



European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland

NewsFlash, March 2018

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EAPN Ireland News

Welcome to Irene Byrne, new EAPN Ireland Policy and Communications Officer

EAPN Ireland is delighted to welcome Irene Byrne to their team as Policy and Communications Officer. Irene recently worked in the private sector and as a consultant on areas of social policy. Before this she spent over five years as Policy and Practice Coordinator with the Irish Council for Social Housing working closely with their members throughout the country. She also worked with Trócaire.

The full EAPN Ireland team now includes:

- Paul Ginnell, Director
- Irene Byrne, Policy and Communications Officer
- Maureen Gondipon, Administration and Finance Officer

EAPN Ireland Poverty Briefing and proposals for a new Anti-poverty Strategy

In February EAPN Ireland published a [Poverty Briefing 2018 and proposals for a new Anti-poverty Strategy](#). The Briefing presents up to date information on the levels of poverty and the issues behind them. It highlights the issues that impact directly on people’s lives such as inadequate income, access to quality services and the lack of a decent job for those who can work. It calls for a commitment and action across Government to address poverty and its causes and as the Government begins its consultation on a new social inclusion plan it outlines proposals across a range of policy areas.



Consultation on the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2018-2021

The Department of Social Protection has begun a consultation on a new National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2018-2021. Full information on the Consultation is available [here](#). The consultation is by SurveyMonkey with a deadline of the 16th March. The EAPN Ireland Poverty Briefing should assist in filling in the survey. To help with filling in the online survey a pdf of the survey is available on the EAPN Ireland website [here](#). The answers cannot be saved in the pdf format. EAPN Ireland will continue to push for an inclusive consultation and a strong Action Plan.

Debate on the Future of Europe

As reported in the last NewsFlash, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is carrying out a series of Citizens' Dialogues across the country on the Future of Europe. Information on the dates and locations of the meetings is available [here](#). Meetings in Galway and Cork have already taken place and the remaining Citizens' Dialogues are as follows:

- Donegal, Radisson Blu Letterkenny – 8th March from 5:30- 8:30pm
- Meath, Navan (Venue tbc) - 19 April 2018
- National Dialogue , Dublin (Venue tbc) 9 May 2018 (Europe Day)

The Wheel is also holding a Citizens' Dialogue from 9:30am - 12:00pm on the 5th April in the Wood Quay Venue, Dublin. More information [here](#).

These Dialogues are an important opportunity to highlight how critical it is that the EU puts the values of equality and human rights, outlined in EU Treaties, at the centre and builds a Social Europe for all. **You can read EAPN Ireland's submission on the Future of Europe** [here](#). In it EAPN Ireland calls for a more sustainable future for Europe based on balanced social, environmental and economic goals. This is what the EU, and its member countries including Ireland, has committed to under the UN Global Goals for Sustainable Development.

These Citizens' Dialogues on the Future of Europe are part of the consultation process initiated by the European Commission in March 2017. It published a White Paper which presented five possible options for a way forward for the EU. More information [here](#). In April 2017 the Commission published a [Reflection Paper on the Social Dimension of Europe](#) which concentrated on three of the five options for how the EU might address social and employment issues in the future.

Public Consultation for new National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2018 - 2021

The National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016 (NAPinclusion), identified a wide range of targeted actions and interventions to support the overall objective of achieving the National Social Target for Poverty Reduction (NSTPR). The Plan adopted a life-cycle approach with goals set for each group: children; people of working age; older people and communities. The Plan was updated for the period 2015 - 2017 to reflect the current issues and interventions to tackle poverty. There was a greater focus on modernising the social protection system, improving effectiveness and efficiency of social transfers and strengthening active inclusion policies. The Programme for Partnership Government includes a commitment to develop a new Integrated Framework for Social Inclusion, to tackle inequality and poverty.

The Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection is in the early stages of developing the new National Action Plan/Integrated framework and would like to hear your views.

If you would like to take part in the public consultation process which is accessible online through SurveyMonkey, please click OK to start. Please note the consultation period is for 4 weeks ending on Friday 16 March 2018.



Other Irish News

Social Work, Education and Social Development (SWSD) Conference 2018

The Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development (SWSD) 2018 takes place in the RDS in Dublin from the 4th – 7th July 2018. The Conference will explore the theme ‘Environmental and Community Sustainability: Human Solutions in Evolving Societies’.

Detailed information is available [here](#).

World Community Development Conference (WCDC) 2018

The WCDC Conference takes place in Maynooth University from the 24th – 27th June 2018. The Conference is entitled Participation, Power and Progress: Community Development towards 2030 – Our Analysis, Our Actions. International Induction takes place on the 24th June with the main conference from the 25th to 27th June.

This conference will provide a unique opportunity for practitioners, participants, academics, policy makers, funders and other stakeholders to share perspectives on current contexts and challenges for community work. The conference will encompass cutting edge inputs, papers, creative installations and poster presentations on rights-based community development, addressing and engaging locally, nationally and internationally with key current issues. [More information here](#).

Clondalkin Drugs and Alcohol Task Force (CDATF) Conference

The CDATF conference ‘Reclaiming Community Development as an Effective Response to Drug Harms, Policy Harms, Poverty and Inequality’ has been rescheduled for the 26th March. More information [here](#).



EU Institutions News

OPEN ROUND TABLE ON THE FUTURE OF WORK | EGE

Held on 5 February 2018, the [EGE \(European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies\) Open Round Table](#) brought together a wide range of stakeholders from all sectors of society, including academic experts, international organisations, industry, trade unions and NGOs. Amana Ferro (EAPN Senior Policy Officer) presented EAPN's key messages. [More here.](#)

THEMATIC PLENARY DEBATE AROUND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INEQUALITIES | EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

On 6 February 2018, the European Parliament conducted a thematic plenary debate around socio-economic inequalities, under the lead of Socialists and Democrats, who were the ones to put the item on the parliamentary agenda. During the debate, acting S&D Group leader Udo Bullmann urged the European Commission to take on rapid and decisive action to combat the rising levels of inequality across the EU. [More information here.](#)



EUROPEAN YEAR OF CULTURAL HERITAGE (EYCH) | DG EDUCATION AND CULTURE

The European Commission, Directorate General for Education and Culture, launched a programme called "European Year of Cultural Heritage" (EYCH). The purpose of the EYCH is to raise awareness of the common history and values and to celebrate Europe's cultural richness and diversity. The Year will also promote innovative ways to preserve, manage and reuse Europe's heritage, including through participatory governance mechanisms involving local communities. [More here.](#)

Other News

GLOBAL REPORT LAUNCH: PROGRESSING NATIONAL SDG IMPLEMENTATION | TOGETHER 2030

Together 2030 announced an independent assessment of the Voluntary National Review reports submitted to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum in 2017. Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) are one of the key mechanisms to track the implementation progress of the

commitments enshrined in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. An online launch will share the main findings of a study commissioned by civil society, analysing the VNRs and a sample of civil society reports produced in 2017 for the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). [Read more.](#)

CALL FOR PROPOSALS ON ADVISING LONG-TERM EU FUNDING ON MIGRANT INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY COHESION | EPIM

Youth 4 Change Network (Y4CN), an international network working towards the professional and social inclusion of vulnerable and excluded young people throughout the world, shared their 2017 report: '[Youth Exclusion and Poverty: Breaking the Vicious Cycle](#)'. This report provides a comprehensive view of the global issue of Youth Exclusion and suggests best practices to foster the empowerment and inclusion of youth. [More information here.](#)

AGENDA

Information on upcoming EU level events can be accessed [here](#).

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European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) Ireland

Part of the European Anti-Poverty Network.

EAPN Ireland is a network of anti-poverty groups working to put the eradication of poverty at the top of the EU and Irish agenda through information, training, advocacy and networking.

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