

EAPN LEARNING FORUM 2013

21-25 May 2013

Laulasmaa, Estonia

GET ORGANISED:

Strengthening our base and the impact of our action -

A space for member-led

learning, exchange and development

co-organised with Dignity International and EAPN Estonia



DRAFT PROGRAMME

	MORNING				AFTERNOON			EVENING	
	Session 1 9:30 – 11:00	break	Session 2 11:30-13:00	Lunch	Session 3 14:00-15:30	break	Session 4 16:00-17:30	Evening activity 19:00	Dinner 20:00- 23:00
Tuesday	Arrival of participants							Informal getting to know each other for those who arrive for dinner	Dinner
ARRIVAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENING									
Wednesday	<p>Welcome speech by Marcus Tsakhna - Member of Estonian Parliament (Social Commission) Welcome from EAPN and Dignity International</p> <p>Introduction to the programme (Tanya) and methodology (Aye Aye)</p> <p>GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER – learning about participants’ motivations and values</p>		(continued) GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER – what are the values that make you get involved in fighting poverty and social exclusion		THE WORLD WE LIVE IN – Understanding the realities of poverty and what values in our societies drive people into poverty		(continued) THE WORLD WE LIVE IN Introducing EAPN and Dignity International	<p>MEET EAPN ESTONIA! (starting from 18.00)</p> <p>What is poverty in Estonia and what actions members and activists of EAPN Estonia are taking; what are the challenges they face in their activities?</p>	Dinner together
GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER AND THE WORLD WE LIVE IN – PERSONAL EXPERIENCES AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS							INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL ANALYSIS – Ramesh from Jan Satyagraha and Fintan from EAPN		

<p>Thursday</p> <p>COMMUNITIES IN ACTION: PROJECT VISITS</p>	<p>COMMUNITIES IN ACTION: Participants will visit one of 5 communities in Estonia and will be meeting public authorities; Visiting services offered by the public authorities; and Visiting NGOs</p>		<p>(continued)</p> <p>COMMUNITIES IN ACTION</p>		<p>No planned session:</p> <p>Groups are encouraged to reflect together on the visits and talk with the reference persons from EAPN Estonia about what they learned</p>		<p>DRAWING THE LEARNING TOGETHER: plenary session on what we have learned from the project visits about the fight against poverty and human rights violation</p>	<p>INTERNATIONAL EVENING OF STORY-TELLING and MARKETPLACE: LEARNING FROM THE WORK OF DIGNITY INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS – bring materials from your Network/Organisation to share with the others</p>	<p>Dinner together</p>
<p>Friday</p> <p>STRENGTHENING THE ACTIVIST BASE: WORKSHOPS ON SKILLS, TOOLS, PRACTICE AND ACTIONS</p>	<p>EAPN and Dignity International participants will run workshops throughout the day on skills, tools and policy frameworks for combating poverty and social exclusion at different levels in Europe and globally</p>		<p>EAPN and Dignity International participants will run workshops throughout the day on skills, tools and policy frameworks for combating poverty and social exclusion at different levels in Europe and globally</p>		<p>EAPN and Dignity International participants will run workshops throughout the day on skills, tools and policy frameworks for combating poverty and social exclusion at different levels in Europe and globally</p>		<p>EAPN and Dignity International participants will run workshops throughout the day on skills, tools and policy frameworks for combating poverty and social exclusion at different levels in Europe and globally</p>	<p>INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY PICNIC AND PARTY</p> <p>Group photo (18.00)</p> <p>(bring food, drinks and other cultural representations of your country to share (songs, dancing...))</p>	
<p>Saturday</p> <p>CONNECTING THE FIGHT FROM LOCAL TO EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL</p>	<p>Developing social analysis and STRENGTHENING THE LINKS between national, EU and International anti-poverty and human rights work</p>		<p>(continued)</p> <p>STRENGTHENING THE LINKS</p> <p>The learning we take home – evaluation and closing of the learning forum</p>		<p>EAPN Participants Depart and Dignity International continue their meeting</p>				

Introduction

This document should serve as a basis for planning the EAPN Learning Forum 2013. The process will be led by the Executive Subgroup on Membership Development and Support with the Bureau taking the responsibility to ensure a cohesive final proposal with all parts of EAPN contributing.

Under the 2012-2014 Strategic Plan, EAPN has decided to organise a first EAPN Learning Forum in 2013. The Learning Forum will be an open member-led meeting addressing core issues for EAPN's development as a strong anti-poverty network. It is not intended as a space to develop new EU proposals, but an open space to value the work of the members and to get inspiration from each other's initiatives.

EAPN will co-organise the event with its global partner Dignity International, learning from the GET ORGANISED study sessions that they have been holding for a number of years. Dignity International is a global anti poverty organisation bringing together partners from different continents and areas of the world. EAPN is the European Partner in Dignity International. For more information about Dignity International, please visit www.dignityinternational.org.

To make this joint activity possible, the EAPN Learning Forum will be combined with an activity of Dignity International in Europe. EAPN will cover the participation costs of about 80 persons and Dignity International will bring between 20-30 participants from among its global partners. EAPN will coordinate with Dignity representatives as well as with EAPN Estonia, the network hosting this event, the format of the programme, including its goal and objectives.

Goal

Strengthen the base, build on the understanding and trust among members and develop a better collective vision and work as EAPN.

Objectives

- To strengthen the membership base of EAPN by involving new activists and learning from practices that have a direct impact on fighting poverty and social exclusion;
- To contribute to a bottom-up member-led agenda in EAPN and to give more visibility to the variety of actions and approaches that members carry out in their national realities, and connecting them better to the EU level work;
- To give value to the participation of activists with direct experience of poverty in EAPN's work and policy-making and take forward the implementation of Goal 3 of EAPN's Strategic Plan;
- To strengthen the trust and cooperation between EAPN members including between National Networks and European Organisations.

Participants

The Learning Forum will bring together about 80 participants, including delegations of 2 representatives per National Network and one representative per European Organisation. 21 Dignity International partners will also participate. The EAPN National delegations should include a person from the leadership of the National Network and an activist/person with direct experience of poverty who has become active in the Network. The participants in the Learning Forum should be able to take home the learning and try to integrate some of it in the work of their National Network/European Organisation. The Learning Forum will be a key moment in advancing on Goal 3 of the EAPN Strategic plan, i.e. ensure developing the base of activists with direct experience of poverty in EAPN's work.

Members wishing to send more representatives would have to support financially their additional participants, similar to the GA system.

Preparation

The EAPN secretariat is working closely with Dignity International and EAPN Estonia teams as well as with participants who are running sessions to prepare the event. We have got a first list of skills-sharing session for day 3 of the event and we will be discussing with each proposer to finalise those sessions.

Methodology

The Learning Forum will encourage an action and solution oriented spirit. The Learning Forum will last 4 days and will be planned and run actively by the participants. The Forum will be organised using non-formal methods. It will be held in Laulasmaa, about 35km from Tallinn. The event will be organised in English and participants will support each other with informal interpretation, as practiced in other meetings of EAPN, to ensure people who don't speak English also get a chance to contribute. EAPN Estonia members will join different parts of the Learning Forum to strengthen the solidarity and learning among participants. EAPN Estonia will organise project visits to learn about the local reality.

An international evening will be organised on Friday evening, and on Thursday evening the participants will share an informal moment of intercultural exchange. Participants are invited to bring food, drinks, music or other cultural representation from where they come and to bring along materials about their organisation's work.

DETAILS OF THE PROGRAMME

This PROGRAMME outlines the type of activities that would help to meet the objectives of the Forum. The final programme will depend on the possibilities that are available in Estonia and the skills-sharing proposals that the participants will make.

Tuesday: 21 May 2013 – Participants arrive and have the evening together

Informal get to know each other evening and dinner. For those who arrive in time for dinner, you are welcome to stop by the registration table, pick up your folder and then meet the other participants.

Wednesday 22 May 2013: Day 1 of activities: Getting to know each other

The **Member of Estonian Parliament's Social Commission, Mr. Marcus Tsakhna** will give a welcome speech in the morning. This is important for building recognition of our host – EAPN Estonia.

EAPN and Dignity International will also welcome the participants and **introduce the programme** and the methodology, as well as the expectations that the Learning Forum should contribute to.

The first half of the day will be spent on getting to know the participants, starting from personal stories to the communities they are part of and moving to the values of what makes people do the work they want to. What motivates me to get engaged in anti-poverty work? Why am I fighting poverty and social exclusion?

The world we live in:

The **afternoon** will be spent on understanding the realities of poverty in the countries that participants come from and how participants build activism/how they reach out to people experiencing poverty and social exclusion, how the National networks and International Organisation (Dignity Partner) organise themselves. People will be invited to share in workshops on the realities of poverty, the values our societies hold, that keep or drive people into poverty and approaches to fighting in different countries.

Introducing Social Analysis – Dignity Partner from India, Ramesh together with Fintan from EAPN will introduce social analysis, the various tools and how it can be used by NGOs and community organisers in their work. This will set the context for the next days' work.

Evening: Meet EAPN Estonia! This will be a moment of meeting the activists and members of EAPN Estonia, hearing about their initiatives and the challenges they face in their actions. This evening session will set the context for the next day's study visits.

Thursday 23 May 2013: Communities in Action – project visits to public authorities and NGOs

Communities in Action: The morning will be spent on study visits. Participants will have signed up on the previous day to join a study visit. EAPN Estonia has discussed with public authorities and NGOs from 5 communities to organise the study visits in the following way:

- Meeting the local public authorities and learning about the social services they offer;
- Visiting a social service in the community (they will be focusing on services to different groups: elderly; youth; children...).
- Meeting an NGO active in the area and learning about their work.

Overall, this should give participants a picture of what poverty means in the host country Estonia and how the local authorities and anti-poverty NGOs are fighting it.

The visits will happen to the following 5 communities:

1. Märjamaa VV <http://marjamaa.kovtp.ee/et/uldinfo>, visiting the farm project
2. Saue LV <http://uus.saue.ee/index.php?page=2> Youth center, old people daycare, kindergarten
3. Keila LV <http://www.keila.ee/et/uldinfo>
4. Paldiski LV <http://www.paldiski.ee/>

5. Põhja Tallinn <http://www.tallinn.ee/pohja/?mobiilivaade=0>, visiting also a Food bank, soup kitchen and child home.

Each group will visit one community and will be accompanied by a reference person from EAPN Estonia. Participants are invited to use the travel and return to the hotel to carry out a group reflection about what they learn and to dialogue with the EAPN Estonia representative on remaining questions.

Afternoon: One feedback session will be planned from 16.00-18.00 as a space of drawing the lessons from local realities and exchanging on what we have learned from the visits.

Evening: International evening of story-telling and MARKET-PLACE. This evening, some international participants (Dignity International partners) will share stories, films about their work. EAPN members willing to do it, can, of course, also share stories about their initiatives. A market-place will be set up so that participants can learn about and be inspired from each other's work. Please bring materials of your organisations. Dinner will also be provided.

Friday 24 May 2013: Day 3 of activities: Skills sharing and learning to be strong anti-poverty activists
Strengthening the activist-base: skills-building and empowerment workshops

Members will propose and run a variety of workshops that are action-oriented and contribute to participants learning and practicing new skills for effective anti-poverty work. This will be a space of learning, sharing and testing techniques which focus on development of activist base in EAPN.

There will be 4 parallel sessions of 5 workshops. Every participant can chose to attend one workshop from the 5 proposed every time. A separate workshop programme can be found on the website and in your packs.

Group photo at 18:00.

Evening: Solidarity BBQ Picnic and International Evening. You are invited to bring along food, drinks and other cultural representation of the country/community you are coming from to share during this evening.

Saturday 25 May 2013: Day 4 of activities and afternoon departure:
Linking National, European and International levels

Developing social analysis and strengthening the link between national, EU and International anti-poverty work. This session aims to build bridges between the stories and skills shared in the previous days and the current and future work of EAPN at European level and of Dignity International at the International level.

The learning we take home to share - Closing the Learning Forum