

EAPN Strategic Plan 2012-2014

Glossary of terms

The Strategic Plan is a common tool which sets out the broad vision, goals, objectives and strategies of the Network for an agreed period of time.

The Vision sets out the type of society that EAPN wants to see created.

The Mission sets out the distinct contribution of EAPN as an organisation.

The Values sets out the principles, standards and beliefs that should be reflected in all aspects of the work of the Network.

The Goals are aspirations and express what we would like to achieve as a result of the work of EAPN over the coming strategic planning period.

The Objectives are steps towards achieving the goals and should help to make clear choices about what we prioritise in our work programmes under this strategic plan.

The Strategies begin to answer the question of how we will go about accomplishing our goals and objectives.

EAPN operational definition of Anti Poverty Non Governmental Organisations: Anti poverty NGOs are organisations that defend and/or represent the interests of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion that:

- are democratically organised (membership is voluntary, the functioning of the organisation is based on democratic rules),
- are mandated from, and accountable to, their members,
- rely on voluntary work and the involvement of activists (though they may have paid staff),
- profits, if made, are reinvested in the organisation,
- are independent from government and other state actors (though they may receive financial support from Government or other state actors).

1) EAPN: Vision - Mission – Values

Vision:

The European Anti Poverty Network (EAPN) is working for a democratic and social Europe, free of poverty and social exclusion.

Mission:

- To promote and enhance the effectiveness of actions against poverty and social exclusion;
- To help shape social policies and design action programmes;
- To lobby for and with people and groups experiencing poverty and social exclusion.

Values:

- EAPN believes that poverty and social exclusion are a violation of fundamental human rights and thus a failure to respect human dignity.
- EAPN believes that poverty and social exclusion arise from complex and multidimensional processes that cannot be dealt with in isolation or on the margins.
- EAPN believes that people living in poverty and social exclusion have the right to participate in society and to have their views and experiences listened to and acted on.
- EAPN believes in gender equality, respect for cultural, religious and language diversity and non-discrimination.
- EAPN believes in the organisation of our work in a democratic and transparent way, which respects the different specific tasks and views of the different bodies and members that make up the Network.
- EAPN believes in seeking to work in partnership with other relevant actors sharing a common vision including actors within: state authorities, public sector bodies, European Union Institutions and with trade unions, academics and employers, other NGOs and movements.
- EAPN believes in the independence of Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and that public authorities have a responsibility to create and adhere to frameworks which support civil dialogue and respect NGO autonomy.
- EAPN believes in the possibility to achieve a fairer sharing of wealth, opportunities and resources.

2) Key Messages

- Participation of people experiencing poverty is key to understanding and addressing the causes of poverty and social exclusion.
- Realising social inclusion is part of the solution to Europe's crisis.
- The fight against poverty is everyone's responsibility and must be mainstreamed across all policies.

- More equal societies are better for everyone - A society that works for the prevention of poverty and social exclusion is an economically richer society that can allocate its financial resources in sustainable development and social cohesion, without spending its resources in trying to counteract the outcomes of poverty and social exclusion.
- The fight against poverty in Europe and the fight against poverty globally is part of the same struggle.

The key messages are not a selection of priority issues for the Network, but rather the identification of external communication priorities, which will facilitate the delivery of the Goals and objectives of the network over the life of this plan.

3) Goals and Objectives – Strategies (2012-2014)

Goal 1: A social and sustainable development model that tackles poverty, social exclusion and inequalities is at the heart of decision making in Europe.

Objective 1.1: EAPN will work to ensure that the Europe 2020 strategy, the Platform against Poverty and the Social Inclusion strategy (Social OMC), the Employment Policy (European Employment Strategy and Cohesion Policy (Structural Funds) deliver progress to: effectively mainstream social concerns, reduce poverty and inequality and ensure that public policies, programmes and intervention reach people living in poverty, including the most disadvantaged.

Objective 1.2: EAPN will work to support its members to effectively engage in public debates and national and European policy making, on poverty, social exclusion and inequality.

Objective 1.3: EAPN will seek to engage and contribute to alliances for an alternative model of social and sustainable development that puts people and planet first.

Goal 2: EAPN is a dynamic, membership driven organisation that is recognised as a key civil society actor fighting poverty, social exclusion and inequalities at National and European levels.

Objective 2.1: EAPN will seek in a transparent fashion to actively engage the expertise of its members in its structures and working methods.

Objective 2.2: EAPN will provide opportunities for mutual exchange at bilateral and multilateral levels between its members to ensure a transfer of knowledge, experience and learning on practices and policies in the fight against poverty, social exclusion and inequalities.

Objective 2.3: EAPN will provide opportunities for capacity building for its members.

Goal 3: People Experiencing Poverty and Social Exclusion recognise EAPN as their Network.

Objective 3.1: EAPN will promote and strengthen the participation of people experiencing poverty within its internal workings.

Objective 3.2: EAPN will encourage and strengthen the self organisation of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion and/or their inclusion in anti poverty NGOs.

Objective 3.3: EAPN will, with the engagement of people experiencing poverty, seek out and promote good practices in participatory policy making and seek to demonstrate to people living in poverty the added value and impact of their contribution.

Strategies

EAPN seeks to be a critical voice, proposing solutions and defending the interest of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion by:

- Being an innovative and active partner and relevant reference point, shaping and influencing EU inclusion policies and strategies.
- Providing a space for exchange, debate and learning on practices and policies to fight poverty and social exclusion and to promote a better distribution of wealth.
- Contributing to developing and implementing a social and sustainable development model.