

Developing participation in EAPN and the National Networks



What are the ways that we can best work together?

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Participation Capacity Building Seminar 2010,
Brussels

Small steps -
big changes

Building
Participation
of People
Experiencing
Poverty



Purpose of the seminar



- Closing a three-year information gathering, reflection and planning process
- Proposing a participation strategy for the coming years to be integrated in the strategic plan 2012-2015
- Continuing to learn from each other and looking closely at:

❖ *Empowerment and democracy*

❖ *Power-sharing: from manipulation and stigmatization to an equal partnership*



Questions we will look at?



Day 1

- What are the methods for approaching and motivating different groups of people experiencing poverty?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of methods used in National Networks?
- How can local participation contribute to community activism?
- How can training be used to build participation?
- What recommendations for the EAPN participation strategy?

Day 2

- What are the methods for building confidence and moving from manipulation to a real partnership of equality and trust?
- How to cope with stigmatization?
- What is the relation between participation and power-sharing?
- How can training be used to build real partnership?
- What recommendations for the EAPN Participation Strategy?



How we will do it 1 (principles)



- Strongly based on participants' experience
 - *Will focus on learning from each other's successes and mistakes;*
 - *Everybody has knowledge and experience;*

- Flexible and safe environment
 - *Listening to others and respecting different opinions;*
 - *Secure space for self-expression;*

- Asking questions or clarification is important!
 - *Raise your card if something is not clear*
 - *Share with us what is on your mind*
 - *Take the floor, ask questions in plenary and in workshops*



How we will do it 2 (methodology)



- Will start with guest presentations and some NN experiences
- **What do you mean? Raise your card for questions and clarification)**
- **What is your name? (badges and name plates)**

Will go into workshops (4 workshop rooms)

- Appoint a rapporteur and a facilitator
- Come back with a poster with key words and key recommendations
- **Traffic light – how do you feel in the meeting?**
- Will come back to discuss together
- Time for delegates to write down key ideas they take back home

Give me a break! (tea, coffee, video messages and some stretching)



What did you give me? (Info packs)



- Programme
- Draft strategy based on all the work done together
- Background note to the seminar
- Reports of the reflection meeting and two follow-up meetings
- Evaluation form
- Participants' list
- Expenses claim
- Map of the Hotel and restaurant (and the area around)
- Badges

Housekeeping 😊

- Dinner (who is not coming? Are you vegetarian?)
- Expense claim (complete and return)
- Evaluation form (complete and return to me at the end of the meeting)
- video messages (when and how will we do it)



A decision and a process



- More clarity and some steps forward

- What are the benefits and the obstacles
- + and – of participation in EAPN
- What models exist at National and European levels
- Specific actions that NNs and EAPN should take
- How to integrate this work in EAPN
- New ideas

- More interest but also more questions

- What ambition/hope we should have internally and externally
- How can we keep the momentum and continue to learn from each other



Timeline of all the meetings



- 2007 GA – call for stronger participation, adoption of New Strategic Plan emphasizing the need to move forward on participation development
- 2008 EXCO and NNs– *Small Steps – Big Changes (gathering information and case studies)*
- 2009 April – Reflection meeting on participation (benefits, obstacles, conditions, principles and recommendations)
- 2009 June – Developing participation at EU level (proposal for a strategy and need to focus on National Networks)
- 2009 October – Developing participation in National Networks (proposals)
- 2010 March – Preparatory meeting for this seminar
- Bureau, Exco, Staff, Social Inclusion Working Group, GA 2008, 2009 etc

Where is it all?

http://eapn.eu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=957&Itemid=95&lang=en, password 1515



2010 actions and integration in next strategic plan



- Bureau meetings January and March (setting the framework)
- Planning meeting 5th March
- Seminar – 7-8 May
- General Assembly 10-12 June
- Bureau continuing to lead reflection into 2011

+++ 9th EU meeting of people experiencing poverty 25-26 June

+++ Conference on Minimum Income September

+++ Many national and European actions throughout 2010 year



A draft Participation Strategy



To increase ownership of the organization among people experiencing poverty to better reflect how the work of EAPN connects with the reality of people experiencing poverty and to improve the internal democracy of EAPN so as to ensure stronger participation.

Three approaches :

- Creating space for reality check
- Developing participation in the Networks and European work
- Making links between these two and to ensure a continuous and integrated process in all the work of EAPN and in policy making



A draft Participation Strategy



Focusing on National Networks and on EAPN
European work

Four areas for European and National actions:

- Ownership in National Networks
- Capacity building for more participative networks
- Developing more inclusive policy making
- Communicating for better participation



Ownership of the work of National Networks



Objectives

- (1) Develop participation strategies with focus on organizational change, more participative methodologies, more diverse membership and more inclusive decision-making structures
- (2) Support the development and inclusion in the Network of self-organized groups
- (3) Develop participative working methods and capacity building tools to foster engagement of people experiencing poverty in policy making, advocacy and lobby work
- (4) Build on the involvement in all the European and national level participation processes and meetings
- (5) Improve the internal communication and involve people experiencing poverty in this process.



Capacity building for more participative networks



Objectives

- (1) Support National Networks become more participative
- (2) Provide support to persons experiencing poverty starting to engage with EAPN's policy making work
- (3) revise the training strategy to support the work on participation
- (4) lobby for more public funding on participation
- (5) Develop methods and gather and disseminate good practices for participation in organizations
- (6) Review EAPN's organizational structure to make sure people experiencing poverty participate in decision-making



Developing more inclusive policy making



Objectives

- (1) include more people experiencing poverty directly in policy working groups on a permanent basis
- (2) develop tools and working methods to support National Networks improve participation in policy-making
- (3) implement new participative policy-making methods and their use by decision-makers
- (4) lobby policy makers to reform current policy-making models to include participation mechanisms with people experiencing poverty and their organizations
- (5) work with other actors to open up policy making to people experiencing poverty and social exclusion.



Communicating for better participation



Objectives

- (1) Continue producing explainers that help grassroots organizations and people engage with policy-making and lobby work
- (2) Develop user-friendly documents linking EU policies to local realities
- (3) Improve the image of people experiencing poverty in the media
- (4) Make better use of testimonies in external communication
- (5) Work with the media to attack stereotypes and improve the image of people experiencing poverty in society
- (6) Support National Networks on working with the media at national, regional and local level.

