



Questionnaire on EFSC Member Organisations involvement in the NAPs: Key results and lessons learned

Key results

The results of the questionnaires confirm the results of the consultation which led to the first assessment report on the 2008-2010 NAPs round. Those organizations which have been more directly involved with the NAPs report also a higher satisfaction about the contents of the NAPs themselves. There is a clear differentiation among those MOs who managed to get involved with the NAPs in terms of the funding which is made available to them: those who got involved have answered positively to the question whether the NAPs have influenced the funding of their organizations; those who didn't, have answered negatively. Similarly, those who got involved with the NAPs report that their activities have been influenced by the NAPs, while those who did not get involved report no influence of the NAPs on their activities. This demonstrates the appropriateness of investing time and resources in getting involved with the NAPs, provided that it turns out to be an effective investment.

These results do not only apply to those MOs who have been directly involved, but also to those who have been indirectly consulted as part of bigger networks they are member of at national level.

I. EFSC Member Organisations' perspectives on the 2008-2010 round of the NAPs

On average, the working areas of EFSC member organizations have been addressed through the NAPs and, although street children are not explicitly addressed in the NAPs, our member organization consider that children at risk are at least partially addressed as a target groups in the NAPs.

On the other hand, EFSC Member organizations are on average not fully satisfied with the way the 2008-2010 NAPs address the social problems they are working on, they are not satisfied about the way the NAPs address the root causes of the social problems they work on, nor consider that they introduce significant innovations compared to the past. Although they consider that the NAPs do target child poverty and social exclusion, they are not satisfied about the way the extreme forms of child poverty are addressed in the NAPs, nor about the implementation of the NAPs about children and risk and street children.

The questionnaires report a good deal of satisfaction among Member Organisations about the coherence among the NAPs and the National policies,

and they seem to perceive an important added value in the EU level requirements on the social policies in their countries.

Our Italian Member Organisations have not been able to provide a clear answer also because of the very late transmission of the National Strategic Report. Our Greek Member Organisation “The Smile of the Child” underlines that, in spite of efforts being undertaken both by the side of the NGOs and the governments, the problems are growing more than they can tackle.

II. The involvement of EFSC Member Organisations in the NAPs

On average, our member organizations, except those who have been formally consulted, report having had relatively few contacts with the NAPs authorities before the 2008-2010 round of the NAPs. More contacts were had with other sectors of the ministries in the same period, which is reflected in relatively better scores in the area of the involvement in the implementation phase. In the case of our Bulgarian Member organization, even if the information about the preparation of the new round of NAPs was given prior to the adoption, no formal consultation was held. The information about who was the authority in charge of the NAPs was clear only in the cases of those organizations who were formally consulted.

III. Possible ways to improve Member organisations' involvement in the NAPs

As possible ways to improve Member organisations' involvement, the proposal of disseminating common messages at EU level ranked first. The scores were on average high also on the proposal for a local-level consultation to complement the national-level one. The interviewed organisations are indeed in many cases regional level ones. To the question whether a more transparent governance would improve MO's capacity to get involved with the NAPs, the answers were on average positive but less markedly than in the previous cases.

Among MO's own proposals on how to achieve a better involvement in the NAPs, EFSC Member organisations, the role of the EU-level pressure on member states towards a better consultation was stressed by many of the interviewed organisations; The role of networking among NGOs and of the provisions of more opportunities for consultation and exchange of opinions was also very much stressed. Another important issue recalled was a better dissemination of information and the willingness of the authorities themselves.

IV. Key issues to be addressed by the NAPs

Among the key issues to be addressed by the NAPs, according to EFSC Member Organisation, the most important support measures for their own activities are financial support to outreach activities and to integrated intervention teams (medical, social, psychological). Awareness-raising on children's rights and financial support to lone-parent families were also considered as measures of crucial importance for NGO's work. In addition, income support for numerous families, financial support to second-chance education and non-formal education, governmental support to data collection, child participation in the definition of policies and network building were ranked highest in the MO's selection.

In a scale from 1 to 5, only two of the 23 proposed measures ranked on average 3 or higher in terms of their addressing in the NAPs: the network building among actors at local level and the financial support to day care centres. While income support measures, second chance education, informal education and awareness raising on children's rights are considered being basically satisfied in a number of countries (with Eastern European countries performing relatively worse), all other measures are considered to be inadequately addressed in the NAPs. There is therefore a clear case for promoting the inclusion of these measures in a stronger way in the NAPs.

V. Good practices

Among the positive aspects of the cooperation of EFSC Member Organisations with national, regional or local authorities that were signaled by EFSC MOs for having relevance in view of improving MO's involvement in the NAPs, most of the interviewed countries reported positive examples of public-private partnerships in specific projects, standard setting and networking for social inclusion. The importance of high quality standards in NGOs work was also highlighted.

As for the positive aspects of the cooperation of EFSC Member Organisation with national, regional or local authorities, which may be of relevance for improving the protection policies for marginalised children and street children, many respondents restated the importance of public-private partnership, but also underlined the importance of securing adequate funding, training, preventive action and information dissemination activities.

Finally, among the lessons learned in the experience of the relations with the authorities, NGOs highlighted the importance of being consequent in the advocacy action and in encouraging the governmental own action to expand social policy. The importance of articulation of the methods, flexibility, mediation and negotiation was also highlighted by many of the actors.



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