

Punching above our Weight?

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Active Inclusion – Using the EU approach combining adequate income, access to services and to work.

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EUROPEAN ANTI POVERTY NETWORK

RESEAU EUROPEEN DES ASSOCIATIONS

DE LUTTE CONTRE LA PAUVRETE

ET L'EXCLUSION SOCIALE

www.eapn.org

Outline



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- EAPN in a nutshell
 - What is Active Inclusion?
 - Why is it important ?
 - What is its relevance for Scotland?
 - .How could it be used?

Who is EAPN?



- Independent **EU Network of NGO's** and organisations committed to fight against poverty and social exclusion
- Started in 1990 – **key actor** in development of EU Social Inclusion Strategy (social OMC).
- Receives **financial support** from the European Commission = PROGRESS
- 26 **National Networks** and 28 **European NGO's** as members.

Key Objectives



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1. To put the fight against poverty and social exclusion on the **political agenda** of the European Union – (EU Year 2010 for combatting poverty and social exclusion and EU 2020)
 2. To promote and enhance the **effectiveness of actions** against poverty and social exclusion
 3. To lobby for and with **people and groups** facing poverty and social exclusion

What is Active Inclusion?



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- An EU approach to social inclusion, developed by the European Commission, and endorsed by National Governments.
 - *"Facilitate integration into sustainable quality employment of those who can work and provide resources which are sufficient to live in dignity, together with support for social participation, for those who cannot"*

Active Inclusion – Key Elements



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- *"An integrated and comprehensive strategy for the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market"*
 - 3 coordinated strands:
 - 1) Adequate Income support
 - 2) Inclusive labour market
 - 3) Access to quality services."



An integrated approach to social inclusion based on rights – a long time coming.....

- **Respect for human dignity** – founding principle of the EU.
- **Article 137 (1) (h) of the Treaty**, EU has a role to support Member States in the integration of people excluded from the labour market.
- **First step: 1992 Council Recommendation on Minimum Income** – establishing common criteria for guaranteeing sufficient resources.
- **2000 – setting up of the EU social inclusion strategy**–“active social inclusion” key objective.
- **2003-4 - Promises made to deliver on minimum income.**
- **2005 – 7 Commission carries out consultations/communication**
- **3 October 2008: Commission Recommendation on active inclusion** of people excluded from the labour market (2008/867/EC)
- **December 2008 – Endorsed by Member States in EPSCO**

Underlying Principles



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- Support implementation of fundamental rights
 - Promote gender equality and equal opportunities
 - Tackle complex multiple disadvantage and needs of specific groups.
 - Take account of local and regional context and improve territorial cohesion
 - Be consistent with a lifecycle approach.

Key elements for successful delivery



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- Comprehensive policy design
 - Integrated implementation and enhanced coordination between public agencies and services
 - Policy coordination at local, regional, national and EU level.
 - Active participation of all actors – including NGO's and people facing poverty

What's interesting?



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- Aims to get a **EU consensus** on a socially progressive approach to work/welfare based on rights.
 - Recognizes need to **guarantee an adequate income and right to adequate services**, as prerequisite to supporting people into decent jobs.
 - Integrated approach to social inclusion, embedded in **active partnership** of all key actors including NGOs and people in poverty.

How can it be used?



- Provides a **useful model** of an integrated approach which **starts from people's needs** – adequate income as a social right, springboard for inclusion and productive factor for economy.
- Puts **public services** at the centre – access for all to affordable, quality universal services.
- **Tempers activation** only /make work pay approach penalising most vulnerable/ ineffective.
- Raises questions about **social impact of crisis** and effectiveness of approaches.



Using Active Inclusion - EU Social Inclusion Strategy and Process.

- **EU Social Inclusion Strategy** (Social OMC) – aims to deliver on common objectives.
- **Monitoring and exchanging** on active inclusion approaches and obstacles eg Peer Review.
- National focus, but **regional and local** action planning explicitly encouraged.
- Smaller nations are important actors, process should provide an **important reference exchange** on effective policies.

Active Inclusion – some promising outcomes?

- **Common agreement** on importance of the approach.
- Some promising **new approaches** – Eg Austria.
- **Exchange** on success points/obstacles – eg Peer Reviews, new indicators to monitor success.
- **Study on Minimum Income** highlighting need for further action on ensuring adequacy, coverage and take up – could lead to EU framework.
- **Involvement of Local/Regional** level – Eurocity Observatory.
- **Quality framework** for social services.

But not all good news..



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- **Lack of mainstreaming/political visibility** and support.
 - Continued **focus on activation** and make work pay, than integrated approaches.
 - **Missed opportunity** for using active inclusion to promote integrated and more effective social as well as economic response to the crisis.

Some final points..



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- Useful balanced, rights-based approach which can contribute to developing effective anti-poverty/social exclusion strategies.
 - Using Social OMC (EU Social Inclusion strategy) to exchange on development/problems, using new tools and building momentum at EU level.
 - Scotland's existing integrated, community based approaches could be vital good practice in this policy frame and needs to be part of this debate.