



FEAD Network

Fund for

European Aid

to the Most Deprived

Meeting report

**SECOND FEAD NETWORK
MEETING: Social inclusion
measures under OP II**

NH du Grand Sablon, Brussels



Acknowledgements

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Contents

Session 1 – Welcome.....	4
Session 2 – “The concept of deprivation and the role of social inclusion activities” ...	4
Session 3 – Network update	6
Session 4 – Panel: structure, objectives and activities of operational programmes type II	7
Session 5 – Addressing homelessness.....	8
Session 6 – Ensuring non-discrimination	10
Session 7 – Identification of beneficiaries and outreach.....	11
Session 8 – Participatory session: integrated approaches for addressing poverty and deprivation.....	11
Session 9 – Closing plenary session.....	12
Keep in touch! – Join the FEAD Network	14

The second FEAD Network Meeting

On 18 October 2016, the European Commission hosted the second Network meeting in which the EU-wide network of actors involved in the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) came together to discuss issues related to social inclusion measures. The meeting, entitled **Social inclusion measures under OP II**, was the second Network Meeting following the launch conference in June.

The conference was organised by Ecorys on behalf of the European Commission. 56 delegates, predominantly from OP II Member States, attended the event held at the NH Hotel in Brussels, including representatives from a range of stakeholders, including: Managing authorities (MAs); partner organisations; other local, regional and national actors; European Commission representatives; EU level partner organisations; the wider EU community, as well as academic and research organisations.

Session 1 – Welcome

The plenary sessions throughout the conference were moderated by **Vicki Donlevy, Director at the Policy and Research Division of Ecorys UK**. She opened the meeting with an introduction of the different components of the agenda and subsequently introduced the speakers for the first session.

Session 2 – “The concept of deprivation and the role of social inclusion activities”

A European Commission perspective on social inclusion was provided by **Manuela Geleng, the Head of the Social Investment Strategy Unit and the “Refugees” taskforce in the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL)**. She outlined the key challenges currently facing Europe, emphasising the strong need to counter issues such as unemployment, income inequalities and deprivation. While in roughly half the Member States the number of individuals at-risk of social exclusion decreased, the number of socially excluded individuals remains too high. She stated that at present approximately 9% of the EU population (equally roughly 45 million people) are facing severe material deprivation. While there was an increase in the severe material deprivation rate between 2012 and 2014, she stated it has once again risen in 2016. FEAD was ultimately created to assist in the fight to break the vicious circle of poverty and deprivation, through for instance non-financial assistance, food provision and the provision of basic materials. Importantly, FEAD also focuses on supporting accompanying measures (as in OP I) or supporting social inclusion measures (OP II), an issue that makes up an integral part of EU policy.



Following this outline of the policy and political context, two accounts from NGO representatives were given. **Fintan Farrell, Acting Director of the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN)** discussed the four key elements of successful engagement with FEAD end recipients. Firstly, he stated that it was essential to effectively identify who the target group is. There are, for instance, certain social groups that fall through the cracks of the system but are nevertheless in need of support. Secondly, he described the importance of partnerships as in his opinion the target group should not be seen as 'clients' but rather as 'partners.' The third element is the inclusion of the target group into the regular social system. He explained that programmes for the poor too often end up being poor programmes. It is important that the target group ultimately is included in the national mainstream support schemes offered in Member States. Lastly, he indicated that it was important to conduct a proper needs assessment to identify areas for improvement as certain support measures may be effective for a particular target group but not for others.

Bert Luyts, advocacy and policy officer of ATD Fourth World Europe provided his perspective to the topic. While he has no direct experience with FEAD initiatives, he welcomed the fact that four countries opted for OP II over OP I. He discussed various social inclusion measures and stated that there is no 'one-size-fits-all' solution, and that careful consideration should be given to which measures are employed. He referred to his organisation's recently published 'Extreme Poverty and Human Rights Handbook' which provides guiding principles on the implementation of initiatives related to the eradication of poverty and securing human rights¹.



¹ The handbook is available on the FEAD Yammer page, as well as via: <http://www.atd-fourthworld.org/humanrightshandbooktoberelease/>

Session 3 – Network update

An overview of the main developments in the FEAD Network was given by **Vicki Donlevy, Director at the Policy and Research Division of Ecorys UK**. She reiterated the main objectives of the Network as well as the various strategies employed in order to make the Network effective and sustainable. Recalling the manner in which the original Network was established, particularly the creation of a database of contacts, the survey of FEAD stakeholders and several national consultations, it was noted that the current Network consists over 800 stakeholders (and is constantly growing).

Network meetings

Following a successful two-day Network launch conference in June 2016, participants were asked to contribute suggestions for shaping the three subsequent Network meetings for 2016. Under the overarching theme of 'sustainable integration' these meetings cover the following thematic areas: accompanying measures under OP I (26 September), social inclusion measures under OP II (18 October) and the potential synergy between FEAD and ESF (7 November). From 2017 onwards there will be five annual Network meetings in which participants will have the opportunity to discuss operational and thematic issues, identify challenges, share good practices and network with other FEAD stakeholders. For those Network members unable to attend a particular event, live chats on Yammer will be organised through which they can ask questions to the guest speakers and discuss issues related to the thematic area of the respective Network meeting.

Case study and good practice catalogue

To complement the various face-to-face events, case studies and good practices of FEAD implementation are being gathered to create a bank of examples of FEAD initiatives. Each year a catalogue of 28 case studies will be published and disseminated. The case studies will be wide-ranging and can include different fields, such as for instance the selection procedure of food products, partnerships between organisations, volunteer engagement, accompanying measures, outreach activities, food waste, gender issues and more.

The online FEAD Network platform

The latest developments with regard to the online FEAD Network were presented by **Mary-Clare O'Connor, Chief Editor Programme Management and Communications, Ecorys**. In creating an online platform, the Commission aims to engage the FEAD Network as well as reaching out to those not yet involved through online communication tools. The online tools consist of several pages (including country profiles) on the Europa website, a quarterly newsletter, Facebook and Twitter pages as well a Yammer network. These channels allow stakeholders to exchange experiences, learn from the successes and challenges of other stakeholders, as well as maintain the relationships and connections made at face-to-face events. To date, 200 FEAD stakeholders have become members of the Yammer group. A 'live chat' will furthermore be hosted on the platform following each Network Meeting where speakers from the event will be on hand to answer questions and continue the conversation on the topics highlighted in the meeting.

Session 4 – Panel: structure, objectives and activities of operational programmes type II

Presentations were given by the Managing Authorities from Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden.

The first presentation was given by **Mette Hold Sørensen, head of the Department of Economy and Administration of Grants of the National Board of Social Services** (a government agency under the Ministry of Social Affairs), the Danish FEAD Managing Authority. He stated that the [Danish](#) Operational Programme focused on the social inclusion of homeless people. Following the first call for proposals, they received 15 applications for a total of €6.8 million, and ultimately chose to support two projects for the 2016-19 period: [Projekt Udenfor](#) and [Kirkens Korshær](#). These were chosen for their ability to reach out to the most hard-to-reach beneficiaries.

Presenting the German set-up was **Marcus Löbbert of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs**. He indicated that in [Germany](#) FEAD was used as a tool to strengthen the bridge between target groups and existing services. As a result, it is mandatory for all FEAD projects to cooperate with the relevant municipalities. FEAD is therefore not used to set up new structures, but rather to intensify existing structures and reach out to the hard-to-reach target groups, particularly disadvantaged mobile EU citizens, their children and people at-risk of homelessness or homeless. The fund in Germany has a volume of €93 million, and aims to support 79,000 individuals by 2020. The first call for projects (2016-2018) constituted roughly €60 million, spread across 84 projects across the country.

The rationale behind the Dutch Operational Programme was presented by **Chantal de Jong-Marsman of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment**. She stated that OP II fit better into the social structure of the [Netherlands](#), where societal participation is strongly emphasised. Generally it is believed that employment is one of the main drivers for social inclusion, thus many social inclusion initiatives focus on helping individuals find work. As a result, the FEAD Managing Authority opted to dedicate its resources to a target group that falls outside the regular social inclusion initiatives, namely elderly, retired people with a low disposable income. As the Netherlands seeks to avoid the fragmentation of EU budgets, it was decided to allocate the FEAD funds to one particular project: the Elderly in the Community project. This project seeks to bring together elderly people through a range of activities organised in local libraries.

Lastly, the situation in [Sweden](#) was presented by **Heidi Knorn of the Swedish Council of the European Social Fund (ESF)**. She explained that in Sweden the FEAD Managing Authority decided to target EU and EEA mobile citizens and that the focus of activities would be on social orientation and health promotion. Social inclusion measures thus include counselling and advice about hygiene issues such as where to find showers, toilets and shelters as well as healthcare issues such as advice on how to maintain a daily routine and reproductive support. The overall budget for the FEAD in Sweden is €7.9 million (78 million SEK). There have been five projects running across the country since 2015, each receiving approximately 10 million SEK respectively. All the projects have duration of three years. Two are run by public organisations and the remaining three by NGOs. Three projects focus on social inclusion, one on preventative health and one on women and children.



Session 5 – Addressing homelessness

In his keynote speech **Frederik Spinnewijn, Director of FEANTSA** discussed the role of public actors and NGOs in Europe's fight against homelessness. He described that homelessness is not simply a phenomenon including individuals sleeping on the streets, but that there is a more structural problem that affects roughly four million people each year. Generally NGOs and the voluntary sector are dominant when it comes to services for the homeless (with the exception of Eastern Europe); therefore it is important that there are strong links between public actors and NGOs. He argued that while food aid relieves the immediate needs of Europe's most vulnerable people, social inclusion measures are important to help these individuals in their transition out of poverty.

Following this contextualisation of the topic, several case studies were presented on initiatives addressing homelessness under OP II. The first case study was presented by **Csaba Szikra, social worker at the Gangway Association**, who described the way in which the [StreetBER](#) team are responsible for locating and reaching out to homeless people with a complex psychosocial background. He described the way in which the 'hotspot team' conducts its field work and stressed the importance of the fact that there are no language barriers (and no time limit with regards to the support received). He stated that they generally offer short-term counselling services to homeless people and victims of the gentrification of Berlin.

Presenting a case study from Sweden was **Ulrika Falk, Operations Manager of the Gothenburg Rescue Mission**. She explained that in 2011 there were approximately 34,000 homeless people in Sweden, of whom the vast majority experienced issues of abuse and/or mental health issues. The homeless population was generally male and living in large cities. The homeless population changed over the years, however, and now includes a large Roma population. The Gothenburg Rescue mission has extensive experience in supporting mobile EU citizens, and runs several projects including the FEAD-funded [Po Drom](#) mobile teams that offer psycho-social and legal counselling as well as language courses to homeless (particularly Roma) people.

Lastly, **Petra Schwaiger, social worker at Project Frostschutzengel Plus of GEBEWO – Soziale Dienste und Caritasverband Berlin**, described how the [Frostschutzengel Plus](#) project conducts outreach work in low-threshold service institutions for homeless people in Berlin (three-quarters being EU mobile citizens). The project seeks to establish communication channels between the target group and existing counselling providers in Berlin and consequently build a bridge between State services and the target group.

Session 6 – Ensuring non-discrimination

Several case studies were presented illustrating how non-discrimination is ensured in social inclusion measures under OP II. The first case study was presented by **Eliot Wieslander, Executive Director of Doctors of the World Sweden**. It was stated that the aim of the **FRISK** project is to increase the health of end recipients. They provide basic material healthcare but predominantly help end recipients take care of their own health. The project stresses that education and awareness of healthcare issues, particularly infectious diseases and sexual and reproductive health, is crucial for individuals to take preventative measures. They target both men and women and strive to overcome taboos and the pitfalls of heteronormativity by raising awareness of the issues related to infectious diseases and sexual and reproductive health.

Presenting a Danish example of a FEAD-funded project under OP II was **Ninna Hoegh, Director of UDENFOR**. **UDENFOR** is an NGO that through FEAD operates two main programmes in Copenhagen and Aarhus. At both sites volunteers go into the streets and engage with the target group of homeless people (regardless of their nationality) and discuss the ways in which they can potentially be of assistance to them. They also facilitate debates, organise trainings and conduct research related to homelessness in order to help influence policymakers. They have two multilingual staff members and approximately 40 volunteers. They estimate that they carry out over 100 multilingual counselling sessions per week and offer resting beds for 40 individuals.

The third case study also touched upon a FEAD-funded Dan Church Social project from Denmark. **Lotte Molsing, head of social work at Kirkens Koshær** described the way in which the project seeks to support the social inclusion of EU mobile citizens through counselling services and advice. The outreach team consists of four multilingual individuals that actively engage with migrants in Copenhagen. The organisation also offers emergency shelter to the target group as well as multilingual counselling services. This particular team consists of two multilingual staff members and 40 volunteers (with an additional 10 multilingual staff members when needed). They offer over 100 counselling sessions a week and are able to provide beds for 40 people.

The session was closed with two presentations from Germany. The case study was presented by **Johanna Smith, head of the EU Migration department in Diakonisches Werk**. She coordinates the **ACASA** project which supports the social integration of EU mobile citizens (aged 18+) in the Nortstadt district of Dortmund. She outlined the vicious circle in which the target group frequently finds itself preventing their access to mainstream German social services. She outlined the project's multilingual outreach model and discussed the different ways in which they supported 598 individuals in the first half of 2016.

Alexandra Panaitescu, a social worker with the NGO Arbeiterwohlfahrt, supported the presentation of the **ACASA** project in Dortmund. She emphasised the various approaches available to support the integration of EU citizens into the German health system. She presented her experiences in supporting beneficiaries (many of whom have a Roma background) who face difficulties in obtaining health insurance, paying their premiums regularly and finding a medical practitioner willing to treat them.

Session 7 – Identification of beneficiaries and outreach

The case studies presented in this session exemplified various target group outreach and identification strategies in social inclusion measures under OP II.

Introducing the topic of the session was **Clotilde Clark-Foulquier, policy officer at Eurodiaconia**, with a description of some of the challenges faced by social service providers in reaching out to users as well as how they overcome the situation to make their services more accessible. She presented the manner in which Eurodiaconia's members work to identify beneficiaries and reach out to them in the framework of OP II programmes, looking particularly at the '[Compass](#)' project in Denmark and the '[A Worthier Life](#)' project in Sweden. She concluded that outreach activities should be based on mutual trust and that the provision of basic material support can be an effective stepping stone to creating such trust.

A German perspective on the historical development of FEAD, the negotiation process of the OP, the assessment of applications and the main challenges encountered thus far was offered by **Andreas Bartels, Senior Expert on European Affairs in the Worker's Welfare Association (AWO)**, Berlin. He indicated that in totality there are 83 FEAD-funded projects across Germany and that they organise meetings with local welfare organisations interested in working with EU mobile citizens. He ultimately concluded that it was imperative that synergies were sought with ESF-funded projects to ensure a sustainable strategy countering poverty and deprivation in Europe. His presentation was complemented with insights from **Katharina Stamm, a legal advisor at Diakonie**. She explained that the way that FEAD is organised in Germany offers a chance to reveal the gaps in the provision of advice and the accessing of social services. She emphasised the importance of keeping the issue alive in the political arena and ensuring that issues of social exclusion are further addressed at legislative level.



Session 8 – Participatory session: integrated approaches for addressing poverty and deprivation

A participatory “World Café” session was organised to allow participants to actively discuss existing or potential links between FEAD actions relating to social inclusion and other national or non-governmental initiatives. The discussions underlined that FEAD pushes the partnership principle on the ground; for example, in both Germany and the Netherlands, it is obligatory to cooperate with local municipalities. Participants highlighted that local networks are crucial for implementing FEAD activities (e.g. by associating NGOs working with the most disadvantaged groups), but also that there is a need to link also both to national level organisations and initiatives and to the EU level. Some issues can only be resolved by actors at national and EU level. While links are important, participants highlighted that there are a number of challenges in building and maintaining such links. Challenges included linking FEAD with ESF, the limited timeframe for implementation of FEAD actions, a lack of understanding of the role of the members of the FEAD monitoring committee, and the need for more funding and resources to develop such links.

To help further develop links, participants were asked for examples and suggestions for concrete actions which could be undertaken. Ideas included organising national FEAD networking meetings (as in Germany), developing personal links as well as institutional links (through for example FEAD Network meetings or via Yammer), prioritising proactive forms of communication, actively involving members of the FEAD monitoring committee in helping to link to national organisations, and finding synergies between the different levels: regional, national and EU. A number of participants also highlighted the importance of gathering better and more accurate information to support linkages, for example through conducting surveys or other forms of research.

Session 9 – Closing plenary session

Following a brief summary of the main findings from the World Café session, a final concluding session was led by the moderator who asked the participants, particularly the good practice speakers, to highlight the key learning points or issues for reflection that they would take away from the event, as well as any suggestions for future meetings. Participants highlighted that the meeting had provided the opportunity to gain an understanding of what is being done under OPII in FEAD in the four different Member States, to make links with operators on the ground working with similar target groups across the countries concerned, to share knowledge and learn about common challenges and good practices and to get to know the FEAD Network and what it can bring. It was also underlined that the meeting had given important food for thought in terms of the importance of social inclusion as a complement to (or even a first approach before) material aid, and that this type of event can be helpful in developing transnational partnerships. In terms of future meetings, some participants underlined that, although it had been useful to have a specific meeting on OPII, in future they feel that it will be important to ensure that meetings mix participants from both OPI and OPII. In addition, there were requests for meetings devoted to food assistance and homelessness, as well as more time provided during meetings for personal networking. Participants also emphasised that they would appreciate if results of any research being undertaken by individual FEAD projects (e.g. surveys) could be shared across the FEAD Network.



2nd FEAD Network Meeting- 18th October 2016

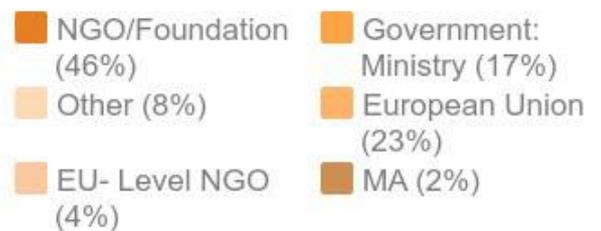
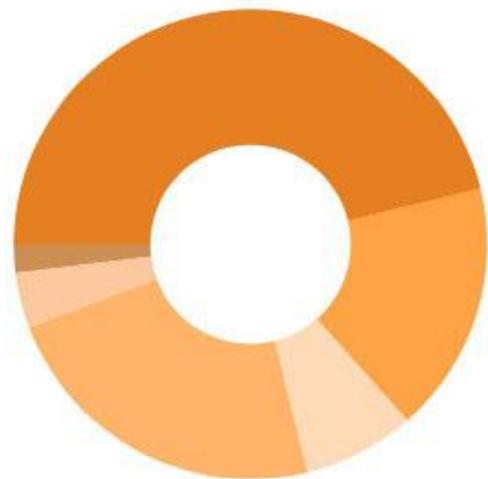
Participants

This meeting was an opportunity to discuss social inclusion measures under OPII.

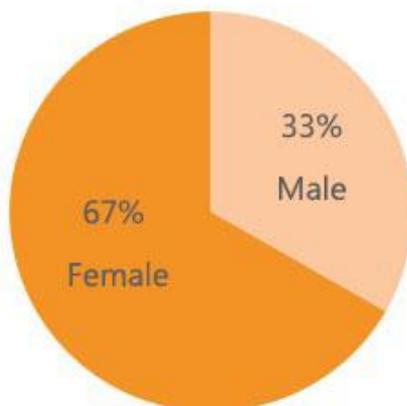
57 delegates represented 9 EU countries.



Organisations



Speakers



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<http://uk.ecorys.com/feadnetwork>

Keep in touch! – Join the FEAD Network

The FEAD Network is an animated community of practice with lively exchange of experience and shared learning. It allows the sharing of tools, ideas and resources that can help with delivering the Fund successfully.

The Network discusses all aspects of planning, managing and delivering activities across Europe. Conversations within the FEAD Network can cover any theme related to the role of the FEAD in the fight against poverty such as the food aid, child poverty, issues relating to migration, access to social services or assistance for older people.

By joining the Network, you'll be able to interact with people who do similar work as you in different European countries – wherever you are. You will also have the opportunity to continue the discussions arising in the Network Meetings in the subsequent 'live chats' on Yammer whereby a number of speakers from the events are available to answer questions.

To join the online network and stay up to date with news, sign up at:

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We look forward to hearing from you!

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