

**Follow-up participation meeting 2 –  
Developing Proposals for Increasing Participation in National and local  
organizations  
1-2(noon) October 2009, Madrid**

**Introduction**

The EAPN Strategic Plan 2008-2011 and the Work Programme 2009 identify participation among the priorities of network development. In order to define this, a book *Small Steps – Big Changes, building participation of people experiencing poverty*, has been published in 2008 and three meetings have been planned for 2009 to reflect on participation inside EAPN.

On 3-4 April 2009, EAPN organized the participation reflection meeting where 23 NNs were present with 45 participants (two persons per delegation including one person experiencing poverty and the EXCO member or the person responsible for developing participation in the NN). The meeting reflected on the way NNs and EAPN foster participation, looked at the understanding of participation, the achievements and challenges and developed proposals.

To build on the results of this first meeting, two follow-up meetings have been planned for 2009. These follow-up meetings bring together participants from the first meeting who have experience in developing national and/or European participation of people experiencing poverty. The meetings are held according to the same format (1 person experiencing poverty + 1 EXCO member or person responsible for participation in the NN) and using the same consecutive translation techniques.

The first follow-up meeting focusing on developing participation in the European work of EAPN was held in Brussels on 26 June 2009. The main conclusion of the meeting was that EAPN should develop a strategy for developing participation of people experiencing poverty in its European work and submit this paper to the Executive Committee for discussion. Participants attended also the meeting of National Coordinators for the European Meetings of People Experiencing Poverty on 27 June and offered their evaluation of the 8<sup>th</sup> European Meeting.

The second meeting in Spain will focus on strengthening the participation work at national level.

**Objective for the meeting**

The meeting aims to identify which proposals from the April reflection meeting are applicable in EAPN's work and to develop concrete recommendations for the Executive Committee on identifying and disseminating practices of increasing participation of people experiencing poverty in the work of NNs and developing guidelines for Networks that wish to further this work.

The first results should be presented to the Executive Committee and shared in 2010 in another large meeting.

**Participants and preparation**

The follow-up meetings aim to build on the experiences of mainstreaming participation in National Networks and therefore Networks who have or are in process of developing a coherent approach to participation will be invited to share their knowledge and propose together practical guidelines for implementing

participation of people experiencing poverty in National Networks and their member organizations.

This meeting will build on the exchange from 3-4 April, taking the work one step further and focusing on proposals. For this reason, participants in the follow-up meetings should know well the work of their National Network and have a good grasp of the participation work in the NN.

More specifically, participants should:

- have worked on participation and have experience in their NN or at European level;
- know well the National Network, its structure and the relation with EAPN Europe;
- be informed how EAPN works;
- be informed about the policy and lobby work of the National Network;
- have analyzed together the report of the participation reflection meeting;
- know about the National Network's work to develop and promote participation of people experiencing poverty;
- represent a constituency/group, not only their own opinions;
- be ready and willing to contribute to the development of guidelines to strengthen participation of people experiencing poverty in the work of National Networks and EAPN.

### ***PARTICIPANT'S PROGRAMME***

1-2 October 2009, Spain

<b><i>Session 1</i></b>	<b><i>Understanding each other and understanding EAPN</i></b>
9.30 – 11.00	Introduction of the day (objectives of the meeting; methodology)  Who we are and what are our priorities on participation Questions and Clarifications
<b><i>11.00– 11.30</i></b>	<b><i>Break</i></b>
<b><i>Session 2</i></b>	<b><i>Work on participation so far in EAPN</i></b>
11.30 – 13.00	Setting the framework of where we are in the development of participation. Presentation and discussion of the work on participation so far in EAPN (all the work done in groups, the book, the reflection meeting and the experience of national approaches, the participation strategy).  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What are the good practices we should disseminate?</li> <li>- What are the strengths?</li> <li>- What challenges do we need to address?</li> </ul> Questions and Clarifications
<b><i>13.00 – 14.00</i></b>	<b><i>Lunch</i></b>

<b>Session 3</b>	<b><i>Developing Proposals for Change</i></b>
14.00 – 15.30	Identifying what needs to be changed to encourage participation at the National level and developing concrete proposals to National Networks and their members, building on the engagement in the European Meetings of People Experiencing Poverty, the work inside EAPN, the OMC and other initiatives. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What are the opportunities?</li> <li>- What are the challenges we face?</li> <li>- What do we need to put in place as NNs?</li> </ul> <p>Questions and Clarifications</p>
<b>15.30 – 16.00</b>	<b><i>Break</i></b>
<b>Session 4</b>	<b><i>Developing Proposals for Change (continuation)</i></b>
16.00 – 17.30	Developing Step by Step guidelines and the support needed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- for National Networks</li> <li>- for organization members of National Networks</li> </ul> <p>Questions and Clarifications</p>
<b>19.00</b>	<b><i>Dinner – end of Day 1</i></b>
<b>Session 5</b>	<b><i>Developing Proposals for Change (continuation)</i></b>
9.30 – 11.00	Developing Step by Step guidelines and the support needed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- for National Networks</li> <li>- for organization members of National Networks</li> </ul> <p>Presentation of the results and discussion Questions and Clarifications</p>
<b>11.00-11.30</b>	<b><i>Coffee Break</i></b>
<b>Session 6</b>	<b><i>Evaluation and closing</i></b>
11.30 – 13.00	Conclusion Evaluation and Closing of the Meeting Questions and Clarifications
<b>13.00</b>	<b><i>End of Meeting and departure</i></b>

**How to Prepare:**

- **refresh your memory with the report from the reflection meeting**
- **think about your NNs strategy to develop participation**
- **identify the gaps and think of proposals to guide NNs**

The report from the reflection meeting and other documents are available on the **participation page on the member's room** which includes all the documents from the *Participation Reflection Meeting, including the report that contains proposals*:  
<http://www.eapn.eu/content/view/957/34/lang,en/> **password 1515**