



Association "EAPN-Latvia", Latvia

Review of the implementation of the National Network 2018 Work Plan

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

Programme's title: Strengthening the engagement of experts by experience in poverty in the key areas of work

Activity 1.1

Place: Riga. Administration period 01/01/2018 – 31/12/2018 of the programme. Two national coordinators, Elina Alere-Fogele and Baiba Giptere, were contracted. Three local coordinators, Evita Usane (Riga), Galina Augustovska (Dobele) and Marite Rozentale (Sigulda) and four volunteers contributed to the project. Meeting rooms, catering, travels and accommodation was provided. Publicity events and communication: website www.eapn.lv, PeP booklets, monthly newsletter "Jaunumi" ("The News"), national and regional newspapers, TV and radio stations; blogging and photos on the social networks (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) was provided.

On February 7th in Riga the Board of EAPN-Latvia appointed the Board members E.Alere-Fogele (for foreign events) and B.Giptere (for events in Latvia) as PeP National Coordinators.

On March 23rd in Riga took place the EAPN-Latvia meeting on PeP planning activities, which was attended by EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board Laila Balga, both national coordinators and representatives of Jekabpils NGO Resources Centre, Latvian Large Families' Association, Garkalne Women's association "Mūsmājas" ("Our Home"), Latvian Future Institute and Latvian Lawyers' Association.

On July 13th took place the EAPN-Latvia meeting on PeP planning activities for the second semester of 2018, which was attended by EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board Laila Balga, national coordinator B.Giptere and representatives of Latvian Children's Forum, Sigulda association "Aicinājums Tev" ("A Call to You"), Large Family Centre "Family Support", Latvian Lawyers' Association, Riga Active Seniors' Alliance, Latvian Large Families' Association, Dobele Society for Disabled People and Latvian Future Institute.

Activity 1.2

From February 2018 reviewing the results of the 2017 European PeP Meeting was done by national coordinators. Preparation and participation of the national coordinator E.Alere-Fogele at the European PeP National Coordinators' meeting in Vienna, Austria, took place on 15-16 March, 2018. The NGO expert group was established in Latvia.

On March 23rd in Riga reviewing the results of the PeP international meeting with the participation of PeP national coordinators (E.Alere-Fogele and B.Giptere) and 6 NGO experts took place.

Activity 1.3

In February 2018 the competition for the NGO experts by experience in poverty was organized by the Board.

On May 29th was confirmed the participation of 3 experts by experience in poverty, Iveta Valeine from Garkalne Women's Society „Mūsmājas” (“Our Home”), Madara Porike from Liepāja Society of the Blind, and Janis Stjadja from Dobeles Society for Disabled People, at the European PeP Summit in November 2018 in Brussels, Belgium, (the ultimate goal of the Summit: “Bringing together members and experts by experience in poverty to make the voices of experts by experience in poverty more visible in EAPN's communications work at the national and European level”) was done. Consultations with EAPN on relevant topics (“Strengthening the engagement of experts by experience in poverty in the key areas of work: Institutional participation. Health and Education”) and the preparation of the delegation for the Summit was done by E.Alere-Fogele.

Activity 1.4

Publicity and informative measures in Latvia according to EAPN PeP guidelines were implemented through the website www.eapn.lv, PeP booklets, monthly newsletter “Jaunumi” (“The News”), national and regional newspapers, TV and radio stations; blogging and photos on the social networks (Facebook, Twitter, etc.). On March 28th 2018 in Riga the evaluation of the results took place at the meeting with the participation of PeP national coordinators, E.Alere-Fogele and B.Giptere, and 6 NGO experts.

On July 27th and 28th in Bernāti, at the Liepāja Olympic Centre complex “Draudzība” (“Friendship”) by the Baltic Sea took place the summer workshop “Institutional participation. Health & Education”, during which its participants studied, exchanged experiences and had discussions. These 7 participants were from EAPN-Latvia member organizations: Sigulda association “Aicinājums Tev” (“A Call to You”), Garkalne Women's association “Mūsmājas” (“Our Home”), Latvian Large Families' Association, Association for the development of Latgale Suburb and Latvian Future Institute. On July 28th the participants from the Health Institute and Latvian Lawyers' Association also joined this summer workshop. The workshop was led by Laila Balga, the EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board and PeP National Coordinators E.Alere-Fogele and B.Giptere. On July 28th the workshop was led by lecturer Aiste Baturaite from Siauliai University (Lithuania), Rihards Bunka from the Latvian Lawyers' Association and Aivars Lasmanis from the Health Institute. The National Coordinator E.Alere-Fogele and the expert I.Valeine summarized the proposals from specialists and workshop participants.

On August 24th by the Baltic Sea, at the Liepāja Olympic Centre recreation complex “Draudzība” (“Friendship”) in Bernāti, Nica County, took place the second NGO summer

workshop “Institutional participation. Health & Education”, during which 10 participants from Dobele, Varaklani, Zilupe and Krustpils counties, as well as Jekabpils county and Jekabpils city were introduced to EAPN-Latvia activities and the PeP Programme. The workshop participants were offered a lesson in personality development, presented by Kouch Inta Santa. This NGO summer workshop was led by L.Balga and E.Alere-Fogele.

Activity 1.5

On August 2nd the PeP workshop was held at the Riga Social Service Day Centre “Kastanis” (“Chestnut”), where Riga City Council member Ādams Turlajs, deputy director of the Welfare department Martins Moors, project manager of the Eastern executive directorate Aija Briede and the head of the Latgale District Department of the Social Service Laimdota Gaile had discussions with 15 workshop participants. This event was moderated by coordinators B.Giptere and E.Usane. The EAPN-Latvia national coordinator E.Alere-Fogele together with experts by experience in poverty I.Valeine, M.Porike and J.Stjadja summarized the proposals from Riga specialists and residents on the topic “Education”.

Activity 1.6

On August 16th the workshop took place at Dobele Social assistance centre, during which in discussions with 26 workshop participants engaged L.Balga, the EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board, Liga Rasnaca, the associate professor from the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Latvia, Valdis Veips, the executive director of Zemgale planning region, Aija Renga, the deputy head of Dobele municipality Social Service and Galina Augustovska, the Chairperson of the Board of Dobele Society for Disabled People. This event was moderated by national coordinators B.Giptere and E.Alere-Fogele. The experts by experience in poverty I.Valeine, M.Porike and J.Stjadja summarized the proposals from Dobele specialists and residents on the topic “Education”.

Activity 1.7

On September 12th at the Pensioners' Association SIGULDA (chairperson of the Board Vija Brikmane) was held a workshop, during which in discussions with 14 workshop participants engaged L.Balga, the EAPN-Latvia Chairperson of the Board, Kristine Freiberga, the Head of the Sigulda municipality Social Service, Alfons Jumikis, the long-term Chairman of the Board of Pensioners' Association SIGULDA, and Marite Rozentale, the Chairperson of the Board of Sigulda Disabled Society “Aicinājums Tev” (“A Call to You”). This event was moderated by national coordinators B.Giptere and E.Alere-Fogele. The experts by experience in poverty I.Valeine, M.Porike and J.Stjadja summarized the proposals from Sigulda specialists and residents on the topic “Education”.

Activity 1.8

On October 16th at the European Union House in Riga, EAPN-Latvia compiled the results of the PeP Programme “Strengthening the engagement of experts by experience in poverty in areas of education and social issues. European PeP Summit topic: Education”. This meeting was chaired by PeP national coordinators E.Alere-Fogele and B.Giptere. 17 participants of the meeting were addressed by: Agnese Dagile, economic advisor to the European Commission Representation in Latvia; Evija Kula, the deputy director of the Social Inclusion Policy Department of the Ministry of Welfare; Anta Rugate, the member of the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th Saeima (the Parliament), member of the Board of the Latvian Lawyers' Association; Laima Liduma, chief specialist-expert of the Social assistance administration division of the Social administration of Riga City Council Welfare department; Sanita Lace, the representative of Riga City Council Education, culture and sports department, and Inete

Ielite, the Chairperson of the Board of Latvian Network of Women's non-governmental organizations. This meeting was attended by representatives of: Riga Social Service Day Centre "Kastanis" ("Chestnut"), Jekabpils NGO Resource Centre, IWO-International Women's Organization, Latvian association of Youth Organizations "IMKA Latvia", Latvian Children's Forum, Latvian Large Families Association, Latvian Future Institute, Social support and assistance society "Veiksme" ("Success"), Riga Active Seniors' Alliance, Dobele Society for Disabled People, Varaklani Women's Association "Magnolija" ("Magnolia"), Large Family Centre "Family Support", Garkalne Women's Society "Mūsmājas" ("Our Home"), Sigulda Society "Aicinājums Tev" ("A Call to You") and society "Power to the Latvian People". Media were represented by Lidija Abeltina from SOS113.

Activity 1.9

In October 2018 took place the preparation of the EAPN-Latvia delegation for the European PeP Summit in Brussels in November 2018 (E.Alere-Fogeļe, M.Porike, I.Valeine un J.Stjadja). Participation at the «Summit Let's make Education a way out of Poverty»; compilation of the results.

Activity 1.10

Participation of two EAPN-Latvia national PeP coordinators and three experts by experience in poverty at the meeting of the Commission for Social and Labour Affairs of the Saeima (the Parliament) of the Republic of Latvia was postponed to January 2019 due to the delays in launching the activities of the newly elected Commission (after the Saeima elections that took place on October 6th).

Activity 1.11

On November 16th in Riga took place the evaluation meeting of the Board of EAPN-Latvia to evaluate the PeP Programme results in 2018, during which the programme was concluded.

Brief assessment of results and impact:

Within the framework of the People Experiencing Poverty (PeP) Programme, 6 events were organized in Latvia, during which were trained 3 experts by experience in poverty and involved 89 people who have experienced poverty, as well as the significant number of specialists in social issues. By the end of PeP Programme, the compilation of proposals on the subject "Strengthening the engagement of experts by experience in poverty in area of education and social issues. Topic: education and access to education" was prepared in Latvian, Russian and English to be submitted to EAPN Europe, the European Commission Representation in Latvia, the Saeima (the Parliament) of the Republic of Latvia, Ministry of Welfare, Ministry of Education and Science and Riga City Council, as well as to be distributed in the Latvian non-governmental sector. EAPN-Latvia experts by experience in poverty also distributed their proposals during the PeP Summit in Brussels in November 2018. The impact of the EAPN PeP Programme "Let's Make Education a way out of Poverty", implemented in 2018, manifests itself in the EAPN-Latvia process of advocacy, which is related to decision-making for poverty reduction in Latvia.
