

INFO FLASH 25/10

Last week's International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17/10) and EU Anti-Trafficking Day (17/10) saw the involvement of both EU institutions and civil society. The Commission [called for intensified efforts to address new challenges](#) in the field of anti-trafficking and published a [comprehensive policy review of anti-trafficking projects funded by the Commission between 2004 and 2015](#). The Fundamental Rights Agency [took stock of all the initiatives undertaken at EU level](#), while the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) [published](#) a new [guidebook](#) for national authorities based on examples of good practice from across the continent. [ECRE echoed some recent IOM](#) data showing widespread abuse, trafficking and exploitation of refugees and migrants on the Central Mediterranean route. On poverty reduction, the [data published by Eurostat](#) showed the share of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU back to its pre-crisis level, although contrasting trends exist across Member States. The [European Anti-Poverty Network](#) called for a transformative, social and economic agenda in a letter to President Juncker, and [Social Platform reported on a EU conference](#) on '[Work, Welfare and Inequalities in Europe](#)'.

Several policy initiatives were recorded at European level. The Council of the EU has finalized the legislative procedure of two important pieces of EU legislation: the [Directive on the right to legal aid for citizens suspected or accused of a criminal offence](#), and the [Regulation that establishes a uniform European travel document for the return of illegally staying third-country nationals](#). The European Commission published [reports on progress in the implementation of the Partnership Framework with third countries](#) and [committed to reaching global targets in sustainable development](#) in the context of UN Habitat III Conference. It also [launched the Knowledge Centre for Territorial Policies](#) jointly with the Committee of the Regions to provide smart and scientific support for regions and cities across the EU. The Council of Europe held discussions on [preventing radicalisation in towns, cities and regions](#).

EU INSTITUTIONS

European Commission

(20/10) Commission puts forward commitments to reach global targets in sustainable urban development. In the context of the U.N. Habitat III conference, the European Commission has presented three commitments to meet the New Urban Agenda's global objectives. The [New Urban Agenda](#), adopted at the [U.N. Habitat III Conference](#) taking place this week in Quito, Ecuador, contains guidelines to make cities all over the world more inclusive, green, safe and prosperous. It is a cornerstone in the implementation of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and other milestone reform agendas, in particular the [Paris Agreement](#). The Commission committed to delivering the New Urban Agenda through the Urban Agenda for the EU, to developing a global, harmonised definition of cities, and to fostering cooperation between cities in the field of sustainable urban development. Full press release [here](#).

(18/10) Managing migration effectively: Commission reports on progress in the implementation of the Partnership Framework with third countries. The Commission presents its first progress report on the implementation of the [Partnership Framework](#) with third countries to more effectively manage migration together. Four months after the Commission proposed this new Framework under the [European Agenda on Migration](#) and its endorsement by the June European Council, which also called for its swift implementation, the EU's new partnership approach with countries of origin and transit of migration is starting to yield results. The first results can already be seen in the priority countries (Niger, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Ethiopia). The next months will see continued common action on the external side, matched by improvement of procedures and operations inside the European Union. European Migration Liaison Officers will be posted in key third countries to serve as focal points in EU Delegations to liaise and cooperate with our partners and support the delivery of the new approach. Identification missions to the priority countries will be carried out jointly with Member States and EU agencies' involvement, in particular of European Border and Coast Guards and EUROPOL, on the ground will be strengthened. Specific projects under the EU Trust Fund for Africa, are being finalised to address key challenges in the priority countries. The Commission has further adopted a decision to increase the EU Trust Fund for Africa by a further € 500 million from the European Development Fund reserve to finance actions under the partnership framework. Full article [here](#).

(17/10) 10th EU Anti-Trafficking Day: Commission calls for intensified efforts to address new challenges. The European Commission marked the 10th EU Anti-Trafficking Day urging a reinvigoration of joint efforts across the Union to eradicate trafficking in human beings. Trafficking in human beings is a grave violation of human rights and a serious form of organised crime. Important momentum was created with the adoption of the Anti-Trafficking Directive and the EU Anti-Trafficking Strategy, and Member States have been stepping up their efforts to effectively contribute to the prevention and combatting of this crime as well as providing adequate protection and assistance to the victims. On the occasion of the 10th EU Anti-Trafficking Day, the European Commission presented a [comprehensive policy review of anti-trafficking projects funded by the Commission between 2004 and 2015](#), while public authorities, civil society and citizens organised and participated in events all across Europe to mobilize social awareness. This review is one of the last remaining of the 40 priority actions enlisted in the EU Anti-Trafficking Strategy, which comes to an end in 2016. The policy review examines 321 projects, with activities in over 100 countries worldwide with total funding of €158.5 million, according to their scope and geographic areas of intervention, as well as target beneficiaries, funding level, types of output and policy recommendations. It analyses project deliverables with a view to providing a solid basis for coherent, cost-effective and strategic planning, including for the further development of anti-trafficking policies at EU level. Commission funded projects have focused on child trafficking and trafficking for labour exploitation as well as trafficking for sexual exploitation, forced begging and organ removal, with around half of the projects addressing multiple forms of exploitation. The findings of the study further identified the next steps required to support future policy development identified. Full article [here](#).

European Parliament

European Council / Council of the EU

(13/10) EU adopts rules to guarantee legal aid in criminal proceedings. On 13 October 2016, the Council [gave its final approval](#) to the directive on the right to legal aid for citizens suspected or accused of a criminal offence and for those subject to a European arrest warrant. The proposed directive lays down minimum rules concerning the right to legal aid for suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings who are deprived of liberty, and in certain other situations. It also ensures that legal aid is made available in European arrest warrant proceedings, under certain conditions, in both the executing and the issuing member state. Compared to the Commission proposal, the scope of application of the directive has been broadened to include a right to legal aid at all stages of the criminal justice process, under certain conditions. The initial proposal foresaw only a right to provisional legal aid which was meant to cover solely the initial stage of criminal proceedings before a final decision on legal aid is taken. To define whether a person is eligible to legal aid, EU countries will be able to use a means and a merits test. A "means test" aims at assessing whether the person effectively lacks sufficient resources to pay for legal assistance, while a "merits test" allows to assess whether the provision of legal aid would be in the interest of justice in the light of the circumstances of the case.

(13/10) Return and readmission: Council adopts a uniform European travel document. On 13 October 2016, the Council [adopted](#) a regulation that establishes a uniform European travel document for the return of illegally staying third-country nationals (European travel document for return), in particular its format, security features and technical specifications. The enhanced security features and technical specifications of the new travel document will facilitate its recognition by third countries and will speed up the returns in the context of readmission agreements or other arrangements concluded by the EU or by the member states with third countries. The new travel document will also reduce administrative and bureaucratic burdens and the length of the administrative procedures necessary for ensuring return and readmission of illegally staying third-country nationals.

Others

(17/10) FRA - Help stop human trafficking. Millions of women, men and children forced from their homes as a result of conflict or persecution fall foul of ruthless traffickers. The 10th EU Anti-Trafficking Day on 18 October is time to take stock and renew efforts to counter this modern day plague affecting the most vulnerable in our society, says the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights. For a summary of the main initiatives to combat trafficking at EU level read the full [article](#).

(17/10) Eurostat - International Day for the Eradication of Poverty: The share of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU back to its pre-crisis level- Contrasting trends across Member States. In 2015, around 119 million people, or 23.7% of the population, in the European Union (EU) were at risk of poverty or social exclusion. This means that they were in at least one of the following three conditions: at-risk-of-poverty after social transfers (income poverty), severely materially deprived or living in households with very low work intensity. After three consecutive increases between 2009 and 2012 to reach almost 25%, the proportion of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU has since continuously decreased to return to its 2008 level (23.7%), but it remains in 2015 higher than its 2009 low-point (23.3%). The reduction of the number of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU is one of the key targets of the Europe 2020 strategy. Full press release [here](#). Report [here](#).

(12/10) FRA - Promoting equity of care for unaccompanied children. Academics, researchers, practitioners and policy makers from around the world [gathered](#) in Geneva from 3 to 5 October to discuss [child protection and care of children deprived of parental care](#). Participants discussed the key principles of the UN Alternative Care guidelines and its implementation in different setting and countries. They highlighted the need for alternative care arrangements to meet the needs of each individual child in placement and to promote child wellbeing and development. They also pointed to the importance of prevention measures and family support services to avoid separation of children. The Agency underlined the challenges unaccompanied children face. These include accessing adequate care including guardianship, the lack of specialised and safe reception and accommodation facilities, the gaps in staff training and the lack of effective oversight mechanisms and of standards. The conference was organised by the Center for the Children's Rights Study of the University of Geneva and the International Institute of the Rights of the child (IDE) with the support of various child rights international organizations.

(12/10) FRA - FRA joins European Commission coordination meeting on Roma inclusion. On 7 October, the Agency took part in a European Commission's coordination meeting with representatives of international governmental organisations and civil society organisations active in the field of Roma Inclusion. The meeting focused on the Commission's 2016 assessment report, the forthcoming European Roma Platform meeting (29-30 November) and the Slovakian Presidency of the EU's High Level Event on Roma Youth empowerment in Bratislava on 10-11 October. The Agency provided an update on the timing and plans for publication of reports from its second [EU Minorities and Discrimination survey](#). The meeting was attended by representatives from various Directorates-General of the European Commission, the European Economic and Social Committee, World Bank, UNHCHR, World Bank, Unicef and several civil society organisations. The Agency also met with representatives of the European Parliament, European Commission and NGOs to discuss possible synergies on promoting its EU Minorities and Discrimination survey and local engagement with Roma work

(12/10) FRA - Public hearing looks at child rights as part of Dublin system reforms. The Agency [shared](#) its view on protecting child rights in the Dublin Procedure, particularly for unaccompanied children at a hearing organised by the European Parliament's Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee in Brussels on 10 October. The main topic of the hearing was the reform of the Dublin system and crisis relocation. The Agency expressed concern as to the compliance of the recast of the Dublin procedure with international and European standards protecting the rights of the child. Specific attention was given to the best interest of the child and procedural safeguards. The Committee Chair announced that the European Parliament has requested the Agency to submit a legal opinion on the impact of the proposed amendments to the Dublin Regulation on children. Access the [full video](#) of the hearing and the [presentation](#) (pdf) given by Adriano Silvestri

(12/10) Committee of the Regions - New Knowledge Centre for Territorial Policies: Smart scientific support for EU regions and cities. Scientific support in Europe's regions and cities will finally come to fruition thanks to the new Knowledge Centre for Territorial Policies, said Markku Markkula, President of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR), at the Annual Conference of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre on 11 October. He warmly welcomed the initiative, which provides scientific support to EU regions and cities, based on their specific needs, diversity and growth potential. Opening the Annual Conference

of the Joint Research Centre (JRC), President of the European Committee of the Regions, Markku Markkula, stated that there is a paradigm shift towards better recognition of the territorial aspects in EU policies and not only for cohesion policy. "We, the CoR, strongly stress the regional renewal processes: experimenting, piloting, prototyping and scaling up. This Knowledge Centre will enable regions and cities to invest more smartly, especially in human capital and skills – an essential element to become a pioneer in regional innovation ecosystems", he said before underlining the CoR's readiness to continue working with the JRC and DG REGIO in fields such as territorial impact assessments, smart specialisation processes and modelling capabilities. The Knowledge Centre for Territorial Policies is a collaborative effort by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO) and the European Committee of the Regions. It will offer a single point of access to data, policy analysis, interactive tools and methods for policy makers, scientists and other stakeholder. Full article [here](#).

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

(19/10) Preventing radicalisation in towns, cities and regions: the Congress consolidates its strategy. The Congress committees on current affairs and governance have held joint discussions on the Congress' strategy to prevent radicalisation in towns, cities and regions. The [report](#) and resolution presented by Josef Neumann (Germany, SOC) and Bert Bouwmeester (Netherlands, ILDG) urge the Congress to consolidate its activities in this field by adopting methods to foster pluralist, inclusive and culturally diverse societies in Europe, and by incorporating the concept of "interconvictional dialogue" in its initiatives to foster intercultural and inter-religious dialogue. The adopted resolution calls on local and regional elected representatives to contribute to these initiatives by using the resources set out in the "Organising intercultural and interreligious activities" toolkit. It also invites them to become members of the "Alliance of European Cities and Regions against Violent Extremism" for which the Congress, the European Forum for Urban Security and the Municipality of Rotterdam are organising a Summit of Mayors in Rotterdam on 9 November 2016.

(18/10) How to fight human trafficking: new guide for governments. To mark the 10th European Anti-Trafficking Day, the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings ([GRETA](#)) [has published](#) a new [guidebook](#) for national authorities based on examples of good practice from across the continent. "Human trafficking is a modern-day scourge, but over the last few years our member states have taken many really important steps to help prevent trafficking, to protect victims and to prosecute offenders," said Council of Europe Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland. "Examples of good practices have been gathered from countries of origin, countries of transit and countries of destination for victims of trafficking. For the first time, these have been brought together in one place to help authorities put an end to this horrendous abuse of human rights." GRETA is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Council of Europe's [anti-trafficking convention](#), which has been signed by 46 of the organisation's 47 member states plus Belarus. The compendium of good practices highlights positive initiatives identified in over 50 country-by-country evaluation reports published by GRETA since the convention came into force in 2008.

(14/10) Conference on Migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in the context of major risks prevention and management. Migrants are a risk group also facing natural hazards and technological accidents. To analyse how countries deal with their vulnerabilities, the [EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement](#) of the Council of Europe will hold a conference on Migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in the context of natural and technological hazards on

14 October in Lisbon, Portugal. The conference is the EUR-OPA contribution to the International Day for Disaster Reduction 2016. It concludes a two-year project on Migrants and Major Hazards and will gather 60 participants from all over the globe, including high-level representatives of international organisations and European institutions, civil protection authorities and INGOs working in the field of migrant protection and disaster risk reduction and management. The participants discussed inspiring practices in this area, as well as policies at European level through guidelines and recommendations for action. The overall aim of this conference was to take forward initiatives in order to improve the quality of services designed to support migrants, asylum seekers and refugees who are confronted with emergencies or disaster risk. The conference was organised in close co-operation with the [North-South Centre](#) of the Council of Europe, with the support of the Municipality of Lisbon, the Ismaili Centre, the Portuguese authorities as well as the [Conference of INGOs](#) of the Council of Europe and the [Intercultural Cities Programme](#). Full article [here](#).

(14/10) New tool to help governments strengthen democracy through culture. The 47-nation Council of Europe [launched](#) a new statistical tool to help decision-makers see where changes in cultural policy can best help to strengthen democracy. “Experts have thought for a long time that there are strong links between people taking part in cultural activities and aspects of democracy such as individual freedoms, political participation and transparency,” said Council of Europe Director General for Democracy Snežana Samardžić-Marković. “For the first time, we have brought all the relevant data together to help researchers and policy-makers look at the statistical relationships between different aspects of culture and democracy, and to work out where changes in cultural policy and investment can best help to support democracy.” The [Indicator Framework for Culture and Democracy](#) has been developed by the Council of Europe – together with the [Hertie School of Governance](#), the [European Cultural Foundation](#) and various national authorities – in response to a request from Council of Europe member states.

(11/10) Managing diversity through minority rights. Creating a Europe open to diversity, a Europe where no minority fears the majority is the underlying theme of a new guidance document for European states launched at a Council of Europe’s [conference](#) in Strasbourg. “We live in times of rising nationalism, xenophobia, fear and suspicion,” [said](#) Council of Europe Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland. “More than ever we must defend the rights of minorities and groups at risk of discrimination. And it is more important than ever that we demonstrate the benefits of their inclusion into society as a whole.” The [new Thematic Commentary](#) prepared by the Council of Europe’s [Advisory Committee](#) on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities ([FCNM](#)) looks at how the Committee interprets the Convention and how states parties could best use it to ensure successful integration of minorities without their forced assimilation. The right to free self-identification is a cornerstone of minority rights, the document says. Minority identity must not be externally imposed, participation in the census and data collection should be voluntary; people should never be obliged to choose between preserving their minority identity and claiming the majority culture. Full article available [here](#).

[CIVIL SOCIETY](#)

(24/10) ECRE - New IOM data show widespread abuse, trafficking and exploitation of refugees and migrants on the Central Mediterranean route. The latest [data](#) released by the [International Organisation for Migration \(IOM\)](#) show that migrants are increasingly facing widespread abuse, trafficking and exploitation on their way to safety in Europe. The Central

Mediterranean route proved to be more dangerous for migrants and refugees than the Eastern Mediterranean route. 70 per cent of refugees and migrants on the Central Mediterranean route have been subjected to human trafficking, organ trafficking or exploitation compared to 14 per cent on the Eastern Mediterranean route. Full article [here](#).

(24/10) ECRE - MSF and NRC raise concerns over returns from the world's largest refugee complex. The briefing document [Dadaab to Somalia: Pushed back into peril](#) by Medecins Sans Frontieres as well as the position paper [Dadaab's broken promise](#) by Norwegian Refugee Council published this month have criticised the process of returning refugees to Somalia residing in the Dadaab refugee complex. In May the Kenyan government [decided](#) to close Dadaab by November this year. The refugee camp hosts [about](#) 277,000 people making it the largest in the world. The returns process is officially organized according to the [Tripartite Agreement](#) between Kenya, Somalia and UNHCR, which established a framework for the return process based on international law. The MSF document found that an overwhelming majority of the camp's residents, 86 per cent are unwilling to return to Somalia, with 96 per cent stating that they consider Somalia "very unsafe." In view of these figures, MSF questions whether "voluntary" repatriation is feasible at this point. The NRC report comes to the same conclusion stating that the returns process is "no longer being voluntary, safe or dignified." Full article [here](#).

(24/10) ECRE - Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen releases new report on Belgian response to "refugee crisis. [Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen](#)'s latest [report](#) 'Ceci n'est pas un demandeur d'asile...' investigates Belgium's response to the refugee "crisis" over the course of the past year. The report shows that the Belgian government used the "crisis" to dissuade asylum seekers from claiming asylum and to limit their rights. One of the measures that restricts access to asylum procedures is the newly created pre-registration phase which leaves refugees waiting before they can lodge an asylum claim, a system maintained even after a sharp drop in asylum applications. Upon preregistration, asylum seekers are given a dissuasive letter stating reasons why they should not apply for asylum in Belgium. Charlotte Vandycke, Director of Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen comments: "The preregistration procedure is responsible for the fact that even now people are still sleeping on the street." Full article [here](#).

(23/10) New York Times - A modest proposal to end death in the mediterranean. Earlier this month, aid groups and the Italian Coast Guard [rescued](#) hundreds of African migrants off the Libyan coast. The scene was captured in sickening photos: overcrowded boats compared to slave ships, the rescued clambering over the bodies of the dead. The only redeeming part of this piteous spectacle was the humanitarian response. Yet rescue may be the wrong thing to do; perhaps we should send these people back. Because, in this modern Middle Passage, the slaves are paying their own way and the humanitarians are providing the ships. The migrants are, in effect, paying to be rescued. They have little prospect of making the crossing unaided, and a majority of the 110,000 people who have reached Italy this year made it on rescue ships. The smugglers [know this](#), so they launch unseaworthy boats without enough fuel or food. Why invest in supplies that won't be needed? The [rescue is the route](#). Full article [here](#).

(19/10) AIDA - Italy: Plans for a uniform reception system through SPRAR expansion [via ECRE]. A plan to reform the Italian reception system was announced at the annual meeting of the Ministry of Interior and the National Association of Italian Municipalities ([Anci](#)) held on 14 October 2016 in Bari. As detailed in the [AIDA report on Italy](#), the reception

system is in theory distinguished between first-line and second-line reception. Newly arriving asylum seekers and migrants are placed in Regional Hubs, including emergency reception centres (CAS), managed by the Ministry of Interior and Prefectures. Subsequently, second-line reception is provided through the system for the protection of asylum seekers and refugees ([SPRAR](#)), managed by local municipalities. Full article [here](#).

(19/10) Open Society Foundation - New Report Calls for Repeal of UK Counter-Extremism Reporting Obligation. The UK government should repeal 2015 legislation that imposes a legal obligation on education and healthcare professionals to report individuals believed to be at risk of being drawn into terrorism, according to a new report from the Open Society Justice Initiative. “Eroding Trust: The UK’s Prevent Counter-Extremism Strategy in Health and Education” is the most comprehensive assessment to date of the workings of the Prevent strategy, which aims to “stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism” and imposes a statutory duty on health and education bodies to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. The report concludes that the Prevent strategy in health and education creates a serious risk of human rights violations and is also counterproductive. Further it argues that its application in schools, colleges and in healthcare institutions is damaging trust: between teachers and students; between doctors and patients; and between the police and members of the UK’s Muslim community, whose support is an essential element of counter-terrorism efforts. Full article [here](#).

(19/10) LSE - How OECD countries can address the migration backlash. As European policymakers attempt to respond to the migration crisis, they face a challenge in terms of public opinion, with many proposed solutions, such as refugee quota systems, proving deeply unpopular in several countries. Based on a new report by the OECD, Stefano Scarpetta [outlines](#) how these challenges can be met by states dealing with large inflows of refugees.

(19/10) The Guardian - Children don't come date-stamped – and that includes refugees. The use of dental x-rays to determine the age of child refugees has been repeatedly proposed by ministers and then dropped over the past 15 years. Practical as well as ethical considerations show that the idea cannot work; children are not “date stamped”. Refugees are treated differently if they are under 18, so there has always been a premium on trying to establish beyond doubt the precise age of an asylum seeker; and yet it has proved a “quasi-science” in the same league as measuring skulls to determine ethnicity . Medical opinion is strong on the issue. As the Royal College of Paediatricians, the British Medical Association and Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health have all pointed out, the tests are not accurate. Full article [here](#).

(18/10) UNICEF - Record numbers of unaccompanied children arrive in Italy. In the first nine months of 2016 more children arrived by sea in Italy than in all of last year. This year more than 90 per cent of the children travelled alone while in 2015 the unaccompanied accounted for 75 per cent. This year has also seen an increase of children from Egypt but most still come from West Africa. From January to October 2016 it is estimated that more than 20,000 unaccompanied and separated children arrived by sea to Italy. This is already more than in 2015 when there were in total 16,500 child arrivals, of whom 12,300 were unaccompanied and separated children. Full article [here](#).

(18/10) Foreign Policy - Europe wishes to inform you that the refugee crisis is over. The refugee crisis is over. At least that is what I was told by a number of diplomats and officials at the European Union’s headquarters in Brussels. “We have a grip on the flow,” said Pieter de

Gooijer, the permanent representative of the Netherlands to the EU. “Our worry now is slippage” — small groups of refugees escaping into Bulgaria or Macedonia from the big, fenced-in camps in northern Greece. That doesn’t mean there are no refugees, however. Tens of thousands keep pouring out of Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan, but Turkish authorities now stop them from boarding boats for Lesbos and other Greek islands. Full article [here](#).

(18/10) PICUM - Joint NGO statement ahead of the European Council of 20-21 October 2016. At the upcoming European Council on 20-21 October, European Union (EU) leaders will discuss the latest developments and progress on the EU comprehensive approach to migration. This discussion comes at a time when the EU is negotiating the 2017 budget and embarking on discussions on the Mid-Term Review of the Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF) and the next European Consensus on Development. PICUM is part of a group of NGOs which addressed EU leaders in a joint statement ahead of the European Council meeting. The group notes a wholesale re-orientation of Europe’s development programming towards migration management- a Policy Coherence for Development in reverse- and towards those regions, from which migrants or refugees originate or through which they transit. While this increase in attention and funding to fragile contexts can contribute to development objectives, a key concern is whether this funding is being channeled to the right actors for the right purposes. Full press-release [here](#). Joint statement [here](#).

(17/10) Social Platform - Reversing inequalities. Gilberto Pelosi reports on the conference on [‘Work, Welfare and Inequalities in Europe’](#), organised by the [Directorate-General for Research and Innovation](#) of the European Commission. One of the the sessions was on reversing inequalities, which featured representatives of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and academics in the discussion. Full article [here](#).

(11/10) Social Platform - Topical issues for the next European Migration Forum. Last week the European Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) invited civil society organisations to hear their views in preparation of the third meeting of the [European Migration Forum](#) that will take place at the beginning of 2017. Social Platform is represented in the Forum’s [consultative bureau](#), along with our member the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM). Full article [here](#).

(11/10) Social Platform - How can civil society organisations nurture a dialogue with the European Commission? [Social Platform] recently held our third policy and advocacy networking lunch meeting with [their] members on how to make [their] advocacy activities towards EU decision-makers more effective. This time [they] met with high level officials of three Directorate-Generals (DGs) of the European Commission. [What \[can be\] learnt from this exchange?](#)

(11/10) European Anti-Poverty Network - “Better Europe” needs a transformative, social and economic agenda: Letter to President Juncker urgently calling for a clear new direction in the Annual Growth Survey for 2017. On October 11, The European Anti-Poverty Network wrote a [letter](#) to President Juncker, urgently calling for a clear new direction in the Annual Growth Survey (AGS) for 2017, due to be launched in November. EAPN has actively engaged with its members in the European Semester at national and EU level since 2010, in order to get progress on Europe 2020 goals, and in particularly the poverty and social targets. In October, EAPN finalized its assessment report [“EAPN Assessment of the European Semester and the National Reform Programmes 2016: What progress for Social Europe?”](#) based on members’ inputs. Full article [here](#).

PUBLICATIONS

Solidar - [From Europe to Local: Migrating Solidarity](#)

Council of the EU - [Common Foreign and Security Policy \(CFSP\) report](#)

European Network Against Racism - [Annual Report \(2015\)](#)

MPI - [Digital Humanitarianism: How Tech Entrepreneurs Are Supporting Refugee Integration](#)

MPI - [All at Sea: The Policy Challenges of Rescue, Interception, and Long-Term Response to Maritime Migration](#)

MPI - [Moving Beyond Crisis: Germany's New Approaches to Integrating Refugees into the Labor Market](#)

European Trade Union Institute - [What role can minimum wages play in overcoming the low-wage model in central and eastern Europe](#)

EPRS - [Understanding social innovation](#)

Statewatch - [Report on how the EU assesses the impact, legitimacy and effectiveness of its counterterrorism laws](#)