** first updated the colleagues on the organisational set-up of the EC consultation on an Action Plan for the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR). The deadline for contributions is 30 November. The Action Plan should be launched in May 2021 at a Social Summit in the context of the Portuguese EU Council Presidency. She informed the members about the upcoming online meetings with Commissioner Schmit in a series of EU MS, following four events already organised (in GR, HR, HU and SI) in the last months. The list of dates shared is what she could “pull out” from the Commission Services, as the information on the national consultations – offering an opportunity to engage with Commissioner Schmit – is sparse and not publicly available (which is worrying and contradicts the aim to genuinely involve CSOs and PeP). They are organised by the Representations of the EU in the EU MS, “on invitation” only and in most countries restricted to those organisations invited, i.e. not accessible for others to listen in. The European Semester Officers are part of the EC staff to compile the list of organisations to be invited and/or to speak (as e.g. in case of PT). If an EAPN network has not yet been approached, the European Semester Officer in their country should be contacted to ensure a participation.

Sian recalled the important role of the EPSR as the key policy driver/hook for employment and social policy, also for the coming years. Engaging with the EC and doing advocacy work in your country on EAPN’s reply and the contribution of the national network is important, not least as EU funding (from dedicated EU funds, including the new Recovery and Resilience Facility, and the general EU budget) for social policy initiatives, including on minimum income e.g., will be co-defined by the initiatives included in the Action Plan for the implementation of the EPSR. Building on the EAPN reply to the consultation, it now needs to be taken up by the national members (and can be used by the EOs). Members having already done a reply include ES, FI, LT and PT (the reply of EAPN FI was circulated as an example of combining a national with the “European” input prepared by EAPN Europe). Other national networks are strongly encouraged to do the same – and ideally so still in September or October as the EC is already working on the draft Action Plan – and then to disseminate the national reply via the usual advocacy channels and (social) media work. EAPN aims to have meetings with EC official and to do a social media campaign on key requests and recommendations of the EAPN reply.

Sian also gave a recap on how the [EAPN input to the consultation](https://www.eapn.eu/eapn-input-to-the-consultation-on-the-implementation-of-the-european-pillar-of-social-rights-eapn-position-paper/) – which was submitted to the EC on 30 June – was elaborated. She talked the participants through the main thematic foci of the EAPN reply and highlighted the overarching concerns expressed by EAPN as well as some of the concrete proposals for “hard and soft-law” EU initiatives in relation to the five principles of the EPSR (14, 12, 6, 20 and 1) the EAPN input is built around. In the section on principle 20 it takes up EAPN’s policy analysis and recommendations on the EPSR principles 11, 16, 18 and 19, dealing with different fields of social services in a broad sense.

Sian finally informed the participants about the ongoing EC consultation on the[Roadmap for the Child Guarantee](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12565-European-Child-Guarantee-), open until 7 October. It takes on board a number of proposals by the [Investing in Children Alliance](http://www.alliance4investinginchildren.eu/proposal-for-a-council-recommendation-on-the-child-guarantee-for-the-wellbeing-of-all-children-across-the-eu/) to which EAPN has actively contributed, but key elements are missing, as the Roadmap has a narrow focus on access to services(i.e. early childhood education &care, health, education, nutrition, housing) only and does not follow the [Investing in Children](https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1060&langId=en) approach to also incorporate the aspects “income/resources” and “participation”. The Roadmap will also come under the Action Plan for the implementation of the EPSR.

**10.20 Q & A/Discussion**

Three colleagues intervened, with **Paul** (IE) wondering on why such a narrow approach on the Roadmap for the Child Guarantee was taken and **Fran** (IFSW) highlighting (and deploring) that even though the [Roadmap for Child Guarantee](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12565-European-Child-Guarantee-) includes wording on access to services, including child care, it does not mention other social services such as child and youth protection, nevertheless, also important to prevent and reduce child poverty. Responding to both comments, Sian underline the need to refocus on a broader approach, including “income/resources” and “participation”, but also the full range of (child- and youth welfare-related) social services. **Jo** (NL) informed about the various actions (surveys; events) of EAPN NL in the field of child poverty.

**10.30 Exchange with members on their action on EPSR consultation:**

* ***What advocacy/action are national and EO members taking on EPSR implementation? Responding to consultation? Engagement in meetings? What results? What more?***
* **Short 5’ inputs: *EAPN ES, EAPN PT, EAPN FI, EAPN LT***

Sian excused Rimgailė (LT) and asked Anna (FI), Graciela (ES) and Paula (PT) to inform the colleagues about the work done by their national networks:

* **Anna** (FI) informed the participants that EAPN FI has finalised a draft reply in June and submitted the final reply, after internal consultations, in August. In order to draft it EAPN’s input and SOSTE’s reply were used. The reply by EAPN FI has the same thematic priorities as the EAPN reply. It asks for concrete steps towards a “well-being economy” (a key topic of last years’ Finnish EU Council Presidency), for the principles of the EPSR to be put into practice, and the elaboration and use of an integrated anti-poverty strategy. It also calls upon a greater involvement of NGOs in the European Semester process. The EAPN FI reply elaborates more on a number of EPSR principles and the situation in FI. It contains links to the summary version and the long version of EAPN reply. It was sent to the relevant ministries and the European Semester Officer. EAPN FI and SOSTE are represented in the EU Sub-Committee in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and could present EAPN FI’s viewpoints there. Anna concluded by informing everybody that EAPN FI – together with SOSTE and the Finnish Association of Unemployed People – will participate in the national meeting with Commissioner Schmit on 28 September and that the Finnish government does not (yet) support any binding/legal EU instrument on minimum income.
* **Graciela** (ES) informed that EAPN Spain has done a response by also using the EAPN reply. Regional networks might do additional inputs to the EC consultation ([see her presentation](https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/EAPN-EAPN-Spain-Consultation-AP-EPSR-Activities-17.09.20-GM-4699.pptx)). EAPN ES also highlighted the 5 EPSR principle the EAPN reply is build around and defines 7 prerequisites for a successful EPSR Action Plan. EAPN ES will do a meeting on the reply and related advocacy work with its “WG Europe”, other organisations and MEPs. In the past they have already organised seminars on the EPSR at regional level, involving the European Semester Officer and a representative of the Spanish Directorate General Inclusion. EAPN ES has not yet been invited to the national event with Commissioner Schmit for which also no date has been confirmed.
* **Paula** (PT) informed that EAPN PT is finalizing its response, as in the case of Spain following the structure of the EAPN reply and prioritising the same points. EAPN PT will also put an emphasis on principle 11 (childcare and support to children) and on minorities and Roma. EAPN PT had organised in the past 5 events in 5 regions to discuss on the EPSR principles and their implementation in Portugal. Concerns raised there will also be taken up in the EAPN PT reply. The EAPN input will be referenced to. Finally, EAPN PT has been invited to the “EPSR Action Plan Roadshow” meeting with Commissioner Schmit which will be organised as a public zoom meeting, with Sandra (EAPN PT ExCo member) speaking. Paula thanked for useful support as to her input and focus by Sian and informed that Sandra’s key messages will be on minimum income, homelessness as well as on participation of CSO and PeP.

**10.50 Exchange with other members on their inputs/action**

Dealt with earlier in the meeting.

**11.00 Conclusions on next steps, including Child Guarantee: *Sian Jones, Policy Coordinator***

**Sian** announced that EAPN will prepare a short response ongoing EC consultation on the[Roadmap the for Child Guarantee](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12565-European-Child-Guarantee-). It will be based on our reply to the EC consultation on an Action Plan for the implementation of the EPSR and also build on a joint response currently elaborated by the Investing in Children Alliance. It will be circulated to the EUISG in late September. National members working on the topic are encouraged to do an own contribution, building on the concise EAPN input and referencing it. There will be a 5% earmarking from the ESF+ budget for the Child Guarantee.

Concerning the EC consultation on an Action Plan for the implementation of the European, Sian again encouraged members to prepare and submit national inputs and also to participate and intervene in the national “consultation meetings”, highlighting their the joint demand for a Framework Directive on Minimum Income and the need for an overarching EU Anti-Poverty Strategy. Members are invited to report back their experiences. When asking about the plans, EAPN BE, ES, IE, NL, PL, RO as well as and AGE and Eurodiaconia informed that they plan to do an own reply.

**Sian and Mathias** also informed the colleagues on the EAPN input into the reply by the Social Platform.

***11.10 Part 2: Progress on EU frameworks on Minimum Income and Minimum Wage***

***Chair: Philippe Seidel, AGE-Platform/EUISG co-chair***

**Presentation of EU state of play and EAPN advocacy plan/action on Minimum Income and Minimum Wage, building on** [**EAPN’s position**](https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/EAPN-6e-EAPN-Position-Paper-Adequate-Income-MI-MW-DRAFT-30-03-20-4245.docx) **on** [**Adequate Income**](https://www.eapn.eu/eapn-position-paper-on-adequate-income/)**: *Mathias Maucher*, *EAPN Policy Officer***

**Philippe** (AGE) took over the chair from Sian. **Mathias** went through his [presentation](https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/EAPN-EUISG-Webinar-Updates-Minimum-Income-Minimum-Wages-17.09.20_MM-4641.ppt) and elaborated in quite detail on most of the points:

On adequate minimum income (MI) he informed the colleagues about the new 6-page [Summary Document](https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/EAPN-2020_EAPN_Position_Paper_Adequate_Minimum_Income_4pager-4634.pdf) on Minimum Income for [EAPN Position Paper “Adequate Income”](https://www.eapn.eu/eapn-position-paper-on-adequate-income/) prepared to support the advocacy work of EAPN members. He announced the launch of a legal opinion to support EAPN’s call/request for a binding EU-level initiative on MI. It commissioned by EAPN in July. The plan is to publish it mid-October, once the Council Conclusions on Minimum Income Protection will be adopted, and the EAPN reaction to these Council Conclusions will be ready. He talked the participants through the main elements of the planned EAPN MI Campaigns and the planned timelines and key actions. The last update concerned ETUC’s work and positioning on MI.

Mathias also shared the most recent updates on the state of play and key formulations in the draft [Council Conclusions on MI Protection](https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-9241-2020-INIT/en/pdf). First issued on 2 July the plan of the German EU Council Presidency is to adopt them at the EPSCO meeting on 13 October. He highlighted the positive elements and explained the problematic points, mainly related to a (seemingly) very much watered-down call on the European Commission to take action towards a binding/legal EU-level instrument on MI. In an exchange with some of the colleagues, the EU MS falling into group 1 of reluctant/opposing EU MS, into group 2 of hesitant countries, not in favour of any binding/legal EU-level instrument on MI and into group 3 of supportive EU MS were identified and possible reasons behind the positioning of national government and how to best address them analysed. It was agreed that EAPN would draft a template letter to be circulated on Monday, 21 September, to support national members in their advocacy work, including for the group of already supportive countries which should become bigger and more vocal.

Mathias also reported back from the Workshop on MI - [Workshop on “Adequate, accessible and enabling minimum income benefits / schemes](https://www.eapn.eu/conference-our-social-europe-strong-together-germanys-presidency-of-the-council-of-the-european-union/) - EAPN had successfully co-organised with Caritas Europa, Eurodiaconia and the Social Platform in the context of the German EU Council Presidency Conference “Our Social Europe” and the reaction of Commissioner Nicolas Schmit and the German Minister for Labour and Social Affairs, Hubertus Heil to the [presentation of the two key recommendations from the workshop by Leo](https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/EAPN-Conference-Our-Social-Europe-16.09.20-WS2-Reporting-Back-LW-4648.pdf). The four co-organisers had prepared a [booklet](https://www.socialplatform.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/FINAL-DE-Presidency-Booklet-.pdf) with the recommendations to EU-level and national policy makers. Mathias thanked Egils (LV) and Graciela (ES) for high quality and important [contributions to the workshop](https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/EAPN-Conference-Our-Social-Europe-16-09-20-WS2-Minimum-Income-4633.pdf) and informed the colleagues that a more detailed coverage of the Latvian case and a big advocacy success of EAPN LV would feature in the next edition of the EAPN Flash.

As regards decent minimum wages (MW) Mathias talked the participants through updates from the second phase social partner consultation on MW to which the [ETUC](https://www.etuc.org/en/document/reply-etuc-2nd-phase-consultation-social-partners-fair-minimum-wages) has sent a reply. EAPN had exchanged in July and August with ETUC staff on key concerns for EAPN. A proposal (most likely a directive) from the EC is expected for end of October. He also informed the colleagues on the pre-final version of the [EESC Explanatory Opinion on Fair MW](https://dmsearch.eesc.europa.eu/search/opinion?LANG=EN&k=(documentsource:EESC)(adoptiondate:16-09-2020)(adoptiondate:17-09-2020)(adoptiondate:18-09-2020)(documenttype:AC)), to be adopted on 17 September, to which EAPN and the EAPN members in DE, ES, PL, RO and SE had intensively contributed in different roles. If not changed again before the vote it would contain some important wording and reflect concerns of EAPN.

**11.30 Q & A/Discussion in plenary**

* ***What action can EAPN members take to support the German Presidency Council Conclusions on Minimum Income?***
* ***Do you agree with proposed next steps for an effective advocacy campaign to achieve an EC proposal of an EU framework directive on MI? What can you do?***
* ***What further action to support an EU framework for a decent Minimum Wage?***

See above, dealt with earlier in the meeting, also in reaction from colleagues to questions **Philippe** had asked the participants.

**12.15 Conclusions on next steps: *Mathias Maucher, Policy Officer***

On adequate minimum income (MI) the national networks and EO were encouraged to use the existing material (see above and slides 3 and 5) to support their own advocacy work to support EAPN’s call for a binding/legal EU-level instrument on MI, aiming at a Framework Directive on MI. They are invited to approach their government on the Council Conclusion in the week of 21 September by using the template letter and some additional information included in the mail to the EUISG. Regarding decent minimum wages (MW) it seems useful to organise a dedicated session in a future EUISG on this topic.

**12.25 Wrapping up and next webinar: *Philippe Seidel/co-chair and Sian Jones: EAPN Policy***

**Philippe** and **Sian** thanked all EUISG members for their active participation and invited them to the next EUISG meetings on 24 (Poverty Watch & COVID19) and 30 (European Semester) September.