

TRIALOG

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Editorial

Sustainable Change takes Time

TRIALOG has achieved a lot in the 12 years of its existence. In all 12 new EU member states from 2004 and 2007 (EU12) national platforms of civil society organisations (CSOs) have been set up, there is policy dialogue on development at national level and active participation at EU level. All but one of the EU12 platforms have become members of CONCORD and the final country asked for membership in 2012. EU12 platforms and their members have become actors in global development in the EU and amassed a considerable amount of expertise through training, capacity building, conferences, meetings, study visits and exchanges, all of which they are able to share with their members and governments.

Although sometimes EU12 are no longer seen as "new" to development, they still have many years of catching up to do. Ten EU12 countries were recipients of Official Development Assistance (ODA) till the very year they joined the EU. The transition from being a recipient of ODA to being a donor, was very short. The transition experience is now a valuable aspect of EU12 expertise but the time devoted to this transition was not long enough and not adequately prepared. This is a lesson learned and the reason why the TRIALOG work in the Western Balkan countries started some years ago. Platform building support was given to Croatia and Macedonia and representatives from these two countries as well as from Montenegro, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina were invited to participate in international events, capacity building activities and European working groups.

A strength of TRIALOG and a huge challenge at the same time is the diversity and complexity of the EU12. When they joined the EU, these countries were at very different levels of social, economic and political development, with very

different histories. Their understanding of development issues was also hugely varied and the levels are even more diverse today.

The external context is getting more difficult; economic, social and political crises throughout the EU had an effect on all national platforms in the EU12. There was every hope at the beginning of TRIALOG that governments in EU12 would have financial stability, that NGDOs would have their own funding and that platforms would be sustainable.

Instead, most EU12 governments have been cutting their already tiny development budgets. In this context, not only has spending on development been cut, but the awareness of the importance of humanitarian aid and especially development cooperation has decreased in many countries despite the best efforts of CSOs in EU12.

In all EU12 countries the funding for the platform (if there is any) is only guaranteed for one

year or less and most funding is project based, which means that there is hardly any funding available for the core activities of a national platform. Of course this in turn affects the membership level, policy engagement and advocacy possibilities. Despite the difficulties, all EU12 platforms are engaged in policy dialogue with their national governments, in monitoring the quantity and quality of ODA and in raising awareness of development issues. Main challenges now are to find ways of reaching financial sustainability, to increase member engagement, to strengthen policy work, and to engage in international networking and European level policy work.

12 years of TRIALOG sounds like a long time but in fact it is not long enough by far to make the changes and structures in the EU12 and in future EU member states sustainable.

Christine Bedoya
Director, TRIALOG



Advancing Beyond 2015

EU12 CONTRIBUTIONS TO A GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK AFTER THE MDGs

With the Millennium Development Goals' (MDGs) deadline approaching fast, the focus is not only on their delivery, but also on a development framework "Beyond 2015". Therefore 65 representatives from the EU12, Croatia (as Accession Country) and other Western Balkan countries joined the conference Advancing Beyond 2015 in Prague on 24 April 2012, held by TRIALOG in cooperation with the Czech national NGDO platform FoRS.

Despite the criticism of MDGs, the participants – mainly from CSOs – appreciated the MDGs as a simple, globally agreed, measurable and time-bound development framework. Not only have the MDGs helped to raise awareness about development, but they have also been reflected in national policy agendas – helping to provide interventions that address the basic needs of vulnerable people throughout their lives.

Even if there are three more years to go, the official UN consultations, the negotiations of Sustainable Development Goals at the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development, the EC's public consultations towards the 2013 EU Report on Development as well as European CSOs within CONCORD focusing on a joint

Beyond 2015 position clearly show: the time to act is now! Two thirds of countries involved in the conference are already planning to hold national Beyond 2015 consultations.

The conference participants discussed a number of key themes, including human security, sustainable development, inclusion, human rights, development effectiveness, global civil society, and democratic

governance, as well as financing, mutual accountability and development beyond aid. Reflecting on their own transitional experience, participants stressed that above all, the process of creating a new development framework has to be inclusive, people-centred and action-oriented.

A briefing paper for EU12/AC CSOs, which will further explain why, when and how to engage in the Beyond 2015 negotiations will be available on the TRIALOG and FoRS websites.

*Inka Pibilova
Independent Consultant,
Director FoRS 2009-2011*



Photo: TRIALOG

Participants during the conference "Advancing Beyond 2015"

Securitability

A NEXT GENERATION DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

Interest in Latvia about human security arose from something we did not understand about our own development. The year was 2002, and we were full of hope for what EU membership would bring. Nonetheless, relative poverty was on the rise and many people felt they could not improve their lives and had great expectations that others – now the EU – would change things for them. We realised that there is part of the population that seizes development opportunities and there is a wide group of people which does not and cannot.

To ensure development, it is important to have Human Security (freedom from fear and freedom from want), which can be achieved by strengthening securitability.

Securitability. Sounds weird? It comes from the Latvian word Drošumspēja – se-

curitability – and is a form of resilience. It is the ability to be and feel secure and to return to a sense of security following a threat. A person with a high sense of security can see warning signals, learn lessons and retain the security that is needed to be able to develop. People with low securitability are not able to participate in their own development and are highly reliant on others to do this for them.

To promote development one should:

1. Understand people's real and perceived barriers to development.
2. Identify securitability factors that help maintain security and a sense of security, and find ways to strengthen these factors.
3. Work with the population to strengthen its securitability by enhancing securitability factors.



4. Create opportunities for the population to develop security strategies.
5. Enable governments to use this approach in policy making.
6. Form security constellations which are different levels of security providers that can help the engaged population to get on its own path to development.

Strengthening human security through securitability could be a next generation development approach because it is people centred and the basis for inclusive human rights. Once people feel secure, they are able to engage with others in developing strategies for improving lives. Since there can be no development without human security, strengthening securitability is a priority.

*Mara Simane
Director, Latvian National Platform for
Development Cooperation LAPAS*

„The World we want Post-2015“

THE BEYOND 2015 EUROPEAN TASK FORCE FOR A COMMON CSO POSITION ON A FUTURE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The world's attention is increasingly turning to the debates on what will come next, if anything, once the MDG deadline is reached. Not in recognition of a failure to reach the MDGs, but rather because, even if we do manage to achieve them in a last, concerted effort, the job of ending poverty, suffering and inequality is simply not done.

The international campaign Beyond 2015 was set up in 2010 to push for a strong and legitimate successor framework to the MDGs. One of our first actions was to develop a series of Essential Must-Have's focusing on the process which should surround the creation of a post-2015 framework.

Now, with more than 300 organisations from over 70 countries in both the 'North' and 'South' participating in Beyond 2015, we are looking more at content issues. The campaign is encouraging and supporting the creation of national and regional 'hubs', in which civil society organisations come

together to debate and share ideas and hopes for the post-2015 world.

Our ultimate aim is to reach a common position within the campaign on what the post-2015 framework, if framework it is to be, should look like and to influence decision-makers such that the successor framework reflects our position. We work closely with both UN Agencies and the EU.

In Europe, a number of red lines are coming out in the course of the discussions. The first of these is that the successor framework must be radically new and holistic, not a tinkering with the MDGs and a prolongation of the deadline. There are too many challenges being faced today to be able to avoid addressing topics such as energy, agriculture, security, the environment, climate change, trade and finance, not to mention the role of the private sector in all of them.

A future framework must be global. We cannot think anymore that if we pile aid into developing countries without paying any

heed to the effects of our own policies and actions, we can 'solve' poverty. Aid helps a lot, and so will changing our own behaviour patterns in the developed world.

And lastly, the fact that the next framework must be human rights based is a no-brainer for us. We're looking for a just and sustainable world in which every human being can realise their rights.

Tanya Cox

*Senior Policy and Advocacy Adviser,
Save the Children EU Office,
and Co-Chair of the Beyond 2015
European Task Force*

Beyond2015

Campaigning for a global development framework after the Millennium Development Goals

Useful Weblink

www.beyond2015.org or contact the Beyond 2015 Secretariat at gvives@concordeurope.org

Political Tools instead of Indicators

NEW WAYS TOWARDS POVERTY REDUCTION

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were received as an ambitious project for the reduction of extreme poverty in the world. Unfortunately it is evident, that their success will be very limited. If we are going to find ways to continue the

international project to eradicate poverty it is necessary to set up effective procedures and avoid repeating previous failures. Together with the general objectives laid by the MDGs we need to have road maps for how to achieve them. Special attention has to be paid also to other spheres, which are crucial for the basic goals and development in general. Czech organizations united in Czechia Against Poverty last year called attention to four such spheres:

- Food security as a common responsibility of the South and North. In rich countries it is necessary to reduce food waste. Agriculture should concentrate particularly on local production, which provides for the needs of the inhabitants and on using sustainable methods, without dependence on the transnational monopolies.
- Enforce decent work. We are calling for minimum standards, strengthening national labour law and international control of law-breaking. Through these measures we can positively influ-

ence not only the situation of employees in less developed countries, but also reduce the possibilities of capital transfer and extortion of employees and national governments in developed countries.

- Provide electrification for all by 2030. Energy is the basic mover of development. If one quarter of the planet – especially in poor areas and the rural zones – does not have an access to electricity, it is hard to imagine its social economic development. Effective education, health services, crafts, production and food processing requires electricity.
- The key point remains solving the global financial architecture. There is a need to reduce the speculative casino that exists with financial derivatives and vital commodities and to eliminate the possibilities of tax evasion through tax havens.

Tomas Tozicka

EDUCON/Czechia Against Poverty



ČESKO PROTI PROTI CHUDOBE

Rural Development – A Window to Sustainable Development Cooperation

TRIALOG EXCHANGE 2011

As part of the exchange activity in the project, TRIALOG invited participants from EU12 states to the conference on Rural Development – Natural Resource Management, held in June 2011 in Vienna. The aim of the conference, organised by TRIALOG's lead agency HORIZONT3000, was to present, share and discuss experiences, good practices and methods in natural resource management with project partners from eight different countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia as well as with key stakeholders from Europe.

The programme was rounded up by field visits to an organic farm and to the Centre for Development Research at the BOKU (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences) in Vienna.

The EU12 participants appreciated the opportunity to meet partners from the Global South and to get an insight into the projects of HORIZONT3000. This knowledge can be used for development education and awareness raising for ongoing discussions around the CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) in the EU12. There were also parallels discovered in the challenges rural development faces in some of their countries and in the Global South.

Linda Jakobson from LAPAS (Latvia) underlines the importance of exchange:



Participants at the field visit to an organic farm

Photo: HORIZONT3000

“The examples provided will be useful in the lobby work we do in Latvia and at the EU level. The contacts made will be used for future cooperation.” About the study visit to the organic farm she reflects: “Entrepreneurship and logistics at the farm are very important so that the delivery of organic fruit and vegetable boxes to 5500 customers works well. There is a lot to be done on the local level to strengthen the capacity of the farmers to provide their families with food and regular income from farming. And there are great examples from all parts of the world, which were brought up during the conference.”

Ruta Pels from Eesti People to People (Estonia) comments: “I found out that many problems in Africa, Latin America and Asia

are very similar to those we have in the Baltic countries. [...] The study visit to BOKU university gave us the opportunity to learn about cooperation between HORIZONT3000 and the university, to meet professors and to interact with students”.

TRIALOG considers this conference an outstanding opportunity to meet partners from the South and from European organisations and will continue to provide this type of exchange. In 2012 EU12 representatives will be invited to participate in the HORIZONT3000 conference “Promoting Human Rights – Empowering Civil Society” from 25 – 27 June in Vienna.

*Elisa Romero
Information Officer, TRIALOG*

Can CAP embrace Solidarity?

On May 9 we celebrate Europe Day. In Riga, one of the main activities was a garden party organised by organizations working on EU issues. The Latvian Farmers' Federation carried out a quiz on vegetable seeds. Matching a photo and the seed of a cucumber or a pea may sound easy, but many people have long forgotten to think about it as they rely on food being available in the shops.

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of the EU probably helps to ensure relatively cheap food in shops but it still does not stand strong on both feet: farmers in the EU depend heavily on subsidies, competition conditions are not the same in all EU countries and it is not coherent with EU development co-operation objectives.

Growing food is a basic right and should be possible for everybody but there are

many obstacles and some of them are directly or indirectly caused by the policies of the EU. For example subsidised EU agricultural products are often cheaper than local products in developing countries and drive the local farmers out of the market. There are many challenges related to food that will have to be dealt with in the very near future. Balancing the future demands of 9 billion people, dealing with the effects of climate change, maintaining biodiversity and of course ending hunger will not be easy. The current reform of the CAP has to address these issues and policy makers have to realise the links with other EU policies such as trade, energy, climate, gender, and development.

If the CAP changes according to the needs of the people in developing countries, will the farmers in the EU support it?

In the conference on Rural Development in July, 2011 in Vienna issues of allowing and promoting the possibility of people across the globe to feed themselves were discussed. Many of the ideas and projects presented are relevant to farmers both inside as well as outside the EU: to shorten the food chain; to exchange best practice in farming; to support small farmers; to implement mandatory crop rotation; to involve civil society in decision making and enhance co-operation.

Latvian Farmers' Federation, mainly representing small farmers, is strongly supporting the ideas mentioned above. A new CAP that would support local food production, small farmers, local seeds and short food chains would be of benefit for all people around the globe.

*Linda Jakobson
Chair of the Board,
Latvian National Platform for
Development Cooperation LAPAS*

Czech NGDOs promote CSO Development Effectiveness

Since the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, there has been an important shift of development paradigm from the focus on effective aid delivery towards development effectiveness, in other words towards enhanced accountability for sustainable benefits for target groups. Existing dogmas of donor–recipient relations and North–South division are being challenged by the engagement of diverse development actors, across sectors and across regions. These challenges are well reflected by the Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness and BetterAid processes.

The Czech NGDO platform FoRS and its members have been promoting the global process on CSO Development Effectiveness since 2007. FoRS carried out the first multi-actor consultations in 2008–

2009, hosted a conference on CSO Development Effectiveness in Prague in June 2009, has been actively cooperating with the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs in setting ODA priorities and guidelines, and approved its own Code on Effectiveness in 2011. FoRS also participated in designing the new CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness as well as creating the multi-actor Building Blocks to be established as a response to the agreements in Busan. Networking among Czech NGOs

and with partners in other countries is getting stronger, e.g. within the campaign Czechia against Poverty or in CONCORD structures.

It is necessary to openly discuss the key factors influencing the successes or failures of development interventions within and beyond the civil society sector, and to bring new ideas for enhancing multi-actor cooperation and increasing overall development effectiveness.

Daniel Svoboda

*Chairman, Development Worldwide
FoRS representative in the Global
Facilitation Group of the Open Forum for
CSO Development Effectiveness*

Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness

The **International Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness** is accompanied by two toolkits to support the implementation in individual contexts (the

Implementation Toolkit) and to advocate for a more enabling environment (the **Advocacy Toolkit**). Available on: www.cso-effectiveness.org

Better together

TRIALOG FACILITATES PARTNERSHIPS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Due to the significant success of the TRIALOG Partnership Fairs in 2006 and 2010 where many EC-funded development education projects were conceived and following multiple requests from EU12 platforms and their members, TRIALOG hosted the third Partnership Fair in September 2011. Around 110 participants from 24 EU countries came together in Vienna for three days to work on possible projects within the NSA-LA Development Education/Awareness Raising (DE/AR) Call.

The Partnership Fair is a learning, networking and project-designing event for development CSOs from across Europe. It facilitates partnerships, cooperation and exchange at an international level for joint development projects. The diverse programme consisted of expert presentations on relevant calls for proposals (by Elise Vanormelingen, CONCORD), designing development projects (by Angela James, Independent consultant and expert on EC application writing), as well as on co-funding possibilities and private fundraising. Networking was facilitated through the Market Place, where all participants had the opportunity to present their organisations. The concrete activity of project

designing and planning took place in project working groups throughout the three days.

One of the big challenges for EU12 NGOs is to get the necessary co-funding for EC contracts. Co-financing mechanisms from the government are not available in all countries and private fundraising is still quite weak. Grzegorz Gruca from Polish Humanitarian Action addressed the issue of private funding opportunities which is used successfully by his organisation and ranges from collecting funds at events, free professional support (for example from PR agencies), to selling T-shirts. An initial investment of capacities and financial resources is required before the strategy pays off. Ethics and limits for cooperation with companies have to be carefully considered. Inka Pibilova from the Czech Forum for Development Cooperation (FoRS), presenting the Czech model for co-financing, suggested to demonstrate the multiplication effect that co-financing has for projects coming to the country when advocating for a governmental co-financing scheme.



Photo: TRIALOG

Participants during the Market Place at the Partnership Fair 2011

Most project ideas referred to Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development (Objective 2): Development Education. At the end of the event 15 partnership pre-agreements were signed. Many interesting project ideas emerged, were discussed and further elaborated, forming a basis for future partnerships. The participants considered the Partnership Fair as very useful and the good working atmosphere was appreciated. Seven Concept notes were accepted under the DE/AR Call and are in the full application stage at the moment.

Ulrike Bey

Information Officer, TRIALOG

Cyprus: EU Presidency 2012

ENGAGING CIVIL SOCIETY IN BRINGING ABOUT CHANGE

With only a few months until Cyprus takes over the EU Presidency, Cypriot CSOs are preparing for their own programme for the last 6 months of this year. In the context of the current global financial crisis, political crises and uprisings in the neighbouring Middle East and North Africa, advancing environmental damage and in view of the Millennium Development Goals approaching their deadline, the Cyprus Island-wide NGO Development Platform – CYINDEP – is building its Presidency activities around the role and potential of citizens and civil society in bringing about change for a more just and sustainable world.

While only very few of CYINDEP's members are active in development cooperation projects, the platform's strength lies in bringing together civil society to make sure an alternative voice is heard. Building on the experience of bridging existing divides in Cyprus, CYINDEP will bring together CSOs active in the development and global education field for two major international gatherings: An alternative conference for

European, Middle Eastern and North African CSOs, with the aim to create a space for dialogue and exchange to explore the role of citizens in creating social and political change, exploring different forms of citizen participation and social movements, as well as current challenges to civic and political participation. The event will fall under the Cypriot Priority for the Presidency to strengthen relations with the Euro-Mediterranean neighbouring countries.

Moving from social change to discussing and negotiating a new development framework, CYINDEP's final event under the EU Presidency will build on current European and global initiatives towards the post-2015 agenda. CYINDEP will invite CSOs from all around the world for a 2-day symposium to exchange perspectives, approaches and challenges in developing an inclusive and holistic development framework following the 'expiry' of the MDGs. While the symposium will concentrate on specific elements of a new potential development framework, building on outcomes of events held



throughout the year, the focus will lie on engaging citizens from all around the world to contribute to the discussion, to the formulation of positions and to take ownership of the process. It is up to every citizen to help shape the world we want to live in!

*Kerstin Wittig
Project Director, CYINDEP*

Useful Weblink

The Presidency Activities will be announced on the CYINDEP website
www.cyindep.org

Lithuanian CSOs are jointly preparing for the EU Presidency



Lithuania will be the first Baltic State to hold the Presidency of the Council of the European Union during the second half of 2013. The Lithuanian parliament has adopted employment, pan-EU financial matters and the EU's energy security as priorities. The EU presidency will provide additional stimulus for our development cooperation since the country gets much more attention from European states and beyond, and this is a great opportunity to make Lithuania's NGDO sector better known. It is a great chance for NGDOs and their networks to present their activities and results, as well as to raise general public awareness on global development issues.

At the end of January 2012, two Lithuanian NGDO networks – the national NGDO Platform and LITDEA (Lithuanian



Development Education and Awareness Raising Network) signed a Memorandum of Understanding and established the Lithuanian Umbrella (LU) for the coordination of joint activities. LU has applied for CONCORD membership (to be voted on at the CONCORD General Assembly in June 2012) and it will coordinate NGDO efforts in preparation for the EU presidency and beyond. Lithuania's NGDOs have

started preparing for the presidency quite early. The preparations will take place in two stages: first to analyse the experience of previous presiding states and then to actively plan strategies and activities. A preparation group has been established, LU representatives have discussed their preparations with CONCORD and now the group is working to find 3-4 priorities for the presidency. Global education, awareness raising and EU Eastern neighbourhood are topics which will be discussed among LU members.

TRIALOG's assistance is indispensable in preparing the presidency application for the EC and strengthening LU network capacities.

*Julius Norvila
Lithuanian Umbrella Network LU*

Budget Increase for the European Neighbourhood Instrument

AN UPDATE ON THE MFF NEGOTIATIONS

In June 2011 the EC published its proposal for a future Budget 2014-2020 and the EU institutions officially entered into a new cycle of budget planning and negotiations: the Multiannual Financial Framework – MFF. The MFF negotiations are of particular importance as they will lock-in the EU main policy priorities from 2014 for 7 years. It is not only the EU budget and the instruments to implement it that are at stake but more broadly the EU integration process and the future role of the EU in a variety of policy areas including foreign policy, development and climate change.

The main EC proposals specifically for the External Action budget (Heading 4) are:

- Total External Action budget to be € 70 billion, increasing from 5.6% to 6.8% of the total EU budget, with a clear commitment to reaching 0.7% GNI for ODA and achieving the MDGs.
- The EC has proposed to limit the thematic programmes to 2: Global Public Goods and Civil Society and Local Authorities. The biggest budget increase would be for the European Neighborhood Instrument (ENI), going from €11,3 billion to €16,1 billion for 7 years.
- Creation of a pan-African instrument under the DCI to support the implementation of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy

- Creation of a new Partnership Instrument for cooperation with industrialised and emerging countries

In March 2012, the MFF working group of CONCORD produced concrete recommendations towards the EU institutions on the future external action instruments. The main recommendations regarding the ENI are:

- The 'more for more' approach should encourage those countries showing sustainable progress in the direction of democracy and respect for human rights and international law. The EC should define concrete benchmarks against which a country can be assessed according to whether it lives up to the democratic values the EU intends to promote through the ENI.
- The EC develops a detailed reform agenda with each country, backed up by specific benchmarks and target schedules based on improvement, stagnation or regression in the area of human rights, and makes provisions for a follow-up mechanism and regular evaluations. The setting of these benchmarks should be determined through an open process with civil society involvement, based on the affected peoples' interest.
- The EU downgrades relations with countries that violate human rights and democratic principles – a 'less for less'

approach – but without forgetting vulnerable populations in countries which do not develop in a democratic way. Lack of progress in relation to reforms should not lead to cuts in development assistance to individual countries but rather a redistribution of assistance from government to civil society.

- When measuring achievements in sustainable and inclusive development and poverty reduction the EC gives a role to CSOs along with OECD, WB, UNDP and other official sources of statistics.

CONCORD calls on the Member States to support the EC proposal regarding the External Action Budget.

*Elise Vanormelingen
Policy Officer, CONCORD*

CONCORD Priorities

- Shape the future of European Development Policy, with a focus on the Agenda for Change, the MFF, and the post-2015 agenda;
- Ensure that policy coherence for development (PCD) is core to European Development policy and is put as a political priority on the EU institutional agenda;
- Mainstream gender and women's rights into policy priorities, which will also require a strengthened investment from the membership;
- Mainstream the role of CSOs in the policy priorities 2012; with this we want to overcome the evident shrinking of space for dialogue, and a lack of acknowledgement of the multi-functional role of CSOs by the EU institutions.

TRIALOG

A project to strengthen civil society and to raise awareness of development issues in the enlarged EU

Objective

To contribute to the mobilisation of more public support in New EU Member States (NMS/EU12), Accession and Candidate Countries (AC/CC) for actions against poverty and for equal relations between developing and developed countries through Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) as multipliers.

Activities

Policy Dialogue: strengthening capacities for participation in relevant development debates at national and European level. **Advocacy:** supporting active participation in CONCORD working groups.

Capacity Building: training on development topics, supporting the creation and strengthening of development CSO platforms. **East-West-South Triologue** providing mutual learning. **Coordination and Networking. Information Platform:** website, newsletter, online NGO database, partner search

Target group

NGDOs and their national platforms in EU12 and AC/CC

Structure

Association with CONCORD, the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development. Financed by: the European Commission (69.04%), the Austrian Development Cooperation (17.54%), consortium partners, private European

sources (13.42%). TRIALOG started in March 2000, the project is now in its fourth phase (2009 – 2012).

Consortium partners

HORIZONT3000 (Austria, Lead Agency); AGEH (Germany); Civil Society Development Foundation (Romania); CONCORD; Ekumenická akademie Praha (Czech Republic); eRko (Slovak Republic); European Perspectives (Greece); Kopin (Malta); Light for the World (Austria); Lietuvos Kolpingo draugija (Lithuania); Polska Akcja Humanitarna (Poland); Terre des hommes Foundation "Lausanne" in Hungary

Visit the TRIALOG website:

www.trialog.or.at

Sign up for our electronic newsletter TIS. Contact us to join our NGO database.

TRIALOG steps back from EPAN

After nine years of convening the CONCORD working group on Enlargement, Pre-Accession and Neighbourhood (and its predecessor Enlargement), TRIALOG has taken the decision to refocus the work of its Policy Officer and step back from coordinating the group at the end of the TRIALOG IV project in September 2012.

The group has achieved many successes over the years. EPAN has raised awareness of CONCORD as a body that works on neighbourhood and pre-accession issues highlighted by the response from EU Commissioner Štefan Füle after a recent statement on the neighbourhood civil society facility and the engagement in the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum since its inception in 2009. EPAN

has also contributed to European policy debates regarding neighbourhood and pre-accession for example through the co-organisation of a recent seminar on Democracy and Development in Warsaw as well as its multiple position papers and contributions to consultations. In addition, EPAN has helped to highlight transition as a valuable enlargement lesson through contributions to the process around the creation of the European Transition Compendium database.

There have also been challenges however, which contributed to the TRIALOG decision to discontinue its direct support to the group. The lack of leadership and fluid membership of the group restricted the group's activity.

As soon as the decision was taken, work started on

involving as many interested parties as possible in the discussion regarding what should happen to the group after September. The Spring meetings of the CONCORD Policy Forum and EPAN itself devoted some time to this question and an external evaluation of TRIALOG also addressed the issue. Certain issues from the group can easily be included into other CONCORD working groups, such as the work on future instruments for the region (ENI and IPA) which could be strengthened within funding groups Financing for Development and Relief – FDR; or Multi-Annual Financial Framework – MFF.

Some key questions remain in this period of transition so that the right decision is taken regarding CONCORD's

neighbourhood and enlargement policy work. A significant number of CONCORD members work in countries that fall under these policies, not to mention the EU12 countries that direct their development aid towards these regions. This experience should not be lost when informing the relevant EU policies, or indeed when contributing towards CONCORD's annual priorities.

*Rebecca Steel-Jasińska
Policy Officer, TRIALOG*

Useful Weblink

European Transition
Compendium Database
www.eutransition.eu

TRIALOG Advocacy Guide – A practical tool

TRIALOG will publish an advocacy guide in the second half of 2012. Drawing up an advocacy strategy, choosing target groups, using media, planning a campaign and many more topics will be covered. The guide will be practical and down to earth.

The special feature of the guide will be successful advocacy examples from EU12 organisations and NGDO platforms. Pushing for national development education strategies, transparency in aid financing and gender mainstreaming are just a few examples that will hopefully

inspire CSOs to further action.

Although advocacy can be very specific to each country situation, there are still many similarities of what works and what does not: being vague and unclear about your advocacy messages is a "no" in every country

and doing follow-up after lobby meetings can always be helpful in achieving your goals. The advocacy and lobby guide will share such practical suggestions.

*Mirjam Sutrop
Junior Policy Officer
TRIALOG*

TRIALOG

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In association with

European NGO confederation for relief and development

CONCORD HORIZONT 3000

Lead agency



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