

# OurVoices 2017



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“Our Voices 2017” is a project aiming to deepen discussions on the future of Europe, underlining the idea of an inclusive social Europe, which is emphasized in the [European Social Charter](#) (ESC) and the [EU Charter of Fundamental Rights](#) (CFR) and enhancing participation of people living social exclusion situations on those debates.

The relevance of the project is related to the increasing distance from European Union Institutions which a lot of the population in different European countries are experiencing, especially among those who live in poverty. It is essential to open a process in which people struggling with poverty and social exclusion can discuss the social and human dimension of the European construction and contribute to a better promotion and implementation of two of the fundamental European agreements (ESC and CFR).

The general aim of the project is to discuss on the future of a Social Europe, stimulating participation of people living under vulnerable situations. Doing so, this project will contribute to slow down distancing processes of EU cohesion.

#### **The objectives of “Our Voices 2017” are:**

- 1) To promote a participatory process on EU social principles including people living in social exclusion and/or poverty.
- 2) To spread the contents of CFR and ESC and the work of the EU Agency Fundamental Rights and the European Committee of Social Rights.
- 3) To produce collaborative knowledge on social difficulties and policies in EU countries as well as proposals to overcome them.
- 4) To develop effective recommendations and proposals to build a more inclusive Europe for everyone.

In order to achieve these goals various participatory processes will be developed by the different partners of the project. The processes will address the guarantee of the social-economic rights in the UE, and each partner will choose different specific work fields related to different articles of CFS or ESC.

The target groups of the action are mainly two: the first one is formed by EU citizens affected by social exclusion and poverty. The second one includes professionals and volunteers in Local Authorities and Civil Society Organizations. Project will involve from 50 to 75 participants in each country. A European Gathering with 50 participants will be a momentum of the process.

## 3 Countries - 4 Partners

### ATD Cuarto Mundo – Spain – [www.atdcuartomundo.es](http://www.atdcuartomundo.es)

MOVIMIENTO ATD CUARTO MUNDO ESPAÑA  
TU Y YO CONSTRUIMOS UNA SOCIEDAD SIN POBREZA



ATD Spain will assume the coordination role of the project. It has experience coordinating with other entities at national level and wants to move a step forward to the international level with friend entities. ATD Spain will also assume administrative and financial management of the project.

### ATD Poland – [www.atd.org.pl](http://www.atd.org.pl)



www.atd.org.pl

R A ZEM  
P O S T A W M Y  
N A G O D N O Ś Ć

ATD Poland is expected to contribute in this project developing all the participatory activities at national level but also having a leading role in the last stage of the project by coordinating the production of the final report. It will consist on reading and selecting contents and key issues by all partners, to summarize main ideas and write a document which will take into account the difference of context and cultures in the countries involved.

### ATD Ireland – [www.atdireland.ie](http://www.atdireland.ie)

ATD Ireland will organise local meetings, reach & include citizens facing poverty and participate to the European gatherings. Because of its involvement in the “Irish Economic, Social & Cultural Rights Initiative”, its specific contribution will be to share expertise & animation tools on the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights & the European Social Charter, as well as to link with the EU Fundamental Rights Agency & the Council of Europe Committee of Social Rights. ATD Ireland will take leadership in the preparation of the plenary gathering in spring 2017 and in the public communication about the project via Facebook and Twitter.



### Andecha – [www.equipoandecha.org](http://www.equipoandecha.org)

Andecha works trying to provide tools for empowerment and promoting communities involvement in analyzing and resolving their own concerns. Andecha implement participatory processes at various levels and community work projects involving excluded groups, local authorities and civil organisations. Andecha is expected to contribute to this project facilitating technical support and especialized knowledge on working methods and project planification.



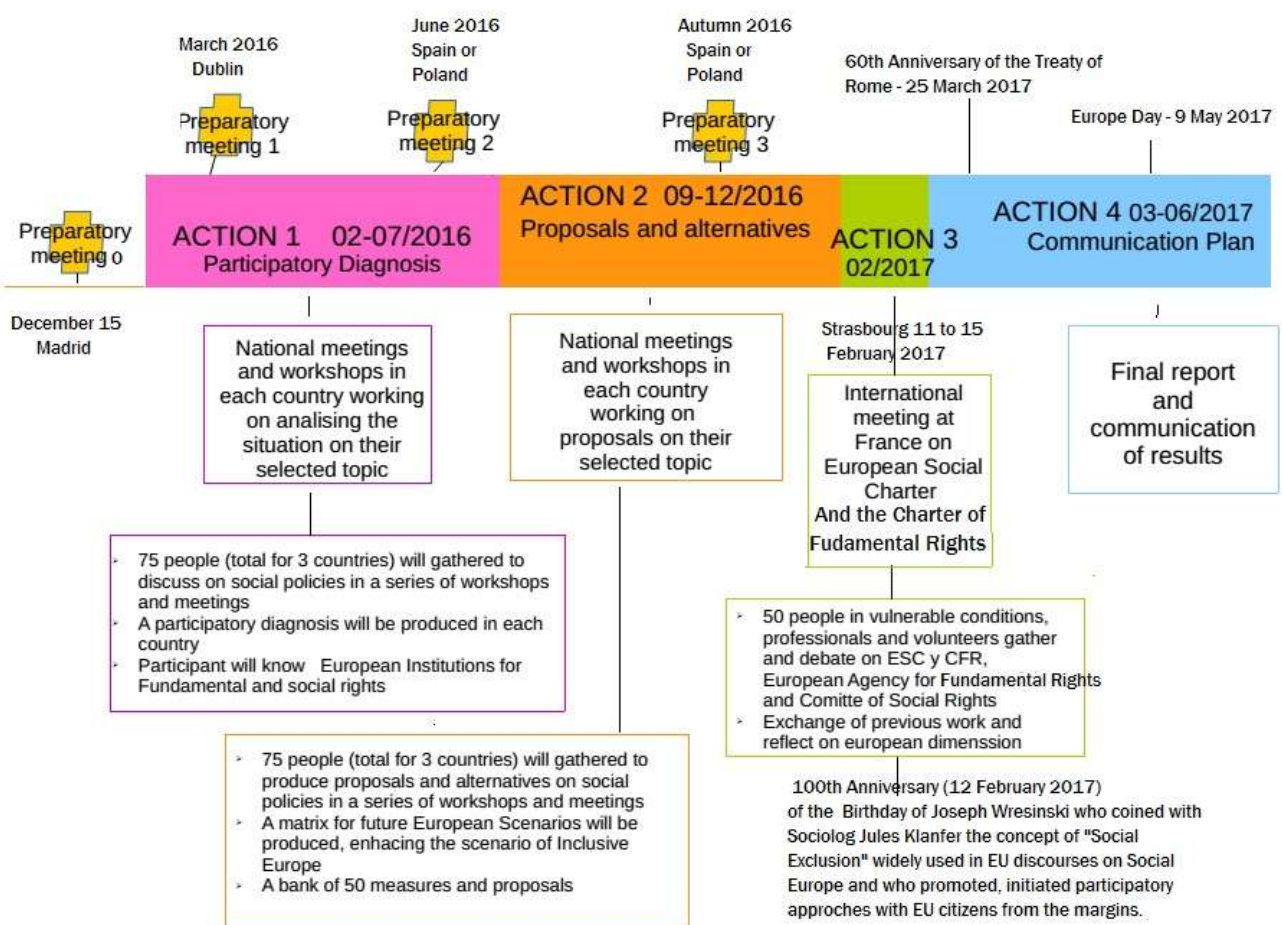
Andechas members will contribute designing the techniques to be implemented in project actions, facilitating some of the activities (such as workshops, meetings and work events), as well as providing capacity building tools to partners involved in the project in methodologies and participation strategies and abilities. Also, Andecha will have a leading role in planification, monitoring and evaluation of the project, contributing with technical tools and knowledge and supervising all the technical aspects of the work carried out by the grass roots and civil society organisations taking part. Andecha will produce concrete outputs (diagnosis, proposals, conclusions) which could become a toolkit to create spaces where it will be possible for people with different social backgrounds to share ideas and build common discourses on European cohesion, assigning them an equal value in society.

## Work programme of the project

The working methods of the project are inspired by the “Participative Action Investigation”, “People's University” and “Merging of Knowledge” approaches promoted by Andecha and ATD teams. These methods allow people, through a process of reflection and action, and with the implementation of participative methodologies, to become involved in the design and evaluation of social policies.

To guarantee the maximum participation of citizens in social exclusion and raise the sense of belonging to the UE within this project, the partners will address the social policies which citizens are more worried about.

To do this, the project will develop 4 actions which will be carried out simultaneously in the 3 participating countries.



### Action 1 – February to September 2016

Partners will organise local meetings and workshops focused on the analysis of some existing European policies, rights framework or initiatives (as the “Turin Processus” lead by the Council of Europe) in connection with the theme chosen by the people involved in their country. Discussions could be held on minimum income / guarantee of human rights / existence under marginal conditions and other issues, identifying problems, needs and difficulties encountered by people experiencing social exclusion.

## Action 2 – September 2016 to January 2017

Partners will organise local meetings and workshops focused on the design of proposals and alternatives to some existing European policies or rights framework in connection with the theme chosen by the people involved in their country.

## Action 3 – February or March 2017 – European Plenary Meeting in France

### European meeting "Towards a renewed implementation of the European Social Charter and the European Charter of Fundamental Rights".

A plenary meeting with all partners gathering 50 project participants and guests will take place in France (Strasbourg or Paris). It will involve stakeholders responsible for the promotion and the implementation of the ESC, the "Turin Processus" and the CFR. Debates (open to public or limited to the project participants) we will reflect on the future of social Europe using as starting point the work done in each country during action 1 and 2. The proposals and alternatives prepared by citizens in social exclusion and/or poverty in each country will be discussed in plenary sessions and workshops.

Date and venue of the plenary meeting could be Strasbourg from 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017. This would enable the final plenary meeting to include:

- Marking publicly the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Joseph Wresinski on 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> February 2017 with friends at the European Parliament, the Council of Europe and in the Alsace Region.
- Organising with MePs a special meeting of the European Parliament Intergroup on Poverty and Human Rights.
- Meeting the team in charge of the promotion of the European Social Charter at the Council of Europe.

To be able to organise the final meeting in Strasbourg, project partners need to find additional fundings (from €5,000 to €8,000 to cover extra transport and accommodation costs for the 50 participants). Main funding by the EU programme "Europe for Citizens" doesn't enable to cover this special budget.

## Action 4 – March to June 2017



Partners will run events in their countries and media campaigns to publicise the project's results and learnings to: general public, people living in poverty and exclusion, anti-poverty and citizens organisations, local, national and European authorities (especially in the days close the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rome Treaty **on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2017** and the weeks around 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017– Europe Day and anniversary of the [Declaration made by Robert Schuman](#) on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 1950)



## Three European exchange and preparatory meetings

To meet the “participatory” challenge, the adequate collaboration and the cohesion of the project, partners will meet 3 times for preparatory meetings and “Voices exchanges”.

The aims of these meetings are:

- to set a common strategies, evaluate and plan.
- to discover and experiment together the “participatory” processes developed by each partner

The real experience of the participatory methodologies in each country will make possible to develop a discussion process allowing partners to improve their own approached t ensure the participation of citizens with different type of knowledge and social abilities.

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The “Our Voices 2017” project is one of the 17 actions planned by ATD Ireland in 2017 as part of a one year global campaign to make sure that we are on tracks to reach the 17 Global Goals by 2030, leaving no one behind in a world free from extreme poverty.



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**Partners of the project are still looking for sponsors and additional grants to complete the budget of the project and especially to cover the costs of the European meeting in Strasbourg in February 2017.**