



Getting to know taskforce members
Presentation prepared by national networks
Structural funds taskforce 28.09.07

22.10.07

A workshop was held during the September EAPN taskforce meeting to better get to know the members and their activities on structural funds, as a way to strengthen the work of the taskforce itself and improve our efficiency as a network. Taskforce members had been asked to prepare short documents with the following information:

- structure of the national network
- past activities of the national network linked to structural funds
- advocacy work (in particular for new programming period)
- successful projects
- alliances and work with other NGOs
- financial aspects and co-financing

The present document is a compilation of contributions from the taskforce members.

AUSTRIA

Structure of the national network (incl. staff, decision-making and how work on structural funds is coordinated)

The Armutskonferenz consists of 30 national organisation members. Every 2 years a coordination team consisting of 6 persons is elected. The persons elected also function as a chairperson, a cashier, a secretary and their respective deputies according to the law of associations. The association "Die Armutskonferenz" is therefore contractually capable and is entitled to conclude contracts with government offices. The management board also is also liable with the association's funds in the case of negligent decisions with private funds. The members of the coordination team meet every 4 to 6 weeks, the meeting takes 3 to 4 hours. Decisions are made on a consensus base. Martin Schenk and Michaela Moser are the association's representatives, as e.g. in the case of public requests, interviews, press conferences, political statements and general PR. The official positions are agreed upon in the coordination team.

The association has a managing coordinator who is employed between 25 and 38.5 hours per week (depending on the financial situation)

The association provides employment contracts and fee basis contracts for temporarily limited projects. Until summer 2006, the voluntary work of the structural fund officers was carried out by one person of the member organisations but unfortunately feedback and information transfer to the managing chair was temporarily interrupted. Since 2006, the task of the structural funds officer has been carried out by the national coordinator.

- Past activities of the national network linked to structural funds (key focus)

From 2004 to 2006 Michaela Moser was the official representative of the "Armutskonferenz" in the EQUAL monitoring committee.

Advocacy work (in particular for new programming period: did you plan any lobby campaign, what were alliances and work with other NGOs, what is your position/participation in the funds' management and monitoring committees?)

Currently we do not have any representatives in the various monitoring committees defining objectives for the national implementation of the structural funds, taking part in committees, supporting decisions and informing NGOs.

Successful projects (two examples of projects led by the network and supported by the funds, but also for instance the number and type of NGO projects financed in the country over the last period)

The „Armutskonferenz“ was a project partner in an empowerment project in the first EQUAL period. The basic principles for the support of self-organised groups consisting of persons threatened by poverty, which were developed in this project, are still put into practice today in various work surroundings and projects.

Today we can say that the involvement of the „Armutskonferenz“ in EQUAL led to an over-challenge of the "Armutskonferenz", due its then scarce staff and financial resources and its structure.

The projects realised since 2005, as for example the research assignment on the performances of NGOs in Austria by the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Empowerment Project in 2006 with two meetings and workshops for people threatened by poverty, furthermore financial support for the preparation of the meeting “people experiencing poverty” were realised due to direct contractual relationship with the Ministry of Social Affairs.

Alliances and work with other NGOs: to what extent does the network work together with other NGOs? What is its position in the management and monitoring committees?

The main task of the Austrian Armutskonferenz is informing the public and the media on the national poverty situation, taking a stand, and developing proposals for solutions.

The large NGOs have aligned with each other in an umbrella organisation in order to lobby in national politics.

The smaller NGOs organise themselves in umbrella organisations according to main topics, e.g. asylum, disability, unemployment. Examples of these umbrella organisations are the BDV “Bundesdachverband der sozialen Unternehmen”, (Federal Umbrella Organisation of Social Enterprises) and the „Forum Asyl“. In addition to an alignment in terms of contents to benefit clients, the aim of the association of organisations has always been the facilitating of the access to national and international resources. Many project assignments and project implementations can only be realised through temporary cooperations of various project partners.

Financial aspects and co-financing (how is the network financed? are there specific financial obstacles to NGOs' access to the structural funds? what mechanisms are used by NGOs for Structural Funds projects in the countries, are there formal bodies in your country?)

Until July 2007 the Austrian poverty network “Die Armutskonferenz“ financed itself from membership fees (about 15000 Euro annually) and temporarily limited project contracts. The coordination team works on an honorary basis, the coordinator is employed between 22 and 38.5 hours/week depending on the financial situation. Since July 2007, „Die Armutskonferenz“ has been granted a basic subsidy, allowing for a part-time employment of the coordinator and the covering of the costs for the ongoing office work and a two-day event with persons affected/threatened by poverty.

The fact that NGOs are involved in the process of decision-making on the utilisation of the structural funds, on education and information dissemination through technical assistance is a novelty in Austria. Representatives of various NGOs can be found in the monitoring committee. Up to now, they have been regarded as mere tokens without a real function, and/or as know-how carriers to the next and/or associated NGO-networks. They never regarded themselves as public know-how carriers and were never provided with adequate communication structures.

Technical assistance was regarded as a financing instrument for transaction offices close to the government and the assigning ministries and until today, this has not been denied in the public discussion.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Workshops for September taskforce meeting

Structure of the national network (incl. staff, decision-making and how work on structural funds is coordinated)

Till this time there is not any coordination of SF on the national EAPN level (Czech republic); but the meetings of executive board are devoted to the exchange of information and experience (among the member organizations – the possibility of solving problems through the just developing partnerships). The transfer of information to each member organization is up to the individual using.

Past activities of the national network linked to structural funds (key focus)

The overview of information for preparation, efforts for influence the position and possibilities of non-governmental sector and issue of social exclusion in the framework of Structural funds. Solving the topic of SF EU in relation to social exclusion in the framework of regional workshop “Employment and social exclusion”.

Advocacy work (in particular for new programming period: did you plan any lobby campaign, what were alliances and work with other NGOs, what is your position/participation in the funds’ management and monitoring committees?)

IQ Roma Servis, o.s. (member of EAPN Czech republic executive board) is involved in the process of creation the Agency for social inclusion of Roma communities that should systematically use SF EU 2007-2013 for these purposes.

Successful projects (two examples of projects led by the network and supported by the funds, but also for instance the number and type of NGO projects financed in the country over the last period)

Partnership in the project “STOP to social exclusion” – organizing workshops, publishing information leaflets, and organizing international conference “Mainstreaming of social inclusion”, preparation of web page EAPN Czech republic.

Alliances and work with other NGOs: to what extent does the network work together with other NGOs? What is its position in the management and monitoring committees?

Good cooperation among non-profit organizations (for example SKOK, FORINT, Agency of social inclusion; exchange of information and examples of good practice among the project partners CIP EQUAL;
Contact with Governmental council for non-profit organizations, Governmental council for issues on Roma communities

Financial aspects and co-financing (how is the network financed? are there specific financial obstacles to NGOs' access to the structural funds? what mechanisms are used by NGOs for Structural Funds projects in the countries, are there formal bodies in your country?)

EAPN Czech republic is not financial supported, except of project activities in that EAPN Czech republic is involved as the project partner.

General evaluation:

- Lack of administration capacity the non-profit organizations (but there are programs for supporting the capacity)
- Advantage for NGOs in kind of 100% financing
- If NGOs are prepared and working professionally, they would have the chance to get finances of SF EU.

FRANCE



Mieux connaître EAPN-France

Structure du réseau national (notamment personnel, structures décisionnelles, travail sur les fonds structurels)

EAPN France est composé d'une vingtaine d'associations (Fondation de l'Armée du Salut, Petits frères des Pauvres, Secours Catholique, ATD Quart Monde, UNIOPSS...) et de collectifs régionaux (URIOPSS, ALERTE...)

Un conseil d'administration est constitué de 6 représentants des associations nationales et de 6 représentants des collectifs régionaux. Le Conseil d'administration se réunit une fois tous les 2 mois mais va alléger le rythme pour 2 fois par an.

Suite au renouvellement récent du Conseil d'Administration, des groupes de travail viennent d'être créés : emploi, PNAI/inclusion, présidence française/2010, immigration/intégration, participation.

Des correspondants pour [le comité exécutif, les task forces emploi et fonds structurels et les axes de travail du comité exécutif ont été nommés.](#)

Activités passées liées aux fonds structurels (principaux domaines suivis)

Via l'UNIOPSS (vice-président de droit d'EAPN-France).

Le secteur associatif français est représenté au sein du comité national de suivi du FSE (objectif 3 et EQUAL) et au sein de l'instance de concertation autour de l'élaboration de la programmation 2007 – 2013 du FSE, dans le cadre d'un collège inter-associatif.

Le collège inter-associatif a été créé en 2000, au début de la précédente programmation du FSE. Ce collège inter-associatif regroupe l'association Alliance Ville-Emploi (qui représente les PLIE – Plans Locaux d'Initiatives pour l'Emploi), le CNIAE (Comité National de l'Insertion par l'Activité Economique), le CNIDFF (Centre National d'Information et de Documentation des Femmes et des Familles), l'Uniopss (Union nationale interfédérale des Œuvres et Organismes privés sanitaires et sociaux), le CNVA (Conseil National de la Vie Associative) et la CPCA (Conférence Permanente des Coordinations associatives).

Des réunions régulières se sont tenues, sous l'égide de la CPCA, afin de préparer des positionnements inter-associatifs autour de la mise en œuvre de la programmation 2000 – 2006 (révision à mi-parcours, suivi de la mise en œuvre du FSE, suivi de la mise en place d'une mesure de soutien aux micro-projets associatifs dans le cadre de l'objectif 3 du FSE...) et de l'élaboration de la nouvelle programmation pour valoriser la place des associations à la fois en tant que

bénéficiaires potentiels des différentes mesures du FSE, mais aussi dans la gouvernance, en tant qu'acteurs co-élaborateurs des politiques publiques.

Sont particulièrement impliqués dans cette dynamique de concertation inter-associative : Celavar, collège associatif de l'IAE, Uniopss, CPCA, LFEFP + soutien technique et méthodologique de l'Avise.

Parmi les démarches effectuées : divers courriers à destination de la Délégation générale à l'emploi et à la formation professionnelle (qui pilote la programmation FSE en France) en 2006, prises de parole en tribune lors de réunion d'instances nationales de suivi du FSE.

Travail de "lobby" (en particulier pour la nouvelle période de programmation: avez-vous mis en place une campagne de lobby, qu'étaient les alliances avec les autres ONG, quelle est votre position dans les comités de gestion et suivi des fonds ?)

Les démarches engagées ont abouti à une meilleure reconnaissance des acteurs associatifs : place dans le Programme Opérationnel FSE 2007 - 2013, place au sein des comités nationaux et régionaux de suivi de la nouvelle programmation, parole en tribune lors des réunions nationales, réflexions sur la gouvernance du FSE ...

En parallèle, les acteurs associatifs tentent de construire des outils pour leurs réseaux, dans une dynamique inter-associative (ex : organisation de deux sessions de formation sur le FSE en 2005 – 2006 coordonnées par la CPCA et mises en œuvre par l'AVISE ; ces sessions de formation ont bénéficié d'un financement du FSE (crédits d'assistance technique)).

Démarches en cours de la CPCA pour une nomination de cinq représentants de coordinations associatives nationales (avec un mandat CPCA) dans la nouvelle instance de suivi du FSE.

Démarche validée. 1^{er} comité de suivi FSE 21/09/07

Démarche en parallèle du collège associatif de l'IAE (insertion par l'activité économique) pour être nommé en tant que tel dans l'instance nationale.

Projets couronnés de succès (deux exemples de projets menés par le réseau et soutenu par les fonds, mais aussi nombre et type de projets d'ONG financés dans le pays lors de la dernière période de programmation).

Alliances et coopération avec d'autres ONG: dans quelle mesure le réseau travaille-t-il en coopération avec d'autres ONG? Quelle est sa position dans les comités de gestion et suivi ?

Aspects financiers et co-financement (comment le réseau est-il financé? Les ONG sont-elles confrontées à des obstacles particuliers pour accéder aux fonds ? quels mécanismes sont utilisés par les ONG pour accéder aux fonds, existe-t-il des organismes spécifiques pour cela ?)

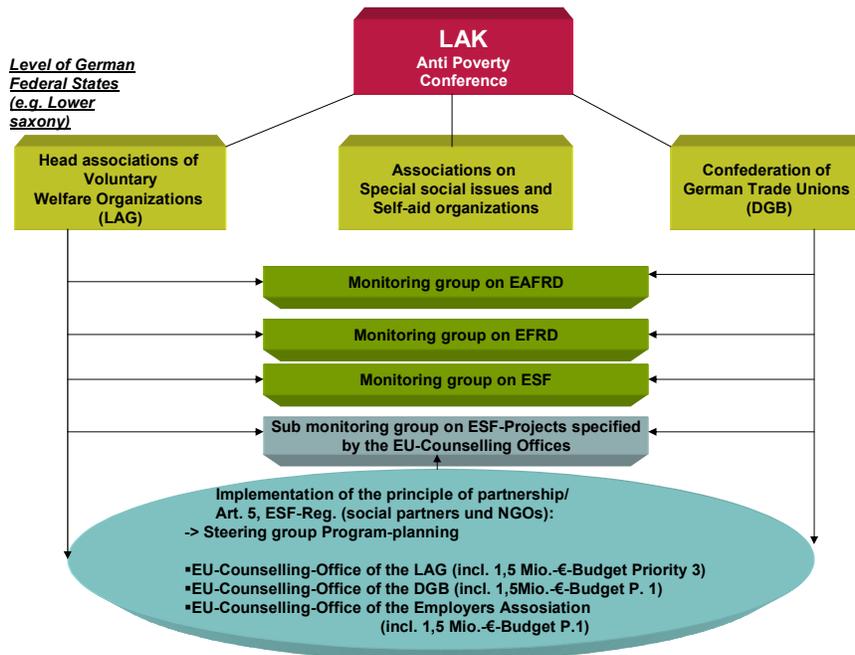
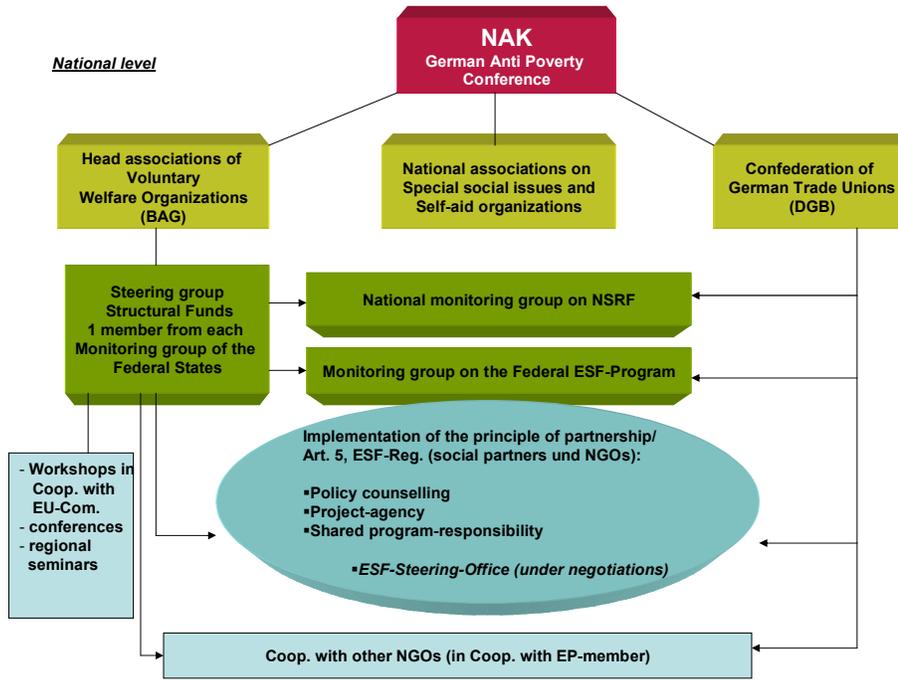
EAPN-France est financé par ses fonds propres, une subvention annuelle de la Direction générale de l'Action Sociale, les cotisations des adhérents.

Les organismes gestionnaires de subvention globale : exigences très élevées sur la capacité de gestion administrative requise vis à vis de ces organismes. Certaines associations, précédemment organismes intermédiaires dans l'ancienne programmation, ne pourront y

répondre, alors qu'elles ont effectué un travail d'accompagnement intéressant des porteurs de projets dans le cadre de la mesure de soutien aux micro-projets associatifs (plus-value associative, rapidité de traitement des dossiers, fluidité, accompagnement des porteurs de projets dans le montage et la mise en œuvre de leur projet).

Des questions se posent aussi sur le taux d'intervention du FSE sur la mesure de soutien aux micro-projets associatifs (85 % ? quid de l'engagement des collectivités territoriales pour les 15% restant ? quid du financement de la fonction d'animation de l'organisme intermédiaire?)

GERMANY



HUNGARY

Structure of the national network (incl. staff, decision-making and how work on structural funds is coordinated)

The network was established in 17/04/2007. It currently has approximately 80 members. Decision making is mainly done by the Co-ordination Board with its 20 members. The Board organized on a regional basis. The network does not have a single staff, usually everyone participate on a volunteer basis.

The SF Workgroup has three members, but only one of them speaks in English. Usually the SF WG coordinator keeps contact with the different units and agencies (Ministry of Social and Labour Affairs, National Development Agency) who are involved into the relevant processes.

Past activities of the national network linked to structural funds (key focus)

Only gaining information about experiences – successes and failures – on SF linked project implementation.

Advocacy work (in particular for new programming period: did you plan any lobby campaign, what were alliances and work with other NGOs, what is your position/participation in the funds' management and monitoring committees?)

Early lobby activities by the SF Workgroup: meeting with the Social Ministry's officers; proposal letters, EAPN HU SF WG OPINIONS on draft versions of the planning process: NSRF, (Lisbon Strategy), OPs, Action Plans. These Opinions and Answers are available on the EPAN HU website (<http://www.hapn.hu/?pid=24>).

Participation in a watchdog network: "NGOs for the Publicity of the NSRF". Five reports have been presented, all of them available on the NDA website (http://www.nfu.hu/cnny_jelentekes).

Successful projects (two examples of projects led by the network and supported by the funds, but also for instance the number and type of NGO projects financed in the country over the last period)

There were not any projects supported by the funds, the network itself is not a legal body.

Alliances and work with other NGOs: to what extent does the network work together with other NGOs? What is its position in the management and monitoring committees?

The network usually works together with its own members. There is not any alliance of NGOs in which the network participated as a member.

Financial aspects and co-financing (how is the network financed? are there specific financial obstacles to NGOs' access to the structural funds? what mechanisms are used by NGOs for Structural Funds projects in the countries, are there formal bodies in your country?)

The network itself does not have a regular financial source. A foundation has been established to contribute to its administration costs, and co-finance the participant's budgets who attend e.g. the Meeting of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion.

There are many obstacles in accessing to the Funds. First of all the financial system of project implementation: only a limited amount of the budget can be paid in advance. Hungarian NGOs do not have enough savings or capital so they cannot wait months for their money. Some NGO's just collapsed during their ESF-financed project implementation.

There were not any specific instruments for NGOs and for smaller projects. Almost all the projects had to be implemented in the same legal and financial environment irrespectively the project size what simply disabled the operation of NGOs.

Together with EAPN HU SF WG some NGOs lobbied strongly for the Global Grant system which partly could help the social inclusion NGOs to 1. access easily to the funds and 2. to implement safely their projects.

More information on the South-Transdanubian Regional Resource Centre Service Public Benefit Company

Dél-Dunántúli Regionális Forrásközpont Szolgáltató Kht (South-Transdanubian Regional Resource Centre Service Public Benefit Company), established through Phare co-funding, has set the objective to provide professional assistance to the local governments, government funded institutions and non-governmental organisations providing social services in Baranya, Somogy and Tolna counties in a changed and permanently changing economic, financial and social environment. Another objective of Dél-Dunántúli Regionális Forrásközpont Kht is to, by developing a social policy taking into account the local patterns, contribute to developing well functioning society sensitive towards those in need.

South-Transdanubian Regional Resource Centre deals primarily with the development and improvement of social policy plans and concepts, as well as the articulation and representation of the region's social policy interests. It provides consulting services, organises expert meetings and training courses, arranges and implements employment programmes and provides alternative labour market services.

Our key activities that are currently running:

Labour market projects:

"TurningPoint" project: Implementation of an alternative, partnership based labour market programme of which purpose is to, by individually treating the specific cases and by using a complex set of methodology tools, promote the re-integration of the groups seriously handicapped in the affected areas (establishing relationship with local governments and their respective organisations.)

„Compass” project: Based on the methods and experiences of the „TurningPoint” project, this project offers complex labour market services for the unemployment people in the underprivileged Vajszló micro-region. The project located in a Roma Community House which has been rebuilt within a frame of a previous project funded by Phare.

„Herbal” project: supporting the growing, collecting and buying up of different herbs in order to provide work opportunities for unemployed people in rural areas.

Resource Centre as a background institution:

We are the Regional Management Unit of the Ministry of Social and Labour Affairs and provide services in Somogy, Tolna, and Baranya counties (e.g. social crisis management programmes, development of a so called village and homestead caretaker service, children's welfare programmes). In this regard, our tasks include also providing expert assistance and programme co-ordination to local governments that implement subsidised social programmes.

We provide office and professional assistance for the "Regional Social Policy Planning and Development Network" programme operated by the Institute for Social Policy and Labour.

Civil Network Development Professional Centre programme: we provide relevant information and professional consultation for social inclusion NGOs working in Baranya and Tolna county.

We are the secretariat of the South-Transdanubian Regional Social Policy Council; we have the responsibility for its smooth operation.

Professional co-operation with the Institute of Social Policy and Labour in the process of establishing the professional standards of social services.

Organisation of courses and training

We are an officially accredited training unit by the Institute of Social Policy and Labour and we provide social professional training for the staff of social institutions and civil organisations.

Social Policy planning activities including the following ones:

Development of social concepts (social concepts of the South-Transdanubian Region, Baranya county and Pécs city have been prepared by us).

Social service organizing concept of Siklós micro-region

Complex social policy chapter in the Strategic Development Programme of Human Services in the South-Transdanubian Region

New social service organizing concept of Pécs city

IRELAND

EAPN Ireland Presentation on Structural Funds Activities Porto 27-28 September 2007

1. Structure of National Network

- Membership of over 200, mostly local and national anti-poverty groups
- Board of 13 persons agreed at each Annual General Meeting of members
- Three core staff (Director, Policy worker and Administrator)
- Policy Worker works on Structural Funds as one of a number areas of work.

2. Past activities

- Worked closely with another national social NGO to address the area of social inclusion in the Irish National Development Plan which was part funded by Structural Funds until the 2007-2013 period.
 - Supporting the EAPN (Europe) lobbying regarding the regulations and the monitoring of Programmes at EU level.
 - Organising regional meetings regarding the mid-term review of the Structural Funds and NDP and circulating and lobbying based on the findings.
 - Supporting the production of a number of publications on social inclusion and the structural funds (mainly other NGO with EAPN input)
 - Supporting social NGO participation on monitoring committees.
- Through the social partnership structure some national NGOs participate on Structural Fund monitoring Committees. EAPN Ireland has not sought a place on these but some of those that are on the Committees are members of EAPN Ireland.

3. Current Round

- Mainly took a lead among social NGOs in Ireland
- Participated in the EAPN (Europe) lobbying regarding the regulations and lobbied Irish MEPs, national officials etc)
- Organised meetings with the relevant government departments and managing authorities some involving other social NGOs.
- Carried out consultations with members regarding EAPN Ireland's submissions to the NSRF and each of three national OPs including a series of three regional meetings and the submission of a report on these meetings.

4. Successful Projects

EAPN Ireland does not receive any Structural Funds. It is not clear to what level social NGOs receive Structural Funds but the level has probably reduced over time. IN the 2000-2006 period some NGOs receive funding under gender programmes, and number of others were the lead or key partner in a number of EQUAL and INTERREG Projects. Also under the Peace and Reconciliation Programme (relating to the armed conflict in Ireland) many NGOs in both the north and south of Ireland got funding for projects. Many of these projects would in general seen to have been successful at different levels but there is little impact on mainstreaming policies or practices.

5. Alliances with other NGOs and Management and Monitoring Committees

Covered above under 2 and 3

6. Financial Aspects and Co-Financing

- EAPN Ireland funded by Government National Anti-Poverty Networks funding until November 2007. This funding programme has being merged with a wider programmes for national NGOs which has no anti-poverty focus and EAPN Ireland has applied to this new programme for 3 years funding. We also have funding under Commission NAP Inclusion awareness Programme (until end Nov 07 and have accessed smaller grants from other sources.
- In general there is little access for NGOs to Structural Funds – main sources for 2000-2006 are outlined under Q4 above. Global Grants mechanisms in the past have been positive for social NGOs although co-financing is always a barrier.

ITALY



Structure of the national network

Cilap EAPN Italia, born in 1992, is a main national actor in the animation and dissemination of the European debate on social policies vis-à-vis the fight against poverty and social exclusion.

Cilap is a not for profit national network made of organizations, voluntary associations and social cooperatives active in the fight against poverty and social exclusion. Cilap is open to organizations of the third sector, being them organizations or networks of organizations. Belong to Cilap 30 national organizations: large networks, important social cooperatives, Research Centers..

Cilap's main office is in Rome. Two years ago Cilap started a process of creating regional branches. Officially, Cilap is structured as a Regional organization in the Regions of Umbria and Basilicata. The regional branches of Puglia and Calabria are on the making (South Italy).

To be kept in mind that Cilap works hand in hand with some regional Councils for Voluntary Services (regional organizations offering services to the voluntary sector).

Cilap holds a regular yearly general assembly which, every three years, elects: President, vice-president and three board members. The general assembly also elects Cilap's representative to EAPN executive committee and the persons representing the organisation in the European Network's task forces and working groups. Cilap members give time and resources for free. Staff is employed - with ad interim contract - when managing a financed project. The participation to the activities of EAPN is strictly voluntary.

Past activities of the Cilap linked to SF

1998 National conference: "*The SF Reform towards the fight against social exclusion: analyses and suggestions*" Proceedings by Isfol (National Assistance Agency);

1999 National seminar to study in depth "*The SF Reform and the new cycle of programming 2000-2006*"

1999 Follow up seminar "*The SF Reform and the new cycle of programming 2000-2006*"

Advocacy work

2006 Translating in Italian the Manual of management of SF by Eapn

2007 Printing and delivering of manual of SF by publishing campaign on line, by Universities, ect, proceedings by Sviluppo Locale Edizioni

2007 National seminar on "*SF Reform and the integration of politics: towards a local governance to a qualified social inclusion*" organised with public body, Ngo's and private sector (Bari 16th November 2007)

Participation to the call related to the ESF (training) in partnership with Ngo linked to Cilap. (Pending)

Cilap position: no partnership with non-profit sector based on good governance is developed; the core of the new Reform it's not clear to understand; a specific OP on SPSI it's not planned, resources can be found in OP on Security, Education and Employment; the ESF call and the related projects are focused on training programmes to the employment growth = the only tool available.

Successful projects

1997-2000 European Community Program Employment – Integra: a multiregional project titled “European Agent of Local Development”.

General aims: knowledge of the European level (institutional and political), to learn capacity building for developing each own local community (Naples, Tourin, Rome, Potenza), specially in the social sector; to transfer, deliver and address the local level, the most relevant principles and the innovative activities learnt by the Italian network in the European context

Utilizers: public body, non-profit sector, trade union

Specific aim: Agenda 2000 (included SF reform 2000-2006)

2004 Participation to Equal geographic partnership “Local development”

Cilap has worked in partnership in many projects managed by its members.

Alliances and works with other NGO's

Cilap Eapn Italia and its national and transnational partners all belong to networks or consortia involving the private and the public sector. These networks/consortia are of various kinds: some established to provide multi-level governance for delivering services (mix public/private local networks); others created to share some functions or a project (the latter is true of the many European projects managed by the national and transnational partners); others still of a more political nature, formed to lobby for the social inclusion of the disadvantaged or consisting of networks of people in poverty and their associations. All of these networks function regularly at the national/local level, as seen in the case of L'IN.FA. and STREET (projects on AW Funds) which have been realized with the support of over 30 partners. These networks are active at the transnational level as well, having being involved in developing different European projects (Education and culture, Employment, Leader, Equal, Grundtvig and others). Key actors, such as public administrators, regional and local officials, policy-makers, although not official members of the partnership participate in the national workshops and transnational seminars. Cilap's and the partners' experience shows the value of having non-institutional venues in which to exchange ideas and reflect on important social issues.

Financial aspects

Cilap manages projects of the European Community Programme 2002-2006, I phase, Awareness Raising

Specific financial obstacles to Ngo's to access the SF are:

1. the Ngos need a well organised internal administrative system to manage a fund (resources and financial aspects)
2. the 90% of ESF is managed by training organisations near the trade unions.

3. Difficulty to understand procedures and ways to reach out resoucers (OP, Regional OP); lack of participation of non-profit sector during the planning phase.

Friday, May 23, 2008

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MALTA



- EAPN Malta is administered by SOS Malta and managed by a coordinating body made up of representatives of social NGOs. Two members of the coordinating body are full time employees of SOS Malta.
- EAPN Malta has a core group on SF reporting back to the coordinating body.
- Drafted a position paper on SF which was presented to the Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Minister of the Family and Social solidarity. The position paper was given wide circulation amongst NGOs and the media.
- Public launching of SF Manual
- EAPN Round Table on SF Nov 2006
- Regular meetings held with the Managing Authority and we are in direct link via email with the key persons of the Authority.
- Successful feeding in to the NSRF
- Member of EAPN Malta appointed on Monitoring committee of new programming period. We have set up structures for the dissemination of information after monitoring meetings.
- EAPN Malta's website is updated regularly and is regularly used as an information tool for all NGOs in Malta
- TA Project and DAWL which was a pilot project which will now possibly be taken up on a national scale.
- At NGO level the percentage of successful projects is very low. Not many NGOs apply for SF because of the capacity the organisations require to manage them. Most NGO SF projects are the cofinancing of conferences, upgrading of skills and accessibility to IT for the disadvantaged groups. Most projects are taken up on an institutional level sometimes outsourcing part of their projects to the NGOs.
- EAPN Malta networks with all the third sector.
- EAPN Malta receives a small yearly grant from the Government. The rest is financed by SOS Malta.

PORTUGAL



Structure of the national network (incl. staff, decision-making and how work on structural funds is coordinated)

The European Anti-Poverty Network / Portugal is a network of groups or individuals whose main purpose is to fight poverty and social exclusion. EAPN Portugal has been established as a non-governmental organisation, which privileges information, training and research as key areas of action. The organisations goals are:

- Establishing and encouraging an interaction (network) between grassroots organizations, groups or individuals working towards the eradication of poverty and social exclusion;
- Contributing to the definition and implementation of social action programs and policies;
- Promoting the effectiveness of policies to combat poverty and social exclusion;
- Promoting and encouraging innovative actions in order to fight poverty and social exclusion;
- Lobbying for and with the most vulnerable groups or individuals;
- Promoting social integration and cultural, economic, moral and physical development for those who experience poverty and social exclusion;

Since 1994 EAPN Portugal, driven by principles such as subsidiarity and partnership, started a process of decentralization through the creation of Regional Networks. These networks integrate a number of regional development centres that can be called as anti-poverty nucleus which work to poverty eradication in a local and regional basis. This was the best practice found to fight the multidimensional nature of poverty and social exclusion at local and regional levels.

EAPN Portugal also works towards networking and social partnership, facilitating the exchange and dissemination of information, even on a periodic basis, between its members and stakeholders. It is also certified by the Institute for Innovation and Qualification (IQF) as a training agency in the following areas:· design, organization and promotion of training programs;· development and implementation of training programs, etc..

Research comprises an important area of EAPN Portugal's work. In this context the organization is responsible for the design, development and evaluation of different national and trans-national projects. At national and regional levels EAPN Portugal sets up task forces to promote the debate and the discussion on issues related to the poverty and social exclusion phenomena. The inter-institutional working groups, are base on a networking philosophy, seek to reflect and work upon integrated strategies and combined ways of action, as a mean of facing the multidimensionality of those problems. There are currently three areas of actions for the working groups:

- Gypsies- Inter-institutional working group on the Gypsy ethnic minority (SINA)
- Social Policy

- Follow up Group on the NAPsInc
- Participation of people experiencing poverty
- Structural funds

REAPN currently employs approximately 35 full time workers, but there is a large part of our work that is carried out by volunteers. As in most NGO's in Portugal, the Board members are volunteers. The decision making process is due to the Board members.

Since 1994 REAPN, following principles such as subsidiary and partnership started a process of decentralization through the creation of Regional Networks which work towards poverty eradication in a local and regional basis. The regional networks (18) are coordinated by people on a voluntary basis. Additionally, REAPN accomplishes its aims with the participation of our associated members (e.g. social NGO's, social solidarity organizations, Foundations, Mutual organizations).

About the work on structural funds we try participate in the activities of EAPN task Force (since 1997) and we try to replied the work done at European level in national field: almost information activities and lobby.

- **Past activities of the national network linked to structural funds (key focus)**

Since its foundation REAPN has participated in many national and European projects Community Initiatives (INTEGRA, EQUAL; DAPHNE; ...) both as a partner and the leading organization. We have carried out different analysis and studies on a variety of subjects such as:

- The disadvantages faced by some ethnic groups regarding the health care system (at this level we have produced many situation analyses, carried out training courses presented recommendations and published studies on this subject).
- Analyses of some extreme poverty phenomena such as homelessness, drug addition, prostitution, migration. This work was carried out within the framework of an EQUAL project where the dimension of the voluntarism was also part of one of the actions of the project.
- The participation of people who experience poverty and social exclusion. In this area REAPN has carried out research and studies in order to improve the participation of people in poverty. The work is organized based on various methodologies, including working groups. One of the activities includes the preparation and participation in the European Meetings of People Experiencing Poverty. Again, a lot of the work developed has a strong dimension of voluntary work.
- The quality in the voluntary sector. Within the framework of the EQUAL Program REAPN has been developing a project on the quality in the third sector. This project required a lot of research and analysis as well as the development of a post-graduation course on Management on Non-Profit organizations – Training in Social Consultancy.

- **Advocacy work (in particular for new programming period: did you plan any lobby campaign, what were alliances and work with other NGOs, what is your position/participation in the funds' management and monitoring committees?)**

Since May 2006 Eapn Portugal decides to implement different initiatives in order to inform the NGO's about the news on Structural funds.

Actions:

- 1-Translation and dissemination of the structural funds manual (May, 2006)
- 2-Dissemination of a position paper about the new structural funds 2007-2013 (May 2006)
- 3-Organization of 3 events in Porto, Coimbra and Lisboa (June 2006)

These Workshops takes part to the strategy defined by EAPN Portugal which intend to:

- To raising awareness on this theme and to inform the civil society about the new period 2007-2013;
- To promote an open debate on the importance of social inclusion in the context of NSRF;
- To Promote the involvement of different actors, mostly non governmental actors, in the definition of the OP's

4-The last Portuguese newsletter (REDITEIA) is dedicated to the Structural funds, and we have compiled many articles, signed by different personalities that lead with this subject at national level. We express also in this publication our position paper and we try to give all information about the new regulations.

We consider that these events fulfil our intends and we keep a strategic priority that is: to disseminate information on this theme, and most of all, we intend to maintain our lobby capacity that is not very usual in the portuguese context, specially for NGO's. We believe that is possible to create better conditions in order to make the non governmental sector in Portugal participate in the negotiation process, and in the next stage: implementation of SF.

- **Successful projects (two examples of projects led by the network and supported by the funds, but also for instance the number and type of NGO projects financed in the country over the last period)**

Operacional Programme (POEFDS - operational programme employment, training and social development). This OP has five axes:

- 1- Promotion of a qualifying training and transition to working life
- 2- Life-long learning and adaptability
- 3- Qualifying to modernize public administration
- 4- Promote efficiency and equity in employment and training policies
- 5- Promotion of social development

In the axe number five there are foreseen a specific small subvention which is called "**Small Subvention**", that tries to experiment the management of funds by the big NGO's in Portugal. The EAPN Portugal is one the NGO's that experiment these subvention for the first time in Portugal in 2002. The first project ends in 2004. We started a new project in 2005 that will end in August 2007.

In this project EAPN Portugal appears like an intermediary body between the government agency and the small organizations that benefit from this Operational Programme. These small organizations don't have any kind of relations with the governmental agency.

Equal Initiative – Project “ Acreditar”, which aims to promote the development of strategies and models capable to support the growth and the qualification of third sector, through the creation of a Social Consultancy Agency. In this project REAPN works with two partners (a University and the Portuguese Union of Private Institutions).

This project aims also to support NGO's in the process of design, implementation and experimentation of Guidelines in the area of quality.

Project “THIS INCLUDES ME” (Dec. 2006-Dec. 2007) (<http://www.istoinclude.org>) follows a core objective which is to promote the most wider participation of all the most relevant agents in the process of implementation, execution and evaluation of the PNAI (National Plan for Social Inclusion), assuming the mission to promote participation and co-responsibility of Portuguese society as a whole in the processes that should lead to elimination of poverty and wide social inclusion for any citizens, despite their disadvantages.

As for the main strand of work, the project will focus on Social Inclusion, with strong emphasis on citizen information about the real dimension and causes of social problems and the realistic strategies to face it, namely through transversal cooperation of all agents.

This Project is financed by a is funded under the Community Action Programme to encourage co-operation between Member States to combat social exclusion - **National Awareness Raising Actions on Social Inclusion and Social Protection**.

Main Activities:

- 1) Involvement of all the members of the Non-Governmental Forum for Social Inclusion in an enlarged partnership for development (including *media* partners from different areas – TV, Newspapers and Radios) also trying to involve other national and more specific networks.
- 2) **Regional Workshops** with two objectives: to promote the information of the relevant actors and to give them the necessary “voice” to express their feelings, opinions and suggestions – It will be developed 6 workshops
- 3) A **National Campaign** (parallel to the other activities) to create a national common “feeling” of commitment for social inclusion and to fight poverty and social exclusion. The campaign will be the support and “backstage” of the overall project activities. The Campaign is already “in the street” – “*Não deixe que a Pobreza se transforme em Paisagem*” (“Don't let Poverty be part of the landscape”)
- 4) Final Seminar to present the results, evaluation and follow-up.
- 5) Presentation of a Manual on how to promote the information and participation of citizens and all the relevant actors in a really national social inclusion and social protection strategy, making them all partners of this strategy: THIS INCLUDES ME will be the *leitmotiv*.

Partnership:

- * Animar – lead partner
- * Associação Portuguesa de Apoio à Vítima

- * Cruz Vermelha Portuguesa
- * Fenacerci
- * Instituto da Segurança Social, IP (is also co-funding the Project)
- * Rede Europeia Anti-Pobreza/Portugal

The partnership of the project is in itself a strong strategy to assure that the awareness strategies will produce a positive effect. The fact that “behind” this partnership there is a strong group of national NGOs (**Non-Governmental Forum for Social Inclusion**) with a quite relevant presence in the Portuguese territory and experienced in the implementation of different programmes and initiatives can assure that it will be easy to reach the targets in the most positive way. On the other hand, the presence of a governmental body in the partnership will also facilitate the access to the necessary means and resources and to assure that a strong attention will be given by the “audience” to our activities.

Name: MULTIPLICAR – Strategies, Tools and Actors

Programme: VP/2004/004 - Second Transnational Exchange Programme (TEP)

Duration of the Project: 15th of July 2005 to 14th of January 2007

Lead Partner: Rede Europeia Anti-Pobreza/Portugal

Partnership: Fondazione Cesar (Italy); Euroccat (Spain); Alliance of Social Professionals (Hungary); Community Workers Cooperative (Ireland); European Anti-Poverty Network (Greece); Caspis (Romania)

External partners: International Labour Organisation Geneva and Budapest

Main Goal:

Demonstrate that CIARIS (Learning and Resources Centre on Social Inclusion) is an instrument able to improve the *Empowerment* and *Participation*, as a mean of furthering the mobilisation of a diversity of public and private actors to the combat against poverty and social exclusion **in the context of the European Strategy Against Exclusion and NAP's.**

Specific goals:

- Promote the exchange of knowledge on strategies and tools to fight social exclusion using CIARIS.
- Experiment the use of CIARIS taking into account the National Actions Plans (NAPs') orientations and principles.
- Reinforce the strategies defined in the context of the NAPs', especially in what concerns the mobilization and empowerment of all actors.
- Provide the target organisations with a range of information and resources that are useful for a better implementation of the NAP's at national and local level.
- Disseminate the use of CIARIS and define guidelines to a better use of this tool taking into account different contexts.

Target Organisations:

Organisations, agents and networks that fight poverty and social exclusion at national and local level

- **Alliances and work with other NGOs: to what extent does the network work together with other NGOs?**
- **What is its position in the management and monitoring committees?**

EAPN Portugal works in a base of partnership; so we have many alliances with other big ONG in Portugal in order to make specific projects or actions (for instances seminars, training sessions, and awareness campaigns). We also establish alliances with universities or regional training bodies.

- **Financial aspects and co-financing (how is the network financed? are there specific financial obstacles to NGOs' access to the structural funds? what mechanisms are used by NGOs for Structural Funds projects in the countries, are there formal bodies in your country?)**

EAPN Portugal is financed by membership fees, donations and also by project funding. But the major support is from Ministry of labour and social solidarity.
Obstacles to NGO`s acess to the SF -

SWEDEN



EAPN Sweden – the network

Organization

EAPN Sweden was started in 1998 with ten social NGOs.

Today the network has 17 members on the national level. Of these 17 members, three are Regional EAPN-networks, with about 25-30 social NGOs as lokal members.

The EAPN Network works with issues och aktiviteter that all members have been agreed on. We try to reach consensus i each question and statement.

Resources

Each memberorganization pays a memberfee of 70 EUR each year.

We also try to get support from different authorities, EU-grant or contribution from memberorganizations such as sponsor sources, personal efforts, using konferens- and meetingrooms, computers aso. A very important resours is the contribution from EAPN Europe. EAPN Sweden has no staff.

Activities

The Swedish network has given priority to following activities:

- Information and opinion around social policy and social praktice against powerty, exclusion and unequal conditions
- Influence the Swedish NAP-process
- Cooperation on European level within EAPN
- "Bring Europe to Sweden", witch means to inform about the work in Europe and its institutions to the Swedish society, organizations and authorities. To influence the policy from a empowerment-perspective in important policy issues
- Following the strukturfonds process – information, education and influence the national and regional OP and participate konferences and meetings about national and regional level in the planning process

The Structural founds

EAPN Sweden has carried out activities on the Structural Funds issues as following:

Activities to learn more about the funds

European level

- We have taken part of EAPN Europe's activities and the task force-meetings. The experience from these events has been very useful in our national work.

National level

- We have with economic support from EAPN translated the Structural Funds Manual. This document has been spread to EAPNs organizations and other NGOs in Sweden. This document has been very useful.
- The border and members in the network has continuously been informed about the Structural Fund process.

Activities to influence the Structural Funds in Sweden

- EAPN Sweden has together with other NGOs written several letters to the responsible ministry (Ministry of Business) and the government. In these we draw the attention to the problems and needs from a NGO-perspective in our struggle to take part of the funds, for example:
 - Reminding them of the important role NGOs have in planning, designing and delivery of the funds, especially in projects and activities to reach excluded people.
 - Possibility to use technical assistance in supporting NGOs work with the funds, for example with education, information and management
 - The need of possibility to work in small projects
 - Financial- and administrative problems
 - The needs of sufficient resources to the Social Fund and the programmes concentration on projects that have focus on social exclusion.
- We have also answered on a referral on a national inquiry of the future organization of responsible authorities of the regional level and NGOs role in the Structural Funds Partnership and monitoring committees. About 40 organizations signed this document.
- EAPN Sweden has also taken part of meetings and conferences on the national level in a dialog with responsible ministries.
- Through member organizations in EAPN we also have followed the process with the regional programmes in meetings and conferences during 2007. Some NGOs have had an active role in design and planning the programme and projects. But the authorities and other big actors has obvious the dominant influence.

The Social Funds programme is a national programme. The government has decided that 70% of the resources in the Social Fund shall be used to reach people who is excluded from the labour market and has a long way back.

The process with the Social Fund is delayed. The Funds will be announced - for the first time - on the 1 of November 2007.