

Nicosia 17 April, 2020

Dear Caroline (EAPN Belgium) and Freek (FEANTSA),

Dear ExCo members,

**Cypriot Antipoverty Network response to the Proposed Resolution on the implementation of the Strategic Review**

Thank you for a well stated document and all your input and proposals. Several points have been raised, which have been discussed for many years in EAPN. The Administrative Board of the Cypriot EAPN, after discussing the proposed Resolution, shares with you the following thoughts and ideas:

Regarding the points you raise, namely under the thematic titles:

- (a) Reinforce EU Policy and Advocacy Work
- (b) Strengthen the position of EAPN as a Key actor at the EU level, and
- (c) Strengthen the involvement of people experiencing poverty (PeP) and clarify how this can be done in a meaningful way,

The Cypriot Antipoverty Network, in general agrees with the three pillars that you identified, furthermore we also note the following, which are connected with the above:

- i. Having a new employee for the policy team, will be great. However, we need to take into consideration some facts, i) Sian will retire by the end of 2020; therefore we will have a new person to replace her. We suggest that, we first proceed with the replacement of Sian's post and afterwards with one or two new staff for the policy team (always taking into consideration our budget).
- ii. We fully support the proposal to try and find ways so that the involvement of PeP is more meaningful. We remind us all that, on the last year's (2019) PeP meeting, a decision was made to ask for these meetings to be held as "agora"<sup>1</sup> (since the EPSR is calling for "agoras" of PeP in order to integrate their expertise). This decision is already under examination since a request was sent to the Commissioner of Jobs and Social Rights, Nicolas Schmit (response is yet to come).
- iii. Regarding asking the NN on the matter of PeP involvement, we consider important to clarify that there is already an ongoing work from the Members Development Working Group on the matter. We also add that the Common working group paper that we approved on the last EXCO meeting, offers lot of good practices and proposal on that issue, that we all (EAPN and NN) could start working on.
- iv. Furthermore, on that matter, as the Bureau has been informed by the Director, there is a great possibility to work with the University of Mainsworth/Ireland. The project will most

---

<sup>1</sup> Explanation for AGORA, Thematic Network

- probably cover almost all our work with and for PeP in all its aspects (advocacy, training, and empowerment).
- v. The Cypriot Antipoverty Network agrees with the proposal to connect the policy and ISG work with the PeP meetings, in order to have a more objective and wide overview. However, this needs to be very carefully organized and we figured that we should examine all the possible ways for implementation in more detail. In this regard we had the decision of the GA in 2017, and the so called Dutch Resolution to find ways of cooperation. It is yet crucial to underline that in the last year's PeP meeting there was a vote on the priorities. So let's work together (ExCo, EU ISG and PeP) and find ways to prioritize and work in smart<sup>2</sup> way to achieve our goals. Nevertheless, we need to be very cautious so that we will not confuse the priorities of EAPN with the priorities of PeP.
  - vi. The proposal to hold a conference and campaign together with other NGOs and networks is another alternative to promote our target and indeed a part of the action plan of the new Strategic Review.

The last thematic point proposed by the Resolution under the titled d) Rebuilding trust and transparency, the Cyprus Antipoverty Network, does not share the same views and notes the following:

- i. Regarding transparency of the full minutes of all statutory administrative bodies of EAPN, we highlight that, ALL the minutes of ALL the administrative bodies (GA, ExCo and Bureau) can be found in our MEMBERS ROOM. In our Members Room, we can find as well the minutes of all meetings, even of those on the internet. We can also find there, the minutes of the meetings or the Working Groups, such as EU ISG, Comm'Ons WG, Members Development Group.
- ii. It is important to mention that in one of the ExCo meetings in 2018, we discussed the issue of the agenda preparation and all relevant documents and whether these should be sent to members and or be uploaded in the Members Room, long time before any meeting. After the discussion, ExCo accepted that the Staff cannot send the documents earlier than 2 weeks before any meeting and under these circumstances the Cypriot Network is not in favor of opening this discussion again.
- iii. The Cypriot Network doesn't share the opinion that EAPNs strong position and influence in EU level has fallen. However, this is a matter of interpretation of the general situation and therefore we always appreciate when somebody raises this concern.

Dear Colleagues,

The majority of us are volunteers in our national networks and we come from different backgrounds and ways of work. However, we have a great common goal that bring us together and unite us all, and that is the elimination of poverty and social exclusion.

The times we are now facing and are coming are even more challenging for everyone and particularly for EAPN, since the pandemic will pass leaving behind unfortunately more people in poverty and social exclusion. EAPN has a long history of fighting poverty and social exclusion and a lot of experience. There is an opportunity to consider and evaluate at the same time what

---

<sup>2</sup> Smart: Specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, timeframe

we have achieved the last 30 years, and build on these achievements, our democratic values and principles, our experience and expertise, our goals and purposes, we can be the answer to a progressive, democratic, solution for the future for all the citizens and people living in poverty and social exclusion or not. Let's all put aside all our problems and differences and realize that united we can accomplish even more. After all, It is more than obvious that solidarity is the most imperative value for a world free of poverty and inequalities.

On behalf of the Cypriot Antipoverty Network, I am looking forward to discuss in more details and productively the proposals on how we should implement our strategic review.

In solidarity

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Karaoli'.

Eleni N. Karaoli,  
Vice Chair of the Cypriot Antipoverty Network  
ExCo member of EAPN