

Our best practice in EAPN Norway 😊

The campaign "Backward march around Parliament" before the election in 2013, together with all committees of the EAPN Norway, the Battery and the Salvation Army. This is to highlight the Government's backwards policy in the fight against poverty. We managed to gather many people from our network and we invited people from the street.

Our chairman Johanna Engen, held appeal together with Mimmi Kvisvik, the leader of The Norwegian Union of Social Educators and Social Workers (FO). It's a voluntary Professional Association and Trade Union with about 26.500 members.

One of the strongest Norwegian critics of the social policies in the Norwegian society, Erling Borgen, ended the speech with a very strong appeal with clear message to the Norwegian government.



"You can't starve people to work"



"Poor People's Questions"

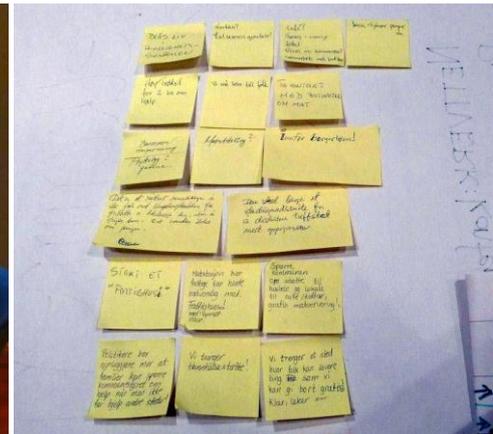
Public meeting in Alta, Northern Norway, together with our member SISA and BIKUBEN ("Beehive") who has an user participation driven culture and training center.



It was nearly 100 people in this meeting. It was invited politicians who had to listen to people experiencing poverty in one of the richest countries in the world. We have arranged the same meeting in Oslo, also with great success. But the most exiting with these public meetings, "**Poor People's Questions**", are when it's arranged in regional parts of Norway, in smaller cities or on the country side. Being poor in a small village or small town, is very difficult. The invisible poverty is worst. People tell us, they don't dare to visit the social security for help because the neighbor or a friend works there. In these "fare out" areas, they don't have chopping enter with possibilities for outlet or second hand stores. Many families have to buy clothes from postorder catalogues. The children are bullied at school because of this and named "postorder-kids".

We visit a small island, Ørlandet, outside of Trondheim and arranged "Poor people's questions".





After discussion, people worked in groups and proposed solutions ☺

The result of the small public meeting with a few brave participants on Ørlandet, was the creation of a new organization who are collecting food, clothing, furniture, household, bikes, skis and other things people need. They've have got a meeting place for free from the municipality which they can use for meetings. People can provide things they don't need instead of throwing. This place has become a very open place for meeting, everybody can drop by for giving or picking up things they need. In the same time, the whole community has been more open minded and outspoken about poverty.

"To receive and give, have the same value"



The local newspaper showed great interest, and this helped to rich peoples who need help, or peoples who wants to give help. In this new meeting place, voluntary workers also help people who need support and advice in relation to the social security. Happy ending for many people ☺