

**Concept Note – an EAPN Training Wing**

**Status: For discussion**

**Date: 11 Feb 2020**

1. **Concept note prepared by:** Director
2. **Title:** Developing an EAPN Training Wing
3. **Short description of the issue or situation**

In 2018 the Executive Committee decided to diversify EAPN’s funding sources by 20%, to reduce our financial dependency on our EaSI grant. Since then, funds have been secured through projects (‘Working Yet Poor’ and others), membership fees (less than 20 000 euros per year), contracts with the EU Presidencies to support the PeP meeting and General Assemblies, and small funding campaigns (less than 2000 euros per year). Other funding possibilities have been explored (EEA Grant, the Art Inequality project) with little success. EMIN3 represents a strong possibility to help us reach our target, as do other projects – but we must recognise the risks associated with European projects, as there is a lot of bureaucracy behind them. Our Fundraising Team will be putting in place a strategy in 2020 to finance the priorities and underpinning activities of the Strategic Review (2019).

This Strategic Review recognises the need to **“allocate resources to widening our funding base”. I**t also recognises the need to **“strengthen the coherency of EAPN, ensuring that our policy work is fully connected to our projects, funding, campaigns, communications and training work”**

In the 2019 Work Programme, we envisaged developing a concept note to develop an EAPN training wing in the future, which could help EAPN

1. Diversify our funding sources
2. Contribute to the strengthening of the coherency of EAPN by connecting our policy, participation and political expertise to our training work

Note – this is **NOT** a concept note for a training programme for members, who expect to receive training from EAPN. This concept note works on the assumption that most members would **not** be prepared to pay for training from EAPN. This concept note envisages the creation of a training wing which could provide training to other civil society organisations (NGOs, universities etc) and political institutions (public authorities, EU Institutions). It could, potentially, be developed at the European and national levels (in fact the concept note builds on the experience of certain national networks).

1. **Why a training wing?**

Certain members (EAPN Scotland) undertake successful training activities. In Scotland, The Poverty Alliance has a training programme with public authorities where they provide training on the reality of poverty, following field consultations with people receiving specific benefits. EAPN Portugal has a training programme for its members which focuses on participation, via their local networks.

We also have specific expertise developed as EAPN, which could potentially be monetised via a training programme – this expertise is around **models of participation of people experiencing poverty** (the training curriculum is being developed as we speak, targeting EAPN members, but it could be rolled out in due course), **EU political and policy processes which impact on poverty** (eg. The Semester), the **basics of EU advocacy to promote the fight against poverty**, **how to work sensitively with the media when dealing with issues of poverty** (Journalism Prize)

The areas of expertise which we consider most promising are as follows:

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| **Potential Training** | **Justification** |
| 1. Models of participation of people experiencing poverty
 | EAPN has a Unique Selling Point here. Very few organisations in Europe focus on this, let alone have any idea how to do it. A training curriculum is already being developed, and most of our members would be able to adapt it to the national level. |
| 1. Working sensitively with the media
 | Again, EAPN has a unique selling point with our work on the Journalism Prize. Few organisations focus on working with the media in this way, and our sense is that there is potential here. Also, almost a dozen of our members already undertake this work so would be able to adapt it to the national level. There is also the possibility of ‘inversing’ this training and targeting media organisations, training them on how to work sensitively with people experiencing poverty. |
| 1. The Reality of Poverty
 | This could be a very coherent piece of work, strengthening the involvement of People Experiencing Poverty in the network (national and EU level). Public authorities and the national (and, at a stretch, the European) level could be approached with the offer of this training, to help them understand the reality of their policies, as experienced by those affected by such policies. This model works well in Scotland and has the potential to be duplicated across Europe.It could take Poverty Watch as a starting point and build from there. |
| 1. EU processes which can impact on poverty
 | EAPN has developed extensive expertise on the European Semester in recent years, and we are occasionally asked to give presentations to partners about how they can engage in this process. |

1. **Proposed action**

If the Bureau considers the concept of a training wing useful, the next stage would be:

* Developing this paper in advance of the Executive Committee
* Making clear recommendations to the Executive Committee, which would include the following:
1. Which of the 4 areas (or others) should be our focus in the pilot phase
2. Our ‘targets’ – a list of organisations and contacts who might benefit from such a training
3. Our ‘offer’ – how long the training programme would last for, who would deliver the training, how much it would cost etc.
4. Our financial commitment - how much money to allocate towards establishing this training wing in 2021

We should aim to have clear recommendations for the Ex Co in June.