

EAPN Portugal_Annual Report 2019

Summary

1. Influencing government for policy change

In 2019 EAPN Portugal continued its lobby work for the establishment of a **National Strategy to Fight Poverty and Social Exclusion**. In the scope of this work it was organized (September 13th) the Conference: *The commitment to fight poverty on the national political agenda*. The



initiative was carried out under the pretext of the **Legislative Elections** in which EAPN Portugal intended to challenge the different political parties about their options for fighting poverty and social exclusion in Portugal.

2019 was also an important year for the consolidation of the **National Observatory to Fight Poverty and Social Exclusion** (<https://on.eapn.pt/>). It was produced several thematic reports of key issues such minimum income, Housing, Gender pay gap. And it was produced our national report on poverty and social exclusion data for the 17th of October.

2019 was a year of **European elections** and EAPN Portugal joined the EAPN Europe Campaign **#EUPovertyFree** and promoted activities¹ such as the translation of the Campaign materials into Portuguese; contact with candidates for the European Parliament to sign the Commitment; collection of video testimonies from members of the National Council of Citizens with key messages for candidates; celebration of May 9 - Europe Day - with the production and dissemination of photographs of the Campaign. In the scope of the awareness raising concerning the European Elections it was also promoted a national seminar (April 12th) with the candidates that allowed an open debate and dialogue, around social concerns, with representatives of different sectors of civil society, social partners and citizens. We have also produced a *Em Análise*² document about the European Elections and the Future of Europe in order to inform and raise awareness of the topic



¹ More information: <https://www.eapn.pt/campanha/34/campanha-das-eleicoes-europeias-para-o-parlamento-europeu-eupovertyfree>

² More information: <https://www.eapn.pt/documento/627/as-eleicoes-europeias-2019-o-futuro-da-europa>

and the importance of voting.

During 2019 we have produced a set of position papers on different topics among which we highlight the position paper on the Project Law nº/XIII/4º about poverty proofing; the national elections; FEAD and our message for the 17th of October.

EAPN Portugal continued its work on **FEAD** (in particular the follow-up of the Operational Program to Support the Most Deprived People) and the main activities developed were:

- The position paper mentioned previously;
- Participation in the 14th meeting of the FEAD Network – *Tackling poverty among children with FEAD*. Participated Fátima Veiga (research and projects department of EAPN). (Brussels, 20 February);
- Participation and preparation of a Communication in the 16th meeting of FEAD Network – *Tackling poverty and social exclusion of older people through FEAD initiatives*. Participated Paula Cruz (research and projects department of EAPN and EUISG member). (Vilnius, 4 and 5th of June);
- Preparation of a policy briefing with the main results and messages of EAPN PT to FEAD (Agenda Europeia nº 17^{th3});
- Monitoring of FEAD implementation in the region of Setúbal (gathering information from partners and beneficiaries of the national program);
- Preparation of information about EAPN PT engagement in this Agenda to the Court of Auditors.

During 2019 EAPN PT continued its work on following the **European Semester** and the **European Pillar of Social Rights** or through the participation in events (national and European level) or through the elaboration or/and contribution to documents in collaboration with EAPN Europe. The main activities developed were:



On the European Pillar of Social Rights:

- Organisation and facilitation of 3 local events (Aveiro, October; Fundão, November and Madeira, November) on the Social Pillar;
- Organisation of an internal training on the EPSR and the work of EAPN in the European Semester (February);
- Facilitation of a class for PhD students on the EPSR (May)

³ More information: <https://www.eapn.pt/documento/459/agenda-europeia>

On the European Semester and post Europe 2020 Strategy:

- Assessment of the Country Report Portugal 2019; National Reform Program and Country Specific Recommendations.
- Contributes and dissemination of the reports/documents: No Time for Complacency. EAPN assessment of the 2019 Country Reports & Proposals for Country Specific Recommendations (May); A step forward for social rights? EAPN assessment of 2019 Country Specific Recommendations & Country Analysis (July); Is the 2019 Semester more social? EAPN assessment of the European Semester 2019 (September);
- Contributes, translation⁴ and dissemination of the Position paper: Delivering Agenda 2030 for people and planet. EAPN proposals for a Post Europe 2020 Strategy;
- Organisation and facilitation of 2 internal webinars on the work of EAPN PT in EAPN Europe in particular the Semester and EPSR (December).

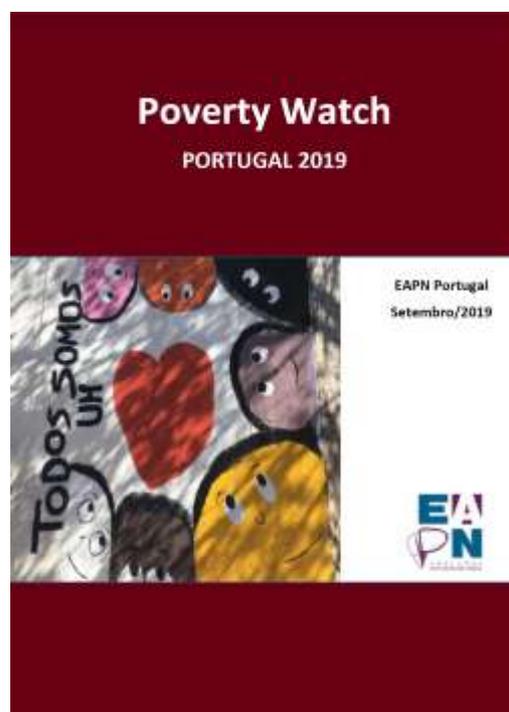
During 2019 we had the opportunity to participate and present our messages, as EAPN PT and Member of EUISG of EAPN EU, about the Europe 2020 Strategy and the fight against poverty and social exclusion in the following **meetings**:

- Civil society round table Review on social inclusion (Brussels, March);
- Meeting with the European Commission Portuguese representation (Lisbon, March);
- Achieving progress on poverty reduction and strengthening civil dialogue (Brussels, May);
- ESF Transnational Platform Conference (Brussels, May);
- European Semester. Country Desks meeting (Lisbon, November).

In September EAPN Portugal produced and disseminated its **Poverty Watch 2019** in which it was highlighted the housing situation in Portugal. The report was sent to the Ministry and different stakeholders.

In terms of meetings and **Governing Bodies/working groups**, EAPN Portugal participated in the following:

- The Executive Committee, (2 meetings);
- The EU Inclusion Strategies Group, (3 meetings);
- 3 webinars (Strategic Thinking process; European Semester and New Green Deal);
- Participation in the Policy Conference (June)
- The People Experiencing Poverty European coordination group (1 meeting with the national coordinators; 3 preparatory meetings at national



⁴ Translation here: <https://www.eapn.pt/documento/649/cumprir-a-agenda-2030-para-as-pessoas-e-o-planeta>

level with the Portuguese delegation; the European meeting);

- Participation in the General Assembly (September);
- Participation in the EAPN Communications working group.



Portuguese Delegation in the European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty 2019



2. Participation of people in poverty in internal and external workings of the Network

EAPN Portugal continued its work with the **National and Local Councils of Citizens**. These groups are composed by citizens that lived or are living in situation of poverty and social exclusion and have as main aims to give them voice in the matters that are directly related to their situation.

During 2019 EAPN Portugal promoted:

- 4 meetings with the National Council of Citizens (NCC): this NCC is composed by 1 representative of each Local Council of Citizens and has its own working plan.
- local meetings with the Local Councils of Citizens (LCC): these meetings are organized at local level by the regional networks of EAPN.
- 3 regional meetings (Bragança; Fundão and Oeiras): these meetings gather LCC by regions. In 2019 the main topics were: health and participation; SDG/ Agenda 2030; GO DEEP, methodology.

- European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty: the delegation that attended the Meeting was, once again, selected among the members of LCC. The Portuguese Delegation worked on the topic of Housing.
- XI National Forum (with the participation of all the members of the Local Councils) (17th of October). The main theme of the Forum was *Is poverty news? The role of the media in fighting poverty.*



- Two training sessions: European Elections and Dynamics and experiences of community participation.

Although Portugal started the **journalism award** experience in 2018, it was in 2019 that the first edition of the award was achieved. The 18 local councils of citizens were involved and in the scope of 58 journalistic works, it was selected and awarded 3 in the national press category and 2 in the regional press category. The awards were presented during the national forum.

Some of the members of the National Council of Citizens were also the *voice* and *face* of the new EAPN Portugal Campaign presented in 2019: ***Palavras com corpo e alma. Porque a pobreza não é ficção.*** (*Words with body and soul. Because*

Poverty is not fiction)⁵

In 2019 it was produced two relevant **publications** in this area: The Toolkit *Despir os Preconceitos e Vestir a Inclusão* based in the campaign with the same name that also involved members of the local council of citizens; and it was translated the Guide Participation. Conceptual and practical notebook produced by EAPN Spain.

In 2019 (December) EAPN Portugal received the **1st workshop promoted by EAPN Europe on participation issues**. The aim was to exchange practices between some National Networks (UK; Ireland; Portugal and Hungary) in order to develop a training curriculum on the right to participation.

EAPN Portugal participated also in the **COMMO'ON working group** meetings/ discussions in order to produce a set of guidelines on communication and participation. And participated in the 17th October European Campaign: **#BeyondTheData**.

In terms of Projects it's important to say that EAPN Portugal saw its **3 applications to POISE** approved. The Projects ACEDER (who seek to adopt the



⁵ <https://www.eapn.pt/campanha/35/palavras-com-corpo-e-alma-porque-a-pobreza-nao-e-ficcao>

ACCEDER methodology of the Fundacion Secretariado Gtano) started in september and aim to promote the training and employability of people from Roma communities (total of 135 people).

EAPN Portugal started also in 2019 the **Project REGAL**, promoted by BEWEGING and aims to link the Directive on the Conciliation between professional and family life to the provision of the European Pillar of Social Rights which determines equal opportunities for underrepresented groups. The project works directly with women in vulnerable situations.

In 2019 EAPN continued its work with **Roma Communities**, not only developing working sessions with adult members of these communities (like women and parents) but also with young people and children (inside schools). It's important to say that the exhibition Singular do Plural received very positive feedback in 2018 and in 2019 continued to be presented in different cities (in total 7 – Celorico da Beira; Leiria; Beja; Braga; Guimarães; Faro e Castelo Branco).

3. Network development and growth (incl. training, growth etc)

Training is one of the key areas of EAPN Portugal intervention. EAPN Portugal is certified in the following thematic areas: Personal Development; Management and Administration; Organization/Company Framework and Social Work and Orientation.

In terms of the **annual training plan** 1435 training hours were promoted, 116 training actions, involving a total of 2027 trainees.

EAPN Portugal had developed a training cycle on Citizenship and Participation for other professionals for the definition and adoption of participatory practices and methodologies in their own institutions.

4. Good governance and strong internal democracy (including finances, management, statutory governance)

In 2019 EAPN Portugal organized in Aveiro its **annual National Members Meeting** with an important focus on the work developed by EAPN Portugal during *28 years* and *rethink the challenges of social intervention*

In 2019 EAPN Portugal continue to strengthen its intervention in **Madeira** and it was public presented the working plan approved with the Regional Government of Madeira and the working plan approved with the Funchal Local Authority. In the scope of the activities it's important to highlight the Seminar *Poverty and Social Exclusion_State of Play* (July) in which it was debated the main challenges faced by this region in the fight against poverty.

This year it was also completed the **strategic plan evaluation** work that has started in 2018.

