

THE EUROPEAN MINIMUM INCOME NETWORK

A journey for better Minimum Income Schemes and a better Europe

Latvia, 01/01/2017 – 21/12/2018

ABSTRACT OF THE PROPOSAL

The European Minimum Income Network (EMIN) is an informal coalition of partners, including administrations, social partners, civil society organisations such as non-governmental organisations promoting the participation of people experiencing poverty, academic institutions, and experts, committed to the progressive realisation of adequate and accessible Minimum Income Schemes in Europe. The network received EU funding in the period 2013-2014 to launch its activities at EU and national level, and still operates today with the support of the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN).

In a context of high levels of poverty and social exclusion and tightened eligibility criteria for Minimum Income Schemes in many Member States, EMIN made important steps towards maintaining a focus on the importance of adequate and accessible MIS, and valuing the importance of stakeholder engagement in raising the debate. The call for Tender launched in February 2016 for a preparatory action on social solidarity for social integration is a welcome initiative that has the potential to contribute to raising awareness of the importance of MIS and further strengthening the engagement and focus generated through the EMIN Network.

The call for Tender aims to support a preparatory action to further strengthen and develop EMIN, its EU and national constituencies, to promote awareness raising activities at national level as well as to foster the policy debate on adequate MIS at EU level and in the 28 Member States of the EU.

The 'EMIN2' Project proposal has been submitted by the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN), together with three EU-level Partners, namely the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), the Federal Public Service on Social Integration for Belgium (FPS SI) and the University of Antwerp, and with national Partners mainly drawn from EAPN's national membership who will ensure the coordination at Member State level of the Project and the further development of the National EMIN Networks. .

In response to the specifications for the current call for Tender, the EMIN2 Project will build on the achievements of the EMIN 2013-2014 pilot project and further support the implementation of the Commission Recommendation on the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market, with a special focus on the provisions concerning adequate income support by raising awareness of national policy makers, social partners, stakeholders and NGOs of the need for adequate minimum income schemes.

The main aim of the EMIN2 Project, over its two-year implementation will be to strengthen networking, awareness raising and policy debate at EU and national level on the importance of adequate and accessible Minimum Income Schemes in the EU. The following three objectives will guide the implementation of the Project:

1. Organise, coordinate and manage a European Minimum Income Network;
2. Raise Awareness at National level on adequate Minimum Income Schemes;
3. Support policy debates and initiatives on Minimum Income Schemes.

Activities will be undertaken at both EU and national level, across all MS, to meet these objectives. These will include:

- Analysing current trends in MIS, in stakeholder engagement supporting such schemes and in addressing the Country Specific Recommendations through the preparation of context reports at National level and a summary report at EU level;
- Promoting capacity development of the networks through a common strategy to foster stakeholder engagement and ensure network coordination across the EU 28 MS, with a Steering Committee to provide guidance at EU-level on the activities of the Network;
- Facilitating mutual learning through three meetings at EU-level of the 28 coordinators and visits by Networks to at least one other Network during the duration of the Project;
- Engaging public authorities in EMIN and stimulating their contribution to the debate on MIS through specific networking meetings;
- Developing a comprehensive communication strategy for the Network which will be adapted for implementation at National level and will include suggestions for online presence, outreach work, national visibility, media coverage and events and the appointment of national Ambassadors to champion the values of EMIN and promote MIS;
- Organising the EMIN2 'Everyone on the bus' tour for the promotion of adequate MIS. This will be a road show that will start and end in Brussels, will cover at least 20 countries including several stops in the each country, and engage local stakeholders in the debate, stimulating media coverage and promoting awareness of the MIS debate;
- Stimulating debate and maintaining regular dialogue at EU and national level on adequate MIS, in the context of the current policy framework (EU 2020 strategy, Social Pillar, EU semester, CSRs...), engaging with key policy makers, including the Advisory Group of the European Parliament on MIS;

- Promoting timely policy inputs to EU processes with relevance to MIS, with a focus on adequacy, coverage and non-take up of MIS, drawing from the national level experience;
- Carrying out three Peer Reviews at EU level on 1) Coverage and non-take-up of MI 2) application of the reference budgets nationally 3) active inclusion
- Organising national policy debates on the application of Reference Budgets.

The project builds on the recommendations of the EMIN Project as well as EU-level reports such as the Reference Budgets Project report and the 2016 report of the EU Network of Independent experts on Minimum Income Schemes.

EAPN as Lead Partner, together with the Project Partners at EU and national level and the European level Project Management Team have a high level of expertise and all the necessary skills to ensure the proper running of this Project. The Partners represent a diverse range of stakeholders who can effectively deliver the activities from a strategic, administrative and a content perspective. They are well suited to ensure delivery of the diverse requirements included in this call for Tender having the necessary expertise in promoting awareness raising initiatives, supporting Network development on MIS and contributing to and promoting policy debate.

The European and National level structures running the Project and the activities envisaged during its implementation will ensure the direct participation of people experiencing poverty in the project, in particular people who are or who could benefit from accessing Minimum Income Schemes.