



## NATIONAL REPORT 2019

### 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*)

EAPN-Latvia projects:

- 1) From June 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 the EAPN-Latvia and its 4 project partners have started the implementation of the project "Link between social rights and social entrepreneurship", co-financed by the Nordplus Adult program (Denmark). This project is being implemented in Latvia (Riga), Estonia (Tallinn), Lithuania (Vilnius), Denmark (Odense) and Norway (Bergen). In 2020 within the framework of this project it is planned to train at least 10 educators, incl. 4 educators from Latvia.

On November 22<sup>nd</sup> at the National Library of Latvia in Riga took place the opening conference of this project "Is social entrepreneurship socially responsible?", with the participation of 30 Latvian specialists and experts from Lithuania, Estonia, Denmark, Norway, Russia and Poland.

- 2) From January 1<sup>st</sup> until December 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 the EAPN-Latvia implemented in Latvia the annual People Experiencing Poverty Program (PeP), which was co-financed by EAPN Europe. EAPN-Latvia was represented by 4 poverty experts at the 18th European PeP meeting "Political Priorities of People Experiencing Poverty: THE TIME IS NOW to Make Europe Poverty Free", which took place in Brussels, Belgium, on November 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>.

On October 17<sup>th</sup> the EAPN-Latvia discussion "Poverty can affect anyone!" took place in Riga in connection with the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, and it was attended by a total of 30 NGO volunteers and specialists in the social field.

- 3) From November 1<sup>st</sup> until December 27<sup>th</sup> 2019 the EAPN-Latvia implemented the project "Nordplus preparatory visit in Bergen", co-financed by the Nordplus Adult (Denmark) Nordic / Baltic program. The project activities took place from December 17<sup>th</sup> to December 20<sup>th</sup> in Bergen (Norway) in cooperation with 2 Norwegian NGOs and 2 social enterprises, and were attended by 2 NGO project managers from Latvia.

- 4) From June 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 until October 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 the project “Strengthening NGOs for Effective Protection of Social Rights” by EAPN-Latvia and 7 project partners was implemented in the Baltic Sea Region (co-financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers (Denmark)). Within the framework of this project, experience exchange activities and seminars were held in Latvia (Riga), Russia (Kaliningrad), Belarus (Minsk), Poland (Rzeszow), Estonia (Tallinn), Lithuania (Vilnius), Denmark (Odense) and Norway (Bergen). These activities were attended by 54 experts and project managers, incl. 10 participants from Latvia.
- 5) From August 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 until July 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 in Dobele, within the Dobele Association of people with disabilities, EAPN-Latvia implemented a State Employment Agency support measure by employing one unemployed person with a disability within the framework of the ESF project “Subsidized jobs for the unemployed”.
- 6) From April 1<sup>st</sup> until June 30<sup>th</sup> 2019 in Riga was implemented the EAPN-Latvia project “Increasing the skills of NGO volunteers from Riga to support the people experiencing poverty”, which was co-financed by the Riga City Council Welfare Department within the framework of the program “Cooperation with Non-Governmental Organizations”. 34 managers from 16 Riga NGOs were involved in this project.

Other important activities:

- 1) On November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2019 in Riga took place the international conference “Consumption budget and reducing inequality: Are we ready?”, organized by the EAPN-Latvia, with the participation of 30 Latvian specialists and experts from Lithuania, Estonia, Denmark, Norway, Russia and Poland.
- 2) From March 21<sup>st</sup> to March 23<sup>th</sup> 2019 in Riga took place a European-level political meeting of non-governmental organizations, organized by the EAPN-Latvia, which was attended by 33 EUISG leaders from 25 countries.
- 3) On March 21<sup>st</sup> 2019 in Riga took place the international conference "Greater Equality - Greater Security: Solutions for reducing the income gap", organized by EAPN-Latvia, which was attended by 31 leaders from 23 countries and 60 participants from Latvian organizations.

Participation in other organizations' projects:

- 1) From November 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 7 EAPN-Latvia representatives have started participating in the project "Equal Opportunities - The road to social welfare", co-financed by the Women's Rights Institute / Nordic Council of Ministers (Denmark) Baltic Sea Region NGO Cooperation Program. This project will take place in Latvia (Riga), Estonia (Tallinn), Lithuania (Vilnius), Russia (Kaliningrad), Belarus (Minsk), Poland (Rzeszow), Denmark (Odense) and Norway (Bergen).

- 2) From January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 EAPN-Latvia participated in the campaign on combating various threats (related to migration and global stability, crime and terrorism, economic situation, health and the environment) coordinated by the European Commission's Representation in Latvia, by nominating one "campaign hero".
- 3) In August and September 2019, 3 EAPN-Latvia experts participated in the project "OSIRIS Support for a smart specialization approach in the silver economy (senior economy) for regional innovation capacity building and ensuring sustainable growth", which took place within the framework of the Baltic Sea Region INTERREG program and was coordinated by Latvian partners - Riga Technical University and the association "CONNECT Latvija".
- 4) In August 2019, 4 EAPN-Latvia experts participated in the Latvian Consumer Interests' Protection Association's project "STEP", which takes place within the framework of the EU research and innovation support program "Horizon 2020".
- 5) On May 9<sup>th</sup> 2019 in Warsaw, Poland one EAPN-Latvia representative participated in the SMES-Europa European-level seminar "Dignity and Well-being - Exchange for Changing", organized by Caritas of Warsaw (Poland) in cooperation with Portuguese, Belgian, Danish, Spanish and Irish organizations within the framework of the Erasmus+ project.

## **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**

Organized events for the target groups:

- 1) In 2019 the EAPN-Latvia have translated from English, prepared and posted on its website 4 EAPN brochures: "Gender and Poverty in Europe", "Make Social Rights the beating heart of Europe!", "Gender-based Violence and Poverty in Europe" and "Ending Poverty is a political choice!"(RU), which were co-financed by the EAPN Europe.
- 2) Until September 5<sup>th</sup> 2019 the EAPN-Latvia stand, which was included in the program of the Riga NGO House's traveling exhibition "NGO Stories for the Centenary of Latvia", was on display at the Riga NGO House, in the foyer of the Riga City Council and at the Riga Pardaugava Executive Directorate.
- 3) On August 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 in Riga the EAPN-Latvia participated in the forum dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the National Library of Latvia. There EAPN-Latvia presented a stand with the slogan "I can't live without books" (T. Jefferson), with the help of 6 volunteers.
- 4) On August 22<sup>th</sup> 2019 in Riga a meeting dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the Baltic Way took place at the National Library of Latvia, organized by Latvian Lawyers' Association in cooperation with EAPN-Latvia; it was attended by at least 40 participants.

- 5) On June 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> 2019, within the framework of EAPN-Latvia activities “More Europe”, a seminar “Prosperous Europe - Prosperous Family” took place on the cruise ship Riga-Stockholm-Riga, which was attended by 9 participants from Latvian NGOs, companies and local governments.
- 6) On June 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 in Riga three EAPN-Latvia Board members participated (with the EAPN-Latvia stand) at the Bolderaja Festival 2019, organized by Riga City Council Education, Culture and Sports Department.

Involvement of NGO employees from EAPN-Latvia in international programs:

- 1) On November 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> 2019 in Brussels, Belgium took place the 18th FEAD Network Meeting “Monitoring and Evaluation of the FEAD”, which was attended by one EAPN-Latvia representative.
- 2) On September 16<sup>th</sup> 2019 in Helsinki, Finland 3 EAPN-Latvia representatives participated in the seminar organized by the Finnish organizations “The Role of Power, Politics and Participation in eradicating poverty in Europe”.
- 3) On August 6<sup>th</sup> 2019 in Tallinn, Estonia the representatives of EAPN-Latvia and of the Belarusian organization “Local support fund for the development of international dialogue and cooperation “Interakcia” signed a cooperation agreement.
- 4) On June 13<sup>th</sup> 2019 in Brussels, Belgium two EAPN-Latvia Board members participated in the political conference “Delivering Agenda 2030 - for People and Planet”, which was organized by the EAPN Europe.
- 5) On June 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> 2019 in Vilnius, Lithuania one EAPN-Latvia representative participated in the 16th FEAD Network meeting "Helping older people in poverty: FEAD initiatives".
- 6) On May 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> 2019 in Brussels, Belgium one EAPN-Latvia Board member participated in the closing conference of the European Social Fund Transnational Platform.
- 7) On May 20<sup>th</sup> 2019 in Brussels, Belgium the EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board participated in the Growth Convention “Inclusive Growth post 2020: looking at the future of Social Europe” as a member of the delegation of the Ministry of Welfare.
- 8) On April 5<sup>th</sup> 2019 in Brussels, Belgium one EAPN-Latvia representative participated in the 15th FEAD meeting on the topic “Different approaches to the provision of FEAD services”.

Participation in decision-making processes within international organizations:

- 1) On November 30<sup>th</sup> 2019 the EAPN-Latvia submitted to the EAPN Europe (Brussels) its assessment of the strategic operation of the European Anti-Poverty Network.

- 2) On September 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> 2019 in Helsinki, Finland three EAPN-Latvia representatives attended the EAPN Europe General Assembly, EXCO, EUISG and Capacity Building meetings.
- 3) On June 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> 2019 in Brussels, Belgium, two EAPN-Latvia representatives participated in the EAPN Europe EXCO and EUISG meetings.
- 4) On May 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> 2019 one EAPN-Latvia representative participated in the meeting of the European PeP National Coordinators in Helsinki, Finland.
- 5) On April 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> 2019 in Pamplona, Spain, the EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board participated in the EAPN Europe EXCO meeting.
- 6) On March 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>th</sup> 2019 in Riga, Latvia one EAPN-Latvia representative participated in the EAPN Europe EUISG meeting.

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

- 7.1. number of founders / members: 34
- 7.2. number of legal persons involved: 2000
- 7.3. number of public beneficiaries: 200 000

### **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 0 euros, including:
  - 8.2.1 for public benefit activities: 0 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 that contribute to the activities of the organization** *(for example, cooperation with public administration institutions, businesses)*

- 1) On December 17<sup>th</sup> 2019 in Riga the working group of the EAPN-Latvia and the Sectoral Literature Center of the National Library of Latvia agreed on the Cooperation Concept for 2020.
- 2) On December 10<sup>th</sup> 2019 in Riga, at the office of the Nordic Council of Ministers the EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board shared her experience in project implementation with 15 participants of the Nordplus program seminar organized by the State Education Development Agency.
- 3) On December 9<sup>th</sup> 2019 in Riga the EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board participated in the Expert talks “State budget leverages against poverty and inequality”, organized by the Bank of Latvia.

- 4) On November 30<sup>th</sup> 2019 the EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board participated in a survey by the University of Latvia on communication between institutions and population in the digital environment.
- 5) On October 30<sup>th</sup> 2019 in Riga the EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board participated in the discussion organized by the think tank "Providus" in connection with the public discussion of the National Development Plan.
- 6) On October 30<sup>th</sup> 2019 the EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board participated in a survey on cooperation with the State Chancellery.
- 7) On October 26<sup>th</sup> 2019 one EAPN-Latvia representative from the Sigulda Association "A Call to You" participated in the European Commission's public discussion on the implementation of the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020.
- 8) On October 24<sup>th</sup> 2019 in Riga, at the European Union House the EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board participated in an interview organized by the European Commission working group and then submitted in writing to the working group and to the EAPN Europe (Brussels) the EAPN-Latvia's position on the implementation of social policy in Latvia.
- 9) On October 17<sup>th</sup> 2019 in Minsk, Belarus the delegation from the EAPN-Latvia and the Foundation "Interakcia" was received at the Latvian Embassy by the Ambassador of Latvia to Belarus.
- 10) On October 10<sup>th</sup> 2019 the EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board participated in the State Chancellery's survey "A brainstorming session: express your opinion on the open management!".
- 11) On August 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019 in Riga, at the Ministry of Welfare took place a meeting between two specialists from the EAPN-Latvia Reference Budgets working group and the heads of the Social Inclusion Policy Department and the Social Policy Planning and Development Department.
- 12) On July 29<sup>th</sup> 2019 in Riga the EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board participated in the consultation-discussion meeting of the Latvian Active Population Fund (AIF) on the principles of distribution of European Economic Area / Norwegian Financial Instrument funding.
- 13) On June 20<sup>th</sup> 2019 the EAPN-Latvia European Social Policy working group submitted to the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of Education and Science its proposals on access to education.
- 14) On June 10<sup>th</sup> 2019 in Riga, at the Saeima House of the Republic of Latvia, the EAPN-Latvia board members and the representatives of its member organizations participated in the Saeima and NGO forum "Finding sustainable solutions for national development".

- 15) On April 25<sup>th</sup> 2019 in Riga two EAPN-Latvia Board members gave an interview to the working group of the State Audit Office on social inclusion policy issues.
- 16) On March 20<sup>th</sup> 2019, EAPN-Latvia European Social Policy working group submitted to the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of Health its proposals for improving the accessibility of the health care system.
- 17) On February 15<sup>th</sup> 2019 the EAPN-Latvia Social Policy working group submitted to the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia its proposal for an amendment to Article 4, Paragraph 1 of the revised European Social Charter.

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

- 1) Latvian NGO networks have insufficient access to funding from the Latvian NGO Foundation and the international funds, which could stimulate social projects;
- 2) EAPN-Latvia (due to its location – Latvia) has a long-term lack of capacity to compete with NGOs from other European countries and European NGO networks in calls for proposals;
- 3) EAPN-Latvia prepares too few project applications during the year;
- 4) Within the organization there is a lack of qualified staff for planning and preparation of local and international projects and ensuring the project management;
- 5) There is a lack of capacity for comprehensive training of the EAPN-Latvia network's employees in advocacy, foreign languages and computer skills;
- 6) There is a lack of financial resources for the employees' salaries, compensations for volunteers, rent of premises, reproduction and distribution of the prepared EAPN brochures, as well as for the publicity measures (especially on TV, radio and in the press);
- 7) The productivity of the EAPN-Latvia network's working groups is low due to their lack of knowledge and skills, lack of language skills (English and other European languages), it is also being negatively affected by volunteering, its members' occupation in other organizations, low income level, aging and health issues;
- 8) Incomplete composition of the EAPN-Latvia Board, which negatively affects the development of the work plans (and measures) and the comprehensiveness of the organization's decisions;
- 9) In 2019 the EAPN-Latvia was not granted funding for two significant project applications:
  - 9.1. from the Ministry of Culture - for the implementation of administrative tasks in cooperation with 50 non-governmental

organizations from the Riga region, whose activities are aimed at the integration of society – 36 000 euros;

9.2. from the Erasmus+ program (leading partner - EAPN-Netherlands) for the project "European Participation Academy for Social Inclusion" (split project budget).

**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*):

From June 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 to February 28<sup>th</sup> 2021 the EAPN-Latvia will implement the project "Link between social rights and social entrepreneurship", co-financed by the Nordplus Adult program (Denmark). Project's training workshops will take place in Latvia (Riga), Estonia (Tallinn), Lithuania (Vilnius), Denmark (Odense) and Norway (Bergen).

Within the framework of this project we plan to train at least 10 educators; the group of trainees from Latvia includes 4 experts from the EAPN-Latvia Network's member organizations: the People's Assistance Foundation, the Riga Active Senior Citizens' Alliance, the Sigulda Association "A Call to You" ("Aicinajums Tev") and Garkalne Women's Association "Our Home" ("Musmajas"). The approved project budget is 37 240 euros.

- **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*):

None

**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 July 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2021 the EAPN-Latvia intends to implement the project "Supporting the Inclusion of Poor in Green Growth" in the Baltic Sea Region. This project has been prepared in cooperation with Swedish and Norwegian NGOs. The project funding requested from the Nordic Council of Ministers (Denmark) is 13 480 euros.
- 2) From January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2020 the EAPN-Latvia plans to implement the programs of People Experiencing Poverty and the Europe 2020 strategy in Latvia. Until June 1<sup>st</sup> the EAPN Europe will accept national networks' project applications for 5600 euros.



- 3) From March 15<sup>th</sup> to November 15<sup>th</sup> 2020 the EAPN-Latvia intends to implement in Riga the project "NGO support for social integration in the city of Riga". The requested funding from the Riga City Council Education, Culture and Sports Department is 6930 euros.
- 4) From January 1<sup>st</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup> 2020 the EAPN-Latvia intends to implement in Latvia the project "Let's give a word to NGOs that represent the socially vulnerable people!". The requested funding from the Latvian NGO Foundation / Society Integration Foundation is 26 151 euros.

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EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board

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