23 – 05 - 2014

**Minutes - SF Sub Group**

**EU ISG Meeting – Prague – 17 May 2014**

***Attendees:*** *Katarina (CZ), Graciela (ES), Sophie (DE), Douhomir (BG)*

***Note-taker:*** *Vincent Caron (EAPN Secretariat)*

Preliminary remark: Vincent announced that he will leave EAPN by the end of May. So, the meeting was aimed at finalizing ongoing deliverables (EAPN SF’s leaflet and EAPN SF’s Toolkit) and make proposals on how to follow up other pieces of work by the time the new worker will be in post.

1. **EAPN Structural’s Leaflet on social inclusion**

**Graciela/ ES**

A couple of things need to be re-worked:

* **The SIP paragraph** (2.2.2) should be better structured with the key issues presented in bullet points (like child poverty, Social inclusion….) to make clearer.
* **EAPN key principles (2.3):**
* There is one important missing element which is related to the project should reflect on the ex-ante conditionality (on social inclusion, gender, ethnic origins, age, disabilities) / key criteria listed in the call for proposals. It should appear as the 1st principle. Graciela proposed the following wording: *“receive funding there are a number of criteria a project needs to meet. Applicants will need to show that their project will have a significant impact in terms of the key points highlighted in the call for proposals. In the case of ESF; delivering in one or more of the following fields:*
* *Enabling social policies and strategies to reach the vulnerable groups*
* *Labor market transformation*
* *Changing unequal opportunities and fighting discrimination*
* *Mobilizing social economy investments*
* *Building skills and capacities*
* *Poverty prevention”*
* **Long-lasting effects:** a genuine social ex-post evaluation should be carried out. Social indicators should be aimed at measuring rationale, achievable outcomes to make the project partners accountable for the results obtained.

**Sophie/ DE**: The introduction should be shorten the introduction and more focused on the objectives. A table of contents should be added. CLLD is still a bit missing – Lots of programs will be organized from the municipalities ‘level. That’s why a good practice on CLLD should be put.

**Katarina/ CZ:**

* Agrees with the comments already made
* This needs to be shortened, avoiding double information and dropping the conclusion.
* People should be asked to update the example they provided to get more uniformity
* Due to the uneven quality of the projects collected, section 3 should be re-worded: “practical NGO examples from the past” rather than “Good practices”.

**Douhomir/ BG:**

* SF cannot be socially included if not pro-development. SF do not deliver on growth and development. There is a concentration of money on a small amount of people – SF are misused.
* Examples of development from grass-root organizations (like examples of CLLD not only social services but promoters of growth at local level) are very important.
* There should be a connection with system of management of Structural Funds
1. **EAPN SF’s Tool Kit**
* **Sophie - Katarina** – the draft is OK, it is practical, well-structured.
* SF Sub-group Members are invited to send me their written comments by next Wednesday.
1. **The checklist**
* The idea is still to have a 2-3 pages document with general tips about how to make a good application illustrated by some examples from NGOs.
* Members agreed to wait until the autumn 2014 once OPs will be out to work on it – an EAPN Member could do the work and coordinate Members’ inputs (including practical examples).
1. **Mid-Term Review and SF**

The SF-sub group members agreed on the main EAPN proposals on the role that SF should play in view of the Mid-Term Review of Europe 2020.

In view of really delivering on the poverty reduction target through SFs:

* The European Commission should control the compliance by Governments and Managing Authorities of the ring-fencing of 20% ESF on poverty reduction
* The European Commission should also ensure a good management of Structural Funds at regional level by putting in place a centralized mechanism to collect and deal with information, complaints sent by NGOs.

**Action points:**

* EAPN SF’s leaflet: VC to revise it on the basis of the comments made, pass it to EAPN Secretariat – Secretariat will decide how to follow it up.
* EAPN SF’s toolkit: SF Sub-group Members have till Wednesday PM (21 May) to send their comments – Then, the Secretariat will work on the lay out and send it to EU ISG Members and encourage them to make use of it (by end of May – beginning of June).
* SFs checklist: The idea is still to have a 2-3 pages document with general tips about how to make a good application illustrated by some examples from NGOs. Members agreed to wait until the autumn 2014 once OPs will be out to work on it – an EAPN Member could do the work and coordinate Members’ inputs (including practical examples).