

EAPN Portugal_Annual Report 2018

Summary

1. Influencing government for policy change

In 2018 EAPN Portugal continued its lobby work for the establishment of a National Strategy to Fight Poverty and Social Exclusion. One of the main actions started in 2017, but it was in 2018 that it established its foundations. This action was the National Observatory to Fight Poverty and Social Exclusion (<https://on.eapn.pt/>).



The Observatory is highly sponsored by the President of the Portuguese Republic.

In the scope of this work it was organized a meeting of the group of experts which purpose of this meeting was mainly to assess the implementation of the Community Funds in Portugal and their access by third sector entities. It was prepared and disseminated among the deputies with seat in the Parliament of a Letter on the implementation of the 20% of funds to fight poverty and social exclusion.

It was also held a meeting with the National Authority for the Development and Cohesion about this work and it was prepared a document for this Agency with EAPN Portugal assessment of the current financial framework, with some proposals for the next one. This paper was the result of a first-quarter consultation with local entities on their experience with access to the Structural Funds, their main difficulties and proposals.

During the year, EAPN sought to strengthen its work with representatives of political parties and also held two events: the *“Strategy Forum to Fight Poverty and Social Exclusion - the importance of collective responsibility”*. This forum was also attended by the President of the Republic; and the second event – *“Thinking about the fight against poverty. Setting up a commitment”* - took place in October in the Parliament itself.

In 2018, EAPN Portugal continued its work on monitoring the European Pillar of Social Rights, not only at European Level (in the scope of EAPN Europe), but also at national level. In this last case it was promoted a national seminar in May – *How to build a Europe for Citizens?* – with the presence of Maria João Rodrigues (rapporteur of the EPSR), national representatives in the European Parliament, Sérgio Aires as President of EAPN Europe and other relevant stakeholders at national and European level.



EAPN Portugal continued also its work on FEAD (in particular the follow-up of the Operational Program to Support the Most Deprived People) and the main activities developed were:

- Opinion of EAPN Portugal on the first version of the Community regulation on the food aid program in the next programming period;
- Participation in the 11th meeting of the FEAD Network - *Building Partnerships for effective FEAD delivery*. Participated Ana Vizinho of the Setúbal Regional Network of EAPN Portugal. (Brussels, 19 June);
- Reflection and discussion of the Program with the staff and members of EAPN Portugal in Setúbal district.

During 2018 EAPN PT continued its work on following the European Semester and the European Pillar of Social Rights or through the participation in events (national and European level) or through the elaboration or/and contribution to documents in collaboration with EAPN Europe.

In terms of events:

- *Web-conference on Active Inclusion* with members of EAPN Europe (28 February);
- Participation in the event: *The European Pillar of Social Rights: EU aims to reduce poverty and the barriers in accessing employment*, organized by the Portuguese representation of the European Commission (Lisbon, 16 March);
- Participation in a working session on the *Country Report for Portugal* organized by the European Commission (Lisbon, 22 March);
- Participation in the *Annual Convention for Inclusive Growth* (Brussels, 27 April);
- Participation in the *Breakfast on the next Multiannual Financial Framework* (Brussels, 5 June)
- Participation in the Conference: *From ESF to ESF +: from employability to social rights* (Brussels, 19 June);
- Participation in the seminar *Cohesion Policy Post 2020: proposal for a regulatory framework* promoted by the European Commission and the Agency for Development and Cohesion (Lisbon, 19 June)

- Participation in a working meeting about the European Campaign for *Energy Efficiency – Low-income households* organized by the European Commission (Lisbon, 29 June)
- Participation in the Annual Conference of EAPN *Europe Social Protection for All – How can the Social Pillar and the SDGs build stronger welfare states?* (Brussels, 5 July);
- Participation in the Conference of EAPN Austria: *Implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights – Experiences and Practices in European Countries and International Perspectives* (Vienna, 28 September);
- Participation and co-organization of the Conference *Building Social Europe* organized by the Social Platform (Lisbon, 29-30 November);
- Participation in the workshop *Journalism Prize for respectful reporting on poverty* (Vienna, 17-18 December).

In terms of documents/reports:

- Translation and adaptation of the EAPN Europe answer to the public consultation: Possible EU Action addressing the challenges of access to social protection for people in all forms of employment in the framework of the EPSR (January);
- Comments on the documents: *EAPN position on the MFF* (February);
- Assessment and dissemination of the report: *Social Fairness Package_EAPN Europe Briefing* (March);
- Assessment and comments on the *Country Report 2018_Portugal* (March);
- Production of the *monitoring barometer report on the application of the 20% of SF* in the fight against poverty and social exclusion (as a result of the questionnaires sent to the national networks in the end of 2017) (April);
- Comments on the report *Making Social Rights the compass in the European Semester_EAPN assessment of the country reports and proposals for country specific recommendations 2018* (April – May);
- Assessment of the report: *Social Fairness Package 2018_making a difference for people in poverty?* (May-June);
- Comments on the report: *More Audacity to fight poverty and ensure social rights_EAPN assessment of the 2018 CSR* (May, June);
- Opinion on the proposal *Community Regulation on the ESF Plus – ESF + support for addressing material deprivation* (June);
- Questionnaire on the assessment of the *National Reform program 2018* (June);
- Dissemination of the Report *Gender and Poverty in Europe* and contributes for the second report about *Gender based violence*;
- Comments on the report: *Make participation a driver for social rights* (October);
- Update of the *National Poverty Watch Report_2018 (summary)* (October);

- Translation and dissemination of the *Declaration on the Annual Growth Survey Report 2019* (November);
- Translation of the document *EAPN Financing Social Protection Reflection Paper* (November);
- Translation of the report: *The Future of Europe* (November);
- It was developed in the scope of ReInvest project a set of photos and a video that we thought relevant for the activity Human Impact austerity measures. We have sent this information to EAPN Europe (November).
- Assessment of the *draft report on the AGS and Joint Employment Report 2019* (December);
- Assessment and comments on the *National Poverty Watch Reports 2018_summary of the main findings and recommendations* (December).

In terms of meetings and Governing Bodies, EAPN Portugal participated in the following:

- Bureau (assuring its Presidency until September) – 3 meetings (plus several Skype meetings);
- The Executive Committee, (3 meetings);
- The EU Inclusion Strategies Group, (3 meetings);
- Strategic Thinking Process meetings (2 meetings);
- The People Experiencing Poverty European coordination group (1 meeting with the national coordinators; 3 preparatory meetings at national level with the Portuguese delegation; the European meeting);
- Participation in the Capacity Building session developed in Vienna (27-28 September);
- Participation in the General Assembly developed in Vienna (29 September);
- In December EAPN Portugal was included in the new *EAPN Communications working group*.

EAPN Portugal also continued its active participation in some key working groups and entities at national level, like the National Commission for the Protection of Children and young people at risk; the Inter-ministerial Group for monitoring and evaluation of the national strategy for the Homeless Inclusion, the coordination of the Lisbon Observatory to Fight Poverty and the presidency of the Non Governmental Forum for Social Inclusion (FNGIS). In the scope of the national strategy for the Homeless Inclusion, EAPN Portugal (Lisbon regional network) assumed a direct role in the design of the Strategy.

In terms of influencing Government it's also important to show that EAPN Portugal submitted an answer to the public consultation on the *National Strategy for Equality and Anti-Discrimination (Portugal + Igual)* (February) and the National Youth Plan (April).

At local level the Lisbon Observatory to fight poverty started a work for the design of a Local strategy to fight poverty and social exclusion in the city.

2. Participation of people in poverty in internal and external workings of the Network

EAPN Portugal continued its work with the National and Local Councils of Citizens. These groups are composed by citizens that lived or are living in situation of poverty and social exclusion and have as main aims to give them voice in the matters that are directly related to their situation.

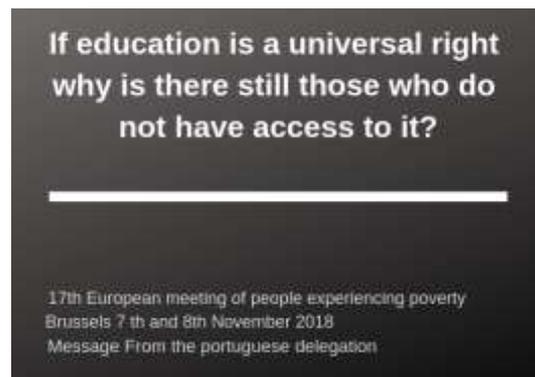
During 2018 EAPN Portugal promoted:

- 4 meetings with the National Council of Citizens (NCC): this NCC is composed by 1 representative of each Local Council of Citizens and has its own working plan.
- 143 local meetings with the Local Councils of Citizens (LCC): these meetings are organized at local level by the regional networks of EAPN.
- 3 regional meetings (Setúbal; Valença and Viseu): these meetings gather LCC by regions. In 2018 one of these meetings was organized in collaboration with EAPN Galiza (Spain). These regional meetings are thematic. This year were dedicated to human rights, participation and the Campaign *Undress Prejudice and Dress Inclusion*.



Portuguese Delegation

- European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty: the delegation that attended the Meeting was, once again, selected among the members of LCC. The Portuguese Delegation participated in the Meeting with the following message: *If education is a universal right why is there still those who do not have access to it?*



- 2º Training on Human Rights in collaboration with FRA
- Production of the 1st number of a set of small documents named: “Participation in Action” which aim is to have the point of view of CNC members on different national social measures.

- X National Forum (with the participation of all the members of the Local Councils) (17th of October). The Forum was attended by the Minister of Labor, Solidarity and Social Security. The main theme of the Forum was *Decent Work*.
- In 2018 it was developed a 1st experiment of the Journalism Award following the experience developed in Austria.

Concerning projects, EAPN Portugal continued its work on Project Click whose area of work is the employability of vulnerable target groups and the employers' social responsibility. (<http://click.eapn.pt/>).

In the scope of project EMIN, 2018 was the year in which the EMIN bus travelled by 32 countries including Portugal. During the visit, EAPN Portugal organized a set of activities including a national seminar: *Adequate Minimum Income_investing in a more inclusive society* (7 May) The Minister of Labor, Solidarity and Social Security attended the seminar; 4 small workshops with professionals working with Social Insertion Income and beneficiaries of this measure. The European coordinator – Fintan Farrell – has also participated in the seminar: How to build a Europe for citizens? (9 may) and it was disseminated the petition for Adequate Minimum Income Schemes.

In terms of materials it was produced some videos and articles. The videos presented some testimonies of beneficiaries and summarize the visit of EMIN Bus in Portugal:



- [Video 1](#)

- [Video 2](#)

It was also produced a multimedia report: [The Minimum Income Scheme in Portugal as seen by its beneficiaries.](#)

In 2018 EAPN continued its work with Roma Communities, not only developing working sessions with adult members of these communities (like women and parents) but also with young people and children (inside schools). It's important to say that the exhibition Singular do Plural received very positive feedback and started a set of presentations in 2018 (in



total 3 – Fundão; Aveiro and Guarda).

3. Network development and growth (incl. training, growth etc)

Training is one of the key areas of EAPN Portugal intervention. EAPN Portugal is certified in the following thematic areas: Personal Development; Management and Administration; Organization/Company Framework and Social Work and Orientation.

In terms of the annual training plan 953 training hours were promoted, 77 training actions, involving a total of 1359 trainees. According to the evaluation, the requests for the year 2018 were oriented to specific subjects like: intervention with families, coaching, design of projects and applications, home visits and disability).

Following the previous years, EAPN Portugal had developed 2 internal training sessions for their own staff on the following subjects: Integrated Community development, based from a sustainable development perspective and strategic plan.

4. Good governance and strong internal democracy (including finances, management, statutory governance)

In 2018 EAPN Portugal organized in Coimbra its annual National Members Meeting with an important focus on *challenges of intervention in childhood and youth*.

Also in 2018 EAPN Portugal established two Protocols in Madeira (one with the Regional Government of Madeira and the second one with the Funchal Local Authority) that allowed the creation of the 19th regional network of EAPN.

This year it was also started an internal assessment process of our strategic plan in order to prepare the next one. In addition to a desk assessment of different documents, it were developed some meetings with the internal staff, National Directorate and representatives of the EAPN General Council Officers. The result was a first diagnostic report on the work carried out by EAPN. The strategic plan evaluation work will be completed in 2019.

