**GA DOC 11**

**Amendments**

Proposals related to Goal 3 (People Experiencing Poverty and Social Exclusion recognise EAPN as their Network) of Strand 2 of the Draft Work Programme 2016

Goal 3 of Strand 2 of the Draft Work Programme 2016: **People Experiencing Poverty and Social Exclusion recognise EAPN as their Network**

BAPN is pleased that this is one of the goals, but notices that to reach this objective, there is still a long way to go.

Therefore we had a group discussion on this subject, with people experiencing poverty, to come up with some concrete proposals how to enforce this.

1. Analysis of the current situation, challenges:

* EAPN is not very well known to people experiencing poverty, not very visible outside policy context, outside the EU-institutions and organisations working in Brussels
* Even the active members (with experience of poverty) of BAPN, active in Brussels, don’t know or hear a lot about EAPN, except information that is given by BAPN (contrary to other big NGO’s as eg. Greenpeace, AI…)
* We don’t have the feeling that there’s enough bottom up approach, the documents produced by EAPN are too technical and therefore not accessible enough.
* All communication is in English, which makes it very hard to share ideas with a larger public

1. Proposals:

We do realize that the challenges mentioned here are a shared responsibility of the national networks, and EAPN as a whole. The following proposals are meant to help and stimulate each other and ourselves to answer these challenges:

* A communication strategy that aims to reach both people experiencing poverty and public opinion (straight clear messages, information about the work and positions of EAPN)
* Seeing each other stays very important, it would be interesting someone from the secretariat visits each network (on the field) once a year, also existing opportunities to meet each other (Pep Meeting, GA,…) should happen as much as possible, with as much as (financially) possible participants with experience of povery.
* In all groups of EAPN (EUISG, EXCO, GA,…) the participation of people experiencing poverty should be strengthened
* The way we are working now, the voices of people experiencing poverty have to travel a long way, and are translated, interpreted,.. too often (through the national secretariat, the EAPN secretariat,…) In the produced documents, we don’t recognize our voices. We should find a more direct form of participation: for example, the questionnaires that are used, could be a list of 5 simple questions, to be answered by people experiencing poverty in each national network, and quoted literally.
* EAPN should develop tools to support the national network in putting these practices in place: a toolbox for the training of people experiencing poverty on the subject of EU decision making.

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* EAPN could develop a clear readable short (one page) newsletter that the national networks can translate and diffuse
* It would be enriching for the Secretariat of EAPN to engage an expert by experience
* An interesting tool for the discussions between the networks, where people experiencing poverty are involved, could be an internet forum, accessible to all members of EAPN, especially the people experiencing poverty who are best placed to describe the realities in their countries.
* It would be great if EAPN could work even more on what’s worrying us in our daily lives (which is not the European Semester, but rather unemployment, housing issues, minimum income…) The Agenda should be set by the Members, and not as strongly by the European Commission
* EAPN can also deliver more concrete actions and programs, not only words (advocacy, policy work).

Namur, 24th of June 2015

Working Group BAPN EU2020