

## **Meeting of experts, representatives of non-governmental organizations and representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications for the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty October 17, 2022**

As a rule, insufficient financial income (wages, pensions or social benefits) leads to poverty, influenced by a number of specific factors, the most common of which are

- loss of an apartment or inadequate housing or living on the street,
- long-term unemployment,
- long-term illness,
- indebtedness due to lack of funds.

People living alone, especially women with children and the elderly, as well as members of minorities (especially Roma, migrants) and residents of excluded and remote locations with poorer access to public services, women more than men and people with incomplete primary education or its low level.

About 10% of the population in the Czech Republic lives below the poverty line, but more than 10% of people are at risk of poverty because their income only slightly exceeds this line. The social system in the Czech Republic protects citizens relatively well from falling into extreme poverty, but the overall socio-economic situation in the Czech Republic does not allow a relatively large group of people to lead a dignified life without the risk of poverty and social distress.

At the meeting on 17/10/2022 from 10:00 a.m., we want to draw attention to the threat of poverty and social exclusion, which is currently a threat mainly due to increasing inflation (increasing prices of goods and services) as a result of the energy crisis caused by the war in Ukraine). We want to inform you about the documents that analyse the current situation in the area of poverty and social exclusion, and the measures that are intended to face the threat of poverty:

- EAPN report "Poverty Watch 2022",
- Recommendation of the European Commission on a reasonable minimum income,
- prepared measures on affordable housing in the Czech Republic,
- prepared measures to protect against indebtedness in the Czech Republic.

### **EAPN report "Poverty Watch 2022"**

On October 13, 2022, the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) published an annual report on the state and development of poverty in European countries where EAPN member organizations operate. The report lists the vulnerable groups that are most at risk of poverty and social exclusion, mentions government measures to alleviate poverty in individual countries and formulates the main requirements and recommendations to the governments of the member countries of the European Union and the European Commission. The Czech part of the report mentions the harmonization of the minimum wage across the EU and the unification of the basic principles for determining the minimum wage in the EU, the availability of decent housing and the introduction of the principles of systemic measures to create an integrated system of comprehensive social and health care.

The full text of the Czech part of the Report is in the appendix.

An overview of the current key findings and recommendations regarding poverty and social exclusion in European countries in 2022 is included in the appendix.

### **Recommendation of the European Commission on a reasonable minimum income**

On 28/09/2022, the Commission proposed a Recommendation of the Council of the EU regarding an adequate minimum income, ensuring active inclusion, which sets out options for modernizing the minimum income systems in member countries. The aim of this recommendation is to support the integration of able-bodied people into the labour market and help people escape poverty. Minimum income systems serve to improve employment prospects and inclusion, while at the same time they can reduce poverty, maintain sustainable budget costs and provide incentives to work. The commission's proposal is intended to help reduce the number of people at risk of poverty by at least 15 million by 2030 and also to a minimum employment rate of 78% for people aged 20-64. Member States are therefore recommended to improve the adequacy of income support, improve the coverage and use of the minimum income system, improve access to labour markets that promote inclusion, improve access to basic services (e.g. energy) and support services (e.g. education, health care), improve the efficiency of the management of social safety nets and promote individualized support.

The full text of the draft Recommendation is attached.

The meeting on 17 October 2022 will take place at the Ministry of the Interior from 10.00 a.m. It will be attended by members of the Executive Committee and representatives of member organizations EAPN ČR, z.s., invited experts from the research and academic fields, representatives of non-governmental non-profit organizations and public administration in the Czech Republic, employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of the Czech Republic and invited representatives of the media.

**This meeting will be followed by a press conference with representatives of the media on the same day from 11:30 a.m.** with the participation of leading representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of the Czech Republic.