**EXCO DOC 3**

June 23rd, 2014

**E A P N**

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

**on**

**The Implementation of the Work Programme 2014**

**To the Executive Committee of EAPN**

**Tallinn, 26th of June 2014**

**This report is a summary of the activities of EAPN office in Brussels since the beginning of the year. It covers all activities under the work programme.**

I. **The Brussels Office**:

1. Office assistant Coralie Flémal resigned on April 1st; she was responsible for organising meetings, updating part of EAPN’s webpage, in particular the members’ room and fulfilling other, essential secretarial tasks. She has not been replaced.
2. Policy Officer Vincent Caron resigned on May 31st, 2014. Vincent was responsible for the policy areas of Structural Funds, Fundamental Rights and Migration, and Services, and a significant share of work in the policy team, relating to the delivery of the advocacy work programme, the organisation and running of EU ISG meetings, and the delivery of the Semester Alliance project. He has not been replaced.
3. EAPN employs currently 9 people (down from 14 people in 2013), of whom 4 are full-time. Three staff members were reduced from 100 per cent to 80 percent. One of whom was Vincent Caron.
4. Staff costs are covered by the core funding and two project budgets (EMIN and Semester Alliance – both finish at the end of the year)
5. Increasing the capacity of the secretariat:
   1. Team building activities were organised and facilitated by an external consultant.
   2. Internships: Michela Gobbo from Italy is currently doing her internship under the Erasmus Programme. She started in May and will stay with us until mid-August. We are expecting another intern from Sweden, Regina Mattson, from the University of Göteborg. There is a possibility for a second trainee, but we still need confirmation.
   3. Fintan Farrell participated in a fundraising training organised by the Social Platform.

**Funding Overview**

EAPN is currently engaged to fulfil a work programme linked to its core budget in the framework of the core funding from the European Commission. EAPN is also engaged in three distinct projects, namely **the Semester Alliance**; the **EMIN** project and finally, and more on a consultative basis, the **Drivers** project under the FP7 research funding from the European Commission. All figures include co-funding.

Total Amount spent Amount left to spend

Core Budget: 1.236.995 Euro 297.595 Euro 939.400 Euro

Support for NNs from CB: 265.000 Euro 92.625 Euro 172.375 Euro

Semester Alliance: 325.397 Euro 60.269 Euro 265.128 Euro

EMIN: 995.950 Euro 176.497 Euro 819.453 Euro

Drivers: 66.750 Euro 3.414 Euro 63.336 Euro

On Friday, the 20th of June, the European Commission issued its new call for proposals for the organisations who signed the framework agreement for 2015. The conditions are the same as last year:

1. Organisations can apply for up to 1 Million plus 20 per cent co-funding

2. Core work must be focused on engaging with Europe 2020

3. Deadline is the August 20th 2014

4. Another project call for the possible continuation of the Semester Alliance will only come out in September 2014.

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| **Goal 1: A social and sustainable development that tackles poverty, social exclusion and inequalities is at the heart of decision making in Europe** |

*Objective 1.1.: EAPN will work to ensure that the Europe 2020 Strategy, the Platform against Poverty and the Social Inclusion Strategy, the Employment Policy, the Structural Funds deliver progress to effectively mainstream social concerns, reduce poverty and inequality and ensure that public policies and programmes and intervention reach people living in poverty, including the most disadvantaged.*

**Working with the EU ISG**:

The work of the EU ISG is central to fulfilling the above objective. Its work is ongoing and 2 meetings of the EU ISG have already been held in February and May.

* The major focus here is on Europe 2020, in line with EAPN’s strategy and work programme, both through EU ISG work and through the Semester Alliance: supporting members to engage in the National Reform Programmes and analysing them in a joint report, supported by capacity building and a dedicated Toolkit for members; analyzing the Country-Specific Recommendations and preparing EAPN shadow CSR proposals, which were sent to key EU decision-makers; this formed the basis of EAPN’s work and contribution to the CSR proposals with the Semester Alliance proposals, which were presented in the hearing in April. The Secretariat the EU ISG prepared a response to the Annual Growth Survey, and key messages were sent to the Spring Council and EPSCO about priorities for the 2014 process. A letter is being prepared for the June Council related to the CSRs. EAPN received a response from the Head of Cabinet in the Sec Gen to our input.
* A strong focus is on the Mid-Term Review of Europe 2020 - with the preparation of an EAPN position on the Mid-Term Review together with the EU ISG and EXCO as well as joint work on the Social Platform position. This will form the basis of the response to the on-line questionnaire. The proposals will be presented to EAPN policy conference on the 3 October, with follow up advocacy meetings and actions aimed at the EP, Commission and Council.
* Other policy work follow up includes: Development of a Youth Inclusion Paper with members, follow up on the Social Investment Package, including Investing in Children with the new EU Alliance, Tackling Homelessness. A specific focus is Active Inclusion in the sub-group with the preparation of a template letter for MS and a leaflet 10 Arguments for Active Inclusion, for members to use at national level, to advocate for implementation of integrated Active Inclusion based on 3 pillars (adequate income support, inclusive labour markets and access to services), rather than activation alone.
* On Cohesion Policy, following the successful completion of the Campaign: EU Money for Poverty Campaign led by the EUISG and SF sub-group, the focus has shifted to supporting members to influence the Operational Programmes and to apply for funding. This included the Mapping Document: What room for social inclusion and for the involvement of NGOs? Which assessed the engagement of stakeholders particularly antipoverty NGOs in the Partnership Agreements and Operational Programmes. The Tool Kit on engagement in PAs and OPs is being finalized and a Handbook, which captures learning points and good practices for the previous round to support new applications is being finalized. A Briefing document and capacity building was organized around the new potential on Community-Led Development (CLLD).
* The 3 policy task forces are also managed/and outputs finalized through the EUISG.

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| **EUISG Meetings, 2014**   * 7 and 8 February - EU ISG in Brussels, capacity building and exchange on CSRs, preparing alternative input, sub-groups work, Active Inclusion, Employment and Structural Funds, follow up on election campaign, and second exchange on Youth Inclusion paper.      * 16-17 May: EU ISG Meeting in Prague, combined with a social housing conference organized by EAPN CZ. The meeting exchanged on the NRPs and prepared common review through questionnaire, sub-groups on Active Inclusion, Employment and Structural Funds, discussion on the Mid-Term Review and on the first draft of the Youth Inclusion paper, with capacity building on TF handbook on stakeholder dialogue and the Action Plan. |

**EAPN Leading the European Semester Alliance:**

EAPN is coordinating this alliance involving 16 NGOs and social partner organisations as well as 3 pilot national alliances coordinated by EAPN members - DK, IE and BG**.** The work with the European Semester Alliance builds on EAPN’s own work on Europe 2020 and the European Semester through the EUISG. EAPN is engaged in this project, which is funded separately from the core funding.

* The Semester Alliance is engaged in preparing an advocacy strategy with the help of Marije Cornelissen, ex-MEP who has championed civil dialogue in the Semester. This strategy will help to clarify key priorities aimed at EP, Commission and Council.
* The national pilot alliances are preparing national advocacy and communication plans

**Key Activities and Events of the Semester Alliance**

* **14 February, 4 March, 31 March, 28 May**, EU Alliance Steering Group meetings, getting agreement to Terms of Reference and to the full work programme, including launch of national pilot alliances, response to the CSRS and advocacy follow up, contracting consultants to prepare Semester Report and EP advocacy action plan. Development of tool kit and capacity building.
* **7 April - Launch of EU Semester Alliance** and presentation of alternative CSRs in the EESC, with the involvement of the EP, EESC, DG ECFIN and DG Employment.
* **1 May - 3 National Pilot Alliances launched for Semester Alliance**: EAPN DK, IE and BG.
* **6 June - Interactive Capacity Building workshop** involving 35 members of the alliance, national alliances, national and EU members, with representatives from the European Commission and significant staff support.

**DRIVERS PROJECT**

EAPN secretariat has been coordinating the case-study work on social protection as a key social determinant of health inequities, with the 5 EAPN partners with the overall coordinators: Eurohealthnet, and the coordinators of WP4 on social protection: CHESS, Sweden. On 13 May EAPN made an input in the **Drivers for Health Equity project** meeting, bringing together the results to date from of all the work packages. Four of the 5 EAPN National Networks partners (UK, Sweden, Portugal, Poland and Hungary) were present to share the results of their focus group work, carried out in the framework of the project, based on a common tool kit prepared by Poverty Alliance and the partners, as well as the synthesis report of the case studies drafted by the Scottish Anti-Poverty Alliance. The final version of the outcomes of this project should be available shortly and then we need to find a way to disseminate the work from the Drivers project for the use to all EAPN members and to integrate into the work of the EUISG.

Drivers engagement requires significant project and financial management coordination as well as content input from the secretariat in Brussels and from the 5 National Networks involved.

**EMIN PROJECT**

The first Year reports of the 5 core National Partners (Denmark, Hungary, Belgium, Ireland and Italy) are available on the Blog of the project emin-eu.net. Progress has been made on the thematic reports on Take up (FEANTSA) and Adequacy (AGE Platform) and their reports should be available shortly. On 18 February, EMIN Project organised an event on minimum income networks hosted by Frédéric Dardens and Pervenche Berès (both from S&D group). MEPs from other groups attended as well. The event had good participation and helped give visibility to the minimum income work in the framework of this project. The additional 25 Networks have being integrated into the project and 30 National Conferences are planned as part of EMIN to be held before end of September (early Oct). The Belgian (BMIN) kicked off the process on 10 June. A concluding conference bringing out the results from these 30 meetings will be organised in Brussels on 6-7 November.

***Building Alliances: Objective 1.3 – EAPN will seek to engage and contribute to alliances for an alternative model of social and sustainable development that puts people and planet first.***

The Alliance of primary importance for EAPN is the Social Platform; EAPN Director is a member of the Management Committee of the Social Platform. Earlier this year, the Platform decided to change its working methods and establish a wide range of taskforces.

EAPN is represented on the management committee, the Steering Group and in the new Task Forces on minimum income, minimum wage, economic governance. All groups are developing key positions and advocacy outcomes

**The Social Platform and Alliances EAPN is linked to through the Social Platform**

* **Civil Dialogue Task Force**

Participation in the Task Force on Civil Dialogue: 2 meetings were held so far to develop a campaign concept note. It will be taken to the Management Committee of the Social Platform.

Tanya has been involved in this Task Force, as part of EAPN’s work on civil dialogue and participatory democracy. 1st meeting (May 14) discussed the advocacy plan for the civil dialogue campaign on the Importance of Civil Dialogue and sustainable funding of CSOs. It did a SWOT analysis for a future campaign and clarified the objectives. The campaign will focus on explaining the specific role that European NGOs play in the construction of Europe and why decision-makers have to support their rhetoric for good governance and civil dialogue by core funding of such organisations, acting for public good and in the interest of all people living in the EU. On June 03, the Task Force looked at the overall plan for the campaign to finalise and to be more precise about the objectives, the activities and the timeline. Once the Management Committee approves the concept, the Task Force will meet to further develop the campaign messages, expected success factors/indicators, actions to take etc. The work of this Task Force will also be a good example for EAPN National members willing to develop similar national actions.

* **Social Platform Task Force on economic governance**

The Task Forces goal is to prepare overall positions in relation to economic governance with a specific focus on the Mid-Term Review. 2 meetings have been held, and draft position on the Mid-Term Review being developed, to be approved by the Steering Group and Management Committee at the end of June. The formal consultation will be completed in September.

* **Social Platform Task Force on Social Benefits**

This task force has two goals: 1) to prepare a Platform position re Minimum Income primarily focused on the call for a Directive. This work was advanced quickly because of the request to submit a position paper on this topic to the informal Council under the Greek Presidency. The paper drew on and acknowledge the work of EAPN and EMIN and Barbara was present at the Informal Council to present the paper. This paper has been further developed to be adopted at a Platform Steering Group as an official position of the Social Platform**.** 2) The proposal re an EU Unemployment Insurance scheme (very tentative discussion at this stage and one not likely to develop quickly) is also being discussed in this Task Force.

* **Social Platform Task Force on Minimum Wages**

This task force is looking at developing a Social Platform common position on the potential introduction of a European framework for minimum wages. Many external speakers have so far been invited to the two meetings of the task force, allowing for little time to debate and build consensus among Platform members themselves. The final position paper should be endorsed by the Platform’s Steering Committee in December 2014.

* **Civil Society Contact Group**

CONCORD and EWL have taken the leadership in view of organising a second citizen summit on September 23-24 on the Esplanade of the European Parliament. The event will be funded through external funding – no contribution from the CSCG members except from CONCORD’s DEEP project. Little if no involvement by EAPN.

* **Spring Alliance**

Not much action since the event in the EESC in April. The Secretary General and director of Concord and EEB discussed having a high level but informal discussion on the future of the Spring Alliance: how should civil society, NGOs and trades Unions act together to defend and promote the interests of those we represent? The objective of the informal meeting at the leadership level will be to share our analysis of the upcoming challenges and opportunities and think how best to organise ourselves. This meeting is foreseen for the end of August. EAPN has said that alliances such as this need purpose and a fixed agenda and a timetable.

Action so far by EAPN: EAPN contributed to the preparation of the Spring Alliance joint manifesto for the elections. It was launched in a debate in the EP on 8 April.

* **Europe+ civil society alliance**

EAPN is part of the European Civil Society Platform of 43 organisations calling for the revision of the Treaty with the aim of improving civil dialogue and participation of people in the shaping of Europe. It follows up on the EYCA 2013 Alliance manifesto, which EAPN has been part of. So far Europe+ has drafted a letter to elected MEPs calling for a process of Treaty revision putting citizens back at the heart of the European project and restore legitimacy through an open and transparent democratic process. The work of this Alliance is in line with EAPN’s general take on democracy, participation and civil dialogue.

* **AlterSummit**

EAPN is a founding member of the AlterSummit and has consistently and comprehensively engaged with its processes and activities from the beginning and throughout the past years. In 2013, EAPN contributed significantly to the AlterSummit Manifesto and attended the Congress and street demonstration in Athens, where it organized a seminar on poverty and social exclusion, attended by 120 people. Since 2014, involvement in the AlterSummit has almost ceased, in view of staff cuts and increased workloads. APN is still involved in related events, through speaking engagements (for instance, the People’s Tribunal on Economic Governance and the Troika – organized by TNI and CEO, and the German conference on Europe and the crisis).

**Goal 2: EAPN is a dynamic, membership driven organisation that is recognised as a key**

**civil society actor fighting poverty, social exclusion and inequalities**

EAPN Task Forces were set up to ensure that EAPN actively engages the expertise of its members in its structures and working methods as well as providing mutual exchange and transfer of knowledge (Objectives 2.1. and 2.2. and 2.3.). Three Policy Task Forces are set up by the EU ISG and contribute to Objectives 1.1 and 1.2 and three are set up by the Executive Committee and contribute to a variety of objectives for which the Executive Committee currently has responsibility. In the first part of 2014, EAPN taskforces met with the support of the EAPN Team in Brussels. The Bureau selects all the participants.

**Migration**:

The Task Force on Migration and Poverty met for a second time on the 24th of January. It worked to support the preparation of 1st draft of the Migration and Poverty report and with country fiches. This work was promoted by EAPN UK, and supported by Vincent Caron. The work is to be finalized before the end of the year.

**Decent Work:**

EAPN’s Decent Work Taskforce is concentrating on studying the living wage campaign, as carried out in the UK and particularly Scotland, and devising a model that can be taken up from 2015 as an EAPN-wide campaign. The Task Force had its second meeting on February 28th in Brussels, and is working towards two deliverables: a Concept and Feasibility Study, and a Campaign Guide, both to be presented for endorsement to the EU ISG at its meeting in Brussels on October 4th. The Task Force’s third and final meeting is scheduled for September 12th, in Brussels, coupled with a decent work event co-organised by EAPN with ETUC, and hosted in the European Parliament by the S & D group and Judith Kirton-Darling MEP.

**Stakeholder Engagement:**

The Task Force on Stakeholder Engagement is led by BAPN, and met for the third time on 15 April finalizing the draft Handbook for stakeholder dialogue: Giving a voice to citizens and an Action Plan, whilst preparing for a capacity building session to use the handbook to get better stakeholder dialogue, which took place in the May EU ISG. The handbook is aimed at EU and national decision-makers primarily to provide concrete guidelines, tips and good practices for improving the quality of meaningful stakeholder engagement involving NGOs and people experiencing poverty in Europe 2020 and similar policy dialogue processes. The Handbook will be launched at the European People Experiencing Poverty Meeting in September.

**Training and Capacity Building:**

The Task Force on Training and Capacity Building finalized its work on April 6th, producing a report with recommendations to the Executive Committee. It was established to map out the training and capacity building needs and expertise of members; to draw up a strategy based on these and on the four pillars of strong anti-poverty networks (1) ability to influence national governments; (2) participation of people experiencing poverty; (3) network development and growth, and (4) good governance and strong internal democracy. The Task Force carried out a mapping exercise with questionnaires and further nuanced the results in the network development seminar on 10 December 2013. The resulting recommendations draw on the input of a variety of member representatives. The report is submitted to the June Executive Committee. Three members participated in the last meeting of the Task Force on 8 April in Brussels, coming from EAPN Spain, EAPN Portugal and EAPN Serbia. Two members had dropped out in 2013 and the Executive was informed about it and one member from EAPN Estonia could not attend.

**Membership Development:**

While the task forces were set up to engage the expertise of EAPN members, the Brussels team continued its work on membership development. The choices that members have had to make due to budget cuts have also had a strong impact on the resources available for capacity building. However, EAPN continues actively support members with capacity building elements in all the work that we do and specific membership development work being carried out as part of the core work of EAPN. Here are some of the initiatives and activities in this regard.

**Building knowledge on EAPN members:**

One of the continuous objectives of EAPN is to strive to build knowledge about the members – their contexts and the way they are shaped, the way they approach matters in their countries/organisations. This helps build understanding about the structure of poverty in different countries and the diversity of approaches to fighting poverty, as well as the challenges of engaging with the EU policy-making that EAPN members are facing.

* To date, 10 members have submitted their annual reports 2013 (9 reports in English); 8 National Networks still need to submit their membership numbers, based on the questionnaire launched by the Bureau in March. Some members have not submitted reports over several years.
* Several members were able to present their realities in different meetings and joint events of EAPN (for example at the Exco hosted by EAPN Poland, EU ISG hosted by EAPN Czech Republic, Exco hosted by EAPN Estonia). All the work of EAPN (including core and project activities) are an opportunity for members to share their work.
* EAPN Greece received the first part of the solidarity grant from EAPN Fund (a grant application is available for consultation).
* EAPN Netherlands finalised their activities supported from EAPN Fund (a final report and evaluation are available for consultation).

**Member development and MASS implementation:**

The seminar on MASS organised in December 2013 was a decisive moment for some members to take this tool up and implement it internally. The Executive decided to continue to organise peer support to 2 National Networks every year (Spain and Portugal have agreed to do that in 2014) and several members have been informing us that they are implementing it voluntarily in their own networks. The Bureau has also approved the concept note on the 2014 network development seminar, drawing on member work from their Annual Reports and further strengthening mass ownership and implementation.

* Concept note on network development seminar on MASS and Annual Reports in autumn approved by the Bureau.
* EAPN Spain and EAPN Portugal were contacted about setting up the MASS meetings in 2013.
* At least 6 Annual Reports received are structured along the four pillars of strong anti-poverty networks 1) ability to influence governments, 2) participation of people experiencing poverty in internal and external working, 3) network development and growth, and 4) good governance and strong internal democracy.

**Enlargement and induction support:**

EAPN’s approach to enlargement is that EAPN should be an open and inclusive network; that it should respond to initiatives on the ground and aim to have members in at least all EU member states. In 2014, two such initiatives that have been in process of building for a long time are applying for membership.

* Guidance to EAPN Latvia and EAPN Croatia on membership application and induction to EAPN work.
* EAPN Latvia received positive recommendation from the Executive to its membership application for the General Assembly. EAPN Croatia is presenting its application at the Executive Committee meeting in June.
* Communication with an initiative group from Slovenia to explore possibilities of cooperation and network-building.
* EAPN received a message from Albania about a national anti-poverty network shaping there. EAPN will follow the agreed procedures.

**FUNDING FOR EAPN**

**The Brussels Team has been actively looking for alternative funding and/or in support of national organisations seeking funding from the European level:**

**In 2014, the office in Brussels facilitated**

* **Maintaining core funding from public sources:** EAPN is in a position to apply for core funding for 2015 under the EaSI programme.
* **PROJECT Approach:**
  + ***Semester Alliance:*** EAPN should be in a position to submit for a continuation of this project.
  + ***EMIN:*** EAPN has had contacts with the Parliament and the Commission to try to secure funding for the continuation of this project. The first signs are positive.
  + ***Poverty School:*** First approaches are being made to try to secure support for an EAPN “Poverty School”.
  + ***Structural Funds Technical Assistance Project:*** First contacts have been made to try to see if support for this project could be forthcoming:
  + ***Projects with EAPN Europe as a partner:*** 1) application made with the National Women’s Council of Ireland looking at the link between women and poverty and the democratic processes. EAPN would be an active partner in this project and if successful two EAPN Networks would be asked to carry out specific work. 2) Application with an Italian lead partner looking at empowerment of Roma children (EAPN IT, PT and HU are involved). EAPN Europe would be involved without financial commitment. 3) EAPN has been in consultation with Paris Nord University to submit a research proposal. The University has taken a long time to clarify what kind of role EAPN and other stakeholders could play in a future project proposal. So far discussions have been more at the conceptual level.
* **Individual Donor programme and Event fundraising*:*** From the little experience to date it has become clear that these two means need to be worked in tandem. There has been little progress in this period however EAPN is working with different contacts in the music field to organise a fundraising event in support of the EAPN Fund and aimed at developing a pool of individual donors.
* **Major Donors*:*** EAPN has participated in some events that keeps us in touch with the world of Foundations who might become donors for future EAPN initiatives.
* **EAPN Fund*:*** There was one meeting of the Fund Management Committee in April.

**Goal 3: People Experiencing Poverty and Social Exclusion recognize EAPN as their Network**

**European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty and Social Exclusion**

* EAPN has been engaging with the European Commission in preparing the EU PEP meeting 2014. This year much of the practical organisation is taken care of by the European Commission while EAPN takes care of the programme, preparation of delegates and participation and follow-up in meetings.
* In January, the National Coordinators met to discuss this year’s meeting and planning process and so far several coordinators have been submitting their list of delegates and the preparation reports. Given the focus on Structural Funds, it is very important for the coordinators to get adequate support from the Executive and/or EUISG representatives to help prepare well the discussions.
* EAPN has begun contacting European Organisations that might be able to facilitate thematic workshop discussions on one of the themes identified as follow-up to past meetings.

**Activists with Direct Experience of Poverty involved in internal and external working of EAPN**

* In trying to implement this transversal goal of EAPN, activists with direct experience of poverty have been engaging more actively and directly in the European network through Task Forces, National Coordinators group and the EU Inclusion Strategies Group. The goal is at the core of what EAPN is about and while the funding reduction poses a challenge, EAPN remains committed to being an inclusive network with adequate space for expression by activists with direct experience of poverty.

**THE PUBLIC FACE OF EAPN: Pursuing EAPN’s Goals through Publications, Speeches and the**

**Media and Communication**

**1. EAPN Publications finalized or definitely to be finalized:**

* ***Structural Funds Mapping Document*** was finalized and will be published shortly. It tracks engagement engage by stakeholders in the current round, in support operationalization of the SF/ESF in support of the fight against poverty and social inclusion.
* ***EAPN Explainer on Quality of Work and Employment in the European Union***
* ***Response to the Annual Growth Survey (AGS)***
* ***EAPN Assessment and proposals on Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs) 2014***
* ***Semester Alliance Alternative Recommendations on CSRs 2014***
* ***Toolkit for Stakeholder Engagement in Europe 2020 and the Semester***
* ***10 Arguments to support Active Inclusion – leaflet to support national implementation***
* ***Toolkit for engagement in Structural Funds (2014-2020), being finalized***
* ***Semester Alliance Toolkit for engaging in Europe 2020, being finalized***
* ***Handbook for stakeholder dialogue: Give Citizens a voice, being finalized***
* ***Youth inclusion paper, being finalized***
* ***Report on Migration and Poverty, to be finalized by end of year with country fiches***
* ***NRP report, to be finalized by end of September***
* ***Mid-term review paper, to be finalized by end of September***
* ***Semester Alliance NRP report, to be finalized by end of year***
* ***PeP meeting report, to be finalized by end of year***
* ***EMIN project:*** 5 National Reports from Year 1. Plus a synthesis report and the report on the Seminar in Paris. Progress being made on producing 30 National Reports in 2014.
* ***DRIVERS Project:*** Final outputs from Drivers Project should be available shortly. The EAPN contribution to the Drivers Project (Toolkit on organizing focus groups and powerpoint presentations of focus groups in five countries carried out by National Networks in Portugal, Poland, UK (Scotland), Hungary and Sweden will be made available and distributed widely).

**2. Public Speeches:**

EAPN was invited to a number of important conferences. Below find a list of the most

important conferences and speeches in chronological order:

* 19 Feb - **EP Public Hearing Social Cohesion in times of recession**
* 5 March - **EESC CLER EU** conference on fuel poverty
* 25 March **- Eurofound** Launch of policy brief on social inclusion of young people - **Dublin**
* 10 April - Universal Basic Income in Europe conference in the **European Economic and Social Committee, Brussels**
* 29-30 - April Informal **EPSCO Council**, Athens (see also under Policy)
* 9 May - Is the crisis over? (**WSI, ver.di**), Berlin.
* 14 May - **Public Policy Exchange - boosting employment in the EU, European Commission**
* 16 May - People’s Tribunal on the EU Economic Governance and the Troika **(Transnational Institute, CEO)**, Brussels.
* 21 May - **EPSU Strategic Congress** - Economic Round Table with ETUC, ECFIN.
* 26 May - **ETUC** Spring School on European Economic Governance, Vienna
* 10 June – **Belgian Federal Parliament,** National EMIN Conference
* 16 June - **EESC Active Inclusion and Social Investment**

**Information:**

* The **website** of EAPN was constantly updated ([www.eapn.eu](http://www.eapn.eu/))
* **Social Media** running well (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIN accounts)
* 5 issues of EAPN **Flash**
* 11 **Press Releases** were issued
* **EMIN Blog** (emin-eu.net) is available and updated.
* **PEP Blog:** A special blog for the Pep meetings is near ready to launch

**Communications:**

* 1 **Letter** was written to the EPSCO and European Council, and to the Presidents of the EU Institutions
* **4 major position papers/reports** laid-out and disseminated
* EAPN **spoke** at several meetings where our publications were available and widely taken
* Follow up on **EAPN’s work programme on communications**
* **Electing Champions campaign**: implementation, follow-up and coordination of, coordination and follow-up, design and implementation of communications strategy and tools (website/blog, logo, etc)
* **Semester Alliance**: idem
* **Campaigns**:
  + Follow up of the Right to Water campaign and Citizens’ Initiative led by EPSU
  + Electing Champions campaign - 82 MEPs (10,38%) took the pledge (great work done by national coordinators)
* **PeP Meeting:**
  + Work initiated on communications strategy and tools, notably a proper website/blog designed for the PeP Meetings.

**WEBLINKS TO PUBLICATIONS, LETTERS, POSITION PAPERS**

* EAPN [Active Inclusion leaflet](http://www.eapn.eu/images/stories/docs/EAPN-position-papers-and-reports/2014-10-Arguments-to-support-Active-Inclusion.pdf) (June 2014)
* EU Semester Alliance: [2014 Proposals for Country-Specific Recommendations: Progressing on a Smart, Sustainable & Inclusive EU](http://www.eapn.eu/images/stories/docs/SemesterAlliance/Semester-Alliance-joint-CSR-proposals-report-07-03-2014.pdf) (Apr 2014)
* EAPN [Assessment & Proposals for the Country-Specific Recommendations 2014](http://www.eapn.eu/images/stories/docs/EAPN-position-papers-and-reports/2014-EAPN-CSRs-Analysis-and-CSR-proposals.pdf) - and [Annex: full country fiches](http://www.eapn.eu/images/stories/docs/EAPN-position-papers-and-reports/2014-EAPN-CSRs-Country-fiches.pdf) (Mar 2014)
* EAPN [Toolkit on Engaging with Europe 2020 & the European Semester](http://www.eapn.eu/images/stories/docs/EAPN-position-papers-and-reports/2014-eapn-toolkit-stakeholder-involvement.pdf) (Mar 2014)
* EAPN writes to Prime Ministers & Heads of State ahead of the General Affairs and Spring Council, week 17 Mar: *Require coherent 2014 CSRs that can help deliver on the poverty target and launch an ambitious participative Mid-term Review consultation.* Read the [letter](http://www.eapn.eu/images/stories/docs/letters/2014-EAPN-letter-to-Spring-Council-130314.pdf) (13 Mar 2014) and related [press release](http://www.eapn.eu/en/news-and-publications/press-room/eapn-press-releases/eu-s-5-next-years-eu-leaders-can-choose-progress) (17 Mar 2014).
* EAPN [Response to the Annual Growth Survey Package 2014](http://www.eapn.eu/images/stories/docs/EAPN-position-papers-and-reports/2014-EAPN-response-to-the-AGS.pdf) (Feb 2014)
* EAPN **explainer #5**: [Quality of Work and Employment in the EU](http://www.eapn.eu/images/stories/docs/eapn-books/2014-EAPN-Explainer-Quality-of-Work-and-Employment-web.pdf) (Jan 2014)
* Structural Funds mapping: What room for social inclusion and the involvement of NGOs?