



Abbreviation of Activity report, EAPN Sweden 2013

English version

General Introduction

EAPN Sweden is an umbrella for national, regional and local organizations in Sweden working against poverty and exclusion. Some members are providing social services, others are grassroots organizations aimed to strengthen the members in the labour market and the social sector.

EAPN Sweden is run by a board elected by the General Assembly and a Bureau for preparing meetings for the Board and also to manage current business.

There are four Regional networks – in Skåne (EAPN Södra Sverige), Västra Götaland, Örebro and Gävleborg - focusing on regional issues. The purpose of the regional network is to handle certain matters with strong connections to the region but also is this a way of organizing a network lacking funding and staff resources. The network can not pay for travel costs for members to Stockholm which is another reason for this type of organizing the network.

European work

EAPN Sweden is represented in the European Executive Committee (EXCO) and in EU Inclusion Strategic Group and also the Task force on Developing a Membership Review System for EAPN.

The General Assembly of EAPN in Belgrad, Serbia, 14-15 of June, accepted new Statutes. EAPN Sweden was critical to the clause which mandates voting by proxies proportional to the size of each country on the GA with very few delegates. An evaluation of the new statutes will take place after two years.

EAPN was forced to make significant cuts during 2013 due to less funding from the Commission. For the National network it has meant that fewer participants can go to the European meetings and that no translation into French will be done in documents and meetings.

2013 a project started - European Minimum Income Network (EMIN) - a common project for all National Networks. The work is aiming to make a mapping of the need or presence for regulations of minimum incomes in the countries. EAPN Sweden participates by our member organisation, the Salvation Army. The first intermediate report will be ready in March 2014. A conference on the subject will be held in September 2014.

At this year's PEP meeting, the 12th, the newly established regional network – Gävleborg – was responsible for the preparations and the participation.

EAPN Sweden was included in the Swedish delegation at "Annual Convention of the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion" in Brussels, November 2013. EAPN Sweden represented, after an invitation from the Swedish Government, all Swedish NGO's.

One Swedish delegate participated in a conference in Leuven, Belgium, in May, presenting the EU Social Investment Package. EAPN Sweden was invited by the Swedish Ministry for Social Affairs, as one of five delegates.

EAPN Europe intends to more than before offer trainings for members of the networks. The Swedish network participated with two delegates at a training held in Estonia, June 2013.

Activities in Sweden

As previously EAPN has taken several places in the "User's Delegation" at the Department of Social Affairs, by delegates from Swedish EAPN member organizations.

EAPN was also invited to the consultation on the NRP. We have on several occasions emphasized that the NRP dialogue must be improved and be more transparent and continuous.

In conjunction with different activities connected to the Ministry, EAPN has pointed out the need for a more permanent funding for the Swedish network.

Theme Poverty

The project against poverty that started 2010 is ongoing, but has a new name – Meetingplace 2020.

EAPN is no longer a formal owner of the project but is working as a co-partner in regional and national dialogues. 2013 four regional meetings were conducted in: Göteborg, Gävle, Vingåker and Malmö. The national meeting was held in Stockholm with 160 participants meeting national politicians from most of the political parties.

Drivers

We are taking part in a research network with the Swedish research institute, Chess, at Stockholm University. "Drivers" is a three-year project, funded by EU and administrated by Euro Health Net about equality and health. Key issues are: childhood, working life and income and social protection. The main purpose for the project is to get a better knowledge

about how the social insurance systems can contribute to equalize differences in health condition. The project is implemented in several European countries and with support from EAPN Brussels.

Our member organisation, Singel Parents, have been responsible for two focus groups interviewing them about personal experiences of how the system is affecting the health.

Translations

This year we have translated these EAPN documents:

-"Twelve Arguments in support of Active Inclusion"

-"EAPN Response to the Social Investment Package"

Revision of webb-site

To improve our webb-site many parts has been complemented with films from You Tube, most of them from EAPN-Europe's webb-site. There is also a new connection from the webb-site to Twitter and and Facebook.

We hope that this will make the web-site more up-to-date and more useful.

Board of EAPN Sweden 2013

Sonja Wallbom, President, Bureau – RFHL

Gunvi Haggren, vice President, Bureau -Verdandi

Gigi Isacsson, Secretary, Bureau - ICSV

Sophia Lövgren, Bureau – Makalösa Föräldrar

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Stockholm April 2014

The Board of EAPN Sverige