

Dear Colleague

The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) (www.eapn.eu) is a network of networks across Europe which lobbies the EU on combating poverty and also campaigns, for example on adequate income. We have a project funded by the European Parliament in which we are aiming to develop a “roadmap” for adequate income principles and standards across the EU. The project is built on our nascent EMIN network (European Minimum Income Network), resulting from our previous work (for example see <http://www.eapn.eu/en/news-and-publications/publications/eapn-books/adequacy-of-minimum-income-in-the-eu>).

As part of a second wave of countries, EAPN in the UK is providing a report on adequate minimum income in the UK context (draft by late May) and will hold a small conference with interested stakeholders in September. In developing this report we wish to include the views of academics, NGOs, politicians and media as well as people with experience of poverty. The UK has a wealth of academic, campaigning and political history on this topic and we feel that we can make a strong contribution to the final European report to the European Parliament, which will be delivered in December 2014. You can follow the European Minimum Income Network (EMIN) on <http://emin-eu.net>. This blog has easy access to useful related documents, facts and figures. The hashtag for EMIN tweets is [#eminetwork](https://twitter.com/eminetwork).

As part of getting a perspective on UK opinion and debate, we are asking for your views on adequate minimum income and minimum income standards. Rather than a long list of detailed questions, there are ten topic areas and we are happy for you to make comments on any or all of the topics according to your experience and interests. We would appreciate a written response before April 14 and have attached a link to <https://www.survey.leeds.ac.uk/emin>. We have also attached the topics to the end of this letter, in case you prefer to send us your response by return of email. We have limited capacity to conduct telephone interviews, but please let us know if this is more convenient than providing written comments.

The report will fairly reflect your views, but EAPN is not neutral on this topic. Our eventual aim is to get an EU Directive on adequate income principles and standards and a Social Pact with binding social standards.

Thank you very much, Dr Katherine Duffy and Professor Denis Anthony, on behalf of EAPN. You can contact Katherine at k.b.duffy@talktalk.net and Denis at d.anthony@leeds.ac.uk

Adequate Minimum income in the UK

Please comment on the topics below by the 14 April. We are pleased to receive comments even if you do not respond to each of the 10 topic areas.

1. Panorama – most important developments in the UK regarding poverty, minimum income(s); income adequacy, fiscal consolidation, public debate
2. UK social welfare system; role of minimum income(s); links to poverty
3. Issues around current and proposed mechanisms and standards for setting, uprating and implementing minimum income(s)
4. Concept and definition of adequate income

5. Approaches to establishing Minimum Income Standards (MIS); pros and cons of budget standards approaches; barriers and bridges to official use in MI rate setting
6. Pros and cons of the 60% median income threshold in relation to poverty and MIS
7. Evaluation of coherence of “active inclusion” strategy in the UK (i.e., integration of adequate income, quality services and access to quality jobs)
8. Ideas on principles, standards, implementation, monitoring and reporting – and funding – for a better approach to adequate minimum income in UK (and EU)
9. Any initiatives on (adequate) minimum income in which you are involved or know about?
10. Alliance-building in UK on adequate income: which actors and tools?
11. Other comments?

It is optional, but we would be pleased to have your contact details for EMIN follow up and conference invitation. We will not identify your comments by name in our report without your explicit agreement

1. Your name
2. Your contact details
3. Your experience or organisation

Thank you very much. You can contact me directly at k.b.duffy@talktalk.net