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Budapest Board and the 25th Anniversary

We are really delighted to be returning to Budapest both for the next Board meeting and to celebrate our 25th Anniversary. It is fitting as Budapest was the location for the gathering of one hundred and thirty community workers, researchers, donors and policy-makers, and representatives from government, civil society organisations and community groups, from 33 countries across the European Union which produced the 'Budapest Declaration Building European civil society through community development', an important milestone in EuCDN's history. We were also made so welcome by our hosts, the Hungarian Association for Community Development (HACD).

The 25th anniversary event will be in the afternoon and evening of Thursday 21st April. Please contact Alex Downie if you would like more information: alexander.downie@btinternet.com.



Help Us celebrate 25 Years of EuCDN

This has just gone up in the website!

As part of our 25 years' celebration we want to collect and produce a publication with 25 stories, case studies from all across Europe where community development has contributed to change in the lives of communities. Community development work is fundamentally about people working together to change their collective circumstances. It has established a clear intention, strong value base and tested

processes and in our 25th year we want you to help us show that.

We want you to send us your story / case study. Ideally we are looking for 2 to 3 pages of the what, why, where, how and what changed as a result. If you have something written already send us it. If you want to write up a good example send us it. If you know someone else with a good story get them to send us it.

We need 25 good stories for the publication. Please send an email to alexander.downie@btinternet.com with some details of your case study or if you want more information or are unsure about anything or just send it direct.

Launch of new sustainable development agenda to guide development actions for the next 15 years



The new year saw the official launch of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by world leaders from the United Nations 193 members States last September. The new Agenda calls on countries to begin efforts to achieve 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) over the next 15 years;

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| No poverty | Good health and wellbeing | Peace justice and strong institutions |
| Quality education | Gender equality | Clean water and sanitation |
| Affordable and clean energy | Decent work and economic growth | Sustainable cities and communities |
| Reduced inequalities | Life on land | Responsible consumption and production |
| Climate action | Life below water | Industry, innovation and infrastructure |
| Zero hunger | Partnerships for the goals | |

The Paris Conference on climate change was seen as the first test of political will to implement the Agenda and the Paris Agreement is broadly accepted as a big step forward. For the first time, every country in the world has pledged to curb their emissions, strengthen resilience and act internationally and domestically to address climate change.

More at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>

We are planning a joint one day, awareness raising and practice exchange workshop/event for CD workers/trainers/researchers working in Europe. This event will take place in Scotland or Ireland in September. Further details in the next Briefing.

News from Around the Networks

European Anti-Poverty Network: The European Commission finally adopted the Annual Growth Survey package. Commissioner Thyssen promised to put social fairness at the heart of our economic recovery. 'Member States must overcome bottlenecks to job creation, improve the way labour markets work and make sure everybody in Europe can enjoy a decent level of social protection if we want to achieve more convergence.' The evidence of this new approach is not so clear, nor does the package contain any mention of the promised Social Pillar on rights and social standards. The main message is that the economic medicine is working, as the AGS backs the same three priorities as in 2014; Relaunching investment Pursuing structural reforms Responsible fiscal policies, aiming to deliver growth and jobs and economic convergence. Europe 2020 is highlighted but then not mainstreamed – nor is there any explicit mention of the poverty and other social targets. Although a new potentially positive focus is given to social investment, particularly in healthcare, housing support and rehabilitation services, the emphasis is on getting people into jobs rather than ensuring access for all to rights, quality services and jobs. Support is also given to job creation and providing more personalized integrated active inclusion support as social infrastructure. Little is said about how quality jobs are going to be created, ensuring that people who are excluded get access. While the focus on more adequate social protection and income support is important, they are tempered by the emphasis on increasing conditionality, to ensure 'incentives to work', rather than the right to a dignified life.

European Network Against Racism: The report on preventing radicalisation was adopted by the European Parliament. ENAR is concerned that some proposals may endanger the enjoyment of fundamental rights in the EU, especially by Muslims, refugees and people perceived as such. What is welcomed is the recommendation that Member States adopt specific strategies for combating Islamophobia, as it is both a factor that could lead to radicalisation and the consequence of counter-terrorism measures. The proposals for Passenger Name Records and other data mining and surveillance practices at external borders, if not based on strict indicators and assessment criteria, could lead to racial profiling and have a disproportionate impact on ethnic and religious minorities that fit certain general profiles, in particular Muslims and those perceived as such. The recommendation to separate 'radical' prisoners from the rest of detainees would be difficult to implement without infringing on freedom of religion, as no Member State has formulated a reliable and non-discriminatory list of indicators of radicalisation. In addition, existing separation practices have been considered unsuccessful, including by prison administration. It would be more effective to ensure imams and chaplains receive specific training to work in prisons. –

More at: http://www.socialplatform.org/news/european-network-against-racism-mixed-results-on-european-parliament-vote-on-preventing-radicalisation-human-rights-concerns-but-strong-on-combating-islamophobia/?utm_source=Weekly+Newsletter&utm_campaign=6a4301b141-The+Social+Compass+November+30&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_dc7a954080-6a4301b141-340173133&mc_cid=6a4301b141&mc_eid=657865727b#sthash.Of1j7l5J.dpuf

Eurochild: Eurochild welcomed the adoption of the European Parliament Resolution Reducing inequalities with a special focus on child poverty. The resolution is the formal endorsement of the 2013 European Commission Recommendation Investing in Children: Breaking the cycle of disadvantage. This is the first resolution specifically on child poverty since 2008. It calls for a roadmap to help EU Member States implement the Commission Recommendation. It recommends establishing EU and national (sub-) targets for reducing child poverty and developing indicators to measure children's well-being. It recommends establishing EU and national (sub-) targets for reducing child poverty and developing indicators to measure children's well-being. Member States are urged to make use of EU tools such as the Europe 2020 and the European Structural and Investment Funds.

More at: http://www.socialplatform.org/news/eurochild-child-poverty-european-parliament-adopts-long-overdue-resolution/?utm_source=Weekly+Newsletter&utm_campaign=6a4301b141-The+Social+Compass+November+30&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_dc7a954080-6a4301b141-340173133&mc_cid=6a4301b141&mc_eid=657865727b#sthash.p2hRoxFq.dpuf

Social Platform: Employment and unemployment are still key issues for the European Union (EU). It is necessary not only to focus on job creation, but also on the quality of work, in all sectors of the economy, including the social economy. The social economy, based on the primacy of people over capital and on solidarity and empowerment principles, should be looked to as a model. The targets of Europe 2020 for sustainable growth may well be hard to achieve and fostering innovation remains a difficult task. With regard to the social economy, the Commission is already working to support social enterprises, with an emphasis on social business initiatives and the facilitation of access to the market. The positive point is the social economy has already been fully and formally recognised by European institutions. Social economy enterprises have proved to be more resilient than other sectors since the beginning of the economic crisis, with a better internal democracy. In that respect, the social economy does not only benefit the labour market, but also embeds the core values of the EU. With the Social Investment Package, the Commission has finally acknowledged the social economy as an investment rather than a cost.

More at: http://www.socialplatform.org/blog/the-contribution-of-social-economy-to-the-promotion-of-employment-and-quality-jobs-in-europe/?utm_source=Weekly+Newsletter&utm_campaign=4dedc00304-The+Social+Compass+January+18&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_dc7a954080-4dedc00304-340173133&mc_cid=4dedc00304&mc_eid=657865727b#sthash.n1mnSm63.dpuf

European Association for the Education of Adults: The European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA) monitors the Erasmus+ programme regularly. With input from its members and partners, EAEA has now produced a feedback document that highlights the flaws of the programme and gives recommendations on what needs to be improved from the viewpoint of adult learning. Adult education and learning is vital for a properly functioning and democratic society, but the sector is still grossly under-valued and consequently under-funded compared with the other main parts of the education and training system. In the Erasmus+ programme, under 4% of the total budget is assigned to adult learning, compared with 12%, 17% and 33% for schools, vocational training and higher education respectively. The fact that adult education has been forced into a 'one size fits all' approach to the programme (a.k.a. 'simplification') has led to a lose-lose situation for applicants. The application guidelines and forms are too complicated for newcomers and inevitably lead to irrelevant questions. Simplification in this sense has not happened. In 2015, it seems that many of the bigger projects that were approved received cuts in their budgets, some of them up to 50%. Despite the cuts, partnerships are still expected to do the full work plan. A number of organisations have now given up on strategic partnerships (KA2) as a result. Learning partnerships have disappeared (and they were perfect for smaller organisations and partnerships), and now also larger projects are suffering. This is beginning to give rise to widespread disenchantment of the adult education community. A lot of grassroots cooperation across Europe is now disappearing. It is therefore absolutely essential to increase the funds available to the adult education part of the Erasmus+ and also to improve the programme in general. Erasmus+ is a key tool for European adult learning to flourish but it has to be adapted to the needs of the sector.

More at: http://www.socialplatform.org/news/european-association-for-the-education-of-adults-improvements-needed-for-erasmus-in-the-field-of-adult-education/?utm_source=Weekly+Newsletter&utm_campaign=4dedc00304-The+Social+Compass+January+18&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_dc7a954080-4dedc00304-340173133&mc_cid=4dedc00304&mc_eid=657865727b#sthash.oxhobs5h.dpuf

Diary Date

The European Commission, Directorate "Social Affairs" have announced the date – 21st March, for the Annual Convention for Inclusive Growth (formerly known as the Poverty Platform Convention). It will be in Brussels, for a full day with invitations, draft programme and practical information coming to us soon.

[www.eucdn.co.uk /](http://www.eucdn.co.uk/) <https://www.facebook.com/CDinEurope/?ref=profile>

You may have noticed changes in the website. The redesign is picking up speed and the Facebook page is also being used more but a reminder, any news, new resources, tools, case studies, stories you want to share, let us have them.