

Fighting poverty and social exclusion in Norway: advocacy work and
Participation of people living in poverty

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Velferdsalliansen, EAPN Norway

Nothing about us without us Velferdsalliansen EAPN Norway

A national network of grassroots and autonomous organizations with broad and valuable experience as users of welfare services. Our main goals is to:

- Abolish poverty**
- Ensure more user participation**
- Improving living conditions and life situation for our member groups**
- Improving economy and employment for our member organizations**

We want to uncover the aspects of society that create and sustain poverty and injustice. We want to influence decision makers and we offer our expertise.

Velferdsalliansen, EAPN Norway

We know that the significant consequences of poverty will not be seriously addressed before those who live in this reality are seen as part of the solution - not as part of the problem.

We know that the people who are affected by a decision have to participate in the decision-making process from start to finish. Only then is real and lasting change possible.

We will not support any initiative that has a negative effect on people living in poverty. Instead, we will promote and support political processes and initiatives that go to the root of the problems that poverty and inequality create in Norway

Target groups and basis values

- Target groups: Everyone in the country who are outside the labour market+ working poor , and / or are socially excluded by many different reasons that appear in the large spectrum of Welfare Alliance's membership.
- Focus The work is great for single people and families living under the EU definition of poverty line and in addition people who are in danger of falling off.
- Basis values:
 - Human rights
 - Local Agenda 21: bottom up approach
 - UN Copenhagen Declaration 1995 on Social Development

Network of 18 autonomous organizations



1. Convivencia
2. Kirkens Bymisjon
3. Total Rehab – Oslo
4. AFFO – Aleneforeldreforeningen
5. Frelsesarmeen
6. Forem
7. Team Five – Volda
8. Mental Helse Bable
9. Hjertelyst – Kristiansand
10. Oppløvelseskortet
11. IHSG – Internasjonal helse og sosialgruppe Oslo
12. BIBI AMKA-
13. BIKUBEN- Harstad
14. Sagatun Brukerstyrt Senter
15. FSA- Foreningen for Sosialt Arbeid- Oslo
16. Fattig talt Ørland/Bjugn
17. Telemark Innvandrerråd-
18. Din fremtid

WELFARE ALLIANCE OFFICE
velferdsalliansen.no
OSLO



EAPN Norway

- Is made up of many small, medium sized and large organizations.
- we originally named our network,- The Welfare Alliance - Velferdsalliansen.
- Norway is a large country where poverty is hiding differently,
- we want to visualize poverty in both rural and urban areas.
- Prioritize, facilitating and motivating to real user.
- Participation of PEP whose impact gives value.
- we are a member of EAPN Europe

EAPN Norway

- We are a link to the system level as well at the national level.
- We want to strengthen the networks and be able to use it.
- We want to visualize the emergence of a large class divide.
- Our network (many organizations together) have large knowledge based on experience thus experienced and experience of poverty we see as a major resource in the work.
- We want to visualize and gain knowledge of what poverty means for individuals.
- We highlight which NGOs we have and we want to use these for debate, and highlighting.

Issues we address and how do we work?

➤ Method: Agenda 21 from the bottom up

Until 2014 we had activities through many different working group/ committees :

- social policy,
- Health Policy
- Housing policy
- Network strategies and recruitment
- Regional and international Policy
- Child and Youth Policy

How do we work? New model

- Social political Forum:
Six working committees were discontinued at the Annual Meeting 2015.
- The aim of the restructuring is to streamline the work and commitment among members of the VA through Social political Forum (coordinates the various projects).
- Members have the opportunity to propose an activity/alone or in cooperation
- They are involved in the preparation, execution and reporting.

Issues we address and how do we work?

Have social meeting places which are mostly free and where people at the local level can meet and build networks



Issues we address and how do we work?

Build networks that promote collaboration. Working together with others in the network and accross the entire country

50% of our Member NGOs do advocacy work. Either by themselves or train their members to help them self in the contact with the public authorities (Help to self-help or peer work)



Issues we address and how do we work?

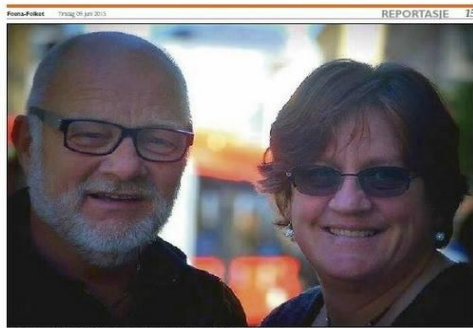
Organisations members
they are autonomous and have their activities
they may decide to involve other members of the network or the secretariat

Members meeting twice a year: we debate among other topics related to poverty and social exclusion



Issues we address and how do we work?

spreading knowledge of poverty and social exclusion by having seminars, conference, debate and lectures



SVEN ECKHOLM og Siri Fure harde i debatten om fattigdom og sosial ekskludering.

Debatt om fattigdom og seksuelle overgrep

3. juni arrangerer Fattig tall Orland/Tjoga lenndag i samarbeid med Utansmann og Velferdsalliansen.

SVEN ECKHOLM og Siri Fure harde i debatten om fattigdom og sosial ekskludering. De to har vært i Orland/Tjoga lenndag i samarbeid med Utansmann og Velferdsalliansen. De to har vært i Orland/Tjoga lenndag i samarbeid med Utansmann og Velferdsalliansen. De to har vært i Orland/Tjoga lenndag i samarbeid med Utansmann og Velferdsalliansen.



johanna engen

Issues we address and how do we work?

Arendalsuka an annual forum where national actors in politics, society and business meet each other and meet people for debate and policy development for present and future.

Arendalsuka want in this way to contribute to the strengthening of the power of our vibrant democracy.

Arendalsuka is politically independent, and aims to strengthen faith in politics and political debate



Issues we address and how do we work

Actively participate in social debates and arranging workshops where all levels are included. Lecture and enlightenment



Issues we address and how do we work

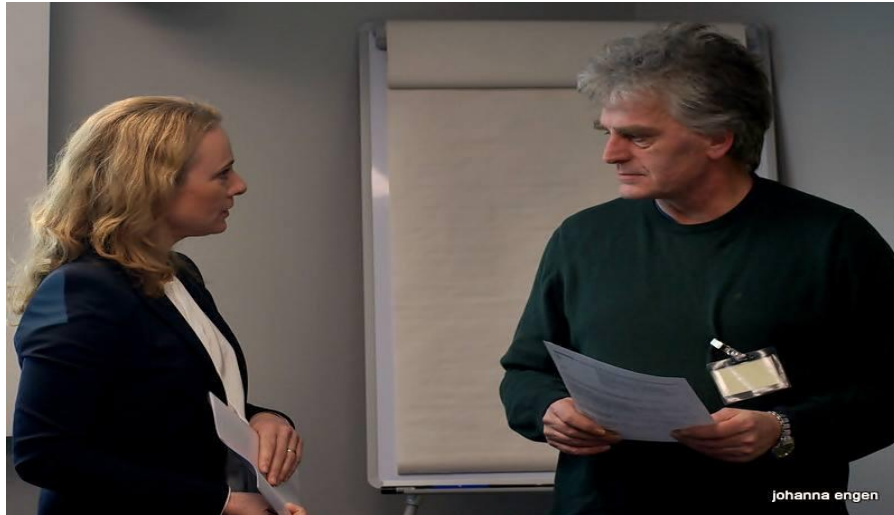
human ring around Parliament



backward march



Issues we address and how do we work?



Contact committee: 2008 The Department of Work and Inclusion established a new model of cooperation to strengthen the contact between marginalized groups and the highest political officials in Norway.

The goal is

to give real political influence of marginalized people;

Ensure mutual and predictable dialogue between grassroots organizations / marginalized groups and the government;

Give the government the opportunity to meet representatives of users of welfare services directly and regularly.

Both EAPN Network and some of the EAPN Network members are represented in this committee



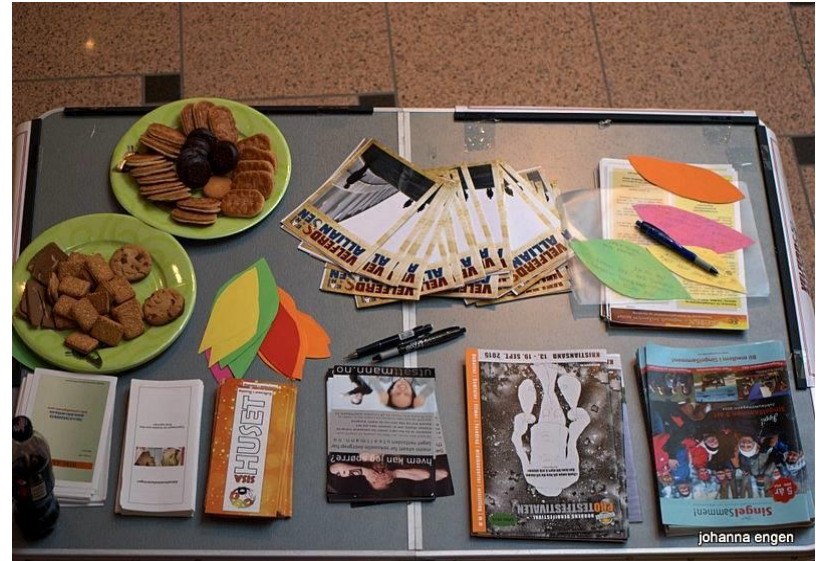
Issues we address and how do we work?



Increasing contact with politicians locally so that they see the residents and meets all residents where they are.

Issues we address and how do we work?

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Issues we address and how do we work?

NRK have chosen a completely different approach, both in nrk.no, television and radio, to illuminate the Norwegian poverty in a good and thoughtful manner. They have succeeded and ask good questions to policymakers, good follow-up questions and interviewing poor people with dignity and respect.



How do we work?

NAV:Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration

NAV administers a third of the national budget through schemes such as unemployment benefit, work assessment allowance, sickness benefit, pensions, child benefit and cash-for-care benefit.

Including the main focus throughout the year on NAV user committees.

NAV's main goals are:

- More people active and in work, fewer people on benefits
- A well-functioning job market
- To provide the right services and benefits at the right time
- To provide good services tailored to the users' needs and circumstances
- Comprehensive and efficient labour and welfare administration



Issues we address and how do we work?

Recruitment, training, networking and monitoring of user representatives in NAV.

Follow up orders from several NAV county and local office wanting user committee representatives from the Welfare Alliance.

Using VAs members locally and regionally.

In Oslo, which has many local offices, priority is to have regular working meetings in VA's facilities for monitoring and motivation of user committees representatives in their work.

We have representatives at national, county, municipality, local,

we have representatives at national, regional, municipal and local level



Issues we address and how do we work?

EAPN : Full member of EAPN since 2005.

Attending all Working groups and several projects on European level during the last 13 years.

Preparation, attending PEP Meeting

Attending several projects with EAPN Europe: Regarding Minimum income we have been attending:

- **Settings social standards across Europe project (2 years project) and EMIN (2 years project)**



Issues we address and how do we work?





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