**TASK FORCE 2013-14 about the issue of migrants’ integration in time of crisis & austerity**

**Scoping Note – Discussion paper**

**Introduction**

This scoping note is aimed at setting out the terms of reference of the Migration Task Force. The elements contained in this document elaborate on the task Force proposal agreed by the EU ISG and, then approved by the Bureau last June.

This document is also to be viewed as a discussion paper for the 1st meeting on the 27th of September.

**Justification**

EAPN members who attended the Oslo GA workshop on migration recommended that EAPN should be working on this topic in a more in-depth manner. The members identified the urgent need for a more structured way of working in order to build solidarity with migrants in the current crisis. They have acknowledged the extreme hardship experienced by migrants in many of the EU countries and expressed concerns with the current deterioration in the living conditions and rights of EU citizens which is leading to using migrants as a scapegoat. Many members reported on the horrific conditions and/or attacks on migrants in their country. On top of that, over the past few years, social inclusion policies have been increasing more and more restrictive as a result of the economic crisis and austerity measures with tougher conditionality mechanisms, hindering migrants from fully enjoying their social rights. Most felt that we (EAPN members) need to monitor the situation and develop a strategy to build solidarity with migrants. At EU level, new windows of opportunity should be seized like Europe 2020 & the European Semester, the EPAP and the SIP. Within EAPNs’ Membership, there is a lot of expertise on how to work in an effective and innovative manner both at strategic/ policy level and on the ground to improve the integration of migrants of the EU host countries. This task Force will give the opportunity to exchange this expertise by confronting the experience among national networks and with EU expert organizations both on social inclusion and migration issues so as to put forward more integrated solutions.

**EAPN Strategic Plan Goal 1: A social and sustainable development model that tackles poverty, social exclusion and inequalities is at the heart of decision making in Europe.**

**Objective 1.1 and 1.2*:*** EAPN will work to ensure that the Europe 2020 strategy, the Platform against Poverty and the Social Inclusion strategy (Social OMC), the Employment Policy (European Employment Strategy and Cohesion Policy (Structural Funds) deliver progress to: effectively mainstream social concerns, reduce poverty and inequality and ensure that public policies, programmes and intervention reach people living in poverty, including the most disadvantaged.

**1.2*:*** EAPN will work to support its members to effectively engage in public debates and national and European policy making, on poverty, social exclusion and inequality.

**Name of the Task Force: still be to be agreed – It will be around the issue of migrants’ integration in time of crisis & austerity**

*The idea is not to have a scientific report but to collect data and experiences on the ground from practitioners on the challenges, barriers, equip EAPN Members with concrete tools to challenge myths on migration as well as way forward with concrete good practices.*

**Membership**

The Task Force will be chaired by EAPN UK (Nazek Ramadan, Task Force Proposer) with the support of EAPN Secretariat (Vincent Caron). 6 EAPN Members will contribute to the TF’s work: EAPN Cyprus (Loucas Antoniou), EAPN Denmark (Per Thomsen, EXCO Member), EAPN Portugal (Elizabeth Santos), EAPN Italy (Stefano Iandiorio), FEANTSA (Mauro Striano) and PICUM (Kadri Soova).

*As outlined in the application form, all TF Members have been nominated as personal representatives and, thus, were asked to be able to attend all the 3 meetings. There is normally no possibility to have substitutes. In the case of impossibility, this will be handled case-by-case.*

**Objectives**

1. Explore the impact on migrants and the implication for EAPN’s work as a result of the current economic and financial crisis and the impact of austerity measures, the increase in far right groups and hostility towards migrants, the increasingly restrictive immigration and social inclusion policies in the EU in response to all of the above
2. Raise awareness among EAPN’s members through a rights-base approach, , challenge negative perception of migrants, promote a better understanding of the current context and the arising challenges in order to develop the right policy initiatives and activities both at national and EU level
3. Share good practices so as to better support and train EAPN Members.

**Outputs**

1. To produce a Report on how to ensure migrants’ integration in times of crisis and austerity, to enable sharing the learning amongst all EAPN members (with practical tools) and foster policy debate on the issue both at national and EU level. This Report would:

* Collect evidence, information and analysis of the problems/ challenges facing migrants in Task Force member countries (including the impact at national level of the implementation of EU social inclusion and migration policy).
* Analysis the negative rhetoric on migrants
* Confront myths with realities
* Assess integration policies at EU and national level
* Collect good practices/ case studies of projects and activities amongst EAPN members
* Put forward policy recommendations both at EU and national level

This report will be mainly focused on countries represented by Task Force Members but will also try to include other EU countries particularly concerned by the issue of migrants’ integration (i.e. Greece, Spain…).

1. Organise a policy event at EU level to launch and present the key findings of the Report and its recommendations and discuss that with EU stakeholders (EC, EP, Council Representatives, NGOs and local authorities…)
2. Organise a training session for EAPN members on how to best use social inclusion and migration policies to progress towards a better integration of migrants in EU host countries.

*Any agreed decision by the TF Members with financial implications will have to be reviewed by EAPN’s Director and the Bureau.*

**Target audience**

* The report will target both EAPN Members and relevant stakeholders both decision-makers at EU, national and local level designing social inclusion & migration policies but also practitioners
* The Conference (if funding available) would target more specifically EU and national policy-makers and would give the opportunity to confront the key findings of the Report and present the key messages and recommendations to these policy-makers
* The training/ capacity-building will target EU ISG Members

**Main activities & Timeline**

* **During the 1st meeting:**
* Exchange on Members’ experience of migrants’ integration
* Scope the Task Force’s work: objectives, outputs, actions, timeline and division of tasks
* Initial discussion on the content/ structure of the Report and other outputs

**Btw the 1st & 2nd meeting**

* Elaboration of the 1st draft of the Report
* Comments/ revision of the 1st Draft

**During the 2nd meeting**

* Exchange on the 2nd draft
* Preparation of launch/ follow up

**Btw the 2nd of the 3rd meeting**

* Finalize the Report

**During the 3rd meeting:**

* Preparation of the training session with the EU ISG
* Launch & dissemination
* Agreement on follow up – including the EU Conference

**Delivery of session with EU IS Members (not all TF Members)**: Oct/Nov 2014

**Ways of working**

The TF meetings will be chaired by Nazek (EAPN UK) with the support of Vincent (EAPN Secretariat). But, the work will be a chaired responsibility of all the TF members with the EAPN Secretariat support. All TF members are expected to actively contribute to the work during the meetings, and also between meetings by liaising with their network and giving written inputs. The division of tasks as well as agreed actions and timeline will be decided during the first meeting. The work should be normally completed by TF members themselves (see the Membership item above).

**Follow up: launch & dissemination**

The Report will be officially launched during an EU conference which will take place in Brussels in 2014. This will be a unique opportunity to present the key findings of the Report and exchange with EU-decision makers (different DGs of the European Commission like DG Home, EMPL…; Council representatives) and relevant stakeholders.

But, other initiatives aiming at disseminating the Report will also be discussed by TF Members together with EU IS Members.

**Budget**

All the costs of the 7 TF members will be covered for 3 meetings in Brussels (one day each time). Other costs might also be covered like:

* Printing costs and number of copies of the Report
* Coordinator paid work
* Launch and dissemination cost including the EU Conference.

*For any extra-cost than the travel costs of TF Members, this will have to be reviewed by EAPN’s Director and the Bureau before any taking any firm decision.*