



EUROPEAN ANTI POVERTY NETWORK

## Early Analysis of EAPN 2018 membership survey

### Introduction and background

In June - August 2018, EAPN is conducting a second 'membership survey', as part of our Strategic Thinking process. The idea is to allow all members to feed in their thinking in a very concrete way. In July 2017, the first phase of the Strategic Thinking process is coming to an end, so we are undertaking an initial analysis of the answers received. Networks who have not yet had a chance to respond to the survey will still have time to do so, and the final results will be analysed in early September, for discussion in Vienna (27-29 September)

### Overview of early responses

To date we have received 13 responses – many members have highlighted that they will respond over the summer, because they would like to take the time to consult internally in a more meaningful way. This is fully expected, and all answers will be taken into account in due course.

9 national networks responded and 4 European organisations. The breakdown is as follows:

<u>National Network</u>	<u>European Organisation</u>
Macedonian Anti Poverty Network	IFSW
EAPN Germany	Eurodioconia
EAPN Finland	SMES
EAPN Denmark	PICUM
EAPN Ireland	
EAPN Spain	
EAPN Italy	
EAPN Latvia	
EAPN Cz (Partial response)	

### Q5. To what extent do you agree with EAPN's current vision "A Social Europe free of poverty and social exclusion with access to economic, social and cultural rights for all"

This vision was last discussed in a strategic planning process in the early 2000s – so it is sensible to consider whether it still matches our reality and our ambitions.

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
▼ ☆	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	8.33% 1	16.67% 2	75.00% 9

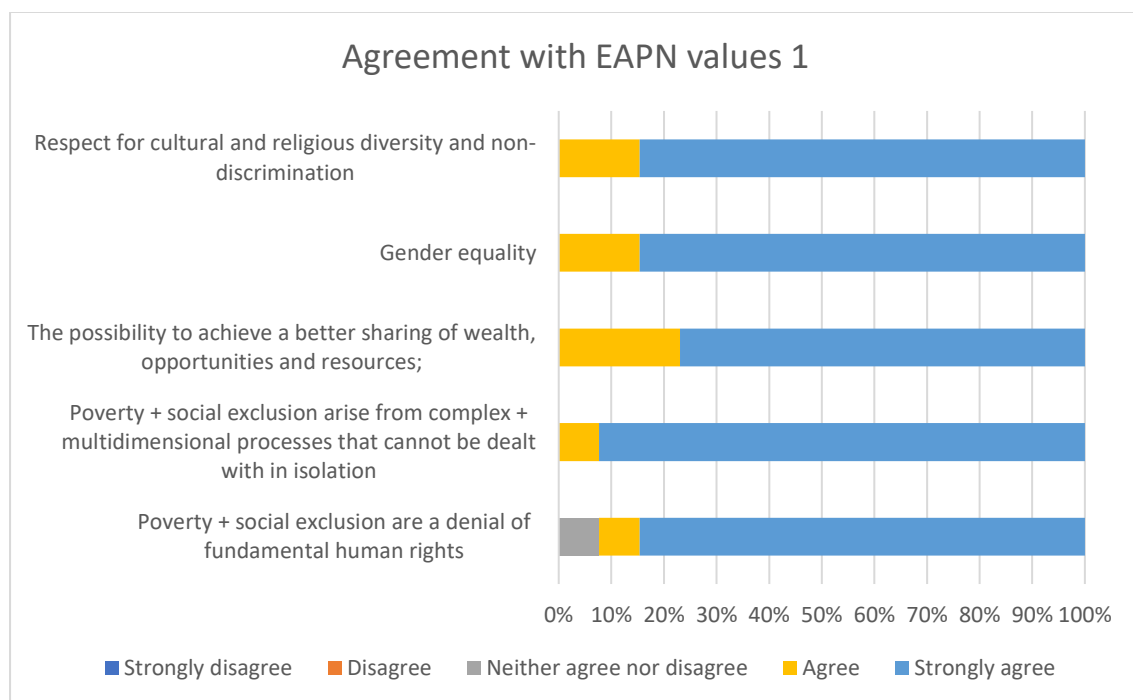
## Analysis

We see a high level of satisfaction with our vision, with over 90% of respondents either agreeing or strongly agreeing. Clearly the vision is still largely acceptable to EAPN members, though comments indicate some desire to strengthen a little.

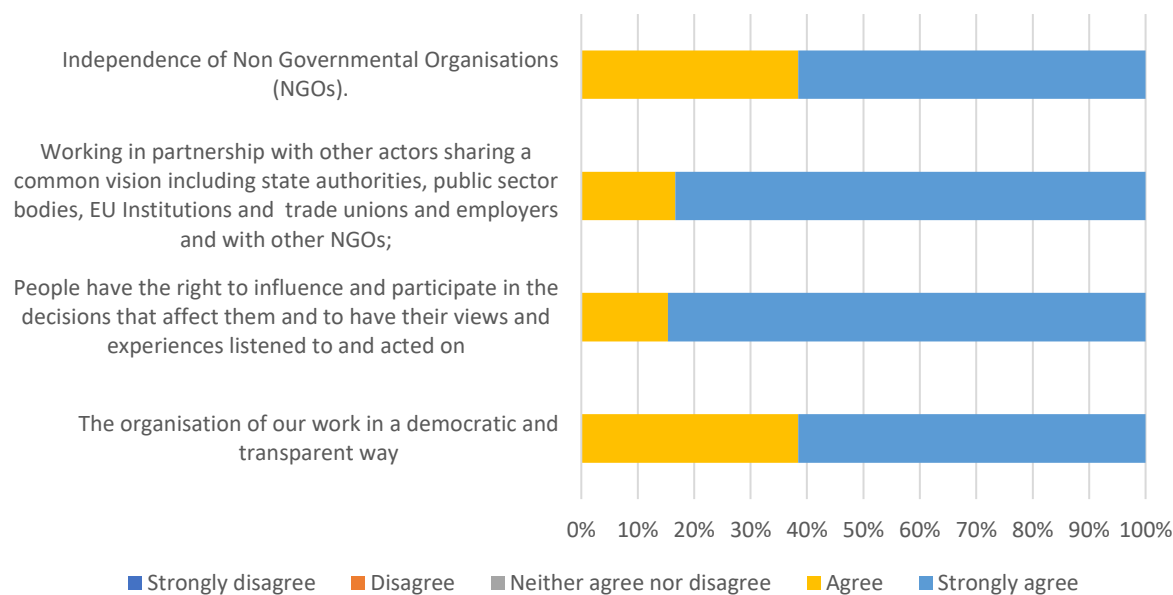
### Key ideas from the comments

- We should add a focus on **equality** and **sustainability**, to help connect the social and environmental fields, which could become increasingly intertwined over the next 25 years because of the impacts of climate change.
- Over the next 25 years, we should **widen our vision to the rest of the world**, recognising that global poverty affects all of us?
- Should our vision include something about **raising the voice of experts with experience of poverty**?

### Q6 and Q7: To what extent do you agree with the current EAPN values, based on your ambition for EAPN over the next 25 years?



## Agreement with EAPN Values 2



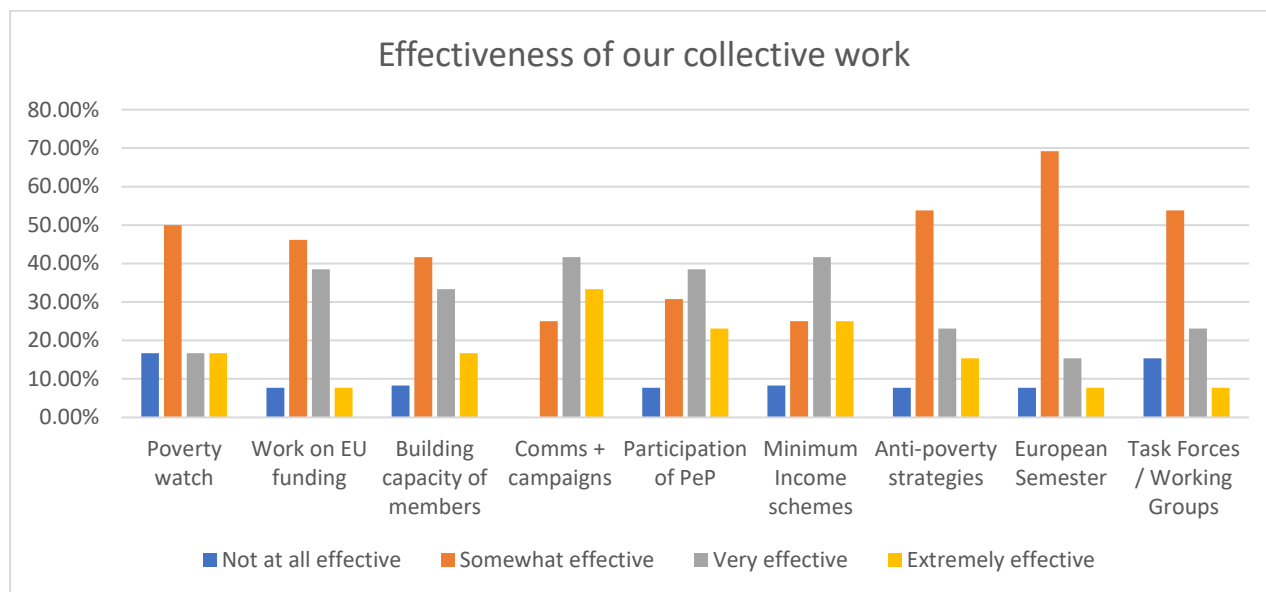
### Analysis

We see almost full agreement on all of our stated values – with no strong disagreement anywhere. This indicates that members are, in general, in agreement with our values. Comments indicate some strengthening may be needed however.

### Key ideas from the comments

- Need to value “Sustainable development, equality, global democracy and the reinforcement of the international human rights”
- Interdependence of social, environmental and economic goals
- Strengthen value on quality work, respecting people’s dignity and providing workers and their families with a decent life
- Delivery of Agenda 2030 and SDGs
- Reinforce the role of civil society at some level as social partners
- Solidarity with non-EU citizens arriving on our borders
- Social justice should feature more prominently
- More importance should be given to participation, direct involvement of experts with experience of poverty
- Support to the national level as a basis of our work should be a key value

**Q9 and Q10: Please rate these different areas of EAPN’s collective work in terms of effectiveness and impact in the fight against poverty and social exclusion, at the European level**



**Analysis**

Our areas which are seen as most effective, which we should build on are:

- **Comms and campaigns**
- **Participation of PeP**
- **Minimum Income schemes**

There are three areas which are seen as less effective (high levels of “somewhat effective”), notably:

- **Work on European Semester**
- **Work on anti-poverty strategies**
- **Working through Task Forces and Working Groups**

**Key ideas from the comments**

- We need to work harder at all levels to better involve experts with experience of poverty – networks find it hard to implement this principle, and to reach these experts. Does the European Summit of Experts with Experience of Poverty need a revamp? Is this the identity of EAPN – giving a voice to these experts?
- Work on minimum income seen as influential and important – though it hasn’t had the desired impact to date. Should we be more ambitious in the long term (basic income?)
- Not clear that our work on anti-poverty strategies has led to results? Our work has been more successful when it has been outside the framework of the European Semester.
- We have to look at our work on the Semester – we cannot continue with the same methodology year after year. We need to find faster, better ways of working on this, maybe with clusters working on specific issues throughout the Semester.
- We need better ways of presenting our work – short videos, quick analysis of single issues, working with a few members. We need to modernize our methods.
- Task Forces were too slow, too long term - though they produced high quality work.
- EU funding – this is too complicated and not understandable for members.
- We should bring back training for new members, and increase membership exchange

- Need to reinforce collective comms to increase impact.

**Q11. If we are to be effective in achieving our vision of 'A Social Europe free of poverty and social exclusion with access to economic, social and cultural rights for all' what other activities, strategies, or topics should we pursue and why?**

**Activities**

- Develop true clarity on our purpose
- Really go the ground and listen to the needs of experts with experience of poverty
- Publicly track progress on political commitments

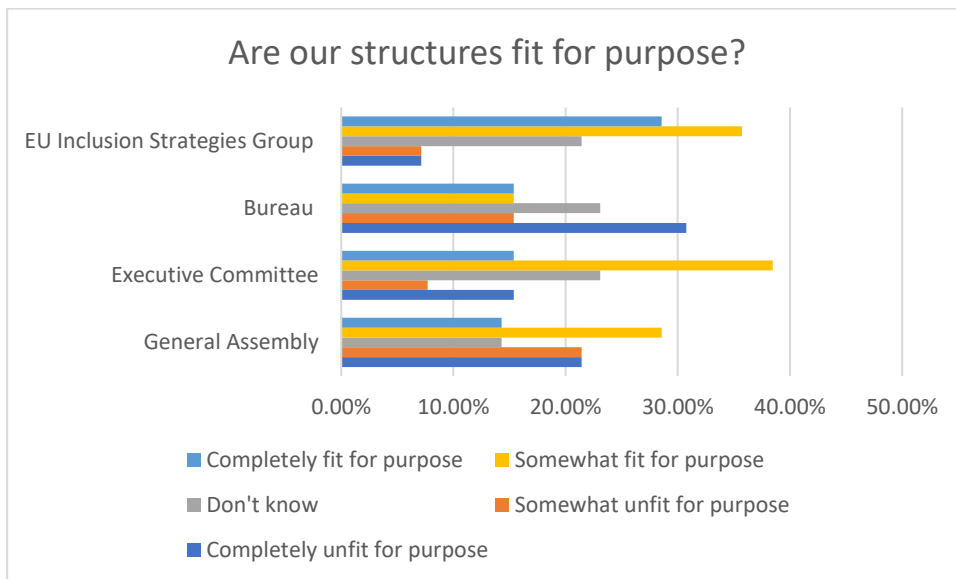
**Strategies**

- Agree a small number of common priorities
- Exchanges with other regions of the world on the fight against poverty
- Modernize ways of working and outputs for more impact
- Develop strategic relationships with like-minded organisations
- Strengthen networks, enable participation of all members

**Topics**

- Economic, social and cultural rights, linking to SDGs
- Well-being, feeling of belonging – key part of inclusion and social cohesion.

**To what extent are the following structures 'fit for the purpose' of your ambitions for EAPN over the next 25 years?**



**Analysis**

Our structures do not seem so fit for purpose. Only the EUISG and Ex Co have over 50% responding 'completely' or 'somewhat' fit for purpose. The Bureau and General Assembly have almost 50% feeling they are either 'somewhat' or 'completely' unfit for purpose. This indicates a real need to examine the way we structure our network.

**Key ideas from the comments**

**General Assembly:**

- 'Cumbersome, resource intensive/draining (staff time & financially), it exasperates a lot of the negativity in the network.'
- Needs time for core discussions

### Ex Co

- 'Is it too big? Could it be enough to have a Board of about 10-15 people running things?'
- Shouldn't take on policy work, should look at alternative political scenarios
- 'Too big, too much time & resources for too little results.'
- The structure of the Exco must reflect its members, with all NNs and some EOs represented.

**We should note the clear internal disagreement here.**

### Bureau

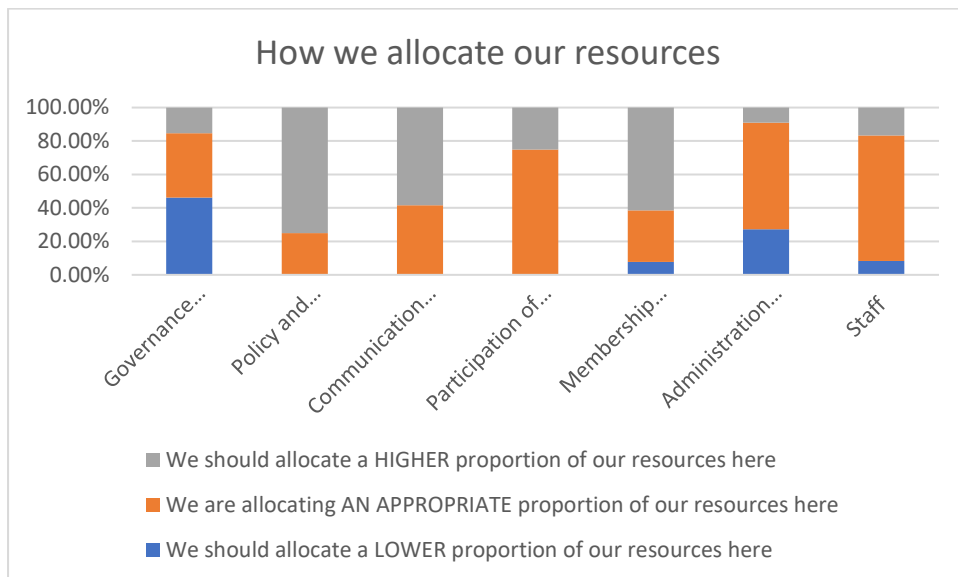
- Ex Co and the bureau could be replaced by a small board
- Feeling of lack of transparency
- 'A more representative Bureau is necessary'

**Again, we should note the clear internal disagreement here.**

### EUISG

- Need to innovate, not repeating the same work each year
- Need fewer themes, with less focus on EU technicalities – 2020 strategy etc. Better to be less led by EU processes, but draw on the experience and priorities of members

**Q13. Where should EAPN focus its resources (human and financial) in order to meet the ambitions you have for EAPN over the next 25 years?**



### Analysis

The main question seems to be whether we should reduce the amount we spend on governance (over 40% suggest this is necessary), and increase the amount we spend on policy / advocacy, comms / campaigns and membership development.

### Key ideas from the comments

- “EAPN staff resources seem to constantly decrease and it is not realistic for this to continue and have an impact on the policy agenda. Perhaps a full scale staff review of all posts and structure needed for the future should be carried out.”
- “It seems that a lot of money goes to the national networks but it is not always clear as to how this is used and why this is such a priority. I appreciate the need to support the membership in this way but perhaps the visibility of the work carried out could be clearer and more linked to the policy strategies EAPN wants.”

### **Q14. If we are to be effective in achieving our vision of 'A Social Europe free of poverty and social exclusion with access to economic, social and cultural rights for all', what are the most important changes we need to make to the way we work and the way we structure our network?**

### Key ideas from the comments

- More strategic communication, less paper flow. Concrete demands to be better presented to enable use at national level.
- We must be a speaker of the poor and socially excluded and not restrict our work to responses to the EU 2020 strategy, the social pillar etc
- Modernize our working ways by a better use of new technologies and membership’s expertise. For example, by creating clusters of networks that are interested in developing specific issues, make better use of simple technology to unify the network
- not be afraid to do radical changes or try new methods. The methods we have been using up till now do not seem to be effective enough, so we need new ones
- Find new resources
- Look at governance structure and make it lean, light and effective
- Improve link between policy and campaigning
- Build EAPN’s future leadership – training
- Introduce measures that will ensure a collaborative, caring and supportive culture that empowers staff and active members to maximise their contribution to the goals of the organisation and be valued and respected for doing so.
- Increased focus on participation of experts with experience of poverty