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In 2004 the Combined European Bureau for Social Development (now the European Community Development Network), with International Association for Community Development and the Hungarian Association for Community Development under the patronage of the President of Hungary published 'The Budapest Declaration – Building European civil society through community development'. Last year during our 25th Anniversary we collected case studies from across Europe, we invited individuals who had been key movers in community development to reflect on the past 25 years and comment on the current issues and opportunities.

At the heart of it is the belief that; Achieving real and lasting outcomes for communities requires that communities are at the **heart of the process** of action for change, and that the experiences, **concerns** and interests of communities are central to the analysis. The issues associated with inequality and **social injustice** are addressed an approach which is **participative**, bringing together community and other interests to look to the future and establish a shared vision of sought outcomes

A photograph showing the lower half of a group of people standing on a green lawn. They are holding a white rectangular sign that has the word 'SOLIDARITY' printed on it in a bold, sans-serif font. The people are wearing various types of trousers and skirts, and their feet are visible. The background is slightly out of focus, showing more of the lawn and some distant structures.

Given the role which Hungary played in the Budapest declaration it seems incongruous the direction community development in the country is going. EuCDN in a members update, had reported and expressed our concern over the worsening situation in Hungary which had forced over 200 NGOs including our national member, HACD to sign a resolution against proposed state legislation to control their work. The resolution was replicated in the update in full but the key para read;

We, the undersigned NGOs resolve to reject the Hungarian Government's aspirations to restrict and stigmatise civil society. We are necessary to Hungarian society to deal with and monitor matters that others do not pay enough attention to. We stand up for ourselves and for each other.

We heard from our Hungarian representatives;

- The centralisation of power with the Government and right wing parties in Hungary continues with Government now controlling the media.
- NGOs are increasingly seen as a problem, not part of a solution and certainly not a partner.
- Nationalism is very strong with anything non-Hungarian almost the enemy.
- HACD is now completely voluntary with no paid staff.
- A national cultural community development programme has been introduced built around state institutions not civic society organisations.
- The programme is worth 100million €. And will employ 66 mentors/ developers with HACD members having a role in training and supporting these mentors.
- Civil law is about controlling and limiting and NGOs are seen as not having any legitimacy - Politicians do.

The situation with community development and with HACD in Hungary worsened overnight from hearing this report. The major community development programme being run by the Government, mentioned above, had just dismissed with no notice, termination immediate, 20 mentors employed through the programme, including all linked to HACD members.

We unanimously **agreed to protest these developments and offer immediate support to our Hungarian member and Hungarian colleagues.**

The Brochure and membership form



Using text from the Krakow declaration we have produced a new brochure explaining why community development is more necessary than ever before and the EuCDN mission. We must strengthen community development across Europe and to do that we want to strengthen the network. Community development agencies, those practicing community development and those with an interest in community development need to stand together so we aim to encourage more people and organisations to join.

Common Themes

We take the opportunity at each meeting for our national members to update on current issues and challenges in each country. These form the basis of the country updates soon to be on the EuCDN website. We also from this information sharing, identify some common themes across Europe which will inform our work. These were;

- Investment / funding in CD and how to attract investment (grant, donor contracting, core)
- Centralisation v Localisation is still a tension in many countries and this is now mirrored in;
- Nation state v Global dimension
- Deepening and defending democracy
- Emerging individualism / volunteering as opposed to collective action
- Training for CD
- Social model
- Role of the state and market influences
- East / west divide (CD more developed in west)

EuCDN Friends

It was with some reluctance that the Board at the Krakow meeting accepted the resignation of Hans Andersson. Hans has retired from work in Sweden with CESAM or so he says but we suspect he will always have an interest in and some involvement with community development in that country. The history of Cesam goes back to the 80's. The aim in Örebro was to strengthen community development and empowerment in the region. Hans steered Cesam in 1993 into a non-profit foundation and a national centre for community development, empowerment strategies and participative democracy.



Hans is one of the few people still active in EuCDN who was present at the inaugural meeting 26 years ago when it was the Combined European Bureau for Social Development. Since then he has pushed community development forward both in Sweden and across Europe where he has had a long involvement, including a spell as chairperson of EuCDN. Hans has now become a valued 'Friend of EuCDN' so we look forward to his continued input if not on the Board.

Sustainable Development Goals Sustainable Development Goals

President Juncker and the Sustainable Development Goals



In his State of the Union address, President Juncker made no mention of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, despite the fact that the EU has endorsed and is committed to implement this ambitious and overarching agenda. There is a feeling of disappointment among civic organisations at the EU's failure to concretely engage in the effective coordination of Member States and the implementation of Agenda 2030, although it did play a central role in shaping this new global agenda. It seems there is a real lack of political will at EU level where this important sustainable

development agenda is concerned.

Implementing SDG 1 requires tackling the growing old-age poverty

The first of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals requires UN member states to end poverty in all dimensions and everywhere. An article in the first SDG Watch Europe newsletter points out that a growing part of the elder population is structurally disadvantaged and permanently excluded from society. This is a global trend. A significant factor is precarious or informal employment, in particular of women and weak public social security systems that often fail at providing provisions for the elderly.



Globally, 80 % of humans live without protection in difficult situations such as sickness, accident or catastrophe. Provision for old age or can only be accomplished by investing a fair share of income in retirement or health and social care and where they exist social security schemes depend on formal employment. The article then focuses on Germany's federal sustainability strategy released earlier in 2017, current implementation gaps and necessary strategies after the 2017 federal election. This and the full newsletter can be read at;

<http://mailchi.mp/5117283a8c71/opinions-updates-sdg-watch-europe-oct-2017>

Sustainable Development Goals Report 2017

The annual Sustainable Development Goals Report published by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, provides an overview of the world's implementation efforts to date, highlighting areas of progress and areas where more action needs to be taken to ensure no one is left behind. This year's report finds that while progress has been made over the past decade across all areas of development, the pace of progress has been insufficient and advancements have been uneven to fully meet the implementation of the SDGs.



The key messages are not all that surprising. Despite advances, acceleration is needed and progress is uneven. The benefits of development are not equally shared. On average, women spent almost triple the amount of time on unpaid domestic and care work as men. Economic losses from natural hazards are having a disproportionate impact on small and vulnerable countries. Despite the global unemployment rate falling from 6.1 per cent in 2010 to 5.7 per cent in 2016, youth were nearly three times more likely than adults to be without a job.

Effectively tracking progress on the SDGs requires accessible, reliable, timely and disaggregated data at all levels, which poses a major challenge to national and international statistical systems.

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2017 is the annual assessment of global and regional progress towards the Goals. The report is based on latest available data on selected indicators of the global SDG indicator framework, prepared by UN DESA with inputs from a large number of international and regional organizations. The full report can be read here;

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/publications/sdg-report-2017.html>

European Disability Forum Step up their Campaign

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



On the 2nd anniversary of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), thousands of citizens in more than 109 countries around the world, including in Europe, raised their voices to seek accountability from the world leaders on their commitment made on Agenda 2030 and demanded to #ACT4SDGs.

Through the We the People ACT4SDGs

campaign, thousands of campaigners and ordinary citizens have come together around the anniversary in more than 886 events from Manila and Buenos Aires to Brussels, Mexico City and Nairobi, to create awareness on the SDGs, highlight local realities, and hold governments accountable.

EDF also participated in the celebrations. We organised a digital stunt on Twitter and Facebook based on various visuals EDF members sent us. Taking part in the ACT4SDGs campaign was important for EDF: we urge European leaders to take urgent action to tackle poverty, inequality and climate change for a better, fairer world inclusive of all.

The SDGs are a universal call to act on the challenges our generation face e.g. rising inequality, distressed migration, increasing conflict, sabotage of democratic rights of people over the natural resources, threat to peaceful existence by spread of fundamentalism and terrorism, manifestation of various forms of unrest, rise of nationalism so on and so forth. If the 193 governments who signed the SDGs hold to their commitments, the results will be extraordinary. In Europe,

EDF specifically asks the European Union to:

- Showcase leadership and accelerate the implementation of the SDGs to fight inequality and discrimination;
- Actively include persons with disabilities in its development policies, programmatic approach and policy dialogues on SDGs implementation and monitoring;
- Support European Member States in the implementation and monitoring of disability-inclusive SDGs.

<http://www.edf-feph.org/newsroom/news/people-europe-and-around-globe-call-world-leaders-act-sustainable-development>

New Horizons

Europe in 2016

To say 2016 was a challenge for the European Union could be construed as an understatement. It was a year of slow and differential economic growth, year in which the Greek debt crisis rumbled on, which saw persistently high unemployment in many EU countries and a growing gap between the rich and the poor.

We saw the rise of populist political parties, at least some of which harbour anti-EU or 'euroskeptic' sentiments. The most visible expression of this was 'brexit', the June United Kingdom referendum on EU membership which saw the people of the UK vote to leave. Other countries have elections coming up which could see a strengthening of the anti-EU movement. At best this leaves uncertainty while the UK exit is negotiated and at worse a few forecasters see the ultimate break up of the EU.

If that wasn't enough, more than 1.8 million people entered the EU illegally between January and October 2015, with some 980,000 applying for asylum. These numbers include refugees from conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan and

economic migrants from the Balkans, the Middle East and Africa. The concentration of large-scale immigration through the Eastern Mediterranean and Western Balkans and into a concentrated number of destinations (principally Germany, Hungary, Italy and Sweden) has thrown into sharp relief the inadequacy of the EU's Schengen Agreement, fuelled nationalist sentiment and strengthened nationalist parties across the EU.

Community Development

Community development across Europe has not enjoyed a particularly good year. On past experience in times of slow economic growth or in economic recession the investment in community development suffers and 2016 was no exception. EuCDN members have reported difficulties in securing funds themselves, with more local CD organisations having similar difficulties and in some cases, dissolving. In other countries the state is exerting more control over the agenda for CD, directing groups away from activities which challenge to providing services which compliment or replace state services.

EuCDN

Last year, in our 25th year, we spent some time

reflecting and sharing our thoughts on 2016 and looking forward to 2017. Our agenda for the coming year will address some of the key issues and challenges facing community development across Europe, producing a clear statement on community development focused on social justice / environmental justice, empowering people and extending and developing

democracy, community development which is rights based and helps to re-build communities.

We intend to build stronger alliances with other networks and organisations with similar values and aspirations, strengthening the membership, evidencing the role and value of community development in a strong Europe.

News from our Members

Samenlevingsopbouw Vlaanderen vzw

The International Day for the eradication of Poverty was marked by a campaign whose central theme is 'Health does not tolerate delay'. People in poverty have more health problems, lower life expectancy and often make doctor visits for financial reasons.

The associations where the poor take the floor and the Network Against Poverty have concrete proposals to improve access to primary health care for people in poverty and Samenlevingsopbouw Vlaanderen together with many partners throughout Flanders, have a series of local actions organised in support.



SAMENLEVINGSOPBOUW
Vlaanderen

The organisation's learning offer for 2018 has been published. It includes opportunities through digital and traditional means and covers a wide range of topics and courses and customised training on society building, project work, participation, partnerships and collaboration, processes, personal development, influencing policy and issue based development.

www.samenlevingsopbouw.be

Scottish Community Development Centre

The Scottish Government is bringing forward a new socio-economic duty for the public sector. This means that key public bodies - like local councils and the NHS - will have to think carefully about how they can reduce poverty and inequality whenever they make the big decisions that are important to all of us. These decisions include, for example, an economic development plan; or an annual budget setting out spending priorities. SCDC has submitted a response to the Scottish Government's recent consultation paper on the duty. In summary, we propose that the duty requires the public sector to support people experiencing poverty to be at the heart of efforts to address socio-economic inequality.



Following last year's campaign, the Scottish Co-Production Network (SCN) will be bringing people together again for another week of events, ideas and discussion about how we make co-production happen. This year the SCN will be focusing around the theme 'POWER' and asking people:

- How can we address power imbalance through co-production?
- What are the barriers that inequality of power brings?
- How do we ensure power is shared equally?

Co-production Week Scotland will be led by members of the Network and people who are interested in co-production, so they want to hear about any events and activities and ideas that you have.

www.scdc.org.uk

GURT Resource Centre

GURT have been running a special media project 'Information for conscious action: hear the voice of

people affected by the conflict in Eastern Ukraine'. There have been a number of activities to this end including;

- inviting journalists-volunteers from five Eastern oblasts of Ukraine (Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Luhansk, and Kharkiv) to deepen their communication skills at a 2-day workshop
- organising more than 1,500 people for a photo flash mob #Community_is (#Hromada_tse), which took place on September 2nd, 2017, in five cities of eastern Ukraine – Berdyansk, Dnipro, Kramatorsk, Severodonetsk, and Kharkiv, to consolidate the community and emphasize the positive contribution of internally displaced persons to its development. The participants of the photo flash mob chose from 10 variants their association for the word “community” and took pictures with it, showing solidarity with the people who affected by the conflict in Donbass.



- offering a convenient working tool for civil journalists and activists working in the information domain. The GURT.Media mobile app gives tips on writing journalistic articles, preparing audio content and presentations, which allow increasing visibility. GURT.Media is a free mobile app developed for Android and iOS platforms by the GURT Resource Centre as a part of special media project “Information for conscious action: hear the voice of people affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine”.

www.global.gurt.org.ua

Community Work Ireland

Community Work Ireland have published a report supported by the St Stephen's Green Trust, of the research and evidence gathered and used in efforts to positively influence the second iteration of the Social Inclusion Community Action Programme (SICAP) to influence its successor SICAP II. Key aims were to



develop an analysis of the impact of commissioning on community work and applying procurement processes to social inclusion work, explore the strengths and weaknesses in relation to effective community work and raise awareness of the implications of public procurement processes applied in particular to community development.

The research highlighted a number of issues which emerged and made recommendations on how SICAP II could be improved including making poverty, social inclusion and equalities work exempt from compulsory competitive tendering.

SICAP II has now been published and while the programme remains subject to competitive tendering, a number of changes have been made to the second iteration of the SICAP programme.

Read the full report here;

<http://communityworkireland.ie/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/CWI-SICAP-Research-Report.pdf>

www.communityworkireland.ie/

The CAL Association

The CAL Association are running a series of regional conventions aimed at raising the competences of directors and employees of culture, exchanging experience among the actors involved in the program. This is being done under the NCK program "House of Culture + Local Initiatives"



PACT Foundation

The PACT Foundation has organised a free theoretical and practical training program for those who want to practice community development. At the end of the training period, three of the graduates will be employed in the Foundation's projects. The program consists of attending 4 theoretical modules and 3 internships. The course is run in Bucharest. The course is developed on the values, principles, community work experience, community development tools and methodologies the PACT Foundation has developed over the 15 years of working with rural communities in the South of the country. Topics include;



- What is community development?
- Community facilitator and his role
- Group work and leadership
- Team decisions
- Conflict and conflict management; negotiation
- Community leadership
- Techniques and facilitation tools
- Knowledge of the community
- Developing a community project
- Public participation
- Guide to local public administration
- Advocacy - what it is, campaign strategies, messages, tactics



World Community Development Conference

Mary Robinson will be one of the keynote speakers at conference. She is President of the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice. She served as President of Ireland from 1990-1997 and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights from 1997-2002. She is a member of the Elders and the Club of Madrid and the recipient of numerous honours and awards including the Presidential Medal of Freedom from the President of the United States Barack Obama. She sits on the advisory board of Sustainable Energy For

All (SE4All) and is also a member of the Lead Group of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement.

Between 2013 and 2016 Mary served as the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy in three roles; first for the Great Lakes region of Africa, then on Climate Change and most recently as his Special Envoy on El Niño and Climate. A former President of the International Commission of Jurists and former chair of the Council of Women World Leaders she was President and founder of Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative from 2002-2010 and served as Honorary President of Oxfam International from 2002-2012. Anyone interested in attending and taking part in the conference can now register on the website and find more information on the conference there.
<http://www.wcdc2018.ie/>



Participation, Power and Progress:
Community development towards 2030
– Our Analysis, Our Actions

24 June – International Induction

25-27 June – Main Conference

Maynooth University, Kildare, Ireland

www.wcdc2018.ie info@wcdc2018.ie

European Pillar of Social Rights

In the run up to the European Social Summit in Gothenburg on 17 November things are hotting up in an advance of the endorsement of the European Pillar of Social Rights. We offer a summary of the various positions and some key dates and documents.

Key documents	Key dates
Reflection Paper on the Social Dimension of Europe Commission Communication on the Pillar of Social Rights European Parliament own-initiative report on the Social Pillar The Pillar of Social Rights in 20 Principles	18 October Tripartite Social Summit 18-19 October EESC Plenary opinion on the impact of social dimension on Future of EU 23 October, 7-8 December Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council 17 November Social Summit for Jobs and Fair Growth in Gothenburg

European Movement International take the view that the European Pillar of Social Rights can be a vital instrument in achieving social justice and equality in the EU. But for it to succeed, it needs to bring real upward social convergence between and within Member States. Whatever the outcome of the debate on Europe's future, the Social Pillar should be a central element of the agreed scenario if the EU wants to have a positive impact on the wellbeing of its citizens. The proposals for a European Pillar of Social Rights - published together with the Commission reflection paper on the social dimension of Europe - should be implemented without awaiting the final outcome of the broader process on Europe's future, to ensure that social justice and equality in the EU can be achieved as soon as possible. You can read their full position paper here;

<http://europeanmovement.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/EMI-Social-Policy-Position.pdf>

The European Anti Poverty Network in its position paper maintain that the priority now must be implementation.

We urge the European Commission, European Parliament and the Council, with the active

support of all Member States, to firmly back the Social Pillar in the inter-institutional proclamation and to work with civil society and stakeholders to take steps to ensure that the Social Pillar gets support and leads to real impact on people's lives. Five steps are set out;

- 1) Clarify interpretation of key social standards related to integrated Active Inclusion
- 2) Ensure policy coherence in the European Semester and a road map for implementation
- 3) Make the Social Scoreboard effective
- 4) Propose ambitious legislation to guarantee rights to social protection and minimum income for all
- 5) Prioritize good governance and participation for people experiencing poverty and NGOs

You can read their position statement here;

<http://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/EAPN-2017-EAPN-Response-European-Pillar-Social-Rights-1314.pdf>

The **European Minimum Income Network** fully supports the ambition that the Social Pillar will launch a new process of social convergence within the Economic and Monetary Union and the EU more generally. EMIN welcomes the recognition of the right to adequate minimum income benefits ensuring a life in dignity at all stages of life, and to effective access to enabling goods and services, as part of the Pillar. The Commission benchmarking exercise as a follow up of the Pillar must commit to monitoring developments in relation to adequacy. EMIN express the hope that the Interinstitutional Proclamation of the European Pillar of Social Rights will contribute to a firm endorsement of all rights enshrined in the Pillar by all relevant European institutions and ensure that cooperation to develop and protect social rights will be central in the work and priorities of the EU.

Dialogue between the social partners and civil dialogue at national and at European level will be essential to mobilise all social actors to effectively deliver the right for all to an adequate and accessible minimum income. EMIN is committed to contribute to this ambition.

You can read their position statement here;

<https://emin-eu.net/2017/06/30/emin-response-to-the-european-pillar-of-social-rights/emin-position-on-epsr-final-june-2017/>

SOLIDAR the European network of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working to advance social justice in Europe and worldwide welcomed that finally the proposal for a European Pillar of Social Rights is on the table after a long year of consultations and discussions. From the very beginning SOLIDAR, trade unions and other civil society organisations argued in favour of a Pillar introducing a set of enforceable rights which could be implemented to achieve upward social convergence. The pillar SOLIDAR had in mind focused on;

- upward social-convergence across the whole EU;
- that it should comprise updated labour and social standards;
- that it should call for a re-evaluation of the national minimum income schemes;
- that compulsory secondary education and a skills guarantee should be ensured;
- that it should ensure a Child Guarantee;
- that the EU's economic governance should be rebalanced with targets set according to the Europe 2020 strategy and the Sustainable Development Goals;
- that the European Social Funds, the Youth Employment Initiative, the Globalisation Adjustment Fund and the Fund for European Aid to the most deprived should be strengthened;
- and lastly, the need for adequate financing to ease economic adjustment processes.

You can read their position here;

<http://www.solidar.org/en/news/european-pillar-of-social-rights-social-triple-a-expectations-met>

News from Around the Networks

AGE Platform Europe: Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing beyond 2017 – Uphold the full spectrum of civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights of older persons! AGE Platform Europe (AGE) together with other non-governmental organisations gathered at the civil society forum held on 20 September 2017 on the eve of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Ministerial Conference on Ageing in Lisbon to call on national governments to use the Madrid Plan over the next five years to enhance the protection of older people's human rights in view of improving their economic and social participation in society.

The renewal of governments' MIPAA commitments should build on the latest developments in the UN Open Ended Working Group on ageing (OEWG) on how to improve the protection of older people's rights on the ground. "While the OEWG has an exclusive mandate to promote the respect of the rights of older persons, the MIPAA provides a comprehensive policy framework on ageing based on human rights. Both processes are complementary and older people should be given opportunities to contribute to these key policy developments," insisted Heidrun Mollenkopf, AGE Vice-President in the panel discussing the added value of policy frameworks for the improvement of the living situation of older persons.

In the context of austerity measures over the last years, older people in Europe face growing challenges with regard to adequacy of income for a dignified life; equal access to employment with support of life-long learning; or to affordable and quality health and long-term care. Persisting ageism also prevents older people from access to goods and services.

"We witness a gap between what governments think they are delivering and the real-life experiences of older people in those countries and therefore would like to reiterate our support to the recommendation by the UN Independent Expert on the rights of older persons, Rosa Kornfeld-Matte for establishing a binding legal instrument," added Anne-Sophie Parent, AGE Secretary-General. "We hope that at tomorrow's ministerial conference our governments will commit to promote intergenerational solidarity to highlight the important societal value of older people. They should also challenge pervasive negative old-age stereotypes," concluded Ebbe Johansen, AGE President.

http://www.age-platform.eu/sites/default/files/PRESS%20RELEASE_20%20September_MIPAA%20conference.pdf

European Association for the Education of Adults:

Put the plus into Erasmus+

To highlight the importance of including adult education fully in the Erasmus+ programme, the European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA) drafted an infographic on how to put the "plus" into Erasmus+.



ERASMUS+
EU programme for
education, training
youth and sport

Erasmus+ is an outstanding and crucial programme for adult learners. It is not only a programme for students, but also apprentices, teachers, trainers and organisations. It is not only for universities, but also VET, schools and adult education. EAEA therefore calls on policy-makers to recognise the importance of adult education in the Erasmus+ programme.

<http://www.eaea.org/media/policy-advocacy/eaea-statements/put-the-plus-on-erasmus-final2.pdf>
<http://www.eaea.org/media/policy-advocacy/eaea-statements/put-the-plus-on-erasmus-final2.pdf>
<http://www.eaea.org/media/policy-advocacy/eaea-statements/put-the-plus-on-erasmus-final2.pdf>

European Network Against Racism: Diversity in the European Commission – Open letter to Jean-Claude Juncker and Günther Oettinger.

The European Network Against Racism (ENAR) and 28 organisations devoted to equality in Europe have published an open letter to the President of the European Commission and EU Commissioner for Budget and Human Resources to express concerns with regard to the omission of racial, ethnic and religious minority staff as a target group in the European Commission's new diversity and inclusion strategy. The letter was co-signed by the following Social Platform members: European Network Against Racism; AGE Platform Europe; Eurochild; European Disability Forum; European Forum of Muslim Women; European Roma Grassroots Organisations Network; European Women's Lobby; ILGA Europe.

<http://www.socialplatform.org/news/european-network-against-racism-diversity-in-the-european-commission-open-letter-to-jean-claude-juncker-and-gunther-oettinger/>

European Anti-Poverty Network: More Social Europe in the European Semester?

The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) presents its members' assessment of the 2017 country-specific recommendations (CSRs): 'More Social Europe in the European Semester?' On 22 May 2017, the European Commission adopted the 2017 country-specific recommendations. This paper sets out the main messages and recommendations from country-by-country detailed assessment of the CSRs. The assessment, carried out together with EAPN's members, looked at progress on Social Europe, signs of links to the European Pillar of Social Rights as well as delivery on the Europe 2020 Strategy targets on poverty reduction, employment and education. A detailed country-by-country analysis is available here.

Main messages on the Country-Specific Recommendations in 2017:

1. 11 'poverty CSRs', but lacking consistency and an integrated approach rooted in social rights.
2. Deficit reductions undermine policy coherence on poverty, some progress on tax.
3. Adequacy and coverage of minimum income, but social protection still viewed as a cost.
4. Cost efficiency in health, care and pensions, rather than access to key services, but some support for improvements in universal systems and social housing.
5. Inclusive labour markets and quality of work get limited support, while the narrow focus is on getting people into work.
6. Some positive proposals on inclusiveness and quality of education, but it is still primarily perceived as a labour market tool.

<http://www.eapn.eu/more-social-europe-in-the-european-semester-eapn-assessment-of-the-2017-country-specific-recommendations/>

European Social Network: Co-production, design thinking and person-centred care are just some of the innovative concepts used to describe a more participative and inclusive form of service provision, one built around the end user. In social services, it entails a shift from a top-down to a more bottom-up approach focused on planning services with rather than merely for the service user. At the 25th European Social Services Conference, the need to create social services through the active participation of users featured prominently.

Jean-Paul Raymond, Director of Social Services in the City of Paris, talked about a bottom-up approach in public policy planning and delivery, for example through participatory budgets that challenged the Parisian administration to do things differently. Mr Raymond argued that a change of management culture "based on initiative, creativity and collective responsibility" was required to effectively implement this new approach. In Ireland, projects run by the Health Service Executive and Genio Dementia Programme put personalised support at the core. People with dementia were provided with a real opportunity to contribute to the design of initiatives at development stage, and throughout the lifetime of the project as initiatives were planned and implemented.

The Vienna Social Fund, in collaboration with the consultancy Wonderwerk, presented an innovative project based on the design-thinking method involving the participation of 230 disabled people. Design thinking places the inclusion of service users at the heart of service design as shown by the 230 disabled people, who were included in all stages of project development. Six new services were ideated and tested

out as a result of the project.

The conference highlighted that public social services across Europe are already active in making the necessary shift towards co-production. It also showed a considerable appetite to engage with these innovative approaches. However, the transition is a challenging one.

The 25th European Social Services Conference showed that new social services initiatives co-produced with users themselves are changing the way services are provided across Europe.

<http://www.esn-eu.org/news/948/index.html>

European Youth Forum.

The 4th Africa-Europe Youth Summit highlighted the key role played by young people on both continents as key actors within the Africa-EU Partnership. At the summit, which was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on 9-11 October 2017, delegates representing African, European and Diaspora youth organisations put forward a number of recommendations to be presented to Heads of State at the 5th AU-EU Summit, on 29-30 November, the overarching theme of which will be "Investing in Youth for a Sustainable Future".

The Youth Summit called upon Leaders in Africa and Europe to create meaningful mechanisms for young people to engage in political processes and made a number of recommendations for action in six thematic areas: education & skills, peace & security, governance & inclusion, environment & climate, business & job creation, and culture & arts.

In particular, the delegates called on leaders to build on their commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the universal framework for setting the world on a more sustainable path, by working together towards sustainable development as the overarching objective of national policies and the Africa-EU partnership, ensuring attention to the needs of future generations.

The delegates also urged leaders to implement a cross-sectoral and participatory approach to youth policy, ensuring structures for effective coordination and mainstreaming of youth in all policies, and the creation of or provision of support to existing mechanisms that guarantee extended and improved youth participation in policy-making processes.

<http://www.youthforum.org/pressrelease/4th-youth-summit-highlights-crucial-role-of-youth-within-the-africa-eu-partnership/>

Publications

European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless: Locked out – Housing solutions for vulnerable young people transitioning to independence

All across Europe, the under 30s have been particularly affected by the budget cuts and austerity policies of the last few years. A worrying number of young people in Europe are excluded from the housing market or are inadequately housed. They represent 20-30% of the total number of homeless people in the majority of European countries. Homelessness is experienced differently by young people than by adults: the causes and conditions are different, so the responses and solutions must also be different. Therefore, the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA) and Fondation Abbé Pierre compiled a report which offers an overview of affordable housing initiatives for young people in vulnerable situations. Some of these initiatives are based on a Housing First for youth approach. The report presents initiatives:

- Providing accessible, decent and suitable housing (in the Netherlands, France, England and Italy)
- Providing appropriate support towards independence in permanent housing (in France, Belgium and Finland)

- <http://www.feantsa.org/download/report-chloe-eng5472656428791867789.pdf>

The Salvation Army's EU Affairs Office launched its new report mapping the work with Roma communities at an event held at the European Economic and Social Committee in Brussels. The event aimed to highlight the potential of social enterprises showcasing a project from The Salvation Army in Norway/Romania.

http://s3.amazonaws.com/cache.salvationarmy.org/5c297a36-349c-4410-819e-cf1aa39f532e_SmallVersion.pdf

SURVEY on the future evolution of civil society in the EU

The role of civil society organisations has evolved significantly and will continue to change in the future. Their capacity to contribute to political and societal development will depend on a variety of factors, including funding, technological development and the increasing role of social media.

This survey seeks to analyse the main challenges for CSOs at national and European level, the trends and drivers of change, and future prospects for relations between policy-makers at national and European level and CSOs. The survey is part of the study that will develop a set of scenarios looking forward to 2030 setting out possible futures for CSOs, along with an overview of the possible consequences of those changes in terms of CSOs' relations with public authorities. The survey is conducted on behalf of the European Economic and Social Committee by European Network of National Civil Society Associations and CNVOS Slovenia. The survey has 8 questions and will take app. 15 minutes.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TJ26X8N>

CONSULTATION By the European Commission on the evaluation of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020.

The aim of the consultation is to collect stakeholders' views on the achievements and challenges faced during the years of implementation of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020, adopted in April 2011. More specifically, the aim is gathering views on European and national policy, legal and funding instruments that have been mobilised to fight discrimination and to promote the inclusion of Roma. It closes 25 October.

https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/public-consultation-evaluation-eu-framework-national-roma-integration-strategies-2020_en

Question Question Question Question Question Question Question Question Question Question

If we were to bury a box in the ground with just one the books, texts, articles which have most helped in shaping your understanding of the theory of community development or your practice. What would it be!!

We are gathering together the key texts in community development and will put those we can on the website with links, signposts to the rest.

What was it then? Either email: alex.downie@btinternet.com or post your answer on our Facebook page.

Question Question Question Question Question Question Question Question Question Question

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.