**Resolution Part 1: “Change the PEP conference in a yearly Summit of the Experienced Experts on Poverty. Start in 2018 a yearly summit on which the national delegation of the EEP’s can bring forward their resolutions, amendments, thoughts, experiences, proposals, ideas and feeling on one particular item to influence the policies and the execution of laws and regulations that influence their –daily- life.”**

**EAPN Office Question:**  *I don’t see this part as leading to big changes in the way we have done things this year (perhaps apart from the name). In 2017, the national coordinators meeting in Riga proposed 3 topics which could be discussed, and indicated that they would be happy with any of the topics. The PeP team had a preference for in-work poverty, as did the Commission. National Coordinators were happy with this. The open space we organised this year allowed EEPs to bring their thoughts, ideas, proposals and experiences directly to the meeting – the challenge now is influencing policy, laws etc based on these discussions, and this needs to happen at the national and European level.*

**Answer EAPN NL - Although it seems to be that there aren’t any big changes in the way we have done things this year and in what we are asking for in the resolution, the change essence is within the preparation phase, the extra weight on the opportunity to come forward with resolutions and ideas based on the daily reality of the EEP’s for actual change things and within the phase - what we’re going to do with those resolution - after the summit.**

**Suggestion name for the summit European Yearly EAPN Summit Experience Expert on Poverty, EYES-EEP**

**There is a difference between a overall topic and an items coming from it. Like for instance, Rent as the overall topic.. and the item or subject could be tiny houses, lowering rent, social housing, neutral energy housing for the poor, etcetera. Items and subjects that are important en realistic for the EEP’s.**

**The experience expert on poverty will come prepared (phase 1) with realistic (for them) resolutions and ideas for change on an overall (chosen?) topic. This would be an additional step to the sharing of personal stories and the traditional outcome telling that something should be changed in the line of housing (coming back to our example). Idealistically they will tell how it should be changed in their reality.**

**At the summit the experience expert on poverty will have to defend and lobby for their idea amongst each other’s and at the end they will elect from all the proposals 3 as a basis for further development. And at the start of the next summit in 2019 we start looking back at what is happened with these proposals, whether there are these proposals are being developed followed up and by whom.**

**Overall:**

1. **this will give more importance and weight to the meeting/summit**
2. **increase the visibility of our work from bottom to top to bottom again**
3. **it will involve more experience expert on poverty and local organizations within or with the national networks**
4. **and this will enhance the connection between the work of the national networks and the work of EAPN Europe.**
5. **And lastly, probably most importantly, it will increase more edit actions follow up the outcome of the summit, which is the important and most expressive complain from older people experience poverty participating in the last PEP meetings.**

**Just some ideas to support the point five:**

1. **Form a delegation with about 20 EEP’s who, on the evening of the first EYES-EEP day or the second morning of the summit, will go into conversation with MEP’s about the outcome of the EYES-EEP**
2. **create actions outdoors to increase the visibility of the outcome and the importance of the summit**

**The open space of this year gave more possibilities for bringing in your own subject and exchanging the own experiences.**

**But what will happen with the outcome? A report like always? One of the things we already can do now is let the coordinators of the pep already work with the outcome of this year through the question: “*how can we transform a part of the outcome into actions and the projects within their own national networks*”? This could prevent us from running forward to the preparation of the next meeting and leaving the opportunity to do something with the outcome behind.**

**There is not enough connection and synergy between the meetings therefore it this means there is not enough power to help the experience expert on poverty to realize the so needed change. And with this summit we would like to empower us more. And with us we mean everybody who is connected with European work from bottom till top and back to bottom again.**

**Resolution Part 2: “At the Summit three items will be elected by the delegates as working points for the year to come. EAPN will bring the outcome to the different levels, institutions, and invites all members to use these three topics for their work on local, regional and national basis.”**

*EAPN Office Question:For me, this is the tricky part which could lead to an important change in how EAPN works, and this needs to be thought through carefully, because I am not sure that most of the membership really considered the implications of this. Some issues to consider:*

1. ***Local and national level work***

*The question for me is how this might work in practise – would our national networks practically be able to match their annual work to three topics which come out of the meeting? Some networks currently set their annual priorities far in advance, and are accountable to their boards and their beneficiaries, so this might be problematic. Had you considered how this could concretely work?*

***Answer EAPN NL – they are lots of opportunities to change things within EAPN but let’s take things step-by-step. If we, for instance, would like to have, in the future, three taskforces who’ll work on the three chosen topics within EAPN from top to bottom. Let us start with just one subject***

***for instance, on the work working poor topic coming from the PeP 2017, there was the item of working poor and homeless. This could be a subject for action which will produce products, reports, suggestions how to use ESF for these and other local fit solutions. This item should be connected with national networks and European organizations who are known or specialised with this kind of problems. and they will form a task force or working group and connected dots between the UAE level and national realities.***

***Within EAPN we already have chosen one topic where everybody should focus on this kind of red line between our work. This year the topic is in work poverty. So we already do something like the suggestion above. The only difference is that we let the topic on which we decide to all work on begin defined and chosen by the experience expert on poverty coming out of this yearly summit.***

***So no big change their I think but the very good first step for changing our ways of working.***

***Another suggestion is to take in the topics coming out of the yearly summit, in our ‘poverty watch’ work. We don’t have to wait for the summit to be called summit so we already can do something with the topics, subject and items coming out of this year’s PEP.***

***If we do this taking these outcome into the poverty watch, we can compare our outcomes and do research is on this, nationally and cross nationally.***

1. ***Regional level work (EAPN office question)***

*Currently our collective work is established under the Framework Partnership Agreement with the Commission, which is then split into yearly programmes, which we have to prepare in advance and submit to the Commission. I see a few options if we are to think about moving to a new model, which could be explored:*

1. *Changing the timing of PeP, making it much earlier in the year. This could mean that we have the meeting in the 1st half of the year, and then the NC preparatory meeting would need to be in the second part of the year. This would help with the issue of timing, allowing us to build in these three topics into our annual work programme. We would need obviously the membership to agree to these topics – because concretely if they don’t, they won’t be working on them throughout the year. They have agreed in principle, via the resolution, but I suspect that getting all networks to agree to work on X Y and Z would be tricky, and there would need to be a lot of background work to make this happen!*

***Answer EAPN NL- agree- too much work and to tricky. This will increase more problems than solutions. We need to think things through how to shimmer late and support national networks to take up work coming out of the yearly summit. In our suggestion for choosing one topic this time and create one working group who will take this up from bottom to top and back again we have tried to come up with an easier step four change.***

1. *Changing our funding model, to allow much more flexibility for how we organise. In order to be able to move quickly and decide that we want to work on X Y and Z, and to meaningfully establish strands of work on these areas, extra funds could help this. We already decided to diversify funding by 20% so it could be an option to do this in order to provide flexibility on such ways of working. This would also take a lot of work, and may need to be phased in over a certain period of time.*

***Answer European NL - we are absolutely convinced that if we make the yearly summit more important, more connected, more effective for change, the European commission will be eager to pay for this. If we can make it more clearly that our work is actually connected with the daily reality even more than we already say we do through this new form of the yearly summit, they will see that this is a huge opportunity for them to learn, and to be part of a effective change. So by all means look at the funding to allow much mocked flexibility for how we organise things but trust in the strength of this idea. And time is ripe for it!***

1. *More investment (human and financial) would be needed by EAPN in this side of the work in general – staff time to ensure that this side of the work is taken forward throughout the year, energy at the national level to work with and through* ***National Coordinators****. This may involve either freeing up funds from the existing EC budget (we would need to cut from other spaces, like interpretation, number of meetings, size of various bodies etc) or from extra funds brought in from external sources (already part of the plan for 2018)*

***I don’t know if I fall into repetition, but the answer to this is give more weight to the role of the coordinators who as linking pin can do their part on implementing and following things up, as the progress on this. The finance for this should be discussed with the commission by highlighting the plus points like the enormous opportunity this kind of working will give national realities to change things for the good in line of social policies.***

***Because we have heard the Commission delegates who came to this year’s PEP, how valuable this years ‘open space’ was for them. They could meet and greet and talk with the experience expert on poverty and some of the things they’ve heard had really open their eyes.***

***We are convinced that through not just having a resolution, but fill in topics the value of this meeting will only increase.***

My current recommendations to the bureau next week are:

1. To invite EAPN Netherlands to a webinar to discuss the implications with the Bureau in early 2018, in advance of the Ex Co meeting.

**Answer EAPN NL - of course we will join Both Jo Bothmer and I, when we find a joint date and time.**

1. EAPN Netherlands and the Staff Team put together a background paper for consideration at the Ex Co.

**Answer EAPN NL - I think that with these answers, this background paper has already started (smile)**