



EAPN: Fighting for a Social Europe Free of Poverty

**Membership Assessment and
Support System
Launched by the EXCO in 2012**

EUROPEAN ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK
RÉSEAU EUROPÉEN DES ASSOCIATIONS
DE LUTTE CONTRE LA PAUVRETÉ ET L'EXCLUSION SOCIALE



What the Membership Assessment and Support System is and What It Is Not

- A framework proposal to help National Networks grow, based on common understanding of aspirations along the four pillars of strong National Anti Poverty Networks – as indicated by the Executive and as set in the statutes
- A set of essential elements universally applicable to any NGO or civil society actor and one that EAPN asks of itself and of its partners – to help members work towards the same vision
- A peer-review Support and Accompaniment System by colleagues from other NNs
- A basis for development work (to be completed with support tools, templates and to highlight good practice from members)
- Not a punitive system
- Not a top-down process – horizontal, led by peers
- Not a tool to apply only to struggling members, but a reference framework for everyone



Four Pillars of Strong Anti Poverty Networks

- Influence National Governments for better policies: advocacy, lobbying and policy-making linked to European level developments
- Participation of People Experiencing Poverty and Social Exclusion in Internal and External Workings of the National Network
- Development and Growth of the Network
 - Growth
 - Training and capacity building
- Good governance and strong internal democracy
 - Strong internal democracy
 - Management of workers and volunteers/activists
 - Strategic planning/thinking
 - Funding (starting with contracts with EAPN)

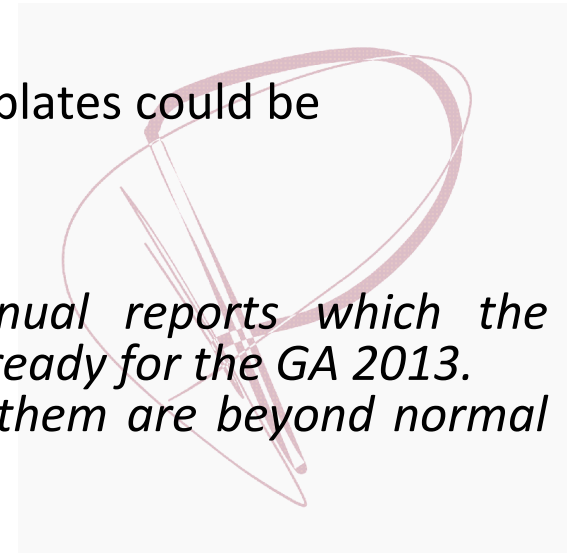




Indicators and Ways to See How Those are Implemented

- Proposal of 3 essential indicators for each area and a way to understand how those are being fulfilled (documents, discussions, annual report)
- Additional recommended indicators
- Lists of documents that can show how the indicators are fulfilled
- Additional lists and examples; templates could be proposed.

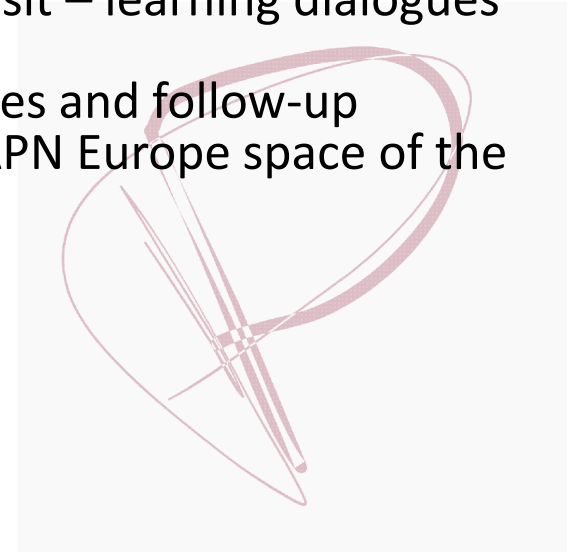
Highlighted the importance of annual reports which the Bureau has reinstated as a practice already for the GA 2013. From the list of documents, none of them are beyond normal NGO practice.





Implementation Process

- Starting with Exco decision on which NN undergoes MASS
- Self-reflection as a first stage and basis for the assessment process
- Support and Accompaniment Teams, involving two representatives from other NNs and support person from secretariat – terms of reference defined jointly with the network undergoing the MASS
- Peer review and capacity building visit – learning dialogues with different structures of the NN
- Agreement for implementing changes and follow-up
- Recognition in EAPN GA or other EAPN Europe space of the process the NN has engaged with.





Putting It Into Practice in EAPN

- **Trialing and improving it** (EAPN Iceland + MAPP trialled the whole process; it was used in the support visit to EAPN Romania and for induction to new members Croatia and Latvia)
- **Making the MASS a development framework for EAPN National Networks**
- **drawing learning in the process**
- **adapting the training and capacity building agenda based on the MASS pillars and drawing on the learning that happens in process**
- **Using all tools available for the development process (ex: solidarity grants from EAPN Fund; Annual Reports of Networks and all the policy and capacity building work that happens through EAPN Europe work)**

