

AntiPOVERTY^{MAG}

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The EAPN Fund

Providing hope
for the future



Row4Rights – A good cause and a fantastic challenge

Seven days of Rowing on the Danube
and a unique life experience

The EAPN Fund gives a hand to EAPN Netherlands and EAPN Hungary

INTERVIEW with Hugh Frazer,

Chair of the Fund Management
Committee

“Supporting EAPN is an important
way to bring about change”



The EAPN Fund

Providing hope for the future

BY SÉRGIO AIRES, PRESIDENT OF EAPN

As a legacy of the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, EAPN launched the EAPN Fund within the King Baudouin Foundation. That was the easy part. Developing and implementing an effective fund raising strategy to feed the Fund is the greater challenge.

The Fund works by allocating grants in the current year from the finances raised in the previous. So 2012 has been the first full year of operation of the Fund.

Key for raising finances for the Fund is the Row4Rights initiative. While Row4Rights is a huge sporting achievement it is clear that it has also been a fun event. We also know and very well recognize that tremendous efforts were made by the rowing teams to reach their fund raising target. The event could not happen without the talent of the organizing team and the so dedicated volunteers. I thank everyone involved for their tremendous good will and generosity.

This issue of the Magazine tells the story of how the money raised has been invested. It has supported the participation of people experiencing poverty and their organizations; it has facilitated opportunities for development for individuals and communities; and the support from the fund has also acted as leverage for accessing other very relevant funding sources.

In this time of 'crisis' and 'austerity measures', anti-poverty and advocacy networks of organizations like EAPN and its members at all levels need more than ever to be heard and taken seriously. Fundraising is an important strategy to go further in different areas of action but it cannot in any case replace the need for public funding to support anti-poverty NGOs. Poverty is a public issue and should be tackled by the investment of public money. However we must recognize that match funding (and therefore fundraising strategies) can make an important contribution to a stronger and more independent voice for such organizations. I hope from the modest but important beginnings that you can read about here, that the EAPN Fund will grow to support many actions in the struggle for a social Europe free of poverty.

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Launching the EAPN Fund – Supporting EAPN’s Long-Term Sustainability

BY TANYA BASARAB, DEVELOPMENT OFFICER OF EAPN

In 2010, the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) celebrated its 20th anniversary. The EAPN Fund was launched in that year as an important legacy of the Year. The Fund, managed by the King Baudouin Foundation, is an additional tool to support the fight for a social Europe free of poverty and social exclusion. For EAPN, there is an urgent need to support the advocacy and voice-giving role of anti-poverty NGOs, and to ensure they get heard, and to support the participation of people experiencing poverty in decision-making processes that impacts on their lives and the communities they live in.

What is EAPN?

EAPN is a network of independent NGOs (National Networks and European Organizations) working for a democratic and social Europe, free of poverty and social exclusion. Our members are committed to the empowerment of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion. While our members individually work with and for people living in poverty in many different ways; providing services, training and educational opportunities, emergency supports, self-help communities, social enterprises etc., together we try to ensure that EU policies and programmes contribute to the fight against poverty and to more equal societies.

Fundraising for the EAPN Fund – Building communities of support

EAPN continues to believe that in healthy democracies, public authorities would provide financial support to ensure that those experiencing poverty, exclusion and inequalities can participate on an equal footing in participatory democratic processes. EAPN will continue to advocate for this approach at EU and National levels. However EAPN also recognizes that over the last 10 years, particularly at national level, there has been a decline in financial support for advocacy NGOs and that despite fine words the space for civil dialogue has decreased in most EU countries. For this and other reasons EAPN identifies the need to diversify its funding sources and to have a

funding base rooted in support from the civil society. This has led EAPN to develop its fund raising strategy.

This fund raising strategy is built on three strands: approaching individual donors, approaching major donors and through the organization of fundraising events. In this first period of developing this fund raising strategy, the fund raising event row4rights (see article) has been one of the most developed aspects of the strategy. In the coming period EAPN will develop all three aspects of the strategy.

The learning so far...

Much work remains to be done to build and engage a growing community of donor activists in our common fight for a social Europe free of poverty and social exclusion. However, EAPN

has learnt many lessons since embarking on this adventure offundraising and managing the EAPN Fund. It has helped EAPN develop a more direct and concrete communication approach and learn to focus on the achievements of the network.

Key successes of EAPN at EU level

- Linking anti-poverty NGOs from the Member States into a dynamic European Network across 30 countries and highlighting the knowledge and expertise of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion and the value of their direct participation.
- Awareness raising and achieving a wide dissemination of information and analysis about poverty and social exclusion issues in the EU.
- Contributed to new articles in the EU Treaties to strengthen EU cooperation in the fight against poverty and discrimination (Articles 13, 136



Overview of EAPN Fund 2012		
The funds raised in any given year are spent in the following year. It is hoped to build up a small reserve each year to ensure the long term sustainability of the fund.		
Original Donation 50.000		50.000
Individual Donations		3.020
Row4Rights		25.000
Capital available at start if 2012		78.020
EAPN Netherlands	10.000	
EAPN Hungary (loan)	10.000	
Florence 10+10 Event	1.500	
Ekta Parishad	1.000	
Support for Study Visit	3.000	
EAPN Award	5.000	
Total Amount allocated	30.500	

and 137 in the Amsterdam Treaty, Articles 3 and 11 in the Treaty on European Union and articles 9, 14 in the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU)

- The development of the EU Inclusion Strategy (strategy adopted at the Lisbon Council in 2000 and social indicators for the strategy agreed at the Laeken Council 2001).
- The adoption of an EU Recommendation on Active Inclusion (2008) requiring members states to address, the adequacy of Minimum Income Schemes, the accessibility of essential services and to ensure pathways towards inclusive labour markets.
- The adoption and follow up of the Partnership Principle (involvement of NGOs in the planning and delivery of Structural Funds) and the campaign for an increased share of structural funds for social inclusion as part of the 2014-2020 EU Financial Framework.
- The designation of 2010 as the EU Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion and the adoption in that year of the Europe 2020 strategy. This strategy included a European tar-

get to reduce poverty as one of its 5 key targets, strengthened social guidelines for the implementation of the strategy, the adoption of the European Platform against Poverty and the requirement to involve NGOs in the development of National Reform Programmes as part of this strategy.

- EAPN has called for social investment for an inclusive exit from the current crisis. Even in these 'austerity' times EAPN's demands are reflected in the Commission's Social Investment Package (2013), including the demand to implement all pillars of the integrated Active Inclusion Recommendation, the adoption of a Recommendation to fight Child Poverty and proposals for reinforced efforts to fight homelessness.
- EAPN's campaign on access to Adequate Minimum Income has contributed to keeping the issue on the EU and national agendas and has achieved support for an EU framework Directive in this area from the European Parliament, Committee of the Regions and European Economic and Social Committee.

 King Baudouin Foundation
Working together for a better society

The King Baudouin Foundation

- Provides philanthropy advice and helps set up funds established by individuals, families, associations, companies or groups of persons. The King Baudouin Foundation currently manages more than 450 funds. To learn more about setting up funds, visit <http://www.kbs-frb.be/content.aspx?id=291277&langtype=1033>;
- Transnational Giving Europe, of which King Baudouin Foundation is part, is a network active in 14 countries, facilitating cross-border donations. To learn more about this facility contact KBF or visit www.transnationalgiving.eu
- KBF has set up www.givingeurope.org - an interactive on-line cross-border giving databank that informs donors, intermediaries and beneficiaries about the legal and fiscal aspects involved in a cross-border philanthropic transaction and this, taking into account the country of residence of donor and beneficiary and the country where the assets are located.

Actions the EAPN Fund has supported in 2012

- The rebuilding of the Dutch EAPN National Network.
- Supporting EAPN Hungary for their 'ALEN' project on the empowerment and activation of young people in disadvantaged areas in Hungary, Austria, Serbia and Croatia.
- Solidarity support to the Indian organisation Ekta Parishad, organizer of the March of the Landless which has mobilized incredible numbers of people and has achieved impressive results.
- The participation of two activists with direct experience of poverty in a one week study visit to India, organised by Dignity International and including meetings with Ekta Parishad activists, learning from landless communities about their leadership and engagement with this Gandhian movement.
- The support to Firenze 10+10, an event organised by a broad alliance of about 300 networks and organizations building alternative messages for a Europe of Solidarity.
- Support for the EAPN Award for Transnational Inspiration and Learning in the fight against poverty and social exclusion.



EAPN's engagement with Florence 10+10

In line with one of its strategic objectives "to engage and contribute to alliances for an alternative model of social and sustainable development that puts people and planet first", EAPN has been investing time and resources in building and supporting alliances for social and sustainable ways out of the crisis and in defense of democracy in Europe. Amongst these alliances, the Florence 10+10 event was a large European congress gathering trade unions, social movements and NGOs. Assessing the 10 years since the first European Social Forum - held in Florence -, the 10+10 event aimed at looking ahead on how to foster more and better cooperation in the next 10 years.

From 8th till 11th November, around 4000 people gathered in Florence, organizing and participating in a multitude of activities, workshops, interactive seminars, plenaries, demonstrations, etc. Apart from EAPN Fund's financial support of € 1,500 to Florence 10+10, EAPN organised a workshop dedicated to social protection, together with Global Social Justice, Social Watch Italy and EuroMarches.

More information on the alliance: (EN/FR/IT): www.firenze1010.eu

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/pages/Firenze-1010/138295942979261?fref=ts



INTERVIEW with Hugh Frazer,

Chair of the EAPN Fund Management Committee

"I think that responsible philanthropy now recognizes that just putting sticking plasters on problems without trying to change the causes is actually reinforcing the problem".

Hugh Frazer is a former director of both the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust and the Irish Government's Combat Poverty Agency. He is currently adjunct Professor at NUI Maynooth and one of the joint-coordinators of the European Commission's Network of Independent Experts on Social Inclusion. As the Chair of the EAPN Fund Management Committee, he gives here an insight of why he's taken on this task as well as his views on and experiences of fundraising for advocacy work on poverty and social exclusion.

EAPN: Why did you take on the task of being Chair of the EAPN Fund Management Committee?

I have always admired the important role that EAPN plays at both European and national levels in campaigning for an end to poverty and social exclusion. Thus I was honored to be invited to be chair of the EAPN Fund Management Committee. If we are to make progress towards a more just and equal society, it is vital to empower those experiencing poverty and social exclusion and to ensure that their voices are heard and listened to when policies affecting them are being developed and implemented. EAPN plays a vital role in ensuring that that is the case and the more resources that it can raise to support that work the better. Apart from my admiration for the work of EAPN, in taking on this role, I hope that I bring some relevant experience both from my work on poverty and social exclusion at European, national and local levels and also my experience of foundations from my time as director of a foundation, the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust (now the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland).

EAPN: Do you see particular challenges to fundraising for advocacy work on poverty and social exclusion? Are those influenced in any way by the historic evolution of charity and philanthropy?

I think that it has always been easier to raise money for direct activities that can be seen to make an immediate impact on meeting a particular need or alleviating a particular crisis. This is in part because of natural human com-

passion for people in need. However, it is also because it has often suited those in authority to treat poverty and social exclusion as either the results of bad luck or the failings or weaknesses in the people affected and to ignore or distract attention from the underlying structural causes of poverty and social exclusion. However, I think that there is a growing awareness that effective charity and philanthropy needs to tackle the causes of poverty and social exclusion as well as to alleviate the symptoms. Indeed, I think that responsible philanthropy now recognizes that just putting sticking plasters on problems without trying to change the causes is actually reinforcing the problem.

EAPN: From your experience, how difficult is it to fundraise for advocacy networks such as EAPN?

Undoubtedly it is more difficult to fundraise for advocacy networks such as EAPN than for many other causes. This is because it is less immediately appealing and involves raising awareness and understanding. You have to explain to potential donors why it is important not just to alleviate a problem but also to work for change and why the voice of those experiencing poverty and social exclusion must be part of that process. Thus you have to educate people about the issues and appeal to their intellectual and political understanding and not just to their emotional sympathy. That takes time and effort, but it is possible.

EAPN: Is the fundraising picture different across the EU Member States? Do you think there are potential big donors interested in supporting the EAPN Fund?

I think one does need to take account of different political and cultural environments across the EU and the very different stages of development of welfare States. As to big donors, my experience, from my time in the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust, is that you have to work hard to find them and win them over to your cause. It rarely happens spontaneously. It involves building one to one contacts over time. People have to be convinced that what you are doing is important and will make a significant difference to people's lives. I think that many



big donors really want their donations to make a significant and lasting impact on changing things for the better and solving problems. This means that they need to be convinced that supporting EAPN is an important way to bring about a change in policies that leads to an end to poverty and social exclusion. Although it will not be easy, I am sure that there are people with significant wealth who are scandalized by the persistence of poverty and social exclusion and who share EAPN's goals of building fairer and more inclusive societies and who can be inspired by EAPN's efforts to do so.

EAPN: Do you think funding/donating will become a form of activism in the future?

I think that funding/donating as a form of activism is a very important concept that will grow further in the future. I am sure that there are a lot of people who, for various reasons such as work and family commitments, do not have the time to be activists themselves but who do want to support and be partners in the efforts to build a better society. For them, making a donation to progressive causes can be a very constructive way of helping to bring about change. I would like to think that the experience of the current economic crisis has made many more people aware of the need to support efforts to develop a new economic and social model based on principles of equality, environmental sustainability, accountability, participation and solidarity. The challenge for the EAPN Fund will be to convince them that supporting the Fund is one of the best ways of doing this.

Row4Rights

A good cause and a fantastic challenge

BY FINTAN FARRELL, DIRECTOR OF EAPN

"A good cause and a fantastic challenge", as defined by the rowing team Rijnland. Row4Rights can't be better summarized. Aiming to raise funds to defend human and social rights, Row4Rights is also a unique sports challenge, as well as life experience for all the people sharing the adventure, rowers and volunteers...!

Row4Rights is one of the most challenging rowing events in Europe. It starts in Austria and finishes over 400 km downstream in the Hungarian capital of Budapest. This event takes the rowing teams through breathtaking scenery and three impressive European capital cities.

Row4Rights is the first effort of the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) to develop a sponsorship event to raise funds to support its work. The inspiration for the event came from Marije Cornelissen, Dutch member of the European Parliament and the event could not have happened without the professional support of a Dutch event management team, Event Academy.

It is an event you experience as a team. Usually, each team consists of 7 people, 4 rowers, 1 cox and a support team of 2. While the rowers and

cox are facing the longest river in the European Union, the support team provides back up on the land. Team members exchange the different roles so that everybody gets on the river and gets to experience both landscapes.

Row4Rights first took place in 2011 and was repeated in 2012. In 2011, all the teams came from the Netherlands. In 2012, they were joined by teams from France, Switzerland and Germany and rowers from Iceland and Australia. The funds from the 2011 edition of row4rights were shared with Amnesty Slovakia. The third edition is expected in 2014.

Seven days of rowing on the Danube

Row4Rights is a double challenge. Rowers enter this adventure for a great personal experience and sporting challenge. On top of that, the teams' performance on the Danube helps others as well, making row4rights a double challenge. Apart from getting your team in shape for this unique sporting event, team members spend the time raising funds to support the work of the organisations that benefit from the money raised (over 80.000 euro to date).

"Today a long stretch, from Dürnstein to Klosterneuburg, over 70 km. In the morning the longest stretch, in which we had to pass the first lock. We stopped for lunch at a marina. Part of our team was changed here, for the final stretch of 25km, on which we passed the second lock. Very impressive, these enormous locks! At five o'clock, we reached the rowing club and at half past six we were at the campsite. Now, at eleven, the bus is packed for tomorrow and the alarm clocks are set at 5.45! Tomorrow we will come through Vienna and the weather predictions are saying it will be even hotter than it was today (35 degrees)."

Team Huzeblauw on the Danube, 2011 edition.





On behalf of the whole European Anti-Poverty Network, Fintan Farrell, Director, expresses his warm thanks to all participants in the adventure: "EAPN is enormously grateful to all the people and businesses who sponsor the teams. As well as the financial support, this commitment gives great moral support for the continued work of the organizations who make up the membership of EAPN".

"So many locations! The Danube provides the perfect opportunity to understand Central Europe in a way I have never been able to experience previously. Given the nature of EAPN's work, the uniqueness of the rowing initiative and the tireless efforts of the organizers, I was able to see and stay at locations I would have been unable to see otherwise. There was a variety of sites, including being overlooked by Austrian vineyards in a UNESCO heritage site, being opposite the castle in the heart of the Slovakian capital or in remote fields lit up only by the shooting stars overhead. As volunteer, many tasks and responsibilities were required. The most positive aspect however was the people I was surrounded by: proactive, motivated, friendly and supportive, I really felt I was part of a team. I came away feeling energised, with many experiences (both providing support and relaxing with the teams) and lots of happy memories. Not a rower, I am grateful I was able to be involved and participate."

Jonny McHugh, from the UK, volunteer in 2012.

"As soon as you sit in the boat, you don't think anymore of your sore backside but only of the finish in Budapest. The final stage has a double importance: after Esztergom, the landscape changes. The scenery gets rougher and culminates in entering the fairytale city of Budapest. When you enter the historic heart of this beautiful capital of Hungary, you are greeted by enthusiasm and cheering from the borders of the river by the people that work for the organisations. Party time! You did it!"

Django Agterberg rower and reporter, Row4Rights 2012.

Volunteers put the heart into Row4Rights

Row4Rights could not happen without the support of volunteers. About 25 volunteers spend the week ensuring that the event is a remarkable experience for the rowers. From early morning till late at night volunteers are working, to ensure that the camp site for each stage of the journey is ready, food is on the table, blisters are attended to and that a welcome cheer greets the rowers as they arrive at the end of a long day's rowing. As the week goes on and the end comes in sight, the party atmosphere develops and the volunteers are ready to lead the dancing.



EAPN Hungary and the Adult Life Entry Network project

Empowerment and activation of young people in disadvantaged situations

INTERVIEW WITH IZABELLA MARTON, EAPN HUNGARY

EAPN Hungary benefitted from the support of the EAPN Fund for the ALEN project - Adult Life Entry Network - on Empowerment and activation of young people in disadvantaged situations. The project sought to improve the situation of young people by strengthening their capabilities to manage their own lives and become active citizens, through the development and testing of socially innovative approaches and exchange of mutual learning. Izabella Marton, Director of EAPN Hungary and manager of the project, tells us more about this constructive project.

EAPN: How did the project start and with what aim?

In partnership with altogether 15 organizations (NGOs, Government and academic institutions), the Hungarian Anti-Poverty Network submitted a successful project application to the call for social experimentation project of the European Commission in 2010. The implementation of the project called *Adult Life Entry Network – Empowerment and activation of young people in disadvantaged situations (ALEN)* started on 1 October 2011.

The purpose of the project is to apply and test specific methods aimed at strengthening the participation and social inclusion of disadvantaged youth in the four partner countries (Austria, Croatia, Hungary and Serbia), evaluate the results, draw conclusions and formulate policy proposals on the basis of the experiences of the project.

EAPN: How many young people are we talking about?

Partners work with altogether 50 young people coming from different social backgrounds but facing similar severe exclusion and deprivation (poverty, racism, poor housing conditions, unemployment, early school drop-out; lack of social network, etc.).

EAPN: What working methods have been applied?

Taking into consideration the multiple disadvantages which the involved youngsters cope with, we have applied a complex approach to provide support, assistance, development in line with their personal needs and resources. Although both the youngsters we have been working with and the circumstances are different in the four countries, we have followed a common set of 'disadvantaged-situation' criteria and identified a common set of methods for intervention. These methods consist of individual mentoring based on individual development plans; group- and community activities and the use of so-called creative methods, such as the forum-theatre method.

EAPN: What have the individual development plans consisted in?

We elaborated individual development plans based on a comprehensive base-line assessment, in which the mentors and young people identified the most important areas for personal development and set the goals to be achieved¹. This individual mentoring involved



different kinds of expertise: that of professional mentors, of members of the local community who had never done such a thing before, and of the so-called peer-assistants, who had experienced the same life situations as the people being mentored.

Beside individual development, the project focused on group and community activities. A wide range of these activities have been implemented, from trainings to group discussions and leisure-time activities (e.g. fishing, hiking together). Becoming and acting as a group member contributed to improving socialising competencies and these groups now represent a very important resource and community for the youngsters.

EAPN: Creativity takes an important part in the project – can you tell us about some concrete examples in that regard and what channels have been used?

Creativity, and taking part in creative activities, helps overcoming communication and other difficulties. It provides positive experiences and improves people's self-esteem. We use several methods and channels, fostering people's creativity and these methods and channels are important parts of the project. One of them is the forum theatre, which is quite widely used in Austria and Hungary. The forum-theatre plays were created in a series of workshops together with the youngsters, and performed many times for different audiences. The plays are then used as an opportunity to create dialogue between the young people who receive services (actors in the play) and those with political responsibilities or service providers (the audience) with a view to generating improvement in the way services are de-



¹ Very soft goals were set, such as "getting closer to education", which means for example to get youngsters to at least consider going back to school or taking steps to go back. We did not set goals such as "finding employment", which is a usual requirement in many projects, but totally unrealistic with our target groups.

livered. Other channels, such as film-making, were used in Croatia and Serbia.

EAPN: How did the EAPN Fund come to support the ALEN project?

Implementing projects is exciting for NGOs as they get to develop new ideas, involve people in putting them in practice and propose recommendations to policy-makers on how to put better systems in place. At the same time, coordinating projects can be an enormous challenge, including financially. Funding is allocated in several payments throughout the life of the project and the last period, between the end of the project and the approval of final reporting exposes organisations to financial insolvability sometimes. They have to find money to sustain themselves for this last period before the final payment arrives and covers

all the last investments. The added value of an own fund, such as the EAPN Fund, is to be able to support our members during such difficult periods with bridging loans that would cover such moments of financial vulnerability. The EAPN Fund Management Committee decided to give a loan to EAPN Hungary for the period between the end of the project and the last payment, to help it better navigate financially through these several months of closure.

EAPN: A final word on the outcome?

A specific feature of the project is that it is a social experimentation, which means that evaluation is more or less the most important part of it. External evaluators are involved in the selection and base-line assessment of the 50 young people and have done the final evaluation in the four countries. The lessons and

experiences, together with policy recommendations drawn on the basis of the conclusions will be widely shared in reports and policy papers at the end of the project.

The ALEN project is supported by the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity – PROGRESS (2007-2013) and the loan of the EAPN Fund.

For more information, visit the Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/alenproject>) and the website of the project (www.alenproject.eu). You can also contact project manager Izabella Marton marton.iza@hapn.hu.

EAPN Netherlands: A new beginning

BY QUINTA ANSEM AND JO BOTHMER, EAPN NETHERLANDS

EAPN Netherlands emerged in 1990 from local single mothers' organizations and grew considerably, to rallying 350 local organizations. 10 years later, it gradually collapsed as many of these organizations lost public funding support. With the freshly built EAPN Fund, EAPN national networks agree to show solidarity with the Dutch network and support it financially to start anew. This breathed new life into the network. Beginning of 2013, the network is back on good tracks, with new activities and strong will to grow stronger and go forward.

1990: EAPN emerges as a strong Network of People Experiencing Poverty

EAPN Netherlands emerged in 1990 from networks of local single mothers' and organizations gathering unemployed, persons with disabilities, homeless people and local client councils². In the 1990's, up to 350 local organizations and client councils joined EAPN Netherlands. The network was then able to have a strong voice for the defense of strong social security systems.

2000: the start of a decline

However, in the new century, when the economy went strong and –fortunately– unemployment fell, a lot of organizations disappeared as they were no longer supported by the ministries and foundations. Hence EAPN Netherlands membership started to dwindle and by the end of the first decade it was a small network. Time to rebuild... but how, since we never ever had any subsidy at

all. Key Individuals worked as hard as they could to keep the network alive, spending part of their own income to do so.

2012: the EAPN Fund, the opportunity for a second chance

In 2012, the newly founded EAPN Fund offered us a chance to redevelop. We had an amount of money for a new beginning and we started to rebuild our network, following our strategy and philosophy, that EAPN Netherlands should create a platform for people experiencing poverty and exclusion, offering them the opportunity to have a voice. We connected to organizations and networks that were either founded or led by people experiencing poverty and exclusion themselves. That way, we are working our way upwards. EAPN Netherlands will be a stronger network at the end of 2013 and in the years to come.

Without the support from EAPN Fund, we would have walked alongside the ravine with the fear to fall down. It really gave the network, and by this we mean people experiencing poverty exclusion, a second chance.

We were able to start a joint working group with the Client Desk Mental Health Patients and their organization "The Black Hole". Together we prepared a workshop held on 22nd March 2013 on "Mental Health and Poverty, exclusion or a chance to participate".

We had a meeting with the Foundation Skizzle "Youngster against bullying (at school)". The founder will participate in this year's delega-

tion to the European Meeting of People experiencing poverty. He himself, the child of a single mother living on social security, was bullied by other children and that is the reason why this young eighteen-year old man founded Skizzle. We are now planning to organize a workshop or meeting, depending on the budget we have, on bullying in school this year.

We attended the presentation of the book "Modern Slavery in the Netherlands". The Dutch organization Fair Work is interested in meeting EAPN Netherlands to see whether and how we could cooperate in 2013.

We organized a meeting with the national network of Client Councils in care facilities. We invited the network to participate in this year's delegation of People experiencing poverty and we also envisage organising a workshop with them on Care and Poverty, in 2013.

We were present at the kick-off meeting of a new network of local Client Councils of civic participation and agreed to meet in the first half of 2013 (once their first board is elected) to see how we can cooperate.

At the end of 2012, we started building a new EAPN Netherlands website.

"We would not have been able to do all of this without the support of the Fund", conclude Quinta Ansem and Jo Bothmer.

² Local client councils played an important role in the setting up of the Dutch EAPN network. These were set up by local city councils, to exchange with social benefits recipients what their needs were and how to best meet them.

Non-violent action and power of 'disciplined walking' to bring about social change

In October 2012, the EAPN Fund financed the study visit in India for two EAPN activists with direct experience of poverty, with the support of Dignity International and Ekta Parishad a people's movement which initiated the march of the landless that resulted in the unprecedented achievement of an agreement from the Government for a land reform. The study visit happened right after the march. Sabrina Emilio, one of the two EAPN activists, gives an inspiring insight of her stay.

Ekta Parishad ("Unity Forum"), a people's movement to gain control over livelihood resources

Ekta Parishad is a people's movement dedicated to non-violent principles of action. The activists in Ekta Parishad work towards building community-based governance, local self-reliance and responsible government. The aim of Ekta Parishad is to see India's poorest people gain control over livelihood resources, especially land, water and forest.

Ekta Parishad is a federation of approximately 11,000 community based organizations and has thousands of individual members. Ekta is working in some of India's most marginalized communities (tribals, dalits, nomadic communities, agricultural labourers, small and marginal farmers, etc.).

In Hindi, ekta translates to "unity" and parishad translates to "forum" or "space". Ekta believes that the grassroots, the village, is the perfect space in which to plant and nurture the seeds of unity and non-violence that can create positive changes at the social, political and economic levels.

In October 2012, the Ekta Parishad organised a historic march with over 50,000 landless poor

starting the march in Gwalior on the 3rd of October. It was planned to have 100,000 marching before the march reached Delhi on 28 October. But the march came to an end with agreement signed with the Indian Government for land reform in front of all the marches coming from different parts of the country on the 11th October. The march was the culmination of four years of planning with the Ekta Parishad activists supported by thousands of other social movements and organisations.

EAPN activists with direct experience of poverty meet landless people movements and local communities in India

The EAPN fund was used to support two EAPN activists with direct experience of poverty to

make a study visit in India, was organised with the support of Dignity International and Ekta Parishad. While there, they had the opportunity to meet with academics and national organisers of Movement of Landless People, Dalits and Legal Aid Organisations. In addition, they had the opportunity to visit village communities to see for themselves how some of India's most marginalised communities are organising themselves.

The study visit took place just after the march of over 50,000 landless people which ended with the signing of an agreement for land reform with the Indian Government. The energy gained from this historic march was still palpable in the meetings with the national activists and leaders in the village communities.



Sabrina Emilio, an EAPN activist from Italy, shares her reflections on her stay in India

"When I arrived in India I immediately had the feeling of being foreign and in another land. Outside there was Adrian and Mathew with a sign 'Dignity International' and a welcoming smile. Delhi was a delirious frenzy of cars, the constant sound of horns, driving quite senseless, at least for me, but yet it seemed that everyone was in agreement on where to go, even the dogs, cows and monkeys.

The study visit consisted of intense days lived at a grueling pace, but there was something about the country and the people that gave energy and every moment becomes unique and very full of life. We made numerous meetings with people who participated in the change of their system and the lives of many people. It was clear that the organisations were built on long years of disciplined development, building on and challenging ancient laws and systems including the complex caste system. This process saw the participation of everyone, absolutely everyone (children and babies included), this was especially evident when we visited the village communities where we were amazed to see the leadership abilities of young girls and boys and babies and toddlers sitting through the long exchanges. It was clear that women played a vital role in the movement and in the actions of 'resistance'.

Ekta Parishad is an organisation where if one is a member, the whole family is a member and every member must take his or her responsibility to build the organisation for positive change. Belief in non-violence is the common bond for all the members. It was an important part of the visit to learn more about non-violent action and the power of 'disciplined walking' to bring about social change.

On my return to Italy I took some non-material gifts that can sustain me in my own activism. Belief in the value of listening and dialogue at all levels (local, district, national), the process is continuous and gradual, each with its own energy while not forgetting that I belong to a more general struggle for human dignity everywhere. The need to see the simplicity and beauty of everyday life, conscious that what affects our choices can not only be the past or the present, but also our desires and dreams for the future.

Everyone I had spoken to about India, talks about an extremely poor country. I guess according to some of the meanings given to poverty India is a poor country, but at the same time the India I discovered is a very rich country, rich in people who value things that money cannot buy."

EAPN Award for Transnational Inspiration and Learning

EAPN Fund

managed by the King Baudouin Foundation

To support the work of EAPN and of its members and to strengthen the direct participation of people living in poverty, the EAPN Fund sponsors the EAPN AWARD, for Transnational Inspiration and Learning in the Fight against Poverty and Social Exclusion. This Award will happen every two years, starting in 2013. It will give visibility to NGOs and public-sector entities that have initiated new approaches in fighting poverty and social exclusion, involving the direct participation of people experiencing poverty.

Rewarding Transnational learning and direct participation

Many NGOs and public-sector entities have initiated positive approaches to fight poverty and social exclusion involving the direct participation of people experiencing poverty, and many NGOs have inspired public-sector entities and vice-versa, at local, national and transnational levels.

In order to support and give visibility to these efforts of NGOs' and public-sector entities' efforts and to demonstrate the added value of trans-national exchange, the EAPN Fund provides financial supports the the EAPN AWARD. The award recognises approaches, projects, applying both transnational learning and the direct participation of people experiencing poverty.

Rewarding by pairs

Inspiration means two: one inspires another. The EAPN AWARD recognises entities by pairs, i.e. both the entity taking the new initiative, and the one that provided the inspiration. Because EAPN is the European Anti-Poverty Network, the NGO and public sector candidates for the award must have carried out their action to fight poverty in Europe but the inspiration for the action and the organisation providing that inspiration may be based anywhere in the world.

Concretely speaking?

Three pairs of NGOs will be recognized under the NGO category. The Award for the NGOs will consist of a symbolic award of 1500 Euro for the winning organisation that takes the new initiative and 1000 Euro for the organisation who provided the inspiration. Two runner-ups will receive 500 Euro for each of the NGOs taking the initiative and for each of the organisations who provided the inspiration.

Three public-sector entities and the entities that inspired their activity/policy/approach will be awarded a certificate.

How can I participate?

The first edition of the EAPN AWARD will happen in September 2013.

NGOs and Public Entities at different levels are invited to submit an application. To ensure

transparency and equal treatment, EAPN direct members (National Networks and European Organisations) cannot submit applications for the Award. However, their members can apply.

An independent Selection Panel, appointed by the Fund Management Committee, will examine all the applications and make the Awards. EAPN will inform all the applicants about the results.

All winning entries will be included in an EAPN publication, sharing the good practice of their initiatives and highlighting the value of transnational inspiration and learning. They will also be featured on the webpage dedicated to the Fund along with the other entries received www.eapn.eu.

The information related to the EAPN AWARD is on EAPN's website here:

<http://www.eapn.eu/en/who-we-are/eapn-fund-s-bien-nial-prize-for-transnational-inspiration-and-learning-in-the-fight-against-poverty-and-social-exclusion-2>

For any questions regarding the EAPN Fund or the application process for the Award, please contact tanya.basarab@eapn.eu

Award Criteria

- The impact on combating poverty and social exclusion of the new activity/policy/approach that was inspired through transnational learning.
- The extent to which the transnational learning and/or the new activity/policy/approach has fostered the participation of people with direct experience of poverty and social exclusion.
- The extent to which the applicant can demonstrate the influence of the transnational inspiration and learning on the new activity/policy/approach adopted.
- The extent to which the transnational learning inspired creativity.

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Donors have the possibility to use the Transnational Giving Europe (TGE) network or the King Baudouin Foundation United States for cross-border donations to support the Fund, if they are resident in one of the TGE countries or taxpayers in the USA.

See www.eapn.eu/en/who-we-are/support-eapn/support-eapn-fund