**EAPN TASK FORCE MEETING ON SOCIAL INNOVATION**

*3rd Meeting, 3 December 2015*

**Chair:** **Marija Babović, EAPN Serbia**

with support from **Amana Ferro, EAPN Secretariat**

***Attendance:*** Marija Babović (EAPN SR), Slavomíra Mareková (EAPN SK), Aivars Lasmanis (EAPN LV), Krisztina Jász (EAPN HU), Elena De La Hera (EAPN ES), Amana Ferro (EAPN Secretariat)

***Apologies:*** Loredana Giuglea (EAPN RO)

**Introduction session**

Agenda and minutes agreed.

**Finalisation and endorsement of the Briefing and Checklist**

* It is a pity that we did not receive a lot of written input from the EU ISG on the Briefing – only EAPN PT sent comments. This was maybe due to many simultaneous requests on EU ISG members, or maybe because this is a Briefing, which means the topic is quite new for EAPN. However, EU ISG members did send good practices, which shows a good level of interest and engagement.
* There was a proposal to use the Checklist not only for identifying good practices on the ground, but also to better mainstream social innovation in EAPN’s work overall, including policy work – see to what extent a certain approach is innovative, in our terms.
* It might be good to add some other boxed examples of social innovation in the *Definitions and approaches* chapter – examples from outside EAPN, as the mapping I exclusively reserved to good practices coming from the membership.
* It would also be interesting to look at how the so-called “reproductive work” is included in the measure of the GDP – housework, caring responsibilities, but also volunteering etc (everything that is not paid employment).
* While the overlap between the EAPN definition of social innovation and the Checklist was acknowledged, Task Force members did not see it as a problem, because the Checklist is just a tool to operationalise the definition and make it applicable in practice. A sentence to that effect will be added when the Checklist is introduced.
* It is important to define wellbeing and what we understand by it, and distinguish between material results and human dignity.
* ***Marija to add a few more boxed examples to the Definitions and approaches chapter; others to contribute if they have any other ideas.***
* ***Marija to add a sentence explaining that the Checklist is the operationalisation of the definition.***
* ***Amana to review the European section in light of the European Commission intervention – complement with new information as needed.***
* ***Amana to check if any other social NGOs at European level have produced material on social innovation.***
* ***Marija to add an additional point in Threats about human dignity and how human beings are more than mere production units.***

**Intervention from the European Commission**

Aurelio Fernandez Lopez, Policy Officer, Social Investment Strategy, DG Employment

See PowerPoint presentation attached.

*Additional comments by the speaker, during the Q & A session*

Civil society organisations are playing a key role in the delivery of social services, which means that they are already part of many collaborations and partnerships on the ground. This could be the basis for national consortia to apply for social innovation funds and deliver social innovation projects. The scope of some projects is too big for single NGOs, which is why these partnerships are encouraged. Many social innovations are connected to social entrepreneurship. Social policy experiementation (RCT) is still around, but DG Employment has challenged that, and the last two calls for proposals have challenged that – social realities can’t be narrowed in that way, and flexibility around methodology is needed. Also, the key point is not the methodology for the project, but rather, what are the outcomes. This is a social investment approach. Methodologies for evaluating outcomes in the last two calls have also been flexibilised in the last two calls. In the submitted project proposals, a mix of quantitative and qualitative evaluation methodologies were put forward. The logic in which we live right now is very economic, so this is the angle we are approaching – how can social innovations support economic outcomes. Environmental concerns are increasingly picked up in social innovation proposals coming from the ground.

**Discussion on the Mapping of Best Practices**

Amana will prepare a Google Drive document, where everybody will be able to anonymously choose the practices they think should be included in the booklet. There is no limited number – just indicate those you think should be publicised, no matter how many, and which should be rejected. If there are some practices you are unsure about, you can put them in a “Maybe” category, and we can then ask specific questions for clarification (not general ones, such as “Give more information”, but rather specific ones, such as “Was there any follow-up”, “Were the beneficiaries involved, and how” etc), if needed

* **Amana to email the link to the Google Drive document**
* **Task Force members to select practices to be included in the booklet, as well as ONE / TWO best practice(s) to be presented in the report.**

**Next steps**

Booklet Social Innovation – external publication

The Task Force was mandated by the EU ISG, in terms of EAPN’s Work Programme with the European Commission, to produce the following:

- A Briefing on Social Innovation, including a Checklist for what constitutes good innovation practices.

- A mapping of good social innovation practices from our membership (separate table).

These deliverables have now been finalised (as per above). They are both internal documents, aimed at the EAPN membership. It was proposed to additionally produce an external publication, an *EAPN Booklet on Good Social Innovation Practices*, building on the two deliverables above.

This would be an external publication, and it would include an Introduction with the key parts of the internal Briefing (mainly, EAPN's definition, analysis of threats and opportunities, and the Checklist) and some selected good practices, presented with some photographs etc. The Secretariat would draft this publication in early January 2016.

* ***Amana to prepare a draft booklet once the good practices have been selected by Task Force members, and the internal Briefing finalised.***
* ***Task Force members to approve (by email) the final version of the booklet.***

Event in the European Parliament

Veronica Lope Fontagné MEP (EPP, Spain), rapporteur for the European Parliament’s report on social entrepreneurship and social innovation, is still interested in hosting an event, together with EAPN, on the potential of Social Innovation to fight poverty and social exclusion in Europe. It is proposed that the event will take place in the morning of March 3rd, before the EU ISG Steering Group meeting, and the EU ISG meeting on 4-5 March. No member will be able to attend because of costs, but Marija will be present (could arrive the day before and does not need hotel), and we could ask an EU ISG member to present the practice from their country (this entails an extra hotel night). The event will also be an opportunity to launch the Booklet (see above).

The proposed format:

* Opening by the MEP
* EAPN input: Marija (EAPN definition, analysis of risks and opportunities, checklist) and one good practice from the ground (to be identified)
* Input from another CSO, preferably Eurodiaconia (if not, Social Platform)
* Response from the Commission – DG Employment and DG Enterprise
* ***Task Force members to also select one (two) good practices to be presented during the event, in addition to selecting practices for the Booklet***
* ***Amana to inquire about the cost feasibility of paying an extra hotel night for the best practice presenter, and to proceed with the organisation of the event***

**Closing Remarks**

Evaluation

* It was very good that the objectives were very clear from the beginning, but there was also flexibility to discuss and amend things, it wasn’t rigid;
* It was very easy to write the Briefing, because the content was very clearly defined in the brainstorming, which was very productive;
* It is very good to reach out and tap into additional expertise in our Networks, by involving people who are not part of the big groups;
* The link to the EU ISG should be strengthened, but also need to keep in mind their ability and capacity to take on so many topics;