

EU 2025 POVERTY WATCH

Promoting and Strengthening National
and Local Anti-Poverty Strategies

DRAFT AGENDA



14 April 2026



9:30 - 12:00



European Economic and Social Committee,
JDE 61 (Rue Belliard 99/101, Brussels) & Online

European Poverty Watch Launch

14 April 2026

EESC

Poverty and social exclusion remain a significant challenge across Europe despite policy commitments, targets and measures to eradicate poverty. In 2024, 93.3 million people in the EU were at risk of poverty or social exclusion; this is equivalent to at least 21% of the EU population.

While Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, is committed to the eradication of poverty by 2050, the targets set by the European Pillar of Social Rights for reducing poverty by 15 million people by 2030, including 5 million children, are still far from being reached.

The measures needed to reach the targets set out require an understanding that not only eradicating poverty can be achieved, but that it also requires a clear commitment to a theory of change that addresses the root causes of poverty a social exclusion. These are multidimensional and structural and cannot simply be addressed by economic growth, competitiveness and a welfare system.

The upcoming first-ever EU Anti-Poverty Strategy, together with the national and local anti-poverty strategies (NAPS and LAPS), must address the multilayer root causes of poverty and social exclusion and have an overarching and comprehensive approach to tackling the issues.

The National Anti-Poverty Strategies (NAPS) are a comprehensive, government-led policy framework aimed at preventing, reducing and ultimately eradicating poverty at national level. EAPN believes NAPS and LAPS are essential for ensuring sustained, long-term commitments. Therefore, the Poverty Watch provides a broad analysis of current NAPS and explores common challenges across Europe, identifying as well good practices intended to encourage the development and potential impact of these frameworks throughout Europe.

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09.30 - 10.00

Arrival of participants & Welcoming coffee

10.00 - 10.20

Opening remarks

Anna Schoemakers, General Director at AidEnvironment, Member of the EESC Civil Society Organisations' Group (Netherlands)
& **Carlos Susias**, President, EAPN

10.20 - 10.40

Key findings & recommendations of the 2025 Poverty Watch

Kahina Rabahi, Policy & Advocacy Coordinator, EAPN Europe

10.40 - 11.45

Roundtable with Q&A:

- **Bridget Kelly**, Traveller Woman, Irish Traveller Movement, Board Member, EAPN Ireland
- **Elena Rodríguez Navarro**, Secretary General for Inclusion, Spanish Ministry of Inclusion
- **João Oliveira**, MEP from The Left and part of the Intergroup on Fighting against Poverty
- **Jiri Švarc**, Head of Unit, DG EMPL

11.45 - 12.00

Closing remarks

Juliana Wahlgren, Director, EAPN Europe