

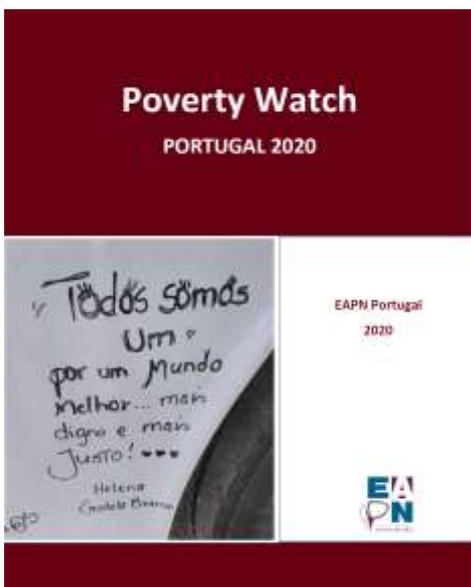
EAPN Portugal_Annual Report 2020

Summary

1. Influencing government for policy change

The year 2020 will prevail as an atypical year due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The impact of the pandemic started a new crisis which led do new political movements in relation to which EAPN Portugal sought to follow. It was the example of the Recovery and Resilient Plan and also the new/adjustment political measures that the Government implemented to deal with the impact of the virus.

In order to identify the impact of the pandemic in the fight against poverty and social exclusion, EAPN Portugal in partnership with the Ministry of Employment, Solidarity and Social Protection, launched an only survey in April to civil society entities. It was received 802 answers and it was produced the Report: [Fight poverty and social exclusion in the scope of COVID-19](#), and an infographic which main results were presented in June in an online seminar and during October in different webinars promoted by EAPN local networks. The report and the webinars were prepared in collaboration with the National Observatory to Fight Poverty and Social Exclusion that is promoted by EAPN Portugal.



Some of the results of this report were relevant to produce two other key documents. The first one was the European survey prepared by EAPN Europe (conducted by Graciela Malgesini) about the impact of COVID-19. This European research was published in the Report *The impact of COVID-19 on People Experiencing Poverty and Vulnerability. Rebuilding Europe with a social heart.*

The second one was the [Poverty Watch](#) that was produced in July and presented in September. The poverty watch was dedicated to the impact of COVID-19 in the civil society

entities but also in people experiencing poverty (PeP). With PeP it was conducted a set of interviews about the impact of the virus in their lives (see next point).

When the pandemic started EAPN Portugal launched some position papers drawing attention to the effects of the pandemic and the need for an urgent response to them. It was also launched the EAPN Europe Statement on COVID-19 in march 16. At national level, EAPN Portugal presented the position paper on the [social implications of coronavirus in Portugal](#) (march) and supported the letter [EAPN calls for European leaders to clearly focus on protecting the most vulnerable from the impacts of COVID19 – for European Council 26 march 2020](#) that was sent to Prime Minister António Costa.

In April, EAPN Portugal presented a first reply to the exceptional pandemic response measures proposed by the national government and presented a [position paper](#) highlighting those measures but requesting a reinforcement of measures aimed at the most vulnerable.

In May, the President of EAPN Portugal Pe. Jardim Moreira presented a public message on the [assumptions for social intervention in the framework of fighting poverty](#) proposing a *reflection on the challenges posed to entities with social responsibilities, with regard to facing this complex problem, of a multidisciplinary nature, generator of exclusion and loss of opportunities and capacities*. EAPN Portugal also supported the [Open letter to the political powers on poverty in Portugal](#) that was launched by the Social Council of EAPN PT.

During 2020 EAPN Portugal continue its work at national and European level on following the **European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR)** and the specific principle on **adequate minimum income**. EAPN Portugal submitted its [response to the public consultation on the Action Plan of the EPSR](#) in September and participated and facilitated some sessions on this area: facilitation of 2 sessions on the EPSR (Guarda – 32 january and Braga – 4 march); participation with a communication in the webex promoted by Nicolas Schmit on the EPSR (24 september); participation in a meeting with the UN Rapporteur on extreme poverty and social exclusion Olivier De Schutter on the EPSR and participation of CSO and the Recovery and resilient Plans (RRP) (25 november); participation with a communication in the webinar on the EPSR promoted by Coimbra intermunicipal commission (October).

In terms of Minimum Income, EAPN Portugal presented a [Statement](#) in may highlighting the support of the Ministry of Employment, Solidarity and Social Protection to an adequate minimum income scheme. We have also translated into Portuguese and disseminated the [position paper on Adequate Income](#) at internal and external level. Internally it was organised 3 webinars to present and discuss the Position paper on Adequate Income among the board of Directors of EAPN; internal Staff and members.

In terms of the **European Semester and the Recovery and Resilient Plan**, EAPN Portugal has participated with a communication in EAPN Spain Forum on *Europe 2020 Strategy in Spain and the EU and the way forward* (may). We have also presented a communication on this matter in the capacity building session on Member's engagement in the European Semester (November). It was also prepared a document assessment on the Country Report Portugal 2020 and it was analysed the CSR for Portugal. We have also contribute for the work of EAPN Europe on this matter.

Following the RRP, EAPN Portugal has submitted a response to the public consultation on the strategic view for the RRP (August) and prepared a [*position paper on Housing investment*](#) (one of the components of the RRP). EAPN Portugal has also participated with a communication in the EAPN Europe and EU Commission webinar: *European semester, new ASGS and RR facility – what progress on poverty, social rights and participation* (September).

EAPN Portugal continued its work on **FEAD** (in particular the follow-up of the Operational Program (OP) to Support the Most Deprived People). It was prepared a position paper on the implementation report of the OP and the Organisation was presented in some events related to food issues, like the webinar *roundtable discussion on food policy councils and COVID-19*.

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

- The EXCO, (1 meeting)
- The EU Inclusion Strategies Group, (13 webinars);
- Participation in the EXCO sub-group about the strategic revision (Participation objective);
- Participation in the Policy Conference (July);
- Participation the General Assembly (September);
- The People Experiencing Poverty European coordination group (3 meetings);
- Participation in the COMM'On group.
- Participation in the Gender Mainstreaming capacity building session (november);
- Participation in the Plain Language training (November).

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

The participation of People experiencing poverty is one of the key intervention areas of EAPN Portugal. EAPN Portugal continued in 2020 the work with the **Local Council of Citizens and the National Council of Citizens**. The impact of COVID on these citizens

was one of the concerns of EAPN and, in order to understand the impact of the pandemic in their lives it was developed a set of **interviews** (92) and the results were included in a report and also in the Poverty Watch.



It was also developed a campaign in which it was collected 15 testimonies of citizens living in different regions of the country. The testimonies were put as narratives and illustrated. They are reunited in the publication [\(RE\)Existir. Narrativas em contexto de pandemia](#) and they resulted also in an exhibition that was launched on the 17th of October.

.In terms of Campaigns with the participation of PeP it was developed a second edition of the campaign [Undress prejudices. Dress inclusion](#) in which it was included more messages and illustrations.

.Another campaign with the participation of PeP was the one organised by EAPN Europe **#EUMINIMUMINCOME #ENDPOVERTY**. EAPN Portugal participated in this campaign with a set of [messages](#) of our members of the councils of citizens.

We have also participated in the 17th October campaign organised by EAPN Europe: **#POVERTYWATSH #ENDPOVERTY**



The work that EAPN Portugal is being developing with the local/national councils were included as one the contents of the online training promoted by EAPN Europe on **Meaningful participation**. This training was developed during November and December.

During 2020 it were developed 6 meetings with the members of the national council of citizens and 2 capacity building sessions: *Housing* and on the campaign *words with body and soul. Because poverty is not fiction*. The members of the councils also participated in 3 regional meetings and in the National Forum to Fight poverty and social exclusion that is developed annually to celebrate the 17th of October. This year the [National Forum](#) was dedicated to Adequate Minimum Income and was attended by the Secretary of State for Integration and Minorities.

EAPN Portugal is also one the networks that promotes the Journalism Prize: [Analisar a Pobreza na Imprensa](#)” with the direct participation of PeP. It was analysed 43 journalistic works and in order to improve the knowledge of our members in this area

it was promoted 3 **capacity building sessions on *journalistic literacy*** facilitated by experts on this area.

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

In 2020 EAPN Portugal had 832 **members** (513 were organisations; 205 individual members and 114 inherent members, our members of the Local Council of Citizens). It was developed 62 members meetings at local level and at national level it was developed a national meeting with all members.in December The theme of the Conference was the *social intervention in the pandemic context: crises management, strategies and good practices*.

Training is a key area and despite of the pandemic we continue our **training** work in an online format. In 2020 it was developed 97 training actions, involving 1886 trainees. It was also promoted 66 practice and knowledge workshops, 52 thematic webinars.

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

EAPN Portugal reinforced its cooperation with the Ministry of Employment, Solidarity and Social Protection. This was visible in the approval of the new action plan and also through the meetings and audiences developed during the year.

EAPN Portugal has started a working group – **Social Council** – with different stakeholders and experts of different areas/sectors of our society – education, economy, science, communication, business, and others. Tis working group is independent of the organisation but it has improved the governance of EAPN and also the lobby work. In 2020 it was launched an open letter to the political powers (see first point) and an international Conference in Lisbon: ***Civil Society and the Combat against poverty*** (26 October).
