



EUROPEAN ANTI POVERTY NETWORK

Terms of Reference – General Assembly

Background

EAPN Mission

- To promote and enhance the effectiveness of actions to eradicate poverty and prevent social exclusion;
- To raise awareness around poverty and social exclusion
- To empower the people living in poverty and social exclusion
- To lobby for and with people and groups facing poverty and social exclusion.

EAPN vision

It is unacceptable that almost 120 million people are living in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion of in the European Union. We are committed to the eradication of poverty and aim to put the fight against poverty and social exclusion at the top of the political agenda of the EU.

Our vision is a Social Europe free of poverty and social exclusion with access to economic, social and cultural rights for all.

To achieve this, we seek:

- a fair distribution of wealth,
- accessible quality employment,
- high levels of social protection,
- the combatting of discrimination,
- the meaningful participation - through the organisations in which they participate - of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion.

EAPN Values

We believe that poverty and social exclusion:

- are a denial of fundamental human rights and thus a failure to respect and protect human dignity;
- arise from complex and multidimensional processes that cannot be dealt with in isolation or on the margins.

We believe:

- in the possibility to achieve a better sharing of wealth, opportunities and resources;
- in gender equality;
- in respect for cultural and religious diversity and non-discrimination on the grounds of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age, sexual orientation or social origin;
- in the organisation of our work in a democratic and transparent way;

- that people have the right to influence and participate in the decisions that affect them and to have their views and experiences listened to and acted on;
- in seeking to work in partnership with other actors sharing a common vision including actors within; state authorities, public sector bodies, European Union Institutions and with trade unions and employers and with other NGOs;
- in the independence of Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

What is this document?

This ToR is an attempt to describe the current reality of EAPN, to provide clarity to EAPN members, and to enable the Strategic Thinking process to have a clear overview of the structures of EAPN.

The General Assembly

The General Assembly is the highest decision-making body of EAPN.

Mandate

- Admission of new members (full and associate)
- Expulsion of members (full and associate)
- Amendments to the Statutes
- Amendments to the Standing Orders
- Nomination, withdrawal and discharge of administrators
- Approval of the accounts and budget forecast
- Dissolution of the international association
- Election of members of Executive Committee
- Discussion and approval of the annual work programme
- Setting the strategic priorities
- Approving annual report of EAPN, and progress reports of national networks

Composition

- All of the full members of EAPN
- Associate members may attend without the right to vote
- Staff may attend without the right to vote
- Observers may also attend - individuals or bodies that are invited to participate without voting rights;
- Experts may also attend - individuals or bodies requested by the Executive Committee or General Assembly to give an opinion on an issue that their expertise may help to address, without voting rights.
- Full members may appoint a 'proxy' to represent them at the General Assembly
- The quorum for the General Assembly is at least half of its full members to make it valid. Two-thirds of the National Networks must be represented in this quorum.
- Delegates of each National Delegation shall be elected by and from within the national networks. The Executive Member will be one of these delegates.
- Each European organisation member shall be invited to send one delegate to the General Assembly, with voting rights.

Ways of working

- The General Assembly shall convene under the chairpersonship of the president of the

Executive Committee, once a year. In general, the General Assembly will be combined with other meetings

- Other than in exceptional cases, resolutions shall be passed by ordinary majority of the full members present or represented
- Motions for resolutions shall be tabled at least four weeks in advance of the General Assembly
- Emergency resolutions may be tabled at the GA by a vote of two thirds of the members present in favour of tabling the emergency resolution.
- The final declaration will be drafted via a participatory process, led by motivated members, in advance of the General Assembly. The draft will be circulated at least one week before the General Assembly, and proposed amendments must have the support of at least 4 members (including the proposer)
- The General Assembly will be organized in English, French, and Spanish. Documents will be in English only.

Current voting rights

- Germany, Spain, France, Italy, United Kingdom, Poland: 8
- Belgium, Greece, Hungary, Netherlands, Portugal, Czech Republic, Romania: 6
- Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Lithuania, Norway, Serbia, Slovakia, Sweden: 4
- Cyprus, Estonia, FYROM, Iceland, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Croatia: 2
- European Organisations: 1 vote each
- The total votes that may be cast by the representatives of the European organisations may not exceed one-fifth of the total votes that may be cast by all members of the General Assembly.

Extraordinary General Assembly

An 'EGA' can be called on the request of one fifth of the full members.

Time commitment

Members should anticipate spending half a day at the General Assembly, and ideally half a day preparing for the General Assembly (discussing the draft final declaration, resolutions etc)