



## Association „EAPN-Latvia”

### ANNUAL REPORT 2014

#### **Operational basis of the organization**

EAPN-Latvia (The title in Latvian may be used as Latvian Anti-poverty Network. From 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2014 EAPN-Latvia is a full-fledged member organization of the international non-governmental organization *The European Anti-Poverty Network* (EAPN). It does continue the operation of the Latvian Anti-poverty network informally established in November 2009. The objective, working in European Network against poverty, is to work for socially secure Latvia, free of poverty and social abandonment where economic, social and cultural rights are accessible for everyone.

EAPN-Latvia is established by 7 non-governmental organizations on 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2013, the official operation was commenced from 4<sup>th</sup> of November 2013, reg. No. 50008216821. From 4<sup>th</sup> of September EAPN-Latvia has obtained the status of public benefit organization.

#### **Activity report of 2013**

There were 15 member organizations with more than 2000 individual members registered in the network of EAPN on 31<sup>st</sup> of December.

Within a period from 20<sup>th</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> of December EAPN-Latvia implemented EAPN co-financed project “European Minimum Income Network” in Latvia with the contractual amount of 11920,00 EUR. From 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> of December the Member of the board of EAPN Latvia Elīna Ālere-Fogele represented the management of the project in EMIN conference in Paris, France.

In this year EAPN-Latvia commenced the cooperation with The Ministry of Welfare (representatives in Committee on coordination of social inclusion policy and Gender equality committee), as well as signed cooperation memorandum with Riga Council.

From 26<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> of November Member of the board Sandra Rubene represented EAPN-Latvia within a national delegation in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Social Platform Convent in Brussels, Belgium.

Financial turnover 2013 EUR 6189,00 (LVL 4349,49).

#### **Activity report of 2014**

There were 21 member organizations and 4 associated member organization with a total number of individual members of 3500 registered in the network of EAPN on 31<sup>st</sup> of December.

On 11<sup>th</sup> of November EAPN-Latvia became one of the establishers of Latvian Child Welfare Network. Liene Liepiņa was elected to become a Chairwoman of the board. Interests of EAPN-Latvia in new network will be represented by Member of the board Lelde Cālīte.

##### 1) National representative office of EAPN:

On 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of March in Warsaw, Poland Member of the board of EAPN-Latvia Elīna Ālere-Fogele participated in the meeting of Executive Committee to present the EAPN-Latvia for an official admission to EAPN.

On 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of June in Tallinn, Estonia the meeting of EAPN EXCO (Executive Committee) took place; on 28<sup>th</sup> of June the General Assembly of EAPN took place, where Chairwoman of the Board of EAPN-Latvia Laila Balga took part; from 28<sup>th</sup> of June Laila Balga is the authorized representative in the Executive Committee of EAPN.

From 1<sup>st</sup> of July board of EAPN-Latvia authorized Member of the board, representative of the association "Skalbes" Elīna Ālere-Fogele and Chairman of the board of association "PINS" Norberts Snarskis for work in EUISG (Inclusion strategy group of European Union).

3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> of October in Brussels, Belgium, Norberts Snarskis represented EAPN-Latvia in the meeting of EUISG.

On 13<sup>th</sup> –15<sup>th</sup> of November in Seville, Spain, representative of EAPN-Latvia Laila Balga took part in the meeting of EAPN EXCO.

On 13<sup>th</sup> of November members of EXCO took part in the 20-year jubilee conference of EAPN-Andalusia.

On 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of November in Brussels, Belgium, Chairwomen of the board of EAPN-Latvia Laila Balga took part in seminar of EAPN program MASS (*Membership Assessment and Support System*).

## 2) Implementation of the EAPN project:

Within the period from 1<sup>st</sup> of January to 31<sup>st</sup> of December EAPN-Latvia implemented in Latvia the EAPN co-financed EMIN project. There were at least 80 participants from 35 member organizations and associated partners of EAPN – Latvia and from 20 state and municipal institutions and educational authorities involved in events thereof. On 22<sup>nd</sup> of January in Rucava and on 17<sup>th</sup> of December in Aloja there was a national management meeting held for 30 participants. On 17<sup>th</sup> of September in Riga there was a national conference held with the official representation office of European Commission in Latvia with a participation of experts from The Ministry of Welfare, EAPN (Lithuania) and EAPN-Denmark.

Within the project there was a National report prepared, the project whereof was submitted to EAPN on 31<sup>st</sup> of October. On 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of December in Brussels Members of the board of EAPN-Latvia Laila Balga and Lelde Cālīte participated in the closing conference of EMIN. On 18<sup>th</sup> of December in Riga experts of EAPN-Latvia presented their guidelines and the draft of the synthesized report to the Committee on coordination of social inclusion policy of The Ministry of Welfare.

## 3) Projects of member organizations of EAPN-Latvia:

On 9<sup>th</sup> of July EAPN-Latvia submitted the application to Riga Council on establishment of Education, culture and sports centre of Non-governmental organizations in Latgale suburb.

In July-September the Association of development of Latgale suburb (ALPA), managed by Baiba Giptere, implemented the project co-financed by IKSD (Department of Education, Culture and Sport) of Riga Council "Maskava suburb – let's do it together!"

On 17<sup>th</sup> of December in Riga there was formally opened the project co-financed by Nordic Council of Ministers „*Support for Civil Society and Equality in Baltic*”, which will be implemented from 5<sup>th</sup> of November 2015 to 30<sup>th</sup> of April in cooperation with partners from Russia (Kaliningrad district), Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Norway, Finland and Sweden by EAPN-Latvia / Women Rights Institute. Planned budgeted for the project EUR 66823,00.

## 4) Participation of EAPN-Latvia in forums in Latvia, organized by NGO:

On 7<sup>th</sup> of March Laila Balga, Elīna Ālere-Fogele, Terēzija Mackare and others represented EAPN-Latvia in the discussion "Women. Right to vote. Latvia in Europe", organized by Women Rights Institute and association "Progressive" ("Progresīvie") in House of European Union.

On 25<sup>th</sup> of April in Riga Society House in conference of "Pro Development" "Signs of social inequality in Latvia as a member state of EU" EAPN-Latvia was represented by Norberts Snarskis and Aivars Lasmanis.

From 30<sup>th</sup> of April to 1<sup>st</sup> of May representative of EAPN-Latvia Staņislava Poče participated in women forum in Jūrmala, organized by Cooperation Network of Latvian Women Non-governmental organizations.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> of May Laila Balga represented EAPN-Latvia in the jubilee event of creativity club “Liepale” in Aloja.

On 19<sup>th</sup> of May EAPN-Latvia and member organizations thereof were represented in forum of Saeima and NGO “Involvement. Sustainability. Innovations”, which was held in Riga.

On 17<sup>th</sup> of June representatives of EAPN-Latvia Laila Balga and Norberts Snarskis participated in seminar of the project “Addict: de jure and de facto” of foundation “NOVA VITA” co-financed by Society integration foundation.

On 18<sup>th</sup> of June there were events held of the Association of development of Latgale suburb (ALPA) of project co-financed within the Social Integration Program of IJSD (Department of Education, Youth and Sport) of Riga Council “Maskava suburb – let’s do it together!”, hosted by Baiba Giptere.

On 21<sup>st</sup> of June Chairwoman of the board of EAPN-Latvia Laila Balga took part in the event organized for youth and children of Ukraine in NGO House in Riga, which took place within the festival “Ukraine days in Baltic Sea”.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> of September representatives of EAPN-Latvia Laila Balga and Norberts Snarskis took part in seminar “Cooperation opportunities of NGO sector with a Probation Service”, organized by Riga NGO Centre in cooperation with State Probation Service.

On 5<sup>th</sup> of September Chairwoman of the board of EAPN-Latvia Laila Balga took part in the meeting of the secretariat of Latvian Presidency in European Council in EU House in Riga.

On 27<sup>th</sup> of September Chairwoman of the board of EAPN-Latvia Laila Balga took part in the arrangement dedicated to events in Ukraine organized by Ukraine youth and children centre in Latvia (Chairwoman of the board Olga Berga) and association “Ukraine-Latvia” (Member of the board Vitalijs Oļijenčuks), which were held with a participation of the poet Anastasija Dmitruka (poem-song “We will never be brothers”).

On 30<sup>th</sup> of September in Riga Member of the board of Varakļāni association “Adult development project” Staņislava Poče represented EAPN-Latvia in the awards event on Gender equality, organized by Cooperation Network of Latvian Women Non-governmental organizations (Chairwoman of the board Inete Ielīte).

On 17<sup>th</sup> of October in Riga Member of the board of EAPN-Latvia Lelde Cālīte took part in seminar “Investment in children in Latvia: Political Instruments of EU and financing opportunities”, organized by *EU Alliance for Investing in children*.

On 24<sup>th</sup> of October Laila Balga in Riga, in Latvian Academy of Arts took part in the opening of the expo “To be a woman”, held within the project of Society integration foundation, Resource centre for women “Marta”, association “Leader” (“Līdere”), Ministries of Welfare and Finance, co-financed by EU Progress program.

From 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> of October in Riga there was a Creation festival of Ukraine youth “Baltic dawn” held, organized by Ukraine youth and children centre in Latvia (Chairwoman of the board Olga Berga).

On 12<sup>th</sup> of November representatives of EAPN-Latvia Staņislava Poče and Norberts Snarskis took part in the conference “European Social Foundation – for You!”, organized by State Chancellery.

On 20<sup>th</sup> of November representatives of EAPN-Latvia Laila Balga, Baiba Giptere, Terēzija Mackare, Valija Eize and Aivars Lasmanis took part in Forum of Riga Council “Riga rolls – residents speak, think and do!”, held in Latvian National library.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> of December representatives of EAPN-Latvia Valija Elize and Norberts Snarskis took part in conference of Riga Stradiņš University “Lucky story: Version of Latvian residents”.

On 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of December in Riga representatives of EAPN-Latvia took in NGO network conference, organized by European Social Platform (coordinator Edīte Kalniņa). On 8<sup>th</sup> of December Riga Alliance of active seniors organize meeting of NGO managers with leaders of member organizations of Social Platform.

On 19<sup>th</sup> of December Ukraine youth and children centre in Latvia (Chairwoman of the board Olga Berga) welcomed to the Delivery of Peace Light of Bethlehem in St. Maria Magdalena Church in Riga.

#### 5) Participation of EAPN-Latvia in the defence of interests:

In 2014 EAPN-Latvia had a cooperation with The Ministry of Welfare (representatives in Committee on coordination of social inclusion policy (Elīna Ālere-Fogele), in Committee of Gender Equality (Laila Balga), in National Board of Affairs on Disabled (Lelde Cālīte) and in the Operation program of European Support foundation to the most poor persons (Uldis Līkops and Bruno Barons), as well as on 22<sup>nd</sup> of May this year there was an Agreement on cooperation in 10 social spheres signed); with The Ministry of the Interior (representative in the consultative board of NGO Laila Balga), with Riga Council (Norberts Snarskis, Terēzija Mackare a.o.) and Secretariat of the Latvian Presidency in the Board of European Union (Laila Balga and Elīna Ālere-Fogele). EAPN-Latvia has established groups of experts for work in commissions of Saeima of RL, in work groups of ministries and authorities of Riga Council. Representative of EAPN-Latvia Laila Balga with a right to vote was included in the Supervision committee for a planning period from 2014 to 2020 of EU Structural foundation and Cohesion foundation.

On 10<sup>th</sup> of February EAPN-Latvia has submitted to Ministries of Finance, Welfare, Justice and Economics the propositions on Draft of government action plan towards the cooperation with non-governmental organizations.

On 7<sup>th</sup> of March EAPN-Latvia signed 2 resolutions: on right to vote of women and prevention of aggression and violence in the world, that succeeds poverty of women.

On 4<sup>th</sup> of April EAPN-Latvia submitted propositions to The Ministry of Welfare for the Operation program of European Support foundation to the most poor persons; the interests in the work group of The Ministry of Welfare will be represented by Riga Alliance of Active Seniors.

On 11<sup>th</sup> of April Chairwoman of the board of EAPN-Latvia Laila Balga took part in the meeting of inter-ministries related to development of State Police Development concept, organized by The Ministry of the Interior.

On 16<sup>th</sup> of May work group of EAPN-Latvia prepared the appeal for deputy candidates or the European Parliament to support antipoverty policy in Europe; out of 170 candidates 8 candidates from lists of four parties signed it.

On 29<sup>th</sup> of May EAPN-Latvia joined the memorandum of NGO “Increase of health care budget today - it is an investment in the improvement of health and welfare of residents tomorrow”, prepared with a management of Riga Alliance of Active Seniors.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> of July in premises of Riga Alliance of Active Seniors in Riga took place an extended board meeting of EAPN-Latvia on decisions of General Assembly of EAPN and tasks of EAPN-Latvia for 2014 – 2015.

On 24<sup>th</sup> of July EAPN-Latvia in cooperation with 9 other non-governmental organizations submitted to The Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Latvia the request on increase of the budget on health care for 2015-2016.

On 25<sup>th</sup> of July EAPN-Latvia submitted for signing to 8 deputies of European Parliament from Latvia the Closing Declaration on the fight against poverty, that will enter into force on 28<sup>th</sup> of June in Tallinn, in General Assembly of EAPN.

On 20<sup>th</sup> of August Members of the board of EAPN-Latvia Laila Balga and Lelde Cālīte took part in the event of Riga Alliance of Active Seniors, hosted by the Chairwoman of the board Terēzija Mackare and where the questions of NGO were answered by Prime Minister Laimdota Straujuma. Saeima of RL and Riga Council were represented in the event as well.

On 24<sup>th</sup> of September Chairwoman of the board of EAPN-Latvia Laila Balga took part in the meeting of Commission of European affairs of the Saeima of RL (SELK) on the announcement of European Commission to European Parliament, Board, European Committee of Economic and Social affairs and Regional Committee “Strategies “Europe 2020” for clever, sustainable and integrating development”.

On 30<sup>th</sup> of September representatives of EAPN-Latvia Laila Balga and Norberts Snarskis via letters asked deputies of European Parliament from Latvia Valdis Dombrovskis and Tatjana Ždanoka to support the budget of EAPN in the voting of EC in Brussels.

On 1<sup>st</sup> of October Laila Balga took part in the meeting of SELK on accessible means of structural foundations for municipalities in the planning period 2014-2020 of structural foundations of EU.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> of October the Group of strategic planning of EAPN-Latvia commenced the work.

#### 6) Participation of EAPN-Latvia in international forums:

From 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> April – in international forum in Vilnius, Lithuania, EAPN-Latvia was represented by Kristīne Liepiņa and Žanna Osmolovska.

From 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of September in Brussels, Belgium, delegation of EAPN-Latvia (national coordinator of PeP Elīna Ālere-Fogele (Riga), Valda Stadgale (Rucava), Modra Vilkausa (Varakļāni) and Viesturs Fogels (Riga) took part in the meeting of PeP (*European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty*).

From 30<sup>th</sup> of September to 4<sup>th</sup> of October in Skopje, Macedonia, representative of EAPN-Latvia (Daniels Dans Jasinskis from Saldus Secondary School No. 2 and Ieva Pērkona from Riga Medicine College No. 1) took part in the regional meeting of European and Central Asian youth, organized by *Child & Youth Finance International* (CYFI).

On 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> November in Brussels, Belgium, Member of the board of EAPN-Latvia Lelde Cālīte and representative of Association of SOS settlements for children Daiga Eiduka took part in the meeting of partners of EU Alliance, organized by *EU Alliance for Investing in children*.

On 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of November in Brussels, Belgium, Member of the board of EAPN-Latvia Elīna Ālere-Fogele took part in 4<sup>th</sup> convent against poverty of Social Platform within a national delegation.

#### 7) Events supported by EAPN-Latvia:

On 22<sup>nd</sup> of August in Varakļāni and on 23<sup>rd</sup> of August in Dunika, Rucava District, with a support of EAPN-Latvia, association “Adult development project”, “Magnoliija” and “Jumītis”, there were concerts of ancient music group “TUNA” of Seville, Spain, which were visited by at least 150 provincial residents.

Financial turnover 2014 EUR 36 059,00.

Report prepared in Riga, on 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2015.

Laila Balga, Chair of the board of EAPN-Latvia