

Name of the EMIN Network Responding:

EAPN-Latvia

Name and email of the person who made the report:

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WP 2: National EMIN Network Development: Strengthening National EMIN Networks and increased stakeholder engagement.

Please describe the range of actors that are engaged to your National EMIN Network (NGOs, Civil Society Organisations, Foundations, Trade Unions, Academics, relevant individuals, faith groups, political groups, links to local, regional, National Authorities. And/or the efforts you have made to widen the scope of actors involved in your EMIN Network. Remember we claim that EMIN is wider network than EAPN, your answer to this question should show how this is the case or how you are working to make this the case:

- (1) Planning of engagement of stakeholders, like EU-level representatives, Free Trade Union Confederation of Latvia, other trade unions, national ministries and other governmental authorities, local and regional authorities, private enterprises, national umbrella NGOs, including ones representing people experiencing poverty

In January-February 2017, EAPN-Latvia created a database consisting of non-governmental organizations (300), trade unions (10), state institutions (8), local governments (119) and enterprises (10) that could potentially be interested in the project and could be involved in the EMIN network in Latvia.

On February 28, 2017 in Riga the Working group of EAPN-Latvia (national coordinator Laila Balga) introduced the Ministry of Welfare to the EMIN-2 project.

On March 9th 2017, the National Coordinator of EMIN-2 presented the member organizations of the Dialogue Platform for Immigrant Support with EMIN project objectives and activities.

On May 26th 2017 in Jurmala the EAPN-Latvia National Coordinator, two regional coordinators and one NGO expert had a discussion with the representatives of the Freedom and Solidarity Fund, Progressive Political Party and Jurmala City Council's Public Council on the possibilities for the implementation of EMIN-2 tasks in Latvia in 2017-2018.

On August 15th 2017 in Riga the National Coordinator of EMIN-2 and one regional coordinator had a meeting with the management of the Latvian Women's Non-Governmental Organizations' Collaboration Network with the purpose to introduce the EMIN project.

On May 18th 2018 at the ferry cruise Riga-Stockholm-Riga EAPN-Latvia organized the conference „Let's Talk to Europe”, during which the participants from the Ministry of Finance, Lielvarde county social service, the Latvian Lawyers' association and people who have experienced poverty from the associations „EAPN-Latvia”, „Integration for society” and „Wings for Wheels” were introduced to the tasks of the EMIN-2 project.

From June 7th to 9th 2018, the European Bus Tour took place in Latvia, during which the Member of the European Parliament from Latvia Andrejs Mamikins (political party

„Harmony”), the representatives of the political party „Progressive”, of Riga city municipality, as well as Bauska and Salacgriva county municipalities, the members of the European Latvian Association and other non-governmental organizations, as well as private entrepreneurs were introduced to the EMIN-2 project objectives in Riga, Bauska and Ainazi.

From July 26th to 28th and August 23th to 26th 2018 the summer workshops were held in Bernati, Nica county, during which the national coordinator Laila Balga presented the people who have experienced poverty - from the EAPN-Latvia member organizations, from Varaklani, Dobele, Zilupe, Jekabpils and Krustpils counties, as well as from Jekabpils city with the EMIN-2 project objectives and program.

From October 22nd to 25th 2018 in Riga took place an international conference „Strengthening non-governmental organizations for the effective protection of social rights” and experience exchange events, during which the EMIN-2 objectives were presented to the representatives of the University of Latvia, the National Library of Latvia, Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Welfare, the Central Finance and Contracting Agency, the Riga City Council Welfare Department and the political party „Progressive”, as well as the representatives of the non-governmental organizations EAPN-Latvia, the European Youth Network, the European Latvian Association, Latvian Lawyers' association, the Latvian Children's Forum, Latvian Christian Senior Citizens' Union, Latvian Blind Society, the association „Holy Family House”, Riga Active Senior Citizens' Alliance, several regional retired and disabled people's associations, women's associations and other NGO representatives, including a significant number of people who have experienced poverty.

(2) Motivation and capacity building of the relevant stakeholders to increase the value of their engagement

On February 2017 EAPN-Latvia delivered Latvian translation of EMIN-2 summary in Latvian and Russian.

On February 6, 2017, EAPN-Latvia submitted informative letters to the Latvian Alliance of Free Trade Unions, and 8 Ministries informing regarding objectives of EMIN-2 persons. Consequently, it took a month to create a list of contacts presented by Latvian Free Trade Union Confederation, the Ministry of Welfare, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Economics, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development and the Ministry of Agriculture.

On March 23rd 2017 in Riga at the EAPN-Latvia Annual review meeting, where 22 member organizations were represented, the National Coordinator presented the objectives and planned activities of the EMIN-2 for attracting cooperation partners in 2017.

On May 19, 2017 a meeting of representatives of the EAPN-Latvia Strategic Platform member organizations and the Board members was held in Riga where the national coordinator and the regional coordinators provided in-depth information on the establishment of the EMIN-2 network. The following Member organizations of the National Network were represented in the meeting, including organizations which stand for people experiencing poverty: Latvian Association of Large Families, Centre of Large Families „Ģimenes atbalsts”, Association for Social Support and Aid „Veiksme”, Women's Rights Institute, and Women's Association of Garkalne County „Mūsmājas”.

On June 6, 2017 in Riga the EMIN-2 Working Group approved a strategic plan for implementation of activities in Latvia for the period till December 2018.

On August 22, 2017 in Riga there was hold a NGO Capacity Strengthening Working Group meeting (managed by Laila Balga) on the engagement of Latvian NGOs in the EMIN-2 network represented by 11 member organizations: IWO-International Women's Organisation, Women's Rights Institute, Association for Social Support and Aid "Veiksme", Association "PINS", Centre for Tertiary Education Quality Evaluation, Latvian Red Cross, Latvian Association of Large Families, Association for Development of Latgale district in Riga, Association of Disabled persons in Dobele, Association of Disabled Persons in Sigulda City "Aicinājums Tev", and Latvian Union of Lawyers.

On March 28th 2018 the EMIN-2 work planning meeting was held in Riga; it was chaired by the national coordinator Laila Balga and attended by the regional coordinators Elina Alere-Fogele and Baiba Giptere, as well as by the members of the Latvian Lawyers' Association, the Latvian Large Families Association, the Future Institute of Latvia, the Jekabpils NGO Resource Center and the Garkalne women's association "Mūsmājas".

On May 9th 2018, the EMIN-2 European Bus Tour Planning Meeting was held in Riga, chaired by the national coordinator Laila Balga and attended by the regional coordinators Elina Alere-Fogele, Lelde Calite, Baiba Giptere and Janis Stjadja, as well as by the members of the Latvian Lawyers' Association, Sigulda association "Aicinājums Tev", Garkalne women's association "Mūsmājas" and the representative of the EAPN-Latvia center in Balvi.

On June 5th 2018 a meeting of the EMIN-2 working group took place in Riga with participation of Elina Pinto, the National Ambassador of the EMIN. Working group members Laila Balga (the national coordinator); Elina Alere-Fogele, Baiba Giptere and Janis Stjadja (the EAPN-Latvia Board members), as well as the representatives of the Latvian Children's Forum, Latvian Large Families Association, the Future Institute of Latvia and the Large Family Center "Ģimenes atbalsts" have accepted the position of the National Ambassador of the EMIN, as well as the publicity measures and voluntary obligations within the framework of the European Bus Program, which will take place in Latvia.

On July 13th 2018 a meeting of the EMIN-2 member organizations took place in Riga to start preparations for the closing conference of the project. This meeting was chaired by the national coordinator Laila Balga and attended by the regional coordinators Baiba Giptere, Marite Rozentale and Janis Stjadja, as well as the representatives of the Latvian Lawyers' Association, Latvian Children's Forum, Latvian Large Families Association, the Future Institute of Latvia, Riga Active Senior Citizens' Alliance and the Large Family Center "Ģimenes atbalsts".

On September 14th 2018 an NGO capacity building working group meeting was held in Riga, during which the program of the EMIN-2 international conference "Strengthening Non-Governmental Organizations for the effective protection of social rights" was approved. This meeting was attended by EMIN-2 coordinators Laila Balga, Elina Alere-Fogele, Baiba Giptere and the representatives of the Latvian Lawyers' Association, Latvian Children's Forum, Latvian Large Families Association, the Future Institute of Latvia and IWO-International Women's Organisation.

On October 24th – 26th 2018 in Riga the EMIN-2 project coordinators shared their experience regarding the implementation of this project with the EMIN-2 project coordinators from the Czech Republic during an international conference and three meetings.

(3) Awareness raising activities for general public regarding the EMIN Network

On February 16th 2017 in Dobele (Zemgale Region) the EMIN-2 National Coordinator and two experts had a discussion on EMIN policy with leaders of municipal institutions of Dobele