**EXCO Doc. N 2**

**March 18th 2014**

**SUMMARY**

**EXCECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF eapn**

**Warsaw, 14th and 15th of March 2014**

1. **Welcome** by Sergio and new members were presented (France, Lithuania and Finland)
2. **Approval of the Minutes of Nov 2013:** Approved unanimously
3. **Matters arising:** Samuel withdrew his candidature for the Bureau saying he would like more time to get to know the work of the Exco and to have more discussions with his French Network.
4. **Approval of the Agenda: Agenda was approved.**
5. **Presentation of EAPN Poland:** See PPP from Richard on the realities of poverty in Poland and a Presentation from ?? (in Polish) on the strategies developed by EAPN Poland and pushed for with the Ministry. Many questions followed on issues to do with migration and returning migrants, situation of elderly people, perceptions of the causes of poverty in Poland, inequality, and the reality as compared to the official figures. The Polish Network were thanked for how much information and insights they passed on in so little time.

Sergio gave a short presentation on the context and the key work of EAPN for the coming period to the guests who attended from EAPN Poland.

1. **Work Programme and Budget 2013 and 2014:**
   1. **Budget 2013:** Philippe gave an update on the finalization of budget 2013. The audit will be the coming week and then the final budget presented to the Commission after that he will present a final budget to the Exco. We will have spent very close to a 100% and with the National Contract money we should reach the matching funds requirements.

**Budget and work programme 2014:** Barbara presented the final budget and work programme agreed with the Commission for 2014 including the core budget and the Joint Action Budget (Alliance on Europe 2020). There was much discussion about the impact of turning the work that EAPN was already doing in alliances with other organisation and sectors on the European Semester into a more formal project and the negative impact of moving from a an alliance of the willing to an alliance that has formal constraints.Barbara responded to questions about the budget for NNs which want to apply to co-ordinate the pilot projects under the European Semester Alliance led by EAPN. She explained that the total budget for all three pilots was 141,015 Euro, which included the salary for the national coordinators (82,500), consultancy for specific deliverables (15,000), publications (12,000), meetings of the national alliances (4725); national advocacy events (23,790) and office supplies (3000). Each pilot could spend a maximum of 47,005 Euros. Barbara pointed out, however, that the 47,005 included a co-financing requirement of 21,700 Euros.

* 1. **Contracts with Networks 2014.** Philippe said that the contract conditions will be very similar to 2013 with some slight changes. As soon as the audit is out of the way he will send information and the necessary documents.Members to take on board changes in the contracts: ie no translation money for the MAG as it’s gone. Other items have been kept at the same level, eg the PEP and Europe 2020 and for the translation of EAPN documents. Otherwise the same rules apply. Now contracts are 20% of the total budget with the same deadline. Philippe will work on it after the audit on Thursday, on Friday, or in the last week of March. The Secretariat will add all the information needed to the contract to help in filling it out.

1. **Application for Membership from EAPN Latvia:** Elina presented the application from EAPN Latvia based on the documents submitted. Elina and her colleagues were thanked for all their efforts to build the Network over a 10 year period.

**Decision: The Exco agreed unanimously to recommend to the GA top accept EAPN Latvia in membership of EAPN.**

1. **Election to replace Olivier on the Bureau:** Samuel having withdrawn his application the floor was open for new nominations. Johanna from Norway offered to take on this task saying that she could bring perspectives to the work from a person with direct experience of poverty. Carlos supported Johanna’s application and he reminded that a number of people on the Exco have direct experience of poverty (including himself) which is a strength for EAPN.

**Decision: There was no other nomination and Johanna was unanimously elected.**

1. **Preparation for the General Assembly 2014:** Letizia explained that they would received the money too late to be able to spend it on the GA so unfortunately despite have everything in place they now have to decline organizing the GA. She said that they still hoped to use the money they will receive to organise an EAPN event in Naples and she would now see what future EAPN event would fit to this possibility.

**Decision**: **It was agreed that EAPN Estonia would organise the next Exco and GA on the same dates that had being fixed.** It was pointed out that in the short time span it would be nearly impossible to organise matching funds but that costs for the meeting would be reduced by holding it in Estonia.

The discussion about the GA 2014 was informed by the proposals re future challenges for EAPN (next item) but in the end it was decided that the Bureau proposal that the GA in 2014 would be a part of the Exco meeting with only Exco in attendance (plus at least a representative of one other Member as required by Belgian law) was accepted. The Bureau recognized that this is something that the members can agree to do voluntarily as the standing orders recognize the possibility for three members from each National Network to attend and 1 member from each EO (the standing orders do not specify re reimbursements for those attending). The Bureau indicated that if this approach was adopted the Bureau would then see how the funding allocated for one extra member to attend the GA could be alternatively used in a manner that made for better participation. The vote was put to the Exco between the alternatives: 1) to remain with a GA with one extra person reimbursed to participate and 2) to accept the Bureau proposal that the GA should take place as a part of the Exco meeting without extra delegates.

**Decision: 3 voted in favour of option 1. 18 in favour of option 2 and 7 abstentions. Option 2 was adopted: The GA would take place as part of the Exco meeting with the Exco delegate being the same as the GA delegate.**

It was said a number of times that it would have been easier to have this discussion and decision if Exco members had this proposal in time to be able to discuss with their Networks or Organisations. It was asked to consider for the future to have the GA at a time when the Exco and EUISG would meet simultaneously and could facilitate that both reps participate to the GA. It was also pointed out that it is not clear how decision get made for instance it was agreed to keep sub groups in the Exco but now they doesn’t happen. The Bureau said that the effort is to use the resources available to have the best and most meaningful participation possible.

1. **Presentation and discussion on EAPN Challenges for the Future:** Sergio presented a discussion paper on EAPN’s future challenges. He also outlined an alternative proposal to the existing structures that guides the work of EAPN. On the basis of this proposal (see diagram in the Challenges Paper, the following decision was taken:

**Decision:** EXCO and EUISG guide strategy and policy respectively. The EXCO will appoint among its members a task force or group, which will give strategic guidance to the work of the EXCO. Its primary task will be to support the work of the evaluator and prepare a discussion document in view of EAPN’s Strategic Congress in 2015.

The EUISG will maintain two subgroups or task forces to support its policy objectives. These subgroups will be facilitated by the Secretariat. The two subgroups will be appointed by the EUISG;

EAPN is undergoing an evaluation, which will help inform the discussion on the future strategic objectives. The evaluator will present his preliminary findings and will deliver a final report in September 2014. This evaluation.

1. **Policy issues:** see Sian’s PPPs
2. **Membership Development:** Vilborga presented the experience of the Icelandic Network in using the MASS document (see PPP). She said it was a very positive experience and helped the network to identify strengths and weaknesses and to priorities work for the coming period. She insisted that it was not a complicated procedure to follow and advised other networks to use the document. Spain and Portugal booth indicated their intention to use the MASS document for their future evaluation and planning work.

A note was circulated at the meeting on progress on development work and the request that the 2013 National Networks reports use the MASS headings was highlighted. It was also noted that progress is being made in contact with anti-poverty NGOs in Croatia and Kosovo.

1. **PeP 2014.** The preparation and background documents for the 2014 PeP were sent in advance and Fintan presented a PPP to recall the key information.
2. **Fund Raising Strategy:** An update note on Fund Raising Strategy was circulated at the meeting and Fintan presented the key information on a PPP.

Stephan presented a PPP and a document on background and principles to consider in relation to corporate sponsorship or donations.

1. **The EAPN Fund:** Letizia asked Maria Marinakou to present her project under the EAPN fund. Maria said that she had received 5650 Euros. This money was now going to support 3 pillars: 1) Capacity building of members, 2) attracting new members and 3) creating new operational structure. Maria said that the money was an issue of survival. EAPN Greece was a founding member of EAPN and has always worked on a volunteer basis and has never been supported by the government. She thanked EAPN for the support.

Sérgio queried whether the MASS approach may be helpful. Maria said that it was an interesting approach for a network which had already developed internally.

1. **EAPN Election 2014 Campaign:** Sérgio presented the work done regarding EAPN’s election campaign. He informed the Exco about the breakfast launch that took place on the 4th of March in Brussels. He also said that it was important that the networks appointed national coordinators for liaising with the secretariat in Brussels. He also said that EAPN was planning to organize a European wide action week around the 9th of March and that members were expected to bring attention to their specific election campaign during that time. The secretariat will work with the national coordinators to prepare for that week. In the meantime, it would be important to send all information pertaining to the election campaigns at national level to Nellie. There was also a plea to feed EAPN election blog.
2. Izabella announced that it was possibly her last Exco meeting as she had resigned from her position as director.
3. **Evaluation:** Once again EAPN Poland and Kamilla in particular was thanked for the perfect conditions they organized for the meeting and for the free time around the meeting. Exco members were reminded of the importance of completing the evaluation form.