**Concept Note for the 2014 EAPN Capacity Building Seminar**

**Network Development in the framework of the MASS, based on member Annual Reports**

*Autumn, 2014*

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**Introduction**

Under the current Strategic Plan 2012-2014, Goal 2 aims for EAPN to become ***a dynamic, membership driven organisation that is recognised as a key civil society actor fighting poverty, social exclusion and inequalities at National and European levels.***

The current Standing Orders requires members to submit Annual Reports, updated Statutes or internal rules of procedure, when these are changed, and an updated list of members. In 2013, at the Bureau’s insistence, the Annual Reports submitted were discussed at the General Assembly in thematic workshops, which was welcomed by members; this is, however, not possible in the framework of the 2014 General Assembly.

The Network Development Seminar will ensure the continuity of drawing on member Annual reports as a capacity building basis, focusing on mutual learning and comparative analysis of the development of EAPN members. The seminar will continue on the MASS framework, following the four pillars of strong anti poverty networks. The seminar will further strengthen ownership of the MASS, with two more networks sharing their experience of undergoing the process - EAPN Spain and EAPN Portugal.

**Aim**

To support the implementation of the MASS as a development framework in the membership of EAPN, using Annual Reports as a basis for understanding better what members do and creating a mutual learning space inside EAPN.

**Specific objectives include**

* Building ownership of the four pillars of strong Anti Poverty Networks, as presented in the MASS
* Building ownership among members of the MASS as a common development framework for EAPN National Networks (and European Organisations willing to take it up)
* Exchanging and learning about other members in terms of structure, activity, resources and engagement with European policy-making
* Identifying good practices (under different pillars) that can be transferable and building a common definition of good practice for future use
* Developing an EAPN resource reference of good practice Understanding the EU policy agenda and how EAPN engages with it.

**Participants**

This seminar is budgeted for 30 persons (to confirm with Philippe) and aims to bring together persons in the National Networks with decision-making or implementation powers, able to introduce the MASS and the learning they get from other members.

**Language and Interpretation**

This activity will be held in English.

**Proposed content:**

**Day 1:**

**Understanding and working with the four pillars of the MASS**

* **Ability to lobby and influence governments**
* **Strengthening direct participation of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion**
* **Development and growth of the Network**
* **Good governance and strong internal democracy**

**How are EAPN members implementing the four pillars (workshop discussions based on annual reports). The topics will be identified based on the reports that Networks submit**

**MASS as a development framework for National Networks**

* **Looking at practical ways MASS is being introduced in the Networks**
* **Looking at facilitating that process**
* **Presentations from NNs who have begun the process of introducing the MASS**

**Day 2:**

**Framing a positive development approach – what EAPN Networks define as their successful actions in 2013 and identifying common elements**

* **Presentations and exchange in workshops**

**Mutual learning and transferability of good practices**

* **Defining together good practice, based on the actions presented**
* **Integrating a positive Network development approach in EAPN at national and European levels**

**Conclusion and Evaluation**