The experience of the European Anti-Poverty Network with the European Pillar of Social Rights

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Outline of the Presentation

1. What is the European Anti-Poverty Network?
2. Shaping the Social Pillar
3. Supporting the adoption of the Social Pillar
4. Implementation of the Social Pillar
5. Questions for the future
What is EAPN - the European Anti Poverty Network?

• Largest independent **network of NGOs** committed to fight against poverty and social exclusion in Europe, with & for people in poverty

• Started in 1990 – **key actor** in poverty programmes and development of social Open Method of Coordination, the Lisbon Strategy, and Europe 2020 and the European Semester

• Receives **financial support** from the European Commission (EaSI programme)

• **31 National Networks** and **13 European NGOs** as members (10000+ organisations)

• **Participation of people** with direct experience of poverty must be part of the solution
Shaping the Social Pillar

- **14th European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty**, on the topic of *Social Convergence in the EU* (19-20 November 2015)
- Interventions in the **DG Employment Stakeholder Dialogue on the EPSR** (December 2015, July 2016) + bilateral meetings and events (all year)
- **Briefing for EAPN members** on the consultation package (8 March 2016)
- **Key Messages** to the **Annual Convention on Inclusive Growth** (21 March 2016)
- **Input position paper** (*Last Chance for Social Europe?*), based on the consultation package, and **EAPN response** to the consultation
- **EAPN General Assembly Final Declaration** in support of an EPSR that delivers on a floor of social standards, with proposals (29 October 2016)
- Input to the **European Parliament report on the EPSR** (October 2016)
- Letters to the **EPSCO Council** (December 2016) and to **President Juncker** (February 2017)
- **EAPN seminar in the European Parliament**, hosted by Sergio Gutiérrez Prieto MEP (S&D), with EPSU participation, on mainstreaming the EPSR in the Semester (12 January 2017)
Shaping the Social Pillar

14th European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty:

Social Convergence in the EU

(19-20 November 2015)
Supporting the adoption of the Pillar

- **Quick reaction** to the release of the **proposal package on the European Pillar of Social Rights** by the European Commission (27 April 2017)

- **Briefing for EAPN members** on the EPSR package (May 2017)

- **Key Messages** to the Annual Convention on Inclusive Growth (24 April 2017)

- **EAPN Annual Policy Conference**, with EPSU involvement, dedicated to the post-2020 Strategy and the SDG framework, with a strong focus on the role the EPSR can play in this context (15 June 2017)

- **Comprehensive position paper** (*Make Social Rights the Beating Heart of Europe!*), with **EAPN analysis of the package and Key Messages**

- **Twitter & Facebook campaign** in support of the EPSR, and supporting the Social Platform social media campaign (October 2017)

- **Participation at the Gothenburg summit** (as part of the Social Platform delegation) + follow-up webinar for members (17 November 2017)

- **EAPN seminar in the European Parliament**, hosted by S&D and Greens/EFA, on **Building a European Social Standards Union – what role for the European Semester?** (December 2017)
Supporting the adoption of the Pillar

EU LEADERS SYMBOLICALLY ADOPT A SOCIAL PILLAR

OF COURSE, YOU DON'T SEE THE PILLAR! IT'S "SYMBOLIC"!

YOU JUST NEED TO IMAGINE IT!...
Implementation of the Social Pillar

• **EAPN objective:** go beyond a framework of principles and be a framework of rights that can make a real difference to people’s right to a life free of poverty.

• **KEY MESSAGES:**
  1. Clarify interpretation of key social standards related to integrated Active Inclusion
  2. Ensure policy coherence in the European Semester and a road map for implementation
  3. Make the Social Scoreboard effective
  4. Propose ambitious legislation to guarantee rights to social protection and minimum income for all
  5. Prioritise good governance and participation for people experiencing poverty and NGOs!

• **5 priority principles:**
  1) Minimum Income
  2) Social Protection
  3) Access to Essential Services
  4) Fair Wages
  5) Education, Training, Lifelong Learning
Implementation of the Social Pillar
Implementation of the Social Pillar: the European Semester

**EAPN involved in engaging with the Europe 2020 Strategy and the European Semester since 2010**

**OBJECTIVES:** balance economic and social priorities; clear roadmap for implementation; embed participative distributional and social impact assessment; fiscal space for social investment.

**ASSESSMENT:** How far are EPSR principles and the Social Scoreboard incorporated, and will the indicators trigger actual policy recommendations?

- **Response to the Annual Growth Survey and Joint Employment Report** – (January 2018)
- Input to the European Parliament report - **new Employment Guidelines** (February 2018)
- **Country Reports** – coming out on 7 March
- National Reform Programmes – coming out on 15 April
- **Country-Specific Recommendations** – coming out in May
- **European Commission events related to the mainstreaming of the EPSR in the European Semester** (eg, 17 April)
- **EAPN annual European Semester event** – EP, December 2018?
Implementation of the Social Pillar

SOCIAL SCOREBOARD (2018)
- Currently doesn’t cover all 20 principles
- Interplay with other indicators (JAF, SPPM, EPM...) unclear
- Working with SPC & EMCO Indicators Sub-Group
- Committed group of national members working on it (IE, UK, ES, PL, LT, RS)

SOCIAL FAIRNESS PACKAGE (13 March 2018)
- Briefing for members and response to the Package
- Council Recommendation: *Access to Social Protection for All Workers* (response to the public [consultation](#); attended stakeholder dialogue)
- Follow up other proposals: European Labour Authority, Social Security Number, Working Conditions Directive, *chapeau* communication

OTHER ACTION (2018)
- Position paper on quality and inclusive education (upcoming)
- Annual Convention for Inclusive Growth (27 April)
- One-pager on each of the 5 core principles (upcoming)
- EAPN Annual Policy Conference (June 2018)

NATIONAL ACTION (2016-2018)
- Involved in [national discussions](#): SE, CY, PT, FI, FR, MK, DE, ES, IE, SK, LT, BE, LT, NL, PL, EE, AT, DK; Consultation: FR, ES, IE, FI, PT, LV, EE, LT, NL, PL
- 5 national events upcoming in 2018 (EAPN ES – Oviedo – 22 March)
The Future

1. What role for the European Pillar of Social Rights in shaping / framing / underpinning the next, post 2020 strategy for the European Union?

2. What interplay with the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals?

3. Will the next Multiannual Financial Framework reflect the commitment to upward social convergence and the EPSR principles?

4. What role with the EPSR play in the European Parliament elections of May 2019?

5. Will the future European Commission stick by this commitment and support its full and meaningful implementation – or will it be another forgotten initiative? Will Member States play ball?

6. What role for civil dialogue – how to make people experiencing poverty and their civil society organisations effective partners in the implementation and monitoring of the EPSR?
The Future

Put people and their wellbeing at the heart of policy change!
Thank you for your attention!

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