

European Year of Poverty and Social Exclusion 2010

A European year exists to raise public awareness of key issues that are affecting Europe at the present moment. Events and activities are put together to spread the message through National, Regional and Local levels. Getting issues in the public and media's eye means that the right steps can then be taken to actively dismiss the problems from society through working together.

The chosen topic of poverty and social exclusion has been decided upon as Europe wants to raise awareness and review how the EU and the Member States handle poverty and social exclusion in their respective areas. Research found that out of a total of around 830 million European's almost 84 million of them live at risk of poverty, and that 79 million live below the poverty line. In order for Europe to move forward economically, everyone in society needs to be making a positive contribution to get through the worst effects of the financial crisis. Europe brings the Member States together to collectively help to combat poverty.

The main idea of this European Year is to change public perceptions and to encourage change. The people affected by poverty and social exclusion have the chance to speak out and raise awareness of the issue. The main aims that are set out are to improve social cohesion, encourage economic growth and create more and better jobs. In the current economic situation more people are at risk of falling into poverty and so this European Year could not have come at a better time for Europe.

Overall Europe has a budget of around £21 million pounds (€26 million) for giving out to countries to put on activities for the European Years of Poverty and Social Exclusion. National Implementing Bodies (NIB) design the programmes that are used for the European Year DWP has done this in the UK. Regional funding came from DWP (Department for Work and Pensions) at a maximum of £30,000 for any regional activity that was submitted to deliver the programme.

Church Action on Poverty has secured DWP funding to run activities in Yorkshire and Humber. These consist of co-operating with grassroots organizations to find out issues of poverty in their area. They then hope to train local people in certain skill areas which will increase job opportunities. Currently they are running free training workshops for community groups to get involved in: Hull, Leeds, Wakefield, Barnsley and Bradford. In November they will hold a Yorkshire & Humber Showcase Assembly where regional organisations will have the opportunity to put concerns, air views and highlight issues to regional and national policy makers.

On the 30th-1st September/October there is Eurocities conference being held in Newcastle which will be an in-depth review on how child poverty is being handled. This conference will look at how cities are working, the role of partners involved, the role of both international and national leaders, and steps that are being taken for the year. This 2 day conference is for practitioners, academics, experts and key stakeholders.

[Link to UK National Programme](#)

[Link to Eurocities conference details](#)

[Link to Church Action on Poverty](#)