30/10/14/

Recommendations for a Plan for Improvement :

*Please note that the proposals do reflect the entire range of activities, but only those where improvements is felt to be necessary. If this recommendations will be accepted a proper plan for improvement (with concrete actions and indicators will be built)*

These recommendations reflect both the conclusions of several discussions in the EXCO (i.e. World Café) as well as the external evaluation.

**I.** **EAPN work programs**

1.1. must support the needs and participation of people experiencing poverty;

1.2. should indicate clear priorities reflecting EAPN’s Strategic Plan, setting specific targets which are measurable (indicators) and be respectful of budget and human resource limitations.

1.3. should reflect a balance between lobbying work and capacity building work; and be flexible enough to respond to the differing needs for capacity-building In the end capacity building and lobbying activities should mutually reinforce each other.

1.4. should heed the diversity of its members yet engage all in at least one set of common activities reflecting the EAPN’s engagement at European level.

1.4.1. indicate a set of joint actions where all members are required to participate;

1.4.2. allow for differing treatment – in terms of budget and engagements of national network to develop their specific priorities.

1.5. Involve European Organizations more specifically in the implementation of the work programmes and draw on their specific expertise.

II**. Building Relations with EU Institutions and Peer Organisations**

2.1. The European Parliament

* Continue to strengthen relations with the European Parliament where appropriate and in particular with those who signed EAPN’s manifesto;
* Aim to bring the messages of the European PeP meeting to the European Parliament by organizing a hearing in the EP;
* Aim at the highest political level to bring to bear EAPN’s views
* Carefully plan EAPN’s engagement in relevant intergroups.

2.3. The European Commission

* Do advocacy work at the highest political level – specifically to ensure core funding and the PEP meeting (also reach out to presidencies)
* Identify strategic partners in different DGs with the potential to fund activities for EAPN

2.4. Council Formations and European Council

* Review the work with the Council formations with a view to greater effectiveness;
* National Networks should act in unison when lobbying the Council and provide feedback to be able to measure result
* Revitalize the work with the Committee of Permanent Representatives (COREPER) and link the work back to members for possible actionsAim to establish a more structured/regular and official dialogue with the Social Protection Committee and the Employment Committee in the European Parliament.

2.5. Alliances

* Review EAPN’s engagements with existing and new Alliances;
* Establish clear priorities regarding work with these Alliances
* Prioritise the work with the Social Platform
* Built on the work of the Semester Alliance and seek continuation of the funding for a second time.

**III. Improve Internal Working Methods of EAPN**

3.1. Building a more effective relationship between the EU ISG and the EXCO at all levels

* by developing appropriate mechanisms at national level to exchange information between the EXCO and EUISG member;
* by organizing one annual meeting between EXCO and EU ISG;

3.2. Fundraising

* Decide on clear strategy with tangible/achievable goals; long term as well as concrete actions for the short-term aimed at diversifying the funding sources
* Promote EAPN participation in EU projects with funding also going to hiring staff to manage and implement project and projects themselves linked to EAPN core work.
* Map the network’s strength and weaknesses from the perspective of project participation.

3.3. PEP meeting

**How can the annual PeP meeting be better linked to ongoing activities of EAPN? And how to link it better with other EU poverty processes – EPAP, Annual Convention, SIP etc.?**

* **EXCO to identify clear goals**

3.4. Improve the Collaboration between Members and the Secretariat

* Member mailings (outside of official documents) use a clear and easy-to-understand language
* Discussion documents for the EXCO should be short and clearly identifying purpose and actions/decisions
* Secretariat to report regularly on its activities in a clear and easy to understand language (and also identifying) who does what.
* Questionnaires should be kept simple (if possible!)
* Publications aimed for the use of members should be written in a clear language and should avoid being too long or technical. Secretariat should inform members about the existing interactive tools so that members can decide where and how to participate in future actions.
* Consider – where appropriate - the use of web streaming of meetings or organizing more skype meetings.
* Consider the possibility of producing small videos to better spread our main messages around different subjects and outcomes of our meetings and activities in general (e.g. conclusions of PEP, declarations from the Exco, final declarations of GA’s, summaries of long documents…)