

# PEP 2015 Norway

## Slogans chosen

***NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US***

***FOR EACH NEW POOR IN EU A NEW BUREAUCRAT HAS TO LEAVE HIS JOB***

***POVERTY IS LIKE A PUNISHMENT FOR A CRIME YOU DIDN'T COMMIT! (Eli Khamarov)***

## Issues/topics to the Commission Proposal re a Social Pillar

- Strengthen the rights of those who live below the poverty line (monetary poverty, the intensity of work, and material deprivation)
- work for benefits is not good because it destroys the labor market and leads to social dumping
- active inclusion , the right to minimum income and services to reduce poverty

## Interesting practice

Abuse of social welfare recipients

Those who don't manage to meet up at the public welfare office 8 o'clock in the morning because of different reasons, must live for 8€ a day.

- For instance: Forced activation: In the region of Agder several municipalities with youths in need of a summer job which earlier was advertised, were told that these jobs not anymore were ordinary summer jobs. But the young people were told that they could work for social welfare, otherwise they would not be entitled to apply for social assistance in their municipality.
- Bad practice and abuse of labor.

## For more visibility, engagement and support at national level?

- Guidelines for policymaker at National Level,
- National campaign for all EU countries ( media )
- Consider the poor as a resource but not a burden on society
- EU must involve poor people
- Developing common terminology with active inclusion
- Commitment to use elements of the active inclusion
- Forced activation leads to instability in the labor market , not helping out of poverty without work
- active inclusion

- Adequate Income support: adequate levels of minimum income and other social benefits
- inclusive labour markets personalized pathways support to quality employment
- access to quality services access to decent housing, education, health as well as social services
- Lock in effect. Effect: Work Practice reduces young people chances to get ordinary jobs with 35 percent compared with not taking part in any measures or register at temporary employment agency. This effect occurs like a lock-in effect, while the participant can use his/her time better to apply for ordinary jobs instead (source forskning.no The Educational System in Norway: Putting it to the Test of the Labour Market. May 2014).

### **strengths**

- We have not identified any special strength so far

### **Weaknesses**

- Activation compared with active inclusion
- Eurozone
- No specification of objectives
- 2020 has not been completed
- 10 pillars where some things go against social dimension
- Social policy is voluntary because of the lack of frame directives
- Lack of integrated process because all members are not involved
- All Member States do not work on the same model; do not use the same method
- Framework with concrete targets and deadlines to the Member State
- Lack of deadline for implementation, monitoring and reporting
- Member States decide social policy even if it comes directive from above there is little effect

### **Possibilities**

- National group involving people experiencing poverty and other stakeholders should be set up to follow up the proposal.

#### Threats

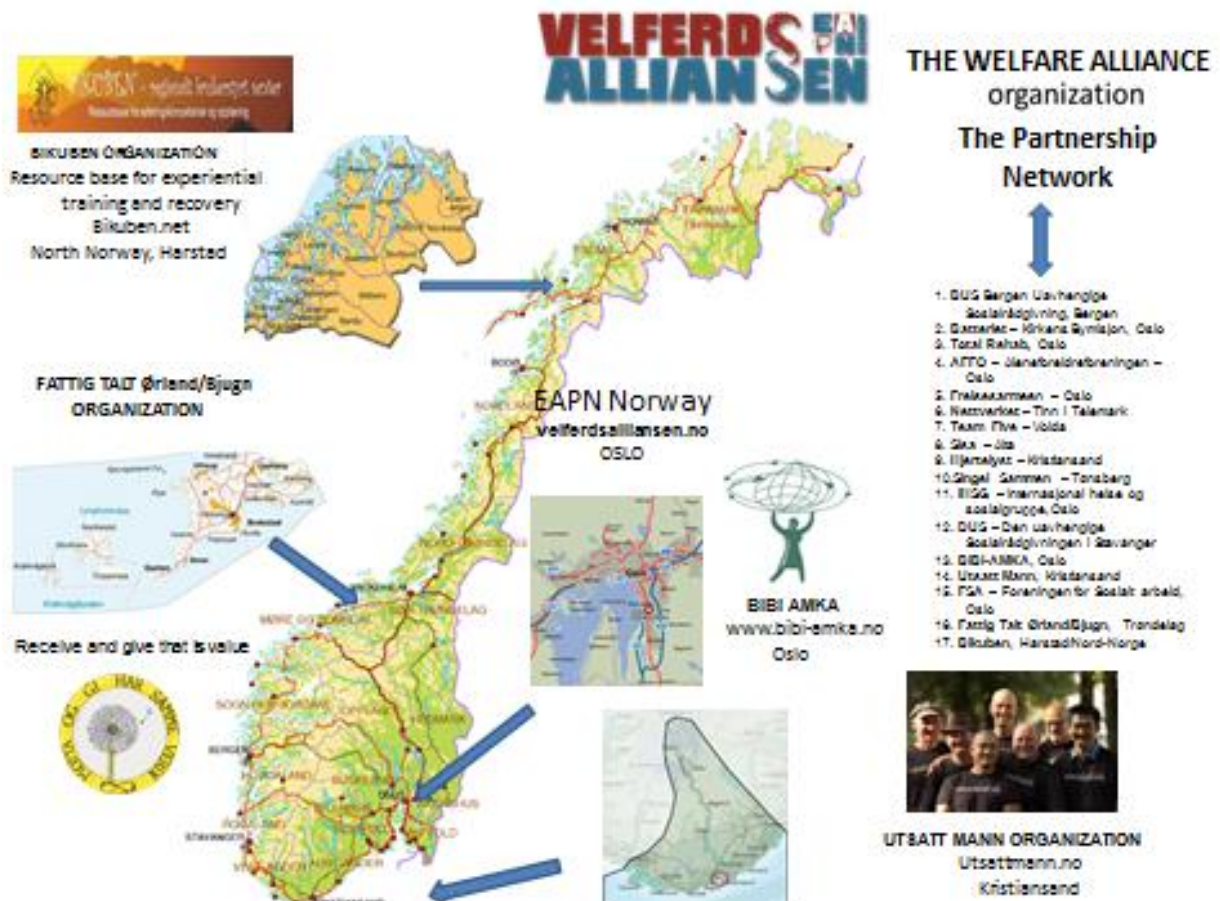
A threat can be that we do concentrate on this new approach and forget the targets on which we already agreed to reduce poverty

## SHORT PRESENTATION OF MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

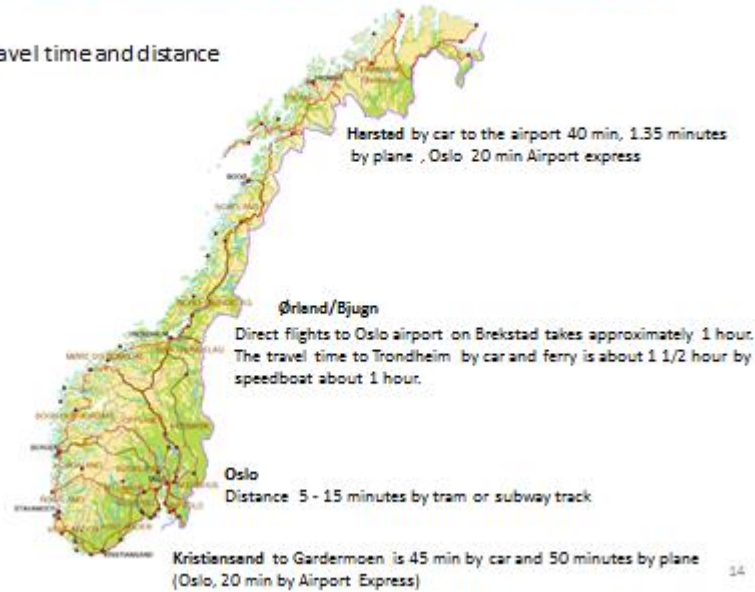
EAPN Norway / Velferdsalliansen represents four different and autonomous organisations

- BIKUBEN (Beehive- A NGO founded by Mental Health, ADHD regions and LPP represented all over North Norway)
- FATTIG TALT Ørland /Bjugn (Impoverished spoken)
- BIBI AMKA (Woman wake up)
- UTSATT MANN (Deffered man)

## EAPN Norway / Velferdsalliansen



## Travel time and distance



## **BIKUBEN (Beehive- A NGO founded by Mental Health, ADHD regions and LPP represented all over North Norway)**

“The Beehive” is a user-controlled center which is a resource base for experience, expertise and training in Nordland, Troms and Finnmark in North Norway. “The Beehive” develops and works out courses and training in public health - mental health.

Target group and interaction partners are users, relatives, organizations, educational institutions, municipalities and services in general.

“The Beehive” is an offer for all in the North of Norway, which by the user resources contributes to build up the quality of life and happiness with responsibility for their own health and their own learning.

Courses and training packages based on experience knowledge in interaction with professional expertise and can be adapted for each target groups

A “breeding place” for sense and life enjoyment in the Northern Norway

- located in Troms provide the training out in about 90 municipalities in Northern Norway.
- Regional function is organized so also smaller municipalities can take advantage of the offer.
- The public services, communities and educational institutions
- It can be training of staff, students, user representatives, participation in project teams and more



# **Our keys: Experience Expertise User interaction Empowerment Network**

**What is your experience (individual/collective) of poverty?**

**Bikuben helps people to grow as an individual and use own resources.**

**Recovery with focus on the whole people**

**Ann-Kirsti Brustad** has personal experience with poverty, mental illness and drugs in family . She grew up with nine siblings, in childhood had family - save and share food and clothes .She started in early youth with volunteer work for children and families who were poor, socially excluded and sick.

Education: work in beehive as experiences consultant. Have further training in participation on system level. She teaches at university and lectures on experiences.

She have several leadership roles in voluntary organizations and working for dignity, solutions and care.



**Tina Marie Rødde Paulsen** has experienced poverty as a child and young adult. She herself was sexually abused in childhood meant that she fell out of early schooling and employment.

After several years of therapy, she took training and became psychodrama therapist. She was one of those who founded the organization Poor Speaking Ørland / Bjugn. She has been a member of the Welfare Alliance for many years and have a huge interest back. She has chosen to use her difficult childhood and experience as Gold. She gives lectures on how childhood sexual abuse can make you poor in adulthood. She thinks it is important to talk about difficult issues and elucidate the case that people are doing something rather paralyzed. To achieve this we must

dare to put issues such as poverty and social exclusion on the poster and make it our common responsibility.

Purposes:

- Helping people who for various reasons fall outside the community in the form of low or no income,
- People who are excluded of the social life and leisure activities, choirs, bands, cultural activities,
- People who experience to not have money for food and household goods for various reasons and we want to help in a difficult situation,
- Children living in families where household income of the family is so low that they are excluded from activities such as arts, theater, band, sports, etc,
- Financial aid if the association has the means to help in a difficult situation,
- Help with clothes, shoes, bikes, helmets, ski M.M.,
- Appliances and other things families might need this regardless of whether it's one person in the household or more.

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### **Utsattmann Network of male victims of sexual abuse**

- The project is about 20 boys and men who have been sexually abused in childhood.
- The project Graduated Information advice to the authorities in Norway about what needs to be done for more people to get the courage to talk about their traumatic experiences.
- We also wish to convey experiences about what kind of measures that help the victim back to a good life.

We have participated in the work processes in groups and contributed as experts. In April 2009 we presented suggestions for the first time. A result magazine is now distributed to politicians, support centers, employees in mental health care, physicians and other organizations working on this issue

*What is your experience (individual / collective of poverty)?*

When growing up in a dysfunctional family where violence, drugs, abuse and neglect were part of everyday life then became a man not given many chances in life. This resulted in loss of schooling and education, which in turn led to low-paid work

I have my whole life lived in poverty not only materially but also physically and psychologically. Reassurance that everyone needs as children were not present and this causes often with him in life as one grows older. Man fails, get sick and lose hope

Do it better today after good preparation and good self-knowledge, but would obviously wish that things had been different.

**Jarle Holseter, Manager at Utsattmann**

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# BIBI AMKA



**BIBI AMKA (Woman wake up) works mainly for migrant women, children and youth.**

- to promote and defend their interests
- So they can live a dignified life, both in Norway and other parts of the world.
- when you help a woman who is family-pillar, you help an entire community because this leads to positive changes.

- BIBI AMKA's method is an increased awareness and empowerment.
- working with family perspective
- BIBI AMKA work on individual and system level

## **Some activities:**

- Lectures with different themes for a better integration
- Spotlight on sexual abuse among migrants and late side effects
- Focus on child protection and child welfare action manner
- Social rights and obligations

## **Honoratte Muhanzi BNN Kashale**

in the early years with limited opportunity to participate in work, politic and social due to focus on what the mainstream society looks , thinks and expect from her without taking into account what she can and how to use her expertise.

Born and raised in Congo democratic , living in Norway for 15 years, experienced poverty at the first time in Norway.

After being at the bottom of frustration , despair and depression she should choose between dying and surviving . Managed to survive through her involvement in volunteering and helping others

Leader of BIBI AMKA and Work inVelferdsalliansen/EAPN Norway li

Have further training in participation on system level and holding lectures in minority - and integration issues

She have several leadership roles in voluntary organizations and working for dignity and empowerment

Honoratte Muhanzi BNN Kashale

Tel:93299870





**EAPN Norway** is made up of many small, medium sized and large organizations in turn to make up the network EAPN Norway or as we originally named our network,- The Welfare Alliance - Velferdsalliansen.

- Norway is a large country where poverty is hiding differently, we want to visualize poverty in both rural and urban areas.
- Prioritize, facilitating and motivating to real user.
- Participation of PEP whose impact gives value.
- We want to show and be a link to the system level as well at the national level. We want to strengthen the networks and be able to use it.
- We want to visualize the emergence of a large class divide. Our network of many organizations together have many experiences and knowledge based on experience thus experienced and experience of poverty we see as a major resource in the work.
- We want to visualize and gain knowledge of what poverty means for individuals. Which NGOs we have and we want to use these for debate, and highlighting.
- **EAPN Norway** is spreading knowledge of poverty and social exclusion by having seminars on a difficult subject.
- Be participating in debates both on television, radio and the web in general.
- Increasing contact with politicians so that they see the residents and meets all residents where they are.
- Build networks that promote collaboration. Working together with others in the network have the same purpose and work across the entire country.
- Actively participate in social debates and arranging workshops where all levels are included. Lecture and enlightenment
- Have social meeting places which are mostly free and where people at the local level can meet and build networks

## **What should the government do to help?**

The government should listen but the most important thing is to make a difference in action.

Please contact and make use of organizations and by that we mean to make direct contact.

Investing preventive measures as school lunches, homework assistance and refugee guides.

We wish that the authority must have confidence in us in the same way they expect us to have confidence.

Trust is something created in dialogue and cooperation. We know what it's like to live in poverty and congregations must make use of our experience expertise.

Increase the basic amount of social disability rates.

Improve the social assistance legislation, make social assistance rights based and give people predictability.

Look at all the people as a resource and not a problem. Give those who live in poverty support so that they can get a predictability and use its own forces and resources in a constructive manner.

Focus on family poverty, the entire household living in poverty and then the whole household who need help. Take primary responsibility for combating poverty together with those who live in it. Increase child benefit, free school meals and school activity.

Provide excellent personalized measures to those who can work into work.

## How can we build solidarity between countries and between different groups experiencing poverty?

- **Creating common** meeting places. Common strategies, initiatives. Mutual including. Make venues where different organizations can meet and find common ground and learn from others' experiences.
- **Removing the focus** of competition for resources and put lights on joint struggle for common goals.
- **Talk together from different viewpoints** and lift each other, until talk each other and make each other good.
- **Share knowledge** and experiences in order to reduce poverty.
- **Low threshold:** create venues where people with different challenges can be met.
- **Quality assure** that the EEA are followed up.
- **Cooperation between nations.** Respect, dialogue, acceptance. Activity arrangement, leisure, sports, theater, music, joy, hope.
- **Focus on sobriety and austerity** if we believe something about the climate issue and what can we do.
- **Our overuse is a type of poverty** because we have lost something in relation to being associated and belonging.
- **Advertising has become the new social engine. How can we influence it?**
- **Communication and listening.** Equivalence. Confidence in their **own dignity**. Be active in highlighting. **Joint activities between different countries.** Visit each other.
- Using **Facebook to communicate.**
- Have joint conferences focusing on what they have in common. **Arranging seminars across national borders.**