



## Annual report summary 2012

### Information Sheet: The Welfare Alliance/ (EAPN) European Anti Poverty Network Norway

the partnership network of organisations/associations/action groups for financially, socially and legally disadvantaged groups in Norway

The primary objectives of the Welfare Alliance are to:

- abolish poverty
- ensure increased user participation
- improve life quality and conditions for our membership groups
- improve financial and working conditions for our member organisations



The Welfare alliance was founded on 6th March –98 and has the following 27 member NGOs as of May 2013. **New members 2012- May 2013.**

Aktbo

AKS (situated in Bergen)

The Norwegian Amazig Culture Organisation

ASI Nord-Trøndelag - Work Seekers' Interest Organisation

ASI Sør-Trøndelag - Work Seekers' Interest Organisation

Bibi Amka (Woman wake up) African women network

Bikuben (A NGO founded by Mental Health, ADHD regions and LPP represented all over North Norway)

Blålys,- Association for sexually abused

BUS - Bergen Social Need Action Group

Fredrikstad District Client Action Group

**Frelsesarmeen / Salvation Army**

NAV brukerne I Karmøy distriktet **changed name from** [Karmøy District Client Action Group](#)

National Charitable Association for Justice for Losers

Oslo Tenant's Association

Oslo Poor House (Fattighuset i Oslo)

Offenders' Organisation of Norway – SON

Oslo independent legal counselling group

Our Common Future Project – PROFF, Sandefjord

Stavanger independent legal counselling group

**Møteplassen** <http://rjukan.frivilligsentral.no/?pageslug=moteplassen-4553>

Single Parents Association

SUKAO

Stiftelsen Selvhjelpens Hus - House of help to self help

Total Rehab

**Utsatt mann / Deferred man (- Men sexually abused in childhood** <http://utsattmann.no/?lang=en>)

Your Future (Din Framtid)

*Church City Mission (Associated member)*

(Note: Names of associations are literal translations, not official English titles – Norwegian acronyms retained)

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### **Partnerships and networking:**

The Welfare Alliance continued in 2012 the process of development of the organization. Salvation Army, Møteplassen (2012) and Deferred men (april 2013) have become new members during the last 15 months. Our working groups activities revolved mainly first half of 2012 to plan a social forum for two days in Bergen regarding housing, social and health topics. We has also improved our collaboration with the Foundation, Friends of free school meals. We also gave input and lobbying regarding lack of school meals when the Public Health Report 2013 was published.

EAPN Norway works together with EAPN EU and also our Nordic partners through the Nordic Welfare Platform. Also in Norway has the cooperation with various domestic organizations with focus on social housing policy in Oslo, such as the Oslo Municipal Tennant organization, and the housing action group "Nok er Nok (Enough is enough) been inspiring.

We still have the good cooperation with the Battery, **Campaign for the Welfare State**, Norwegian Union of Social Educators and Social Workers (FO), NTL - FOR WORKERS IN THE STATE SECTOR, regarding planning Dialogue Conferences "A better NAV(The Norwegian Labour and Welfare Service (NAV) ) between the users of the public service, employees and communities." This conference was planned to be completed in the autumn of 2012, but was delayed until 2013 when it was difficult for all parties to find common implementation date in the last months.

Furthermore, the need to form regional sub representations of EAPN Norway in North, West and South of Norway has been an ongoing theme and will be stronger prioritized in 2013 and 2014.

#### **EAPN Norways internal life**

Svein Karlsen became sick early January 2012 and the accountant services remains under Eva Karlensens responsibility. During 2012 Honoratte Muhanzi Kashale was employed, first 4 days a week and later on full time basis because of the GA arrangement in Sandvika in June.

#### **Annual Meeting Rica Helsfyr Hotel Oslo, 24. 03. 2012**

Annual Meeting approved the 2011 accounts, annual report and the budget for 2012. Chairperson Johanna Engen was re-elected. Two deputies, Nina Bjerke Nilsen and Torvald Øien was also re-elected. In addition a new board member was elected, Per Magnus Øgård and 2 new deputies. The Excomembers Henning Tønnessen, Rolf Solvang and Ove Haug, had one year left on his term and the same by deputy Berit Mathisen. The meeting also chose the leaders of the 6 working groups plus chairs of 3 committees, the Audit Committee, organizational Committee and the Nomination Committee.

#### **BOARD: Board Composition in 2012 (from the constitutive meeting of 17 April 2012):**

Chair: Johanna Engen, House of help to self help

Political Deputy: Torvald Øien, Total Rehab

Organizational Chair: Nina B. Nilsen, National Charitable Association for Justice for Losers (left the board at the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2012)

Member: Ove Haug, ASI Nord-Trøndelag

Member: Henning Tønnessen, AKS (situated in Bergen)

Member: Rolf Solvang, Offenders' Organisation of Norway – SON

Member: Per Magnus Øgård, Karmøy District Client Action Group

Employee representative: Dag Westerheim

1 deputy: Berit Mathisen, House of help to self help

2 deputy: Stig Raymond Moe, Bikuben

3 deputy: Reidun Berger, Oslo Poor House

Secretary Laila Marie Wolles, EAPN Norway Secretariat

Despite the challenges we had when our accountant Svein became serious ill, we managed soon to reorganize the functions and remain our planning towards the annual meeting of 2012 and the arrangements with the GA of EAPN in Sandvika in June. But with a small secretariat of 3 people we recognize that we are vulnerable.

#### **Election of chairs for the 6 Working groups**

**Housing Policy Committee:** Berit Mathisen, House of self to self help

**Health Policy Committee:** Anna Genfeldt, Total Rehab /Oslo Poor House

**International Committee:** Dag Westerheim, Oslo Poor House/ Secretariat

**Social policy committee:** Geir Jørgensen House of self to self help

**Children and Youth Committee:** Chairman: Linn Merethe Nilsen, National Association for children in care, until July 2012, when she had to retire due to health reasons. Laila Wolles took over as interim chair of this group from July.

**Regional Policy Committee:** Ove Steinar Haug, ASI Nord-Trøndelag

#### **The Exco meetings in 2012:**

It is held nine regular meetings and a board attached seminar together with the Secretariat in September.

#### **Chairman and Board members' external activities:**

- Meetings in the contact forum against poverty, and regular meetings with the Minister of Labour a.s.o.
- *From prison to The Qualification Programme*
- Meetings in the parliament with the committee of Finance
- Presentation for the Ministry of Labour "Migrants and employment"
- Meeting with the Socialist Party regarding State Budget 2013
- Meetings with the youth organization of the Labour party AUF, regarding proposals for new party programme 2013 -2017.
- Interviews with TV2:-regarding social welfare payments before Christmas, Magazines: - Those who are unemployed, Regional papers: - interviews: to face poverty in a rich country and chronicles: new class society and farmers situation as working poor. Also several contacts with the media which not are recorded.
- Meeting by City Council representative Tone T. Dahl,
- Meetings with different NGOs about membership, Salvation Army and Møteplassen joined the network in 2012.
- Participated at the conference of «**Campaign for the Welfare State**»,



*State Budget 2012, by Johanna Engen «We are not quite satisfied, Prime minister!»*

The working environment in the board of EAPN Norway has been stable. Late autumn searched organizational deputy resignation for personal reasons, but sat out the year. EAPN Norway has been lucky and had other good candidates for the vice-chairman.

#### SECRETARIAT STAFF IN 2012:

<b>Dag Westerheim</b>	100% position. Political Advisor / Senior Advisor
<b>Laila Wolles</b>	100% position. Organizational Consultant and Advisor
<b>Svein Karlsen</b>	80% position: Accountant. Long term sick leave since January.
<b>Honoratte Kashale:</b>	80% position of substitute from 25.1.12. Prolonged and increased to 100% from 17.4 and 5.7. Permanent from 1.12.12.
<b>Kobra Mustaq</b>	Clean Works, 3 hours per week
<b>Mona Wettergreen:</b>	Work Practice via NAV and on loan from Batteriet from October / November 2012.

**Accountant: In January we hired the accountant company of Eva Karlsen to take care of The financial tasks done by Svein Karlsen before.**

**Financial:**

*Our accountant Eva Karlsen... ☺*

**Core funding from the State budget 3690.000 NOK: From 2011 we had** unused funds on 460.000 NOK and **in addition to this we received** additional funding to implement EAPN's General Assembly in Sandvika in June. In addition, we were granted NOK 70 000 from the Ministry of foreign affairs so that we could fund more participants from Welfare Alliance's network organizations to participate in the conference. The expenses regarding the arrangement were still somewhat higher than expected costs and we could therefore not give EAPN more than the 20% of the financing that we were required to pay for the event. The overall budget was 4.390.000 NOK and by the end of the year we had a deficit of 90.000 NOK.

**Gender:**

**Since 2005 we have had a representation of women of between 40% and 80 % in the Exco or among the staff.**

**Membership meeting**

**There were arranged two meeting for our NGOs in 2012. One in March with the topic “ The Norwegian Labour and Welfare Service (NAV) – and the Welfare Alliance towards 2020”. The second held in November touched topics like: Social housing policy, Housing First, Adequate income, Dental Health as a part of the ordinary health system, Young disability benefits-test regarding remaining work abilities, labor immigration + social dumping, Attitude Change in NAV individual support for those who WANT!**



Participants at the November membership meeting.



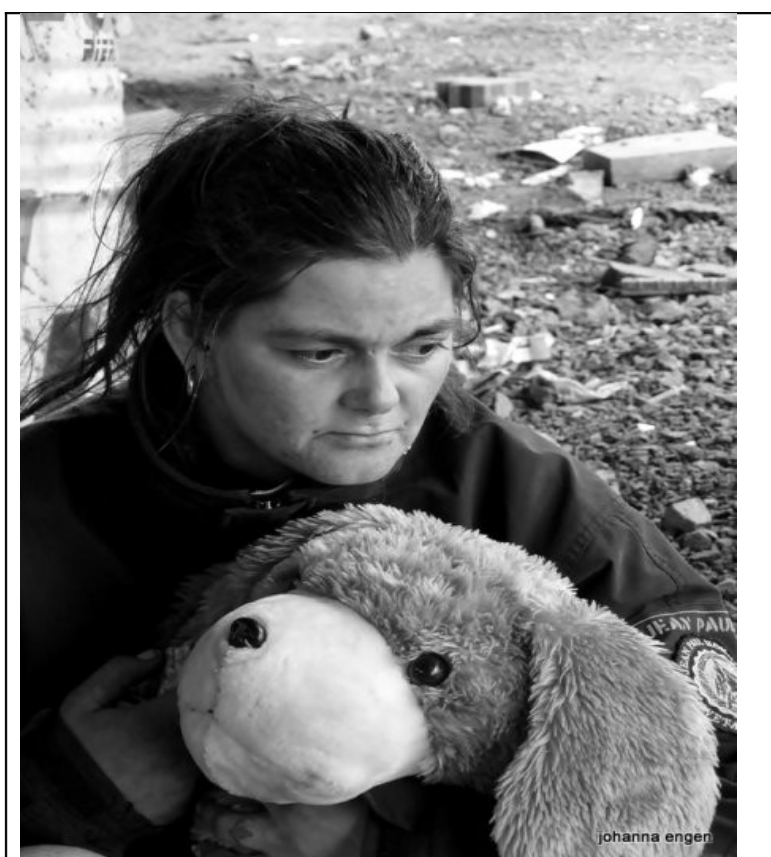
*Honoratte Kashale and Laila Wolles from the Secretariat and the photographer President Johanna Engen together with Merethe L. Pedersen from the Single Parents Association met Mayor of Nesodden Nina Sandberg before Christmas to thank for all assistance and support during the GA in June 2012.,*

## Working groups activities 2012

- **Children and Youth Committee:**

**Chair** : Linn Merethe Nilsen (until July 2012), Laila Wolles from July.

The working group had one ordinary planning meeting and participated at one working group seminar in Bergen 29th of September. Main focus was free access to cultural activities, drop-out kids, participation in the child care, aftercare of young people in public care and free school meals in primary schools. The WG consist of 5 members and has participated in different conferences during the year. In November they helped to recruit disadvantaged families to an alternative Christmas celebration in Gausdal, and has participated in the common comment paper about free meals in primary schools when the report about Public Health was launched by the Ministry. The WG has also been present when kids of asylumseekers have been debated at the breakfast seminars of the Save the children. Otherwise the theme poverty in families with children have also been appropriate for the WG to incorporate into their work.



Just child care for all...

- **Housing Policy Committee**

**Chair Berit Mathisen**

The Committee had six meetings in Oslo. The chair participated at the PEP in Brussels where the topic was homelessness. In September there was a conference organized by three of our WG`s in Bergen, a seminar on housing, social issues and health issues in Bergen area. In October made the WG a trip to London & Oxford regarding "White certificates" that is an arrangement in which power companies borrow private individuals money to insulate their homes, so the cost of

electricity can be reduced later. The idea is that people who have received loans of power companies just to pay off the loan using normal power bills. The committee participated in other seminars as well and gave an input at one of the workshops at the conference of the Welfare Conference 2012.



- **Health Policy Committee**

Chair: Anna Genfeldt : Two main topics when the State budget was launched. A. Dental health as a part of the public health system. B. Free school meals in the primary school. We also gave inputs regarding the Status report about Public Health that was launched in April.

Our WG participated together with two other Working Groups arranging the “Social Political Forum” in Bergen, a seminar on housing, social issues and health issues in Bergen area. We also participated at the dialogue seminar about drug addiction, Youth drop out and mental health issues related to this.



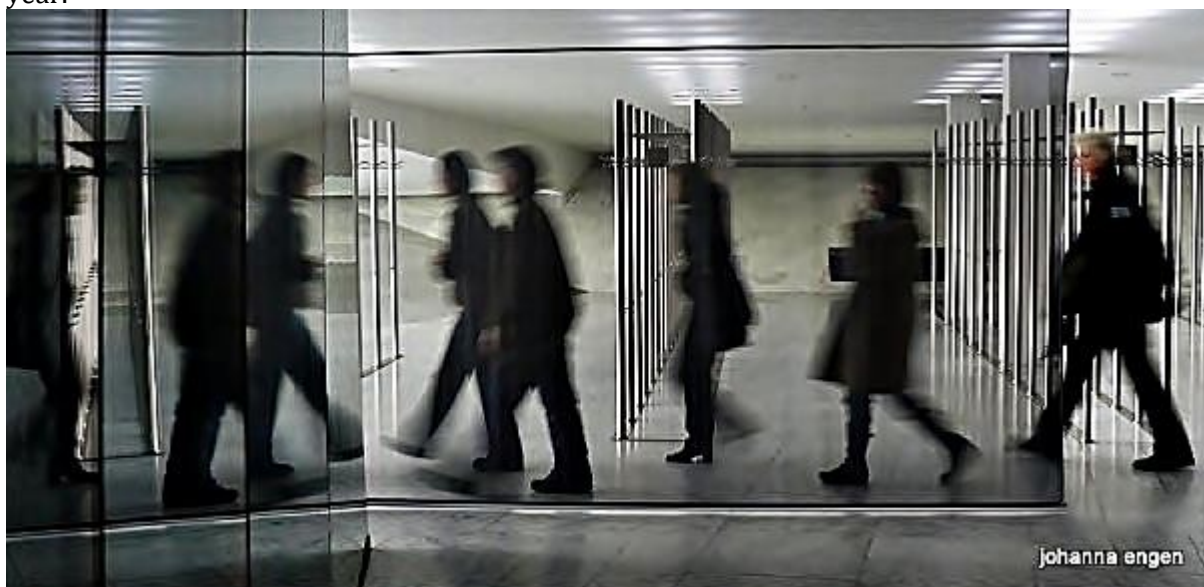
**Members or the Health committee:** Anna Genfeldt, Torvald Øien, Reidun Richter and Jan Inge Olsen

- **Social policy committee**

**Chair:** Geir Jørgensen until November 2012:Constituted chair from Nov.: Henning Tønnessen

**Social policy committee** first priority is to work to get SIFO – Standard budget for household introduced as a tool for minimum income in Norway. In addition, the focus has been on the public service - NAV and challenges in both the municipal and state portion of the NAV.

**Activities** - Housing First og the Norwegian State Housing Bank. The Norwegian version of the Norwegian Housing Bank model «Housing First» is primarily for people with diagnoses /drug addiction. The WG don't like this limitation for Housing First. The WG participated together with two other Working Groups arranging the "Social Political Forum" in Bergen, a seminar on housing, social issues and health issues in Bergen area. Visits at the Battery, Robin Hood house and BUS - Bergen Social Need Action Group have been some of the activities from the WG this year.



- **Regional Policy Committee:**

**Chair:** Ove Steinar Haug

**Activities:** Had none WG meetings this year but participated at the seminar in Bergen and two outcomes came out of this meeting. 1. The establishment of close cooperation between the municipality and NAV with plans for employment with a 4 and 12 year perspective. 2. The establishment of cooperation between state, county and municipality that adds binding, detailed timed action plans to lift up the 215.000 (OECD scale) and 470,000 people over the EU definition of the poverty line. The chair of the WG took part in the study visits about white certificates to London and Oxford and discussed fuel poverty.



- **International working group**

**Chair:** Dag Westerheim

Our member Honoratte Kashale participated in Peer Review, in Norway on 13-14 November 2012, on the subject: Area-based policies in urban areas: how to promote good living conditions for children and youth .

This year as well we participated at the PEP People Experience Poverty conference in Brussel. Our national coordinator was Jamila Hassan.



The financial crisis in EU...

**Nordic Welfare Platform:** *There has not been arranged any meetings in 2012 in this network*  
[www.nordicplatform.org](http://www.nordicplatform.org).

### **Baltic Sea NGO Network and the EU strategy for the Baltic Sea region**

*Rolf Solvang participated at the conferences of Baltic Sea NGO Network, Baltic Sea NGO forum and World NGO Day in Berlin and London. Rolf Solvang is our representative in the coordinating committee of Baltic Sea NGO Network and participated in meetings in ST.Petersburg, Copenhagen and Berlin.*

**EAPN:** EAPN: Until new strategic plan was adopted in June at the GA in Sandvika, EAPN Norway was present in 4 groups of EAPN. Svein Karlsen (Structural Funds), Laila Marie Wolles (Employment), Dag Westerheim (Exco until June), Johanna Engen (elected for 3 years at the GA in Sandvika in June) and Dag Westerheim (Social Inclusion Working Group). From June Johanna is member of the Exco and Dag Westerheim is member of the EU Inclusion Strategies Group. At the GA in Sandvika in June a new structure and strategic plan was adopted. The former Structural Funds and Employment WG does not exist anylonger. Instead there will be arranged time limited ad hoc task forces and the initiative to topics for these task forces will be taken by the Exco and the EU Inclusion Strategies Group. There will be arranged membership meetings every year and every third year there will be arranged a strategic congress.



### EAPNs General Assembly 7 - 9 of June 2012

The main focus of the committee's work 2012 was coordination and planning in cooperation with the Board, the General Assembly of EAPN EU in Sandvika between June 7 to 9 where EAPN Norway was the hosting network. 180 guests from 30 European countries participated in this event. We extended our committee temporarily with 5 more members which took part in the planning of the arrangement. Totally were 20 people from our member NGOs active in planning and the implementation of the GA. On the opening session the delegates from Europe attended study visits to Norwegian projects and visits to organizations.. Prosjenteret in Oslo, Oslo Poor House, The Battery, a division under the Church City Mission in Oslo, FRI from Drammen and Your Future Society in Drammen. National Charitable Association for Justice for Losers from Dokka lectured at the hotel in Sandvika for its visitor group.

The GA was opened by State Secretary Gina Lund, EAPN's chairman Ludo Horeman and President of EAPN Norway, Johanna Engen. The theme of the General Assembly's conference was "**Time of Crisis - Time for Change**". In the panel attended President of EAPN EU, EAPN France and Head of Research Bjorn Hvinden from NOVA - Norwegian Social Research. The challenges for people affected by the crisis was under focus during the debate. On Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> of June the crisis was discussed in ten different member-based workshops with different sub-topics and focus areas under the title "Survival Strategies in Times of Crisis".

Beyond the permanent records of the General Assembly was the election of the Exco for three years, a new strategic plan with the establishment of thematic working groups. The main focus of the GA were threefold:

1. To generate a sense of solidarity and common mission amongst EAPN members in the face of the current crisis
2. To reinforce EAPN as a member led organization
3. To ensure the proper functioning of the EAPN statutory requirements.



*EAPN delegate visits and assists Oslo Poor House ©*

**Outcome:** All unresolved cases that have not found their solution at the General Assembly in Lisbon last year were resolved in Sandvika.

Closing Conference:

Saturday night June 9 it was held a larger event with cultural performances for 160 people out on Hellviktangen in Nesodden. The mayor of the municipality Nesodden told about her experiences during illness and about her vulnerability in the face when she needed assistance from the public system. She also told about what her community meant was the main priorities locally.



*Guest from Europe, at the final party at Nesodden*

*Typical Norwegian summernight at Hellviktangen, Nesodden ☺*



*The Icelanders were freezing most ☺*



*....while the girls from Spain heated up the place with their smiles!*



*The Mayor of Nesodden, Nina Sandberg held a personal speech to Europe... and gypsy music was popular among our European guests©*

Thank you to all representatives of our member organizations who have contributed to our events in 2012. Our most work intense year is passed and well over.

- **OUK – Organization and Development committee**  
Chair Knut Bjerkan

**Organization and Development committee** changed name from 2012, earlier organization and recruitment committee. Both the mandate and the name were changed. New mandate will be presented and maybe adopted at our GA in april 2013.

**Activity**

An ordinary meeting in september in Bergen. The 5 members of the committee have taken part in different external conferences and internal planning groups.

Papers that the Committee had as a starting point for discussion:

- Mission Statement, an action sheet for the central focus of VA's business.
- Vision Statement, a description of VA's future role and importance.
- Rights-Value and Action Platform, a broader platform for the VA's business.
- Minutes of ..., a report from the kick-off meeting on key fundamentals of VA's business.
- Property Rights, an analysis and opinion on a user's legal property rights in NAV law.
- Annual Report 2012.
- Action Plan 2013.
- Mandate for the committee.

We will also mention some of the documents that the above list is compiled on the basis of:

- Expanded Board meeting on Klekken hotel in June 2007.
- Action Plan VA 2012
- Annual Report of Organization and Recruitment committee .



*Monument of Shame placed by the network on Norway's national mountain at Dovre, Norway, "one of the richest countries in the world have several hundred thousand people facing poverty, August 2005."*

### The Welfare Alliance and their partners

#### **Church City Mission and the Battery**

#### **«Campaign for the Welfare State»**

#### **Association of NGOs in Norway**

**Planning a conference together with Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences, Norwegian Union of Social Educators and Social Workers (FO) and NTL - FOR WORKERS IN THE STATE SECTOR**

### Outreach activities

- *Visits to some of our Member NGOs and potential partners*



One of our newest member NGOs, Bikuben (A NGO founded by Mental Health, ADHD regions and LPP represented all over North Norway)



Visit at our newest member **Møteplassen** <http://rjukan.frivilligsentral.no/?pageslug=moteplassen-4553>

- *Cooperation Forum and the Liaison Committee for Economic and socially disadvantaged.*



*Cooperation Forums study visit to Stockholm, Sweden summer 2012, Social Work Social Development*

There have been arranged 6 meetings in the Cooperation Forum in 2012 and 2 meetings with the Ministry in the Liaison Committee for Economic and socially disadvantaged

**The Norwegian Labour and Welfare Service (NAV)** and the Welfare Alliance EAPN Norway participates on national level, county level and locally several times a year to speak on behalf of our user groups.

