

Participatory Forum

"Building together a society for all –

A circus against exclusion"

19-20 October, Halles de Schaerbeek,

Rue Royale Ste Marie 22a 1030 Brussels

The Forum is organised in the framework of the European Year 2010 for combating poverty and social exclusion and the campaign "Do you know what social Europe can do for you?". For more information, please see <http://ec.europa.eu/social> and www.2010againstpoverity.eu.

A place for meeting, information and exchange on social inclusion initiatives developed across the European Union

The European Year 2010 has highlighted the diversity of actors involved in combating poverty and social exclusion through around a thousand co-financed projects and voluntary initiatives. It also underlined the wide range of policies developed across the years, which gave shape to Social Europe.

As Heads of States and Governments have agreed to put social inclusion at the centre of the EU's agenda towards 2020, the Participatory Forum will put the spotlight on these initiatives and provide a space to:

- **Find out and exchange** about inspiring, innovative projects supported by EU financial programmes or developed in the context of the European Year 2010;
- **Meet with actors from various horizons**, including some who have become increasingly active throughout the European Year 2010;
- **Learn more about policies and programmes** developed by the European Union in a wide range of areas: social protection and inclusion, but also education and culture, enterprise, health, environment, migration...
- **Debate on the EU's role** in these areas and in particular on the future "European Platform against Poverty".

The event will illustrate the European Year 2010's message of participation and shared responsibility, by giving an active role to various actors: public authorities at various levels, NGOs, social partners, cultural actors, foundations, as well as people experiencing poverty. Participation will be open to the public.

Programme

The forum will be organised around a series of information and discussion spaces, which will happen concurrently.

Circus performances and animations

In order to illustrate concretely how circus and artistic professions can contribute to enhancing social inclusion, the event will present a series of short circus acts and evening performances based on educational programmes run by a range of European schools, including the *Ecole du Cirque de Bruxelles*, *Cabuwazi* (Germany), the *Belfast Community Centre* (UK), *Le Plus Petit Cirque du Monde* (Paris), and *Mêle tes Potes* (Brussels), *Budapest Circus School* (Hungary).

A Circus against Exclusion (performance presentation)

A handful of jugglers, their hair ruffled by trapeze artists and acrobats, with hip-hop sounds blasting, all under a hail of basketballs and diabolos: an original programme amid an appealing atmosphere of clownery! The public will be out of their seats.

As part of the European event "A Circus against Exclusion", the Brussels Circus School presents a spectacular featuring 25 artists with widely varying worlds and profiles.

Who are they? Some come from circus schools with educational and social purposes, while others are graduates of Europe's top professional circus academies. Together, they unveil their art to you during the course of a most eclectic and surprising show.

Twenty workshops and open space discussions

In total, twenty workshops and open space discussions will be organised by the European Commission and various stakeholders during the two days of the event. Based on an interactive methodology and participation, these will be the main forum for exchange and debate.

Information stands

Interactive information stands will be run by various EU institutions, European and local NGOs¹, and will be an opportunity for visitors to find out concretely about their activities and various projects in the field of social inclusion. One specific stand will also highlight projects and initiatives developed in the framework of the European Year 2010 across its 29 participating countries.

Practicalities

Interpretation will be provided in EN, FR and NL for the six main workshops. Open space workshops will be held in EN or FR. Participants will have the possibility to purchase food and drinks on the premises

¹ European Youth Forum, ESAN - European Social Action Network, European Microfinance Network, CE.S.I.E, EUROCITIES, European Federation of Food Banks, European Social Network, European Festivals Association, European Foundation Centre, European Year 2010 NGO Coalition, United Nations Development Programme, European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions; European Commission: DG Education and Culture, DG Information Society and Media, DG Research, European Economic and Social Committee.

Tuesday 19 October

	Grande Halle	Petite Halle	Mezzanine 1	Mezzanine 2	Cave	Mezzanine
14.30 – 15.45	<p>Opening session: <i>Combating poverty in the EU: a renewed commitment</i> Chair: Jimmy Jamar, European Commission, Directorate General Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities Highlights from the European Year 2010 in participating countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anne Joubert, Ministère du Travail, de la Solidarité et de la Fonction publique, Direction générale de la cohésion sociale, France - Peter Ziegler, Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Soziales; Beatrice Gerst, Trottwar, Germany - Alexis Andries, Service de lutte contre la pauvreté, la précarité et l'exclusion sociale, Belgium <p>Achievements and prospects: how can EU policies and programmes better contribute to reducing poverty and social exclusion?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Antonia Carparelli, European Commission, Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities - Fintan Farrell, EAPN, NGO coalition set up for the European Year 2010 <p>Questions and debate</p>					
16.00 – 17.30	Workshop Mental health and homeless people – towards equality of access and outcome	Open space Over-indebtedness: the role of social services in providing an integrated response	Open space Child Poverty	Open space European Food banks: working in partnership (FR)	Open space Healthy and Wealthy Together	Stands
20.00	Circus performance					

Wednesday 20 October

	Grande Halle	Petite Halle	Mezzanine 1	Mezzanine 2	Cave	Mezzanine
9.30 – 11.00	Workshop Inclusion of migrants	Workshop Role of business	Open space Listening to users	Open space Social Integration Enterprises – innovative promotion of active inclusion (FR)	Open space “Festivals: Open Doors. Open Minds. Build Societies!”	Stands
11.30 – 13.00	Workshop Comprehensive strategies against over-indebtedness	Workshop Environmental challenges and poverty	Open space Family and reconciliation policies as means to tackle poverty and exclusion	Open space Crossing Borders: Supporting Rural Youth Work in the Balkans	Open space Bringing social inclusion to the spotlight through partnerships	Stands
13.00 – 14.00	Circus animations					
14.00 – 15.30	Circus animations + workshops Social Circus European programmes and circus schools	Workshop Education and transition to work	Open space Partnerships for personal and professional microfinance (FR)	Open space Social innovation for promoting inclusive societies	Open space Brighter futures – Poverty breaker corners	Stands
16.00	Circus performance					

Tuesday 19 October

16.00 – 17.30

Mental health and homeless people – towards equality of access and outcome

Grande Halle

People living in poverty and social exclusion are much more likely to experience mental health problems and this, for a longer period. But they are also much less likely to make use of psychiatric services, and if they do it is largely as users of short-time emergency services. Marginalized people with mental health problems – often young – too often find themselves in shelters for the homeless or living rough. They also suffer far worse access to permanent housing or general services. Showcasing two examples of projects, the session will be an opportunity to discuss the EU's approach to health inequalities, with a particular focus on homeless people, and in the perspective of the European Platform Against Poverty.

- Preben Brandt, founder and Chairman of the *Udenfor* project in Copenhagen, board member of Mental Health Europe
- Arnaud Senn, European Commission, Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
- Luigi Leonori, Santé Mentale et Exclusion Sociale Europa (SMES)
- Freek Spinnewijn, Fédération Européenne des Associations Nationales travaillant avec les Sans-Abris (FEANTSA)

Over-indebtedness: the role of social services in providing an integrated response, European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound)

Petite Halle

Based on an initiative developed during the European Year 2010, the session will aim to raise awareness of the issue of over-indebtedness and the necessity of an integrated services response. Following a presentation of the issue and of specific cases of over-indebted households, interactive methodology will be used to explore how the combination of services, ranging from financial to legal, can best be applied to solve such situations.

- Colette Bennett, Casework Technical Support, Money Advice and Budgeting Service, Ireland
- David Šmejkal, Poradna, Czech Republic
- Hans Dubois, Eurofound

European Food banks: working in partnership - European Federation of Food Banks

Mezzanine 2 (in French)

The session will aim to introduce and present the contribution of food banks throughout Europe, and stimulate partnerships with other actors involved in combating poverty and social exclusion. It will also present concrete examples of projects run by food banks in partnership with other organisations, and supporting the active participation of people experiencing poverty.

- Jean Delmelle, European Federation of Food Banks
- Gérard Alix, European Federation of Food Banks

Child Poverty, King Baudouin Foundation

Mezzanine 1

The session will feature different approaches developed by foundations to tackle child poverty. One example will be the project PING "Poverty is not a game", presented by the King Baudouin Foundation. PING aims to enhance societal debate on poverty by using computer games at school.

The recommendations from the European participatory conference on Child poverty organized in the context of the Belgian presidency will be presented and serve as the basis for an interactive debate on innovative methods to combat child and youth poverty.

- Hugh Frazer, EU Network of Independent Experts on Social Inclusion
- Pascale Taminiaux, King Baudouin Foundation
- Saïda Sakali, King Baudouin Foundation

Healthy and Wealthy Together, Quartiers en crise - European Regeneration Areas Network (QeC-ERAN)

Cave

Qec-Eran will present an open session aim on the relationship between health inequalities, poverty and social exclusion, building on two practical examples of projects:

Doctors of the world, London UK provide healthcare to migrants in 10 different countries across Europe.

Naga, an association of volunteers, funded in Milano in 1987, aiming to provide and save the rights of all the foreigners' citizens and nomads, without discrimination.

- Qureshi Fizza, Doctors of the World, UK
- Pierfranco Olivani, Naga, Italy
- Haroon Saad, Qec-eran
- Giulia Cantaluppi, "Healthy & Wealthy Together", Qec-eran

Wednesday 20 October

9.30 - 11.00

Social Inclusion of migrant youth: Breaking the inter-generational transmission of poverty and social exclusion

Grande Halle

Migrants often face higher risks of unemployment and poverty than nationals in Member States, and in most countries the risk of poverty rate faced by children in migrant households is two to five times higher than the risk faced by children whose parents were born in the country of residence¹. Showcasing an innovative project, the workshop will discuss how the Europe 2020 Strategy, the Platform against Poverty and a new Agenda for Migrants' Integration can best work towards combating poverty and the inter-generational transmission of poverty among migrant youth.

- Chair: Constantinos Fotakis, European Commission, Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
- Dr. Katrine Fangen, Project Coordinator, EUMARGINS, Inclusion and exclusion of young adult migrants at the labour market - Presentation of findings from 7 European countries
- Diane Schmitt, European Commission, Directorate General Home Affairs, Head of Unit Immigration and Integration - EU Framework for integration and inclusion of migrants, an overview,
- Dr. William Ejalu, ENAR - Challenges and opportunities for integration and social inclusion for migrant youths in the EU2020 strategy and the Platform against poverty

Role of Business

Petite Halle

The session will discuss the role of business in the community strive to building together societies for all. The key part played by Corporate social responsibility will be presented both by highlighting newly developed trends in corporate strategic thinking and through innovative examples in the area of fighting homelessness.

Particular focus will be put on the following questions: What does the private sector do? Through which channels? What are their prospects at which horizon? What are their expectations in terms of working with public entities and associations? How does social innovation and experimentation fit into the corporate social responsibility perspective?

- Sylvie Le Bars, Solidarités actives, will present the innovative approach of the Hope In Stations project, which involves bringing together several European railway companies to reflect collectively on how best to provide assistance to homeless in and around train stations (supported by the European Commission through the Programme PROGRESS)
- Fabrizio Torella, Thierry Chainbaux - « Réseaux ferroviaires européens: Développement social et Solidarité dans les Gares »
- Asier Marquina, ArcelorMittal Foundation, Western Europe and Africa
- Jan Noterdaeme, CSR Europe

¹ Social Protection Committee (2008): "Child poverty and well-being in the EU. Current status and way forward."

Listening to Users, European Social Network

Mezzanine 1

The session will focus on users' experience of access to and quality of social services. Through the ESN film "Listening to Users and their Carers", this session will promote a better understanding of issues which cause poverty and social exclusion or are compounded by it. The panel will then discuss the role of social services in providing a range of support and care to the most vulnerable, as well as their commitment to give a voice to those experiencing poverty and social exclusion in Europe.

- Neelam Bhardwaja, Cardiff City Council, UK
- Marie-Anne Paraskevas, European Commission
- Fintan Farrell, EAPN
- Fabian Zuleeg, European Policy Centre
- Chair: Hugh Frazer, Coordinator of the EU Network of Independent Experts on Social Inclusion

Social Integration Enterprises – innovative promotion of active inclusion of vulnerable groups, European Network of Social Integration Enterprises (ENSIE)

Mezzanine 2 (in French)

The session will present and discuss the role of social integration enterprises through examples of good practices from Austria, Belgium and Italy.

Particular focus will be put on the following questions: What do the social integration enterprises do? Do they just provide a work or are they vector of active inclusion? Which other services they provide? Which are the links with the other services providers?

- Charlotte Gruber, Bundesdachverband für Soziale Unternehmen, Austria
- Georges Tabacchi, Consorzio sociale Abele Lavoro, Italy
- Salvatore Vetro, Terre/ENSIE, Belgium
- Kelly Wood, Samenwerkingsverband Sociale Tewerkstelling vzw, Belgium

"Open The Door" / "Festivals: Open Doors. Open Minds. Build Societies!" European Festivals Association (EFA)

Cave

The session will build on the project "Open The Door", which aims to increase awareness of the power of arts and culture in the process of social transformation and to foster involvement of cultural actors in societal issues. It will share and exchange on best practices from the cultural / festival sector, discuss the responsibilities of politicians and the role of arts and culture in social inclusion issues, and invite for a joint commitment to the 'social' cultural Europe through arts and cultural activities.

- Biljana Zdravkovic, Belgrade Music Festival, Serbia
- Jelle Dierickx, Gent Festival of Flanders
- Kathrin Deventer, European Festivals Association
- Salvatore Marra, International Relations Federazione CEMAT, Italy

11.15 - 12.45

Comprehensive strategies against over-indebtedness

Grande Halle

Over-indebtedness does not affect only the low-income people, but it always represent of major risk or lasting social exclusion. Effective strategies to support over-indebted people rely on a complex range of services and legal frameworks to prevent and tackle the problem.

The workshop will discuss how the interventions can be made more consistent and supportive for the rehabilitation of over-indebted people.

- Chair: Antoine Saint-Denis, European Commission, Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
- Georges Gloukoviezoff, Director of 2G Recherche
- Bernard Bayot, EFIN, European Financial Inclusion Network
- European Commission, Directorate General for Internal Market and Services (tbn)

Environmental challenges and poverty

Petite Halle

In the debate over how best to respond to the climate change challenge, the focus to date has been on what targets should be set for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and what measures are needed to meet those targets. Far less attention has been paid to the impact of these measures on different groups in European societies.

The workshop will discuss how best to confront together the environmental and social challenges the EU is facing and how to build social justice concerns into environmental and climate change policies, among others in the framework of the Europe 2020 strategy. It will focus in particular on the following questions:

How can we ensure that the costs and benefits of environmental policies are shared fairly across society in Europe? How can we prevent policies to combat climate change hitting the pockets of poorer households hardest? Can social policies contribute to achieving the European Union's climate change goals in a way that benefits everyone in society?

- Chair: Ralf Jacob, European Commission, Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Head of Unit Socio-demographic analysis
- Pascale Taminioux, Project Manager 'Climate change mitigation and social justice in Europe: striking the right balance', King Baudouin Foundation
- Simon Wilson, Director, Edelman The Centre
- Tom Bauler, Centre for Studies on Sustainable Development, Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)

Family and reconciliation policies as means to tackle poverty and exclusion, Social Inclusion Regional Group

Mezzanine 1

This session will aim at sharing knowledge, instruments and policies to combat poverty and social exclusion by focusing on support to families. Policy makers will present the ongoing work of 60 family networks built in Veneto with 730 families combating poverty and exclusion. In addition, the debate will focus on social inclusion and reconciliation policies through the promotion of the “family label” in enterprises.

The session will be held with speakers from the Flemish network of people experiencing poverty, who will present a position paper related to child poverty. The results of this work can feed into the work of European networks such as the European Local Inclusion and Social Action network (ELISAN) and ENSA.

- Francesco Gallo, Regione del Veneto, Direzione regionale per i Servizi Sociali, Italy
- Samira Castermans, Vlaams Netwerk van verenigingen waar Armen het woord nemen, Belgium

Crossing Borders: Supporting Rural Youth Work in the Balkans, Rural Youth Europe

Mezzanine 2

The aim of the session will be to share information about a project supporting rural youth work in the Balkans and the establishment of a stronger regional network of rural youth organisations. Participants will exchange creative ideas, provide feedback on the project results and discuss concrete ideas for the future. It will be based on a participative methodology ("World Café").

- Armin Dzinovic, Rural Youth Europe
- Admin Idrizi, Rural Youth Europe
- Janette Stirling, Rural Youth Europe

Bringing social inclusion to the spotlight through partnerships, Fundación Luis Vives

Cave

This session will focus on partnership as a key element to address social inclusion, *especially* to tackle three aspects of it: visibility, debate and action. *Which are the obstacles and drivers to partnership? Which should the responsibilities of the different stakeholders involved be?* We will try to answer these and other questions in an open debate with the public.

The project "Promoting Social Inclusion, integrACTING", which aims to promote social inclusion strategies at regional and local level, and other similar initiatives will be the starting point to the discussion.

- Roberto Bernad, Fundación Luis Vives, Spain
- Natasha Kocic, Roma Education Fund, Hungary
- Antonella Ricci, Compania di San Paolo, Italy

14.00 - 15.30

Education and transition to work

Petite Halle

The EU has close to 100 million young people, representing a fifth of its total population. They have been hit particularly hard by the economic and social crisis. They continue to suffer, due to weaknesses in education and employment systems which see high numbers of young people leave school early or with low qualifications and then struggle to find jobs.

Youth unemployment is currently running at a very high level – 20.7%. At the same time, against the backdrop of an ageing population, they must be at the centre of the agenda based on knowledge-based growth, high levels of education and skills, labour market adaptability and creativity and innovation which underpin Europe's future prosperity. This session will present two initiatives contributing to Europe's efforts to support its youth in better managing their future:

European Youth Forum

A good quality education and the acquisition of a variety of skills help ensure that a young person can find employment and earn an income which allows them to be economically self-sufficient. At the same time though, young people are spending longer in education and are less likely than in the past to have financial support in the form of grants or other support such as subsidised housing and transport. The phase of transition from education to entering labour market proves to be a very difficult one and can lead to insufficient and irregular earnings that subsequently prevent young people from starting an autonomous adult life.

EquNet: an initiative to foster access to Higher Education in Europe as a key driver for social inclusion and employability

Widening participation in higher education is a major component of education policy in many member states and should consist of an attempt to increase not only the number of young people entering higher education, but also the proportion of “under-represented groups”. The project EquNet has been developed by eight organisations including MENON, the European Students Union and EURASHE with the support of the European Commission to analyze existing trends and to define an indicator on equity in HE. Main findings from the first Annual EquNet Report, focusing on state of the art and challenges for HE equity in Europe, will be presented and discussed

- Chair: Marie-Anne Paraskevas, European Commission, Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
- Anthony Camilleri, EquNet Project Coordinator
- Luca Scarpiello, European Youth Forum Board Member

Social inclusion: the example of “social circus”

Grande Halle

All over Europe, cultural and social organisms use access to culture and artistic activities as a mean to combat social exclusion of young people with fewer opportunities. Presenting concrete and innovative examples, several European youth and social circuses will present how they use various European funding programmes to realise this objective. This presentation will be followed by a debate with the aim to exchange best practices in this field and to foster new initiatives of the same kind.

- Chair : Eleférios KECHAGIOGLOU, Plus Petit Cirque du Monde, Bagneux, France
- Aad KUIN Circus Elleboog, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Taina, KOPRA, Sorin Sirkus, Tampere, Finland
- Will Chamberlain, Belfast Community Circus School, Belfast, UK

“HandiCirque” or circus as a tool of inclusion for extra-ordinary people

Grande Halle

Several youth and social circuses from different European countries have developed expertise in using circus as a tool of inclusion for people with special needs. Their activities, whether directly aimed at handicapped people, or mixing valid participants with others with special needs, offer an innovative and creative perspective on how to combat social exclusion. This session will offer an overview of several success stories, and will be followed by a general discussion to give participants the opportunity to share their own experiences.

- Chair: Vincent Wauters, Ecole de Cirque de Bruxelles, Belgium
- Charlotte Delvau, HandiCirque, Ecole de Cirque de Bruxelles, Belgium
- Delphine Tollet, initiatrice de HandiCirque, Belgium

Partnerships for personal and professional microfinance, European Micro-Finance Network

Mezzanine 1 (in French)

The session will present two initiatives in which a range of actors work in partnership to develop personal and professional microfinance for the sake of social inclusion and entrepreneurship:

"Entrepreneurship – from the idea to success" Micro-finance and professional training in rural areas in Romania – FAER IFN SA, Member of the European Micro-Finance Network.

The economic situation in Romania pushes people in rural areas to look for job opportunities beyond the agricultural sector. In order to reinforce economic development, the Romanian Foundation FAER and its rural micro-finance enterprise FAER SA have developed a programme supporting small entrepreneurs in rural areas, combining micro-credit and professional training for adults. Supported by the European Social Fund, this project (« Antreprenoriatul de la idee la succes ») is implemented in 4 departments and aims to reach 1600 people.

- Ioan Vlasiu, FAER, Romania

A path towards inclusion through personal and professional microcredit: the experience of the French Savings Bank, a member of the European Microfinance Network

Parcours Confiance is an initiative in which a network of cooperative banks and some NGOs work in partnership to offer professional and personal microcredit, together with a customised financial coaching and the promotion of financial literacy. Testimonies of beneficiaries as well as from France Active, an NGO working with Parcours Confiance, will discuss the initiative's impact, in the light of a study finalised in September 2010.

- Perrine Lantoine-Rejas, Fédération Nationale des Caisses d'Epargne, France
- Dorothée Vanrentregem, Parcours Confiance, France
- François Dechy, France Active, France
- Papa Alioune Niang, project beneficiary, France

Social innovation for promoting inclusive societies, United Nations Development Programme *Mezzanine 2*

The workshop will aim to present and share lessons learnt from innovative and fresh approaches fostering social inclusion in the area of social economy and vocational and educational training systems. It will present practical experiences from projects with specific focus on:

Integrated support system for the social economy (supporting the development of the social economy sector in Poland and suggesting possible models for replication);

Fostering Key Initiative and Enterprising Competencies Among Students of Agricultural Schools in Poland (supporting the development of rural schools' capacities to provide high quality vocational training).

- Andrey Ivanov, UNDP Regional Centre Bratislava
- Kamil Wyszowski, UNDP Poland
- Susanne Milcher, UNDP Regional Centre Bratislava
- Ewa Sadowska, Barka Foundation, Poland

Brighter futures – Poverty breaker corners, European Social Action network (ESAN) *Cave*

Through an entertaining and participatory methodology, the session will lead teams to compete & win the award of the best suitable solutions to reduce Youth poverty as well as to the drawing up of a "wish list" of most commonly shared solutions or initiatives to set in place, or to supplement, improve, better support existing measures to combat poverty amongst youngsters. It will lead to the production of a video and presentation of groups' solutions.

- Christoph Kusche, Universität Lüneburg, Germany
- Lise Sanders Olesen, University College Zealand, Denmark