

FROM VOICES TO ACTION

EAPN 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**Robert Bosch
Stiftung**

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear EAPN members, friends, partners, fellow advocates and funders,

2025 marked a defining moment for the European Anti-Poverty Network: a year of transition, consolidation, and renewed political momentum. As we concluded our four-year strategic cycle and prepared for the next, we did so in an increasingly complex and challenging environment.

Across Europe, **civic space continues to shrink**, with growing pressure on civil society organisations, their funding and role in democratic life. Global conflicts, including the ongoing war in Ukraine and the genocide in Palestine, together with an increasingly unstable international landscape, continue to affect people's lives at all levels. Meanwhile, **social rights remain under strain**, as political priorities shift towards defence, security and competitiveness. Against this backdrop, people experiencing poverty are disproportionately affected and too often unheard.

Yet, in 2025, Ursula von der Leyen's commitment to **eradicate poverty in Europe by 2050** represents an important step forward and a recognition of the urgency of the challenge. For EAPN and its members, who have been advocating for this goal for over three decades, this pledge creates both momentum and responsibility: momentum to push for **concrete action** and **responsibility** to ensure **accountability** and **ambition** in the years ahead.



Throughout this period, EAPN continued to strengthen its resilience and solidarity, placing participation at the centre of all its activities. **In 2025, over 100 participants engaged across five key events:** the PEP Meeting, the Poverty Watch launch, the People's Summit, the Anti-Poverty Day at the European Parliament, and the consultation with Executive Vice-President Roxana Mînzatu ahead of the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy. These spaces helped ensure that the voices of people experiencing poverty directly informed our policy work and engagement with stakeholders.

In parallel, we reinforced our organisational capacity by **developing key communication tools**, including our new website and visual identity. This will strengthened EAPN's ability to reach wider audiences and amplify its impact.

We also **expanded our funding base**, securing the support of a new partner, the Spanish Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security, and Migration, for a project focused on national and local anti-poverty strategies. This was a central theme of our work throughout the year, including the Poverty Watch.

We work for a future free of poverty, as we know **poverty is not a personal failure; it is a political choice. And so is its eradication.**

In the pages that follow, you will find an overview of a year's work. Thank you for being part of this shared journey.

Let's keep moving forward together.

Juliana Wahlgren

2025 AT A GLANCE

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NATIONAL
POVERTY
WATCH
CHAPTERS

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EUROPEAN
REPORTS

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SHARED
STATEMENTS

400 K

VIEWS
ACROSS
PLATFORMS

22K

SOCIAL MEDIA
FOLLOWERS

11

PUBLISHED
NEWSLETTERS

8

MEDIA
MENTIONS

7

IN-PERSON
EVENTS

250

EVENT
PARTICIPANTS

12

EUROPEAN
ORGANISATIONS

32

NATIONAL NETWORKS

SPANNING 32 COUNTRIES ACROSS EUROPE, WORKING TOGETHER
TOWARD POVERTY ERADICATION.

POLICY

2025 was a pivotal year for EU social policy.

Major consultations shaped key frameworks, including the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy (EU APS), the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) Action Plan, the EU Affordable Housing Plan and the Union of Equality frameworks.

With this backdrop, EAPN worked to ensure that poverty eradication remained central to EU policymaking, calling for a structural, multidimensional, and intersectional approach.

ADVANCING A COMPREHENSIVE EU ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY

EAPN played a **leading role in shaping the first-ever EU Anti-Poverty Strategy**, an objective it has championed since its creation in 1990. In 2025, the network published its position paper “[Towards the Eradication of Poverty: EAPN Vision and Recommendations for the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy](#)”, setting out a rights-based, comprehensive and systemic vision for poverty eradication.

To strengthen collective advocacy, EAPN initiated and coordinated an [Ad Hoc Coalition on the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy](#), bringing together **20 EU-level organisations** to align advocacy efforts and push for an ambitious framework that addresses poverty through prevention, alleviation, and eradication. The network also engaged closely with the [European Parliament Intergroup on Fighting Poverty](#), contributing to its 2025 work plan and to the own-initiative (INI) report on the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy led by MEP João Oliveira.

FINANCING POVERTY ERADICATION

In 2025, following the European Commission’s proposal for the [Multiannual Financial Framework](#) (MFF) 2028–2034, the network called for poverty eradication to be placed at the centre of negotiations, while cautioning that the growing political focus on defence and competitiveness should not come at the expense of social investment.

Building on these efforts, EAPN continued to engage throughout the negotiations on the MFF 2028–2034 by working with the European Parliament and strengthening members’ capacity.

This engagement was closely linked to EAPN’s work on the European Semester. The network continued to advocate for a “**social Semester**” that aligns macroeconomic governance with social objectives. It contributed to both phases of the 2025 Semester cycle, publishing its [Reaction to the 2025 Autumn Package](#) and its [Reaction to the 2025 Spring Package](#).

These contributions emphasised a persistent imbalance in economic governance, which continues to prioritise growth and competitiveness over social rights. EAPN argued that **social and green investments must be strengthened**, social protection systems reinforced and EU economic governance aligned effectively with the overarching goal of poverty eradication.

STRENGTHENING THE EU ARCHITECTURE AGAINST POVERTY

EAPN continued to **promote a structural and systemic approach to social protection** as a central pillar of poverty eradication. Published in 2025, the [2024 Poverty Watch: Towards a Systemic Approach to Social Protection](#) drew on nineteen national reports to highlight the need for integrated, coherent and investment-oriented social protection systems. These systems should not be treated as costs but as tools to guarantee access to fundamental rights, including education and healthcare.

In parallel, EAPN published [Advancing Poverty Eradication through the European Pillar of Social Rights](#), which assessed progress since 2019 and identified significant shortcomings in the policy framework. According to the [2026 Joint Employment Report](#), **progress in reducing poverty has remained slow**, with a decrease of only 2.9 million people between 2019 and 2024, a pace that is insufficient to meet the EU's 2030 and 2050 objectives.

EMBEDDING INTERSECTIONALITY ACROSS EU FRAMEWORKS

EAPN continued to emphasise the importance of **addressing the intersectional nature of poverty** across all EU equality and anti-discrimination policies. In 2025, the network engaged with the [Union of Equality strategies](#) primarily by [contributing to consultations](#), highlighting that people experiencing poverty often face multiple, overlapping forms of discrimination that are insufficiently addressed when policies are developed in silos.

Through these consultations, EAPN called for **anti-poverty and anti-discrimination frameworks to be systematically linked**, for intersectional approaches to be embedded across all EU strategies, and for the meaningful participation of people experiencing poverty in policy design. These priorities were reflected not only in our policy work but also put into practice through EAPN's key events in 2025.

PARTICIPATION

In 2025, people with lived experience of poverty (PEP) remained central to EAPN's work, not only as participants, but as essential voices in shaping priorities, advocacy, and decision-making to ensure no one is ever left behind. In the context of the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy, **ensuring that those directly affected by poverty help shape the decisions that affect their lives** is more important than ever.

This commitment is brought to life through ongoing co-creation processes and exchanges with our members, in particular through the **PEP National Coordinators**. Participation can only be as strong as the members who sustain it, and these spaces provide regular opportunities to connect realities across local, national and EU levels. They also enable continuous dialogue, ensure that lived experiences inform priorities, and foster reflection and mutual learning.

A key example was the Porto consultation. The process was co-designed with participants, from agenda-setting to workshop themes and language needs. These contributions directly informed EAPN's work plan and advocacy, and also helped refine **more inclusive and accessible engagement formats across the network**.

This requires clear ethical safeguards: participation must be voluntary, clearly informed, respectful of participants' autonomy and transparent about how contributions are used. It also requires appropriate support, including preparation, accessibility measures and continuous evaluation of participation processes.



EVENTS

In 2025, EAPN's events became a bridge between policy, participation, and political action. They brought lived experience into institutional spaces, translated advocacy priorities into direct dialogue, and **strengthened political momentum around the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy.**

Throughout the year, these events formed a clear progression: **from agenda-setting to co-creation, from political engagement to consolidation.** Together, they strengthened the role of participation in shaping the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy.

This process began with the People's Summit in Porto (28 March 2025), co-organised by EAPN Europe and EAPN Portugal. Bringing together people experiencing poverty, policymakers, and civil society, the Summit created one of the first opportunities for direct dialogue in the early shaping of the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy.

Building on this momentum, the Porto Consultation with Executive Vice-President Roxana Mînzatu (17–18 September 2025) deepened this exchange. Bringing together 21 PEP delegates, European Commission representatives, and EAPN networks, the consultation marked a key moment of co-creation, with participants contributing directly to the priorities and direction of the emerging EU Anti-Poverty Strategy. It reinforced the recognition of lived experience as policy expertise and turned earlier messages into more concrete policy input.



This engagement then moved into the Brussels political sphere during the EU Anti-Poverty Day at the European Parliament (5 November 2025). The event marked the launch of the Intergroup on Fighting Poverty and created a high-level forum to connect lived experience with decision-making. It helped shift the debate from consultation towards shared governance, reinforcing participation as a core pillar of the future EU Anti-Poverty Strategy.



The process culminated in the 23rd European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty (11–12 December 2025, Brussels). Bringing together 52 delegates from across Europe, alongside EU institutions and civil society, the meeting focused on strengthening participants' role in shaping policy.

It consolidated the year's discussions by highlighting the conditions required for meaningful participation, including recognition of lived experience as expertise, adequate resourcing, accessibility, and accountability mechanisms. It also reaffirmed the need to embed participation within EU policy processes in a structural way.



The **experiences and lessons gathered throughout the year shaped other areas of EAPN's work**. This included the thematic meeting, "Communicating PEP Voices – Nothing About Us Without Us: Ethical Communication of Lived Experiences", which created space to reflect on representation, ethics, and more empowering ways of communicating about poverty and the people who experience it.

Taken together, these events reinforced the case for structured and continuous participation, strengthened relationships with EU institutions, and ensured that lived experience informed policy at each stage. Their outcomes were captured in key reports, including the EC [PEP Consultation Report](#) and the [2025 PEP Meeting Report](#).

COMMUNICATION

Marking 35 years of work, 2025 marked a moment of renewal for EAPN's communications. The focus shifted towards **modernising and consolidating** the organisation's core tools, prioritising strategy over quantity. The main goals were to raise EAPN's profile, reinforce its position as an expert in the field, and strengthen its reputation, trust, and credibility. As part of this process, we began **implementing a three-year strategy (2025–2027)** and developing a **new website and visual identity**.

By focusing on these foundational elements, we are laying the groundwork for more effective advocacy, a stronger public narrative on poverty, deeper partnerships, and increased visibility for EAPN's work in the coming years.

CHANGING THE NARRATIVE

A common thread across all these efforts was the **continued shift from poverty alleviation to poverty eradication**, framing poverty as a structural and systemic issue while placing dignity, participation, and lived experience at the centre.

Throughout 2025, our work helped shape the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy by highlighting two essential priorities: multi-level governance, particularly through national and local anti-poverty strategies, and the meaningful participation of people experiencing poverty. This framework supported coherent communication across key moments, events, reports and campaigns.

These efforts translated into **increased visibility and media engagement**. EAPN saw a rise in enquiries from journalists, more opportunities for opinion pieces, and a stronger presence in both specialised and mainstream media, alongside positive results in digital communication. This reinforced the network's role as a recognised voice on poverty and social inclusion at the European level.

PARTICIPATION AND CIVIL SOCIETY COMMUNICATIONS

EAPN also worked to strengthen the visibility and voice of people experiencing poverty within its communications. This included a participatory meeting on PEP voices, two media training sessions, and the development of **guidelines for public speaking and media engagement**, all aimed at ensuring more meaningful and visible participation across our work.

To respond to communication challenges in the civil society sector, we organised the second edition of Epic Fails, bringing together communication officers to address polarised narratives, limited resources, and language that is often policy-driven. Clear and accessible communication was a key focus. As a result, we **created a group of communication officers** to foster ongoing exchange, dialogue, and knowledge-sharing throughout the year.

DIGITAL MEDIA & CAMPAIGNS

Within this broader strategic shift, digital communication has played a central role in bringing EAPN's strategy to life: strengthening visibility, supporting advocacy priorities, and making complex policy issues more accessible to a broader audience.

Campaigns and content were designed not only to increase visibility but to translate complex policy discussions into accessible, targeted, and engaging messages. In doing so, digital platforms became an essential **bridge between advocacy priorities and broader public understanding**.

Rather than communicating in a uniform way across channels, **each platform was given a clearer role** within a broader strategic framework. Within this structure, the website remains central for publishing statements, reports, and national-level updates; LinkedIn is increasingly positioned to reach policymakers and institutional stakeholders; Facebook continues to provide a stable and reliable source of visibility; and Instagram and TikTok is used to reach younger audiences and test new formats.

This more coordinated approach also reinforced **internal coherence** and efficiency in communication practices. By tailoring content to platform strengths and audience profiles, EAPN was able to maintain consistency of message while increasing relevance and accessibility.

+ 13%

TOTAL
FOLLOWERS

357

TOTAL
POSTS

7%

AVERAGE
ENGAGEMENT

In 2025, the communications team also delivered targeted campaigns aligned with key advocacy moments, notably:

- The World Day of Social Justice campaign (20 February)
- [The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty campaign \(17 October\)](#).

The active involvement of national networks in adapting campaign materials to their own languages and contexts further strengthened this model, allowing for **greater territorial reach and local relevance**. This ensured that EAPN's communications combined expert positioning with accessibility, while remaining responsive to different audiences and national realities.

Taken together, the results confirm that EAPN made solid progress in increasing visibility and strengthening its online presence. Looking ahead, the next step is not simply to grow further, but to deepen impact: **turning visibility into participation and communication into a stronger driver of advocacy and change**.

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

In 2025, EAPN's work on network development focused on **strengthening the network's foundations** and preparing the ground for a more strategic and structured approach in the years ahead. Rather than concentrating on expansion, the priority was to better **understand members' current needs and realities**, reconnect with them, and establish stronger membership development processes.

A central milestone in this work was the Membership Mapping Exercise, which helped build a clearer and more comprehensive understanding of EAPN's membership base. Its findings are already informing the development of a new Membership Development Strategy, designed to strengthen coordination, identify gaps, and tailor support to members' needs. At the same time, EAPN began reviving the **Membership Development Group (MDG)**.

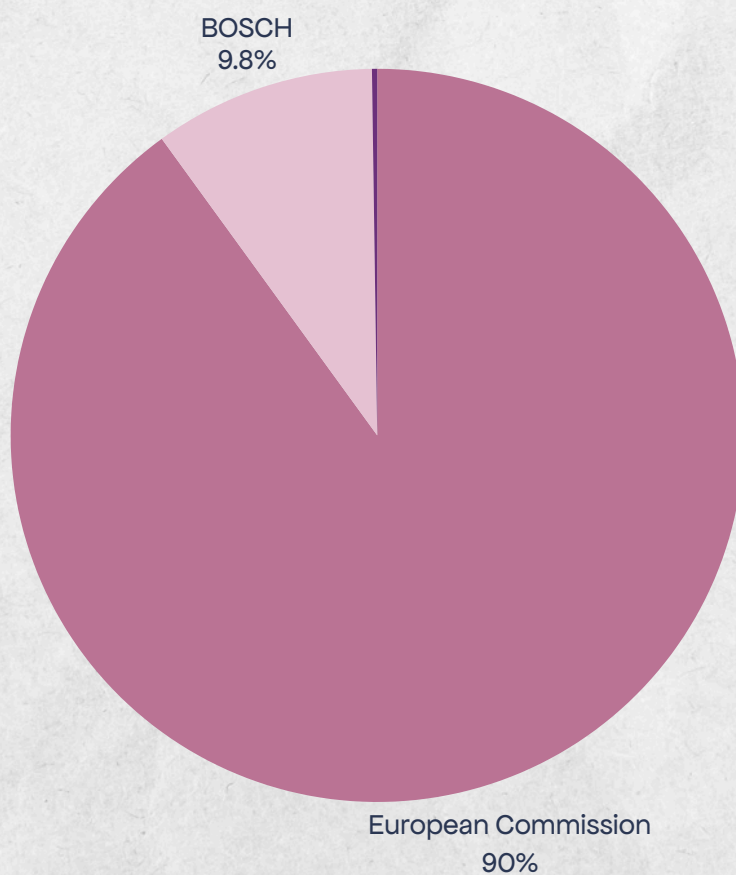
This reflected the need to give membership development more dedicated political and strategic attention, particularly at a time when networks across Europe are operating in very different contexts and with varying capacities. EAPN also began reflecting on the future role and scope of the MDG, and on how it can best support a stronger membership development strategy for the network.

Overall, 2025 was a year of **assessment, reconnection, and preparation for EAPN's network development work**, creating the basis for a stronger and more coordinated network in the years ahead.

FINANCES

WHERE MONEY CAME FROM

European Commission	1.081.490,10€
BOSCH Stiftung	117.399,49€
Membership fees	2.766,08€
Total income:	1.201.655,67 €



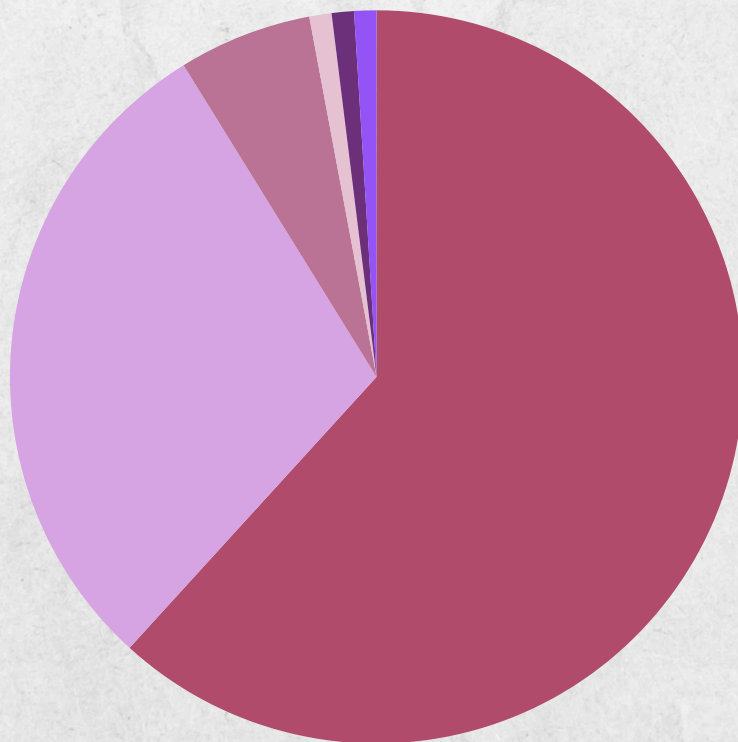
This amount is subject to approval by the EAPN General Assembly and confirmation through the submission to the Banque-Carrefour des Entreprises (BCE).

FINANCES

WHERE MONEY WAS SPENT

Staff costs	757.790,05 €
Office costs, supplies, subcontracting	363.224,84 €
Travel, Accomodation, Subsistance (including events and trainings)	69.809,16 €
Insurances	3.482,28 €
Amortisations	6.551,71 €
Overheads	797,62 €

Total expenditure: 1.201.655,66 €



This amount is subject to approval by the EAPN General Assembly and confirmation through the submission to the Banque-Carrefour des Entreprises (BCE).

LOOKING FORWARD

During 2025, EAPN was able to respond to the evolving political and policy landscape, in particular by **organising events with people experiencing poverty to influence the upcoming EU Anti-Poverty Strategy** and the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, beyond the scope of its initial work plan and within existing resource constraints.

This collective effort, across the network and within the EU APS Coalition, reinforced EAPN's central role in the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy process and contributed to the response from EU institutions, including the commitment to **eradicating poverty in Europe by 2050**.

In 2026, EAPN enters a new cycle with a renewed work plan and a clear objective of **strengthening the network and further advancing participatory processes**. In the current political context, marked by increasing pressures on civil society organisations, a strong and cohesive network is essential.

To this end, EAPN will focus on reactivating the Membership Development Group and re-engaging dormant networks. Strengthening participation is central to this effort and will inform adjustments to the way events are structured and organised, ensuring they better respond to the needs and demands of people experiencing poverty within the network.

From a policy perspective, EAPN will continue to play a driving role in both the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy and the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, **from their design through to their implementation**.

In parallel, EAPN will remain actively engaged in the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), as well as in efforts to mainstream poverty across key policy areas, particularly in the fields of gender and migration.

In addition, EAPN will reinforce its fundraising efforts to ensure the necessary resources to support its work and **long-term sustainability**.

EAPN will also continue to strengthen its key external communication strategies and to conclude the communication-related projects initiated in 2025.

Through these efforts, EAPN reaffirms its commitment to **working collectively towards a more just and inclusive Europe**, free from poverty.



EUROPEAN ANTI POVERTY NETWORK