



**EAPN IRELAND**

**NEWSFLASH**

**MARCH 2026**

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Dear Friend,

Your March NewsFlash contains reports from activities across Ireland in preparation for the upcoming Social Inclusion Forum, the latest SILC data, news and events from members organisations, & the latest from EAPN Europe.

To learn more about our work, and to keep up to date, please visit our [website](#), or follow us on [Twitter/X](#), [Bluesky](#), [Facebook](#), or [Instagram](#).

If you are in a position to support our work please [DONATE](#) by clicking this link. Every amount no matter how small, makes a difference. Go Raibh Maith Agat!

In solidarity,  
*James, Trishna and Clare*  
The EAPN Ireland Team

## EAPN IRELAND NEWS

### SOCIAL INCLUSION FORUM WORKSHOPS UNDERWAY



SIF workshops in Enniscorthy (left) and Dublin (right).

Preparatory workshops for the Social Inclusion Forum in the Aviva Stadium on May 27th are off to a flying start, with really vibrant and engaged sessions online in early March, and in person in Dublin and Enniscorthy. There was great representation from the community sector, disabled people, Travellers, & organisations representing older people, and plenty of ideas to incorporate in the report for the report. The enormous cost of housing and its impact on poverty, and the need for an adequate income in the face of rising living costs were strong themes. Many people mentioned that there were good schemes in place but they were inaccessible due to eligibility criteria or lack of awareness. Also the huge costs being paid for services as a result of essential public services being provided by third parties, which don't filter down to benefit the person they are supposed to, was a regular theme.



Check out the remaining workshops outlined below! Sign up to come along in person in Limerick, the Aran Islands, & Roscommon, or join us online for the final webinar on April 14th.



## SOCIAL INCLUSION FORUM (SIF)

2026:

### ADVANCING ACTION ON POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION



- Themes:
1. Building Inclusive Communities
  2. Nothing about us without us - Disability in Ireland
  3. Household Poverty and Child Poverty
  4. LGBTQI+: Pride and Poverty
  5. Inclusion of Traveller and Roma Communities
  6. Gendered Inequalities in Poverty
  7. Social Inclusion in Gaeltacht Communities

REGISTER NOW >



## CWI & EAPN IRELAND PREPARATORY WORKSHOPS

**WORKSHOP 3: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 11.15am – 1.15pm** Presentation Arts Centre, Convent Road, Enniscorthy, Y21 X889

**WORKSHOPS 4: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 11.00am – 1.00pm** Aran Islands Hotel, Kilonan, Inis Mór, Co. Galway, H91 DH27,

**WORKSHOP 5: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 11:00am - 1:00pm** Southill Hub, Donough O'Malley Park, Limerick, V94X431

**WORKSHOP 6: Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 11am – 1pm** Online

**WORKSHOP 7: Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 10am-12noon** South Roscommon FRC, Vita House, Roscommon, F42N971, Felicia Loughrey, southrosfrc@vitahouse.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO [www.eapn.ie](http://www.eapn.ie) or [www.cwi.ie](http://www.cwi.ie)

### EACH WORKSHOP WILL PROVIDE:

- An overview of the Roadmap for Social Inclusion & the workshop's thematic areas.
- The opportunity for civil society, communities & stakeholders to discuss the key issues in these areas.
- Feedback from the workshops will be presented at the Plenary session of SIF 2026.

### WHO ARE THESE WORKSHOPS FOR?

- People with direct experience of the issues covered under these themes.
- People in communities affected by issues such as poverty, social exclusion, inequality, and lack of adequate services.
- Organisations working to support communities and those working to address these issues.

**The Social Inclusion Forum (SIF) 2026 will be held on Wednesday 27th May in Dublin City (Venue TBC)**

The SIF is part of the Government's structures to monitor and evaluate its strategy and approach to address poverty and social exclusion. It provides a forum for consultation and discussion on poverty and social exclusion, in particular for people experiencing poverty and social exclusion and the organisations/groups that work with them. The Forum also provides an opportunity for engagement between officials from Government Departments, community and voluntary organisations and people experiencing poverty.

**The Preparatory Workshops are organised by Community Work Ireland and the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) Ireland**



## Briefing - SILC DATA: A SHOCKING CRITIQUE OF LIFE IN IRELAND

The annual CSO Survey on Income & Living Conditions (SILC) 2025 was released on March 11th, revealing an increase in those At Risk of Poverty, while there was a slight drop in the numbers experiencing Enforced Deprivation. Consistent Poverty was largely unchanged at 4.7%, more than double the target of reducing poverty to 2% or less in the Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020-2025. It is really important that people examine this data and that we collectively take action to change it.

Read out Press Release [HERE](#) & Our Briefing of the Survey [HERE](#)

### EAPN EUROPE NEWS



## EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS

The European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR), proclaimed in 2017, aimed to **build a stronger Social Europe and reduce poverty**. Its 2021 Action Plan set a target to lift at least **15 million people, including 5 million children, out of poverty by 2030**.

However, progress has been limited. In 2024, 93.3 million people in the EU (21% of the population) remained at risk of poverty or social exclusion. Although some important measures were adopted, **poverty has worsened** due to crises such as COVID-19, the war in Ukraine, inflation and climate change.

The report argues that renewed political ambition is needed. The updated EPSR Action Plan and the forthcoming EU Anti-Poverty Strategy must shift from simply reducing poverty to fully eradicating it by 2050. Read the full report [HERE](#)

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## OTHER NEWS

### NASC FINANCIAL TOOLKIT

We are absolutely delighted to platform a really important financial literacy resource developed by NASC in Cork, *Your Money in Ireland: A Toolkit for Migrant Families*, which is now available on Nasc's website and social media platforms. The toolkit was developed in response to feedback, consultations, & recurring queries from migrant women participating in Nasc's Women's Programme. Participants consistently highlighted the need for clear, practical, & culturally accessible information to help them navigate financial systems in Ireland with confidence. The full project is available [HERE](#)

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### PUBLIC CONSULTATION HEALTHY IRELAND FRAMEWORK

The Department of Health is seeking submissions on the Healthy Ireland Framework, designed to strengthen health and wellbeing across the country. They would particularly like to hear from people whose voices are not always

heard, including minority and disadvantaged communities. Improving health equity will be central to the new framework and all views will be considered to inform the future policy. **Submission Deadline is April 22nd 2026.** The consultation survey is available [HERE](#).

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## **PUBLIC CONSULTATION COST OF DISABILITY**

Public Consultation has opened on how the Government commitment to introduce a permanent Annual Cost of Disability Support Payment will be designed. The consultation will also inform the agenda for a Strategic Focus Network Summit on the Cost of Disability, which is an initiative under the National Human Rights Strategy for Disabled People.

Members of the public can participate by submitting written, video or phone contributions. The consultation is open to everyone, with particular engagement encouraged from disabled people, their families and carers, Disabled Persons Organisations and representative groups. **Closing Date is April 7th.** See details of how you can make a submission [HERE](#)

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SAVE  
THE  
DATE

CDP  
CONFERENCE



F2 CENTRE,  
DUBLIN

17 JUNE  
2026



Community  
Development  
Programme



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Pobail



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST HERE:

More details coming  
soon, watch this  
space!

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## ***BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!***

***Membership is open to individuals and organisations who support our aim to put the eradication of poverty at the top of the Irish and European Agenda. Click [HERE](#) to join!***

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EAPN (European Anti-Poverty Network) Ireland is a network of anti-poverty groups working to put the eradication of poverty at the top of the EU and Irish agenda through information, training, advocacy and networking. Web: [www.eapn.ie](http://www.eapn.ie)

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