

EAPN Portugal_Annual Report 2015

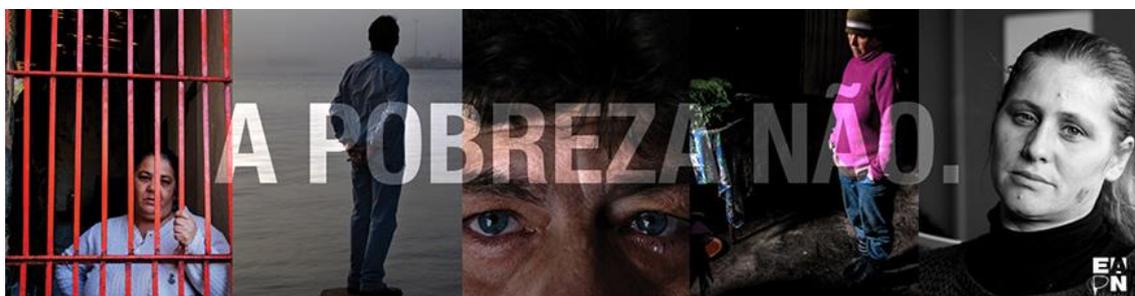
Summary

1. Influencing government for policy change

2015 was an important year for the work developed by EAPN Portugal within the working group for the National Strategy to fight Poverty and Social Exclusion. It was elaborated and then published (September) the document: “Compromisso para uma Estratégia Nacional de Erradicação da Pobreza” (“Commitment for a National Strategy for Poverty Eradication”). This document was public presented in a conference (16th September) and was sent to 3500 public and private entities at national level, as well as to the political parties and other important stakeholders.

In the first half of 2015 EAPN Portugal has also requested audiences to the political parties and received positive feedback from all the parties, with exception of *Greens*. It was also developed a Round Table in the National Parliament on May 18 and 3 regional meetings in order to debate and disseminate the work of this group.

In order to continue the work of promoting some public awareness on poverty issues, EAPN Portugal launched the National Campaign «A Pobreza NÃO» (*Poverty NO*) with 5 posters, 5 photos and 5 sentences to draw attention to poverty complexity. This campaign was in the ‘street’ during the week of 17th of October and the photos were taken by 4 photojournalists and Sérgio Aires (EAPN Europe president).



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 Monitoring 20% of ESF on poverty and participation (3 meetings and 1 public event)
- The People Experiencing Poverty European coordination group (1 meeting with the national coordinators; 4 preparatory meetings at national level with the Portuguese delegation; the European meeting);

In parallel with some of these events EAPN Portugal also participate in the Seminar of CILAP “Let’s not leave them behind”, with a communication and in the Policy Conference. The EUISG member participated in a national meeting with the Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion (19 January); in the Civil Society seminar of DG ECFIN (24/25 march); in the national European Semester office (26 may) and in the final seminar of the Pilot Project Europe 2020 – More Participation, Better Governance (16 December).

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:

- analysis and revision of the EAPN Assessment of the National Reform Programme 2015;
- analysis and revision of the report Through social innovation to better social inclusion in the EU (task force social innovation) (it was also identified 4 national best practices on social innovation and one was included in the final product of this task force);
- response to the questionnaire Access to Housing and Public health Services;
- contributes for the meeting Structure Dialogue with DG employment / EC (immigration and refugees);

At internal level:

- preparation of a document to the national European Semester office: EAPN Portugal Opinion on Social Policies
- Em Análise nº 28 “Poverty issues in the National Reform Programme”
- Report with European and National Indicators on poverty and social exclusion (this report is updated twice a year and gathers different social indicators).
- position paper “Building a better future for our children: an investment, a profit and a common responsibility” (developed in the scope of the working group for child poverty)
- position paper on the national social report 2015;
- preparation and dissemination of the report “Commitment for a National Strategy for Poverty Eradication”.
- elaboration and dissemination of 6 numbers of the “European Agenda”. This newsletter was designed to provide information to EAPN Portugal members and staff on the work developed at European level and within EAPN Europe.

During 2015, EAPN Portugal assumed the coordination of the Task Force Monitoring 20% of ESF on poverty and participation. The members of the task force were EAPN Bulgaria, EAPN Estonia, EAPN Germany, EAPN Romania, EAPN Spain and EAPN Europe. The task force meet 3 times, produce a questionnaire that was sent to all the National Networks and organized a round table in Oporto at 22 September, with the participation of EAPN Europe, the members of the Task Force and representatives of the Portuguese Operational Programme social inclusion and employment the Programme Portugal Social Innovation. This task force ended in

December with the following outputs: Barometer Report (full report and executive summary); Infographic.

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 NGOs (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), the coordination of the Lisbon Observatory to Fight Poverty and the presidency of the Non Governmental Forum for Social Inclusion (FNGIS). This last entity was responsible for the implementation of the Pilot Project Europe 2020 – More Participation, Better Governance, developed in the scope of EAPN Europe and in partnership with EAPN Bulgaria. Within this project it was developed an explainer on Europe 2020; 2 capacity building workshops on Europe 2020; one transnational seminar in Lisbon and a Video named: Europe 2020 – More Participation, Better Governance – The Voice of the Citizens.

This year the participation of EAPN Portugal was extended to a new working group – Plataforma de Apoio aos Refugiados (Platform to support Refugees). This platform was born from civil society and its main aim is to make people aware of refugee's situation and provide support for their welcome in the country.

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 2015 EAPN Portugal promoted:

- 4 meetings with the National Council of Citizens (NCC): this NCC is composed by 1 representative of each Local Council of Citizens and has its own working plan. This NCC presented contributes for the national forum; for the new Strategic Plan of EAPN Portugal (2016-2018) that was prepared during this year and for the Iberia Conference. Within this group it was also prepared the contents (index) for the guide on poverty and social exclusion; and gathered contributes for 2016 working plan.
- 131 local meetings with the Local Councils of Citizens (LCC): these meetings are organized at local level by the regional networks of EAPN. Each LCC are different not only because of the number of the members but also because of the profile of each member. These meetings also contribute for the work developed at national level.
- 3 regional meetings: these meetings gather LCC by regions, ie, those LCC located at north of the country meet at regional level and the same for those located at the center and south. This is a way to exchange practices, ideas and enhance their

commitment to each other and also with EAPN. These regional meetings are thematic. This year were dedicated to poverty, development, stereotypes, prejudices.

- 4 training workshops: EAPN Portugal realized that existed among the members some stereotypes concerning Social Insertion Income beneficiaries. Taking this in consideration it was developed these workshops to explore this measure and demystify some of the wrong ideas about it. For this it was also used the video produced in EMIN project.
- National Forum (with the participation of all the members): 2 days event, one being dedicated to a Dialogue with Citizens (“Conversa com os Cidadãos”). It was also prepared a Wall on Human Rights and the presentation of a play “Espelho Mágico” (“Magic Mirror”).
- Jornadas Ibéricas sobre Participação (Board Conference on Participation): this conference was prepared with EAPN Spain and involves the participation of people in poverty on both sides of the border (Portugal and Spain).
- European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty: the delegation that attended the Meeting was, once again, selected among the members of LCC. It was prepared different materials with the message: “We have had ENOUGH WORDS. It’s time for concrete ACTION”.



In terms of materials produced during this year:

- It was finalized and disseminated the Welcome Guide Members for the LCC (“Dê a sua voz. Junte-se a nós” – “Give your voice. Join us”).
- The web page on Participation was finalized: <http://participacao.eapn.pt/>
- It was translated to Portuguese the report: “Giving a Voice to Citizens: guidelines for decision”.
- It was printed the Practical Guide to work with vulnerable groups: “Formação para a inclusão de Públicos vulneráveis” (“Training for the inclusion of vulnerable groups”).

Concerning projects, EAPN Portugal developed Project Click (continues in 2016) whose area of work is the employability of vulnerable target groups and the employers' social responsibility.

It is a mediation project in job offer and demand, developing a complementarity tool to employment public services through sessions that promote a further development of unemployed target groups' soft skills, and also raise awareness and build capacity for the social responsibility of potential employers.

This project doesn't focus only on a direct link between what the labor market demands and what the potential collaborator has to offer. With it, we take this connection further, building



it together in an adaptation process for both parties (<http://click.eapn.pt/>)

In 2015 EAPN continued its work with Roma Communities, not only developing working sessions with adult members of these communities (like women and parents) but also with young people and children (inside schools).

Once again, EAPN Portugal, in partnership with other entities, organized and developed a "Week on Interculturality". In 2015 the districts that have joined this initiative were Porto, Aveiro, Guarda and Viseu. Roma issues were the main focus of the majority of the activities that were developed in this Week.

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

Training is one of the key areas of EAPN Portugal intervention. EAPN Portugal is 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 882 training hours were promoted, 70 training actions, involving a total of 1369 trainees. According to the evaluation, the requests for the year 2015 were oriented to specific subjects like: design of projects, preparation of project applications, social intervention methodologies (preparation of individual plans for adult and children groups), intervention with elderly and families, motivation and team management, conflict management and professional stress, fundraising and NGO management.

Following the previous years, EAPN Portugal had developed in 2015 an internal training for their own employees on SROI methodology and measurement results and organizational performance management.

Considering the mobilization and participation of EAPN Portugal members, it was developed in 2015 regional meetings and not a national event to guarantee a better mobilization of these entities. It were developed 3 regional meetings, which together gathered 190 members. In these meetings it was debated the following subjects: role of civil society organizations in fighting poverty and social exclusion; transference of State social skills to the civil society organizations; structural funds; allocation of 20% of SF to fight poverty and social exclusion.

It was also prepared the main contents for the elaboration of a Kit Member.

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

During 2015 it was prepared a set of instruments to collect proposals for the new Strategic Plan of EAPN Portugal for 2016-2018. The instruments were applied to different target groups: members, people experiencing poverty that participate in LCC, external stakeholders. In the second semester it was prepared a first proposal of the new SP that was put under debate in the national meeting of December.

In 2015 it was started a new internal group on Strategic Partnerships. EAPN Portugal is represented in different platforms at national and local level and there are others that is necessary to make some lobby to guarantee the participation of this organization and/or to put poverty and social exclusion in the agenda. This internal group on strategic partnerships meet 3 times and in this first year made a diagnosis on all the platforms in which EAPN Portugal is a member and on the main key subjects that need to be in the working agenda of these platforms. The members of this group are: the executive director, the external consultant of EAPN, one representative of each department of the main office and 3 representatives of the regional networks (north, center and south). The importance of this group is quite significant, specially taking in consideration that during 2015, 14 regional networks of EAPN Portugal (Aveiro, Porto, Portalegre, Viana do Castelo, Vila Real, Braga, Viseu, Guarda, Castelo Branco, Lisboa, Beja, Évora, Faro e Setúbal) were included in 18 new partnerships – Desenvolvimento Local de Base Comunitária (DLBC) (Community Based Approach to Local Development), following the new structural funds.

It's also important to highlight that EAPN Portugal decided to change its statutes in order to guarantee the inclusion of people experiencing poverty, that participate in LCC, as members. Until this moment, only civil society organizations or individual persons could be members of EAPN, but with this change the participants of LCC can also be free members (is not required to pay any fee) of this organization.

