

Who we are

The European Anti-Poverty Network coordinates the work of the alliance, which currently includes the following members:

15 major EU networks/organisations

- Age Platform Europe
- Caritas Europa
- CECODHAS Housing Europe
- Eurochild
- Eurodiaconia
- European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN)
- European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD)
- European Environmental Bureau (EEB)
- European Federation of Food Banks (FEBA)
- European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless (FEANTSA)
- European Public Service Union (EPSU)
- European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)
- European Women's Lobby (EWL)
- Green Budget Europe
- Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)

3 national pilot alliances in

- Bulgaria
- Denmark
- Ireland

All European Organisations involved are committed to engaging their national members in the Alliance's work and in the European Semester.

Why have an Alliance?

In 2010, the **Europe 2020 Strategy** broke new ground by establishing **five concrete targets** for delivering on **smart, social and sustainable growth by 2020**, which include:

- ⇒ reducing **poverty** by at least 20 million
- ⇒ achieving a 75% **employment** rate for women and men
- ⇒ reducing **early school leaving** to 10%
- ⇒ a 20% reduction in **greenhouse gas emissions** and increase in **energy efficiency** to 20%.

The 'European Semester', the annual coordination cycle with Member States, is the main instrument to deliver these targets, but it is primarily driven by economic governance goals.

Stakeholders including civil society and social organisations are supposed to be key partners in the delivery.

However, as the European Commission recognises*, progress has been extremely limited:

- ✗ 8 million more people are now in poverty (124 million), a shortfall of 28 million (in 2012).
- ✗ The Employment rate has dropped to 68.4% leaving a shortfall of nearly 7%.
- ✗ Early school leaving has reduced to 12.7% in 2012 leaving a shortfall of 2.7%.
- ✗ There has been an 18% reduction in greenhouse emissions by 2012, but national projections show 13 Member States will not achieve their national targets by 2020.
- ✗ Very limited progress has been made on involving stakeholders, particularly civil society and there is low impact.

* EC Communication (5 March 2013): *Taking stock of the Europe 2020 strategy, for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.*

For the Semester Alliance members, delivery on the Europe 2020 targets, the development of a rights-based approach including progress on gender equality, through real dialogue with civil society, is crucial. Only in this way can we ensure a sustainable recovery, a viable vision for the future of the EU, and restore democratic legitimacy and credibility.

What the Alliance aims at

The overall aim of the EU Alliance is to achieve **progress on a more democratic, social and sustainable EU Strategy**, by **improving civil society and social actors' engagement in the European Semester**.

Our main objectives are therefore to:

Ensure that all policies, including macroeconomic, contribute to the social, environmental/climate targets and equality commitments of the European Union's Strategy (EU 2020 Strategy).

Improve the legitimacy of the EU Strategy through strengthening the engagement of environmental, social, equality organisations and trade unions in the EU decision-making process, (The European Semester) starting at the national level.



The Alliance has received funding from the European Commission under the framework of a Joint Action, for an initial period of 1 year (1 year project funding supported by the EU Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity PROGRESS/EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation call VP/2013/006).

What we do

- 1) The Alliance has developed its **EU advocacy strategy** to engage with the EU institutions and progress on our objectives and joint EU-level events.
- 2) **A key voice**. The work of the Alliance makes it a key voice to hear and follow. Informing, disseminating, and raising awareness is of course another pillar of the Alliance, which will be maintaining a blog and will be present on social media and in all members' visibility tools.
- 3) A key added value of the Alliance is brought by the national level. **3 National Pilot Alliances** will carry out cross-sectoral joint work on the European Semester to achieve social, sustainable and equality policy outcomes.
- 4) The Alliance will also be strengthened by providing **capacity building** to its national members, notably the national alliances, with a related toolkit.
- 5) **Joint reports** will bring together learning from the national level, on 1) Providing proposals on the Country-Specific Recommendations and 2) Assessing the European Semester delivery.

More Information

The Alliance welcomes you on

<http://semesteralliance.net>

You will find there all the information related to the Alliance, its activities, publications, events, members, contacts, to the European Semester and Europe 2020 Strategy.

Enabling civil-society to participate in the shaping of EU policies and to contribute to progress on the Targets of the Europe 2020 Strategy concerns us all!

You can also contact: Sian Jones, Project Coordinator, EAPN: sian.jones@eapn.eu.

Follow the Alliance on Twitter
[#semesteralliance](https://twitter.com/semesteralliance)

and all the members' Facebook pages.



The *EU Alliance for a democratic, social and sustainable European Semester (EU Semester Alliance)* is a broad coalition bringing together major European civil-society organisations and trade unions, representing thousands of member organisations on the ground at European, national and local levels in the European Union.

The 'EU Semester Alliance' aims to support progress towards a more democratic, social and sustainable Europe 2020 Strategy, through strengthening civil dialogue engagement in the European Semester at national and EU levels.

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