



Compendium of Good Practices for Effective National and Local Anti-Poverty Strategies

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Glossary

Intersectionality is a concept that examines how different forms of social stratification – such as race, gender, class, sexuality, disability, and other identity markers – intersect and interact to shape individuals' experiences of privilege, oppression, and discrimination.

The Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) is the European Union's long-term budget plan, setting expenditure ceilings for the EU over multiple years. The current MFF runs from 2021 to 2027.

AROE At risk of poverty or social exclusion

EU European Union

EAPN European Anti-Poverty Network

EU APS EU Anti-Poverty Strategy

LAPS Local Anti-Poverty Strategies

NAPS National Anti-Poverty Strategies

PEP People experiencing poverty

Introduction

Poverty and social exclusion remain among the most pressing challenges across the European Union despite longstanding policy commitments and social targets. In 2025, **92.7 million people in the EU were at risk of poverty or social exclusion, representing 20.9% of the population**¹. While the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan committed to reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by at least 15 million by 2030, progress remains insufficient. These trends demonstrate the need for stronger, more coordinated, and more ambitious anti-poverty policies at European, national, and local levels. In response to these persistent challenges, the European Commission adopted the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy on 6 May 2026, establishing a comprehensive framework to strengthen the prevention and reduction of poverty and social exclusion across the Union. The Strategy provides renewed political momentum for coordinated action at European, national and local levels and highlights the importance of integrated, rights-based approaches, meaningful participation, and effective governance.

Poverty is multidimensional, systemic and structural, and deeply interconnected with other policy areas, including housing, employment, social protection, health, education, migration, gender equality, disability inclusion, and climate justice. Tackling poverty therefore requires more than isolated measures or short-term responses. It requires comprehensive, coordinated, and rights-based strategies capable of addressing both the symptoms and the root causes of poverty and social exclusion.

In this context, National Anti-Poverty Strategies (NAPS) and Local Anti-Poverty Strategies (LAPS) play a crucial role. EAPN defines NAPS as **comprehensive, government-led policy frameworks aimed at preventing, reducing, and ultimately eradicating poverty at national level**². LAPS complement these approaches by **ensuring that anti-poverty measures are adapted to local realities and implemented in close cooperation with communities, municipalities, and civil society actors**³. Together, NAPS and LAPS can provide a coherent framework for translating EU commitments into concrete action and measurable impact for people experiencing poverty.

¹ Eurostat, 'People at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU, 2025' (News article, 30 April 2026) <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/w/ddn-20260430-1> accessed 22 May 2026.

² EAPN, Position Paper: Towards the Eradication of Poverty (April 16, 2025), https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/eapn-POSITION_PAPER_TOWARDS_ERADICATION_POVERTY_EAPN-6139.pdf

³ Ibid.

Effective NAPS and LAPS must go beyond short-term measures and address the structural and multidimensional root causes of poverty and social exclusion. This requires coordinated action across policy areas such as housing, employment, social protection, health, education, gender equality, disability inclusion, and climate justice, alongside strong governance and accountability mechanisms. The meaningful participation of people experiencing poverty and civil society organisations is also central to ensuring that strategies respond to lived realities and deliver sustainable impact.

Social innovation and anti-poverty strategies

The promotion of National and Local Anti-Poverty Strategies (NAPS and LAPS) is embedded within a broader approach to **social innovation that centres public and collective responsibility in the fight against poverty and social exclusion**. Within this framework, social innovation is understood as a tool to strengthen social rights, improve access to essential services, and enhance coordination across policy areas and levels of governance, rather than as a substitute for public responsibility or social protection systems. From an anti-poverty perspective, social innovation should contribute to preventing poverty and exclusion through rights-based, inclusive and coordinated approaches, while ensuring that local innovation is supported by coherent national frameworks that avoid fragmentation and territorial disparities.

This compendium brings together examples of good practices related to the development, implementation, governance, and monitoring of NAPS and LAPS across Europe. The examples were identified through research and analysis conducted by EAPN members in 19 countries during 2025–2026 and validated by national experts⁴.

What is considered a “good practice”?

For the purpose of this compendium, a good practice refers to **a policy, governance mechanism, methodology, or initiative that contributes positively to the prevention, reduction, or eradication of poverty and social exclusion**. A good practice does not necessarily represent a perfect or fully transferable model. Instead, it offers relevant lessons, innovative approaches, or effective mechanisms that may inspire future developments in other contexts.

⁴ A broader analysis on NAPS and LAPS and their role in the eradication of poverty can be found in the Poverty Watch Report 2025 Promoting and Strengthening National and Local Anti-Poverty Strategies (NAPS & LAPS).

The good practices included in this compendium were identified by EAPN members and national experts. They were selected based on criteria such as:

- their contribution to a comprehensive and rights-based approach to tackling poverty
- meaningful participation of people experiencing poverty and civil society organisations
- cross-sectoral coordination and policy coherence
- clear governance and accountability mechanisms
- measurable impact or promising outcomes
- sustainability and potential for replication or adaptation in other contexts

This compendium brings together examples of good practices related to the development, implementation, governance and monitoring of National and Local Anti-Poverty Strategies (NAPS and LAPS) across Europe. Identified through research and analysis conducted by EAPN members in 19 countries during 2025–2026 and validated by national experts, these practices demonstrate concrete approaches that can support the implementation of the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy. They illustrate how its principles and objectives can be translated into effective policies, governance arrangements and participatory processes at national and local levels, while offering practical inspiration for policymakers, public authorities and civil society across the European Union.

Good practices in National and Local Anti-Poverty Strategies (NAPS & LAPS)

The following good practices are structured around three key dimensions of effective NAPS and LAPS: (1) **rights-based and intersectional foundations**, (2) **multi-level governance and participation**, (3) **evidence-based implementation & policy learning**.

Each practice is assessed not only in terms of design and governance, but also in relation to its contribution to poverty eradication and social inclusion.

RIGHTS-BASED FOUNDATIONS OF ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGIES

WHY THESE MATTER

The effectiveness of National Anti-Poverty Strategies (NAPS) and Local Anti-Poverty Strategies (LAPS) depends on **how poverty is understood and addressed within public policy**. Rights-based approaches strengthen anti-poverty strategies by recognising poverty not merely as a lack of income, but as a denial of fundamental social rights and equal opportunities. This shifts the focus from short-term assistance towards guaranteeing access to essential services, ensuring adequate living standards and addressing the structural causes of poverty through coordinated public action.

The adoption of the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy provides an opportunity for Member States to strengthen rights-based approaches by developing integrated national and local strategies that combine effective governance, coordinated service delivery and meaningful participation. The Italian experience offers valuable lessons on how these principles can be translated into practice.

GOOD PRACTICES – ITALY

OPERATIONALISING A RIGHTS-BASED NATIONAL ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY THROUGH ESSENTIAL LEVELS OF SOCIAL BENEFITS AND SERVICES (LEPS)

Italy's National Poverty Plan 2024–2026, adopted alongside the National Social Plan, builds on previous National Poverty Plans while adapting the framework to recent policy developments, including the introduction of the Inclusion Allowance (Assegno di Inclusione). Rather than focusing exclusively on income support, the Plan aims to progressively guarantee **Essential Levels of Social Benefits and Services (LEPS)** across the country. LEPS establish nationally defined minimum standards for social services that every person should be able to access regardless of where they live, reinforcing the principle that access to essential social services is a social right rather than a discretionary local provision⁵.

Methodology for the design and implementation

The Italian model combines national leadership with decentralised implementation through a clearly defined multilevel governance framework.

At national level, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy defines strategic priorities through the National Poverty Plan and allocates dedicated funding through the National Poverty Fund. The Plan establishes common objectives, identifies priority interventions and progressively defines the Essential Levels of Social Benefits and Services to be guaranteed throughout the country⁶.

Regional authorities are responsible for programming and coordinating implementation, while **Ambiti Territoriali Sociali (ATS)** (territorial social districts bringing together groups of municipalities) play a central role in organising and coordinating local service delivery. Municipalities are responsible for providing services directly to beneficiaries and ensuring that interventions respond to local needs, while operating within the nationally defined framework.

The implementation methodology is based on integrated and personalised support rather than isolated interventions. The Plan prioritises strengthening professional social services, multidisciplinary assessment of needs, personalised social inclusion

⁵ EAPN Italy, National 2025 Poverty Watch, <https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/eapnItaly-Poverty-Watch-Report-6296.pdf>

⁶ Ibid.

pathways, social secretariat and access services, emergency social interventions, information systems and Projects Useful to the Community (PUC). Individuals receiving the Inclusion Allowance are supported through Social Inclusion Pacts, developed following an assessment of their needs and coordinated by multidisciplinary teams that combine social services with other relevant actors⁷.

The model also formally recognises the contribution of Third Sector organisations, which cooperate with municipalities in the delivery of services and community-based interventions. This partnership strengthens local capacity while maintaining public responsibility for guaranteeing access to social rights.

Implementation is supported through monitoring and shared information systems, enabling public authorities to follow beneficiaries' pathways, assess service delivery and improve coordination across institutions. Early implementation data indicate high levels of engagement with municipal social services and significant improvements in the completion of multidimensional assessments compared with previous anti-poverty programmes.

What is innovative about this practice?

The innovation of the Italian model lies in moving beyond programme-based responses to poverty by establishing a rights-based framework that progressively guarantees **Essential Levels of Social Benefits and Services (LEPS)** across the country. Rather than introducing isolated anti-poverty measures, the National Poverty Plan defines nationally recognised minimum standards for social services, ensuring that access to essential support is based on social rights rather than geographical location or local administrative capacity.

From a social innovation perspective, the practice demonstrates how innovation can emerge through **institutional and policy design**. LEPS create a common national framework that combines universal rights with integrated and personalised support, while enabling local authorities to adapt implementation to local needs.

This approach strengthens policy coherence, reduces territorial inequalities and shifts the focus from emergency assistance towards long-term social inclusion.

⁷ EAPN Italy, National 2025 Poverty Watch, <https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/eapn-Italy-Poverty-Watch-Report-6296.pdf>

The Italian experience illustrates how rights-based policy frameworks can create the enabling conditions for more coordinated, equitable and sustainable anti-poverty strategies. **As Member States implement the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy, the progressive establishment of nationally guaranteed minimum standards can help ensure that social rights are translated into consistent and accessible services across territories.**

In short – what works

The Italian experience highlights several elements that can strengthen the implementation of National and Local Anti-Poverty Strategies:

- Use rights-based frameworks to create shared institutional commitments across levels of governance, ensuring consistency while allowing adaptation to local contexts.
- Strengthen coordination through integrated governance models, connecting national strategy-setting with regional and local implementation responsibilities.
- Support personalised and integrated service delivery by linking minimum standards with multidisciplinary assessment, coordinated support pathways and strengthened social services.
- Use monitoring, data systems and accountability mechanisms to track implementation, identify gaps and progressively improve the quality and accessibility of services.

MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE AND PARTICIPATION IN NAPS AND LAPS

WHY THESE MATTER

Effective anti-poverty strategies require more than well-designed policies; **they require governance arrangements that ensure coherent implementation across levels of government and meaningful participation of the people most affected by poverty.** Multi-level governance enables national objectives to be translated into action at regional and local level while maintaining policy coherence and accountability. At the same time, the meaningful participation of people experiencing poverty strengthens the relevance, legitimacy and effectiveness of anti-poverty policies by ensuring that measures respond to lived realities rather than assumptions.

The EU Anti-Poverty Strategy recognises that effective implementation depends on coordinated action across institutions and governance levels, supported by structured participation of civil society and people experiencing poverty. The Belgian experience demonstrates how these principles can be embedded within the governance of a National Anti-Poverty Strategy.

GOOD PRACTICES – BELGIUM

INSTITUTIONALISING MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE AND THE PARTICIPATION OF PEOPLE EXPERIENCING POVERTY

Belgium has progressively strengthened the governance through the Act of 9 October 2023. The Act establishes a legal framework for the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of every federal anti-poverty plan and embeds participation and coordination as core governance principles rather than optional consultation exercises.

The legislation requires each Federal Plan against Poverty and Inequality to pursue an inclusive and participatory approach, guarantee access to the economic, social and cultural rights enshrined in Article 23 of the Belgian Constitution, promote cross-sectoral action and be developed through partnerships between all relevant actors. The Plan covers the entire legislative term and specifies the responsibilities of each federal minister and secretary of state, ensuring that combating poverty becomes a shared responsibility across government rather than the sole remit of one ministry.

Methodology for the design and implementation

The Belgian model combines political leadership, cross-government coordination and structured stakeholder participation throughout the policy cycle.

The Minister responsible for Poverty Reduction has overall responsibility for coordinating the Federal Plan, while each federal minister and secretary of state is responsible for implementing the measures falling within their respective competences. The Federal Public Service (FPS) for Social Integration supports coordination, monitoring and reporting through a detailed implementation framework.

The governance model extends beyond the federal level. To promote policy coherence, consultations are organised with regional governments through the Interministerial Conference, ensuring that the Federal Plan is aligned with regional anti-poverty strategies and complementary action plans. The FPS Social Integration also coordinates exchanges with federal administrations responsible for other strategic plans to strengthen cross-sectoral policy coherence⁸.

Each measure included in the Federal Plan is accompanied by a budget estimate, implementation deadline, quantitative target and, where relevant, gender and disability considerations. The Plan also incorporates evidence-based monitoring through annual implementation reports and a final independent evaluation conducted by the Federal Planning Bureau. This creates clear accountability mechanisms while enabling policies to be adjusted during implementation⁹.

Participation throughout the policy cycle

A distinctive feature of the Belgian approach is that participation is institutionalised throughout the entire policy cycle rather than being limited to consultation during policy design¹⁰.

The Act of 9 October 2023 formally recognises the Belgian Anti-Poverty Network (BAPN), the Belgian Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion and other privileged partners as permanent actors in the governance of the Federal Plan. These organisations are consulted during the drafting of the Plan, participate in monitoring implementation, contribute to annual evaluations and are invited to provide an independent final assessment at the end of each legislative cycle.

⁸ BAPN National 2025 Poverty Watch, https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/eapnBE_Poverty-Watch-2025-6232.pdf

⁹ Ibid

¹⁰ Ibid

Financial support is provided to enable these organisations to fulfil their statutory role.

Beyond representative participation, Belgium has taken important steps towards the direct involvement of people experiencing poverty. During the preparation of the Fifth Federal Plan against Poverty and Inequality, the Minister committed to organising direct dialogue with people living in poverty alongside the formal consultation of civil society organisations¹¹.

To support this process, BAPN established the **GPS Group**, a permanent group of around 25 people experiencing poverty from Flanders, Brussels and Wallonia, reflecting diversity in age, gender and background. Meeting every four to six weeks, the group works closely with regional anti-poverty networks and local associations to gather experiences, develop recommendations and provide continuous feedback throughout the implementation of the Federal Plan. Members also participate directly in thematic working groups organised by the FPS Social Integration and engage in regular dialogue with the Minister responsible for Poverty Reduction and federal administrations.

This approach enables people experiencing poverty to contribute not only to identifying priorities but also to monitoring implementation, assessing whether measures respond to lived realities and proposing adjustments where necessary.

What is innovative about this practice?

The innovation of the Belgian model lies in embedding **multi-level governance and participation within a legal and institutional framework**, ensuring that they become integral components of anti-poverty policymaking rather than optional consultation mechanisms.

The Act of 9 October 2023 establishes clear responsibilities for the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Federal Plan against Poverty and Inequality, while requiring coordination across government departments and consultation with regional authorities. At the same time, it formally recognises civil society organisations and anti-poverty networks as permanent partners throughout the policy cycle and supports their involvement through dedicated resources.

¹¹ BAPN National 2025 Poverty Watch, https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/eapnBE_Poverty-Watch-2025-6232.pdf

Rather than consulting people only during the drafting of policies, the GPS Group enables people with lived experience to contribute throughout the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Federal Plan, creating an ongoing dialogue between policymakers, public administrations and citizens.

From a social innovation perspective, the Belgian experience demonstrates how **governance innovation** can strengthen anti-poverty policies. By combining legal guarantees for participation, coordinated action across different levels of government and continuous engagement of people experiencing poverty, the model improves accountability, policy learning and the responsiveness of public policies. It offers a practical example of how the governance principles of the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy can be translated into long-term institutional practice.

In short – what works

The Belgian experience highlights several elements that can strengthen the implementation of National and Local Anti-Poverty Strategies:

- Establish a clear legal framework defining responsibilities for the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of anti-poverty strategies.
- Ensure coordination across national, regional and local levels through formal governance mechanisms.
- Make poverty reduction a shared responsibility across government rather than the mandate of a single ministry.
- Institutionalise the participation of civil society organisations and people experiencing poverty throughout the entire policy cycle. Support participation with dedicated resources, structured dialogue and regular feedback mechanisms.
- Combine evidence-based monitoring, measurable targets and independent evaluation to strengthen accountability and policy learning.

EVIDENCE-BASED IMPLEMENTATION & POLICY LEARNING

WHY THESE MATTER

Effective anti-poverty strategies must not only be well designed but also capable of **adapting to evolving social needs, emerging evidence and changing policy contexts**. Building adaptive and evidence-informed strategies enables governments to monitor implementation, assess what works and continuously improve policies over time. This is particularly important for the implementation of the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy, which requires Member States to translate common objectives into effective national and local actions while ensuring accountability, policy learning and measurable results.

Apply social innovation through evaluation based on experimental methodologies and continuous learning in National and Local Anti-Poverty Strategies (NAPS and LAPS) helps ensure that public resources are directed towards interventions that demonstrate positive outcomes, while creating opportunities to refine or redesign measures that prove less effective. Adaptive governance also strengthens resilience by enabling strategies to respond to new social and economic challenges without losing sight of their long-term objectives.

GOOD PRACTICES – SPAIN

BUILDING ADAPTIVE AND EVIDENCE-INFORMED ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGIES

Spain's National Strategy for the Prevention and Fight against Poverty and Social Exclusion (2024–2030) combines a long-term strategic vision with mechanisms that enable continuous learning and policy adaptation throughout implementation. The Strategy establishes clear objectives and indicators, complemented by annual implementation plans and structured monitoring, as well as mid-term and final evaluations. This creates a policy cycle that balances long-term commitment with the flexibility to adjust interventions in response to emerging evidence and changing circumstances.

A distinctive feature of the Spanish approach is the promotion of evidence-based social policies through the **Inclusion Policy Lab**¹². Rather than limiting evaluation to the end of the policy cycle, Spain has established a dedicated framework to test innovative inclusion measures, assess their impact and use the results to inform future policy development and implementation.

¹² Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration. (2024). The Inclusion Policy Lab: Promoting innovation in social inclusion policies. Government of Spain.

https://www.inclusion.gob.es/documents/4913549/4914601/EN_LaboratorioPoliticasinclusion.pdf

Methodology for the design and implementation

The Spanish model combines strategic planning, monitoring and experimentation within a coherent implementation framework.

The National Strategy sets long-term objectives for reducing poverty and social exclusion while annual action plans translate these objectives into concrete measures, responsibilities and implementation priorities. Progress is monitored through a structured system of indicators and regular reporting, allowing policymakers to assess implementation and adjust priorities where necessary. Mid-term and final evaluations provide additional opportunities to review progress, identify implementation challenges and strengthen future action¹³.

Alongside this strategic framework, the Inclusion Policy Lab promotes the use of experimental trials in social policy to generate evidence that can be scaled up to public policy¹⁴.

A key element of the methodology is the use of rigorous evaluation methods, including impact evaluations where appropriate, to generate robust evidence on the effectiveness of interventions. The lessons generated through these pilots are intended to inform future public policies and support the scaling of successful approaches across Spain.

Established within the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration, the Lab promotes collaboration between national and regional administrations, local authorities, research institutions, civil society organisations and social economy actors to design, implement and evaluate pilot projects addressing poverty and social exclusion.

Many of these pilot projects focus on improving the social and labour market inclusion of beneficiaries of the Minimum Living Income (Ingreso Mínimo Vital), while also exploring broader challenges such as digital inclusion, education, housing, employment and access to services. The projects are implemented in diverse territorial contexts, enabling policymakers to understand how different interventions perform across population groups and local realities.

¹³ EAPN Spain, National 2025 Poverty Watch, <https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/eapnSpain-Poverty-Watch-Report-6296.pdf>

¹⁴ Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration. (2024). The Inclusion Policy Lab: Promoting innovation in social inclusion policies. Government of Spain. https://www.inclusion.gob.es/documents/4913549/4914601/EN_LaboratorioPoliticasinclusion.pdf

What is innovative about this practice?

The innovation of the Spanish model lies in applying social innovation through evaluation based on experimental methodologies and continuous learning in anti-poverty strategies.

Rather than treating evaluation as a reporting requirement at the end of the policy cycle, Spain has created an institutional mechanism that enables administrations to implement innovative interventions, generate robust data, scale up evidence and integrate the findings directly into policy development¹⁵. The Inclusion Policy Lab transforms public policy into a continuous learning process, where experimentation and evaluation become tools for improving the effectiveness of anti-poverty measures.

From a social innovation perspective, the Policy Lab demonstrates how collaboration across sectors and levels of governance can generate new solutions to complex social challenges. By bringing together public administrations, researchers, civil society organisations, local authorities and social economy actors, it creates a collaborative environment in which innovative approaches can be co-designed, tested and refined before being implemented at larger scale. This reduces the risks associated with introducing new policies while increasing confidence that public investment is directed towards interventions that produce measurable social outcomes.

The Spanish experience illustrates how the implementation of the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy can be strengthened through continuous policy learning and evidence-informed decision-making. As Member States develop or update National and Local Anti-Poverty Strategies, **they will need mechanisms not only to implement agreed actions but also to evaluate their effectiveness, adapt interventions where necessary and scale successful practices.**

¹⁵ EAPN Spain, National 2025 Poverty Watch, <https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/eapnSpain-Poverty-Watch-Report-6296.pdf>

In short – what works

The Spanish experience highlights several elements that can strengthen the implementation of National and Local Anti-Poverty Strategies:

- Combine long-term strategic objectives with annual implementation plans and regular monitoring.
- Integrate structured evaluation and the evidence obtained into the entire public policy-making cycle.
- Promote innovative interventions through pilot projects before scaling up successful experiences.
- Foster collaboration between the State, regional and local administrations, and researchers, civil society organisations and social economy actors.
- Use robust evidence and impact evaluation to inform policy decisions and improve implementation.
- Create institutional mechanisms that enable anti-poverty strategies to adapt over time without losing its objectives.

Conclusion

This compendium demonstrates that effective National and Local Anti-Poverty Strategies (NAPS and LAPS) require more than individual policy measures. Across the good practices analysed, **the strongest approaches combine rights-based policy frameworks, effective governance arrangements and continuous policy learning to address the structural and multidimensional nature of poverty.** While national contexts differ, the experiences presented throughout this compendium show that successful anti-poverty strategies are built on coherent policy design, coordinated implementation and the capacity to adapt over time.

Three main lessons emerge. **First, rights-based approaches provide a strong foundation for anti-poverty strategies** by recognising access to essential services and social protection as fundamental rights rather than discretionary policy choices. Embedding minimum standards, integrated support and multidimensional approaches within national policy frameworks strengthens policy coherence and helps address the structural drivers of poverty and social exclusion.

Second, effective implementation depends on robust governance. Multi-level coordination between national, regional and local authorities, combined with the meaningful participation of people experiencing poverty and civil society organisations, improves policy relevance, accountability and ownership. Institutionalising participation throughout the policy cycle helps ensure that anti-poverty strategies are informed by lived experience and remain responsive to the realities faced by those most affected.

Third, anti-poverty strategies must be capable of learning and adapting. Embedding monitoring, evaluation and evidence generation into implementation enables governments to identify effective interventions, adjust policies where necessary and scale successful approaches. Treating policy learning as a continuous process strengthens the long-term effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of anti-poverty strategies.

Together, these findings illustrate different but complementary dimensions of social innovation. **Innovation is not limited to new services or projects;** it can also take the form of institutional arrangements that strengthen social rights, governance models that foster collaboration and participation, and policy processes that systematically generate and apply evidence to improve outcomes.

These approaches demonstrate how social innovation can reinforce public responsibility and contribute to more inclusive, coordinated and effective anti-poverty policies.

The publication of the first EU Anti-Poverty Strategy on 6 May 2026 provides a renewed opportunity to strengthen these approaches across the European Union. By encouraging Member States to develop or reinforce National and Local Anti-Poverty Strategies, promoting integrated and rights-based responses, and introducing new governance mechanisms such as National Anti-Poverty Coordinators, the Strategy establishes an important framework for more coherent action at European, national and local levels. **The good practices presented in this compendium illustrate concrete ways in which the ambitions of the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy can be translated into practice.** Whether through strengthening rights-based policy frameworks, embedding multi-level governance and meaningful participation, or building adaptive and evidence-informed policymaking, they offer practical lessons that can support Member States in designing, implementing and continuously improving National and Local Anti-Poverty Strategies.



EUROPEAN ANTI POVERTY NETWORK