

EAPN-ES Advocacy and the Spanish Third Sector Structure

How do we work?

What we will see in the workshop?



- What is EAPN-Spain. From the beginning to the dead and rebirth
- General economic and social situation in Spain. Just an overview
- The Spanish Third Sector at the crossroads
- Building the Spanish Third Sector Platform
- What about your countries?

What is EAPN-ES?



EUROPEAN ANTI POVERTY NETWORK ES

- **A Network of NGO comited with the social inclusion of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion.**
- Which main objective is **to address poverty and social exclusion** at the center of political debates at the Spanish state and its autonomic regions in order to influence public policies both at European and national and regional level.
- **Currently composed of 19 regional networks and 16 national entities**

EAPN-ES at the beginning



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- Born in Spain in 1991 in some regions like CLM, Andalusia, Navarra...

Death and Re-Birth of EAPN-ES



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- **Financial problems** and dissolution.
- **2002:** some regional EAPN and National entities create "**NGO for Inclusion**" (EAPN-CLM; EAPN-Andalusia, EAPN-Navarra, Spanish Red Cross, Spanish Caritas and Fundación Secretariado Gitano (for Roma People))
- **Rebirth of EAPN-ES in 2004** with the help of EAPN Portugal

Development of EAPN-ES



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- We had **little power**
- **But we start to grow up**
- **We got some financial support** and little by little we became a strong network

Who is member of the Spanish EAPN?



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19 Autonomical Networks

- Red Europea de Lucha contra la Pobreza y Exclusión Social en Euskadi
- Taula d'Entitats del Tercer Sector Social de Catalunya
- Red Europea de Lucha contra la Pobreza y la Exclusión Social en CLM
- Red Aragonesa de Entidades Sociales para la inclusión
- Red Andaluza de Lucha contra la Pobreza y la Exclusión Social
- Red Navarra de Lucha contra la Pobreza y la Exclusión Social
- Red Madrileña de Lucha contra la Pobreza y la Exclusión Social
- Red Europea de Lucha contra la Pobreza y la Exclusión Social en Canarias
- Red Europea de Lucha contra la Pobreza y la Exclusión Social en Castilla y León
- Red de Lucha contra la Pobreza y la Exclusión Social de la Región de Murcia
- Red Asturiana de Lucha contra la Pobreza
- Xarxa per la Inclusió Social de la Comunitat Valenciana
- Xarxa Balear per la Inclusió
- EAPN Extremadura
- EAPN Galicia
- EAPN Melilla
- EAPN Cantabria
- EAPN Ceuta
- EAPN La Rioja



Who is member of the Spanish EAPN?



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16 National Entities

- Fundación Secretariado Gitano
- Cáritas Española
- Cruz Roja Española
- Unión Española de Asociaciones y Entidades de Atención al Drogodependiente (UNAD)
- Confederación Española de Organizaciones en favor de las Personas con Discapacidad Intelectual (FEAPS)
- Comisión Española de Ayuda al Refugiado (CEAR)
- Consorcio de Entidades para la Acción Integral con Migrantes (CEPAIM)
- Federación de Mujeres Progresistas
- Confederación de Centros de Desarrollo Rural (COCEDER)
- Asociación Comisión Católica Española de Migraciones (ACCEM)
- Confederación Coordinadora Estatal de Minusválidos Físicos de España (COCEMFE)
- Fundación Esplai
- Red Araña
- Movimiento por la Paz, el Desarme y la Libertad (MPDL)
- RAIS Fundación
- La ONCE

Spaces of Participation



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FORMAL

- Social Action NGOs National Council
- Platform of Social Action NGOs
- **Third Sector Platform → Civil Dialogue Commission**

INFORMAL

- Spanish Alliance Against Poverty
- Social Agents Forum

Advocacy at national and regional level



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NATIONAL

- Social Action NGOs National Council
- Formal & informal meetings with the Ministry of Health & Social Affairs, mainly
- **Third Sector Platform → Civil Dialogue Commission**

REGIONAL

- Formal & informal meetings with the Autonomical Governments

General economic and social situation in Spain



- **Poverty** and social exclusion as a **structural** problem.
- **Previous economic growth did not lead to any reduction** of the two phenomena.
- The **crisis has worsened the situation**, appear new phenomena of social exclusion.
- **Civil society is not sufficiently articulated.**

The Spanish Third Sector at the crossroads



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- **A plural & heterogeneous sector**, in continuous growth and transformation.
- **A sector with important weaknesses** exacerbated by the crisis.
- **Need to work on a common project** as a sector.
- **Third Sector Platform**

A plural & heterogeneous sector, in continuous growth and transformation.



- Integrated currently by around **29.000 entities**
- Employing more than **500.000 people paid** (2.5% of employment in our country)
- and about **900.000 volunteers**
- Provides **direct support to more than 5.000.000** of people, mostly of them in situation of vulnerability and exclusion
- **The economic activity of the third sector represents 1.7%** of gross domestic product in Spain.
- These organizations **operate in different fields** like disabled people, children, drug abuse, immigration, Roma people, homeless, and so on.

A plural & heterogeneous sector, in continuous growth and transformation.



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- **They develop a wide range of actions** such as awareness, promotion of social participation, research, support people, training for employment, residential shelters, direct assistance, self-help, complaint and claim and so on.
- **Some are big, other small, with different legal status** (foundations, associations, social cooperatives, singular entities like the Red Cross, Caritas ONCE, special employment centers or companies insertion).
- Despite this heterogeneity, **they have a common element: to pursue the promotion and the wellbeing & welfare of people**, defending their rights, encouraging participation, community engagement and promotion of solidarity.

A plural & heterogeneous sector, in continuous growth and transformation



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- **In the last two decades the TSAS in our country has experienced an important development**, both in the number of institutions and in social function, becoming a key player in the creation of social fabric, in promoting participatory democratic exercise, the channeling of civic commitment, solidarity and support services and defense of the most disadvantaged social groups.
- **The growth in number and size of the institutions, has been accompanied by the creation of platforms and networks at different territorial levels**, which bring together organizations around different themes, while channel their relations with the Government and public administration through councils, forums and more.

A sector with important weaknesses exacerbated by the crisis.



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- **The impact of the current crisis in the TS has been evident especially in the last three years, and is likely to worsen in the future**
- **At the same time, the activity developed by entities is more necessary than ever: The entities have been overwhelmed by new demands for support and social needs**
- **But there is a big reduction of the available resources , with a significant reduction in public and private funds.**
- **So there is a risk in the sector being precarized, just when its role is more important than ever, making our society to lose the capacity for participation and democratic development, and also social cohesion and commitment.**
- **Moreover, the crisis has shown us that the TS has some structural problems and weaknesses** which limit the NGOs abilities and future development. These weaknesses are related to issues of different types:

A sector with important weaknesses exacerbated by the crisis.



- **The TS has a number of weaknesses in its internal organization structure** which incapacitates NGOs for a common position and a organized and representative voice, in front of the society and in front of the Public Administrations.
- **The TS operates in an inadequate and poorly adapted regulatory framework for NGOs**
- The TS has **an inadequate funding system** that not only makes it very dependent from public funds but detracts the effectiveness and quality of its performances. This precarious financial framework does not guarantee the sustainability of the actions or the organizations themselves.

The need to work on a common project as a sector.



The TS provides fundamental value not only to people with whom it works, but to the whole society, and is an essential part of democratic development.

A strong and articulate Third Sector is essential for the development of a more mature and participatory democracy, which promotes a more just society model, where social rights and values are strengthened and it is a channel for solidarity and civic engagement to benefit of all the people.

So, in front of:

- The need to produce new social advances in our society
- The risk of losing the important progress made in recent years
- The urgency of overcoming the problems we shown before

The need to work on a common project as a sector.



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It was proposed **the creation of a platform that could be representative of the entire TS**, initially agglutinating the national platforms & networks and the singular entities, the more significant actors from Social Action Third Sector in Spain:

- EAPN-SPAIN
- POAS (Social NGOs Platform)
- PVE (Volunteering Platform)
- CERMI (Disable people Platform)
- RED CROSS SPAIN
- CARITAS SPAIN
- ONCE (Blind people Organization)

And territorial autonomical groups representing Third Sector to create the same structure in their respective regional level.

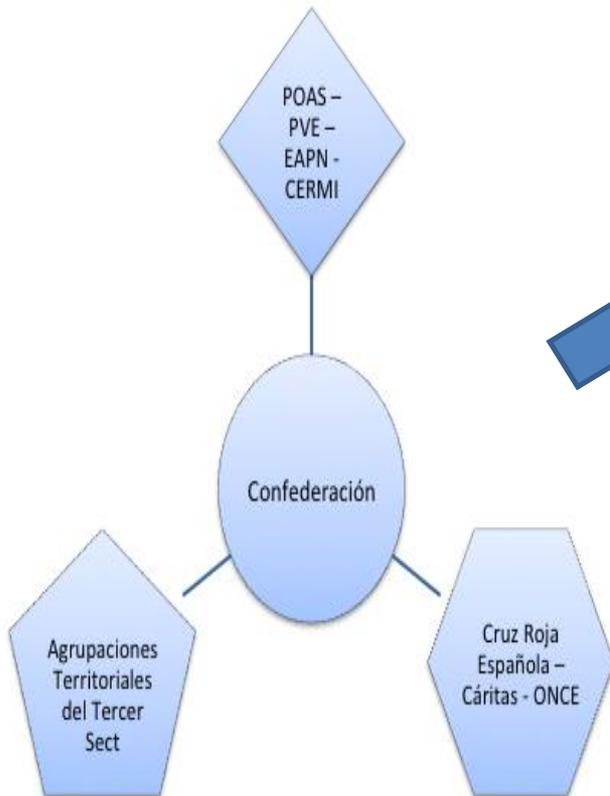
Third Sector Platform- Objectives and functions



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- To claim the role of the Third Sector in a democratic development.
- To have a social position and to be an opinion maker.
- To improve the interlocution with governmental dependences and to advance in the civil dialogue.
- To strength the internal cohesion and our identity as a sector.
- To have a common agenda with clear objectives.

Structure



Presidency

Vicepresidencies:

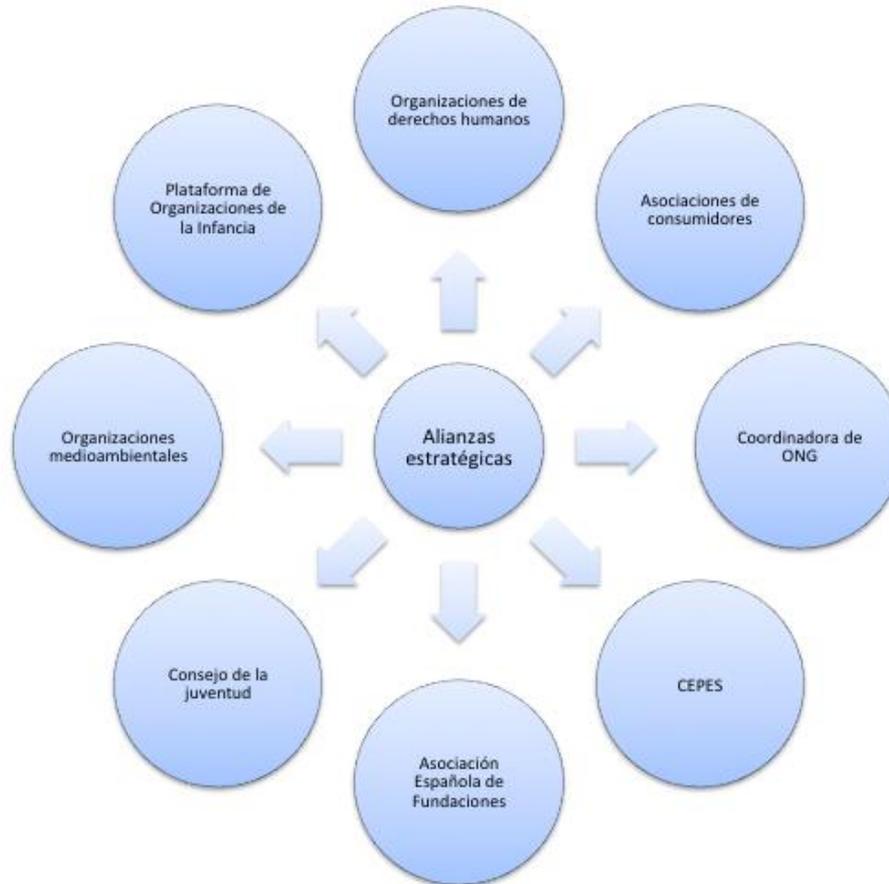
- **Social Policies & European Affairs: EAPN**
- Civil dialogue and regulation
- Cohesion and participation
- Third Sector Economic Sustainability

General Secretary

Strategic alliances with other organizations in the Third Sector



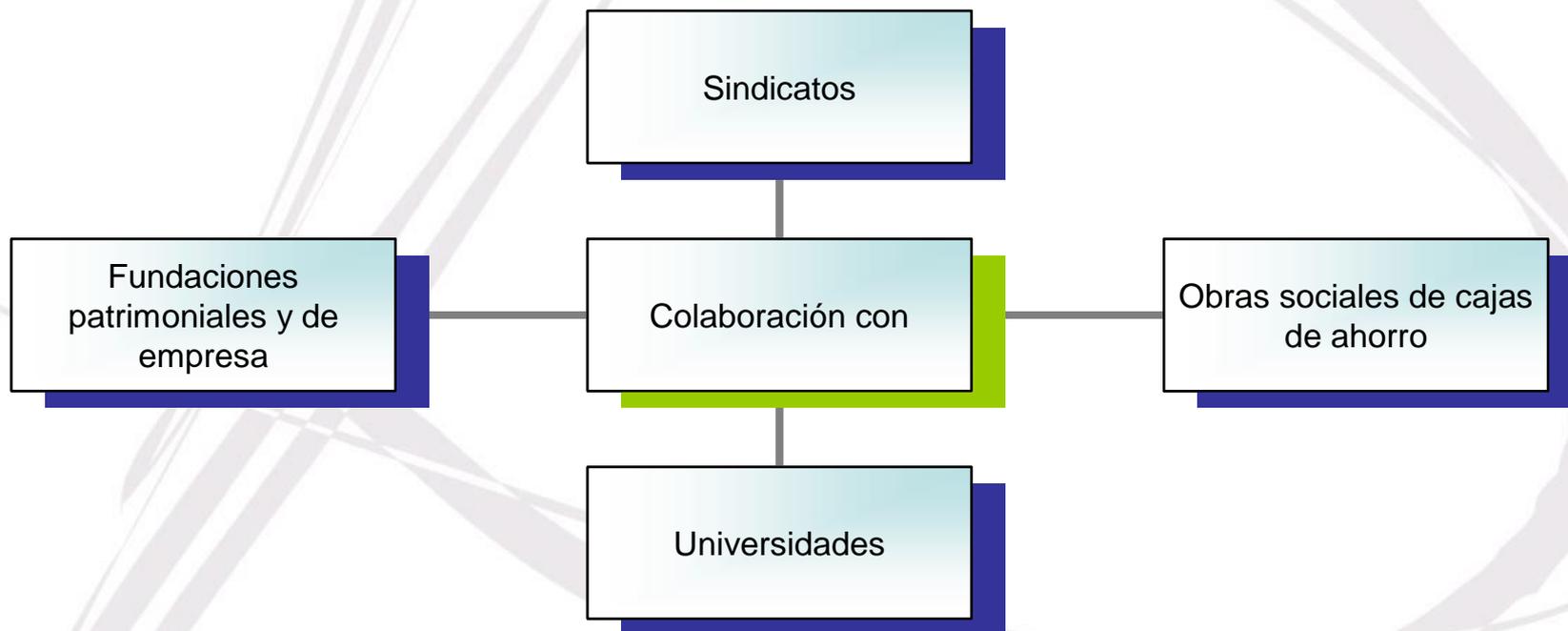
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Cooperation with other entities



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Main Proposals face to the crisis



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- Approval of a plan against poverty and social exclusion.
- Preparation and approval of a strategy for economic and social development.
- Preparation and approval of a TSAS Sustainability Plan.
- Enhancing and facilitating dialogue.
- Proposals to work with the environment and ensuring social cohesion.

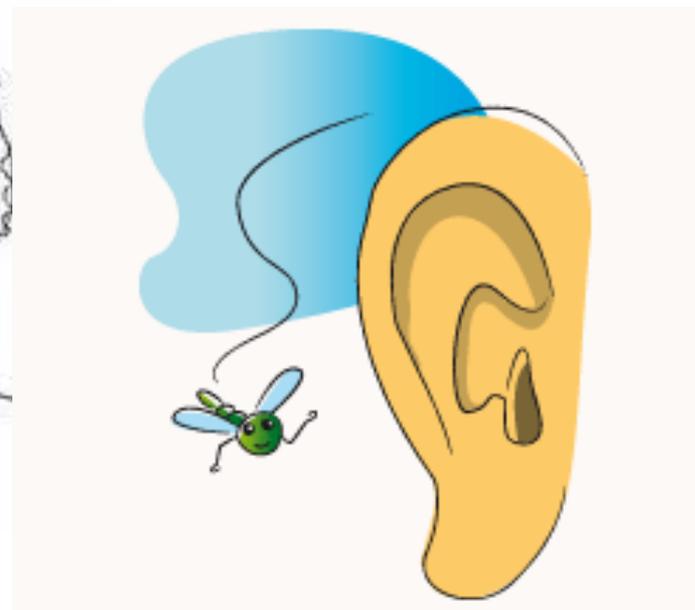
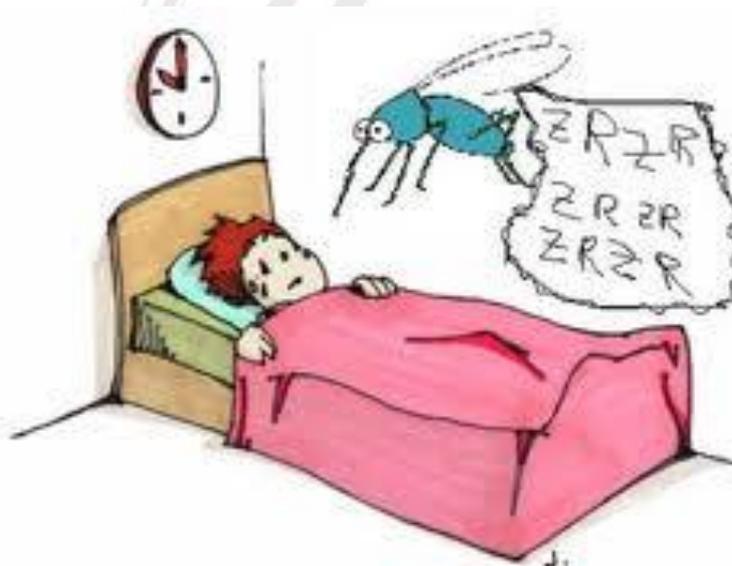
STATE PACT



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If you think we are small to change the world ...

Try to sleep with a mosquito in
locked room!



KNOWING YOUR COUNTRY THIRD SECTOR



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- What platforms exist in your country?
- How could you relate to them?
- Tell us how is the Third Sector structure in your country and what lines of cooperation exist at present
- Ideas to bring home and to implement

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION



FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.eapn.es

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