



# EMIN Context Report PORTUGAL

## Developments in relation to Minimum Income Schemes

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## **What is EMIN?**

The European Minimum Income Network (EMIN) is an informal Network of organisations and individuals committed to achieve the progressive realisation of the right to adequate, accessible and enabling Minimum Income Schemes. The organisations involved include the relevant public authorities, service providers, social partners, academics, policy makers at different levels, NGOs, and fosters the involvement of people who benefit or could benefit from minimum income support.

EMIN is organised at EU and national levels, in all the Member States of the European Union and also in Iceland, Norway, Macedonia (FYROM) and Serbia.

EMIN is coordinated by the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN). More information on EMIN can be found at [www.emin-eu.net](http://www.emin-eu.net)

## **What is the Context Report?**

In 2014 individual Country Reports were produced under the EMIN project which outlined the state of development of Minimum Income Schemes in the country concerned. These reports also set out a road map for the progressive realisation of adequate Minimum Income Schemes in that country. These Country Reports can be found on [www.emin-net.eu](http://www.emin-net.eu) (EMIN Publications). This Context Report gives an update on developments in relation to Minimum Income Schemes in Portugal since the publication of the Country Report.

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The information contained in this report does not necessarily reflect the official position of the European Commission.

## **Definitions used in the EMIN Project**

**Minimum Income Schemes** are defined as, income support schemes which provide a safety net for those of working age, whether in or out of work, and who have insufficient means of financial support, and who are not eligible for insurance based social benefits or whose entitlements to these have expired. They are last resort schemes, which are intended to ensure a minimum standard of living for the concerned individuals and their dependents.

**EMIN aims** at the progressive realisation of the right to adequate, accessible and enabling Minimum Income Schemes.

**Adequacy** is defined as a level of income that is indispensable to live a life in dignity and to fully participate in society. Adequate Minimum Income Schemes are regularly updated to take account of the evolution of the cost of living.

**Accessible** is defined as providing comprehensive coverage for all people who need the schemes for as long as they need the support. Accessible Minimum Income Schemes have clearly defined criteria, they are non-contributory, universal and means-tested. They do not discriminate against any particular group and have straightforward application procedures. They avoid:

- institutional barriers such as bureaucratic and complex regulations and procedures and have the minimum required conditionality,
- implementation barriers by reaching out to and supporting potential beneficiaries
- personal barriers such as lack of information, shame or loss of privacy.

**Enabling** is defined as schemes that promote people's empowerment and participation in society and facilitates their access to quality services and inclusive labour markets.

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## Section 1: Evolution in laws and regulations regarding national (or regional/local) minimum income schemes

This section indicates changes to the main minimum income scheme in the country since the EMIN1 project ended in 2014, in particular changes to schemes that were dealt with in the EMIN1 project. In countries where several minimum income schemes coexist, please give priority to minimum income schemes for the working-age population. The **country report** from the EMIN 1 project is available at <https://emin-eu.net/emin-publications/>

### ***Changes in the legislation and regulations governing minimum income schemes in your country with regard to***

- ***Eligibility conditions (lack of sufficient resources, age requirements, residence...)***
- ***Conditionality of the benefits (willingness to work, other conditions related to personnel attitude of recipients...)***
- ***Levels of payment, uprating***
- ***Links with other benefits***
- ***Governance of the schemes?***

During the intervention of the Troika in Portugal (2011 and 2014) some changes were introduced in Social Insertion Income (SII - measure of social protection created to support people and families who are in a situation of serious economic distress and at risk of social exclusion)<sup>1</sup>. These changes were described in the Portuguese report of EMIN 1 and mostly connected to the decrease of the amount, the revision of the percentages for the calculation of the benefit for each member of the household and the implementation of more restricted measures to request this benefit (means-testing and willingness to work).

In the National Reform Program (NRP) of 2015 the previous Government highlighted the revision of this measure, especially in what concerns the establishment of stronger regulations regarding the allocation to the renewal request of this benefit (12 months) and the so called insertion contract.

Since it was established as compulsory the registration in the Institute of Employment and Professional Training, 2015 NRP highlighted that this Institute was *developing a Training Plan for Inclusion in order to promote professional qualification and increased skills among unemployed, including those benefiting of SII, with lower qualifications and lower potential for*

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<sup>1</sup> The name was changed in 2003 from “Guaranteed Minimum Income” to Social Insertion Income (SII) but is still known as “Minimum Income” and in reality it was introduced in our country for the first time in 1996, following the European Commission recommendation of 1992.

*employability* (625 training actions, involving 13 thousand unemployed adults) (NRP 2015, p.34).

In 2015 Portugal held elections and at the end of that year a new Government was settled. One of the measures presented by the new Government was the need to guarantee more coverage of social protection system by replacing the amounts of social insertion income (and others). This was included in the NRP of 2016 and in January 6<sup>th</sup> it was published a Law-decree (nº 1/2016) with the following changes: *changing the applicable equivalence scale, which translates into an increase in the percentage of the amount allocated for each adult, from 50% to 70% of the Social Insertion Income (SII) reference value, and for each minor, from 30% to 50% of SII reference value. In this Law, SII amount was also updated, reallocating 25% of the cut operated by the previous Government, with SII reference value becoming 43.173 of IAS, ie, 180.99€.*

It's important to mention that in the second half of 2016 the Government announced that the amount of the Social Support Index (SSI<sup>2</sup>) would be updated, which didn't happen since 2009. SSI is the basic amount used as a reference for the calculation and updating of social contributions, pensions and other social benefits, like SII.

On January 3<sup>rd</sup> (2017), "Portaria nº 4/2017" was published and determined the update of the IAS amount, from 419,22€ to 421,32€ (2,10€). On the same date it was published "Portaria nº 5/2017" updating the SII, considering the reallocating 25% of the cut verified in 2012 and setting the reference amount of SII for 2017 at 183.84€.

On January 4<sup>th</sup>, the Social Security Institute published an updated practical guide for the SII, considering the new amounts:

<b>Member of the household</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Holder</b>	178,15€ (100% of SII amount)	183,84€ (100% of SII amount)
<b>For each adult</b>	89,07€ (50% of SII amount)	128,69€ (70% of SII amount)
<b>For each minor</b>	53,44€ (30% of SII amount)	91,92€ (50% of SII amount)

Source: Social Security Institute

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<sup>2</sup> IAS in Portuguese

Also, in 2014, to access the SII, citizens that came from countries outside of the EU, had to be legal residents in Portugal for at least three years. In 2017 the rule changed and it is only compulsory to have legal residence in Portugal for at least one year (as the citizens coming from EU countries).

In 2017 it is possible to receive the SII also by bank transfer and not only by postal order collected in the post office as in 2014.

Moreover within the SII allocation, the government included in the NRP of 2017 the following aspects: It will be reassessed the effectiveness of the integration plans, in order to assure the appropriate measures taking in consideration beneficiaries specifications, namely the type of households they're living; it will be restored the officious renewal of this social benefit, by means of its recalculation by the Social Security in a way that it determines its maintenance, alteration or suspension, being the responsibility of the beneficiaries to communicate the changes that occurred in the meantime and that enabled the access to this benefit. No longer will the beneficiaries have to request for a renewal every 12 months.

The assessment of the implementation and monitoring of the measure (SII), before 2011, was a responsibility of the Social Insertion Income National Commission (CNSII). This Commission, which involved representatives of different Ministries and other organizations (also from civil society), was one of several consultative bodies extinguished with the Plan to Reduce and Improve the State's Central Administration, in the second semester 2011. Because of its non-replacement by another entity until now, it has been difficult to keep the transparency and the agreement on the best mechanisms to monitor the measure (SII). The role of the Commission was supposed to be undertaken by a new body (the National Council for Solidarity Policies, Volunteering, Family, Rehabilitation and Social Security), which was presented December 2016 but is still not working<sup>3</sup>.

In reality only now (April 2017), was this body approved, including its operating model and structure by the President of the Republic, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> EAPN Portugal was invited and accepted to integrate this new body.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.dnoticias.pt/pais/conselho-nacional-para-as-politicas-de-solidariedade-tem-luz-verde-MY1199853>

### ***Evolution with regard to adequacy of minimum income?***

According to Social Security Institute by the end of 2016 there was the following number of beneficiaries and average value allocated to a family or an individual:

*Annual data from 2013 to 2016*

		<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Nº of individuals</b>	<b>Nº per family</b>	148 107	139 557	134 161	132 696
	<b>Nº per individuals</b>	360 175	320 601	295 615	287 407
<b>Average value €</b>	<b>€ per family</b>	210.85	215.37	213.89	252.21
	<b>€ per individual</b>	86.65	91.39	94.23	110.90

Source: Social Security Institute

The average value per individual has been increasing since 2013, but the number of beneficiaries has been decreasing. Nevertheless the reason for this decrease is not related with a diminution of the need's but probably due to an increasingly limitation of eligibility conditions and / or other factors that we'll address later in this report.

The poverty risk threshold has been increasing from 4937€ in 2013 to 5061€ in 2014 and at last 5269€ in 2015. These are the amounts per year, which means the threshold is in 2015, 439€ per month. The value of 183,84€ from the SII is still very far from the poverty risk threshold, as we can see.

### ***Evolution in terms of coverage or take-up of benefits?***

In terms of coverage it is important to underline that to access to SII people must be in a situation of serious economic distress and at risk of social exclusion. The access to SII depends on the value of movable heritage and movable items, that can't be, each one of them, superior

to 60 times the value of IAS. So, after the increase of the IAS, this value raised to 25 279,20€, which allowed more families to have access to the SII.

Also, the decrease of the period of legal residence for citizens that came from countries outside of the EU to have access to SII, and ending the requirement to apply for the renewal of the benefit every 12 months, can be an added value to increase the coverage of the measure.

***Evolution with regards to the linkage between minimum income schemes, (inclusive) labour markets and (quality) services?***

In our report for EMIN 1 we highlighted the existence of inclusive labour markets measures and programs, some of them continuing to exist nowadays:

- Incentive to the acceptance of job offers – allocation of financial support to unemployed people who are receiving unemployment benefits, so they accept work offers with a monthly wage inferior to the unemployment benefit;
- Support programme for entrepreneurship and creation of self-employment, which includes measures like: Support to the creation of enterprises, Microcredit and support to self-employment of unemployment benefits beneficiaries
- Professional Internships
- Employment Contract Insertion Plus
- Life-Employment Programme which specifically addresses the insertion and reinsertion of former drug addicts or those under rehabilitation;
- Support to job placement and on job monitoring and support addressed at disabled people and aiming at promoting their insertion in the labour market, as well as their job continuity and professional progression (change of sheltered employment to supported employment);
- Training for inclusion (financed by POISE – operational programme social inclusion and employment), a number of actions aiming to empower potentially vulnerable groups betting essentially in personal and social skills development, which came to replace Training for Inclusion, financed by POPH.

- Exemption from contributions to social security (Single Social Tax) - in July 2013 this measure gathers special measures targeted at young people (one dimension of the Youth Impulse) and people with more than 45 years;

Many of these measures are hardly compatible with the most common profiles of SII beneficiaries (e.g. very low education levels). The most direct measure put in place for SII beneficiaries is still the Employment Contract Insertion Plus (as it was in 2014), which consists on carrying out socially necessary work that meets social needs or contemporary collective needs, within projects promoted by public or nonprofit private organizations, for a maximum period of 12 months. In terms of procedure, it offers a monthly support of the value of the IAS-Social Support Index (€421.32) and covers expenses of transportation (if transportation is not provided by the entity); meal or meal allowance for each day's activity and insurance cover for the risks that may occur during and because of carrying out the activity.

Another measure aimed at the SII beneficiaries is “Contrato Emprego” consisting in a financial support for employers who hire unemployed people registered in Employment and Vocational Training Institute (IEFP – Instituto do Emprego e Formação Profissional). The support given by the government through IEFP consists in 9 times the IAS in the case of open-ended contracts and 3 times the IAS in case of fixed-term contracts. In some specific cases, such as being a SII beneficiary, the support is increased in 10%.

The present government sets its strategy for the employment measures with regard to the most affected by unemployment segments, which are particularly young people (NEET) and long-term unemployed focusing on permanent employment.

To fight social inequalities, the government established several measures related to health services and the most disadvantaged: the overall reduction of user fees; the replacement of the right to transport non-emergency patients, considering their economical and clinical situation; expansion of the integrated continued care network; implementation of the National Commission for palliative care and reform of primary healthcare, including the establishment of new Family Health Units (USF - Unidade de Saúde Familiar). Regarding other services, such as electricity or gas supply, all consumers with financial shortages, receiving social benefits such as SII (and others) or with an annual income inferior to 5808€ (amount raised in 2017), benefit from a social fare, being the amount of the discount calculated for each different case. In what concerns transports, there is the *Passe Social* (social pass), which

has two ranks of bonus: 50% reduction for SII and elderly solidary complement beneficiaries and 25% reduction for those who receive 1,2 of the IAS or less.

## Section 2: Use of reference budgets in relation to Minimum Income and/or poverty measures

Reference budgets or budget standards are priced baskets of goods and services that represent a given living standard in a country.

In this section you will find information in relation the recent evolutions of the construction and use of reference budgets in Portugal. Information is also given on the usefulness of these reference budgets for policy making or for awareness raising campaigns.

For further information on Reference Budgets see: Storms, B., Goedemé, T., Van den Bosch, K., Penne, T., Schuerman, N., and Stockman, S., Review of current state of paly on reference budget practices at national, regional and local level, pilot project for the development of a common methodology on reference budgets in Europe, Brussels, European Commission, 2014 <http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=12544&langId=en>

### ***Recent initiatives to develop reference budgets or to adapt existing reference budgets?***

#### ***- For what purposes are they developed or used? By whom?***

Between 2012-2014 a project called *Portugal Adequate Income* (Projeto RAP – *Rendimento Adequado em Portugal*) was developed. Also between January 2014 and October 2015 another one, called “Reference Budget in Europe” took place (both projects had the same responsible - José António Pereirinha). In the Commission Report – *Review of current state of play on reference budget practices at national, regional and local level* – the project RAP is presented as the current project on reference budget that was being developed in Portugal. However, according to a presentation of José Pereirinha (July 2016) there are still some differences<sup>5</sup>.

Reference budget (RB) is defined as a “Priced basket of goods and services that represent a given living standard”; and in **RAP** as “a decent standard of living”, nowadays in Portugal, includes, in addition to food, house and clothing, all that is necessary for a person to be

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<sup>5</sup> The following information is based on a presentation that José Pereirinha did in a seminar in July 2016

healthy, to feel safe, to relate with others and to be respected in the society. It should allow free and informed choices about the practical things in life, including access to education and work, culture and leisure”.

Both projects have similar aims (but still different), which are adequate Income and adequate participation. In **RAP Project**, the adequate income is what allows people to achieve a dignified standard of living, defined on a normative basis obtained by consensus among the population that participated in the project, in a focus group (what the population thinks). In **RB Project** adequate income is what allows an adequate participation in a given society, based on a given theoretical support (what science dictates). Adequate participation is considered the "ability of people to adequately take the various social roles one should be able to take as a member of a particular society".

- ***What actors were involved in the construction? Were people experiencing poverty part of the process? Have focus groups been used?***

The two projects have also different methods to define reference budgets. RAP used the MIS method, a consensual method of constructing reference budgets which stems from Family Budget Unit, in York University by Jonathan Bradshaw (1980s) and it considers *low cost but acceptable budgets* (based on governmental orientations, consumer surveys and expert opinions). This method takes in consideration what the population thinks (needs, not wants) and the informed opinion of experts.

The RB used method IMPROVE, originally used in Antwerp University, Center Herman Deleeck, linked to **project IMPROVE** (Poverty, Social Policy and Innovation). According to Doyal & Gough there are basic needs of a universal nature (physical health, agency autonomy) and intermediate needs (health food, adequate clothing, personal hygiene, affordable health care, decent housing, child safety, serious social relations, lifelong learning, rest and distraction, mobility).

The RB construction methodology for Portugal defines a healthy food budget. Starts with international recommendations, national guidelines, experts' opinions and only after the population. The scheme is: research before the focus group; listen to the population in focus

group and work the results after the focus group. The focus group integrated five types of families (no information if people experiencing poverty participated):

- - Adult man, 40 years old, living alone;
- - Adult women, 40 years old, living alone;
- - Couple of adults, 40 years old, no children;
- - Adult women, 40 years old, with 2 children (10 years boy; 14 years girl);
- - Couple of adults, 40 years old, with 2 children (10 years boy; 14 years girl).

The focus group is carried out by a facilitator (researcher), an assistant (for the logistics) and a rapporteur. There is a family (hypothetical) of reference: A 40 year old couple with 2 children (10 year old boy, 14 year old girl), who lives in the capital of the country, in an apartment with a minimum level of quality. All family members are in good health and are able to manage their family budget economically. There were 3 focus groups, all in Lisbon, in a total of 25 participants.

They definitively can't say what is the value necessary to lead a dignified life but for one person it is suggested that the food budget should be of 204€ at least. Considering that a Portuguese family uses 24% of their expenses on food, the adequate minimum income should be 816€ per month.

RAP also uses focus groups in the following way: to understand what people think; experts to get scientifically informed knowledge of the reality; and statistics/data to get a factual/statistical evidence of the reality.

- ***How would you evaluate the development and/or current use of the reference budgets in your country? Are they useful tools for policy purposes? For public campaigning and awareness raising?***

Both projects took place at an academic level but they were not considered at a political level and there is also little knowledge about their results in general society.

### Section 3: Implementation of Country Specific Recommendations on Minimum Income and follow up through the Semester process.

As part of the EU Semester process, a number of countries have received **Country Specific Recommendations (CSR)** on their MIS or more generally on poverty. **Country Reports** can give interesting indications for countries performance with regards to Minimum **Income**. Evidence can also be found in EAPN's assessment of **National Reform Programmes 2016**. In some countries under a Macroeconomic Adjustment Programme; the **Memorandum of Understanding** has reference to MI. In this section you find information about developments in response to these reports and recommendations as well as information on how EU funds are used to support developments in relation to Minimum Income Schemes.

***Policy responses to the CSR, initiatives to implement them and to improve the MIS, if there are new evolutions in this respect in your country. Other developments in relation to Minimum Income Schemes as part of the Semester Process, please add them here.***

In the Portuguese case it was considered that we don't have anything to add to the provided table. We have already an analysis of Country Report 2017, in which we explain some reform priorities, as you can see on Annex 1.

***Has EU funds being used to support developments in relation to Minimum Income Schemes***

No. The SII is a measure accessible to all citizens suffering from severe economic deprivation, in a non-contributive regime and therefore it is not related to EU funds.

Some SII beneficiaries can be part of some projects financed by the EU, for example *Training for Inclusion* (actions aiming to empower potentially vulnerable groups investing essentially in personal and social skills development), financed by POISE – operational programme social inclusion and employment and others.

### Section 4: Social and Political Environment and its impact on the fight against poverty and the evolution of Minimum Income Schemes

In this section there is a brief sketch of the 'mood', the atmosphere that exists in relation to poverty, people living on minimum income, and the impact on some specific groups such as migrants, Roma/Travellers, growing nationalist sentiments etc.

**What kind of social and political environment exists within which the EMIN project will operate?**

Between the mid-1990s and the end of the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Portugal achieved very considerable results in what concerns poverty and economic inequalities reduction, having the poverty rate decreased 4,7 percentage points (Farinha Rodrigues, 2016). The international financial, economical, and consequently social crisis had a great impact in Portugal and the measures imposed to face its consequences (since 2011), reversed those trends. Between 2009 and 2014, the poverty rate increased and the living conditions of the Portuguese families became much worse. One of the most dramatic consequences of the crises and the undertaken political measures over the last few years was the increase of the poverty rate on children and youngsters. According to the same author, Carlos Farinha Rodrigues (2016), the constant increase of the gap between rich and poor constituted the main characteristic in the evolution of inequalities throughout this crisis period. According to INE (National Institute of Statistics), in 2015, 20% of the population with higher income was receiving approximately 5,9 times the income of the 20% of the population with lower income (EAPN Portugal, 2017).

Therefore, like some other counties in the EU, since 2011 Portugal has suffered with budget restraining measures which undermine the Portuguese quality of life, especially the most vulnerable. The measures imposed by the Troika in 2011 were extremely onerous to the Portuguese families, causing profound changes in what concerns employment, pensions, social benefits, economic growth, international competitiveness, among other aspects. In May 2014, Troika left Portugal and the year of 2015 was marked by legislative elections held on October 4. These elections changed the country course, due to the formation of a new Government with a different vision and program concerning the way to face the crisis. .

As we already outlined, the current government showed a greater concern about poverty, social exclusion and social inequalities stating quite clearly that austerity, and particularly austerity in social protection, was not a solution but part of the problem. According to EAPN Portugal analysis of the NPR 2016, this NPR “demonstrates in a very clear way an increased attention to social issues, namely poverty and social exclusion and social inequalities dimension, which worsened considerably over the last few years, in the light of the financial, economic and social crisis, and the implemented austerity measures”.

EAPN Portugal always promoted increasing dialogue with civil society in the framework of all stages of European Semester. So it is important to highlight as quite positive the present public

debate opportunities that the Government is promoting around some key thematic areas for the priority axes of NPR 2016.

The current government has as a priority bringing back some of the suspended or cancelled measures in the previous years (2011-2015) and to present new ones, with a particular focus on fighting poverty. With this in mind it is established in the NPR 2016 the commitment of reinforcing social benefits and, as mentioned on point I of this report, some aspects have already changed, namely in what concerns SII but also regarding child benefits and solidarity supplement for the elderly (SSE). Also it has increased minimum wage from 530€ in 2016 to 557€ in 2017. Measures such as the increase of MMW (minimum monthly wage), monetary support of exceptional nature to long-term unemployed and others are extremely important to fight poverty. However it is still of major concern the continued reduction of the beneficiaries for SII and SSE. This is happening not because people are not in need but due to the limitation of eligibility conditions and also to factors involving the conditions for granting SII. As an example, people balance the amount they are going to receive with the fact that they have to expose their privacy and they choose not to apply. At the moment the eligibility conditions are slightly better, for example, *no longer will the beneficiaries have to request for a renewal every 12 months*, but this is a very recent measure, so is not yet reflected in the numbers.

The report about Portugal situation, elaborated by the European Commission and published on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017, states “although it has continued to recover for the fourth consecutive year, the Portuguese economy remains vulnerable to shocks”. It points out as positive the measures that entered into force on the beginning of 2016, concerning social protection but it also underlines the serious situation of long-term unemployment (62,1% in 2016) and youth unemployment (28% in 2016) and the segmentation of the labour market that leads to precarious employment.

In 2015 the indicators on inequality, poverty and social exclusion improved, in line with declining unemployment. INE points out, in a report dated 16 May 2017, to a decrease of risk-of-poverty rate from 19.5% in 2014 to 19.0% in 2015. Portugal still presents severe cases in what concerns children risk-of-poverty (22,4%in 2015). Risk-of-poverty on elderly people has increased from 17.0% in 2014 to 18.3% in 2015, being above the average of the EU.

Some other data to consider is the average income per household that was 17967€ a year, that is to say 1497€ a month (79€ above last year).

The poverty risk threshold has been increasing from 4937€ in 2013 to 5061€ in 2014 and at last 5269€ in 2015. These are the amounts per year, which means the threshold is in 2015, 439€ per month. The value of 183,84€ from the SII is still very far from the poverty risk threshold, as we can see.

In 2017 the government continues to demonstrate higher concern towards fighting poverty and social exclusion, in comparison to 2014, but as we can see there is still a long way to follow. We highlight and summarize some recommendations made by EAPN Portugal insisting on the need to build a national strategy for eradicating poverty:

- Build a National Strategy for eradication of poverty and social exclusion, which considers different priorities for different kinds of groups (elders, children, homeless, ethnic minorities...) and territories;
- Reinforce social protection, creating an appropriate system with regard to the amount but also relating to coverage
- Fight young unemployment and NEET through a distinctive professional training and job creation
- Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the 20% of FSE (European social fund) to fight poverty and social exclusion
- Reinforce the follow-up of Europe 2020 Strategy objectives
- Include in social policies and PNR's preparations people experiencing poverty, and organizations of the civil society at the same level as the social partners;
- Keep in mind the importance of the European pillar of social rights on a national and European level;
- Support the creation of an anti-poverty national observatory.

To conclude, it is important to remind that SII beneficiaries still face a lot of discrimination from the general society, as we point out on the final report for EMIN 1. The social stigma

associated with this measure remains unchanged (and got worse during the crisis), as the association of the measure to cases of fraud, opportunism and laziness, leads people living in situations of extreme vulnerability (namely as a consequence of the crisis) to opt for not applying to this measure, fearing stigmatization and increased difficulties in the social integration.

## Section 5: Developments in relation to the Portuguese EMIN Network

*In this section you provide information in relation to the state of development of your National EMIN Network. In particular describing social dialogue/partnership with public authorities and other stakeholders.*

### ***Is there a formal or informal steering group for your National EMIN Network (who is involved)?***

There is a set of contacts that were established during the previous project (EMIN I) that remained and will be brought back to the project (please see in the next question the identification of those contacts).

However within EAPN Portugal there is an internal steering group that follow European issues, and in this case also followed EMIN I and now EMIN II. This group is composed of the Executive Director of EAPN Portugal, the Delegate to the Executive Committee of EAPN Europe, the member of the EU Inclusion Strategies Group of EAPN Europe, other staff members of EAPN Portugal experts in social policies, transnational projects, labour issues and participation of vulnerable groups.

### ***Have there been any contacts with potential partners that can help to build alliances for the improvement of the MIS in your country?***

EAPN Portugal was a partner of RAP Project (already described on point II of this report) participating mainly in the 1<sup>st</sup> phase (construction of guidance groups). We maintained also contact with experts, like José António Pereirinha and Carlos Farinha Rodrigues, who we invited to participate in the closing seminar of EMIN 1.

We maintain some contacts with Trade Unions, in different moments, namely with CGTP-IN (General Confederation of Portuguese Workers – National Intersindical) and representative of

UGT (General Union of Workers). Within the monitoring of the Semester we had also the opportunity to have common meetings with the Trade Unions and the European Commission. The same happened around the European Pillar of Social Rights. As a result of these and other activities of EAPN Portugal, we can affirm that we will easily involve several of these actors in EMIN 2.

***Has any activity been organised with regards to MI? Communications or public awareness raising, since the completion of the EMIN1 project?***

On January 19<sup>th</sup> of 2015 we have participated in a meeting with the Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion where we have delivered the EMIN 1 final report and conclusions.

One of the members of EMIN 1 participated in a debate "Adequate Minimum Income and Unconditional Basic Income" on October 17 of 2016 in the city of Leiria and presented the EMIN project in the city of Castelo Branco, on March 2017 in a seminar called "SII: from action to intervention".

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