

11th European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty

10-11 May 2012

Egmont Palace, Place du Petit Sablon 8, Brussels

Homelessness and housing rights in times of crisis

Is having a roof enough to feel at home in the EU of 2012?



Supported by the European Commission

Organised with the assistance of the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN)

Hosted in Egmont Palace by the Belgian Government



<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=88&eventsId=554&furtherEvents=yes>

Thursday 10th May 2012

9.00- 9.40	<p>Opening Plenary Session (Europe Room – Egmont 2)</p> <p>Chair: Jesper BRASK FISCHER, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Affairs and Integration, Denmark</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen HAEKKERUP, Minister for Social Affairs and Integration, Denmark • László ANDOR, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion • Maggie DE BLOCK, Belgian State Secretary for Social Integration and Combating Poverty • Dominique PION, delegate from the 10th meeting of People Experiencing Poverty
9.40 – 10.40	<p>Creative presentations by people experiencing poverty delegates Plenary session (Europe Room- Egmont 2)</p> <p>Visual, artistic introduction of homelessness and housing rights issues</p>
10.40- 11.10	Coffee break
11.10 – 13.00	<p>Workshops: 6 parallel workshops where people experiencing poverty delegates will exchange views on the best practices and design of homelessness and housing rights policies in the context of the crisis</p> <p>See separate document in conference packs for workshop locations, moderators, division of delegates and languages.</p>
13.00 – 14.30	Lunch (Galerie des Glaces, salon Tapisseries)
14.30 – 16.30	Workshops continue
16.30 – 17.00	Coffee break
17.00 – 18.00	<p>Creative presentations -2nd round Plenary session (Europe Room – Egmont 2)</p>
20.00	Conference Dinner

Friday 11th May 2012

9.00 – 9.30	<p>Creative presentations – 3rd round Plenary session (Europe Room – Egmont 2)</p>
9.30 – 10.30	<p>Dialogue Meetings: The 3 parallel Dialogue Meetings will bring together people experiencing poverty delegates, decision-makers and stakeholders to jointly discuss homelessness and housing rights in the European Union of 2012.</p>

	<p><u>Structure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary reports of the workshops • Short inputs of experts – theory and practice of homelessness • Discussion between delegates, representatives and stakeholders • Conclusions/messages from the Dialogue Meeting <p>See separate document in conference packs for locations of Dialogue meetings, moderators, languages and division of delegates and guests.</p> <p><u>Speakers providing short inputs</u></p> <p>Claire ROUMET – CECODHAS Housing Europe – the federation of public, cooperative and social housing Freek SPINNEWIJN – FEANTSA – European Federation of National Organizations working with the homeless Sylvie LE BARS – Solidarités Actives France – Hope in Stations project Jean-François MOLAS – BAPSA Paris – police division for the homeless Hugo SWINNEN – EU Network of Independent Experts on Social Inclusion Anthony MUNSLOW – Eurocities working group on housing and homelessness</p> <p>Other participants include ministries, Social Protection Committee Members, representatives of the European Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee</p>
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee Break
11.00 – 12.30	Dialogue Meetings continue
12.30 – 13.30	<p>Closing Plenary Session (Europe Room – Egmont 2)</p> <p>Chair: Jesper BRASK FISCHER, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Affairs and Integration, Denmark</p> <p>Open floor for short comments from delegates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joan BURTON, Minister for Social Protection, Ireland • Lauris BEETS Chair of the Social Protection Committee • Ludo HOREMANS, European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) • Freek SPINNEWIJN, FEANTSA
13.30 – 14.30	Lunch (Galerie des Glaces, salon Tapisseries)
15.00 – 18.00	<p>Side events for people experiencing poverty delegates in follow-up of the conference <i>(Practical information : see document in participants' files)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up meeting, organised by HOPE and EU Union of Homeless <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Public initiatives towards homelessness" presented by Bravvo http://www.bravvo.be/ La Strada http://www.lstb.be/

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The **European meetings of people experiencing poverty** were developed as a response to the agreed EU objective; to develop the active engagement of people with direct experience of poverty and social exclusion. This objective was developed in the context of the Open Method of Coordination on Social Protection and Social Inclusion (Social OMC) and re-stated in the context of the Europe 2020 strategy.

The general objectives of the meetings are:

- To foster commitment to developing the participation of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion at local, national and European levels.
- To reinforce the visibility of the fight against poverty and social exclusion in Europe and to recognise the expertise that people experiencing poverty have in assisting to address that reality.
- To recognise and reinforce the courage needed for people experiencing poverty to engage in the struggle to improve their realities and the reality of their communities.
- To make visible the links between the different levels - local, national and European - and the need for coherence between the different levels.

Theme and Content for the 11th Meeting: The theme for the 11th European meeting is "Homelessness and Housing Rights in the Context of the Crisis". The ambition is an exchange of views and experiences on how to ensure that people experiencing poverty can have access to adequate, affordable and energy efficient housing and accommodation. To make steps towards that ambition this year's meeting will be focused on three key questions:

- In relation to homelessness and housing rights what are the key differences that can be seen in 2012 as compared to 2008?
- From the experience of the delegates and the preparation work for the meeting what are the 'good and bad practices' in relation to addressing homelessness and housing rights that have been identified?
- How best to design policies to address homelessness and housing that are adapted to the different needs and realities of different individuals and communities and can ensure equality in access to homeless services and housing rights?

The delegates will bring their own experience and the results of their preparation work to address these three questions. During the meeting itself these questions will be addressed in three methods:

- 1) Creative presentations from the delegations of people experiencing poverty
- 2) Workshops where the delegates will exchange on these questions
- 3) Dialogue meetings where the outcomes of the workshops are discussed with people who shape and seek to influence policies and programmes on homelessness and housing rights as well as stakeholders working with homeless people or on housing rights issues.

Participants:

- Delegations to the meeting are primarily people with a direct experience of poverty and social exclusion (including people with direct experience of homelessness) who have begun to engage in a collective way to address the causes and effects of poverty and exclusion.
- Representatives of National Governments and EU institutions, Social Partners, NGOs and other relevant actors will be invited to participate.

Background papers:

- An EAPN/FEANTSA background paper highlights recent key developments at EU level in relation to homelessness and housing rights (available in Conference Packs).
- An EAPN a briefing paper which makes visible what follow up there has been from the suggestions and recommendations from the meeting in 2011 (available in Conference Packs).