



## European and External Affairs Committee

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# Inquiry into the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion: key issues paper

### Summary

This paper provides a summary of the key issues to arise during the evidence sessions from the Committee's inquiry European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion (EY2010), and presents a number of draft recommendations and key conclusions for the Committee to consider.

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## A. Introduction

The Committee agreed to carry out an inquiry into the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion (EY2010). The Terms of Reference for the inquiry were:

- To understand the relevance to Wales of the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion
- To ascertain how the Welsh Government proposes to engage with the European Year, including its involvement in the UK National Implementing Body, details of any events or campaigns it proposes to organise and any additional funding it proposes to make available to the third sector to support activities across Wales during the year
- To understand what (if any) strategy the Welsh Government has towards “European Years” in general, to ensure Wales is engaging as effectively as possible from the opportunities these present
- To explore how the National Assembly for Wales can support initiatives such as the 2010 European Year and future European Years
- To hear from Welsh and European stakeholders about how best practice is being shared and the actions they have planned to maximise the opportunities presented by the 2010 European Year

The Committee held four evidence sessions, the final evidence being taken on 26 January 2010.

This paper summarises the main messages to come out of the evidence sessions.

### Action for the Committee

- To discuss the paper and agree the key issues that will form the basis of recommendations and conclusions for the inquiry's report

## B. Key issues/themes to emerge

### B.1 Overarching aim of EY2010 is to raise awareness of poverty and social exclusion

The evidence to the Committee emphasised that EY2010 is more about awareness raising activities on combating poverty and social exclusion, rather than delivering concrete actions on the ground to address these challenges. This was made clear in discussions concerning the types of activities that can be supported through the budget available in the UK for EY2010, and also in terms of the limited amount of funding available.

While this is clear, it does not necessarily mean that EY2010 should be written off as a waste of time and effort, because witnesses did refer to the need and possibility to build a lasting legacy as a result of EY2010.

Children in Wales speaking about the main outcome of EY2010 said:

“The main outcome of the European year has got to be a more consolidated approach by the public, politicians and organisations towards an agenda for combating social exclusion.” Catriona Williams, Chief Executive, Children in Wales, Transcript 1 December 2009, paragraph 84

National conference in Wales:

“...one thing that we hope to achieve through this national conference is being able to flag up what is happening on the ground: which programmes are or are not working and where the funding can be better spent in the future by hearing from people who are delivering on some of these Government programmes and programmes funded by other means.” Sean O’Neill, Director, Children in Wales, Transcript 1 December 2009, paragraph 86

Welsh Government’s aims:

...my view is that we are trying to create awareness of these issues, and promote a greater understanding among civic society of combating poverty and social exclusion. (Brian Gibbons AM, former Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, Transcript 17 November 2009, paragraph 36)

...our political intent is to use this as an opportunity to promote an agenda item that is important to us and to work proactively to make this happen so that we get the best value for money and the greatest output from this opportunity. Our engagement amounts to a bit more than facilitation. I think that we realise that this is an opportunity to promote this agenda. We are fairly active on the front foot in doing that. Yes, we are trying to facilitate organisations to take part in that, and we are geeing them along, if you like, but that is too narrow a view. There is an opportunity for us here, and we are keen to develop that. (Brian Gibbons AM, former Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, Transcript 17 November 2009, paragraph 59)

In terms of the lasting legacy the Minister said:

There will hopefully be three things, the first of which is a greater awareness of the issues. From our point of view as an Assembly Government, that is fortuitous, because we expect us and other public bodies in Wales to develop child poverty strategies over the next 12 months. So, the timing is particularly good for us. Secondly, by highlighting best practice across Wales and, following up on Jeff’s question, it is an opportunity for us—as all of Europe, or the European Union, at least,

will concentrate upon this—to learn from what is going on in the European Union. Third, it will strengthen the networks that are involved in poverty and promoting social inclusion. (Brian Gibbons AM, former Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, Transcript 17 November 2009, paragraph 15)

Children in Wales referred to the importance of a dialogue taking place in Wales beyond 2010:

It is important that we have a dialogue beyond 2010. As I say, some of the dialogue already started with the Children and Families (Wales) Measure and the duties coming through this year. Hopefully, we will have a very strong national child poverty strategy in place with clear duties, targets and milestones for Government and other stakeholders to deliver on. Sean O'Neill, Director, Children in Wales, Transcript 1 December 2009, paragraph 89

The Anti Poverty Network Cymru spoke about the legacy of EY2010:

"...as being a situation to which we are all firmly committed, in whichever European country, so that people have the hope of being better off at the end of the year than they were at the beginning of it." (Frances Ballin, Anti Poverty Network Cymru, Transcript 17 November 2009, paragraph 141)

They also highlighted the important role of the Social Policy Task Force in the UK, as an example of good practice to be shared across Europe as well as proposing the introduction of a poverty audit into decision making at devolved and UK government level:

In fact, the very fact that this taskforce exists means that the UK is a model for other European countries, because not enough of them allow people at the grass roots to have that kind of relationship with a body like the Department for Work and Pensions, so that their voices are heard and their needs, thoughts and ideas taken forward. Already, a sea change has happened in that civil servants and people with grass-roots experience are working together. Perhaps that model could be taken further within devolved Governments. In the same way as an equalities body would have a representative who has some kind of disability, or as a children's body would have a youth representative, it would be good to have a kind of poverty audit running through much of the decision making that is made by devolved and UK Government." (Frances Ballin, Anti Poverty Network Cymru, Transcript 17 November 2009, paragraph 127)

**Question for Committee Members:** What evaluation mechanisms do the Welsh Government plan to use to establish whether a useful legacy can be created?

**Question for Committee Members:** Do the Committee Members wish to consider looking at a timeframe in terms of assessing what impact "awareness-raising" can have on people's perception of poverty and consequential changes in actions? I.e. Is the aim to change people's attitudes during 2010 (which may not be realistic) or to contribute to a shift in attitudes over a longer period – e.g. 10 years – tied in to wider strategic initiatives?

**Question for Committee Members:** is this the basis of a recommendation? i.e. to call on Welsh Government to clarify that there will be a dialogue on EY2010, from perspective of child poverty, beyond 2010? Or should there just been an observation made in the report of the importance of this legacy in Wales – e.g. as a Key Conclusion?

## B.2 Exchange of best practice at EU and international level

Welsh Government Minister, Brian Gibbons, emphasised the potential to make more effective use of the **Open Method of Co-ordination**:

I think that this is an area where we in Wales, and possibly even in the United Kingdom—I do not know what colleagues feel about this—have missed a trick, big time, in relation to engaging with all of this. (Brian Gibbons AM, former Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, Transcript 17 November 2009, paragraph 33)

European Anti Poverty Network spoke about the importance of OMC in supporting the achievement of a number of their key goals for the political legacy from EY2010:

"We are asking for a declaration on poverty and social exclusion, which it also looks as though we are going to get. We are also asking about the whole question of how you measure progress in a way that goes beyond the gross domestic product debate, because progress should not be recognised only by economic indicators, but by a broader social approach. We want to make the open method of co-ordination a key instrument for delivery on this. For us, that means revitalising the national, regional and local levels, and we would look to have allies from the regional level on this. We think that the open method of coordination can only work if you bring in the local and regional levels and make them key actors." (Sian Jones, Policy Co-ordinator, EAPN, Transcript 26 January 2010, paragraph 13)

The links to EU Structural Funds Programmes in Wales was also made:

What I do not see in here is any link to other European activities, particularly the use of structural funds to develop good training schemes that lead to high-quality jobs. The best way out of poverty for people is through employment and being useful members of society. What link is there between this initiative and the other initiatives coming from Europe, including the use of convergence and competitiveness funding, to work together? (Jeff Cuthbert AM, Transcript 17 November 2009, paragraph 10)

This point was supported by the evidence from the European Anti Poverty Network:

"It is important to make the link with structural funds, to see how the structural funds can be used to focus on poverty and social exclusion and to help with the use of the structural funds in delivering on those objectives." (Siân Jones, Policy Co-ordinator, EAPN, Transcript 26 January 2010, paragraph 33)

Economic benefits from investing in young children

"The clear message from Canada, and from the OECD countries, is that the gross domestic product of a country rises significantly if you invest in very young children... The figures are almost unbelievable about how great an impact that investing in young children can have on GDP." (Catriona Williams, Chief Executive, Children in Wales, Transcript 1 December 2009, paragraph 96)

### ***Question for Committee Members:***

Should the Committee seek confirmation from Welsh Government that they are following up on the suggestion by the Minister that further use should be made of the Open Method of Co-ordination? (Perhaps specifically linked to Child Well Being measures at an EU level and the

Assembly's own work on preparing a new Children and Families Measure for Wales)

Should the Committee make conclusions regarding opportunities for the National Assembly for Wales to explore possibilities for exchanges of good practice with other regional assemblies (e.g. through CALRE) on these issues and in terms of European Years in general?

Should the Committee request a specific explanation on how the current Structural Funds programmes for 2007-2013 are supporting the overarching aims of EY2010?

Should the Committee request further work be undertaken (as part of the legacy work) to focus on best practice exchange, by identifying which different approaches and policy tools have worked most effectively within Wales, across the UK, and across Europe, and assess the transferability of such methods to the Welsh context (or making available good practice from Wales for other parts of Europe)? i.e. some sort of comparative table of different approaches, tools, models aimed at addressing specific challenges/issues in the poverty/social exclusion agenda. In this way pragmatic suggestions could be identified to guide future actions.

Does the Committee have an evidence base for supporting the idea of concentrating anti-poverty actions on very young children?

Should the Committee suggest that the various conferences, seminars and events focus very specifically on this approach – identifying best practice – as a real and practical outcome from the European Year?

### ***Possible draft recommendation?***

The Committee calls on the Welsh Government to clarify how it will ensure that use is made of the international experience and good practice at the European level observed during EY2010 to the benefit of Wales in the future

### **B.3 Target groups**

The Committee was interested to see which groups are the focus of EY2010, and the extent to which there is a particular target group or range of groups in mind. The Minister identified third sector organisations and networks as the primary target of the European Year:

This is very much about working through third sector organisations and the various networks. The particular challenge as part of these activities is not just to go to the usual suspects, but to go beyond that. That is a particular part of this programme. (Brian Gibbons AM, former Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, Transcript 17 November 2009, paragraph 57)

Anti Poverty Network Cymru stressed the importance of reaching out to those in poverty or who have experienced poverty:

"Our aim is that the voices of people who have experienced or are experiencing poverty and social exclusion should be heard at all levels." (Frances Ballin, Anti Poverty Network Cymru, Transcript 17 November 2009, paragraph 111)

They also emphasised the importance of a dialogue with people who make decisions, highlighting in particular links to the Welsh Government:

"We would welcome an opportunity to be in close liaison with members of the Welsh Assembly Government in any way that is suitable and acceptable. We are anxious to dispel myths about people who are poor, and if we can make the reality visible and have people speaking for themselves, rather than having myths built around them, the areas where they live and their way of life, that would be an enormous step forward. Therefore, if we can achieve visibility, for example in meetings with the Welsh Assembly Government, that would be great." (Frances Ballin, Anti Poverty Network Cymru, Transcript 17 November 2009, paragraph 171)

**Question for Committee Members:** are there any specific points that members wish to make about the target groups for EY2010? And specifically the comments from Anti Poverty Network Cymru about access to Welsh Government members/officials? Is that call for hearing the voice of the poor themselves a key part of an empowerment agenda?

#### B.4 Child poverty and child well being

Child poverty and child well-being were highlighted as areas in need of attention during EY2010, including calls for more concerted action on these issues at EU level.

Children in Wales said addressing child poverty was particularly important especially in terms of leaving a lasting legacy from EY2010:

"On the question on the lasting legacy, a key issue for me is that there should be a greater awareness of the issues and barriers that people face as a result of child poverty because there is a blockage in relation to public support for and understanding of child poverty issues. The European year can help to raise the understanding of the person on the street of what poverty means in general and what it means on a daily basis for a family who cannot afford fuel because of fuel and transport poverty issues." Sean O'Neill, Director of Policy, Children in Wales, Transcript 1 December 2009, paragraph 88

EY2010 should also lead to improvements for children and young people generally:

"Finally, for me, the lasting legacy would be improved outcomes for children and young people. That is crucial because we can raise awareness as much as we like, but we need to have actions at the end of the day that improve the outcomes of children who are currently struggling." (Sean O'Neill, Director of Policy, Children in Wales, Transcript 1 December 2009, paragraph 90)

Children in Wales also called for co-ordinated action at EU level to establish consistent ways of measuring child well-being:

A commitment to measuring [child wellbeing] is essential. Wales is part of the way down that route, so the implementation side of that is important. However, at the European Union level, it is essential that all member states agree, and this is where the problems lie. Eurochild has been campaigning to have, not so much an EU target, but an agreement that every country should try to reduce child poverty by a certain percentage. However, we need an agreement that that is an important agenda." Catriona Williams, Chief Executive, Children in Wales, Transcript 1 December 2009, paragraph 92

Both Children in Wales and the Minister spoke about the strategic importance of the work in Wales to develop the proposal for a Children and Families Measure:

Last week, the Proposed Children and Families Measure (Wales) 2009, which aims to address child poverty, was passed by the Assembly. A key element of that proposed Measure is to establish a strong evidence base for tackling child poverty in Wales, and one advantage of the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion is that a tremendous amount of international experience can be gathered to allow us to do that. (Brian Gibbons AM, former Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, Transcript 17 November 2009, paragraph 6)

For information, the *Children and Families (Wales) Measure* was approved by the Assembly on 10 November 2009. The Measure will require Welsh Ministers to prepare and publish a strategy for contributing to the eradication of child poverty in Wales. This strategy must include objectives in relation to each of the broad aims set out in Section 1 of the Measure. The first strategy must be published in 2010 and it must be kept under regular review. The Measure also places a duty on specific Welsh public bodies to prepare and publish strategies to assist in the goal of eradicating child poverty by 2020.

#### ***Possible draft recommendation?***

The Committee calls on the Welsh Government to support actions aimed at establishing a consistent way of measuring Child Well Being at the European level.

#### **B.5 EAPN Co-ordinated Network: Political legacy (including criticism of Lisbon strategy)**

The evidence from the European Anti Poverty Network underlined the importance of EY2010 to them as part of a wider lobbying strategy to create what they describe as a "lasting political legacy". In particular this is focused on trying to secure commitments in the new EU2020 Strategy, which is being prepared at EU level as the successor to the Lisbon Strategy.

To achieve these aims they have established a coalition of NGOs across Europe to give weight to their key messages:

"We set up an NGO coalition for the year against poverty, bringing together 40 European-wide NGOs working with a social platform. We have funding from the commission for a co-ordinator to work on that year, and we had our launch last week on 19 January in Brussels. That coalition is trying to raise awareness of poverty to begin a discussion about the structural causes of poverty and to get actors at national and regional levels involved in the European year and to pull it together for a common legacy." (Siân Jones, Policy Co-ordinator, EAPN, Transcript 26 January 2010, paragraph 11)

EAPN takes a critical view of the Lisbon Strategy, which it says has failed to deliver on commitment agreed in 2000 to reduce poverty levels across the EU:

"We are concerned that the EU has not made significant progress on poverty; in 2000 there was a commitment at the Lisbon council to take a decisive step towards the eradication of poverty, but in reality we still have exactly the same levels of poverty as in 2000: that is, between 16 and 17 per cent, with 79 million people at risk of poverty. There is increasing inequality across member



states—some in particular. So, the general package, the strategy, has not worked, and our particular concern is that the growth and jobs strategy has not worked, and that is because there has not been a clear objective on social cohesion, tackling poverty and reducing inequality as a central pillar of the EU's work. It is assumed that, by taking an approach to growth and jobs, you will get a trickle-down effect; that does not work, and it never has." (Sian Jones, Policy Co-ordinator, EAPN, Transcript 26 January 2010, paragraph 10)

Their evidence also highlights the importance of future EU Cohesion Policy in addressing the core aims of tackling poverty and social exclusion, although they express concerns that this has become more difficult to support:

"The structural funds are crucial and we need to use them to deliver on that commitment on poverty, social exclusion and inequalities. Whereas structural funds had a strong role in the past—I see that particularly from my work in Wales—in delivering on social exclusion, that is increasingly becoming more difficult. We are worried about the debates around renationalisation and moving away from having these broad objectives on poverty and social exclusion." (Sian Jones, Policy Co-ordinator, EAPN, Transcript 26 January 2010, paragraph 15)

EAPN call for 10 actions to be taken in the new EU2020 Strategy to tackle poverty and social exclusion (see Annex A).

"We are saying that EU 2020 is fundamental. We must use this opportunity to get the strategy right, which means making poverty and social exclusion one of its key challenges. Today, we are sending out a letter to Prime Ministers and heads of state on this issue and we are working closely with the Spanish presidency to try to get this as one of its main issues. We also want a clear reference to reducing inequalities, because although that is mentioned in the council conclusions in December, it has not been followed up. It is crucial, in the context of the crisis, for reducing inequality to be a central goal." (Sian Jones, Policy Co-ordinator, EAPN, Transcript 26 January 2010, paragraph 12)

**Question for Committee Members:** Does the Committee wish to endorse all or some of these actions? Or call on Welsh Government to explore these further? (SEE ALSO B.9 BELOW)

## B.6 Poverty indicators

The Committee probed around question of what is being measured when talking about high levels of "relative poverty" across the EU. The point was confirmed that the headline indicators measure poverty within Member States, which effectively means a measure of "Inequality". However, EAPN said much work had been undertaken at EU level to establish common indicators that apply across the EU to measure absolute poverty.

"It is national. It is an EU framework, with EU-established indicators, but it is measured nationally through the EU-SILC, the survey on income and living conditions, so there is a massive machinery of data collection behind it. The most recent data that we have are from 2007. All those data are published, usefully, by the commission in a joint report every year. The new one will be coming out now. It is all done through Mutual Information System on Social Protection, MISSOC, data, which are Eurostat data. It is difficult to access, but there is a good supplementary report that is produced by the commission every year. It is worth looking at that, because it gives you all of the information." (Sian Jones, Policy Co-ordinator, EAPN, Transcript 26 January 2010, paragraph 48)

In there written evidence EAPN state:

*“Poverty is a multidimensional phenomena and a daily reality for millions of people across the European Union:*

Poverty is not simply the lack of financial resources and income, it also encompasses the notion of vulnerability, precariousness, lack of opportunities, injustice and denial of rights – such as access to education, health, housing, employment services/training as well as cultural, political participation. Against the backdrop of the crisis NGOs are concerned that the current EU ‘growth and jobs’ strategy and market liberalization, without attention to fairness, inclusion, participation and redistribution, has failed to deliver a social Europe, where everybody has access to fundamental rights.” (EAPN written evidence – 26 January 2010 - pages 2-3)

**Question for Committee Members:** should a request be made for further information to clarify how Wales compares on EU-wide common indicators of poverty, both in an “absolute” sense and in terms of the “relative measures” of poverty?

Is there a comment to be made in terms of “awareness” raising? If EY2010 is aimed at raising awareness then there needs to be clarity in terms of the messages being communicated, and what these messages actually stand for?

## **B.7 Engagement of National Assembly for Wales**

In their evidence to the Committee the EAPN made two specific recommendations to the Committee concerning engagement with EY2010:

Key Recommendations to the Committee:

To actively engage in the EU year and support EAPN Cymru and other NGO proposals

To support the EAPN and NGO coalition demands for legacy at national and EU level. (page 8, EAPN written evidence

Their paper also referred to a number of activities planned during the year including:

- Focus Weeks: Two European Focus Weeks are planned during the year: Spring Focus Week (24-30 May) and Autumn Focus Week (11-17 October)
- Events in Wales/UK level

### ***Question for Committee Members:***

Does the Committee wish to take on board the EAPN recommendations?

Does the Committee consider that the Assembly should take an active role in EY2010 and in future European Years? If so, what should this role be? (e.g. hosting/organising awareness raising events? in co-operation with the European Commission/Welsh organisations?

Should it be suggested that the Assembly hold a plenary debate each year on the relevant European year theme?

## B.8 Further action for the Welsh Government suggested in the evidence

Children in Wales raised as a major challenge the provision of what they called “good-quality, effective childcare”, in terms of addressing high levels of unemployment amongst young people:

“...a big challenge for me and what has been quite stark is that we have the highest unemployment level across the whole of the UK and there are challenges, in particular, around young people not in education and training. So, the Assembly Government could do more work on that... I am not only talking about any old childcare, but good-quality, effective childcare. That has been successful in the Nordic countries and is another reason why they have had such low child poverty rates over many years. That would be one of my key calls, namely to focus greatly on improving childcare.” Sean O’Neill, Director, Children in Wales, Transcript 1 December 2009, paragraphs 93-94

**Question for Committee members:** Is there a specific request to be made to the Welsh Government to respond to this call for “good quality, effective childcare” to be made a priority in Wales?

### **Possible draft recommendation?**

The Committee calls for clarification from the Welsh Government as to whether or not the proposed *Children and Families (Wales) Measure* addresses the concerns raised by Children in Wales regarding the provision of good quality and effective childcare in Wales

## B.9 How Wales participates in European years in general

There is no central co-ordination team responsible for European Years in the Welsh Government. This responsibility is taken on by relevant Welsh Ministers.

“16. It is for individual Welsh Assembly Government Ministers to decide the basis and extent of their involvement in European Years and any associated activities. EEAD [*Welsh Government’s European and External Affairs Division*] will inform or notify relevant policy departments of planned forthcoming events and lead UK Government Departments are expected to consult with the devolved administrations when planning UK activity.” (Welsh Government written evidence – 17 November 2009)

Specifically for EY2010 the Ministry for Social Justice and Local Government has taken the lead role in Wales for 2010, which has included activities to raise awareness about the year, as well as participating in UK level co-ordination activities.

**Question for Committee Members:** Is there merit in having a more co-ordinated approach to European Years, involving other key stakeholder bodies such as the National Assembly for Wales, third sector, higher/further education, local authorities?



***Question for Committee Members:*** Is there the need for a clearer vision of what Wales wants to get out of European Years in general or contribute to them, and whether they are considered as useful exercises to participate in? Should the Welsh Government take a stronger role in promoting this?

***Possible draft recommendation?***

The Committee calls on the Welsh Government to establish a working group involving key stakeholders to plan ahead for future European Years, in order to ensure effective co-ordination aimed at maximising the opportunities available to Wales from participation in European Years.

## Annex A

### EAPN specific demands

EAPN prepared a comprehensive proposal as a contribution to the EU2020: [EU we can trust](#): EAPN proposals for post 2010 - which sets out long-term demands for the delivery on poverty and social exclusion in the context of the post EU2020 strategy. The key demands for 2010 to achieve a *strong EU policy legacy which guarantees a visible step forward for the fight against poverty, social exclusion and inequality in the next decade* are:

#### Getting the EU 2020 strategy right

1. Make combating poverty and social exclusion a key challenge and priority for EU2020.
2. Tackle the causes of poverty, making the reduction of inequalities in income and wealth through redistribution a prerequisite for delivering a better, fairer EU.
3. Ensure participation and ownership of EU2020 by embedding EU/national structured dialogue with civil society, including people in poverty.

#### Getting the instruments right

4. Hold an EU Council on Poverty and Social Exclusion with a declaration by Heads of States.
5. Measure progress for EU2020 with social as well as economic indicators, beyond GDP, including at risk of poverty and inequality indicators and targets.
6. Re-launch a tougher Social OMC as key instrument for driving delivery on poverty/social exclusion and inequality particularly through:
  - Progress on poverty and inequality targets at EU and national level.
  - Better governance and participation at national and EU level establishing guidelines, indicators and benchmarking, embedding participative national yearly reviews of National Action Plans, involving NGOs and people in poverty.

#### Getting the policies right

7. Implement the Active Inclusion Recommendation including
  - New Integrated Guidelines on Active Inclusion, and National Action Plan follow up in EU2020 and Social OMC, with indicators and recommendations.
  - Ensure progress on ensuring adequacy of *minimum income* – move forward on proposal for a framework directive and on delivery on *quality work* Guidelines.
  - Guarantee right to *affordable quality services*, through EU Framework Directive
8. Follow up on OMC thematic years on child poverty and homelessness/housing exclusion.
  - Agree a Recommendation on Child Poverty which effectively combats family poverty.
  - Agreement to end street homelessness by 2015, building on the EP written declaration.
9. Putting the fight against discrimination at the centre of the EU year.
  - Progress on the adoption of the anti-discrimination directive for all Article 13 groups.
  - Mainstreaming equality/anti-discrimination in anti-poverty policy; with policies combating xenophobia and racism against migrants and ethnic minorities (e.g. Roma).

#### Getting EU funding right

10. Use EU funding to progress the fight against poverty and support NGOs
  - New EU Programme (Progress), including support for local anti-poverty projects.
  - Commitment to ensure Structural Funds can be accessed by NGOs, using technical assistance and global grants and used to deliver Social OMC priorities.