



## ANNUAL REPORT 2013

### **Influencing National Governments for Better Policies: Advocacy, Lobbying and Policy-Making linked to European Level developments**

EAPN-Fin has followed national and European discussion of poverty and social exclusion. Network has also monitored the actions of the government of Finland to decrease poverty, social exclusion and inequality. Network has made advocacy work by arranging seminars and making statements.

EAPN-Fin has cooperation with the Poverty group of the members of Parliament (about 20 members of Parliament). In 2013 EAPN-Fin and the Parliament's Poverty group and some NGOs arranged two seminars concerning the difficulties of combining working life and social security system. The seminars were held in the Parliament House in Helsinki and they brought together about 80 people each.

EAPN-Fin gave statement 16.9.2013 about the fact that banks don't give online bank service accounts to people with former troubles with payments. This risks equality. In Finland these online bank accounts are also used to log in in many public services such as Tax authorities online service and Public employment and business services, so these people don't have access to these services.

Network had four working groups: *Child Poverty, Health and Poverty, Social Policy and Expertise by experience*. Groups gathered several times in a year 2013.

The Child Poverty group monitored the poverty of children and their families. It concentrated on the factors that tend to increase inequalities among children in the Finnish school system. Group made opinion piece about special education in schools. It was offered to newspaper Helsingin Sanomat to be published, but it did not pass. Group made also an article about poverty in families with children. Sunnuntai Suomalainen published that article in 2014.

Health and Poverty group made advocacy work by monitoring legislation work and sharing information about social security. Group started to prepare a slideshow about the social security system.

Social policy group monitored changes in social policy. Essential task was to follow poverty research and to reflect the causes and effects of poverty. Group started to write an essay of the causes and effects of poverty.

Expertise by experience working group has informal way of working and it's way of acting is still forming. Group will be concentrating on themes like subsistence of living, costs of living and accessibility of health services.

### **Participation of People Experiencing Poverty and Social Exclusion in Internal and External Workings of the National Network**

12th Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty was held 18.–20.6.2013 in Brussels. From Finland participated four peoples delegation, which was coordinated by Pertti Kähärä from Finnish Federation of Settlements.

### **Development and Growth of the Network (including growth and training and capacity building actions)**

Network has now 34 members. In a year 2013 network got three new members, one member resigned.

Year 2013 was first year to implement EAPN-Fin's strategy paper for years 2013-2015. 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 understood in Finnish society.

In accordance with the strategy two new working groups were established: *Social Policy working group* and *Expertise by experience working group*. Network also started to write an essay of the causes and effects of poverty.

### **Governance and Internal Democracy (including internal governance, respect of statutory requirements, management in the network and funding)**

EAPN-Fin -network comprises 34 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.

Networks only funding comes from membership fees and is about 4000 € per year.

EAPN-Fin's board had 12 members in 2013. Board had seven meetings in 2013.

#### **Board 2013**

Outi Ruishalme, Finnish Association for Mental Health

Tiina Saarela, Center for Diaconia and Society

Jiri Sironen, Finnish Association for Substance Abuse Prevention

Veli-Matti Ahtiainen, Finnish Red Cross

Anu Haapanen, Finnish Federation of Settlements

Katariina Suomu, Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters

Marjatta Kaurala, Social Ombudsmen's Association

Ari Saarto, A-Clinic Foundation

Terttu Savola, HYVA

Seppo Soine-Rajanummi, Mannerheim League for Child Welfare  
Juha Keränen, National Organisation of the Unemployed  
Kirsi Väättämoinen, SOSTE Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health

GA of EAPN-Fin was held in 29.11.2013. New board was elected unanimously. New chair in 2014 will be Tiina Saarela.

### **Communication work**

In 2013 EAPN-Fin`s website [www.eapn.fi](http://www.eapn.fi) was renewed. Website will be completed in 2014. Also Facebook-site was set up <https://www.facebook.com/eapnfin?fref=ts>.

EAPN-Fin send three newsletters to it`s members 2013. Members were also approached via e-mail when needed. For example information that came from EAPN Europe was forwarded to members.

### **Members of EAPN-Fin**

A-Clinic Foundation

Best for Children

Center for Diaconia and Society

Central Association of Mental Health

Central Organisation for Skin-diseased People in Finland

Central Union for Child Welfare

Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters

Finnish Association for Mental Health

Finnish Association for Substance Abuse Prevention

Finnish Back Association

Finnish Diabetes Association

Finnish Federation of Hard of Hearing

Finnish Federation of Settlements

Finnish Heart Association

Finnish Osteoarthritis Association

Finnish Red Cross

Finnish Rheumatism Association

Finnish Stroke and Dysphasia Association

Friends of the Young

Guarantee Foundation

Hear the poor

HYVA

Mannerheim League for Child Welfare

Mutual Support Network

National Association of Disabled

National Organisation of the Unemployed

Sami Association of Finland

Save the Children

Single Parents and Parents with Common Custody Federation in Finland

Social Ombudsmen's Association

The Family Federation of Finland

The Finnish Federation for Social Welfare and Health

The Finnish Kidney and Liver Association

Union of Professional Social Workers TALENTIA