



Group of the Progressive Alliance of  
**Socialists & Democrats**  
in the European Parliament



# GOING BEYOND THE DATA

## THE REALITY OF POVERTY IN EUROPE

Wednesday 16 October 2019

13.00 – 15.00

European Parliament, Brussels

Room: ASP 3G3

[#BeyondTheData](#) [#EndPoverty](#)

Empowerment through  
Participation



# Background Information

## Introductions

This event is hosted by the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN), with Pierfrancesco Majorino, MEP (S&D Group) and Cindy Franssen, MEP (EPP Group). The other organizers are ATD Fourth World, the International Federation of Social Workers, and Emmaus Europe. This roundtable aims to help MEPs deconstruct myths and break stereotypes about (people experiencing) poverty, and to build their understandings of the realities of poverty going further than data and statistics.

This meeting comes in the context of a failure to achieve the poverty target of the Europe 2020 strategy, and thus the key need to maintain the fight against poverty as a political priority in the post-2020 strategy. Europe has an ambition to leave no one behind while doing what is necessary to make the transition to a more sustainable, carbon neutral economy. How will people experiencing poverty be protected during this transition? How will economic and social rights be guaranteed within a more social and sustainable development model?

The event will open with four case studies, bringing the voices of people experiencing poverty directly together with MEPs. The key questions that will be addressed are: What does poverty in Europe look like, and what are the key trends? What progress has been made on poverty levels in Europe in recent years? What role has the Parliament played in this? The European Parliament will respond in the form of interactive discussions.

## Practical Arrangements

The event will take place from 13.00 to 15.00 on Wednesday 16 October 2019 in the European Parliament (Room ASP 3G3).

Please register [here](#). If you don't have an EP badge, we will need details of your nationality, date of birth and identity card or passport number. Please come to the Place du Luxembourg entrance from 12.30, to be signed into the event if you haven't a badge.

**For more information**, please contact: Sian Jones ([sian.jones@eapn.eu](mailto:sian.jones@eapn.eu)), and for registrations: Rebecca Lee ([rebecca.lee@eapn.eu](mailto:rebecca.lee@eapn.eu)).



## Programme

- 13.00**                    **Welcome**  
Cindy Franssen, MEP (EPP Group)  
Richard Delplanque, Vice President of EAPN
- 13.15**                    **Going beyond the data - Stories from the ground**  
We know that 113 million people live at risk of poverty and social exclusion in Europe – but what are the stories behind this statistics? We will hear 4 case studies, bringing the voices of people with experience of poverty directly together with MEPs.  
**Speakers:**  
Anne Marie Decroock, ATD 4th World Belgium: Facing prejudices when living in poverty  
Jean-Philippe Legaut, Emmaus Romania: Mental Health issues  
John Brennan, International Federation for Social Workers: Social workers' perspective on tackling poverty  
Jürgen Schneider, EAPN Germany: Reality of Poverty in one of Europe's richest countries  
Cristina Avonto, fio.PSD President: "Housing First": an Italian best practice to reduce Homelessness
- 14.00**                    **The European dimension – past progress and current hopes**  
Sian Jones, EAPN Europe: What does poverty in Europe look like, what are the key trends? What progress has been made on poverty levels in Europe in recent years? What role has the Parliament played in this, and what do we want to see from our new political leaders?
- 14.15**                    **Discussion with MEPs and audience**
- 14.55**                    **Closing and next steps**  
Pierfrancesco Majorino, MEP (S&D Group)