

TRIALOG IN THE ENLARGED EU



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Impressum



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HORIZONT3000, the lead agency of TRIALOG is an Austrian NGO working in the area of development cooperation, specialised in the monitoring and implementation of projects as well as in the provision of experts in developing countries.

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For **Christine Bedoya**
TRIALOG Project Manager (2003-2013)

In November 2013 our dear colleague Christine Bedoya lost her fight against cancer and passed away at the very young age of 49. She was strongly devoted to building up civil society engaged in development cooperation in the enlarged EU and supported their integration in European development structures. Her achievement is an example for civil society and will be carried on in joint efforts for a better world.



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FOREWORD

TRIALOG is a project that has been running for so long and has such a loyal group of collaborators that it would be easy to imagine that it will be around forever. In fact, it is a body of work, experiences and relationships that has built up and evolved over the years, from a specific starting point in a context of rapid EU enlargement and change that now looks very different. After almost 15 years of the TRIALOG project, partners and team members are reflecting on what should come next. It is in this new context that we have undertaken this systematisation process. Trying to see the underlying processes that have accompanied the project's evolution; reliving the pivotal moments for some key project partners; evaluating the relationships and successful collaborations that have resulted from TRIALOG's efforts – all these elements give a sense of what has been achieved and the way in which TRIALOG has contributed to newer EU members' integration into European development policy and practice.

We hope this publication allows our partners to reconnect with their experiences of TRIALOG but even more importantly, we hope that the lessons we learned during the project's life can be useful to others.

Rebecca Steel-Jasińska
TRIALOG Project Manager

ACRONYMS

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of Countries
ACT	Action for Cooperation and Trust
ADA	Austrian Development Agency
AGEZ	Working-Group Development Aid Co-operation
AKÜ	Estonian Roundtable for Development Cooperation
CEE	Central and Eastern European
CEI	Central European Initiative
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
COE	Council of Europe
COMECON	Council for Mutual Economic Assistance
CONCORD	European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development
CPDE	Civil Society Organisation Partnership for Development Effectiveness
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CYINDEP	Cyprus Island Wide NGO Development Platform
CZDA	Czech Development Agency
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DCI	Financing Instrument for Development Cooperation
DEAR	Development Education and Awareness Raising
DEEEP	Developing Europeans' Engagement for the Eradication of Global Poverty
DEVCO	DG Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid
DG	Directorate General
EDF	European Development Fund
EEAS	European External Action Service
EC	European Commission
EC	European Communities/ European Community
EIDHR	European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights
ENP	European Neighbourhood Partnership
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreements
EPAN	Enlargement, Pre-accession and Neighbourhood
EU	European Union
EU10	The 10 countries which joined the EU in 2004 (Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia)
EU12	The EU10 countries + Bulgaria and Romania which joined the EU in 2007
EU13	The EU12 countries + Croatia which joined the EU in 2013
EU15	The 15 countries which were members of the EU already before 2004 (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom)
FoRS	Czech Forum for Development Cooperation
GAERC	General Affairs and External Relations Council
GNI	Gross National Income
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GLEN	Global Education Network
HDI	Human Development Index
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MFF	Multiannual Financial Framework
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NATO	North ATLANTIC Treaty Organization
NC	Nordic Council
NGDO	Non-Governmental Development Organisation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NMS	New (EU) Member States, term used for countries that joined the EU after 2004
NSA-LA	Non-State Actors and Local Authorities
OA	Official Assistance
ODA	Official Development Assistance
ODACE	Official Development Assistance in Central Europe
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
ÖVP	Österreichische Volkspartei (Austrian People's Party)
PCM	Project Cycle Management
RPP	Regional Partnership Programme
PCD	Policy Coherence for Development
SEED	Support for East European Democracy
SFL	SOROS Foundation-Latvia
TIS	TRIALOG Information Service
TRNC	Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus
UAsD	Development Assistance Unit (Romanian MFA)
UN	United Nations
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFICYP	United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNO	United Nations Office
USA	United States of America
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
WBG	World Bank Group
WEU	Western European Union
WG	Working Group
WIDE	Women in Development Europe Network

INTRODUCTION

WHAT WILL THIS DOCUMENT TELL ME?

You are holding the experience of the TRIALOG project in your hands. This document will take you on a journey starting in the late 1990s when a group of European CSO practitioners, in view of the EU enlargement, started to think of a way to support the integration of civil society from the new member states into the EU's development cooperation structures. Out of this idea TRIALOG was started in 2000 as EC co-funded project, based in Austria with a liaison office in Brussels.

This document draws a concrete picture of the history of the project from its beginning to its fifth project phase starting in 2012. You will get detailed insights into the context in which the project has been embedded and learn about the activities and approaches TRIALOG took over the years to strengthen the development CSO sector in EU13. An analysis focuses on the successes and challenges on the way which concludes with the lessons learnt from the project. Finally, case studies of selected development CSO platform in EU13 countries illustrate more practically how TRIALOG contributed to their establishment and the CSO sector in the respective country.

In the beginning you will be introduced to the political and socio-economic setting TRIALOG was working in. Knowing more about the context will help to demonstrate better how and why the project evolved as it did. Besides the enlargement process and development cooperation policies of the European Union, the state of civil society in Austria – the host country of the project – is described. You will also take a closer look at TRIALOG partners and stakeholders before going into the details of the history.

As an introduction to the history, one of the founders of TRIALOG shares his memories of how the project came about. According to the three main areas of TRIALOG's work, the chapter describes project activities with regards to "European Integration of Development CSOs from the Enlarged EU", "Platform Building Support" and "Capacity Building for Development CSOs".

Once you know what happened throughout the TRIALOG phases, you will look at the history through three different lenses and find out how the activities contributed to "Networking", "Learning and Empowerment" and "Advocacy", identifying the challenges on the way and how the project team dealt with them.

At the end of this journey you will find lessons learnt from the project. They are formulated in a general way that is applicable to any project in a similar context, supported by concrete examples from the TRIALOG experience.

WHO CAN USE THIS DOCUMENT?

This document aims to share the TRIALOG experience, especially the tools that were used and the lessons learnt, with other actors working in or with civil society organisations. TRIALOG's focus is on development cooperation and global learning but its experiences in networking, learning and empowering or advocacy can easily be translated to other areas such as, for example environment or peace building.

Organisations in countries going through the EU accession process in particular might find this document useful. They can find inspiring examples of approaches to the topic of development cooperation. If they are considering the establishment of a national CSO platform the "Step by Step Guide to Development CSO Platform Building" is a helpful tool and inspirations can be drawn from the "Case Studies" of platforms in selected countries.

CSOs platforms and their members in EU13 can find useful conclusions for their future work among the lessons learnt, especially when it comes to working in large project consortia with many diverse partners.

METHODOLOGY

To capture, review and analyse the valuable experience gathered during the TRIALOG project in the period since 2000, through a method of "Systematisation" was chosen by the project partners in order to manage the knowledge and make it accessible to other actors. The necessity to reflect on and document the history came up during the planning phase of TRIALOG V in 2011/12. Knowledge transfer was therefore included in the new project application. The method of "Systematisation" has already been successfully implemented by the TRIALOG lead agency HORIZONT3000 in Austria and its member organisations in the Global South.

Systematisation started as a method in the Latin American social work sector. It is a participative exercise which creates awareness through a critical reflection of own experiences and allows participants to understand more fully the individual and collective processes that are part of the experience. Systematisation goes beyond reports and evaluations as it asks "how and why things happened" and therefore helps participants to understand the process and improve the practice. Systematisation must always be done by the people who lived through and participated in the experience.

BENEFITS OF CONDUCTING SYSTEMATISATION

For "insiders" of the experience:

Systematisation allows participants to understand what has been experienced and to explicitly describe what has been learned during the process. It allows for a reflection on the experience in a group of participants and helps to improve working structures.

For "outsiders" of the experience:

Others, going through similar processes, can benefit from the experience through the outcome document which includes the lessons learned from the described processes.

STRUCTURE OF THE PROCESS AND PARTICIPANTS

The process was based upon a "Guide to participative systematisation"¹ and accompanied by two external facilitators specialised in such processes. After an initiation workshop in 2012, a facilitation team was formed by TRIALOG team members and one of the initiators of the project. The task of the facilitation team was to carry the process forward, to plan and facilitate work sessions and to create the reports.

All partners were informed, the framework and aims of the systematisation were discussed and countries that should participate actively in the process were chosen. The first workshop with resource people to "retrieve the history of EU13 development CSO platforms and TRIALOG's role in the platforms" took place in April 2013. Their memories did not only contribute to the narrative on TRIALOG's history, they are also reflected in platform case studies in the annexes of this publication. Interviews with several partners and stakeholders completed the picture. The facilitation team intensively studied files, documentation, and reports together with the outcomes of the workshops and interviews and created a narrative of the history of TRIALOG.

During a workshop in November 2013, involving EU13 resource people and former consortium members who know the work of TRIALOG, as well as the team members, the group took on the analysis and identified first lessons learnt. This picture was again completed by sessions with other resource people during the Partner and Strategy Meeting, as well as a meeting of the facilitation team and the external facilitator.

The process of formulating the narrative and consulting with resource people was long and intensive but it allowed the participants to reflect on the own work and the development of the project very intensively. It was a helpful exercise to reflect on how and why things happened in the project and what could be improved in the future.

Notes:

1. Cisneros Dara and Luger Anton (2003): Learning from our experience, A guide to participative systematization; Quito

CHAPTER 1

THE CONTEXT

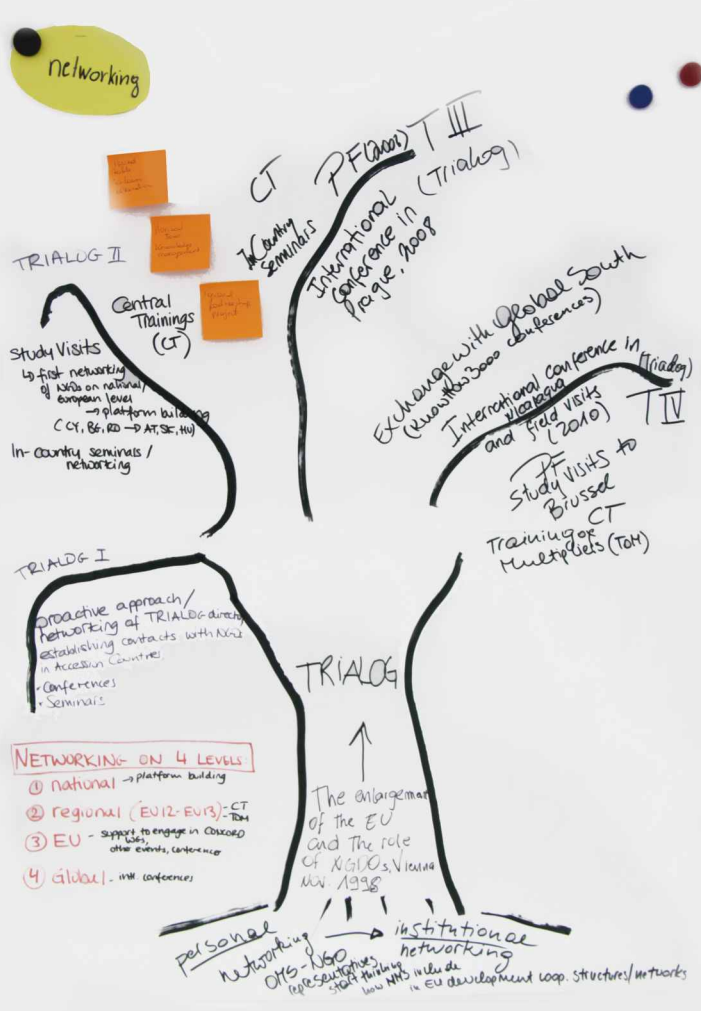
I. THE ENLARGEMENT PROCESS OF THE EU 2000-2013

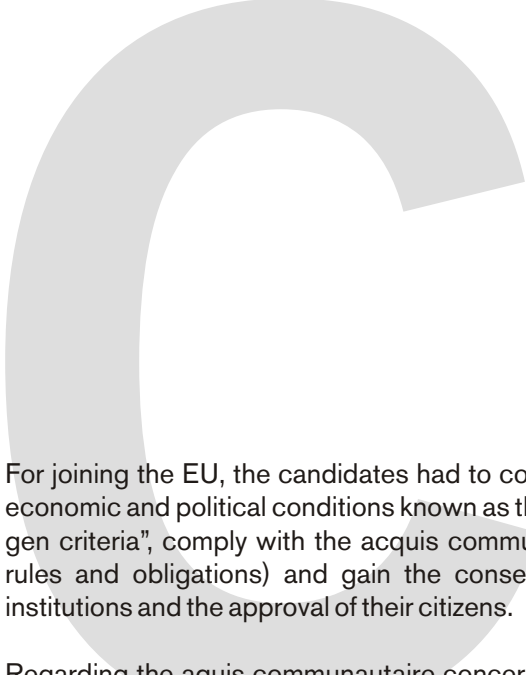
In 1992 the European Communities (formed by European Coal and Steel Community (1950), European Economic Community (1957) and European Atomic Energy Community (1957) became the “European Union” when they signed the Maastricht Treaty In 2000 the organisation had fifteen Member States – six founding countries: Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Germany, France, Italy and other nine states which joined European Communities/Union between 1973 and 1995: Denmark, Ireland, United Kingdom, Greece, Portugal, Spain, Austria, Sweden and Finland. In May 2004 the historic expansion of ten countries took place. When the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia joined the EU, not only was it the largest single enlargement in terms of the number of countries, but also in terms of population. Almost 75 million people joined the EU². Such an unprecedented enlargement obviously brought significant socio-economic challenges. The financial pre-accession instruments such as Phare, Ispa and Sapard, became a crucial EU tool attempting to address these challenges³. After the accession, the new member states (NMS) became eligible for the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund.

Regarding the socio-economic conditions and human development⁴, over 500 million people in the EU population enjoy one of the highest living standards in the world. Nevertheless, the European social model is nowadays heavily tested in the whole region due to the global financial and socio-economic crisis which began in 2008⁵. There is the rise of both relative poverty and income inequality levels throughout the whole region including Scandinavia, which has long experienced the lowest levels of poverty and inequality in the world.

Moreover, significant inequalities between social groups are on the increase. Among the vulnerable groups are women living in poverty, migrants and ethnic minorities. According to international organisations' data such as UNDP or COE, Roma and travelers are severely discriminated against and marginalised across the EU⁶.

The enlargement in 2004 presented one of the milestones in the process of Europe reunification after World War II. The negotiations on the accession of the “Luxembourg group” – Cyprus, Malta and the CEE candidate countries – were opened jointly in March 1998.





For joining the EU, the candidates had to comply with the economic and political conditions known as the “Copenhagen criteria”, comply with the *acquis communautaire* (EU rules and obligations) and gain the consent of the EU institutions and the approval of their citizens.

Regarding the *acquis communautaire* concerning development cooperation, by acceding the EU, the states had to accept the overall objectives of EU aid (i.e. sustainable economic and social development, smooth and gradual integration of developing countries into the world economy, poverty reduction, and development and consolidation of democracy and the rule of law) and accept the international commitments that the EU had made (e.g. in the context of the United Nations and other international authorities). Development cooperation was addressed in “External Relations”, chapter 26 of the accession negotiations, but no clear criteria was established regarding what the accession countries needed to achieve concerning development cooperation prior to joining the EU⁷.

The talks on the accession to the EU were concluded at the Copenhagen summit of the Council of the European Union in 2002. Due to different levels of economic and political development of the candidate countries enlargement was realised in two waves. In May 2004, ten countries joined the EU. Bulgaria and Romania acceded in January 2007. The youngest EU member State is Croatia, which joined the Union in 2013. The number of the EU states thus reached 28.

A growing EU needed revised EU Treaties. The Treaties adaptation process started at the EU Council summit in 1997 in Amsterdam and was followed-up by the Treaties revisions at the Summits in Nice in 2001 and in Lisbon in 2007.

The Lisbon reform treaty was signed in 2007 and entered into force in 2009⁸. It was the EU treaty adopted after the EU Constitution proposal was knocked out in 2004⁹. The main reforms introduced by the Lisbon Treaty were: European Parliament further empowerment, change of voting mechanisms in the Council, EU citizens’ initiative introduction¹⁰, a permanent president of the European Council, a new High Representative for Foreign Affairs and a new EU diplomatic service¹¹.

TREATIES REVISION AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION OF THE EU

The EU development cooperation is part of the EU external action and it is the EC that executes the EU ODA. In 2000, the EC initiated the reform of its external aid to increase its effectiveness and coherence. The community’s attention focused on links between trade and development, regional integration and cooperation, support for macro-economic policies and promotion of equitable access to social services, transport, food security and sustainable and rural development, enhanced institutional capacity-building¹². At the same time, human rights, equality between women and men, children’s rights and protection of environment became the horizontal aspects to be promoted in the EU development cooperation¹³.

The crucial follow-up of the 2000 EC external aid reform initiative was the so-called “European Consensus on Development” – a common statement of EC, EP and the Council on EU development policy made in 2005. The Consensus defined the common goals and principles which the EU and its Member States should implement in their development policies in order to guarantee mutual complementarity. The first part of the Consensus sets up the EU’s shared vision of development which is based on eight MDGs and their overall goal of poverty eradication. The second part underlines the complementarity principle of EU and its Members States’ development policies¹⁴.

In 2007 the financing instrument for development cooperation (DCI)¹⁵ and the instrument for democracy and human rights (EIDHR)¹⁶ were introduced as new tools which should help to make the EU external aid, including the development cooperation, more simple and efficient.

The EU Regulation establishing DCI replaced a range of previous geographic and thematic financial instruments. One of the five thematic programmes under DCI until 2014 was the “Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development” (NSA-LA) programme. The NSA-LA programme is currently being replaced by the ‘Civil Society and Local Authorities’ (CSOs LA), under the new Multiannual Financial Framework.

For the purpose of this study we will continue to refer to the NSA-LA thematic programme, since this programme has provided the guidelines for the TRIALOG activities until recently.

Among its objectives, NSA-LA covers the Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) activities. The importance of DEAR for the development cooperation was underlined in 2005 in the “European Consensus on Development”¹⁷ and in the “European Consensus on development: the contribution of development education and awareness-raising” from 2007¹⁸. In 2012 EC also published a Commission Staff Working Document on DEAR in Europe which will among other feed the EC proposal for a renewed DEAR strategy within the Civil Society and Local Authorities Thematic Programme for 2014-2020¹⁹. DEAR understands development as shared human responsibility the aim of which is to: a) *To develop [...] citizen’s awareness and critical understanding of the interdependent world and of their own role, responsibilities and lifestyles in relation to a globalised society; and b) To support their active engagement in local and global attempts to eradicate poverty, and promote justice, human rights, and sustainable ways of living.*²⁰

Under the NSA-LA programme, the EU has reflected the fact that in general, it is more difficult for EU13 CSOs to get enough funding for their DEAR activities than for their colleagues from the EU15. Consequently, in 2006 there were an additional 10 million EUR allocated for NMS proposals in the budget line for NGO co-financing (increasing the total budget from around 20 Million to 30 Million). Additionally, the eligibility criteria for NMS applicants were adjusted and the maximum EC contribution for them was agreed to be up to 85% instead of 75% as usual.²¹

In 2007, the Lisbon Treaty integrated the poverty eradication into the EU Treaties as a primary objective of the EU development cooperation policy. The key aspiration of the Lisbon Treaty was to make EU external action, including development cooperation, more coherent, efficient and visible. With this goal in mind, several important institutional reforms took place. Firstly, with - the European External Action Service (EEAS) headed by the new High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy was established with the task of safeguarding the consistency of the European external action.

Secondly, the High Representative who also acts as the president of the Foreign Affairs Council and the permanent President of the European Council should make the EU act with one voice in the international arena, including the area of development cooperation. Finally, The Lisbon Treaty gave EU delegations stronger mandate to represent the EU in the third countries and can thus take over the coordination of the dialogue with these countries from the rotating EU Presidency.²²

The Lisbon Treaty also reunited the development policy making and implementation under one Directorate General (DG) – the new DG Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid (DEVCO). This institutional change implemented in January 2011 contributes to a bigger coherence across the geographical regions as it brought to end the split between African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) and the rest of so-called developing countries.²³

The framework of development cooperation, trade and foreign policy between EU, the Member States and 79 ACP countries is actually the most comprehensive current partnership agreement between EU and so-called developing countries. It is based on the Cotonou Agreement from 2000²⁴. Its focus is on poverty eradication and the obligation of the parties to include civil society²⁵. The main EU instrument for delivering the development aid under the ACP-EU is the European Development Fund (EDF), which is directly financed by the EU MS and is not part of the EU’s general budget (MFF) but managed by the Ec²⁶. It is important to remember that when speaking about development cooperation, what is generally referred to as the “Global South” (current term for “developing countries”) includes countries that are in the European Neighbourhood Programme (ENP), which has existed since 2004 and covers sixteen countries which in geographic terms are not part of the southern hemisphere²⁷.

EU DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION POLICIES & COMMITMENTS

The EU/EC has been a member of the OECD DAC since 1961²⁸. In the 1990s, DAC donors were of exceptional influence as in the context of the Soviet Union fall and reductions in spending by the Middle East donors they accounted for “routinely some 95% of all international aid”²⁹.

The end of the Cold War permitted to progressively define and operationalise the DAC consensus on the international development cooperation so that the development issues become emancipated from the foreign and security policies' concerns and are linked instead to poverty reduction. At the same time, conditionality on human rights, democracy, good governance and rule of law came into the development policies focus³⁰. The key international agreements shaping the consensus on the development and thus influencing also the European development cooperation were: the Millennium Declaration in 2000, the international commitments on development finance in Monterrey in 2002 and the series of agreements from Rome (2003), Paris (2005), Accra (2008) and Busan (2011).

In 2005, EU Member States pledged to increase ODA to 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) by 2015 and included an interim target of 0.56% ODA/GNI by 2010. These MDG commitments were based on individual targets of 0.7% ODA/GNI for the EU 15 and 0.33% GNI for the 13 Member States which joined the EU in 2004, 2007 and 2013. In 2010, the EU ODA reached 0.43% of its GNI. This means that the EU has not reached its interim target of 0.56% ODA/GNI and that, in absolute numbers, European ODA spending stayed 14.5 billion EUR below the commitment³¹.

Currently, the EU stands for the largest world's aid donor, providing around 56% of global development assistance³². In 2011, the EU and its Member States provided in ODA 53.1 billion € representing 0.42% of the collective EU GNI³³. Nevertheless, if the EU wants to reach its 0.7% ODA/GNI MDG target by 2015, the Member States would need to almost double their current ODA in nominal terms³⁴. At the same time, the Union has still to work a lot on how its resources are used and whether its non-development policies do not harm development cooperation. The EU is not only the biggest ODA donor, but also a regional organisation with the world's largest single market, the main trading partner of whom are mostly so-called developing countries. The EU addresses policy coherence for development (PCD) in the Lisbon Treaty in Art.208: "The Union shall take account of the objectives of development cooperation in the policies that it implements which are likely to affect developing countries."³⁵

Despite the ongoing financial crisis in the EU, Member States' commitments to poverty eradication and people-centred development are still legitimate and supported by the European citizens. In 2012, 85% of EU citizens believed that the EU should continue helping so called "developing countries" despite the economic crisis. 61% of EU population was also in favour of increasing EU aid for poverty eradication³⁶.

Study visit to Brussels, 2010



II. STATE OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND RELEVANT DEVELOPMENTS 2000-2012 IN AUSTRIA

The Austrian CSO development has to be perceived within the Austrian welfare state context. Until 1970s, when the welfare state in Austria grew constantly, the majority of existing social associations was connected to political parties, churches or labour unions and thus did not consider themselves “the civil society” in the political sense. This change occurred in 1980s, when the social policy was limited and the full employment was successively replaced by international competitiveness. The consequent socio-economic changes resulted in the growth of civil society in the full political sense. This evolution led to the establishment of NGOs working in three main sectors: environment, social aid and development cooperation³⁷.

The Austrian EU accession in 1995 became a milestone for Austrian CSOs. It had constructive impacts on the Austrian CSOs diversification as well as on the mutual relationship between Austrian state sector and NGOs. Thanks to the newly available EU funding programmes CSOs which were up to then unable to get resources for their activities could more easily receive funding.

Austrian development NGOs have significant influence on the state development policies mainly thanks to their international networks. In 1988, a first Platform “Working-Group on Development Aid Co-operation” (AGEZ) of some 30 NGOs was established. In 2008 AGEZ together with the “EU-Platform” transformed into a new NGO association called “Working Group for Development and Humanitarian Aid³⁸”. Nowadays, the umbrella organisation is called “Global Responsibility – Austrian Platform for Development and Humanitarian Aid” and represents 43 member organisations active in the field of development cooperation, development education and policy work, humanitarian aid and sustainable global economic, social and environmental development.³⁹

So far, there is no coherent and binding strategy for development cooperation which would include all governmental actors in Austria. The body responsible for Austrian development policy is the MFA and since 2011 a Secretary of State is in charge of development policy and development cooperation. The implementing body is a governmental agency – the Austrian Development Agency (ADA)⁴⁰.



Campaign action of the Austrian NGO platform in front of the Parliament, 2014

ADA's budget represents around 10% of total ODA contributed by Austria. Consequently, the amount of the Austrian programmable aid is low. Besides MFA, seven other Ministries report activities and contribution which are regularly included into the Austrian ODA. For instance, the Ministry of Finance was responsible for 65% of the total ODA in 2010⁴¹. Currently, ODA represents 0.27% of GNI which means that Austria has not met its development commitment⁴².

There are currently two important documents regarding the national development education official strategy: ADA's “Development Communication and Education Strategy⁴³” from 2010 and “Strategy for Global Learning⁴⁴” in the Austrian formal education system from 2009⁴⁵.



Campaign action of the Austrian NGO platform in front of the Parliament, 2013

III. TRIALOG PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

LEAD ORGANISATION AND PARTNERS

The TRIALOG project has been under the lead of the Austrian organisation **HORIZONT3000** since the first project phase in 2000. As one of the biggest development CSOs in Austria, HORIZONT3000 is specialised in the monitoring and implementation of projects, including European Union co-financed projects and in expert-sending to partner countries in the Global South.

The CSO representatives who first discussed the project idea of what later became TRIALOG, considered HORIZONT3000 and Austria as the most suitable actors and best place to start such an action. The organisation HORIZONT3000, at that time in the process of merging the Austrian Development Service (ÖED) and Institute for International Cooperation (IIZ) was chosen because of its experience and capacity in implementing a large cross-European programme and transferring knowledge to new contexts. Austria was seen as the ideal location because of its strategic political role in CEE and the focus of the **Austrian Development Cooperation** in South-East Europe⁴⁶ and the Danube region⁴⁷, as well as its geographical location in the heart of Europe and close to the upcoming EU member states. In the following years HORIZONT3000 built up vast expertise in strengthening CSOs in EU13 for development cooperation and continued to lead TRIALOG together with a consortium of European CSOs.

Some organisations were involved for only one or two phases but a few others were partners for the entire project history, such as Light for the World and Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Entwicklungshilfe e.V. (AGEH). A special role has been the one played by CONCORD, the European NGO confederation for relief and development seated in Brussels (former NGO Liaison Committee). CONCORD is a “natural” and important stakeholder, as a central aim of TRIALOG was that all national platforms become members of the confederation. TRIALOG has an observer status in all CONCORD working groups and coordinates many activities, such as advocacy actions, study visits and capacity building for EU13 CSOs with CONCORD. The cooperation with CONCORD is facilitated by TRIALOG staff members based in Brussels. Since 2001 the TRIALOG Policy Officer (Liaison Officer in TRIALOG V) shares office space with CONCORD secretariat staff. Since 2014, also the project manager is based in Brussels. For more details on the lead agency and partner organisations involved in TRIALOG over the years, please see Annex A.

IV. CLOSELY RELATED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

DEEEP PROJECT

DEEEP is a project initiated by the Development Awareness Raising and Education Forum (DARE Forum) of CONCORD. This Forum aims at strengthening the capacities of CSOs to raise awareness, educate and mobilise the European public for worldwide poverty eradication and social inclusion. It is an important working group for NGOs from EU13 as most of their projects are implemented in the field of development education and awareness raising. DEEEP is also co-funded by the European Union.

DEEEP started in 2003 with a focus on building up a strong development education network in Europe. The secretariat in Brussels keeps the DARE Forum membership well informed and up to date with all new initiatives, strategy developments, training opportunities and issues relevant. This allowed DEEEP to particularly increase the capacity of CSOs to raise awareness amongst the European public of development issues, in reinforcing cooperation with other civil society actors, and in improving links with European and Member States institutions.⁴⁸

TRIALOG has been coordinating its programme with DEEEP from the beginning and there was on-going cooperation in working areas such as coordination and information. Meetings took place between staff members of CONCORD, DEEEP and TRIALOG to find synergies, exchange experience and avoid overlaps. There has been mutual support in events of the projects, for example a representative of DEEEP giving input at the TRIALOG Partnership Fair.

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME (RPP)

Based on an idea from TRIALOG and the Enlargement working group of CONCORD, this programme was proposed by the Austrian NGDO platform in partnership with the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia to their respective governments. The RPP was a programme for networking and so called “twinning projects” in development education and overseas development with an Austrian lead agency and partners from a newer EU member state. It was financed by Austrian ODA (70%) and the ODA programmes of the neighbouring countries.

V. STATE AND EUROPEAN ACTORS IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

The background of the programme is that there was little expertise among NGOs from EU10 in project implementation with partners in the Global South and often a lack of own funds to apply for development cooperation project to the EC. The RPP enabled EU10 NGOs to implement development education and development cooperation projects with experienced NGOs from Austria. Further it was a space for networking among participating EU10 and Austrian development NGOs. The contacts made through the RPP often resulted in long lasting partnerships.⁴⁹

Since its beginning in 2004 TRIALOG participated in the project selection committee and the board of the RPP until the programme ended in December 2008.

PRESIDENCY FUND

With the accession of 10 new Member States to the EU in 2004 under the Presidency of the Irish Government, there was great interest to engage civil society organisations from EU10 in the EU Development Policy Debate. In order to ensure that this was possible, the Irish Government invited Eurostep to establish the Presidency Fund.

During its subsequent Presidency of the EU, the Dutch Government also agreed to support the Presidency Fund. The financial contributions of both Governments allowed the Fund to become operational in October 2005 and launch the first call in November.

TRIALOG held a seat in the board and project selection committee. The Presidency Fund launched calls for proposals and from EU10 seven proposals for lobbying and policy dialogue were approved, three of which came from CSO platforms (Estonia, Latvia and Malta). The Presidency Fund was then continuously financed by the governments which hold the EU Presidency. The Fund finalised the administration of its projects in 2009 and there were no further calls.

ASA INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME / GLEN

TRIALOG worked with the ASA programme - since 2006 Global Education Network (GLEN⁵⁰) - between 2004 and 2008. The aim of the programme was to establish or strengthen national focal points for volunteer-sending. TRIALOG funded EU10 volunteers to carry out internships in the Global South and supported several seminars and network meetings. National ODA agencies were approached to discuss national funding of these activities, which was successful and in some countries.

AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (ADA)

The Austrian Development Agency (ADA) is the operational unit of the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC). It is in charge of implementing all bilateral programmes and projects in Austria's partner countries and administers the budget earmarked for this. Another focus of ADA operations is education and information in Austria to convey the issue of development cooperation to a broader public.

The Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) supports countries in Africa, Asia and Central America as well as in South Eastern and Eastern Europe in their sustainable social, economic and democratic development. The Foreign Ministry plans ADC strategies and programmes.⁵¹

The ADA has supported TRIALOG from the beginning and has cooperated in TRIALOG activities such as study visits and the Partnership Fair where representatives of the ADA gave inputs on ODA structures and co-funding in Austria.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION, DIRECTORATE GENERAL DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION - EUROPEAID (DG DEVCO), UNIT FOR NON-STATE ACTORS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES (NSA-LA)

European Commission DG DEVCO is responsible for designing EU development policies and delivering aid through programmes and projects across the world. There are numerous thematic and geographic units within this DG, including the Unit for Non-State Actors and Local Authorities (NSA-LA). The NSA-LA Unit manages the thematic programme of the Development Cooperation Instrument called "Non-state actors and local authorities in development". This programme aims at encouraging non-state actors and local authorities, both from the EU and in developing countries, to get more involved in development issues.

Throughout the development of the project, TRIALOG has been in close contact with this Unit, mainly in three aspects. First, the proactive encouragement from the EC to form a wider European CSO network, including the future Member States, was a "push" to create TRIALOG in 2000. Second, TRIALOG has undertaken advocacy towards this Unit in the Commission concerning issues of development education and awareness raising in new member states. TRIALOG has also provided input and shared its vision concerning development education and awareness raising in Europe.

Third, TRIALOG has been co-financed by the Non-State Actors and Local Authorities programme and shared its activity outcomes and evaluations with this Unit. While the first three phases of TRIALOG received direct funding from the EC, since 2009 (application for the fourth phase) the project has had to go through the competitive Call for Proposals scheme. Also, the representatives of the NSA-LA Unit have been involved in many of TRIALOG's activities, namely in the partnership fairs, central trainings and study Visits to Brussels.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

TRIALOG has been intermittently in contact with the European Parliament Development Committee secretariat and occasionally with other bodies in the European Parliament. The interaction happens mostly during the TRIALOG Study Visits to Brussels, when one or more members of the Development Committee Secretariat meet the study group to explain the Parliament's and Members of Parliaments' (MEPs') role in formulating European development cooperation policies and how they interact with other stakeholders in Brussels. During these visits, TRIALOG and its partners also highlight most important topics to them. TRIALOG has been in contact also with other structures of the European Parliament, such as the Secretariat of the Foreign Affairs Committee and the EuroNest Parliamentary Assembly. Moreover, meetings with individual MEPs and their assistants also take place during the study visits.

VI. THE STRUCTURE OF TRIALOG

STAFF

The TRIALOG staff started with a project manager and an information officer, with a policy officer in Brussels joining the team in the first project phase. In the second phase the position of a capacity building officer was created and in the third phase an administrative assistant completed the team.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

The management team was formed by the TRIALOG director and a representative of the management team of HORIZONT3000. Once a month the management team met to coordinate and discuss current issues.

ADVISORY GROUP

The Advisory Group's task is to support the TRIALOG Management Team with strategically orientation and monitoring of the project implementation. Members of the Advisory Group are and were representatives of all consortium partners and selected representatives of EU13 and AC development CSO platforms. Two to four times a year the Advisory Group meets with the TRIALOG staff to discuss and plan project activities.

TRIALOG advisory group and team members, 2013



Endnotes to CHAPTER 1:

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http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/enlargement/2004_and_2007_enlargement/e50017_en.htm.

3. From 2000 to 2003 the EC devoted 13.2 billion euros to pre-accession expenditure. More than 41 billion euros were released for the period 2004-2006 (40.8 billion for the new Member States: agricultural subsidies, regional and infrastructure assistance, nuclear safety, public administration and border protection; 540 million for all Member States: research, culture and education) (Europa. Summaries of EU legislation: http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/enlargement/2004_and_2007_enlargement/e50017_en.htm).

4. Actually, all EU countries, but Romania and Bulgaria, enjoy very high HDI. Bulgaria and Romania are listed among the states with high HDI. For more see: UNDP: International Human Development Indicators. Available at: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/data/map/>.

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6. Stewart, K. (2010): Human Development Research Paper 2010/07. Human Development in Europe. June. Available at: http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2010/papers/HDRP_2010_07.pdf and Council of Europe (2012): Human rights of Roma and Travellers in Europe. Available at: http://www.coe.int/t/commissioner/source/prems/prems79611_GBR_CouvHumanRightsOfRoma_WEB.pdf.

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9. For more see: Bonde, J.P. (2009): From EU Constitution to the Irish referendum on the Lisbon Treaty. 2nd Edition. Foundation for EU Democracy. Available at: http://en.euabc.com/upload/from_eu_constitution.pdf.

10. The procedure allows EU citizens to participate directly in the EU policies development, by calling on the EC to make a legislative proposal. For more see: EC: The European citizens' initiative. Available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/citizens-initiative/public/?lg=en>.

11. Europa: EU Treaties. Available at: http://europa.eu/eu-law/treaties/index_en.htm.

12. Europa. Summaries of EU legislation: Development policy of the European Community. Available at: http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/other/r12001_en.htm.

13. Europa. Summaries of EU legislation: Development policy of the European Community. Available at: http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/other/r12001_en.htm.

14. DG DEVCO: The European Consensus on Development.

Available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/development/center/repository/european_consensus_2005_en.pdf.

15. For more on DCI see: Europe. Summaries of EU legislation: Financing instrument for development cooperation – DCI (2007-2013). Available at:

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CHAPTER 2

THE HISTORY OF TRIALOG

I. HOW THE PROJECT CAME ABOUT – MEMORIES OF A FOUNDING FATHER OF TRIALOG

by **Joachim Lindau**

Former Director of 'Bread for the World'

This chapter should primarily help to structure the discourse on the history of the TRIALOG project, as the concepts and approaches applied in TRIALOG can best be explained if one recalls some events, documents or tendencies of the time the project idea came about⁵².

Development Civil Society Organisations in EU countries think about cooperation with counterparts in the future member states

The enlargement of the EU by post-communist countries started in a rather informal way - though in fact it was unique. The reunification of Germany went hand in hand with an enlargement of the EU by 17 million citizens. This all happened without prior negotiations on accession. Transition problems became visible rather soon. Collapse or purposeful winding up of industries resulted in unemployment - frustration soon replaced the short-lived enthusiasm which existed after November 9, 1989.

The development cooperation of CEE countries was organised as state bilateral and/or multilateral "Proletarian Internationalism and Anti-imperialist Solidarity". However some countries were members of organisations belonging to the UN family. Principally there was no room for private initiatives, no room for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). There were few exceptions of some groupings, mostly under church "protection", which supported people in third world countries through various channels which at the same time guaranteed flow of information.⁵³⁵⁴

What all post-communist countries had more or less in common:

- Over 40 years of totalitarian rule had destroyed more of the CSO traditions than had been anticipated. "Solidarity on command" did not work anymore and alternatives were not in place;
- Private development assistance and humanitarian aid CSOs were difficult to establish, particularly during the transition which invariably followed the abolishment of communist planned economy;
- While poverty and unemployment was growing, to start and / or maintain international development NGOs remained very difficult throughout the 1990s.

Laguna de Perlas, Región Autónoma del Atlántico Sur (RAAS), Nicaragua



There were only very few projects which were taken over / continued by the newly independent governments, international organisations or even NGOs. Predominant and pressing social needs within the newly independent states and the lack of local NGOs who could have served as partners, prompted some larger private Western, church-based and secular organisations to register “branches” in CEE countries. To name a few: ADRA, Caritas, CIDA, Soros Foundation (under various names) and Terre des Hommes, US Aid etc. Governments of the “old member states” contributed very little to support CSOs⁵⁵.

For the above reasons most NG(D)Os were small, fledgling and did not play any visible role in their countries even towards the end of the 1990s⁵⁶.

The “Aquis Communautaire” in the form of the June 1993 Copenhagen Criteria was not discussed in the “Liaison Committee of Development NGOs in the European Union” (LICO)⁵⁷ in any detail until 1998 when accession negotiations started with 6 countries out of which 5 had been under communist rule till 1989/1990.

Probably the so called Prodi/Kinnock Discussion Paper was the first Commission document reflecting the role of NGOs in the various enlargement / accession processes which started in March 1998: “According to the so-called Copenhagen criteria, membership in the EU requires that the candidate country has achieved stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities. NGOs can make an important contribution to the development of democracy and civil society in the candidate countries. Developing and consolidating democracy is also the Community’s general policy objective in its co-operation with developing countries and goes therefore far beyond the enlargement process. Partnerships with local NGOs in developing countries are particularly significant in this regard”.⁵⁸

Inevitably after conditions for accession under the “Aquis Communautaire” having become more and more differentiated and complex, discussions started in the LICO, once the “Europe of 15” was accomplished. More frequently than before, a mixed set of questions was raised:

- What would be the implications of further enlargement on the development policy of the EU?
- What lessons have we learned so far, regarding the chances of a genuine civil society and the general interest in development and humanitarian aid in candidate/accession countries?
- Will the extremely diverse NGDO community be able to find a sufficiently big number of allies or will the “Third Sector” altogether be weakened?
- Do negotiators seriously think that conditions under the “Aquis” can and will be fulfilled?
- How can it be expected that prospective member countries - which are all (including Cyprus and Malta) listed by the OECD-DAC as aid recipients⁵⁹ - provide funds for development cooperation?

In the “Europe of 15” from 1995 onwards it was deemed necessary to agree on a set of basic principles and orientations for NGDOs. The result of the debate got published in April 1997 as “NGDO Charter – Basic Principles of Development and Humanitarian Aid NGOs in the European Union”.

During the charter debates it became clear that one of the strengths of NGDOs is their diversity. It is this diversity which enables NGOs to represent the many different voices of society. However, this diversity can also be overwhelming. The “Charter” does not refer to enlargement in general or NGDOs in candidate or accession countries in particular but it served as a position- or “baseline”- paper for the TRIALOG programme as it outlined the principles that could govern the actions of newcomers on the scene.

In 1998, when actual negotiations started, the subject of enlargement became more prominent in the NGDO community. The “Strategic Plan 1997-2000”⁶⁰ of the LICO provided the required encouragement to go ahead for the initiators of TRIALOG as it lined out three essential points:

- “To promote a Europe ‘open to the world’ where the EU plays a positive and progressive role in creating a world based on just relationships between all peoples.”⁶¹
- “The LICO association needs to be able to respond to major changes in the EU such as the Maastricht and Amsterdam Treaties, the Inter-Governmental-Conference, and the enlargement of the Union in the light of the effects that these changes will have on external relations and the changing world of development co-operation which has ensued.”⁶²
- “There are growing tensions in the NGDO community due to the mushrooming of new NGDOs and competition for funds.”⁶³

In very practical terms, enlargement appears as one out of nine priorities only, which underlines that enlargement was still not the top priority.⁶⁴ Anyway, there is clearly expressed what was seen as a somewhat pressing need:

- “Prepare for the enlargement of the European Union to include the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.
- Identify and contact NGDOs and relevant civil society organisations in Central and Eastern Europe.
- Bring together CEE and EU NGDOs for dialogue and exchange of information.”⁶⁵

Already in the course of 1997 the Austrian NGDO platform started to follow up on the second point above, capitalising on much older contacts to neighbouring countries. This was a consequent measure following the earlier, successful Austrian lobby efforts within the LICO to put some more emphasis on enlargement. Parallel to that, an informal agreement was reached among LICO delegates from Austria, Germany, Finland, Portugal and the LICO-staff to use their lobby opportunities during the presidency programmes to remind governments that enlargement should not take place at the expense of development assistance.

The first “Troika” meeting of representatives from the countries mentioned above concluded, that three or four conferences should be organised and conclusions of these be shared with Commission quarters, Governments and a wider European public.

The first conference took place in Vienna from 18th to 20th November 1998. “Some 150 representatives of non-government development organisations (NGDOs) from Eastern, Central and Western Europe, and the developing world have been meeting - an event that marks the birth of a new dialogue on intercontinental cooperation”⁶⁶. The “Vienna Appeal” encompassed most elements which reappeared in the application for the TRIALOG-programme in 2000⁶⁷.

To avoid “cooling of the subject” the German NGDO platform (VENRO) picked up the essentials of the Vienna conference when publishing their Memorandum for the German EU Presidency mid-January 1999: “VENRO demands: The Federal Government should plead with the European Parliament and the EU-Commission to implement the objectives passed in a “Vienna Appeal” by an international NGO-Conference under the Austrian Presidency on 20th November 1998; particularly the objective to specially promote an East-West network of NGDOs for partnership with the global South. Laying aside without delay additional financial means in the budgets of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the EU is required. Campaigns to increase public awareness on international relations (‘development education campaigns’) of NGDO partners in accession countries (and not only in the present member states) need to be financially supported.”⁶⁸ The Berlin conference “Globalisation of Solidarity – from Dialogue to Trialogue” June 21 - 22, 1999⁶⁹ built as well directly on the results of the Vienna Conference particularly in the closing statement called “The Berlin Declaration”⁷⁰.

In her contribution to the Berlin Conference on “The Enlargement of the EU – Chance and Impulse for a new East-West-South Cooperation?” Marina Beyer introduced the term “trialogue” into the development discourse. “Trialogue is necessary, useful and possible. Yet only when conceived in a long term perspective and related to direct, concrete ‘praxis’- oriented exchange, through which diverse stereotypes and reservations can be diminished on all sides. As a consequence, advantages of cooperation will be recognised and integrated in own action perspectives”.⁷¹ The term “trialogue” was used in the title of the report on the Berlin conference and later on adopted by the Austrian platform as “brand name” for the TRIALOG – programme. The conference hosted by the Finnish platform in December 1999 in Tampere (“Citizens’ Agenda 2000”) and the conference hosted by the Portuguese platform in Sintra (“Sintra Statement”) attempted to reinforce the findings of the first two conferences⁷².

Even before the conferences it became clear to everybody involved, that extra and longer term efforts were required, given the complicated - often discouraging - situation in accession countries, which were confirmed during the conferences of and in numerous direct contacts⁷³. The plan of an extra – tailor made - programme in support of NGDOs in accession countries started taking shape. Initially a classical programme approach was intended, e.g. with predefined objectives, limited scope of activities for a limited period of time of three years. As early as January 1999 the outlines of what would be TRIALOG were drawn.



From left: Joachim Lindau, Robert Zeiner

II. SETTING THE GROUND FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN THE ENLARGED EU

The first TRIALOG project, which started in 2000, aimed to raise awareness in the EU accession- and candidate countries⁷⁴ about development education and development cooperation and to encourage links between the accession countries (AC) and the Global South. Furthermore, a lot of mobilising and networking on the ground in candidate countries was needed to facilitate their engagement in the field of global development. From the beginning, the establishment of national CSO platforms was seen as an important step in order to deal with development policy on national and European level and give civil society organisations from these countries a stronger voice. Additionally, dialogue between the new development actors from the accession countries and EU institutions was promoted through existing CSO networks.

One of the first activities of the TRIALOG project team was **establishing contacts with and mapping CSOs in the Accession Countries**. This was done by participating in 36 international conferences, congresses and seminars, organised by different actors such as UNDP, foundations, the European Commission, think tanks and universities, half of which took place in the AC. At this early stage, the TRIALOG online **database** of NGOs was a basis for networking activities. It was established at the Vienna conference in 1998. The TRIALOG **website** provided information on development cooperation and EU enlargement. Two TRIALOG publications, namely a **policy paper** on “Development Cooperation and Enlargement” (2001) and a **study** on “Development Policy in Accession Countries” (2002) described deficiencies in the EU enlargement process with regards to development policy and gave an overview of Official Development Assistance (ODA) and cooperation with civil society organisations in AC. This was an important basis for the political dialogue that TRIALOG’s Policy Officer engaged in at the time.

Study visit to Brussels, 2012



III. EUROPEAN INTEGRATION OF DEVELOPMENT CSOs FROM THE ENLARGED EU

Getting to know other NGOs from the EU member states through networking is a crucial asset, as these contacts enable coordinated actions between NGOs, which can reinforce advocacy efforts and representation of interests. Additionally, making contacts with NGOs from other EU Member States enables organisations to apply together for EU funding. In the early years of TRIALOG, many of the new member states' NGOs were too small to raise own funds for an EU project alone.

Additionally, the EC has increasingly required a “European aspect” in development education projects. Therefore project partnerships between NGOs from different EU countries became more and more important. Networking is not only important for making contacts and EU-level advocacy, but it is also an important source of information for NGOs and an opportunity to learn. It adds to the understanding of European development policies and how development programmes work in practice. Valuable knowledge about relevant actors and how CSOs can establish political dialogue can also be shared in networks

TRIALOG supported CSOs from EU13 to establish strong ties with development CSO networks across Europe and with EU institutions to strengthen their integration into European development policy processes.

JOINING CONCORD

From the start of the project, TRIALOG supported the participation of AC representatives in the working groups and meetings of the umbrella organisation of European NGOs, the Liaison Committee (LC) which became CONCORD in 2002. TRIALOG made intensive efforts to address the concerns of the AC platforms in CONCORD. Three platforms from AC are even founding member of CONCORD: FoRS from the Czech Republic, MVRO from Slovakia and SKOP from Malta. Being a member of CONCORD gives NGOs a direct link with Brussels and the possibility to influence EU level development policy making.

Study visit to Brussels, 2014



The work of CONCORD is carried out by its members, split into specific **working groups**⁷⁵ depending on their experience. These groups feed into the political debate and contribute towards improving the formulation of European policies affecting development co-operation.

Representatives from AC (and later EU13) became particularly active in the **Development Education Forum** (DEF, later renamed DARE Forum - Development Awareness-Raising Education Forum) and the **Working Group Enlargement** (WGE, later restructured to include other policy areas and renamed EPAN – Enlargement, Pre-Accession and Neighbourhood). Enlargement and neighbourhood are significant topics for most EU13 CSOs because many of them border or have close connections with the Eastern neighbourhood or Mediterranean countries. Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) was acknowledged as essential in EU13 and the knowledge and methodologies shared in the DEF/DARE were of huge interest for them. Over the years it has been the most popular working group and attended by all EU13 countries as it brings clear benefits to various work areas (such as information sharing, peer-learning about campaigns, school curricula, joint campaigns and tools such as MDG campaigns and code of conduct on images).

Besides these two groups, the **Funding for Development and Relief** (FDR) working group, which follows the EC funding policies and priorities for NGOs, was regularly attended by NGOs from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Malta, Poland and Slovakia from 2005 onwards. It was soon clear that it was difficult for various NMS participants to be actively involved in the discussions taking place in the group and to relate the issues back to the CSO sector in their home countries. Therefore TRIALOG organised **special training** for current and potential FDR participants from EU13 on the main topics of the working group, which was strongly requested during TRIALOG III but no longer in TRIALOG IV.

Being engaged in CONCORD's AidWatch initiative gives platforms a formal, high profile outlet for criticisms of their government's activities, which can provide a good basis for domestic advocacy. AidWatch is a pan-European lobby and campaigns initiative monitoring and advocating the improvement of the quality and the quantity of ODA provided by EU member states and the European Commission. Since TRIALOG III all EU13 countries have participated in the working group and contribute to the annual report. TRIALOG regularly prepared briefing papers on the AidWatch challenges faced by the younger EU members and organised report-writing training sessions. The TRIALOG Policy Officer also participated and contributed to AidWatch seminars as well as being part of the team that organised a series of two workshops on advocacy related to AidWatch.

Another central CONCORD working structure is the Policy Forum, where strategic and overlapping policy issues are discussed. Almost all EU13 platforms have been represented there since TRIALOG III.

During all periods TRIALOG reimbursed the travel and accommodation costs of participants in CONCORD WGs

who came from countries that were not members of CONCORD while CONCORD provided financial support for its members.

During the second project phase of TRIALOG, the Latvian NGDO platform LAPAS joined CONCORD in April 2005 and the Polish platform Grupa Zagranica did so in November 2005. The Slovenian platform SLOGA followed in November 2006. The remaining three EU10 national platforms of Estonia, Lithuania and Cyprus, as well as the Romanian and Bulgarian platforms were already participating in CONCORD General Assemblies by that time. By 2013 all EU13 development CSO platforms, including CROSOL from the youngest EU Member State Croatia, were members of the CONCORD.

Convening CONCORD Working Group Enlargement and EPAN

In June 2003 the Working Group Enlargement (WGE) was set up with its main topic of "Development policy, cooperation and education in an enlarged EU" and TRIALOG took on the role of convenor of the group. This means that the Policy Officer of TRIALOG organised the two annual meetings and coordinated many of the group's activities. The group developed position and briefing papers on development policy issues, such as analysing the EC's proposal to establish a new Instrument for European Neighbourhood and Partnership (ENPI).

In autumn 2005 the focus of the working group was broadened in order to include development policy issues concerning the pre-accession region and the Southern neighbourhood. The group closely monitors the European funding Instrument for these regions including the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) and the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI). TRIALOG in cooperation with APRODEV⁷⁶ supported a task force within the WGE to prepare a set of recommendations concerning the ENPI in 2006. Reflecting the new focus, the name of Working Group Enlargement was changed to Working Group Enlargement, Pre-Accession and Neighbourhood (EPAN).

TRIALOG continued to convene the working group, which now attracted EU10 both for its enlargement aspects and its geographic focus on bordering countries in the Eastern and Southern neighbourhoods and in the Western Balkans. EU15 organisations that have links with these geographical areas also joined the group, which helped TRIALOG's work towards real NMS integration in the EU development scene.

At the end of the fourth project phase in 2012, TRIALOG handed over the EPAN convenor responsibility to the members of the steering group and the CONCORD secretariat. It was agreed that TRIALOG's position as convenor was assuming too much responsibility with regard to drafting policy positions, following up commitments that individual group members had taken and providing the structural support to the group. Members were relying too heavily on TRIALOG support without taking responsibility for their own participation so the decision was taken for the role to be transferred.

The TRIALOG Policy Officer managed a transition period in the final six months of the project phase and the responsibility for various tasks was taken on by several steering group members, two of whom were newly recruited. The group built up enough momentum to continue being active.

BUILDING UP RELATIONS WITH EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT ACTORS

During TRIALOG I, a so called **“Exposure Programme”** consisting of bilateral seminars and study visits to development CSO platforms in EU15 enabled over 100 participants from AC to attend activities in eight EU countries. With the support of national platforms and organisations such as BOND (UK NGDO platform), KEPA and KEHYS (Finish NGDO platforms), AGEH (German expert sending organisation), Forum Syd (Sweden), Partos, Venro and Platforma ONGD (the Dutch, German and Portuguese NGDO platforms), as well as CARE Denmark, 13 activities were undertaken. An example are the series of three study visits of Estonian CSO representatives to the Finnish platform KEHYS on the topic of “Fair Trade” in 2003. In the same year the Finnish platforms KEHYS and KEPA hosted a study visit for CSO representatives from Slovakia to exchange views on various aspects of development education and peace education.

In December 2005, the first public activity of the Austrian Platform EU Presidency was a **conference on “Enlargement and Development”** which was organised together with TRIALOG. The programme included success stories from EU10/AC of MFAs and NGOs. During a round table, participants from Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia and Turkey could present their own experiences, priorities and perspectives in development education and development cooperation.

During all project phases, TRIALOG facilitated the **participation of representatives from EU13, in European development events** to foster networking and increase their knowledge on different development policy topics. For example, participation in the following events was supported:

- Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) events
- European Social Fora
- Fair Trade Conference and Training (2006)
- Light for the World: Disability and Development Conference (2006)
- WIDE Conferences
- European Development Days
- Nyeleni Food Sovereignty Forum (2011)
- Red Cross Training for Humanitarian Aid Workers (2012)

STUDY VISIT TO BRUSSELS

In 2003, TRIALOG organised the first Study Visit to Brussels for 10 participants from seven AC. On the agenda were meetings with representatives of EU institutions as well as civil society actors from Brussels.

In TRIALOG IV the Study Visits to Brussels for participants from EU12 development CSOs became **annual events** to ensure as many people as possible could gain first-hand experience of the EU policy making environment and meet relevant stakeholders in the EU institutions and European development networks. Study Visits for regional groups of up to 15 participants were organised. The first involved were the Romanian and Bulgarian CSOs, which took a closer look at EU Neighbourhood and Accession policies during their visit to Brussels. In the second year, Cyprus, Malta and Slovenia focused on EU policies for the Southern Neighbourhood and pre-accession regions. The study visit group in 2012 included CSO representatives from the three Baltic States and they focused on Eastern Neighbourhood policies.

In addition to meetings with CSO actors in Brussels (e.g. CONCORD, Aprodev, Eurostep, DEEEP), meetings with stakeholders from the following institutions were usually included on the study visit agenda:

- European Commission: DG Development and Cooperation (EuropeAid)
- European Commissioner for Development
- Secretariat of the European Parliament Development Committee (DEVE) and/or the European Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee (AFET)
- Individual meetings with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs)
- Permanent Representations to Brussels of the respective countries taking part in the study visit
- European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
- European External Action Service (EEAS)

BUILDING UP RELATIONS WITH GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT ACTORS

Global networking and exchange are key elements of all TRIALOG activities to strengthen global engagement of development CSOs from the enlarged EU. The aim is a deepened “East-West-South” dialogue. Therefore, over the years, TRIALOG has brought together different development actors to discuss various topics.

ASA Internship Programme/GLEN

During the enlargement process of the European Union, the ASA-Programme, with the support of TRIALOG, established or strengthened national focal points for volunteer sending in Central and Eastern Europe. Since 2004, young people from Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia together with participants from Germany can go through a project cycle together: three-month internships in the Global South framed by two preparation seminars, a follow-up seminar and development education activities in their home countries. TRIALOG supported the internships financially between 2004 and 2008. This was a true East-West-South experience as one volunteer from EU10 and one volunteer from EU15 worked jointly on a project in the Global South.

The ASA-Programme and its 6 partner NGOs from New Member States decided to continue with these activities, training European global education multipliers together. They established Global Education Network of Young Europeans (GLEN)⁷⁷ as a European network of partner organisations and engaged global education multipliers. GLEN continues to operate in nine European countries: seven EU13 and two EU15.

“Enlazos Alternativas - Civil Society Summit”

2006 in Vienna

TRIALOG cooperated with the organisers of the summit, which took place when the EU-Latin America (LA) heads of state met in Vienna. TRIALOG organised a series of discussions that looked at development questions in both LA and Eastern European contexts. This approach made LA issues much more relevant to EU10/AC CSOs and more than one hundred participants took part in the event.

“Are we on the right track? - Paradigm review by CSOs as development actors”

International Conference

May 2008 in Prague

The conference offered the possibility for an open dialogue between CSOs from the “West”, the “East” and the “South” and for reflecting together upon the principles which underlie the development work of civil society. Many of the 140 participants, from more than 50 different countries, stated that it was for the first time that CSO representatives from Africa, Asia and Latin America had been given the chance to talk in depth with their colleagues from the new EU member states and to get to know more about these relatively new donor countries.

It was generally felt that there is a lot of experience which the “East” and the “South” can share and that this dialogue should be intensified. TRIALOG organised the event in cooperation with CONCORD, the Ekumenicka akademie Praha and the Czech NGDO platform FoRS.

There was a strong agreement on the need to be political: work for change, deal with power and tackle structural causes of poverty. The results of the conference⁷⁸ fed into the strategic plan of CONCORD and into the strategy for TRIALOG’s future work. This conference was the basis for a second conference in 2010 in Nicaragua which focused on practical steps and the resources civil society needs in order to reach development aims.

“Global Crossroads: The Role and Perspectives of CSOs in Development Co-operation”

International Conference and Field Visits

(November 2010, Nicaragua)

From 24 to 26 of November 2010 around 120 CSOs representatives from various parts of the world gathered in Nicaragua at the “Global Crossroads: The Role and Perspectives of CSOs in Development Cooperation” conference to reflect on their situation in the North and in the South with regards to promoting inclusive and sustainable development. The conference was organised by TRIALOG, HORIZONT3000 and its partner - the University of the Autonomous Regions of the Caribbean Cost in Nicaragua (URACCAN).

The outcome document⁷⁹ includes the commitment of CSOs to the principle of indigenous cultures: “CSOs that claim legitimacy as genuine agents for a positive change must be based on the eight Istanbul principles⁸⁰ [...] and, additionally, promote the concept of collective well-being (“El Buen Vivir”): Collective well-being – to live well and with dignity - brings about physical, mental and spiritual health, leading to a life of complete harmony and the most profound respect for PACHA MAMA (mother earth)”.

Following the Conference, TRIALOG invited 26 representatives from EU12 to gain development cooperation experience on the ground by visiting HORIZONT3000 and URACCAN projects in the Atlantic Coast region. The participants met with local stakeholders, CSOs on the ground and projects beneficiaries, but also with international officials at the EU delegation and the ADA cooperation office in Managua. For many participants it was their first visit to a country of the Global South and an eye-opening experience. All participants were very committed to using their new experiences in their development education work.

Ghobal exchanges with HORIZONT3000

In TRIALOG IV interaction between TRIALOG and HORIZONT3000 partners and target groups increased. TRIALOG supported the participation of participants from EU13 in the two thematic conferences in HORIZONT3000’s KnowHow3000 programme and provided methodological input and knowledge for the preparation of the conferences.

“Rural Development – Natural Resource Management”, June 2011 in Vienna

TRIALOG supported the participation of two people from Latvia and one person from Estonia. The conference gathered participants from eight different countries in Latin America, Africa, Asia and Europe. Additionally, there was a half-day Study Visit to an organic farm and to the Vienna University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences. This experience led the Latvian platform to take up the topic of rural development and food sovereignty as a major topic in their work.

International conference in Nicaragua, 2010



“Promoting Human Rights – Empowering Civil Society”, June 2012 in Vienna

TRIALOG supported the participation of 22 CSO representatives from nine EU13 countries and Serbia. The conference was an opportunity to share experiences between participants from Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe.

The EU13 participants appreciated the opportunity to meet partners from the global South and to get an insight into the projects of HORIZONT3000. The knowledge gained during the conferences and exchanges has been used for development education work and awareness raising activities, as well as further cooperation.

LOBBYING AND ADVOCACY AT EUROPEAN LEVEL

Especially during the first phase of TRIALOG, the Policy Officer in Brussels carried out lobbying activities **towards the EU Institutions** and in particular the Directorate General (DG) Development of the EC, with the aim of integrating development policy in the framework of EU enlargement. Moreover, the European Council and members of the European Parliament were regularly contacted.

Further emphasis was put on drawing the attention of **politicians and civil servants from AC** to the issue of development policy. This was done through lobbying during enlargement events in Brussels. The third emphasis was put on increasing the profile of the enlargement process in the **setting of CONCORD**. The aim was to position enlargement as a strategically important topic for development NGOs and to integrate the topic in all activities of CONCORD and other networks, such as Fair Trade.

TRIALOG did direct advocacy work and cooperated with other actors such as CONCORD and DEEEP to secure fair **conditions for Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) projects of NMS NGOs**. At the end of 2005, the European Parliament approved 30 million EUR for DEAR actions in Europe within the Call for Proposals 2006 for NGOs out of which 10 million should be given to actions taking place in EU10, Romania and Bulgaria. The EC also agreed on **different criteria for proposals** from NMS NGOs – the minimum size of grants was decreased to 15,000 EUR and the EC contribution increased to 85% of the budget, whereas NGOs in EU15 receive only 75% of the total project budget from the EC.

The TRIALOG Policy Officer facilitated the elaboration of different **position and recommendation papers** concerning proposals of the EC on the funding instruments of ENPI and IPA. One major action was taken in 2006, during the planning period for the EU financial programming 2007-2013 to ensure the possibility of access to EU financing for NGOs from newer Member States. Therefore, a position paper was elaborated by WGE and FDR, which described the situation of NGOs from EU10/AC and the challenges they are facing with regards to finance.

TOOLS FOR ADVOCACY IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

In TRIALOG IV a special tool for advocacy in the field of development education and development cooperation was elaborated by the Policy Officer and the Junior Policy Officer in Brussels.

The TRIALOG Advocacy Guide “12 Years of TRIALOG – Advocacy Successes from EU-12” was published in September 2012 after research in cooperation with EU12 platforms and their member organisations. The guide covers steps involved in creating an advocacy strategy and different kinds of advocacy activities that exist, with best practice examples from EU12 platforms and organisations. It also provides an additional focus on advocacy towards certain stakeholders and extra input on the opportunities available to platforms in countries holding the presidency of the Council of the European Union. The strong focus in the publication on EU12 experience in advocacy work gives the publication a unique angle which has been welcomed by TRIALOG partners and colleagues.

INFORMATION FOR INTEGRATION: TRIALOG’S COMMUNICATION TOOLS

From the beginning of TRIALOG in 2003, the communication tools included a website, an online NGO database, an electronic newsletter called TRIALOG Information Service (TIS), as well as a yearly printed newsletter, which was later called the Bulletin.

HORIZONT3000 international conference, 2014



Field visits to development projects in Nicaragua, 2010



The **TIS newsletter** was published weekly in the beginning of the TRIALOG project and mainly included information on funding opportunities and upcoming events, and subsequently activities of European development CSOs. Already in TRIALOG I it developed into a monthly or bi-monthly newsletter including articles from TRIALOG partners. The topics expanded over the years to include EU development policy, news from development CSO platforms, TRIALOG news, sources of information and job advertisements. The format of the TIS is that of an online blog, where readers have the possibility to comment on the articles. It is accessible directly at <http://trialog-information-service.blogspot.co.at/> as well as via the email newsletter and the website. The TRIALOG Information Officer sends out an invitation for the submission of articles for every issue to CSO platforms in EU13, CONCORD and DEEEP and collects different topics of interest. TRIALOG staff members also contribute.

In earlier phases of TRIALOG, the **website** offered information on the project, on development cooperation and enlargement, on funding opportunities, relevant events and training opportunities. After two updates in 2007 and 2012, the website now includes information on development CSO platforms and ODA in EU13, a partner search section, a pool of trainers and experts, and documentation of TRIALOG events and publications. General information on development cooperation or funding possibilities is covered by information tools of other actors, such as Engagement Global gGmbH from Germany or CONCORD, and distributed through **regular emails** to CSO platforms by the TRIALOG Information Officer. An internal section for TRIALOG partners was created in 2012, where the documentation for meetings and administrative documents is made available. In 2012 a **Facebook** page was created to connect TRIALOG better with citizens and partners interested in the project's activities, including with CONCORD, DEEEP, national CSO platforms and other development actors.

The **online NGO database** is accessible via the TRIALOG website and allows the user to search for NGOs according to different criteria, including geographical location and field of activity. As of 2014 it includes over 550 NGO profiles. The database facilitates for example the partner search for joint projects.

The printed newsletters, later called **Bulletin**, were published yearly. The Bulletin addresses main on-going policy issues with relevance to development CSOs in the enlarged EU and reflects the work of TRIALOG and development CSOs from EU13. The articles were written by TRIALOG staff and invited authors.

Additionally, TRIALOG published **Country Papers** on development cooperation and CSOs in new EU Member States and AC. In TRIALOG II studies on Slovenia, Hungary, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, as well as information on ODA priority countries and ODA spending in EU13 were compiled. In 2007 the development cooperation field in the three Baltic States – Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania – was the subject of such reports. In 2012 papers on Croatia, Macedonia and Montenegro marked the EU enlargement process towards the Western Balkans.

NETWORKING FOR JOINT PROJECTS: THE PARTNERSHIP FAIR AND ONLINE PARTNER SEARCH

As a result of the successful lobbying efforts towards the EC for a reserved budget of 10 million EUR for actions in newer Member States within the DEAR Call, TRIALOG organised the first **Partnership Fair** in October 2006. The aim of this event was to identify and engage eligible NGOs from old and new EU Member States and bring them together to prepare joint projects.

During three days, around 200 participants from all EU10/AC and 10 old Member States used the networking opportunity to find new potential partners and discussed their project ideas. In the end 21 pre-agreements on joint projects were signed and a further 30 project ideas were created. The results of the DEAR Call for Proposals 2007 of the EC show that all approved projects with a new member state CSO as an applicant started at the Partnership Fair 2006.

Additionally, TRIALOG has continuously been a focal point for facilitating new contacts between NGOs from EU13 and EU15 and helping them to find partners for projects. TRIALOG processes **partner search requests** through distribution **via its online communication channels**.

In TRIALOG IV two Partnership Fairs were organised. In February 2010, the **2nd Partnership Fair** with 153 participants from 25 countries took place in Vienna. Main aspects reflected in the programme were learning, networking, and project design. Expert panel discussions and workshops, as well as project working groups filled the agenda. As a result, 17 project proposals were formulated out of which seven were invited to submit a full application to the EC DEAR call.

The 3rd Partnership Fair in September 2011 gathered 120 CSO representatives from 24 countries across the EU. 15 concrete project ideas were developed out of which four received an EC grant under the NSA LA Development Education Call 2011. Indirectly, more projects were successful as partnerships were established during the Partnership Fair and projects elaborated through these contacts.

As the Partnership Fair was regarded as highly relevant by participating CSOs, platforms and also the EC, the decision was taken to continue this event in the following TRIALOG phase.

Partnership Fair, 2013



IV. PLATFORM BUILDING SUPPORT

Facilitating the establishment of national development CSO platforms was one of the core interests of TRIALOG from the beginning of the project.

Strong, legitimate and financially sustainable CSO platforms are key actors that can give development CSOs a strong and united voice and be a civil society partner for state actors. Through platforms CSOs can jointly undertake advocacy actions towards the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and monitor how the country's development policies are implemented.

A new CSO platform faces numerous challenges. It needs the mandate of all major development CSOs in a country, in order to be legitimate. The platform must include human resources with specific capacities, for example to prepare and coordinate policy positions, publications, and engage with CSO and state stakeholders. Attracting well trained staff requires necessary financial resources. Furthermore,

engagement on the international level is necessary, in Europe and worldwide, to feed the national perspective into the international debates and vice versa.

While facing all these challenges, the newly established development CSO platforms in the enlarged EU were accompanied and supported by TRIALOG. The support ranged from awareness raising and training support on numerous development cooperation topics, creating networking opportunities with other platforms to providing methodological support for organisational development and financial support.

The situations of EU13 platforms was and is very diverse. Some platforms were quickly well established and recognised as competent partners by their governments. In other countries the process took longer. In these countries more support and organisational development was needed. TRIALOG always aimed to offer every country optimal individual support.

In four countries the platforms were established by 2003 before entering the EU – in the Czech Republic (2002), Hungary (2003), Malta (2001) and Slovakia (2003).

Cypriot Civil Society Strengthening Programme

mc The Management Centre
"Managing Change for Sustainable Development"

INTRAC NGO
International NGO Training and Research Centre

Soon the platforms were established in most other EU10 countries, as well - Latvia (2004), Poland (2004), Slovenia (2005) and Estonia (2006). The platform building in Cyprus started in 2005 and was finalised in 2008. The process took longer due to the complex political situation, but resulted in an island-wide platform including Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot NGOs. In Romania and Bulgaria the platform building processes started in 2006 and the registration took place in 2007 in Romania and 2009 in Bulgaria. The Croatian platform registered in 2014.

In Lithuania a special situation emerged with two platforms. After the founding of the Platform (Pagalba) in 2008 a separate platform (LITDEA) with a focus on DEAR was established in 2010. In 2012 the two platforms agreed on a Memorandum of Understanding ahead of a joint EU presidency project in 2013 – this paved the way for one joint national platform and full CONCORD membership.

BUILDING UP CONTACTS WITH CSO ACTORS IN THE ENLARGED EU

The first phase of TRIALOG was marked by the attendance of TRIALOG staff at numerous development related events in the EU and AC where contacts with relevant CSO representatives in the upcoming EU Member States were established and deepened. One difficulty was that in the first phase of TRIALOG it was impossible, due to EC regulations, to support activities outside EU member states. Therefore, seminars, meeting and other activities could not be organised in the AC. Nevertheless, in most countries (except in Latvia and Cyprus) it was possible to establish a core **group of contact partners** by 2003.

In some of the AC the groups of CSOs active or interested in development education and development cooperation were quickly deciding to form coordination bodies. Nevertheless, the establishment of the platforms in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Malta and Slovakia would not have been possible without financial support from the Canadian ODACE programme.

Some of the **newly formed platforms** were able to position themselves as partners in a dialogue with their governments. Many of the people at the establishment of the platforms emphasised how important it was for their credibility in the beginning that they could refer to **co-operation with TRIALOG** as an EU co-financed project.

Cyprus was the country with the least civil society presence in EU development cooperation discussions and activities among the EU10. Therefore, TRIALOG started a **research mission** in August 2005 to identify a number of NGOs in the South and in the North of the island which would be interested to work on international development topics.

AWARENESS RAISING ABOUT DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN THE ENLARGED EU

Besides the seminars “Introductory course on development policy” in Vienna during the first phase of TRIALOG, which are described in the Capacity Building chapter, TRIALOG organised various activities to bring development cooperation to the minds and agendas of CSOs in EU10 and AC, especially Cyprus and Romania where there was no or little structure among CSOs interested in development issues.

National Seminars on Development Cooperation in Romania

In Romania many NGOs were active in cities other than the capital Bucharest. Between April and June 2006 TRIALOG therefore organised three training events in Timisoara, Cluj-Napoca and Iasi to prepare the NGOs to participate in the national platform building seminar in Bucharest that took place soon after.

The topics on the agenda of the seminars included European development policy, development education, opportunities for Romanian development NGOs, Romania’s role as an EU donor country (ODA responsibilities), Romania’s strategy for international development, building a Romanian development cooperation NGO platform.

Several visits by TRIALOG staff to Romania followed these awareness raising seminars in order to support the emerging development CSO platform coordination. Upon invitation by the Romanian MFA and NGO working group, TRIALOG participated in the platform’s strategy seminar in September 2006 and gave input on ODA responsibilities of the country within the enlarged EU.

Conference on International Development in Cyprus

Together with the representatives of Greek and Turkish Cypriot CSOs, TRIALOG organised the conference “International Development in Cyprus” in February 2006. It gathered 45 participants from the CSO sector, MFA, UNDP, EC and the Planning Bureau to share information on the role of CSOs in international development, the role of development CSOs in the EU, the policy of the EC and UNDP towards international development, possibilities of cooperation between CSOs from EU, as well as development education and awareness raising.

PROVIDING METHODOLOGY: HOW TO SET UP A PLATFORM

TRIALOG organised several seminars to give NGOs in the EU13 the tools necessary to set up a platform. The seminars concentrated on various topics, such as the necessary structures, tools for communication with members, setting up working groups and policy work, regional structures of the platform, financing, networking, and capacity building. Such Platform Building Seminars were organised among others in Romania, Cyprus and more recently in Croatia.

After a series of previous visits and meetings with NGOs interested in the field of development cooperation and development education in Cyprus, TRIALOG visited the island for a whole week in February 2006. During that visit TRIALOG involved representatives from the Greek and Turkish part of Cyprus in several activities related to awareness raising and platform building. A one day-seminar was dedicated to platform building where the focus was on the structure of the platform and its main needs. Also, discussions about the Cypriot national ODA policy and development education and awareness raising in Cyprus took place between NGO representatives. Two years later, in September 2008, TRIALOG returned to Cyprus for another platform building seminar where it supported the creation of an island-wide meta platform CYINDEP. The negotiations, which started in February 2006 during the first TRIALOG Platform Building Seminar between the NGOs from the North and the South of Cyprus, now aimed to establish an umbrella organisation which would include the two existing coordination bodies (Greek Cypriot Platform “The Development” and the Turkish Cypriot Network). This seminar concentrated on topics such as CONCORD structures, integration of platforms into European structures, analysis of the Cypriot situation within the local society, and the future organisational structure of CYINDEP⁸¹.

In April 2011 TRIALOG visited Croatia and Macedonia and organised a platform building seminar for local CSOs in each country. In Croatia, representatives from around 10 interested NGOs came to the event where TRIALOG and the director of the Slovenian platform (SLOGA) shared their experience. In Macedonia, TRIALOG invited representatives from the Bulgarian and the Slovenian NGDO platform to give an insight into platform building. The contacts initiated there were strengthened, as one Croatian and one Macedonian NGO were interested in setting up a project with TRIALOG in 2012 and participated in the Central Training 2012. Due to a lack of funding and legal provisions in the EC funding scheme TRIALOG is currently not able to continue its activities in the Western Balkans. The Croatian NGO Centre for Peace Studies became project partner in TRIALOG V.

NETWORKING WITH OTHER CSO PLATFORMS

Study Visit to European Development CSO Platforms

Already in the first phase, TRIALOG supported EU10/AC representatives to visit experienced development CSO platforms in other European countries, for example, “Coordination Sud” in Paris, BOND in London, the Danish, Dutch, Finnish and Portuguese platforms, as well as the German platform VENRO in Cologne.

In the second phase, once it was possible to implement activities in EU10/AC, TRIALOG organised study visits also to these platforms as they could share experiences with representatives from other EU10/AC that were planning to set up platforms.

At the end of 2005, TRIALOG organised a visit where NGO and MFA representatives from Cyprus, Romania and Bulgaria visited development CSO platforms and MFAs in Austria, Hungary and Slovakia. For one week the group of 13 people met with national MFAs to discuss their development cooperation strategy and policy, they learnt from first-hand experience of ODA administrative offices in Austria, Hungary and Slovakia about formats of calls for proposals and NGO co-financing. The study group also met with platforms and their boards in the countries they visited, who shared their experiences of building up the platform and the structures they used.

For many participants this was an extremely encouraging experience and they returned to their countries with a suitcase full of ideas and tools for continuing their own platform building.

Sharing Experience and Knowledge – The TRIALOG Central Training

A special event TRIALOG organised throughout the years was the “Central Training”. This event was directed specifically towards platform representatives from the enlarged EU countries. The purpose of the Central Training was to deepen cooperation, share experiences and to create opportunities for joint action between the platforms in EU13. It also provided a space for participants to deepen their knowledge about development policies and certain development cooperation issues.

Although in the beginning the training aspect of the Central Training was very strong; the more experienced the platforms became the more the networking and exchange of experience aspect gained importance.

The first Central Training took place in January 2004 (TRIALOG II) in Vienna with a speaker from the Irish platform Dochas. From then on, the event was conducted each year under a different topic. Inputs from international speakers and CONCORD, as well as a mutual update among the participants on the platform situation were always on the agenda. Another practice that was established was to organise the Central Training each year in a different country in cooperation with the national platform. This provided the platform with the possibility to increase visibility and involve its members and the MFA representatives in some parts of the event.



Central Training in Prague, 2012

LIST OF CENTRAL TRAINING EVENTS 2004-2012:

01/2004	Central Training in Vienna, Austria
03/2005	Central Training on Platform Development, CONCORD Working Groups, Information sharing in Bratislava, Slovakia
03/2006	Central Training on Advocacy and Policy Dialogue in Budapest, Hungary
03/2007	Central Training on the Management and Strategic Planning for National Development CSO Platforms in Tallinn, Estonia
02/2008	Central Training on Development Education /Awareness Raising and Campaigning in Brno, Czech Republic
02/2009	Central Training on Financial Sustainability of national platforms in Vienna, Austria
06/2010	Central Training on the Lisbon Treaty and its Implications for Civil Society in Krakow, Poland
05/2011	Central Training on NMS NGDO Platforms Annual Exchange and Focus on Transition Experience in Budapest, Hungary
04/2012	Central Training linked with a one day conference "Advancing Beyond 2015" in Prague, Czech Republic.

The Central Training was always among the best evaluated activities of TRIALOG as it was a unique opportunity to meet with a wide range of people involved in development cooperation from many different countries, often sharing a similar background and historical experience. The knowledge gained at the event on a certain topic could be used for organisational development of the platform or in communication with external stakeholders. At the end of TRIALOG IV CSO partners from the Western Balkans (Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia) also participated in the event. This way the platform building support could be taken to the next level as EU13 shared their recent experiences with civil society in future EU countries. In the planning phase for TRIALOG V, the Central Training was renamed "Annual Strategy Meeting" to underline the character of exchange and planning among the platforms.

PROVIDING DIRECT SUPPORT TO NGO PLATFORMS IN THE ENLARGED EU

In some cases TRIALOG supported certain platforms individually according to urgent or specific needs.

The Romanian platform FOND was registered in March 2007 and its structure and activities developed and grew very quickly. By 2009 it already had 40 members. The coordinator received a **salary** from the TRIALOG project budget until 2008, when it was financed by the Presidency Fund. In addition to general support to the platform, TRIALOG monitored the platform closely through monthly reports provided by the platform coordinator. TRIALOG

also organised a specific internship for the platform coordinator at the Austrian platform and supported the planning and preparation of the first Black Sea NGO Forum which took place in October/November 2008⁸².

In the context of the **global financial downturn**, TRIALOG published a **report** in early 2009, detailing the situation for development cooperation in the EU12 and the uncertainties faced by national development CSO platforms. The information was gathered through the platform coordinators. It showed an increasingly unstable environment in which these platforms were trying to operate.

Latvia was hit extremely hard by the financial crisis in 2008 and 2009 and had to cut public spending. ODA was reduced by 100% in 2009, and this had financial implications for the Latvian platform as well, as the platform director's salary for a part-time position was supported by the MFA. TRIALOG organised a **training event** for Latvian NGOs on how to access EC funding for DEAR projects and gave support regarding project elaboration to the platform.

In the summer of 2012 TRIALOG supported activities that would contribute to **strengthening the capacities** of EU12 development CSO platforms and their members. All platforms but Estonia organised different activities from advocacy events, organisational development seminars, training for member organisations, to the improvement of their communication tools, policy papers and evaluation model for impact assessment.

PLATFORM CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES 2012

Bulgaria	DEAR working group of the platform elaborated a policy paper "DEAR in Bulgarian context" and organised a round table "Best practices in DEAR in Bulgaria"
Cyprus	Training for platform staff in the development discourse and stakeholder analysis of the platform and policy consultancy for the positions for the Cypriot EU Presidency
Latvia	Review of the strategy of the platform
Lithuania	Organisational development of the Lithuanian Umbrella
Slovakia	Exploring fundraising possibilities for the platform
Slovenia	Strategy and organisational meeting for platform staff and board members

Additionally, TRIALOG provided financial support for small projects within the platforms:

Bulgaria:	Improvement of the platform website
Czech Rep:	Training on EC project application for member organisations and improvement of information services
Hungary:	Fundraising training for member organisations and improvement of information services
Latvia:	Event "Building Partnerships for Effective Development" for participants from different sectors active in development.
Malta:	Policy training and publication of study on Maltese NGOs
Poland:	Capacity building in the field of global education for member organisations to evaluate and improve the quality of their work.
Romania:	Improvement of information services of the platform
Slovakia:	Improvement of information services of the platform

V. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR DEVELOPMENT CSOs

TRIALOG recognises capacity building as one of the main mechanisms of support for countries in the enlarged EU, in order to strengthen and empower national platforms and their members for their engagement in development cooperation and to become multipliers in Development Education and Awareness Raising.

TRAINING ACTIVITIES

In the first phase of TRIALOG, between 2000 and 2003, when it was only possible to organise activities in EU member states, TRIALOG organised 10 three-day seminars under the title “**Introductory course on development policy**” in Vienna. Seven of the seminars were thematic (on EU development policy, environment and development, human rights and development, gender issues in development policies, democratisation and civil society) and three concentrated on project management. Participants were mixed from EU and AC. All but one

seminar also included speakers from the Global South. In total, 200 CSO representatives from AC participated in one or more seminars. On average there were twice as many applications as available places.

Only in the second phase of TRIALOG could training be offered also locally in EU10 and AC. Between 2003 and 2006 TRIALOG supported 40 so called “**In-Country Training**” events, for example, on co-financing opportunities with the EC, the EuropeAid grant management, project cycle management (PCM) and fundraising methods. The platforms could choose a topic, TRIALOG prepared the training and the Capacity Building Officer or an external expert implemented it. The platform invited participants from member organisations and was responsible for the logistical arrangements.

The requests for these training events were different from country to country. For example, in TRIALOG II the Polish platform required six training sessions on different topics ranging from project cycle management (PCM) and EuropeAid grant management to fundraising methods and peace building. The Latvian platform only asked for one training event in 2005 on Global Education.



Training in Vienna, 2011

In TRIALOG III the most requested topic in all countries was EC project proposal writing. TRIALOG organised and ran 51 training events in this third phase: in Bulgaria (6), Cyprus (2), the Czech Republic (5), Estonia (2), Hungary (1), Latvia (2), Lithuania (2), Poland (5), Macedonia (1), Romania (5), Slovakia (2) and Slovenia (7). An additional seven training events in Vienna and four in Brussels involved a total number of 814 participants from all EU12, Croatia and Macedonia.

Also in TRIALOG IV in-country training sessions were offered to the national platforms and organised upon their request. The topics of interest remained similar to the years before with EC project application writing and EC contract management at the top of the list. Development education, peace building and quality criteria for development cooperation were also requested.

CREATING A POOL OF MULTIPLIERS

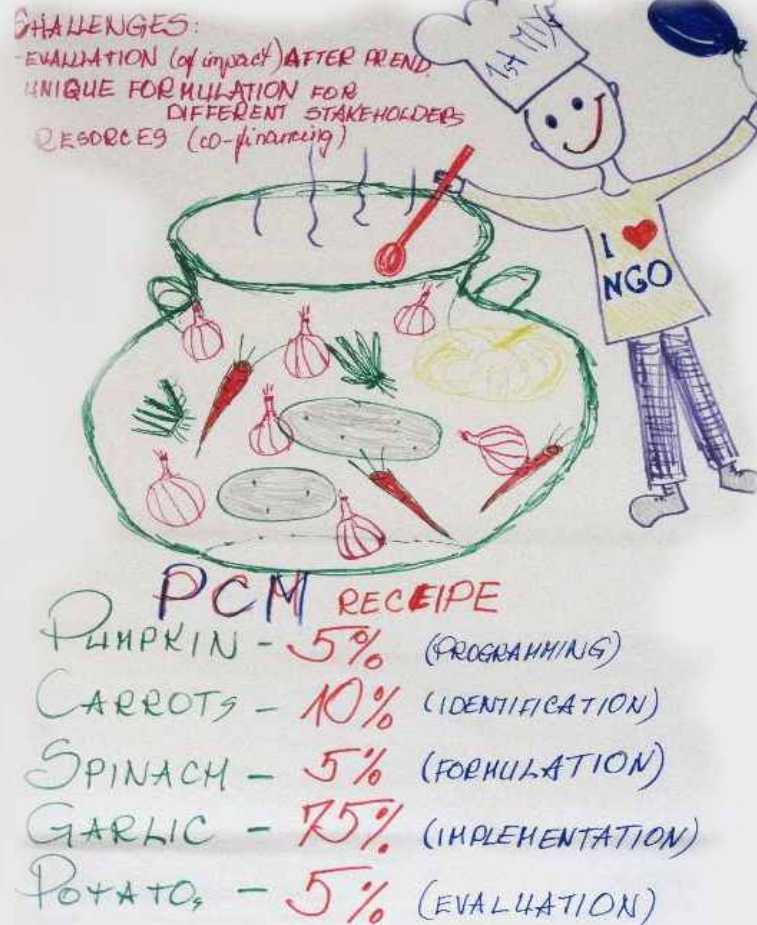
An innovative element of TRIALOG IV, the **Training of Multipliers** (ToM) was introduced in 2010. It aimed to contribute to the creation of a pool of multipliers in the area of development cooperation among members of civil society organisations in EU13. The curriculum for the Training of Multipliers was developed by the TRIALOG team in consultation with the national platforms and interested members of the Advisory Group. For 2010 the Training of Multipliers was divided into three modules of three days each. The sessions covered the basic topics of development cooperation and provided the skills needed to deliver training on these topics to a wider NGO constituency.

The topics tackled during the training of multipliers included: the nature of development, EU development architecture, PCM, training skills, participants' presentations and debates around current topics in development cooperation.

23 participants represented 11 newer EU Member States, and all were selected by their respective national platforms, with which they had signed or orally agreed a Memorandum of Understanding. This included the commitment of the multipliers to work closely with the platform and to provide a number of training events to platform members.

The 2011 training cycle was organised in two modules and provided further input and training on theories and practice related to facilitation and training design (e.g. group dynamics, communication). It also included intense training on monitoring and evaluation approaches and tools, specifics of the guidelines of the then current call for proposals under the NSA-LA programme and exchange about the visibility requirements for EuropeAid funded projects.

The whole 2011 training cycle was evaluated very positively. At the same time, participants stressed the need for further training and theoretical inputs. Consultation with the platforms also showed that a crucial question for the



Training of Multipliers, 2010

success of such training relied upon the selection of the participants and the design of the modules. After the consultation process it was eventually decided not to offer a new training cycle for new multipliers in 2012 but to build on the existing groups of trained multipliers (from ToM 2010 and 2011) and their high level of motivation. One additional module was offered to this group for them to deepen the knowledge and expertise around issues of development cooperation and development education and awareness raising, and to discuss ways of further involvement as resource people in the activities of TRIALOG.

The 2012 module took place in May 2012 in Vienna with nine multipliers (two participants of the ToM 2010, six participants of the ToM 2011 and one additional participant representing the Cypriot EU presidency project). The training focused on various DC and DEAR related topics, including CSO development effectiveness and policy coherence for development, as well as project implementation techniques such as time management and systematisation processes, intersectional cooperation with academia, as well as further training on facilitation skills.

While those trained, particularly the second and third year's groups, were highly appreciative of what they had learned, it is not so clear how many went on to conduct subsequent trainings on the issues covered in the ToM, which they had in fact committed to. TRIALOG could involve four participants in in-country training but often experts on a specific topic rather than multipliers with more general knowledge were requested. At TRIALOG's suggestion, one platform found a way around this by linking an experienced trainer with two less experienced trainers.

STUDY VISIT TO DEEPEN PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE

A week-long Study Visit on “**Expert Sending**” was organised in March 2008 to Germany (AGEH, DED) and Austria (HORIZONT3000) with 13 participants from NGOs from EU12 (Cyprus, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania) and two high-level staff members from the Latvian and Polish MFAs. The participants represented NGOs in the process of founding a department of development workers/expert-sending within their organisation.

The study visit started in AGEH in Bonn with an ethics discussion with experts from AGEH and Bread for the World (Germany), FORUM ids (Great Britain) and HORIZONT3000 (Austria) and finished with a political round table discussion in Vienna. In each organisation the participants were informed about the advertisement of open positions, the selection process of possible candidates (so called experts or development workers), the necessary preparation before the expert’s stay abroad and the monitoring of these missions. Additionally, the legal context in different countries and social security aspects were discussed, for example how to deal with political or natural crisis situations.

The **Round Table Discussion** in Vienna opened the dialogue between governmental, political and CSOs representatives on “Expert Sending” with more than 50 participants from the broader public and the EU12 representatives from the study visit. Among the panellists a voice from the Global South was also represented by Carlos Toledo, an artist from Guatemala.

Following the Study Visit the following offers were made to EU12 CSOs:

- DED: EU12 representatives could undertake internships in the head office of DED in Bonn, but also in the Regional Country Offices
- AGEH, DED, HORIZONT3000: People from EU12 can apply for positions as technical assistants in development projects of all three organisations.
- HORIZONT3000: EU12 representatives could participate within a staff recruitment assessment centre.



Linda Jakobson (Latvia) and Kadapain Galu (PNG) in Nicaragua, 2010

VI. RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS AND EMPOWERMENT OF EU13 CSO PLATFORMS

TRIALOG always maintained close relationships with platforms in EU13 and adapted its activities according to the needs expressed during the different project phases. Furthermore, representatives of all platforms were invited to so-called “Future Factories” in 2009 and 2011 where ideas for the subsequent TRIALOG projects were gathered and discussed. Additionally, during the Central Training events, the platforms were asked about their expectations towards TRIALOG and engaged in the design of the projects. Through this participatory process, TRIALOG changed over the years according to the development of the platforms.

FROM BENEFICIARIES TO PARTNERS

The countries of the enlarged EU are very diverse and so are their development organisations and CSO platforms. TRIALOG tried to involve the stronger and more successful platforms (in the first phases especially those from Central Europe) to support their counterparts in weaker platforms. For example, platform representatives from Poland (which held the EU Presidency in 2011) were engaged in a seminar on planning and implementation of the EU Presidency project of Lithuania in 2012.

A turning point in the history of TRIALOG came towards the end of the fourth phase during the planning of the fifth phase, when all platforms from EU12 and a leading CSO from Croatia decided to join TRIALOG as project partners in the subsequent phase. This changed the ownership of the project and the role of the platforms within TRIALOG substantially. TRIALOG moved from a project **for** EU13 platforms and organisations to a project **of** EU13 platforms, where they are not only consulted but are fundamentally involved in the project. This step underlined the success of TRIALOG’s support throughout the years 2000 – 2012 in the creation of empowered CSO platforms in EU13. On the other hand, platforms expressed the need to continue TRIALOG in order to strengthen their capacities and to create a space for networking opportunities additional to CONCORD and other networks.

DECENTRALISATION OF CAPACITY BUILDING

In TRIALOG II the principles of decentralisation and responsiveness were already integrated. The platforms were offered a variety of training programmes on development policy issues, practical knowledge about EU funding and project cycle management for locally organised training events. Then they would propose a topic according to the needs of their member organisations to TRIALOG, which financed a trainer or, in most cases, identified a staff member to deliver the training.

Representatives of NGOs and platforms could also apply to TRIALOG for travel and accommodation reimbursement in order to attend external training events. In consultation with the platforms and according to practical guidelines TRIALOG supported the capacity development in EU13 development CSOs also through this instrument.

A further step was taken in the fifth TRIALOG phase. Each EU12 platform and the Croatian partner elaborate their own national capacity building plans and coordinate the implementation of its activities. TRIALOG allocates a yearly budget to the platforms and constantly monitors the process. A crucial test represented the "Platform Capacity Development Activities" in the summer of 2012, which were structured similarly and received very positive feedback.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR PLATFORM STAFF

Although in all EU13 development CSO platforms are active and have amassed a considerable amount of expertise, their financial sustainability is not guaranteed. Most EU13 governments have been cutting their already

small development budgets and funding for the platforms (if there is any) is only secured for one year or less at a time. Most funding is project based, which means there is very little budget available for the activities of the secretariat. Of course, this in turn affects the membership level, policy engagement and advocacy possibilities.

In the past, TRIALOG supported the platform only occasionally with financial contributions to the salaries of secretariat staff. This was the case for example in Romania, when the platform FOND was newly founded and a coordinator was financed for several months in 2008 in order to secure the continuity of the platform.

In response to their financial situation, in TRIALOG V all platforms receive a contribution to the monthly salary of a Liaison Officer. Most of the Liaison Officer tasks are directly related to the TRIALOG project, such as the coordination of the capacity building activities, as well as engagement in Europe-wide and global development policies.

DIGEST ON DEVELOPMENT POLICY ISSUES

As discussions on development policy issues are usually conducted at a very high level, in the fifth TRIALOG phase Policy Digests have been added to the information tools. The Digests help NGO representatives in EU13 to quickly and easily gain a deeper understanding of some central topics. The Policy Digests provide compacted information about recent policy processes and suggestions of how to get engaged in the discussions and actions around the topics. They are written by drafting teams made up of the TRIALOG Liaison Officer (LO) and LOs in the platforms and are published on a regular basis every other month.



Wall painting by ACCCS, partner organisation of HORIZONT3000 in Región Autónoma del Atlántico Sur (RAAS), Nicaragua

Endnotes to CHAPTER 2:

52. At times problematic and confusing terms, definitions, abbreviations and spellings used are not questioned. In quotations everything is taken at "face value" and left unchanged.

53. For instance "Bread for the World" existed parallel in both parts of Germany since 1959; Austrian "Dreikönigsaktion" (DKA) co-operated quite early with eRko (Christian Children Communities Movement) in nowadays Slovakia.

54. See also: Caucik, Marian: Die Erhöhung des Bewußtseins für die Solidarität mit dem Süden an einem slowakischen Beispiel, in: VENRO (eds.): Globalisierung der Solidarität – vom Dialog zum Trialog, Bonn 1999, S. 45

55. The EU PHARE/ACCES Programmes are not taken into consideration here as they were of limited importance for NGOs

56. Some descriptions of the situation in the 1990ties can be found in: TRIALOG (eds.): Round Table Discussions on the EU Enlargement in the context of Development Co-operation, Stockholm 22-23 April 2001

57. The LICO was the umbrella organisation serving/representing about 800 NGOs. It was replaced by CONCORD in 2003.

58. Prodi and Kinnock (eds.): Commission Discussion Paper: „The Commission and Non-Governmental Organisations: Building a Stronger Partnership“, 18.1.2000, pp. 4

59. The DAC List of Aid Recipients used for 1997,1998 and 1999 flows. www.oecd/dac/stats/1809409.htm

60. LICO (eds.): NGO Handbook – Practical information for Development and Emergency Aid NGOs in the European Union; Brussels 1998 (March), pp. 4-17

61. Handbook, p. 5

62. Handbook, p.7

63. Handbook, p. 7

64. For understandable reasons, if one takes into account, for example, the hefty debates on the future of the Lomé – agreements and the relationship between the European Commission and the NGO representation (among other subjects on the application of the "subsidiarity principle"), which were going on at that time.

65. Handbook, p. 12

66. Platform of Austrian NGOs and Austrian Research Foundation for Development Aid (ÖFSE)(eds.): The Enlargement of the EU and the Role of NGOs; Vienna 1999, p.146

67. As the "Vienna Appeal" can be considered the first of two key documents for the TRIALOG - programme it is appended as Annex.

68. Verband Entwicklungspolitik Deutscher Nichtregierungsorganisationen (VENRO): Memorandum zur deutschen EU-Präsidentschaft, Bonn 14. Januar 1999, S.7f - (translated from German)

69. VENRO (eds): Beiträge zur internationalen Konferenz: Globalisierung der Solidarität- vom Dialog zum Trialog; Bonn 1999

70. „The Berlin Declaration“ being the second key document, it is appended as Annex.

71. See VENRO (eds.): Globalisierung der Solidarität – vom Dialog zum Trialog; Bonn 1999, S. 35 f (translated from German)

72. Unfortunately, reports neither of the "Citizen's Agenda 2000", nor of the "Sintra Statement" are available at present.

73. An impression of the magnitude and sophistication of the task to assist the NGOs in accession countries, to get established and recognised, to find their role, to adapt to conditions of EU - Europe can be recaptured through: TRIALOG (eds.): Policy Paper – Development Co-operation in the Context of the EU Enlargement, 2nd ed., Vienna 2002 (September) pp. 17-19

74. EU Accession Countries in 2000: Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovak Republic and Slovenia. In Romania and Bulgaria the accession negotiations started in June 2004.

75. More information and a complete list of working groups can be found on the CONCORD website at: <http://www.concordeurope.org/about-us?id=94>

76. APRODEV is the Association of World Council of Churches related Development Organisations in Europe. <http://www.aprodev.eu/>

77. For more information visit the GLEN website: <http://glen-europe.org/>

78. Report of the conference available here: <http://db.trialog.or.at/images/doku/prague-conference-report.pdf>

79. The outcome document of the conference Global Crossroads is available here: http://www.trialog.or.at/images/doku/trialog_outcome_document_nicaragua_conference.pdf

80. Istanbul Principles of the Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness, available here: http://cso-effectiveness.org/IMG/pdf/final_istanbul_cso_development_effectiveness_principles_footnote_december_2010-2.pdf

81. More information on the history of Cypriot island-wide platform CYINDEP, please see the Case Study in the Annex.

82. For more information on the Black Sea NGO Forum, please visit their website at: <http://www.blackseango.org/forum/>

A

CHAPTER 3

ANALYSIS OF THE TRIALOG EXPERIENCE

The analysis was done through a workshop involving EU13 resource people and former consortium members who know the work of TRIALOG, as well as the team members. Some had also participated in the history workshop. Over one and a half days the group analysed in detail the history of TRIALOG through the lens of three central aspects: networking, advocacy, and learning & empowerment. They focused on the following guiding questions: What were the key activities within each topic? What facilitated and what hindered these activities? Why did TRIALOG implement this activity?

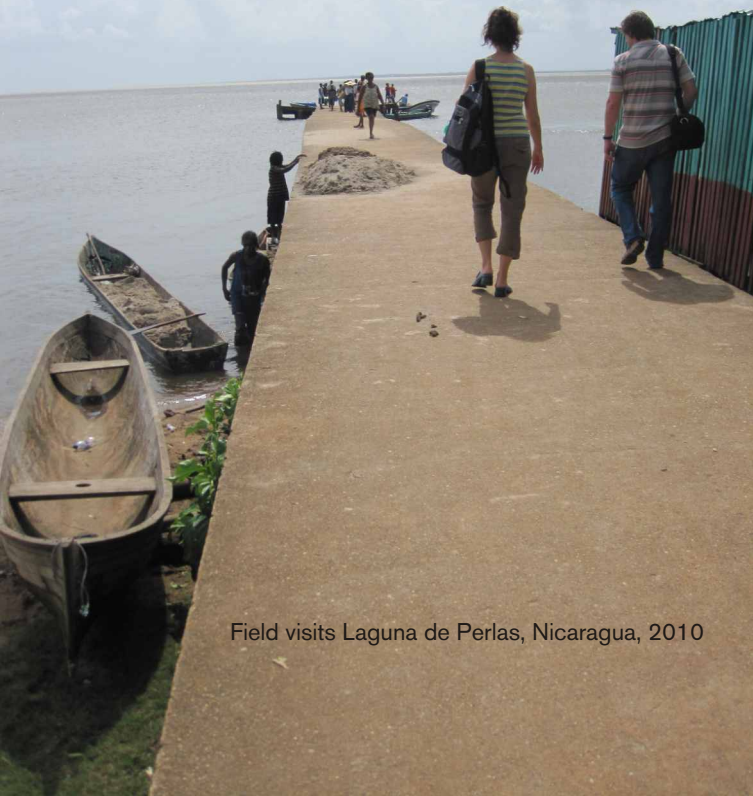
NETWORKING

Networking, on the one hand, supported the aim of TRIALOG for more “European Integration” which included the involvement of EU13 development NGOs in the European context via participation in CONCORD and building up relations with European development actors, for example through Study Visits. On the other hand, networking was an element of all TRIALOG's capacity building and platform building activities at different levels. Additionally, the TRIALOG team members themselves participated in numerous events to network with relevant actors in the development cooperation sector in order to promote EU13 issues.

Networking within TRIALOG can be identified on the following four levels:

- National: via platform building and national seminars in the enlarged EU
- Regional: via activities such as the Central Training or Training of Multipliers
- EU: via support to engage in CONCORD working groups and other European events
- Global: via organisation of international conferences, field visits and other exchange activities.

Civil Society in AC did not have a strong background on development issues and NGO structures at the time TRIALOG started. This was a determining factor for the way in which networking happened through TRIALOG in the beginning, namely bringing together like-minded people on national level and supporting them in platform building and coordination and, further, supporting regional links and, finally, establishing a wider network on European level through participation in conferences and seminars.



Field visits Laguna de Perlas, Nicaragua, 2010

Especially in the early phases TRIALOG staff members were networking “for” and “with” the newcomers from EU13, whereas through the years this role changed to becoming a “facilitator” of networking.

LEARNING AND EMPOWERMENT

Learning and empowerment is one of the key aspects of TRIALOG’s activities for EU13 CSOs on their way to becoming fully functioning platforms serving their members and acting as contact points for their political decision makers as well as being integrated into the European confederation CONCORD. The project is still seen today as a capacity building project, and the impact of the activities over the years are visible. TRIALOG has supported learning and empowerment through a variety of activities such as training, study visits and providing spaces for exchange.

ADVOCACY

Advocacy is an element that runs through many of TRIALOG’s activities. TRIALOG has played different roles – from acting as advocate to raise awareness about the particular needs of organisations in countries without a well-established system for development cooperation and development education, to providing training on how to better advocate for issues within development themes.

The main support for TRIALOG advocacy work was the opportunity that was offered by EU membership: for funding but also for learning, for diversifying activities, for meeting new people and getting involved in new policy areas. There were new opportunities to become more influential – to get involved in advocacy and achieve results. In the same way that TRIALOG staff went from networking on behalf of partners to facilitating that networking, advocacy work was in the first instance on behalf of EU13 actors and later in partnership with, and supporting EU13 advocacy.

All three elements – networking, learning and empowerment and advocacy were interlinked through many TRIALOG activities. Certain capacity development activities, for example, involved networking with other participants, learning new skills that empowered those who took them on and supported specific advocacy work.



FOR ALL ACTIVITIES, PERSONAL CONTACTS WERE VITAL

Establishing a pool of experienced people from older and newer EU Member States both in the TRIALOG consortium and within the circle of close stakeholders facilitated the success of TRIALOG’s activities. These people gave crucial inputs to the design of activities such as the international conferences, were entry points to new countries (such as Croatia), built links for joint activities (such as the Study Visit on Expert Sending where participants visited the German consortium partner AGEH), or simply acted as good advisors to the management team leading the project.

LACK OF RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT CSOs IN EU13 WAS A HINDERING FACTOR

Limited participation and engagement of EU13 representatives in TRIALOG activities was challenging throughout all project phases. This was not due to a lack of interest in the events or topics but very often due to a lack of resources in the EU13. The CSOs active in development cooperation and development education mostly lacked (and still do) financial resources and hence operate with very few staff members, often on a volunteer basis. Consequently, these people have a lot on their agenda and little time to, for example, travel to policy meetings in Brussels and follow the work of CONCORD groups.

The lack of sustainability and financial stability translated into a lack of capacity, which led to insecurity about ability and possibilities for engagement, which in turn led to a lack of leadership. There is a lack of global perspective that is constantly being tackled and influences the strategic mission of EU13 NGOs.

As a consequence of the financial crisis in 2008 and beyond, the already small budgets for development CSOs were further cut by governments, which increased insecurity and which made it impossible for organisations and platforms to plan on a long-term basis. The crisis endangered the structures of CSO platforms in many countries because without any financial means it was difficult to maintain staff and to implement actions. Generally, the importance accorded to development cooperation by state bodies decreased as a consequence of the crisis.

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN EU13 WAS OUTSIDE-DRIVEN BY THE EU

The limited participation and a lack of leadership among EU13 CSO actors is also rooted in the way that the people TRIALOG works with got involved in development – as a top-down process rather than bottom-up organically grown engagement. EU13 were obliged to provide development aid through the Acquis Communautaire when they became members of the EU, and this kind of imposed obligation results in certain challenges. Development expertise had to be built up on both the government side and within civil society.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EC

Over the years, new financial conditions and staff changes within the EC have challenged those closely involved in the project in terms of adapting to the open calls for proposals system in 2009 and building up new contacts and presenting the project and its values and aims to new teams within the EC.

EVALUATION OF PARTNERSHIPS WITH CSO PLATFORMS

In the history of TRIALOG, the relationship with development NGO platforms in the EU13 developed consistently but not without challenges. In the early phases, TRIALOG provided a lot of knowledge related to development cooperation and the establishment of platforms and was perceived as a strong support body, which EU13 could rely on. Also in terms of advocacy and development policy issues, platforms would rather consult TRIALOG than CONCORD. This changed when the platforms became stronger with increased insight and experience in development policies, also thanks to the work of TRIALOG. The platforms started to demand a stronger say in the design of activities and asked for more decentralised support. Although it was appreciated that the platforms became more confident, it also challenged the partnership with the TRIALOG staff and consortium as for them it was sometimes hard to let go and give away control. It has also to be considered that some platforms developed quicker or in different ways than others which led to a very diverse group of partners with different needs and demands. There were clear efforts to provide tailored support to all partners but some stronger platforms got the feeling that their benefit from the project was not so significant anymore. In TRIALOG V, where all platforms are partners, they planned and implement the project together as a strong consortium and transformed TRIALOG into a real network.



The conference “The enlargement of the EU and the role of NGDOs” which was organised in 1998 in Vienna, marks a kick-off for networking as first important contacts between initiators of TRIALOG from EU15 and AC were made there and an appeal resulted to create a functioning network of NGDOs in Eastern and Western Europe. The outcome of this conference and the process initiated led to further identification of needs and the formulation of the first TRIALOG project proposal. The database of NGOs created at that time served as a basis for all networking and information activities.

Especially during the planning phase of the project, personal networking of individuals from EU15 NGOs was crucial to establishing contacts in the enlarged EU and to start thinking how the upcoming EU members could be included in EU development cooperation structures. This personal networking later transformed into a more institutional networking of platforms and organisations. Many of the initial contact people in the AC later became project partners with their organisations from TRIALOG II onwards and remained in close cooperation with the TRIALOG staff. This group of people provided added value through their advice, critical and visionary observations and input to the work of the secretariat to TRIALOG.

Partnership Fair, 2010





FROM
TRIALOG I
2000 - 2003

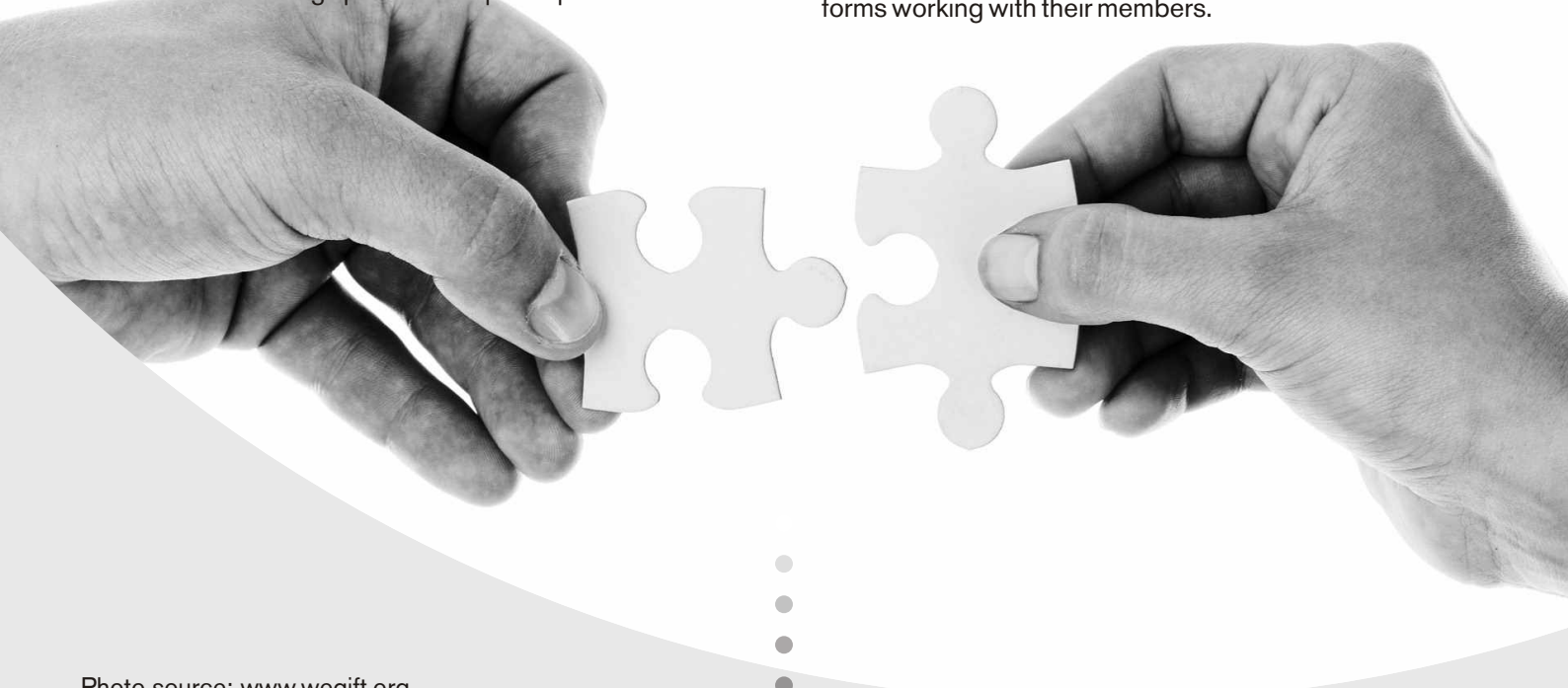
ESTABLISHING AND DEEPENING PARTNERSHIPS

There was a strong proactive approach from the first TRIALOG director to establish contacts with NGOs in AC through travelling to those countries and meeting representatives at European events. Additionally, TRIALOG's "Exposure Programme" allowed NGO representatives from AC to attend seminars and study visits to European development CSO platforms and build up contacts with European NGOs. Whereas in this early phase the focus was on "demonstrating" the AC how European NGOs work, the approach naturally changed throughout the years towards an exchange. The "Introductory courses on development policy" organised by TRIALOG in Vienna did not only offer insights in the topic in terms of learning but was also a networking space for AC participants.

The personal contacts of people active in TRIALOG strongly contributed to the success of the project and helped to spread the idea of TRIALOG in the EU and AC. Through TRIALOG partners, more doors could be opened: For example, through the Finnish and Swedish NGDO platforms the link to CSOs in the Baltics was facilitated.

INFORMATION TOOLS

TRIALOG's information tools, which include the electronic newsletter, website, NGO database and country papers, were often a main source of information for many platforms and interested individuals. They are also used for sharing knowledge between platforms and members. TRIALOG aimed to reach as many organisations and individuals across the NMS as possible to make information on development cooperation issues available, as well as provide a space for information sharing between EU13 and EU15 where the NMS perspective was given a particular focus. Especially in the first phase, language was a barrier and news needed to be translated into national languages, which hampered the flow of communication. This improved later, although in some cases it is still a problem for platforms working with their members.





TRAINING

Training is a core element of TRIALOG's learning and empowerment activities. The new in-country seminars offered an additional space for networking on national level between development NGOs in EU10/AC and sometimes included also members of the Ministries or Development Agencies. This contributed to the cooperation among NGOs and relations with the authorities in charge of national development policies.

TRIALOG offered two training events for each platform per year on topics they could choose, such as project proposal writing, project cycle management, fundraising, and communication. In TRIALOG IV the training became more decentralised as some platforms became stronger with increased capacities for organising their own events. The platforms themselves additionally provided training to their members with the financial support of TRIALOG and assistance in, for example, finding a trainer. Topics included then also management of contracts – a result of successful applications. Sometimes it was hard to find participants for training events and offers were not accepted. Platforms explained it as a certain training fatigue. Reasons for this include a huge variety of offers for training from various sources as well as limited human resources to make use of all the opportunities. In many EU13 the platforms and organisations work with very few staff members, many of whom are part-time or volunteers without the time to engage in further topics or dedicate a whole working day to attend a training event.

Turning point

From identifying partners to training on project management and EU funding possibilities: a natural process.

STUDY VISITS FOR NGOs AND MFA

The first study visits for EU10/AC were organised for NGO platforms and organisations in EU15 or other EU10 countries and later to Brussels. In the beginning the objective was to get to know how other platforms work and how EU structures function.

Study visit to Brussels, 2011



In 2005, NGO and MFA representatives from Bulgaria, Cyprus and Romania came together for study visits to NGO platforms and MFAs in Austria, Hungary, and Slovakia. The aim was to practically translate the “acquis communautaire” into national policy; it was a learning exercise for all involved. Additionally, it contributed to strengthening the contacts between representatives of NGOs and MFAs which turned out to be useful for further cooperation and advocacy work.

PEER LEARNING

Peer learning appeared in several forms: at the time of establishing platform structures, TRIALOG organised visits from EU10 to EU15 countries for knowledge sharing. Later on, study visits, such as in 2006 that involved Romanian NGO representatives visiting the Polish platform, took place to share experience about how the platform in Poland had been set up. Also, mutual learning, exchange, and sharing of experiences for the EU presidencies was facilitated. TRIALOG could count on collaboration with EU15 platforms like the Irish, Finnish or British to guide the newcomers from the enlarged EU on how to plan and implement successful activities around the EU presidencies. This illustrated the very essence of TRIALOG, which is to bring together European stakeholders and foster European integration. On the other hand, there was a totally different level of experience, to which participants involved could relate, as well as different possibilities in terms of financial and staff capacities. Furthermore, the contrasts of political and society attitudes towards the topic of development cooperation in the different European countries limited the possibilities of EU13 CSOs to translate experience from other countries to their local contexts.

PROCESS OF PLATFORM BUILDING

The process of platform building can be viewed through the lens of learning and empowerment because it included basic training, as well as the mapping and gathering of national actors as first steps until institutionalised platforms or umbrella organisations were established.

The platform building activities, in the very early stage, helped to raise awareness about development cooperation among NGOs in EU10 and AC. The lack of understanding of development issues and the engagement with social and poverty issues within the countries can be seen as hindering factors for building a development NGO platform to its full potential. On the other hand, it could be argued that this situation was actually a benefit as it provided opportunities to link in-country work with the international development world.

It was fortunate that different very committed people were sitting around one table to build something new together. This process empowered national NGO actors to form a group of like-minded people, establish a formal platform and raise the topic of development cooperation in their countries towards both society and politicians and state

institutions. This gave them more weight and influence at the national and European level. For example, the national NGO platforms are in dialogue with their Ministries for Foreign Affairs to discuss the country's development agenda; they liaise with their Members of the European Parliament so that they take into account development cooperation issues, and engage through the European NGO confederation CONCORD in policy debates with the European Institutions in Brussels. TRIALOG supported civil society in EU13 to organise themselves in order to take on these important new roles as members of the EU.

It has been demonstrated that a careful needs assessment together with the beneficiaries is crucial to respond to “real needs” and avoid a top-down creation of needs. Especially when it comes to the creation of national CSO platforms, the impulse has to come from the members and not from outsiders. Otherwise the risk is that members will not support, engage with and work through the platform. In Cyprus for example, TRIALOG introduced development cooperation / development education and the local CSOs developed a very strong interest in these topics, although they were not high on their agenda beforehand. Finally they formed the island wide platform CYINDEP and became member of CONCORD. The entire process was strongly led by TRIALOG and can be seen as an example of very successful European integration efforts. On the other hand, the local situation in Cyprus, ranging from the internal political division of the island over the prominent migration issues to the recent financial crisis, is hindering the work of the development platform and its members. CYINDEP implemented a very strong and effective EU Presidency Project in 2012 but when the funding ran out it had to reduce staff and work only on the basis of financial resources provided by TRIALOG and CONCORD (AidWatch), as member fees are very low. Additionally, the engagement of members has decreased; in response, a workshop on organisational development facilitated by TRIALOG was held. This helped to set the path for a new platform strategy.

MEETINGS WITH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Initial meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) took place with members of the TRIALOG secretariat, mainly the director. Especially in phases I-III, officials took part in TRIALOG training activities as they also had a strong need for capacity building on development cooperation issues. These same people very often became counterparts for the platforms in the Ministry.

TRIALOG provided specific support for the Romanian platform in 2009 to meet the MFA and Ministry of Finance and discuss various issues related to platform funding and cooperation, in particular using the example of the Austrian co-funding system. The advocacy work was not particularly successful due to limitations experienced by the Romanian government but provided invaluable experience for members of the Romanian platform.

As TRIALOG progressed, platforms became more and more empowered to be seen and treated as partners by their MFAs in many cases. They would be present in official bodies and consulted on relevant questions related to development cooperation. It was good that TRIALOG brought people from EU15 to EU13, showing what is done in other parts of Europe. An obstacle was the lack of human resources and knowledge in the MFAs as well as the very high staff turnover. In many countries the MFA had to newly build up their development cooperation and there were no structures or reservoirs to draw from. This, on the other hand can be an advantage as well, as in some countries CSOs became important advisors for MFAs related to development issues.

CENTRAL TRAINING

The core regional networking between EU13 took place from 2004 onwards in the annual “Central Training” where platform representatives from the enlarged EU met to exchange about their situations, experiences and challenges. The Central Training was highly valued by the platforms as it responded perfectly to their needs to share and discuss among a group of people in similar situations and to receive special inputs on relevant topics from the side of TRIALOG. It created a feeling of belonging to a network. Whereas in the beginning the training component was very strong, later the sharing and exchange aspect as well as development of joint strategies on certain topics became more relevant. In TRIALOG V the event was renamed in “Strategy Meeting”.

PARTICIPATION IN CONCORD

Over the years, TRIALOG has made it possible for a very large number of participants from countries where the platform was not yet a member of CONCORD to join CONCORD working groups and events by providing financial support. TRIALOG’s goal was to support platforms to become full members of CONCORD and to ensure the transition to membership was smooth. The involvement of future members of CONCORD was crucial in paving the way for their membership, by introducing new policy areas and consolidating their understanding of CONCORD’s work and European-level policy processes. Through participating in the AidWatch group, for example, representatives learned how to monitor aid flows and how to produce a country report, which led to the empowerment of platforms to monitor their governments’ contribution to development. In some working groups EU13 representatives started to bring in a focus on topics such as democratisation and countries in the EU’s Eastern neighbourhood.

Having a certain amount of funding dedicated to this facilitated the support. A main factor that hindered EU13 participation was platforms not having a Brussels-representative but having to find someone who was willing to travel and the gap in understanding generated by the complex development language used in policy discussions and widespread acronyms. The core interests of

CONCORD working groups also hindered wider engagement because it was sometimes hard for new members to relate to and engage in the topics. From this, however, arose the need to create a new space – the Enlargement, and then EPAN working group. This was a way of engaging in centrally-important topics on which EU13 participants could share certain expertise.

EPAN WORKING GROUP SUPPORT AND MEETINGS 2003-2012

TRIALOG convened the CONCORD working group on Enlargement, Pre-Accession and Neighbourhood between 2003 and 2012. The work was key to introducing EU13 to CONCORD’s work through an area of the world that they were usually more involved in compared to ‘traditional’ partner countries of EU15 in the ACP region. Having one TRIALOG staff member in Brussels greatly facilitated this work, including the coordination with the CONCORD secretariat, but a number of factors hindered the work over the years. Participation was always an issue since due to limited resources, membership was very fluid and there was a lack of leadership among EU13. The group also struggled with a lack of recognition within CONCORD as the focus region was not in the centre of attention of many EU15 and network-based NGOs and there was also a lack of links with other working groups. TRIALOG convened the group because it was felt that it was the ideal entry point for EU13 platforms to get involved in CONCORD. TRIALOG stopped performing this convenor’s role in 2012 at the end of phase four, when it was judged that the time had come for members of the group to take over the main responsibility for the groups’ work and to rely less on the TRIALOG policy officer creating position papers and policy documents. EU13 members of EPAN succeeded in bringing attention and providing CSO input into certain EU policy areas such as the European Transition Compendium and establishment of the European Endowment for Democracy. It published regular position papers on neighbourhood and accession-related issues and included high level speakers in working group meetings, which also provided a first contact point for many in EU13 with Brussels-based policy makers.

STUDY VISITS TO BRUSSELS

After an initial study visit to Brussels in 2003, these activities were incorporated into the project design and took place annually from 2009 onwards. At these study visits representatives of development NGOs from EU13 gain first-hand experience of the EU policy making environment and meet with relevant stakeholders in the EU institutions and European development networks.

The initial visit was facilitated by the enthusiasm of the participants, who were trying to get used to their new status and keen to learn, but also by the openness of the EU to the new members. Later study visits benefitted from the continued enthusiasm of participants and the fact that they seized the opportunity to build links in Brussels and with other stakeholders.

A challenge of later study visits in TRIALOG IV was a lack of deep understanding of the topics discussed because of a need to cover many new policy areas. A lack of follow-up and feedback of information from the participants to the platforms after their return cast a shadow across the success of the activity. Some platforms started to sign contracts with their representatives including a follow up plan to ensure the information was shared with other member organisations through, for example, a national training on the respective topics.

With regards to advocacy, this activity proved extremely helpful in illustrating to EU13 the need for engagement in European-level policy making processes through CONCORD working groups and for making personal contacts with the people platforms needed to advocate towards. This way, the study visits also supported CONCORD in building up its future members. Contacts that were made through the study visits continued to be useful to participants long after the visit ended.

On the European level the study visits to Brussels created networking opportunities with representatives from European Institutions, Permanent Representations of the different countries, European NGDO networks and of course CONCORD working structures. Furthermore, the study visit participants, which were grouped regionally, used the joint days to strengthen their cooperation.

In later years, the study visits were organised around a thematic focus and participants were prepared to take on more active roles in the meetings and ask specific questions related to their interests. Having a team member based in Brussels and including CONCORD staff and representatives of working structures in the programme was received very positively.

TRIALOG ADVOCATES FOR EU13 FUNDING CONDITIONALITIES

TRIALOG team and consortium members took the opportunity at a number of events and activities to advocate for less strict EU funding criteria/conditions for EU10 as early as 2003. This bore fruit when a certain amount of funding was ring-fenced for applications from EU12/AC under the DEAR Call in 2006, as well as certain conditions altered for EC applications which made it easier for them to apply. In 2013, plans of the EC to change the guidelines of the DEAR call towards significantly larger grants (which means more own funding from the organisations) and bigger project consortia called up EU13 platforms to lobby through TRIALOG and CONCORD for fairer conditions again. Subsequently a special Lot for EU13 CSOs was created to ensure also smaller CSOs could apply.

The success can be seen as due to consistent lobbying from TRIALOG stakeholders – using one voice; as well

as support from EU15 stakeholders who increasingly saw EU13 CSOs as interesting potential partners. Challenges were more in the form of EU13 not leading these initiatives but TRIALOG driving the action – this was due to the well-known reasons: low capacities, lack of practical experience regarding funding and challenges linking theoretical funding policy with practical day to day considerations. In 2013 there was a strong initiative from the platforms and TRIALOG took on a supportive role.

Although EU funding conditionalities could be altered a little bit recognising the particular challenges faced by EU13 CSOs, a recent TRIALOG study from 2014 showed clearly the gap between EU13 and EU15. Only 0.75% of the almost 4000 analysed EU development grants and 17.4% of the DEAR grants went to EU13 CSOs during the last 10 years.

ASA INTERNSHIP PROGRAMMES

For the ASA internship programme TRIALOG actively looked for partners and facilitated partnerships. Many young people who participated in the ASA programme later became engaged actors and multipliers in development. Among young people from Central and Eastern Europe there was a very high interest in the experience to work jointly with a volunteer from Germany in a project in the Global South. However, the ownership of EU13 NGOs can be seen as limited, as they had no projects of their own and participants would go and work in a project elaborated in Germany.

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

The Regional Partnership Programme (RPP) – in which TRIALOG was involved in project selection and in the board - was a real space for learning by doing and networking among participating EU12 and Austrian development NGOs. With so called “twinning projects” in development education and overseas development cooperation, NGOs from newer EU member states implemented projects together with an Austrian lead agency. The background of the programme is that there was little expertise among NGOs from EU12 in project implementation with partners in the Global South and often a lack of own funds necessary to apply for development cooperation projects to the EC. The contacts made through the RPP resulted often in long-lasting partnerships.

Turning Point

Shift of approach - From grassroots to meta-level:

While in the earlier phases TRIALOG was mainly working with local NGOs, from now on the national CSO platforms became main counterparts of the project. TRIALOG's focus shifted towards enabling platforms to increase their expertise in development policy topics and advocacy methods. This was important to empower platforms in their role as national representations of development CSOs towards national and international policy makers.



FROM
TRIALOG III
2006 - 2009

PARTNERSHIP FAIRS

The main new element added to the existing networking opportunities was the Partnership Fair for European NGOs, which took place for the first time in 2006. The event followed the successful lobbying of CONCORD and TRIALOG for special EC funding conditions for EU12 which resulted in a 10 million Euro envelope for development education projects in EU12. The Partnership Fair responded to the need of identifying and forming CSO coalitions for joint projects in order to apply for funding under this funding line. This Europe-wide event became one of the most successful TRIALOG activities and was organised again in 2010, 2011 and 2013.

Very often, co-funding for EC grants could not be secured so that in the end projects that were planned could not be realised. Nevertheless, the Fairs were always highly appreciated by the participants in terms of building up new contacts, exchange, and networking for future projects.

GLOBAL CONFERENCE IN PRAGUE: "ARE WE ON THE RIGHT TRACK? PARADIGM REVIEW BY CSOs IN DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION"

In 2008, the international conference "Are we on the right track? Paradigm Review by Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) as Development Actors" in Prague marked a new dimension of East-West-South collaboration among development CSO representatives.

The idea was to foster dialogue and especially to link the EU12 with the South in a more tangible way and bring issues related to current development paradigms higher up on the agenda in the EU12. The conference was strongly supported by CONCORD and various European CSOs, which increased the impact of the conference.

The biggest factor that supported the conference was the timing – the time was right to address questions of shifting paradigms in development cooperation so participants found the opportunity attractive and the discussions satisfying. The diverse backgrounds of participants enriched the conversations, but it was challenging to formulate joint positions, which adequately reflected the different perspectives.



Turning point

From core funding to competition in open EU calls: TRIALOG stopped receiving direct support from the EC and the project had to compete in the open call system. Many new activities were included in the project proposal for TRIALOG IV, such as the Training of Multipliers, and stronger involvement of platforms in the planning of project activities was established.

Global conference in Prague, 2008



FROM TRIALOG IV 2009 - 2012



Global conference in Nicaragua, 2010

GLOBAL CONFERENCE IN NICARAGUA: "GLOBAL CROSSROADS: THE ROLE AND PERSPECTIVES OF CSOs IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION".

As the first international conference had been very successful and identified the need to continue the global CSO dialogue, a follow-up conference was organised in Nicaragua in 2010. CSO representatives from Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America joined to discuss "The Role and Perspectives of CSOs in Development Cooperation". TRIALOG organised field visits for participants from the enlarged EU to projects run by HORIZONT3000 and its partners on the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua as many of them had no personal experience with projects in the South and new partnerships were actively encouraged. The opportunity to meet with local development cooperation organisations was very much appreciated by the participants as they could exchange experiences and build new contacts. Partners from Nicaragua and other Southern countries highlighted the importance for them to learn about and understand the transition experience the Eastern European countries had gone through.

The Prague conference and Nicaragua conference with field visits were occasions where TRIALOG touched its core: East meets West meets South. They were great spaces for learning and sharing ideas about development. Both conferences and the field visits provided participants with the opportunity to listen to local NGOs and partners discussing different realities and different perceptions of development. The experience and engagement of HORIZONT3000 was a crucial benefit, especially for the Nicaragua conference and field visits where the field office of HORIZONT3000 co-organised the event and guided the visits to project partners. A hindering factor was the fact that, despite the huge support for the Prague conference from CONCORD, there was a lack of engagement in Nicaragua. This meant the outcome of the conference could have had stronger links with EU15 CSOs. Another element was the lack of additional institutional support from other stakeholders (larger organisations, private sector) including funds; otherwise the Nicaragua conference could have been even bigger, making more activities possible. On the content of discussions it was observed that, like in the Prague conference, the different paradigms (for example the promotion of liberalism in many EU12 vs. socialism in Latin America) were enlightening but also hindered a fully common understanding.



EXCHANGE WITH THE GLOBAL SOUTH

As well as the conferences and field visits, the exchange with the Global South took place during the knowledge management conference of HORIZONT3000 on Rural Development in 2011 and Human Rights and Civil Society in 2012. The idea for the conferences was bringing together HORIZONT3000 project partners from across the world to share their knowledge and expertise and to facilitate dialogue. Whereas in the beginning the programme targeted only partners from the Global South, it was then expanded to partners from central and Eastern European countries via TRIALOG. This increased the feeling of connectedness between HORIZONT3000 and TRIALOG both on the level of project partners, on the institutional level and on the level of outside perception of the project and its lead agency. Through the conference people were brought together who would have never had the opportunity otherwise.

Turning point

New staff – new ideas: In TRIALOG IV there was high staff turnover due to maternity replacements and staff leaving the project. Only the director, who joined during phase II, remained in the project. Although changes in the team resulted in increased costs for the project, TRIALOG benefitted from the new and also temporary staff in terms of new ideas and ways of working.

TRAINING OF MULTIPLIERS

The Training of Multipliers (ToM) was a new element in the TRIALOG IV capacity building portfolio. The idea behind this activity was that the platforms had received a lot of training by 2009 and platform representatives should be supported to teach and share their knowledge with other members of the platform. This objective was very ambitious; for many participants it was difficult to dedicate the required amount of time (2010: 3 times 3 days, 2011 2 times 3 days, 2012 1 time 3 days). Also, despite the concept and outline drafted in close cooperation with the platform secretariats, the training did not match the expectations of many participants (members of the platform). Additionally, the diverse levels of knowledge of the participants were challenging and led to low satisfaction in the first training cycle 2010. Nevertheless, TRIALOG was able to be very flexible and to re-design the training. There were fewer but longer training modules including fewer topics but in more detail.

The ToM was also a floor for regional networking among EU13 participants as every country could send representatives. The commitment of participants and their interest to follow-up on the training topics and continue networking among their group gave the training a valuable networking aspect, especially for the groups in 2011 and 2012. Many of the people that were trained then are still engaged on a long-term basis with the platforms.

PLATFORM SUPPORT

In TRIALOG II some small grants were made available to support platforms financially. They were appreciated but were for a limited amount of money at a particular moment in the project. The platforms were also supported by the TRIALOG staff through advice and consultation on various issues from organisational development to advocacy work and through commenting on EU project proposals.

Towards the end of TRIALOG IV all platforms were offered a budget of EUR 5000 to organise different activities according to their current needs and all but one made use of this tool. This call was launched as a testing phase for the “Capacity Building Plans” in the upcoming fifth project phase which started in October 2012. Activities ranging from organisational development for the platform, to training for their members, to advocacy events took place and TRIALOG received very positive feedback about this opportunity. The platforms appreciated this kind of direct support for activities which they could plan and implement themselves. It was, however, an unforeseen administrative effort for the TRIALOG secretariat to launch the call, collect the applications, evaluate and monitor the narrative and financial reports, and assist the platforms with practical issues related to the activities.

ADVOCACY GUIDE 2012

In 2012, advocacy experiences were gathered from EU12 platforms and a guide was produced using the examples to illustrate good practices. It was facilitated by the fact that by 2012, EU12 platforms had collected a substantial amount of experience and it was an opportunity to share this expertise as well as raising awareness about the issues EU12 platforms had been focusing on. Any challenges were a result of the lack of capacity in platforms, meaning that the actual gathering of experience was not straightforward. In the end each platform contributed to the guide and it has been very well received by the platforms and more widely within CONCORD.

Field visits to development projects
in Nicaragua, 2010



FROM TRIALOG V 2012 - 2015

Towards the end of the fourth phase the TRIALOG team started a process of needs assessment among project partners and organised several planning events to discuss a future project. The process started with a workshop to gather first ideas, priorities and needs from platform and CSO representatives from the enlarged EU.

Turning point

From Beneficiaries to Partners: During the following Central Training, it was decided that the platforms would join the project as consortium partners. This was a major change in the structure of the project and the role of the platforms, which had been beneficiaries of TRIALOG, became active partners with rights and responsibilities.

Although the TRIALOG secretariat had always worked in a participatory way, consulting and involving the platforms in the implementation of activities, this step increased the platforms' ownership of the project significantly. The design and content of TRIALOG V was developed in close cooperation with all 12 platforms and a Croatian CSO leading the process of platform building in the youngest EU member state. Two more planning workshops contributed to the elaboration of new innovative activities and structures such as the position of a Liaison Officer in each platform and the decentralisation of capacity building activities.

Decentralisation of Training Events: Besides contributing to a better tailored offer of capacity building activities to platform members, the decentralisation of national capacity building transferred more responsibilities to the platforms. TRIALOG supported the platforms financially and in terms of planning content or finding resource people. For many financially weaker platforms this is the only financial source they have to provide capacity building to their members and the tool is highly appreciated across the region.



Field visits to development projects in Nicaragua, 2010

CHAPTER 4

LESSONS LEARNT FROM TRIALOG

The lessons learnt were identified during a workshop which also analysed the history of TRIALOG and involved EU13 resource people and former consortium members, as well as team members. Additionally, the systematisation facilitation team held a one-day workshop to finalise and structure the compilation of lessons learnt.

There are five blocks of lessons learnt that cover the areas “Inclusive Engagement”, “Learning by Doing”, and “Continuity and Flexibility Needed”, as well as “NGO Platform Building Know-How is Replicable to New Contexts” and “Creating Space for CSOs”. The blocks consist of several lessons, each with a general finding illustrated by an example from the TRIALOG experience.

INCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT



Avoid top-down approaches

When designing project structures and activities, it is key to avoid top-down approaches. Not consulting project beneficiaries can lead to low level of engagement, low satisfaction and low ownership of the project. This can also lead to little interest or will to contribute towards improving the unsatisfactory situation. Approaches that proactively and continuously engage project beneficiaries in the project design and planning of activities on the other hand lead to greater ownership and satisfaction with the actions.

TRIALOG integrated its main beneficiaries, the CSO platforms, into the design of its four follow up projects and individual activities to avoid top-down approaches. Nevertheless, some platforms perceived TRIALOG as a strongly centralised structure with little space to influence the direction and architecture of the project, especially in the fourth phase of TRIALOG. Finally, in the fifth phase of TRIALOG the platforms became partners of the project which significantly increased their ownership. The role of the platforms became much more influential in relation to project implementation. Nevertheless, in TRIALOG V the perceptions of the centrally-run project and ways of working with the project secretariat are changing slowly and are a learning process for both sides (the national platforms and the project secretariat).

Avoiding top-down approaches is also important when it comes to the establishment of national CSO platforms. Establishing such platforms from a top-down approach has



proven to be less successful than the establishment through an approach that pays attention to whether local CSOs feel the real need to organise themselves through such a body and where many CSO voices are heard. Otherwise there is the risk that the platform will be neither a member-driven, nor a representative body of members' interests.

Include flexible spaces among project activities

In order to address the diverse array of needs (that are often particular to just one partner) it is helpful to build in some open spaces in the project activities that can respond to individual partner needs.

The platform support in 2012 was such a case, when small grants for different activities were made available and platforms could use them for activities ranging from training, advocacy and organisational development responding to their most urgent needs. In TRIALOG IV platforms could request national training events from a list of topics based on existing requests and the capacities of TRIALOG staff.

From representation to empowerment

Ideally, a project empowers its target group and supports it in articulating positions towards certain audiences. Within this process the role of the project staff can change from "speaking on behalf" of the target group towards advising them in the background and supporting them with the relevant tools and information.

Whereas in the early phases TRIALOG represented CSOs from AC/NMS in different European fora, mainly within CONCORD and towards the EC, over the years the new CONCORD members became more and more involved and independent and TRIALOG's role shifted. In the early years of TRIALOG, the project secretariat engaged in active advocacy towards the EC and governments of Member States concerning the role of civil society in the enlargement countries as partner in development cooperation on national and international levels. After two project phases TRIALOG's support started to focus more on enabling platforms and their members to increase expertise in development policy topics and advocacy methods, for example through enabling their participation in relevant events and organising study visits to Brussels including meetings with EU institutions' representatives and Member States' representatives.

LEARNING BY DOING

Take the risk! Give opportunities for project implementation in an unknown environment

In order to encourage effective learning let people partner up with experienced counterparts to plan and implement activities. In development cooperation this can be done through joint projects in new areas (geographically or content wise).

Extremely positive feedback was given to the Regional Partnership Programme which was set up and run with the support of TRIALOG. **Through the implementation of projects in the Global South** together with an experienced Austrian partner, organisations from newer EU member states were given the opportunity to gain first-hand experience of development cooperation projects. This very valuable experience helped to build the expertise and capacities of CSOs in the enlarged EU to carry out their own projects in developing countries.

The support for young people from newer EU member states to participate in the ASA internship programme and work in development projects in the Global South did not only foster the three dimensional dialogue between East, West and South. Many former **interns became active in development NGOs** in their countries and nourished the sector with their experience and fresh visions from the grass roots level.

Include practical tools to raise the capacities of your project partners

Let partners or beneficiaries take over different implementing roles within the project. This allows them to raise their own capacities and increases their ownership on the project.

In TRIALOG several experienced representatives from EU13 platforms and CSOs supported weaker organisations and platforms, for example in the planning of their EU presidency projects or by giving input on certain development policy topics which also increased their capacities as trainers and experts. In TRIALOG V platform staff actively supports the elaboration of Policy Digests, which allow partners to go deeper into a certain policy topic and share their knowledge with the whole TRIALOG network.

CONTINUITY AND FLEXIBILITY NEEDED

Sustainable change takes time and is context bound

The change, especially in political or socio-cultural contexts, resulting from the implementation of a project is more sustainable the longer a project is actively supported by all stakeholders. Furthermore, the successes or failures of a project are related to the context and external processes.

The continuity of TRIALOG was perceived as positive by the national CSO platforms because through multiannual support, the capacities and structures within EU13 civil society were strengthened to work in the areas of development cooperation and development education, establish policy dialogue with national governments and engage in global policies on European level. New CSO platforms were formed and amassed a considerable amount of expertise through training, capacity building, conferences, study visits and exchanges organised or facilitated by TRIALOG. Nevertheless, in all EU13 countries funding for

the platform is not secured and is mostly project based, which means that there are hardly any resources for core activities. This affects the policy engagement, advocacy possibilities and support to platform members. External factors like the financial crisis since 2008 and resulting cuts to development budgets dashed many hopes for a strong development cooperation sector in EU13 countries. It remains a significant challenge for development CSO platforms in EU13 to find ways of reaching financial sustainability, to increase member's engagement and to strongly engage in international policy work.

Build up a strong relationship with your partners

Mutual trust and a partnership based on respect, openness and willingness to compromise between the different actors contribute to the success of a project. These partnerships grow stronger over the years.

As a result of its continuous support, TRIALOG is established as a reliable partner for platforms and CSOs in the enlarged EU and AC and the team is consulted frequently on a variety of issues related to the platform's organisational development, policy work or EU development cooperation and funding issues. This turns the project's lead agency and people involved into valuable resources for CSO integration in EU development cooperation and development policy, as well as CSO platform building. Finally, the long standing relationship with national platforms led to the joint project consortium with all EU13 platforms in TRIALOG V.

Adjust to the capacity of the target group

Adapting to the changing needs of beneficiaries is crucial for the success of a project. It is natural that the needs and situations of partners differ and some may not need the same support anymore while others may join to benefit from the project. The process of assessing the situation and being inclusive to allow everyone's voice to be heard is challenging but necessary.

TRIALOG reacted to criticism and re-designed, for example, the format of an activity like the Training of Multipliers to guarantee the effectiveness of the tool. For the project as a whole, each new phase marked a turning point where situations were assessed and new directions defined through joint reflections with the relevant stakeholders.

The way TRIALOG supported CSO platforms from the enlarged EU evolved naturally from providing services, such as training, to supporting them to be able to provide their own services. This happened especially in TRIALOG IV, and even more significantly in TRIALOG V when the platforms began to design and implement their own capacity building plans. This indicates the success of empowerment efforts of previous project phases.

Dare to let go

When the group of project partners develops into a strong network it requires trust, daring and innovation to change the mind-sets of all those involved from a traditional project approach to a more open and loose network approach.

At the end of phase IV, TRIALOG reached a point where its traditional approach of service delivery was questioned by some national platforms and TRIALOG engaged more strongly and creatively with their ideas to design the next project. This can be described as TRIALOG changing from being in the centre of a network to being one part of it. For TRIALOG staff this started a learning process and although they have already consulted the partners a lot this was a step further towards handing over control and facilitating rather than guiding processes. The national platforms also had to accept new responsibilities and establish themselves in their new roles.

Be inclusive: Recognise potential partners outside usual groups

CSOs must not think in silos, neither the development cooperation sector nor its individual actors. In a constantly changing world it is natural to stay in communication with the people in our environment. This implies managing the project in an open way, listening closely and getting a feeling for current and future needs to guarantee the relevance of the project.

TRIALOG aimed to continuously share ideas about how to interact with stakeholders outside the usual groups involved in the project. This has been done through organising joint activities with actors such as the GLEN Network, Balkan Civil Society Network and representatives of HORIZONT3000 field offices in the Global South. Exchange with these stakeholders provoked new thinking and brought fresh views to the work of TRIALOG.

NGO Platform Building Know-How is Replicable to New Contexts

It has been shown that the way TRIALOG supported and accompanied platform building processes produced knowledge that can be flexibly applied in other countries going through similar processes. Especially the experiences in Romania and Cyprus, as well as more recently in Croatia, show that despite very different national contexts the guiding support of TRIALOG encourages and strengthens the process of platform building.

Provide stimulus from the outside and act as neutral facilitator

In different situations, for example in the organisational development of platforms or when designing projects for the EU Presidency, the opportunity to consult TRIALOG as an external body to provide a reflective perspective and professional input was very much appreciated. It was helpful that TRIALOG staff could draw from their experi-

ence in different topics and build on the trusting relationship that had been built up with representatives of the platforms and local CSOs over the years.

Pay attention to specific contexts

At the same time attention has to be paid to local contexts and the opportunities and challenges that member organisations face when working together in a platform. There might be platforms that need continuous support for longer periods than others.

CREATING SPACE FOR CSOs

Open up spaces for networking

Provide people with the space to meet and interact as “networks are extraordinary ways of organising knowledge, co-operation and exchange.”⁸³

The reflection process which took place during the planning of TRIALOG V focused on the questions “Who are we and what do we do best?” and clearly showed that the added value of TRIALOG is its ability to bring people together. It was underlined that the spaces for Europe wide and global networking were extremely helpful for CSOs in Central and Eastern Europe. Through its different activities like the Central Training, study visits and training essential **exchange, information sharing and peer-learning** was possible. This strengthened CSOs and platforms to organise themselves regionally and fostered their integration in the development CSO sector at European level.

Bringing people together face to face makes a real difference and builds up a functioning **network of trust** and active engagement. Representatives of EU13 platforms regularly met at TRIALOG events where they could strengthen their ties. This led to a relationship of trust that could be built on - now they are working together in different EC projects.

It was positively perceived that within TRIALOG there was always the **space to discuss basic questions on development cooperation** such as the roles and perspectives of CSOs and the paradigm review by CSOs during the two international conferences in 2008 and 2012.

Global experiences create motivation and positive impact for work at home

Bringing together people from different backgrounds and cultures who work for the same aim is extremely fruitful in terms of learning and enriching individual perspectives.

Participants of the Global Exchange activities, such as the international conferences but especially the field visits to projects in Nicaragua, underlined the relevance and positive impact the events had on their work back home. The encounters were perceived as stimulus for discussions on development policy topics such as the role and perspectives of civil society, as the voices of a variety of

stakeholders from across the world were heard. The sharing of experience in project work between CSOs from different regions was also an enriching aspect and described as eye-opening by many participants.

Include more stakeholders in costly events

When it comes to organising expensive international events coordinate with other stakeholders to increase the impact of the activity.

Criticism of the Nicaragua event, argued that only a limited number of participants could benefit from this very cost intensive activity (in terms of finance and ecological footprint). For future activities, the coordination with other CSO partners such as CONCORD should be optimised to clarify common objectives and find a strategy on how to jointly use the synergies such an event provides.

INVEST IN PERSONAL CONTACTS

Personal contacts provide added value and can develop into professional networks

Over the years, contacts with people involved in TRIALOG were deepened in different fora such as the Advisory Group, among EU13 platforms and participants of the TRIALOG training activities. The personal contacts with representatives of CSOs, MFAs and EU institutions made by TRIALOG secretariat staff in the early years of the project helped building the ground for successful platform building support and advocacy work.

Support and Advocacy for Project Funding

Provide capacity building for project funding combined with lobbying efforts to create an enabling environment for CSOs including legal aspects, political dialogue between CSOs and decision makers, as well as funding possibilities.

The national training events on EC funding opportunities and proposal writing, as well as the Partnership Fairs, information sharing on EC calls and the online Partner Search were **starting points for many NGOs** to elaborate larger projects and apply for EC funding. The TRIALOG team additionally supported the efforts of CSOs by successfully lobbying the EC for less strict funding criteria for the EU13 applicants. It has been shown that an enabling environment is needed for CSOs to plan and implement their projects and put into practice the knowledge they gained from capacity building activities. Therefore, having the space for political dialogue and national funding for development cooperation are important elements.

Notes:

83. Ricardo Wilson-Grau & Martha Nuñez (2007): Evaluation international social change networks: a conceptual framework for a participatory approach, Development in Practice.

STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO DEVELOPMENT CSO PLATFORM BUILDING

The following steps are based on TRIALOG's experience in supporting and accompanying Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in different newer EU member states during their process of development CSO platform building. They can be used as guidelines for organisations that aim to initiate a platform, network or a similar structure in their country, as well as by a body from outside supporting such a process. The different steps propose a certain structural approach, but naturally some activities might happen in parallel.

	WHAT?	HOW?	WHY?	REMEMBER
1	Map potential partners	Map CSOs that are already working or potentially interested in working on issues related to global justice, human rights, peace building, sustainable development etc. This can be done through research (online and via existing contacts to organisations) and consultation meetings with state and CSO representatives. The mapping can be designed as a country paper. See: http://www.trialog.or.at/country-papers-3	To identify potential organisations that would be interested in forming a network and eventually a platform.	Be inclusive and involve all relevant CSO actors taking into account geographical differences and differences in organisation size in order to allow everyone to contribute.
2	Build relations with potential partners	Contact CSO representatives and arrange meetings to identify potential interest and needs to engage in setting up a platform.	To build up personal contacts and provide information on development cooperation and the role of civil society in it to interested actors.	Do not underestimate the investment of time needed to build up a trust relationship.
3	Create a core group to lead the process	Identify highly motivated individuals who support the idea to set up a platform and are committed to working on the process.	It is crucial to have a team of at least 2-3 people who will be dedicated to continuously work on the process.	It is easier to coordinate the core work in a small and committed team.
4	Raise awareness among (potential) partners	Organise thematic seminars to familiarise a wider group of CSO representatives with the relevant topics (development cooperation, development education, development CSOs' role in the EU etc.).	To raise awareness of the relevant topics, to build alliances and to identify potential platform members.	Raise interest in your topics but avoid a top-down approach. Encourage peer learning, knowledgeable members of the group can take on active roles during seminars.
5	Assess capacity building needs of partners	Through questionnaires or interviews identify the main capacity building needs of the (potential) partners in terms of the core topics of the platform and working methods.	To facilitate the process of platform building and enable organisations to take an active role.	The capacity building needs and the level of knowledge are different between CSOs and from one country to another. Adapt to existing needs.
6	Build capacity among partners	Provide capacity building activities such as seminars on development cooperation/ development education and EU funding opportunities; job shadowing with other development CSO platforms; and study visits (to EU institutions).	To ensure that the expertise needed by CSOs to improve their work and participation at the national, regional and EU level is available at the right time and with the required quality.	A good mix of activities is needed for diverse groups of CSO representatives. Design activities that respond to the working environment and (scarce) resources of the organisations.
7	Plan the legislative procedures	Organise seminars and follow-up meetings on platform building and organisational development for CSOs. Decide on the formal status and set up a timeframe for the legal establishment. Combine the meetings on legislative procedure with concrete development topics, so people will gain knowledge on content and have a clearer idea about why it is important to create the platform.	To bring together a group of CSOs leading the platform building process to facilitate their work on concrete issues such as strategy, statutes and membership engagement.	The process is likely to take time and some organisations might break away leaving space for others to join.
8	Take enough time to ensure an appropriate consultation process	Take as much time as is needed but at the same time do not allow the process to destroy the idea. Develop a common understanding of what the platform should achieve.	If things move too quickly and there is little consultation with stakeholders, the process can create frustration and lack of ownership. Members might develop different expectations towards the platform.	Find a balance between giving the process enough time and not losing the momentum and ambition of reaching the final objective. Define the role of the platform.
9	Develop relations with state stakeholders and beyond	Make contacts and facilitate meetings with the state officials responsible for development cooperation (often in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs). Facilitate meetings with relevant stakeholders, such as representatives from academia, journalists, other civil society actors, politicians, and ministries related to the topic, European institutions' representatives in your country, foreign embassies etc.	To learn about their engagement in the topic, plans for the future and experience with and approach to working with CSOs. To identify potential cooperation opportunities with a wide range of actors.	Invest in good working relations since this cooperation is important in the long-run. A communication strategy can be a helpful tool.
10	Raise awareness in the society	Organise national roundtable events engaging state, EU and civil society stakeholders.	To raise awareness among CSO representatives and politicians on relevant topics. To build links with different stakeholders working on similar topics.	Events are a good starting point for networking but require consistent follow up.
11	Share experiences with peers in other countries	Organise peer-to-peer learning meetings with CSO platforms from different countries.	To learn from others' experiences and exchange on crucial issues.	Contacts made during the time at the establishment of the platform can also be useful at later stages.
12	Take national level work to the European level	Foster involvement in relevant (development and development education) debates and working processes on international/European level. Identify relevant international partners and networks to join (such as CONCORD Europe).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To gain expertise and legitimacy, as well as to build links with international CSOs and other stakeholders and bring the country's perspective into the European/global discourse. 	Engaging at international level can bring legitimacy in the eyes of domestic stakeholders and additional support for establishing the platform. Do not hesitate to ask for advice.

CONCLUSIONS

The systematisation of experiences gathered in TRIALOG was a necessary and useful process which has been documented here. After four project phases it was high time to look back at what has been achieved and what has not turned out as planned. These pages give a broad and comprehensive picture of activities carried out during the TRIALOG phases and the context in which they were embedded. TRIALOG work has been analysed, with challenges and facilitating factors being identified and described. The lessons learnt sum up the process and can serve both people involved in TRIALOG and outsiders interested in the topics TRIALOG has been working on for future projects.

The process has taken almost two years and was carried out continuously alongside the daily project tasks of the TRIALOG team. Involvement of project partners and stakeholders took place on special occasions such as the two main workshops and other smaller sessions. Additionally, they contributed significantly to the case studies of the platforms in their countries.

It turned out to involve a lot of desk research for the TRIALOG staff to compile the history of the project

following the workshop with EU13 CSO platform representatives. One reason for this was that none of the current staff members was engaged in the first two project phases. Nevertheless, from project reports and files, a structured description of TRIALOG activities could be elaborated which serves as a good record of how the project has worked over the past 14 years.

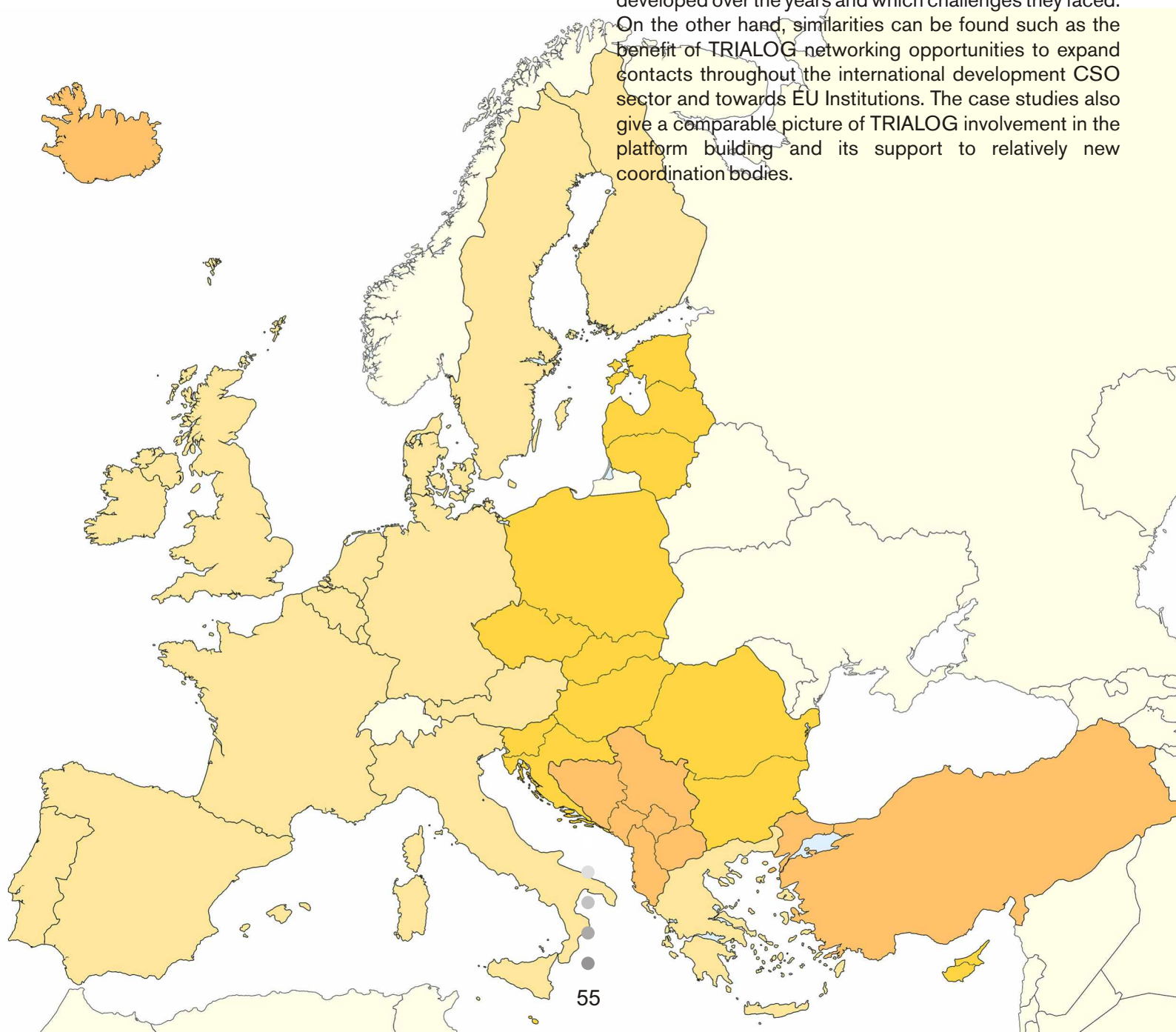
TRIALOG has been leading activities in different fields over the past four and a half periods including capacity building, information distribution, networking, policy and advocacy. Over the years, the role of TRIALOG has changed significantly: whereas in the beginning TRIALOG was mainly providing training to EU13 platforms and doing advocacy on behalf of them, nowadays TRIALOG support to the platforms consists mainly of advice on the implementation of their own activities and providing space for exchange.

The systematisation has shown that partners and stakeholders appreciate TRIALOG as an actor that has constantly supported a very diverse group of CSOs across Europe and facilitated them in their individual development as well as in working together in a network.



CASE STUDIES ON THE HISTORY OF EU13 DEVELOPMENT CSO PLATFORMS

Five of the EU13 development CSO platforms participated actively in the systematisation process and during a workshop they reflected on their own history and how TRIALOG influenced the establishment and development of the platform in their country. The following case studies from Cyprus, Czech Republic, Latvia, Poland and Romania clearly illustrate how different the contexts are for development cooperation activities of CSOs in these countries. This diversity continues in the way the platforms developed over the years and which challenges they faced. On the other hand, similarities can be found such as the benefit of TRIALOG networking opportunities to expand contacts throughout the international development CSO sector and towards EU Institutions. The case studies also give a comparable picture of TRIALOG involvement in the platform building and its support to relatively new coordination bodies.



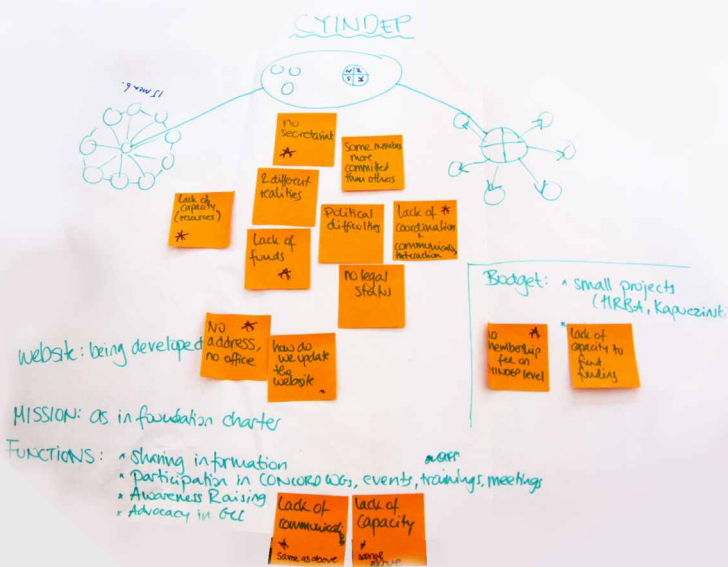
CASE STUDY

CYINDEP in Cyprus

State of civil society and relevant developments 2000-2012 in Cyprus

The freedom of association and assembly in Cyprus are respected and NGOs generally work freely. In consequence, there are numerous NGOs in Cyprus nowadays, but they do not cooperate as much as they could in order to create synergies. This fact is attributed mainly to the strong traditional church and village ties. Another difficulty is the lack of funding for CSOs from the government. Cypriot NGOs started to engage more actively within the society in the beginning of the 1990s. They focused mainly on environmental and gender issues. Currently, CSOs deal primarily with internal Cypriot concerns such as gender discrimination, irregular immigration or bi-communal reconciliation and cooperation between Turkish and Greek Cypriots⁸⁴.

An important funder and partner of the Cypriot CSOs is UNDP together with USAID. The UNDP programming has been focused on CSO capacity-building for better bi-communal cooperation, mainly in human rights, reconciliation and peace building areas⁸⁵. The UNDP "Action for Cooperation and Trust" (ACT) Programme is now in its last phase in Cyprus, after working on reconciliation efforts for the last twelve years⁸⁶. In 2008, a Cypriot meta-platform with development NGOs members from both Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities was established. The platform building process, facilitated by TRIALOG, started in 2005. The umbrella platform was made up of two already existing regional organisations – the Greek Cypriot NGDO Platform "The Development" and the Turkish Cypriot platform "Cyprus NGO Network"⁸⁷. The umbrella platform is based on the Memorandum of Understanding between the two community platforms which agreed on the "joined but differentiated" cooperation principle. The Cyprus Island Wide NGO Development Platform (CYINDEP) joined CONCORD in 2009. Currently CYINDEP has twenty three members⁸⁸. Besides inappropriate national development legislation, which is the heritage of the British colonial era, one of the main challenges for CYINDEP remains funding. In fact, CYINDEP has only had paid staff since 2012 thanks to the Cypriot EU presidency in the same year. The CYINDEP office is located in the Green Zone in the border area, in order to allow both communities to actively engage. The Development Cooperation Service of the Republic of Cyprus – CyprusAid was established in 2005. The development policy decision making body in Cyprus is the MFA's Coordination Body. The Minister of Finance and the Permanent Secretary of the Planning Bureau also



participate in development policy decision making. There is also a Consultative Body in place for the Coordination Body. Although CYINDEP should be consulted within the Consultative Body together with the MFA Permanent Secretary, Representatives of the Ministries of Finance, Commerce, Industry and Tourism, Agriculture Natural Resources and Environment, Labour and Social Insurance, Education and Culture, the Planning Bureau, it has never yet been called to participate in the meetings⁸⁹.

In general, Cyprus development cooperation reflects EU policy and priorities. This could be seen already in its first 2006-2011 Medium Term Strategy, adopted in 2005. The CyprusAid priority countries became: Autonomous Palestinian Authority, Bosnia Herzegovina, Egypt, Lebanon, Lesotho, Mali, and Yemen. As Cyprus does not currently have a project implementation mechanism of its own, it implements development projects in so-called developing countries in cooperation with other EU Member States' development agencies or/and International Organisations⁹⁰.

Cyprus is a member of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe since its creation in 1989. So far, however, no national strategy or other specific action plan regarding global development education has been adopted in Cyprus. The Cypriot government has not allocated a specific budget line to global development education either⁹¹.

The Cypriot ODA spending decreased from 0.23% of GNI in 2010 to 0.16% of GNI in 2011. In absolute terms, this decrease represented a 19% decrease in Cypriot ODA. The decrease has occurred due to the high inflated aid figure in 2011 which was 35% of the total Cypriot aid and was thus the highest among all NMS⁹². The Republic of Cyprus has not met its ODA commitment of reaching 0.20% of the country's GNI by 2011, nor had it met the goal of reaching 0.17% ODA/GNI by 2010⁹³.

HISTORY OF THE CYPRIOT DEVELOPMENT CSO PLATFORM CYINDEP



The encouragement phase

The first time NGOs in Cyprus got in touch with development cooperation (DC), was in 2005 when some NGO representatives participated in the TRIALOG study visit to Austria, Slovakia and Hungary. The aim of this study visit was for CSOs to gain a better understanding of what DC is. During this phase NGOs were encouraged by TRIALOG and by other platforms to explore how they can become active in relation to development in Cyprus. The country had just joined the EU, and the idea of a platform within a European network was an important step for networking with other European NGOs. Since other European countries had platforms, it was a necessary step for Cypriot NGOs to 'become more European as well!'

None of the Cypriot NGOs had any experience in Development Cooperation or Development Education before. The general premise was that the Cypriot NGOs would sooner or later become active in either Development Cooperation or/and Development Education – which seemed a bit closer to their work at the time. Since the initial meetings and moves towards creating a platform took place in a bi-communal setting, there was also the idea that Cypriot NGOs can jointly work on bigger global problems.

In **2006**, during the first TRIALOG Partnership Fair, several NGOs from Cyprus participated and formulated their first joint project proposal in development education and awareness raising. The proposal was rejected but the NGOs consider it a milestone because they benefited from the networking opportunity, having met organisations with which they would work in the future. Another organisation from Cyprus did get a project approved as early as 2006 (Future Worlds Center), and a lot of awareness raising on development issues was done, especially in schools.

In the same year, a first training and public conference were organised by TRIALOG and local NGOs in Cyprus with the aim of raising awareness and building capacity in development education and development cooperation. At that time, TRIALOG representatives also met with the ministry for Foreign Affairs and the media reported about development and Cyprus responsibilities with regards to development as an EU member. It was a period where a lot of networking at the EU level was done in order for NGOs to see what organisations in other countries were working on, reflect on the capacity building of local NGOs and to develop a platform.

The situation with two communities, the Turkish Cypriot and the Greek Cypriot, made Cyprus a very unique case. From the beginning the communities started to work together in study visits, but also in TRIALOG training and conferences. Due to the nature of the two communities there were some problems with establishing a platform. The main challenge was related to the registration. The Greek Cypriot community rejected the idea of registering in the Turkish part and vice versa. Still, they continued trying to find a solution.

The blooming phase

In **2007**, several events and initiatives helped start a blooming phase. The proposal that was rejected in 2006 was re-submitted and one organisation started implementing a development education project in Cyprus. These first projects did not only help the relation between the NGOs but also with the MFA. An NGO symposium in Cyprus created the opportunity for organisations related to development to meet other NGOs, to see what they are doing and to talk to them about development. Additionally, TRIALOG facilitated the participation of Cypriot NGOs in CONCORD working groups and event. Therefore, this blooming phase was also giving an idea of what was happening outside the island. Still, the obstacle of having two different communities had not yet been resolved.

Holding hands

2008 was marked by endless negotiations between organisations in the two communities. There were a number of meetings to discuss the necessity of registering and the need to become a platform. So, although it was a difficult phase, NGOs started to “hold hands” and in 2008 the platform was finally established. The solution that was found was that of registering two organisations: one in the Turkish Cypriot community and one in the Greek Cypriot Community. It was at the initiative of TRIALOG that the two platforms joined and created the umbrella platform. TRIALOG offered a workshop in Cyprus and suggested this model, including the fact that the umbrella platform could join CONCORD without being formally registered. Through this concrete initiative, CYINDEP was then created in 2009. Between the two organisations a Memorandum of Understanding was signed acknowledging that they would be working together. In terms of international development they act as one platform but each side has its own role in their respective communities due to the different contexts.

In its early phase CYINDEP needed to work on a platform strategy, including policy development and advocacy but also capacity building for its members. In 2008 they received training on EC project proposal writing from TRIALOG and after that NGOs started to apply for funding and managed to get some projects related to development funded. The government and NGO law in Cyprus presented a double obstacle: first there was no funding for NGOs and secondly there was no space for policy dialogue with the government on the aid strategy of Cyprus. However, through TRIALOG and CONCORD,

CSOs found ways of expressing their opinion towards policy makers in Cyprus, for example through yearly AidWatch reports. In 2010 CYINDEP became member of CONCORD.

Joined but differentiated

2011 and 2012 were very important years for the platform due to the fact that members from both communities attended European events together as well as each other's events. Still there was a difference in their realities compared to other European CSO platforms due to the fact that they had no financial resources and no paid staff.

In 2012, the platform received an EC grant for a project on food security and post-2015 related to the EU presidency of Cyprus. The most important aspect was to engage paid staff and operate from a joint office, instead of being run solely by volunteers. The Cyprus EU presidency generated significant media attention, government discussion and public visibility. The platform situation was improving but financial instability continued due to a lack of other funding. Consequently, after the project ended only one staff member continued to work in the CYINDEP secretariat, with support from the TRIALOG V project.

Sophia Arnaouti and Kerstin Wittig-Ferguson
from CYINDEP, 2012



CASE STUDY

FoRS in Czech Republic

State of civil society and relevant developments

2000-2012 in the Czech Republic

The Czechoslovak official development cooperation before 1989, governed by the COMECON⁹⁴ principles and the interests of the Soviet Union, was intended for countries which were strategic for the Soviet bloc⁹⁵. The current ODA system was established after the Czech Republic joined OECD in 1995. The Czech Republic became the first transition country of CEE to re-establish its governmental foreign development aid programme⁹⁶. Due to the collapse of the Eastern bloc, Czechoslovakia and the subsequent Czech Republic underwent the loss of the status of ODA donor and became an ODA recipient. The Czech Republic was a recipient of development aid until 1995, when it acceded to the OECD. Between 1996 and 2004, the future EU member state was both a recipient and a re-emerging donor. The status of a re-emerging donor was confirmed in 2001 when the Czech Republic moved from the recipient category of the UNDP to the category of a donor⁹⁷. The Czech Republic was among the CEE states which pledged at EU GAERC in May 2005 to increase their ODA to 0.17% of their GNI until 2010 or to 0.33% in 2015 in order to contribute proportionally to the EU's achievement of the MDGs⁹⁸.



Global conference in Prague, 2008

As a recipient of bilateral ODA, the Czech Republic received aid mainly from Canada and the USA. The Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) financial support and know-how sharing was as crucial for the transition process as for the institutionalisation of Czech development cooperation. 22 million US dollars were spent within Canada's Technical Assistance programme in the Czech Republic during 1990-2004 on the programmes addressing good governance, private sector, development, financial sector reform and education⁹⁹. After joining the EU, the Czech Republic joined CIDA's Official Development Assistance Program in Central Europe (ODACE). The first phase of the ODACE focused on capacity building and the second phase on the trilateral cooperation in third countries. The ODACE programme ended in 2008¹⁰⁰. The USAID programmes delivered in the Czech Republic ca. 169 million US dollars to support the economic, social and democratic reforms and transformation during 1990-1997¹⁰¹.



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CIDA's Official Development Assistance Program in Central Europe (ODACE). The first phase of the ODACE focused on capacity building and the second phase on the trilateral cooperation in third countries. The ODACE programme ended in 2008. The USAID programmes delivered in the Czech Republic ca. 169 million US dollars to support the economic, social and democratic reforms and transformation during 1990-1997.

The Czech ODA system has been undergoing positive transformation since 2007, when, upon the Czech MFA request, the first Special Review of the Czech ODA system by OECD DAC¹⁰² was conducted. Before 2010, nine different ministries managed the Czech ODA system quite incoherently but since 2010 the main coordinator responsible for development cooperation policy making has been the MFA¹⁰³. The Czech Development Agency (CZDA) is the main implementing body. The Czech Council on International Development Cooperation acts as an inter-ministerial advisory body to the MFA and provides a forum for policy discussion on the main governmental as well as non-governmental stakeholders and coherence of ODA with other policies. The Act on Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid and the Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic 2010-2017 were adopted in 2010¹⁰⁴, the National Strategy for Global Development Education in 2011 and the Strategy for Providing Development Scholarship (2013-2018) in 2012. After 18 years of OECD membership, the country has completed its transformation from being a recipient to becoming a development aid donor and the Czech Republic has been member of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD since May 2013.

In 2012, the Czech ODA spending was 171 million EUR, representing 0.12% of GNI¹⁰⁵. Czech NGOs started to implement development cooperation projects in the early 1990s. A platform of Czech NGOs and other non-profit organisations engaged in development cooperation, global development education and humanitarian aid - the Czech Forum for Development Co-operation (FoRS) - was created in 2002 by 15 organisations. In 2003, FoRS became one of the founding members of the European NGO confederation CONCORD¹⁰⁶. In reaction to the EU accession, in 2004, FoRS organised a conference on "Enlarged Europe- Reinforced Responsibility" in Prague, which was held under the auspices of the Czech president Václav Havel and was endorsed by TRIALOG.

Over the years, the number of members of FoRS has grown up to about 50 NGOs and other non-profit non-state actors and FoRS has managed to become a respected partner for Czech institutions related to the field of development cooperation, global development education and awareness raising and humanitarian aid, especially the Czech MFA and the Czech Development Agency. FoRS has also adopted a multi-annual strategy (2011 – 2015), which contains three pillars: 1. Policy/Advocacy – representing the interests of members and influencing development and related policies on the Czech and European level, 2. Capacity-building and co-ordination of FoRS members including support for increasing development effectiveness, and 3. Strategic partnerships and awareness-raising, with the former covering both, Czech actors –especially environmental and human rights NGOs, the academy and private sector- and international ones, such as CONCORD, TRIALOG or the new global civil society platform CPDE.

HISTORY OF THE CZECH DEVELOPMENT CSO PLATFORM FoRS



FoRS Establishment

In 2000, the first serious consultation on the future of Czech development cooperation began between representatives of government and civil society - workers and students, the academic sector, non-government organisations (NGOs) and independent experts. In the following years first purely development NGOs began to emerge and then most reputable humanitarian organisations began including development issues in their programmes.

The other major change from the perspective of NGO recognition occurred in 2002, when the role of non-governmental partners, albeit more as a formal proclamation appeared in the concept of foreign development aid for 2002 - 2007. In September of the same year, 15 NGOs working in the areas of development cooperation, development education and humanitarian assistance agreed to establish FoRS – the Czech Forum for Development Co-operation.

Within a short time period, it was confirmed that international development cooperation must begin with open cooperation of all partners at home. FoRS became the catalyst for a new approach, finding common motivation among often "competing" Czech NGOs.

FoRS became an official partner of the Czech governmental institutions. FoRS initial funding was provided mainly through UNDP and CIDA funding / Canada's Technical Assistance programme (1990 - 2004) - supporting transition and institutionalisation of the CZ development cooperation (ODACE program - ODA for Central Europe).

TRIALOG supported the platform at a later stage, not directly in the platform's establishment. TRIALOG was involved indirectly through capacity building, opening the doors to cooperation between "old" and "new" EU countries and their NGDO platforms, through facilitation of dialogue including internal dialogue with major country stakeholders and including policy dialogue. There were some training events and seminars allowing the exchange of experience, mutual communication and cooperation among NGOs (and among NGOs and other actors). Additionally TRIALOG provided funding for travel to meetings or events.

Events:

- 1999: first networking attempts by Czech NGOs
- 2000: informal representation of Czech NGOs in TRIALOG (Zuzana Dudova in TRIALOG)
- 2001: first "Project Cycle Management" training, influencing the ODA methodologies
- 2002: creation of CZ NGDO platform FoRS (financial but also networking support by TRIALOG & CIDA), TRIALOG supported the participation of FoRS staff in a Study visit to the UK development NGO platform BOND (peer learning).



Partner for EU & National Authorities (2003):

In this period, FoRS established partnerships with line ministries and national stakeholders. TRIALOG enabled FoRS to be a viable partner also in dialogue with European stakeholders and streamlined the flow of relevant information from the EU. In 2003, FoRS became a founding member of CONCORD which enabled the platform to actively participate in development cooperation processes at European level even before the Czech Republic joined the EU. TRIALOG paved FoRS' way to CONCORD including a seat in the CONCORD board through Jan Plesinger.

Events:

- 2003: FoRS a founding member of CONCORD & Jan Plesinger elected as a CONCORD Board member - based on TRIALOG proposal. TRIALOG paid first CONCORD membership fees for FoRS.
- 2003 - 2005: FoRS in close dialogue with the MFA - Department of Development Cooperation on the ODA programming and preparation of NGO grant schemes for Development Education, Capacity building and support for trilateral projects (launched in 2004).
- 2003: FoRS started engaging in CONCORD working groups (FDR, WG on Enlargement, Policy, DE).
- 2004: Start of collaboration with ASA Programme (Germany) and GLEN programme.
- 2004: Luis Michel, the EU Commissioner for Development in Prague - also meets FoRS and Czech NGOs.
- FoRS engaged in the CONCORD EPAN working group.



Building a Fully-fledged Platform (2004 - 2006)

FoRS was engaged in influencing first national development policies and the creation of country strategy papers for Czech ODA priority countries. Furthermore the platform organised its first international events.

Challenges included a very diverse membership in terms of field of expertise, priorities, level of establishment, financial stability - there has been a continuous challenge in balancing the views and ability to serve smaller platform members, but at the same time stay relevant for the bigger NGOs. New members joined and the communication among members was improved while at the same time the partnership with the government was deepened.

In 2004, the annual TRIALOG Central Training tradition started. This was a very important contribution to the exchange of information between the members of national platforms and also between the NGOs from the region and the European Commission.

In 2005, the Regional Partnership Programme (RPP) for Development Cooperation in Austria and Neighbouring New Member States was launched (2005 - 2008). RPP was initiated by the TRIALOG project and provided very important funding for the platform, but also for networking with other platforms from the involved countries (SK, HU, SI, AT) and for pilot projects with Austrian NGOs in developing countries and in the field of development awareness & education (besides the Canadian ODACE programme, this was the only programme supporting "training by doing" approach).

The joint CONCORD/TRIALOG and Member States efforts in lobbying towards the EC resulted in softening the criteria for NMS organisations in the call for proposals for Development Education and Awareness Raising.

Events:

- 2004: Prague Conference on "Enlarged Europe - Reinforced Responsibility" organised by FoRS under president Vaclav Havel auspices & endorsed by TRIALOG; WG Enlargement, EU Membership, the basis for the Presidency Fund was set up there.
- 2004: FoRS funded from Government grant for the first time; more networking within WGs of CONCORD and regular work with TRIALOG support.
- 2006: (Glopolis event): Regional seminar "Globalization, Sustainable Development and Trade - Policy issues, Advocacy skills and Needs of Central and Eastern European NGOs" - TRIALOG as partner of the event, contributing financially, participating + identifying NGOs in CEE working with these issues.
- 2007: (Glopolis event): Central and Eastern European Capacity-building Seminar: Agriculture, Climate and Development Alternatives - NGOs advocacy. TRIALOG support same as described above.



Professionalisation (2006 - 2012)

Since 2006, FoRS has operated with an independent full-fledged secretariat including full-time employees (3.8 in 2014). From 2007 to 2008, FoRS went through the first consolidated strategy planning, concluded by a formulation of vision, mission and main objectives.

In 2008, the first “policy” project supported by the Presidency Fund opened a new full-time staff position of Policy Officer in the FoRS Secretariat. The Czech EU Presidency from January to July 2009 was a strenuous policy and coordination experience for FoRS that provided FoRS with a great deal of funding for joint events, direct engagement of members in leadership over the thematic priorities and coordination with CONCORD and other networks. FoRS secretariat was also able to extend the number of staff.

FoRS cooperated with TRIALOG at a more partner level, voicing criticism about the limitation of its involvement in TRIALOG decision making. FoRS preferred to organise events itself to make them tailor-made for its needs. The TRIALOG Partnership Fair and networking events for platforms (Central Training) seemed the most relevant for FoRS, however some specific needs of FoRS were not sufficiently reflected.

Events:

- 2006: FoRS internal transformation - decision to set up an independent secretariat
- 2007: FoRS moved to independent office premises
- 2007: “Development effectiveness” agreed by the FoRS Annual Assembly as the key topic for the FoRS EU Presidency project
- 2008: FoRS represented in the Global Facilitation Group of the Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness (until 2012 when the Open Forum and BetterAid was transformed to CPDE - CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness)
- 2008: Conference “Are we on the right track - paradigm review by CSOs as development actors” - organised by TRIALOG, CONCORD and FoRS
- 2008 - Presidency Fund - first policy project of FoRS provided a base for a more structured policy work of the platform - full time Policy Officer position in FoRS Secretariat.
- 2008 - First Aidwatch report published, in cooperation with V4 (DG Justice), from that onwards, annual Aidwatch was published as a key policy tool.
- 2009: Czech EU Presidency (increased FoRS budget for a year, FoRS organised many events incl. June 2009 international conference on CSO Development Effectiveness and a Czech national ODA campaign).
- 2010: participation of FoRS at TRIALOG Conference in Nicaragua “Global Crossroads: the Role & Perspectives of CSOs in Development Cooperation” and field visits to projects

- Since 2010: FoRS represented in the multi-actors Task Team on CSO Development Effectiveness and Enabling Environment.
- 2010 - 2011: FoRS strategy planning lead to adoption of the FoRS strategy 2011 - 2015 with a set of detailed goals and indicators to be achieved.
- 2011: The FoRS platform agreed the “Code on Effectiveness”, compatible with the Istanbul Principles for CSO Development Effectiveness.
- 2011: National Strategy of Development Education adopted by CZ government.
- 2012: First Humanitarian Congress organised by FoRS members in Prague.
- 2012: platforms become project partners in TRIALOG V. (2012 - 2015) - capacity building officer/Liaison Officer in FoRS, for the first time the platform as such is a project partner.
- 2012: Conference “Advancing Beyond 2015” (organised by TRIALOG and FoRS in April 2012, Prague)
- 2012: CPDE - CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness established, with the support from FoRS.
- 2013: FoRS represented in the Global Council of CPDE and in the CPDE WG on Enabling Environment.

Conference “Advancing beyond 2015” in Prague, 2012



Global conference in Prague, 2008



CASE STUDY

LAPAS in Latvia

State of civil society and relevant developments 2000-2012 in Latvia

The Soviet development cooperation programming was managed at the federal level, thus Latvia itself was not a direct development cooperation provider before 1991. After gaining independence the country focused firstly on its own transformation and development. It started providing development assistance via its UN membership fees and humanitarian aid, on a case-by-case basis, only in 1999. In 2000, Latvia became a signatory to the UN Millennium Declaration. According to the World Bank International Development Association's resolution, Latvia became a full-fledged donor state in February 2008¹⁰⁷.

During 1990-2004, Latvia was a country in transition and an Official Aid recipient from DAC OECD. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Latvia set up a Foreign Aid Coordination Unit to request support for specific issues associated with the transition. This was answered by bilateral donors, the major ones being Sweden, Finland, Germany, the UK, the Netherlands, the US and Canada, and multi-lateral organisations such as those of the UN system and the World Bank. For example, UNDP worked in Latvia from 1992 to 2005 and helped Latvia to develop public administration and civil society. A significant role was also played by the Soros Foundation -Latvia, which was an institution founded in Latvia and run by people in Latvia. In the beginning of 2003 the Basic Principles for the Development Cooperation Policy of the Republic of Latvia were adopted. The principles facilitated strategic planning and coordination of Latvian development policies. The document underlined Latvia's changing role from aid recipient to aid donor¹⁰⁸.

The Latvian MFA is the coordinating institution responsible for development cooperation policy planning and formulation in close collaboration with representatives from the line ministries, other governmental institutions, NGOs and social partners. Within the MFA there is a unit for Development Cooperation Policy in the Department for Economic Relations and Development Cooperation Policy. In parallel, the line ministries and other public institutions implement development cooperation activities in their areas of competence. The up-to-date development policy in Latvia is always guided by the five-year Development Cooperation Guidelines and annual development cooperation policy plans.

In 2008, the Latvian Parliament approved the Law on International Aid which serves as the main framework for various types of International Aid, including Development Cooperation. The Law states that the MFA cooperates with the Consultative Council in Development Cooperation Policy Issues when formulating and coordinating Development Cooperation Policy issues. The Consultative Council in Development Cooperation Policy Issues



consists of line ministries, municipalities, non-governmental actors, academic sector and private sector representatives. It serves as a forum for discussing development cooperation priorities and strategies, as well as a forum for exchange of relevant information among stakeholders.

In general, the formal and non-formal policy dialogue between the MFA and development NGOs works well. The Latvian development NGOs face difficulties of sustainable funding, especially for covering administrative costs and project co-funding. Another challenge of CSOs concerns human resources. In general, only 27% of Latvian NGOs have one or more paid employees¹⁰⁹.

Although the first coordinated CSO activities in the field of Development cooperation started in 2000/2001, the Latvian Platform for Development Cooperation (LAPAS) was officially registered in 2004¹¹⁰, the year before the MFA set up a department to deal with development cooperation. The history of LAPAS was thus different from its Baltic counterparts, as LAPAS was a registered organisation from an early stage. Strong support for the registration of the platform and the coverage of the administrative costs in the first years came from the Soros Foundation-Latvia. It was also the Soros Foundation-Latvia which encouraged several strong Latvian NGOs to begin to work in Brussels networks by participating in seminars and internships. TRIALOG was another actor which supported the participation of LAPAS representatives to selected events and meetings at EU level, including CONCORD working groups. TRIALOG also covered the CONCORD membership fee for LAPAS in the first years.

Since its establishment in 2004, the platform has become a recognised and respected partner for decision makers, media, academics and civil society. In 2012 LAPAS united 30 member organisations. The existence of the platform has permitted more systematic dialogue between Latvian CSOs and the decision makers, including the MFA¹¹¹ and the Parliament, coordination and information activities among key stakeholders. LAPAS closely cooperates with both national development NGO platforms from the Baltic region, from Estonia and Lithuania. One important topic within Latvian development cooperation is sharing the transition experience which Latvian CSOs and others have had with the former Soviet Union countries such as Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine and other states of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia¹¹². LAPAS became member of CONCORD in 2005¹¹³.

In April 2008, representatives of MFA and CSOs developed and signed Latvia's Development Education Policy for 2008-2015. The document was the result of a process coordinated by LAPAS in 2007. The policy's objective is to coordinate governmental and non-governmental global development education activities¹¹⁴.

Latvia's commitment to meeting its aid target of 0.33% GNI by 2015 has been stagnant since 2004. In 2011, Latvia's ODA spending was 14 million EUR, which represented only 0.07% of the country's GNI¹¹⁵. Due to the global financial crisis and its harmful impacts on Latvia with more than 25% of GDP decrease, the government suspended most of the bilateral development budget with the exception of contributions to multilateral mechanisms during the period 2009-2012¹¹⁶. A key role in the restart of bilateral activities in 2012 with a small budget of 50 000 LVL, was reached with a great involvement of LAPAS and its member organisations.

HISTORY OF THE LATVIAN DEVELOPMENT CSO PLATFORM LAPAS

LAPAS was established in 2004. Soros Foundation Latvia facilitated NGOs coming together and working together for the establishment of a platform. Although TRIALOG was not present during the platform building process in Latvia, TRIALOG's support was appreciated early on in capacity building.

Main activities of LAPAS that were not directly related to TRIALOG

In 2005 LAPAS organised a forum in Georgia, with the President of Latvia attending, and in 2006 in Moldova about entering the EU. The Presidency Fund project (2006-2007) strengthened the engagement of civil society organisations from the New Member States (NMS) in EU Development Co-operation and provided LAPAS with funding for public opinion research, round table discussions, data base support and study visits to platforms in the Nordic countries and office support.

From 2007 LAPAS was active in the CONCORD AidWatch process. In cooperation with the Finnish Platform KEPA, LAPAS implemented "Market of Possibilities Goes Global", a Development Education project that introduced World Days and World Talks in towns across Latvia. World Talks continue as a LAPAS tradition. In 2007 a summer academy for Moldovan NGOs and local governments took place. In the same year LAPAS began to coordinate the creation and implementation of Latvia's development education policy for 2008-2015.

In 2008 LAPAS held a summer academy for Ukrainians from the Eastern regions with LAPAS members, local governments, and others. In 2008 and 2009 LAPAS organised national and Baltic Development Education conferences with the support of the North South Centre.

From 2010-2012 LAPAS led a three year Baltic Development Education project with the Estonian and Lithuanian platforms. In 2011 LAPAS organised an international conference on human security as a possible post 2015 development paradigm and has gone forward with the idea at the TRIALOG meeting in Prague and other venues. Starting from 2011 LAPAS lobbied for European Year of Development 2015, which has been endorsed by the European Commission.



TRIALOG activities influencing LAPAS

After the establishment of LAPAS, the platform started to participate in TRIALOG events, for example in the Central Training. LAPAS considered the **Central Training** as very relevant as the events provided in-depth space for all EU13 platforms to exchange information on common problems and solutions. The Future Factory in 2009 helped to identify what LAPAS wanted out of TRIALOG. In the 2012 TRIALOG Conference “Advancing Beyond 2015” platform representatives from LAPAS presented the concept of operationalising human security by strengthening securitability (a form of resilience) as a post MDG paradigm issue.

TRIALOG’s country studies about the Baltic States published in 2007 provided a basis for discussions about approaches to advocacy with the Lithuanian and Estonian platforms, an added value as the communication among the Baltics was not as coordinated as for example in the Visegrad countries.

LAPAS became involved in the TRIALOG-convened **EPAN working group** of CONCORD in 2005. The meetings in Brussels provided opportunities to meet with NGOs working in the region. The perception was that NGOs from EU13 would cooperate in joint projects for the benefit of the Eastern Partnership countries. In 2011, LAPAS stepped out of the EPAN working group due to a lack of human resources.

LAPAS representatives also participated in the European Development Days manning the national stand with the MFA. Being acquainted with TRIALOG colleagues gave LAPAS representatives a sense of camaraderie.

TRIALOG’s **expert sending seminar** in 2008 was regarded as fantastic since it facilitated an understanding for NGOs and government officials, but unfortunately Latvian Development Cooperation was minimised during the crisis from 2008-2012, so Latvia did not develop an expert sending system. During the Slovenian presidency in 2008 TRIALOG facilitated LAPAS participation in the main development cooperation event.

In 2008, TRIALOG offered LAPAS members a seminar on EU NSA-LA project proposal writing in light of the forthcoming DEAR grant competition. A local authority that was given the opportunity to participate won a DEAR project. This facilitated LAPAS improved cooperation with the Local Government Association. Two NGOs receiving DEAR projects participated in TRIALOG **training on EC contract management** in Poland in 2010.

Facilitated by TRIALOG, Marjan Huc, Director of the Slovenian platform Sloga spoke to NGOs and Ministry of Foreign Affairs representatives beginning to plan Latvia’s EU presidency about the Slovenian presidency. A high level Ministry of Foreign Affairs official admitted that to date the MFA had not considered the role of CSO in the **presidency** before. Latvia will host the EU Presidency of the Council of the European Union from January-July, 2015, the MDG year.



TRIALOG in-country training in Latvia, 2010

One Latvian platform representative participated in the TRIALOG **conference and field visits in Nicaragua** in 2010. This was complemented by the **rural development conference** of HORIZONT3000 which took place in Vienna in 2011. The Vienna conference was attended by Latvian Rural Forum, a LAPAS member organisation and one of the leading farmers' organisations in Latvia. The topic of food security was discussed in depth, and this led the participants from Latvia to the establishment of a new working group of LAPAS in early 2013 on **food security** and post-MDG.

An external factor that influenced LAPAS' work was the reduction of bilateral development cooperation during the economic crisis from 2008 that was renewed only in 2013. During this crisis period, NGO activities in development cooperation decreased and government activity abroad was virtually non-existent. The NGOs and government took the time to review policy and discuss post-MDG and other issues. The fact that the EU Commissioner for Development Cooperation since 2010 has been a Latvian, Andris Piebalgs, is an external factor helping the platform to raise the profile of DC in Latvia.

During the Systematisation history workshop, LAPAS identified several critical flows for the platform:

Pure exchange flow, showing how TRIALOG has provided an opportunity for the platforms to get to know each other, learn from each other's experiences and work together in the future.

Baltic cooperation: The information from the country reports helped the platforms prepared the NSA-LA DEAR project.

DEAR projects: When all finances stopped in Latvia, LAPAS would have been unable to support the members had it not been for the opportunities provided by the DEAR project that the platform won which helped bridge the period of total financial disaster.

Presidencies: LAPAS was eager to learn from the experiences of Sloga, heading towards Latvia's own Presidency in 2015, and Central Training discussions around Poland's and other presidencies have helped develop an understanding of the role of Latvia's NGOs.

Food security as a thematic priority for LAPAS NGOs crystallised through the activities of TRIALOG; the Rural Development Conference in Vienna (2011) was key to this.



TRIALOG training in Latvia, 2010

CASE STUDY

Grupa Zagranica in Poland

State of civil society and relevant developments 2000-2012 in Poland

After the Cold War era, Poland stopped being a development aid donor within the COMECON in 1989 and became an ODA recipient as a “transition country”. Between 1990 and 1996, foreign aid flows into Poland reached some 1.5% of the country’s GDP. In the second half of the 1990s the aid flows from abroad dropped below 0.5% of the GDP. Poland formulated its preliminary development cooperation priorities as a donor in 1997 and started providing development aid in 1998. During 1998-2003 Polish development aid reached 0.016% of the GNI; it was mainly directed towards UN agencies and funds (43.6%) and towards WBG (29.3%). Regular Polish development initiatives started in 2004. This trend was directly linked to EU accession. The MFA Department for International Cooperation was established in 2005¹¹⁷.

The USAID contributions of ca. 1 billion US dollars in 1990-2000 as well as CIDA’s transition programmes during 1989-2003 strongly supported the Polish transitional process towards democracy and a liberal economy. During the period 2002 - 2007, Poland participated in CIDA’s ODACE programme aimed at capacity building of the Polish MFA in relation to development cooperation as well as at implementing trilateral projects¹¹⁸.

Since 1989, CSOs in Poland have enjoyed a renaissance thanks to the reinstatement of freedom of assembly and association. In 2003, new legislation regulating the volunteer and NGO sectors was passed. This resulted in the opportunity for NGOs to carry out public assignments and to be paid for these services. According to Freedom House, the current official NGO sector in Poland is strong and vibrant, however, there is a lot of room for improvement regarding the activities of informal groups and networks, as well as of individuals’ unpaid engagement in their neighborhoods and communities¹¹⁹.

Although Poland’s tradition of being a donor dates back to the 1970s, it is a very new actor in the field of European ODA activities. The current Polish ODA system has been under gradual construction since 2004.

In 2010, Poland’s development cooperation underwent DAC Special Review, which encouraged Poland to move from small scale aid projects to multi-year aid programmes and to create an overarching policy that fully reflects key international commitments, such as the MDGs, the Paris



Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action¹²⁰. A crucial positive step in the direction of consolidation and systematisation of the Polish ODA was the adoption of the Act on Development Cooperation in 2011. The Act reflects the EU requirements for the development cooperation coordination mechanism and creates a transparent legal and institutional framework. The Act also establishes the Multiannual Development Cooperation Programme covering a period no shorter than four years; Development Cooperation Plan for the respective budget year and Development Cooperation Programme Board as a consultative and an advisory body where at least four board members have to be NGOs¹²¹. The thematic areas of the Polish ODA include: good governance, migrations and border management, rural and agricultural development, small and medium enterprises¹²². OECD DAC Review encouraged Poland to “continue to use its comparative advantage and work in Eastern Europe but with more focus on poverty”¹²³. In 2011, Poland’s ODA spending reached 299 million EUR which represented 0.085% of GNI¹²⁴.

“Grupa Zagranica”, the Polish platform of NGOs involved in international development cooperation, democracy support, humanitarian aid and global education was officially registered only in 2004, though it had existed since 2001 as an informal group¹²⁵. The Polish government cooperates with the platform and CSOs on a regular basis. Grupa Zagranica is one of the main partners for the MFA in the ODA annual plan development and execution. The consultation practices and working relationships between the MFA and Grupa Zagranica have been formalized through signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two organisations. Grupa Zagranica grew from the association of 27 organisations in 2004 to the platform with 59 members. Grupa Zagranica has been a CONCORD member since 2005¹²⁶.

HISTORY OF THE POLISH DEVELOPMENT CSO PLATFORM GRUPA ZAGRANICA

Conception

Before the registration of Grupa Zagranica there was a loose national platform of NGOs organised. It emerged in 2001 after a meeting of NGO representatives with the Polish foreign minister organised by the Batory Foundation. After the meeting a first brochure was published including Polish development projects abroad but at this time NGOs did not realise what they did was development and that development cooperation needs a structure and a form.

For the first time a Polish representative - Marcin Wojtalik joined the CONCORD Development Education Forum and NGOs in Poland realised that development education is crucial for transformation in society towards global thinking.

Orientation and institutionalisation

For a period of three years the Polish NGOs did not see the necessity of registering an official platform as the informal body driven by its constituency was already working. There was strong encouragement from TRIALOG at that time to formalise a platform and join CONCORD. A number of Polish NGOs was reluctant to do so as becoming member would mean paying the CONCORD membership fee, and TRIALOG already supported the participation in CONCORD working groups financially. Finally the platform members agreed to register Grupa Zagranica in 2004 and the platform became CONCORD member in 2005.

Canadian Aid supported the platform financially and staff for the secretariat could be hired. The first joint projects with academia in the field of development education started after platform members did lectures all over Poland on development education. It was in the University of Warsaw where the first course about global development was held through cooperation between academia and NGOs. In 2006 members of Grupa Zagranica attended the first TRIALOG Partnership Fair to elaborate development education projects. From that time on TRIALOG organised several training opportunities on EC funding, EuropeAid project proposal writing - grant management and implementation in Poland.

- Grupa Zagranica formed its own working groups and
- continued its representation in CONCORD working
- groups. This process was supported and facilitated by
- TRIALOG.

Gradual growth

The platform kept growing and new members entered, the first church related organisations joined and on the content side, the first Polish AidWatch report was launched in 2007. The methodology of the report was jointly elaborated by the working group in the platform. The AidWatch report contributed to ensuring that the MFA started recognising the platform as a vital and important actor. Since then Grupa Zagranica has published shadow reports in response to official MFA reports.

TRIALOG offered platform members to gain practical knowledge about development projects on the ground in its conference and field visits in Nicaragua 2010.



Central Training in Krakow, 2010

More predictable than before

The Polish EU Presidency from July to December 2011 was, without a doubt, the biggest project organised by the platform so far. The most important outcome of the Polish presidency for the development CSOs was the establishment of the development cooperation act on 16 September 2011. CSOs participated actively in putting their views and suggestions into the new legislation and its adoption was a major milestone. The presidency also opened up the opportunity for some of the representatives of the Polish development CSO platform to participate in the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, South Korea.

In 2013, the Polish platform is well established, with a stable membership base and regular dialogue with ministries, parliamentarians and media. The platform consists of NGOs working in the East mainly on democratisation and in the South. TRIALOG was always in the background supporting the activities of the platform.



Photo by Grupa Zagranica

CASE STUDY

FOND in Romania

State of civil society and relevant developments 2000-2012 in Romania

Since the end of 1989 there has been a rather slow but important evolution of the civil society in Romania. Thousands of new NGOs mushroomed throughout the country at the beginning of the 1990s. The financial support from abroad, mostly from the US and later from the EU was crucial to the CSOs' survival and growth. USAID development programmes in Romania started in 1990 and focused on CSO capacity building and development¹²⁷. Canada's development programmes implemented between 1991 and 2006 focused on good governance, economic liberalisation and ensuring nuclear safety¹²⁸.

Romania stopped being an ODA recipient and became a donor in 2007 after EU accession¹²⁹. By virtue of this membership, Romania committed to contributing to ODA with 0.33% of its GNI by 2015¹³⁰. In this context, it is important to realize that despite its membership of the EU, Romania still had to address important domestic developmental challenges, such as social inclusion and democratic practices. Consequently, the government wanted to maintain the expanded UN presence in the country even after 2007. The UN assistance¹³¹ was replaced by a transitional tool – the UN Cooperation Framework for Romania for 2010 – 2012¹³².

In general, Romanian CSOs still face difficulties in mobilising civic participation and local resources. Since joining the EU, more EU funds have been provided to the NGOs providing social services rather than serving as “watch dog” organisations. At the same time, civil society in Romania enjoys a considerable degree of public trust even after the economic and fiscal crises, unlike many Romanian public institutions¹³³.

With the support of TRIALOG, NGOs in Romania started working on national platform building in 2005. The platform FOND was established in 2006 in consultation with TRIALOG and with the Romanian MFA. USAID supported the creation of FOND through the World Learning grant. In 2012, FOND had 46 members working in the field of development education, educational and professional training, democracy and good governance (including child protection and human rights) organisational development and health both in neighbouring countries (such as Moldova and Ukraine), the Western Balkans and Africa, the Middle East and Asia. FOND has been a member of CONCORD since 2011. FOND has become a consolidated partner for the MFA and



in March 2013 signed an official Partnership Agreement with the ministry. FOND, with financial support of the MFA, organised the following key events: the Black Sea NGO Forum (2008 – 2012), the Romanian Development Camp (2010 – 2012) and the Romanian-Republic of Moldova NGO Forum (2010 – 2011).

The Romanian National Strategy for Development Cooperation has been in existence since 2006. Since 2007, the MFA has been the main managing and implementing body for development cooperation policies. Within the MFA, the Development Assistance Unit (UAsD) is the unit responsible for managing development programmes and activities. From 2007 to 2009, the UNDP together with the Romanian MFA implemented a project for strengthening the national institutional and educational capacity to carry out the ODA programmes¹³⁴.

There is no official national strategy for development education in Romania.

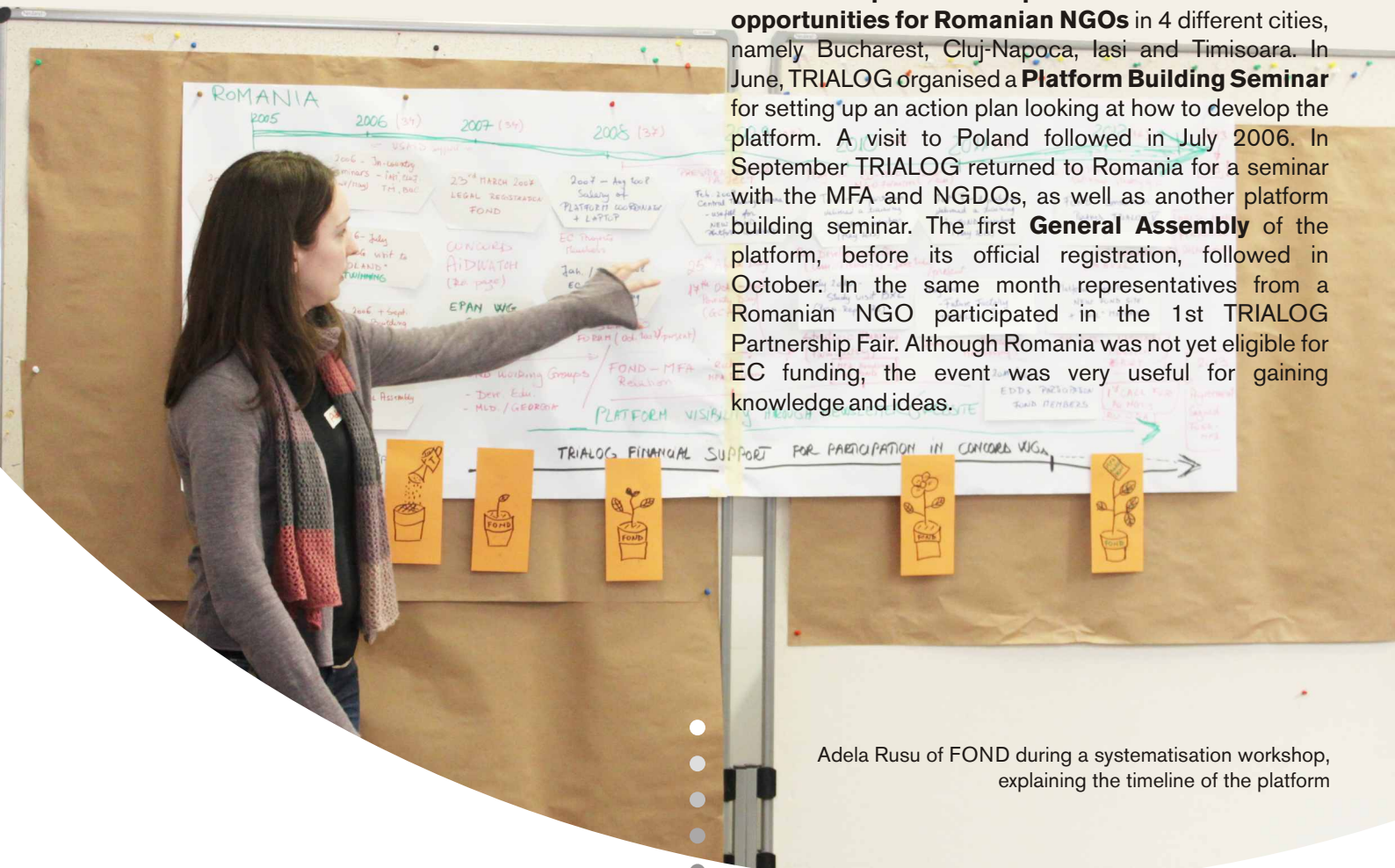
HISTORY OF THE ROMANIAN CSO PLATFORM FOND

Planting the Seeds

The TRIALOG **Study Visit to Austria, Slovakia and Hungary** was a very important activity towards creating the Romanian platform. In November 2005, TRIALOG organised this visit for participants from Bulgaria, Cyprus and Romania to meet with development NGOs and ministries in Austria, Slovakia and Hungary. During meetings with the MFAs, development cooperation strategies and policies were presented and the implementation of ODA policies and financing models were discussed. National NGDO platforms shared their experiences in platform building, lobby and advocacy.

Watering the Seeds

During April and May 2006, TRIALOG provided **Training on Development Cooperation: Role of and opportunities for Romanian NGOs** in 4 different cities, namely Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Iasi and Timisoara. In June, TRIALOG organised a **Platform Building Seminar** for setting up an action plan looking at how to develop the platform. A visit to Poland followed in July 2006. In September TRIALOG returned to Romania for a seminar with the MFA and NGDOs, as well as another platform building seminar. The first **General Assembly** of the platform, before its official registration, followed in October. In the same month representatives from a Romanian NGO participated in the 1st TRIALOG Partnership Fair. Although Romania was not yet eligible for EC funding, the event was very useful for gaining knowledge and ideas.



Adela Rusu of FOND during a systematisation workshop, explaining the timeline of the platform

The Plant Starts Growing

The **official registration** of the Romanian NGDO platform FOND took place on 23 March 2007. The first working groups were established, namely one for development education and one on the Eastern Neighbourhood (Moldova/Georgia). Also in 2007 FOND contributed for the first time a page on Romanian ODA policy and spending to the CONCORD AidWatch Report 2007¹⁹⁵ and the CONCORD EPAN working group held a meeting in Sinaia, Romania.

In the period from 2006-2007 Romanian civil society received support from USAid, that financed one of the founding member organisations of FOND to support building up the platform. From April 2007 to August 2008 TRIALOG paid the salary of the platform coordinator and provided funds for IT equipment, which was really useful. TRIALOG gave general support to the platform, permanent monitoring with monthly reports from the platform coordinator and organised a specific internship for the coordinator at the Austrian NGDO platform "Global Responsibility". It was regarded as very useful by the platform coordinator and she learnt a lot about communication with members, capacity building and funding opportunities.

The relationship with the government was cooperative and FOND acted as consultant for the MFA in the national development cooperation strategy.

The Plant Grows Stronger

In January and July 2008, TRIALOG held **training events on EC project proposal writing**. In March, representatives of Romanian NGOs participated in the TRIALOG **Study Visit on Expert Sending**. The one week Study Visit was a chance for participants from Czech Republic, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Poland and Romania to meet with organisations in Austria (HORIZONT3000) and Germany (AGEH and DED) that work in the field of personnel in development cooperation.

The platform began implementing its first project financed by the Presidency Fund, which allowed the platform to organise several capacity building activities. Besides the platform coordinator, an accountant and project assistant were also employed.

In October FOND organised the first Black Sea NGO Forum. TRIALOG supported the planning and preparation of the event which was a great success and has become a regular annual event since then. Part of the **Black Sea NGO Forum** is dedicated to finding partners for joint projects in the region, similar to the concept of the TRIALOG Partnership Fair. In 2008 the first EC Project of a Romanian NGO was approved in the field of DEAR.

The TRIALOG **Central Training** in February 2009 on the topic of Financial Sustainability of Platforms was especially useful as the new coordinator of FOND (hired in September 2008) could meet other EU platforms.

FOND celebrated Africa Day, and Anti-Poverty Day (which promoted GCAP's campaign "Stand Up and Take Action") and **organised activities which included** both debates regarding the African communities' situation in Romania and the NGOs involvement in awareness raising projects on global poverty issues, street actions and documentary screenings.

The Romania - Republic of Moldova NGO Forum was an initiative launched by FOND in 2010, aiming to strengthen the relation between the NGOs from Romania and the Republic of Moldova, defining a common agenda for common activities and establishing priorities for a better collaboration. After the forum, a policy paper with recommendations on fostering NGO collaboration was prepared and disseminated among the key representatives from the two countries. As a follow-up of the second edition of the Forum, FOND launched in 2013 the Mobility Fund for Experts from Romania and Republic of Moldova.

The relationship with the MFA was rocky from 2008 due to personnel changes in the ministry. In 2010 FOND received funds from the MFA for the first time for 3 national events: The Romania-Moldova NGO Forum, The Romanian Development Camp and the Black Sea NGO Forum (in form of a project contract intermediated by UNDP Romania).

As a result of the TRIALOG **Training of Multipliers** 2010, Romanian participants delivered training for member organisations and participated in the development education working group as resource people. The platform coordinator attended the TRIALOG **Study Visit to Brussels** in 2010, which established the contact with the Romanian permanent representative in Brussels, which has been regularly maintained since.

In June 2010 the **Romanian Development Camp** (an annual event initiated by the Romanian MFA in 2008) was organised for the first time in partnership with FOND and attracted great media interest and visibility for the platform and the topic of development cooperation. Among the guests were high level EC representatives like the Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs.

The Plant Flowers

The TRIALOG **Future Factory** in 2011 was a space to develop ideas for the future cooperation within TRIALOG and many ideas FOND fed in can be found in TRIALOG V. The TRIALOG Training of Multipliers transported new knowledge to participants of FOND member organisations, which later provided training for other members.

The year 2011 was rounded off with full membership of the European NGDO Confederation **CONCORD**. Participation in Concord working groups was through AidWatch, EPAN, Policy Forum, Cotonou WG, Development Awareness Raising and Education, MFF Working Group. With the financial support of CONCORD – an AidWatch grant, in 2012, the Policy and Advocacy Working Group of FOND was revitalised. Also in 2012, a new national working group of the platform, on humanitarian assistance, was created at the request of the members.

The **TRIALOG Platform Support** of 2012, which provided platform with small budgets for certain activities, made it possible for FOND to rework its website and produce good information materials. In the same year FOND became partner in two **EC projects**: TRIALOG V and World Wise Europe (a project with other European NGDO platforms on Policy Coherence for Development) and released its first own **AidWatch Report**. FOND no longer has observer status for members since the criteria is focused on more quality than quantity.

With regards to the cooperation with the national **MFA**, in 2012 the first public Call for Proposals was launched where Romanian NGOs could apply for funds. The process of revising the national development cooperation strategy was initiated and is being held as a participatory process, during the Romanian Development Camp, organised together with FOND. In 2013 FOND signed an **agreement** with the MFA.

The Collaboration Protocol represents a major step in the cooperation between the Romanian NGDO platform FOND and the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) in terms of development cooperation and reflects the efforts and progress made during the last years. The objective of this Protocol is **“to enhance dialogue, collaboration and mutual support between the two parties in the implementation of the Romanian international development cooperation policy**, to increase cohesion, coordination, transparency, complementarity, effectiveness and the impact of Romania's official development assistance”. The Protocol reiterates the important role of FOND in building the national community active in development cooperation and emphasises the fundamental role of dialogue, cooperation and partnership between the MFA and FOND.



Endnotes to CHAPTER 5:

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113. TRIALOG: Country information. Latvia. Available at: <http://www.trialog.or.at/latvia>
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ANNEX A

I. TRIALOG Lead Agency: HORIZONT3000

HORIZONT3000 has been the lead agency of the project since its first phase started in 2000. The organisation is a renowned Austrian development NGO with seven catholic member organisations (DKA, Austrian Catholic Men Movement - KMBÖ, Austrian Catholic Women Movement – kfb, Bruder und Schwester in Not – Diocese Innsbruck, Bruder und Schwester in Not - Katholische Aktion Kärnten, Caritas Austria, Welthaus of the Diocese Graz-Seckau, as well as Referat Mission und Entwicklung of the Archdiocese of Vienna). HORIZONT3000 is mainly funded by the Austrian Government (Austrian Development Cooperation), the European Union, contributions of its member organisations and Liechtensteinischer Entwicklungsdienst LED, as well as the Medicor Foundation.

HORIZONT3000 is specialised in the monitoring and implementation of projects and in expert-sending to developing countries. In 2013, HORIZONT3000 steered around 200 projects in 15 countries with an annual budget of 12.37 million Euros. HORIZONT3000 works closely with grass-roots organisations and its staff have profound knowledge of local circumstances in its partner countries all over the world. Its expertise is expressed by high-quality monitoring and project cycle management. HORIZONT3000 has wide experience with co-financing, open and active dialogue with the government and influencing official development policies.

HORIZONT3000 actively participates in national and international networks (CIDSE) and platforms (CONCORD – especially through TRIALOG and the Austrian NGDO platform Global Responsibility) and engages at many levels to shape development policy in Austria and in Europe¹³⁶. Currently, 27 people are employed in the HORIZONT3000 office in Vienna including a management team of three people (Managing Director, Head of Projects and Programmes, and Head of Finance). Around 80 experts work in field offices and projects of HORIZONT3000 in partner countries.

II. CONSORTIUM PARTNERS

Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Entwicklungshilfe e.V. (AGEH)

Partner in TRIALOG I-II-III-IV-V

For over 50 years, AGEH has been a reliable partner for development workers and a key source of specialist personnel for many church and other civil society organisations active in the field of international development cooperation work. As a state-recognised personnel service provider, AGEH is engaged in recruitment, selection and training in order to qualify experts from Germany and other EU countries for development cooperation and civil peace service in projects in Africa, Latin America, Asia and in the reform states of Eastern Europe. AGEH has access to proven partnership structures in Europe and especially in overseas countries. It is part of the fundamental principles of the AGEH not to carry out projects without a strong link to competent local partners.¹³⁷

AGEH has been a consortium member of TRIALOG I to IV, participating in Advisory Group meetings.

AEC France

Partner in TRIALOG II

Bread for the World

Partner in TRIALOG I-II-III

Bread for the World (BfdW) was founded in 1959. Partner organisations in about 80 countries have been supported. About 95% of the financial means required are raised in annual fund raising campaigns during Advent. Government or EU contributions have only been exceptionally applied for. In the 1980s the organisation intensified work on the European level, mainly in the framework of the “Liaison Committee” but also as cofounder of APRODEV (Association of World Council of Churches related Development Organisations in Europe) serving as lobby instrument. Consequently the Austrian initiative to ease the chances of fledgling new development organisations from EU Accession Countries to participate in the “Brussels arena” was supported from the very beginning. Bread for the World was one of the founding organisations of TRIALOG and strongly supported the project throughout three phases.

BfdW opted out in 2009 in the course of the complete reshuffle of the Protestant Development Organisations in Germany¹³⁸. In the course of internal debates it was decided that TRIALOG was well established and needed no more support. However it was also found that TRIALOG had not met expectations by not succeeding to substantially promote cooperation between organisations in old and new member

states to cooperate with joint partners in the “Global South”. Yet, on a personal and honorary basis support continues until today.

Christian Children Communities Movement (eRko)

Partner in TRIALOG III-IV

ERko is a Christian children’s organisation that works throughout Slovakia. Since 1990 eRko has been registered at the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic as a non-governmental organisation. It has more than 8 000 members and nowadays, it is one of the biggest children’s organisations in Slovakia.¹³⁹

ERko has experience with public awareness raising and coordination of activities in the field of development cooperation. eRko became consortium partner in TRIALOG III, its director Marián Čaučík has been in the Advisory Group of TRIALOG since its beginning.

Civil Society Development Foundation (CSDF)

Partner in TRIALOG III-IV

Since 2004, CSDF has been one of the leading NGOs in Romania promoting development cooperation and development education. CSDF is a founding member of the Romanian NGDO Platform (FOND). CSDF has been continuously involved in research on civil society and public policies in Romania.¹⁴⁰

CSDF started to cooperate with the partners in the TRIALOG project in 2005. CSDF has offered support to TRIALOG in organising a series of regional seminars in Romania. Since 2006 CSDF has cooperated with TRIALOG in strengthening the capacity of FOND, the Romanian Development Platform and of its member organizations. The CSDF Director was present in the Advisory Group as early as TRIALOG III, bringing in a Black Sea and Eastern European dimension and finally became partner in the fourth phase.

CONCORD a.i.s.b.l.

Partner in TRIALOG I-II-III-IV-V

CONCORD is the European confederation of Relief and Development NGOs. The confederation is made up of 27 national associations, 18 international networks and 2 associate members that represent over 1,800 NGOs. Indirectly CONCORD represents a very big number of European citizens who support development efforts. Based in Brussels, CONCORD was founded in 2003 by development NGOs to act as the main interlocutor with the EU institutions on development policy.¹⁴¹

As a confederation, CONCORD's aims are achieved through its members, who are facilitated by a Secretariat and led by a Board and Director. Since 2010 Johannes Trimmel of the TRIALOG consortium partner Light for the World has held a seat in the CONCORD Board which brings the project closer to CONCORD. In 2014, Johannes Trimmel became CONCORD President. The work of the Confederation is carried out by the members, split into specific working groups depending on their experience. These groups feed the political debate and contribute towards improving the formulation of European policies affecting development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

Cordaid

Partner in TRIALOG I-II

Cordaid (Catholic Organisation for Relief & Development Aid) is one of the largest development organizations in the Netherlands and has a network of 890 partner organisations in 28 countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America.¹⁴²

Cordaid was consortium partner for only one project phase of TRIALOG from 2003-2006.

Development and Education Centre European Perspective

Partner in TRIALOG IV

European Perspective (EP) from Greece has implemented a number of social and economic development projects in Eastern Europe, the Western Balkans, the Black Sea region, Asia and Africa. EP has a large network of partners in the above mentioned regions and it provides its expertise and know-how through well focused training of trainers, workshops, facilitation of dialogue.

European Perspective and TRIALOG have a longterm cooperation in exchanging experiences and information; in addition, they have both participated in joint activities, such as conferences and seminars.

Ekumenicka akademie Praha

Partner in TRIALOG III-IV

The Czech organisation is focused on awareness raising, campaigning, adult education, networking in the field of development, especially in Fair Trade and operational projects. Ekumenicka akademie Praha was the first wholesaler of fair trade goods since 2004 in Central/Eastern Europe.¹⁴³

A consortium and Advisory Group member since TRIALOG III, Ekumenicka akademie Praha co-organised the conference in Prague (May 2008) on development paradigms and CSOs as development actors.

Koperazzjoni Internazzjonali Malta (Kopin)

Partner in TRIALOG IV

KOPIN is a non-profit and non-governmental organisation based in Malta working in the field of North-South cooperation and global education. It carries out development education and advocacy work on North-South issues directed mainly at local and EU policies. KOPIN is the founding organisation of The National Platform of Maltese NGOs, today called SKOP, which it was mandated to coordinate from its establishment in June 2001 until May 2007. KOPIN also participates in a number of thematic working groups at local and European level.¹⁴⁴

KOPIN has been member of the TRIALOG Advisory Group since the beginning of the second phase and became consortium partner in phase four.

Light for the World/ Licht für die Welt – Christoffel Entwicklungszusammenarbeit (LftW)

Partner in TRIALOG I-II-III-IV-V

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD is one of the leading European NGOs dedicated to restoring eyesight, preventing blindness, providing rehabilitation and access to inclusive education, and promoting the human rights of people with disabilities. The organisation is based in Vienna and supports 175 programmes in 25 countries.¹⁴⁵

Light for the World has been a consortium member of the TRIALOG project since 2003. Light for the World cooperated closely with TRIALOG in the implementation of the Regional Partnership Programme (funded by the governments of participating countries), a joint initiative of the NGO platforms of Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia to strengthen policy dialogue, regional co-operation, and financing twinning projects on development awareness and in partner countries.

Lithuanian Kolping Society (LKS)

Partner in TRIALOG IV

Then Lithuanian Kolping Society (LKS) is a part of an international network – International Kolping society which is active in more than 60 countries worldwide. LKS is a part of different development projects through this network.¹⁴⁶ LKS was actively involved in forming the national platform of Lithuanian NGO's from 2004 until it was founded in spring of 2007. Since 2005, LKS has been the national partner in GLEN (global education network for young Europeans) – sending volunteers to projects in countries of the Global South. In 2008 the Lithuanian Kolping society initiated the creation of a network of NGO's working in development education (later LITDEA).

Since 2006, the director of LKS has been a member of the TRIALOG Advisory Group representing the Baltic States.

Polska Akcja Humanitarna / Polish Humanitarian Action (PAH)

Partner in TRIALOG III-IV-V

PAH is one of the biggest humanitarian NGOs in Poland with a team of about 70 employees and over 90 permanent volunteers. It implements projects in Haiti, Libya, Palestine, Syria, South Sudan and Somalia. PAH had a leading role in the set-up of the national NGO platform in Poland and has been in the board of the platform since its foundation.¹⁴⁷

Since the first TRIALOG project, PAH representatives have been involved in TRIALOG activities. Since 2006, PAH has been a consortium member of TRIALOG and in the Advisory Group. PAH supported activities of TRIALOG, especially with input to the TRIALOG Partnership Fairs.

Terre des hommes Foundation “Lausanne” in Hungary

Partner in TRIALOG IV

The Terre des hommes Foundation is a significant force among children's aid organisations in Switzerland and throughout the world. It is the largest non-governmental organisation (NGO) for children's aid in Switzerland. Since 2005, Terre des hommes' Regional Office in Hungary has been advocating for the better protection of children from the worst forms of exploitation and trafficking in Europe.¹⁴⁸

Terre des homes in Hungary built up contacts with TRIALOG through participation in conferences, training and seminars. The organisation was Advisory Group member and consortium partner in TRIALOG IV.

Notes:

136. www.horizont3000.at
137. www.ageh.de
138. For the present organisational structure see: www.brot-fuer-die-welt.de
139. www.en.erko.sk
140. www.fdsc.ro
141. www.concordeurope.org
142. www.cordaid.org
143. www.ekumakad.cz
144. www.kopin.org
145. www.lichtfuerdiewelt.at
146. www.lkd.kolping.lt
147. www.pah.org.pl
148. www.tdh.ch

ANNEX B

**Resolution of the conference on
“The enlargement of the EU and the
role of NGDOs”**

Vienna, 18-20 November 1998

In the first such conference since the start of the debate on the enlargement of the European Union, for the past three days some 150 representatives of non-government development organizations (NGDOs) from Eastern, Central and Western Europe, and the developing world have been meeting in Vienna - an event that marks the birth of a new dialogue on intercontinental cooperation.

In the past decade the end of the Cold War and European integration have shifted the focus of European geopolitical interests away from the South. The Austrian Presidency of the Council has set itself the objective of "rapid progress with the enlargement process" and has assigned a high priority to "further strengthening of the social dimension in Europe."

At a time of globalization and a widening gulf between rich and poor, strengthening of the social dimension should not be restricted to the continent of Europe, but should be viewed from a global perspective.

The European Parliament has already twice passed resolutions referring to the impact of enlargement on development aid. A resolution of 4 December 1997 calls on the Commission and Council to ensure that enlargement does not result in a reduction in resources for assistance to the "traditional" developing countries, and that resources permitting, the new member states are also involved in EU development assistance policies and assistance. A resolution of 18 December 1997 states that: "the development aid policy implemented by the European Union, in particular by means of the Lomé Convention, is one of the Union's permanent features which must be perpetuated and which the countries applying for accession will be required to accept."

This demand was supported by the participants at the Vienna conference. A strong Europe cannot escape its duty to promote economic, social, democratic and sustainable development in Africa, Asia and Latin America - and to contribute to the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

The reactions of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, as well as some industrialized countries, to the catastrophic effects of hurricane Mitch in Central America have shown that the cancellation of the foreign debts of the poorest countries by Western and Eastern donors is possible. Do we have to wait for further disasters before other countries, too, are relieved of the burden of these debts in order that they may, at last, invest their export earnings in their own development?

In consultation with the Liaison Committee in Brussels, the national platforms of the non-government development

organizations (NGDOs) of the current holder of the Presidency and those countries which will hold it next year (Finland and Germany) have expressed their support for the following priorities:

- Particular efforts to promote an East-West network for partnership and cooperation with the South;
- EU enlargement, the Lomé negotiations and the Union's financial framework for the 2000-2006 period.

As development cooperation forms part of the EU Treaties which will also apply to the new member states, steps must be taken to ensure that the development aid budget is not reduced.

As European integration progresses, the South is increasingly disappearing from the media and from public awareness. Public relations and educational campaigns are thus of vital importance, and the Commission should therefore take steps to put campaigns for promotion of "global learning" in place.

For the above reasons the delegates to the first West-East-South NGDO Conference appeal to the Council meeting to be held in Vienna on 11-12 December to ensure:

- That financial resources earmarked for development cooperation in the future EU financial framework are not traded off against those assigned to the candidates for accession;
- That the possible imposition of a ceiling on EU expenditure (proposed by the Austrian Minister of Finance, Rudolf Edlinger, on 17 November 1998) does not lead to cutbacks in spending on assistance either to membership candidates or to the South, as the brunt of budget consolidation measures should not be borne by the poorest;
- That funding is available for campaigns to promote public awareness of global interrelationships (development education campaigns), including activities undertaken in cooperation with NGOs in candidate countries (and not merely in current EU member states);
- That the EU supports activities of the civil society in the Middle and East European Countries and establishes additional programs to enable central and east European organisations to unfold their capacities, to run awareness work on development issues and to cooperate with organisations in the South.
- The delegates to the first West-East-South NGDO Conference are aware that in future a common European path will not be possible without mutual understanding. In this spirit they appeal to the entire NGDO community in East and West:
- To intensify the exchanges of information, ideas and initiatives which have now been launched; and
- To step up efforts to create a functioning network of NGDOs in Eastern and Western Europe.

Only on the basis of common interests and a joint commitment will we make progress towards the goal of a world built on justice, equality, democracy and freedom.

Closing Statement by the International Conference "Globalizing Solidarity - from Dialogue to Trialogue"

Berlin, June 21st - 22nd, 1999

The international conference convened by the Association of German Development NGOs (VENRO) within the framework of its "German EU Presidency" campaign and the Council of Europe's "Globalisation without poverty" campaign, was attended by more than 100 participants from 23 countries. It concluded with the following demands to the European Union, the national governments and NGOs:

We appeal to the European Union

- to arrange for the European Commission to provide for funds to promote a regular exchange between NGOs in the East, West and South ("Trialogue"). Such exchanges should also take place in Central and Eastern European countries. These budget lines must be made available in addition, not in alternative, to the existing co-financing programmes for development cooperation with the South or to the budget lines assigned for Central and East European countries.
 - to provide for a coordinated approach by the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of Europe in order to release financial resources for an NGO regional exchange of experiences and information (East-East and South-South) in preparation of the Trialogue. Key elements should be: strengthening of civil society, exchange of experiences and capacity building, promotion of women's participation in the development process, and human rights: food security and access to clean drinking water, basic health services, and development of the social infrastructure, cultural exchange and the protection of the environment.
 - to facilitate Trialogue by modifying the general conditions for raising awareness of development issues and development education, to promote the co-financing of projects in and with Central and Eastern European countries, rather than to restrict it to the current EU Member States, in particular to take into account the additional high costs associated with translation.
 - to continue the direct support of small NGOs independent from NGO networks and consortia.
- We also address our appeal to national governments.

We expect from

the Governments of the Central and Eastern European countries

- to create the structural, financial and legal prerequisites for the promotion of NGOs and for their cooperation with the South,

The governments of the EU and ACP states

- in accordance with the successor agreement of the present Lomé IV convention, which expires in February 2000, to foster the conditions for the substantial strengthening of and commitment to civil society, the governments of the Council of Europe member states
- to strengthen the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe in Lisbon to intensify the present global education activities on development, environment and human rights issues,

the German government

- to alter its conditions for co-financing awareness-raising activities on development issues, so that international participants may be better integrated into German development-education policies (especially by allowing for the reimbursement of international travelling costs and additional costs for translations).

We expect all governments

- to create legal bases, taking into account the inalienability of all human rights and especially guaranteeing social human rights and ecological basic needs.

We call on NGOs

- to integrate Central and Eastern European NGOs into their networks, e. g. by enabling "guest status" for them within the EU - NGDO Liaison Committee,
- to publish a Newsletter for the regular exchange of information between East, West and South,
- to promote the discourse on lobbying strategies and methods, and, within the scope of NGOs mandates, to make resources available for the Trialogue.

We wish to re-emphasize the requests made in the "Vienna Appeal", the resolution adopted by the NGDO national platforms of Austria, Germany and Finland at the previous conference held from November 18th to 20th" 1998.

We welcome the intention of Finnish NGOs to proceed with the Trialogue between East, West and South.

"Only on the basis of common interests and a joint commitment we will make progress towards the goal of a world built on justice, equality, democracy and freedom." (Vienna Appeal)

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PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

Eu13 Development CSO Platforms:

Bulgaria: Bulgarian Platform for International Development (BPID) www.bpid.eu

Croatia: CROSOL Croatian Platform for International Citizens Solidarity

Cyprus: Cyprus Islandwide Development NGO Platform (CYINDEP) www.cyindep.eu

Czech Republic: Czech Forum for Development Cooperation (FoRS) www.fors.cz

Estonia: Estonian Roundtable for Development Cooperation (AkÜ) www.terveilm.net

Hungary: Hungarian Association of NGOs for Development and Humanitarian Aid (HAND) www.hand.org.hu

Latvia: Latvian Platform for Development Cooperation (LAPAS) www.lapas.lv

Lithuania: Lithuanian National Platform of Development NGOs www.pagalba.org

Lithuania: Lithuanian Development Education and Awareness Raising Network (LITDEA) www.litdea.eu

Malta: National Platform of Maltese NGDOs (SKOP) www.skopmalta.org

Poland: The Group of Polish NGOs working abroad (Grupa Zagranica) www.zagranica.org.pl

Romania: The Romanian NGDO Platform (FOND) www.fondromania.org

Slovakia: Slovak Non-governmental Development Platform (MVRO) www.mvro.sk

Slovenia: Slovenian Global Action (SLOGA) www.sloga.sloga-platform.org

Other:

AGEH: www.ageh.de

APRODEV - Association of World Council of Churches related Development Organisations in Europe: www.aprodev.eu

Austrian Development Agency: www.entwicklung.at

Black Sea NGO Forum: www.blackseango.org

Centre for Peace Studies: www.cms.hr

CONCORD: www.concordeurope.org

CORDAID: www.cordaid.org

DEEEP Project: www.deeep.org

Ekumenicka akademie Praha: www.ekumakad.cz

ERKO: www.en.erko.sk

EuropeAid: www.ec.europa.eu/europeaid

FDSC: www.fdsc.ro

Global Education Network GLEN: www.glen-europe.org

HORIZONT3000: www.horizont3000.at

Koperazzjoni Internazzjonali Malta (Kopin): www.kopin.org

Light for the World: www.lichtfuerdiewelt.at

Lithuanian Kolping Society: <http://lkd.kolping.lt/index.php>

Polish Humanitarian Action (PAH): www.pah.org.pl

Terre des Hommes Foundation "Lausanne" in Hungary: www.tdh.ch



ANNEX E

TRIALOG I

The Enlargement of the EU and European NGDOs 22/03/2000 - 21/09/2003

incl. ½ year extension due to a delayed implementation

Project Proposal for TRIALOG I

Strong support from the German NGDO platform (Joachim Lindau and Klaus Wardenbach), as well as single persons in Accession Countries: Marian Caucik (SK), Vince Caruana (MT), Jiri Silny (CZ) and Grzegorz Gruca (PL). From academic sector Michael Obrovsky (ÖFSE) and from the Irish platform Hans Zomer

Staff:

Coordinator
Information Officer
Policy Officer (for 22 months from September 2001)

Offices:

Vienna (with ÖED)
Brussels (with LICO)

Budget:

EUR 1.111.250

Financial Resources:

European Commission (85%)

Consortium Partners:

AGEH,
Bread for the World
Cordaid

Other Partners:

CONCORD (former Liaison Committee)
Finish Platform
Swedish Platform

Objectives:

- To raise public awareness in the candidate countries and in the EU of the need for development education and development co-operation between an enlarged EU and the South.
- To establish an effective network encompassing partner organisations in the candidate countries and sharing a joint approach to global development policy issues.
- To enhance the capacity of NGOs in the candidate countries to lobby on N-S issues and to conduct campaigns designed to raise public awareness of global development issues.

- To support the establishment of national NGOs and NGO platforms to deal with development policy or at least the formulation of a development focus within existing NGO platforms in the candidate countries.
- To promote political dialogue at the EU level on development policy in the enlargement process.

TRIALOG II

Reinforcing the role of Development NGDOs in the enlarged EU

22/09/2003 - 21/09/2006

Staff:

Project Director
Information Officer
Policy Officer
Capacity Building Officer

Offices:

Vienna (with HORIZONT3000)
Brussels (with CONCORD)

Budget:

EUR 1.272.300

Financial Resources:

European Commission (84,10%)

Consortium Partners:

AGEH (Germany)
Bread for the World (Germany)
Cordaid (Netherlands)
Light for the World (Austria)
AEC (France)

Other Partners:

CONCORD (former Liaison Committee)
Inwent (Germany)
Kopin (Malta)
Czech Platform
Slovak Platform
Polish Humanitarian Organisation (Poland)

Objectives:

- To ensure smooth and full integration of Accession Countries' NGDOs into the European Union and into the EU NGDO community. This will be achieved by strengthening dialogue and partnerships with EU and NGDOs, enabling full participation in appropriate EU and National Development NGDOs Forums, increasing understanding of the expected role of civil society in EU poverty eradication policies and capacity of the European Union to live up with its commitment towards the Millennium Development Goals.
- Facilitating the inclusion of NGDOs and their co-ordination bodies from Accession Countries into the new NGDO-EU co-ordination body of Development NGDOs (CONCORD) and links with other relevant EU-NGDO networks and key partners in ELDCs
- Strengthening capacities of NGDOs and their co-ordination bodies from Accession Countries in order to participate, together with their counterparts in ELDCs, in policy debates about Development policies of the EU institutions and national governments and in order to be able to use the political and financial External Aid opportunities available at EU and national level
- Building the institutional capacity of NGDOs in Accession Countries through the strengthening of National Platforms or other NGDOs co-ordination bodies and informal Fora
- Providing opportunities for increased networking, information exchange, mutual learning, partnership, joint projects between NGDOs from EU, Accession Countries and ELDCs
- Increasing awareness in Accession Countries and future EU members of development issues, development concepts, paradigms and methodologies, its international discourses and activities like sustainable development, global justice, poverty eradication, the Millennium Goals, and the role of NGDOs in EU Development policies.



TRIALOG III

Strengthening Development Co-operation in the enlarged EU 23/09/2006 - 22/09/2009

Staff:

Project Director
Information Officer
Policy Officer
Capacity Building Officer
Administrative Assistant (50%)

Offices:

Vienna (with HORIZONT3000)
Brussels (with CONCORD)

Budget:

EUR 1.292.000

Financial Resources:

European Commission (83,59%)

Consortium Partners:

AGEH (Germany)
Bread for the World (Germany)
CONCORD (Europe)
Light for the World (Austria)
Ecumenika Akademie Praha (Czech Republic)
Polish Humanitarian Action (Poland)
eRKO (Slovakia)

Other Partners:

AEC (France)
Kopin (Malta)

Objectives:

- European development cooperation incorporates the perspectives and priorities of the CSOs in the NMS/AC.
- NMS/AC development cooperation is coherent with EU policies and practise, and possibilities for cooperation and coordination are explored.



TRIALOG IV

Strengthening Civil Society for Development Cooperation in the enlarged EU
23/09/2009 - 22/09/2012

Staff:

Project Director
Administrative Assistant
Capacity Building Officer
Information Officer
Policy Officer

Offices:

Vienna (with HORIZONT3000)
Brussels (with CONCORD)

Budget:

EUR 1.448.500

Financial Resources:

European Commission (69,04%) according to contract

Consortium Partners:

AGEH (Germany)
Civil Society Development Foundation CSDF (Romania)
CONCORD (Europe)
Development and Education Centre European Perspective (Greece)
Ecumenika Akademie Praha (Czech Republic)
eRKO (Slovakia)
Koperazzjoni Internazzjonali Malta (KOPIN)
Light for the World (Austria)
Kolping Society Lithuania (Lithuania)
Polish Humanitarian Action (Poland)
Terre des Hommes Foundation "Lausanne" in Hungary (Hungary)

Objectives:

- Overall: Mobilisation of more public support in NMS and AC/CC for actions against poverty and for equal relations between developing and developed countries through CSOs as multipliers.
- Specific: A stronger European system of international development cooperation by the integration and active participation of CSOs from NMS and AC/CC on European and global level through coordination, networking, advocacy and capacity building.

TRIALOG V

Strengthening CSOs in EU12/AC for active Engagement in Global Development

Staff:

Project Manager
Project Assistant
Capacity Building Officer
Information Officer
Liaison Officer
+ Liaison Officers in EU13 CSO Platforms

Offices:

Vienna (with HORIZONT3000)
Brussels (with CONCORD)

Budget:

EUR 1.472.213

Financial Resources:

European Commission (67%), ADA (20%), own funds (13%)

Consortium Partners:

EU13 Development CSO Platforms:
Bulgarian Platform for International Development (BPID)
Cyprus Island wide Development NGO Platform (CYINDEP)
Czech Forum for Development Cooperation (FoRS)
Estonian Roundtable for Development Cooperation (AKÜ)
Hungarian Association of NGOs for Development and Humanitarian Aid (HAND)
Latvian Platform for Development Cooperation (LAPAS)
Lithuanian Development Education and Awareness Raising Network (LITDEA)
National Platform of Maltese NGOs (SKOP)
The Group of Polish NGOs working abroad (Grupa Zagranica)
The Romanian NGDO Platform (FOND)
Slovak Non-governmental Development Platform (MVRO)
Slovenian Global Action (SLOGA)

Other:

AGEH
Centre for Peace Studies
CONCORD
Light for the World
Polish Humanitarian Action (PAH)

Objectives:

The overall objective is a deeper awareness and stronger involvement of CSOs from EU12 and AC in global learning and in efforts towards global poverty eradication. The specific objective is strengthened and empowered national platforms and their members for their effective engagement in global development education and raising public awareness.

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 www.fondromania.org	 www.mvro.sk	 www.sloga-platform.org	 www.ageh.de	 www.cms.hr	 www.concordeurope.org	 www.light-for-the-world.org	 www.pah.org.pl		



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AUSTRIAN ORGANISATION FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION