

EAPN Portugal_Annual Report 2014

Summary

1. Influencing government for policy change

In 2013, EAPN Portugal defined as a priority the definition and implementation of a National Strategy to fight Poverty and Social Exclusion. This is an aim in development and, therefore, its implementation continued in 2014: *Maintain an active profile in the defense of people's rights: encouraging the definition and implementation of a National Strategy to fight Poverty and Social Exclusion*. Another important aim for this year was the *Development of a Campaign for the European Elections 2014*.

During this year EAPN Portugal maintained its collaboration with EAPN Europe, not only through participating in meetings/events but also through the preparation and dissemination of documents. In what concerns the participation in meetings and events, we want to highlight:

- Bureau (assuring its Presidency) – 3 meetings (plus several Skype meetings);
- The Executive Committee, (3 meetings);
- The EU Inclusion Strategies Group, (3 meetings);
- Task Force Decent Work (
- Task Force on Training and Capacity Building (1 meeting);
- The Task Force on Migration (1 meeting);
- The People Experiencing Poverty European coordination group (1 meeting with the national coordinators; 6 preparatory meetings at national level with the Portuguese delegation; the European meeting);
- EAPN Capacity Building Seminar – with the participation of 1 person (member of EAPN Portugal).

In what concerns the documents prepared not only in collaboration of EAPN Europe - to reinforce their work for policy change at European level - but also at internal level – to reinforce national lobby and shape public and political opinion - we want to highlight:

With EAPN Europe:

- EAPN Youth Inclusion paper
- Annual Growth Survey Package – response
- Country Specific Recommendations 2014_EAPN input
- Give a Voice to Citizen – contributions to the draft
- Summary Table of developments on 20% on poverty and partnership principle
- Towards Children's well-being in Europe – EAPN and Eurochild explainer on Child Poverty in the EU – revision

At internal level:

- Em Análise nº 24 “Semestre Europeu 2014. Recomendação do Conselho ao Programa Nacional de Reformas e ao Programa de Estabilidade para 2014, Portugal”. “Em Análise” is an internal document through which EAPN Portugal analysis different subjects on poverty and social exclusion and presents its position concerning social policies. “Em Análise” nº 24 was dedicated to CSR and NRP.
- Position Paper on the Report sent by the Government to the European Commission that assesses the national targets on Europe 2020.
- Position Paper *A Pobreza Mata* (“Poverty Kills”) prepared in the scope of the Working Group to define a National Strategy to fight Poverty and Social Exclusion and disseminated as a Message in the 17th of October (International Day for the Eradication of Poverty)
- “Manifest to Poverty and Social Exclusion” prepared in the scope of the Working Group to define a National Strategy to fight Poverty and Social Exclusion.
- Report with European and National Indicators on poverty and social exclusion (this report is updated twice a year and gathers different social indicators).

These two last documents marked a turning point in the work of the working Group to define a National Strategy to fight Poverty and Social Exclusion. It was an opportunity to disseminate the work that was being developed, especially among the Governmental Authorities and Political Parties. The left wing party (Socialist) gave a positive feedback on the Manifest and requested a hearing. It was also possible to meet with other left wing parties (Bloco de Esquerda and Communist Party).

In the scope of this group it was also developed a National Seminar in the Parliament – *“The role of fighting poverty in the future of Europe”*. The seminar had almost 100 participants of which we highlight the Parliament Vice President and four candidates to the European Elections.

EAPN Portugal was also actively involved in the *Campaign for the European Elections 2014* promoted by EAPN Europe – *Electing Champions for a Social Europe*. The aim was to call on the candidates to the elections to get their commitment to the fight against poverty and social exclusion. At national level, it was possible to get the commitment of 17 candidates (14 of left wing parties – BE and CDU; 2 of center party – CDS-PP and 1 of right wing party – PSD).

It’s also important to highlight the work developed in the EMIN Project. During 2014 EAPN Portugal implemented this Project in which it was developed a research on the Minimum Income Scheme at national level, a final report with the research – *“Adequate Minimum Income: building consensus. EAPN Portugal”* - and a national Conference. The Conference was attended by EAPN Europe, EAPN Malta (experience) and some national stakeholders (experts, NGOs and Trade Unions).

In terms of events it’s also important to highlight the National Seminar developed in December – *The Market, the necessity of regulation for a more social, sustainable and democratic Europe*.

In order to promote some public awareness on poverty issues, EAPN Portugal developed in 2014 the National Campaign *0% Poverty*. This Campaign was presented in the 17th of October (together with other activities) and involved all the districts in Portugal (a total of 18). With the slogan *0% Poverty* it was made posters, bands, and specific materials like doors and tends (to

make people aware of homeless/housing problem) and it was used city statues, public places, public buildings, etc.

EAPN Portugal also continued its active participation in some key working groups and entities at national level, like the Advisory group on National Strategy for the Integration of Roma Communities; the Portuguese Platform of NGDOs (in which assumed a place in the Board of Directors), the Inter-ministerial Group for monitoring and evaluation of the national strategy for the Homeless Inclusion (as a member of this group EAPN and other NGO are lobbying for the reinforcement and evaluation of the National Strategy for the Inclusion of Homeless People once it ends in 2015) and the coordination of the Lisbon Observatory to Fight Poverty.

2. Participation of people in poverty in internal and external workings of the Network

EAPN Portugal continued its work with the National and Local Councils of Citizens. These groups are composed by citizens that lived or are living in situation of poverty and social exclusion and have as main aims to give them voice in the matters that are directly related to their situation.

During 2014 EAPN Portugal promoted 4 meetings with the National Council of Citizens (NCC), 161 local meetings with the Local Councils of Citizens (LCC) and the National Forum (with the participation of all the members). It's important to say that the delegation that attended to the European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty was selected among the members of these groups (as in the previous years).

This year EAPN Portugal decided that it was important to make the work developed with these groups more visible at external level, especially to other entities. By this way 2 of the meetings with NCC had the participation of external experiences/organizations. It was a way to exchange practices and enhance the knowledge that is already visible among all the members of the NCC. In the National Forum (VI National Forum to fight Poverty and Social Exclusion) it was invited external experts that not only comment the conclusions, but had followed all the work done in the 2 days of the Forum.

In terms of the implementation of the annual programme of NCC (that is now a condition for the good work of this group) it was also gathered contributions for the elaboration of a Welcome Guide for new members.

It's important to say that the NCC it's composed by a member of each local group (making a total of 18 participants). By this way this group has been more constant in what concerns the participation of its members. We cannot say the same for the LCC, in which the composition of each LCC continues to be different and there is a great mobility of the members, which contributes to a greater difficulty in implementing activities. This is a concern for EAPN Portugal, because participation of people living in Poverty and social exclusion is a key priority for the Organization. During 2014 there were also some positive changes, and one of the things that contributed for that was the exchange of practices between LCC through the development of 3 Regional Thematic Meetings (North; Center and South).

Other important activity developed at this level was the design and production of a sub webpage dedicated to the Participation of Citizens (<http://participacao.eapn.pt/>).

It was also published a Practical Guide to work with vulnerable groups, named: *Training for the Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups* and the Practical Guide *Being + Citizen*, promoted by the EAPN PT Regional Network of Vila Real. This last Guide was a result of the project *Being + Citizen* that had the participation of people experiencing poverty and the LCC of Vila Real.

All the LCC were actively involved in the National Campaign *0% Poverty* described before; in the *IV National Meeting of EAPN Portugal Members* (this was a change made in the organization of this meeting, because EAPN Portugal understood that LCC members could present positive inputs for the discussion in this kind of event), and finally in the National Seminar developed in the Parliament – *“The role of fighting poverty in the future of Europe”* (especially members of Lisbon and Setúbal LCC).

In October the 6th National Forum of Citizens (National Forum to fight Poverty and Social Exclusion) was dedicated to the following subjects: Participation, Employment/Unemployment, Child Poverty and wealth and inequality. It involved 80 members of the Local councils and all the subjects were previously prepared by them at local level.

EAPN Portugal also attended the 13th European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty in September and took a delegation of 5 members (1 coordinator, 4 citizens, one of them it was Journalist of Journal *Publico*). The participation of a journalist in the delegation was quite positive, especially at national level, because the event was disseminated through the media and the delegates had the opportunity to spoke of their concerns and their recommendations on poverty and social exclusion.

Also through some of the projects developed by EAPN Portugal it was possible to mobilize citizens to participate, speak of their concerns and present proposals. It was the case of:

- Project EMIN – in which it was prepared a video with some testimonies of people living with Social Insertion Income and calling for the importance of decent minimum income.
- Project NetKard – in which it was elaborated four Guides to better intervene with Roma Communities. EAPN Portugal, in partnership with the High Commissioner for Migration, was responsible for the elaboration of the Guide oriented to NGOs, in which Roma communities were also involved.

3. Network development and growth (incl. training, growth etc)

Training is one of the key areas of EAPN Portugal intervention. It was evaluated all the training actions developed in 2013 and it was prepared the training plan for 2014. Following the previous certification process of the Organization as a Training Entity by the General Direction of Employment and Work Relations, EAPN Portugal received a positive feedback and in 2014 it was certified in the following thematic areas: Personal Development; Management and Administration; Organization/Company Framework and Social Work and Orientation.

In terms of the annual training plan 1426 training hours were promoted, 133 training actions, involving a total of 2372 trainees. According to the evaluation, the year 2014 had a training implementation within the average of the last 2 years (quite high). The request for the

promotion of training in different subjects like Individual Plans, and or the need for further development of this theme, were a contribution for this high volume of training.

Following the previous years, EAPN Portugal had developed in 2014 an internal training for their own employees on *Poverty, Exclusion and Inclusion: History and Histories*.

Looking to EAPN Portugal as a Network of organizations, at the end of the year, we had 704 collective members and 726 individual members (total of 1430).

The mobilization of EAPN PT members remained a difficulty during 2014 but is still an important priority. On this area it was developed a Survey on Members satisfaction with EAPN Portugal services. It was received 178 answers and in general the feedback was quite positive; and the IV National Meeting of EAPN PT Members, with 128 participants. This Meeting was oriented to the discussion on the challenges of the European project, especially taking in consideration the European Elections. There was also developed a set of workshops on the 2 key areas of the National Strategy to Fight Poverty identified by the Working Group.

Two last comments are related to: the Research on the Impact of the Crisis in social economy entities that started in 2014 but it will be finished in 2015. With this research EAPN Portugal continues its investment in increasing the knowledge about this sector; and finally the permanent collaboration with EAPN Castilla & León. During 2014 it was organized the IV Cross Border Conferences involving EAPN Castilla & León, EAPN Regional Networks of Bragança; Vila Real, Guarda and Viseu.

4. Good governance and strong internal democracy (including finances, management, statutory governance)

During 2014 the team responsible for the assessment of the Strategic Plan of EAPN Portugal continued its work of evaluation and preparation of the new SP, involving all the internal stakeholders.

EAPN Portugal continued its process of internal qualification and, in 2014 it was prepared a Welcome Guide for New Staff Members; Welcome Guide for New Members of NCC/LCC; Development of security and self protection measures and an Internal Survey on staff satisfaction.

It's also important to highlight that financing activities is a key issue for EAPN Portugal. Training has contributed to the collection of some income. During 2014 it was developed 47 training actions self-financed, with a total of 560 hours and involving 815 trainees.

