



ACTIVITY REPORT 2012 - SUMMARY

17.5.2012

EAPN-Fin -network comprises 32 member organizations, which are mostly nation-wide social and health organizations. The network has not registered itself as an official association. EAPN-Fin is under the auspices of a member organization, SOSTE Finnish Society for Social and Health, getting some services for finance management and part time expert secretary services from SOSTE.

During 2012, EAPN-Fin was using its resources to make the goals, objectives and activities of the network clearer and more focused. This was done by carrying out a strategy process together with the members. The process consisted of a questionnaire and a workshop to the members, another workshop to the members of the board and finally discussion and accepting the strategy paper for years 2013-2015 in the GA of EAPN-Fin. Two main points of the strategy were how to get the voices of people experiencing poverty more heard, and how to make the causes and effects of poverty more visible and better to understand in Finnish society.

In 2012 the network had two working groups: Child Poverty and Health and Poverty.

The Child Poverty group concentrated on the factors, that tend to increase inequalities among children in the Finnish school system.

'Health and Poverty group worked for instance on the question of expenses of medicine. The state pays back certain proportions of medicine expenses to persons. In 2012 the Finnish government had decided to save costs in this field and wanted to reduce these proportions. This will make it difficult for poor and often sick persons to buy medicine, and it happens often that people with weak resources give up buying medicine prescribed by the doctor. The group prepared two statements and organized a seminar about the matter.

Finland had municipal elections in 2012. EAPN-Fin organized a debate with some candidates for municipal council membership in Helsinki. The occasion was arranged with other NGOs. The topics were dealing with the social and health services of Helsinki. The debate collected an audience of about 70 persons.

EAPN-Fin has also cooperation with the Poverty group of the members of Parliament (about 20 members of Parliament). In November 2012, EAPN-Fin and the Parliament's Poverty group and some NGOs arranged a seminar concerning the possibilities for municipal social work to help poor people. The seminar also dealt with the weaknesses of the social security system and its bureaucracy towards helping people out of poverty. The seminar was held in the Parliament House in Helsinki and it brought together about 160 people, mostly social workers from the municipalities and the NGOs.