**EAPN TASK FORCE ON DECENT WORK**

***Towards an EAPN Living Wage Campaign***

Feasibility Questionnaire

What is EAPN’s Decent Work Task Force?

The objective of the Task Force is to elaborate a Concept and Feasibility Note regarding the implementation of an EAPN-wide Living Wage Campaign, and to prepare a Campaign Guide and other ancillary campaign materials to support members in implementing such an initiative. [The Scottish Living Wage Campaign](http://slw.povertyalliance.org/) will be used as a model, and the role of the Task Force is to see to what extent it can be transposed, as well as improved, for use across the EAPN membership. You can find all information about the Task Force, its mandate, its members, and its work [here](http://www.eapn.eu/en/members-room/task-forces/task-force-on-decent-work) (username: eapn; password: 1515).

What is the Scottish Living Wage Campaign?

As low pay still is a very real problem in Scotland, the Living Wage campaigns decided to take demands directly to employers and try to make a difference, building on the earlier success of such campaigns in London and elsewhere. The campaigns are based on a dual approach, combining lobbying employers, with the help of trade unions, with supporting grassroots organisations to put pressure on local employers to take ownership of the campaign. The campaign has proved remarkably successful: important institutions have become Living Wage employers, such as The Glasgow City Council, Scottish Enterprise (the agency responsible for business development in Scotland) and Employers in Voluntary Housing. The Glasgow City Council also started their own Glasgow Living Wage Campaign, signing up more than 130 employers as ‘living wage’ employers. The Living Wage has also been debated twice in the Scottish Parliament. As the target were employers and not the State, thus placing on the former the responsibility to fight poverty, it was easier to garner political support. The campaigns also helped forge new links between local community organisations, trade unions, faith-based organisations and other civil-society organisations.

What we need to know from you

For the elaboration of the Concept and Feasibility Note, the Task Force needs to collect some baseline information, regarding the current capacity of EAPN networks to develop and implement such a campaign, so that it can make pertinent recommendations regarding the adoption and adaptation of the Scottish model.

**Please take a moment to answer briefly the questions below:**

Questions:

1. **What level of support exists in your country for a decent/living wage approach?** Please refer to political context, but also employers’ attitudes.

**2. What is the state of collective bargaining in your country** – what is the coverage? Are agreements binding or optional? Are they at sector or company level? Do they cover workers in traditionally low-paid sectors?

**3. What are your ideas about how to come up with a concrete figure for a living wage?** Has work in this sense already been done in your network/country that you could build on?

**4. Who do you think could be useful allies in such a campaign?**

Allies should be actors at all levels: regional, national and EU levels and ideally representatives from various entities involved in ensuring fair wages: labour unions, civil society organisations.

At EU level, several MEPs could be won as supporters.

**5. What obstacles can you already foresee** – in terms of your networks’ capacity to implement such a campaign, or other?

As this is an EU wide campaign, a major obstacle could be the differences in the individual member states. While a low pay is a problem in most member states for certain sectors, some have a minimum wage and others don’t.

**6. Does your network have a track record in implementing campaigns, including EAPN ones?** What resources (time, staff, connections, alliances, other) does your network have?

PICUM has been implementing and supporting wider campaigns and programs through its network and could support advocacy and communications.

PICUM has a network of about 150 member organisations with which news and updates can be shared and allies could be identified at national and regional level. Moreover, PICUM has a network of volunteers who could support translating campaign material into various EU languages.

Previous EAPN campaigns: EU Money for Poverty Reduction Now (2012)

**7. Anything else to add?**

Please return this fiche, filled-in, to amana.ferro@eapn.eu, by **Friday, 21 February 2014.**

*Thank you in advance for your cooperation!*