**TASK FORCE 2013-14: Common Principles for Promoting Effective Stakeholder Participation in Stakeholder Dialogue in Europe 2020, including people experiencing poverty**

***Scoping Note***

**Introduction**

This scoping note sets out the basic terms of reference for the Task Force (TF). It is based on the initial proposal agreed by the EUIS and approved by the Bureau in June 2013.The draft was discussed in the first TF meeting on the 16th September 2013 and this final version approved in October 2013.

**Justification**

The Europe 2020 strategy in 2010 set a poverty target to reduce poverty by at least 20 million by 2020. To deliver on this and other targets, the strategy supported the active engagement of stakeholders, including NGOs[[1]](#footnote-1) at the national and EU level. The European Platform Against Poverty[[2]](#footnote-2) gave even more support to the involvement of stakeholders, including people experiencing poverty, based on the previous strong commitments to participation in the Social Open Method of Coordination (OMC)[[3]](#footnote-3). The new Social Investment Package (SIP) which is now driving the EU social agenda makes a similar commitment. However in reality, stakeholder engagement is extremely weak, according to EAPN members own assessments, in an austerity context where poverty is increasing not decreasing.[[4]](#footnote-4) EAPN members have a wealth of experience in engaging people experiencing poverty and their NGOs in structured dialogue processes at the national level linked to EU inclusion and other processes (eg National Action Plans for Inclusion and National Reform Programmes) and have key expertise to share, building on existing work.[[5]](#footnote-5) This specific focus is set within a broader concern to find effective ways to build a more participative democracy.

**EAPN Strategic Plan Goal 1**: A social and sustainable development model that tackles poverty, social exclusion + inequalities is at heart of decision-making in Europe.

**Objective 1.1 and 1.2: 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 (EES ) 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.

**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

**Name of TF: “Common Principles for Promoting Effective Stakeholder Participation in Stakeholder Dialogue in Europe 2020, including people with direct experience of poverty”.**

**Membership**

The Task Force will be led by the proposer BAPN (Elke Vandermeerschen and representative with direct experience of poverty) and supported by the EAPN secretariat (Sian Jones), with the support of 6 EAPN members: EAPN Estonia (Kalle Laan), EAPN Spain (Isabelle Allende), EAPN Sweden (Sonja Wallbom), EAPN Macedonia (Valentina Dioska ) Eurochild (Reka Tunyogi) and AGE-Platform (Macej Kucharczyk). Other EAPN secretariat will participate as necessary.

**Objectives**

1. Produce EAPN Common Principles to promote effective stakeholder engagement in Europe 2020 that includes people experiencing poverty and their NGOs, at the EU, national and sub-national level. This will take the form of hand book that will also include good practices and practical steps and provide concrete advise to decision-makers at the different levels on how to facilitate meaningful participation in the National Reform Programmes (NRPs), the National Social Reports (NSRs), the Country-Specific Recommendations (CSRs) and the European Platform Against Poverty, as well as other national anti-poverty strategies and processes.
2. Produce an action note to help members to use the Principles and handbook in order to improve civil dialogue and engagement, in Europe 2020 and similar policy processes. Prepare a capacity building exchange with the EUIS to build on the learning and to take forward demands at EU, national and sub-national level.

**Target Audience**

* The Common Principles will be specifically targeted at decision-makers at EU, national and sub-national level, to provide concrete guidance to support effective and meaningful stakeholder engagement in Europe 2020 at the EU, national and sub-national level.
* The action note and the capacity building session will be targeted at EUISG members.

**Outputs**

The main outputs for the TF will be:

1. The Common Principles for effective or stakeholder participation in structured dialogue
2. An Action note with tips for engagement and good practices in structured dialogue
3. Capacity Building session with the EUIS group

**Proposed Timeline:**

* 7th October: minutes + draft of the structure and updated scoping note
* Input before the 18th of October – both on content and on the structure
* EUISG- 25/26 October – brief presentation of scoping note and process.
* First draft before the 15th of November
* Comments before the 12th of December
* Meeting on the 17th of December to discuss 1st Draft.
* Following Meeting, second Revision by January 31st
* Second draft will go to the EUISG in February
* Final draft finalized March/April
* Launch (April/May)
* Capacity Building with EUIS – May

**Ways of Working**

The TF will be chaired jointly by Elke and Sian (BAPN and secretariat) however the work will be a shared responsibility with all members of the TF, with secretariat support. All TF members will be expected to carry out concrete pieces of work: to prepare for the meetings with their networks, give oral and written input, participate actively in the meeting discussions, and to share the follow up work between meetings as agreed in the TF by the agreed deadlines. This may involve skype meetings. All participants have been selected on a personal basis, and should not normally be substituted by others.

**Contents and Format**

*This section will be completed following the agreement on the final version of the structure.*

**Launch and Dissemination**

The product/outputs will be launched in at least one event in 2014, probably in Brussels, linked to the topic of improving civil society dialogue and participation. However, the main focus on dissemination will be the use of the principles/handbook y to drive improvements in stakeholder engagement at EU, national and sub-national level in Europe 2020. The TF will consider together with the EUIS members what further steps need to be taken to disseminate the product/s and to lobby for improved engagement at the different levels.

**Budget**

Full costs of 7 members of TF will be covered for 3, 1 day meetings, on the basis of Brussels-based meetings**.** Additional funding will be requested for**:**

* Publication costs for final product
* Main Author and Product Coordinator fee
* Launch costs

**SJ/08/10/13**

1. Recital 16 of the Europe 2020 Integrated Guidelines (2010) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. EC (2010) European Platform Against Poverty. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. See EAPN Tool Kit for engaging in NRPs and NSRs 2010 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. See EAPN NRP and NSR Assessments – 2011, 2012 and 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. See EAPN Booklets on Participation: small steps, big changes. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)