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Bucharest Board

We are delighted to be having the next Board meeting in Romania hosted by PACT.

We will be continuing the dialogue started in Hungary in April this year on the challenges for community development in what is a rapidly changing Europe. Among the topics for discussion are;

- The move to the right politically and xenophobia
- Centralisation and nationalisation tension; example of UK EU referendum
- Rise of volunteering(ism)
- Focus on Social Justice / Environmental Justice
- CD supporting the state / challenging the state
- The 'programmisation' of service and interventions
- Re-inforcing our work needs to be rights based
- Empowering people and extending developing democracy
- Need more / better alliances / coalitions for delivery of CD
- Focus on helping rebuild communities
- Must profile CD contribution and value across Europe

An important part of this is reflecting on EuCDN itself and making sure we have a strong network and are in a good position to promote CD policy and practice across Europe over the next 25 years.

EuCDN will continue to vigorously promote community development across Europe which reflects the values, methods, outcomes and approaches that we share across members as set out in our Common Framework Document;

<http://eucdn.net/resources/eucdn-launches-framework-community-development-throughout-europe/>

and argue strongly for the importance of community development in shaping communities and society now and in the future.

Community Development for Sustainable Development: Placing Community Development Values and Practices at the Heart of the Sustainable Development Goals



Anastasia Crickley, IACD Vice President and European Director and Charlie McConnell immediate Past President of IACD outlined the background and context to the SDGs and the work IACD has been doing to raise awareness of the importance of the SDGs for community development. We then got an insight from Betsy King, Development Manager of Learning for Sustainability Scotland, Scotland's UN Regional Centre of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development, on the awareness raising work going on in Scotland. This was followed by a lively discussion in smaller groups on

- What have we taken from the various inputs on the contribution CD might make to the SDGs
- What do CD organisations/networks/practitioners and researchers need to do to ensure that CD is highlighted in National and local SDG strategies?
- What do CD employers (public, private and non-governmental) and practitioners need to do to ensure that they are able to play a more central role in addressing the SDGs?
- What are the continuing professional development and initial training implications for CD practitioners if they are to play a more central role in addressing the SDGs?



Stuart Hashagen, Chair of the European Community Development Network, starting the afternoon session explored the implications for practice on the ground. Do the SDGs provide a useful framework for CD focused practice? Is CD already doing this – and what might change? What can practitioners do to demonstrate their contribution to SDG targets and outcomes, and how can they communicate this.



Kirsten Paaby, Nordic Education Project, Norway.

Drew on her long experience in sustainable community development learning looking at civic education for change. How can we at the local

level make the sustainable changes needed both in terms of the social, environmental and economic considerations. The final speaker, Cllr Martha Wardrop, Glasgow City Council gave a thought provoking account of what local government can do and how a stronger relationship with CD would add value.

Another round of small group discussion looked at the application of community development each of the SDGs focusing on practice in communities (of place, interest or identity), the opportunities and challenges. A full account of the event and the key points and messages is being prepared and this and other resources and in puts to the event will be available on our website



SDG Watch

Members will be aware that EuCDN are supporting SDG Watch Europe, the alliance set up to hold governments to account for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs).

Already SDG watch has been represented at a range of policy and practice events and has divided its work into 4 strands.

- 1 Joint High Level Policy and Coordination for Ambitious and Integrated EU SDG Implementation. Examining the adequacy of existing EU strategies, policies and practices in light of the need to achieve the goals and targets, carrying out a “gap-analysis” of EU policy frameworks and processes, and calling for their revision or replacement where appropriate, as well as keeping a close eye on the indicator framework that will be set up globally but also by the EU and MS to measure progress for people and planet.
- 2 Monitoring, Accountability, and Review of European SDG Implementation Across All Sectors. Following and reporting on how the EU and the Member States are dealing with the SDG-implementation.
- 3 Engaging CSOs and Citizens at Local, National and EU level. The SDGs Coalition will reach out to CSOs (in the EU and other European countries, non EU member states) to raise awareness, promote engagement and to help to build the capacity towards the implementation of the SDGs at all levels.
- 4 Reflection, Innovation, Experimenting and Learning Together. Civil Society in Europe might not be fully SDG-ready itself. Are our ways of working, cooperating and implementing sufficiently advanced integrated and coherent? If we demand this from other actors, we need to take the lead, walk the talk and set the example to follow.

GURT

This year GURT EuCDN’s Ukrainian member is celebrating its 20th anniversary. The Annual Report is available in a brand new format in two languages – Ukrainian and English. The last communique also has an impressive list of successes and highlights;



- 2 brand new Training and Resource Centers for plumbers opened in Chernihiv and Sarny
 - Go East
 - GURT web-portal: Making Civil Voice Sound
 - Number of CSOs doubled in Zaporizhzhia oblast since the Revolution of Dignity
 - How to Create an Effective Platform for Cooperation between CSOs in Zaporizhzhia oblast
 - Improve Your Business Training Program
 - Cooperation with Microsoft in spreading ICT in Ukraine
 - Partnership with TechSoup
 - 5th All-Ukrainian Self-Help School
 - Gender Policies and EU Integration of Ukraine
- Social Return on Investment: how small business development improves local livelihoods in Kyiv oblast

Citizen Participation University (CPU)

The CPU was founded by the Central and eastern European Citizens Network (CEEN) and is hosted by the Civil College Foundation in Hungary. Over the years the CPU has emerged as a unique education space in the tapestry of European civil society projects.



It is where the “grassroots” and the “grasstops” gather to learn from one another in an event that is a mix of theory, practice and networking aimed at the questions of how we create a more just, open and democratic society. Every year 50 – 70 community organizers and activists, emerging movement leaders, adult educational professionals, community development workers and trainers, social service providers, local authorities, and others come together to share and learn.



The CPU acts as a laboratory for European-level networking and effective cross-border organizing and innovation. While There are important theoretical and practical knowledge, a large focus of the week is put towards hands-on participatory education and group discussions.

The theme of the 2016 CPU was that of “regeneration.” You can read an account of this year’s at:

<http://www.cka.hu/cpu/2016-cpu/> where you can also access the materials and resources from the event. Check out the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/citizen.participation.university/> and keep the 1st week in July free in your diary for next year.

The 25th Anniversary Publication

As part of EuCDN’s 25th Anniversary we are putting together a publication. Some reflections on the past 25 years of the network, some thoughts about the future of community development across Europe and 25 short case exemplars of community development across Europe and we are almost there. We want to highlight the breadth and depth of community development across Europe and are only a few case studies short. If you have a story to tell just email it to alexander.downie@btinternet.com

Standards, Frameworks, Skills and Competence in CD

In March this year the All Ireland Endorsement Body for Community Work Education and Training produced a set of standards for community work. Here at EuCDN produced our Common Framework Document. In Scotland there is the Skills and Competences for Community Learning and Development. What frameworks, standards, guides community development in other countries. We would like to collect any reports, documents from across European countries for comparison.

This will be a first step in updating our understanding of the training and learning for community development practitioners across Europe and will assist our work in supporting and encouraging best policy and practice.

Any information gratefully received: alexander.downie@btinternet.com

European Day of Sustainable Communities

The first European Day of Sustainable Communities: 23rd September 2017

Small steps, giant leap: how can citizens and communities turn a planetary crisis into an evolutionary bounce?

Ecovillages, Transition Towns, permaculture projects and many other citizen and community-led initiatives are at the forefront of developing and testing new and innovative approaches to sustainable living, covering a wide range of themes; community energy, local food chains, local currencies, sustainable mobility, eco-construction, education for sustainable development and more. The idea is to share experience and help kick-start a global citizen-engaged, community-led transition.

This event will showcase the many groundbreaking initiatives from across Europe that are leading the way towards a low-carbon, ecological future. Now is the time to share this experience and to engage a much wider public (citizens, communities, policy makers, researchers, the business community, etc..) in building momentum towards a citizen-engaged, community-led transition.

Thousands of communities across Europe are transforming themselves from the bottom up and in so doing designing the blueprint for a much wider societal transformation. The invitation to register and be part of this European Day is open to all those who are interested in supporting local, community-led action on climate change and sustainability. From small rural villages to the streets and districts of large urban centres, individuals, groups or organisations are invited to organise expositions, workshops, open days, debates, or other activities that help to share experience and create possibilities for greater engagement and participation in local action on climate change and sustainability. However, participants are also free to organize events based around other topics linked to the main theme.

[Register here to be part of the first European Day of Sustainable Communities \(EDSC\).](https://www.siceurope.eu/network/community-led-innovation/first-european-day-sustainable-communities-23rd-september-2017?alt_path=node/226) Or check out the website:

https://www.siceurope.eu/network/community-led-innovation/first-european-day-sustainable-communities-23rd-september-2017?alt_path=node/226

The Objectives:

- Promote awareness of community-led action and initiatives on climate change and sustainability in Europe in order to support their development and replication;
- Encourage and provide opportunities for more citizens and communities to move from awareness to action;
- Engage with policymakers and other stakeholders (researchers, businesses, etc..) at all levels with a view to creating and strengthening horizontal and vertical linkages.

News from Around the Networks

European Anti Poverty Network. The final declaration from the General Assembly of EAPN took the theme 'In Defense of a Europe Built on Protecting Fundamental Rights for All'. The declaration sets out the background; the humanitarian crisis suffered by people arriving in Europe; the accelerated deterioration of Greece's economy and welfare, as well as the failure to do more to help the continent's ailing southern economies; the failure to raise social standards in most central and eastern European Member States, critically low incomes in Baltic and Balkan States, the spread of xenophobic and racist messages, with far-right parties rising in many Member States. EAPN requires governments to combat inequality, including inequality of outcomes; to prevent and alleviate poverty and injustice now, and to avoid its transmission to future generations. EAPN demands that Member States fight for their social cohesion, by strengthening social rights, enabling affordable access to essential services, ensuring high levels. The declaration calls for;

- An agreed EU Framework on minimum/living wage that covers the costs of housing, food, clothing, education, health, transportation and personal development;
- An unemployment insurance which protects workers and their families supported by an EU unemployment insurance to assist countries in moments of economic shocks;
- It is indispensable to develop a European labour market, with a wide range of offers for people excluded from the labour market, to facilitate access to work in all Member States, including rural and urban areas experiencing disadvantages.
- An EU Directive on adequate minimum income systems, to facilitate labour insertion, access to services and a decent living during jobless periods,
- A Framework for EU pensions that enable older people to live in dignity and for Child benefits for children under 18 years-old, in order to eradicate child poverty and follow up on the Child well being recommendation.
- Establishing a threshold or benchmark below which spending on social protection should not fall in a country will be;
- EU action to strengthen Access to Quality services – including social services, education, health, decent housing, including a strategy to address homelessness

http://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/EAPN-EAPN-GA-2016-FINAL_DECLARATION-870.pdf

European Disability Forum: For the first time, all the 31 EU official sign languages were simultaneously signed in the European Parliament during the event ‘Multilingualism and equal rights in the EU: the role of sign languages’. Organised by MEP Helga Stevens, the event brought together more than 1.000 people including a huge representation of deaf people and other sign language users from across and beyond Europe. The aim was to raise awareness on sign languages as part of Europe’s multicultural and multilingual heritage.

The lack of recognition of sign language and professional and qualified sign language interpreters was emphasised throughout the discussions; sign language interpretation is still lagging behind in many EU Member States compared to spoken language interpretation. EDF President, Yannis Vardakastanis, stated: “This conference is an excellent example of how a public institution applies the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and in particular its articles on accessibility (article 9), the right to access information (article 21) and the right to participate in political and public life (article 29). The conference resulted in a draft resolution on sign languages and professional sign language interpreters which will be presented to the European Parliament’s plenary.

http://www.edf-fehp.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=13855&thebloc=34485

The European Network on Statelessness (ENS) is a network of non-governmental organisations, academic initiatives, and individual experts committed to address statelessness in Europe. The belief is that all human beings have a right to a nationality and that those who lack nationality altogether – stateless persons – are entitled to adequate protection. The aim is to strengthen the often unheard voice of stateless persons in Europe, and to advocate for full respect of their human rights. The network is involved in conducting and supporting legal and policy development, awareness-raising and capacity building activities. See;

<http://www.statelessness.eu/about-us/mission-statement>

European Social Policy Network. Reducing regional disparities is one of the main objectives of the European Union and one which is pursued through Cohesion policy aimed at strengthening economic, social and territorial cohesion across the EU. It is recognised there is a need to measure both the extent of such disparities in social as well as economic terms and the effect to which the measures taken reduce them. While this can be done using a scoreboard with multiple indicators, a single headline indicator for social cohesion could ensure greater visibility. The European Commission is at present examining the possibility of constructing a regional inclusive society index

which can be used for this purpose. Developing an index of this kind, however, is far from straightforward, since data are in many cases not readily available at regional level for the aspects which it seems desirable to include, such as household income and the proportion of people with income below a minimum acceptable level, access to education, healthcare and other essential services of good quality or a safe and pollution-free environment. Read more at;

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=2659&furtherNews=yes>

European Social Network. Reducing regional disparities is one of the main objectives of the In light of the situation, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) has produced a report on the topic: Thematic focus: Impact of the asylum crisis on local communities'. One of the most pressing issues is providing appropriate accommodation. Finding employment and school places are key steps for integrating migrants. There have also been tensions with local people. To minimise negative reactions from local people and to encourage the integration of refugees, some local governments have distributed information to communities.

<http://www.esn-eu.org/news/836/index.html>

The ESN 24th Annual Conference explored the theme of Empowering communities for better outcomes. Local communities are increasingly expected to bridge the gap between national governments giving up a growing number of responsibilities to the local level. Conference looked at user involvement and collective knowledge creation, co-production and the active involvement of users and citizens and empowering communities through ICT-based solutions. A change of mindsets is required argued one speaker shifting away from a paternalist approach to recognise the social capital present at the local level. "What we need is more community development"

<http://www.esn-eu.org/news/804/index.html>

European Network Against Racism, The European Network Against Racism (ENAR) 2014/15 Shadow Report focuses on Afrophobia in Europe. It is the first pan-European report specifically dedicated to mapping discrimination and inequalities faced by people of African descent in Europe/Black Europeans. It highlights the ways in which racism impacts on people of African descent and Black Europeans in 20 EU countries (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom), covering March 2014 to March 2015.

- Racism and discrimination against Black people is prevalent in access to employment
- Black people face higher unemployment rates and lower employment rates, in part due to discrimination
- Black women and Black Muslims are particularly vulnerable to discrimination in employment
- When in employment, Black people face discrimination, harassment, lack of career progression & exploitation
- There is an attainment gap between black pupils of school age and their white counterparts
- In many Member States the diversity within the teaching workforce is particularly problematic.
- Several Member States report negative representations of Black people in the curriculum and teaching materials, as well as the absence of positive and empowering images
- Black children face discrimination, victimisation and harassment in schools by teachers and other pupils
- There is a lack of representation of black people in political life
- Many Black public figures and in particular politicians come under fire from racist, anti-migrant, verbal and online abuse
- There are wide-ranging reports of racist speech on social media
- The lack of diversity within mainstream media and the misrepresentation (stereotypes, racism) are highly problematic
- Black people experience poor treatment and difficulties in accessing health care

- Discrimination occurs in the rental market and social housing

Read the summary and access the full report: http://www.enar-eu.org/IMG/pdf/sr_key_findings-2.pdf

European Youth Forum. The Forum have published a number of reports recently; The European Youth Forum commissioned a study to collect evidence on the value that youth organisations bring to the social development of young individuals, communities and societies through youth work and youth participation. The study is based primarily upon a systematic literature review, including a review of academic studies, independent evaluations and organisations’ own reports, complemented by a small number of interviews with representatives of the sector. Both summary and full report can be accessed here:

http://www.youthforum.org/assets/2016/07/YFJ_StudyOnTheSocialValueOfYouthOrganisations-Summary_1P.pdf

The European Youth Forum called for free and equal access to education, as part of a commitment to quality education for all. They consider access and quality as indivisible elements for the exercise of the right to education. Read the report here: http://www.youthforum.org/assets/2016/10/0086-16_YFJ_Best_Practices_Education_Labour1.pdf

The report on the ‘Contribution of Youth Organisations to Citizenship Education in Europe Today’ provides an overview of discussions around citizenship education. In particular, it offers evidence of how youth organisations deliver citizenship education and aims to serve as a reference point and inspiration for other educational stakeholders, especially formal education providers. See:

<http://www.youthforum.org/assets/2016/10/Youth-organisations-contribution-to-citizenship-education.pdf>

Snippets

European Commission, Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion.

The number of social enterprises in Europe is increasing and they are engaging in new fields. Many countries are introducing new legislation as well as new support schemes to boost the development of social enterprises. The reasons and constraints include;

Positives	Negatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increasing demand for general interest services • the tendency towards use of competitive tendering by local authorities • the possibilities offered in new fields of engagement • increasing demand for more ethical business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lack of business and management skills, • need for better understanding of finance markets, • insufficient availability of patient capital, • too narrow legal frameworks and incoherence in policies and concepts

New country reports

(<http://ec.europa.eu/social/keyDocuments.jsp?advSearchKey=socenteco&mode=advancedSubmit&langId=en&search.x=0&search.y=0>) provide a comprehensive picture of social enterprises and their eco-systems in France, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Ireland, Slovakia and Poland, based on a common definition. A [concise EU report sums up key lessons on the recent developments in Europe](#) is also available. See;

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=2649&furtherNews=yes>

EU Social Protection Committee

For information, some of the most recent deliverables of the Social Protection Committee (SPC), an EU Treaty-based advisory policy committee for the Employment and Social Affairs Council (EPSCO). The

SPC monitors the social situation in the EU and the development of social protection policies in the Member States. It provides a representative forum for multilateral social policy coordination, dialogue and cooperation at EU level, bringing together policy makers from all EU Member States and the Commission.

SPC Annual report 2016 -

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=738&langId=en&pubId=7936&visible=0&preview=chJldkVtcGxQb3J0YWwhMjAxMjAyMTVwcmV2aWV3>

As each year, the SPC has prepared its annual overview on the social situation in the EU and the developments in social protection policies based on the Social Protection Performance Monitor (SPPM) and Member States' reporting. It analyses the progress towards the Europe 2020 target on reducing poverty and social exclusion together with the latest social trends to watch. The most recent social policy developments in Europe are also reported on as well as the key structural social challenges currently faced by each Member State.

The main messages of the report were endorsed by the Council of the EU on 13 October 2016 (<http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-12606-2016-INIT/en/pdf>)

Member States' social reporting -

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/keyDocuments.jsp?advSearchKey=nsr2016&mode=advancedSubmit&langId=en&policyArea=&type=0&country=0&year=0>

The 2016 social reporting done by Member States in the context of the SPC work and the social OMC can be found on the link above.

SPPM Country profiles -

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/keyDocuments.jsp?advSearchKey=sppmcountryprofiles&mode=advancedSubmit&langId=en&policyArea=&type=0&country=0&year=0>

You can find the latest 2016 country-specific profiles, part of the Social Protection Performance Monitor (SPPM), which summarize progress towards the 2020 poverty and social exclusion target, the main social statistics for each Member State as well as key social challenges and good social outcomes.

The SPC website is kept up to date, so you can always check up on the most recent information.

Euractiv.com

Jacques Delors, former President of the European Commission and Honorary Citizen of Europe, writes in support of the statement "*A-new europe for people planet and prosperity for all*" signed by 177 NGOs organisations. You can read the statement here;

www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/EAPN-12092016-Common-statement-A-new-Europe-post-brexite-EAPN-585.pdf

Delors highlights the result of the British referendum vote on the EU is the latest in a series of serious crises in Europe in recent years, a warning signal that shows the need to hold an essential debate about how we can restore the values that founded Europe and even strengthen those values to combat the rise of nationalism, populism and anti-European sentiment. The original European vision has gradually been eroded to be replaced by an increasingly narrow focus on economic growth.

In this time of crisis for European identity, it is essential for the EU to show that it is not paralysed but ready to act as a leading force in the many challenges we face: the fight against climate change, increasing inequality, the need to ensure sustainable and inclusive development, promoting human rights and ensuring that nobody is left behind. Delors urges 'everyone, especially Europe's youth, not to be spectators in the days and months ahead. We must be active participants in building a collective response to the challenges facing our continent and our world'. Read the full article here;

<http://www.euractiv.com/section/future-eu/opinion/restoring-a-europe-built-on-values-for-its-youth/>

[www.eucdn.co.uk /](http://www.eucdn.co.uk/)

<https://www.facebook.com/CDinEurope/?ref=profile>

Any news, new resources, tools, case studies, stories you want to share, let us have them.

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