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# 2010 the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion

EAPN London, December 1st 2009

EUROPEAN ANTI POVERTY NETWORK

RESEAU EUROPEEN DES ASSOCIATIONS

DE LUTTE CONTRE LA PAUVRETE

ET L'EXCLUSION SOCIALE

[www.eapn.org](http://www.eapn.org)



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- 1. Poverty in the EU: a reminder**
  - 2. What is EAPN?**
  - 3. What we do**
  - 4. The European Year for combating Poverty and Social Exclusion**



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# 1. Background: poverty in the EU

# Poverty in the EU (1)



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- 79 million Europeans (16%)
    - 10-12 % in CZ, NL, SE, AU, HU, SLOV
    - 19-21% in RO, UK, GR, PT, SP, LV)
  - But strong differences across countries:
    - LIT, LV, PL: 1966 -2101€/year
    - UK, IRL, DK, LUX: 12,572 -17,929 €/year

## Poverty in the EU (2)



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- 19% of children, 20% older people, 20% of 18-24
  - In single households with children, the majority of which are headed by women, the poverty rate is estimated at 33% (*Gender inequalities in the risks of poverty and social exclusion for disadvantaged groups in thirty European countries European Commission 2006*)
  - 8% of working population are poor
  - Lack of strong progress in poverty eradication over last decade
  - Increase in income inequality (between top and bottom 20%), from 4.5 to 4.8% from 2000 to 2007

## Poverty in the EU (3)



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Not only % but also **material deprivation**

For example:

- 4% (more than **19 million** people) in Europe lack an indoor flushing toilet for sole use of the household.
  
- 18% of people in Europe live in housing that has significant problems with damp.



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## 2. What is EAPN?

# What is EAPN?



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■ EAPN is an independent coalition of NGOs and groups involved in the fight against poverty

- **25 national networks** of anti-poverty NGOs and grassroots groups (in the EU, Norway)
- **European-wide organisations** mainly active in the field of poverty and social exclusion (e.g. Caritas Europa, ATD Quart Monde...)



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### 3. What we do

# Aim and objectives



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***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

# EAPN main activities



- 
- **Lobbying and advocacy work**
  - **Exchange**
  - **Network development and capacity building**

# Key work areas (1)



- 
- **EU Social Inclusion Strategy**
  - **Lisbon Strategy** and its revision
  - **Structural Funds** : living up to their potential in fighting exclusion
  - **Employment**

## Key work areas (2)



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- **Minimum income**
  - **Services of General Interest**
  - **Linking to anti-discrimination, globalisation**
  - **Preparation of EU Year 2010 for Combating Poverty**

# Participation of People Experiencing Poverty

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- **European meetings** every year (May, with Presidency)
- Concern in all our **working structures**
- **Challenges:** language, empowerment, EU policies (!)
- Beyond that: **participation of membership** not always easy

# An EU We Can Trust: 3 Key Demands

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



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## **4. 2010 the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion**

# The European Year 2010 coinciding with significant milestones



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- New **Commission** and **Parliament**
  - New **Post 2010** strategy - EU 2020 ( Spring Council 2010) – Renewed Social OMC
  - New **Social Agenda** ( 2010...)
  - 2010 – **Lisbon Treaty** finally approved
  - Debates on **Financial Perspectives** (EU budget) and Mid Term Review of **Cohesion policy** post 2013
  - Spanish, Belgian and Hungarian **Presidencies** – What Opportunities?
  - **Crisis and recovery packages** continue to dominate the debate..

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# **The European Coalition of NGOs working together for 2010, the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion**



## The EY2010 NGO Contact Group

- Over 40 European NGOs involved in the fight against poverty and social exclusion

## NGO EY2010 Steering Group

- ATD Quart Monde, AGE, Caritas Europa, Eurochild, European Anti-Poverty Network, European Women's Lobby, FEANTSA, Social Platform Secretariat, Solidar

## Coordination

- EAPN providing secretariat: **EY2010 coordinator**

## Objectives of the NGO Coalition

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- build understanding and support for the individual objectives of different networks for the year
- build as much consensus as possible across the NGO sector on the outcomes of the year
- drive forward key projects for the year
- build alliances with other actors to ensure a successful 2010

## What has happened in 2009?

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## European Commission

- EY 2010 Task Force in the Commission
- National Implementing Bodies **NIBs** named
- National programmes for the Year approved
- (Some) national calls for tender published
- Communications campaign: Mostra appointed
- EU media conference: October 29th 2009

## What has happened in 2009?

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## Consultation process

- **EU Stakeholder's** meeting: October 17th 2009
- **EU Consultative Committee (NIBs):** October 8th 2009
- **NGO Communications Experts Advisory Board** Oct 21/Nov 23

## What has happened in 2009?

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## European NGO coalition

- Sharing information on preparations for the European year: progress with NIBs, national programmes for EY 2010 and calls for proposals
- Developing a shared identity (End Poverty, Building a Europe for All)
- Building a website [www.endpoverty.eu](http://www.endpoverty.eu)
- Developing a shared message for the outcomes of 2010

## What is planned for 2010?

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## European Commission

- On-going communications campaign
- Opening conference in Madrid, January 21st
- Journalists competition
- Art exhibition
- EU Focus weeks: May 24-30 & Oct 11-17
- Closing Conference, Brussels, November

## What is planned for 2010?

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## European NGO coalition

Promoting our **demands for post 2010**

**National Focus weeks:** spotlight on each country

**EU Focus weeks:**

- 24 hrs broadcasting (May 24-30)
- Human ring around the EU institutions (Oct 12)

**NGO coalition website** [www.endpoverty.eu](http://www.endpoverty.eu)

**Sharing information on events at national level**

## National Focus weeks

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A calendar of weeks in each country focussing on poverty and social exclusion

Possible events:

- Workshops/seminars
- Visibility of NGO actions
- Press conferences
- Newspaper articles
- Media interviews

**NGO coalition website**  
[www.endpoverty.eu](http://www.endpoverty.eu)

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- The European Year
- What is poverty?
- The coalition and its members
- What do we want?
- Country pages
- Joint calendar of events
- Campaigns
- Voices of people experiencing poverty

## What DO we want from the Year? A shared message from the NGO coalition

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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 and sustainable EU strategy based on **fundamental rights**
- A revitalised EU Social Inclusion strategy, with agreed National and EU **poverty targets**
- Progress in relation to the accessibility and affordability of **services of general interest**
- A framework directive on the adequacy and accessibility of **minimum income schemes**
- A commitment to ending street **homelessness**

## Building alliances to make it happen

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- **European Parliament:** for support to carry a message
- **Committee of the Regions:** a theme for the year, and regional support
- **Economic and Social Committee:** to engage the stakeholders
- **Trade Unions:** join forces to carry a message and ? mobilise around our events
- **Cities**
- And more to approach: Fundamental Rights Agency, etc etc...



## **Making it happen in London?**

- **NIB**
- **NGOs**
- **Cooperation with other networks**
- **Visibility**
- **Participation**
  
- **How can we help?**



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**Thank you!**

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