

European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland



Press Release on Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020-2025

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European Anti-poverty Network Ireland welcomes the publication of the new Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020-2025, however questions the failure to benchmark social welfare rates to adequacy.

The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) Ireland welcomes the publication of the New Roadmap for Social Inclusion however states that the failure to establish a target for benchmarking social welfare rates is at odds with the need for a multifaceted approach to addressing the crisis of poverty in Ireland.

EAPN Ireland acknowledges the significance of the publication of the strategy, which was originally due in 2017. As of 2018, 280,000 people are living in consistent poverty in Ireland with 14.0% of the population, or over 690,000 people, living below the poverty line (at risk-of poverty) of €13,723 per annum. EAPN Ireland has highlighted that specific groups within Irish society, such as people from migrant backgrounds, Travellers, single person households, are more likely to experience consistent poverty than others.

Paul Ginnell Director of EAPN Ireland states: *“Poverty in Ireland is an ongoing crisis, we welcome the aim within the strategy to reduce consistent poverty to 2% or less by 2025, however a firm commitment to and adequate investment in the delivery of the strategy must be a key priority for the Government post-election”.*

He goes on to say *“It is positive that the strategy adopts an interdepartmental approach to implementation however it is very disappointing that the opportunity to benchmark social welfare to adequacy, that is a Minimum Essential Standard of Living, has been completely overlooked. Income adequacy, alongside access to decent jobs, and investment in essential public services, is a fundamental part of an integrated approach to poverty reduction. “*

Mr Ginnell continued, *“Ireland has signed up to a range of anti-poverty commitments including the European Pillar of Social Right and the Sustainable Development Goals. The challenge for the Government moving forward will be delivery of the Roadmap for Social Inclusion as a means of honouring Irelands pre-existing commitments to ending poverty, and ensuring the full implementation of the targets and aims within the strategy up to 2025.”*

Ends

Notes:

Read Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020-2025 [here](#).