



REPORT

**on association's "EAPN-Latvia" contribution to protecting
the interests of people who experience poverty and
social exclusion in Latvia in 2017**

Riga, October 2017

EAPN-LATVIA PROPOSALS

➤ Proposals submitted to the Commission for Sustainable Development of the Saeima (Parliament) of the Republic of Latvia:

- to significantly increase the powers and the role of state institutions, which is related to ensuring the sustainable economic development, aimed at improving the standard of living for the poor and socially excluded groups of population
- to activate the cooperation between the state institutions and non-governmental organizations, whose objectives and activities include the comprehensive and high-quality educational and sustainable development programmes (incl. philosophy, art, humanities)
- to stimulate the fundraising projects for the non-governmental sector regarding the implementation of educational and sustainable development programmes

➤ Proposals submitted to the Commission for Social and Labour Affairs of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia:

- to activate the work of the Commission for Social and Labour Affairs of the *Saeima* of the Republic of Latvia to reduce income inequalities; to provide for every citizen a properly defined (adequate) and guaranteed European income which enables everyone to live in dignity; to set the level of a tax-free income at least at the level of a minimum wage
- to examine critically the existing legislation on benefits and pensions, which Latvian population is receiving nowadays; to come up with the new legislative initiatives to eliminate the conditions that lead people into poverty and social exclusion

- to activate the cooperation with non-governmental organizations whose activities include social protection programmes; to separate the production and services in social sectors from the public sector
- to promote the participation of professionals from non-governmental organizations in planning the use of public funds and in control over the use of these resources
- to stimulate the projects for attracting financial resources to the non-governmental sector in the field of social protection (also by promoting cooperation with sociology scholars and researchers)
- to support the inclusion of an association “EAPN-Latvia” - the Latvian branch of the European Anti-Poverty Network - as a social partner in the National Trilateral Cooperation Council

➤ **A proposal submitted to the European Affairs Committee of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia:**

- to discuss immediately about the contribution of the Ministry of Welfare and the Ministry of Education and Science to the enforcement of laws and other regulations of the European Union and Latvia; to discuss the preparation of reports to the relevant European institutions regarding the protection of children's rights in Latvia, involving in the discussion those non-governmental organizations whose activities are aimed at protecting children's rights and interests

➤ **Proposals submitted to the Commission for Human Rights and Public Affairs of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia:**

- to review and to improve the legislation on the recovery of alimony (child support payments), strengthening the support for families, especially for large families

- to promote the amendments to the legislation regarding the provision of living space (apartments) for young families
- to review and to improve the legislation on integration into society of people who have returned from the places of detention after serving a criminal sentence
- to activate the cooperation with non-governmental organizations whose activities include the legal protection of the poor and socially excluded people in the field of social and human rights

➤ **Proposals submitted to the Ministry of Welfare of the Republic of Latvia:**

- to activate the work of the Ministry of Welfare to reduce income inequalities; to provide for every citizen a properly defined (adequate) and guaranteed European income which enables everyone to live in dignity; to set the level of a tax-free income at least at the level of a minimum wage
- to examine critically the powers and the role of the officials from the Ministry of Welfare, the Ministry of Health, the State Employment Agency and other authorities responsible for the implementation of programmes aimed at: the employment of people who experience poverty and social exclusion, the support of unemployed young people, the protection of children's rights and interests, the social protection for large families and protecting the rights and interests of people with disabilities
- to eliminate the use of subjective factors in the activities of the responsible officials and to require their adherence to the strict standards and objective criteria
- to stimulate the development of adequate and useful programmes for the unemployed at the State Employment Agency by involving non-governmental organizations in the planning process of these programmes

- to agree (together with non-governmental organizations, employers' and workers' organizations) on an appropriate employment model that is compliant to Latvia's economic development
- to stimulate research in the regions of Latvia regarding the needs and interests of young people experiencing poverty by involving youth non-governmental organizations
- to promote the establishment of a network for the unemployed youth support programmes' coordinators
- to ensure the participation of professionals from non-governmental organizations in planning the use of public funds and in control over the use of these resources
- to promote opportunities for people who are experiencing poverty and social exclusion to start their own business (incl. the development of social enterprises)
- to activate the work of the Gender Equality Committee and to make more use of the powers conferred on the Committee with the aim of updating and strengthening the gender equality in the field of employment and income increase (equivalent incomes for men and women)
- to take measures to improve the supervision of compliance with laws and regulations in the field of the protection of children's rights
- to develop an inter-institutional cooperation model; to coordinate at the national level the methodological management of social workers for the protection of children's rights
- to take measures for the improvement and the upgrading of existing rehabilitation programmes, as well as to ensure the availability of rehabilitation in due time for people with disabilities
- to activate the cooperation with the non-governmental organizations whose activities include programmes for promoting the employment of people who experience poverty and social exclusion, social protection, youth education and employment, the protection of the rights and interests of people with

disabilities, the protection of children's rights and interests and gender equality

- to stimulate the fundraising projects for the non-governmental sector regarding the promotion of employment, gender equality, social protection, youth education and employment (especially for those for young people who experience poverty), also by promoting cooperation with sociology scholars and researchers; to separate the production and services in social sectors from the public sector
- to promote the inclusion of an association “EAPN-Latvia” - the Latvian branch of the European Anti-Poverty Network - as a social partner in the National Trilateral Cooperation Council

➤ **Proposals submitted to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia:**

- to significantly increase the powers and the role of responsible officials from the institutions of the Ministry of Education and Science regarding the provision of high quality education for the poor and socially excluded groups of population
- to examine critically the contribution of responsible institutions of the Ministry of Education and Science to the protection of children's rights and interests and to the introduction of programmes that promote gender equality in schools, and also their contribution to the state and local government institutions' work with the society, especially in the field of youth education policy
- to activate measures to ensure the accessibility and the quality of education for every child in Latvia; the general education programmes must be supplemented by subjects like socialization, health and ethics
- to activate the cooperation with the non-governmental organizations whose goals and activities include programmes for the promotion of: high-quality education, increasing the employees' opportunities for traineeships,

increasing the possibilities of using leisure time for the improvement of your education (lifelong learning), the protection of children's rights and interests, increasing the media literacy of the poor groups of population (especially young people), as well as gender equality

- to stimulate the fundraising projects for the non-governmental sector in the context of ensuring access to lifelong learning for those people who have experienced poverty and social exclusion and also in the context of protecting the children's rights and interests, as well as promoting the gender equality

➤ **Proposals submitted to the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Latvia:**

- to stimulate the development of programmes that support small enterprises, incl. cottage industry (handicraft) in all regions of Latvia by involving non-governmental organizations in the planning of these programmes
- to take measures to reduce the bureaucratic burden (to cut red tape) and to increase competitiveness, which includes the establishment of an adequate tax system for small enterprises

➤ **Proposals submitted to the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia:**

- to increase the municipal employees' knowledge of the role of non-governmental organizations in civil society
- to stimulate the regular and comprehensive cooperation between Latvian municipalities and Latvian non-governmental organizations by establishing the public councils or by appointing people who are responsible for working with NGOs in Latvian municipalities
- to stimulate Latvian municipalities to plan and to expand the scope of project competitions (that involve non-governmental organizations) for social

projects and for those projects that promote the integration of Latvian population

➤ **Proposals submitted to the Education, Culture and Sports Committee of the Riga City Council:**

- to promote the regular and comprehensive cooperation between Riga municipality and non-governmental organizations regarding the integration issues of the poor and socially excluded groups of Latvian population
- to stimulate the fundraising projects for Riga non-governmental organizations to integrate people who experience poverty and social exclusion

➤ **Proposals submitted to the Social Affairs Committee of the Riga City Council:**

- to examine critically the powers and the role of the officials from the responsible authorities of the Riga City Council related to the implementation of social protection programmes for large families
- to activate the cooperation with the non-governmental organizations whose activities include social protection programmes for large families
- to stimulate the fundraising projects for Riga non-governmental sector regarding the social protection of large families

For more information please visit:

http://www.eapn.lv/nvo_fonda_projekti/

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