



Cilap Eapn Italia

2014 Activity Report

In 2014, Cilap Eapn Italia continued the advocacy activities of our network, despite the difficulties to assert a “European approach”. Indeed, the comparison with regional and national organizations, which are typically “Italian”, often forces us to setbacks, also caused by the shortage of funding. Because of this limited resources, we cannot achieve a full activity, as would be necessary.

In 2014, alliances with the international campaign "Banning Poverty" and the national campaign "Miseria Ladra" continued. After the conference of SMES Europe held in Rome in March 2013, the collaboration with the European Network for Mental Health (Mr. Luigi Leonori) has continued both at national level, with a series of meetings for the finalization of a joint project on "poverty and mental illness", and at European level, with the development of EAPN internal discussions on the need of a task force concerning this issue.

Work with networks will be the subject of discussion in the assembly of June 2015, because CILAP presence is required on many negotiating tables and we are not always able to meet all commitments. Among these tables: Ministry of Social Affairs on FEAD table (aid to needy people) and the

forthcoming establishment of National Operative Programme on Social Inclusion, under 2014-2020 financial programming.

The national conference of EMIN project closure, held in October 2014, was an opportunity to strengthen the debate on minimum income in Italy. The conference was attended by project partners, senior representatives of the Ministry of Labour (DG Social Inclusion), European Commission, Trade Unions. The conference was also an opportunity to strengthen partnerships with the University of Milan and with the independent expert of the European Commission.

CILAP Eapn Italia boasts its characteristic of independent organization, free from political parties, trade unions and religious organizations. This feature forces CILAP to face a number of difficulties, such as financial problems and limited listening skills by politicians. This situation limits CILAP Eapn Italia in its ability to affect wide sectors of public opinion and media.

Participation of people with experience of poverty

Besides the empowerment activities of people experiencing poverty (see paragraph on Grundtvig project) in 2014, CILAP participated in the annual meeting held in Brussels. A new group of delegates of people in poverty has been created this year, thanks to the actions conducted with some associated organizations, which organized focus groups in order to search new participants. The Working Group was conducted by Sirio Di Capua, Sabrina Emilio, Rosa Matera and coordinated by Letizia Cesarini Sforza. The delegation's working paper is available for download on CILAP website (www.cilap.eu).

The working group also organized a seminar on "early school leaving and poverty" in Bitonto (BA) on June 6th, 2014. The seminar, held in a Comprehensive School, was attended by teachers, parents, people in poverty, local and regional public administrators, headmasters. Meeting was organized with the active participation of our associated organization "Maestri di Strada" of Naples and the presence of Cesare Moreno, President of the association.

PROJECTS IN 2014

Emin project (**European Minimum Income Network**) started in February 2013 and gave an additional contribution to Cilap success as European thematic network. The project considered two years of national and European activities. In 2014, many of the President's representational activities have been limited to the management and coordination of Emin project; this year, with the addition of Marica Iorio as secretary and Nicola Perrone as responsible for press and communication, it has been possible to have a functioning microstructure. Thanks to this project, the work with national experts and EU (European Commission and Irish network) has been strengthened. See the final report of EMIN project upon request to the Secretariat.

At European level, CILAP participated in meetings of the Management Committee of the project, *peer review* meetings and two European conferences held in Paris and Brussels. In 2014, Fiopds (national branch of Feantsa) and ATD Fourth World joint, in addition to those organizations that had already done in 2013. The national conference was organized (October 8th, 2014). The final report in Italian and English is now available.

Furthermore, Grundtvig project "ICE – Increasing Citizenship and Empowerment in Europe" ended with a three-day meeting in Avellino (one

day was reserved to the meeting and working groups with Sant'Angelo dei Lombardi prisoners). For further information: www.progettoice.eu

The commitment of CILAP EAPN ITALIA to EAPN EUROPE

Since 2012, Letizia Cesarini Sforza has been the vice-president of EAPN while Vito Telesca has taken part in "EU ISG" group (Strategic inclusion group).

Governance and internal democracy

Visibility

Materials and views expressed by EAPN are fundamental for Cilap Eapn Italia: it is a joint work between networks coordinated by EAPN Europe, which reflects our positions and characterises us as European (not just national) network. This justifies our choice of translating the most important press releases and news. The budget cuts to EAPN by the Commission do not allow the publication and translation anymore.

We also chose to translate and publicize the EAPN publication on children's poverty with a further chapter dedicated to Italian children's conditions, edited by Eurochild Italia ("L'albero della vita" foundation) and CILAP.

The website (www.cilap.eu) remains the main tool of CILAP Eapn Italia to spread news, initiatives etc. and it is also a sort of "archive" of all the events organized or attended.

Two Facebook pages: "Collegamento italiano lotta alla povertà" (Italian anti-poverty network) and "Rete italiana per il reddito minimo" (Italian network for minimum income), but also Twitter, are other important communication and visibility tools.

Since the end of 2013, CILAP press office has spread everything about our network.

A new e-mail address is specific for communication and exploited to send all the press releases and news published on the website (ufficio.stampa@cilap.eu).

A new contract with Redattore Sociale was stipulated in order to publicize press releases from September 2014 to September 2015.

Internal structure

All statutory activities of CILAP Eapn Italia were conducted regularly though, at least for the meetings of the Board, we made use of Skype.

As for European meetings of people in poverty, Sabrina Emilio and Letizia Cesarini Sforza continued to work together.

Marica Iorio, from “Maestri di Strada” association, is responsible for the technical secretariat of CILAP.

As a result of the general assembly in 2012, it was decided to restore a membership fee to CILAP Eapn Italia, but paid by only a few members until now (even if the cost is very low).

Criticality

The participation of Board members to statutory activities remains limited.

It is difficult to attend all meetings and tables where CILAP is invited, because many of them take place in Rome; hence, attendance must be guaranteed mainly by Nicoletta Teodosi and Letizia Cesarini Sforza, if not occupied with EAPN.

Feedback of those who participate on behalf of CILAP in events organized by other organizations is absent.

The shortage of economic resources forced us to leave the office situated in Via Statilio Ottato in August 2014.

Updated August 23, 2015.