

Annual report for 2010 from EAPN - Sweden

General introduction

EAPN – Sweden is an umbrella organization for national and regional organizations working against poverty and exclusion. Some members are providers of social services, others are self-organized groups working with strengthening people in exclusion, poverty and drug addiction.

EAPN – Sweden has a national board with elected members from all organizations in the network. The board has had six meetings and between those meetings there is an Executive Committee responsible for matters arising between the board meetings.

The board is producing a News Letter that is published on the website. The website has been updated and improved in 2010.

Today we have two regional networks – in Skåne and Örebro län - organized to work with their own agenda focused on matters more closely related to local problems and needs. We are planning to start at least one more regional network in the coming year. The reason we have decided to organize like this, is partly that there are issues that is better dealt with on a regional level, but also a way of keeping the costs down, as the network has very limited funding for members traveling from all over the country.

European work

EAPN-Sweden is represented in the European Executive Committee and in the three working groups organized in EAPN Europe: Social Inclusion, Employment and Social Funds.

Four Swedish delegates participated at the General Assembly in Cyprus in June.

Two members participated in the seminars on Minimum Income on two occasions.

A Coordinator prepared a delegation of four people living in poverty and exclusion from the region Västra Götaland , to go to the European meeting Summit of the Poor, People Experiencing Poverty, in Brussels.

We were represented at the final conference in Brussels for the EY 2010 with one person and also on the Social Round Table under the Belgian presidency.

The Swedish EXCO member was a representative for the members of EAPN meeting Commissioner Andor for a discussion about Strategi 2020 and the lack of participative initiatives compared to the social OMC in the Lisbon Strategy.

Activities in Sweden

For the first time ever the European Year against Poverty and Exclusion made it possible for the network to have funding enough to have paid staff members. One person in full time and three persons part time have worked with all the activities connected to the EY 2010. The Network have also been able to produce folders and roll ups during the year.

The year 2010 was – as expected – a year of many activities and possibilities to make Poverty and Exclusion seen and heard. It has been important as it has highlighted the problems for many people living in in difficult circumstances also in Sweden.

EAPN Sweden has been involved in many parts of the EY 2010. We have had a place in the NIB and as a result of that a good view of all the activities that have taken place during the year.

For the first time ever EAPN Sweden also got funding for activities of our own and in collaboration with other actors.

The year started with a National PEP-meeting and that was considered as the official opening of the year as the Minister of Social Welfare and Health held the opening speech.

At this meeting we had 150 persons coming from all parts of Sweden telling about their own experiences of poverty and exclusion. They had discussions with decision makers and officials from the national level. The Conference worked on the basis of four themes: Minimum incomes, Exclusion, Housing and Social Rights.

Together with two Adult Education Organizations we have had groups working all over Sweden to working with themes that has been seen as important for people living in poverty and exclusion. The ideas and suggestions from the groups and the messages from the first conference have been implemented on three occasions when we have brought participants from those activities together in one, or two, days seminars. The aim of the seminars was to make social policy out of personal experiences and to use the matters that the groups have worked on at the regional conferences.

We have executed four regional conferences in the same concept as the national PEP meeting but with regional and local actors.

For the coming year, 2011, we have funding to continue this work and try to make it feed into the national work with the National Reform Plan and also as a way to use the Open Method of Coordination in a social and political context. As a prolongation of the method we also see the meeting Summit of the Poor in Brussels.

During the National Focus Week there was one day when eleven different conferences were held all over Sweden and they were kept together half day by a videoconference that was sent to all the other conferences. The common message from NGO's in EU was at that time

signed by the Minister of Social Welfare and Health together with the President of EAPN Sweden. The message was passed over by a member from The Cypriote Network who had the focus week before Sweden and was later sent forward to Denmark who had the focus week after.

All regional conferences was closed by a person with own experiences of poverty and exclusion.

EAPN Sweden was also very much engaged in the national final conference where we presented the work we had done during the year in a work shop. The president of EAPN Sweden also had a speech and the closing speech was held by an EAPN member with own experiences of poverty and exclusion.

Finally

We can look back on the year 2010 as a successful period when the Swedish Network due to hard work made the issues of poverty and exclusion visible for so many more people. The network became bigger and our messages were heard by politicians more than ever before.

Member Organizations of EAPN Sweden 2010:



Insolvens – Riksförbundet för överskuldssatta

Associated members: EAPN Södra Sverige & Nätverket för sociala frågor i Örebro samt Skyddsvärnet i Göteborg

Board

Sonja Wallbom

Gunvi Haggren

Gigi Isacsson

Jan-Olof Forssén

Rickard Stenberg

Inge Fäldt

Piet de Boer

Substitute

Petra Persson

Philip Lönegren

Östen Bohlin

Göran Larsson

Katarina Björkgren