



**“very
informative,
clear, and well
explained”**

**Participant at an
EAPN Ireland
workshop on the
Lisbon Treaty**

Annual Report 2008



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Foreword

Patrick Nulty, Chairperson

Ireland is going through a period of transformational change. A sudden and deep recession, a crisis-ridden financial system and sky-rocketing unemployment have shaken the nation's confidence, and shattered long-held certainties at the core of our economic and social models. The social inclusion and inequality infrastructure build up over many years has been undermined, and developments in 2008 compounded the view that participation has been eroded with the advocacy functions of anti-poverty, social inclusion and equality organisations being weakened. In a mature democracy – one that values pluralism, diversity and governance, everyone has the right to participate in generating the solutions to the challenges of poverty and social exclusion. It is essential that people experiencing poverty and social exclusion and their organisations play a central role in policy making at all stages and levels.

During 2008 the debate on Ireland's role in Europe, and the ever darkening economic picture, demonstrated more clearly than ever the need for collective civil society responses. EAPN Ireland has a key role to play in securing the place of Irish civil society organisations in the debate on Europe, and in generating a vision for Europe which will make a concrete contribution to ending poverty and social exclusion in Ireland.

EAPN Ireland's strategy is to work directly with people who experience poverty and the groups that work with them at a local level in order to facilitate direct participation in national and European policy structures. EAPN Ireland adopts a facilitative training approach, and actively encourages direct involvement and ongoing engagement both within EAPN Ireland and broader processes.

2008 was a busy one for EAPN Ireland. Members participated actively in over 20 meetings organised by the Network at local, regional and national levels, received 19 bi-weekly editions of the *Flash* e-newsletter, as well as three policy briefings, and one edition of the EAPN Ireland Review. EAPN Ireland members participated in 23 meetings of the European Network. On the basis of all of this engagement the Board and staff of EAPN Ireland sought to directly influence the outcomes of Irish and European policy making structures, including the emerging European energy poverty framework, the European Commission's analysis of Ireland National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2008-2010 and Ireland's National Reform Programme, as well as the debate on Ireland's future in Europe, by engaging with policy structures, presenting written submissions, and meeting with Ministers Mary Hanafin and John Curran.

This work would not have been possible without the energy and commitment of EAPN Ireland's members, board and staff and for this we are extremely grateful. My fellow board members, and in particular Kay Lynch who was EAPN Ireland Chair gave generously of their time and expertise, and without the commitment of individuals like Kay, EAPN Ireland would not be the strong network it is today. In particular I would like to acknowledge the role that Kay has played as coordinator of the Irish delegation to the annual European Meeting of People who Experience Poverty, a role which she will continue to bring her insight and empathy to in 2009. EAPN Ireland is grateful for the continuing support of the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, without this core grant none of these activities would be possible. In 2009 a key element of EAPN Ireland's funding strategy will be the recently secured grant from the European Commission.

As we look to the preparation of 2010 European Year against Poverty and Social Exclusion, the role of EAPN Ireland is more vital than ever, ensuring the voice of people who experience poverty and their organisations is heard as Ireland and Europe look to find their way out the of current economic crisis, and realise a fairer and more just society.

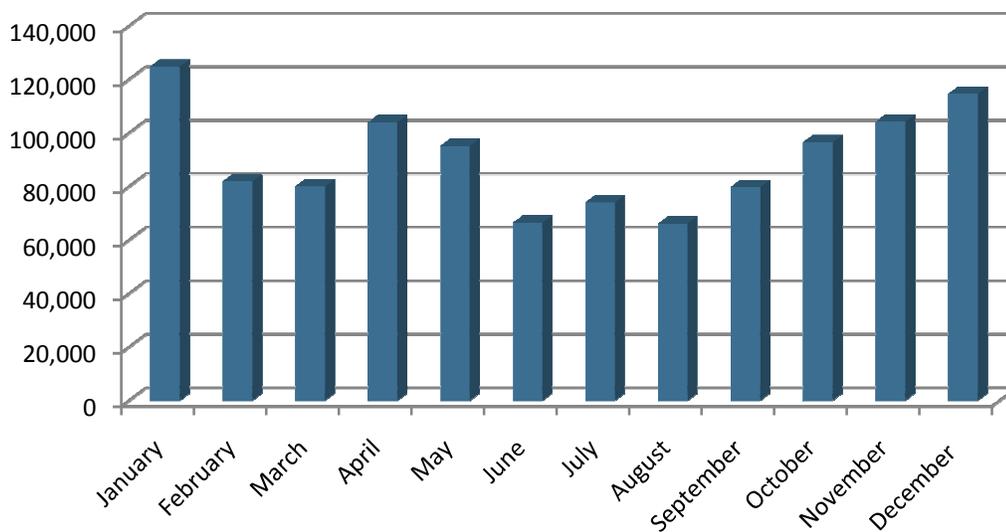
1. Empower anti-poverty groups to understand and engage with the EU Social Agenda

A key objective of EAPN Ireland is to empower people who experience poverty and their organisations to understand and influence EU and Irish Policy. EAPN Ireland seeks to ensure that those who promote the fight against poverty and social exclusion are empowered to participate and utilise European policy developments in their work, and to fully exploit the opportunities which European initiatives present. EAPN Ireland strives to provide quality information and analysis through information tools, publications and training initiatives.

Website

The EAPN Ireland [website](#) is a key resource for organisations, individuals and institutional stakeholders who wish to learn more about the European Union and its policy processes. It acts as a hub for up to date information and analysis on social policy developments in Ireland and in the European Union. In 2008 the website recorded over 1,000,000 hits, up from 670,000 in 2007 and 350,000 in 2006. The website is used widely by the Community and Voluntary sector as well as academic institutions, governments, and the European Institutions.

Figure 1: EAPN Ireland website hits January – December 2008



Email newsletter

In 2008 19 editions of our bi-weekly newsletter, **Flash**, were circulated to members and those broadly interested in the fight against poverty and social exclusion. The European Flash is produced by EAPN in Brussels, in Ireland the network formats the Flash and adds Ireland specific angles and content. The Flash is used by a variety of stakeholders to disseminate information in Ireland, we regularly receive requests to include information. The Flash is widely identified as a key output of the Network, and EAPN Ireland regularly receives feedback from members and broader stakeholders as to its usefulness.



EAPN Ireland DVD, A Journey for Change

Briefings

EAPN Ireland provides members with detailed **briefings** on European developments of relevance to their work. The objective of these briefings is to highlight important initiatives and to provide analysis of EU developments, as well as practice in other EU Members States. Briefings seek to respond specifically to the interests and concerns of EAPN Ireland members. During 2008 EAPN Ireland produced briefings on the social aspects of the Lisbon Treaty, National Action Plans for Social Inclusion, and a guide to the Dáil for community groups. In addition work began on the preparation of briefings on the EU institutions, structural funds and energy poverty.

Publications

During 2008 EAPN supplemented its general information and awareness work with 7 publications, looking at issues such as the Lisbon Treaty, Human Rights, advocacy tolls, a DVD, and a Shadow report on social inclusion in Ireland. Publications of the network including:

- Human Rights Handbook
- Review: Lisbon Treaty
- Lisbon Treaty Project Report
- Guide to the 30th Dáil for Anti-Poverty Groups
- A Journey for Change DVD
- Shadow Report on Ireland's National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2008-2010
- Report on 2010 Year Roundtable

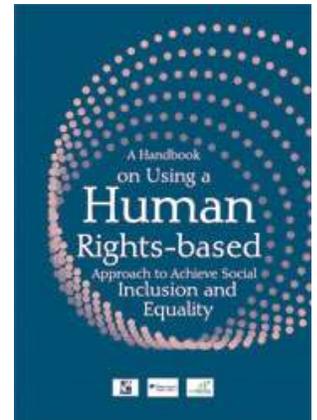


Figure 1: Human Rights Handbook

2. Put poverty at the top of the EU and Irish agenda

Supporting people who experience poverty and their organisations to engage with the Irish and European anti-poverty and social inclusion agenda has been a key focus of EAPN Ireland's work. EAPN Ireland has sought to support anti-poverty groups, as well as those who experience poverty to affect policy and practice and to make a real difference in the lives of those who experience poverty in Ireland.

During the reporting period priorities included the Lisbon Treaty, active inclusion, employment, National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2008-2010, the Annual Social Inclusion Forum, 2010 European Year against Poverty and Social Exclusion and human rights based training.

National agenda setting

During the period EAPN Ireland organised five national **events**. In May 2008 EAPN Ireland organised a national roundtable on the Lisbon Treaty which was attended by 50 individuals from a wide variety of sectors including the community and voluntary sector, civil servants, political parties and academics. The roundtable was addressed by Fintan Farrell, Director EAPN (Europe); Mary Lou McDonald, MEP, Proinsias de Rossa, MEP, and was chaired by Patrick Burke, Director of the Simon Communities of Ireland. Feedback from participants indicated that they found the roundtable an extremely informative debate and they welcomed the specific focus on the social aspects of the Treaty.

On 8 October EAPN Ireland organised a roundtable on the 2010 European Year against Poverty and Social Exclusion. The aim of the roundtable was to begin to create greater awareness and initiate discussion on the 2010 year in Ireland and to get input from anti-poverty groups to inform both EAPN Ireland's submission on the Government's programme for the year and their own activities for 2010.

In preparation for the 5th Annual Social Inclusion Forum (SIF) EAPN Ireland organised an advance meeting with 20 people who have experienced poverty in order to facilitate their engagement during the SIF. The groups represented a broad range of areas and met in Dublin the day before the Forum. During the Social Inclusion Forum on 26th November 2008 each of the 20 delegates participated actively during the discussion highlighting the issues of concern to them.

On Tuesday 25th November EAPN Ireland launched its DVD of the Irish delegation to the 7th European People Experiencing Poverty meeting in the Oak Room of the Mansion House by Lord Mayor Councillor Evelyn Byrne, with a comment from MEP Mary Lou McDonald. Michael Mackey, one of the delegates represented the group at the launch, and Sammy Brill sent a message which was read out at the launch. The launch which was attended by 60 participants, and feedback from those who attended, and in particular the delegates to the 7th PEP meeting, was extremely positive.



Lord Mayor Councillor Evelyn Byrne speaking at the launch of the EAPN Ireland DVD, 25 November 2008

On 8 and 9 December EAPN Ireland, in collaboration with Amnesty International organised a two day training session on 'Human Rights and Income'. The objectives of the training included:

- Exploring the history & content, types, and characteristics of human rights
- Developing an understanding of the right to adequate standard of living
- Acquiring an understanding of the HRBA framework
- Considering different ways in which they have incorporated HRBA

- Practically applying HRBA to participants scenarios and considered the implications
- Exploring strategies of applying HRBA through campaigning and advocacy.

The training was supported by Amnesty International and the Combat Poverty Agency, and 14 EAPN Ireland members from across Ireland participated.

Regional and local engagement

A key strategy in generating engagement with European social inclusion policy is to reach out to a wide variety of stakeholders on a regional basis. EAPN Ireland builds its analysis by engaging with people who experience poverty and members at local and regional level, EAPN Ireland emphasises participative methodology and strives to ensure effective participation and ongoing engagement with national and European policy dimensions. During 2008 EAPN Ireland strategy of engagement at local and regional level focused on two key priorities: (1) Social Aspects of the Lisbon Treaty and (2) NAP Inclusion 2008-2010.

Social aspects of the Lisbon Treaty

During the reporting period, with the support of the Communicating Europe Initiative EAPN Ireland organised four regional seminars on the social aspects of the Lisbon Treaty, a national roundtable on 13 May (discussed below), and one local meeting with members of the Donegal Travellers Project. EAPN Ireland was also asked to provide a briefing session on the Treaty to staff members of the Combat Poverty Agency which took place on the 14 May. EAPN Ireland received numerous requests to provide additional sessions, including an approach by the European Parliament Office in Dublin, however due to limited human and financial resources we were unable to facilitate these requests.

Table 1: EAPN meetings on the social aspects of the Lisbon Treaty

Date	Location	Partner Organisation
24 April	Tallaght	Tallaght Centre for the Unemployed
29 April	Sligo	Sligo Northside Partnership
1 May	Tipperary Town	Knockanrawley Family Resource Centre
13 May	Dublin	National Roundtable
14 May	Dublin	Combat Poverty Agency
20 May	Longford	Longford Community Resources
22 May	Letterkenny	Donegal Travellers Project

NAP Inclusion 2008-2010

During the second half of 2008 EAPN Ireland organised four regional roundtables on the NAP Inclusion 2008-2010, in advance of the Annual Social Inclusion Forum. The four regional meetings, mainly targeted at people from community organisations working with people experiencing poverty and social exclusion, were attended by over 100 people.

EAPN Ireland also organised seven local focus groups with people experiencing poverty on different themes involving almost 50 people.

To support this work EAPN Ireland developed a briefing document on the European and Irish social inclusion framework, and provided all participants with information and training on existing structures and priorities. Participants were asked to reflect on key thematic issues, as well as the overall implementation process. Facilitated discussion was captured during each session, and those discussions form the basis of the EAPN Ireland Shadow Report.

Table 2: Summary of EAPN Ireland NAPS focus groups and regional roundtables

Focus groups with people experiencing poverty			
Theme	Location	Date	Partner
Health	Athlone	29.09.2008	Combat Poverty Agency – Building Health Communities Programme
Older people	Dublin	06.10.2008	Older Women’s Network
People with disabilities	Dundalk	07.10.2008	People With Disabilities in Ireland
Housing and homelessness	Letterkenny	09.10.2008	Simon North West
Migrants	Galway	20.10.2008	Galway Migrant Service
Early Childhood Education & Care	Ennis	28.10.2008	Clare Women’s Network
Employment	Dublin	10.11.2008	North Centre City Community Action Project (NCCCAP)
Regional workshops			
20.10.2008	21.10.2008	22.10.2008	23.10.2008
Galway	Wexford	Cork	Dublin

Submissions and advocacy

EAPN Ireland’s policy analysis and submissions are informed directly by engagement with its members, and through the organisation of local, regional and national meetings.

Social Inclusion

Supporting anti-poverty groups in engaging with the National Action Plan on Social Inclusion has been the core of the work of EAPN in Ireland and across the EU for some years. Following engagement in the development of the 2006 to 2008 plan EAPN Ireland contacted the Office for Social Inclusion in relation to the development of the EU plan for 2008-2010. EAPN Ireland was disappointed to learn that there would be no consultation in the development of the next plan, and the EAPN Ireland Annual General Meeting passed a motion asking the government to reconsider this decision in the context of the EC guidelines, past practice, and good practice amongst EU Member States, EAPN Ireland wrote to the Minister for Social and Family Affairs seeking a meeting to discuss the development of the plan and the development of actions in relation to 2010 the European Year against Poverty and Social Exclusion.

During the second half of 2008 EAPN Ireland produced a *Shadow Report on Ireland’s NAP Inclusion 2008-2010*. This shadow report was developed on the basis of extensive consultation with people who experience poverty and the groups that work with them, over a six week period from late September to early November 2008, following the publication of the Irish Government’s National Strategic Report on Social Inclusion and Social Protection in late September 2008. In supplementing this analysis EAPN Ireland also worked with leading organisations in the areas of social inclusion and poverty, organising one meeting of those national organisations intending to form their own specific analysis of the NAP Inclusion, and seeking feedback from them on the development of EAPN Ireland’s overall report. EAPN Ireland received written comments from Age Action Ireland, the Children’s Rights Alliance, Focus Ireland, and the Migrant Rights Centre Ireland. The report, which was supported by the Combat Poverty Agency, is available in hard copy from EAPN Ireland and is on the EAPN Ireland website.

In May EAPN Ireland wrote to Irish MEPs in relation to the new EU Social Agenda 2011-2015, to ensure that the EU will adopt in the coming months a social agenda capable of delivering social progress and of

counteracting the negative perception of the role of the EU in relation to the protection of the European Social Model/s.

On 20 October and EAPN Ireland delegation met with Minister for Social and Family affairs, Mary Hanafin, TD. The delegation raised three key issues with the Minister: (1) recent changes to the equality and social inclusion infrastructure, including the decision to merge CPA with the Office for Social Inclusion, (2) Ireland's engagement with the Social Open Method of Coordination, and (3) the 2010 European Year against Poverty and Social Exclusion. The Minister welcomed the work of EAPN Ireland and expressed her support for our work, and the importance of the direct participation of people who experience poverty in national European policy processes.

EAPN Ireland contributed to the implementation of the EAPN (Europe) campaign on minimum income. The campaign defines minimum income as a non contributory income guarantee that enables people who cannot fend for themselves, to receive a minimum amount of monetary income. The Campaign seeks to raise awareness of the need for minimum income in the three EU member states which currently do not have such protections, and to enhance minimum income schemes in the other 24 member states, and called on the Irish government to positively respond to the European Commission consultation on active inclusion. As part of the campaign EAPN Ireland wrote to key political leaders and disseminated campaign information widely.

In the run up to the adoption of a European Energy Package on the regulation of the electricity market EAPN Ireland wrote to Irish MEPs drawing attention to the key concerns of the Network relating to energy poverty and the impact of rising fuel prices on people experiencing poverty. High prices, inadequate incomes and inefficient housing and appliances have all been identified as contributing factors to the increasing numbers of people living in poverty relating to fuel costs for home heating. EAPN's amendments were taken on board by the European Parliament.

EAPN advocated strongly for a reversal of the decision to amalgamate the Combat Poverty Agency with the Office for Social Inclusion, and following the decision coordinated a joint response of 9 of the networks formerly funded under the national network funding programme calling for a civil society consultation on the future of the new division within the Department of Social and Family Affairs.

During the reporting period EAPN Ireland contributed submissions to two key European Commission consultations, one on the social reality stocktaking and a second on active inclusion.

Employment

The EAPN Employment Working Group (see below) was invited to present its analysis of the Irish National Reform Programme to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Enterprise, Trade and Employment on 9 April 2008. Drawing on analysis from the European Commission the delegation highlighted EAPN Ireland's concerns in relation to the implementation of the National Reform Programme. Some of the issues raised and discussed with the Committee related to the importance of a positive and supportive approach to activation policy, affordable childcare, the National Skill Strategy and life-long learning, active labour market programmes including the Jobs Initiative and the Community Employment Scheme and issues related to migrants. The need for a joined up approach both at national and local level was also highlighted.

In the second half of 2008 the Employment Working Group submitted a paper to the European Commission on Ireland's National Reform Programme.

Future of Europe

As detailed above EAPN Ireland undertook a range of activities in the run up to the Lisbon Treaty Referendum. In the aftermath of the Referendum EAPN Ireland highlighted the significance of the social aspects of the treaty, and raise awareness of the need to engage people who experience poverty and their organisation in the debate. Throughout 2008 EAPN Ireland engaged actively with the National Forum on Europe, and made a presentation to the Forum.

EAPN Ireland was invited to make a presentation to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Ireland's Future in Europe, and raised awareness of the outcomes of EAPN Ireland work on the Lisbon Treaty, and concerns of EAPN Ireland members.

Anti-discrimination

In a joint initiative with the European Network against Racism (ENAR) in Ireland EAPN Ireland wrote to MEPs asking them to support the proposal for new comprehensive European anti-discrimination legislation, the European Commission has since announced its intention to introduce a comprehensive new proposal.

EAPN Ireland joined the Equality and Rights Alliance, and strove to reverse the damaging cuts to the budgets of the Irish Human Rights Commission and the Equality Authority. EAPN Ireland engaged with Proinsias de Rossa in raising awareness of the European Commission of development in Ireland and participated in a presentation of the Equality and Rights Alliance to the Joint Oireachtas Commission on Justice, Equality, Defence and Women's Rights.

Press and media engagement

EAPN Ireland adopted a strategic use of the media in relation to raising awareness of issues poverty and the European social agenda in Ireland. In 2008 EAPN Ireland issues 12 press releases. During 2008 EAPN Ireland was successful in generating media attention for its work in a number of key areas:

1. EAPN Ireland analysis of the results of the Lisbon treaty Referendum was picked up by a number of news outlets including www.breakingnews.ie (21 July). EAPN Ireland conducted two radio interviews on the social aspects of the Lisbon Treaty.
2. EAPN Ireland's analysis on the merger of the Combat Poverty Agency and the Office for Social Inclusion was picked up on a number of occasion, including twice in the Irish times (21 August, September 16), the Independent (October 6) and on www.breakingnews.ie (6 October)
3. EAPN Ireland's Shadow Report was covered in a number of leading news outlets, 6 radio interviews were conducted on the report including an interview with Paul Ginnell, on RTE Radio 1 Drive Time Programme.
4. EAPN Ireland's DVD of the 7th European People Experiencing Poverty Meeting was profiled with an interview with the delegation on the Pat Kenny Show on Radio 1.

3. Strengthen the network and build alliances

As a network with a wide variety of members, a key priority for EAPN Ireland is to maximize the potential of the Network through its members, and to develop strategic alliances with partner organisations. EAPN Ireland is governed by an Annual General Meeting which elects the Board. The board in turns elects officers who oversee the day to day management of the organisation. In addition EAPN Ireland has three sub-groups, concerned with: administration and personnel, employment policy and the 2010 year. EAPN Ireland strives to implement best practice in all aspects of governance and membership development.

Membership structures

EAPN Ireland has a wide ranging membership with includes local, regional and national organisations concerned with the fight against poverty and social exclusion. Other stakeholders, including individuals, academics, political actors and state actors, have joined the network as associate members, without voting rights.

During 2008 a membership review was undertaken and a full audit of EAPN Ireland membership systems and database. The systems have been updated and new mechanisms put in place to ensure up to date and accurate records of all membership data.

During the reporting period EAPN Ireland completed four hard copy mailing to members including four leaflets on poverty in Ireland, four editions of the EAPN (Europe) Network news, one edition of the EAPN Ireland Review, as well as a hard copy of the Human Rights Handbook.

Table 3: EAPN Ireland board members and officers elected in May 2008

Name	Organisation
Candy Murphy (Social Inclusion representative)	One Family
Damien Peelo (Treasurer)	Irish Traveller Movement
Donal Toolan	
Declan Jones	Ashlinn Centre
Evelyn Lucas	People's College
Kay Lynch (Chairperson)	Northside Community Law Centre
Louise Richardson	Older Women's Network
Margaret Deaton	
Patrick Burke (ExCo representative)	Simon Communities of Ireland
Patrick Nulty (Vice Chair)	Focus Ireland
Peter Herrmann (Vice Treasurer)	ESOSC
Philip O'Connor (Employment representative)	Dublin Employment Pact
Robert Carey	North Kerry Together Ltd
Salome Mbugua Henry (Gender)	Akidwa
Siobhan Madden	Longford Women's Link

EAPN Ireland strives to implement best practice in relation to the governance of the organisation. During the reporting period the EAPN Ireland board met eight times, while the administration and finance sub-group met three times. The Annual General Meeting was held on 13 May 2008, and included a thematic debate with Mary Murphy, National University of Ireland, Maynooth, and Fintan Farrell, Director, EAPN (Europe), on the changing economic context and its implications for the Community and Voluntary sector. During the AGM three new members joined the EAPN Ireland Board: Siobhan Madden (Longford Women's Link); Robert Carey

(North Kerry together Ltd); and Declan Jones (Ashlinn Centre Kilkenny). The AGM adopted a multiannual report for 2005-2007, as well as the accounts and activity report for 2007. At the subsequent board meeting on 28 May the Board elected its officers. The Board met eight times in 2008, with three meetings of the Administration and Personnel sub-group.

The AGM 2008 mandated the administration and personnel sub-group to undertake a governance review and report to it in 2009 with recommendations. In July the board participated in and externally facilitated governance review session, the outcomes of this meeting were considered at subsequent board meetings, and the decision was taken to apply for a grant under the Scheme of Training and Support Grants for Community and Voluntary Organisations to continue this process in 2009.

EAPN Ireland members participate directly in the work of the network through two thematic sub groups: the employment working group and the 2010 working group. The EAPN Ireland employment working group met seven times focusing on the National Reform Programme including a submission on the new programme period 2008-2010 and a presentation to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Enterprise, Trade and Employment and developing a submission on outcomes for the Government’s Activation policy. During 2008 EAPN Ireland formed a working group on 2010 the European Year against Poverty and Social Exclusion. The group planned the roundtable in October 2008, and its membership has been extended to include a broader range of community and voluntary sector interests.

European networking

As the Irish link to the European Anti Poverty Network in Brussels, EAPN Ireland links to the European Network through its Executive Committee, Working Groups, General Assembly and seminars. During the 2008 EAPN Ireland representatives participated in 23 European meetings, including a four person delegation to the EAPN General Assembly in September 2008. The delegation participated actively in the General Assembly, and their two resolutions were adopted by the Assembly. This activity during the reporting period is summarized in Table 3.

On 13 June EAPN Ireland actively participated in a seminar on **active inclusion** organised by EAPN (Europe) in Paris. The Irish delegation was comprised of Camille Loftus (OPEN); Philip O’Connor (Dublin Employment Pact); and Paul Ginnell (EAPN Ireland). During the seminar the activities of the EAPN Ireland working group on activation were presented as a model of good practice.

Table 4: EAPN Ireland participation in EAPN (Europe) structures

Structure	Date	Representative
Executive Committee	25-26 January	Patrick Burke
	30-31 May	Patrick Burke
	25 October	Patrick Burke
	14-15 November	Patrick Burke
Discrimination	25 January	Patrick Burke
	30 May	Patrick Burke
	14 November	Patrick Burke
Social Inclusion	29 Feb – 1 March	Candy Murphy
	14 June	Camille Loftus
	7-8 November	Candy Murphy
Employment	23 February	Philip O’Connor
	14 June	Philip O’Connor

	21-22 November	Philip O'Connor and Kathleen McCann
Structural Funds	14 June	Paul Ginnell
	30-31 October	Paul Ginnell
Sustainable Finance	4 April	Anna Visser
	24 October	Anna Visser
Minimum Income	12 March	Anna Visser
Network development	18-19 April	Anna Visser
General Assembly	25-27 October	Anna Visser, Patrick Burke, Philip O'Connor, Siobhan Madden

7th Meeting of People who Experience Poverty

During the reporting period EAPN Ireland was involved in the preparation and participation for the People Experiencing Poverty meeting in Brussels on 16-17 May. The Irish delegation was headed by EAPN Ireland chair, Kay Lynch. The delegation, which focused on the issue of housing and homelessness was comprise of: Michael Mackie and Billy Shine (Simon Communities of Ireland), Sammy Brill (Disability Federation of Ireland) and Salome Mbugua (AkiDWA, the African Women's Network). EAPN Ireland supported the delegation to prepare a presentation which the delegates jointly delivered during the conference. In addition EAPN Ireland, with the support of the Combat Poverty Agency is developed a short DVD of the process of preparing and participating in the meeting.

Human resources

2008 saw the consolidation of the significant human resource changes which had taken place in the first half of the year. EAPN Ireland currently had two core staff the Director, Anna Visser (three days) and the Policy and Support Workers, Paul Ginnell (four days). Project activities associated with the preparation of the Social Inclusion Forum were support on a short term contractual basis by Elaine King (18 days). During 2008 EAPN Ireland benefitted from the commitment and energy of four interns: Caroline Enwright, Elaine King, Hannah Creedon and Nohemi Mata Fernandez. As well as the contribution of volunteers such as Conor McBride and his colleagues who produced the DVD, and Charles Gillanders who offered ongoing technical support in the development of EAPN Ireland Information Technology Systems.

During 2008 EAPN Ireland succeeded in attracting an additional €24,500 in grant funding, without this additional funding it would not be possible for EAPN Ireland to undertake the broad range of activities outlined in this report, as the core grant from the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht affairs is insufficient to meet the full running costs of the organisation. Additional funders included the Combat Poverty Agency, the Department of Foreign Affairs, and the St Stephen's Green Trust. In addition the Office for Social Inclusion met the costs of the preparatory meeting for the Annual Social Inclusion Forum.

Alliances and partnerships

During the reporting period EAPN Ireland continued to develop strong alliances and partnerships with leading organisations in Ireland. EAPN Ireland is a member of the steering committee of the Community Platform and engages actively in all its activities, highlights during the reporting period included the development of the publication 'A Better Ireland is Possible', and the development of the Platform's Strategic Plan. EAPN Ireland joined the Steering Committee of the Equality and Rights Alliance (ERA). ERA is a newly-formed coalition of over 70 civil society groups seeking to ensure the promotion and enhancement of human rights, equality and social justice in Ireland. EAPN Ireland continued to actively participate as a member of the Observer Pillar of the National Forum on Europe, participating in meetings, and contributing to the development of the work plan of the Forum. During the reporting period EAPN Ireland joined the NESF, OSI, and CPA as a member of the preparatory group of the Annual Social Inclusion Forum. EAPN Ireland is a member of the Staffing Sub-

Group of the Irish Traveller Movement and has recently joined the Central Group of ITM. In addition EAPN Ireland continued to actively contribute to European Network Against Racism Ireland, 17 October Committee, the Social Policy Network and the Community Employer's Forum. In addition EAPN Ireland, staff volunteers and members have participation in over 70 national and local events in the 2008.

In 2008 EAPN Ireland developed an alliance with five partner organisation in making an application for a European Commission grant. The two year grant for awareness raising activities was awarded to EAPN Ireland, the Community Workers' Cooperative, the Northern Ireland Anti Poverty Network, Cork City Council, the Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed, the Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice, in December 2008. EAPN Ireland looks forward to working with these partners in the lead up to and during the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion.

Evaluation

EAPN Ireland is committed to reflecting on and improving its services to members on an ongoing basis. To this end the organisation monitors and evaluates the implementation of its work programme in order to enhance its effectiveness. During the reporting period EAPN Ireland circulated evaluation forms to event participants and conducted internal evaluations of organised meetings and events.

Financial Report 2008

INCOME

National Anti Poverty Networks Programme	133,000	
Project funding	27,358	
Membership	3,503	
Sundry	1,144	
Total income		165,005

EXPENDITURE

Overheads	161,301	
Information and training	3,380	
Policy	2,543	
Networking	19,872	
Total expenditure		187,096

Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net incoming resources	22,091	
Interest received	53	
Net movements in funds	22,038	
Total funds at beginning of year	23,288	
Total funds at end of year		1,250

