

Name of the EMIN Network Responding:

EAPN-Latvia

Name and email of the person who made the report:

Laila Balga, Elina Alere-Fogele and Inna Sumanska; e-mail: info@eapn.lv

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WP 2: National EMIN Network Development: Strengthening National EMIN Networks and increased stakeholder engagement.

Please describe the range of actors that are engaged to your National EMIN Network (NGOs, Civil Society Organisations, Foundations, Trade Unions, Academics, relevant individuals, faith groups, political groups, links to local, regional, National Authorities. And/or the efforts you have made to widen the scope of actors involved in your EMIN Network. Remember we claim that EMIN is wider network than EAPN, your answer to this question should show how this is the case or how you are working to make this the case:

- (1) Planning of engagement of stakeholders, like EU-level representatives, Free Trade Union Confederation of Latvia, other trade unions, national ministries and other governmental authorities, local and regional authorities, private enterprises, national umbrella NGOs, including ones representing people experiencing poverty

In January-February 2017, EAPN-Latvia created a database consisting of non-governmental organizations (300), trade unions (10), state institutions (8), local governments (119) and enterprises (10) that could potentially be interested in the project and could be involved in the EMIN network in Latvia.

On February 28, 2017 in Riga the Working group of EAPN-Latvia (national coordinator Laila Balga) introduced the Ministry of Welfare to the EMIN-2 project.

On March 9th 2017, the National Coordinator of EMIN-2 presented the member organizations of the Dialogue Platform for Immigrant Support with EMIN project objectives and activities.

On May 26th 2017 in Jurmala the EAPN-Latvia National Coordinator, two regional coordinators and one NGO expert had a discussion with the representatives of the Freedom and Solidarity Fund, Progressive Political Party and Jurmala City Council's Public Council on the possibilities for the implementation of EMIN-2 tasks in Latvia in 2017-2018.

On August 15th 2017 in Riga the National Coordinator of EMIN-2 and one regional coordinator had a meeting with the management of the Latvian Women's Non-Governmental Organizations' Collaboration Network with the purpose to introduce the EMIN project.

On May 18th 2018 at the ferry cruise Riga-Stockholm-Riga EAPN-Latvia organized the conference „Let's Talk to Europe”, during which the participants from the Ministry of Finance, Lielvarde county social service, the Latvian Lawyers' association and people who have experienced poverty from the associations „EAPN-Latvia”, „Integration for society” and „Wings for Wheels” were introduced to the tasks of the EMIN-2 project.

From June 7th to 9th 2018, the European Bus Tour took place in Latvia, during which the Member of the European Parliament from Latvia Andrejs Mamikins (political party

„Harmony”), the representatives of the political party „Progressive”, of Riga city municipality, as well as Bauska and Salacgriva county municipalities, the members of the European Latvian Association and other non-governmental organizations, as well as private entrepreneurs were introduced to the EMIN-2 project objectives in Riga, Bauska and Ainazi.

From July 26th to 28th and August 23th to 26th 2018 the summer workshops were held in Bernati, Nica county, during which the national coordinator Laila Balga presented the people who have experienced poverty - from the EAPN-Latvia member organizations, from Varaklani, Dobele, Zilupe, Jekabpils and Krustpils counties, as well as from Jekabpils city with the EMIN-2 project objectives and program.

From October 22nd to 25th 2018 in Riga took place an international conference „Strengthening non-governmental organizations for the effective protection of social rights” and experience exchange events, during which the EMIN-2 objectives were presented to the representatives of the University of Latvia, the National Library of Latvia, Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Welfare, the Central Finance and Contracting Agency, the Riga City Council Welfare Department and the political party „Progressive”, as well as the representatives of the non-governmental organizations EAPN-Latvia, the European Youth Network, the European Latvian Association, Latvian Lawyers' association, the Latvian Children's Forum, Latvian Christian Senior Citizens' Union, Latvian Blind Society, the association „Holy Family House”, Riga Active Senior Citizens' Alliance, several regional retired and disabled people's associations, women's associations and other NGO representatives, including a significant number of people who have experienced poverty.

(2) Motivation and capacity building of the relevant stakeholders to increase the value of their engagement

On February 2017 EAPN-Latvia delivered Latvian translation of EMIN-2 summary in Latvian and Russian.

On February 6, 2017, EAPN-Latvia submitted informative letters to the Latvian Alliance of Free Trade Unions, and 8 Ministries informing regarding objectives of EMIN-2 persons. Consequently, it took a month to create a list of contacts presented by Latvian Free Trade Union Confederation, the Ministry of Welfare, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Economics, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development and the Ministry of Agriculture.

On March 23rd 2017 in Riga at the EAPN-Latvia Annual review meeting, where 22 member organizations were represented, the National Coordinator presented the objectives and planned activities of the EMIN-2 for attracting cooperation partners in 2017.

On May 19, 2017 a meeting of representatives of the EAPN-Latvia Strategic Platform member organizations and the Board members was held in Riga where the national coordinator and the regional coordinators provided in-depth information on the establishment of the EMIN-2 network. The following Member organizations of the National Network were represented in the meeting, including organizations which stand for people experiencing poverty: Latvian Association of Large Families, Centre of Large Families „Ģimenes atbalsts”, Association for Social Support and Aid „Veiksme”, Women's Rights Institute, and Women's Association of Garkalne County „Mūsmājas”.

On June 6, 2017 in Riga the EMIN-2 Working Group approved a strategic plan for implementation of activities in Latvia for the period till December 2018.

On August 22, 2017 in Riga there was hold a NGO Capacity Strengthening Working Group meeting (managed by Laila Balga) on the engagement of Latvian NGOs in the EMIN-2 network represented by 11 member organizations: IWO-International Women's Organisation, Women's Rights Institute, Association for Social Support and Aid "Veiksme", Association "PINS", Centre for Tertiary Education Quality Evaluation, Latvian Red Cross, Latvian Association of Large Families, Association for Development of Latgale district in Riga, Association of Disabled persons in Dobele, Association of Disabled Persons in Sigulda City "Aicinājums Tev", and Latvian Union of Lawyers.

On March 28th 2018 the EMIN-2 work planning meeting was held in Riga; it was chaired by the national coordinator Laila Balga and attended by the regional coordinators Elina Alere-Fogele and Baiba Giptere, as well as by the members of the Latvian Lawyers' Association, the Latvian Large Families Association, the Future Institute of Latvia, the Jekabpils NGO Resource Center and the Garkalne women's association "Mūsmājas".

On May 9th 2018, the EMIN-2 European Bus Tour Planning Meeting was held in Riga, chaired by the national coordinator Laila Balga and attended by the regional coordinators Elina Alere-Fogele, Lelde Calite, Baiba Giptere and Janis Stjadja, as well as by the members of the Latvian Lawyers' Association, Sigulda association "Aicinājums Tev", Garkalne women's association "Mūsmājas" and the representative of the EAPN-Latvia center in Balvi.

On June 5th 2018 a meeting of the EMIN-2 working group took place in Riga with participation of Elina Pinto, the National Ambassador of the EMIN. Working group members Laila Balga (the national coordinator); Elina Alere-Fogele, Baiba Giptere and Janis Stjadja (the EAPN-Latvia Board members), as well as the representatives of the Latvian Children's Forum, Latvian Large Families Association, the Future Institute of Latvia and the Large Family Center "Ģimenes atbalsts" have accepted the position of the National Ambassador of the EMIN, as well as the publicity measures and voluntary obligations within the framework of the European Bus Program, which will take place in Latvia.

On July 13th 2018 a meeting of the EMIN-2 member organizations took place in Riga to start preparations for the closing conference of the project. This meeting was chaired by the national coordinator Laila Balga and attended by the regional coordinators Baiba Giptere, Marite Rozentale and Janis Stjadja, as well as the representatives of the Latvian Lawyers' Association, Latvian Children's Forum, Latvian Large Families Association, the Future Institute of Latvia, Riga Active Senior Citizens' Alliance and the Large Family Center "Ģimenes atbalsts".

On September 14th 2018 an NGO capacity building working group meeting was held in Riga, during which the program of the EMIN-2 international conference "Strengthening Non-Governmental Organizations for the effective protection of social rights" was approved. This meeting was attended by EMIN-2 coordinators Laila Balga, Elina Alere-Fogele, Baiba Giptere and the representatives of the Latvian Lawyers' Association, Latvian Children's Forum, Latvian Large Families Association, the Future Institute of Latvia and IWO-International Women's Organisation.

On October 24th – 26th 2018 in Riga the EMIN-2 project coordinators shared their experience regarding the implementation of this project with the EMIN-2 project coordinators from the Czech Republic during an international conference and three meetings.

[\(3\) Awareness raising activities for general public regarding the EMIN Network](#)

On February 16th 2017 in Dobele (Zemgale Region) the EMIN-2 National Coordinator and two experts had a discussion on EMIN policy with leaders of municipal institutions of Dobele

county, as well as members of Dobele Disabled Society, Dobele Diabetes Association and the Latvian Red Cross.

On March 30th 2017 in the NGO building in Riga within the framework of the EMIN-2 project was held a meeting organized by Latvian Association of Large Families. The topic of this meeting was the material support of large families. A national coordinator and one NGO specialist participated in this meeting.

On May 17th 2017 in Balvi (Latgale region) within the framework of the EMIN-2 project was organized a discussion meeting between EAPN-Latvia national coordinator, 10 experts and specialists from local government institutions and NGOs that represent the interests of the poor and socially excluded people. The topic of this discussion meeting was the impact of minimum income on the reduction of poverty and social exclusion.

On May 31, 2017, at the NGO Resource Center in Jekabpils (Vidzeme region) took place a discussion meeting between the EMIN-2 National Coordinator, two regional coordinators and the representatives of disabled people's organizations from Jekabpils city and district and from Sala county. The topic of this discussion meeting was: the experiences and needs in raising awareness about the provision of decent living for people with special needs.

On August 2, 2017 in Riga within the framework of the EMIN-2 project the EAPN-Latvia National Coordinator and 9 experts presented the meeting participants from Riga, Jekabpils, Dobele, Tukums, Saldus, Talsi and Aluksne, as well as from Rucava, Jaunpils, Olaine and Garkalne districts and Dobele district Bikstu parish non-governmental organizations with the advantages of the EMIN network in reducing poverty.

On September 6, 2017, in Rucava (Kurzeme region) within the framework of the EMIN-2 project the EAPN-Latvia National Coordinator, four regional coordinators and one expert presented the representatives of Rucava district municipalities and members of non-governmental organizations with EMIN goals and activities.

On September 7, 2017, in Ziemeļupe (Kurzeme region) within the framework of the EMIN-2 project the EAPN-Latvia National Coordinator, three regional coordinators and one expert presented the participants of Latvian non-governmental organizations for the blind with EMIN goals and activities.

On September 14, 2017, in Varaklani (Vidzeme region) within the framework of the EMIN-2 project the EAPN-Latvia National Coordinator, three regional coordinators and two experts presented the representatives of the Varaklani district municipality and members of non-governmental organizations with EMIN goals and activities.

On September 15, 2017, in Rezekne (Latgale region) within the framework of the EMIN-2 project the EAPN-Latvia National Coordinator, three regional coordinators and two experts presented the representatives of Rezekne city and district municipality and members of non-governmental organizations with EMIN goals and activities.

On January 20, 2018, in Varaklani (Vidzeme region) within the framework of the EMIN-2 project the EAPN-Latvia National Coordinator, two regional coordinators and two experts presented the representatives of Varaklani, Madona, Līvāni and Ergli, as well as Preiļi, Lubāna, Rezekne and Vilāni district municipalities and members of non-governmental organizations with EMIN goals for the welfare of the population.

On May 18th 2018 at the ferry cruise Riga-Stockholm-Riga EMIN-2 national coordinator Laila Balga and regional coordinators Elina Alere-Fogele and Janis Stjadja during the conference „Let's Talk to Europe” introduced the EMIN-2 project tasks to the specialists from the Ministry of Finance, Lielvarde county social service, the Latvian Lawyers' association and to the people who have experienced poverty from the associations „EAPN-Latvia” (incl. Jekabpils NGO Resource Center, Garkalne women's association "Mūsmājas", Latvian Large Families Association), „Integration for society” and „Wings for Wheels”.

From June 7th to 9th 2018 the European Bus Tour took place in Latvia, led by Elina Pinto (the National Ambassador of the EMIN), national coordinator Laila Balga and regional coordinators Elina Alere-Fogele, Lelde Calite, Baiba Giptere and Janis Stjadja. During the European Bus Tour the Member of the European Parliament from Latvia Andrejs Mamikins (political party „Harmony”), the representatives of the political party „Progressive”, of Riga city municipality, as well as Bauska and Salacgriva county municipalities, the members of the European Latvian Association and many other non-governmental organizations, as well as private entrepreneurs were all introduced to the EMIN-2 project objectives in Riga, Bauska and Ainazi.

From July 26th to 28th and August 23th to 26th, 2018 the summer workshops were held in Bernati, Nica county, during which the national coordinator Laila Balga presented the people who have experienced poverty, from the EAPN-Latvia member organizations, from Varaklani, Dobele, Zilupe, Jekabpils and Krustpils counties, as well as from Jekabpils city with EMIN-2 project objectives and program.

From October 22nd to 25th 2018 in Riga took place an international conference „Strengthening non-governmental organizations for the effective protection of social rights” and experience exchange events, during which national coordinator Laila Balga and regional coordinators Elina Alere-Fogele, Lelde Calite, Baiba Giptere and Marite Rozentale presented the EMIN-2 objectives to the representatives of the University of Latvia, the National Library of Latvia, Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Welfare, the Central Finance and Contracting Agency, the Riga City Council Welfare Department and the political party „Progressive”, as well as the representatives of the non-governmental organizations EAPN-Latvia, the European Youth Network, the European Latvian Association, Latvian Lawyers' association, Latvian Children's Forum, Latvian Christian Senior Citizens' Union, Latvian Blind Society, the association „Holy Family House”, Riga Active Senior Citizens' Alliance, several regional retired and disabled people's associations, women's associations and other NGO representatives, including a significant number of people who have experienced poverty.

(4) Strengthening the communication with mass media to provide visibility of the EMIN Network

Communication with mass media aimed at providing visibility of the EMIN Network among the general public has been strengthened from January 2017 to December 2018.

A consultant for public relations was engaged in the EMIN-2 project during the period from May 1 to September 30, 2017.

Engagement of mass media in the EMIN-2 events as well as dissemination of information regarding events organized was strengthened during 2017, and specifically: on May 17 in Balvi, on May 31 in Jekabpils, on August 2, October 25 and 27 and November 15 in Riga.

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28, May 9 and 18, June 6-9, July 13 and 23, August 26, September 14 and October 22-26 in Riga and other regions of Latvia.

(5) Activities to ensure technical support and informative resources to maintain sustainable capacity of the Network, including a separate www site

EAPN-Latvia developed a database of mass media during January and February of 2017 where more than 40 addresses of media on the list to provide information regarding EMIN-2 activities.

A sub-page „EMIN-2” <http://www.eapn.lv/emin2/> was created under EAPN-Latvia website in January 2017. The page has been regularly updated during implementation period of the project („Sanne” Ltd. is contracted to perform this activity, as well as a national coordinator and a volunteer are involved).

In 2017 and 2018 the EMIN-2 project was included in the EAPN-Latvia monthly circular newsletter "News", also the information was regularly updated on social networks (for example, Facebook, Twitter, Delfi, TVNET, protesti.lv), presented on TV24 and LNT (TV programs in Latvian), the 1st Baltic Channel and LTV7 (TV programs in Russian), Radio 4 (Radio program in Russian), national and regional press and other media in Latvian, English and Russian languages.

(6) Assessment of capacity efficiency of the EMIN Network twice a year

An evaluation meeting within the EMIN-2 project aimed at capacity assessment of the EMIN Network during the period from January 1 to July 31, 2017 was held in Riga on August 22, 2017. The national coordinator, four regional coordinators and six experts from NGOs were participating in the meeting.

An EMIN network capacity efficiency evaluation meeting where the national coordinator, four regional coordinators and two experts from NGOs contributed to the meeting.

Three EMIN network capacity efficiency evaluation meetings took place on March 14th, July 13rd, October 26th 2018.

Name and contact details for the Coordinator of the National EMIN Network:

(1) Approval of the EMIN 2 National coordinator for the position of the Coordinator of the Latvian EMIN Network

According to the EAPN Europe EMIN project management decision from January 1st 2017, Laila Balga, Chairperson of the EAPN-Latvia Board, started to work as the National Coordinator of the EMIN network within the framework of the EMIN-2 project (enterprise agreement of January 2, 2017).

(2) Selection and approval of six regional coordinators for the National EMIN Network (Steering and Administrative Group)

According to the decision of the chairperson of the EAPN-Latvia Board of January 2, 2017, six regional coordinators were selected and approved as members of the Management and Administrative Group of the National EMIN Network: Elina Alere-Fogele, Lelde Calite, Valda Stadgale, Marite Rozentale un Henriks Danusevics (enterprise agreements of January 2, 2017), as well as Norberts Snarskis (the employment contract of January 2, 2017).

According to the decision of the chairperson of the EAPN-Latvia board of December 22, 2017, within the project the employment relationship was terminated with N.Snarskis and, in accordance with the decision of January 15, 2018, the service contract was terminated with H.Danusevics.

According to the decision of the chairperson of the EAPN-Latvia board of January 2, 2018, two Regional Coordinators were selected and approved as members of the Management and Administrative Group of the National EMIN Network: Janis Stjadja (enterprise agreement of January 2, 2018) and Baiba Giptere (a contract for the services of the self-employed person of January 2, 2018).

Note: on February 1, 2017, the EAPN-Latvia Board announced the application for the positions of regional coordinators within the EMIN-2 project among the EAPN-Latvia member organizations.

(3) A launch meeting of coordinators, both national and regional, to familiarise with National EMIN Network objectives, deliverables as well as proposed duties of coordinators

On January 23, 2017, a start-up meeting of the EMIN-2 coordinators took place in Riga. It was chaired by the national coordinator and it was attended by representatives of 6 member organizations of EAPN-Latvia.

In March 2017 within the EMIN-2 project an NGO expert group was set up. In addition to the regional coordinators, it included Maris Graudins (Stockholm School of Economics in Riga), Juris Dzelme (Higher Education Quality Assessment Center), Sergejs Mahnovs (Latvian Lawyers Association), Sarma Brauna (Association „Youth is for“) and Vija Ahunzjanova (Large Families' Center „Family Support“).

(4) Seven regular meetings of coordinators held every three months to plan and update obligations in performed activities

From January 1st 2017 to November 15th 2018 ten meetings attended by EMIN-2 project coordinators, experts and NGO leaders-volunteers were organized in Latvia.

On February 14, 2017 a meeting took place in Riga with the participation of the EMIN-2 National Coordinator, three regional coordinators, four experts and three NGO leaders. The aim of this meeting was to plan and to update the responsibilities of project coordinators in relation to the implementation of project activities.

On May 8, 2017, a meeting took place in Riga with the participation of the EMIN-2 National Coordinator, two regional coordinators, two experts and two NGO leaders on the implementation of the project activities.

On June 6, 2017, a meeting took place in Riga with the participation of the EMIN-2 National Coordinator and 5 regional coordinators on the implementation of the project activities.

On August 22, 2017, a meeting took place in Riga with the participation of the EMIN-2 National Coordinator, 5 regional coordinators and six NGO leaders on the implementation of the project activities.

On 28 March, 9 May, 5 June, 13 July and 14 September 2018 in Riga, as well as on 27-28 July in Bernati, Nica county were held EMIN-2 coordinator meetings attended by NGO leaders and volunteers from EAPN- Latvia member organizations to plan and to update the responsibilities related to the implementation of project activities.

(5) Two annual Evaluation meetings of coordinators and the Board of EAPN-Latvia to assess performance of coordinators during previous year

On February 7, 2018, an evaluation meeting took place in Riga to evaluate EMIN-2 project results of 2017 with the participation of the national coordinator, three regional coordinators and two NGO leaders.

In December 2018, the EMIN-2 project coordinators' performance evaluation meeting will be held in Riga with the participation of the national coordinator, all regional coordinators and NGO leaders.

Attend three meetings at EU level of the National Coordinators:

(1) Preoperational work before the EU level performed by the National coordinator to get familiar with the relevant project documents

EMIN-2 National Coordinator Laila Balga has carried out the preparatory work before each project event at the EU level, having read the relevant project documents.

(2) Participation of the Latvian Network coordinator in three EU level meetings of National coordinators according to the schedule

EMIN-2 National Coordinator Laila Balga has participated in the following three national coordinators' EU-level meetings:

1. On March 27, 2017 in Brussels, Belgium;
2. On September 25-26, 2017 in Leuven, Belgium;
3. On February 27, 2018 in Brussels, Belgium.

(3) Delivery of information and messages from the EU level meeting to the Network

The Latvian national EMIN network has received EMIN-2 project information and reports from EAPN Europe both during the meetings and after each EU-level meeting.

Identify options for the sustainability of the Network: I suspect that there will be little to report here but if you have had discussions or ideas please include them here:

(1) Extending the scope of the EMIN Network stakeholders

On 16 September 2017, the EMIN-2 National Coordinator Laila Balga and Regional Coordinator Elina Alere-Fogele prepared and presented the EAPN-Latvia work program 2017-2018 to the EMIN-2 project management in Brussels. This work program included the planned measures to extend the scope of activities of EMIN network stakeholders.

On March 5th 2018 the EAPN-Latvia working group prepared and presented to the EAPN an overview of the EMIN-2 work program on the results in Latvia.

(2) Dissemination of the position documents prepared during EMIN-2 period, continuous discussions on these documents

In 2017, the Latvian national EMIN network has received position papers from EAPN Europe prepared within the framework of EMIN-2 project.

On July 21, 2017, the EAPN-Latvia European Social Policy Working Group discussion meeting took place in Riga. It was attended by representatives of the association "PINS", Victory

Foundation, Higher Education Quality Assessment Center, Large Families' Center „Family Support”, Latvian Future Institute, Latvian Large Families Association, Dobele Disabled People's Association, Riga Active Seniors Alliance and the EAPN-Latvia Center in Balvi. At this meeting proposals were made on the implementation of principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights in practice within the framework of the EMIN-2 project.

On August 17, 2017, the EAPN-Latvia European Social Policy Working Group discussion meeting took place in Riga. It was attended by representatives of the association "PINS", Victory Foundation, Higher Education Quality Assessment Center, Large Families' Center „Family Support”, Dobele Disabled People's Association, Women's Rights Institute, Garkalne Women's Society „Our Home” and the association „Youth is for" from Cesis. Participants of this meeting assessed the level of personal income in Latvia and its impact on population, as well as the tasks for implementing Poverty Watch within the framework of the EMIN-2 project.

On May 18th 2018 at the ferry cruise Riga-Stockholm-Riga the participants of the conference „Let's Talk to Europe” from the Ministry of Finance, Lielvarde county social service, the Latvian Lawyers' association and from the associations „EAPN-Latvia”, „Integration for society” and „Wings for Wheels” discussed the documents prepared within the framework of the EMIN-2 project regarding the guaranteed minimum income and the EMIN petition.

On June 5th 2018 in Riga took place the EMIN-2 meeting, during which Laila Balga, the national coordinator; Elina Alere-Fogele, Baiba Giptere and Janis Stjadja (EAPN-Latvia Board members), as well as the representatives of the Latvian Children's Forum, Latvian Large Families Association, the Future Institute of Latvia and the Large Family Center "Ģimenes atbalsts" along with the National Ambassador of the EMIN Elina Pinto discussed the EMIN position regarding the ensuring of guaranteed minimum income and the EMIN petition.

From July 26th to 28th 2018 in Bernati, Nica county, EAPN-Latvia summer workshop participants Laila Balga (national coordinator), Elina Alere-Fogele and Baiba Giptere (EAPN-Latvia Board members) and NGO leaders from Latvian Lawyers' Association, the Future Institute of Latvia, Latvian Large Families Association, Health Institute, Garkalne women's association "Mūsmājas" and Sigulda association "Aicinājums Tev" discussed the process of implementation of the guaranteed minimum income and the European pillar of social rights in Latvia.

On September 14th 2018 the EMIN-2 working group meeting was held in Riga during which the EMIN-2 coordinators Laila Balga, Elina Alere-Fogele, Baiba Giptere and the representatives of the Latvian Lawyers' Association, Latvian Children's Forum, Latvian Large Families Association, the Future Institute of Latvia and IWO - International Women's Organisation included the discussion on the basic principles of the European pillar of social rights on the agenda of the EMIN-2 international conference "Strengthening Non-Governmental Organizations for the effective protection of social rights".

On October 25th 2018 an international conference was held in Riga within the framework of the EMIN-2 project, during which more than 70 participants from Latvia, Belgium, Russia, Belarus, the Czech Republic, Poland, Denmark and Lithuania in working groups discussed the implementation of the basic principles of the European pillar of social rights.

[\(3\) Impact of the National Ambassador shall be continued](#)

Upon the completion of the EMIN-2 project on December 21st 2018, we promote the continuation of the National Ambassador's (Elina Pinto) influence, potentially within

the framework of the EMIN-3 project, as well as in the framework of other EAPN-Latvia activities.

(4) Planning of project development both at European, Nordic, and national level

In order to continue the EMIN-2 project and the development of the national network, from August 1, 2017, EAPN-Latvia has prepared relevant project applications for various funds:

1. On 17 August 2017, EAPN-Latvia in partnership with EAPN-Netherlands submitted a project application to the EAPN Solidarity Fund regarding the capacity building of EAPN-Latvia. The planned project budget is 6000 euros. No response was received.
2. On 21 November 2017, EAPN-Latvia submitted the project application "Programme for the advancement of the advocacy of the poor people's interests" to the Society Integration Foundation in a programme financed by the Latvian NGO Foundation. The planned project budget was 14903,53 euros. This project application was rejected.
3. On January 31, 2018, EAPN-Latvia submitted the project application "Link between social rights and social entrepreneurship" for the NordPlus Adult 2018 programme. The cooperation partners in this project are from Estonia, Lithuania, Denmark and Norway. The planned project budget was 42 280 euros. This project application was rejected.
4. On June 15th 2018 EAPN-Latvia submitted the project application „Civil Society Coalition” (prepared with 5 Latvian partners) to the Network of European Foundations. The planned project budget was 9 980 euros. This project application was rejected.
5. On 14 February 2018 EAPN-Latvia submitted the project application "Empowering of NGOs for efficient social rights' advocacy" for the Nordic Council of Ministers' Baltic Sea Region NGO programme. The cooperation partners in this project are from Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Belarus, Denmark and Norway. The planned project budget is 59 730 euros. The implementation of this project started on June 1st 2018 and will take place until October 31st 2019.

WP 3: National Context Reports:

Give a brief description of how your national context report was developed:

(1) Gathering of relevant information to draft the Latvian Context report

On March 2017 EAPN-Latvia conducted a survey between members of EMIN-2 Working group regarding Minimum Income schemes, Reference budgets and development of national EMIN network. Conclusions from the survey were incorporated in the Context Report.

In accordance with the guidelines provided by the EMIN-2 project team, EAPN-Latvia National Coordinator and regional coordinators have collected information in order to draw up a Latvian Context Report.

(2) Drafting the National Context report

The EAPN-Latvia National Coordinator consulted with the EMIN-2 Project Management on the compilation of Latvian Context Report until June 2017, also the working group was created and the compilation of materials was made.

On June 20, 2017 EAPN-Latvia submitted the Latvian Context Report (prepared by the EMIN-2 Working Group) to the EAPN Europe.

In July 2017 the EAPN-Latvia working group consulted on improving the quality of the Context Report submitted.

The final version of the Latvian Context Report was submitted to the EMIN-2 Project Manager on August 18, 2017.

(3) Dissemination of the finalised National Context report to the EMIN Network stakeholders and general public

In August 2017, the Latvian Context Report was formatted and circulated to the parties interested in the EMIN network, primarily – to the organizations registered in the EMIN network and the EAPN-Latvia member organizations. This final version of the Latvian Context Report was placed on the EAPN-Latvia web site, the information about it was also provided on Facebook, thus making it accessible to the general public.

WP 5: Communication Strategy:

Give a brief description of your communication strategy. Please give some examples of how it has been implemented and concrete plans for future implementation:

- (1) Meeting of the National coordinator and regional coordinators regarding usage of the Communication guidelines provided by EMIN-2 Project Staff Team building the communication with the Latvian society; and regarding target groups, and available communication channels (social networks, TV, radio, national level and regional printed media) and tools (website, informative handouts, leaflets, brochures)

On December 6, 2017 a meeting of the Latvian EMIN network took place in Riga with the participation of a national coordinator, four regional coordinators and two NGO specialists. The participants of this meeting discussed the effective use of communication guidelines developed by the EMIN-2 project team and gathered information about the target groups of population (seniors, women, people in rural areas, NGO and trade union members, employees of state and municipal institutions), actually available communication channels (Facebook, Twitter, municipal media, national and regional TV, radio and printed press in Latvian and Russian) and the necessary means of communication (website <http://www.eapn.lv/emin2/>, EMIN-2 project brochures and other informative materials).

From January 1st 2018 until November 15th 2018, six EMIN-2 meetings were organized in Latvia, during which the project coordinators, experts and NGO leaders-volunteers discussed the communication strategy and evaluated the results of the related measures.

(2) Appointment of PR officer and approval of his/her duties

On May 1, 2017, the National Coordinator of the EMIN-2 project appointed the journalist Aleksandrs Kalnins as the public relations advisor (enterprise agreement, terminated due to the death of A. Kalnins in October 2017).

From October 2017 no permanent PR specialist was involved in the EMIN-2 project in Latvia; the duties of the PR specialist were performed by the national coordinator Laila Balga and the National Ambassador of the EMIN - Elina Pinto.

(3) Engagement and explanatory activities with stakeholders to provide communication and visibility of the project

From January 1, 2017 to February 28, 2018 the national coordinator and the regional coordinators of the project used the informative materials of the EMIN-2 project managers and the resources of Latvian EMIN network to ensure communication and project visibility.

From May 1 to July 30, 2017 the public relations advisor participated regularly in the EMIN-2 project activities in the regions of Latvia, prepared and distributed information on the EMIN network to the national and regional media.

From October 2017 the duties of the PR specialist were performed by the national coordinator Laila Balga and the National Ambassador of the EMIN - Elina Pinto.

(4) Discussion meeting of coordinators and stakeholders regarding communication and publicity activities in Latvia during implementation of the EMIN-2 project; approval of the message to be delivered

On March 28, 2018 the EMIN-2 national coordinator, 2 regional coordinators and 5 NGO leaders participated in the EMIN-2 project meeting in Riga. At this meeting was discussed communication and publicity activities in Latvia during the implementation of the project and approved the main message of EMIN, taking into account the information and recommendations provided by EMIN-2 project managers.

(5) Two discussion meetings on engagement tools of Latvian general society and decision-makers in communication regarding MIS (database, awareness raising, real life / experience stories)

On September 22, 2017, in Riga the EMIN-2 National Coordinator and one regional coordinator met in a discussion meeting with four representatives of Latvian Women's Non-Governmental Organizations Network. At this meeting they discussed the matters related to the involvement of the general public and decision-makers in the discussions on the Minimal Income Schemes. Participants of this meeting decided to use their own databases and media, as well as to gather some real-life / experience stories.

On May 18th 2018 at the ferry cruise Riga-Stockholm-Riga EMIN-2 national coordinator Laila Balga and regional coordinators Elina Alere-Fogele and Janis Stjadja during the conference „Let's Talk to Europe” introduced the communication measures within the framework of the EMIN-2 project to the specialists from the Ministry of Finance, Lielvarde county social service, the Latvian Lawyers' association and to the people who have experienced poverty from the associations „EAPN-Latvia” (incl. Jekabpils NGO Resource Center, Garkalne women's association "Mūsmājas", Latvian Large Families Association), „Integration for society” and „Wings for Wheels”.

From July 26th to 28th and August 23th to 26th 2018 the summer workshops were held in Bernati, Nica county, during which the national coordinator Laila Balga presented the people who have experienced poverty, from the EAPN-Latvia member organizations, from Varaklani, Dobele, Zilupe, Jekabpils and Krustpils counties, as well as from Jekabpils city with the communication measures within the framework of the EMIN-2 project.

(6) Three evaluation meetings (every six months) to evaluate results achieved within communication and publicity process in Latvia during EMIN-2 project

On August 22, 2017, in Riga within the framework of the EMIN-2 project was held an evaluation meeting with the purpose of evaluating the results achieved through the communication and publicity process in Latvia from January 1, 2017 to July 31, 2017. This evaluation meeting was attended by a national coordinator, 4 regional coordinators and 6 NGO specialists.

On March 28, 2018 the EMIN-2 national coordinator, 2 regional coordinators and 5 NGO leaders participated in the EMIN-2 project meeting in Riga. At this meeting was discussed the results achieved through the communication and publicity process in Latvia from August 1, 2017 to March 27, 2018.

On July 13th 2018 a meeting of the EMIN-2 member organizations took place in Riga to evaluate the communication and publicity measures within the EMIN-2 project. This meeting was chaired by the national coordinator Laila Balga and attended by the regional coordinators Baiba Giptere, Marite Rozentale and Janis Stjadja, as well as the representatives of the Latvian Lawyers' Association, Latvian Children's Forum, Latvian Large Families Association, the Future Institute of Latvia, Riga Active Senior Citizens' Alliance and the Large Family Center "Ģimenes atbalsts".

WP 6: Everyone on the Bus: A journey for a better Europe:

Describe the main aspects of the work done to prepare for the National Networks Bus trip through your country (meetings held, engagement of stakeholders):

(1) Meeting of coordinators to inform them about guidelines provided by EMIN-2 project Staff Team and draw a specific framework for "Everyone on the Bus" initiative in Latvia, including sharing the duties between the regional coordinators

On August 22 and December 6, 2017 meetings took place in Riga within the framework of the EMIN Latvian Network. During these meetings the national coordinator informed the regional coordinators and NGO leaders on the guidelines provided by the EMIN-2 project Staff Team to draw a specific framework for implementation of the initiative „Everyone on the Bus” in Latvia.

On March 6, 2018 in Riga the EMIN-2 National Coordinator and one regional coordinator met with the Riga City East Executive Directorate to introduce the initiative „Everyone on the Bus” and to propose cooperation at this event.

On March 28, 2018, in Riga, the EMIN-2 National Coordinator was hold a meeting to share the duties between all regional coordinators and NGO volunteers regarding the organization of the initiative „Everyone on the Bus”.

On May 9th 2018, the EMIN-2 working group meeting was held in Riga on organizing the European Bus Tour in Bauska, Riga and Ainazi. This meeting was attended by the national coordinator Laila Balga and Board members Elina Alere-Fogele, Lelde Calite, Baiba Giptere and Janis Stjadja, regional coordinator Marite Rozentale, volunteers: Iveta Valeine (the leader of the Garkalne women's association "Mūsmājas"), the representative of the Latvian Lawyers' Association Raimonds Ilisko and Zigrīda Priedeslaipa (the volunteer from Balvi).

(2) Draft a proposal of the two locations in Latvia to hold events according to the initiative

On March 28, 2018 in Riga, the EMIN-2 National Coordinator at the meeting with the regional coordinators planned to coordinate information on the locations in Latvia where the events will take place within the framework of the initiative „Everyone on the Bus”.

(3) Identify relevant Latvian experts both on MIS and experience experts to be involved in the initiative

On March 28, 2018 in Riga, the EMIN-2 National Coordinator at the meeting with the regional coordinators and NGO leaders planned to identify relevant Latvian experts (both on the minimum income schemes and experience experts) to be involved in the initiative „Everyone on the Bus”.

(4) Identify relevant civil society organisations to be visited

On March 28, 2018, in Riga, the EMIN-2 National Coordinator planned to meet with the regional coordinators and NGO leaders to identify the relevant Latvian civil society organizations that should be visited and involved in the initiative „Everyone on the Bus”.

(5) Identify relevant local, national and European level politicians to be engaged in policy discussions about MIS

On March 28, 2018 in Riga, the EMIN-2 National Coordinator at the meeting with the regional coordinators and NGO leaders planned to identify in Latvia relevant local, national and European level politicians to be engaged in policy discussions about minimum income schemes within the framework of the initiative „Everyone on the Bus”.

(6) Organise a public meeting in the location specified (stop point of the bus)

On June 8, 2018 in Riga, according to the EMIN-2 project plan, the EMIN-2 national coordinator and regional coordinators organized a public meeting at the location (which is the stop point of the bus) specified and approved by the project working group.

In addition to that, on June 7, 2018, the EMIN-2 National Coordinator and the regional coordinators planned to welcome the bus of this initiative at the bus stop point at the Latvian-Lithuanian border and to see the bus departure at the bus stop point at the Latvian-Estonian border.

On June 7th 2018 one of the two EMIN Buses came to Latvia (Bauska) from Lithuania around 11.30AM, as part of the bus tour which included 32 European countries, to raise awareness of the guaranteed minimum income policy and ask to sign a petition to the European Parliament, the European Commission and other EU decision-making institutions. EMIN Bus and EMIN representatives from all over Europe: Fintan Farrell (EMIN Project Manager, EAPN Europe, from Belgium); Juha Salden and Jouni Kylmala (EAPN-Finland, from Finland); Alias Onyadon (EAPN-Belgium, from Belgium); Jo Bothmer and Tou-Latu (EAPN-Netherlands, from Netherlands) were warmly welcomed by Aivars Melderis (Bauska Municipality Social Service Manager) and public relations specialists Ieva Somina and Arturs Dulbe. Before the arrival of the European EMIN Bus at the central square of Bauska, the National Ambassador of the EMIN Elina Pinto, EAPN-Latvia representatives: Laila Balga (EMIN national coordinator), Board members Elina Alere-Fogele, Baiba Giptere, Lelde Calite and Janis Stjadja, as well as volunteers Ilga Liepina, Vija Ahunzjanova and Iveta Valeine in the Bauska County Council, together with local government representatives, discussed the topical social issues.

The information on these EMIN activities in Bauska was widely reported by Latvian television and Bauska county media.

On June 7th 2018, around 13.30 one of the two EMIN Buses arrived at the Riga Central Station Square from Lithuania through Bauska, as part of the bus tour which included 32 European countries, to raise awareness of the guaranteed minimum income policy and to invite citizens to sign the petition to the European Parliament, the European Commission and other EU decision-making institutions. The National Ambassador of the EMIN Elina Pinto, EAPN-Latvia representatives: Laila Balga (EMIN national coordinator), Elina Alere-Fogele, Baiba Giptere, Iveta Valeine, Vija Ahunzjanova, Ilga Liepina, Zigrīda Priedeslaipa and Janis Ielitis together with European representatives Fintan Farrell and Alias Onyadon from Belgium, Juha Salden and Jouni Kylmala from Finland, Jo Bothmer and Tou-Latu from the Netherlands from 2:00PM to 6:00PM had a discussion with the residents of Riga. The chairman of the European Latvian Association Kristaps Grasis, the chairman of the political party "Progressive" Roberts Putnis and several other activists from this party also met with the European representatives and left their signatures on the EMIN bus. Information on the EMIN activities in Riga was widely reported by Latvian Independent Television (LNT), radio and social media.

On June 8th 2018 the EAPN-Latvia representatives Laila Balga, Elina Alere-Fogele, Inna Sumanska, Vija Ahunzjanova, Ilga Liepina, Janis Stjadja and Janis Ielitis together with European representatives Fintan Farrell and Alias Onyadon from Belgium, Juha Salden and Jouni Kylmala from Finland, Jo Bothmer and Tou-Latu from the Netherlands and Mary Doheny from Ireland from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM had a discussion with the residents of Riga at the Riga Central Station Square. On June 7th and 8th, following the EAPN-Latvia invitation, more than 350 people signed the petition which will be submitted to the European Parliament, the European Commission and other EU decision-making institutions regarding the guaranteed minimum income. On June 8th Andrejs Mamikins, the Member of the European Parliament from Latvia, and Agnese Dagile, the Economic Advisor to the European Commission Representation in Latvia, also met with the European representatives and the EAPN-Latvia representatives and signed the EMIN bus and the petition. The European EMIN Bus was brought to Latvia by the driver Marcel van Campen. EAPN-Latvia organized this large event in Riga thanks to the support from the Origo Shopping Center, the Riga City Council and the Eastern District Executive Directorate of the City of Riga. Two days and two nights the European EMIN Bus was guarded by the employees of SIA "Faraons"; the symbolic EMIN T-shirts were printed by SIA "Biznesa reklama"; the transport was provided by SIA "Rober"; the guests were accommodated at the Hotel DODO, in single rooms. The information on the EMIN activities in Riga was widely reported by Latvian Television (LTV), Latvian National Television (LNT), radio, social media and printed press.

On June 9th 2018 around 1:00 PM one of the two EMIN Buses arrived in Aināzi from Riga, as part of the bus tour which included 32 European countries, to raise awareness of the guaranteed minimum income policy and to invite people to sign the petition to the European Parliament, the European Commission and other EU decision-making institutions. The EMIN Bus and European representatives Fintan Farrell and Alias Onyadon from Belgium; Juha Salden and Jouni Kylmala from Finland, Jo Bothmer and Tou-Latu from the Netherlands and Mary Doheny from Ireland were warmly welcomed by Anastasija Celma (the Director of the Aināzi Firefighting Museum) and the residents of Aināzi, as well as the EAPN-Latvia representatives Laila Balga, Elina Alere-Fogele, Ilga Liepina, Vija Ahunzjanova, Valija Eize and Janis Stjadja. After the discussion, the signing of the petition and the introduction to Aināzi firefighting history, the European EMIN Bus left Latvia to continue its mission in Estonia and afterwards in the Scandinavian countries. On June 27th both EMIN Buses returned to Brussels, where a large

closing event for this EAPN activity was organized. EAPN-Latvia representatives who participated the most in this activity also had a glass of wine to celebrate this unique and significant contribution to the promotion of a dignified life for everyone.

(7) Plan the delivery of the needed practical resources (eg. accommodation, meals, parking of the bus)

Up to June 7th 2018, the EMIN-2 National Coordinator, regional coordinators, employees from NGOs and Riga Municipality provided the necessary practical resources (including accommodation, meals, parking of the bus) within the framework of the initiative „Everyone on the Bus”.

(8) Evaluation meeting of coordinators after the Bus Trip through Latvia

On July 13th 2018 the EMIN-2 member organizations' meeting was held in Riga to evaluate the results of "Everyone on the Bus" initiative within the framework of the EMIN-2 project. This meeting was chaired by the national coordinator Laila Balga and attended by the regional coordinators Baiba Giptere, Marite Rozentale and Janis Stjadja, as well as the representatives of the Latvian Lawyers' association, the Latvian Children's Forum, Latvian Large Families Association, the Future Institute of Latvia, Riga Active Senior Citizens' Alliance and the Large Family Center "Ģimenes atbalsts".

(1) Meeting of the National coordinator and regional coordinators, and PR officer regarding usage of guidelines included in the Handbook on the bus tour provided by the EMIN-2 Project Staff Team to organise the bus tour event in Latvia properly; and regarding participants involved in the event, and available communication channels (social networks, TV, radio, national level and regional printed media) and tools (website, meetings)

On March 28th 2018 in Riga took place the Latvian EMIN Network meeting, attended by the national coordinator, regional coordinators and NGO experts. During this meeting the participants discussed issues regarding the use of the guidelines included in „Everyone on the Bus” tour handbook provided by EMIN-2 Management team, needed to organize „Everyone on the Bus” tour events in Latvia in a proper way; also the participants pointed out the available communication channels (Facebook, Twitter, municipal editions, national and regional TVs, radio and printed media in Latvian and Russian) and communication tools (website www.eapn.lv/emin2/; meetings). Moreover, during this meeting the participants approved the initiative's key message.

(2) Meeting of the National coordinator and regional coordinators, and PR officer regarding communication and visibility activities during both preparation period and performance of the Bus Trip in Latvia; approval of the message to be delivered

On May 9th 2018, the EMIN-2 European Bus Tour planning meeting took place in Riga. It was chaired by the national coordinator Laila Balga and attended by the regional coordinators Elina Alere-Fogele, Lelde Calite, Baiba Giptere and Janis Stjadja, as well as by the participants from the Latvian Lawyers' Association, Sigulda association "Aicinājums Tev", Garkalne women's association "Mūsmājas" and the EAPN-Latvia center in Balvi. The participants of this meeting approved the communication tools and activities aimed at increasing the visibility of the initiative, performed both during the preparation and the implementation periods of the initiative (bus tour „Everyone on the Bus” in Latvia).

(3) Implementation of communication and visibility activities throughout five-month period regarding the three-day Bus Trip in Latvia

Starting from January 1, 2018 EAPN-Latvia within the EMIN-2 project was implemented communication and visibility activities of the project regarding the three-day „Everyone on the Bus” tour within the borders of Latvia.

On June 6th 2018 a press conference by Elina Pinto (the National Ambassador of the EMIN) and the national coordinator Laila Balga took place at the Kanepes Cultural Center in Riga.

(4) Evaluation meeting to evaluate results achieved by Bus Trip in Latvia

On July 13th 2018 an evaluation meeting by EMIN-2 member organizations took place in Riga to evaluate the results of the publicity measures that were achieved thanks to the bus tour „Everyone on the Bus”.

WP 7: National events for raising awareness:

Give information about (at least one) National Awareness raising event (with participation of transnational contacts) that you have organised or give details of the planned event that corresponds to this deliverable):

(1) Collection of up-to date information regarding relevant EU level policies (EU Strategy 2020 including European Semester, European Pillar of Social Rights, Corporate Social Responsibility, etc.)

From January 1 to December 31, 2017 the EMIN-2 project national coordinator Laila Balga and the regional coordinators Elina Alere-Fogele and Marite Rozentale collected the up-to-date information regarding relevant policy areas of the EU (EU Strategy 2020, including European Semester, European Pillar of Social Rights, Social accountability of enterprises etc.) in 2017.

Collection of the above-mentioned information for year 2018 was continued until November 1, 2018.

(2) Collection of up-to-date information regarding relevant National-level documents concerning MIS

From January 1 to December 31, 2017 the EMIN-2 project national coordinator Laila Balga and the regional coordinators Elina Alere-Fogele and Marite Rozentale collected the up-to-date information regarding relevant national level policy documents and legal acts regarding Minimum Income Schemes (MIS) in Latvia in 2017.

Collection of the above-mentioned information for year 2018 was continued until November 1, 2018.

(3) Engagement of partner/s from other national EAPN networks to contribute in Latvian national conference

Until October 2018 partners from other EAPN national networks (Belgium, Lithuania, Estonia, the Czech Republic, etc.) were involved to participate in the Latvian National Conference within the framework of the EMIN-2 project.

(4) Engagement of national level MIS policy developers to the conference

Starting from July 1st 2018, the EAPN-Latvia performed activities to engage governmental level policy-makers who are responsible for development of Minimum Income Schemes to participate in the conference.

(5) Preparation of the conference performed by National coordinator and regional coordinators

From August 1st 2018 the EMIN-2 national coordinator and regional coordinators made arrangements regarding the hosting of an international conference in Riga in October 2018.

(6) Holding of the conference; summarization, assessment, and dissemination of the conference results

From October 22th to October 26th within the framework of the EMIN-2 project the EAPN-Latvia international conference and several experience exchange events took place in Riga at the Latvian War Museum, the House of the European Union, the VEF Cultural Palace, Latvian Ministry of Welfare, Riga City Council's Welfare Department, Latvian Christian Senior Citizens' Union, the House of the Holy Family and the Active Senior Citizens' Alliance with participation of NGO experts from Latvia, Russia, Belarus, Lithuania, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Poland and Denmark.

On October 22nd the delegation from the Czech NGO which is conducting research on the situation of senior citizens in Europe was welcomed by the Riga Active Senior Citizens' Alliance (Chairperson of the Board Terezija Mackare). On October 23rd the Czech delegation also visited the Latvian Christian Senior Citizens' Union and the House of the Holy Family.

On October 25th 2018, within the framework of the EMIN-2 project, EAPN-Latvia organized an international conference „Strengthening non-governmental organizations for the effective protection of social rights”, which was attended by more than 60 NGO representatives from Riga and other regions of Latvia, state and local government institutions and enterprises. This conference was attended by 15 foreign experts from partner NGOs: Elke Vandermeerschen from Belgium, Marina Matiunina and Petr Matiunin from Russia (Kaliningrad), Nina Tumanyan and Elena Zhdanyuk from Belarus, Aldona Droseikiene, Rasa Malinauskaite, Diana Gudeikiene and Dalia Kairiene from Lithuania, Tatjana Voicehovska from Poland, Karel Schwarz, Lidmila Niemcova and Ladislav Krajdl from the Czech Republic, as well as Jan Johansen and Helle Stensgard Klodskov from Denmark. The work of the conference was managed by EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board Laila Balga. Lecturers that spoke at the conference were: Lilita Seimuskane, the assistant professor of the University of Latvia, Liga Rasnaca, the Associate Professor of the University of Latvia, Elke Vandermeerschen, the EAPN Europe representative; Elina Pinto, the National Ambassador of the EMIN, Vice President of the European Latvian Association Presidium; Rasa Malinauskaite, Lithuanian Multiple Sclerosis Association and Antonina Nenaseva, the member of the Board of the political party “Progressive”. Participants of the conference discussed and prepared proposals (in 8 working groups) for increasing the contribution of NGOs to the involvement of civil society in social reform processes and for the implementation of the basic principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights in Latvia and other European countries. Information on the conference was widely distributed on social networks.

Summarization, assessment and distribution of the results of this international conference were completed on November 16th 2018. The EAPN-Latvia intends to present the summary of proposals from the Conference to the European Commission, EAPN Europe, Saeima and to the Government of the Republic of Latvia.

Describe at least 4 relevant events in your country where you raised awareness of EMIN activities and messages in your country (or planned events). Remember these are not so much event organised by you but events organised by others where you got space to tell about EMIN (Please try to distinguish between this answer and the answer to WP 10 below):

(1) Approval of schedule and content of six discussion meetings regarding MIS throughout the period of 18 months

On June 6th 2017 in Riga EMIN-2 Working Group managed by the national coordinator Laila Balga approved the schedule until November 21st 2018 and the preliminary program for six discussion meetings regarding MIS.

(2) Preparation of informative handouts for participants of national awareness raising events

From January 1st 2017 to November 1st 2018 the informative handouts were prepared for participants of the national awareness-raising campaigns to increase visibility at the national level.

(3) One discussion meeting in accordance to the EMIN-2 project task regarding analysis of current MIS trends; dissemination of the results

On October 25, 2017 in Rīga there was hold a discussion meeting in accordance with the EMIN-2 project task regarding analysis of current MIS trends. The national coordinator, six regional coordinators, 17 participants representing non-governmental organizations from cities of Rīga, Jurmala, Jelgava and Jekabpils, as well as rural territories (counties) of Balvi, Dobeles, Garkalne, Baldone, Jaunolaine, Sabile, Skrīveri, Broceni, Varakļāni, and Rucava took part the meeting.

EAPN-Latvia provided dissemination of the meeting outcomes in November 2017, using the channels and tools mentioned before.

(4) One discussion meeting in accordance to the EMIN-2 project task on promoting capacity development of the networks; dissemination of the results

On November 15, 2017 in Riga there was hold a discussion meeting in accordance with the EMIN-2 project task regarding capacity development of the networks. The national coordinator, five regional coordinators, IT manager and leader of an NGO took part in the meeting.

EAPN-Latvia provided dissemination of the meeting outcomes in December 2017, using the channels and tools mentioned before.

(5) Four discussion meetings in accordance to the EMIN-2 project task on stimulating debate and maintaining regular dialogue at EU and national level on adequate MIS

On September 6, 2017 in Rucava, Kurzeme region there was hold a discussion meeting in accordance with the EMIN-2 project task on stimulating debate and maintaining a regular

dialogue at EU and national level on adequate Minimum Income Schemes. The national coordinator, four regional coordinators and one expert, as well as representatives from Rucava municipality and members of local NGOs.

On September 14, 2017 in Varaklani, Vidzeme region there was hold a discussion meeting in accordance with the EMIN-2 project task on stimulating debate and maintaining a regular dialogue at EU and national level on adequate Minimum Income Schemes. The national coordinator, three regional coordinators and two experts, as well as representatives from Varaklani municipality and members of local NGOs.

On October 27, 2017 in Riga there was hold a discussion meeting „Social Inequality in Latvia: Challenges and Solutions” hosted by the Freedom and Solidarity Foundation. EMIN-2 national coordinator and a regional coordinator presented information regarding EMIN-2 project task on stimulating debate and maintaining a regular dialogue at EU and national level on adequate Minimum Income Schemes during the meeting.

On June 5th 2018 the EMIN-2 working group meeting was held in Riga on the topic: the EAPN-Latvia position on providing the guaranteed minimum income. This meeting was attended by Elina Pinto, the National Ambassador of the EMIN; Laila Balga (EMIN national coordinator); Elina Alere-Fogele, Lelde Calite, Baiba Giptere and Janis Stjadja (the EAPN-Latvia Board members), as well as the volunteers Vija Ahunzjanova (Large Family Center "Ģimenes atbalsts"), Valija Eize (the Future Institute of Latvia), Ilga Liepina (Latvian Large Families Association), Dace Paegle and Janis Ielitis (Latvian Children's Forum).

(6) Evaluation meeting to assess the achievements and results of the five discussion meetings

On November 1, 2017 in Riga there was hold an evaluation meeting of EAPN-Latvia. The national coordinator, six regional coordinators and representatives from 28 NGOs took part in the meeting and assessed achievements and outcomes of year 2017 meetings.

An evaluation meeting took place on November 16th 2018 to assess the achievements and the results of year 2018 meetings.

WP 9: National Ambassadors:

What efforts have you made to appoint National Ambassador/s to help promote the visibility of your EMIN work? What results have you had?

- (1) Cooperation-building with the stakeholders in order to bring National Ambassador/s in the EMIN Network by call to nominate the candidates among opinion shapers, politicians, civil society leaders, influential academics, religious leaders, well known personalities and people experiencing poverty or 'experts by experience'

On February 1, 2018 EAPN-Latvia announced a call to nominate candidates for the position of EMIN National Ambassador, the deadline for nomination of a candidate is March 31, 2018. Considering recommendations by the EMIN-2 project team, the call to nominate candidates for the position of EMIN National Ambassador was addressed to the NGOs, trade unions, governmental institutions, municipalities and private companies.

- (2) Discussion meeting of the National coordinator and regional coordinators with pretenders for the title of the National Ambassador; appointment of the National Ambassador/s according to suggestions provided by EMIN 2 Project Staff Team

On March 28th 2018 the discussion meeting took place, as well as the approval of EMIN National Ambassador. From April 9th, Elina Pinto, Vice-President of the European Latvian Association, started to perform the duties of the EMIN National Ambassador.

- (3) Publicity activities in social networks and media to boost the role of the National Ambassador

Regular publicity activities in social networks and mass media were scheduled from April to November 2018 to boost the role of the National Ambassador Elina Pinto in society.

- (4) Engagement of the National Ambassador in EMIN 2 project events, including the Bus Tour

On March 28th 2018 took place a meeting of the national coordinator, regional coordinators and NGO representatives. The engagement of the National Ambassador in the project activities, including „Everyone on the Bus” tour, was planned during this meeting.

Starting from April 9th 2018, the events with participation of the National Ambassador Elina Pinto, including „Everyone on the Bus” tour, were organized within the framework of EMIN-2 project.

- (5) Evaluation meeting regarding contribution of the National Ambassador during implementation of EMIN 2 project in Latvia

An evaluation meeting regarding the contribution of the EMIN National Ambassador Elina Pinto during the implementation of the EMIN-2 project in Latvia was held on October 25, 2018. The EMIN National Ambassador, the national coordinator, regional coordinators and representatives from NGOs took part in this meeting.

WP 10: EU and National Level Policy Dialogues:

Deliverable WP10:

What exchanges with National Policy makers (Commission Representation, National Ministries, National Parliaments, MEPs and other relevant policy makers) have you had? In countries that have Country Specific recommendations on Minimum Income please say how you have followed this up? Here it will be ok to make a link to your National EAPN work on this as it may be someone else in your EAPN Network follows this work:

- (1) Preparation of the schedule for dialogue building activities with Vice-president of the EC Valdis Dombrovskis, MEPs elected from Latvia, MIS Advisory Group at EP, Representative Office of the EC in Latvia, State President of the Republic of Latvia, Latvian Members of Saeima (Parliament), Prime Minister, State Chancellery, Minister for Welfare, and other policy makers

On March 28, 2018 in Riga it was approved the schedule of events and persons responsible for providing dialogue building activities with Vice-president of the European Commission Valdis Dombrovskis, MEPs elected from Latvia, MIS Advisory Group at EP, Representative Office of the EC in Latvia, State President of the Republic of Latvia, Latvian Members of Saeima

(Parliament), Prime Minister, State Chancellery, Minister for Welfare, and other policy makers during the period from April to November 2018.

On October 24th 2018 at the House of the European Union in Riga Laila Balga (EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board) and Elina Pinto (EMIN National Ambassador) represented EAPN-Latvia's interests in the European Semester factual study visit, attended by eleven representatives of different Directorates-General of the European Commission.

(2) Maintaining the dialogue regarding MIS with the policy makers throughout a period of 12 months

From 2016 Laila Balga, the EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board, was included in the Working Group for Development of an Upgraded plan for Minimum Income Support Schemes at the Ministry of Welfare. From 2017 Elina Alere-Fogele, the Member of the Board, and from 2018 also Marite Rozentale, the EMIN regional coordinator, were working at the coordination committee for Social inclusion policy at the Ministry of Welfare.

EAPN-Latvia member organizations and partners were invited to prepare their questions regarding meeting scheduled within the EMIN-2 project with Vice-President of the European Commission Valdis Dombrovskis. The questions were to be submitted till February 10, 2017.

On March 8, 2017 the EAPN-Latvia Board submitted proposals regarding defining the Minimum Income level to the Prime Minister of Latvia.

On March 29, 2017 in Riga national coordinator of EMIN-2 project and two regional coordinators took part in the Meeting of Council for Implementation of Cooperation Memorandum Between the Cabinet of Ministers and NGOs. The meeting covered the following topics: Upgraded plan for Minimum Income Support Schemes (Ministry of Welfare) and current information regarding progress in development of State taxation policy guidelines for 2017-2021 (Ministry of Finance).

On August 26, 2017 EAPN-Latvia Board submitted 23 letters to the Committees of the Saeima (Parliament), relevant Ministries and Municipality of Riga with proposals regarding reduction of poverty and social exclusion in Latvia. Response letters from the relevant bodies with explanations showing willingness to maintain a further dialogue with decision makers regarding Minimum Income Schemes were received till end of November 2017.

On November 15, 2017 in Riga three regional coordinators of EMIN-2 project in a meeting in the Saeima (Parliament) discussed support programs for people experiencing poverty and Minimum Income Schemes with leaders of Committee of Social and Employment Affairs.

On April 27, 2018 in Brussels, Belgium, two EMIN-2 project representatives (Inete Ielite and Ieva Bagata) participated in the Annual Convention on Inclusive Growth on topic „Implementation of the Social Pillar” as the members of a delegation from Latvian Ministry of Welfare.

On June 1st 2018 the national coordinator of the EMIN-2 project Laila Balga and other EAPN-Latvia representatives participated in the annual forum of Latvian Saeima and non-governmental organizations at the Saeima building in Riga.

In order to collect 10 000 signatures and to submit legislative amendments to the Saeima, on June 20th EAPN-Latvia has launched an initiative on the website "My Voice" (manabalss.lv) aimed at establishing in Latvia the guaranteed minimum income which would be above the poverty threshold level set by the state (Latvia) - EUR 330 per month for everyone.

On June 25th 2018 the EAPN-Latvia submitted to the European Affairs Commission of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia and distributed to the media and member organizations (in English, Latvian and Russian) the EAPN guidelines for EU budget planning „An EU budget to protect people experiencing poverty or our defence and security industries?”.

On August 29th 2018 in Riga the national coordinator of EMIN-2 project Laila Balga and the representatives of EAPN-Latvia member organizations Ligita Upite, Terezija Mackare, Juris Dzelme, Vija Ahunzjanova and Dace Paegle participated in the NGO and Cabinet of Ministers’ co-operation memorandum implementation council conference "Informing - Participating".

Produce a final context report based on an agreed template: This will be for the autumn:

(1) Development of Final Context report on results of the political dialogue held on MIS

EAPN-Latvia prepared the Final Context Report on the outcomes of the political dialogue held on MIS by November 30, 2018.

(2) Dissemination of the finalised Context Report

In December of 2018 the Final Context Report will be finalized and prepared for dissemination between the stakeholders within the EMIN Network, first of all, to the organizations which are registered in the EMIN network, member organizations of EAPN-Latvia, governmental and municipal institutions, and NGOs. The complete report will be published on the EAPN-Latvia website, information regarding this will be delivered through Facebook, thus reaching general society.

WP 11: Peer Reviews: Three trans-national Peer Reviews will be held on the topics of 1) Non-Take Up, 2) Reference Budgets and 3) Active Inclusion.

Say which Peer Review you plan to take part in. For Networks who will participate in the PR in Helsinki add some information about your delegation and some reflections on the Peer Review event”:

(1) Engage participants from public authority, national expert on the theme, and representative of civil society to take part in the Peer Review on Reference Budgets

The national coordinator of EMIN Network has approved three representatives from Latvia who will participate in the peer review regarding Reference Budgets by July 1, 2018: EMIN national coordinator Laila Balga, EMIN Ambassador Elina Pinto and the expert from Latvian University Liga Rasnaca.

(2) Summarization of current developments regarding Reference Budgets performed by the selected Peer Review participants

The three peer review participants from Latvia summarized the current developments regarding Reference Budgets by September 1, 2018.

(3) Participation in the above mentioned Peer Review; summarization of results

Two selected and approved participants from Latvia (national coordinator Laila Balga and the expert from Latvian University Liga Rasnaca) participated in the Peer Review which took place on September 18-19th 2018 in Antwerp, Belgium, afterwards they summarized the results of the Peer Review by September 30, 2018.

(4) Evaluation of outcomes after the Peer Review

After the Peer Review regarding Reference Budgets, the evaluation of outcomes was performed under the guidance of the national coordinator by October 15th 2018. On October 25th 2018 the conference of EMIN Network stakeholders was held for this purpose.

(5) Preparation of the final report on Reference Budgets; dissemination of the final report

EAPN-Latvia working group under the guidance of the national coordinator within the framework of EMIN-2 project prepared the Final Report on Reference Budgets by November 30, 2018.

The Final Report will be completed, finalized and published on the EAPN-Latvia website <http://www.eapn.lv/emin2/>, and mailed to the relevant governmental institutions and NGOs by December 20, 2018.

WP 12: National Policy Debates on Reference Budgets:

Describe any links you have had with people working on Reference Budgets at National level (are they connected to the European Reference Budget Network/Platform?) Have you already had, or have you planned, an event where the work of the European Reference Budget Network/Platform is presented and discussed:

(1) Appoint an expert responsible for promotion of Reference Budgets policy within EMIN-2 project

By April 1, 2018 the national coordinator has appointed Liga Rasnaca, an expert from Latvian University, to be responsible for the promotion of Reference Budgets policy within the framework of EMIN-2 project.

(2) Summarization of current developments regarding Reference Budgets at European and national level

On April 18, 2017 in Riga there was hold a meeting regarding processes and trends regarding Reference Budgets both in EU and Latvian national level. The national coordinator and regional coordinators took part in the meeting.

(3) One meeting regarding development of Reference Budgets in Latvia, with participation of professionals from public authorities, national experts on the theme, and representatives of civil society; summarization of results

On July 6, 2017 in Riga there was hold a discussion regarding importance and role of Reference Budgets and need to ensure decent income for people to live in dignity. The discussion meeting was conducted by the national coordinator. Officers from Ministry of Welfare and Central Statistical Bureau as well as academicians from the University of Latvia had a discussion with more than 20 representatives of non-governmental organizations. In the end of the discussion meeting the outcomes were summarized, the results of the discussion EAPN-Latvia uses as proposals to influence policy and lobby for need to develop adequate Reference Budgets, and affect the legal framework.

(4) Preparation of national position regarding current trends with Reference Budgets

By September 12, 2018 two peer review participants from Latvia, Laila Balga and Liga Rasnaca, who was approved for participation in the peer review in Antwerp, prepared

information regarding the position of Latvian government and the current trends regarding Reference Budgets.

WP 13: EU level Closing Conference:

(1) Ensure Latvian representation in the National EMIN Network in the closing Conference

According to the EMIN-2 project management plan, EAPN-Latvia has ensured the representation of the national EMIN Network at the closing conference of the project. The national coordinator of the EMIN-2 project Laila Balga and the regional coordinator Baiba Giptere participated in the conference in Brussels, which took place on November 20th – 21st 2018.

WP 14: Project Management and WP 15: Project Evaluation:

(1) Preparation of inputs from Latvian EMIN Network for the progress and final report needed to be presented to the European Commission

EAPN-Latvia prepared its input according to the schedule set by the EMIN-2 project management team.

(1) Preparation of inputs from Latvian EMIN Network to contribute to the evaluation report on the project

EAPN-Latvia prepared its input according to the schedule set by the EMIN-2 project management team.