



Synthesis Report

As for all of the national anti-poverty networks 2013 has been another difficult year for CILAP EAPN Italia. Social policies, and therefore the anti-poverty organizations, are paying the highest toll to the economic crisis and the ravaging cuts that followed: the poor are poorer, the organizations working with/for them are undergoing serious cuts that undermine their existence, the middle classes are rapidly impoverishing. A situation that is made even more serious by the lack of any serious efforts to fight poverty and social exclusion by implementing national Anti-Poverty Plans and by an ever-ending corruption.

It is therefore easy to understand the many difficulties met by the small-medium size organizations that constitute the backbone of CILAP EAPN ITALIA and that deliver (or delivered) services on behalf of the local authorities. The result has been a drastic down-sizing of many third-sector organizations, social cooperatives included, and, many times their closing down. The ones that are still operating work on a monthly basis, with payments lagging behind even up to one year.

Building new alliances

Faced with the reduction in the number of associates and the difficult participation of CILAP's volunteers, CILAP EAPN Italia put more energy in its alliance building since we are convinced that only by working together – putting aside our differences and trying to build on our common points – we will be able to overcome this period.

This renewed drive brought about some good results, a base for our future work:

- CILAP EAPN Italia was one of the actors in the Campaign for an European Minimum Income (ICE)
- We joined the national network “Cresce il welfare, cresce l’Italia”, a network of more than 40 local and national organizations, trade unions included. The goal of the network is to stop the cuts of the resources for social policies (elderly, children, disabled, migrants) which, since 2010, have been reduced by 80%. We organized two events: the first, in March 2012, where more than 500 people participated and where our President gave the opening speech; the second in October, in front of the Parliament
- In October we launched, as one of the promoters the international Campaign “Ban Poverty 2018”. Aim of this Campaign is to obtain for the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (which will fall in 2018), a resolution by the UN General Assembly, declaring illegal those political, social, economic and institutional practices which impoverish the people of the world

- CILAP EAPN ITALIA is one of the national stakeholders of the COPE project (Combating Poverty in Europe), managed by the University of Milan (VII Framework Program)
- We are part of the Italian coalition for EYCA 2013
- We gave a contribution to the feminist movement “Se non ora quando”, born in 2011 on the wave of the deep indignation aroused by the government gender policies and by the individual behavior of some of its leading members. CILAP EAPN ITALIA was able to bring within the movement, at least in the regional component of Lazio, the issue of "women and poverty" which resulted in the establishing a permanent working group on this issue

Participation of people experiencing poverty

The lack of funds made it impossible to acquire a high visibility at national level but, at the same time, gave us the opportunity to organize or participate in a number of local/regional events which allowed us to strengthen our working group and our network.

Two the most important events, respectively in the North and in the South of the country:

- Trento, May 4th – Meeting “Homelessness and housing rights in times of crisis - Is having a roof enough to feel at home in the EU of 2012?”, with the participation of about 50 people, organized by CILAP EAPN ITALIA and FEANSTA/Italy. The participants were homeless, community and social workers, elected officials in charge of social policies in the cities of Trento and Bolzano.
- Avellino, October 19th and 20th – regional (Campania) “Meeting della cittadinanza e della partecipazione attiva” organized by CILAP EAPN ITALIA, its regional affiliates, other voluntary associations, regional and local authorities. More than 400 people participated in the various events: seminars, exchanges, concerts, book presentations. CILAP EAPN ITALIA managed the working group “Jail and Poverty” and the seminar on “Europe 2020 and the flagship initiative Platform against Poverty”. Letizia Cesarini Sforza, as vice-president of EAPN, gave the concluding remarks.
- Delegates to the European Meeting and the working group “participation and poverty” met other times in Florence and Rome.
- This engagement was the main factor that convinced us to present a Learning Partnership Grundtvig Project which is now under way and is giving a chance to people experiencing poverty to acquire a transnational experience.

Visibility

- Translation and dissemination of EAPNmag
- Translation and dissemination of most of EAPN Press Releases and letters to Ministers etc.
- Translation and dissemination of the EAPN publication “Active Inclusion – Making it Work”. The Italian publication has been greatly appreciated and used by many as a tool for animating the discussion on issues that are at a standstill in Italy
- Our website (www.cilap.eu) is kept up-to-date, is widely read and is our main tool for disseminating news, initiatives, political positions, etc.
- We implemented a new e-mail address (cilapcomunicazioni@gmail.com) used for disseminating all relevant information widely.

We also report:

- On March, the monthly magazine “Confronti” devoted its center-fold to CILAP EAPN Italia and its activities. We highlight here that all the photos published in this issue of the magazine come from EAPN archives, taken during the PEPs’ Meetings
- The 2012 PEPs’ Meeting was amply covered by two important social magazines: VITA and Redattore Sociale.

CILAP EAPN BASILICATA

The Southern branch of CILAP EAPN Italia – CILAP EAPN Basilicata – delivered the following activities:

- Research and analysis for the regional Social Inclusion Observatory, in partnership with the trade unions, the Regional Center for Voluntary Services and the local administrations
- Participation in the working group for the establishment of a regional Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion (the group is coordinated by the regional government of Basilicata)
- Realization of the First Regional Report on Social Cohesion, in partnership with the above mentioned working group
- Feasibility study for the networking at national level of the local Social Observatories, in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs
- Implementation of different initiatives aimed at stimulating young people empowerment in relation to artistic and social activities
- CILAP EAPN Basilicata is now a member of the social consultative partnership for implementing the use of the Structural Funds in the region.