

**European Year
for combating
Poverty and Social Exclusion
(2010)**

Background

At the start of the Lisbon strategy, the 2005-2010 Social Agenda put forward 2010 as the EY for combating poverty and social exclusion through:

- Reaffirming and strengthening EU political commitment to make a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty.
- Raising awareness of social exclusion and promoting active social inclusion.
- Producing a clear and added value to the OMC on Social Protection and Social Inclusion.

Key objectives & Guiding Principles:

- Recognition of rights
- Shared responsibility and participation
- Cohesion
- Commitment and concrete action

Priority Policy Areas

- Promoting multidimensional integrated anti-poverty strategies
- Fighting child poverty as well as poverty within families
- Promoting inclusive labour markets, addressing in-work poverty and the need to make work pay
- Eradicating disadvantages in education and training
- Tackling the gender and age dimensions of poverty
- Ensuring equal access to adequate resources and services
- Facilitating access to culture and leisure opportunities
- Overcoming discrimination and promoting the social inclusion of immigrants and ethnic minorities
- Promoting integrated approaches to active inclusion
- Addressing the needs of people with disabilities, the homeless and other groups or persons in vulnerable situations

Coordination at national level

- The appointment of a National Implementing Body (NIB) to organize and ensure coordination of EY at national level
- The NIB has a dual role:
 - To manage European Funding.
 - To run the EY at country level.

Tasks delegated to NIB:

- Preparing and launching calls for proposals/tenders
- Evaluating and selecting grant applications and offers
- Awarding grants and contracts
- Signing grant agreements and contracts
- Monitoring the implementation of contractual obligations
- Executing payments and issuing any recovery orders
- Reporting to the CION

The National Programme

- One of the functions of the NIB will be to draw a National Programme which will apply objectives of EY to the social inclusion reality and needs of the Member State.

- The National Programme shall also:
 - Ensure consistency with national strategies for social protection and social inclusion.
 - Mobilise political attention and encourage broad participation.
 - Mainstream the fight against poverty within other policies.

Coordination at EU level

The CION will:

- Act as a catalyst to encourage involvement and political commitment from EU and MS.
- Facilitate stakeholders participation.
- Manage an information and media campaign.
- Provide the NIB with technical assistance and advice.
- Monitor preparation and the implementation of the 2010 EY.
- Run an ongoing evaluation exercise.

Funding and non-financial support

Funding

- A total of €17 million has been allocated.
- MS share has been calculated on the basis of its voting rights in Council and adjusted to guarantee a minimum support of €120 000, a capping which Malta shall benefit from.
- EU funding will cover a maximum of 50% of the total eligible costs. National co-funding should match EU funding by at least 50% and may come from either public or private sources.

Non-financial support

- Activities which do not receive any funding may be permitted and encouraged to use EY logo if they fully meet the objectives of the EY.

Roadmap for Implementation

October-December 2008

October 2008:

- Consultation on Strategic Framework Document with MS and relevant EU level stakeholders

November/December 2008:

Member States:

- Process to appoint the NIB
- Prepare nomination of MS representative to the Consultative Committee
- Identification of national stakeholders

Commission:

- Preparation of terms of reference for the EU information & media campaign and evaluation

Roadmap for Implementation

January- April 2009

January/February 2009:

Member States:

- Appointment of the NIB
- Appointment of the members of the Consultative Committee
- NIB to identify priorities and consult stakeholders on draft NPs

Commission:

- Acknowledgment of the NIB

March/April 2009:

Member States:

- Preparation of the NP in partnership with stakeholders

Commission:

- 1st meeting of EU stakeholders followed by the 1st meeting of the Consultative Committee
- Award of contract for EU-level media campaign and evaluation
- Preparation of the conference on "Social exclusion and the media"
- Preparation of the Financing Decision 2010

Roadmap for Implementation

May- September 2009

May/June 2009:

Member States:

- Send NP to CION
- Preparation of calls for proposals for activities

Commission:

- Approval or request for amendments to the NP (end June)
- Support to the NIB
- Contractor will prepare national campaigns and relations with the media

July/September 2009:

Member States:

- Preparation of the national media campaign

Commission:

- Adoption of the Financing Decision 2010
- Preparation Opening Conference

Roadmap for Implementation October-December 2009

October/November 2009:

Member States:

- Selection of projects for the EY 2010
- Preparation of the NIB proposal for EU co-funding

Commission:

- Conference on "Social exclusion and the media"
- 2nd meeting of the EU stakeholders and 2nd meeting of the Consultative Committee

December 2009:

Member States:

- Presentation of national application to the CION

Commission:

- Starting assessment of NIB proposal for EU co-funding
- Final preparation opening conference

Roadmap for Implementation

January- April 2010

January/February 2010:

Member States:

- Participation in the EU opening Conference in Spain
- Opening events in each country

Commission:

- Opening conference (Spanish Presidency)
- Finalise assessment of NIB proposal for EU co-funding
- Financial commitments
- Signature of the delegation agreements with the NIB

March/April 2010:

Member States:

- Start of the activities of the EY 2010

Commission:

- 3rd meeting of EU stakeholders and of the Consultative Committee

Roadmap for Implementation

November- 2011

November/December 2010:

Member States:

- Closing Conference (Belgian Presidency)
- 4th meeting of EU stakeholders and of the Consultative Committee

2011:

- Evaluation of 2010 EY and final report by each MS
- Final payments for 2010 EY (March 2011)
- MS and CION: continue to build on the momentum created by the 2010 EY to transform social inclusion into concrete actions
- 5th meeting of the EU stakeholders and of the Consultative Committee
- Final overall report on the EY

Malta's National Programme

Structure

- The administrative structure in place
- Activities of the 2010 EY
- The national context and challenges to be met
- National priorities for the 2010 EY and how they meet the four key objectives
- Communication strategy
- **Consultation of civil society and stakeholders**
- The main arrangements for implementation
- Indicative budget
- Monitoring and evaluation of activities of the EY

Major Challenges

- Tackling school absenteeism, learning difficulties and illiteracy and pursuing commitment to reduce early school leaving and educational underachievement
- Increasing overall employment rate, particularly through inclusion of older workers, women and vulnerable groups within the labour market , and making work pay
- Promoting gender availability of adequate and affordable housing;
- Combating intergenerational transmission of poverty and social exclusion
- Addressing social aspects of migration and promoting equality and diversity
- Reforming social protection system to ensure its sustainability, adequacy and comprehensiveness

Priority objectives: NAP/Inclusion 2008-2010

- **Promoting the social inclusion prospects of children and young persons** through measures that target the intergenerational transmission of poverty and advance children and young persons' personal development, well-being, rights, interests and responsibilities
- **Promoting active inclusion** by endorsing a pro-active social inclusion strategy which goes beyond a social protectionist vision so as to ensure that provision of services facilitates participation and inclusion and leads citizens towards greater self-actualisation, and empowerment through; i) adequate income support, ii) access to inclusive labour market and iii) access to quality social services
- **Promoting equality of opportunities** so as to ensure full social participation regardless of age, disability, gender, race, belief and sexual orientation, by (i) combating discrimination, (ii) promoting the integration of third country nationals and (iii) mainstreaming social inclusion and anti-discrimination issues.

Administrative structure

- **National Implementing Body (NIB)** within Ministry for Social Policy (Strategic and Sustainability Division) to:
 - define, implement, monitor and evaluate NP.
 - create partnerships with civil society players.
- **The National Steering Committee**
- The National Implementing Body will entrust the national public service provider in the area of social welfare to facilitate the implementation of the European Year with relevant stakeholders and other interested parties.

Legislative frameworks

- Maltese law aims to protect against poverty and social exclusion through a variety of legislative frameworks which aim to provide for:

well-being, income support, employment protection, anti-discrimination and equal opportunities and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Activities of the European Year

- Malta's activities will be undertaken under the four main objectives of the EY and will endorse a varied multiplicity of activities including:

awareness raising campaigns, research studies, forums and conferences, exhibitions, organization of competitions in the cultural, artistic and journalistic field and events highlighting innovative initiatives and good practices

ACTIVITIES cont/..

Our aim is to promote further collaboration between the government and civil society.

This collaboration should also help to mainstream poverty issues across other policy domains by complementing and feeding into already established activities.

Recognition of Rights

- **A National Awareness Campaign** highlighting risk factors of poverty and to counteract negative perceptions of people experiencing poverty and exclusion.
- **The promotion of people's life success stories** highlighting how they combated poverty and social exclusion and its intergenerational transmission through active inclusion initiatives and greater equality of opportunities.
- **Commemoration of the International Women's Day on 8th March, 2010** through an activity focusing on the Feminization of Poverty.
- **Commemoration of the International Day against Homophobia on 17th May, 2010** through an activity focusing on combating discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.
- **Commemoration of the International Children's Day on 1st June, 2010** through an activity focusing on the intergenerational transmission of poverty and social exclusion.

Recognition of Rights

- **Commemoration of World Refugee Day on 20th June, 2010** through an activity focusing on the integration of asylum seekers.
- **Commemoration of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 26th June, 2010** through an activity focusing on the negative effects of substance abuse on social cohesion.
- **Commemoration of the International Day for the Elderly on 1st October, 2010** through an activity focusing on active ageing.
- **Commemoration of World Mental Health Day on 10th October, 2010** through an activity focusing on the rights of mental health patients.
- **Commemoration of the International Day of Disabled Persons on 3rd December, 2010** through an activity focusing on the United Nations Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Shared responsibility and participation

- **A National awareness campaign** highlighting good practices in the area of social inclusion, encouraging active participation in all spheres of social life, and the promotion of co-operatives and social economy initiatives.
- **Commemoration of Workers' Day on the 1st May, 2010** through an activity which promotes inclusive labor markets and other active inclusion measures for combating poverty and exclusion.
- **Commemoration of World Fair Trade Day on the 2nd Saturday of May, 2010** through an activity which recognizes and reaffirms the relevance of fair trade for combating poverty and exploitation.
- **Commemoration of the International Day of Cooperatives on the 1st Saturday of July, 2010** through an activity which recognizes and reaffirms the relevance of cooperatives for economic, social and cultural development.
- **Promotion of corporate social responsibility** through distribution of a leaflets amongst business enterprises on the relevance of corporate social responsibility
- **Promotion of civic education** amongst school children

Cohesion:

- **A National awareness campaign** with particular focus on highlighting the benefits arising from more cohesive societies and to help boost visibility of EU and national programmes and schemes for promoting social cohesion, sustainable development and solidarity between generations
- **An Artistic Exhibition and Competition**
- **A Journalistic Competition**
- **A Photographic Exhibition**
- **A Poetry Recital and Musical Event** to mobilize artists in the fight against poverty and social exclusion and raise greater awareness on the issue with the general public.

Commitment and Concrete Action:

- **The commemoration of the International Day against Poverty on 17th October, 2010** with the intention of renewing Malta's commitment to combat poverty and social exclusion on a national and international level.
- **The commission of a research study** on local aspects of poverty and social exclusion to inform evidence-based policy making in the area of social protection and social inclusion.

Questions to facilitate discussion

- In your views, which are the priority areas which deserve the most attention, given the limited time-frame and budget?
- In your opinion, what type of activities are considered most relevant to manifest the objectives of the European Year 2010?