

Empowerment through Participation

EAPN-Latvia Report on the national work on People Experiencing Poverty

01/02/2016 – 31/12/2016

From February 1, 2016 EAPN-Latvia implemented the EAPN PeP Programme in Latvia. The four objectives that were raised in the application of 2016 were generally achieved.

On March 2, Board of EAPN-Latvia confirmed Gundega Lasmane (Berge), Member of the Board of Health Institute, as the National Coordinator. On November 3, Board of EAPN-Latvia confirmed Henriks Danusevics, President of Latvian Trade Association, as the National Coordinator of the 2016 European Meeting of PeP.

On April 7-8, representatives of EAPN-Latvia Gundega Lasmane (Berge), PeP National Coordinator, and Aivars Lasmanis, Expert, took part in the meeting of PeP National Coordinators organized by EAPN in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

In April, as part of the European PeP Programme, EAPN-Latvia confirmed the Latvian Programme “Healthy People – Wealthy People” to be implemented until December 31 in Riga and in the municipality of Jekabpils.

EAPN-Latvia has carried out the following activities:

I. 1st February 2016 – 31st December 2016, Riga.

Management and administration. Two national coordinators – Gundega Lasmane (Berge) and Henriks Danusevics, and four volunteers – Laila Balga, Elina Alere-Fogele, Lelde Calite and Elita Keisa, contributed to the project. Publicity events: booklets 200 copies, website www.eapn.lv, Monthly Newsletter, regional newspapers, TV and radio stations, etc., blogging and photos on social networks (Facebook, Twitter, etc.).

II. 1st May 2016 – 31st May 2016, Riga.

Planning of the research and drafting of the survey of people experiencing poverty and associated experts on their experiences and needs concerning issues of public health, health promotion and disease prevention, and accessibility of healthcare services. The planning was organized by Gundega Lasmane (Berge), and Krista Krumina and Zane Reinfelds, two specialists of Health Institute, as well as four volunteers were involved: Laila Balga, Lelde Calite, Vija Ahunzjanova and Imants Keiss.

PeP

EUROPEAN MEETINGS OF
PEOPLE
EXPERIENCING
POVERTY
LEAD TO THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY, EXCLUSION AND INEQUALITIES



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III. 1st June 2016 – 21st August 2016, in the following regions of Latvia: Daugavpils, Ventspils, Valmiera, Auce and Brunava.

Research (survey) of people experiencing poverty and associated experts. Summarizing results. Significant number of respondents was involved. The activity was organized by Gundega Lasmane (Berge), National Coordinator, and Aivars Lasmanis, Expert of Health Institute, and the resources of Health Institute were used.

IV. 22nd – 23rd August 2016, the hostel “Dujas”, Kalns, Jekabpils region.

Meeting – debate between 16 people experiencing poverty from Riga, Daugavpils, Jekabpils, Bauska and Brunava and 4 meeting coordinators – Krista Krumina, Zane Reinfelds, Laila Balga and Elina Alere-Fogele – was organized on the results of the research on the experiences and needs of PeP concerning health promotion and disease prevention, accessibility of healthcare services, and public health promotion measures in general. Composing proposals to decision-making authorities. Electing 10 members of discussion at the *Saeima* (Parliament) of the Republic of Latvia.

V. 1st September 2016 – 7th November 2016, Riga.

Preparatory planning meeting for the head-to-head discussion at the Social and Employment Matters Committee of Parliament of the Republic of Latvia between people experiencing poverty, experts and lawmakers on the experiences and needs of people experiencing poverty concerning programmes of public health promotion, disease prevention and accessibility of healthcare services. Preparatory of 10 representatives of EAPN-Latvia was led by Gundega Lasmane (Berge), National Coordinator, and Laila Balga and Elina Alere-Fogele, coordinators in Riga.

VI. 2nd November 2016, Riga.

Laila Balga, Chair of the Board of EAPN-Latvia, and Juris Jansons, Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia, spoke on issues of poverty in Latvia at the Social and Employment Matters Committee of the Parliament. Mass media was involved.

VII. 8th November 2016, Riga.

Roundtable discussion of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion with policy makers (members of the *Saeima*) at the Social and Employment Matters Committee of the Parliament took place. Four representatives of EAPN-Latvia participated in the discussion: Gundega Lasmane (Berge), National Coordinator; Aivars Lasmanis, Expert of Health Institute; Imants Keiss, Chair of Latvian Association of Large Families, and Janis Stjadja, Member of the Board of Dobeles Society for Disabled People. Mass media was involved.

VIII. 1st August 2016 – 13th November 2016, Riga.

Briefing and capacity building sessions for the four delegates to the annual Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty and Social Exclusion in Brussels, Belgium. The sessions were led by Laila Balga, coordinator in Riga, and Henriks Danusevics, National Coordinator.

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On 6th October, in the delegation of EAPN-Latvia were confirmed Gundega Lasmane (Berge), National Coordinator; Aivars Lasmanis, Expert of Health Institute; Imants Keiss, Chair of Latvian Association of Large Families, and Aleksandrs Kalnins, PR Manager of Jekabpils NGO Resource Center. On 3rd November, the representatives of the delegation of EAPN-Latvia were changed.

IX. 14th – 16th November 2016, Brussels.

The delegation: Henriks Danusevics, National Coordinator; Imants Keiss, Chair of Latvian Association of Large Families; Aleksandrs Kalnins, PR Manager of Jekabpils NGO Resource Center, and Janis Stjadja, Member of the Board of Dobeles Society for Disabled People, represented EAPN-Latvia at the Meeting “Empowerment through Participation” of People Experiencing Poverty and Social Exclusion in Brussels. In the discussions with Latvian participants Guna Zake – Balta, Assistant of MEP Roberts Zile, took part. Press release. Summarizing of Meeting results.

X. 12th December 2016, Riga.

Meeting of Laila Balga, Chair of the Board of EAPN-Latvia, and Henriks Danusevics, National Coordinator, was organized. Summarizing of PeP Programme results.

Results of PeP Programme 2016

- 1) one research plan and a survey of people experiencing poverty have been prepared; at least 20 respondents have been surveyed and the results on the needs and experiences of PeP concerning issues of prevention, accessibility of healthcare services and public health promotion measures in general have been summarized;
- 2) one meeting – a discussion between 20 people experiencing poverty and associated experts have been organized concerning the results of the research on health promotion, disease prevention, accessibility of healthcare services, and public health promotion measures in general; one batch of proposals have been composed;
- 3) one preparatory meeting with 10 participants and two roundtable discussions with significant number of participants between people experiencing poverty and social exclusion, experts and lawmakers (Members of Parliament of the Republic of Latvia) on the experiences and needs of PeP concerning the poverty, public health promotion programmes, disease prevention and health promotion and accessibility of healthcare services have been organized;
- 4) capacity building for four Latvian delegates to the Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty and Social Exclusion in Brussels, Belgium have been implemented.