



ANNUAL REPORT 2014

1. Development and Growth of the Network

Network's most important recourse is its members. EAPN-Fin had 34 members in 2014: two new members, two members resigned. EAPN-Fin planned to get new members by direct marketing of membership. Network will continue working on that in 2015.

To increase network's conspicuousness and visibility a new leaflet and roll-up was made to be used in different occasions.

In autumn 2014 a new blog was set up to EAPN-Fin's website. All the member organizations are encouraged to write to the blog. In 2014 texts were written by EAPN-Fin's board members.

EAPN-Fin sent four newsletters to its members 2014. Members were also approached via e-mail when needed.

In 2014 developing of EAPN-Fin's new website www.eapn.fi was continued. Also Facebook-site <https://www.facebook.com/eapnfin?fref=ts> and Twitter-account https://twitter.com/EAPN_Fin was put to active use.

EAPN-Fin had its 20 year birthday in 2014. Celebration party was after GA in 21.11.2014. Members, cooperation partners and old board members were invited. There were speeches, cake and an own film performance "Tomorrow we will disappear". Also EAPN-Fin's new booklet about poverty [*Köyhyys – syitä ja seurauksia*](#) was released. Film performance was arranged in cooperation with Lens Politica film festival.

International activity

EAPN-Fin had advocates in Exco and EUISG. Essential task has been to forward information about Finland's poverty situation to EAPN and to forward information that comes from EAPN ja EU to national level. Challenge is to make sure that poverty and social exclusion aspects are taken into account evenhanded with economic policy.

EU election were held in 2014 and EAPN-Fin participated in EAPN's campaign.

EAPN-Fin took part also in EMIN (European Minimum Income) project. National coordinator was Jaakko Kiilunen. Project made national report [*European Minimum Income Network maaraportti*](#), which was also translated in english. Student Niko Eskelinen was hired to write the report. National EMIN seminar was held in 30.9. in the House of Parliament. Speakers were for example Fintan Farrell, Lauri Leppik, Pasi Moisio and Ismo Grönroos-Saikkala. There were also panel discussion of the members of Parliament on topic how to develop

minimum income. There were about 70 participants in the seminar. Some articles were written about seminar. Media was especially interested of the underuse of social assistance.

Representations in 2014

- Exco, Tiina Saarela.
- EU Inclusion Strategies group, Marjatta Kaurala (Jiri Sironen)
- GA (+ Exco) 27.–28.6., Tiina Saarela
- 13th Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty 22.–24.9, national coordinator Kari Lehtonen
- Annual Policy Seminar 3.10.2014, Marjatta Kaurala
- Annual Convention of the European Platform Against Poverty 20.–21.11.2014, Anu Haapanen.
- Network Development Seminar 28.–29.11., Jiri Sironen
- EMIN-project coordinator Jaakko Kiilunen had a speech in Estonian EMIN seminar 17.9.2014. EMIN seminar in Brussels 11.–12.12.201, Jaakko Kiilunen and Tiina Saarela.

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

EAPN-Fin follows national and European discussion of poverty and social exclusion. Specially network is monitoring Europe 2020 strategy's national goal to decrease the amount of poor people by 150 000 persons by 2020. In 2014 message was targeted especially to EU election candidates in a form of election manifesto. EAPN-Fin also arranged two events on the theme: one in Finnish Social Forum and other in the House of Parliament. Also media was contacted with the theme.

In 2014 were EU elections and EAPN-Fin took part in EAPN's campaign by translating the manifesto in Finnish. All candidates got the manifesto by e-mail and they were asked to sign it. They were also asked to send e selfie with the manifesto, and the pictures were released on EAPN-Fin's Facebook page.

An election campaign leaflet was made to be distributed in different events. EAPN-Fin sent a press release on 8.5.

EAPN-Fin had a seminar in Finnish Social Forum 26.4.2014. The theme was *Does EU increase or decrease poverty?* EAPN-Fin's chair Tiina Saarela presented EAPN's campaign goals and then there were a panel discussion with the candidates <http://www.eapn.fi/seminaari-lisaako-vai-vahentaako-eu-koyhytta/>. At the seminar were about 50 participants.

EAPN-Fin has cooperation with the Poverty group of the members of Parliament. In cooperation with the Parliaments Poverty group EAPN-Fin arranged 9.5. A seminar *Decreasing poverty in Europe* which concerned poverty in EU and evaluation of 2020 strategy's achievements so far. The seminar was held in the Parliament House in Helsinki and brought together about 40 people.

After the elections EAPN-Fin send a letter to congratulate meps and also letter to thank all the candidates that had signed the campaign manifesto.

Compared to resources the election campaign was successful. EAPN-Fin got signatures from 61 (38 %) candidates and 5 of them got elected (Finland has 13 meps): Liisa Jaakonsaari, Sirpa Pietikäinen, Heidi Hautala, Merja Kyllönen and Anneli Jäätteenmäki. In European level about 10 % of candidates signed. Campaign got also more followers to Facebook and Twitter.

EAPN-Fin took part on organizing a seminar ***From the experience to effect*** 9.10.2014 in SOSTEcruise. There were about 50 participants.

On International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 17.10. in Finland there is a Homeless night event with many happenings. EAPN-Fin forwarded information about those happenings and vice chair Jiri Sironen was also passing out information about EAPN-Fin in one event.

EAPN-Fin supported seminar *Basic income – basic rights* organized by BIEN Finland 24.11. that was held in The Social Insurance Institution of Finland.

In autumn 2014 EAPN-Fin started to get ready for national parliament elections 2015 and gathered comments from its members to influence the government programme.

Network has four working groups: *Child Poverty, Health and Poverty, Social Policy* and *Expertise by experience*. Groups gathered several times in 2014.

The Child Poverty group monitored the poverty of children and their families. It continued concentrate on the factors that tend to increase inequalities among children in the Finnish school system. Group made an article about poverty in families with children. Sunnuntai Suomalainen published the article in a beginning of 2014 and it also spread to other magazines.

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

Social policy group completed a publication of the causes and effects of poverty.

Expertise by experience working group has discussed about social security system and problems people are facing in their everyday life. Group had an informal way of working. There was 5-20 persons per meeting.

EAPN-Fin has an advocate in Poverty group of Parliament. EAPN-Fin's secretary works also as a secretary in the Poverty group.

3. Participation of People Experiencing Poverty and Social Exclusion in Internal and External Workings of the National Network

EAPN-Fin's aim is to increase participation and hearing of people experiencing poverty, and to increase their participation in political decision making. For that reason the network has tried to strengthen Expertise by experience working group and has done close cooperation with the Who hear the poor? -network.

EAPN-Fin collects together Finland's delegation that takes part in PeP-meetings. In 2014 from Finland participated four peoples delegation. National coordinator from Finland was Kari Lehtonen. Delegation had four meetings before PeP-meeting in Brussels and one after it. EAPN-Fin's board increased cooperation with the coordinator for example by inviting him to board meetings.

13th Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty was held 22.–24.9.2014 in Brussels. The focus of the 2014 meeting was on funding the fight against poverty and social exclusion. In addition workshops discussed key themes from previous meetings: Minimum Income, Homelessness, Wealth and Inequality, Migration and Poverty, and Youth and Social Inclusion. Finland's delegation felt that the theme on the meeting was distant from their point of view.

4. 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 Federation for Social Affairs 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 5 000 € per year. EAPN-Fin applied for funding from Finland's Slot Machine Association (RAY), but the resolution was negative.

EAPN-Fin's board had 13 members. Board had 8 meetings in 2014.

Board 2014

Tiina Saarela, Center for Diaconia and Society

Jiri Sironen, Finnish Association for Substance Abuse Prevention

Marja Eronen, Finnish Osteoarthritis Association

Jukka Haapakoski (until 05/14) / Anna Järvinen, SOSTE Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health

Anu Haapanen, Finnish Federation of Settlements

Olavi Kaukonen, A-Clinic Foundation

Marjatta Kaurala, Social Ombudsmen's Association

Juha Keränen, National Organisation of the Unemployed

Tuula Luoma, Finnish Red Cross

Outi Ruishalme, Finnish Association for Mental Health

Terttu Savola, HYVA

Seppo Soine-Rajanummi, Mannerheim League for Child Welfare

Katariina Suomu, Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters

GA of EAPN-Fin was held in 21.11.2014. New board will have 14 members. Tiina Saarela will continue as a chair in 2015.