



## Poverty is not always easy to recognise, yet 1 in 6 people around you is affected.

This could be a neighbour, a colleague, or even a friend or family member.

- < Poverty is a reality for almost 80 million people in the EU. 19 million of these are children.
- < Women, the young, the elderly, people on precarious contracts, migrants and people from ethnic minorities are especially at risk of poverty.
- < Having a job may be the best route out of poverty, yet 8% of people in work don't earn enough to escape from it.
- < 1 in 5 people, or 100 million Europeans, live in bad housing conditions.

The impact of the economic crisis is currently being felt with rising unemployment and further job cuts expected in many countries.

The crisis is also putting pressure on national social security systems.

## 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion

[www.2010againstopoverty.eu](http://www.2010againstopoverty.eu)

### Contact the organisation coordinating activities in your country:

< For UK  
Department for Work and Pensions  
European Social Inclusion Team  
Tel: +44 207 449 5627  
[www.dwp.gov.uk/european-year-2010](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/european-year-2010)  
[2010.EY2010@DWP.GSI.GOV.UK](mailto:2010.EY2010@DWP.GSI.GOV.UK)

< For IE  
Department of Social and Family Affairs  
Office for Social Inclusion  
Tel: +353 1 7043851  
[www.socialinclusion.ie/EUYear.html](http://www.socialinclusion.ie/EUYear.html)

< For IS  
Félags- og tryggingamálaráðuneytið  
[www.felagsmalaraduneyti.is](http://www.felagsmalaraduneyti.is)

< For NO  
Arbeids- og inkluderingsdepartementet  
Tel: +47 22 24 83 77  
[www.nav.no](http://www.nav.no)

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European Commission



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## 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion

Why do we need the European Year?

- < To better acknowledge the right of people living in poverty to play a full part in society.
- < To build and reinforce partnerships between actors working to fight poverty and social exclusion.
- < To increase awareness of the many forms of poverty and social exclusion, and inspire people to come together to combat them.
- < To generate new impetus in the struggle against poverty and social exclusion.

The Year also aims to show how more effective solutions to fighting poverty and social exclusion in the EU can be found if we are all committed to making a difference.

### Events across 29 countries

All 27 EU Member States, as well as Iceland and Norway, have signed up to the Year and are committed to its aims.

The Year is organised in partnership between participating countries, the EU, civil society, especially non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and social partners, who will work together to ensure its success.

A range of activities will be organised across Europe, such as awareness-raising campaigns, information sessions in schools, roundtables and training for the media and decision-makers.



The activities and events planned at European level include two focus weeks, a journalist competition, an art exhibition, and two major conferences in January and December 2010.

The Year will also help increase the visibility of activities organised by civil society during 2010.

### Poverty and social exclusion come in many forms

In its most visible form, poverty can mean not having somewhere to live or food to eat.

It can also mean lacking the resources to meet the ordinary demands of life, like going to the dentist when you have toothache, or being able to send your child on a school trip.

This type of poverty can lead to exclusion as people are unable to join in the everyday activities that the rest of society often takes for granted.

Yet, poverty and social exclusion are not an inevitable part of our society and can be overcome.



## Building together a society for all

Solidarity is a fundamental value of the EU with all members of society sharing the benefits in times of prosperity and the burden in times of difficulty.

In line with this principle, we need to build a more inclusive Europe where everyone is able to make a contribution to society.

EU strategies towards achieving this goal include ensuring that people have adequate incomes and decent housing, as well as access to quality services and inclusive labour markets.

### We all have a role to play

Visit the European Year website to find out what's happening near you and take part in events during the Year.

Get involved by contacting participating organisations in your country.

Use your creativity to organise your own activities.

Make a commitment to the Year's principles by signing the online declaration.

We can only win the fight against poverty and social exclusion if we all work together.