



EAPN IRELAND

NEWSFLASH

JUNE 2026

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Dear Friend,

Your June NewsFlash contains reports from the Pre-Budget process, the new Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2026-2030, reports from EAPN Europe and news events from members organisations.

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



Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2026-2030



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

EAPN Ireland welcomes the publication of the Government's new Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2026-2030. The overall ambition of the present plan is '*To reduce consistent poverty to 2% or less by the end of 2030, reduce income inequality, and make Ireland one of the most socially inclusive countries in the European Union.*'

This is a roll-over of the same target that has existed in the last two plans, and should have been achieved by 2020. Yet at the close of the last strategy, 4.7% of the population, more than double that figure, were living in consistent poverty. Over a period of strong economic growth, almost full employment and buoyant tax revenues, this is not good enough. It requires a serious examination of previous approaches.

Combating poverty is as much about quality, accessible public services, as it is about income adequacy, and can be delivered through a progressive redistributive tax system.

We welcome that the strategy has simplified the number of actions and focused less on inputs, but the actions alone are not enough. Effective monitoring of the impact of the actions at every stage of the strategy is absolutely necessary in order to secure effective implementation. This will be most effective with real collaboration with the community & voluntary sector.

Read our full statement [HERE](#)



**PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION
BUDGET 2027**

**European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland
enquiries@eaon.ie**

5 Steps that Would Eradicate Poverty In Ireland

1. Redesign how poverty is calculated to more accurately reflect the real situation, particularly the impact of housing costs
2. Introduce a Minimum Income, benchmarked to the cost of living

3. Introduce a Universal Care Income
4. Stop subsidising the private sector to deliver more expensive, poorer quality services, that more efficiently should be delivered as public services
5. Overhaul the tax system on a progressive basis, eliminating tax avoidance & taxing wealth to reduce inequality

READ OUR FULL PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION [HERE](#)



IRELAND COUNTRY SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS:

EAPN Ireland appreciates the thorough and committed engagement which was undertaken by the Commission in the European Semester Spring Package. We

welcome the inclusion again this year of a socially focused Country Specific Recommendation in relation to housing. It is particularly important that the Commission has pinpointed the need to address the supply of social and affordable housing, stressing the need to strengthen the role of local authorities.

It is also welcome that the socially focused CSR mentions strengthening labour market access and tackling social inclusion of disadvantaged groups, particularly disabled people and single parents. We strongly echo the call for the Government to put in place better outreach and up-skilling and improving social services and access to same. Ireland still has one of the worst employment records for disabled people and while tackling this is a government priority, we need to see the results.

ACCESS FULL EUROPEAN SEMESTER REPORT [HERE](#)

EAPN'S RESPONSE AVAILABLE [HERE](#)

EAPN EUROPE NEWS



MEETING OF PEOPLE EXPERIENCING POVERTY DISCUSSES EU ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY IN CYPRUS

On 4–5 June 2026, people experiencing poverty (PEP), civil society organisations, policymakers and European Commission representatives gathered in Cyprus for the **24th Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty**. Ireland’s PEP Co-Ordinator Lesley O’Reilly attended along with Irish delegate Keanna Mitchell & representatives across over 20 European countries. The meeting discussed how the newly launched EU Anti-Poverty Strategy (APS) can actually create meaningful change in people’s everyday lives.

Hosted by **EAPN Europe** and **EAPN Cyprus**, under the **Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union**, the meeting focused on one central question: how can people experiencing poverty actively contribute to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy?



Turning ambition into reality

Throughout the two-day meeting, participants welcomed the publication of the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy and its ambition to eradicate poverty in Europe by 2050. However, delegates repeatedly stressed that ambitious targets alone will not be enough:

Speakers highlighted that it is necessary to move beyond declarations and ensure that the strategy translates into **concrete national action plans, adequate funding, clear accountability mechanisms** and meaningful participation of people experiencing poverty. A defining feature of the meeting was the strong emphasis **on lived experience as expertise**. Participants shared personal testimonies about rising living costs, housing insecurity, inadequate social protection, bureaucratic barriers, discrimination and in-work poverty. Many highlighted the reality that having a job is no longer a guarantee of escaping poverty. **Housing emerged as one of the most urgent concerns**, with delegates calling for increased investment in affordable and social housing. **Education and child poverty** were recurring themes throughout the discussions.

READ THE FULL REPORT FROM THE MEETING [HERE](#)

OTHER NEWS

DFI - COST OF DISABILITY SUBMISSION

We share for your information the submission from the Disability Federation of Ireland to the Government's Cost of Disability Payment consultation process. The submission was formulated from research, lived experience, international best practise and long standing recommendations. Key measures include a weekly universal cash payment, a stepped payment structure, no household means testing, simple trust-based eligibility & other supports. Addressing the cost of disability is key to tackling the disproportionate impact of poverty on disabled people. The full DFI submission is available [HERE](#)

CHILD POVERTY & DEPRIVATION REPORT

The Joint Oireachtas Committee on Children & Equality has just published its report on Child Poverty & Deprivation following public hearings at the committee. With poverty rates among children higher than that of the general population and the lifetime of trauma that follows, this is a critical issue for everyone in society. The full report is available [HERE](#)

SAVE THE DATE - SIMON WEEK CONFERENCE

This conference will bring together partners, practitioners, and stakeholders from across the sector to exchange insights, examine key challenges, and consider solutions to homelessness in Ireland. The agenda will feature local, national and European perspectives, alongside contributions from people with lived experience.

Save the date: Thursday 24th September, 2026

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

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