



# efc briefing

## social affairs

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### Share your views and experience on how to address poverty and social exclusion!

#### Outline

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In the context of the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, the European Commission invites EFC members and interest groups to share their views and experience regarding the links between poverty and exclusion and a number of thematic issues. These are **people with disabilities, homeless people, poverty across generations (children, youth and elderly), inclusive labour markets, social protection systems and access to services, including health protection, access to education and culture, attitudes towards poverty and social exclusion, and building a fairer society.**

The communication activities of each period of the 2010 European Year will be devoted to one of the abovementioned thematic issues with the aim of giving it higher relevance and raising awareness of EU and civil society action in the field. For each of them an information release will be drafted and interesting resources and material (videos, publications, press releases...) will be gathered. This information will be used for a number of media activities at EU and national level (dissemination of background materials, articles, audio-visual materials...) and for giving higher visibility to the thematic issue on the official campaign website [www.2010againstopoverty.eu](http://www.2010againstopoverty.eu).

The European Year 'thematic milestones' can offer an excellent opportunity for EFC members and interest groups to share their views on the specific issues covered and promote their action in these fields. They can contribute by providing:

- **Ideas for the information release to be drafted on each of the topics** (if there is any particular idea you want to see reflected in the paper in relation to the topic, information, etc.) that could be taken into consideration when drafting the article.
- **Resources and materials** (position papers, publications, videos, press releases, examples of projects...) or **possible contacts for journalists**...

You will find below information on the **upcoming "thematic milestones" and the deadlines for providing information**. EFC members and interest groups interested in contributing are invited to send their information before the deadlines indicated to the EFC secretariat at [mhernandez@efc.be](mailto:mhernandez@efc.be):

- Groups at risk (March-June):
  - people with disabilities (31/03)
  - homeless people (05/05)
  - poverty across generations (children, youth and elderly) (01/06)
- Solutions (July-October):
  - inclusive labour markets (30/06)
  - social protection systems and access to services, including access to health protection (03/08)
  - access to education and culture (31/08)
- Challenges and commitments (November-December):
  - attitudes towards poverty and social exclusion (deadline to provide information to be confirmed)
  - building a fairer society (deadline to provide information to be confirmed)

## Other European Year activities and opportunities to get involved

The thematic milestones are only one of the activities to be undertaken in the context of the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. European Commission representatives provided an update on the ongoing and upcoming initiatives at the latest meeting of the EU Stakeholders Expert Group on the European Year, in which EFC secretariat takes part, on 22 February 2010. Particular attention was given to the activities for which they would like to count on the input and cooperation of EU stakeholders group' organisations and their members. Some of these activities have already been launched; others will start in the coming months. Below are some elements that could be of interest for EFC members:

- The **official opening** of the Year took place in Madrid on 21 January 2010, see [EFC Briefing](#)<sup>1</sup>. National opening events have also been held in most countries during first months of the Year.
- Most **National Implementing Bodies (NIB)** have launched the calls for proposal for projects to be co-funded at national level (only two will not do it). [Look for the NIB in your country](#)<sup>2</sup>
- The **official website of the Year** ([www.2010againstopoverty.eu](http://www.2010againstopoverty.eu)) is now fully operational and available in all 23 languages. It offers information on the latest developments regarding the Year as well as on opportunities to get involved. There is also the possibility to join the groups in [social networks](#)<sup>3</sup> created for the European Year.
- Other **communication tools** developed include posters, promotional leaflets, audiovisual materials, etc. Stakeholders are invited to use these materials in their activities related to the Year. There is also the possibility to **use the European Year logo** for a wide span of activities at European or national level, whether seminars, round tables, awareness-raising actions, exhibitions, training sessions, studies, conferences, networking events, publications... related to the European Year and its objectives. If these activities have a European dimension, they can be featured in the **European Year online calendar** at <http://www.2010againstopoverty.eu/calendarofevents/?langid=en>

A number of **events** are being organised both by European Commission and EU stakeholders. In particular, the Commission is seeking input for the two **Focus Weeks** to be organised in May (24-30) and October (18-21) with the aim of creating a momentum and increased overall awareness by concentrating a number of activities over a limited period of time, with a strong focus on partnership and participation. As part of the May initiative, a "broadcasting initiative" will be developed with the aim to invite audiovisual media to develop specific activity on poverty during the first focus weeks. An appeal to broadcasters will be disseminated in the near future. Stakeholders' input is also welcome for the **"Europe and Solidarity Day in Riga"**. Finally the European Year closing conference will take place in December in Brussels. Further information on how to contribute to the Focus Weeks as well as to the "Europe and Solidarity Day" in Riga will be soon available.

Information on events organised by stakeholders are available in the European Year website calendar <http://www.2010againstopoverty.eu/calendarofevents/?langid=en>

- A **Journalist competition** and an **art initiative** will be launched in the coming months. Information on the initiatives will be provided to EFC members as soon as it is available.

EFC secretariat will maintain EFC members and interest groups informed about the latest developments regarding each of the initiatives and how to get involved.

## Tell us about your interest and activities in relation to the European Year

The EFC is working with EFC members and interest groups to identify opportunities to give visibility and promote EFC members and foundations' work in the context of the activities that will be organised at EU level.

In this context, we would like to invite you to contact EFC secretariat at [mhernandez@efc.be](mailto:mhernandez@efc.be) if:

- You are already undertaking and/or planning to undertake activities in the areas of poverty and social exclusion and/or in relation to the European Year (organising your own activities, working with the National Implementing Bodies or with other stakeholders, etc.).
- You would like to provide input and ideas on activities the EFC could undertake in the context of the Year to raise awareness and promote foundations' action in the fields covered by the Year.
- You are interested to be informed about the developments related to the European Year and/or be involved in the activities to be organised by the EFC, EU institutions and other stakeholders.

For more information on the European Year and how to get involved, please check the [EFC dedicated webpage](#)<sup>4</sup>, read the [information note](#)<sup>5</sup> on the European Year and how to get involved or contact the EFC secretariat at [mhernandez@efc.be](mailto:mhernandez@efc.be).

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.efc.be/EUAdvocacy/EU%20Communiquus%20%20Briefings/befc1016.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.2010againstopoverty.eu/mycountry/?langid=en>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.facebook.com/social europe?ref=search&sid=723560755.1291360960..1>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.efc.be/EUAdvocacy/Pages/2010EuropeanYearforCombatingPovertyandSocialExclusion.aspx>

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.efc.be/EUAdvocacy/Documents/2010EY\\_MembersIGsInvolvement\\_February2010.pdf](http://www.efc.be/EUAdvocacy/Documents/2010EY_MembersIGsInvolvement_February2010.pdf)