

Combating poverty and social exclusion in Europe: the state of play and what you can do

Katherine Duffy

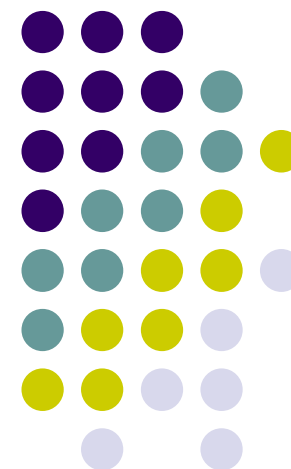
Chair EAPN Europe Social Inclusion Working Group
and chair UK SPTF

Presentation to ***LVSTC/ TSEN road show***

***Into 2010: the EU Year for combating
poverty and social exclusion***

1 December 2009

The Old Town Hall Stratford, 29 The Broadway, London
E15 4BQ



My role in the European Anti-Poverty Network and the UK Social Policy Task Force



- **European Anti Poverty Network (EAPN) Europe** www.eapn.org
- EAPN is a network of 26 national networks and 22 European organisations
- 2005-9 Chair of Social Inclusion Working Group
- **EAPN England** Committee member

- **2000-9 UK Chair of Social Policy Task Force (SPTF)**
- SPTF is NGOs following up the National Action Plans on Inclusion

- *Before: EU programme - **Poverty 3** evaluator and Director of Council of Europe project - **Human Dignity and Social Inclusion***



The Social Policy Task Force

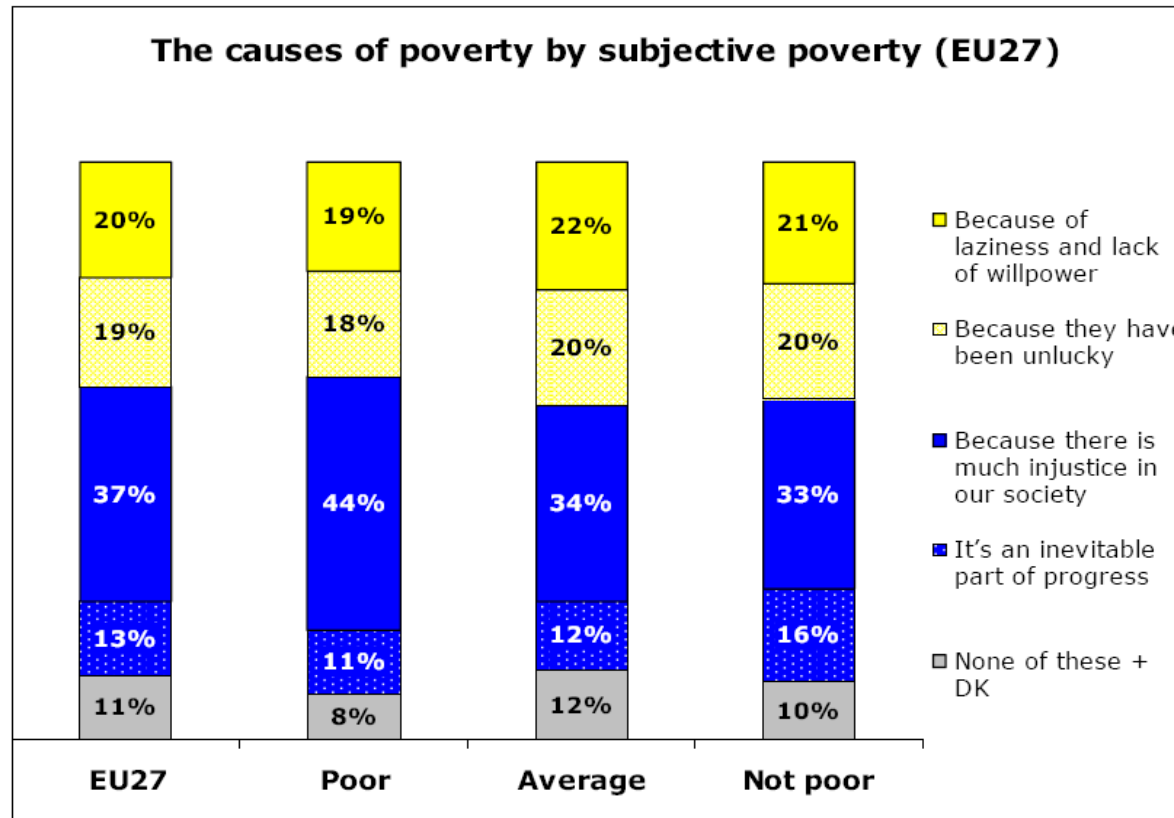


What will I talk about?

- What do people who live in Europe think are the causes of poverty?
- What principles do we need to combat poverty and exclusion effectively?
- What framework and processes have we have got at EU level to combat poverty and social exclusion?
- What has SPTF been doing to combat poverty and exclusion?
- **What next and what to fight for to combat poverty and exclusion?**

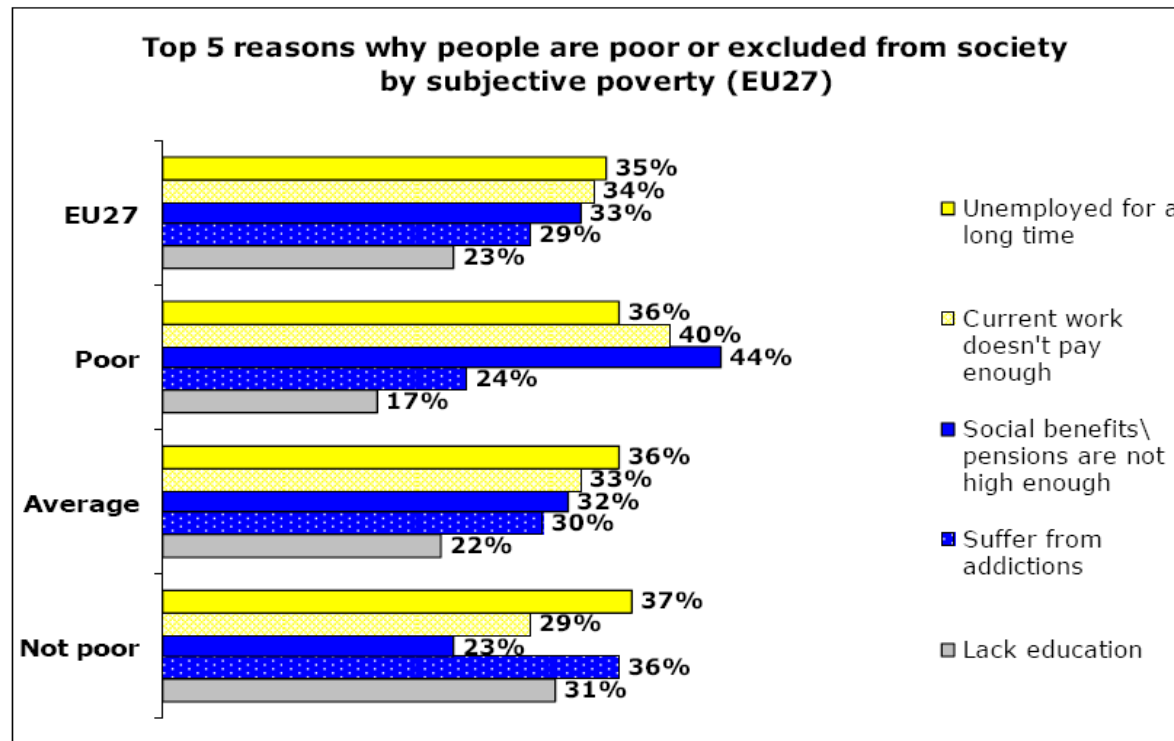
Causes of poverty?

Special Eurobarometer survey (no. 279) September 2007



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Special Eurobarometer survey (no. 279) September 2007



What is needed to ensure that policies and programmes really do combat poverty and social exclusion?



Poverty proofing principles: Duffy's "5 As"

1. **Adequacy** (*income, services, quality*)
2. **Accessibility** (*universality, fairness, rights*)
3. **Affordability** (*for beneficiaries and for the country*)
4. **Accountability** (*to the beneficiaries as well as others*)
5. **Achievement** (*impact for the beneficiaries*)

But what have we got at EU level?

Current European Union approach to combating poverty and exclusion



The **Lisbon Treaty** is now in force – it includes a **Charter of Fundamental Rights**

- *but the rights are not absolute and some are no more than statements of principle*

Financial instrument: ***The Structural Funds for Cohesion***

- *This is what TSEN and LVSTC works a lot on*

Innovation & good practice: ***“Progress” programme:***

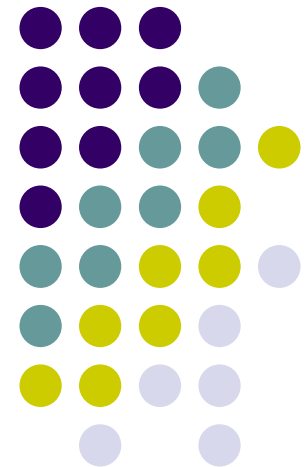
- *London is lead in the European Cities Against Child Poverty Network (final conference 30 November 09)*

Combating poverty and exclusion in the EU

continued...

*SPTF is a UK lobby group of
NGOs working on European
anti-poverty policy*

What have we been doing?



1 Policy exchange and development



- ***The Open Method of Coordination (OMC)***
- ***Part of the “Lisbon Agenda 2000-2010”***
- ***in the social field: National Strategic Reports include the National Action Plans on Social Inclusion (NAPs)***

Our Participation



- ***SPTF have been the main “dialogue partner” with DWP in UK***
- ***From 2001: 6+ meetings a year plus lots of events***
- ***We lobbied for a NAP stakeholder group – started June 2006 – 4 nations; 22 govt depts, NGOs and people with experience of poverty, local authorities***
- ***We lobbied for a formal Social Inclusion Advisory Group – starts January 2010 – will include people with experience of poverty***

2 Policy lobbying – EU level policy



Active Inclusion Recommendation 2009

- *Adequate income; access to quality services; active labour market integration*



we lobbied for

- ***“adequate” not “ minimum” income in the wording***
- ***and for UK not to block it***
- ***But now we have to follow up and get some real implementation***

3 Poverty awareness raising projects



Funding for 2 projects from National Action Plan Awareness Raising budget



Get Heard 2006


- ***140 plus grassroots workshops on anti-poverty priorities***

Bridging the Policy Gap 2008

- ***2 day “peer reviews” with local authorities, service users, NGOs and national govt. on***
 - ***Child play (Swansea)***
 - ***Access to employment for disabled people (Newham)***
 - ***Access to employment for parents (Glasgow)***

4 *Thematic Year against poverty: EY2010*



- SPTF lobbied for 2010 and put to the DWP a draft programme plan for the UK– which had a big influence
- 
- The inclusion team in the Area Communities and Initiatives Division at the DWP leads the **National implementing Body (civil servants): NIB**
 - There is a **NIB Advisory body of stakeholders**
 - EAPN and other SPTF participants are on the NIB Advisory bod
 - **We will aim to ensure the legacy of 2010**
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- ***The UK aims of EY2010 are poverty awareness; stakeholder engagement including grassroots; lasting legacy***
 - ***Priority themes: child poverty; working age; socially excluded adults; older people***
 - ***Regional and local activities funded plus***
 - ***Badging of other relevant action***

5 *Lobbying on specific policies that affect people at risk of poverty : from 2000-2010*



In the UK. we did have some influence



- *Debt*
- *Housing benefit*
- *In work poverty*
- *Child well being*

In the EU, We did have quite a lot of influence



- *national reporting on poverty and exclusion*
- *cross national comparative indicators on poverty and exclusion*
- *Active Inclusion Recommendation*
- *More focus on child poverty and well being and housing and homelessness in the NAP (next year – migrants and black and ethnic minorities)*

What next in the EU?

Consultation on the future strategy:

The 2020 vision



There will be a new process after 2010 (“EU2020”)

- The European Commission will make its proposal to the Spring Council of Ministers in 2010
- The EU approach is very similar to the UK view
“stronger, fairer, greener growth”

But how do we ensure that this approach works for people at risk of poverty and exclusion?

- There is a **public consultation** from now till 15 January 2010. Go to: <http://ec.europa.eu/eu2020>
- There will be a **Hearing in the European Parliament** on 3 December. EAPN can give you an email to send to your MEPs: contact details:-
<http://www.europarl.org.uk/section/your-meps/your-meps>

EAPN want you to help fight for...



- ***A social summit*** to work out how to deal with the social impact of the crisis and protect social spending more money
- ***A legacy for 2010:-***
 1. Better ***public awareness*** of poverty, what causes it and what to do about it
 2. Strong dialogue at national and EU level, with full ***participation*** of people at risk of poverty
 3. ***European as well as national targets for cutting poverty*** so we can check progress
 4. An ***anti-poverty programme of actions on the ground*** to try out new ways and means
 5. “Hard **law**” – a European framework ***Directive on adequate minimum income for all***

Thank you for listening and contributing



Sign up to EAPN manifesto on adequate income

- For further information from EAPN
- See www.eapn.org

- For further information on UK NGO activity on poverty in Europe k.b.duffy@talktalk.net

- For further information from UK government
- tricia.griffiths@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

UK National Action Plan website

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2008/socialprotection/uknationalstrategyreport>

Questions/ views?

Katherine Duffy