



Brussels, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> September 2010

## Alliances to fight poverty

### A European seminar on civil society and poverty

The fight against poverty is not the responsibility of the poor themselves, but is an assignment for the society and all civil organizations. There is a need for a temporary collaboration between poverty organizations and other non-governmental organizations to weigh on policy.

The European seminar will discuss and explore the theme "alliances for reducing poverty".

This seminar has three goals. On the European level we want to strengthen the alliance to reduce poverty. We also want to compare and exchange best practices around local alliances. And third, we want to sharpen, to improve European social policy.

The seminar will focus on best practices.

Target audience: organizations from civil society within EU member states, organizations/experts specialised within the field of poverty fighting and broader social issues and European social policy.

Draft agenda

**Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2010**

#### **10 am – 6 pm : REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES**

Welcoming of the participants from abroad.

#### **3 pm- 6 pm: VISITING POVERTY FIGHTING PROJECTS IN BRUSSELS**

Possibility to visit a number of fighting poverty projects in Brussels.

Registration is obliged for this tour.

**7 pm: DINNER**

**Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> of September 2010**

**9 am - 9.50 am: REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS**

**10.00 am - 12.30 am : OPENING: METAMORPHOSIS OF POVERTY**

Introduction

Keynote speakers:

**Robert Castel**, sociologist, (France) deplores the evolution of poverty and the tackling of poverty within society followed by a proposal for future working method.

This introduction will be the basis for our call for an alliance to fight poverty.

**Bart Vanhercke** (Observatoire Social Européen): how can we influence the European poverty policy? The impact of member states on the EU and vice versa in the field of social policy.

Conclusions

**12.30 pm – 2 pm: lunch**

**2 pm- 6 pm: afternoon session. THE FIGHT FOR SOCIAL RIGHTS.**

Introduction

Keynote speakers:

**John Veit-Wilson** (UK, Newcastle University). Social rights as a cornerstone for a European social policy.

**Patrick De Boucqois** (BEL, Caritas International, CEDAG). Social services as a condition for the implementation of social rights.

Best practices:

Civil society and social rights: La Nuit Solidaire (FR), Samenlevingsopbouw-project energiearmoede (BEL), the Poor can't pay (IRL).

Civil society and social services: such as Le Macif (FR).

Conclusions

**Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2010**

**8.30 am – 9.15 am : REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS**

**9.30 am - 12.00 am : morning session. ACTIVATION VERSUS PARTICIPATION.**

Introduction

Keynote speakers:

**Ides Nicaise** (BEL, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven). Participation as a condition for activation.  
**Joakim Palme** (SWE, Institute for Futures Studies). Europe as a social investment state.

Best practices:

Civil society and activation: such as Basta (SWE, asked), Flora (BEL).

**12.00 am – 1 pm: Lunch**

**1 pm - 2 pm: afternoon session. PARTICIPATION TO SOCIETY.**

Introduction

Keynote speaker:

Kristel Driessens (BEL, Universiteit Antwerpen). Living together includes more than activation; a new fundamental social right.

Best practices:

Civil society and socio-cultural participation: such as Victoria De Luxe (BEL), Fondazione Gulio Pastore (IT, asked).

Conclusions

**2 pm – 4 pm: closing session. ALLIANCES TO FIGHT POVERTY.**

Introduction

Ann Demeulemeester, secretary-general of ACW

A call for an alliance to fight poverty on a European level with the participation of Deceniumdoelen, ETUC, Spring Alliance and EAPN.

Conclusions

**4 pm – 5 pm: Cocktail**

**Organizers**

ACW and MOC, the leading workers movement in Belgium (Flanders and Walloon)

[www.acw.be](http://www.acw.be)

[www.moc.be](http://www.moc.be)

**Working languages:**

Simultaneous translation will be available in Dutch, English and French.

**Information and contact:**

Michel Debruyne: [michel.debruyne@acw.be](mailto:michel.debruyne@acw.be)