

EAPN Portugal_Annual Report 2016

Summary

1. Influencing government for policy change

In 2016 EAPN Portugal continued its efforts to influence the definition of a National Strategy to fight Poverty and Social Exclusion, through the working group on this subject. In January, in Lisbon, it was presented the document: “Compromisso para uma Estratégia Nacional de Erradicação da Pobreza” (“Commitment for a National Strategy for Poverty Eradication”) and it was developed 5 meetings of the group. EAPN Portugal also requested audiences to the political parties and received positive feedbacks from 4 parties: Communist Party; Social Democratic Party; Left Block and Greens. A meeting was also held with the President of Parliament (Eduardo Ferro Rodrigues) on May 4th and the Seminar: Fight against poverty: the reality and proposals of the social sector in Portugal – on November 16th with the presence of the President of the Republic Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa.



5 pictures used in the Campaign Poverty NO

In order to continue the work of promoting some public awareness on poverty issues, EAPN Portugal (Re)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 2016 it was also presented a new National Campaign – «A Discriminação é falta de Educação» (*Discrimination is lack of Education*) with 20 photos, 20 Roma people, 20 professional backgrounds. The photos were taken by Sérgio Aires and the work was coordinated by Maria José Vicente. It was produced postcards, posters, a video and a publication (*Singular do Plural*). The aim was to share positive testimonies of Roma men and women from 18 to 65 years old who claim the right to equality.

"He's Roma. Always moving from place to place"

Carlos Miguel - Secretary of State for Local Authorities

In terms of influencing Government is also important to mention the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) Program. EAPN Portugal was one of the national networks that tried to implement ECORYS project in Portugal, but it was not succeed due to the non-cooperation of the National Institute for Social Security (one of the key entities responsible for the previous

program). Nevertheless this project and the possibility to participate in the transnational conference of FEAD (3rd of June) and in one of the workshops (7th of November) it was possible to establish contact with the National Authority responsible for FEAD in Portugal. Due to this contact EAPN Portugal was one of the entities contacted to give inputs for the concept of economic deprivation and food basket.

During 2016 EAPN Portugal also tightened its relation with the National Semester Office, due to all the work developed on the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) consultation. Besides having answered to the European consultation of the EPSR and making it public at national level, EAPN Portugal has also received a request from the Office of Strategy and Planning of the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security to present their views on the EPSR. EAPN Portugal has also participated in the national seminar promoted by the Semester Officer on 20th of September. This seminar was attended by EAPN President (Sérgio Aires) as a speaker in the opening session. EAPN Portugal has also received an invitation to participate in another seminar organized by a Delegation of Counselors of the European Economic and Social Committee (11th of October).

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);
- Membership Development Group (2 meetings);
- Task Force Monitoring 20% of ESF on poverty and participation (1 meeting with Sali Guntín);
- Participation in the Annual Convention as a speaker in a side event on ESF;
- 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 the president of EAPN Europe participated in the National Members Meeting of EAPN Portugal as a speaker.

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:

- publication of the Barometer Report and preparation of a second questionnaire to gather information on the implementation of the 20% of the ESF;
- analysis and revision of the EAPN Assessment of the Country Reports and proposals for Country Specific Recommendations 2016;
- analysis and revision of the EAPN Assessment of the National Reform Programme 2016;
- analysis and revision of the EAPN position paper on the European Pillar of Social Rights;

- analysis and revision of the EAPN's Analysis of the 2016 Annual Growth Survey & Joint Employment Report.
- analysis and revision of the Report "Access to affordable quality housing and public health services".
- analysis and revision of the document "EAPN Inclusive Labour Market position".

At internal level:

- position paper on the "Refugees Crisis in Europe" (March);
- position paper on the National Reforms Programme (May);
- position paper on the Country Specific Recommendations (June);
- position paper on the European Pillar of Social Rights (December);
- - report with European and National Indicators on poverty and social exclusion (this report is updated twice a year and gathers different social indicators).
- preparation and dissemination of 1 *Em Análise* on the assessment of the Country Report Portugal.
- elaboration and dissemination of 3 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.

EAPN Portugal also continued its active participation in some key working groups and entities at national level, like the National Commission for the Protection of Children and young people at risk; 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 ended in 2015), the coordination of the Lisbon Observatory to Fight Poverty and the presidency of the Non Governmental Forum for Social Inclusion (FNGIS).

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 2016 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 VIII national forum; prepared the Guide "Poverty and Social Exclusion: first person look"; presented ideas for a campaign on Human Rights.

- 171 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 (Évora; Porto and Coimbra): 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 (SNAKE methodology); exchange of good practices developed at local level; stereotypes.
- 10 local training workshops dedicated to participation.
- National Forum (with the participation of all the members): 2 days event, one in the Parliament with members of political parties and the other more internal but with the presence of key actors in the sector of Health, Education, Employment, Housing and Social Protection.
- 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: “Let’s Break the Paradigm”.



15th European meeting of people experiencing poverty
Brussels 15th-16th November 2016
Message from the portuguese delegation

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Graphics © Augusto Pires

In terms of materials produced during this year:

- It was finalized and disseminated the Guide “Poverty and Social Exclusion: first person look”
- Update of the web page on Participation: <http://participacao.eapn.pt/>
- It was translated to Portuguese the report of the 1st learning forum of EAPN Europe.
- It was produced by all the CLC of central region a Campaign on stereotypes: “Undress Prejudice. Wear Inclusion”.

Concerning projects, EAPN Portugal continued its work on Project Click whose area of work is the employability of vulnerable target groups and the employers' social responsibility. (<http://click.eapn.pt/>)



In 2016 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 2016 the districts that have joined this initiative were Porto, Guarda, Viseu, Vila Real, Bragança e Beja. 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 1 352 training hours were promoted, 111 training actions, involving a total of 1973 trainees. According to the evaluation, the requests for the year 2016 were oriented to specific subjects like: design of projects, preparation of project applications, evaluation of results and social impacts, 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 2016 3 internal training for their own employees on FATIMA methodology, Communication and mobilize companies for social projects.

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

In 2016 it was finalized the new Strategic Plan of EAPN Portugal for 2016-2018.

The internal group on Strategic Partnerships continued its work with a focus on the work of the Community Based Approach to Local Development (CBALD) that was design in 2015. EAPN Portugal is included in 18 new CBALD, following the new structural funds.

EAPN Portugal celebrated in 2016 its 25th anniversary in 2016 and it planned a set of events to not only make more visible the work of this organization but also to make it more visible to the general public and also to the political level:

- Edition of a book about the 25 years of EAPN Portugal. This book was made by an historian and it was public presented in the end of the year. In the presentation of the book it was presented the Minister of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security – José António Vieira da

Silva and a set of partners of EAPN Portugal, like Jordi Estivill, Carlos Susias (President of EAPN Spain), José Fresno, Isidro Rodríguez (President of Fundacion Secretariado Gitano), staff and members of the Organisation.

- Photo Exhibition “Weltschmerz” prepared by Sérgio Aires. This exhibition was inaugurated by the Minister of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security.
- Commemorative Dinner of 25 years of EAPN Portugal with the presence of the board members, staff, volunteers, members of the National Council of Citizens and key partners.
- Conference *Economy of Poverty and Poverty of Economy* (17th of October) that bring together a group of recognized national economists who reflected and analyzed the economic models that exist in Portugal and Europe and how these models influence the poverty.
- Event *Poverty Eradication: reality or utopia?* (28th November). That followed Ted methodology and that was facilitated by a set of recognized public figures in different areas of Portuguese society: art; theater; sport; music...
- Solidarity Concert with the group “Virgem Suta” (28th November) opened to all the citizens.

