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Budapest Board and the 25th Anniversary

The Budapest Board and our 25th Anniversary is drawing nearer. It is a time to reflect both on the successes and achievements over those 25 years; the projects we have collaborated on, the changes we have seen and on the future. We are in the process of producing a 25th Anniversary publication and as a taster a few short quotes from the friends and colleagues who were centrally involved over those years.

On our achievements;

Across Europe, community development is located in different professional contexts – social work, adult education, economic development – and the way that the network handled these differences and kept its focus on community development was striking.

Paul Henderson

During our intensive and eventful meetings, study visits, conferences and joint projects we all have discovered something important about the other's work, which we could then apply in our own environment and circumstances.

Ilona Verseg

And on the future;

In the next decade there are five key interrelated challenges that Europe must address more energetically and about which community development workers have something really important to say. These are:

- *first, the persistence of poverty, social exclusion and growing inequality and the need to build more inclusive societies;*
- *secondly, the migration crisis and the need to ensure effective policies and programmes for integration and empowerment for migrants and refugees;*
- *thirdly, the growth of racism and xenophobia and the need to more effectively ensure equality for all people and diverse groups in our societies and to recognise and celebrate difference and diversity;*
- *fourthly, the democratic deficit at the heart of Europe where by those affected by issues feel they have no say in the policies and programmes that affect them; and*
- *fifthly, the environmental crisis and the need to connect environmental and social justice issues in building a sustainable and fair future.*

Hugh Fraser

We have already been working on community development and migration and a Briefing will be launched at the Budapest event in April. We have also started working on sustainable development through the briefings, through forthcoming discussions in Budapest and through a joint workshop we are organising later in the year with IACD.

For our 'celebration' publication we are collecting 25 short case exemplars of community development across Europe and we need your help still. If you have a good story to tell in 2 or three pages then we are keen to feature it. We want to highlight the breadth and depth of community development across Europe.

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.

The sustainable development agenda

Following on from the information in the previous Members Update on the goals agreed at the Paris Summit the Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015, **Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** can be read in full here:

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E

The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda contains several references and mandates for engaging civil society, the major groups and other stakeholders in its implementation and follow-up.

Inclusion and participation are also reflected on the chapter on Follow up and Review, committed to be "robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent and integrated". There are other references in the Resolution



Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

The "intensive engagement" of civil society and other stakeholders in the implementation of the goals and targets is called for.

Paragraph 45 makes reference to "international institutions, academia, philanthropic organizations,

volunteer groups and others". Para. 52 re-emphasises the opening words of the UN Charter. It is

“We the Peoples” who are embarking on the road to 2030. The journey will involve Governments as well as Parliaments, the UN system and other international institutions, local authorities, civil society, business and the private sector, the scientific and academic community – and all people.

to being “people-centered, gender-sensitive, respect human rights and a particular focus on the poorest, most vulnerable and those furthers behind”.

Members will be familiar now with all 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The primary goal remains the eradication of poverty, but there is a much greater emphasis now upon linking social, economic and environmental development. All European countries are required to prepare plans for addressing the SDGs within their respective countries (this is not simply about their international development programmes). Much of this is familiar territory for those working in community development, but probably not in the joined-up way now called for - especially with regards to linking social, economic and environmental development work at the local level.

There are a number of questions which spring to mind immediately around the role might community development have. Raising awareness of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, promoting and supporting good practice on the ground, particularly among the most vulnerable, the poorest the most disadvantaged, influencing the plans in each country to implement Agenda 2030 and more... This is a topic we will discuss in more depth both within EuCDN and with our friends in IACD.

A number of EU-based civil society organisations have been meeting to consider what can be done together to contribute to the implementation, monitoring and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As a first step coalition has called on the EU and each of its Member States to develop an overarching Sustainable Development Strategy and a concrete implementation plan which coordinates the achievement of the goals, targets and indicators. In a letter to EU Vice-President Frans Timmermans it was stressed that the EU does not cherry-pick the easiest or preferred goals.

The new EU Sustainable Development Strategy and policies should be subject to broad consultation with all stakeholders through an institutionalised and inclusive process. Lastly, the European Commission should urgently consider designing strong monitoring, review and accountability mechanisms. Read the letter:

http://www.solidar.org/IMG/pdf/letter_to_timmermans-sdg_coalition_febr_2016.pdf

News from Around the Networks

Social Platform: December was the 20th anniversary of Social Platform. Celebration and reflection. While the Social Platform can rightly point to successes; championing a social agenda for Europe; the Charter of Fundamental Rights to be legally binding; advocating for progressive EU laws in the area of non-discrimination. These victories according to the President of Social Platform, have been too few or too specific to counteract the predominance of the economic and internal market agendas. The President of the European Commission has promised a pillar of social rights. It must be strong and lead the way towards a Europe where people’s welfare is seen as an investment and not an impediment, supported by the internal market, trade policies and investment packages instead of being at loggerheads with them, an economy at the service of our population and not the other way around. This is what a pillar of social rights means, and this is what SocialPlatform will advocate for in 2016.

Read more: http://www.socialplatform.org/news/social-platform-turned-20-is-the-eu-more-social-now/?utm_source=Weekly+Newsletter&utm_campaign=67dcb50998-

European Women's Lobby: On International Women's Day, the European Women's Lobby (EWL) launched its Campaign 'Together we can make it happen, Equal Pension Rights for Women Now!' The campaign draws attention to the blatant discrimination that women face as they age. To bridge gender gaps in pay and pensions we need to put equal rights for women at the core of all pension reforms, said Joanna Maycock, EWL Secretary General. The gender pension gap in Europe is an astounding 40% which means that for every 100€ that men receive women only receive 60€. An intolerable situation in 2016 almost 60 years after the principle of equal pay was enshrined in the EU treaties and 40 years since the first directive on equal pay was adopted in the 1970s. Recent tendencies in Europe to strengthen the link between pension contributions and benefits make addressing the gender pay gap even more urgent. Because women are paid less, they contribute less to their pensions. The gender pension gap mirrors the accumulation of all the gender inequalities that women face across their life-cycle. Join the EWL campaign Equal Pension Rights Now!

Read more: <http://www.womenlobby.org/Women-care-for-society-it-s-time-society-cares-for-women>

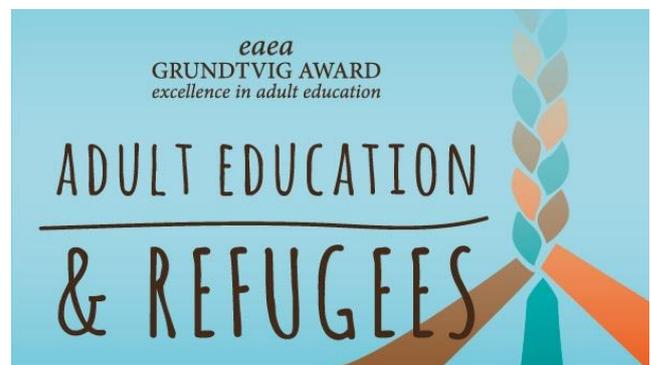
European Adult Education Association

Grundtvig Award 2016: Each year, the European Adult Education Association (EAEA) celebrates innovation and excellence in adult education. The EAEA Grundtvig Award highlights project results that produce new ideas, new partnerships, new methodologies and a new understanding how we can work in adult learning. EAEA has decided to prioritize the issue of Adult Education and Refugees in 2016, as it represents a fundamental concern not only in terms of humanitarian rights, but also in terms of the need for more solidarity among the

decision makers. It is also a major concern for many EAEA members, so the increase of dialogue on the topic and the involvement of the people of the host country is a key factor to take into consideration.

Further details on the categories, criteria, and how to participate can be found at;

<http://www.eaea.org/en/eaea/eaea-grundtvig-award.html>



European Network for Rural Development: Summaries of all the national and regional Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) for the 2014-2020 period are now available on the ENRD Contact Point website. The summaries provide a concise overview of selected content of each RDP in an easily digestible form. This includes general information on the territory covered by the RDP and an overview of the planned expenditure, Measures and 2023 targets per rural development priority and focus area.

<http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/en/policy-in-action/rural-development-policy-in-figures/rdp-summaries-2014-2020>

Youth Work and Non-formal Learning

The publication marks a quarter of a century of EU youth programmes accompanied by EU youth policy. It brings together some of the thinking that inspires – and is inspired by – EU actions for youth to encourage debate about what youth work and non-formal learning can contribute to European education. It reviews EU cooperation in the field from different perspectives, points to successes and sets out possible future scenarios, particularly in the context of the Erasmus+ programme.

<http://www.european-net.org/2016/02/youth-work-and-non-formal-learning/>

European Network Against Racism: ENAR and other human rights organisations have issued a joint statement calling on the EU and its Member States to respect human rights and the rule of law in counter-terrorism measures. The 2015 terrorist attacks in Paris and elsewhere - and the assertion by States that there is an elevated terrorist threat in the European Union - have led to a new set of counter-terrorism measures at both EU and national levels. These counter-terrorism measures must always comply with the rule of law and human rights obligations under European Union and international law. While there is a need

to ensure the population is safe, security measures should not lead to violations or restrictions on human rights. Read the statement here;

http://enar-eu.org/IMG/pdf/2016_joint_statement_ct_and_hr_final.pdf

Social Innovation Europe interviewed Rachael Brown creative consultant of the Unusual Suspects Festival in Scotland which EuCDN members participated in. You can read the interview here:

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/socialinnovationeurope/en/magazine/local-development-and-communities/interviews/unusual-suspect-rachael-brown-creative>

European Disability Forum: EU member states have certain accessibility laws and rules, but there was no harmonised EU-wide legislation on the accessibility of products and services in the internal market. The European Accessibility Act will harmonize these accessibility laws and rules so that products and services can circulate on the EU internal market without problems, and be accessible for persons with disabilities and other people with functional limitations. The Act will improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities in the EU, by allowing them equal access to mainstream products and services, at a more competitive price. EDF President, Yannis Vardakastanis, stated: "We welcome the initiative of Commissioner Thyssen to establish legislation in this field. We have seen that legislation which includes a robust enforcement and surveillance mechanism is an extremely effective means of ensuring that products and services become accessible for persons with disabilities. We now call on the European Commission, the Council and the Parliament to strengthen the European Accessibility Act by revising the text and including in it stronger and more compulsory provisions in order to address accessibility in a holistic way and to make it an agent of change in the internal market".

http://www.edf-feph.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=13855&thebloc=34403

European Social Policy Network: ESPN has produced the latest report '*Minimum Income Schemes in Europe: a Study of National Policies*'. The report and the 35 country reports on which is based can also be found on the ESPN website (<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1135&langId=en>).

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.