

Feb 2019 Update on EAPN Strategic Thinking process

2019 is an important year for EAPN – the political context will change radically, with a new European Parliament, new President and Commissioners of the European Commission, and potentially new political direction in Europe. It is also the year when we will finalise our Strategic Thinking process, at the General Assembly in Helsinki in September.

In early 2019, we've been focusing predominantly on two things:

- 1. The implementation of the 2017 Dutch Resolution on participation.** This was the third priority action agreed during [Phase 1 of the Strategic Thinking process](#): *“The Director to present a paper during Phase 2 the strategic thinking process on the implementation of the Dutch resolution, and any arising financial or structural changes necessary for decision by Ex Co by latest June 2019.”*

This paper will be shared in February, and hopes to promote discussion in the Ex Co, EUISG and PeP National Coordinator Groups. Key recommendations will include:

- a) To adopt an EAPN participation model.
 - b) To incorporate ‘affiliate’ members to EAPN Europe, with no voting rights. These affiliate members would pay a small annual solidarity fee.
 - c) To always include in the Bureau at least 2 people who self-identify as experiencing poverty, or having experienced poverty in the last decade.
- 2. A review of our Governance Structures.** This was the sixth priority action of the first phase: *“A cost and risk assessment of the current decision-making structures to be undertaken by the Director and presented via the Bureau to the membership as part of the strategic thinking process.”* Ian Johnston (International Federation of Social Workers) is leading this work within the Bureau, and will present a paper to the Ex Co in April. It should then be discussed in the joint Ex Co – EUISG session in June.

When these documents are finalised, they will be placed on [Members Room](#) and made available to all EAPN members. These papers will no doubt lead to passionate and interesting discussions within our members – if your organisation is NOT a member of the Executive Committee and you would like to provide feedback on these papers, you'll be able to use an online feedback form which will be circulated with the papers directly. We also invite the EUISG and PeP National Coordinators to share their reflections on these papers in advance of the Ex Co meeting in April (paper on Dutch resolution) and June (paper on Governance Structures). We expect that elements of these papers will be developed into resolutions which will be presented to the General Assembly, for final decision in September.

Finally – I'm happy to share that the Bureau, during its first face to face meeting of its mandate in Vienna in December 2018, agreed that its top priority for 2018 – 2021 is to implement the decisions which will come out of the Strategic Thinking process. Honoratte from EAPN Norway will take a lead on behalf of the Bureau, but every Bureau member expects to be fully implicated in this work throughout its 3-year mandate!

As we approach September 2019, the likely results of the Strategic Thinking process should become clearer. We recognise that this can be an unsettling time for the network – for any organisation – but we trust that this process has the best interests of EAPN, and of people experiencing poverty, at heart. We're looking forward to finalising this process over the coming months, together, and to

start to implement concrete changes agreed by the network together, after the General Assembly in September!

Further updates to follow next month.

In solidarity



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