

**Bureau meeting agenda**

**17-18 December**

**Vienna**

**17 September**

**Session 1: 14 00 – 15 30**

**‘Bureau Building’**

**Objective**: Building understanding of how everyone has arrived in the Bureau, personally and professionally, by using an exercise called ‘River of Life’. We will each create individual rivers.

**Background doc:** [**What is a river of life**](https://trainings.350.org/resource/river-of-life/)**?**

**Session 2: 16 00 – 17 30**

**Objective Setting**

**Objective:** To set very clear priorities, and indicators of success, for the Bureau for the next 3 years.

**Background documents:** B4 EAPN Objectives 2018 – 2021, B5 EAPN Theory of Change, B6 report from Phase 1 of Strategic Thinking process

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| **Background** | **Question / Methodology** |
| In order to work together effectively, the Bureau needs to establish clear priorities and objectives for its mandate (Sep 2018 – Sep 2021). Such priorities will allow us to set a clear direction for EAPN, as well as to monitor our progress against these priorities.We are not starting from scratch – our work in this period is already guided by the 4 year Framework Partnership Agreement with the European Commission, and our Strategic Thinking process has already started to point us in a very interesting direction. The new Bureau now how the opportunity to set the direction! | We’ll discuss potential priorities for the Bureau – a few will be proposed to kick off the discussions, but we will be relying on Bureau members to set their political priorities!**Initial proposals**1. To implement the changes agreed on through the Strategic Thinking process
2. To build and nurture the European anti-poverty movement by ensuring that people experiencing poverty can meaningfully call EAPN their network
3. To develop sustainable funding sources for EAPN
4. To ensure our staff structures and skills match the new strategic direction
5. To place EAPN politically as key interlocutor with new Parliament and Commission, fighting for a specific target (and / or legislation – A Poverty Act?) on poverty eradication at European and national levels

We’ll use a ‘Gradient of Agreement’ methodology to stimulate discussions and agree on our priorities. |

**18 December**

**Session 3: 09 15 – 11 15**

**Roles and responsibilities**

**Objective:** To agree who will undertake which role within the Bureau for the next 3 years, and to agree what this means in practise. (Agree objectives of the role and agree ‘accountabilities’.)

**Background document:** B2 Potential Bureau Roles, B3 Allocation of Tasks 2015-2018, B7 Accountabilities and Deliverables for bureau roles

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| **Background** | **Question / Methodology** |
| Once we have agreed our priorities we need to agree which Bureau member will focus where! This should ensure that people are clear on their roles and responsibilities, and will hopefully be clear on the expectations on them!The aim is that one person should take responsibility for each different area. Others may support him / her, but one person should have a clear responsibility to lead on a specific area(s). | We will look at the background documents B2 and B3. B2 was drafted based on input from Bureau members during the election process. When we have agreed key areas of responsibility for Bureau members, we will work on developing brief Terms of Reference for the major areas of responsibility, outlining clearly responsibilities and accountabilities of each role! |

**11 15 – 11 45**

**Coffee break**

**Session 4: 11 45 – 13 15
Bureau Induction**

**Objective:** For Bureau members to understand the key roles of the Bureau, the links between Bureau and Ex Co, to better understand EAPN and how it works.

**Background document: TBC**

**13 15 – 14 15
Lunch Break**

**Session 5: 14 15 – 15 30
Strategic Thinking process**

**Objective:** For Bureau members to share **insights and foresights** on our Strategic Thinking process – what will key challenges be over the next 9 months and how can we best rise to these challenges?

**Background document:** B5 EAPN Theory of Change, B6 Strategic Thinking Phase 1 report

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| **Background** | **Question / Methodology** |
| We have two clear reports from the different phases of the Strategic Thinking process – see the two background documents.We have nine months left of the process, which will end with decisions at the General Assembly in September 2019. In September 2018, there were big discussions about what it meant for EAPN to be supporting an anti-poverty movement, and what this might mean for members. There was also big discussions in the wider session about the role of policy in EAPN.We will focus on forward thinking – what would be the implications of X Y or Z. | We’ll simulate a couple of big decisions which could come from the Strategic Thinking process, and work through the implications – this will help us understand the tradeoffs which we may need to face. Throughout the discussions, we’ll bear in mind the key challenges which such decisions will lead to, and how we will rise to these challenges.**Simulated Decision 1:** The ‘rebalancing’ of EAPN means that more resources need to be allocated towards supporting and nurturing the anti-poverty movement throughout Europe. What are the implications of this at the European and national level?**Simulated Decision 2:** In order to make EAPN more effective and impactful, we will reduce the size of the Ex Co and allocate the resources elsewhere.**Simulated Decision 3:** In order to ensure EAPN is truly a network of and for people experiencing poverty, EAPN will allow individual members.  |

**15 30 – 15 45
Break**

**Session 6: 15 45 – 17 15**

**Politics**

**Objective:** To share and learn about Gilets Jaune movement and decide (whether and) how to position ourselves, to criticaly engage with EAPN plans for the Parliamentary Elections and to agree our political focus with the new Commission.

**Background documents:** B8 EAPN and Les Gilets Jaunes, B9 EAPN Campaign for European Parliamentary Elections

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| **Background** | **Question / Methodology** |
| 2019 is likely to be a political year for EAPN, and for Europe. We will see elections to the European Parliament in May, and a new Commission in (likely) November. Europe is facing multiple difficulties at the end of 2018, from Brexit (UK) to Gilets Jaunes (France, Belgium, Netherlands), from criminalisation of homelessness in Hungary to strong anti-immigrant sentiment in Italy and elsewhere. We also have a new President who is prioritising the political agenda, trying to ensure that EAPN’s political agenda is better linked to reality, and to people who are most vulnerable throughout Europe.Our work programme for 2019 includes political objectives, notably:1. Develop our frames and narratives, trying to change public opinion around poverty and social exclusion2. Facilitate engagement and campaigning around the European Parliamentary Elections3. Ensure strong EAPN engagement in the Future of Europe debates at national and European level4. Develop strong EAPN positions on a post-2020 strategyActivity 1.5 of the Work Programme involves redefining our political narrative, with clear positions on items like ‘Multidimensional definition of poverty, with objectives for ending poverty in Europe’  | This session will focus on 3 questions:1. Should EAPN Europe take a public position around the Gilets Jaunes?
2. Is our proposed political narrative for the European Parliamentary Elections strong enough?
3. What should EAPN’s political focus be with the new Commission in late 2019?
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