

EAPN PT & EAPN Europe Webinar AP EPSR RT “Adequate Minimum Income & EU Directive”



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EUROPEAN ANTI POVERTY NETWORK

RESEAU EUROPEEN DES ASSOCIATIONS

DE LUTTE CONTRE LA PAUVRETE

ET L'EXCLUSION SOCIALE

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Outline

- ❑ **Adequate Minimum Income**
 - ❑ Council Conclusions on Minimum Income Protection (12 October 2020): Elaboration & Assessment
 - ❑ Policy hooks for next steps at EU-level
- ❑ **AP EPSR (4 March 2021)**
 - ❑ Council Recommendation on MI (announced for 2022)
 - ❑ Reference to new Spanish national MI scheme IMV (2020)
 - ❑ Broader EU-level policy framework & outlook: EU-level poverty reduction target for 2030 & Role of European Semester; Follow-up activities to Council Recommendation on Social Protection; Proposal for a Directive on Adequate Minimum Wages (2020)
- ❑ **Main demands EAPN on Minimum Income**

Council Conclusions Minimum Income: Policy & Advocacy Work + Positions EU MS



- ❑ **German EU Council Presidency announced MI to be one of their key priorities**
- ❑ **Positioning of EU MS:** 1) Group supporting Council Conclusions; 2) Group asking to first define contents, excluding certain points & asking for guarantee for only non-binding initiative; 3) Group to question competence and benefits of EU-level action
- ❑ **Preparatory policy and advocacy work in parallel to Council Conclusions MI**
 - ❖ EAPN, together with Social Platform, Caritas Europa & Eurodiaconia, organised the [Workshop on “Adequate, accessible and enabling minimum income benefits / schemes](#) – the time for action is now!” in the context of the German EU Council Presidency [Conference “Our Social Europe”](#) (16 September 2020)
 - ❖ Earlier in 2020, [Social Platform](#) and [EAPN](#) had prepared a coordinated input into the [BMAS Thematic Reader](#) on employment and social affairs, issued at the start of the German EU Council Presidency (1 July 2020)
- ❑ **Follow up activities:** 1) [EAPN Position Paper “Adequate Income”](#) (& [Summary Document](#) & [2-pager](#)); 2) [EAPN Input in EC Consultation AP EPSR](#); 3) [EAPN Legal Expert Study](#); 4) [Sign-On Letter](#) to Commissioner Schmit, jointly with other networks

Council Conclusions Minimum Income: Assessment & Next Steps at EU-level & Links to minimum wage dossier



- ❑ **Positive:** 1) **Need for investment in MI** as part of social protection; 2) Reference to failed poverty reduction objective Europe 2020 Strategy; 3) Need to further develop 1992 Council Recommendation & ILO Social Protection Floor; 4) **3 key design parameters “access”, adequacy” & enabling character” mentioned;** 5) Stronger focus on children, single parents, take-up rates; 6) Call to engage with CSO & PeP; 7) Use of EU funds (ESF+ & RRF); 8) **Role of EU-level monitoring and benchmarking frameworks;** 9) Reference to (past and ongoing work of) other EU-level institutions: SPC, MI Network (MINET); ESPN; 10) **Elaboration of EC Monitoring Report**
- ❑ **Concerning:** 1) **Much weaker call on EC to take action** than in first draft, **but still “permissive” => AP EPSR: Council Recommendation MI;** 2) Focus on technical work and improvement of data basis; 3) Lacking direct reference to Active Inclusion concept
- ❑ **Next steps:** 1) MINET; 2) EC Report (2022); Council Recommendation (2022)
- ❑ **Links to minimum wage dossier and EC legislative proposal (28 October 2020):**
1) Which progress can be made on MI in 2021? => Overlapping timelines & similar systematic challenges; 2) Key demand: **“Positive hierarchy” between MW and MI**

AP EPSR:

What is in it on Minimum Income (and on poverty reduction)?



- ❑ **EC announces Council Recommendation on MI as one initiative for 2022**
 - ❖ Reference to **Council Conclusions on MI Protection** (12 October 2020)
 - ❖ Setting out **current EU-level policy & monitoring framework for MI**: 1) Exchange of good practice and mutual learning, also by means of MINET => Technical Forum of the Social Protection Committee (SPC); 2) **EC Report to analyse and review progress achieved by the EU MS** in the development of MI
- ❑ In [Commission Staff Working Document](#) reference to **Spanish national MI scheme “Ingreso Mínimo Vital” (2020)** to supplement 17 regional schemes – under Principle 14 “Minimum Income” –, i.a. highlighting its benefits and that “it has the potential to address the adequacy and coverage gaps of the previous fragmented system”
- ❑ **EC set new EU-level poverty reduction target for 2030 as 1 of 3 headline targets**
 - ❖ **Reduction of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by at least 15 mio.** (of which 5 mio. should be children) => National targets?! + Use of ESF+ & RRF!
 - ❖ **Key monitoring role for European Semester and revised Social Scoreboard**

AP EPSR:

Broader EU Policy Framework & Outlook



- ❑ Follow-up activities to promote implementation of Council Recommendation on Access to Social Protection for Workers and Self-Employed (8 November 2019), also involving EAPN
- ❑ Decent/Adequate Minimum Wages
 - ❖ EC: EC Proposal Directive “Adequate MW in the EU” (28 October 2020)
 - ❖ EAPN Policy and Advocacy Work
 - Building on EAPN work on in-work poverty, AI, access to social protection, MI
 - Work with ETUC => positive hierarchy MW-MI, specific reference budgets
 - EESC Explanatory Opinion “Decent MW across Europe” [SOC 632] (18 September 2020): 1) EAPN = Group III Expert; 2) EAPN members from DE, ES, PL, RO and SE answering written survey & providing input into seminars
 - EAPN Advocacy Work: a) EAPN Statement (22 February 2021) **with 10 key messages** => Co- and shadow rapporteurs EP; b) Contribution to elaboration of Social Platform Position Paper ; c) Input into ETUC Webinar (2 March)

EAPN Reference Documents on Minimum Income and a binding instrument at EU level, including for a Framework Directive on MI



- ❑ **Reference document for legal aspects: EAPN “Expert study on a binding EU framework on adequate national minimum income schemes: making the case for an EU framework Directive on Minimum Income”** (15 October 2020)
- ❑ **EAPN demands** have to be applied to (and likely have to be adapted to) the framework recently set by the AP EPSR, i.e. a Council Recommendation on MI
- ❑ **EU competences for binding legislation on MI**
 - ❖ Article 4(2) on shared competences between EU MS and EU in social policy
 - ❖ Article 153(1)
 - ❖ (j) combatting social exclusion → Excludes adopting minimum requirements (Art 153(2)(b) TFEU)
 - (c) social security and social protection of workers → Possible binding instrument but limited personal scope to workers not ‘at all stages of life’ → limited impact not in line with principle 14 EPSR
 - (h) integration of people excluded from the labour market → Broader personal scope covering all people excluded from the labour market but excluding those included in the labour market
 - ❖ Article 175 TFEU
 - Competence to adopt measures to strengthen the economic, social and territorial cohesion of the EU
 - Could accommodate a solid legal instrument on minimum income that covers all persons at all stages of life as proclaimed by principle 14 EPSR on MI

EAPN Main Demands on Minimum Income and a binding instrument at EU level, including for a Framework Directive on MI



- ❑ Elaborating and monitoring **common principles and definitions of adequacy, of accessibility/eligibility** (including the issues of coverage, duration of benefit payment and benefit take-up) **and of the enabling character** of MI schemes/benefits
- ❑ It should define the **at-risk-of-poverty (AROP) threshold as EU-level indicator for adequacy, underpinned by national reference budgets** (& common methodology)
- ❑ **EU social standards must be rights (=> rights-based approach)**, never to be conditional/have punitive conditionality or treated as a disincentive to work (e.g. people are forced to accept jobs with precarious employment and working conditions)
- ❑ It must be underpinned by an **EU-level monitoring and benchmarking framework**, backed up by appropriate Country-Specific Recommendations (European Semester)
- ❑ It has to contain a **robust non-regression clause** in view of existing minimum income schemes and benefit levels
- ❑ Improvements in MI schemes must be supported by **targeted EU funds** (ESF+; RRF)
- ❑ It should foresee a **meaningful involvement of CSO and PeP** in policy design

Thank you for your attention!



For more information, please contact

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Adequate Minimum Income For All: EAPN reference documents & Links for further reading



- ❑ EAPN: Position Paper on Adequate Income (MI & MW): [Long version](#) + [Summary Document MI](#) + [2-pager](#); [“Expert study on a binding EU framework on adequate national minimum income schemes: making the case for an EU framework Directive on Minimum Income”](#); [Op-Ed CC MI \(14 October 2020\)](#); [Letter FD MI Commissioner Schmit \(24 April 2020\)](#), [Letter FD MI Commissioner Schmit \(15 October 2020\)](#)
- ❑ EAPN Flash Newsletter 10/2020: [Article](#) on advocacy success of EAPN Latvia regarding request to increase amount of “General Minimum Income” based on work with Ombudsman and ruling of Latvian Constitutional Court (25 June 2020)
- ❑ German EU Council Presidency [Conference “Our Social Europe”](#) (16 September 2020)
 - ❖ [Workshop on “Adequate, accessible and enabling minimum income benefits / schemes – the time for action is now!”](#), jointly organised by Social Platform, EAPN, Caritas Europa & Eurodiaconia [=> [BMAS Thematic Reader](#), with [Article](#) by EAPN]
 - ❖ [Booklet](#); [Master Slide Set](#); [Key Messages](#) for Reporting Back to Policy Panel
- ❑ “MI Coalition”: [Sign-On Letter](#) (12 November 2020) / ETUC: [Resolution](#) on the right to adequate, accessible and effective minimum income schemes (23 September 2020)