

Towards 2010
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Achieving Progress on Poverty in 2010

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EUROPEAN ANTI POVERTY NETWORK

RESEAU EUROPEEN DES ASSOCIATIONS

DE LUTTE CONTRE LA PAUVRETE

ET L'EXCLUSION SOCIALE

www.eapn1.org



What is EAPN ? (European Anti Poverty Network)

- Independent **EU Network of NGO's** and organisations committed to fight against poverty and social exclusion
- Started in 1990 – **key actor** in development of EU Social Inclusion Strategy (social OMC).
- Receives **financial support** from the European Commission = PROGRESS
- 26 **National Networks** and 28 **European NGO's** as members.

EAPN : Aim and objectives



To empower people and communities facing poverty and social exclusion to access their rights, to enable them to overcome their isolation and counter their social exclusion

- Put the **fight against poverty** and social exclusion high on the political agenda of the European Union
- Promote and enhance the **effectiveness of actions** against poverty
- Lobby **for and with people and groups** facing poverty and exclusion



2010 Key Challenges

2010 – More than just a year...



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- 2010 - EU year for combating poverty and social exclusion
 - End of existing “Lisbon Strategy” and start of new post 2010 strategy - EU 2020
 - Lisbon Treaty approved and implemented
 - New European Parliament, election of new President of the Commission and the Council, new Commissioners
 - Crisis and recovery packages continue to dominate the debate..

The Lisbon strategy : what happened to the pledge on poverty?

- Original objectives of Lisbon strategy 2000:
« *create the most competitive and knowledge-driven economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth, with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion* »
- *Commitment to make a decisive impact on poverty by 2010.*
- *Change in 2005 to focus on Growth and Jobs*
- *Trickle down theory to impact on social cohesion*
 - *Is it working ?*
 - *Is this the right basis for future strategies ?*

Impact on poverty



- **16% of EU population at risk of poverty** – 78 million people
- **No significant decrease** since 2000 (15% in 2001, Old MS), increases in AT, BE, NL, UK and PL.
- **Higher poverty risk faced by women** (17%), children (19%) and older people (19%)
- **Value of poverty threshold** varies – 558 EU for single person Rumania/ compared to 17, 087 in Luxembourg.
- **Inequality gap rising** – with SE, SL, CZ, DK, FI, AT and LU with lowest gaps and highest gaps in PL, LA, LI, PT.
- In 2006, **income of richest 20% nearly 5 times** higher than income of the poorest 20%.
- **Poverty risk is highest where greatest income inequalities**

Challenging Assumptions

1. Growth first - or fair, sustainable growth?

- *“ The assumption that economic growth will raise the adequacy of standards of living of all, just as a tide lifts all boats together, is not often observed in practice”* (Commission SWD: Monitoring progress towards the objectives of the European Strategy for Social Protection and Social Inclusion, 6.10.08)
- Strong economic growth did not result in big reduction in poverty rates in LT, EE, PL, SK, IE, MT, CY.(2004/5)
- The poverty rate increased in CZ, EL, LU, HU,SE .
- *“No causal link between growth and living standards for different groups, if no mechanisms established to improve the situation of those at the bottom of the income distribution.”* (European Commission.).



Challenging Assumptions

2. A job at any price – or quality jobs for all?

- **Unemployed face higher risk of poverty**
41% of unemployed live **under poverty threshold**

 - **But... 8% of people in work** are at risk of poverty
 - **20% of the those at risk of poverty are in work** 12% of the poor are unemployed.....
 - **Why?** – low wages, precarious jobs, enforced part-time work.
- ***A job is not enough to guarantee an escape from poverty. Quality work / living wages provide essential floor to sustainable economy***

Challenging Assumptions

3. Social protection – a cost, or an investment?

- **Average gross spending on social protection** ranges from 15% of GDP (in Baltic States and RO) to more than 28% (in BE, DE, DK, and SE). Spending has declined in most MS.
 - **Social Spending reduces risk of poverty:** without it the rate would be 26% (instead of 16%)
 - Countries with the **lowest at risk of poverty rates** are those who spend more on social benefits.
 - **Increased expenditure on social protection** linked to increased **prosperity** as measured by GDP per capita
- ***Effective Social protection systems not only reduce poverty, and increase security, but provide an essential platform for participation, and social cohesion as well as supporting growth.***



Challenging Assumptions

4. Poverty reduction or building a better life for all?

- Tackling poverty is more than just delivering basic needs; it is enabling people to participate equally in society
 - The challenge : the increasing gap between rich and poor in the EU
 - Increase between top and bottom 20% from 4.5 in 2000 to 4.8% in 2007
- What society do we want?
Only minimum basic safety nets? or **a better life for all?**

2010: Key Challenges



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- 2010 – EU year against poverty and social exclusion – what impact ?
 - Challenging growth and jobs model that has not succeeded in delivering on poverty or building a better life for all
 - A crisis that is exacerbating impact on poor/ and likely to widen inequality gap
- No more business as usual – an EU we can trust



EAPN proposals – post 2010

EAPN Overarching Proposals.



An EU We Can Trust: A new vision

- Put people and planet before profit
- Put the economy at service of social and sustainable development
- Make the fight against poverty, inequality and social exclusion, **a pre-requisite for progress**

An EU We Can Trust: 3 Key Demands



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- 1) A new **social and sustainable** post 2010 EU strategy
 - 2) A **Social Progress Pact** – Delivering on rights and solidarity
 - 3) Building a **dynamic partnership** for change

1. A new social and sustainable strategy

A new social and sustainable post 2010 strategy which makes progress on poverty and inequality **a pre-requisite.**

- New objectives and balanced architecture reinforcing the role of the Social OMC
- New tools for implementation – Targets on poverty and Indicators beyond GDP.



2. A Social Pact – delivering on Rights and Solidarity.

- Progress on reducing inequality
- Guaranteeing Adequate Income and access to services (EU frameworks)
- Implementing Active Inclusion
- Defending quality employment
- Challenging discrimination and promoting diversity.
- Promoting global social justice.

3. Building a dynamic partnership for change



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- Implementing better participation – EU guidelines and benchmarking on governance.
 - Financial support to NGO's – access to Structural Funds / new EU Poverty Programme.



2010
EU Year for combating poverty
and social exclusion
Delivering results!

2010 – EU Year for combating poverty and social exclusion



■ Aims:

- **Recognition of the rights** of people in poverty and social exclusion to live in dignity and to play a full part in society;
- **Shared responsibility and participation:**
an increase in the public ownership of social inclusion policies
- **A more cohesive society**, where no one doubts that society as a whole benefits from the eradication of poverty;
- **Commitment of all actors and concrete action**

2010: EU Year for combating poverty and social exclusion – priority themes



- Promote multidimensional strategies
- Fight child poverty
- Promote an inclusive labour market
- Education and training
- Address gender and age dimensions of poverty
- Ensure access to basic services
- Access to culture and leisure activities
- Overcome discrimination and promoting the integration of immigrants and ethnic minorities

A shared message from the 2010 NGO coalition

2010 BUILDING A
EUROPE FOR ALL
www.endpoverty.eu



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- A high level **debate** on the causes of poverty
 - Enhanced **dialogue** with people in poverty and anti poverty NGOs
 - A strong **political legacy**
 - **Funding** to underpin EU commitments to fight poverty

What policy legacy from the Year?

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- a new overarching social and sustainable EU strategy based on **fundamental rights**
 - a revitalised EU Social Inclusion strategy which ensures progress on agreed National and EU **poverty targets**
 - progress in relation to the accessibility and affordability of **services of general interest**
 - a framework directive aimed at achieving real progress on the adequacy and accessibility of **minimum income schemes within the context of Active Inclusion**

Thank you for listening!



For more information see EAPN Position Paper on 2010
in Italian : www.cilap.eu
in English : www.eapn.eu

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