



Empowering NGOs for efficient social rights' advocacy

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http://www.eapn.lv/baltic_project_2/



Project report summary

as expected

with challenges

with major challenges

Category	The project is delivering	Comments
Quality	as expected	8 NGOs were strengthened in the Baltic Sea region by improving their knowledge and skills regarding the topical social rights, by using the basic principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, as well as the exchange of experience between partners that are being used in advocacy of NGO interests in cooperation with the state institutions (Parliaments) and local municipalities in decision-making processes. 41 NGO experts will successfully handle the advocacy of the socially disadvantaged people in the Baltic States, Poland, Russia, Belarus, Denmark and Norway. The involvement of Nordic countries in the NGO network and the transfer of their long-term experience helped to strengthen methods used in advocacy of interests. The success of the project was result in change of attitude and activation processes within the Baltic Sea region's population, NGOs and decision-making bodies, when respect for the social rights will significantly contribute to the improvement of social life and health of the society.
Time	as expected	01/06/2018 – 31/10/2019
Budget	as expected	444550,00 DKK (100%), incl. self-funding 134550 DKK (30%)
Objectives	as expected	The tasks were implemented by improving the knowledge of the target group: 41 NGOs experts and 9 project managers 1) on the basic principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights and on other social rights instruments in partner countries; 2) on the previous experience and skills of partners in advocacy of interests in the social and health promotion sector in state institutions and municipalities; 3) summarizing and disseminating of information on the role and opportunities of NGOs in advocacy of



		interests in the social and health promotion.
Deliverables	as expected	53 participants – 41 experts from 8 NGOs, 9 project managers, IT manager, an interpreter and a disabled accompanying person. 1 training seminar, 25 seminars/practical workshops, 1 open conference and 8 evaluation meetings took place in Riga (Latvia), Kaliningrad (Russia), Minsk (Belarus), Tallinn (Estonia), Vilnius (Lithuania), Rzeszow (Poland), Odense (Denmark) and Bergen (Norway). Each activity was evaluated by participants in special questionnaires. Draft brochure prepared consisting of summarized NGO experts' conclusions. Other informative materials were prepared (booklets, work programmes, handouts, etc.). Dissemination of the project results were provided through http://www.eapn.lv/baltic_project_2/ , webpages of the partners, social networks, TV, Radio and newspapers.



1. PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT, STRATEGIC LINK, OBJECTIVES AND BENEFIT

a. Amendments

The amendments have not been made to the project's background, problem, purpose, scope, or target group, or to the project strategic links to co-operation programmes, the Nordic vision, the Nordic advantage, and the cross-sectoral strategies of sustainability, children and young people, and gender equality. The amendments have not been made to project objectives/sub-objectives, success criteria.

b. Outcomes

The implementation of the overall objective of the project has deepened understanding of the role of civil society and has empowered the NGOs to contribute to the strengthening of the social and health sector by using the social instruments. 8 NGOs were strengthened in the Baltic Sea region: EAPN-Latvia (Latvia) and the partners Union of Women of the Kaliningrad Region (Russia), Lithuanian Multiple Sclerosis Union (Lithuanian), Odense Aftenskole (Denmark), People To People International (Norway), Stowarzyszenie VESUVIO (Poland), Eesti People To People (Estonia) and Foundation INTERAKCIA (Belarus) by improving their knowledge and skills regarding the topical social rights that are being used in advocacy of NGO interests in cooperation with the state institutions (Parliaments) and local municipalities in decision-making processes. 41 NGO experts will successfully handle the advocacy of the socially disadvantaged people in the Baltic States, Poland, Russia, Belarus, Denmark and Norway. By using the basic principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, as well as the exchange of experience between project partners, especially with involvement of the Nordic countries in the NGO network and transfer of their long-term experience, helped the project partners to strengthen their methods used in advocacy of interests and to make these methods more effective, which in the future will affect state and municipal decisions in the public interests.

Cooperation between EAPN-Latvia and its partners was directly aimed at fostering democracy and protection of social rights in the Baltic Sea region with the help of NGOs of Denmark and Norway. The positive experience in the legislative processes that Denmark and Norway has was useful in order to comprehensively develop social and health promotion sectors which is relevant in all partner countries. The proclamation of the EPSR in Sweden symbolically showed the direction of development for the social rights that is recommended also to other Member States of the European Union, as well as to Russia and Belarus.

The target group of the project had consists of 41 experts in the social and health sector and 9 project managers who work in 8 partner organisations. The tasks were implemented by improving the knowledge of the target group 1) on the basic principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights and on other social rights instruments in partner countries; 2) on the previous experience and skills of partners in advocacy of interests in the social and health promotion sector in state institutions and municipalities; 3) regarding the topical advocacy of interests in the social and health promotion sector in state and municipal institutions; 4) summarizing and



disseminating of information on the role and opportunities of NGOs in advocacy of interests in the social and health promotion. Completing the project tasks a significant impact have done on the opportunities of the NGO network for strengthening social rights in the legislation of Baltic Sea region countries.

EAPN-Latvia and partners' activities were characterized by a horizontal perspective of three cross-sectoral strategies: 1) increasing the influence of NGOs in processes of advocacy for the extension of social rights, in addition to social rights of adults the partners raised awareness on the social rights of children and young people; 2) the sustainability of the project was ensured by the stable cooperation between the NGO network in the Baltic Sea region with a common goal – creation of strong NGOs in areas, in which there is a need to ensure respect for social rights, to require national political decisions that understand and support the forms of activity, to which NGOs of the Baltic Sea region have been contributing for many years in areas of social and health promotion; getting funding for NGO activities from European Union, the Nordic and other funds; 3) unequivocally support gender equality in society, however, practice showed that in the partner organizations a large majority of the participants was women (81%); the partners see this a positive factor because of an increasing influence of women to venture into political decision-making processes.

2. DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES

a. Amendments

The amendments have not been made with regard to the deliverables and activities of the project.

b. Outcomes

Within the framework of project activities in the NGO network of the Baltic Sea region (which consists of 8 organizations from 8 countries) within 17 months (01/06/2018 – 31/10/2019) the experiences were shared, debates took place, knowledge and skills were improved and information was gathered from the representatives and experts of the Latvian, Russian (Kaliningrad), Belarusian, Polish, Lithuanian, Estonian, Danish and Norwegian NGOs on the empowering of NGOs in order to provide advocacy in social and health sector, to develop cooperation with local governments, state institutions and other non-governmental organizations.

The content of the project activities was based on explaining the basic principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights and on promoting compliance with these principles in decision-making processes both in the non-governmental sector and in public administration. 8 project activities involved the target group consisting of 41 NGO experts and 12 project employees, incl. 9 managers, IT manager, an interpreter and a disabled accompanying person. They attended 13 NGOs and private companies, 9 municipal departments and 3 state institutions in Latvia (Riga), Russia (Kaliningrad region), Belarus (Minsk), Poland (Rzeszow), Lithuania (Vilni-



us), Estonian (Tallinn), Denmark (Odense) and Norway (Bergen). In the process, they gathered the experience in advocacy of NGO interests and capacity.

One training seminar on the European Pillar of Social Rights and 3 seminars/workshops were organized by Union of Women of the Kaliningrad Region in Kaliningrad region in September 2018 with participation of 7 project managers and 11 NGO experts; 3 seminars/workshops were organized by EAPN-Latvia in Riga in October 2018 with participation of 1 project manager and 14 NGO experts; 4 seminars/workshops were organized by Lithuanian Multiple Sclerosis Union in Vilnius in December 2018 with participation 1 project manager, 1 IT manager and 9 NGO experts; 6 seminars/workshops were organized by Odense Aftenskole in Odense in February 2019 with participation of 1 project manager, 10 NGO experts and 1 disabled accompanying person; 2 seminars/workshops were organized by People To People International-Norway in Bergen in May 2019 with participation of 1 project manager, 14 NGO experts and 1 disabled accompanying person; 3 seminars/workshops were organized by Stowarzyszenie VESUVIO in Rzeszow in June 2019 with participation of 8 NGO experts and 1 disabled accompanying person; 2 seminars/ workshops were organized by Eesti People To People in Tallinn in August 2019 with participation of 1 project manager, 11 NGO experts and 1 disabled accompanying person; 1 conference and 2 seminars/workshops were organized by Foundation INTERAKCIA in Minsk in October 2019 with participation of 6 project managers, 1 IT manager and 21 NGO experts. After each project activity its evaluation took place by conducting a survey of the participants of this activity; the participants took part in 8 evaluation meetings, as well as filled in a questionnaire form. Draft brochure prepared consisting of summarized NGO experts' conclusions. (The original brochure will be available on the EAPN-Latvia website.). Other informative materials were prepared (booklets, work programmes, handouts, etc.) for the project activities.

3. COMMUNICATION

The amendments were not made to communication activities.

b. Outcomes

Communication between the partners, target group and the stakeholders, and dissemination of the project results were provided through http://www.eapn.lv/baltic_project_2/, webpages of the partners, social networks (Facebook, WhatsApp., etc.), TV, Radio and the national newspapers. Regular contacts between the partners were provided by e-mail, partly by telephone.

4. EXPERIENCE AND CONTINUED POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The project helped EAPN-Latvia and the partners: Union of Women of the Kaliningrad Region, Lithuanian Multiple Sclerosis Union, Odense Aftenskole, People To People International-Norway, Stowarzyszenie VESUVIO, Eesti People To People and Foundation INTERAKCIA to increase the effectiveness of NGOs in the long run. Capacity building of 8 NGOs in advocacy of social rights



that based on the EPSR in the future will help to raise awareness and to ensure more active engagement of the civil society in decision-making processes at different levels in the Baltic Sea region. Project partners from EU countries, in particular EAPN-Latvia, have extensive experience and knowledge that contributed to the discussions with partners from Russia and Belarus. The current high-quality contribution of project partners from Denmark and Norway to the social and health sector allowed Russian, Belarusian, Polish and Baltic partners to look more closely at the role of NGOs in the implementation of the basic principles of EPSR in the legislative processes. During the project implementation, not only the capacity of each partner organization was increased through the recruitment and training of a significant number of social and health experts, but also the capacity of the NGO network was strengthened in the Baltic Sea Region. The established NGO network will in the future ensure the planning and implementation of socially responsible projects (Norden, Nordplus, Erasmus+, etc.), as well as the expansion of cooperation in the Baltic Sea region.



APPENDICES

Financial statement