**Synthesis of findings from meetings with European Organisations**

The meetings have been carried out between mid-January and now, and Leo undertook most of them.

EOs involved: Eurodiaconia, FEANTSA, FEBA, AGE, ATD 4th World and Eurochild

**Motivation for becoming EAPN members**

* EAPN has a broad overview on poverty and a wider scope, it does not focus on a single theme or group. This makes it easier for EAPN to access policy spaces.
* EAPN is perceived as having a leading role in discussions on poverty at EU level

**Role of EOs in EAPN**

The role of EOs in EAPN is not very clear for those we have met

* Smaller EOs have more of a need for EAPN than the bigger well-funded ones do - those who are not necessarily Brussels based, those with less resources have a need for EAPN to open up the space for them.
* The role of EOs is to provide thematic expertise
* Some EOs feel they are second class members and that NNs have priority and are not satisfied with the situation
* Eurochild thinks that EAPN should be accountable to NNs, and NNs should have a balanced view of the different sectors and actors. It would be better to push collaboration at the national level than insist on everything being equal at the regional level, as others want.

**Expectations of EOs from EAPN**

* **Eurodiaconia** sees a clear role for EAPN as a leading organisation on poverty, but they would like to see us not blocking others who are working on this, and not always promoting ourselves as better than other organisations also working on similar issues.
* **FEANTSA** - EAPN should recognise the expertise of EOs, for example with policy papers. EAPN should use more modern ways of working - too much is done by face to face meetings, more should be done electronically / calls. EAPN should provide access to EOs to political spaces.
* **FEBA** – wants EAPN not to block their main advocacy point at the moment, which is that EU funds should go directly to food banks rather than to NGOs which are supporting food banks (their members run the food banks directly and are all volunteers so they feel the money goes further here). They also want EAPN to not speak out against FEAD publicly, as the whole programme will be attacked politically in the next few years. FEBA also hopes that EAPN will help them defend food aid against Germans and others through Horizon 2020 – they want the FEAD project to be renewed, it is not clear that it will be. FEBA would be keen to work with us at the national level (he mentioned France and Spain specifically)
* **AGE** - EAPN should facilitate and coordinate the group of EOs. We need to reinvent the relationship between EAPN and EOs. It has proved challenging for EAPN to make NNs understand what the role of EOs is. The recent members are less familiar with the whole evolution of EAPN. EO's pay membership fees and they are mentioned in the statues so they should be treated as equal members. One thing EAPN could do to re-engage EOs in the policy work is to organise meetings with a thematic focus that are led by EOs, this way EOs could be more visible in front of NNs. Share the history of the involvement of EOs/role of EOs of EAPN in the beginnings of the network. - **ATD 4th World** - Wants to work together with EAPN in a positive manner. Needs clear and mutual understanding of role, and meaningful spaces to engage and network. Useful to meet with other EOs and NN, though didn’t seem convinced by the usefulness of the separate EO meetings.
* **Eurochild -** Focus on the national level and bring EO expertise when needed and relevant. Take a clear decision about how we work with EOs, what the priorities are, and be clear with the whole network about this. How we work with EOs in order to reduce poverty. This clarity could allow a more meaningful conversation about collaboration at the national level.

**What EOs can bring to EAPN**

* Thematic expertise on different issues:
  + Homelessness
  + Participation of PeP, methodology
  + Youth Guarantee
  + European Social Charter and European Court of Human Rights - they have used the formal complaints procedure successfully
  + Legal existence of people in Europe
* Support and contribution when required – opportunity driven

**Challenges faced by EOs in their engagement with EAPN**

**Eurodiaconia -** Ex Co is not very strategic, it does not achieve much. It takes too long to engage with EAPN's structures. EAPN behaves as 'first amongst equals' in the social sector which rubs people and organisations up the wrong way. EAPN members are too focused on the activism at the expense of the governance of the network - this is a big challenge.

**FEANTSA** - Lack of internal political reflection with EAPN - we don't have the space to do this, so we don't have a strong political analysis. EAPN always prioritises the analysis of its NNs over the expertise of EOs, even when NNs are wrong - this means that sometimes EAPNs positions are not good, e.g. on homelessness. It is too difficult and time consuming to engage with EAPN’s structures and to get their positions reflected in our positions. Discussions / decisions are often not respected / followed through. Lack of professionalism.

**FEBA** - gets lost in all our structures, the European processes

**AGE** - Why is it difficult to have EOs members in the ExCo? Maybe some EOs do not see an added value in being part of the ExCo because they are not on the same length wave. Debate between EAPN and ATD and FEANTSA on the distinction between the most vulnerable groups. Who is the voice of people in poverty? Is EAPN that organisation? Check with the EOs that work exactly in the same area - where do they feel they still belong to the EAPN line. It would be good if some of those members would take the lead in re-shaping the relationship between EOs and EAPN. He sees this more as the responsibility of NNs and EOs who are part of the core debate.

**ATD 4th World** - is still observing. At national level, in some countries it is hard to work with EAPN because we are dominated by service providers and thus the space is not there for PeP. Hard for national ATD to get on delegation for PeP meetings because things are done too late, no time to prepare people experiencing poverty properly for the meeting. Policy positions not based enough on views of PeP.

**Eurochild** - Low impact of work through EUISG so they don’t engage. Overlap between EAPN and Social Platform when it comes to EOs. Perhaps it makes more sense for us to push for more meaningful collaboration at the national level and to bring in EO expertise when relevant. When we undermine what our European members are trying to do - sometimes this has happened with FEANTSA, though never with Eurochild. Do not only push NRPs and CSR at the national level - there are plenty of other priorities if we can escape from the EU straightjacket!