

Annex 2

1. Short report on the activities/work on People Experiencing Poverty (please refer to the original plan of activities).

Activity 1.1. Strengthening the engagement of experts with experience of poverty in key areas of work.

1.1.1. Discussion meetings of NGOs on engagement of PeP and Poverty Watch experts (remotely - online).

- From January 14th, Natalja Novikova, the head of the EAPN-Latvia member organization "LiveIntegro", has started to participate in NGO trainings for cooperation with the EAPN-Latvia network.
- On January 21st took place a webinar of the EAPN-Latvia PeP Working Group, chaired by PeP National Coordinator Aigars Sveicers, with participation of the EAPN-Latvia Member of the Board Andris Burtnieks, Egils Rupeks, EUISG representative, St. Luke's Support Association, Linda Romele, Latvian Free Trade Union Confederation and Ingmara Azaucka, Riga Alliance of Active Seniors. On the agenda of this webinar: Involvement of NGO experts.
- On January 26th took place a webinar of the EAPN-Latvia PeP Working Group, chaired by Laila Balga, EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board, with participation of Andris Burtnieks and Aigars Sveicers, EUISG representative Egils Rupeks, as well as the representatives of EAPN-Latvia member organizations - Ilga Liepina (Latvian Association of Large Families), Dace Paegle (Latvian Children's Forum), Ingmara Azaucka (Riga Alliance of Active Seniors) and Vija Ahunzjanova (Large Family Centre "Family Support"). On the agenda of this webinar: EUISG, PeP and Poverty Watch program 2020 annual reports, work plan for 2021, cooperation with the National Library of Latvia. Involvement of experts in the PeP program and for the preparation of the Poverty Watch report.

1.1.2. PeP program 2021 planning and management meetings led by National Coordinator (remotely-online).

- On January 12th took place a webinar of the EAPN-Latvia PeP Working Group, chaired by the PeP National Coordinator Aigars

Sveicers, with participation of Laila Balga, EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board, EAPN-Latvia Board Members Andris Burtnieks, Marite Rozentale and Janis Stjadja, auditor Natalija Kurnosova, EUISG representative Egils Rupeks, as well as the representatives of EAPN-Latvia member organizations Elina Alere-Fogele (Women's Rights Institute), Ilga Liepina (Latvian Association of Large Families), Dace Paegle (Latvian Children's Forum) and Vija Ahunzjanova (Large Family Centre "Family Support"). On the agenda of this webinar: Planning of PeP program activities.

1.1.3. Discussion meetings of PeP Working Group for prevention of homelessness shelters and supporting social workers (remotely-online).

- From February 9th the EAPN-Latvia working group, led by Laila Balga and Ilga Liepina, participated in the preparation of the SMES-Europa (Mental Health and Social Exclusion) project for 2021-2023 within the framework of the Erasmus+ program, to provide support to homeless shelter professionals for their work with the homeless people. The coordinator of this project is Luigi Leonori, President of SMES-Europa (Belgium).
- On March 23th the EAPN-Latvia working group - Aigars Sveicers, Laila Balga, Ilga Liepina and Egils Rupeks - approved the inclusion of support measures for homeless shelter workers in the PeP program.
- On May 20th SMES-Europa submitted to the Erasmus+ KA220-VET program a project application "PERSON FIRST: EMERGENCY SERVICES and REHABILITATION SUPPORTS promoting accessibility – improving e-quality – reinforcing net-working", in which EAPN-Latvia also participated in partnership with 7 other countries. In 2021, no funding was allocated to this project, postponing it in reserve for 2022.

1.1.4. Seminar of NGO experts with experience in poverty on social rights for social entrepreneurship (remotely-online).

- In December 2021 the PeP working group chaired by Laila Balga, the EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board, started planning activities within the framework of NORDPLUS program to continue the 2019 project "Link between social rights and social entrepreneurship" in 2022 in order to promote social inclusion in the field of social entrepreneurship.

1.1.5. Meeting of NGOs on social security measures in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic (remotely-online).

- On March 5th the representatives of EAPN-Latvia member organizations - Laila Balga, Dace Paegle and Vija Ahunzjanova - remotely participated in the forum of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia and NGOs "Resilience of the state and society: let's overcome the pandemic together!".
- On April 29th the representatives of EAPN-Latvia member organizations - Laila Balga, Aigars Sveicers, Terezija Mackare, Gunta Kelle, Lilita Kalnaja, Ilga Liepina, Vija Ahunzjanova and others - participated in the online conference "How do NGOs exist and operate during the pandemic restrictions?", which was organized by the Riga City Council NGO House.
- On August 5th and November 2nd, EAPN-Latvia participated in the EU Eurofound e-surveys "Life, Work and Covid-19" on the impact of the pandemic on the NGO project implementation process, the public situation in the country and the availability of funding for non-governmental organizations.

1.1.6. Evaluation meeting of the PeP program 2021, chaired by the PeP National Coordinator (remotely-online).

- An extended meeting of the EAPN-Latvia Board was held on December 8th, summarizing the results of the European Conference on People Experiencing Poverty (PeP), providing information on the representation of EAPN-Latvia in the structures of the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN), discussing cooperation with Latvian decision-making institutions (Representation of the European Commission in Latvia, the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia, Latvian Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Welfare, Ministry of the Interior and the Riga City Council).
- The EAPN-Latvia Board approved submitting an application to the Ministry of Welfare regarding the outcome of the discussion meeting that took place on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, which was held on October 20th.
- The extended EAPN-Latvia board meeting was attended by EAPN-Latvia board members Laila Balga, Aigars Sveicers (PeP national coordinator), Andris Burtnieks, Marite Rozentale, Janis Stjadja, Egils Rupeks (representative of EAPN EUISG, St. Luke's Support Association), as well as by the representatives of EAPN-Latvia member organizations Elina Alere-Fogele (Women's

Rights Institute), Ilga Liepina (Latvian Association of Large Families), Dace Paegle (Latvian Children's Forum), Vija Ahunzjanova (Large Family Centre "Family Support"), Rihards Bunka (Latvian Association of Lawyers) and Roberts Karklins (Oncology Patient Support Association "Onkonet").

Activity 1.2. Bringing together members and experts with experience in poverty to make their voices more visible.

1.2.1. Measures for the involvement of EAPN-Latvia network members and stakeholders in the training of PeP experts (remotely-online).

- An extended meeting of the EAPN-Latvia Board was held on May 11th, during which Laila Balga (EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board) introduced Aigars Sveicers and Andris Burtnieks (members of the Board), EUISG representative Egils Rupeks, representatives of the EAPN-Latvia member organizations Dace Paegle and Vija Ahunzjanova to the implementation process of NORDPLUS, NORDEN and ERASMUS+ projects, as well as heard Aigars Sveicers in connection with the preparation of the People Experiencing Poverty program for 2021.
- On October 12th, a meeting of the EAPN-Latvia European Social Policy Working Group was held to prepare proposals for an application for Erasmus+ accreditation, aimed at increasing the knowledge of the network consortium staff abroad over the next four years.

1.2.2. Discussions of NGO experts on promoting gender equality within the framework of PeP program (remotely-online).

- On April 21th Laila Balga, EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board, representatives of partner organizations Inete Ielite and Edite Kalnina (Latvian Women's Non-Governmental Organizations Cooperation Network) and Linda Romele (Latvian Free Trade Union Confederation) participated in the meeting of the Gender Equality Committee of the Ministry of Welfare.
- On April 30th the EAPN-Latvia Board Members Laila Balga and Aigars Sveicers participated in the Gender Equality Award Ceremony organized by Latvian Women's Non-Governmental Organizations Cooperation Network. This award was received by a local government deputy from the Riga region - Antonina Nenaseva, a candidate nominated by the EAPN-Latvia.

- On October 20th a meeting of Latvian Women's Non-Governmental Organizations Cooperation Network (Chairperson of the Board Inete Ielite) was held at the Ministry of Welfare, with participation of minister Gatis Eglitis and other specialists, to coordinate cooperation for supporting women, incl. Roma women. At this meeting EAPN-Latvia was represented by Laila Balga, Chairperson of the Board.
- On December 15th Inete Ielite, the authorized representative of EAPN-Latvia, remotely participated in the meeting of the Gender Equality Committee of the Ministry of Welfare.

1.2.3. Seminars of NGO experts, professionals and decision-makers on tackling social inequalities in health care (remotely-online).

- On April 9th took place the EAPN-Latvia webinar on reducing patient co-payments. It was opened by Laila Balga, EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board, who emphasized the need to implement Principle Nr.16 of the European Pillar of Social Rights in Latvia, which aims to eliminate social inequalities in health care. The webinar was led by Romualds Razuks (Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Latvia).

During this webinar Agnese Dagile (Head of the European Commission Representation in Latvia), Janis Vetra (Professor at Riga Stradins University, President of the Latvian Association of Health Care Management Specialists), Karlis Trusinskis (Associate Professor at Riga Stradins University, Head of the Latvian Hypertension and Atherosclerosis Society) and Girts Lapins (Head of the division of the Medical Services Department of the National Health Service) through their presentations described the impact of patient co-payments on the high levels of poverty in many groups of population and justified the need for changes in legislation, in the planning of funding and in the administration of the health care processes.

Several deputies of the Saeima, leaders of non-governmental organizations, as well as television and radio journalists both actively participated and listened to this discussion.

1.2.4. Meetings of the PeP Working Group regarding tackling social inequalities in health care (remotely-online).

- On March 31th and April 26th, the EAPN-Latvia Board Member Janis Stjadja remotely participated in the meeting of the National Council for Disability Affairs of the Ministry of Welfare.
- On May 15th the EAPN-Latvia network's member organization Liepaja Association of the Blind (Chairman of the Board Maris Ceirulis) participated in the opening of the Liepaja beach accessibility complex season opening. This complex provides opportunities for people with disabilities and parents with children to enjoy their rest on the beach in a convenient and accessible way.
- On June 14th EAPN-Latvia has started the series of working group meetings to help legislators make decisions regarding the reduction of patient co-payments in Latvia. Specialists from the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Welfare, Riga Stradins University, the Welfare Department of the Riga City Council, the Latvian Employers' Confederation and various NGOs participated in the first meeting. This working group is headed by Romualds Razuks, an NGO expert and an assistant professor at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Latvia.

1.2.5. Preparation and a meeting of NGO participants and decision-makers on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (remotely-online).

- On October 20th, within the framework of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, EAPN-Latvia organized a remote meeting "Poverty. Risks existing today and tomorrow. Possible solutions".

The participants of this meeting were addressed by the Minister of Welfare Gatis Eglitis. Evija Kula and Imants Lipskis (specialists of the Ministry of Welfare) and Zane Petre (Head of the European Commission Representation in Latvia) also made presentations at this remote meeting.

Representatives from the Ministry of Welfare, EC Representation in Latvia, Riga City Council faction, State Police, Zemgale Planning Region, Zemite Folk House and Library, European Latvian Association, Latvian Employers' Confederation, Latvian Women's Non-Governmental Organizations Cooperation Network and from 12 EAPN-Latvia network organizations also participated in this

webinar. This meeting was chaired by Aigars Sveicers, EAPN-Latvia Board Member, PeP National Coordinator.

Activity 1.3. Preparation for the European PeP Summit 2021 led by PeP National Coordinator.

- On September 28th a meeting of the EAPN-Latvia PeP Working Group was held remotely, chaired by PeP National Coordinator Aigars Sveicers, with participation of EAPN-Latvia Board members Laila Balga, Andris Burtnieks and Janis Stjadja, EUISG representative Egils Rupeks, as well as the representatives of the EAPN-Latvia member organizations Dace Paegle (Latvian Children's Forum), Elina Alere-Fogele (Women's Rights Institute) and Roberts Karklins (Oncology Patient Support Association "Onkonet"). The topic of this meeting was: PeP program activities in October and November 2021.
- On October 6th in Sigulda, the EAPN-Latvia member organization - association "A Call to You" within a framework of PeP program organized a seminar for people with special needs (disabilities) and seniors. It was chaired by Marite Rozentale, "A Call to You"

Chairperson of the Board. Laila Balga, EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board, introduced the seminar participants to the activities of the Network, Rihards Bunka (Chairman of the Board of Latvian Association of Lawyers) shared his thoughts on the historical development of decision-making processes.

A working group on the availability of health care services was chaired by Aigars Sveicers (EAPN-Latvia member of the Board), a working group on the subsistence minimum and the creation of a consumer basket - by Diana Jasinska, a social worker at the association "A Call to You".

- The largest annual conference of European people experiencing poverty took place remotely (online) on 24th and 25th November in Brussels, Belgium. At this conference Latvia was represented by Aigars Sveicers, EAPN-Latvia PeP National Coordinator, Elina Alere-Fogele, Ilga Liepina, Dace Paegle and Rihards Bunka (NGO experts) and Roberts Karklins (IT Administrator).

The Latvian delegation submitted their proposals for the systemic provision of a decent minimum income in all Member States of the

European Union, which were accepted and included in the draft decision.

Brief assessment of results and impact:

In 2021, EAPN-Latvia organized 12 remote meetings and one face-to-face meeting within the framework of People Experiencing Poverty and Social Exclusion programmes, with a total of at least 100 participants and at least 40 experts in the field of social policy, law, health care and education.

The experts of the EAPN-Latvia PeP program participated in 4 meetings with decision-makers related to health promotion and submitted their proposals, and in 4 meetings with decision-makers related to the promotion of gender equality. 6 experts from the Latvian network participated in the annual EAPN PeP meeting.

EAPN-Latvia has been represented at two meetings of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia and the Riga City Council; EAPN-Latvia also has participated in two EU Eurofond surveys on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on NGO activities. EAPN-Latvia has become a partner in the Erasmus+ program's project on reduction of homelessness, which was developed by SMES-Europa.

As a result of the measures implemented within the framework of PeP program in 2021, Latvian poverty experts increased their knowledge and skills on the implementation of social inclusion, poverty reduction and gender equality policies, on methods of advocacy in decision-making institutions, as well as on the opportunities to join and implement international projects in Latvia.

With these skills, it has been possible to partially influence the decisions of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia regarding health promotion, as well as to strengthen cooperation with the specialists of the Ministry of Welfare for the promotion of social policy and gender equality.

As a result of the implementation of PeP program, in 2021 EAPN-Latvia has strengthened the management skills of the network managers and PeP National Coordinator, as well as the participation skills of poverty experts related to operating in the virtual environment.

Compared to 2020, in 2021 EAPN-Latvia has expanded the range of poverty experts, by attracting them from other NGOs, as well as from the University of Latvia, Riga Stradins University, the Ministry of Health and Latvian National Library.

2. Ongoing European Semester, European Pillar of Social Rights (please refer to the original plan of activities).

Activity 2.1. Meetings of the European Social Policy Working Group on the Work Plan 2021 (remotely-online).

- On January 12th was held a webinar of the EAPN-Latvia European Social Policy Working Group, chaired by Andris Burtnieks (EAPN-Latvia Board Member), with participation of Laila Balga (EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board), Marite Rozentale, Aigars Sveicers and Janis Stjadja (EAPN-Latvia Board members), auditor Natalija Kurnosova, EUISG representative Egils Rupeks, as well as the representatives of EAPN-Latvia member organizations - Elina Alere-Fogele (Women's Rights Institute), Ilga Liepina (Latvian Association of Large Families), Dace Paegle (Latvian Children's Forum) and Vija Ahunzjanova (Large Family Centre "Family Support"). On the agenda of this webinar: Work plan for 2021.
- On January 26th was held a webinar of the EAPN-Latvia European Social Policy Working Group, which was chaired by Laila Balga, EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board, with participation of Andris Burtnieks and Aigars Sveicers, Egils Rupeks (EUISG representative) and Ilga Liepina (Latvian Association of Large Families), Dace Paegle (Latvian Children's Forum), Ingmara Azaucka (Riga Alliance of Active Seniors) and Vija Ahunzjanova (Large Family Centre "Family Support"). On the agenda of this webinar: EUISG, PeP and Poverty Watch program annual reports for 2020, work plan for 2021, cooperation with Latvian National Library.
- On February 9th was held a webinar of the EAPN-Latvia European Social Policy Working Group (chaired by Andris Burtnieks) in connection with the planning of activities for 2021. This working group consisted of EAPN-Latvia Board members Laila Balga, Andris Burtnieks, Aigars Sveicers and Janis Stjadja, as well as EUISG representative Egils Rupeks (St. Luke's Support Society), representatives of EAPN-Latvia network organizations - Elina Alere-Fogele (Women's Rights Institute), Dace Paegle (Latvian Children's Forum), Ilga Liepina (Latvian Association of Large Families), Vija

Ahunzjanova (Large Family Centre "Family Support"), Ingmara Azauska (Riga Alliance of Active Seniors) and Natalja Novikova (LiveIntegro).

- On February 23rd was held a webinar of the EAPN-Latvia European Social Policy Working Group (chaired by Andris Burtnieks), during which were discussed the proposals put forward by Aija Barca (Chairperson of the Board of the Latvian Pensioners' Federation) and Ramona Petravica (Minister for Welfare) regarding financial support for pensioners and people with disabilities, reflected in the media coverage.

This working group consisted of the EAPN-Latvia Board members Laila Balga, Andris Burtnieks, Aigars Sveicers and Janis Stjadja, as well as the representatives of EAPN-Latvia Network organizations - Vija Ahunzjanova (Large Family Centre "Family Support"), Ilga Liepina (Latvian Association of Large Families), Ingmara Azaucka (Riga Alliance of Active Seniors) and Dace Paegle (Latvian Children's Forum).

- On March 9th was held a meeting of the EAPN-Latvia European Social Policy Working Group (chaired by Andris Burtnieks) with participation of Ilga Liepina (Latvian Association of Large Families), Elina Alere-Fogele (Women's Rights Institute), Ingmara Azaucka (Riga Alliance of Active Seniors), Aigars Sveicers (Latvian Lawyers' Association) and Janis Stjadja (Dobele Association of people with disabilities), during which patient co-payments were discussed.
- On May 11th was held an extended meeting of the EAPN-Latvia Board, during which the members of the Board Laila Balga and Aigars Sveicers, the EUISG representative Egils Rupeks, as well as the representatives of EAPN-Latvia member organizations Dace Paegle and Vija Ahunzjanova heard Andris Burtnieks, an EAPN-Latvia member of the Board, in connection with the preparation of the measures of the European Strategy 2030 for 2021.
- On June 1st was held a meeting of the EAPN-Latvia European Social Policy Working Group, which was attended by the EAPN-Latvia members of the Board Laila Balga, Aigars Sveicers and Janis Stjadja, EUISG representative Egils Rupeks, as well as the representatives of EAPN-Latvia member organizations Elina Alere-Fogele, Dace Paegle, Lilita Kalnaja and Roberts Karklins.

In the coming months, EAPN-Latvia decided to invest heavily in measures to promote health care, employment, decent wages, provision of housing, gender equality and capacity building for non-governmental organizations. Extensive cooperation was planned with more than 15 partner organizations from various European countries.

- On June 30th was held a remote meeting of the EAPN-Latvia board with participation of the leading managers in the social field - Aigars Sveicers, Andris Burtnieks, Egils Rupeks and Marite Rozentale. This webinar was chaired by Laila Balga, EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board.

During this webinar the EAPN-Latvia representatives approved the application for funding - 6262 euros - from EAPN / European Commission for 2021; confirmed the management of two working groups - People Experiencing Poverty (PeP) European Summit and the Poverty Watch report, and also discussed the participation of NGO experts in various international projects.

Activity 2.2. Preparation of proposals by Working Group to the Latvian Parliament and Cabinet of Ministers on benefits for women, children, pensioners, people with disabilities, etc. (remotely-online).

- On January 29th EAPN-Latvia (a working group chaired by Ilga Liepina) submitted a letter to R.Petravica (Minister for Welfare), J.Reirs (Minister for Finance), I.Suplinska (Minister for Education) and D.Pavluts (Minister for Health) regarding granting an additional financial benefit for families with children during a COVID-19 pandemic - at least 100 euros per month for each child.
- On February 24th, May 26th, September 29th and December 8th, EAPN-Latvia Board members Marite Rozentale and Andris Burtnieks participated in the meetings of the Social Inclusion Policy Coordination Committee of the Ministry of Welfare.
- On March 8th and 10th, Aigars Sveicers, EAPN-Latvia Member of the Board, remotely participated in the thematic discussions of the EU Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund on the operational programs for 2021-2027 and the Recovery and Sustainability Mechanism Plan, which were organized by the Ministry of Finance.
- On March 15th EAPN-Latvia (a working group chaired by Romualds Razuks) submitted to the Saeima, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Welfare, the Ministry of Health and the National Health

Service a proposal on the allocation of funds for heart failure medications.

- On April 13th the EAPN-Latvia representative - NGO expert Romualds Razuks - remotely participated in the meeting of the Public Health Subcommittee of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia.
- On April 16th the representatives of EAPN-Latvia member organizations Laila Balga, Inete Ielite, Terezija Mackare and others participated in an online discussion organized by the Ministry of Welfare on planned investments in the welfare sector from EU funds and other foreign financial instruments.
- On October 22th EAPN-Latvia representatives Laila Balga, Andris Burtnieks, Aigars Sveicers and Egils Rupeks were invited to participate remotely in a meeting organized by the Ministry of Welfare with participation of Minister for Welfare Gatis Eglitis, Director of the Social Policy Planning and Development Department Elina Celmina and Deputy Director of the Social Inclusion Policy Department Evija Kula.

EAPN-Latvia representatives submitted to the Ministry of Welfare their proposals regarding poverty reduction and support for non-governmental organizations.

- On November 30th Inete Ielite (the Chairwoman of the Board of the Latvian Children's Forum) participated in the meeting of the Social and Labour Affairs Committee of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia on the issue of support for vulnerable social groups in connection with the increase in energy tariffs.
- On December 10th Aigars Sveicers, EAPN-Latvia Member of the Board, remotely participated in the Conference on the Future of Europe, organized by the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia.

Activity 2.3. Preparation of proposals by Working Group for the EC Representation in Latvia and MEP from Latvia to reduce social inequality (remotely-online).

- On April 20th Baiba Miltovica (an expert from the EAPN-Latvia associated organization - Latvian Association for the Protection of Consumer Interests) represented the interests of Latvian NGOs at the European Economic and Social Committee's online conference "Energy poverty at the crossroads of the European Pillar of Social Rights and the European Green Deal". Aigars Sveicers, EAPN-Latvia Member of the Board, participated in this online conference from EAPN-Latvia.

- A meeting of the FEAD (The Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived) Consultative Working Group was held on June 10th; an evaluation meeting of the FEAD Operational Program was held on December 15th, both meetings were organized by the Ministry of Welfare. In this program, the EAPN-Latvia's interests are represented by Baiba Svetlana Rozenberga from Riga Alliance of Active Seniors, the EAPN-Latvia's member organization.
- On November 11th, Aigars Sveicers, EAPN-Latvia Member of the Board, participated in a discussion organized by the European Commission Representation in Latvia with Members of the European Parliament from Latvia in connection with the Voter Expectations Survey.

Activity 2.4. Seminars of NGOs and decision-makers on basic principles of EPSR (remotely-online).

- On July 30th the EAPN-Latvia experts Laila Balga, Ineta Ielite, Inga Vovcenko, Irena Moreino and Ilze Gensberga participated in the training on the basic principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, which was organized within the framework of the project "Equal opportunities - a way to social welfare" by the EAPN-Latvia member organization "Women's Rights Institute".
- On September 8th the EAPN-Latvia experts Laila Balga, Aigars Sveicers and Dace Paegle participated in the training on social rights, which was organized within the framework of the EAPN-Latvia project "Strengthening the NGO network - a tool for social security". Lecturer was Edite Kalnina (Board Member of the Latvian Women's Non-Governmental Organizations Cooperation Network, the EAPN-Latvia's associated organization).

Activity 2.5. Seminar of NGO experts on awareness and strategies for social inclusion (remotely-online).

- On August 19th the EAPN-Latvia experts Marite Rozentale, Aigars Sveicers, Dace Paegle, Natalja Novikova and Gunta Kelle participated in the training on awareness and strategies for social inclusion in Latvia, which were organized within the framework of the EAPN-Latvia project "Building a Network to Boost Social Secure Europe". Lecturer was Inete Ielite, Chairperson of the Board of Latvian Women's Non-Governmental Organizations Cooperation Network.

Activity 2.6. Program evaluation meeting of the Working Group (remotely-online).

- On December 8th an extended meeting of the EAPN-Latvia Board was held, during which we summarized the work of the European Social Policy Working Group, provided information on the EAPN-Latvia's representation in the structures of the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN), discussed co-operation with Latvian decision-making institutions - the Representation of the European Commission in Latvia, the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Welfare, the Ministry of the Interior and the Riga City Council.

This extended meeting of the EAPN-Latvia Board was attended by board members Laila Balga, Aigars Sveicers (PeP national coordinator), Andris Burtnieks, Marite Rozentale and Janis Stjadja, and Egils Rupeks (EAPN EUISG representative, St. Luke's Support Association), as well as the representatives of EAPN-Latvia member organizations - Elina Alere-Fogele (Women's Rights Institute), Ilga Liepina (Latvian Association of Large Families), Dace Paegle (Latvian Children's Forum), Vija Ahunzjanova (Large Family Centre "Family Support"), Rihards Bunka (Latvian lawyers' association) and Roberts Karklins (Oncology patient support association "Onkonet").

Brief assessment of results and impact:

In 2021 the European Social Policy Working Group did the detailed planning of its activities and the implementation of planned activities. Within the framework of the European Semester 2021 and EPSR Program 2021, EAPN-Latvia has organized 9 remote meetings with participation of a total of 24 experts in the field of social policy, law, health and education.

EAPN-Latvia experts participated in 17 meetings with decision-makers and submitted their proposals on the implementation of European social policy in Latvia, the promotion of gender equality, the minimum income, the provision of funding to NGOs that represent the poor, as well as regarding the benefits for families with children and pensioners during the Covid-19 pandemic and the reduction of patient co-payments. 11 experts of the EAPN-Latvia network also participated in trainings within the framework of three international projects.

As a result of the measures implemented in 2021, the knowledge and skills of EAPN-Latvia experts regarding the implementation of social inclusion and gender equality policies, regarding the methods of advocacy in decision-making institutions, as well as the possibilities to join and implement international projects in Latvia have improved.

In part, these skills have helped us influence the decisions of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia regarding health promotion and granting of benefits during the pandemic, and strengthened our cooperation with the specialists of the Ministry of Welfare for the promotion of social policy and gender equality.

As a result of the implementation of European Semester and EPSR program, in 2021 EAPN-Latvia strengthened the participation skills of its network managers and experts related to operating in a virtual environment.

Compared to 2020, in 2021 EAPN-Latvia has expanded the range of NGO experts, by attracting them from other NGOs, as well as from the University of Latvia, Riga Stradins University, the Ministry of Health and Latvian National Library. In addition to that, through its activities EAPN-Latvia network has also activated and attracted several new member organizations.

3. Poverty Watch.

Activity 3. NGO experts' discussion meetings, gathering information, preparation, evaluation and development of the PW report content (remotely-online).

- On January 21st was held a webinar of the EAPN-Latvia European Social Policy Working Group, chaired by Andris Burtnieks (EAPN-Latvia Member of the Board), with participation of Aigars Sveicers (EAPN-Latvia Board member), Egils Rupeks (EUISG Representative, St. Luke's Support Association), Linda Romele (Latvian Free Trade Union Confederation), Ingmara Azauska (Riga Alliance of Active Seniors). On the agenda of this webinar: Planning the development of the Poverty Watch report.
- From July 1st, the EAPN-Latvia European Social Policy Working Group (chaired by Andris Burtnieks, Doctor of Economics) has

organized discussions and started preparing the annual Poverty Watch report in Latvian.

- On September 6th EAPN-Latvia submitted to the EAPN-Europe our National Poverty Watch Report for 2021 in English, which had been prepared by the European Social Policy Working Group and approved by the EAPN-Latvia Board.

This report includes EAPN-Latvia's views on the impact of poverty and social exclusion on living standards of the population and health care opportunities in Latvia, as well as provides recommendations for poverty reduction, especially in the context of Covid-19 pandemic.

- In October, this Poverty Watch Report 2021 was also translated into Russian and distributed (25 pages).
-

4. Translations.

Activity 4. Translation of at least two EAPN documents into Latvian and the Poverty Watch report into English.

- In 2021 EAPN-Latvia translated two EAPN brochures from English into Latvian: "The impact of Covid-19 on people experiencing poverty and vulnerability. Rebuilding Europe with a social heart" (174 pages) and "Working towards a socially inclusive and poverty-proof recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic" (96 pages), as well as the Poverty Watch Report 2021 (16 pages) (all these documents are attached to this report in electronic format.)

Brief assessment of results and impact:

In 2021 the preparation of the Poverty Watch report expanded the experience of the EAPN-Latvia working group, facilitated the compilation of up-to-date information on the situation in Latvia and disseminating this information at the European level. The distribution of Poverty Watch report 2021 to the general public in Latvian, Russian and English has raised the society's awareness of the EAPN-Latvia policy.

The translation of the EAPN brochures into Latvian has facilitated the accessibility of up-to-date information and political guidelines to the

people of Latvia. The distribution of these brochures to the general public in Latvian has ensured the visibility of the EAPN's policy.

Lessons learned in 2021:

EAPN-Latvia has concluded that:

- 1) developing a network's work plan, setting up thematic working groups and the separate planning of their activities has made a positive contribution to achieving our results;
- 2) high performance results can also be achieved by working in a virtual environment - remotely;
- 3) too few EAPN-Latvia network's member organizations have been involved in working in the virtual environment - remotely (16 out of 29);
- 4) some member organizations of the EAPN-Latvia network have lacked resources (intellectual or financial) to be able to work with modern digital technologies;
- 5) working in the virtual environment (remotely) has limited the opportunities of lobbying the EAPN-Latvia proposals in decision-making institutions;
- 6) regularly maintaining the EAPN-Latvia website, Facebook pages and sending out our monthly newsletter by e-mail has provided an opportunity for EAPN-Latvia to inform approximately 5000 Latvian residents about the European social policy;
- 7) EAPN-Latvia Network needs content managers and IT specialists to maintain the up-to-date information on our website and social networks;
- 8) too many members of the EAPN-Latvia working groups lack knowledge of English or French, which prevents them from preparing relevant documents and/or participating in the international activities;
- 9) the life experience of the EAPN-Latvia working groups' members (most of them currently are retired or are of pre-retirement age) facilitates the pragmatic decision-making and submitting of

proposals, however it does not always achieve the desired impact on the final decision-making institutions because in Latvia senior residents are often excluded from the labour market, and also from the non-governmental sector (which is shown in the official statistical data).

Please attach the relevant participants lists, reports of the meetings, press releases, photo's, video's, links to social media, etc.

Please see the links:

<http://www.eapn.lv/>

<http://www.eapn.lv/izdevumi/>

http://www.eapn.lv/par_mums.php

<http://www.eapn.lv/pep/>

http://www.eapn.lv/strategijas_platforma/eiropas.php

<https://www.facebook.com/PretNabadzibu>

Other documents can be found in the attachment.

Prepared by Laila Balga,
EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board

Riga, 28/01/2022