

EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions

2010
European Year
for Combating
Poverty and
Social Exclusion



Local and regional responses to poverty and social exclusion

FORUM AT THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

Brussels, 8 June 2010

Preliminary Programme



PRESENTATION

In the context of the 'European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion', the Committee of the Regions invites local and regional authorities, organisations and EU institutions to exchange good practice and expertise in the fight against poverty and social exclusion at local level. Against the backdrop of increasing unemployment and public deficits, the knowledge on innovative approaches to social problems will become more important for Europe's regions and cities.

In the European Union, about 80 million or 16% of the population live in poverty. This is of particular concern for local and regional authorities, as they have basic responsibility for framing, funding and carrying out policies designed to guarantee the integration of people who are socially, economically or culturally excluded. Local and regional aspects of the fight against poverty and social exclusion have been subject to recent Opinions of the Committee of the Regions, in

particular as regards local aspects and lasting effects of related EU initiatives.

On the eve of its Plenary Session on 9 and 10 June 2010, the Committee of the Regions invites the Members of the Committee of the Regions, other interested regional and local representatives and experts to discuss initiatives and good practice in the fight against poverty and social exclusion in order to increase awareness of the regional and local level when it comes to formulate European responses. To facilitate exchange of good practices, the Members of the Committee have been invited to propose projects in the field of social innovation from their constituencies.

Contributions and debates will focus on these themes:

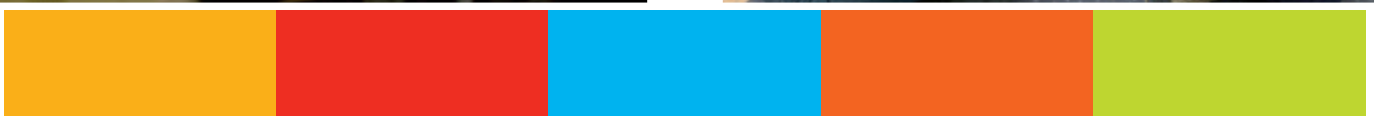
- **Making local social services more accessible to all.** Europe is considered to be affected by relative poverty rather than extreme one, as there are still regions where people live with less than 70% of the regional average income of a household. Relative poverty affects vulnerable groups like children, persons with disabilities, ethnic minority

groups, elder or unemployed people. They hardly benefit of basic social services such as public subsidized healthcare services, childcare, education for adults and training courses, decent housing, dependency support services, etc. ...

- **Preparing people for integration into the labour market.** Hitting hard certain regions or cities, the crisis may provoke a long-standing deepening of the disparities between the regions of Europe, thus reducing people's access to equal opportunities for a better quality of life. Among the most recurrent causes of relative poverty in Europe is unemployment, closely followed by low-paid jobs and insufficient training. One of the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy is to achieve an inclusive growth through increasing labour participation and a better match between labour supply and demand.
- **Inclusive citizenship in urban and rural areas.** Even if Europe has done efforts insofar to eradicate poverty, still 16% of its population is living below the poverty line, unequally distributed in urban and rural areas. Disadvantaged groups may suffer additional problems that prevent them to fully participating in their city or village life. As social, economic, cultural, political, environmental similarities and differences exist between rural and urban communities, fighting against exclusion can be regarded as a very local issue. In response, the Europe 2020 strategy wants to increase territorial cohesion, so that people living either in urban or rural areas can benefit of the same opportunities.

More information on the event can be found at:

www.cor.europa.eu/EY2010



PROGRAMME

9:00-09:30

Registration

09:30-11:00

Opening session and debate

The battle against poverty is local: The Europe 2020 Strategy and the objective of "inclusive growth"

Interpretation: EN/FR/DE/LT/ES/SV

Moderator: **Jérôme Vignon**, former Director with the European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

Interventions by:

- **Arnoldas Abramavičius**, Mayor of Zarasai District Municipality and Member of the Municipal Council, Lithuania, Chairman of the Committee of the Regions Commission for Economic and Social Policy
- **Tore Hult**, Member of the council of the Commune of Alingsås, Sweden, and Member of the Committee of the Regions, rapporteur on the CoR Opinion on homelessness (tbc)
- **Pilar Lucio**, Regional Minister for Equality and Employment, Extremadura, Spain
- **Antonia Carparelli**, Head of Unit, European Commission, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
- **Prof. Dr. Christine Stelzer-Orthofer**, University of Linz, Austria, and Ambassador of the European Year 2010

11:15-12:45

Three parallel workshops

Three parallel workshops on social innovation according to the main themes:

Workshop 1: Making local social services more accessible to all

Interpretation: IT/EN/BG/NL

The aims of this session are:

- Give an overview of examples of good practice of social services applied at local/regional level;
- Debate on how to make the social services more efficient for the citizens;
- Discuss the next steps to be taken in order that social systems should improve the quality of life of vulnerable groups.

Moderator: **Freek Spinnewijn**, Director with the European Federation of national Organisations working with

the Homeless (FEANSTA), Brussels

Project presentations

- **Anna Maria Candela**, Director of Social Planning and socio-health integration Office, Regional Ministry for Solidarity, Social Policies and Migration Flows, Puglia, Italy: "Economic support to family units at poverty risk"
- **Iain Johnston**, Operations Director, Faith in Community, Glasgow, United Kingdom: "Faiths in Scotland Community Action Fund"
- **Vesela Kolarska**, Deputy mayor of Montana municipality, and project manager, Bulgaria: "Under one roof"
- **Debbie Healy**, East England, United Kingdom: "Tending Reach Out Pilot Project"

Workshop 2: Preparing people for integration into the labour market

Interpretation: EN/ET/DE/NL/PL

This session aims to:

- Share experience and look into the opportunities of creating a fairer and more inclusive labour market for the workforce;
- Debate on the impact of developing people's professional, entrepreneurial and personal skills as key solution to reduce relative poverty.

Moderator: **Robert Anderson**, Head of Unit, Living Conditions and Quality of Life, European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, Dublin, Ireland

Project presentations

- **Allan Alaküla**, Head of Tallinn EU Office, Estonia: "Subsidised jobs in Europe – ideology, legislation and practice"
- **Jochen Krautstein**, School Administration, City of Arnsherg, Germany: "ProBe"
- **Lieven Monserez**, Regional Director with Groep Intro, Brussels, Belgium: "Training for less-favoured groups"
- **Anna Sikorska**, Manager of the Municipal Centre for Social Services (GOPS), Lubicz Municipality, Poland: "Active and integrated in the municipality Lubicz"

Workshop 3: Inclusive citizenship in urban and rural areas.

Interpretation: NL/EN/LT/DE

This session aims to:

- Showcase regional and local approaches of social inclusion through development of projects promoting active citizenship – examples of good practice;
- Gain knowledge from local initiatives that enable people affected by poverty to participate actively in society.

Moderator: **Marit Schweiker**, Policy Officer, Council of European Municipalities and Regions, Brussels

Project presentations

- **Annette Perdaens**, Administrative Director, Heath and Social Observatory, Brussels, Belgium: "Poverty in Brussels"
- **Shelagh Hetreed**, Bristol, United Kingdom: "Building a strong identity in Somali young women living in UK"
- **Audrone Barauskiene**, Head Deputy of Social Support Department, Šilutes District Municipality, Lithuania: "Social partnership in Silute's district"
- **Martin Johnstone**, Poverty Truth Commission, Glasgow, United Kingdom: "Nothing About Us Without Us is For Us"

12:45-14:30

Lunch reception offered by the Committee of the Regions

14:30-16:00

Three parallel workshops

(Continuation of the morning sessions)

Workshop 4: Making local social services more accessible to all

Interpretation: NL/IT/ES/EN

Moderator: **Freek Spinnewijn**, Director with the European Federation of national Organisations working with the Homeless (FEANSTA), Brussels

Project presentations

- **Angelica Pizzuti**, Cultural Foundation, City of Caserta, Campania, Italy: "Temporary Poverty"
- **Gemma Zabaleta**, Minister for Employment and Social Affairs of the Basque Government, Spain: "The Basque system of social inclusion"
- **Gerda van den Boogaard**, Communication Advisor, Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands: "Persaldopositief"
- **Latif Ismail / Shelagh Hetreed**, Co-Director and Director with Pax Pontis Ltd., Bristol, United Kingdom: "The Bristol Consortium of Migrant Community Services"

Workshop 5: Preparing people for integration into the labour market

Interpretation: EN/DE/NL/SV

Moderator: **Robert Anderson**, Head of Unit, Living Conditions and Quality of Life, European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, Dublin, Ireland

Project presentations

- **Maria Klingelstein**, Director with the Centre for Vocational Education (BBZ) Augsberg, Germany: "BQE 2009" (tbc)
- **Joop Einhaus**, Manager of Buurtsupport, Emmen, The Netherlands: "Buurtsupport": The social enterprise"
- **Duncan Wells**, Director with the Refugee Education and Training Advisory Service (RETAS), Leeds, United Kingdom: "Integrating refugees and asylum seekers"
- **Violetta Nilsson/Gunilla Malm**, City of Malmö, Sweden: "The Stegen project"

Workshop 6: Inclusive citizenship in urban and rural areas

Interpretation: DE/EN/PT/PL/FR

Moderator: **Marit Schweiker**, Policy Officer, Council of European Municipalities and Regions, Brussels

Project presentations

- **Gerry Andrews**, Neighbourhood Manager, Bradford, United Kingdom: "Little Horton Streets Ahead Neighbourhood Management programme - the Canterbury Partnership"
- **Frederico Paixão**, Division of External Relations and Cooperation Lisbon City Council, Portugal: "Municipal Council for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities"
- **Violetta Kunicka-Kajczuk**, Head of Department of Prevention and Implementation of Social Programmes, Mazovian Centre for Social Policy, Poland: "Support for children and youth coming from families with alcohol problems"
- **Laurent Demoulin**, Director of the association Diogènes, Brussels, Belgium: "Direct access from the street to a solidier home"

16:15-17:00

Closing session and final round table

Interpretation: EN/FR/DE/IT

Moderator: **Jérôme Vignon**, former Director with the European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

Conclusions from the workshops and debate with the floor

Keynote speech

Nichi Vendola, President of the Region of Puglia, Italy, and Member of the Committee of the Regions

May 2010

EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions

Edited by the Directorate for Communication, Press and Protocol of the Committee of the Regions

Rue Belliard/Belliardstraat, 101 _ 1040 Bruxelles/Brussel _ BELGIQUE/BELGIË

Tel. +32 25468202_ Fax +32 22822085

www.cor.europa.eu