



Notes of EAPN Bureau meeting
20 April
Zoom

Participants (members): Vera (Austria), Eleni (Cyprus), Richard (France), Biljana (Macedonia), Honoratte (Norway), Carlos (Spain), Ian (IFSW)

Participants (staff): Leo, Philippe, Rebecca

Apologies: N/A

Session 1 – Staff Measures during Covid

Key discussion points

- Staff members with children had brought specific issues to the attention to the Bureau. During the crisis the 3 staff members are struggling to complete a full working week, and had shared a proposal for reorganising hours with the Bureau.
- The Bureau preferred to adopt a measure which could be applied to all staff members, aiming to avoid the feeling of discrimination / preferential treatment

Decision

D1. All staff members may, should they need to do so, reduce their working hours to 70% until the end of May / June (depending on how long the crisis continues).

D2. All staff members wishing to do this this should present a plan for how they will make up at least part of those hours in due course. (For example, if a staff member ends up working 50 hours less, s/he could make up this time by working an extra 2 hours a week for 25 weeks when the crisis is over)

Action	Responsible	Deadline
A1. Discuss this with staff members	TU reps	Early May

Session 2 – Request from EAPN Greece

Key discussion points

- EAPN Greece submitted their report for the contract after the deadline, after the process was closed, and after clear decisions from the Ex Co and Bureau that we would need to be strict on reporting deadlines. (In July 2018 the Ex Co decided “There will be no exceptions or extensions for the submission of the final reports for the contracts – if networks do not report on time they risk not receiving the funds”)

- Most of the work under the contract seems to have been undertaken. They shared their Poverty Watch report, they prepared for and participated in the European PeP meeting, they submitted answers to EUISG questionnaires, and they translated a number of EAPN Europe documents.
- We have been in a process of supporting EAPN Greece's efforts to rebuild over the last couple of years, and they are now in a stronger position than recent years, with a new Board, Working Groups etc.
- The Bureau felt that a compromise solution would be necessary in this situation, recognising that EAPN Greece is in a rebuilding process.
- The proposed solution of bringing the translation work into their 2020 budget was welcomed

Decision

D3. We should find a compromise solution to support, in some way, EAPN Greece in 2019, being clear that if reports are late for 2020, we will not make another exception. This compromise should include putting the 2019 translations into the 2020 contract, if possible.

Action	Responsible	Deadline
A2. Check contract against work delivered	Staff team	End April
A3. Discuss a compromise solution with EAPN Greece and propose to Bureau	Director	Mid May

Session 3 – Cancelling / Reorganising June meetings

Key discussion points

EAPN has planned a series of meetings in Brussels in late June – the Ex Co, the EUISG, and a Policy Conference.

Decisions (outlined below) have been taken following discussions within the staff team, who have recommended cancelling the meetings, email exchanges within the Bureau who recognise the difficulties of travelling within Europe, and following official websites, notably:

- [Belgian Government](#), with updated guidance from 15 April.
- [WHO](#)
- [European Centre for Disease Prevention FAQs](#), highlighting restriction of smaller meetings
- [ICAO](#), highlighting flight restrictions in Belgium and elsewhere

Decision

D4. Given the uncertain context of Covid, including:

- lockdowns currently present in all countries in which EAPN has members
- travel to and from Belgium currently being impossible
- many institutions and partners cancelling meetings in June and beyond (EESC, Social Platform, European Commission)

The Bureau decides, on behalf of the Executive Committee, to:

- a) Cancel the physical Ex Co meeting
- b) Cancel the physical EUISG meeting
- c) Cancel the physical Policy Conference
- d) Reorganise the Policy Conference as a 'Policy Webinar' (dates and details to be decided)
- e) Reorganise the Ex Co meeting online (dates and details to be decided)
- f) Reorganise the EUISG meeting online (dates and details to be decided)

D5. At the next Bureau meeting we will start discussing the September meetings, as it seems that some countries will still have travel restrictions in place at that time, unless a covid treatment / vaccine is available.

Action	Responsible	Deadline
A4. Inform the various EAPN bodies	Staff team	End April
A5. Inform the staff team	Director	21 April
A6. Inform Brussels venues	Admin Team	ASAP

Session 4 – Staff / Bureau zoom call

Decision

D6. To offer a Bureau / Staff zoom call on Tuesday 5 May, 11 - 12

Action	Responsible	Deadline
A7. Inform Staff Team, via TU reps	Director	21 April

Session 5 - AOB

Key discussion points

Decision

D7. Next Bureau call on Friday 24 April, 10 – 11 30am, to prepare Ex Co zoom calls next week.

D8. Bureau call in May will discuss problems arising from recent Ex Co discussions, as outline by Ian. However, at next Ex Co meeting, members will be reminded to be cordial and respectful.