



## NATIONAL REPORT 2018

### 1. Activity report

***Organization's projects, events and other activities addressed to the target groups in the calendar year (indicate no more than the five most important projects and give their short description, additionally indicating the period and the place of their implementation, list all the other projects)***

#### 1) Baltic Sea Region Project

On June 1st 2018 began the implementation of the two-year EAPN-Latvia project "Strengthening NGOs for the effective protection of social rights", which is co-financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers. 8 partner countries are involved in this project; project manager Laila Balga, national coordinator Baiba Giptere, interpreter Inna Sumanska. Project budget 59730 EUR (including 30% co-financing).

On July 13<sup>th</sup> 2018 the first meeting of this project's working group took place in Riga. The opening of this project, a training seminar on the basic principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights and three experience exchange workshops took place on September 26-28<sup>th</sup> in Kaliningrad, Russia. On October 24<sup>th</sup> in Riga took place two experience exchange workshops: one - at the Ministry of Welfare and one - at the Welfare Department of the Riga City Council. Four experience exchange workshops took place on December 6-7<sup>th</sup> in Vilnius, Lithuania.

In 2018 33 experts from the countries of the Baltic Sea region were involved in this project. The Latvian NGO expert group included Marite Rozentale, Diana Jasinska, Kristine Dziluma and Ieva Strele (from Sigulda Association of people with disabilities "A call to You"), Ilga Liepina (from Latvian Association of Large Families), Elina Alere-Fogele, Baiba Giptere and Janis Stjadja (EAPN-Latvia Board members) and Maris Kalejs (EAPN-Latvia IT).

#### 2) EAPN Europe project "European Minimum Income Network (EMIN-2)"

From January 1<sup>st</sup> until December 21<sup>st</sup> 2018 continued the implementation of the two-year EMIN-2 project "Towards a better minimum income model and a better Europe". The annual budget of this project is 17 680 EUR. The project was managed by the national coordinator (Laila Balga), six regional coordinators (Elina Alere-Fogele, Baiba Giptere, Marite Rozentale, Lelde Calite, Valda Stadgale and Janis Stjadja) and one IT manager (Maris Kalejs), and involved more than 200 people from different regions of Latvia. As a result of this project, an EMIN network was established with the participation of Latvian NGOs, trade unions, state institutions, local governments and private companies.

On February 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 the EAPN-Latvia announced a competition for the position of EMIN Honorary ambassador. From April 9<sup>th</sup> Elina Pinto, Vice-President of the European Latvian Association, performed the duties of the EMIN Honorary ambassador.

EMIN-2 project working groups' meetings took place in Riga on February 7<sup>th</sup>, March 28<sup>th</sup>, May 9<sup>th</sup>, June 5<sup>th</sup>, July 13<sup>th</sup> and September 14<sup>th</sup>.

On May 18<sup>th</sup> on the ferry cruise Riga-Stockholm EAPN-Latvia organized a conference "Let's Talk to Europe", during which its participants were introduced to the EMIN-2 project, as well as invited to sign the EMIN petition on minimum income policy-making.

On June 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>, EAPN-Latvia received in Latvia the European EMIN Bus, organized a meeting with residents in Bauska, Riga and Ainazi, as well as collected around 400 signatures on the EMIN petition for submission to the European Commission.

On June 19<sup>th</sup> EAPN-Latvia started collecting signatures on the "MANA BALSS" ("MY VOICE") Internet portal regarding raising GMI in Latvia over 330 euros.

On October 22-26<sup>th</sup> 2018 the EAPN-Latvia international conference and experience exchange activities took place in Riga - at the Latvian War Museum, the European Union House, VEF Culture Palace, Latvian Christian Seniors' Union, the Holy Family House and Riga Active Seniors' Alliance, with the participation of NGO experts from Latvia, Russia, Belarus, Lithuania, the Czech Republic, Poland and Denmark. On October 25<sup>th</sup> more than 60 representatives from different NGOs, state and municipal institutions and companies from Riga and other regions of Latvia participated in the EAPN-Latvia international conference "Strengthening non-governmental organizations for effective protection of social rights". The participants of this conference prepared their proposals for increasing the contribution of NGOs to the involvement of civil society in the processes of social reforms and for the implementation of the basic principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights in Latvia and other European countries.

On October 24<sup>th</sup> in Riga, at the European Union House, the EAPN-Latvia representatives Laila Balga and Elina Pinto presented information at the European Semester fact-finding meeting, organized by the Representation of the European Commission in Latvia with the participation of eleven representatives of the European Commission's Directorates-General.

EMIN-2 project activities abroad:

- On February 27<sup>th</sup> in Brussels, Belgium the Latvian EMIN coordinator Laila Balga participated in the 3rd meeting of the EMIN-2 national coordinators, where 25 project member states were represented.

- On August 27-31<sup>st</sup> in Prague, Czech Republic, the Latvian EMIN regional coordinator Janis Stjadja met with Karel Schwarz, Head of the EAPN Czech Republic, to organize cooperation in studying the situation of senior citizens.

- On September 18-19<sup>th</sup> in Antwerp, Belgium the EAPN-Latvia representatives Laila Balga and Liga Rasnaca (from the University of Latvia) participated in the Peer Review meeting of 6 countries "Use of Reference Budgets for Policy Purposes".

- On November 20-21<sup>st</sup> in Brussels, Belgium the EMIN-2 project coordinators Laila Balga and Baiba Giptere participated in the closing meeting of the project "Making Progress on Minimum Income Schemes".

### 3) EAPN Europe National Networks' Support Program

This program, which took place in Latvia from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2018, was managed by the EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board Laila Balga and the PeP event coordinators Elina Alere-Fogele and Baiba Giptere; an interpreter Inna Sumanska was also involved in its implementation. Program's budget is 9 500 EUR (including 41% of co-financing). Meetings of the working groups of this program took place on February 7<sup>th</sup>, March 28<sup>th</sup>, July 13<sup>th</sup> and September 14<sup>th</sup> in Riga.

I. The activities of the Program for People Experiencing Poverty and Social Exclusion (PeP), "Strengthening the involvement of poverty experts in the field of education and social affairs" were implemented in Riga, Bernati (Nica county), Dobele and Sigulda. Three poverty experts were involved in these activities: Iveta Valeine (Garkalne Women's Association "Musmajas" ("Our Home"), Madara Porike (Liepaja Society of the Blind) and Janis Stjadja (Dobele Association of people with disabilities). In these activities in Riga and the regions of Latvia took part more than 100 participants, who prepared their proposals for the Latvian Parliament (Saeima) and the Government. This program was closed on October 16<sup>th</sup> in Riga, at the European Union House with participation of representatives from NGOs, the Representation of the European Commission in Latvia, Latvian Ministry of Welfare, the Riga City Council, the Latvian Women's non-governmental organizations' network and the Latvian Lawyers' Association.

Activities abroad:

- On March 15-16<sup>th</sup> in Vienna, Austria PeP program coordinator Elina Alere-Fogele participated in the meeting of PeP national coordinators for the planning of the European PeP summit.

- On November 7-8<sup>th</sup> in Brussels, Belgium the EAPN-Latvia poverty experts Elina Alere-Fogele, Iveta Valeine, Madara Porike and Janis Stjadja participated in the European PeP Summit "Let's make education a way out of poverty".

II. Within the framework of the EAPN program "Europe 2020 Strategy", the activities "Social dimension in Latvian National Reform Program" were implemented in Latvia, in which were involved two experts: Elina Alere-Fogele (EAPN-Latvia) and Marite Rozentale (Sigulda Association of people with disabilities "A Call to You"), who analyzed the relevant documents adopted in Latvia.

These activities also included the translation of the EAPN Europe brochure "The contribution of meaningful Social Innovation to reducing poverty and social exclusion in Europe" and other documents from English into Russian in the context of the Europe 2020 Strategy and the European Pillar of Social Rights.

III. Within the framework of the program, three EAPN brochures were translated from English into Latvian and prepared for publication: "Inclusive Labour Markets – Building pathway approaches to quality employment", "The Future of Work" and "More Audacity to Fight Poverty & Ensure Social Rights!", which are now available to specialists and the general public on the EAPN-Latvia website.

#### 4) participation in the projects of the National Employment Agency

1 - From January 1<sup>st</sup> to January 31<sup>st</sup> the implementation of the ESF project's "Youth Guarantees" activity "Development of skills required for work in the non-governmental sector" continued with the employment of one young unemployed person at the EAPN Center in Balvi.

2 - From January 1<sup>st</sup> to June 29<sup>th</sup> the implementation of the ESF project's "Youth Guarantees" activity "Subsidized jobs for unemployed young people (activities for certain groups of people)" continued with the employment of one young unemployed person at the EAPN Riga office.

3 - From January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> the implementation of the ESF project's "Subsidized jobs for the unemployed people" active employment measure "Activity for certain groups of people" continued with the employment of one unemployed person with a disability at the EAPN center in Dobele.

#### 5) Latvia's 100th anniversary program

- On January 20<sup>th</sup> in Varaklani EAPN-Latvia in cooperation with the association "Adult Development Project" organized the opening event of Latvia's 100th anniversary celebrations, which was attended by at least 130 participants from different NGOs, municipalities and companies.

- On July 26-29<sup>th</sup> a summer seminar for the leaders of EAPN-Latvia network's member organizations took place in Bernati (Nica county); On August 23-26<sup>th</sup> in Bernati was held a summer seminar for NGO members and local government officials; a total of 24 participants were involved in these two seminars.

#### 6) EAPN-Latvia 5th anniversary formal meeting

On October 16<sup>th</sup> the EAPN-Latvia 5th anniversary formal meeting was organized at the European Union House in Riga, which was attended by representatives of the Representation of the European Commission in Latvia, Latvian Ministry of Welfare, the Riga City Council and Latvian Women's Non-Governmental Organizations' Cooperation Network. During this meeting more than 15 associations and foundations were thanked for their active work within EAPN-Latvia Network. Information about EAPN-Latvia's activities is regularly distributed on Latvian Radio, TV, in the press and on social networks.

## **2. The results of the organization's activities or achievements during the calendar year in relation to the target group and in the field concerned**

- 1) co-operation with Latvian state institutions and local governments in the field of advocacy

- 1.1. From January 1<sup>st</sup> two EAPN-Latvia representatives - Elina Alere-Fogele and Marite Rozentale - work in the Social Inclusion Policy Coordination Committee of the Ministry of Welfare.
- 1.2. From January 1<sup>st</sup> Laila Balga, EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board, will continue to work in the Gender Equality Committee of the Ministry of Welfare.
- 1.3. From January 1<sup>st</sup> the EAPN-Latvia representative Dzintra Zilde continues to work in the Senior Affairs Council of the Ministry of Welfare.
- 1.4. From January 1<sup>st</sup> the EAPN-Latvia representative Baiba Svetlana Rozenberga continues her work in the FEAD Operational Program of the Ministry of Welfare.
- 1.5. From January 1<sup>st</sup> Baiba Giptere, EAPN-Latvia Board member, continues to work in the Social Integration Advisory Board of the Riga City Council.
- 1.6. From January 3<sup>rd</sup> EAPN-Latvia has started cooperation with the Eastern Executive Directorate of the Riga City Council.
- 1.7. On March 15<sup>th</sup> in Riga Laila Balga and Inete Ielite (Latvian Women's Non-Governmental Organizations' Cooperation Network) participated in a meeting organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on growth and competitiveness in connection with issues to be addressed by the Council of Europe.
- 1.8. On May 28<sup>th</sup> Agita Pleiko (Jekabpils NGO Resource Center) was approved as a member of the Strategic Planning Committee of the Latvian NGO Foundation.

## 2) Participation in the monitoring of the use of European Union funds

From January 1<sup>st</sup> Laila Balga (a public official), the EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board, will continue her work in the Monitoring Committee of the EU Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund for the 2014-2020 programming period.

## 3) EAPN-Latvia's participation in advocacy (applications, proposals, resolutions, meetings) at the European level:

- On January 9<sup>th</sup> were submitted the comments to the EAPN Europe survey "Public consultation on a possible EU action addressing the challenges of access to social protection for people in all forms of employment in the framework of the European Pillar of Social Rights".
- On January 29<sup>th</sup> were presented the EAPN-Latvia's proposals for the position of EAPN Europe on the preparation of the Council of Europe's Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).
- On February 16<sup>th</sup> a report was submitted to the EAPN Europe Barometer Report in a survey on the contribution of ESF funds to the reduction of poverty and social exclusion in Latvia.
- On June 22<sup>nd</sup> was submitted the EAPN EUISG report on tackling in-work poverty in Latvia.
- On June 27<sup>th</sup> was submitted the EAPN Europe questionnaire with the EAPN-Latvia guidelines for the development of the European Network.

At the Latvian level:

- On May 9<sup>th</sup> a resolution in connection with the Europe Day was submitted to the Representation of the European Commission in Latvia, the Saeima (Latvian Parliament), the State Chancellery and the Ombudsman.
- On June 1<sup>st</sup> in Riga the EAPN-Latvia representatives participated in the forum by Saeima and NGOs in the Saeima House of the Republic of Latvia.
- On June 25<sup>th</sup> the EAPN guidelines were submitted to the Saeima's European Affairs Committee in connection with the EU budget planning "An EU budget to protect people experiencing poverty or our defense and security industries?".
- On June 27<sup>th</sup> in Riga the EAPN-Latvia representative Dace Paegle participated in the State Chancellery's discussion "Knowledge. Creation. Changes".
- On August 29<sup>th</sup> the EAPN-Latvia representatives participated in the conference "Informing- Cooperation" organized by the Council for the Implementation of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the NGOs and the Cabinet of Ministers.
- On October 19<sup>th</sup> were submitted the proposals for improving the operation of the Council for the Implementation of the Memorandum of Cooperation between NGOs and the Cabinet of Ministers.
- On November 21<sup>st</sup> in Riga EAPN-Latvia expert Elina Alere-Fogele gave an interview to the Baltic Institute of Social Sciences.
- On November 28<sup>th</sup> in Riga Laila Balga, the EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board, participated in the meeting of the Saeima European Affairs Committee.

#### 4) representation in the activities of other organizations / institutions in Latvia

- On January 19<sup>th</sup> in Riga at the European Union House Laila Balga participated in a seminar organized by the Latvian Lawyers' Association and the Latvian Social Reform Association on the principles of good governance in the judicial system.
- On February 15<sup>th</sup> in Riga at the National Library of Latvia the EAPN-Latvia representatives participated in the seminar by the Ministry of Culture, Anna Linde Foundation and the Latvian Women's Non-Governmental Organizations' Cooperation Network "Development of projects for the EU program" Europe for Citizens".
- On February 15<sup>th</sup> in Riga at the National Library of Latvia the EAPN-Latvia representatives participated at the Gender Equality Award presentation ceremony, which is coordinated by the Latvian Women's Non-Governmental Organizations' Cooperation Network.
- On March 8<sup>th</sup> in Riga Laila Balga participated in the activities of the Latvian Women's Non-Governmental Organizations' Cooperation Network, which took place in cooperation with the Bank of Latvia and the Association of Latvian Commercial Banks.

- On March 22<sup>nd</sup> in Riga the EAPN-Latvia board member Janis Stjadja participated in the discussion meeting "Are people with disabilities important to the Latvian labor market?", organized by the association "Sustento".
- On October 11<sup>th</sup> in Riga, at the National Library of Latvia the EAPN-Latvia representatives participated in the seminar "Freedom of Association in Latvia - Development and Trends", organized by the Latvian Lawyers' Association.
- Since October 24<sup>th</sup> in Riga the EAPN-Latvia's informative poster has been placed as the part of the NGO House exhibition "NGOs' Stories for the Latvian Centenary".
- On November 5<sup>th</sup> in Riga, at the Central Library, the EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board Laila Balga participated in the TV-24 discussion "Let's Talk About the Future of Europe".
- On November 7<sup>th</sup> in Riga Laila Balga participated in the discussion organized by the Freedom and Solidarity Fund "Charity and charity work in reducing social inequality: experiences and future perspectives".
- On December 19<sup>th</sup> in Riga the EAPN-Latvia representative Vija Ahunzjanova participated in the event "Non-governmental organizations for urban growth", organized by Riga City Council Education, Culture and Sports Department.

### **3. Founders / members of the organization and other persons involved**

- 7.1. number of founders / members: 7
- 7.2. number of legal persons involved: 35
- 7.3 number of public beneficiaries: 150 000

### **4. Use of donations received during the calendar year**

- 8.1. The total amount of donations received in the calendar year is 0 euros;
- 8.2. The total amount of donations used in the calendar year is 290 euros, including:
  - 8.2.1 for public benefit activities: 290 euros;
  - 8.2.2 administrative expenses of the calendar year out of the total amount of general donations used in the calendar year: 0 euros.

### **5. Factors contributing to the activities of the organization (for example, cooperation with public administration institutions, businesses)**

- 9.1. The following events for the exchange of experience and cooperation with foreign organizations (outside projects) in 2018 promoted the activities of the Association:
  - 9.1.1. On March 23<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> in Oviedo, Asturias (Spain) Laila Balga, the EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board, participated in the EAPN EXCO meeting.
  - 9.1.2. On April 27<sup>th</sup> in Brussels, Belgium the EAPN-Latvia representatives Inete Ielite (Latvian Children's Forum) and Ieva Bagata (Jekabpils NGO Resource

Center) as the part of the delegation from the Ministry of Welfare participated in the Growth Convention "Implementation of the Social Pillar".

9.1.3. On May 9<sup>th</sup> in Riga took place a meeting between the EAPN-Latvia representatives and the high-level specialists from the Austrian judicial system on the role and employment of women in the judicial system, discrimination and violence against women.

9.1.4. On July 10<sup>th</sup> in Riga the EAPN-Latvia representatives met with young people from Turkey and Jordan and had a discussion on the role of women in civil society and decision-making.

9.1.5. On July 5<sup>th</sup> in Brussels, Belgium, the EAPN-Latvia board members Laila Balga and Elina Alere-Fogele participated in the political conference "Social Protection for All - How can the Social Pillar and SDGs build stronger welfare states?", organized by the EAPN Europe.

9.1.6. On September 28<sup>th</sup> in Vienna, Austria, Elina Alere-Fogele, the EAPN-Latvia board member, and Elina Pinto, the Honorary Ambassador of EMIN, participated in the EAPN political conference "Implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights - Experiences and Practices in European Countries and International Perspectives".

9.1.7. On September 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> in Vienna, Austria, the EAPN-Latvia board members Elina Alere-Fogele and Lelde Calite participated in the EAPN General Assembly, EUISG and Capacity Building meetings.

## 9.2. Increasing the capacity of the Association in 2018:

9.2.1. From January 1<sup>st</sup> the EAPN-Latvia representatives continue their cooperation with the Latvian Child Welfare Network (Elina Alere-Fogele), the Latvian Social Entrepreneurship Association (Ligita Upite), the Latvian Women's Non-Governmental Organizations' Cooperation Network (Inete Ielite) and the Cross-sectoral dialogue platform (Sigita Zankovska-Odina).

9.2.2. From January 1<sup>st</sup> the Working group on human rights and social affairs and the Working group on NGO Capacity Building have continued their work; the Working group on social integration has started its work on January 15<sup>th</sup>.

9.2.3. In 2018 Laila Balga, EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board, was authorized to work for the EAPN Europe Fundraising and Financial Diversification Team (FFDT).

9.2.4. In 2018 the EAPN-Latvia has maintained an office that has the appropriate equipment and the Internet, also has rented meeting rooms in Riga, as well as in the municipal institutions in the regions of Latvia; the EAPN-Latvia's website [www.eapn.lv](http://www.eapn.lv) is being constantly maintained and a monthly newsletter "Jaunami" ("News") is being issued on a regular basis, information is also being provided by e-mail, social networks (Facebook, Twitter, etc.); the association also has an extensive database of NGO sector clients.

## 6. Factors that hinder the operation of the organization

The factors that hinder the EAPN-Latvia's activities are the following:

- 1) the funding from the international funds for social projects and adult lifelong learning projects is barely available in Latvia;
- 2) the funding from the Latvian NGO Foundation is insufficient to stimulate social projects;
- 3) EAPN-Latvia has a long-term lack of capacity to compete with NGOs from other European countries in calls for proposals;
- 4) the view of international funds and Latvian state institutions on the financing of Latvian NGOs is negative;
- 5) in the 2018 call for proposals wasn't approved the application from the Cooperation Council of Agricultural Organizations (with EAPN-Latvia as a partner) on the assignment of operator functions of the EEA and the Norwegian financial instrument program "NGO Fund" for the period 2014-2021.
- 6) In 2018 no funding was granted to the following projects prepared by EAPN-Latvia / partnership projects:
  - On January 31<sup>st</sup> the project "Link between social rights and social entrepreneurship" was submitted to the Nordplus Adult program; the planned project budget was 42 280 euros.
  - On March 21<sup>st</sup> a project "shareABILITY: Developing Effective Staff and Services to Meet Homeless Needs" was submitted to the Erasmus+, applicant – our partner Sophia Housing, Ltd (Ireland).
  - On June 15<sup>th</sup> the project "Civil Society Coalition" was submitted to the Network of European Foundations; the planned project budget was 9980 euros.

## 7. Long-term projects, measures and other activities (implementation period - more than one year):

- **ongoing** (specify no more than five most important projects and create their short description, additionally indicating their time and venue, list all the other projects):

- 1) Until July 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 will take place the implementation of the two-year ESF project's "Subsidized jobs for the unemployed" active employment measure "Activities for certain groups of persons" with the employment of one unemployed person with a disability at the EAPN-Latvia center in Dobele.
- 2) Until October 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 is planned the implementation of the two-year Baltic Sea Region project "Strengthening NGOs for Effective Protection of Social Rights" with co-financing from the Nordic Council of Ministers.

- **planned** (specify no more than five most important projects and create their short description, additionally indicating their time and venue, list all the other projects):

- 1) From June 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 we plan to implement the two-year project "Link between social rights and social entrepreneurship" (this project application was submitted to the Nordplus Adult program).
- 2) From September 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 in partnership we plan to implement the project "Building an Academy for Educating Participation to the Poor and Excluded"; project applicant – our partner EAPN-Netherlands (this project application was submitted to the Erasmus+ program).

**8. Short-term projects, measures and other activities** (implementation period – up to one year):

- **ongoing** (specify no more than five most important projects and create their short description, additionally indicating their time and venue, list all the other projects):

None.

- **planned** (specify no more than five most important projects and create their short description, additionally indicating their time and venue, list all the other projects):

- 1) From January 1<sup>st</sup> until March 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 we plan to organize in Riga an international conference co-financed by the EAPN and a meeting of the EUISG with the participation of representatives from 26 countries.
- 2) From April 1<sup>st</sup> until June 30<sup>th</sup> 2019 we plan to implement in Riga the project "Increasing the skills of volunteers from Riga NGOs to support the people experiencing poverty", co-financed by the Welfare Department of the Riga City Council.
- 3) From January 1<sup>st</sup> until October 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 we plan to implement in Riga the project "Challenges for NGOs to build a socially responsible state", financed by the Latvian NGO Foundation (this project was submitted to the Society Integration Foundation).
- 4) From January 1<sup>st</sup> until December 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 we plan to implement across Latvia the EAPN National networks' support program - PeP, the Europe 2020 strategy and the translation of brochures (applications for this program are accepted until June 16<sup>th</sup> 2019).

Prepared by Laila Balga,

EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board

21.04.2019