



Interim Report EMIN2

October 2017

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THE EUROPEAN MINIMUM INCOME NETWORK

A journey for better Minimum Income Schemes and a better Europe

TENDER N° VT/2015/067: “Preparatory action: Social solidarity for social integration” European Commission DG for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

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1. OVERVIEW AND KEY ISSUES

The contract for the EMIN 2 project was signed on the 22 December and the kick off meeting with the European Commission was held on the 27th of January. The Inception report submitted outlined the progress made in the first two and a half months of the project. This first Interim Report gives information on further developments in delivering work programme under this project. In general, all work packages and deliverables are being advanced as expected except for the engagement of a Swedish EMIN Network in the project (see section below on Development of National EMIN Networks)

Key Developments in this period

Development of the European Minimum Income Network: All the key European level partners are active in the project and the experts by experience have been appointed to take part in the steering committee and the project Management Team has been completed (see annex 1: EMIN2 Contacts Partners and Management Team). The first two Steering Committee meetings were held (31 Jan 2017 and 22 May 2017). The first meeting for EU EMIN supporters (open meeting for interested EU level stakeholders) is set for 8th November.

A European Context Report has been drafted. This report will lead to a revised road map which in particular takes account of the publication of the European Pillar of Social Rights. The road map will be used for guiding our advocacy and awareness raising work on the progressive realisation of adequate, accessible and enabling Minimum Income Schemes. As part of this process EMIN adopted with its partners a position on the published Social Pillar (see [here](#))

In this period EMIN has been active in following the preparation and finalisation of the new European Parliament Report “Minimum income policies as a tool to tackle poverty” and have had close engagement with the rapporteur and shadow rapporteurs and other MEPs active in preparing the report. The report has now been approved by the Employment and Social Affairs Committee and will be passed to the Plenary for voting and final agreement. The report as accepted in the Committee is a step forward in the Parliaments support for decent Minimum Income Schemes and EMIN with its partners will continue to follow the passage of the report in Plenary.

Development of the National EMIN Networks: In this period the National EMIN networks have begun to be reactivated in the 6 countries where they were established under EMIN1 and in the other countries the contacts built up under EMIN1 are the base for EMIN National Networks. In all cases the Networks are ‘informal networks’ building where appropriate on existing structures and operating to generate information sharing and inputs from a wide range of actors. Existing EAPN National

Networks, Other NGOs, National Trade Unions and interested academics are the key actors in the networks.

Networks are working in 27 of the EU member states (see annex 2: list of National EMIN Network Coordinators). Unfortunately, we are **missing Sweden** in the project. Despite several efforts, including engaging the support of other European level organisations, to agree a Swedish partner to deliver the work under the project we have not managed to secure such a partner. We will continue in this effort, but it is already late in the project and we fear we will not succeed to have such a partner. We will try to use individual contacts we have with relevant people in Sweden to try and have some engagement with the project, but it will not be possible without a Swedish partner to have a full delivery of the work packages concerned. EMIN outside the use of the finances from this project maintains active contact with ‘networks’ in Iceland, Norway, Serbia and Macedonia (FYROM) who were eligible to be active under EMIN1.

In this period National EMIN Networks have prepared their National Context Reports. There has been a very active engagement with most Commission country desk officers in the preparation of these reports. 25 of these Context Reports are now published on the ww.emin-eu.net (see [here](#)) The final 2 reports (Greece and Hungary) should be public in the coming days, there has been some delay with the Greek report, as we agreed the Greek partner later in the project. These reports set the context for the work of the National EMIN Networks.

In addition, informal reports have been made by the National EMIN Networks outlining delivery and plans for their EMIN Network work programme for the period 2016-2017. Information from these reports is included in the more detailed reporting under the work packages below.

Development of the Communication work: The Communications Strategy has been finalised, the concretisation and implementation is ongoing. Suggestions for slogans for the Bus Journey have been developed and decisions on the slogan and messages are being taken. We are building a library of content from the national level (pictures, interviews, quotes...), to translate the Communication Strategy into concrete actions. Tools developed and available include:

- The EMIN Blog (www.emin-eu.net)
- *Presentation leaflet of EMIN*
- *Logo for the Bus*
- *The online platform Trello*
- *Use of social media:* Twitter account, Facebook Page.

Further tools and tool kits are being developed: ‘a myth busting campaign’: a social media campaign, a campaign with video testimonies

Public Authority Work: With our partner from the Belgian Public Administration we have develop a brief concept note for what we want from the effort to Stimulate cooperation between Public Authorities on Minimum Income. *Through this initiative we wish to offer the opportunity to add an additional building block to the Minimum Income policy framework through the development of a sustainable and lasting*

platform for structural, embedded collaboration between public authorities responsible for the implementation and management of minimum income schemes in the different Member States of the European Union.

To foster the motivation of public authorities to engage in a deeper and more structural collaboration at European level and to support in defining the form and shape that such engagement should adopt, we plan to organised one preparatory meeting (8 December) and one full meeting (spring 2018) of representatives from public authorities responsible for Minimum Income Schemes in interested countries.

The objective in the longer term is to develop a sustainable and lasting cooperation between Minimum Income Authorities.

Bus Road Show: In this period the time table for the bus journey has been progressed. The Bus Road Show is now expected to take place between end of April and early July 2018. Contacts were made with the European Parliament to try to secure the launch of the road show from the Esplanade in front of the Parliament. Contacts wittth cabinet of Commisisoner Thyssen to try to ensure a date where she may be present for the launch. First offers for the bus and related materials recieved, they now need adjustment to fit in budget.

2. PROGRESS ON WORK PACKAGES AND DELIVERABLES

WP1 European Minimum Income Network EU- level development

Deliverables identified in the Application

- 1 European Minimum Income Network coordinated
- 1 overall capacity development strategy adopted and implemented at EU-level;
- 2 meetings a year of the EMIN Steering Committee
- 2 face-to-face meetings a year with the EMIN ‘Supporters’ Group;
- At least 2 meetings of the EMIN Advisory Group within the European Parliament;
- At least two meetings with the Social Protection Committee of ETUC and the EUISG of EAPN (European Inclusion Strategy Group) to exchange on developments of the Network
- 1 European context report produced, based on the national Context Reports
- A timeline for addressing questions of post-Project sustainability developed

Key information from the Inception Report

- **The Project Management Team** is completed, and contracts agreed.
- **The Project Steering Committee** is nearly complete, with representatives as per the application.
- **The first Steering Committee Meeting** took place on 31 January.
- **Building Capacity:** Contracts are now being developed and signed for the Coordination of the National EMIN Networks. A template has been developed and advice and support given to enable them to complete their National Context Reports. The final reports will also provide an indication of the work programme of the National EMIN Networks for the two years of the EMIN2 project. Work that has been done on an EMIN Communication Strategy has additional elements that should support the capacity building of the National Networks.
- **The European Parliament** in this period is drafting a report on the role of Minimum Income Schemes in combating poverty. Fintan Farrell as EMIN project Manager is following closely the development of the report.
- **EU Supporters Group:** The new leaflet for EMIN will make a call for more organisations to join the EMIN EU Supporters Group.
- **Post-Project Sustainability:** Key to post project sustainability is that EMIN builds on existing structures and gets their commitment to include the EMIN goals in their future work plans.
- One of the new opportunities in the EMIN 2 project is the chance to work with the **National Public Bodies** responsible for Minimum Income Schemes. This work is reported under work package 4.

Additional Activities at European Level in this period

- Guidelines were given to National Coordinators for delivering the National level work package.
- Project Steering Committee: The Project Steering Committee is now complete and he second meeting took place on 22 May.
- The first meeting with the Supporters Groups is planned for 8 November.
- The report on Minimum Income in the Parliament was delayed. We had a lot of contact re this report. Now that the report is adopted we can set up a first meeting with the Advisory Group in the parliament.
- Progress on the EMIN project was reported on at the meeting of the EAPN EUISG group on 17th March and 18 June. The input of the EAPN EUISG has been essential for giving content to the work of EMIN at European level.
- EMIN was presented and discussed at the Social Protection Committee of ETUC held on 26 April.
- The EMIN European context report ‘Developments in relation to Minimum Income Schemes in Europe – 2017’ was completed. This report builds on the data from the national EMIN context reports, as well as on recent data sources at EU level. The European Context Report and the Individual National Context Reports can be found under ‘EMIN Publications’ on www.emin-eu.net The context report includes chapters on:
 - EU Policy Framework on Minimum Income
 - Developments in Minimum Income Schemes across Europe
 - Reference budgets, a promising tool in the fight for decent income standards
 - Basic income: a ‘new’ kid in town
 - Minimum Income and Minimum Wages
 - Minimum Income and Active Inclusion
 - The European Semester and Minimum Income
 - The use of EU funding in support of the fight against poverty

WP2 National EMIN Network Development

Deliverables identified in the Application

Agreed programme of events and activities delivered by the 28 NMIN

- 28 Coordinators operating at national level
- 1 capacity development strategy adapted and implemented at national level;
- Regular meetings of the Networks at national level throughout the duration of the Project
- 3 Meetings of 28 National Coordinators and European staff and representatives of the Steering Committee at EU- level;
- A timeline for addressing the questions of post-Project sustainability developed;
- Identified options for sustainability of the Network.

Key information from the Inception Report updated

- **National Coordinators:** *The four that were missing at the time of writing the application (Sweden¹, France, Germany and Slovenia) have now being identified and we now have Coordinators identified in all 28 countries.*
- **Meetings of the National EMIN Networks:** *The current state of development of the National Networks and information about the structures they use will be part of the context reports each National Network should produce for the end of June.*
- **Work Programme of National EMIN Networks:** *The context reports final versions provide an outline of the events and activities that the National EMIN networks will undertake under the life of the EMIN2 project. The outline of these events and activities are in the EMIN application to have a more detailed country by country account of how they will implement the commitments in the application and in the contracts with National Networks.*
- **European Meeting of National Coordinators:** *The first meeting took place on 27 of March in Brussels.*

Additional Activities at European Level in this period

- Networks are working in 27 of the EU member states (see annex 2: list of National EMIN Network Coordinators). Unfortunately, we are missing Sweden in the project. Despite several efforts, including engaging the support of other European level organisations, to agree a Swedish partner to deliver the work under the project we have not managed to secure such a partner. We will continue in this effort, but it is already late in the project and we fear we will not succeed to have such a partner
- A template was developed to give information, suggestions and advice re the development and delivery of the National work packages.
- The second meeting of the EMIN National Coordinators was held 25-26 of September

Example of relevant activities from the National EMIN work

- **Austria:** The Austrian EMIN Network has two levels. On the one hand we have a core working group of mainly NGOs which exists for several years already and meet regularly - particularly since the introduction of the means-tested minimum income in Austria in 2010. On the other hand, we have a broader informal loose group, where representatives of ministries and social partners are involved. It is more result of EMIN1 project and the MI-conference. The communication with this group shall be improved and intensified in EMIN2 project.
- **Belgium:** Re-activating the BMIN network which engages: the Belgian Anti-Poverty Network, Trade Unions: Confederation of Christians Unions (ACV/CSC), General Federation of Belgium Workers (ABVV/FGTB), General Central of Liberal Unions of Belgium (ACLVB/CGSLB). In 2016 for a campaign re the elections the following were contacted to support the process: UNICEF Belgium, Action Vivre Ensemble, Socialist Mutual Insurance Scheme (Solidaris), Christian Mutual Insurance Scheme

¹ Now you get the information that we have not been able to have someone take the responsibility to deliver the work in Sweden. The person who took up this responsibility that we reported here later withdrew.

(Mutualité Chrétienne). Cooperation is also on going with public federal administrations: Federal Public Service Social Integration, Combat Poverty, Insecurity and Social Exclusion (federal) Service. Cooperation is also active with key academics.

- **Bulgaria:** The Bulgarian network for EMIN is based on the contacts and shared activities with different partners (more specifically – with Trade unions, researchers, NGOs) established during EMIN1 project through exchange of information, analyzes, opinions, etc. Representatives of the following stakeholders have taken part in Network activities: Bulgarian Anti-Poverty Network, Union of Economists in Bulgaria, Solidarity Bulgaria, Open Society Foundation, Plovdiv University, Trade-Union “Podkrepa”, CITUB, Bulgarian Women’s Lobby, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, National Statistical Institute, Institute for the study of Society and Knowledge at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, NGO for parents with many children, Association of Retirees, Family Policy Institute, etc.
- **Croatia:** The EMIN2 project in Croatia will be conducted by the *Croatian Anti-Poverty Network* which has a wide network of members such as the *Croatian Red Cross, Caritas, Croatian Independent Trade Unions and other members...* It is important to emphasize close cooperation with the *Independent Croatian Trade Unions*. Regarding *public authorities for EMIN2 we set up contacts with Ms. Katica Lažeta* Head of Department for social policy within Ministry for demography, family, youth and social policy
- **Cyprus:** There is a formal steering group which is comprised of representatives from organisations which are members of EAPN-Cyprus. The Group is chaired by the National Coordinator Nicos Satsias and has already met 4 times to create the Communication Strategy, the Context Report and to organise the first Conference for minimum income. There have been contacts to build alliances with trade unions as well as the University of Nicosia with the Family Planning Association, the Cyprus Women Lobby, Frederick University, with a Migration Network which was introduced on a coalition basis between Local Municipalities. There is also an ongoing discussion and exchange of views with University of Cyprus.
- **Czech Republic:** EAPN Czech Republic is the main stay of the EMIN network but in addition contacts and exchanges have been had with representatives of partner organizations and institutions: Czech-Moravian Confederation of Trade Unions, Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic, Association of Local Authorities of the Czech Republic, Association of Regions of the Czech Republic, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic, Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs Committees of the Chamber of Deputies, Parliament for the Czech Republic, etc
- **Denmark:** The Danish network is established with Per K. Larsen, EAPN.DK as co-ordinator, in collaboration with following partners.
 - Partners, who co-operate in arranging conferences, disseminate news, reports etc.:
 - The Social Policy Association
 - Social NGO’s.
 - Partners who comments drafts to reports, participate in or invites to conferences and disseminate news:

- ETUC's Danish members, LO, FTF and AC,
 - The Women's Council,
 - Disabled Peoples Organisations
 - The Social rights and debt counselling
 - The EU Commissions representation in Denmark
 - Partners, who are informed about results, reports, conferences etc.:
 - The Ministry of Employment,
 - The Ministry of social Affairs,
 - The Governments Contact Committee for EU – 2020 Strategy
 - Partners, who deliver scientific counselling and documentation:
 - The Bureau Analysis & Numbers. The Bureau is also national member of the EU Reference Budget network.
 - **Estonia:** EAPN Estonia is the base of the Network and discussions are held with: 1. Estonian Confederation of Professional Associations 2. Social Affairs Committee of the Estonian Parliament 3. Different political parties, 4. Social Ministry, 5. Ministry of Justice, 6. Discussion circles in Pärnu County and Ida - Viru County in small villages and 7. EAPN Eesti Network partners to try to engage them in EMIN.
 - **Finland:** The kick-off meeting of the project and national network was held 31th August with 14 people from different organisations. Many people/organisations which were invited also said, that they will participate later, or that they will participate by following the e-mail information and events.
 - **France:** A steering group was set up and met in March and early May. This group reports at the meetings of the regional "ALERT" collective (35 associations) which brings together solidarity actors and social partners. Contacts built with: all the major social networks at the regional and national levels, as well as the social partners and the municipal centers of social action. Contact with the City of Lille interested in this work and the analysis of municipal contributions in terms of contribution in kind or monetary. Contact with the State Regional Representation on Social Matters (DRJSCS). Contact with the CCAS of the Nord department.
 - **Germany:** The existing national structures and networks can be used and should be strengthened.
 - nak (national poverty conference)
 - ver.di (union)
 - KOS (Campaign of Unemployed in unions)
 - Bündnis menschwürdiges Existenzminimum (Bündnis Umverteilen) (Alliance dignified existence minimum – Alliance redistribute)
- The following members are planned for the Advisory Board:
- Frank Meissner (nationaler Koordinator)
 - Werner Schäffer (ver.di, Bundesverwaltung, Abteilung Arbeitsmarktpolitik)
 - Angelika Klahr (KOS)
 - Anna Dietrich (nak, Geschäftsführerin)
 - Michael David (Diakonie)
 - Michaela Hofmann (Caritas)
 - Claudia Mahler (Dt. Institut für Menschenrechte)
 - evtl. Sophie Schwab (AWO)
 - Two people experiencing poverty: evtl. Jens Schroter, Jens Stiefel oder Robert Trettin (people who have experienced poverty)

- **Hungary:** An important outcome of our EMIN work is that a working group (called Dignified Living Working Group) was formed, which is coordinated by the national coordinator of EMIN. The members are partly HAPN members, but also newer partners and connections (individuals and organizations) who became engaged with the issue of adequate minimum income via our EMIN 1 and post-EMIN 1 work. This group will assist to the delivery of key elements of the EMIN2 project. Last year the group members organized together an awareness raising week: the main event of the week was the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, for which an open letter and a visibility campaign was connected.
- **Ireland:** Robin Hanan has been appointed national coordinator. Rebuilding the Network from EMIN 1, the following have agreed to take part: The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul; The Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed; The Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice (the lead on reference budgets); EAPN Ireland, The Disability Federation of Ireland. Discussions are continuing with state bodies who have provided space at conferences but are not able to join the coalition and with National Union of Journalists.
- **Italy:** Efforts are being made to strengthen the EMIN Network through approaching the Italian member of European Woman’s Lobby, Reference Budget Italian representative, Alleanza Contro la Povertà (*Alliance Against Poverty*), Percorsi di Secondo Welfare², a representative of Sinistra Italiana Party, Italian members of Group III of EESC (European Economic and Social Committee), European Federalist Movement and the Young European federalists, EC Representation in Italy and DG Social Inclusion of Ministry of Labour and Social Policy.
- **Luxembourg:**
 - Regular exchange with other associations about the new draft law on minimum income (REVIS) prepared by the government
 - Contacts have been established with the most representative trade-unions LCGB and OGBL
 - Exchange within EAPN Luxembourg about EMIN
 - Contacts to the relevant civil servants in the Ministry of Family, Integration and at the Great region
 - Contacts to the members of the working group on reference budgets
 - Contacts to the leaders of the national network of social offices.
 - Contacts to the Luxembourg representation of the Commission and the parliament.
- **Netherlands:** The EMIN group is extended with the Federation of Trade Unions (FNV), the Basic Income Association, the NHL Academy. The following have been identified for cooperation in EMIN activities:
 - FNV
 - VNO-NCW (we already spoke shortly about EMIN and they showed some interest)

² *Percorsi di secondo welfare* is a project started in 2011. It is structured as a partnership, led academics of University of Milan, and hosted by the research centre Centro Luigi Einaudi in Turin. The venture has been funded and actively supported by important partners: national TUs, Frivate Foundations and Saving Banks. *Percorsi di secondo welfare* is committed to enhancing the common understanding of what has recently come to be known as “second welfare” a term refers to “a mix of social protection and social investment programs which are not funded by the state, but provided instead by a wide range of economic and social actors, linked to territories and local communities, but open to trans-local partnerships and collaborations (including the EU)” <http://www.secondowelfare.it>

- Academy Leeuwarden-Groningen
 - Academy Windesheim (Zwolle-Almere)
 - Resto van Harte
 - ATD Fourth World Movement
 - Nederlandse Herstelgroep (GGZ)
 - Psychiatrie Nederland
 - Inclusie Nederland
 - NVVK (Kredietbanken)
 - NVVE (association of experienced workers)
 - HVO Querido
 - De Sallandse Dialoog
 - Netwerk Cliëntenraden Zorg (NCZ)
 - Leger des Heils
 - Vereniging van Voedselbanken
 - Organisatie Ecovrede
 - Open Houses (local)
 - Local self-organizations.
- **Portugal:** On July 10, the first national meeting within the framework of EMIN 2. For this meeting we began to identify relevant participants for this phase and build a database, translate the presentation of EMIN to Portuguese and elaborate a summary of the project. We invited these people by email, sending them the summary attached. Most of them responded positively and the ones that couldn't be present have shown their interest in participating in future actions. The meeting took place in Lisbon, in EAPN Portugal facilities, and was attended by 17 people, from different entities: *Instituto de Ciências Sociais da Universidade de Lisboa, Saúde em Português, CGTP-IN, CESIS, ISEG, UGT, Instituto de Segurança Social, Instituto de Apoio à Criança, Cáritas Portuguesa and Animar, besides EAPN Europa and EAPN Portugal*
 - **Romania:** The EMIN2 Network in Romania is built upon the previous efforts in EMIN1 project. In addition several relevant stakeholders in Romania, at central and local level have been approached and they have been informed about the EMIN2 project as potential partners that can help build alliances at national level for the improvement of the MIS in Romania. Among them, we can count: Ministry of Social Dialogue and Civic Consultation, National Agency for Benefits and Social Inspection, Ministry of Social Justice – Direction of Social Assistance, Federation of Nongovernmental Organisations for Social Services (FONSS), CNS 'Cartel Alfa' Trade Union, MERIDIAN Trade Union, County Agency for Benefits and Social Inspection from county of Ilfov, Anti-poverty Coalition, coordinated at level of the Prime Minister (the Government General Secretariat). During the period of project implementation other stakeholders: public authorities, MPs, MEPs, politicians, TUs, EC Representative in Romania, NGOs etc will be approached and engaged within the EMIN Network in Romania through meetings, events, letter of support, promoting the EMIN messages to their target audiences.
 - **Slovakia:** an informal EMIN Steering Committee exists consisting of, the representatives of the SAPN member organisations - both large nation-wide and smaller local and grass-root NGOs, several Slovak universities and research

institutions (such as the Slovak Academy of Sciences, or the Constantinus the Philosopher University), the Trade Unions and one MEP (Anna Záborská).

- **Slovenia:** EMIN Network Coordinator was appointed (Mojca Frelj). The Network builds up from: The Peace Institute, the Association of Free Trade Unions of Slovenia (Zveza svobodnih sindikatov Slovenije) the Movement for Decent Work and Welfare Society (Gibanje za dostojno delo in socialno družbo), and Women’s Lobby of Slovenia.
- **Spain:** EMIN Committee is formally constituted, and is integrated by:
 - Carlos Susias (EAPN Spain’s President, Platform of the Third Sector’s Vice-president and EAPN EU’s Vice-president), based in Toledo, Castilla La Mancha
 - Jose Javier López (EAPN Spain’s Director), based in Ciudad Real, Castilla La Mancha, and Madrid.
 - Sali Guntin (EAPN Spain’s Vice-President and Fundación Secretariado Gitano’s Board Member), based in Madrid.
 - Graciela Malgesini (EAPN Spain’s European Affairs Officer and EMIN’s Coordinator), based in Madrid.
 - Marcello Roncchi (EAPN Castilla La Mancha’s Officer), based in Toledo
 - Javier Pérez (EAPN Galicia), based in Vigo.
 - Gema Gallardo (EAPN Madrid’s Director), based in Madrid.
 - Sonia Fuertes (La Taula d’Entitats Socials de Catalunya), based in Barcelona.
 - Alfonso López (EAPN Euskadi’s Director), based in Bilbao.
- **UK:** Have revised steering group from EMIN 1. Plan to engage other actors:
 - Politicians: We will use at minimum some existing political contacts: in the Scottish government, plus MPs, in the Midlands and in London, and MEPs, ditto. Through two of the member organisations of the Steering Group we have contact with some high-profile opposition front-benchers in the UK Parliament and with Members of the Scottish government. We will also use contacts we have in the office of the Mayor of London.
 - Trades unions: We have ongoing contact through a Steering Group member organisation on migrant and asylum seeker issues with 2 contacts each at the trades unions UNISON and UNITE the Union and 2 with the Trades Union Congress. We are in the process of using these contacts to contribute to our work programme for EMIN 2. Through the Living Wage campaign, we have further regular trades union contacts in London, East Midlands and Scotland, ditto.
 - Other actors: we will build on the network of contacts we have from EMIN 1, which included trades unions, NGOs, institutes and academics. We aim to improve our contact with women’s organisations, which is a gap from EMIN 1.

WP3 National Context Reports

Deliverables identified in the Application

- 1 Framework for the context reports prepared
- 28 National context reports drafted

Key information from the Inception Report

- *See answers under work packages 1 and 2*

Additional Activities at European Level in this period

In this period all context reports were drafted (except Sweden) and commented on by the EMIN Policy Coordinator, then redrafted and sent to the officers in the relevant Commission country desk for comments. These comments were then responded to and the final version of the context reports were published on emin-eu.net. At this stage all Country Context Reports are there except Hungary which needs final corrections and Greece who were late starting the process. As reported elsewhere we have difficulties to deliver the work in Sweden so there is no context report from Sweden. The main use of the country context reports is to assist the National EMINs with their advocacy and lobbying activities. Key information from the national country reports are captured in the European Context Report (see section above WP1)

WP4 Public Authority participation in EMIN2

Deliverables identified in the application

- 1 smaller preparatory meeting of representatives of public authorities willing to discuss facilitating engagement in the Network and prepare the larger meeting;
- 1 larger meeting of all interested representatives to define cooperation among public authorities responsible for MIS, their engagement in the Network and topical exchange on adequacy, coverage and take-up.

Key information from the Inception Report

- ***Support Worker:*** *Patrizia Brandellero has been employed for 20 days to support the work under this work package. A meeting with high level representatives from the Public Administration is organised for 14 March to advance this work.*
- ***Change in proposed time-line:*** *Preliminary exchanges lead us to suggest bringing forward the work under this work package with the hope to have the smaller meeting proposed in June/July 2017 and the larger meeting in the later part of 2017.*

Additional Activities at European Level in this period

Work on this topic did not proceed as quickly as hoped. It has taken longer to identify potential representatives from National Administrations who could be interested in this cooperation. However now a list is developed (noted in annex 3 and sent as an

attachment with this report). In addition, a note has been developed and agreed with the Belgian Public Administration partner for the project which outlines what it is hoped to achieve under this work. The first small group meeting is now timed for Friday 8th December.

WP5 Communication strategy

Deliverables identified in application

- 1 two-day meeting to plan the strategy
- 1 EMIN2 Communication Strategy Plan produced
- Implementation of the strategy in 28 countries and at EU level (including communication outputs as defined in the strategy)

Key information from the Inception Report

- **Communication Strategy:** *As per the application Andrew Manasseh from Communication Europe has been employed to support the development of the EMIN2 Communication Strategy. An initial meeting was held with Andrew on 6 February to brief him on the EMIN project and our expectations for the Communication Strategy. On 15 February the EMIN Communications Officer had a half day meeting with Andrew to begin the elaboration of the strategy. On 9 March Andrew presented to the EMIN Project Manager and to the Communications officer a first draft of the strategy. A second draft based on comments received will be prepared in advance of the first National Coordinators meeting.*
- **Developing EMIN2 tools:** *The Communications Officer has updated the **EMIN Blog** (www.emin-eu.net) to make it suitable for the EMIN2 project. Further development of the blog will be ongoing in the project. A **PPP on EMIN** has been developed which will be useful for general opportunities to present the EMIN project. The Communications Officer is developing a revised general **presentation leaflet of EMIN** drawing on the PPP. She has also worked on a distinct **logo for the Bus journey** part of EMIN. **Trello is an on online platform** which is being developed and should be in place for end of March as an internal communication tool for the EMIN2 project. **Further tools and tool kits** to be developed will be indicated in the Communication Strategy as well as the means to measure impacts of the Communication strategy.*

Additional Activities at European Level in this period

- **Implementation of the Communication Strategy:** A second draft based on comments received was prepared in advance of the first National Coordinators meeting. The Communications Strategy has been finalised, the concretisation and implementation is ongoing. Suggestions for slogans for the Bus Journey part have been sent to the national coordinators, decisions on the slogan and messages are being taken. We are building a library of content from the national level (pictures, interviews, quotes...), to translate the Communication Strategy into concrete actions.

- **Developing and using EMIN2 tools:** The **EMIN Blog** (www.emin-eu.net) is being updated on a regular base. The Communications Officer has developed a revised general **presentation leaflet of EMIN** drawing on the PPP. This leaflet has been printed, and is being disseminated. Several national networks are translating it, adapting it to their national context, and are actively using it. The **logo for the Bus** journey part of EMIN has been finalised. **The online platform Trello** has been developed and is in place as an internal communication tool for the EMIN2 project. All communications tools and project documents have been uploaded, and national networks can access it to download these materials and to upload their communications tools and information about the project on the national level. **Further tools and tool kits** are being developed: ‘a myth busting campaign’: a social media campaign, based on myths about minimum income, and a campaign with video testimonies to raise awareness about the importance of decent minimum income schemes. **Use of social media:** The Communications Officer created a Twitter account, which is being used on a regular base. A Facebook Page for the Bus Journey will be created and used in the next period.

Example of relevant activities from the National EMIN work

- **Austria:**
 - As described in our context report on page 9 in Upper Austria, in Lower Austria and in Burgenland a cap of 1.500€ was agreed. In first line this regulation hit families with children. Because in German language for “cap” we use the same word as for “lid” – “Deckel”, we made a cartoon and it was spreaded quite largely on social media (in June 2017 before cap-law in upper-Austria was officially agreed in regional parliament): “Deckel drauf! – Kinder und ihre Zukunftschancen bedroht.” (*Lid on! – Children and their future perspectives are threatened.*)
 - We are on the way to develop a campaign to be launched in spring 2018. It will have a wider range than just Minimum Income but MI is a major reason for the campaign. It goes in line with EMIN2 as it is also designed as awareness raising campaign – it shall influence people to have more positive view on social security measures and on welfare state in general. With the special add-on, that we try to affect new target groups “outside of the bubble” (more conservative, traditional and individualist groups). As we want to affect new parts of society, we normally don’t reach, we need to design this campaign in a very new manner (regarding slogans, images, wording). This campaign will be the most important communication tool – linked with EMIN2.
 - Non-take-up is a big problem in Austria. At the moment we are developing an “easy accessible” brochure to give very basic information on minimum income in easy understandable language (Caritas Austria is taking the lead, but it is in strong cooperation with our national MI-network). Beginning September we had a workshop at our national PEP-meeting to recheck aims and contents of the brochure with PEP and MI-beneficiaries.
- **Croatia:** EMIN2 project aims and activities have been presented to broader Croatian public on 3 influential National Radio broadcast. Namely National Coordinator Z. Babić has participated on Radio Sljeme broadcast 17.4.2017 than on Croatian Radio 1 (one of the most important National radio –reach whole

country) in ‘Dossier Europa’ 15/6/2017 available at <http://radio.hrt.hr/aod/dossier-europa-borba-protiv-siromastva/213534> and ‘Civilno društvo’ also on Croatian Radio 1 21/6/ 2017 available at <http://radio.hrt.hr/emisija/civilno-drustvo/515>.

- **Denmark:** There are some restrictions, due to the budget, but are trying to reach, affect and raise awareness in 3 target groups:
 1. Central political and administrative decision makers, gathered in the Governments Committee for the EU 2020 Strategy. Method: The context report will be distributed to the members and we will propose it as theme at the agenda in the autumn.
 2. Social NGO’s and unions, gathering social workers, volunteers and people experiencing poverty. Method: Newsletters, reports and invitation to conferences are distributed by the organisations themselves.
 3. The Citizens in general. Method: real life stories in electronic and printed mass medias. It is not easy, but we will try of course and hope, that the Buss campaign can be a wake-up call.
- **Lithuania**
 - During the EMIN project, it is planned to release about 50 Facebook posts related to the project and the provision of minimum income. So far, we have published some posts on the minimum income protection gaps in Lithuania.
 - We also try to educate society about the importance of minimum income guarantee by telling stories about social benefit recipients. We plan to find about 20 people who would agree to be interviewed and participate in video reportage. We made an agreement with the local initiative called “Positive diary”, were positive stories of people who overcame difficulties are published.
- **Luxembourg:** Examples of actions
 - We will inform about the project on our newsletter called [Sozialbarometer](#);
 - Besides on the Caritas website, we will link to the EMIN project on the websites of our partners;
 - Write an article in the journal [Stemm vun der Strooss](#)
- **Malta:** Example of communication activities carried out

Date	Type of Activity	Other Comments
4 th April 2017	RTK Malta Radio Programme	An interview regarding the EMIN 2 Project
11 th May 2017	National TV Programme	An interview regarding the EMIN 2 Project
15 th May 2017	RTK Malta Radio Programme	A second interview regarding the EMIN 2 Project
- **Netherlands:** We spend this time to seek additional funds which would make our activities more visible and effective in particular the bus tour. One of the places will be Leeuwarden, in 2018 European City of Culture. At the moment we are looking whether an exposition on ‘Poverty within the province of Friesland’ is possible. Idea is to find students from the Art Education Branche of the NHL Academy to create a photo exposition. To realize this, we need to find extra

funding. Next to this we are planning an action or also kind of exposition on homeless youngsters, together with an organization in which these youngsters participate. One of the activists is the youth shadow alderman of the city of Utrecht, which may be the second city to visit with the bus. There is built a contact with the Academy for Image&Sound Hilversum. Students of this Academy will be present during –a part of- the bus tour to make video's that will be placed on YouTube the day the event happens.

- **Portugal:** example of communication activities:
 - Internal meeting on June 7, with two colleagues of EAPN Portugal, responsible for the communication and information areas, to present the project and start thinking about the project dissemination in Portugal.
 - Presentation of EMIN project on EAPN Portugal website, available for viewing at <http://www.eapn.pt/projeto/203/projeto-emin-ii-european-minimum-income-network-ii>
 - Writing a document “Em análise”, concerning the adequate minimum income and the unconditional basic income and its place on fighting poverty, available at file:///C:/Users/Eapn/Downloads/EM%20ANALISE_n%C2%BA34_Rendimento%20Minimo%20Adequado.pdf
 - Publishing an announce on EAPN blog Flash Rede to present EMIN project - <http://flashrede.blogspot.pt/2017/04/projeto-emin-ii-european-minimum-income.html> - and about the national meeting with the contact group - <http://flashrede.blogspot.pt/2017/07/projeto-emin-reuniu-em-lisboa.html>
 - Writing an article for our magazine FocusSocial (still to be published)
- **UK:** communication approach:
 - The initial period is focusing on adapting EMIN 2 key messages that will place the case for adequate minimum incomes in the UK in the context of Brexit. This will involve producing light touch communications protocols and communications song sheets.
 - EMIN 2 UK social media strategy. This will focus on having participating organisations reference key minimum issues on twitter and facebook using agreed hashtags e.g. #minincomeuk #eminuk.
 - We will produce blogs from speakers at the events, discussing aspects of minimum incomes. These will be hosted on participating organisations' websites. No final decision has been made on whether we will have also a dedicated EMINUK blog.
 - We will use participating organisations' media channels to promote the discussions from EMIN events and activities.
 - We will issue press releases. We will seek to place comment articles in key publications in relation minimum incomes, with references to EMIN 2.

WP6 ‘Everyone on the Bus’ Initiative

Deliverables identified in application

- Two adjusted buses and drivers secured
- Tour planned and executed for the two buses for a period of two months each
- Develop local, regional and national publicity work
- Establish EU and national mixed teams to accompany and coordinate the journey on board
- Manage subcontractors for event organization
- Bloggers and communication officer to harvest stories and publish information on the journey
- News articles produced
- Attract media and social media attention
- Volunteers to travel on bus?
- Travelling across at least 20 countries over 2 months
- Departure and return ‘ceremony’ of bus in Brussels around key EU institution
- National networks to coordinate the visits in their country facilitate meetings and invite speakers, stakeholder, attendants...

Key information from the Inception Report

- ***Change of time-table:*** *Given the actual starting date of the project if we stuck to the original time table the bus journey would take place in the winter of 2017/2018. Therefore, we have adjusted the date and the journey for better Minimum Income Schemes will now be in the Spring of 2018.*
- ***Planning for the journey:*** *DESTREE (event organisers) are supporting the organisation of the Bus tour, particularly in relation to the logistics and the visibility.*

Additional Activities at European Level in this period

- In this period the time table for the bus journey has been progressed. An initial time-table with dates and stops in each country was discussed at the meeting of National Coordinators in Sept. Following this National EMIN Networks have made more concrete proposals and a renewed time table should be available in early November. The Bus Road Show is now expected to take place between end of April and early July 2018
- Contacts made with the European Parliament to try to secure the launch of the road show from the Esplanade in front of the Parliament. Contacts with cabinet of Commissioner Thyssen to try to ensure a date where she may be present for the launch.
- First offers for the bus and related materials received. Need big adjustments to fit in budget.

Example of relevant activities from the National EMIN work

- **Austria:** Have set up a smaller group who will be responsible for the organization of the bus-trip
- **Belgium:** Have made progress on agreeing cities where the bus will stop

- **Bulgaria:** Developing a concrete program for Bulgaria – welcoming the bus, itinerary, meetings (participants, halls, etc.), logistics, scenario of the meetings (agenda, speakers, etc.)
- **Cyprus:** Planning to have the bus in Nicosia which is the capital, Limassol and Paphos and we have already made some contacts with SEK (Cyprus Worker’s Confederation) whether is going to be possible to provide us accommodation at their owned apartments which are built for workers welfare.
- **France** have identified four potential cities to host stops: Lille, Reims, Bordeaux and Perpignan
- **Germany:** Identifying host cities
- **Italy:** In touch with an organisation who have already used such a method (Bus Road Show) to gain advice and support for implementing the bus activity
- **Latvia:** Have identified towns for stops and have started detailed preparations, hosts, who to invite, accommodation, meals...
- **Poland:** We have had a meeting to discuss about possibilities for the bus tour. We appointed potential partners who could help us in organising it in Warsaw and in other cities (like Caritas, Monar Association, Trade Unions etc.). We have presented some proposals where the bus could stop (Poznan or Wroclaw on the west, Warsaw and small town or Olsztyn on the east of Poland)
- **Romania:** One bus stop would be in the capital city of Bucharest and it will be linked with the organisation of the Conference. The other bus stop could be made at the border area with Bulgaria: Giurgiu-Ruse, this depends if the route of the bus is Bulgaria-Romania and it will entail that the Romanian and Bulgarian networks cooperate to organise these events. In case this is not possible, another stop of the bus could be in Constanta (up to 3 hrs from Bucharest by bus) where the network could benefit of the support and involvement of the local authorities.
- **Slovakia:** The first stop could be in Košice, in one of the poorest Slovak region – in the centre OASIS (it houses about 260 PeP). The Second Bus Base (camp) will be in western Slovakia. There are several possibilities. We wish to involve members of the Parliament of the Slovak Republic.
- **Slovenia:** The Peace Institute will coordinate the Bus trip through Slovenia, coordinate meetings and the actions, facilitate and engage stakeholders.

WP7 National awareness raising events and Conference/Workshop

Deliverables: identified in application

- At least 28 national awareness-raising events
- Transnational contacts developed through participation of other Networks in event
- At least 4 events connecting to existing gatherings at national level

Key information from the Inception Report

- *Little to report under this heading. First work programmes from the National EMIN Networks are expected for end June 2016.*

Example of relevant activities from the National EMIN work

- **Austria:** Planning a conference in Spring or autumn 2018. Including in this conference the topic of reference budgets
- **Belgium: Activity preceding the bus tour planned:** theater event + conference / discussion on minimum schemes with activists of the networks and with a representation for a broader public
- **Bulgaria:** Organizing one large National Awareness raising event with participation of transnational contacts, associated to the ‘Everyone on the bus’ tour involving different stakeholders, including the national Ambassadors and inviting representatives from the Permanent Representation of the EU, Europe Direct, Ministries and politicians. It is important to note that during the first 6 months of 2018, the Presidency of the Council of the European Union is taken by Bulgaria - we hope this will stimulate the participation of politicians as well.
- **Croatia:**
 - EMIN2 was already presented 13/6/ 2017 to the representative of European Commission in Croatia Mr. Branko Baričević. Ms. Baričević expressed his full support to the EMIN2 project and offered partnerships in organizing National Conference and other activities of EMIN2.
 - In February/March EMIN 2 project team plan to organize big National Awareness Raising Conference in Zagreb about adequacy and availability of current MI system in Croatia and future perspectives. We plan to invite and include in active participation at the conference all stakeholders of EMIN2 project mentioned above and key persons from the academia, political parties and policy makers but also people working in Centres for Social Work and people with experience in poverty to hear their voices too.
- **Cyprus:** organised a very successful Conference on “Guaranteed Minimum Income Policies in Cyprus and Greece and the European Intervention” on Thursday, May 11th in Nicosia. The conference marked the launch of the European Minimum Income Network (EMIN2) program and was organized by EAPN-Cyprus.
- **Czech Republic:** In 2017 EMIN2 will be attended at the following events: regional seminars planned in Brno (October 13), Ostrava (October 10), Plzeň (October 6) and Prague (November 3). National Meeting in Prague (November 24)
- **Denmark:** The National and European Context Reports and results are in focus at a Conference “Minimum income in EU and DK”, planned for 31 October. in Elsinore
- **Finland:** We have identified at least these events, where we could participate:
 - SOSTEtalk! -conference 3.-4.10.2017 Oulu, Northern Finland (we have already booked stand from there)
 - Some event by Finnish Trade Unions 2018
 - Finnish Social Forum in Helsinki 2018
 - International Seminar by Basic Income Network in University of Tampere 23.-26.8.2018
 - Night of the Homelessness 17.10.2018
 - SOSTE-cruise, autumn 2018
- **Ireland:** EMIN Ireland, with support from EAPN Ireland, organised a half-day workshop on 14 June 2017 with inputs from Rachel Broady of Salford NUJ on their project *Reporting Poverty* and from Robin Hanan on EMIN, followed by a brainstorm on ideas to take forward the EMIN project in Ireland.

- **Lithuania:** The National conference will be held at Lithuanian Parliament. The conference is scheduled to coincide with the Everybody on the Bus event. It is planned to invite academic speakers, representatives of the Ministry, members of EAPN Lithuania. The theme of the conference is the protection of minimum incomes, system's efficiency, social services to beneficiaries.
- **Luxembourg:**
 - We already organized on the 5th of July 2017 during the annual EAPN event called REPIS (Rencontre Participative d'Inclusion Sociale) a working group on minimum income. The minister of Family in charge of the minimum income scheme in Luxembourg was also present to hear the conclusions of the working group and discuss some issues;
 - During the "Octave" (one of major annual religious celebrations in Luxembourg, generally in May), Caritas organizes a celebration called "Prière solidaire", during this event minimum income will be a major subject;
- **Portugal: Actions already scheduled:**
 - Present EMIN 2 to all members of EAPN Portugal in our national meeting on September 21 to raise awareness to the implementation of other encounters to debate this theme.
 - Present EMIN 2 in the next meeting of the Citizens National Council (September 11) (more information on the next WP9).
 - Develop an informative and awareness raising session about adequate minimum income on 12 October 2017, invited by Vila Real Regional Network of EAPN Portugal. The target group of these sessions is citizens from Vila Real liable to be disadvantaged and/or socially excluded, employed or unemployed.
 - Dissemination of the information concerning National Awareness Raising events throughout EAPN Portugal Regional Networks, with several purposes: participation of the Regional Networks in the events organized by the team allocated to the EMIN, organization of events by the Regional Networks in this field, inviting the EMIN team to participate (or not, if not necessary), dissemination of the EMIN project.
- **Slovakia:** On the 5th to 6th of October 2017 the EMIN Conference with international participation (the Czech Republic and Austria) will be held in OASIS, Košice, and with a press conference to show various faces of poverty – material deprivation and its psychological implications, and also to show how people experiencing poverty can see the "light at the end of the tunnel"
- **UK:**
 - EMIN 2 project and its asks, have already been promoted at two Brexit and adequate income events led by EAPN in the UK in spring 2017
 - We have also promoted EMIN 2 at a meeting in September 2017 hosted by Child Poverty Action Group and upgraded our contact with them, with the End Child Poverty Coalition and with the New Economics Foundation. They are interested in contributing to EMIN 2 events
 - We intend to have an input in 2018 at events and conferences of trade unions, NGOs, Living Wage campaign groups, academic social policy conference, meeting of a national social Brexit group and potentially political parties. These require further negotiation about access and the nature of our intervention.

WP8 Website and visibility tools

Deliverables: identified in application

- 1 EMIN website updated, tested and relaunched
- Development, testing and launching of a blog for the “Everyone on the bus” initiative
- Production of leaflet and other dissemination tools related to EMIN2
- Video recordings for the journey
- Press contacts and media coverage around the activities organised

Key information from the Inception Report

- *See section above under work package 5 Communication.*

Additional Activities at European Level in this period

- See section above under work package 5 Communication:
- We are building a library of content from the national level (pictures, interviews, quotes...), to translate the Communication Strategy into concrete actions.
- **Tools available:**
 - The EMIN Blog (www.emin-eu.net)
 - *Presentation leaflet of EMIN*
 - *Logo for the Bus*
 - *The online platform Trello*
 - *Further tools and tool kits* are being developed: ‘a myth busting campaign’: a social media campaign, a campaign with video testimonies
 - *Use of social media:* Twitter account, Facebook Page.
- ***Press contacts and media coverage:*** a database of the most relevant journalist has been developed and first contacts are being made.

WP9 National Ambassadors

Deliverables identified in application:

- methodology for the appointment of national ambassadors for EMIN developed
- National Networks select and appoint National Ambassadors based on methodology
- National Ambassadors present during events organised as part of the programme of activities of the EMIN 2 project (including the ‘Everyone on the bus’ tour)

Key information from the Inception Report

- *In the context of the EMIN2 Communication strategy we are developing advice in relation to the National Ambassadors to be appointed. We have found it useful to distinguish between Advocates (people with high impact and high knowledge on the subject) which it will be important to identify and ensure their support for the*

EMIN project. Indeed, the National Coordinators need to be seen as key advocates in the project. Ambassadors we seen as people with potentially high impact but with less knowledge on the topic, people who have a general interest in a more social and fair society who could be informed and encourages to play a role in highlighting awareness of the importance of adequate, accessible and enabling Minimum Income Schemes.

Additional Activities at European Level in this period

- Advice was given re the selection and role of National Ambassadors

Example of relevant activities from the National EMIN work

- **Bulgaria:** Recruitment of an ambassador: have identified as possibilities; national ombudsman, a well-respected academic teacher/researcher or a famous artist. The selection depends both on their willingness
- **Cyprus:** In contact with five candidate Ambassadors: The Vice Rector of University of Nicosia, The Volunteer Commissioner, The Commissioner for the rights of children, The Commissioner for Equality, Mr Kostas Dimitriou, Actor
- **Italy:** We are trying to engage with a very popular actor and singer. His history of redemption from poverty through art and then through success, is an example for all people in poverty. His popularity in Campania Region and in Italy would also be a sure success if we will be able to engage him for “Everyone on the bus”
- **Lithuania:** EMIN Lithuania is still struggling on finding the ambassador. But we consider the idea of recruiting not one, but two or three ambassadors. This decision was made because some people are better suited to disseminating information to the general public, but others have more specialized knowledge. Therefore, it is planned to invite a larger number of ambassadors in order to achieve both broad dissemination of information and detailed information. So far, we are considering about three ambassadors who could be: 1) Religious representative; 2) Pop-culture representative who is sensitive to social issues; 3) Academic.
- **Luxembourg:** Given the small size of the country, it is difficult to find varied personalities. It’s essential for us to reach a wide public and we will try to approach the Archbishop, Presidents of Trade Unions, sports personalities, singers... and also Caritas Staff and “experts by experience”. These ambassadors will try to sensitize their target audience on the reform in progress in Luxembourg and the need for a minimum income.
- **Poland:** We got an agreement of one person to be an ambassador. His name is Piotr Ikonowicz and he is ex-political, founder of the Chambers of Social Justice, now very active in defence of lodgers.
- **Romania:** Among potential Ambassadors we identified: representative of the academic area, a journalist/ writer on social issues, a social activist, a representative from the TU, a celebrity. In the following period, we’ll try to obtain a real commitment from their side to become the Ambassadors for EMIN in Romania.

- **Slovakia:** Thus far contacted as Ambassadors Father Peter Gombita, Dušan Chrenek - head of EC in Slovakia, and we have reached out to several other publicly known personalities

WP10 EU and national level policy dialogue

Deliverables identified in application

- Regular exchanges with policy makers at national and at EU level: European Commission, governments, national ministries, national parliaments, European Parliament, as well as other relevant policy makers
- Regular information updates and articles on policy dialogue on the EMIN website and 'Everyone on the Bus' blog
- Baseline Context report at beginning and 1 final context report at end of the Project
- At least 2 meetings in the European Parliament of the EMIN Advisory Group
- Members of the European Parliament available to attend meetings and contribute input to the Project
- Discussions on EU policy initiatives with regard to MIS at Annual Convention and European Platform against Poverty.

Key information from the Inception Report

- *Since EMIN1 national dialogues have continued in many countries re EMIN schemes. Key events to be organised by the National Networks should be in their work programmes which they will develop for end June.*
- *At EU level the discussions around a European Pillar of Social Rights have been very timely for raising attention to the importance of Minimum Income Schemes. EMIN and the EMIN partners, have been active in raising awareness of the debates in relation to Minimum Income Schemes in the context of the consultation on the Pillar.*
- *The European Parliament Report currently been developed on 'Minimum Income Policies as a Tool for fighting Poverty' offers a great opportunity to highlight EMIN's work.*
- *In addition, Anne Van Lancker, EMIN policy Coordinator, spoke at an event in the Social Platform seeking to clarify issues in relation to adequate Minimum Income Schemes and Universal Basic Income proposals. She also attended an event organised by OSE and ETUI where she had the chance to raise interest to the EMIN2 project.*

Additional Activities at European Level in this period

- The key opportunity in this period were in relation to the adoption of the European Pillar of Social Rights. EMIN released and distributed its response to the Pillar (see appendix 3 and attached). To follow up the EMIN EU Context Report provided background for our revised 'EU road map for the progressive realisation of adequate, accessible and enabling Minimum Income Schemes'. This revised road map, primarily takes account of the Social Pillar communication. This revised road map will guide our advocacy and lobbying activities in this period including in the run up to the Gothenburg Social Summit where the proclamation of the Pillar of Social

- Rights will happen. We would expect to have a second version of the road map later in the project where we also look at the proposals re public awareness and the proposed Directive, as well as taking account of relevant policy developments
- The second key opportunity in this period was the European Parliament report on ‘minimum income policies as a tool for fighting poverty’, rapporteur Laura Agea, which was adopted in Plenary with 451 votes in favour, 147 against and 42 abstentions. EMIN followed the development of the report carefully and was in touch with the rapporteur and the shadow rapporteurs as well as key MEPs active on the report. The Report gives strong support for the ambitions of the EMIN project. Key highlights from the report include:
 - The call on all Member States (MS) to upgrade their minimum income schemes so that they ensure **a life in dignity** to households with insufficient income, support their participation in society and ensure their autonomy across the life cycle
 - That MS should set **minimum income schemes above the poverty line**, taking into account the Eurostat risk-at-poverty threshold, set at 60% of national median income after social benefits, together with other indicators such as reference budgets
 - Recalls the EESC opinion on **a framework directive on minimum income** in the EU, which should lay down common rules and indicators, provide methods for monitoring its implementation and improve dialogue between the individuals concerned, the Member States and the EU institutions and calls on the Commission and the Member States, in this regard, to evaluate the manner and the means of providing an adequate minimum income in all Member States;
 - MS to **combat the non-take-up** of MIS and requests the Commission and the Social Protection Committee to develop further research and recommendations and guidelines to tackle this problem
 - Stresses that it is vital for **all those in need to have access** to sufficient minimum income schemes to be able to meet their basic requirements, including for the most excluded such as homeless people
 - The call on Commission and MS to **better use ESF and EaSI** to help to improve the functioning of existing systems
 - Stresses the importance of the **European Semester in monitoring the adequacy** of minimum income schemes and their impact on poverty reduction
 - In addition, in this period we had the opportunity at EU level to present the EMIN project at:
 - ETUC social protection committee 9 May
 - European Social Insurance Platform 30 May
 - EWL meeting 8 June
 - Stakeholder consultation with the European Parliament Maria Joao Rodrigues 8 September
 - EPC event on Basic Income – Minimum Income 29 October
 - The Belgian Peer Review on Child Poverty 5-6 October
 - A meeting of the Social Protection Committee on 24 Oct

Example of relevant activities from the National EMIN work

- **Austria:** On 15th of February 2017 a meeting at the federal chancellery was held with representative deputy head of chancellor Christian Kern, Ms. Rosoli. Social rights and Minimum Income were the most important topics in that meeting.
- **Croatia:** EMIN2 team made contacts with Ministry for demography, family, youth and social policy, Ms. Lažeta Katica head of social policy department within Ministry is formally appointed with EMIN2. On the other hand, National Coordinator Z. Babić is formally appointed as a member of the working group on Action plan for social benefits consolidation and improvement, within Ministry for demography, family, youth and social policy.
- **Cyprus:** Already made two meetings with the responsible Governmental Services and the Minister of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurances was represented at our 1st Conference. Already made a meeting with Mr Nicos Nouris Member of the Parliament.
- **Denmark:** The Central political and administrative decision makers are gathered in the Governments Committee for the EU 2020 Strategy. The context report will be distributed to the members and we will propose it as theme at the agenda in the autumn. The Ministry responsible for Minimum Income Schemes, is the Ministry of Employment, we have the contact already.
- **Italy:** EMIN2 is represented in the Monitoring Committee of PON (National Operational Program 2014-2020).
- **Latvia:** Preparation of the schedule for dialogue building activities with Vice-president of the EC Valdis Dombrovskis, MEPs elected from Latvia, MIS Advisory Group at EP, Representative Office of the EC in Latvia, State President of the Republic of Latvia, Latvian Members of Saeima (Parliament), Prime Minister, State Chancellery, Minister for Welfare, leaders of political parties, and other policy makers.
- **Lithuania:** we have regular meetings with representatives of the Parliament and the State Government.
- **Luxembourg:** Together with other associations we began to tour the main political parties with our reflections in relation to the reform of the minimum income scheme.
- **Malta:** Elections this summer has meant that the political situation was not so stable, so it was difficult to begin this work. Once new Government is in place we will set up meetings with key ministries. We also work on contact with MEPs.
- **Netherlands:** Once we will have a new government, we plan to ask for a meeting with the State Secretary. Next to that we plan to create a group that will meet MP's and MEP's.
- **Portugal:**
 - In April we have prepared a position paper with recommendations for the national NRP and EMIN was indicated as an important experience to take in consideration for the definition of an adequate minimum income scheme. The document can be consulted in here: <http://www.eapn.pt/documento/551/a-situacao-social-em-portugal-2017-recomendacoes-da-eapn-portugal>
 - In 2016 EAPN Portugal has also answered to a request from the Ministry of Labour, Social Solidarity and Security that was preparing a common position to the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR). In the document prepared by EAPN

Portugal the project EMIN was described as an important practice at political level. This information was also included in the Government reply to the questionnaire of the EPSR. The information is available here: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?pager.offset=15&advSearchKey=SocPilg ov&mode=advancedSubmit&catId=22&policyArea=0&policyAreaSub=0&country=0&year=0>

- **Slovakia:** The Public Hearing on Poverty in the Parliament of the Slovak Republic in October/November 2017 will provide an opportunity to highlight Minimum Income issues. MEPs, representatives of political parties, the European Commission Representations, and representatives from the Ministries, etc will be invited to attend.
- **Spain:**
 - Currently making a round of exchange with all the Parliamentary Groups, in order to discuss with them the need to mainstream the existing minimum income framework, and to point out the doors that this proposal would open, regarding the coverage of the incomeless households and people living in extreme poverty.
 - At the State government, there have been two strands of action. The first was to connect with the new Child and Family Services Director General (Ministry of Health ...) Mrs. María del Pilar González Vicente, and to explain her the EMIN Project scope and activities. Minimum Income was also addressed during two meetings of the Working group on social inclusion, employment and rural areas (June and September), jointly held by the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality and the Platform of the Third Sector, related to a new Strategy against Poverty, that the Government is planning to launch soon. The second is to take part, in representation of EMIN, at the meetings organized by the (already mentioned) Project on Minimum Income, which is being developed by the same Ministry. These meetings allowed us to get in contact with representatives from the Autonomous Communities in charge of minimum income, the Employment Ministry (Social Security – SEPE), the Trade Unions and Academic Experts.

WP11 Peer Reviews

Deliverables identified in application

- 1 Peer review on coverage and Take-up of MIS involving 7-12 countries;
- 1 Peer review on Reference budgets involving 7-12 countries;
- 1 Peer review on Active inclusion involving 7-12 countries;
- 3 Final reports of Peer Reviews in English

Key information from the Inception Report

- *The project partner Antwerp University will assist in one of the Reference Budget Projects. A first meeting with this partner is to be held on 21 March.*
- *The Peer Review on Active Inclusion will be adjusted to take more account of access to services and innovation.*

- *The policy coordinator will now follow up re the organisation and to set dates for the Peer Reviews looking at the possibility to link them with other potentially relevant actions within the EMIN2 project or other relevant projects.*

Additional Activities at European Level in this period

A first outline of the peer reviews (content, timing, participants) was presented and discussed at the steering committee meeting on 22 May. The first two Peer Reviews are now expected in Spring 2018 and the final Peer Review in Autumn 2018.

Example of relevant activities from the National EMIN work

To prepare the Peer Reviews National EMIN Networks were asked to identify the Peer Review of most relevance to them. Indications received of interest for the different Peer Reviews were as follows:

- **Coverage and Take Up:** Austria, Bulgaria, UK
- **Active Inclusion:** Cyprus, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal (but also interested in non-take up), Romania, Slovenia
- **Use of Reference Budgets:** Denmark, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Slovakia
- **Interested in more than one of the Peer Reviews:** Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, Ireland

[WP12 National Policy debates on Reference Budgets](#)

Deliverables identified in application

- Meetings on Reference Budget application at National level organised in selected countries by the National Coordinators
- Presentation of national RB results at national event published online

Key information from the Inception Report

- *Contact has been made with Antwerp University, project partner in EMIN and the coordinators of the Project to develop a common methodology for comparable Reference Budgets in the EU. They also sustain contact with the EU Reference Budget Networks.*

Additional Activities at European Level in this period

- Our partners in Antwerp University have produced a comprehensive presentation of the outcomes of the Reference Budget project which can be used for experts presenting work on Reference Budgets at National events. This can be helpful for them to structure their talk and situate their work in a broader EU context.
- Recent developments with regard to research on and use of reference budgets, recorded in the national context reports, have been assembled in a document and sent as feedback to our partners in UA.

Example of relevant activities from the National EMIN work

- **Germany:** in touch with Heide Preuße from Institut für Wirtschaftslehre des Haushalts und Verbrauchsforschung (Gießen) for more background to Reference budgets.
- **Luxembourg:** They are planning a conference on Reference Budgets in the beginning of December 2017. Contacts have been taken to relevant actors to participate in the preparation of this conference.
- **Portugal:** EAPN Portugal was a partner of RAP – Rendimento Adequado em Portugal (adequate income in Portugal) Project (conducted by José Pereirinha) participating mainly in the 1st phase (construction of guidance groups). RAP project was referenced in the Reference Budgets in Europe report as the main study in Portugal in this field. The presentation of its main results was on the 4th of July and EAPN Portugal was present not only as a partner but also as a member of EMIN project. At the beginning of this presentation was delivered a brochure with a summary of the main results of the project, available (in Portuguese) on <http://www.rendimentoadequado.org.pt/images/rap/pdfs/Brochura%20RaP%20%20FINAL.pdf>. José Pereirinha, the coordinator, Elvira Pereira and Francisco Branco, researchers, presented several aspects of the RAP, from the methodology to the values obtained and afterward there was a debate. In the future, more detailed reports about the project will be published.
- **Slovenia:** The Peace Institute plan to organize a seminar/moderated discussion, involving a range of stakeholders and the experts in the field of reference budgets in Slovenia (among them prof. Nada Stropnik), in 2018.
- **UK:** we will be in contact with Loughborough and York Universities, given there are some differences in approach between the Belgian-led Reference Group project and the UK approach supported by JRF, our major non-government social policy research funder, and which already has some traction in the social sector in the UK, including in the Living Wage Campaign.

WP13 EU- level Closing Conference

Deliverables identified in application

1 EU level closing conference (150 participants)

1 Report on the learning from EMIN2 and outline of the agenda for the next period

- No progress on this issue in this period.

WP14 Project Management

Deliverables: identified in application

- Minutes of the 4 Steering Group Meetings.
- 1 Inception report, 2 interim reports and 1 final report to the Commission
- Preparation and production of reports and documents from the Project.
- Quality control and language verifications
- Reports of internal and external evaluation work.

Key information from the Inception Report

- *The Kick Off Meeting with the European Commission took place on 27 January. The Commission highlighted the following elements to pay attention to in the project:*
- *Coordination with the Project Management Team is ongoing to ensure the coherent development of the project.*
- *Project Time Line: an overview table was developed in order to highlight the timing of key activities in the project and to monitor developments*

Additional Activities at European Level in this period

- Second Steering Committee meeting held
- Inception Report and First Interim Report delivered.
- Report on numbers attending meeting and contact information has been delivered.
- Key documents have been proofed and published.

WP15 Project Evaluation

Deliverables identified in application

- 1 Evaluation methodology developed
- 1 Evaluator hired
- 1 Final Evaluation Report produced

- **Independent Evaluator:** The original person identified to act as the independent evaluator of the EMIN2 project is no longer available. We are now identifying a suitable replacement.
- **Terms of Reference** have been developed and a second person approached to act as external evaluator for the project.

3. List of Annexes

Annex 1: EMIN2 Contacts Partners and Management Team

FF 21 Sept 2017		
CONTACTS EMIN 2		
1. Contacts - Partners and Steering Committee		
<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Emails</i>
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Annex 2: EMIN2 National Coordinators.

EMIN2 National Coordinators CONTACTS

Network	Name of Person	Contact Details Email - phone number
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<i>UK</i>	Katherine Duffy	k.b.duffy@talktalk.net

Annex 3: List of documents attached

- European EMIN Context Report
- Agenda of the National Coordinators Meeting Sept 2017
- List of contacts for cooperation with Public Authorities responsible for minimum income schemes.
- EMIN Supporting cooperation with Public Authorities, briefing.
- EMIN response to the European Pillar of Social Rights
- Presentation on Reference Budgets