



Adequate and secure Minimum Incomes

A European Perspective

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Content of Input

- **EU Context**
 - **EMIN Project**
 - **EU Meetings of People Experiencing Poverty (PeP)**
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EU Context

- **Active Inclusion Recommendation 2008**

- adequate income support
- inclusive labour markets
- access to quality services

- **2010 EU Year Against Poverty and Social Exclusion**

Poverty Target 20 million reduction by 2020

- **Social Investment Package 2013**

The Package puts forward proposals to enhance social cohesion and restore economic growth by investing in human capital, mobilising a larger share of Europe's potential, whilst ensuring the social inclusion of the less advantaged and an adequate level of social protection.

EU Context

- **Europe 2020 Strategy**

- Inclusive Growth
- Social Objective
- Poverty reduction target
- Partnership Principle
 - Platform Against Poverty
 - Annual Growth Survey
 - National Reform Programmes
 - Country specific recommendations

- **Crisis: Austerity – Fiscal consolidation**

- **Structural Funds (2014-2020)**

- source of financing to help Member States invest in integrated active inclusion strategies
- Higher percentage for ESF and 20% earmarked for social inclusion

- **Employment and Social Innovation (EASI Programme)**

EU Context

EU Support for:

- **European Minimum Income Network (EMIN)**
- **Commission will support a project to develop a European common methodology to set reference budgets**

Reference budgets are for different types of households to live on a designated level of well-being. Given the household composition, the disposable income and some other characteristics (like housing situation, transportation), a budget is given that suits the situation of the individual household

- **Continued support for the European Meetings of People Experiencing Poverty and Social Exclusion (supports national participation processes)**

EMIN Network

Aim of the European Minimum Income Network

- To build consensus to take the necessary steps towards the progressive realisation of adequate and accessible minimum income schemes
- A two year project (2013 – 2014) funded by the European Commission

The Importance of Minimum Income Schemes

- In cash based societies, Minimum Income schemes provide a life line for people experiencing poverty and social exclusion to enable them to:
 - Remain active in the society
 - Reconnect to the world of work
 - Live a life in dignity
- An important basis for an inclusive recovery from the crisis and for building more equal societies.

Partners in the Project

Lead Partner: EAPN (European Anti-Poverty Network)

Key partners

- **AGE** Platform Europe
- **FEANTSA** (European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless)
- **Belgian Public Administration**, Public Planning Service Social Integration, Anti Poverty Policy and Social Economy Social Integration
- **ANSA** (Agence Nouvelle des Solidarités Actives)
- **ETUI** (European Trade Union Institute)
- **OSE** (Observatoire Social Européen)
- **SIRG** (Social Inclusion Regional Group)

National Minimum Income Networks

- **Belgium** by Belgian Anti Poverty Network
- **Italy**, CILAP/EAPN Italy
- **Ireland**, EAPN Ireland
- **Denmark**, EAPN Denmark
- **Hungary** by EAPN Hungary

Steps in the path towards adequate and accessible Minimum Income Schemes

- **Analyse current trends and obstacle.**
- **Present and exchange on ‘good’ and ‘unsatisfactory’ practices.**
- **Raise awareness** on the EU current frameworks, including the 1992 Council Recommendation and the 2008 Active Inclusion Recommendation, The Social Investment Package.
- **Build consensus** on the necessary steps towards the progressive realisation of adequate and accessible Minimum Income Schemes.
- **Contribute to the identification of common EU level definitions and criteria for adequate Minimum Income Schemes.**

Activities planned in the Project

- **Establishment and Launch of the European Minimum Income Network.**
- **Establishment of Five National Minimum Income Networks in Denmark, Ireland, Belgium, Italy and Hungary.**
- **Analysis of Minimum Income Schemes in the 5 identified Countries.**
- **Thematic work on adequacy of minimum old age income Schemes, led by AGE Platform in France, Belgium or Ireland and Poland.**
- **Thematic work on take up by vulnerable groups, in particular homeless people, led by FEANTSA, in Italy, France, Hungary, Romania, Ireland, United Kingdom, Finland or Germany and Poland.**

Activities planned in the Project

- **Two Peer Review sessions.**
- **European level Conference (Year 1).**
- **Analysis of Minimum Income Schemes in remaining 26 countries.**
- **Steps towards the Progressive realisation of adequate Minimum Income Schemes in the 5 identified countries.**
- **Thirty-one national level Conferences.**
- **EU level Conference (Year 2)** to present suggestions for enhancing EU level coordination in the field of Minimum Income Schemes, including the proposal for common EU level definition and criteria for adequate Minimum Income Schemes.

Activities planned in the Project

Two **Advisory Groups** are foreseen under the project:

- **A Broad EU Stakeholder Advisory Committee**
- **Advisory Group with the European Parliament**

EMIN provisional EU recommendations

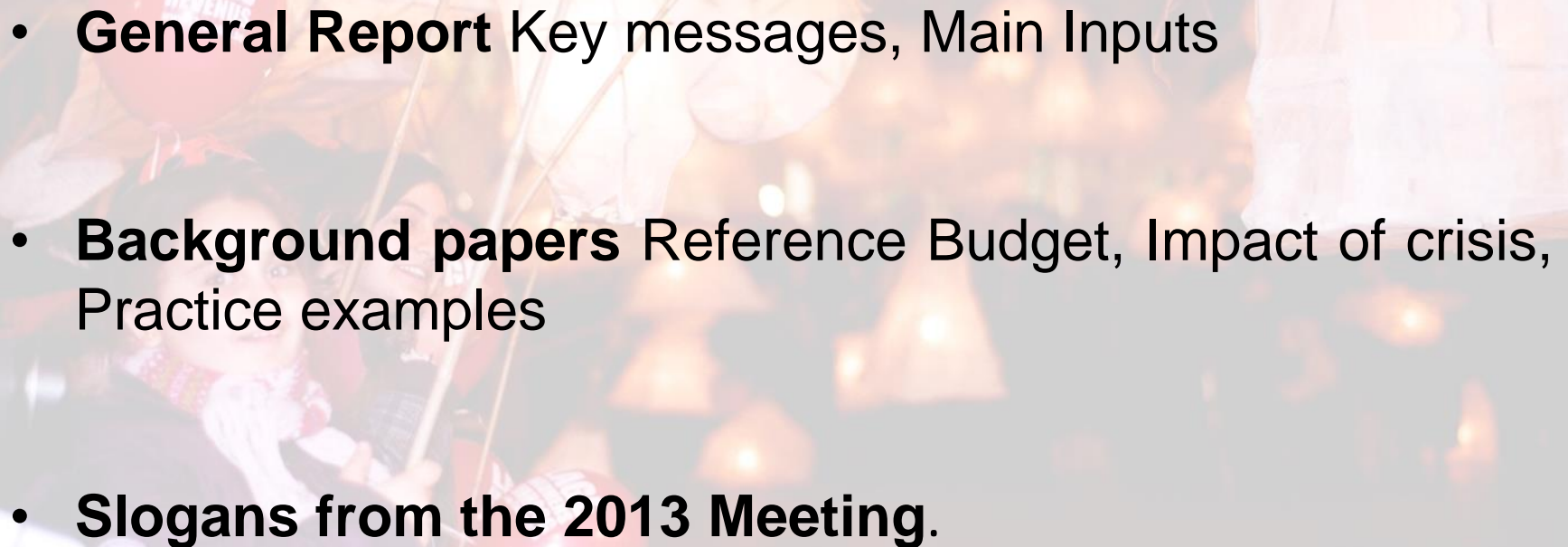
- **The 60% median income** as a reference point for poverty threshold remains important but Reference Budgets could be used to test the adequacy of: 1) the different poverty lines and 2) the Minimum Income Schemes.
- **Common definition and principles** – establish a Working Group/Task Force to build consensus and develop these, with indicators on adequacy and coverage... with SPC members and experts, including NGOs – building on the outcomes of the EMIN project and the soon to be launched project on common methodologies.
- The **Active Inclusion Recommendation** needs to be monitored through the processes associated to the Europe 2020 strategy (CSRs on Adequacy of Min Income Schemes)
- **Support for an EU Framework Directive** on Adequate Minimum Income Schemes is growing (reconfirmation of legal base for such a Directive)

Contents of the 2013 people Experiencing Poverty Meeting (PeP)

- **Exchange on the costs of a basket of goods and services needed for a life in dignity and how this compares with the reality of what is available from Minimum Income Schemes (where such schemes exist) or from Minimum Wages**
- **Shared examples of the impact of the ‘crisis on peoples daily lives’**
- **Shared ‘interesting practices’ in different countries that contribute to the fight against poverty**

Reports of the 2013 PeP Meeting now available

www.eapn.eu

- **General Report** Key messages, Main Inputs
 - **Background papers** Reference Budget, Impact of crisis, Practice examples
 - **Slogans from the 2013 Meeting.**
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Key Message from the 2013 PeP Meeting

Message: There is a harmonization of the costs of a decent life in the different European countries but still huge differences between wage levels and social welfare schemes and no real effort to ensure common efforts to reach high level social standards across Europe. This is creating a totally unbalanced Europe.

- Reference Budgets developed with agreed common principles and methodology could make a big contribution to see more clearly the realities in the different countries.
- People experiencing Poverty and their organisations should be involved in agreeing the principles and methodology to be used for Reference Budgets.
- We must be clear about the objective of the cooperation at EU level. It should have the clear ambition to contribute to ensuring common high level social standards across Europe.

Key Message from the 2013 PeP Meeting

Message: The response to the crisis is developing behaviour that undermines respect for human rights, such as: labour exploitation, xenophobia and increased discrimination, more waste in our societies (empty houses while having increased homelessness), growing distrust in our politicians and political institutions, criminalisation and negative stereo typing of 'poor people', while doing nothing to tackle the increasing concentration of wealth and power in the hands of a few.

We need to defend a society and a politics based on values and respect for Human Rights. We just want a normal society where everybody has access a decent life.

Minimum Income Schemes should have the ambition to be at a level that's needed for a life in Dignity and not just what is good enough for the poor

Slogan from the Czech Republic Delegation: We just want a normal life



Slogan from the Norwegian Delegation: Poverty is like a punishment for a crime you didn't commit



Slogan from the German Delegation: Never Give Up



Contacts

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To follow the project

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