**FF 29 April 2014**

**Draft EAPN Strategy for the 2014 European Elections and the EAPN Policy Conference (2013)**

1. **Overview of the Campaign**

In this note we outline the common actions proposed for the EU level. For these actions to be successful they will need to be followed up with similar actions at National levels. It is hoped that once we have agreement of the common actions at EU level it will allow the National Networks to define and time their key actions at the National level.

**Date for the Parliament Elections:**

Normally set for early June 2014 (5-8) there are proposals which have been agreed by the Constitutional Affairs Committee of the Parliament to have the elections moved forward to 22-25 May. Moving the elections forward will give the Parliament more time to be involved in the selection of the next President of the European Commission to be appointed in July 2014. The New Commission will take office on 1 Nov 2014.

**Aim for EAPN Election Campaign:**

* + To ensure that poverty, exclusion, inequality and the future of social Europe gets attention and visibility during the campaign period
  + To support the participation of EAPN members with the election campaign
  + To influence the European and National level Party Manifestos
  + To make EAPN known to the candidates in the European Elections and to build the base for holding MEPs accountable during their mandate for social commitments made in the election campaigns.

**Key Stages for the campaign:**

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| ***Key Stages*** | ***EAPN Actions*** |
| * + Influencing Manifestos of the Political Groups and the manifestos of the National Political parties (Now till Dec 2013) | * + Responding to requests for engagement in the development of Party Manifestos   + EAPN Conference in Sept 2013 with participation of representatives from the main European level political parties. |
| * + Informing Re Party Manifestos (January – April 2014) | * + Special Edition of the EAPN Mag.   + Use of social media |
| * + Informing Candidates re EAPN ( February – May 2014) | * + EAPN to be in touch with every candidate in the elections. If Pledge idea is accepted this would be the time to gather signatures. |
| * + Introducing EAPN to the new Parliamentarians (July – September 2014) | * + An EAPN communication to each elected MEP   + An event in the Parliament (perhaps organized with other NGOs) to present EAPN to the elected MEPs. |

**Information about European Political Parties and Political Groupings**

At present the following nine political parties at European level exist:

[European People's Party](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_People%27s_Party) (EPP) [Alliance of European Conservatives and Reformists](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alliance_of_European_Conservatives_and_Reformists) (AECR)

[Party of European Socialists](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Party_of_European_Socialists) (PES) [Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alliance_of_Liberals_and_Democrats_for_Europe_Party) (ALDE)

[European Green Party](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Green_Party) (EGP) [Party of the European Left](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Party_of_the_European_Left) (PEL)

[European Free Alliance](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Free_Alliance) (EFA) [European Democratic Party](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Democratic_Party) (EDP)

[EU Democrats](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EUDemocrats" \o "EUDemocrats) (EUD)

A useful table showing which national political parties belong to which European political party is available at:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Table\_of\_political\_parties\_in\_Europe\_by\_pancontinental\_organisation

In addition the MEPs in the European Parliament arrange themselves in political groups. These groups can combine some European Political Parties but also pick up MEPs who have been elected that do not belong to any of the European Political Parties. In the present European Parliament the main political groupings (in order of the size of their representation) are:

* Group of European People’s Party (Christian Democrats)
* Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats
* Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
* Greens /European Free Alliance
* European Conservatives and Reformists
* Europe of freedom and democracy group
* European United Left – Nordic Green Left
* Independence/Democracy Group

Information on the Groups is available at[**http://www.europarl.europa.eu/portal/en**](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/portal/en)

It is important that we try to make aware which national political parties/candidates link to which European Political Parties and groups in the European Parliament.

1. **Key Document of EAPN for the campaign:**

The key document of EAPN for the Campaign seeks to reach three objectives and should not be longer than two pages:

* To present key anti-poverty and social concerns that should inform the debates as part of the campaign and which should inform European and National level party manifestos

This section should provide

* Latest information on poverty, inequality and exclusion in Europe
* Information on what is poverty and social exclusion
* Key concepts which should inform debates and examples of actions to implement these concepts. Examples of concepts could include: End Austerity, Make the economy social, Mobilizing all polices to fight poverty and inequality, Building common EU social standards, Access to services and common goods, Integrated Anti-Poverty Strategies, Strengthened dialogue and participation, Revision of the Treaties.
* To identify a limited number of key concrete demands (preferable not more than 3) from EAPN in relation to the next Parliament such as:
  + A Framework Directive for Adequate Minimum Income Schemes in Europe
  + To support that a ‘Poverty Hearing in the European Parliament’ would be part of the future annual European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty

* To create a tool (such as a pledge) that can create a hook for: 1) introducing EAPN to candidates for the elections 2) creating media opportunities for EAPN in relation to the election (X number of candidates have signed the pledge) and 3) act as a hook for engagement with elected MEPs in the next Parliament
  + Example of a pledge: If elected to the European Parliament I will work to fight poverty, discrimination and inequality and to ensure strengthened cooperation to achieve high level social standards throughout the EU. (Name and address)

**Process:** This document will be drafted in the coming week and circulated for comments by the end of May. A revised version will be set to the Exco before the GA and the document will be discussed at the General Assembly and then finalized by the Executive to be launched at the Sept Conference.

1. **EAPN Conference Sept 2013**

**Background Information**

**When** 30 Sept and 1 October

**Where:** Brussels Thon Hotel

**Who should attend:** 2 per National Network (1 of whom should be an activists with direct experience of poverty), I per European Organisation and 24 others to include guests and to link with key work that has been done in EAPN in the last year. 100 extra people without travel expenses.

**Format**

**30 Sept (am): What has happened in follow of the EU Poverty Reduction Target**

This part of the programme would have two aims:

1. To get EAPN members and delegates up to speed with policy developments at EU level
2. Engage with and Lobby the EU Institutions in relation to the latest policy work of EAPN

**30 Sept (pm): Internal Event: Building the EAPN campaign towards the European Elections 2014**

**Elements:**

* Overview of EAPN Election Campaign
* Sharing of experiences in relation to engaging in previous European and National Election campaigns
* Developing common actions for the 2014 Elections

1. **October (am): Launching EAPN Election Campaign**

Elements:

* Presentation of the current reality: Inputs from 1) PeP 2) National Networks 3) EOs 4) Other Alliances
* Presentation of Election Document
* Presentations and Responses from representatives of the Main European Political Parties
* Time for questions and answers