

Report from the EAPN seminar
Developing Participation in EAPN National Networks
What are the ways that we can best work together?
 7-8 May 2010
 Brussels, Belgium

Evaluation

Below is a table of the evaluation results for the whole group:

	5 (very good)	4 (good)	3 (undecided/ neutral)	2 (bad)	1 (very bad)
1. Is this seminar helping advance our objectives?	14	20	2		
2. Has this seminar helped strengthen EAPN National Networks?	12	17	8		
3. Did the event match your needs?	14	19	5		
4. Did you gain relevant knowledge and information?	23	14	1		
5. Will you be able to apply such knowledge and information in your work?	17	18	3		
6. Preparation by organisers (including mailing of documents)	23	10	5		
7. Guest speakers	12	21	5	1	
8. Work in groups	22	14	1		
9. Methodology used at the seminar	16	17	4		
10. Video interviews	6	11	14		
11. Your preparation and participation	5	25	7	1	
12. Logistics (including interpretation, room, other)	25	12	2		
13. Venue, accommodation, food	20	12	4	1	2

In your opinion, what were the strengths and weaknesses of this seminar?

Strengths

Sharing experience (13)
Learning (5)
Many people, good mix (5)
Group work (4)
Atmosphere (4)
Participative process used naturally (3)
People getting used to whispering (2)
Communication & space for discussion (2)
Well-organised & animated (2)
Synthesis of previous work (2)
Explanation in morning good for newcomers
Common recognition & problems
Goals
Tools for development
Understanding of EAPN
FR & ES examples impressive
Presentation of good practices
Way workshops presented was good
Recognition of progress
Constructive & helpful
Presenters
Coloured papers!
Videos (will be a strength)
In same place as stayed which was comfortable

Weaknesses

Compressed (7)
Language barrier (6)
Gap between experts & newcomers (5)
Plénière just reading text out (4)
Documents not translated (2)
No clear view/activities for the future (2)
No concrete examples (2)
Demanding of translators (2)
Not enough time for workshops (2)
National preparation
Workshop in blocks geographically – all southern countries together (another said *too split!*)
Minutes in FR not on site
Weak knowledge gained of eapn's policy ideas & for engaging responsables
Gap between NN & eu level
Tiring
Different interpretation of the goals (though always the case)
Too much in packs
Video messages too difficult
Set up of room - no eye-contact
Saturday service from hotel under par

Interpreters' jokes and plays-on-words not helpful

How can such seminars be better organized in the future?

Limit to two speakers – more workshops (8)

More creative/graphic (visual) tools & ways of working (3)

More accessible documents (2)

Provide translation (2)

More structure & preparation for working groups – clearly link theory & practice (2)

Shorter

Workshops with only three questions

Provide speaker-biographies

More pedagogical

Pinpoint the subject more specifically

Role playing to realize how we feel 'participation'

Training techniques – interactive methods

Workshops putting similar problem (countries) together to discuss more deeply /

Spread the geographical split of countries (!)

Better use of table-groups

Brief facilitators before-hand

More confrontation of ideas

More participants

Best practice examples given beforehand

[better methodology, videos]

Change set-up of room

Comments? Suggestions?

Looking at European participation, helps to analyse local daily situation

Thanks and congrats (5)

More meetings than one per trimester (2)

More resources for seminars on specific themes/issues

Research on legislation in different countries to help NN lobby & offer solutions

Need success stories for hope & courage – didn't get to hear what people actually do & maybe they're proud of it..

Send documents 4/5 days ahead of meeting (*a day earlier than we did!*)

Send results of working groups to them

Set up a (temporary) level of cultural/historical "zones" of similar problems, eg corruption/illegal immigration, which doesn't have to include all NN

Makes videos at the focus-weeks so that at the end of 2010 can have key messages about 2010 year (*A Novit*)

Explain how EAPN can offer luxurious accommodation

Luxurious cadre inhibits authentic communication & true (veritable) engagement(4)

Check-in policy (3)

No free internet (4)

Simpler & more food at dinner (2)