

Members Update 10



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New Year – New Horizons

Europe in 2016

To say 2016 was a challenge for the European Union could be construed as an understatement. It was a year of slow and differential economic growth, year in which the Greek debt crisis rumbled on, which saw persistently high unemployment in many EU countries and a growing gap between the rich and the poor.

We saw the rise of populist political parties, at least some of which harbour anti-EU or 'euroskeptic' sentiments. The most visible expression of this was 'brexit', the June United Kingdom referendum on EU membership which saw the people of the UK vote to leave. Other countries have elections coming up which could see a strengthening of the anti-EU movement. At best this leaves uncertainty while the UK exit is negotiated and at worse a few forecasters see the ultimate breakup of the EU.

If that wasn't enough, more than 1.8 million people entered the EU illegally between January and October 2015, with some 980,000 applying for asylum. These numbers include refugees from conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan and economic migrants from the Balkans, the Middle East and Africa. The concentration of large-scale immigration through the Eastern Mediterranean and Western Balkans and into a concentrated number of destinations (principally Germany, Hungary, Italy and Sweden) has thrown into sharp relief the inadequacy of the EU's Schengen Agreement, fuelled nationalist sentiment and strengthened nationalist parties across the EU.

Also of concern across the EU is a resurgent Russia with the number of incursions of Russian military assets into EU airspace and EU waters trebling and the heightened terrorism threat, 8 incidents having occurred in 2016 in Belgium, France and Germany. This is at a time when the new US President's commitment to NATO is in doubt.

Community Development

Community development across Europe has not enjoyed a particularly good year. On past experience

in times of slow economic growth or in economic recession the investment in community development suffers and 2016 was no exception. EuCDN members have reported difficulties in securing funds themselves, with more local CD organisations having similar difficulties and in some cases, dissolving. In other countries the state is exerting more control over the agenda for CD, directing groups away from activities which challenge to providing services which compliment or replace state services.

EuCDN

Last year, in our 25th year, we spent some time reflecting and sharing our thoughts on 2016 and looking forward to 2017. Our agenda for the coming year will address some of the key issues and challenges facing community development across Europe, producing a clear statement on community development focusing on social justice / environmental justice, empowering people and extending and developing democracy, community development which is rights based and helps to re-build communities.

We intend to build stronger alliances with other networks and organisations with similar values and aspirations, strengthening the membership, evidencing the role and value of community development in a strong Europe.

To kick start this we have a Mission Statement in draft, the statement of community development in draft. We have a members' declaration and are preparing some material to widen our membership. Watch the website and facebook page for more details coming soon;

Website <http://eucdn.net/>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CDinEurope/?fref=ts>

Sustainable Development

The European Commission has released its communication on the next steps for a sustainable European future. The aim is to present how the European Union will contribute to the UN 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. While we would not dispute the contention;

“a life of dignity for all within the planet’s limits that reconciles economic prosperity and efficiency, peaceful societies, social inclusion and environmental responsibility is at the essence of sustainable development”



Strasbourg, 22.11.2016
COM(2016) 739 final

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

Next steps for a sustainable European future

European action for sustainability

{SWD(2016) 390 final}

the link between this and the Commission's approach the steps to deliver this seem limited. The EU position is that current EU priorities until 2020 address all seventeen Goals, and it looks like there will be no overarching EU Sustainable Development Strategy. This leaves much to be desired if we, across Europe are going to make a significant contribution to saving our planet!

SDG Watch Europe of whom EuCDN is a member, is also critical that despite the recognition in the communication that partnership with civil society should guide the whole process our input has not received the consideration it deserved. The European Commission did not live up to the Agenda 2030 commitment to work in an open, participatory and inclusive way with stakeholders, even though civil society organisations were willing and able to provide their support. The press release from SDG Watch Europe states;

“The EU must play its part in promoting an alternative model of development in which people, social justice, environmental and health protection, democracy and transparency take centre stage. Unfortunately the disappointing content of today’s Communication, and the lack of any new or concrete details about an EU-wide implementation plan, suggests that the EU is not able, or willing to realise the transformative vision of the Sustainable Development Goals”. The European Commission’s communication goes on; *“To preserve the future, the right policy choices have to be made today”.* However, have we to wait until 2020 to profoundly change its priorities.

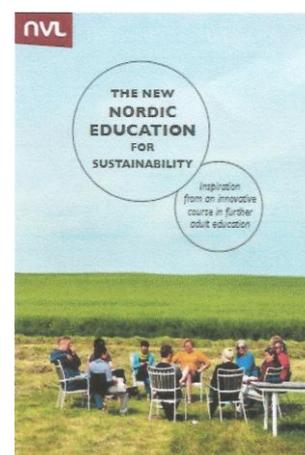
You can read the communication here; https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/communication-next-steps-sustainable-europe-20161122_en.pdf

Also the SDG Watch Europe press release is here; <http://us5.campaign-archive2.com/?u=e0ba59dcb487a8983ceda27d9&id=a5ccbc9d6e&e=1732fa060c>

SDG Watch Europe have also undertaken a survey of members which EuCDN has responded to, on the new EU budget cycle. There is a real opportunity to make the new EU budget cycle become a key driver of sustainable development in all its four key dimensions - the social, environmental, economic and governance dimensions. The aim is to explore how the new EU budget cycle post 2020 can promote sustainable development more effectively than the current one.

NVL Nordu

At the EuCDN / IACD / CDAS conference Kirsten Paaby explained to delegates the how, why and what of the Nordic education for sustainability model. We are really pleased to say that the experiences, good practice, methods and evaluation has been written up in a very accessible booklet. It is based on the course run in 2014 – 2016. The model leans on the Nordic tradition of civic formation or ‘folkeopplysning’ geared towards action competence. The aim is to build bridges between formal education institutions, local administrations, and civil society organisations assisting both formal and informal learning arenas to learn from inspiring local examples. You can access it here: https://issuu.com/nvlNordvux/docs/nordic_education_for_sustainability



2017 – The Year of Adult Education in Europe

In 2017 the European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA) and its members celebrate the Year of Adult Education in Europe. The campaign initiated by EAEA brings together adult education activities around Europe and celebrates the power and joy of learning. ‘Europe faces a lot of challenges, to which adult education can contribute much. From sustainability to social inclusion to active citizenship – adult education can be the key to solving many of the challenges. We have a lot of positive solutions that adult education brings to people, communities, countries, economies and societies in



Europe. Adult education empowers and contributes to the wellbeing of people, hence we want to underline the power and joy of learning. This is a great opportunity for every adult education organisation or institute in Europe to showcase what they do and how they contribute to their communities. They can use the opportunity to discuss – either internally or with policy-makers and stakeholders how important adult

education is,' said EAEA Secretary-General, Gina Ebner.

As EAEA dedicates the year 2017 to the celebration of adult education and the work of its members, it brings together European adult education organisations to demonstrate how adult learning can improve citizens' lives and prospects in Europe, both on a personal and on a professional level.

The campaign collects events organised by adult education organisations across Europe. The events are published on the campaign's dedicated website that is now open. The participating organisations will be invited to share their key messages and best practices that will be presented to policy-makers around Europe at the end of the year. EAEA are inviting adult education organisations around Europe to join.

The website is: <https://adulthoodeducation2017.eu/>

Caritas Europe a network of humanitarian organisations, is attracting much interest from European legislators in its approach to integration of migrants. The approach is based on empowering migrants and the receiving communities is the best way to achieve sustainable and successful integration. It is also seen as the best way to reverse the current negative attitude towards migrants and to prevent xenophobia.

Some examples of this are set out in the leaflet 'Migrants make Europe Stronger' (www.caritas.eu/sites/default/files/welcome_leaflet_web.pdf)

This follows the earlier report 'Migrants and Refugees have Rights' which set out the background and context to the refugee crisis in Europe, looked at European law, policy and practice and suggested a way forward.

European Trade Union Institute (ETUI)

The ETUI has launched a new service;



It provides information on all EU Member States on the industrial relations system in each country (key facts, players and institutions), information on the latest developments in labour market and pension reform, as well as data and legislative information on the right to strike and strike activities. It also has links to all major research publications (from the ETUI and other research institutes) as well as graphs and statistics regarding developments in these three main subject areas.

See <http://www.etui.org/Reforms-Watch>

European Community Development Database

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6	post_title	text	utf8_general_ci		No	None
7	post_excerpt	text	utf8_general_ci		No	None
8	post_status	varchar(20)	utf8_general_ci		No	publish
9	comment_status	varchar(20)	utf8_general_ci		No	open
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11	post_password	varchar(20)	utf8_general_ci		No	
12	post_name	varchar(200)	utf8_general_ci		No	
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14	pinged	text	utf8_general_ci		No	None

With the current situation of community development across Europe we feel it is important to be able to reflect to policy makers, other agencies with an interest in community development, potential investors and funders and to be able to make better trans-national links that we produce a data base of community development organisations and organisations adopting a community development approach.

To this end we have started compiling a database. It will hold details of the name of each organisation, a contact, address, telephone contact number, email address, website and a few sentences on the organisation's main areas of work. If you would like to be included then just send those details to;

EuCDN Co-ordinator: alexander.downie@btinternet.com

News from Around the Networks

European Anti Poverty Network. EAPN has analysed the 2017 Annual Growth Survey and Joint Employment Report. EAPN welcomed the support given to promote 'social fairness' as a means to deliver more 'inclusive growth' and achieving an economic recovery that benefits all, notably the weaker parts of our societies, and strengthens fairness and social dimension. The lack of any explicit mention of the European Pillar of Social Rights and the repetition of almost the same three priorities as in 2014 and 2015:

1. Boosting investment
2. Pursuing structural reforms
3. Ensuring responsible fiscal policies
Still raises serious concerns about whether this marks a real change in the EU's overall economic approach, or if it will just be business as usual. There is no explicit social priority. EAPN argues 5 signs must be given:
 1. Prioritise Inclusive Growth by rebalancing economic and social objectives
 2. Increase social investment in quality jobs, public services and social protection
 3. Mainstream the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights explicitly through the European Semester
 4. Develop an integrated EU poverty strategy to deliver on the Europe 2020 poverty target
 5. Make civil society equal partners at national and EU level

More info: <http://www.eapn.eu/delivering-on-the-promises-of-a-better-social-europe-eapns-analysis-of-the-2017-annual-growth-survey-joint-employment-report/>

European Disability Forum: The EDF have written to members of the European Parliament in an open letter expressing their concern over the European Accessibility Act. They, AGE Platform Europe and ANEC are deeply concerned about the draft report of the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMOC Committee) of the European Parliament on the European Accessibility Act (2015/0278(COD)) published on 6 January 2017. The report is watering down the European Commission's proposal and they believe it threatens to lead to an unambitious position of the European Parliament which will not represent the interests of EU consumers, nor promote their rights effectively, including 80 million persons with disabilities and 190 million citizens aged 50 and older. For this reason the joint letter was sent to draw their attention to several key elements of the report which threaten to adversely affect the scope, the accessibility requirements, the linkages to other Union acts, the definitions, and the mechanisms persons with disabilities can use to complain.

You can read the letter here: <http://www.edf-feph.org/newsroom/news/open-letter-members-european-parliament-concerning-european-accessibility-act>

European Network Against Racism. ENAR has been reflecting on the successes of 2016 and looking to the future. 2016 of course saw the world shaken by many forms of violence. Many have fallen victim to terrorist attacks, an increase in hate crime, harassment against minorities (in particular women), not to mention discrimination. It is in this context that ENAR operates. Six highlights of that work are featured in the latest news story;

1. The European Parliament's policy and legislative working better reflected the concerns of ethnic and religious minorities
2. Stricter European Parliament rules on hate speech
3. Discrimination against Muslim women in the spotlight
4. First pan-European report on Afrophobia launched
5. Improved ENAR advocacy profile and high-level advocacy
6. Increased cross-group mobilisation

Among the topics and issues ENAR will be working on in 2017 are;

- The collection of safe and inclusive data to measure discrimination
- Hate crime and hate speech
- Migration refugees and asylum seekers
- Employment discrimination
- Security and policing
- Afrophobia, Islamophobia and Antisemitism
- Mobilising communities towards positive change

Read the full story here: <http://www.enar-eu.org/>

European Social Network. 2016 has been a busy year for ESN. A number of publications were produced across a variety of topics, which aim to provide a European perspective of the situation for, and challenges facing public social services, in addition to providing guidance on best practice.

- Investing in Children's Services, Improving Outcomes
- Evidence-based social services: Toolkit for planning and evaluating social services
- Integrated social services in Europe for the European Semester 2017
- Connecting Europe with local communities: social services priorities for the European Semester 2017

They can all be accessed here: <http://www.esn-eu.org/news/894/index.html>

European Youth Forum. In 2017, it will be 25 years since the signing of the Maastricht Treaty: the birth certificate of the European Union and the euro. The 25th anniversary of the Maastricht Treaty marks a history of optimism and the seizure of opportunities, but also solidarity under the pressure of financial and economic problems and the debate about Europe's openness. It also demonstrates that Europe requires permanent maintenance. Maastricht is the number one location to commemorate the signing of the Maastricht Treaty and more than 3,000 young people from all over Europe gathered in Maastricht, for the YO!Fest 2017. For one day, young people have the opportunity to reinvent and rethink the models we live in. This year, the YO!Fest is built around 6 core themes: Rights, Peace, Participation, Sustainability, Inclusion and Health. Ideas raised throughout the day will be discussed in a giant plenary bringing together more than 1500 young people and some high level speakers such as MEPs Marietje Schaake, Brando Benifei, Svetoslav Malinov, and Alaa Murabit, global Sustainable Development Goals advocate.

Snippets

The European Pillar of Social Rights. The Final Report was voted on in mid January and broadly welcomed by the European Social Platform, highlighting:

- the call for the introduction of legislative measures to ensure fair working conditions for all forms of employment

European Commission, Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion.

The number of social enterprises in Europe is increasing and they are engaging in new fields. Many countries are introducing new legislation as well as new support schemes to boost the development of social enterprises. The reasons and constraints include;

Reasons	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• increasing demand for general interest services• the tendency towards use of competitive tendering by local authorities• the possibilities offered in new fields of engagement• increasing demand for more ethical business	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• lack of business and management skills,• need for better understanding of finance markets,• insufficient availability of patient capital,• too narrow legal frameworks and incoherence in policies and concepts

New country reports

(<http://ec.europa.eu/social/keyDocuments.jsp?advSearchKey=socenteco&mode=advancedSubmit&language=en&search.x=0&search.y=0>) provide a comprehensive picture of social enterprises and their ecosystems in France, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Ireland, Slovakia and Poland, based on a common. The SPC website is kept up to date, so you can always check up on the most recent information.

Publications

Nobody left behind:| Ensuring access for all to affordable, quality housing & public health services. A new booklet published by the European Anti Poverty Network looking at the declining access to affordable, quality public services for ordinary people. This is in the context of increasing privatization and liberalization. The booklet;

- Maps the reality of access to housing and health services (or exclusion from them), and analyses the impact on people experiencing poverty and social exclusion.
- Draws on national realities and members' experiences to provide national examples and highlight new developments, as an example of ensuring access to key Services of General interest.
- Proposes key messages and recommendations to national and EU policy makers in the context of current EU policy developments.

Download: <http://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/EAPN-2016-12-EAPN-Access-to-Housing-and-Health-Services-963.pdf>

Services for Work and Social Inclusion of long-term unemployed persons Good practice from Eurodiaconia members. The publication of a number of case studies drawn from members' experience. Key lessons from the case studies include;

- The need for an individualised, person-centred approach that ensures that the interventions offered match the needs of each user.
- The result should be a comprehensive set of services that take a holistic approach to longterm employment
- Many users of services for the long term unemployed face additional difficulties to become integrated into labour markets

Download:

<https://www.eurodiaconia.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Pub-2017-Long-Term-unemployment.pdf>

Social Protection Committee Annual Report 2016. The report outlines the Social Protection Committee monitor of the social situation in the EU and the developments in social protection policies in the Member States. It analyses the progress towards the Europe 2020 target on reducing poverty and social exclusion together with the latest social trends to watch. The most recent social policy developments in Europe are also reported on as well as the key structural social challenges currently faced by each Member State.

Download:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=738&langId=en&pubId=7936&visible=0&preview=cHJldkVtcGxQb3J0YWwhMjAxMjAyMTVwcmV2aWV3>

Life Long Learning Week 2016 Report. The Lifelong Learning Week 2016 invited participants to discuss key challenges for educational policies, namely the impact of the economic and social crisis, migration flows, the emergence of populist movements or terrorist attacks. The LLL Week was organised around three main strands: Learning to live together, 21st Century Skills and Flexible learning pathways.

Learning to live together - A series of worrying phenomena in Europe in the recent past clearly indicate that Europe is facing serious challenges in managing diversity. Only an equitable society of engaged citizens can be resilient to such threats. The transformative power of education has a major role to play in building inclusive learning societies and in fostering civic and social participation, as it is a preferred vehicle for creating awareness, knowledge and understanding of (European) common values.

Flexible learning pathways. In more and more complex societies, individuals go through several transitions in their lives. The challenge is that not everyone has the capacity and means to build their learning pathway in a way that will support their professional and personal development. Opening educational institutions to non-formal and informal learning, for instance, is a way forward (e.g. validation mechanisms). It is about developing an offer that is adapted to the needs of learners while being accessible to those who would benefit the most from it.

21st Century Skills - What do people need to learn in order to become active citizens, to be socially included and have access to a good job? More and more emphasis is being put on the need for learners to acquire a set of "life skills" in order to be fulfilled citizens. Social, civic and intercultural competences are particularly relevant for learning how to live together and further consolidating social cohesion. These competences are also strongly valued by employers on the labour market. Their acquisition and assessment, thanks to the reinforced use of active pedagogies, is a milestone in building inclusive and efficient learning systems.

Download: http://www.youthforum.org/assets/2017/01/lllweek2016_report.pdf

Energy Poverty Handbook. Over the last decade, Energy or Fuel Poverty has become a growing priority as energy poverty increases systematically across the EU. The causes seem obvious: rising energy prices, shrinking income and poor housing. But does the evidence support these developments? What role has EU and national policy played, particularly with the liberalization and privatisation of services? What are the consequences for people who experience energy poverty daily and the NGOs that support them? What can be done? This report with the following contributions seeks to answer some of these questions.

- Social causes and consequences of energy poverty
- Health impacts of cold housing and energy poverty
- Energy performance of the housing stock
- Understanding the core-periphery divide in the geographies of European energy poverty
- Definitions and indicators of energy poverty across the EU
- Member State level regulation related to energy poverty and vulnerable consumers
- Warm homes for all - Tools to tackle the energy poverty challenge
- How to tackle energy poverty – Good practices at a local level

Download: <https://www.socialeurope.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/energypovertyhandbook-online.pdf>

www.eucdn.co.uk / <https://www.facebook.com/CDinEurope/?ref=profile>

Any news, new resources, tools, case studies, stories you want to share, let us have them.