

Influencing Denmark's Government for better policies: advocacy, lobbying and policy-making linked to European level developments

EAPN.DK is represented in two Government bodies:

- The 2020 Ministerial Contact Group which comments on and gives recommendations to the Danish National Reform Programme. The Foreign Minister will meet with the group before summer 2014. 25 organisations represented.
- Denmark's Council for Human Rights is composed of the representatives of a number of civil society organisations and authorities who meet to discuss the undertakings of the Danish Institute for Human Rights. The Council assess the design and execution of the activities of the Institute and may propose new activities to the board. A few months ago the Council issued a very comprehensive hearing statement about human rights in Denmark. The Council's main issues in the coming year are *economic rights which is an important new angle on Human Rights **the future of Human Rights ***EU and Human Rights ****Human Rights in Greenland.

The Danish Poverty Line. The group of experts commissioned by the Government to define a poverty line published a very exciting rapport in March; but so far it has not had much effect on government policy. However the Government has accepted the group's recommendation of an annual position paper on poverty followed by a stakeholder conference. And what we understand there will be a new strategy to combat poverty and exclusion in closer cooperation with volunteer NGOs.

Participation of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion in internal and external workings of EAPN Denmark

EAPN.DK is involved in a number of networks and alliances all active to keep the fight of poverty and exclusion high on the society's agenda:

- The StopPovertyNow Alliance established in 2010.
- Citizens' Convention on the island of Bornholm where 25000 private citizens, politicians, and media people convene for four days to attend up to 2000 large and small events, speakers' corners, stalls, and stages to discuss the State of Denmark.
- In Aarhus the local members of EAPN.DK built new alliances to set up public events on The International Poverty Day in October.

EAPN.EU is hard hit by budget cutbacks which has led to changes in many areas most regrettably lay-offs and also reduction of the number of delegates to the European GA 014 with our Exco-representative as the only delegate.

The Danish 2020 targets for homelessness, drug abusers, and youth crime rate are not very promising; on the contrary there is a rise in inequality and the number of people experiencing poverty is increasing. We have to admit that the center-left Government has lived up to its promises to initiate several reforms in all sectors – on top of many reforms by the previous Government – reform for reforms sake one might be tempted to whisper. A positive result is greater economic stability very much owing to a retirement reform, but the price is increased inequality; low income groups and the poor are worse off.

Development and growth of our Network (including growth and training and capacity building actions)

Students' House Aarhus became the newest member of EAPN.DK at the end of 2013 and set up a group of volunteers around social issues who went public with a conference on poverty in March 2014 targeting young people in the educational sector.

We are partners in ongoing and future European projects:

- EMIN - Project commissioned by the EU Commission started in April with country specific in-depth reports on minimum income. The Danish report looks into the Danish concept of Social Security and the problematic reform introduced by the Government at the end of 2013. EAPN.DK's National Secretary Per K. Larsen has been invited to edit the poverty section of an online newspaper. Social welfare has actually entered the EU Parliamentary election campaign and it will lead to changes in the way society handles recipients of social security.
- EU Semester Alliances. The Commission has invited EAPN to contribute to cross-sectoral alliances of a very broad spectrum of organisations (social, environment, industry, academics, and others). The Irish, Bulgarian, and Danish NNs have been chosen as pilots. The objective is to attract all good proposals to keep the 2020 plan on track. The preparation of our application to become a Danish pilot has brought with it important new alliances with for instance Workers' Unions, The Danish Women's Council, The EcoCouncil, Save the Child and many more outside what you might call the social sector. It has been a very rewarding process resulting in a mutual agreement to appoint EAPN.DK as coordinator.
- An application to the Nordic Council for a capacity building project submitted by EAPN Latvia with EAPN in Estonia and Lithuania and Denmark as partners.