



EAPN ES Forum: EU2020 and Way Forward

***Reviewing Europe 2020
Proposals for the future:
Europe 2030 Strategy?***

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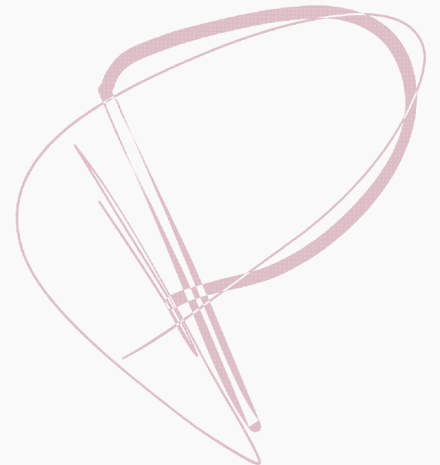


EUROPEAN ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK
RÉSEAU EUROPÉEN DES ASSOCIATIONS
DE LUTTE CONTRE LA PAUVRETÉ ET L'EXCLUSION SOCIALE



Outline of the Presentation

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Learning from Europe 2020**
- 3. EAPN Proposals for post EU 2020**
- 4. Conclusions**



EU 2020/Role of the European Semester

- ❑ **The European Semester is the main EU coordination mechanism for economic, social and environmental policy. (See EAPN Toolkit)**
- ❑ **All EU Member States (28 MS) follow the annual cycle**
- ❑ **See [EAPN Tool Kit](#) on Stakeholder Engagement/ also [here](#)**

WHEN?	EUROPE 2020 (thematic surveillance)	STABILITY AND GROWTH PACT (macroeconomic & fiscal surveillance)
November*	Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy (EC)	Alert Mechanism Reports (EC)
February	Country Reports (EC)	
April	National Reform Programmes (MS)	Stability [€ zone] / Convergence [non-€ zone] Programmes** (MS)
May / June / July	Country-Specific Recommendations (EC)	
October		Eurozone budget appraisal (EC)



How EAPN works: EU 2020/ European Semester/Post 2020

❑ 2010: Lobbied for social and sustainable Europe 2020

- Ambitious EU poverty target
- Integration of social demands/ economic/employment
- Meaningful civil society organization/PEP engagement

❑ 2010: 2020 Engage members in main coordination mechanism: European Semester (EUISG)

- **National networks** – inputs/monitoring/advocacy: national governments, European Commission
- **EU Level:** Joint input/response/: AGS/Country Reports, CSRs, NRPs, Semester 2019: Is the Semester more social?

❑ 2019: Review of learning from Europe 2020 and proposals: post Europe 2020: Delivering Agenda 2030 for people and planet

- Developed draft in 3 internal EAPN Policy Group (32 NN)
- External conference draft presented/world café(June 2019),
- Finalized paper in September 2019

Europe 2020: What opportunities?



- ❑ **Goals: Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth**
- ❑ **Coordinated economic and social policy** through the European Semester
- ❑ **Target to reduce poverty by at least 20 million (AROE) 1 of only 5 targets!**
- ❑ **Kept poverty on EU and national agenda**
- ❑ **Other social targets (Employment and Education (NEETS and Tertiary Education)**
- ❑ **Potential for stronger enforcement mechanisms** through European Semester (CSRs)
- ❑ **Attracted EU funds – 20% ESF earmarking, with ex-ante conditionalities for antipoverty strategy**
- ❑ **Potential to strengthen role of civil society**



Progress on EU 2020 Social Targets?



Europe 2020 Strategy headline target	2010 data	2018 data	Shortfall/ Achievement
1. Employment: Increasing the employment rate of the population aged 20-64 to at least 75%	68.6%	73.2%	-1.8%
4a. Education: Reducing school drop-out rates to less than 10%	13.9%	10.5%	-0.5%
4b. Education: Increasing the share of the population aged 30-34 having completed tertiary education to at least 40%	33.8%	40.7%	+0.7%
5. Poverty and social exclusion: Lifting at least 20 million out of the risk of poverty and social exclusion	1.8 million increase (compared to the 2008 base year)	5.8 million decrease (compared to the 2008 base year)	-14.1 million People

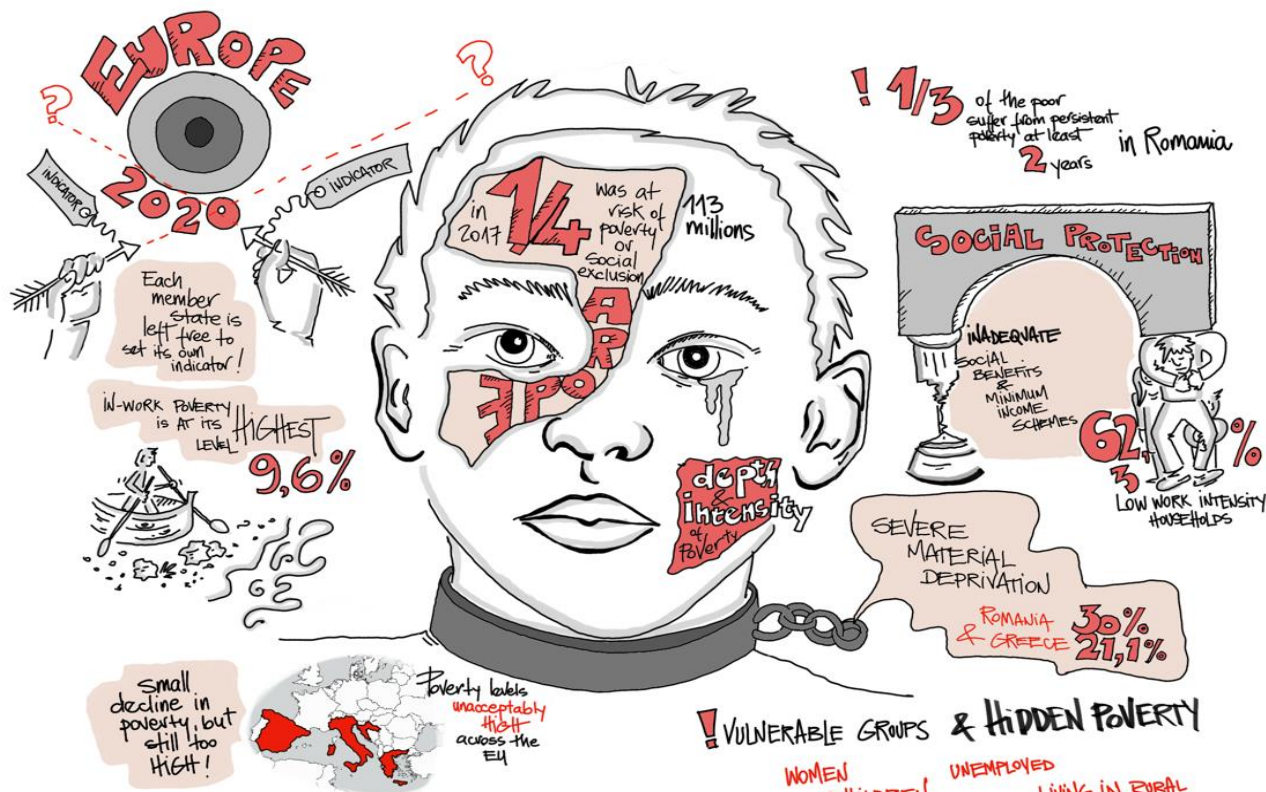


Some Steps Forward?

- ✓ **Poverty reduced since high point of 2013**, particularly severe material deprivation (to 5.9%) (and LWI)
- ✓ **European Pillar of Social Rights (2017)** gave new social and rights focus with and higher EU profile
- ✓ **Social scoreboard indicators** included AROPE, inequality, effectiveness of benefits on poverty, unmet health needs
- ✓ **Increased Country-specific Recommendations on Poverty:** From 3 in 2011 to 16 in 2019
- ✓ **Positive Impact?** eg 7 MI CSRs..now in all MS, albeit weakly, access to health/ affordable housing, childcare, use of tax/benefits to reduce poverty/inequality
- ✓ **Increased focus on key at risk groups:** Children, Single Parents, Roma, people with disabilities, migrants
- ✓ **New stronger role for civil society** – Recital 10 in the Employment Guidelines (European Semester).

What progress made on Poverty?

109.2 million people (2018) at risk of poverty and social exclusion



WHAT IS HAPPENING TO POVERTY?

But serious shortfalls..(1)

- ❑ **Europe 2020 not visible nor delivering concrete results** for people, particularly the poor
- ❑ **Stability/Growth dominant:** austerity cuts and efficiency public services/social protection undermine social rights and increase poverty
- ❑ **European Pillar of Social Rights:** principles not obligatory rights, with unclear implementation
- ❑ **Social Scoreboard focus on averages** not goals/target undermines upward convergence
- ❑ **Although employment target reached** -job rich not hour rich, growth in in-work poverty (9.5%), part-time/temporary and precarious jobs



But serious shortfalls..(2)

- ❑ **Failure of poverty target:** 110 million – reduction of 6 not 20 million
- ❑ **Widening gap** between MS: 30%+ in BG, RO, EL compared to 17% CZ, NL, SI, SK, FI
- ❑ **Not all groups face same risk:** Children (24.3%), People with disabilities (29.3%), Single Parents, migrants, minorities and hidden eg homeless
- ❑ **Decline in impact of social transfers on poverty** (33.2%) Critical trend : 16.1% RO v51.8% IE
- ❑ **Unmet need for medical care** (2% v16.4% EE;
- ❑ **Increased focus on employment** as only route out of poverty with negative conditionality.
- ❑ **Current market-driven model** not delivering for people or planet, needs a change of model

EAPN Review of Europe 2020 in European Semester 2019 Is the Semester more Social?

95.45%	Semester primarily macroeconomic/financial coordination
63.64%	Austerity is still main focus, generating more poverty
50%	More focus on Social Investment in Services
69.57%	EPSR somewhat more present
60.87%	Some stronger focus on poverty reduction
68.8%	Employment still seen as main route out of poverty, with increased negative conditionality
63.27%	Social Protection seen as a cost not as an investment
31.82%	Commitment to increasing social rights/more visible
72.3%	EAPN engaged or consulted in the Semester
13.64%	EAPN taken seriously in the Semester at national level.

EAPN 2019 Semester Review

Participation: Key Findings

72.3%	Engage in European Semester at national level
31.82%	Consulted by national government on NRP
18.8%	Input taken on board
40.19%	Engagement with national government is improving
72.73%	Engage/Contact with European Semester Officer
55%	Interests reflected in Country Report
66.6%	Interests reflected in CSRs
81.82%	Say engagement in the Semester is worth the effort.

New EU leadership - New Approach?



- ❑ **Commission Presidency – new vision – economy that works for people and planet**
- ❑ **Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy not AGS!**
- ❑ **But lacks overarching social and sustainable strategy to give coherent post 2020 vision**
- ❑ **European Green Deal – “the EU’s new growth strategy” but no analysis of poverty impact**
- ❑ **Parallel “Action Plan” European Pillar of Social Rights – but not clear how relates/impact**
- ❑ **SDGs mainstreamed in European Semester, but unclear how mainstreamed**
- ❑ **No EC review of Europe 2020 or clarity of continuity with it – particularly targets**
- ❑ **COVID-19 increasing inequality – refocus on social rights – adequate income/public services?**



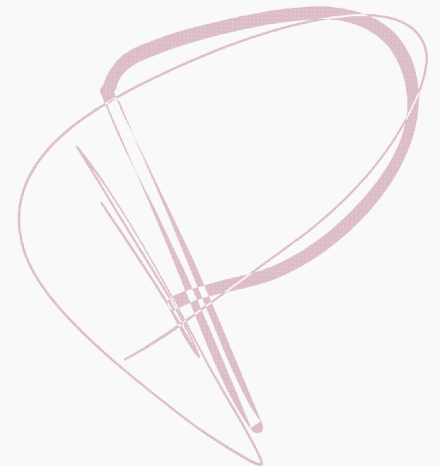
Why Agenda 2030/SDGs should be overarching framework with EPSR

- ❑ **Agenda 2030** prioritizes well being for people and planet, through 17 SDGs/169 targets.
- ❑ **Framed by respect for human rights and dignity.**
- ❑ **All Heads of State have signed up**, with EU already committed to implementing it.
- ❑ **Poverty eradication is a pre-requisite**
“eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable Development” (Agenda 2030)
- ❑ **High-level monitoring yearly by UN**, link to EU monitoring mechanisms ie European Semester
- ❑ **NGOs and people facing poverty are key actors.**

Four EAPN Key Social Priorities



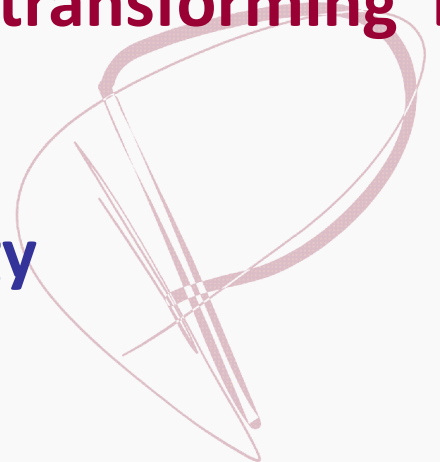
*Delivering Agenda 2030: for people and planet:
EAPN Proposals for a post 2020 strategy.*



Four EAPN Key Social Priorities



1. Achieving Poverty eradication and increase well-being
2. Political pre-requisites to achieve results
3. Embedding participation and transforming EU coordination instruments
4. EU funds to support the strategy



1. Poverty eradication/ increase well-being.



❑ A rights based integrated antipoverty strategy

➤ *Revised Integrated active inclusion*

- ✓ *right to adequate minimum income/social protection,*
- ✓ *access to quality services (social, health/housing/education/energy)*
- ✓ *Person-centred support into quality jobs and participation*

➤ *Integrated approaches for specific groups – eg Investing in children/tackling housing exclusion/homeless, Roma*

➤ *Recognize extreme poverty as an urgent reality eg homeless*

❑ Ambitious EU/national Poverty Target

➤ *End Poverty (SDG1) – 50% AROPE target*

➤ *Commitment to end extreme poverty by 2030*

➤ *Progressive realization/mid-term review.*

❑ Effective Poverty indicators + social scoreboard

➤ *Use indicators that capture all aspects of poverty/groups*

➤ *Develop multiple indicators that capture well-being including security, participation/empowerment/social.*



Poverty Eradication/ well-being.

❑ Guarantee adequate minimum income/social protection

- *Require urgent progress by countries with support EU funds, monitored by EU adequacy indicator, through Semester.*
- *EU framework Directive to guarantee rights above the poverty threshold is feasible now!*
- *Require increased funding/adequacy of social protection – not less than 35% of GDP*
- *Increase revenue by tackling tax evasion/promoting more progressive tax systems – wealth/property/capital/corporation tax.*

❑ Concrete results on key social rights – jobs/services

- *Agree action plan with milestones for all principles.*
- *Develop EU framework to guarantee adequate minimum/living wages provide a positive hierarchy to MI, 60% of median wage.*
- *Prioritize investment in universal, free public education through life course – beyond employment, working in partnership with communities and students.*
- *Guarantee rights to quality, affordable public services – particularly housing and health – require increase of social housing and regulation private rents, and invest in universal free health systems*

2. Political Pre-requisites

☐ High level political commitment

- *Agreement from all EU institutions to adopt Agenda 2030, SDGs and 169 goals as overarching frame, underpinned by EPSR*
- *Driven directly by EC President, Commissioners for each SDG*
- *Road map and action plan for all goals, systematic review involving people in poverty and NGOs*

☐ Making well-being the goal/rebalancing ec/soc/env

- *Rebalancing macroeconomic priorities to promote social/environmental justice and well-being*
- *Well-being pact rather than Stability and Growth*
- *Adopt scenario 1 of FoE reflection paper, ensure strategy benefits people as well as planet, ending poverty a pre-requisite*
- *Create a transparent checklist to ensure ex-ante impact analysis prevent negative economic measures.*



3. Meaningful participation/civil dialogue



☐ **A participative, social / sustainable European Semester**

- *Social/sustainable development Semester, delivering on SDGs/EPSSR, with poverty eradication as pre-requisite*
- *Road map setting out objectives, actions, role of institutions/stakeholders on all SDGs and targets*
- *Expand CSRs to at least 2 per area (economic/social and environmental) with full analysis of all SDG in CR*
- *Clearer global connections: Semester and voluntary national reviews of SDGs feeding in high level political forum*

☐ **Make Civil Society equal partners**

- *Full protocol to put CSO engagement on a par with social partners (Recital 11), with guidelines, mutual learning/peer reviews*
- *Funding for NGO/PEP to engage in structured national dialogue*
- *Appoint a specific Commissioner for participation*
- *Guidelines for ESO's to ensure equal treatment for CSO*
- *Yearly bottom up round table conference with EU*

4. EU Funds to support the strategy



☐ Increase effectiveness of EU funds spend on poverty

- ✓ *Increase earmarking for poverty to 30% ESF and enforce conditionalities with clear indicators on **quality** of integrated antipoverty strategies to ensure real impact on poverty*
- ✓ *Strengthen participation/partnership principle, implementing code of conduct through ex-ante condition + make obligatory more meaningful participation of NGO in MC*
- ✓ *Avoid instrumentalization of ESF to finance mainstream public programmes*
- ✓ *Support innovative longer term projects developed by grass-root organizations with upfront funding/ global grants, avoiding the 20% co-financing requirement*
- ✓ *Improve monitoring with soft social indicators ie distance travelled to social inclusion*



5. Green Deal and Just Transition



☐ Ensure the poor benefit + don't pay for Just Transition

- *Poverty Impact Assessment – who benefits/loses/how?*
- *Mitigating harm but also ensuring the poor benefit?*

☐ Social as well as Green Deal

- *Robust Social safety net, welfare states and social rights essential*

☐ Large public investment needed

- *Investment in decent green jobs, transition and support into jobs for those excluded/support green social economy*
- *Affordable/social housing and energy efficiency ensuring costs not passed on*

☐ Richest, most powerful and most polluting should pay!

- *Companies creating climate emergency taxed*
- *Poor protected from higher taxes or bills*



Conclusion

- ☐ A coherent social/ sustainable EU 2030 strategy - more necessary post COVID-19..
- ☐ Overarching goal: promote well-being, environmental and social justice not GDP!
- ☐ End poverty in all its forms: a pre-requisite.
- ☐ EU hard law essential to deliver results on adequate income/services
- ☐ Coherent coordination through European Semester linked to EU funding
- ☐ Macroeconomic policies need to contribute to social/env goals particularly tax/benefit
- ☐ Participation key for sustainable solutions!



**Putting participation and social rights
at the heart of sustainable development!**



Thank you for your attention!

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