**Assessing together the National Social Reports/Letters and Social Reports**

**Background Document**

**Introduction**

The EUISG group is the main EAPN group responsible for delivering on Objective 1 of the EAPN Strategic Plan aiming to continue to be a trusted, but challenging partner in EU Inclusion Strategies. In the 1st meeting in February, the group agreed to continue to try to engage with the Europe 2020 strategy in 2012, but to review this strategy at the end of the year, if members felt no real progress could be made on stakeholder engagement. This engagement was expected to include this year: efforts to input into any national stakeholder consultation on the National Reform Programmes, Letters (for Troika countries), and National Social Reports; joint assessment of these instruments together in the May meeting; completion together with your network/organization of a questionnaire/scoreboard with proposals of country-specific Recommendation which will provide the basis of an EAPN report to be finalized before the June European Council (28-29 June); lobbying at national and EU level on the results.

**Aims and Objectives of Workshop session**

The main purpose of this workshop session is to:

* build capacity of members to assess their NRPs and NSR’s, through mutual exchange
* use the exchange on initial assessments to help you prepare responses to the questionnaire/scoreboard and some country-specific Recommendations
* develop together common Key Messages and present to decision-makers
* agree follow up lobbying actions at national and EU level

**Methodology**

As we only have one short day to do the assessment, it will be crucial that members **read** their National Social Reports, (NSR) and National Reform Programmes (NRP) (Letters for Troika countries) **BEFORE** the meeting**,** preferably discussing with other members of their network, so that they can contribute to the workshop discussion. There will not be time to read them during the session! The time in the workshop can then be used productively to exchange on your first impressions, learn from each other and to draw some common key messages together. We will give time so that some initial individual proposals on Country-Specific Recommendations can be made**.** You will then return home, hopefully motivated to discuss the follow up with your networks, fill in the questionnaire and carry out your own lobbying at national level.

**Preparation BEFORE the workshop session (EUISG 4-5 May)**

1. Read the questionnaire and scoreboard mechanisms document attached.
2. Read your National Reform Programme (NRP)/or letter and your National Social Report (NSR) and think about the questions planned for the workshop session (see p.4)
3. If possible, discuss the questionnaire and the draft answers with your network **before the meeting**. We know this may be difficult!

**Action DURING the meeting**

1. Come to the meeting with some initial responses and be ready to contribute to the discussion highlighting strengths and weaknesses of your countries National Reform Programmes (NRP) /Letters and National Social Report (NSR) with examples.
2. Participate actively in the debates and help propose some common Key Messages which will be presented to the Round Table with decision-makers.
3. Propose some initial individual Country-Specific Recommendations for your own country (maximum 3)

**Action AFTER the meeting**

1. Discuss the draft responses to the questionnaire and the draft Recommendations, as well as the outcomes of the meeting, with your networks/organisations
2. EAPN secretariat will prepare a summary document of the messages from the meeting and the Recommendations you have made. This will be sent to you asking for your amendments/confirmation on the 7th May, asking you to confirm for **Friday the 11th**.
3. You will have two weeks to fill in the questionnaire and send to the Secretariat by **Friday the 19th May**
4. At national level, you should try to send a copy of the short report or similar to your government representatives, and letter highlighting your main concerns and your 3 Recommendations.
5. Support any other lobbying actions agreed in the meeting.

**The Workshop Programme (4th May)**

We are aware that we have very little time, but hope to use it productively – we hope you will come with a lot of energy and interest to learn from each other and to take common action!.

**Process**

After an **initial introductory session in plenary**, you will work for most of the day in **3 small groups**, (the same group) following the same schedule of discussion points. Each group should choose a **facilitator** and a **rapporteur, and decide how it will work**. The **secretariat** member present will take more detailed notes for the minutes and follow up. At the end of each thematic block agree key messages. Then in the conclusions session (2.15-2.45) agree 3 overall **Key Messages concerning your assessments of the NRPs and National Social Reports**; each member should also write on a card **3 country-specific Recommendations for their own country** to display in the plenary.

**Discussion points**

1. **Participation of stakeholders in the NRP/NSR (9.15 to 10.00)**

* **How much** **participation of stakeholders** **was there** in the (NRP)/Letter and in the (NSR)? Which type of stakeholders were involved? (Social partners, Regional/local authorities, NGO?) Was it accurately reflected in the NRP/NSR?
* **How far were you/EAPN involved**? **How meaningful** **was the participation**? (ie did you get invited to meetings/to provide input to a draft/ was the input taken on board? Any plans for further dialogue?)
* **What could have improved things**?
* **Agree Key Messages**

1. **National Social Report (10-11.00)**

* **How far does the NSR reflect the reality of poverty and the challenges posed by the crisis?**
* **Do the policies proposed effectively combat poverty/social exclusion for all groups and limit the impact of the crisis on poverty? (**for example reduce austerity measures and propose an integrated strategy to ensure access to rights, resources and services to all (Common Objectives of the Social OMC 2008/updated?)
* **What’s missing? What would you propose?**
* **Agree Key Messages**

**COFFEE**

**National Reform Programmes**

1. **Macro/economic/ Poverty and Exclusion policies in the NRP (11.30 to 12.30)**

* **Do the macro-economic policies highlighted contribute to reducing poverty? Do they reduce the social impact of the crisis? (**for example - do they restrict cuts to public expenditure, promote social investment, and increased revenue through progressive taxation/action against tax evasion etc)
* **Is there an improvement in the national targets on poverty? What’s the progress?**
* **Are the policies proposed under Guideline 10 likely to contribute to poverty reduction and reduce the social impact of the crisis? (ie** an integrated strategy to fight poverty, strengthening social protection and minimum income, access to quality services, integrated active inclusion?) **How far do they reflect the proposals** **in the National Social Report?**
* **Are the right priority groups targeted? Are the measures adequate? (**ie children, older people, youth, women, migrants, ethnic minorities, homeless..**)**
* **What’s missing – what would you propose? (Macro-economic and Poverty and Social Exclusion**
* **Agree Key Messages**

LUNCH

1. **Employment and Structural Funds (1.30 to 2.15)**

* **Do the Employment policies contribute to poverty reduction target, reducing unemployment and the social impact of the crisis –** ie preventing unemployment, investing in quality jobs, ensuring access through active inclusion approaches for all groups, support social economy, restrict punitive conditionality in activation measures etc)
* **How far are Structural Funds to be used to deliver on the poverty target?**
* **What’s missing and what would you propose?**
* **Agree Key Messages.**

1. **Small Group work Conclusions (2.15 to 2.45)**

* **Each member to write a max of 3 country-specific Recommendations** on the card (ie what concrete improvements would you ask your country to carry out urgently to reduce poverty**?)**
* **Agree 3 overall Key Messages** from the group to present to the plenary
* **If time – what actions could we take at national and EU level?**

1. **Plenary (2.45 – 3.30)**

* **Feedback from Rapporteurs of 3 groups – 3 overall Key Messages**
* **Presentation of 3 Recommendations (on wall)**
* **Discussion**
* **Lobbying follow up at EU and national level**

**COFFEE**

**4-5.00 Round Table Debate with decision-makers (Commission, EP and SPC)**

* Presentation of EAPN Key messages
* Response from decision-makers
* Discussion