

## Report on the Active Inclusion Learning Network Platform Level 1 Transnational Events

### Platform 1 Events

- The **Troubled Families** transnational event took place in **London on 9-10<sup>th</sup> April**. It focused on the sub-themes of:
  - Anti Social Behaviour
  - Offenders' Families
  - Long term/multi-generational Unemployed
  - Educational Problems
- The **Disaffected Youth** transnational event took place in **Stockholm on 19-20<sup>th</sup> May**. It focused on the sub-themes of:
  - Youth Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)
  - Youth Inclusion and Empowerment
- **The Marginalised in Communities** transnational event took place in **Athens on 11-12<sup>th</sup> June**. It focused on the sub-themes of:
  - Homelessness
  - Physical, mental and learning difficulties
  - Offenders/Ex Offenders
  - Drugs and Alcohol abuse

### Experts

- In total, **110 experts participated** in the three Platform 1 events. Of these:
  - 44 experts attended the Troubled Families event
  - 25 experts attended the Disaffected Youth event
  - 41 experts attended the Marginalised in Communities event
- A total of **19 different nationalities** were represented at the three events. This includes: British, Dutch, Belgian, Romanian, Lithuanian, German, Italian, Swedish, Portuguese, Irish, Northern Irish, Bulgarian, Spanish, Polish, Canadian, Greek, Norwegian, British-French and British-American.

## Surveys

- As part of the Network, surveys were sent out to ESF Managing Authorities, NGOs, charities and Government departments, across the EU, in 35 member states, in order to collect practices in the field of employment and employability of disadvantaged groups.
- **291** returns, across the 10 sub-themes, were received from 17 different member states. The highest proportion of returns came from England and Wales (35%), followed by Northern Ireland (14%); Italy (12%); Lithuania (11%), Sweden (5%); Germany (4%) and Belgium (4%). Of the 291 surveys received by the Network:
  - 98 surveys were assessed at the Troubled Families event:
    - 21 surveys were assessed on anti-social behaviour
    - 30 surveys were assessed on educational problems
    - 35 surveys were assessed on long term unemployment
    - 12 surveys were assessed on offenders' families
  - 77 surveys were assessed at the Disaffected Youth event
    - 45 surveys were assessed on NEET
    - 32 surveys were assessed on Inclusion and Empowerment
  - 116 surveys were assessed at the Marginalised in Communities event
    - 20 surveys were assessed on homelessness
    - 27 surveys were assessed on drugs and alcohol
    - 37 surveys were assessed on offenders/ex-offenders
    - 32 surveys were assessed on Disabilities

## Methodology for the Platform 1 Events

### Pre-Event Methodology

- **Surveys** - Despite some of the collected practices being of poor quality and/or not **all of the collected practices were included in the assessment process at the events.** This was to ensure that the Network used a rigorous and transparent methodology to identify and select the most innovative and effective collected practices.

The Network did not consider it appropriate for the partners of the project to pre-select the collected practices to be assessed prior to the Platform 1 events. This is because the partners of the Network were not necessarily

all experts in the field of social inclusion, whereas the delegates who attended the events to assess the collected practices were.

Requiring the experts to mark all of the collected practices that the Network has received, therefore, ensured that the most innovative and effective practices were appropriately identified. It also enabled strong justification to be provided to those organisations whose collected practices were not selected as being the most innovative and effective.

- **Systematic Review** – the first drafts of the systematic reviews for each of the themes of: Troubled Families; Disaffected Youth; and Marginalised in Communities were prepared in advance of the events by Dr Ioan Durnescu. They were then shared with the delegates in their pre-event reading, and presented at their respective event. The systematic reviews are investigating recent research into inclusion into employment for Troubled Families; Disaffected Youth; and Marginalised in Communities. They are providing hard evidence on what works in enhancing employability and employment of the excluded and help to identify the possible indicators that are connected with success of interventions in this area.
- **Experts** – the partners of Active Inclusion nominated experts in the field of social inclusion to attend each of the three Platform 1 events. The experts were then assigned to a sub-theme group (e.g. homelessness, educational problems etc), based on the particular expertise of the individual. Experts were then placed in pairs or small groups within their sub-theme group, in order to assess the surveys. Whether the expert was placed in a small group or a pair was dependant upon how many surveys needed to be assessed for their sub-theme.
- **Pre-event delegate information** – all delegates were provided with a delegate information pack in advance of the event. This ensured that the delegates came to the event with a clear expectation about what was expected of them, and how the event would run. The pre-event information included:
  - accommodation pack;
  - guidance pack which included the agenda; information about the Active Inclusion project; information about the delegate's role at the event; and the list of attendees
  - the surveys they would be marking;
  - evaluation grid to assess the surveys and instructions on how to use grid
  - draft copy of the systematic review for that particular event's theme (e.g. Troubled Families; Disaffected Youth; and Marginalised in Communities)

## **Event methodology**

- **Aim** – The aim of each of the three events was for each sub-theme group to select the eight (top 5, and 3 reserves) most innovative and effective collected practices about the social inclusion for that particular disadvantaged group. The Network will then invite the organisations who submitted the top five innovative surveys, for each sub-theme, to attend the Platform Level 2 events.
- **Design of the events** –
  - **A) Plenary session** - the events commenced with a plenary session whereby a number of presentations were given:
    - A presentation on the Active Inclusion Network and how the event would run;
    - A presentation on how the Centre for Social and Economic Inclusion would be evaluating the Active Inclusion Network
    - A presentation on the systematic review for that particular theme (e.g. troubled families, disaffected youth or marginalised in communities)
    - Two presentations specific related to the event's sub-theme. For example, at the Troubled Families event presentations were given from representatives from the Department for Communities and Local Government and Birmingham City Council on the Troubled Families agenda from a national government, and a local government perspective.
  - **B) Marking of surveys** – the delegates then moved into their sub-theme groups and worked in pairs or small groups to discuss and score their allocated surveys, using a set evaluation grid. Each pair completed one evaluation grid per survey.
  - **C) Evaluation grids** - Each evaluation grid had pre-determined marking criteria which included General approach; Structure; Evaluation; Learning; Innovation; The User's Voice; and Transferability. Each marking criteria was then broken down into more detailed criteria. The evaluation grids for each sub-theme then differed slightly as they included up to 5 sub-theme specific marking criteria. All of the marking criteria used in the evaluation grids had been informed by research and debate. As some of the marking criteria were seen as being more important than others, significance multipliers were used to weight the scores. For example, since the European Commission is very much interested in what is innovative, the significance multiplier for the innovation scoring criteria was 6. At the end of the marking workshops the surveys which received the 10 highest scores were then identified and taken assessed by the delegates on Day 2,

- **D) Group Discussion** - The participants then discussed the surveys they have assessed and share with their sub-theme group. They were given 5 questions to discuss:

1. What are the **innovative points** that you can draw from these good practices?

2. What are the **learning points** that you can draw from these good practices?

3. What appear to be the **critical factors** that led to success of the good practices?

4. What aspects would you like to be **transferred** in your own national context, and why?

5. Do you have further **important points** that you would like to stress from these practices?

The sub-theme groups also suggested what additional information we need to retrieve from the collected practices, and what probing questions we should ask them at the PL2 events, in order to identify which of the practices are truly the most effective and innovative.

- **E) Identifying the Top 8 Surveys** – the sub-theme groups then needed to identify the top 8 surveys (i.e. the top 5 and 3 reserves) from the 10 surveys that received the highest scores following the marking workshop on Day 1. They did this by re-assessing the Top 10 surveys using a new marking system they developed based on the criteria of **innovation, learning, critical success factors and transferability**. Some of the sub-theme groups re-assessed the surveys using a new numerical scoring system they had designed using the criteria of innovation, learning, critical success factors and transferability. Other sub-theme groups re-assessed the surveys and identified the Top 8 through a group discussion based on the criteria of innovation, learning, critical success factors and transferability. The delegates were given the flexibility to identify how to identify the Top 8 surveys, as long as their decisions were based on using the 4 criteria.
- **F) Semi-structured interviews** – the partners who attended the events identified 2 experts from each of the sub-theme groups to be interviewed by Dr Ioan Durnescu. These semi-structured interviews have now commenced and will compliment the findings from the systematic review and collected practices.

## Results

- 8 collected practices were identified for each of the 10 sub-themes. Interestingly, there is a lot of overlap across the different sub-themes, with many of selected collected practices appearing in the top 8 for multiple sub-themes.
- In summary, the collected practices that were successful in the three PL1 meetings are from 44 different organisations, from 15 different countries (UK, Northern Ireland, Ireland, Belgium, Greece, Sweden, Italy, Portugal, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Poland, Germany, Romania and Lithuania).

### Successful Collected Practices for the Troubled Families sub-themes

	<u>ASB</u>	<u>Educational Problems</u>	<u>LTE</u>	<u>Offender Families</u>
1	ASB 5 - The Pathways Project <b>(UK)</b>	EP22 – Choose your future – Science for Environment Foundation <b>(Poland)</b>	MGU16 - “Growing Lives” <b>(UK)</b>	OF3 - Integrated outreach support <b>(UK)</b>
2	ASB 6 - Tomorrow’s Women Wirral <b>(UK)</b>	EP11 Toolkit for life – <b>(UK)</b>	MGU3 - "WAW trajectory. An integrated approach to work, poverty and welfare " <b>( Belgium)</b>	OF9 - Integration of the members of the family of high-quality social risk into the labour market’ <b>(Lithuania)</b>
3	ASB7 - Toolkit for Life <b>(UK)</b>	EP20 – Europe value added training – EVAT <b>(UK, Italy, Norway, Cyprus),</b>	MGU14 - “Supporting People: Housing Support Programme” <b>(UK)</b>	OF7 - FAMILY SPACE (SPAZIO FAMIGLIA) <b>(Romania)</b>
4	ASB15 - Reintegration of addicted people into society and labour market in the salad bar “My Guru” <b>(Lithuania)</b>	EP15 - Reintegration of addicted people into society ‘My Guru’ – NGO Social Support <b>(Lithuania)</b>	MGU29 - “Choices Plus” <b>(Northern Ireland)</b>	n/a
5	ASB21 – Youth Advocate Programmes <b>(Ireland)</b>	EP28 - Multiregional Operational Programme: Fight Against Discrimination – <b>(Spain )</b>	MGU17 - Social Cooperative Enterprise - SCE “I Change” <b>(Greece)</b>	n/a
Reserve 1	ASB2 - New Meaning – New Horizon <b>(UK)</b>	EP23 - Choices Programme - <b>(Portugal)</b>	MGU25 - “Restart 2 Transfer of Innovation Project” <b>(Northern Ireland (UK), Germany, Lithuania)</b>	n/a
Reserve 2	ASB19 - Meeting Place 2020 <b>(Sweden)</b>	EP26 - Meeting Place - 2020 <b>(Sweden)</b>	MGU15 “Working in Handsworth and Shard End (WiSH)” <b>(UK)</b>	n/a
Reserve 3	ASB20 - PROGETTO RE-START <b>(Italy – Piedmont region)</b>	EP30 - Action plan Youth Unemployment - <b>(Netherlands)</b>	MGU27 “Essential Skills programme” <b>(UK)</b>	n/a

### Successful Collected Practices for the Disaffected Youth sub-themes

	<u>NEET</u>	<u>Inclusion and Empowerment</u>
1	NEET 6 -Toolkit for Life <b>(UK)</b>	IE 32 -Unga In Swedish Public Employment Head Office <b>(Sweden)</b>
2	NEET 39 – “Missing Link – an comprehensive guidance for hard to reach young people” - <b>(Belgium)</b>	IE8 - Supporting People: Housing Support Programme <b>(UK)</b>
3	NEET 31 “Experimentation in the field of Social Farming” - <b>(Italy)</b>	IE29- Multiregional Operational Programme: Fight Against Discrimination <b>(Spain)</b>
4	NEET 29 – “Stepping Stones Programme for Educationally and Economically Disadvantaged Youth - SPEED Youth Programme” – <b>(Northern Ireland)</b>	IE26 - Choices Programme/ Programa Escolhas <b>(Portugal)</b>
5	NEET 13 – “Job in sight” - <b>(Sweden)</b>	IE15 - Youth Advocate Programmes <b>(Ireland)</b>
Reserve 1	NEET 38 – “Vocational integration/ increase employability through individual coaching and group training” - <b>(Germany)</b>	IE6 - Integrated Outreach Support <b>(UK)</b>
Reserve 2	NEET 25 – “Youth Employment Agency” – <b>(Germany)</b>	IE12 - Youth Active <b>(Germany)</b>
Reserve 3	NEET 36 – “Choices Programme” - <b>(Portugal)</b>	IE9 - NEET Education in Oakwood Prison <b>(UK)</b>

### Successful Collected Practices for the Marginalised in Communities sub-themes

	<u>Homelessness</u>	<u>Offenders / ex offenders</u>	<u>Disabilities</u>	<u>Drugs and Alcohol</u>
1	HOME 2 "Growing Lives" - <b>UK</b>	OFF 26 - Reintegration of addicted people into society and labour market in the salad bar “My Guru” - <b>Lithuania</b>	DIS26 - Multiregional Operational Programme: Fight Against Discrimination <b>(Spain)</b>	DA23- BASTA – Social Inclusion Through Social Enterprise - <b>Sweden</b>
2	HOME 1 - "Supporting People: Housing Support Programme" - <b>UK</b>	OFF 34 - Choices Programme (Programa Escolhas) - <b>Portugal</b>	DIS29 - Ready for Work - <b>UK and Ireland</b>	DA10 - Working in Handsworth and Shard End (WiSH) – DWP/ Birmingham City Council - <b>UK</b>
3	HOME 20 - "Ready for Work" - <b>UK and Ireland</b>	OFF 31 - Jobtrack - <b>Northern Ireland</b>	DIS19 - Reintegration of addicted people into society and labour market in the salad bar “My Guru” (Lithuania)	DA8 - Tomorrow’s Women – The Wirral - <b>UK</b>
4	HOME 13 - "Individual counselling, group counselling, training based on experiential education" - <b>Lithuania</b>	OFF 8 - The Chrysalis Programme - <b>England + Australia</b>	DIS23 - Eye Work <b>(Northern Ireland)</b>	DA25 - Ready for Work - <b>United Kingdom and Ireland</b>
5	HOME 17 - Multiregional Operational Programme: Fight Against Discrimination <b>(Spain)</b>	OFF 36 - Ready for Work - <b>UK + Rep. Ireland</b>	DIS27 - Andra chanser <b>(Sweden)</b>	DA 18 - Development and application of tools and methods for social exclusion persons in order to re-integrate them into the Labour Market - <b>Lithuania</b>

Reserve 1	HOME 11 - "Coloured Roofs" - <b>Italy</b>	OFF 21 - SARTORIE SOLIDALI - <b>Italy</b>	DIS 9 - Youth Advocate Programmes - Youth Advocate Programmes ( <b>Ireland</b> )	DA 17 - Reintegration of addicted people into society and labour market in the salad bar "My Guru" - <b>Lithuania</b>
Reserve 2	HOME 9 - "Social Cooperative Enterprise - "I Change" - <b>Greece</b>	OFF 12 - Directions - <b>UK</b>	DIS12 - Farm activities for the social and work inclusion ( <b>Italy</b> )	DA20- Essential Skills Programme - <b>Northern Ireland</b>
Reserve 3	HOME 18 - "Basta - social inclusion through social enterprise" - <b>Sweden</b>	OFF 18 - Youth Advocate Programme - <b>USA + Southern Ireland</b>	DIS11 - Experimentation in the field of Social Farming ( <b>Italy</b> )	DA 15- Psychological and Social Rehabilitation of drug addicts and also returning from prison drug addict persons – <b>Lithuania</b>

### Points to note from the events

- **The pre-event information sent to delegates, and organisation of the events worked very well.** The delegates and partners that attended the events had a clear expectation about what was expected of them, and how the event would run. The pre-event information included: an accommodation pack; a delegates pack which included information about the Active Inclusion project and how the event would run; the surveys they would be marking; the evaluation grid; and a draft copy of the systematic review.
- **The format of the events worked very well and was very popular with the delegates.** The events were very interactive as the delegates worked in small groups to mark the surveys, and then discussed in a group the interesting points that arose from the surveys in order to identify the best practices, worked very well. Delegates commented on how much they enjoyed this element of the event and they particularly enjoyed the way in which their expertise and knowledge was utilised throughout the event to identify the most innovative and effective practices. They said that this made a refreshing change from being 'talked at', which is a common occurrence at other ESF event.
- **Varying quality of the surveys – the surveys the Network received** were of varying quality, as some of them were not very detailed / had not been completed fully / were written in poor English or just included links to website. The Network was upfront with the delegates about the varying quality of the surveys and why the Network had not pre-filtered the surveys. This vastly reduced the number of complaints and grumbles received from delegates about why they were being asked to mark certain surveys in comparison to the previous events.
- The Network really emphasised the **importance of reading the surveys before attending the event.** As per the message about the quality of the surveys, this request was also sent to the delegates in an email prior to the event, and was also highlighted in their delegate pack. The result was that the vast majority of the delegates had read



the surveys beforehand, and studied the evaluation grid, which helped the workshops to run on time due and enabled the delegates to get the most out of the event by enabling them to have interesting and informative discussions about the surveys whilst assessing during the workshops.

- **Very positive feedback was received from delegates who attended the events.** Positive feedback focused on how positive they found the opportunity to network with other experts from across the EU, and how much they learnt from the event and were able to take back to their own organisations. The outstanding feedback that particularly stood out – and was received from a number of delegates, individually, – was how they have attended numerous ESF funded events, but the Active Inclusion event they each attended were only events that they found truly valuable and really enjoyed attending. This is because they enjoyed the interactive and the results driven nature of the events which relied upon the delegates working together and combining their knowledge and expertise. They said this was something quite unique. Some examples of feedback received:

*“Congratulations once again for organizing an excellent event. I really enjoyed the experience and I was happy to meet wonderful and professionally involved colleagues like you.”* Romanian delegate

*“It was a joy being in London. Thank you for all the effort you put into organising the Active Inclusion Event, the good care and follow up. I am so grateful to have been part of this international event. I'm sure everybody can look back on a successful 2 days.”* Belgian Delegate

*“Thank you for the opportunity to take part in the Athens meeting – I found it very interesting to look through all the survey case studies, to meet the wider network of experts and to see how the AI network actually functions in practice.”* British / French delegate

*“Thank you for sharing few days of hard work together! I am glad I had the chance to be a part of this event and to learn so much for just a few days.”* Bulgarian delegate

*“Thank you for the excellent event. It was, for me, a great opportunity to exchange way to work and to organize services and know each of you.”* Italian delegate

*“I would like to thank you again for the well organized and informative meeting in Athens last week. I am impressed with the amount of projects you collected and I enjoyed meeting so many interesting people in your network.”* Dutch Delegate

- It may have been useful to have included experts “by experience” e.g. experts with experience of the sub-theme topic that is being looked at, at the event. This is something, therefore, that could be considered for

the PL2 events. This would help to give a different and interesting perspective when assessing the collective practices in order to find those which are the most innovative.

### **Next steps**

- **Research meeting** –A second research meeting, with the thematic partners and Giovanna Mangano, Dr Ioan Durnescu and Heather Law, will take place in London on 18<sup>th</sup> July. The purpose of this meeting is to review the findings from the Platform Level 1 events and to plan the Platform 2 events.
- **Steering group meeting** – the second Steering Group meeting will take place in September, in Lithuania. The date will be circulated to the project partners.
- **Platform Level 2 (PL2) events** – the PL2 events are due to take place between November 2014 and January/February 2015. The Disaffected Youth PL2 event will be hosted by ISFOL in Rome; the Marginalised in Communities event will be hosted by the Ministry of Justice in Bremen in Germany and the Troubled Families PL2 event will be hosted by ESF Agentschap in Belgium.
- **Final international conference** – will be hosted in Rome, by ISFOL in March/April 2015.