

Unconditional Basic Income
Emancipating European Welfare

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Achieving
Adequate Income Support
in the European Union

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EUROPEAN ANTI POVERTY NETWORK

RESEAU EUROPEEN DES ASSOCIATIONS

DE LUTTE CONTRE LA PAUVRETE

ET L'EXCLUSION SOCIALE

www.eapn.org



Outline of the Presentation

- What is EAPN?
- Adequacy of income support
- Minimum Income / Basic Income
- EAPN Action: Towards a Framework Directive on Adequate Minimum Income
- EAPN project – The European Minimum Income Network
- Conclusions



What is the European Anti Poverty Network - EAPN?

- Independent **Network of NGOs** committed to fight against poverty and social exclusion, with and for people in poverty.
- Started in 1990 – **key actor** in poverty programmes and development of social OMC.
- Receives **financial support** from the European Commission (PROGRESS)
- 29 **National Networks** and 18 **European NGOs** as members (6000+ organisations)
- **Participation of people** with direct experience of poverty must be part of the solution.

Adequacy of income support

Why is it needed?



- Adequate resources for a dignified life is a **fundamental right of all**
- **Provides the means/security** to participate in work and society, confidence to plan for the future
- **Ensures a positive hierarchy** for decent wages
- **A key tool to eradicate poverty** (now 125 million people in the EU, and growing) – countries with better MI / social protection have lower poverty rates.
- **Operates as an automatic stabiliser** – provides an essential floor for consumption / boosts the economy
- Key pillar of the **European Social Model** - **foundation for a fairer, more cohesive society**

Adequacy of income support

How to calculate it?



- **Sufficient to lead a life in dignity and to cover essential needs**, fixed in line with living standards of different households.
- **Supplementary amounts for specific needs** – eg children, housing, energy costs.
- **EP Resolution recommends relative benchmark** – at risk of poverty / 60% of median household income.
- **Standard Budgets** approach: establishes a weekly budget for a variety of different types of families:
www.minimumincomestandard.org

(supported by the European Commission in the Social Investment Package, 2013, monitored through Europe 2020)

Minimum Income / Basic Income

- Minimum income is means-tested, not universal, and may be granted temporarily.
- The concepts are not in opposition – it is about resources for a dignified life.
- Different approaches, same aim – adequate income for all across the life cycle.
- Facing similar difficulties – this is a time when all cash transfers, social protection and social models in general are coming under attack.



EAPN Action: Towards a Framework Directive on Adequate Minimum Income

EAPN Action:

- **EAPN Minimum Income campaign:** www.adequateincome.eu (petition signed by John Monks for the ETUC)
- **2010 EU Year against Poverty** – core demand of NGO coalition : www.endpoverty.eu
- EAPN legal advice - **Framework Directive** (June 2010)
- **Adequacy of Minimum Income Explainer** and leaflet
- **Lobbying campaign** with EP, EESC, CoR, COM, trade unions
- **EP Hearing** with Greens and GUE report
- **Joint work with Belgian Presidency and EU Conference (2011)**
- **Peer Review on standard budgets and Annual Convention workshop (2012)**
- **Lobbying on active inclusion** recommendation in the Social Investment Package to get follow up on adequacy / EU framework
- **Build support for an EU Framework Directive** to guarantee equal access to an adequate Minimum Income

EAPN Action: Towards a Framework Directive on Adequate Minimum Income



Support from EU Institutions

- **EP Reports and Resolution** on Active Inclusion and Minimum Income (2008 and 2010) support adequate minimum income and impact study by the European Commission.
- **CoR report on European Platform Against Poverty** (April 2011) – supports Framework Directive.
- **EESC report on European Platform against Poverty** supports EP position – potential new opinion on minimum income and poverty.
- **ETUC Resolution** supporting EU minimum income (May 2011), but falls short of supporting a Directive.
- **Peer Review on Reference Budgets** for drawing up requirements of a minimum income scheme and assessing adequacy (Nov 2010)
- **European Commission:** As part of European Platform Against Poverty, now part of the Social Investment Package (Active Inclusion implementation) – focus on take up and coverage, and developing common methodology on adequacy through standard budgets.
- **European Commission project** on reference budgets.

EAPN project – The European Minimum Income Network



- **Two-year project (2013-14)**, initiated by the EP, funded by the EC
- **Raise awareness** on commitments made to adequate minimum income and on the importance of having adequate income support; **build consensus** towards adequate minimum income schemes at national and EU level.
- **Methodology**: Assess trends, obstacles, concrete progress at national and EU level, alliance-building.
- **Partners**: EAPN (leading), AGE Platform Europe, FEANTSA, Belgian Public Administration, ANSA, ETUI, OSE, SIRG.
- **Two advisory groups**: European Parliament and civil society
- **National pilots** (first stage): BE, IT, IE, DK, HU. 25 others to follow.
- More information: <http://emin-eu.net/>; or contact Fintan.Farrell@eapn.eu

Conclusions

- Situation of humanitarian crisis in Europe needs emergency response
- Complete failure to respond to the real causes of the crisis: growing inequalities, poor quality jobs, loss of respect for social knowledge, unsustainable forms of capitalism) - needs structural response
- Competition rather than cooperation on social policy in Europe Union
- Rise of racism (ethnic groups, minorities, travellers/Roma, Islamophobia, attacks on migrants) - Europe is not immune to violence
- Democracy is being eroded – we need participation of people and stakeholders!
- Adequate income support is crucial for Social Europe and inclusive recovery
- Growing recognition of key role to drive up living / minimum wages
- Concrete example of EU social standards to support demands for “more EU”
- An EU Framework Directive is viable – can we build support together?



Thank you for your attention!

For more information, please consult

www.eapn.eu

www.adequateincome.eu

www.emin-eu.net

Or contact Amana Ferro

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