**EAPN Task Force – Migration – Minutes**

**1st meeting – 27 Sept 2013**

**Introduction:**

Nazek: really timely to look at the issue.

Mauro: Free movement and de-insitutionalisation, regular, irregular migration, WG on Migration.

Elisabeth: sociology, migrant family. In EAPN PT for 10 years (research, project department: projects not specifically on migration, micro-finance, refugee resettlement, trafficking for begging).

Stefano: 1st meeting in EAPN EU Meetings.

Lucas: Cyprus labour institute (equality), involved in research activities: collective agreement of workers, working on in-work poverty; participation, in different committees,

Cypriot ombudsman : meeting to discuss issues related to migration; activities with other NGOs, to empower migrants…Campaigning work for employees, employers, training to trade-unionists…

Exchange on Members’ experience on migrants’ integration. S

Lucos: research studies to the workplace. Direction of migration into rights based approach, rights violated by employers or not?

Migration office: main important issues: Ministry of labour migrants in employment – group – coalition with other NGOs. Strategy: to follow all EU laws on human rights but in practice, it is very different.

Link with Ombudsman

Close cooperation with migrants’ associations.

As trade-unions, promoting rights of migrants in working in frame of collective agreements. Areas of work (10): all of collective agreements in line with HR but in practice it is different. Some of the issues, employees rights covered by law.

Campaign work informing employees about their rights (exploitation of migrants…) and also targeting employers.

Work on anti-racism: strong feeling/ attitudes against migrants.

Language courses for 3dr country nationals…

Since 2006, more than 8 different courses funded by EU Funds…

EU : 2 PROGRESS projects on EU discrimination: raise awareness (leaflets, brochures, public intervention in workplaces…), 2005, assigned by Obmudsman, project on domestic workers.

**Stefano:**

Inclusive planning for migrants:

Agriculture, commerce main sectors:

CARITAS

Course of Italian languages, computer courses.   
Sportive activities.

Multi-ethnic dinners.

EU level: several campaign against racism, homophobia.

Elisabeth:

No strategic work on migration.

Our work on migration is through projects. We have headquarter – in each district: immigration is dealt with.

Micro-credit: partnership – our experience : it is difficult – nobody as guarantor to access micro-credit.

Because of the crisis and rise of unemployment: increase ask for micro-credit

Resettlement of refugees (CY, IT, ES, DE, PT) : EU project – small research about the situation – website – benefits received are being cut like other population – all refugees in Lisbon, but they are trying to put them elsewhere. EAPN PT trying to work with organizations in these countries about the situation of refugees

Other project on trafficking of human being for begging – gypsies discrimination is increasing. Hard to work – to do research and work with them (started this week: 1st meeting).

Mauro: not really a question of integration – more providing emergency services – a way to support them when they are destitute. Service providers as Members. It becomes illegal to provide services for undocumented

EU research (led by Dutch Think Thank): migration and destitution in 7 MSs. It should be ready by end 2013 – to push for a pilot project EU Level.

European integration Forum: participation – hard to assess – just a way to share good practices – no impact on influencing policy-making processes. Not really useful.

EU Level: influence legislation on free movement – issues related to undocumented migrants…

Impact of crisis : more noticeable at national level.

FEANTSA tries to engage migrants – at last year annual conference to give their testimonies (Barcelona) – session with experiences of migrants residing/ homeless in Barcelona. Difficult to keep contacts.

Hard to connect homeless migrants in FEANTSA WG on participation

Shelter providers have to check documents before allowing people to access shelters…

Per:

Situation of homeless migrant people: explanation of situation – almost every people working with homeless people are getting funding from State (at least 50%) – State has a big word to say – Politicians says if you support undocumented migrants – you won’t get any funding – but not really forbidden by law. Legislation still is very harsh.

Concept of integration is disputed – it means assimilation – Integration – State will force people to be Danish – In grass-root level, to help people to organize themselves – kind of club – Building run by people themselves – Regional elections in 2 months – encouraging them to vote (empowering activities).

Crisis not so grave in DK: not so much influence on migrants – 2001 new Gvt running DK for 12 years (Right party votes from populist party needed ) – extreme law on migrants.

In DE, DK, social democrats are loosing votes – they are trying to get back their voters – all political feeling is more or less xenophobic. Lot of workers from EU (EU MSs) skilled people : salaries for Danish are under pressure – strong feelings against migrant workers – social dumping. Political climate against migrants.

Work at EU level through EAPN – EAPN should do more – very grave pb in the EU – under-class with people with migrant background. We should have more focus.

New laws not directed against migrants specifically – cuts of all social benefits – because many migrants depending on that – migrants are impacted by the new law.

UK: Migrant voice most active member of EAPN UK

TO make sure that migrants voices are heard. Everybody is talking about migrants but not migrants themselves. Negative rhetoric which is increasing – economic returns – net contribution of migrants in UK (investments…) – to show that – health care system depends on migrants…

We need to empower ourselves

UK does not invest in housing – no investment in social housing.

Migrants took only 2% of social housing. Pb in health sector: when you look at figures: migrants cost very little for health care systems. Trying to change public attitude and influence decision-makers discourse.

To be integrated, you need to be accepted and part of the community.

Advocacy and campaigning : campaign on right to family life, feed into Gvt consultations. Support of number of campaigns. Migration used for votes by politicians. At approach of European elections, it is very worrying. Gvt proposing to restrict access to health care, restrict rights to work. If no document you cannot access. Access to housing If landlords want to rent: you should have documents – Landlords worried about political situations – they are charging lot of money (exploitation starting) . Movement against xenophobia/ racism – broad alliance with other organizations.

Austerity creating measures tensions within communities

Right to family life is being restricted like other british people with a foreign partner. Policy linked to level of income – level of rights linked to level of income (no possibility to bring wife and children).

EU: EAPN ES, CZ, IT, give better image if migration (raise awareness…)

Impact of crisis: very tensed situation.

Migrants at heart of our work.

Summary:

Research in employee’ rights – link with Gvt-Ombusdman – influence in collective bargaining – negative attitude towards …

Stefano: issue of black labour market – dramatic scenario of journey for migrants coming to Italy – Information, sign posting people to services

Elisabeth: each district doing some work on Migration – micro-credit (difficulties to access it for all most excluded and especially migrants because of no guarantor). No option for refugee if they do not agree with moving elsewhere in the country, benefits cut.

Comparing level of access to services

**Scoping the TF’s work**

Title:

Title should be stronger, integration is too light.

We might have to revisit

TO look at the impact – explore what’s happening – raise awareness and come up with recommendations – inform EAPN Members to better deal with

Per: everybody concerned about crisis, austerity – nobody thinks about migrants – we should focus on migrants. To try to ensure a legacy – it is realistic to come up with recommendations

Maybe more to put this topic at top of EAPN Priorities – In the future EAPN Should more systematically in migration.

Outputs:

3. Not enough to do so – really good outcome if EXCO/ Bureau would work with migration in a more systematic manner.

Nazek: to be fair with EAPN, EAPN about poverty in general – migration as one of the categories experiencing poverty –

Training important for us: not all EAPN Networks doing on migration.

Presenting short document exploring situation for EAPN Members to have a better understanding on migration. To help build awareness on importance of migrants

Making a wider use of our work – put on website – electronic copies – Migrants voice conference in May 2014 –

Lucas: individual or EAPN contribution –

Nazek: EAPN national contribution

**Objectives:**

1. **Explore – impact on migrants –**

**Nazek: Right to family, access to health, housing –**

**Elisabeth: Social benefits - Social protection**

What kind of Report

Intra EU migration or external?

Objectives:

* To add: inform politicians about the situation of migrants and try to influence the policy-makers…

FEANTSA: Members need a toolkit/ Guidance – not only the impact of austerity measures and crisis, pbs were existing before the crisis. Crisis has exacerbated the situation.

Trying to change the way we see migrants – the economic impact they have – Gvt try to select migrants take out the ones who are not the most contributor – but migrants are very important for economy. We should clarify it in the report.

New objective: challenging the perception of migrants as contributors of economic development (we need networks to collect data)

Per: Semi-academic research – how expensively they are – but that’s not the truth – to show to politicians that it is a myth.

Nazek: training for Members – fact sheets produced looking at pbs – housing – how migrants cost and pay to see that they are net contributors. To break myths (to be also part of the training).

Next stage: what to do to make a change? To see this work as a 1st step.

Lucos: important element – we should be selective in the Report – see how migrants are hit by the crisis.

To add:

2. Raising awareness, **challenging negative perception of migrants –**

Outputs:

1. Good to have a Report

EU integration policies + set of Directives: what the EU has done since 2000 = how badly it is implemented at national level. EU Directives jeopardizing migrants to be integrated.

Cities of migration (Org) selecting good practices at cities level about migrants integration (Nazek to send the link). To see the good practices – Report to provide useful links like Cities of migration.

Migration integration policy index.

Cities of century in UK with criteria about welcoming refugees…Some local authorities support it.

PT: good practices in index (PT 2nd best).

To have other initiatives at national level (EAPN PT: National TF on Migration will be soon implemented).

Encourage further work at national and EU level.

Target audience:

Report: to inform EAPN Members – to inform also politicians and challenge perception…

Training: how to use and maximize the resource.

Facebook group to share something, any relevant info.

**Initial discussion on the content of the Report & other outputs**

**Cyprus**

New elected gvt, right-wing Gvt not a positive discourse – Greek Cypriot Church: leaders talk negatively on migrants –

Before we had an action plan (2010-2012) on migrants integration – still funding for 2013 – there should be a new action plan

Memorandum for recovery of Cypriot economy : negative attitude against migrants – changes in the law everybody was eligible to receive help from social assistance no matter you were Cypriot or foreigners – differentiation btw 30% less for asylum seekers, refugees, 5% for domestic workers…People more easily deported from Cyprus.

In health: before, those eligible for free public health, now 6 euros to be paid to get registered for everybody.

Transports : buses only used by migrants – big increasing fares –

Main pb: we build our model on an economic perspective – migrants became a destination for migrants in the 1990s during the boom. Work permits for 4 years, then should go back to their countries. Model is economic based to feel the shortage in the labour market not human rights based. Agri, domestic work, hotel, construction (sectors where migrants can work).

Main sector hit by crisis: construction

Budget for research (social research) affected by crisis.

Verbal attacks against migrants also at the level of the political discourse.

Tragedy of employment of immigrants : rights are much more violated by employers, no political will to stop the phenomenon – EU nationals from central European countries : much lower salaries than nationals. Gypsies are paid 350 euros/ month. Lot of exploitation.

**Titles**

Negative rhetoric (media, politicians, church)

Employment conditions, restriction to integration, renewal of visa

Racism/ attacks (rise of extreme right groups)

National strategies on migrant employment but not implemented

Stefano

New alternative to the model to overcome the

Recognition of human rights – illegal work included.

Minister of Integration – when social ministry set fund for social integration – on housing, welcome foreign students, protection of immigrant children and women.

EU competence on immigration – giving directives to MSs.

2 typologies of migration:

Labour migration mainly central European countries

Immigration from African countries to pass through Italy and go to other EU countries.

Work of Gvt addressing 2 types of policies:

* Migrants from the seaside with recognition of rights – in detention centers
* People already residing and working in Italy: family reunification.

Type of immigration.

Types of immigration policies.

**Elisabeth:**

Migration recent 1970s from the Portuguese colonies and then the independence of these countries. Some of them remained irregular.

1990s – 2000s boom from Brazil and eastern European countries

2010s crisis

Portugal also immigration countries – big Portuguese diaspora

% of immigrants 4%

Immigration not used as a pb in the political discourse – consensus on integration of migrants – policies on integration in a positive way – 2011 new election – immigration not used negatively.

Troika : bad for us

MIP index : 2nd best documents migrants have same rights than national (employment, education, health)

3 National immigrant support centers (Lisbon, Porto, Algarve) : 1 stop shop (to get documents, access social benefits…) – case by case situation to get documents – family reunification (including cohabity) – access to citizenship quite easy (6 years residence and knowledge of portuguese language)

On the other side: Troika country –situation is getting very bad since 2010 – unemployment rate of immigrants much higher especially for 3rd country nationals (29%) – benefits cut to everybody – increase of black economy

Social dumping – salaries going down and immigrants accepting it.

Irregular – undeclared work

Renewal of permit – amount of money they should get to renew permits – irregular situation is increasing.

Increase value of money to stay in the country.

**History of migration**

**% of migrants in the population**

**Political rights**

**Migrants in informal economy.**

**Increased poverty/ hunger…**

**Public perception on migration (Transatlantic Report)**

**FEANTSA**

It is shared in other MSs.

**From EU perspective, impact of EU at national level.**

**Transposition of Directives**

**Denmark**

New Gvt has changed law on social benefits – they now have same level of social benefits for migrants

Strong rhetoric against migrants even in socialists

17% voting for populists parties.

**UK**

Economic crisis : increasing nb of people relaying on food banks.

Migrants used in the political discourse : where politicians are competing – main political parties trying there best to look tough. Best one: Greens.

Situation is tensed/ everybody using migration

Public perception really wrong because of media, politicians.

Launch of anti-xenophobia campaign.

Enligh defense lingue, british national party declining: discourse picked up

Lots of detention, deportation – Fast track procedures

**Impact on services : care workers (lot of immigrants…)**

**Aspect of rights : infringement of human rights (op-out of EU directive on detention: max 18Months period to detent sb).**

**Recommendations: country-specifc then we will draw on that to come up with EU recommendations.**

**Obstacles:**

**Key obstacles/ challenges: based on all the national contributions**

The same for the key recommendations.

Recommendations for action for EAPN Members on how to build integration of migrants,

How to use structural Funds? Litigation? How to do advocacy? To support Members, Migrants to make their voice heard? (Racist discrimination RADIA alert).

Ideas of challenges and recommendations (2-3).

VC to send the minutes – and proposal for structure.

**Division of tasks:**

* Nazek to write intro and support for key challenges and recommendations
* Mauro for the EU integration policies part and liaise with TF Members for how it is successfully implemented
* Eventually photos from TF members of projects??
* Each of TF Members for national contributions
* EOs to provide their own contributions.

**Timeline:**

* By 8 October: VC to send the minutes and a proposal of structure for the Report to all TF Members
* By 15 October: TF Members to send their comments back
* From 21 October: On the basis of the amended structured of the Report, TF Members to start preparing their national contribution and input
* By 25 November: deadline for TF Members to send their national contribution and input
* 6 December: VC to send the 1st draft of the Report for comments to TF Members
* By 20 December: Deadline for Task Force Members to send their comments on the 1st draft including proposals for key messages and recommendations.
* 15 January: VC to send the 2nd draft incorporating TF Members’ comments as well as Agenda and other background documents.

**Timing**

**By 8th October**

**Evaluation**

Lucos: very productive, very happy to hear different perspectives,

Stefano: work very important for integration, connection political situation with our preoccupations

Elisabeth; very productive, very good to have the questionnaire in advance, the think that there is not too many people, very positive

Mauro: very good to have a questionnaire, good first step for the work on migration

Per: by far the most productive EAPN meetings.

Nazek: very practical action – very good to have concrete actions – we will end up with stgh important – hope to use it as a pilot – using it as an opportunity for further initiatives, projects, partnership projects (go for funding).