

EAPN RECOMMENDATIONS

for an EU Anti-Poverty Strategy

Homelessness: an evolving phenomenon

Thursday 12th June 2025, Florence, Italy



EUROPEAN ANTI POVERTY NETWORK

ABOUT EAPN

31
national
networks

13
European
organisations

**People
experiencing
poverty**

**Advocating for poverty
eradication in Europe**

**Ensuring people experiencing
poverty are included
in EU decision-making**

THE EU ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY: A LONG-TERM DEMAND OF EAPN

In 2023, **93.5 million people** in the EU – at least **22%** of the population – were at risk of poverty or social exclusion



The complexity of poverty has not been captured by a proper EU Strategy yet

The EU has so far mostly approached poverty as a socio-economic and individual issue, without addressing its complexity and the root causes that drive it.



Current EU Strategies and Action Plans are not enough

The EU APS is the opportunity to address the class blindness and lack of poverty eradication approach of other EU policy areas.



EAPN 2-STEP APPROACH TO THE EU ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY

Both the **policy process** and the **content** of the EU APS are crucial to make it ambitious and comprehensive.



October 2024: the process

EAPN ROADMAP
towards an EU Anti-Poverty Strategy

**PROCESS PROPOSAL FOR
AN EFFECTIVE POLICY**



OCTOBER 2024



April 2025: the content

**Towards the
eradication
of poverty**

EAPN vision and
recommendations for the
EU Anti-Poverty Strategy

**EAPN
ANTI-
POVERTY
STRATEGY**



EUROPEAN ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK

THE PROCESS: EAPN ROADMAP

4 PILLARS TOWARDS AN EU ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY

A transformational strategy

From the alleviation to the eradication of poverty

A theory of change aiming to eradicate poverty by addressing its complexity + its structural and systemic causes

An inclusive strategy

PeP & CSOs in all stages of the process

The creation of a PeP & a CSO Committees supported by a participatory mechanism.

A comprehensive strategy

built on a rights-based approach of poverty

The working definition of poverty going beyond socio-economic aspects + ensuring coherence across key other EU policy areas

A strategy supported by a **strong governance & coordination**

The principle of subsidiarity used to expand the EU action + All tools should be mobilised, as well as appropriate human resources and data collection.

THE PROCESS: EAPN ROADMAP

4 PILLARS TOWARDS AN EU ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY

A transformational strategy

From the alleviation to the eradication of poverty

- So far, the EU's ambition in fighting poverty **has been limited** and did not lead to concrete results.
- We need:
 - A **commitment to eradicate**, not only alleviate poverty,
 - A **50% reduction of people in poverty** by 2030 (cf. SDG1),
 - A **comprehensive definition of poverty** reflecting the experience of people living in poverty,
 - A commitment to **improving poverty measurement**,
 - Framing poverty as a **rule of law, democracy and fundamental rights** issue,
 - **Shifting the narrative** about people living in poverty.

THE PROCESS: EAPN ROADMAP

4 PILLARS TOWARDS AN EU ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY

An inclusive strategy
People Experiencing Poverty at all stages of the EU APS

- No legal, policy or budgetary initiatives should be undertaken without involving impacted communities,
- We need:
 - the creation of a Committee of People experiencing poverty (PeP) involved in all stages of the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy,
 - a clear methodology to ensure the meaningful participation of people experiencing poverty,
 - to ensure safeguards to avoid an extractivist approach of the experience of people living in poverty.

THE CONTENT: EAPN POSITION PAPER

EAPN VISION & RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE EU APS

Stepping up the European Pillar of Social Rights

Priority 1: Ensuring an adequate, accessible, and enabling income for all,

Priority 2: Addressing in-work poverty

Priority 3: Ensuring access to adequate essential services and universal social protection at all stages of life,

Priority 4: Addressing homelessness and severe material deprivation,

Priority 5: Addressing the intersectional aspects of poverty.

Active Inclusion
Approach

Beyond the European Pillar of Social Rights

Priority 6: Exploring pathways for the legal recognition of socio-economic discrimination,

Priority 7: Protecting migrants, asylum seekers and undocumented people,

Priority 8: Ensure the right to healthy and affordable food,

Priority 9: A green but also just transition for people living in poverty,

Priority 10: Enshrining the digital rights of people living in poverty,

Priority 11: Addressing criminalisation of poverty in the EU,

Priority 12: Protecting civil society organisations and activists.

PRIORITY 4

ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS & SEVERE MATERIAL DEPRIVATION

Our recommendations

- Dedicating a section of the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy **to homelessness,**
- **Mainstreaming homelessness and anti-poverty perspectives** in the Union of Equality Strategies,
- Proposing a **Council Recommendation on Homelessness,**
- Further developing the **European Platform on Combatting Homelessness (EPOCH),**
- Reallocating **uncommitted structural funds to combat homelessness,**
- **Increasing the ESF+ earmarking** for severe material deprivation from 3% to 10%.

THE CONTENT: EAPN POSITION PAPER FUNDING THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY

From the European Semester
to a Social Semester

Poverty cannot be eradicated
without fiscal justice

Prioritising social inclusion **in the
next MFF**

The bigger picture:
are growth and
competitiveness compatible
with poverty eradication?

THE CONTENT

EAPN POSITION PAPER

Promoting and strengthening
**National & Local Anti-Poverty
Strategies**

Including **EU candidate countries**
in the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy

IN A NUTSHELL



Eradicating poverty is a political choice.

The first-ever EU Anti-Poverty Strategy is the opportunity to work towards poverty eradication.



So far, EU-level initiatives had little impact.

It is time to move from an alleviation to an eradication approach of poverty.



The EU should come up with an **ambitious, comprehensive, rights-based and adequately resourced EU Anti-Poverty Strategy** and going **beyond the European Pillar of Social Rights**.



Participation of people experiencing poverty is crucial.

They should be involved at all stages of the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy.



Thank you!

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