**COMM’ON Guidelines – Break-out Room 2**

**Participants**: Jürgen/EAPN DE, Graciela/EAPN ES, Anna/EAPN FI, Lauffey/EAPN IC, Paul/EAPN IE, Rimgailė/EAPN LT, Ryszard/EAPN PL, Paula/EAPN PT, Marija/EAPN SB, Elke/EAPN Staff, Mathias/EAPN Staff, Sandy/EAPN Staff.

Opportunities and challenges were taken together. Only one direct answer was given to Q 3, as the group wanted to discuss the overall issues more broadly.

**Jürgen/EAPN DE**

* Reply to question 1: Due to the corvid 19 crisis it has become difficult to maintain the communication within the German networks so no information yet available on the assessment of the opportunities of the use of the COMM’ON Guidelines.
* Reply to question 2: The biggest challenge will be to explain the importance of the COMM’ON Guidelines to the whole national network.
* Reply to question 3: The COMM’ON Guidelines have been internally circulated to the “nak Speakers Group” and will be discussed there and in other relevant committees of the nak.

**Graciela/EAPN ES**

* EAPN Spain has already done meetings on 14 regional networks on the link of policy work and communication. EAPN Spain will take the COMM’ON Guidelines serious, as increasing participation is also a question of accountability and credibility.
* A main challenge is the identification of PeP, not least at EU-level, as people move in and out of poverty, their aspiration is always to overcome time spells in poverty. People who have been PeP should, based on the own experiences in the past, also be considered as “witnesses”.

**Anna/EAPN FI**

* No time yet to read the document, but EAPN FI welcomes the move from rhetoric to action.
* Major challenges: The use and implementation of the COMM’ON Guidelines, however, might be difficult for smaller national networks and/or networks as EAPN FI which are loose networks without own staff, i.e. also without own communication staff. It therefore seems that for EAPN FI the trainings foreseen in the COMM’ON Guidelines cannot be realised.
* As known to EAPN Europe and some other members, EAPN FI has participated in the journalist price initiative, which was considered as concrete and helpful to involve PeP. Under the current “lockdown conditions” this cannot be replicated as face-to-face meetings are needed.
* Anna welcomed the emphasis put by Elke in her presentation on the need to use “plain language” and the benefits in doing so in order to better reach out to PeP, but also to the general public.

**Lauffey/EAPN IC**

* Interest in COMM’ON Guidelines, also as personally working as Policy and Communication Officer for EAPN IC. They contain useful information, tips and inspiration and will help EAPN IC to communicate better about the work and publications of EAPN Europe.
* Lauffey also informed about the interest of EAPN IC to do interviews/films with PeP from other countries (this would need to be in English) with the help of the other national networks and their communication staff/PeP coordinator, also to be shown in the Icelandic TV. She also added that she/EAPN IC have use interviews and recorded conversations with PeP for the policy work in Iceland.

**Paul/EAPN IE**

* For EAPN IE the COMM’ON Guidelines are a reminder of the importance of the work with PeP. They have, however, not yet been discussed internally. EAPN IE has regional and local networks and staff and the head office 3 part time workers, one also dealing with communication.
* As Graciela Paul sees challenges in view of involving PeP over a mid-term period as they move in and out of poverty and engage and disengage. EAPN IE links to them via local action groups.

**Rimgailė/EAPN LT**

* EAPN LT some time ago took a decision how they would like to be mainly seen and act and opted for being a network of experts on social policy, poverty, etc., not a network of activists or social movements.
* This decision has a strong impact on their focus on communication and dissemination, both on the format of the publications, the channels used and the addressees (mainly government bodies and other policy stakeholders).
* They are always cautious in not creating hopes by PeP they later cannot live up to.

**Ryszard/EAPN PL**

* It’s good to have the COMM’ON Guidelines, but EAPN PL would still need to see how to use them. EAPN PL has a voluntary press officer which in itself is a challenge.
* Regarding the involvement of PeP, the EAPN PL spokesperson is a PeP. A challenge, however, for the policy work of EAPN PL which is important and recognised is that for communicating and disseminating e.g. comments and/or proposals on national legislation or on the European Semester, other qualifications and people are needed.

**Paula/EAPN PT**

* COMM’ON Guidelines are very good and important, EAPN PT contributed to their elaboration. In order to be of direct use in Portugal, EAPN PT will translate them.
* Participation and the full involvement of PeP in the work of EAPN PT has a long tradition and is well anchored, also based on the work of 18 local Councils of Citizens. The challenges are how to adapt the communication also for their needs and the needs of the general public, but also which “incentive” is offered to keep the engagement of PeP. EAPN PT has opted for visibility. Paula also mentioned the challenge of the management of expectations of PeP in case they engage and the need to empower them – for this “tracking” PeP is a necessary precondition. There is also the challenge to provide information and training to PeP.

**Marija/EAPN SB**

* Taking up her comments in the plenary session, Marija underlined the importance of having the COMM’ON Guidelines.
* A challenge in EAPN SB is that PeP are represented in the board, but under the COVID19-related restrictions and additional limitations of the civic space by the government in Serbia it will be difficult to also involve them in the future. Starting from learning processes with the COVID19 pandemic she suggested to continue with online tools to bring together different groups and responsibles (EUISG; PeP, ExCo) in the national networks and in the work with PeP.