

ANTI POVERTY FORUM MALTA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

24TH FEBRUARY 2015-02-23

SECRETARY'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dear members, I would like to thank you and welcome you to this Annual General Meeting being held today this 24th February 2015. This report covers the period from February 2014 to February 2015.

During this period the Executive Committee has met 14 times.

EMIN PROJECT

The first task for APF this year was the EMIN Project. The EMIN Project was a two year project funded by the European Commission aimed at the progressive realisation of adequate and accessible minimum income schemes in the EU member states. During 2014, EU member states analysed Minimum Income Schemes in their respective countries. To tackle this task the EXCO decided to hand this over to the Sub-Committee which had been set up in 2013. As you had been informed in the last AGM, the EMIN selected co-ordinator Dr. Maria Farrugia had gone to Paris to attend the first meeting of the co-ordinators. However since the sub-committee did not manage to conclude the Agreement with Dr. Farrugia, the sub committee approached Mr. Leonid McKay to be the new co-ordinator for the EMIN project, which he accepted. And may I take this opportunity to thank him for his sterling work on this research project

The findings of this research were launched at a National Conference held at Dar I-Ewropa on Tuesday 14th October 2014. Mr. Fintan Farrell from EAPN, Ms. Audrey Deane from EAPN Ireland, Dr. Michael Farrugia - Minister of Family and Social Solidarity and Mr. Clyde Pule – Shadow Minister addressed the conference. A presentation of the EMIN research report by Mr. Leonid McKay was also given to the Parliamentary Social Affairs Committee and copies of this report given to all members of the Committee.

ELECTING CHAMPIONS FOR A SOCIAL EUROPE

On the 7th April 2014, APF Malta, on an initiative of EAPN, organised a Meeting where all the prospective MEPs were invited to attend. At the meeting the 'show you commitment Card' was presented and 11 candidates signed the card. The scope of this initiative was to get a commitment from the elected MEPs to support our fight against poverty in the European Parliament.

'IN – WORK POVERTY CONFERENCE

A document regarding this relatively new phenomenon of in-work poverty was released by EAPN and translated into Maltese by Cynthia Zerafa. The EXCO also felt that such an issue ne discussed locally. A conference was therefore organised and held at Dar l-Ewropa on 12 June 2014. The main speakers at this conference were the Officials of the UHM and GWU. The translation and the conference were co-funded by EAPN.

PEOPLE EXPERIENCING POVERTY (P.E.P.) MEETING

Several EXCO meetings were dedicated to the PEP meeting 2014 to be held in Brussels. One of the meetings was also held in Gozo at the Oasi Foundation since one of the people attending the PEP meeting in Brussels resided in Gozo and was also a client of the Oasi Foundation. The theme of last year's meeting was 'Funding the Fight against poverty, including use of the Structural Funds. As part of the preparation for this meeting, APF Malta organised a Round Table Conference held on Thursday 24th July 2014 at the Archbishops' Curia in Floriana. People experiencing poverty and their representatives, Experts on Structural funds and NGOs participated at this conference.

The members of APF Malta attending the PEP conference in Brussels were Fr. Vince Magri and Cynthia Zerafa.

RTK RADIO PROGRAMMES

Another success story for APF Malta is the ongoing weekly radio programme produced and presented by APF (Cynthia Zerafa) on RTK. The weekly programmes started in October 2014 and will end in March 2015, a total of 26 programmes broadcasted every Wednesday at 12.15. The various topics of these programmes are related to poverty and social exclusion.

NEWSPAPER INSERT

Also APF has prepared a 4 page insert on poverty to be inserted in the main Sunday newspapers . This is being sponsored by the European Commission Office in Malta and should be published in March 2015.

NEW MEMBER

At the EXCO meeting held on 3rd February 2014 the committee accepted 'Allejanza kontra il faqar' as full members of APF

Finally the EXCO has nominated Saviour Grima to be the co-ordinator of this year's PEP meeting.

I would like thank all members for their support.

Godwin Callus

Secretary