



# Annual Report 2021

## Introduction

We are entering year two of the pandemic, not knowing what we can and cannot do in 2021. Nevertheless, we don't let that stop us from planning. A number of interesting projects are underway this year, of course always considering the possibilities that the pandemic allows us. For the time being, the European Youth Forum 2021 is planned for the spring, where we can go with a large delegation of young people thanks to the support of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment. Communication with the organisation is perfect and we are looking forward to having, for the first time, a delegation of young people from an EAPN background, poverty and/or social exclusion experience, to participate in this wonderful initiative of the European Parliament. Will that work? More on that later.

With the Onze DROOM foundation, we are now planning to finally be able to carry out the quiz we made around the European Pillar of Social Rights. We are invited to participate in a 4 country initiative set up by the Landesarmutskonferenz Baden Württemberg (LAK BW) in Germany, the Maison des citoyens/nes Mulhouse in the Bas Rhine region of France and two local organizations from Basel and Zurich in Switzerland. The cooperation is based on cooperation across the Rhine borders. For August we plan our Policy Days, as we do every year. And a workshop on Housing together with the NoordAs Amsterdam.

One of the most important activities that we as EAPN network carry out every year is the European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty, the PeP (People experiencing Poverty) conference, which EAPN organises together with the European Commission. In 2020 we had to accept that the pandemic made this important conference impossible. We want it to take place in 2021, if there is no other option in a kind of hybrid situation. We will see.

The next question is whether we can travel and meet again this year or whether we have another year of video meetings ahead of us for international work.

## 2nd corona year

2021 will have different faces. Moments when a lot is possible again, preceded or followed by lock downs. Although this affects our lives and entails psychological burden, the lock down that we have to endure can be called relatively soft, compared to the strict lock downs in Portugal, Spain or the Czech Republic. As an organisation, we also have to find ourselves in a dilemma in order to remain active and to look for opportunities and possibilities. One of the consequences of the pandemic is that we will have many, many video meetings in 2021.

That has good sides, because you have more opportunities to make a good contribution than you would during an international conference with 200 or 300 participants. . It has less good sides, because we cannot greet our colleagues and build together.

A video meeting is shorter and you don't have to travel, but you also can't have a coffee meeting, discuss business in the corridors or really bring the discussions to an end. There is always a need for a next meeting to properly discuss important decisions. What we are learning is that in the future we can take advantage of these new experiences because, in addition to the actual meetings, we can also quickly insert a video meeting, as an intermediate step or to make a decision. In this way, the pandemic will also bring something good.

## EYE2021

Everything starts with two emails that arrive almost simultaneously in 2019. One email from EAPN Europe and the other from the Permanent Representation of the European Parliament in the Netherlands. Both emails state that we can participate with a delegation in the European Youth Event (EYE) that will take place in May 2020 in the European Parliament in Strasbourg. Since we work together with organisations that guide and support homeless young people at a local level, the choice was made quickly. EAPN Netherlands (EAPN NL) wants to try to bring a delegation of these young people to the EYE 2020. Also because this group is never or will never be present at such a meeting. Funding is needed to do this, because an organisation like ours, which operates without any subsidy, cannot finance this itself. We report this to the two organisations that sent us the emails. Unfortunately, EAPN Europe quickly pulls out with the announcement that they also have no money to bear the costs. EuropaparlamentNL reacts differently. They help us to contact with the organisation of EYE2020 and after some very pleasant conversations with them, it becomes clear that we can ask the European Parliament for sponsorship. With success, because we receive an official letter that our application has been granted. The problem with this, however, is that the funds allocated are insufficient to send a delegation to Strasbourg. We submit an application for financial support to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment. After consultation, it is forwarded to the Directorate responsible for Europe. We also find support here, so that the financing of a delegation is arranged. As a result, the sponsorship of the European Parliament will lapse. It is therefore appropriate to say thank you to all three supporters, because without them the story would have ended here.

After it is certain that we have covered the travel and accommodation costs, we enter into



discussions with organisations. Homeless young people, girls who are not always safe at home, Caribbean youth organisations, organisations of deaf young people and others are approached. Unfortunately, there is no success. Some organisations do not respond, others do not see it as something for their target group, something that we will encounter later. Still other young people do not dare and state that they would like to participate next time. It feels strange to have everything arranged and to have to experience that the young people

drop out, with the exception of an organisation from Amsterdam. Oddly enough, we get a lot more time to set up the delegation than we could have imagined. The pandemic breaks loose and EYE2020 is postponed. First to November 2020, then to May 2021. Because we use the time well, a large delegation comes together. Yet here too the problem is coming again, because corona constantly changes and postpones everything, because EYE will not take place in May 2021 either. All so-called face-to-face activities in the European Parliament are banned. They are considering making it a video activity, but then decide to postpone it to October 2021. Young people are dropping out again, also because it appears that schools do not want to give them time off to participate. EYE happens during the exam week or it is felt that the young person in question cannot miss the internship. This extremely short-sighted policy causes the delegation to shrink again. It is unbelievable that schools deprive young people of this unique opportunity. Rather than cheering for young people to be able to participate and, after returning, let them tell about the EU, the European Parliament and EYE as such and thus have a great opportunity to create to pay attention to our Europe. Too bad for the young.

During this phase, contact is established with young people from ExPex. There is clear interest in



participating here. The vacant spaces are soon filled again and a delegation is formed that will participate in EYE2021. Unfortunately, and this is also important, it turns out that three young people are ultimately unable to come along. Two do not dare to take the hectic journey and one is unfortunately admitted in a care facility. Despite everything, the large delegation that in the end is present at the European Youth Event 2021 in the European Parliament in Strasbourg, which will take place on 8 and 9 October, helped

shape the report. Their impressions, their photos can be found in the report. A large part of the delegation added their own story to that report.

Our delegation is easily recognizable during EYE because we all wear a t-shirt with the logos of EAPN NL and ExPex. On the banner and on the back of the t-shirt we have mentioned the three most important topics, as brought together by the young people during the preparation.



[Microsoft Word - verslag EYE2021 \(eapn.nl\)](https://www.eapn.nl/verslag-eye2021)

## PeP in Brummen

Like many of our colleagues at EAPN, we were disappointed that the PeP conference 2020, the annual European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty had to be cancelled. While everyone understands why, we hoped to the very end that this all-important European Summit of the Poor could be organised.

During our Policy Days, we ask ourselves questions such as:

- What if we are going to bring a delegation together and we have to tell them again that the meeting will not take place in 2021 either?
- What if they decide to meet digitally?
- Will some kind of hybrid meeting be possible?

We feel that many of the other networks and staff in Brussels are dealing with the same questions. So let us be very thankful that the 2021 conference took place, albeit in a different way.

A positive part of this year's conference is that we can bring together six participants in addition to the coordinator. Unfortunately, one of the participants becomes ill the day before the conference, so we have to arrange a replacement. In the end we started with a group of 7 people who work perfectly together, composed of young and old, working poor and experienced socially excluded, who all know what poverty and/or social exclusion means. We are guests at the Onze DROOM foundation in Brummen, where our colleague Sonja Leemkuil is chairperson. Everything is perfectly arranged and we are provided with good food, including a Syrian meal, provided by a Syrian lady. This gives an extra boost to the atmosphere that is already good. The group is great to work with, although the normal preparation was very difficult and unusual. Everyone regrets that we cannot really meet the colleagues in the working groups, but at the end we have a good feeling that everything our delegates wanted to say has been said.

Given the circumstances, we also have to deal with the fact that we cannot distribute our present that we share with the conference participants each year. The group finds it especially important to give such a gift in these difficult times. Also given the experience we have that the participants appreciate our small gifts. So the delegation decides to send a puzzle and well-known Dutch biscuits, stroopwafels, to all national coordinators. We hear from many colleagues that they appreciate this.



Since we were asked to improvise a visibility action, we are discussing this and the delegation believes that we should show 'the many faces of poverty'. Everyone helps to bring together the products for the promotion. We will post the action photo on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

## Workshop Housing

The NoordAS Noord-Amsterdam working group has been working on the housing problem for some time now. Prior to the elections for our Parliament, which will take place on March 17, they will make an election poster and newspaper that will be called “Te dHuur” (Too expensive to rent). “We vote for AFFORDABLE LIVING”, is the slogan. Members of the working group also participate in the national demonstration in September.



This is about more than just getting a house, as the results of this workshop also show. It is about affordable living in a neighborhood where people are used to, where activities take place, where children can play and where people hang out together. Two other conditions that are mentioned as important are that the house is well maintained and that generations live together in the neighborhood. In fact, people do not want more than what we mean by enjoyment of living. Cohesion in a neighborhood where people live together and

where everyone lives happily. How do you achieve such a thing? What is needed for that? Who do we have to contact for that? These and other questions will be discussed during the workshop. The results will be used, among other things, for the preparations for the 2022 municipal elections. EAPN Netherlands will also disseminate and use them, such as during the conference “European Meeting of People Living in Poverty”, which will take place in November.

[Microsoft Word - Verslag Workshop Huisvesting van 27 september 2021 \(eapn.nl\)](https://www.eapn.nl/verslag-workshop-huisvesting-van-27-september-2021)

## Meeting point Almere

A meeting will be held in Almere on 25 September, during which, in addition to getting acquainted with a new organisation for young people, ExpPex, other themes will also be discussed. There is much to do about climate, poverty, housing, employment, minimum wages, minimum income and many related topics. What we also see is that the Covid-19 pandemic has changed the dichotomy, renewed it. Hardening of positions, listening to each other is not an option and everyone is right. In this situation, we are trying to address the all-important issues of poverty and social exclusion to keep them on the agenda. It is clear that we cannot do this alone. That we also need to think broader.

**DOING NOTHING IS HARD,  
YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN  
YOU'RE FINISHED.**

And that the discussion about the Future of the EU is an important platform for this. As well as the European Youth Event 2021 and other occasions. Also think of the annual 'Poverty Summit' that EAPN organizes together with the European Commission in November.

## Elections House of Representatives

As we have been doing for a long time, we are also calling on people to vote this year. Our 'voting folder' is widely shared.

TO VOTE? There is certainly something to choose from! Do yourself justice and go vote!

[verkiezingsoproep\\_2021\\_tk.pdf \(eapnnd.nl\)](http://verkiezingsoproep_2021_tk.pdf(eapnnd.nl))

## Policy Days

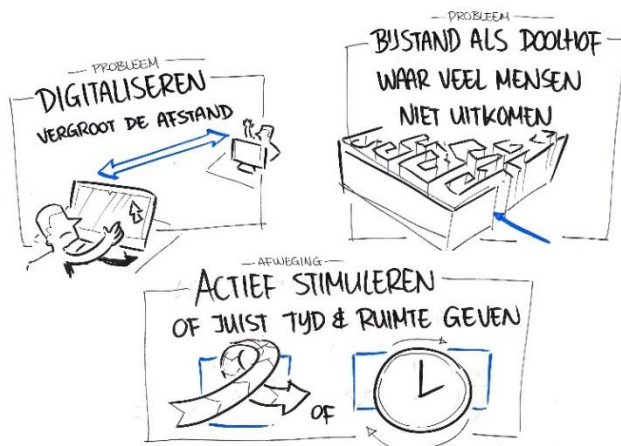
As we do every year, we are also organising a 3-day policy meeting this year. Days on which the central team discusses which priorities we want to establish in the coming year, also to see whether we can organise a workshop and/or other meetings about this. Of course we also look at what is expected of us at EU level, how we can meet this and who is in charge of what. As every year, we notice that there are insufficient financial resources to make great strides. Unfortunately, the Erasmus project initiated by us, in which organizations from the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Germany and Spain want to participate, will not be accepted. We clearly feel that the evaluators lack knowledge about the world in which people live in poverty and exclusion. We infer this from the explanation where there is no room for that other world, but reasoning is based on the existing educational pattern. Having to build bridges that have broken down or were never even present is a different task than just putting together an extra teaching package.

## Participation Act consultation with experts by experience

A new project will start in 2021 in which Sterk Uit Armoede ([www.sterkuitarmoede.nl](http://www.sterkuitarmoede.nl)) and EAPN NL are involved. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment is organising a Round Table Discussion on changes to the Participation Act (social assistance), in which 14 experts by experience participate. This collaboration between EAPN NL, Sterk uit Armoede and the Ministry gives the participants the opportunity to discuss what they think are omissions in the law, what needs to change and how, and to talk about how this law is being implemented. A very meaningful exchange of ideas and

experiences to support the Ministry in developing changes for the law, which we hope will be realized by 2022. The Participation Act was introduced in 2015 and also aims to support people, in particular the disabled, in finding a possible way out of social security.

However, this doesn't work well. Moreover, we see how the law pushes people further into poverty and exclusion. Time for a change. How? When? Who? are questions that are also asked.



Deze publicatie is vervaardigd in het kader van het project 'Een nieuw perspectief op de participatiewet' van 2019-2021. Het is niet bedoeld om te worden gebruikt voor commerciële doeleinden. Het is niet bedoeld om te worden gebruikt voor commerciële doeleinden.

lutspot  
visuele  
verbinders

14 experts by experience from all over the country and from different organisations and different backgrounds will be part of the consultation group. They are supported by the Sterk uit Armoede coordinator and the chairperson of EAPN NL. A new development that we hope to build on in the future. We see the creation of Round Tables in collaboration with the Ministry to discuss problems, bottlenecks and ideas for a change for the better as a great way to work together.

## Recognition

It can sometimes take a long time, but in the end you will still receive recognition for your efforts. In 2021 that will happen to Sonja Leemkuil, who has been active in and for EAPN Netherlands for a long time, but also active within the municipality of Brummen, as secretary of the Client Council, as a member of the Social Advisory Committee and as co-founder and chair of the Onze DROOM foundation. Sonja receives a ribbon on the recommendation of EAPN NL. Awarded by the mayor, taking into account the corona restrictions, she is appointed Knight in the Order of Orange Nassau. Well deserved!



## G40 Poverty & Debt Working Group

The year 2021 was a busy year for the G40, many themes were discussed. During the meeting on January 25, EAPN will be present together with Sterk uit Armoede. They talk about the contribution of experts by experience within the Debt and Poverty domain.

Meetings have been held within the G40 on early identification of people in debt. In particular, the term working poor comes to the fore. It is noted that it is difficult to find this group and to get them to the municipalities for help. Because there is shame, not finding the right way, or because there are simply no reports of people being in debts. Because without a report, the municipality cannot do anything.

There has been a lot of talk about protective regimes, in particular how do we keep the “care cowboys” away? Municipalities have been progressive in this regard to bring more control to the municipality. However, this is only possible if the local Court also cooperates. Better cooperation with social institutions and local municipalities is a way to exclude the “care cowboys”, but it is not foolproof. The Municipality of Tilburg has started looking at exactly what care someone needs. Does someone need to be led, or is someone better off in a different trajectory. This alone saved the Municipality of Tilburg 1.5 million euros in special assistance. But it also protects people from unnecessary government. It is an unpleasant effect, however, that municipal officials were threatened by private administrators after these kinds of interventions.

Much has been done to assist entrepreneurs and employees affected by Covid-19. When these people were unable to generate income, the municipality assisted them. It is initially a challenge for municipalities to be able to reach entrepreneurs. Also because these people are ashamed to have to hold out their hands.

Or because they do not want to end up in the rules of the government, which are sometimes very unclear. In the end, the municipalities succeeded in getting the message out more and more that when you need help, there are possibilities.

EAPN has also contributed to how you can convey a message to entrepreneurs. That networking is key. Entrepreneurs won't queue to receive help, but if they know where to sign up. Make yourself visible to those who need it. Hand out your cards, get your message out.

## **Caravan of Hope**

In 2020 we started cooperation with the regional organizations from Germany, France and Switzerland. In 2021 we participated in a number of activities, including the Action Week of the Landeskonferenz Baden Württemberg, to which we contributed, and the 2-day meeting in Mulhouse Wittenberg and Les Voivres in the Vosges, where all kinds of projects were presented and discussed, we participate with three colleagues. Unfortunately, we received no financial support for the planned meeting in Arnhem, so that it could not take place. But delay is not adjustment. In close consultation, it will be decided by the end of the year to jointly submit a project application to the European Commission in 2022. The person responsible within our network starts writing a project together with a German colleague. It soon becomes clear that there is also interest from other countries. After good consultation, the collaborating organisations decide to invite the Czechs and Slovaks to participate in the project. At the end of the year, an artist will be asked to design a logo that we can use from 2022. In the first instance of the already cooperating countries.

## **EXCO**

2021 will be a hectic year and not just because of the pandemic. The wave that moves through the year means that plans have to be adjusted again and again. Simply because people can't travel or hotels don't accommodate large groups for meetings. So the number of video meetings is increasing. Also because we have to solve a few problems internally. The director indicates that he is leaving, as does the policy advisor who has not been hired for so long. That in itself would not be a problem, were it not for the fact that the other policy advisor has just retired and the third also wishes to leave in order to find another job. During the year we will be working on the new 5-year agreement with the European Commission and, of course, the adapted work plan for 2022. Despite the many changes and tasks, a number of things have been achieved. Video conferences are crowded.



Our participation in videoconferencing in the context of 'The Future of Europe' and the European Pillar of Social Rights is highly rewarding and the Participation Guidelines that the COMM'ON group is developing are very much appreciated. Governance has become more of a video participation since 2020. That is fine in itself that we have that resource, but at the same time we experience that you spend much more time on topics. This also has to do with the fact that you are not sitting together and you cannot coordinate with your colleague next to you or use the corridors for consultation. Despite all the limitations, we still see another good year pass and we enter 2022 in good spirits and with the best intentions.

## **EU ISG**

In 2021, covid-19 and its consequences for people affected by poverty and social exclusion will continue to be high on the agenda of the Inclusion and Strategy group (ISG), a body within EAPN Europe in which all countries and organizations of EAPN are represented. and in which EU strategies are followed and, where necessary, provided with responses and other solutions, to combat poverty and social exclusion and, above all, to keep them on the EU's agenda. Three members from EAPN Netherlands participate in the ISG who alternately attend meetings. Due to the pandemic, all meetings, which take place approximately once every 6 weeks, with the exception of the holiday periods, have been online in 2021. In 2020, a major study was launched into the consequences of Covid-19 measures for people affected by poverty and social exclusion. The results were presented at a successful conference in January 2021. An annual work program is being drawn up within the ISG and task forces can be set up, a small working group with expertise in a certain area, which shares knowledge with others in the organisation and beyond, such as women's rights , social innovation or migration. In addition, last year the ISG paid attention to the poverty monitor (Poverty Watch). The poverty monitor Netherlands is written annually by EAPN Netherlands and shared with colleagues from other countries and organisations, so that everyone is aware of the situation in different countries. In addition, the Green Deal and the minimum income were discussed within the ISG meetings. The ISG also considers it of great importance that the voice of the people being discussed is heard and that they are involved in the development of policy. The delegates from EAPN Netherlands are all experience experts on poverty and social exclusion and involve their experience in the input they provide.

## **Working Yet Poor**

As EAPN NL, we are one of the four EAPN networks that participate in the Horizon project Working Yet Poor, which is led by the University of Luxembourg (city) and in which Erasmus University and the universities of Tilburg and Utrecht participate in our country.

As part of the project, together with the three universities, we are organizing a Round Table and a conference. Both unfortunately cannot take place live, but will be organized via video. During the Round Table, 7 working poor people will have their say, each of whom will tell their story and what they encountered. Four groups have been established within the project and we have invited people for each group. The Round Table is a success. The conference will be a hybrid meeting, in which a number of people sit in a created studio in Breda at a law firm and the others participate via video call. EAPN NL has invited two Members of the European Parliament to participate. From the CDA party, that is Jeroen Lenaers and from Groen Links Kim van Sparrentak. In addition, we also give two working poor the opportunity to tell their story. The chairman, Prof. Ruben van Houweling from Erasmus and Prof. Meike Houwerzijl from Tilburg University, together with Dr. Nuna Zekić, also from Tilburg University, and the project leader of the EAPN NL part, the studio delegation and Dr. Marion Evers of Utrecht University explains the first results of the project in the Netherlands.

Both times are a success because the cooperation between the four organizations is going well. This can also be seen in the fact that EAPN NL is invited to report on the project at the LabourLawUnited conference, organized by the Employment Lawyers Association, the Employment Law Association and Levenbach. This conference will take place in Maarssen in February.

[Working Yet Poor – WYP Official Website](#)

## Financial Transaction Tax

On behalf of EAPN Europe, the representative of EAPN NL in the EXCO participates in a worldwide working group to promote the introduction of a financial transaction tax. The aim is to implement this tax on all stock exchange actions, with an exception being made for pension funds. In itself this is a small percentage, namely 0.1% per transaction, but when implemented it will yield an estimated amount of €50 to 60 billion per year for the EU. Initially, Germany is a proponent. That changes when the FDP, the liberals, take their place in the new government. France is also in favor, also because the country, like Sweden, already has this tax. However, some disagreements arise over the nature of the tax, with France not wanting to go beyond what they already have. During Portugal's EU presidency in the first half of 2021, the Portuguese government will put a proposal on the table. Unfortunately, there is not enough enthusiasm for this at the moment. Despite the good contacts of the organisations within the working group with various governments, including Portugal and the plea made by the Secretary-General on behalf of the European trade unions in his speech at the Portuguese EU summit. However, we will not let that stop us from continuing to fight for the introduction of such a tax. That is why we are asking economists to co-sign a letter that we will submit to the G20 summit of finance ministers. In the Netherlands, one economist appears to be willing to co-sign. In total, the number grows to around 200.

The EU agenda shows that our work does indeed work, in which the introduction of this form of tax is planned for the year 2026. What it will look like is not yet known and can therefore be influenced. What we also see is that the EU and the US are looking at each other. Who does what? In the US, a proposal for introduction seems possible, partly because Senator Sanders chairs the committee that deals with this. However, due to the obstruction of the Biden administration's proposals by Republicans, this is constantly being shifted and we have to wait and see what turns out to be possible in 2022.

[PM.Costa.TU.CSO.FTT.letter.6.5.21\[22209\].pdf \(eapned.nl\)](#)

## Poverty Watch

Our Poverty Watch has as its largest share the important report of the Borstlap committee. In “Which country do we want to work in”, attention is paid to the way in which privatisation and neoliberal policies have changed the labor market. An enormous group of working poor and an almost as large group of self-employed people are now part of the labor army. Often people who have or cannot make any other choice. At a time when, around the pandemic, it is repeated time and again how important professions are without which the country cannot function, the population is also becoming acquainted with the income of these so valuable employees and employees. That is around the minimum wage and you see often self-employed even below that. We also learn that the legal minimum wage that the Netherlands has had since 1971 is far too low and is even below the European poverty line.

The commission Bortslap therefore concludes, as the Social and Cultural Planning Office had already shown us, that the minimum wage must be increased by 10%, while retaining all links, including Social Assistance, Disable Peoples Act and the State Pension. During a European (video) conference, the Director-General of DG V, Social Affairs and Employment, Joost Korte, informed us that this, as he calls it, interesting report is also on his desk. This means that it is also known and taken into account by the European Commission. The Poverty Watches made by almost every national network of EAPN are used for a major European EAPN conference and published on the EAPN Europe website, so that they are accessible to everyone. Of course they also end up with the European Commission. Important because they are working on a proposal to introduce a statutory minimum wage in all EU Member States and because, in collaboration with others such as the European Minimum Income Network (EMIN), we are lobbying the EU for a legal minimum income in all Member States . 2022 will be an important year for this, as both topics are on the EU's agenda.

[Microsoft Word - Poverty Watch 2021engels \(eapn.eu\)](https://eapn.eu/microsoft-word-poverty-watch-2021engels)

## Seminars and conferences

As usual we participate in various seminars and conferences, in this case they are video meetings.

- The Poverty Watch 2020 will be presented at a conference on January 29 by EAPN Europe.
- On March 22 there will be the Action Plan European Social Pillar conference.
- On April 15, EAPN Spain is organizing a conference on social justice.
- The Fund for European Aid (FEAD) conference will take place on 29 and 30 April.
- The EU Social Summit will take place in Porto on 12 May, under the auspices of Portugal, the EU President in the first half of 2021.
- There will be a Seminar on the European Social Funds on 12 June.
- The annual EAPN Europe Policy conference will take place on June 29.
- On 15 September, the opening of the new parliamentary year in the European Parliament, with the annual speech by the President of the European Commission, Mrs von der Leyen.
- On November 4, the Protestant Diaconia in Amsterdam will publish Stella de Swart's book 'Poverty you get for free'. ISBN 9789090345376
- A second book will be published in 2021 that is more than worth reading. The story of “Mayim, living water, that's my name, that's me”, appears in the form of a book. Mayim Kolder is a young disabled woman who is also part of our youth delegation to the EYE2021 event in the European Parliament. ISBN 9789464315356
- Two publications will be published in which our chairperson has contributed. “Doing everything possible”, ISBN 9789492994257 and
- 'Experience expert, that's you', ISBN 9789492994196.
- On November 16, the conference 'Minimum Wages' will take place, organised by the group of the Socials & Democrats in the European Parliament, led by Agnes Jongerius (member MEP, PvdA), on the importance of introducing a legal minimum wage. in all EU Member States.

- The conference on the Future of Europe is on November 29.
- This year the General Assembly is digital and will take place on December 2nd. We all hope that we can organise a normal General Assembly again in 2022.
- Inclusion Netherlands organises a (video) inclusion hour every month, in which we participate several times.
- EAPN NL also participates, within the European network, in a working group that provides advice to a major European study on Absolute Poverty. A representative of EAPN Europe is on the steering committee of this study.

## **COMM'ON working group**

The COMM'ON working group produces and publishes a Participation Manual, which we translate into Dutch, distribute it and put it on the website.

We also make six videos of people in poverty. These are grafted on the way in which the pandemic is spoken of and look like a press release, reporting the new vaccine against poverty. A video comes from the Netherlands and Stella de Swart, the writer of 'Poverty you get for free', plays a part in this. The videos are distributed via social media by all national networks and EAPN Europe.

[Kopie van DUPLICATE COMM'ON Guidelines Daniel Spiers \(eapned.nl\)](#)

## **Finally**

Even if 2021 is not an 'ordinary year', our work will continue. We picked up as much as we could and discussed, co-organized, co-changed as much as possible and we, especially together with many, can make it a year with beautiful highlights. Of course, we also hope that 2022 will bring an end to the pandemic and normalize our work again, but 2021 remains a year to look back on with great pleasure. Thank you to all who have made this possible, in which we would certainly like to mention the support of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Employment and the European Parliament and the Representation of the European Parliament in our country for our participation in the European Youth Event 2021. We hope this was the first time and many more to come.