

ANNUAL REPORT 2015 – Abstract

MAIN LINES OF ACTION

1. ADVOCACY

During 2015, EAPN-ES has continued to create **spaces to strengthen the participation of people experiencing poverty in policies that affect them and to promote reflection and critical thinking on the causes of social exclusion that lead to poverty**, as one of its main tools to address and tackle those fundamental issues.

In this election year -Spanish general election was held in December and most of the Autonomous Communities (Spanish regions) had elections in May- **EAPN-ES has been particularly active to lobby at national, regional and local level**, through letters, press releases, statements and position papers, alliances and partnerships, campaigns and events, to push for a significant change in the social policies in order to reduce poverty, increase employment and tackle educational exclusions. In this context, **EAPN-ES has claimed for a National Social Pact** to fight against poverty and social exclusion.

At political level, EAPN-ES had **periodic meetings with the Economic Office of the President of the Government, with different parliamentary groups and political parties, as well as with the main Trade Unions**, to present EAPN policy proposals.

In the framework of the activity of the **Third Sector Platform**, in which EAPN-ES holds the Vice-presidency of Social Policies and European Affairs, EAPN-ES has participated in the **“Civil Dialogue Table”**, together with the Government of Spain, as well as developed a **follow-up to different legislative proposals**:

- Grants Law
- Third Sector Law
- Volunteer Law
- European Public Procurement Directive

EAPN-ES has also contributed to:

- Proposals to the National Reform Programme 2015
- Proposals to the Partnership Agreement (European Social Fund)
- Contributions to the different Operational Programmes of the European Social Fund

Furthermore, EAPN-ES has coordinated the contributions of its member organizations and participants on the elaboration of the **Strategy against Homelessness**.

In addition, **it has participated in the TIPI Project, in collaboration with CIECODE**, in order to **monitor parliamentary activity and data journalism**.

Finally, EAPN-ES has been very active in the area of **Minimum Income** both at European level, claiming for a new directive, as well as at national level, presenting Studies and **Proposals to improve minimum-income scheme coverage for the most vulnerable**, its effectiveness as a key tool in the fight against poverty and the transparency of its management.

2. TRAININGS

Throughout 2015 numerous training actions have been carried out to **educate volunteers in the skills needed to perform their social work**, as well as to develop their **capacity to improve People Experiencing Poverty participation in the life of the community**.

Part of the programme activities has been dedicated to **develop training sessions for NGOs workers**, in charge of the management, work and coordination of volunteer activities. Likewise within this programme, **EAPN-ES has fostered the participation of People Experiencing Poverty** in several activities aimed at fighting against exclusion. In 2015, more than 2170 people took part in EAPN-ES activities, in the different Spanish regions.

3. RAISING AWARENESS

EAPN-ES coordinated awareness raising campaigns on poverty and social exclusion, aimed at reflecting on the responsibility of the society in shaping the social image of the people at risk of exclusion, with **great public and media impact**. EAPN-ES also carried out awareness campaigns to spread **fundamental values** in schools throughout Spain.

For the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, October 17th, “The State of Poverty” Report has been presented with a successful press release and media coverage. The Report follows up the European indicator AROPE (At Risk of Poverty and/or Exclusion), to raise public awareness on the critical situation of 13 million people, that are living at risk of exclusion in Spain.

Moreover a wide range of activities have been developed in all the regions, in order to raise awareness and lobbying for better policies to fight poverty and social exclusion. As, for example, the **Ágora de Comunicación Social "Compartiendo desconocimiento"**, organized in collaboration with the Spanish Volunteering Platform, with more than 100 participants, where the different ways to communicate social exclusion and diversity were analyzed. Or the **Third Edition of Short Story on Poverty, Social Exclusion and Volunteering Prize**.

4. PARTICIPATION

EAPN-ES lobbies for and with people experiencing poverty and their organizations and seeks to empower them to be actors of change. So the **participation of people experiencing poverty in the structures and work of EAPN-ES is a key principle**. For this reason, over the years, the Spanish Network has improved ways to integrate the participants in the organization structures, either through the **Meetings of People Experiencing Poverty**, both at regional and national level, or through the **working groups on participation and inclusion**.

On September 17th and 18th, the network celebrated the **Participation Meeting 'Housing and Homelessness'** and the Seminar **'Evaluation of the 30 years of Spain in the European Union'** in Barcelona, with delegations from all over the country (150 people).

In order to share knowledge between the participants of each regional delegation and to start working on the theme of the National Meeting, **Participation Seminars and working groups were held in all the regions**, in the first semester of the year, **with more than 2300 participants**.

In addition, **a delegation of five people from EAPN-ES** took part in the **XIV European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty** held in Brussels on 19th and 20th of November 2015.

Also, as a novelty, **six People Experiencing Poverty and/or social exclusion** participated in the **Annual Seminar and General Assembly of the EAPN-ES in Madrid**.

5. FIGHT AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

EAPN-ES developed a **Plan of Measures for the implementation of the principles and values of gender equality in the Network**, following the Plan developed in this regard by the Third Sector Platform. The Plan specifically establishes the promotion of equal treatment and non-discrimination within EAPN-ES.

On the other hand, EAPN-ES promoted throughout 2015 several important actions to promote gender equality:

- Participation in the **Equal Treatment Group of the NGO State Council**.
- Participation in the **Monitoring Committee for the Operational Programme against Discrimination** at the state level.

In addition, EAPN-ES always takes into account in its structure and activity **both gender equality and accessibility**.

6. EUROPEAN CONTEXT

EAPN Europe held its General Assembly and Annual Seminar in Bilbao (July 2nd – 4th). EAPN Spain, in collaboration with EAPN Euskadi, organized and coordinated the event.

Throughout 2015 **EAPN-ES have been working on the EAPN Europe model MASS / SEAS (EAPN Partner Evaluation and Accompaniment System)** whose objective, in addition to transparency and accountability, is the cohesive work on four axes such as advocacy; participation of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion; development and growth of the network, internal governance and democracy.

Moreover EAPN-ES, as member of EAPN Europe took part in **the EAPN Task Forces, Executive Committee and General Assembly**, and in those events organized by EAPN-EU or other organizations of special relevance to achieve our main objective: **a Europe free from social exclusion**.

MAJOR 2015 PROJECTS

- **Project "Treinta años de la Unión Europea en España"**. Funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.
- **Erasmus + Project:** "Juventud, motor de transformación social en Europa".
- **Pilot project: "El impacto de la crisis en las mujeres"** funded by EAPN, developed in collaboration with EAPN Italy.
- **Delphi Panel** for the study of the University of Alcalá de Henares, promoted by Plataforma ONG de Acción Social, and within the framework of the Financial Mechanism EEAA 2009-2014, **about the situation and future recommendations for the Third Sector in Spain**.

- **Transnational partnership for the exchange of experiences and good practices in accessing the labor market of young people** with the Ministry of Labor, Social Protection, Family and Elderly of Romania and the Novapolis Association of Romania (Member of EAPN Romania).

Finally as every year, EAPN-ES supported EAPN-EU initiatives, such as the **Campaign for an adequate and accessible Minimum Income Schemes in the European Union (Project EMIN) and the Campaign for Human Right to Water and Sanitation.**