



**EAPN Seminar: 2010 and beyond – the legacy we want!  
Getting Progress on an EU without poverty and social exclusion  
29 May 2009, Bedford Hotel, Brussels  
Final Programme**

**The concept**

2010 marks the end of the initial Lisbon agenda launched in 2000, which set the goal to make a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty and social exclusion. Since the revision of the Lisbon strategy in 2005 and the narrowing down to a “Growth and Jobs” agenda, the social dimension has become increasingly invisible and defined by the dominant macro-economic agenda. At the same time, the social OMC has been sidelined, undermining its potential to be an effective instrument to promote social inclusion across all fields.

2010 is also the EU year for combating poverty and social exclusion. Instead of being able to celebrate the gains made over the last 10 years, anti-poverty groups find they face a 2010 where poverty has not been significantly reduced, where there are more working poor and the gap between rich and poor continues to increase. In 2009, with the worsening financial and economic crisis, this situation is rapidly deteriorating with no visible signs of coordinated, sustainable EU solutions. Yet the EU so far seems unprepared to learn the lessons from the crisis - the weaknesses in a market-first approach; the need to tackle the causes of poverty and to challenge the roots of inequality; to put Lisbon at the service of social cohesion, and effective social protection and social investment at the heart of a more socially sustainable EU.

**Key Facts<sup>1</sup>**

- 16% of EU population are still at risk of poverty – 79 million people (2007)
- There has been no significant decrease since 2000 (15% of the EU population in 2001 in the 15 Member States) and increases in AT, BE, NL, UK and PL
- The people facing the highest poverty risk are women (17%), children (19%) and older people (19%)
- The poverty level varies between 250 EUR a month (In the Baltic States, HU, PL and SK) and 900 EUR a month (Nordic countries, IE, LU, NL, UK)
- 9.3% of adults live in households where nobody works and 9.4% of children
- 8% of people in work are at risk of poverty, but 20% of those at risk of poverty are in work.
- Overall inequality between rich and poor has increased significantly since 2000
- In 2006 the richest 20% had 5 times higher income than the poorest 20%

**Key Questions**

- Will the EU learn the lessons from the crisis and the failure of the growth and jobs model to reduce overall poverty even in past times of boom?
- Will the social dimension be put at the heart of a new, sustainable model that puts public benefit and people's needs first before private profit and the market?
- What new, effective tools and instruments need to be developed at national and EU level?

<sup>1</sup> See EAPN Updated Poverty Explainer – out soon: [www.eapn.eu](http://www.eapn.eu)

*The current seminar will facilitate an exchange between EAPN members and other stakeholders on the way forward on poverty and social exclusion post 2010. The conclusions will provide the basis of EAPN's contribution to the EU's deliberations on the post 2010 debate.*

## **Objectives**

- To assess the progress made under the current EU approach since 2000 in relation to poverty and social inclusion.
- To draw lessons from the current crisis in order to develop a new approach that tackles the causes as well as the consequences of poverty.
- To develop EAPN proposals for a legacy to mark the EU Year 2010, based on stakeholder debate, including a post-2010 EU strategy which will deliver on social inclusion and poverty.

## **Target Audience**

The seminar will involve up between 90 -100 people and will include the following groups:

- **EAPN members and secretariat:** The majority of the participants will be EAPN members from the Social Inclusion, Employment and Structural Funds Working Groups, representatives from the Executive Committee and European Organisations, plus members of the secretariat (75)
- **People experiencing poverty engaged with the EAPN networks** (5)
- **EU decision-makers:** Representatives from the Commission, the European Parliament, the Council and Presidencies.(10)
- **Other Stakeholders:** Invited representatives from other key stakeholders groups including social partners, other NGO's, regional and local authorities (10)

## **Format and Venue**

The seminar will take place in Brussels at the Bedford Hotel and will include:

*Initial Plenary Session* – broad debate on Lisbon/ the crisis and the way forward.

*Morning Workshops* – national strategies and instruments and barriers to progress.

*Afternoon Workshop* – analyzing the value-added of EU instruments and proposals for legacy

*Final Plenary Session* will agree conclusions and outline next steps.

Workshops 1, 2 and 5 will have ENG/FR Translation and Workshops 3 and 4 only in English. AM/PM.

## **Outputs**

The main results will be:

- Conference report – Highlighting key areas of debate/the main conclusions and recommendations/ painting a picture of the participation process - drawing on opinions/concerns of members and participants.
- Conference conclusions.
- The conclusions will be used directly in the development of draft EAPN proposals for a legacy for 2010 and a post 2010 strategy ( to be finalized in June)

## **Background document.**

- EAPN Discussion paper on the legacy for 2010 and post 2010.

**2010 and Beyond – The legacy we want  
Getting Progress on an EU without poverty and social exclusion?  
Final Agenda**

**8.15 – 9.00 Registration**

**9.00 – 10.30 Opening Plenary (ENG/FR). Room: Salle Gararine.**

Chair: Mr Fintan Farrell, Director of EAPN.

**1. Welcome and Introduction – setting the context and the key objectives of the day**

**2. Representative of the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of People experiencing Poverty**

**3. Stocktaking Debate on Lisbon and the Economic Crisis**

*How far has the Lisbon Strategy and the Social OMC delivered on poverty?*

*What lessons can be learnt from the current economic crisis?*

*What is the way forward?*

**Speakers:**

- Ms Antonia Carparelli, Head of Unit E2, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, European Commission.
- Mr Gerard de Graaf, Head of Unit, Strategic Objective Prosperity Unit, Secretariat General, European Commission.
- Mr Aurelio Fernandez Lopez, Spanish Government, Chair of the Social Protection Committee.
- Mr Bruno Costantini, European Federation of Retired and Older People (FERPA/ETUC).
- Mr Ludo Horemans, President of EAPN.

**4. Questions and Debate with the participants**

**10.30 – 11.00 Coffee break**

**11.00 – 1.00pm, 5 Parallel Workshops: Learning from the National level, pressing for a legacy  
3 workshops with translation: ENG/FR (1, 2 and 5). Workshops 3 and 4: ENG only.**

**The workshops will explore the following questions in the 5 thematic areas:**

*What strategies and instruments are being developed at national level to make progress on poverty?*

*What's the impact of the crisis and barriers to progress? What national legacy for 2010?*

**Workshop 1: Integrated poverty strategies/ instruments to make progress on poverty. (ENG/FR)  
Room: Salle Gararine.**

**Workshop 2: Moving forward on social standards. (ENG/FR). Room: Salle Da Gama.**

**Workshop 3: Ensuring access to inclusive employment for all. (ENG). Room: Salle Marco Polo.**

**Workshop 4: Promoting fairer distribution of wealth. (ENG). Room: Salle Amundsen.**

**Workshop 5: Embedding better governance and participation. (ENG/FR). Room: Salle Colomb.**

**1.00 – 2.00 LUNCH**

**2.00 – 4.00, 5 Parallel Workshops: What EU instruments are needed? What is their added value?  
3 workshops with translation: ENG/FR (1, 2 and 5). Workshops 3 and 4: ENG only.**

*In the afternoon the 5 thematic workshops will look at the EU level: What is the value-added of the EU level, what existing or new EU strategies or instruments can make a difference? What EU legacy for 2010 do we want?*

**Workshop 1: Using EU strategies and instruments to make progress on poverty.  
(ENG/FR) Room: Salle Gararine.**  
**Workshop 2: Developing better EU instruments to ensure social standards.  
(ENG/FR), Room: Salle Da Gama.**  
**Workshop 3: Using the European Employment Strategy and Active Inclusion  
to make progress on inclusive employment. (ENG), Room: Salle Marco Polo.**  
**Workshop 4: Getting EU strategies and instruments to support fairer distribution of wealth.  
(ENG), Room: Salle Amundsen.**  
**Workshop 5: Better EU instruments to embed effective governance and participation.  
(ENG/FR). Room: Salle Colomb.**

**4.00 – 4.30 Coffee Break**

**4.30 – 5.30 Final Plenary (ENG/FR). Room: Salle Garine.**

Chair: Fintan Farrell, Director of EAPN.

**1. Introduction**

**2. Feedback from Workshops on EU legacy**

**3. Some initial conclusions and next steps**

**4. Debate with participants**

**5. Closing words**

- Ms Elisabet Aldenberg, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Sweden
- Ludo Horemans, EAPN President

**Seminar ends at 5.30 pm**