

**Report of IFSW European Representatives**

**October 2022 – May 2023**

**The Agency / Network:**

EAPN is the largest network of anti-poverty organizations in Europe, representing anti-poverty NGOs and grass roots groups as well as European organizations, working with and for people with direct experience of poverty. At present, EAPN is a network of 32 national networks and 13 European Organizations. It aims to combat poverty and social exclusion by keeping poverty high on the agenda of the EU and ensure cooperation at EU level. EAPN has consultative status with the Council of Europe and is a founding member of the Social Platform.

For more info:

<https://www.eapn.eu/who-we-are/what-is-eapn/>

[**https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/EAPN-Poverty-Explainer-Web-1-4331.pdf**](https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/EAPN-Poverty-Explainer-Web-1-4331.pdf) **9\*-**

<https://www.eapn.eu/news-and-publications/publications/eapn-position-papers-and-reports/>

**Representative for IFSW Europe to EAPN**:

Representative Birthe Povlsen

 Support team :John Brennan

**ACHIEVEMENTS FOR IFSW EUROPE**

For IFSW – Europe and for social workers, it is very important to keeping the focus on fighting poverty as an essential part of working as a socialworker

“Poverty and social exclusion lead to insufficient access to most essential services, including housing and healthcare. However, poverty and social exclusion are the product of structural inequalities linked to our social and economic structure, in a context of increasing liberalisation and austerity within the EU, particularly before the COVID-19 pandemic. In fact, the way resources are distributed and social stigma linked to poverty and claiming benefits, increase socio-economic disparities in a structural way, which perpetuate the intergenerational transmission of poverty and social exclusion. Therefore, public authorities have an obligation to ensure adequate coverage and accessibility of essential services and to invest in quality services for all. The COVID-19 pandemic and the related macroeconomic context showed that equal access to essential services is of pivotal importance for protecting the poor, marginalised and vulnerable groups, even in the absence of return on investment in the short-term.”

As organization and as socialworker we must continued with working for better living conditions for all people and a way to do this is to be part of EAPN.

“EAPN has advocated for decades for the right to adequate minimum income across Europe, including coordinating the EMIN network campaign with its members and other stakeholders at the national and EU levels. Minimum Income Schemes (MIS) are an essential, integral part of universal social protection schemes and a comprehensive, rights-based,person-centred active inclusion approach that ensures adequate income”

<https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/eapn-EAPN-Report-2022_Equal-access-to-affordable-quality-essential-services-5639.pdf>

 <https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/eapn-EAPN-2022_Minimum-Income-Council-Recommendation-5646.pdf>

**ACTIVITIES / EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE**

 EAPN Launch of #PovertyWatch 2022 findings | In Unequal Times of Crises in the EU-parliament 13th of October

Meeting in Bruxelles between EAPN and European Organisation members of EAPN on 5th of December to share information of future plans and exchange on how to collaborate and strengthen each other´s objectives.

Online meeting in EU Inclusion Strategies Group ( EUISG) on the first of February to prepare the policy conference and the People Summit in Porto Portugal.

Policy conference and People Summit in Porto on the 16th and 17th og March (which I had to cancelled my participation because of severe illness.)

**CHALLENGES**

EAPN, like all EU-funded organizations, has a problem with fewer funds from the EU.

There is a recurring discussion of the participation of organizations in EAPN's work compared to the national neworks. Eg. the poverty watch report is formulated to answer questions nationally rather than thematically, so it is important to find a balance here when we at IFSW create our

There is a great desire and need for a support teamquestionnaire and report.

**PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE**(activities, events ...)

For the next year:

Still participating in EUISG meetings. Here, work further with the recommendations from the commission to implement minimum income schemes in all EU countries and in other European countries.

Prepare a new poverty watch report possibly with a focus on migrants, who are the group that has it the hardest in all countries.

Participate in the annual assembly and consider running for the Executive Committee.