

**EAPN BULGARIA**  
**Annual Report for 2012**

In Bulgaria there are no indices for overcoming the crisis and expectations for near future are not encouraging. Unemployment increases, as well as inequalities and poverty; real incomes continue to decrease, the purchasing power of wages, salaries and pensions are extremely low.

Meanwhile, policies are still focused on the financial stability and austerity measures are the main pillar of economic and social policy. These developments provoked mass street protests and as a result of them the former government resigned. In this context EAPN – Bulgaria developed intensive activities in the following areas:

1. **Active participation in public debates about crisis and policies to overcome it.**  
Members of EAPN Bulgaria participated in numerous (more than 20) national and regional TV and radio debates about the crisis and adequate anti-crisis policies. Articles have been published in different journals.
2. **Participation in different national forums and consultation processes related with NRP and NSR.** Position paper was prepared for NRP and was widely disseminated. Special cooperation was developed with National Economic and Social Council aiming at fostering policies supportive for Social economy in Bulgaria. In more concrete terms, a report was prepared about the necessity of improving the legislation about Social economy and elaboration of Operational program devoted exclusively to development of social enterprises and cooperatives.
3. **EAPN Bulgaria intensified its relations with other social actors:**
  - a. **Trade unions, attempting to develop stronger and more sustainable alliances with them through joint projects and discussions.** Special issues of discussions were the introduction of minimum income, tax system and the consequences of austerity measures, migration, etc.
  - b. **Research institutions and civic organizations of researchers from social sciences - The Union of economists in Bulgaria, The Union of Scientists in Bulgaria; The Association of Bulgarian Sociologists.** (Fintan Farrell assisted one of these meetings).
  - c. **Contacts with some political parties have been intensified, by providing consultations about social policies and their economic impact.**

**4. Activities connected with preparation and follow-up to the European and National Meetings of People Experiencing Poverty.**

Several local meetings with NGOs working in the field and PEP have been organized in different places (Sofia, Plovdiv, Gotze Delchev, Dobrodan, Bourgas and others) as a preparatory work for the preparation of EU and information for the meeting was disseminated.

- 5. Preparation of different expertises on different aspects of poverty and inequalities, structural funds, drugs, money washing, social economy, unemployment, etc.**
- 6. Participation in numerous EAPN forums like PEP meeting, ExCo, EUISG, GA, conferences and meetings.**
- 7. Participation in different projects on topics related to anti-poverty struggle like “Dangerous liaisons...”, “Efficiency of EU Structural Funds”, “Social Economy”, “Trans Care” etc, including Council of Europe project “Living in Dignity in 21 century”**
- 8. Preparation and participation in the preparation of different projects for application, most of them unsuccessful.**
- 9. Dissemination of different EAPN documents and position papers, including translation of some of them.**