**5 a) Europe 2020 National Pilot Actions – 2015**

***Terms of Reference and Application Criteria***

**Introduction**

The EAPN **Europe 2020 pilot actions** are a new initiative developed as part of EAPN’s 2015 work programme which has been agreed in EAPN’s new contract with the European Commission. The idea came from the joint evaluation by the EXCO and EU ISG in 2014, which highlighted the increasing difficulties of many national members’ engagement in Europe 2020 and the European Semester, with limited resources, low member and public awareness of the process, and disappointing impact. There also appeared a widening gap between more experienced and well-resourced networks and those with little resources. The new pilot actions are designed to provide limited financial support to as many networks as possible, and to particularly support networks with less experience and resources. Through the actions it is hope to help to increase motivation for members around engagement, supporting new activities that could help to raise awareness, capacity and get better impact.

**Objectives**

The main objectives of the National Pilot Actions Call are to:

1. Raise awareness of Europe 2020 and the European Semester and their impact
2. Build capacity of members to engage and influence more effectively at national level helping to provide a strong support for the development of the Network.
3. Develop better national instruments to monitor the social situation and provide quality input to Europe 2020.

**What it is/how the funding works**

The **Europe 2020** **Pilot Actions** consist of a total fund of **90. 000, including 45.000 Euros** from the core EAPN budget, and up to **45.000** from co-financing from applicants which will provide grants for up to **15 pilot actions** on Europe 2020 (see suggested activities below.) These pilot actions will be delivered between April 1st and 31st December 2015. The co-financing requirement proposed is up to **50%**. The co-financing will have to be provided with invoices for concrete activities or allocations from staff costs or salaries. EAPN’s total cash contribution will be **45,000 Euros** (with 45,000 provided through co-financing from members applying). 50% of total funding will immediately be paid once the pilot action is approved. The second payment can be made when 70% has been spent, with a final payment on completion of agreed deliverables at the end of the project.

**Who can apply**

Any national network can apply for **up to** **6.000** Euros per network (ie 3.000 Euros from the fund and 50% co-financing). However, more can be claimed if a number of networks participate in **one common pilot action**, i.e. a regional coalition of networks or a transnational exchange or common action involving different networks and organisations. (ie 3 networks could apply for up to 18.000 Euros receiving 9.000 from the fund, and providing 9.000 themselves with the 50% co-financing requirement). Networks can engage to differing degrees taking account of their financial capacity (co-funding) and their human resource capacity. In order to ensure that as many networks and organisations as possible are able to benefit from the action, networks are encouraged to only apply for the funding they will realistically need (ie applying for less than 6.000 if it’s feasible) and to work in solidarity with less experienced/resourced networks. Non-EU networks can also apply, working on national strategies which link to the Europe 2020 objectives and strategy, particularly related to pre-accession processes. European Organizations can propose national members to be engaged in an application from a national network or group of networks.

**Activities to be funded**

The activities have to support the delivery of the objectives. Actions under any of the 3 objectives can be considered, or a combination. A non-exhaustive list of examples is provided below.

* 1) Raise public awareness about Europe 2020,: eg through a media campaign; new communication tools; organizing a seminar or conference; forum theatre event; creating a partnership with Commission representations;
* 2) Organize capacity building events for members to engage in Europe 2020: eg a training workshop; peer review or member exchange; targeting people with direct experience of poverty etc.
* 3) Developing instruments to monitor the social situation: a new social situation or shadow report, which highlight developments on poverty and social exclusion, proposing recommendations to national governments and CSRs.

**Application and Decision Process**

The aim will be to provide funding for as many networks as possible, within the limits of the funding, and to particularly support the networks with less resources. National Networks will need to complete the application form and budget, and return to Sian Jones at EAPN Secretariat (sian.jones@eapn.eu) by the **13th March.** The final analysis and selection will be managed by the Steering Group of the EU ISG.

**Timeline**

* Feb 6th: Discussion of Terms of Reference and Selection in EUISG
* Feb 13th: Finalization of the Terms of Reference.
* March 13th: Deadline for Applications
* March 16th: Pre-analysis on general criteria by Secretariat
* March 19th: Selection and Agreement on grants by EU ISG Steering Group
* March 23rd: Applicants informed and final list sent to Bureau/EXCO as well as EU ISG
* April 1st: earliest start of pilot actions.
* 15th December: Draft final report to secretariat with evidence
* 31st December: final date for implementation of pilot activities
* 15th January: final report.

**General Criteria**

All pilot actions should fulfill all the following criteria:

* Be (a) National Network (s) of EAPN.
* Design of activity/ies which effectively deliver on 1 or more of the objectives.
* A realistic budget and commitment to co-financing.
* Some concrete evidence of experience in project and partnership delivery, no matter how small ie experience in organizing conferences/awareness-raising/ capacity building/partnership events. (see details in application form)

The **EUISG Steering Group** will aim to ensure a balance of:

* Geography – ensuring that a representative spread of countries are involved.
* Content – achieving a balance between the different objectives.
* Joint proposals – supporting the development of joint initiatives particularly involving networks with less experience and resources.

**Deliverables and Justification**

All pilot actions will be expected to provide the following:

* Justification of budget expenditure with invoices;
* Short 5-10 page report based on a common template detailing the activities and results;
* Evidence of activities undertaken, i.e. list of participants in conference and links to articles/press releases/media coverage;
* Contribution to a common dissemination instrument (eg a video or publication, or digital leaflet etc) which can highlight the results. This will be agreed by the EUISG and based on common guidelines.