

Developing National Poverty Watch Reports

Scoping Note

Introduction

EAPN is a network dedicated to the fight against poverty. Our aim is to work together to achieve a reduction of poverty, through improvements in antipoverty policy and practice at national and EU level. Monitoring trends on poverty is part of this process, holding governments to account, as well as raising awareness to the general public about the realities on the ground in order to build pressure for change. Currently, EAPN is engaging in the European Semester, in order to try to get delivery on the poverty reduction, employment and education targets of Europe 2020 through dialogue processes. This involves monitoring policy proposals from the European Commission and Member States, and trying to influence the policy recommendations by drawing attention to trends and realities on the ground. This has been an important part of our Work Programme to the Commission in this period, and for our funding. However, members have increasingly raised concerns about the amount of work required for this engagement/monitoring process, and policy impact, particularly in countries with a weak commitment to meaningful stakeholder involvement. The proposal has been made to ***give priority to members' own assessment of what is happening to poverty in their country, which can serve as an awareness-raising and advocacy instrument at national level, as well as form the basis of effective inputs to the EU level.***

What is an EAPN poverty watch report?

The EAPN Poverty Watch Reports do not set out to be a comprehensive national research report on poverty, although individual members may decide/already do this for their own use, depending on resources. It starts from the reality of EAPN members' work, and the experience/priorities of people experiencing poverty they work with. Above all, it should be an effective communication tool, which aims to signpost key developments/trends on poverty, assess briefly the EU role, identify the key issues including for people in poverty and propose solutions. The short report (around 8-10 pages), can be developed using the template, in your own language, with the EAPN contract used to translate into English, so that it can be shared and exchanged with EAPN members, as well as EU decision-makers.

Objectives

- 1) To monitor key trends and policy on poverty and social exclusion in Europe.
- 2) To raise awareness about priority issues and impact/reality for people experiencing poverty
- 3) To propose concrete recommendations backed by example and evidence.

Target audience

- 1) Stakeholders and general public at national level.
- 2) National and EU decision-makers (in translation)

Process

The poverty watch report will be developed in networks own language. We would hope that the document can be translated into English using the EAPN contract money available. National networks can decide to adapt/enlarge in their own language for their own use. European Organizations are welcome to forward specific input on national contexts to relevant NN.

Content (8-10 pages as a guide)

1. Introduction

- *Who you are, why you are writing the report and what your main messages are.*

2. What do we mean by poverty?

- *Present common EU definition and EU indicators on MS based on EU SILC, in relation to Europe 2020 (this could be drawn from the EAPN poverty explainer/provided by EAPN Brussels Team)*
- *Include quote/quotes from people experiencing poverty you work with.*

3. What is happening to poverty? Who are the groups most affected?

- *Present the main data on poverty from EU SILC.*
- *Europe 2020 eg at risk of poverty, material deprivation, low intensity of work with breakdown by age, sex, origin, educational level and regions.*
- *Analyse the gap on achievement on the targets*
- *Present a selection of trends data from other key EU SILC indicators – including in-work poverty, housing need (see data list below) and specific national data which you consider important.*

4. What are the key challenges and priorities? What do people in poverty think?

- *Highlight EAPN main priority issues and groups,*
- *Including priorities from your work with people experiencing poverty, with examples and testimonies if possible.*
- *You do not need to cover all issues, highlight main priorities- some examples*
 - *Is there adequate income support - minimum Income and social protection?*
 - *Are people able to access quality jobs, is in-work poverty an issue?*
 - *Can people access universal affordable, quality services (including housing, health, education?) Are there particular services that are more problematic?*
 - *Are there particular groups affected worse than others? Is there problems of discrimination?*
 - *Other more specific issues.?*

5. What is the role of EU and national governments?

- *Is the European Commission's country reports and country-specific recommendations helping or not)? What about EU funds?*
- *What is the reaction from your government? Highlight key positive or negative developments on national policy.*

6. What EAPN is doing?

- *Highlight what your EAPN network or organization is doing to fight poverty – positive examples of lobbying and advocacy, services you provide, projects, or campaigns.*

7. Key Recommendations

- *Set out your key messages and Recommendations, drawn from your priority areas to:*
 - *EU level*
 - *National and Regions (including rural-urban) if relevant*

References and Bibliography

- *Give a list of the references and sources for your data and your examples.*

Simple Tips to get and use Poverty Data effectively

- *Pick the data which is most useful for you and sells your case the best – less is more!*
- *Apart from EU data, include national data but also include a few national examples which come from projects, research reports, surveys and/or from EAPN membership. These are often the most interesting and are less well-known.*
- *Illustrate with a testimony! People's stories make the data a reality.*

DATA SOURCES

1. EU LEVEL

- **EUROSTAT** → <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>
Statistical Office of the European Union. Main database to work with an immense variety of variables. Particularly relevant in the EUROSTAT web system are:
 - *Statistics explained* → http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Main_Page
Eurostat website presenting statistical topics in an easily understandable way, with very useful graphs, charts and tables ready to be used
 - *European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC)* → <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/income-and-living-conditions/data/database> and http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Living_conditions
Instrument aiming at collecting timely/ comparable cross-sectional and longitudinal multidimensional microdata on income, poverty (AROPE indicators), social exclusion and living conditions.
 - *Key EU-SILC datasets – with national breakdown.*

6.1.1 People at risk of poverty or social exclusion (Europe 2020 strategy)
[Europe 2020 target on poverty and social exclusion](#)
[Intersections between sub-populations of Europe 2020 indicators on poverty and social exclusion](#)

6.1.2 Income distribution and monetary poverty
[Monetary poverty](#)
[Monetary poverty of elderly people](#)
[In-work poverty](#)
[Distribution of income](#)

6.1.3 Living conditions
[Private households](#)
[Population structure](#)
[Health and labour conditions](#)
[Housing conditions](#)
[Childcare arrangements](#)

6.1.4 Material deprivation
[Material deprivation by dimension](#)
[Economic strain](#)
[Economic strain linked to dwelling](#)
[Durables](#)
[Housing deprivation](#)
[Environment of the dwelling](#)

6.1.5 EU-SILC ad-hoc modules
[2011 - Intergenerational transmission of disadvantages](#)
[2012 - Housing conditions](#)

2013 - Personal well-being indicators

- *Tables on EU Policies* → <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>
Datasets providing quantitative support to the development, implementation, and monitoring of European policies, such as: Europe 2020 Indicators, Sustainable Development Indicators, Employment and Social Policy Indicators & European Pillar of Social Rights Indicators.
- **SOME RELEVANT EU PUBLICATIONS/SOURCES**
 - *Social Scoreboard for the European Pillar of Social Rights* → <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52017SC0200&from=EN>
Established in order to monitor the implementation of the Pillar by tracking trends and performances across EU countries in 12 areas and to be fed into the European Semester process
 - *Employment and Social Developments in Europe* → <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=738&langId=en&pubId=7952&visible=0&>
Annual review of Employment and Social Developments in Europe. It considers the latest available data and provides analysis of key employment and social developments and challenges in the EU and its Member States
 - *Social Protection Performance Monitor & Social Protection Committee (SPC) Annual Report* → <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=758>
The SPC monitors through its publications social conditions in the EU and the development of social protection policies in member countries. It reports on social inclusion, health care, long-term care and pensions under the social open method of coordination
 - *Joint Employment Report (JER)* → <http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-6887-2017-INIT/en/pdf>
JER provides an annual overview of key employment and social developments in Europe as well as Member States' reform actions
 - *European Social Policy Network*: Network of independent experts reporting on social inclusion and protection policy. National thematic and EU synthesis reports in key areas. Recent national reports include access to social protection, minimum income, social investment, recent social policy developments.
<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1135&intPagId=3589>

2. NATIONAL LEVEL

▪ NATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTES (NSIs) & OTHER NATIONAL AUTHORITIES

Institutions responsible in each Member State for the development, production and dissemination of European and national statistics. Member States collect data and compile statistics for national and EU purposes. The European Statistical System (ESS) is a European authority that functions as a network. Eurostat's role in the ESS is to lead the way in the harmonization of statistics. ESS has an updated list of NSIs & other national statistical authorities →

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/747709/753176/20170529_List_ONAs_HR/982a6005-7225-45f5-be42-5803e526410e

▪ LOCAL LEVEL STATISTICAL AUTHORITIES

EXAMPLE: Italy, as several other European countries has its own statistical system (Sistema Statistico Nazionale), which comprises Italian NSI (Istituto Nazionale di Statistica) and a network of other public statistical authorities, but also statistical offices of each local authority (from the regional to the municipal level), which provides access to a large variety of data, mostly on macroeconomic and labor indicators. With respect to Poverty, Italy adopts both a relative and an absolute indicator (see ISTAT Report on 'Poverty in Italy' (2015) → https://www.istat.it/en/files/2016/07/Poverty_in_Italy_2015.pdf?title=Poverty+in+Italy+-+14+Jul+2016+-+Poverty_in_Italy_2015.pdf)

3. OTHER INTERNATIONAL SOURCES

- **ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION & DEVELOPMENT (OECD) STATISTICS** → <http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/statistics>

Indicators for the 35 Member States of OECD (mostly high-income economies) include: Income Inequality, Poverty Rate, Poverty Gap, but also indicators referred to access to services or to the labor market. Database is very rich.

- **WORLD BANK (WB) DATA** → <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator>

Global database that comprises a set of various categories of indicators such as: Poverty, Health, Education, Economy and Growth, Social Protection & Labor. Even though the International financial institution has the global aim to reduce poverty, data are not always updated for all countries.

- **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG) INDICATORS** →

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/>

Dataset compiled through the UN System in preparation for the Secretary-General's annual report on "Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals". The first SDG Goal comprises mostly absolute poverty indicators like the proportion of people below the international or the national poverty line.

4. CIVIL SOCIETY/ACADEMIC LEVEL

- **NGOS SURVEYS AND PUBLICATIONS**

- **EAPN Explainer 'Poverty and Inequality in the EU'** → <http://www.eapn.eu/new-update-of-the-explainer-on-poverty-and-social-exclusion/>

Explainer focused primarily on current perspectives on the nature and extent of poverty, its causes and its links to inequality: it analyses how poverty is understood and measured currently in the EU, and highlights some of the shortcomings of these approaches

See also other EAPN Publications → <http://www.eapn.eu/news-and-publications/publications/>

- Other interesting NGOs Publications EU level:

- Caritas Europa, 'End Poverty in Europe', 2016 → http://www.caritas.eu/sites/default/files/caritas_europa_cares_report2016_-_end_poverty_in_europe.pdf
- FEANTSA, 'Second Overview of Housing Exclusion in Europe', 2017 → <http://www.feantsa.org/en/report/2017/03/21/the-second-overview-of-housing-exclusion-in-europe-2017?bcParent=27>
- FEBA: Information on foodbanks across Europe. <https://www.eurofoodbank.org/>

- NGO surveys/data at national level

- EG UK – Trussell Trust provides data twice yearly on use of food banks in UK. <https://www.trusselltrust.org/news-and-blog/latest-stats/>

- **ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS**

- *Some prominent portals*

- *European Social Observatory – research institute* → <http://www.ose.be/EN/publications.htm>
- *Combating Poverty in Europe (COPE) – European network of researchers and stakeholders* → <http://cope-research.eu/>

- *Horizon 2020 research programme results on poverty/social inclusion* (<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/sites/horizon2020/files/Externa%20advice%20and%20societal%20engagement-SC6-2016-2017.pdf>)