

# Minimum income policies as a tool to tackle poverty

## Presentation of the European Minimum Income Network (EMIN)



May 2017

# *European Minimum Income Network - Introduction*

The European Minimum Income Network (EMIN) is an informal Network of organisations and individuals committed to achieve the progressive realisation of the right to adequate, accessible and enabling Minimum Income Schemes

EMIN is organised at EU and national levels in all the Member States of the European Union and also in Iceland, Norway, Macedonia (FYROM) and Serbia

EMIN is coordinated by the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN). More information on EMIN can be found at [www.emin-eu.net](http://www.emin-eu.net)

# *European Minimum Income Network - Introduction*

**EMIN received funding from the European Commission in the period 2013-2014 to establish its activities. Outputs from this period are available at [emin-eu.net](http://emin-eu.net)**

**For the period 2017-2018 EMIN will receive financial support from the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) to develop its work in the EU Member States and at EU level. We call this the EMIN2 project. Additional funding is sought to engage the EMIN Networks not in EU Member States in this phase**

See EaSI programme <http://ec.europa.eu/social/easi>

# *EMIN2 Project*

The EMIN2 project aims at the **progressive realisation of the right to adequate, accessible and enabling minimum income schemes**, through:

- **Strengthening the EMIN Networks and networking at EU and National Levels**
- **Building awareness** that adequate and accessible incomes are not only good for the people who directly benefit but also for the whole of society
- **Ensuring progress through engaging in relevant policy debates and initiatives at EU and National levels**

# *Partners in the EMIN2 Project*

**Lead Partner: European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN)**

## **Key partners**

- **European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)**
- **The Federal Public Service for Social Integration in Belgium**
- **The University of Antwerp**
- **Academic Experts and Experts by Experience**
- **The National EMIN Networks**
- **The EU Level Supporters Group - Open to organisations and actors committed to ensuring adequate and accessible Minimum Income Schemes**

**Role of the European Parliament:** Since the beginning the European Parliament has supported the EMIN Network and regular advisory meetings are held to ensure continued engagement with the Parliament

## *Definitions for the EMIN2 Project (work in progress)*

**Minimum Income Schemes** are defined as, income support schemes which provide a safety net for those, whether in or out of work that have insufficient means of financial support and are not eligible for insurance based social benefits or whose entitlements to these have expired. They are last resort schemes, which are intended to ensure a minimum standard of living for the concerned individuals and their dependents.

**EMIN** concentrates on Minimum Income Schemes for people of working age.

**EMIN** aims at the progressive realisation of the right to adequate, accessible and enabling Minimum Income Schemes.

## *Definitions for the EMIN2 Project (work in progress)*

**Adequacy** is defined as a level income that is indispensable to live a life in dignity and to fully participate in society. Adequacy should build on the agreed at-risk-of-poverty indicator of 60% of median equivalised income and the agreed material deprivation indicators, as national references, combined with a common EU-wide framework and methodology for reference budgets, to test the robustness of the level of minimum income and of the 60% threshold. Adequate Minimum Income Schemes are regularly updated to take account of the evolution of the cost of living.

# *Definitions for the EMIN2 Project (work in progress)*

**Accessible** is defined as providing comprehensive coverage for all people who need the schemes for as long as they need the support. Accessible Minimum Income Schemes have clearly defined criteria, they are non-contributory, universal and means-tested. They do not discriminate against any particular group and have straightforward application procedures. They avoid:

- institutional barriers such as bureaucratic and complex regulations and procedures and have the minimum required conditionality,
- implementation barriers by reaching out to and supporting potential beneficiaries
- personal barriers such as lack of information, shame or loss of privacy

**Enabling** is defined as schemes that promote people's empowerment and participation in society which facilitate their access to quality services and inclusive labour markets

# *The Importance of Minimum Income Schemes*

In cash based societies, Minimum Income Schemes, combined with access to services and inclusive labour markets (the Active Inclusion approach), provide a life line for people experiencing poverty and social exclusion to enable them to:

- **Remain active in the society**
- **Reconnect to the world of work**
- **Live a life in dignity**

Decent and Progressive Minimum Income Schemes form an important base on which to build inclusive and more equal societies, with high levels of social protection and full, quality employment. These elements must be

# *Political Context*

## **Growing Consensus on the need for Adequate Minimum Income Schemes:**

- Council Recommendation on common criteria concerning sufficient resources and social assistance (1992)
- Commission Recommendation on Active Inclusion (2008)
- Parliament Resolution on the role of Minimum Income in combating poverty...(2010)
- EESC opinion on European Minimum Income and poverty indicators (2015)
- EMIN1: EU Road Map for progressive realization of Adequate Minimum Income Schemes (2015)
- Socialplatform: An EU Directive on Minimum Income (2014)
- ETUC: Paris Manifesto (2015)
- European Parliament Report on meeting antipoverty target ...(2016)
- European Parliament Report on a European Pillar of Social Rights (2017)
- Communication from the Commission on the European Pillar of Social Rights (2017)

# *Steps on the path towards adequate, accessible and enabling Minimum Income Schemes*

- **Analyse** current trends, opportunities and obstacles
- **Present and exchange** on current practices
- **Raise awareness** of the current EU Frameworks, including the 1992 Council Recommendation and the 2008 Active Inclusion Recommendation, the Social Investment Package and the European Pillar of Social Rights
- **Build consensus** on the necessary steps towards the progressive realisation of adequate, accessible and enabling minimum income scheme
- **Contribute to the identification** of common EU level definitions, criteria and actions for Minimum Income Schemes

# *Activities planned in the EMIN 2 Project*

- **Strengthening the European and National level Minimum Income Networks**
- **Context Reports:** National reports outlining relevant developments and opportunities within the Member States and a European Synthesis Report
- **Enhancing cooperation between Public Services** responsible for Minimum Income Schemes in the Member States
- **‘Everyone on the Bus’** a journey through Europe to promote awareness and understanding of the importance of Minimum Income Schemes

# *Activities planned in the EMIN 2 Project*

- **Seminars and awareness raising events** in all EU Member States and at EU level
- **3 Peer Reviews:** on the topics of: 1) Take-Up, 2) Reference Budgets and 3) Active Inclusion
- **Closing European Conference:** to assess progress and identify future actions
- **Communication:** a communication strategy will be developed and delivered as a central element of the EMIN2 project

# Contacts

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To follow the project sign up at [emin-eu.net](http://emin-eu.net)