

# Report #EYD2015

#EYD2015



our world  
our dignity  
our future

CIVIL  
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## RESOURCES

Official EYD2015 website

Civil Society Alliance  
informational platform

European Year for  
Development materials

Civil Society Alliance  
communication toolkit

Hashtags: #EYD2015 +  
thematic tags  
(e.g. #genderequality)



## EYD provides opportunity to bust development myths

*Written by Marius Wanders on 19  
January 2015 in News*

This is a 'milestone year' for the future of international development issues, argues Marius Wanders. When the average EU citizen hears us speak about development, does he think of property development, product development, photo development or personal development, perhaps?

One of the main challenges of the European year for development 2015 will be to communicate in clear language with citizens that we are in fact talking about international development cooperation.

The first ever 'European year' on the external policy of the EU provides an extended opportunity to tell real

life stories about development and global justice with citizens, including many who may either have limited knowledge about the scope and results of European development cooperation or who reject the notion of investing resources in reducing poverty in faraway countries at a time of suffering at home. These will sometimes be difficult conversations but are essential to better understanding what motivates the thinking of our dialogue partners and explain what motivates ours. This way we can build bridges between opposing mind-sets. It should not just be a dialogue about "what Europe gives", but also about how Europe lives, in other words how our lifestyles, our consumer decisions, our trade, agricultu-

# A new conversation with a new public

The first 'European Year' on EU external policy is – among other things - an opportunity to have a conversation about development and issues of global justice with a broader public, with people unaware of European development cooperation and not necessarily involved with the NGOs and institutions working on development. It's also an opportunity to reflect with a wider public on the changing narrative about 'development' and in particular, why solidarity with the most marginalised and poorest people around the world should remain a priority for us as individuals and for the European Union. The opportunity of having the European Year on development issues is accompanied by the challenge of holding this conversation against a backdrop of continuing economic and social hardship in Europe and scepticism with all things emanating from the EU.

## What role for Europe in the world?

The European Year is a moment to reflect on the importance of our interaction with the rest of the world. Many of Europe's most pressing challenges (climate change, energy insecurity, migration) need to be tackled in global processes as part of European foreign policy.

As the European think tanks group reported in September 2014 "International development will always have poverty reduction and human security at its core. However, it is no longer simply about a

ral and economic policies in Europe affect global development.

"In 2015 we should underline why action on climate change is closely linked to development because its effects are already being felt disproportionately by those who are the least responsible for causing global warming but are the most vulnerable to its devastating consequences"

2015 is a milestone year for international development issues. The UN millennium development goals reach their deadline and negotiations will be concluded for a new post-2015 framework of sustainable development goals. In 2015, global talks on measures to tackle climate change will culminate with the COP 21 talks in Paris in December. In 2015 we should underline why action on climate change is closely linked to development because its effects are already being felt disproportionately by those who are the least responsible for causing global warming but are the most vulnerable to its devastating consequences.

Concord, the main European network of development organisations, is proud to have been asked by the EU institutions to convene and lead the civil society alliance of the year, bringing together a broad coalition of civil society organisations from across Europe and from across different sectors. This alliance will

not only help to reach out to a large and diverse audience of EU citizens, but will forge new partnerships with other civil society sectors, leading to synergies from which we will continue to benefit in our work well beyond 2015.

We are grateful that MEPs from across the political spectrum voted by an overwhelming majority to endorse the European year 2015 for development under the motto "our world, our dignity, our future". We now call upon

MEPs to use all opportunities they have through meeting with the media and local constituencies to engage citizens in critical dialogue. The conversation on development needs to move well beyond the 'Brussels bubble'.

Many outcomes are expected from this European year. Would it not be great if they included busting some persistent myths, such as "development aid is not working; it is money wasted" or "our aid is making corrupt leaders in poor countries richer"? And then there is the most difficult myth to bust of all: "We have a crisis here in Europe, so we need to divert all possible resources to fight poverty here at home."

## About the author

*Marius Wanders is a board member of Concord and ambassador for the EYD civil society alliance*

# Quel "corpo a corpo" per far nascere l'Agenzia italiana allo sviluppo

*by Vittorio Sammarco on 20 February 2015 in Vita*

È questa l'espressione usata dal viceministro Lapo Pistelli che ieri ha incontrato le ong parlando dei

decreti attuativi che seguono il varo della nuova legge. I non governativi dal canto loro propongono una road map in tre fasi

Il semestre europeo presieduto dall'Italia è stato positivo e ora "per

un'Italia protagonista sui temi dello sviluppo nel 2015", bisogna continuare su questa strada. Lo dicono le Ong riunite sotto il network Concord che ieri si sono riunite a Roma per un confronto tra società civile, governo, parlamentari, istituzioni italiane ed europee, per fare il punto sui risultati del semestre e presentare le proposte al fine di garantire continuità agli impegni in vista degli importanti appuntamenti sui temi dello sviluppo nel 2015: l'adozione della nuova Agenda globale post 2015, l'Expo, l'Anno europeo per lo sviluppo, il Mediterraneo e la migrazione.

"More and better Europe", è lo slogan positivo che lanciano per continuare su quella strada intrapresa nell'ultimo semestre che – se pur tra mille difficoltà – ha consentito di arrivare a una posizione comune europea, per nulla scontata all'inizio. Continuiamo a far vivere i tavoli di coordinamento – dice Francesco Petrelli, portavoce di Concord Italia – e facciamo in modo che le Agenzie dei prossimi semestri abbiano il tema Migrazione/sviluppo nelle loro priorità.

Per l'Italia è stato fondamentale che questa legislatura abbia portato (dopo anni di lavoro e di consulta-



zioni, hanno ribadito Marina Sereni, Vicepresidente della Camera dei deputati, e Giorgio Tonini, componente Commissione Esteri del Senato) all'approvazione della Legge 125/14, di riforma della Cooperazione che ha superato la vecchia n. 49 del 1987. Ora, però, è necessario il completamento del quadro normativo (ed è la fase più difficile, ha sottolineato Tonini) con i decreti attuativi che diano gambe a questo disegno. "Troppe volte in Italia abbiamo visto morire splendidi disegni naufragati malamente per la mancanza di strumenti adatti che rendano credibili e praticabili gli obiettivi iniziali". Senza questi atti, afferma il senatore, che è stato il relatore della legge 125, quel piccolo, simbolico, ma importante segno, aver cambiato il nome

del ministero (ora è Ministero degli esteri e della Cooperazione internazionale) che ha voluto testimoniare che la politica estera italiana è (fondata sulla) cooperazione internazionale, sulle reti, sulla collaborazione, ecco, rischia di diventare un mero atto nominale.

Il lavoro dal punto di vista del governo è in corso, ha assicurato il viceministro Lapo Pistelli (in foto impegnato in un summit con il governo del Sudan) entro i 60 gg previsti – a novembre – siamo riusciti ad emanare il Decreto che stabilisce le linee guida per istituire il Consiglio nazionale per la cooperazione e lo sviluppo ("nel tentativo di creare una sorta di orchestra in cui siano presenti tutte le voci"); siamo "impegnati in un corpo a corpo con il Mi-

one-way relationship of supporting developing countries – and especially not only about aid. We understand international development in this century to be about all countries and citizens tackling shared problems of sustainable development, and with each partner playing its part".

The European Year is a chance to discuss how as individuals we have both the capability as well as the responsibility to contribute as actors – by our actions and by our behaviour, including consumer behaviour – to a more just world where human rights are universally upheld, including the undeniable right of all human beings to live free of poverty, marginalisation and inequality, and a world where good and sustainable stewardship is applied of our planet's precious and scarce natural resources.

The European Year is an opportunity to increase awareness and engage citizens as critical thinkers about and supporters or actors in development.

### **A year of development decisions and milestones**

The discussions around what replaces the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 have nourished the debate about the future of development, particularly in a world in which the majority of the world's poor now live in middle income and rich countries. Our CSO colleagues from Latin America to Asia remind us that they are increasingly affected by the EU's other policies (trade, agriculture, fisheries, energy) – now they have 'graduated' from bi-lateral development programmes.

European commitments on overseas development assistance remain important nevertheless. As CONCORD's AidWatch report underlined, in 2015 we are due to miss repeated commitments to providing 0.7 on GNI to ODA.



We need to use the Year to renew the argument on why this target is so important to our credibility as well as in underpinning ambitious Sustainable Development Goals. Twenty fifteen sees a major milestone in global efforts to tackle climate change with the COP 21 in Paris in December.

We should use the European Year to underline why action on climate change is so closely linked to development. Its effects are already being felt disproportionately by those who have had least responsibility for carbon emissions yet will be most vulnerable to climate change.

We can build on the relationships we have developed with environmental NGOs in advocating for Sustainable Development Goals to push for an ambitious climate settlement with Europe in the lead. The introduction of a concept of 'universality' in the proposed Sustainable Development Goals being discussed at the UN to replace the Millennium Goals – challenges us to think how the eventual goals might apply to us here in Europe. This idea, that it's not about 'us' and 'them' anymore, echoed in the European Year's slogan 'our world, our dignity, our future' invites us as global facing civil society to deepen our dialogue and relationships with our domestic counterparts. Twenty fifteen is also the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and platform of action on the rights of women. It is a reminder of the lack of progress we have made internationally – including in Europe – on gender equality and women's empowerment. Let's hope the European Year on Development will also be an occasion where our sector shines the light on Europe's performance in global progresses in alliance with Europe's civil society.

nistero dell'Economia, il Consiglio di Stato, il Parlamento per arrivare presto e bene allo Statuto che stabilisca il funzionamento dell'Agenzia italiana per la cooperazione allo sviluppo (dal quale poi dipenderà la nomina Direttore, la sede e i bandi per il personale per completare la pianta organica, almeno entro l'anno confida Pistelli); “stiamo inoltre lavorando – rimarca il viceministro - perché questo tema abbia una regia unica a livello dell'intero governo, perché nel suo insieme assuma la consapevolezza della necessità di elaborare un Piano coerente per la Cooperazione. “Confido – ha detto Pistelli – che entro l'anno potremo avere un Regolamento che faccia funzionare l'intera macchina.” Sui fondi, nota dolente, la media europea si è assestata poco sotto l'0,5 dei bilanci nazionali, ma lo stanziamento italiano, appena sopra lo 0,2 è ancora più lontano dallo 0,7 stabilito dagli accordi internazionali. E' bene però, è stato sottolineato dai protagonisti, che il trend in atto continui, seppure a piccoli passi, a segnare una crescita, senza più indicare inversioni di tendenza come è stato fatto negli anni passati. Oltre all'aspetto istituzionale – necessario per proseguire - le proposte delle Ong sono chiare e articolate: bisogna arrivare a un Piano di politiche per lo sviluppo coerente, dicono, attraverso tre fasi (una road map, sullo stesso modello previsto dall'Ocse per i suoi progetti). Prima fase: stabilire obiettivi e priorità, coinvolgendo l'opinione pubbli-

ca, lavorando con la società civile, enti di ricerca e gli stessi Paesi partner, per accrescere la consapevolezza dell'importanza del Piano (informare di più); richiedere l'assunzione di impegni pubblici al più alto livello possibile; pubblicare l'agenda con priorità e tempi chiari per l'implementazione e le tappe progressive del Piano a livello nazionale.

Seconda: assicurarsi che le pratiche di lavoro supportino un'effettiva comunicazione tra i diversi ministeri, stabilendo anche meccanismi formali di coordinamento interministeriale per le decisioni da adottare, con mandati e responsabilità specifici; individuare un mandato e ruolo chiaro e attivo dell'Agenzia nella discussione sul Piano.

Terza: dedicare risorse adeguate e specifiche (a livello nazionale e internazionale) per monitorare gli impatti sul campo, e i progressi fatti, coinvolgendo società civile, istituzioni della ricerca e riportando i risultati al Consiglio nazionale e dando conto a Parlamento e opinione pubblica.

Infine, è importante “chiudere il cerchio”, prevedendo procedure che portino al cambiamento delle politiche che risultano incoerenti con la cooperazione allo sviluppo. Per far sì che questa importante opera di assestamento continuo, in grado di migliorare efficacia ed efficienza delle attività in corso, le Ong propongono che “i risultati del monitoraggio, una volta discussi, si traducano in indirizzi parlamentari e del Consiglio nazionale”.

## Human Rights and Gender Equality Vague in Post-2015 Agenda

by Ida Karlsson on 4 September 2014  
in IPSNews

With the United Nations' post-2015 development agenda currently under discussion, civil society actors



in Europe are calling for a firmer stance on human rights and gender equality, including control of assets by women.

“The SDGs are a unique opportunity for us. The eradication of extreme poverty is within our grasp. But we still face very major challenges. Business as usual is not an option,” Seamus Jeffreson, Director of Concord, the European platform for non-governmental development organisations, told at a meeting in Brussels with the European Parliament Committee on Development on September 3.

An Open Working Group has been set up by the United Nations to come up with a set of new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to replace the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education by the target date of 2015. “We need to address women’s control over assets. The majority of farmers in the world are women but they do not own the land. There is legislation that prevents women from inheriting property” – Seamus Jeffreson, Director, Concord Development organisations in Europe say a rights-based approach need to be strengthened in the proposed new SDGs or there is a risk these could be traded off in negotiations with major powers that are less committed to human rights.

“We do not see the spirit of a human rights-based approach infusing the other goals. It should underpin the SDGs. The connection is not made that people have rights to resources. We cannot have a development agenda without people’s rights being respected,” Jeffreson said.

Jeffreson’s complaint was echoed by Thomas Mayr-Harting, European Union Ambassador to the United Nations. “From our point of view, a rights-based approach and gover-

nance and rule of law need to be better represented in the SDGs.”

While Concord welcomes a specific goal on gender equality within the SDGs, “more details are needed for this to be a goal and not just a slogan,” Jeffreson told IPS. “We need to address women’s control over assets. The majority of farmers in the world are women but they do not own the land. There is legislation that prevents women from inheriting property.”

The European Union will produce a common position before inter-governmental negotiations start. Further input will come from a High-level Panel set up in July 2012 by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to advise on the global development framework beyond 2015.

“We now look to Ban Ki-moon to play a core role in bringing this process together,” said Mayr-Harting, adding that Sam Kutesa, Ugandan foreign minister, who will chair the UN General Assembly from mid-September, will play also an important role.

Ajay Kumar Bramdeo, ambassador of the African Union to the European Union, who also attended the meeting in Brussels, said that more than 90 percent of the priorities in the common African position have been included in the proposed new set of development goals, including its position on climate change.

“The negative impact of climate change is already being felt in countries in Africa. The European Union has been an important historical, political, economic and social partner for Africa and would also feel the impact of climate change on Africa,” he added.

Kumar Bramdeo emphasised the need to mobilise financing from the developed countries through the Green Climate Fund of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), transfer new clean technologies, and enhance di-

## A civil society alliance

How can we in civil society best contribute to making the European Year a success?

At CONCORD, we hope to bring together an alliance of European civil society networks to:

- Support national or regional civil society coalitions or actors in the implementation of European Year campaigns and activities and provide them with advice and coaching for shaping local, regional and national activities in Europe.
- Continuously upload relevant content to the civil society section of the official EYD2015 website of the European Commission and engage in social media interactions in partnership with the Commission including taking account of the EYD2015 thematic months.

- Develop civil society’s own innovative campaigning and communication tools to stimulate a conversation and be easily adapted to local, regional and national contexts.

- Ensure participation and contribution by civil society in centrally organised European events, including those organised by the incoming Latvian and Luxembourg presidencies.

- Prepare policy recommendations based on input collected during year and project activities. Given our roots in communities across the EU and our credibility and expertise, civil society organisations have been recognised as key actors to achieve the outreach objective of the European Year. Civil society organisations are keen and ready to play an important role as a partner for the European Commission and member states governments in implementation activities at European and national levels.

This outreach will require forging new relationships and alliances with those outside our sector and

innovative communications tools and techniques. It will work better if the Year happens at national and regional level rather than in Brussels.

There are many communities in Europe deeply involved and active in Development issues but who work independent of the mainstream NGOs. One such community are diaspora groups – Somalis, west Africans, Congolese, Kashmiris, Kurds– what is their view on Europe's role in promoting development in their communities of origins where cultural and family ties remain strong? How can we bring the energy, insights and support of diaspora communities to make EU development and foreign policy more relevant?

The European Year will be equally a moment to reach out to young people, trade unionists, the business community, consumers and others to discuss what our work outside Europe means to the issues they care about.

Of course, if we want to discuss our issue with others, we need to be prepared to listen to their issues too. So we should look forward to discussions with our civil society colleagues on ending extreme poverty and promoting basic rights around the world and how this relates to their priorities for education, employment, decent social protection and sustainable development.

It's time to start the conversation.

## Postcard from Riga

*Seamus Jeffreson is the Director of CONCORD, the European confederation of development NGOs. Here he gives his personal reflections of the launch of the EYD 2015 in Riga last Friday.*

saster risk management and climate adaptation initiatives.

Ole Lund Hansen, representing the UN Global Compact at the meeting, stressed that the SDGs would not be achieved without the active participation of the world's business sector. "Some figures say we need 2.5 billion dollars per year in additional investments to achieve the SDGs. We clearly need to tap into the vast resources of the private sector."

The proposed new SDGs, which will make amends for the shortcomings of the MDGs, will be an integral part of the United Nations' post-2015 development agenda which, among others, seeks to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger from

the face of the earth by 2030.

There are currently 17 new goals on the drafting board, including proposals to end poverty, eliminate hunger, attain healthy lives, provide quality education, attain gender equality and reduce inequalities. The list also includes the sustainable use of water and sanitation, energy for all, productive employment, industrialisation, protection of terrestrial ecosystems and strengthening the global partnership for sustainable development.

The final set of goals is to be approved by world leaders in September 2015.

(Edited by Phil Harris)

## Development aid popular among EU citizens, despite widespread ignorance



*Published on 14 January 2015 in Euractiv*

Neven Mimica at the presentation of the development aid survey in Riga. [George Gotev]

The European Commission has officially launched the European Year of Development. But a report

has revealed just how little European citizens understand development policy, despite broadly supporting it. EurActiv France reports.

The European Year of Development was inaugurated on 9 January in Riga, the Latvian capital. Despite appearing as a top priority for the international community, it is still

a subject of great ignorance among EU citizens.

According to a study on Europeans and development, carried out by TNS for the European Commission, 87% of those questioned said they had never heard of the European Year of Development before the survey.

### **Ignorance**

More broadly, the study points out that European knowledge of development policy is, at best, flimsy. The destination of the development aid provided by their own countries was largely unknown by the Europeans questioned. 46% had no idea of the destination of the aid, while 49% said they knew “a little” about the subject.

France is among the countries where this lack of knowledge appears to be most deeply rooted: 66% of the French citizens queried admitted to not knowing the destination of development aid, and 32% said they had some knowledge.

### **Strong support in principle**

In spite of the lack of detailed understanding, European citizens show a strong attachment to development policy.

Almost two thirds of the survey’s participants (64%) believe that fighting poverty in developing countries should be one of the EU’s top priorities.

>> **Read: ODA in austerity: development to the detriment of the less advanced countries?** (in French)

Even today, with several EU member states experiencing a period of severe financial hardship, the majority of Europeans think that aid should be increased to meet the levels promised (52%) or higher (15%).

### **Scepticism from the French**

While 78% of French people agree that it is important to help the populations of developing countries, this proportion is “among the six lowest

across all EU Member States,” according to the study, and represents a fall of 9% since the last survey. France is not alone in this respect, as approval for development aid has also suffered a 9% drop in Belgium and Italy. Overall, 85% of respondents to the survey said they believe development aid to the poorest countries to be important.

>> **Read: Majority of French feel ill-informed about development aid**

### **Health a leading priority**

The survey’s respondents placed health (39%), peace and security (36%) and education (34%) at the top of the list of issues they consider to be most important for developing countries, leaving gender equality (6%) and climate change (6%), both among the top priorities for the EU member states, far behind.

### **POSITIONS:**

**Neven Mimica**, the European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, said “I feel very encouraged to see that despite economic uncertainty across the EU, our citizens continue to show great support for a strong European role in development. The European Year will give us the chance to build on this and inform citizens of the challenges and events that lie ahead during this key year for development, helping us to engage in a debate with them”.

**Seamus Jeffreson**, the director of the European development NGO CONCORD, said it was “very good news at the opportune moment. These positive results are a perfect start to the European Year of Development. The challenge now is to engage our citizens in a new debate on development. A debate that will go beyond the importance of aid and will analyse how our consumption, our ways of life and our policies affect global development as a whole”.

Snowy Riga, and the magnificent new national Library was the setting of the official launch of the EYD 2015 on 9 January 2014. LAPAS, the Latvian NGO platform, was one of the initiators of the idea of a European year focusing on development cooperation, so it seemed appropriate to be in the Latvian capital.

If we were in any doubt of the commitment of the EU institutions to the EYD - the presence of Jean Claude Juncker and Federica Mogherini along with Latvian prime Minister Laimdota Straujama at the opening session was a welcome reassurance and underlined the wider implications of 2015 beyond a narrow approach to development cooperation.

It is the year to agree ambitious sustainable development goals. As both Juncker and Mogherini pointed out - these will apply to us here in Europe too. I’m looking forward with civil society colleagues in Europe to seeing this fact reflected on the ‘domestic’ legislative agenda of the EU.

Everyone made the link with climate change talks scheduled for Paris in December – which is the time to make a global deal on reducing global warming. You can find the video of my short opening remarks at the launch event here.

### **Nous sommes tous Charlie**

The attack on ‘Charlie Hebdo’ in Paris was a very present theme during the day. In the ‘Green Room’ while waiting for the first session to begin, Economic and Social committee President Henri Malosse distributed ‘Je Suis Charlie’ stickers to Federica Mogherini and to us other speakers. Former Latvian president Vaira Freiberga - something of an institution in her own right as a voice of post communist Eastern Europe - was one of many speakers to express



our collective solidarity with the French people and determination to defend freedom of expression.

### From words to action...

I felt the need to bottle up all the commitments made for ambitious SDGs, Europe's leadership role in ensuring a climate deal, the universality of the SDGs, the importance of other non development policies (from trade to agriculture to fisheries - so well argued by new Swedish Development Minister Isabella Lövin) by EU leaders. The Environment Commissioner underlined the importance of the 'circular economy' directive in 2015 - that we all understood Mr. Timmermans had taken off the table at the end of last year. We in civil society will be watching this one closely and are right behind you Mr. Vella!

In the press conference Foreign Minister Rinkēvičs and Development Commissioner Mimica underlined the importance of supporting NGOs to ensure the visibility of EU development cooperation and articulation with the European public - couldn't agree more!

Here's what everyone said - the advocates among you can scan and memorise for policy commitments:

- Video of speeches by Juncker and Mogherini
- Written speech copy Jean-Claude Juncker

Some of us were lucky enough to hear the OECD's Eric Solheim remind us at the high power lunch that money is not the problem: it's a question of political will. Time to get some of his native Norway's sovereign wealth fund's trillions out of oil company shares and invested in sustainable development in the countries that need it most and the switch to a green, low carbon economic growth.

Time for the EU to tackle speculative financial transaction making bankers even richer and start generating financial transaction

# UE lança Ano Europeu do Desenvolvimento com apelo à participação dos cidadãos

*Published on 9 January 2015 in Jornal*

A União Europeia lançou hoje formalmente, em Riga, o Ano Europeu do Desenvolvimento, tendo o presidente da Comissão Europeia,

Jean-Claude Juncker, apelado a um envolvimento mais directo dos cidadãos europeus.

“A minha Comissão vai trabalhar de perto com as outras instituições da UE, com os nossos Estados-membros, e, claro, com os nossos parcei-



ros internacionais, para assegurar que obtemos resultados. Gostaria de instar todos os cidadãos da UE a acompanharem-nos nestes esforços (...) Cada indivíduo tem um papel a desempenhar para um mundo mais sustentável e pacífico”, declarou Juncker, na cerimónia de lançamento do Ano Europeu do Desenvolvimento.

Sendo esta a primeira vez que o “Ano Europeu” é consagrado à acção externa da União Europeia e ao papel da Europa no mundo, a presidência semestral letã da UE e a Comissão Europeia apontam que esta é “uma oportunidade única” para as organizações de desenvolvimento de toda a Europa “motivarem mais europeus a implicar-se e a participar no desenvolvimento”.

Portugal, representado na cerimónia de hoje em Riga pelo secretário de

Estado dos Negócios Estrangeiros e da Cooperação, Luís Campos Ferreira, participará nesse esforço ao nível da UE para “explicar aos cidadãos europeus como funciona a ajuda ao desenvolvimento e para demonstrar que produz efeitos concretos e duradouros” e “mostrar aos contribuintes que o seu dinheiro está a ser utilizado da melhor forma possível”. Nesse quadro, o programa português do Ano Europeu para o Desenvolvimento, coordenado pelo Camões-Instituto da Cooperação e da Língua, é promover o interesse, a participação e o pensamento crítico dos cidadãos portugueses sobre o Desenvolvimento Global.

O ano de 2015 é também a data limite para serem alcançados os Objectivos de Desenvolvimento do Milénio acordados em 2000, e a comunidade internacional deverá

decidir qual o futuro quadro mundial para a erradicação da pobreza e o desenvolvimento sustentável, a chamada “agenda do desenvolvimento pós-2015”.

De acordo com o relatório anual da Confederação Europeia de Organizações Não Governamentais de Ajuda Humanitária e Desenvolvimento (Concord) divulgado em Novembro

passado em Paris, a maioria dos Estados-membros da UE, entre os quais Portugal, não vão honrar as metas com que se haviam comprometido para 2015, apesar de a UE e os seus Estados-membros continuarem a ser, em conjunto, os maiores doadores de ajuda pública ao desenvolvimento a nível mundial.

Lusa

## Officials adjust terrorism challenge to European Year for Development

*Published on 12 January 2015 in Euractiv*

Federica Mogherini in Riga [Georgi Gotev]

The emotions following the Paris terrorist attacks left a mark on the messages of EU officials during the launch on Friday (9 January) in Riga of the “European Year for Development 2015”.

More than 300 officials from 38 countries attended the launch in Riga of the “European Year for Development 2015”, the first year designated with such a global theme, since European years have been designated thematically since 1983. The aim of the “European Year for Development 2015” is to make as many citizens of the EU as possible understand and support the role of



Union in addressing global challenges and providing development aid. An unprecedented number of events during the European Year of Development will focus on 12 themes (see background) and are expected

to citizens in all EU countries with the help of youth and women's organisations, local authorities, and unions.

It is not by chance the launch took place in the Latvian capital Riga.

taxes for the fight against poverty and action against climate change. There must be votes in that for politicians...?

### And civil society voices?

Press conferences are apparently very precisely timed events. French cooperation minister Annick Girardin was not impressed at being rushed. I was not impressed at being bumped off the second panel session! - here's what I was going to say.

Fortunately the day included some of civil society's perspective and role in having a conversation with a wider public about development and global solidarity. World vision and CONCORD EYD ambassador Marius Wanders was joined by Inese Vaivare (LAPAS), Stefan Grasgruber (Sudwind Austria) and Ingo Ritz (Global Call for Action against Poverty - GCAP) for a lighthearted look at what the EYD means to normal people not inhabiting the Brussels bubble.

Watch the video of the role play session [here](#)

This culminated in the presentation of Nobel prize winner Malala Yousafzai's letter on the action/2015 to Commissioners Mogherini, Mimica and EP Development Committee chair Linda McAvan.

Two Latvian bikers are going to bike from Cape Town to Riga, guided by school students to interesting places on their route (too late for me to apply for a sabbatical year to join them alas)... Luxembourg are launching a video competition - watch their video presentations [here](#).

I'm probably biased but I thought Plan and CONCORD's Tanya Cox was the best speaker in the panel on good governance and accountability in the SDGs. Although the development Commissioner's contention that he is the most feminist voice in the college of Commissio-

ners lead to a minor twitter storm. Europe women's lobby head Joanna Maycock immediately invited him for a meeting - prepare yourself Mr. Mimica!

It was a pleasure and food for the mind to listen to Homi Kharas - UN brain on SDGs - give a thoughtful Kapuscinski lecture. Find out more here.

So after a high profile launch with lots of political commitments it's time to take the EYD out of the conference room and into the classrooms, trade union halls, bars, and pop festivals around the 28 countries of the EU.

Latvian platform LAPAS showed us how fun and stimulating we can make this year with their pre-launch event in the magestique Splendid Palace cinema this week. It's true - those Latvians like to sing and really are idealists!

If you missed it or fancy a trip to Dublin, I'm sure Irish national platform Dochas' launch event for the EYD 2015 on 22nd January will be worth attending or tuning into. Irish president Michael Higgins obviously thinks so - he'll be there. More info here.

Ireland also contributed the youngest delegate to the conference too. She asked delegates what 'sustainable development' meant to them. And there's still time to register for CONCORD's launch of the Civil Society Alliance for the EYD 2015 at Mundo J in Brussels where - in addition to launching action/2015 for an end to poverty, inequality and climate change, - we'll be asking our colleagues in other parts of civil society from youth to trade unions, environmental, women, social, human rights and fair trade NGOs and movements (among others) - what are your priorities for 2015? How can the EYD work for you?

Latvia not only holds the rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union, but in fact the initiative originated in this country.

Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker paid tribute to Andris Gobiņš, President of the European Movement - Latvia and Member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), who in 2010 started the initiative with Concord, the European confederation of Relief and Development NGOs. Without directly referring to the Paris terrorist attacks, Juncker said that the world is becoming increasingly interdependent, and challenges such as radicalism do not know any borders.

"Our response needs to be united. Our policy must adapt to better face these challenges", Juncker said.

#### **'Je suis Charlie'**

Foreign affairs chief Federica Mogherini said that each year, over 1.4 million people lose their lives to violence.

"Je suis Charlie. Things are interconnected. The challenge of our new commission working internally and externally in different sectors is vital for our own interest and security, as well as for the benefit of the rest of the world", she said.

According to Mogherini violence and insecurity have undermined the attainment of MDGs. On average, a country that experiences major violence in the period between 1981 and 2005 has a poverty rate 25% higher than a country that saw no violence, she said.

Latvian Foreign Affairs Minister Edgars Rinkēvičs said the EU had the necessary range of tools, and if it applied funding for development correctly, it could influence the reasons that provide inspiration for terrorism.

European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven Mimica said the EU ne-

eded to strike a balance between its security and its development action. There is a need to tackle the security problem at its roots, starting with the humanitarian relief responses, to the long term responses in all crises, Mimica said.

#### **Moderation blunders**

As each of the speakers was taking the time to express their condolences to France over the Charlie Hebdo attack, ironically, French minister of State for Development and Francophonie Annick Girardin was left without speaking time. As she was last on the list of speakers, she was rudely interrupted at the beginning of her statement, with the moderator saying time was out. Girardin, visibly upset, said that she would continue her statement nevertheless, but had to wrap up her message faster than she had expected.

It appears that Latvians are obsessed with scheduling, and even Juncker was surprised when his press conference the previous day was cut short abruptly by the moderator.

#### **Strong criticism**

Henri Malosse, President of European Economic and Social Committee, made the strongest statement during the ceremonies. He called the Paris attacks a manifestation of "new Nazism, new fascism".

"Terrorism is our enemy, but our first enemy is poverty, which is conducive to terrorism," he said, adding that the Mediterranean is "becoming a cemetery because of (a) lack of development".

Malosse did not spare the Commission from criticism, saying that development should be negotiated, from equal to equal, and that in his words this has been forgotten.

"Development policy got lost in bureaucracy," Malosse said. The EU is supplying a lot of direct assistance to governments, "but where is the



money?”, he asked.

Further, Malosse advocated the need of “real reform” in development aid, of establishing a dialogue which should touch upon the issue of religions and “never compromise on values”.

More coordination is needed in development aid, Malosse further argued, adding that the national politics of EU countries eclipse the common EU policy. He also argued that development should be a community policy.

Asked by EurActiv to comment on Malosse’s critical statements, Mimica said he wouldn’t deny problems exist.

It should not be forgotten that development activity takes place in most fragile environments, and is run by partners, therefore avoiding that

money going in wrong directions is a “delicate exercise”, Mimica said. Rinkēvičs also answered this question and appeared to contradict Mimica to a certain extent, by saying that to some extent, NGOs were “more efficient” in providing development aid. He emphasised that a “more individual approach” to the world’s regions was needed.

## L’Europa del futuro insieme su immigrazione e ambiente

*Published on 8 January 2015 in La Stampa*

Volge al termine il semestre italiano di presidenza europea. Il 13 dicembre il Consiglio dei ministri sviluppo della Ue ha pubblicato le “Conclusioni” sui temi dello sviluppo a partire dal posizionamento europeo sull’Agenda Post-2015, i nuovi obiettivi per lo sviluppo del Pianeta, che il prossimo settembre andranno a sostituire i vecchi Obiettivi del Millennio, che hanno guidato per gli ultimi 15 anni l’azione internazionale di aiuto allo sviluppo e nella cooperazione. La Stampa ha intervistato Francesco Petrelli, portavoce di Concord Italia (la piattaforma delle Ong italiane che fa parte della confederazione delle Ong europee) per fare il punto su questo documento, che – anche grazie all’Italia – vede un’Europa ritrovare una voce comune sui temi della cooperazione,

dell’immigrazione, e dello sviluppo.

**Qual è il suo giudizio sul lavoro svolto in tema di cooperazione a livello europeo? In particolare, che ruolo ha avuto l’Italia?**

«Nonostante le difficoltà del semestre, il risultato è stato positivo, in particolare sui tre temi guida indicati come prioritari: processo post 2015, migrazione e sviluppo, e il ruolo degli attori privati. Due osservazioni: la prima è che l’Europa alla vigilia del round di negoziati, che ci porterà a settembre 2015 a definire il set di obiettivi post-Millennium Goals, riesce ad esprimere una posizione comune, a parlare con una voce sola. Questo non era scontato perché si partiva da una situazione di profondo disallineamento. Si arriverà al negoziato sui nuovi obiettivi per lo sviluppo post-2015 uniti e con una visione coerente definita nel documento finale (scaricabile qua)».

## Europe in the World: EU delegations

For almost a decade now, in our work on monitoring the performance of European Union delegations’ engagement with civil society, CONCORD has played a “watchdog” role, assessing how policies decreed in Brussels are actually being put into practice in the countries in which the EU works.

This important role remains. But civil society organisations can also have a role highlighting good practices and encouraging improvements. At a time of Euroscepticism, I think it’s particularly valuable to support steps by the EU to ensure that civil society can play a meaningful role in the planning and implementation of its external policies on the ground. This report, drawing on wide-ranging participation from CONCORD members and partners, describes what’s working well and where things could be better.

The space for civil society around the world to do its job (watchdog, advocate, service provider, educator) is increasingly under threat. EU institutions’ and EU delegations’ efforts to include civil society and other non-state actors in a dialogue about EU programmes and policies is therefore as critical as ever. We want European external policies to be progressive, respectful of human rights and single-mindedly focused on ending extreme poverty. Involving civil society is not only the right thing to do, it is also effective. It makes for better, more inclusive and better-accepted policies.

The role of civil society as a partner in policy dialogue is not accep-

ted or understood in the same way by all the EU's partner governments. Highlighting successful practices, proposing where things could be done differently or better, is one important way of increasing and improving civil society involvement in decisionmaking and in the implementation of those decisions globally. CONCORD has successfully drawn on its members' work at EU policy level, combined with in-country presence and relationships, to make a significant contribution to this vital aspect of the EU's external action – supporting CSO engagement.

My first experience of CONCORD was responding to a questionnaire about CSOs' interaction with EU delegations back in 2005 while working for CAFOD and Trócaire in Addis Ababa. This report marks another milestone in the process in which European CSOs and their in-country civil society partners are working together to increase and improve the quality of consultation and engagement between the EU and civil society in the countries in which the EU's programmes and policies have an impact.

I would like to thank all those whose time and hard work contributed to the findings of the report, and I look forward to continued and deeper cooperation between CSOs, our partners and the EU in maintaining and expanding civil society's role as a key driver of sustainable development with a place at the decisionmaking table.

### **La seconda osservazione è legata all'elemento cardine del Semestre. Si è riusciti ad aprire a livello europeo la discussione sul tema delle migrazioni?**

«Sì, riuscendo anche a legarlo al tema dello sviluppo. Un risultato questo tutto italiano. Perché è evidente che di questa partita delle migrazioni l'Italia è al centro del dramma dei profughi e dei richiedenti asilo, non solo della migrazione economica o "circolare". Nelle conclusioni c'è dunque l'indicazione di una nuova comunicazione europea entro il 2015 su vari strumenti d'implementazione, che andranno messi in campo per affrontare il tema dei flussi migratori finalmente come questione europea».



### **Quali saranno i principali ostacoli?**

«Lo sviluppo di molte nazioni del Mediterraneo meridionale è legato al nostro benessere. Quindi non si possono affrontare queste tematiche di sviluppo e migrazione con un approccio ancora a compartimentazione stagna: il tema è interconnesso e non lo si può che affrontare in modo slegato e frammentario. Per superare l'approccio solo "emergenzialista" o peggio "securitario", l'Europa dovrebbe mettere il tema migrazione in cima alle sfide di un'agenda politica; dovrebbe essere un'Europa che agisce come "global player" sui

problemi globali. Ma se l'Unione ha risolto nel complesso positivamente il processo di integrazione dei paesi dell'Europa centro-orientale, ha dimenticato l'area mediterranea».

### **Uno dei metodi per diminuire i flussi d'immigrazione è sicuramente quello di sostenere lo sviluppo in questi Paesi mediterranei, che sono poi Paesi prioritari anche per la cooperazione italiana. Il documento ribadisce l'importanza di tornare a raggiungere lo 0,7 % del Pil da destinare allo sviluppo dei paesi meno ricchi. Il tema delle risorse per lo sviluppo diventa un fattore?**

«Si ribadisce questa intenzione, e ciò è importante. Per noi lo 0,7% per la cooperazione rimane un obiettivo necessario da raggiungere, anche se appare difficile pensare che nei prossimi 5 o 10 anni possa essere raggiunto. Nondimeno l'aiuto pubblico allo sviluppo ha una funzione, irrinunciabile, di "volano" per la lotta alla povertà. Va mirato sulle vulnerabilità sociali: sanità di base, istruzione, sicurezza alimentare e accesso all'acqua. È quindi un obiettivo rilevante, da raggiungere davvero in tempi certi e ragionevoli. C'è ancora un tema importante, che è quello della coerenza di tutte le politiche. Per i paesi del Mediterraneo o del Nord Africa sono ugualmente importanti le politiche dello sviluppo e della cooperazione quanto quella della mobilità, quelle commerciali e industriali o agricole. Non si può fare aiuto allo sviluppo da un lato e sfruttare i lavoratori e delocalizzare dall'altro».

### **Il rischio?**

«Non agire può diventare un fattore di crisi di senso e utilità della costruzione europea. Se l'Europa è solo burocrazia, austerità e regole inviolabili e non viene percepita come un grande progetto utile per il futuro, si aprono praterie per i parti-

ti europei xenofobi e razzisti».

**Uno degli ulteriori elementi che si è aggiunto nell'Agenda per lo Sviluppo post-2015 è la questione ambientale, che finalmente torna a riemergere nel tema cooperazione e che sarà un elemento centrale dei negoziati.**

«Prendiamo il Mediterraneo. La salvaguardia del mare comune, che è fonte di ricchezza, oltre che di preservazione ambientale, è fondamentale. Il Mediterraneo se non è coltivato diventa una delle aree senza anticorpi per la resilienza. Quest'agenda è innovativa perché dice due cose: uno che devi tenere assieme povertà, sviluppo sociale, sostenibilità ambientale e diritti; la

seconda è che riguarda tutti i Paesi, quindi, supera il paradigma donatore- ricevente in termini di comuni, ma differenziate responsabilità. Siamo lontani dalla cooperazione tradizionale: l'ambiente è una questione che unisce Nord e Sud del mondo, dove il tema dell'ambiente si fonde con quello dell'agricoltura, della produzione del cibo, della gestione dell'acqua, della manutenzione dei territori. Secondo Enrico Giovannini – l'ex ministro e presidente Istat, oggi co-chair del gruppo di consiglieri di Ban Ki-moon per la "Data Revolution" – l'Europa è a rischio di choc ambientale. Quindi pensare allo sviluppo integrato ambientale è una questione che riguarda il futuro di tutti noi».

## Lancio ufficiale dell'Anno europeo per lo sviluppo 2015

*Published on 9 January 2015 in Il Velino*

L'Anno dello sviluppo, originariamente proposto dalla Confederazione Europea delle ONG Concord Europe, sarà dedicato a far crescere la consapevolezza e l'impegno di tutti gli europei nei confronti dei diversi progetti a sostegno della cooperazione da parte dell'Unione Europea. "Quest'anno non deve essere solo un anno Europeo", ha detto Mogherini durante la cerimonia, "ma deve riguardare tutti i cittadini e non solo quelli europei". EYD2015 presenta un calendario pieno di eventi a tutti i livelli, che permetterà a giovani, politici, società civile, industria, mondo dell'accademia e della ricerca, di dare un contributo su decisioni cruciali, utili alla definizione di politiche di sviluppo, ambientali e di prevenzione dei cambiamenti climatici. Il dibattito dell' EYD2015

verterà sul tema, proposto dalla Commissione Europea, "il nostro mondo, la nostra dignità, il nostro futuro".

"L'anno europeo è l'occasione per intavolare un dialogo sul tema dello sviluppo e su questioni di giustizia globale, con un pubblico più ampio, con persone estranee al mondo della cooperazione e non necessariamente coinvolte con le ONG e le istituzioni che lavorano per lo sviluppo. Vogliamo che quest'anno non riguardi solo il tema degli aiuti – ovvero ciò che l'Europa dà -, ma anche il come l'Europa vive: come i nostri stili di vita, il commercio, le politiche agricole ed economiche Europee influiscono sullo sviluppo globale ", ha sottolineato Seamus Jeffreson, direttore Concord, durante la cerimonia a Riga. "Lo scopo dell'Anno europeo per lo Sviluppo è di informare i cittadini europei sullo sviluppo e la cooperazione, metten-

## Sustainable by example – CONCORD's new sustainability measures

CONCORD Director Seamus Jeffreson outlines the new sustainability measures adopted by CONCORD's secretariat in Brussels. To mark the European Year of Development 2015, the CONCORD Secretariat in Brussels has introduced four measures aimed at operating more sustainably.

- Carbon offsetting for air travel
- Recycling and improved sorting of waste
- Reducing meat consumption in our catering policy
- Making our building more sustainable by working with other organisations in Mundo

### How do these measures work?

When someone in the secretariat travels, we will contribute to a carbon offset scheme - there are plenty of these around (see insert carbon offset org website) - it is not expensive and mainly makes you think about the carbon price of air travel. We have not introduced this for CONCORD's travel budget for members as many worry this will limit participation of non Brussels based members in our meetings and work, something we do not want to do.

We recycle paper, plastics and food waste (using a compost collection space) in the office. Old furniture is also recycled or donated.

We have now made vegetarian food as the standard option for catering. Meat can be ordered as the 'extra option'. This is to make the point that land usage for the level



of meat consumption we currently have in Europe is unsustainable. We work in a fantastic space with lots of other CSOs called Mundo J – founded by an ethical property company dedicated to networking and greater sustainability. We will be exploring with our neighbours and colleagues ways of making the usage of the building more sustainable (reduce consumption of energy, water and other resources) and possibly an environmental management audit. This has the advantage of an external verification and regular evaluation to ensure we remain on track. There is a cost involved, but in the long run and among a number of organisations this should be feasible.

#### **Why did we introduce these sustainability measures?**

In our discussions on the new CONCORD Strategy we spoke a lot about ‘practicing what we preach’ - so we asked ‘what could we do to pay attention to and hopefully reduce our use of the planet’s non-renewable resources’.

Looking at our own consumption and the consequence on others around the world is also a theme of the European Year for Development.

#### **Sustainable Development or just Development?**

For us the EYD2015 is an opportunity to discuss a new narrative about development.

Years ago, development NGOs described a world in which a developed ‘west’ provided help to an underdeveloped ‘third world’.

Today, our members speak of global challenges and the need for global justice to tackle poverty and reduce inequality wherever people live. Global challenges affect everyone but unequally.

Those people and countries that have generally contributed least to increasing carbon emissions are the ones suffering most from

do in luce i risultati che l’Ue, agendo congiuntamente con gli Stati Membri ha raggiunto operando come attore globale”, ha dichiarato Neven Mimica, il Commissario europeo alla Cooperazione e allo Sviluppo internazionale. “Abbiamo bisogno di alzare il livello di consapevolezza sui benefici apportati dagli interventi

di cooperazione dell’Ue, per i paesi beneficiari ma anche per i cittadini europei. Si tratta dell’occasione della vita per poter mettere sotto i riflettori mondiali i temi dello sviluppo e spero che la gente da tutta l’Europa si unisca a noi e partecipi all’anno Europeo”.

## **“Como el continente más rico, tenemos que enviar un mensaje”**

*Published on 9 January 2015 in El Pais*

“Como el continente más rico, tenemos que enviar un mensaje al mundo”. Y tal mensaje es el que ha lanzado este viernes el presidente de la Comisión Europea, Jean-Claude Juncker, en la inauguración del Año Europeo del Desarrollo. En la presentación de la agenda de iniciativas

que se desarrollarán a lo largo de 2015, Juncker ha señalado que una de las prioridades de la nueva Comisión es fortalecer el continente como actor global, algo que sólo será posible “si los europeos comprenden cómo el papel de Europa beneficia a los países interdependientes”. El presidente de la Comisión ha mencionado al ébola y el radicalismo como ejemplo de problemas en la que esta



interdependencia se hace evidente. “La ayuda de Europa marca la diferencia en la vida de millones de personas”, ha añadido.

La jefa de la diplomacia europea, Federica Mogherini, ha subrayado por su parte la necesidad de involucrar a ciudadanos, actores políticos, ONG, universidades, medios de comunicación y opinión pública.

Entre los retos de 2015, Mogherini ha destacado la importancia de que las economías emergentes asuman sus responsabilidades en la ayuda a otros países.

“No es caridad. Está en nuestro propio interés; si tenemos éxito este año, 2015 podrá ser considerado como el principio de una nueva era”, ha declarado. Todos los ponentes

coincidieron en que 2015 será decisivo, pues es el año que se fijó para alcanzar los Objetivos del Milenio, en el que Naciones Unidas analizará los avances en la lucha contra la pobreza y cuando se debe alcanzar un acuerdo internacional sobre el clima en París. “Aquellos que tienen menos responsabilidad en el aumento del cambio climático son los que están sufriendo las peores consecuencias”, ha lamentado el director de la Confederación de ONG de Europa Concord, Seamus Jefferson. Por su parte, la jefa de la Comisión de Desarrollo del Parlamento Europeo, Linda McAvan, ha subrayado: “Este año nos brinda una oportunidad para despertar conciencias y mejorar las políticas europeas”. McAvan ha mostrado su inquietud por quienes piensan que “no podemos permitirnos el dinero destinado a cooperación internacional”. También ha manifestado su deseo para

que la Comisión Europea trabaje muy duro en asuntos de género y ha advertido de que la educación de las mujeres “está en riesgo de ataque”. La igualdad entre hombres y mujeres, la inclusión social y el espíritu de la sociedad civil son algunos de los valores que, a juicio del presidente del Comité Económico y Social, Henri Malosse, deben integrarse en el plan de ayuda al desarrollo. “Hace falta que estas políticas sean más accesibles y visibles al ciudadano”, ha sugerido.

Para el presidente del Comité de Regiones, Michel Lebrun, es necesario fomentar una “fuerte sensibilización pública sobre el tema del desarrollo”. Lebrun ha pedido la “intervención inmediata” de las autoridades para avanzar en el desarrollo de servicios primarios dirigidos a “factores esenciales de la vida humana como la salud, la pobreza o la alimentación”.

## La UE impulsa el Año Europeo del Desarrollo para “mandar un mensaje al mundo”

*Published on 9 January 2015 in Terra*

El presidente de la Comisión Europea (CE), Jean-Claude Juncker, inauguró hoy el Año Europeo del Desarrollo para que “el continente más rico del mundo” envíe un mensaje al resto del planeta: combatir la pobreza y alcanzar el desarrollo sostenible requiere el compromiso de todos.

“Como el continente más rico, tenemos que enviar un mensaje al mundo”, dijo Juncker en un acto en Riga al que también acudió la primera ministra letona, Laimdota Straujuma.

La agenda del Año Europeo del Desarrollo incluye distintos eventos y actividades a nivel europeo, nacio-

nal y regional.

Cada mes del año estará dedicado a un tema: enero al lugar que ocupa Europa en el mundo, febrero a la educación, marzo a temas de género y abril a la salud, entre otros.

Juncker señaló que una de las prioridades de la nueva Comisión es fortalecer el continente como factor global, algo que sólo será posible “si los europeos comprenden cómo el rol de Europa beneficia a los países interdependientes”.

El Año Europeo del Desarrollo es una “oportunidad única” para transformar un mundo “cada vez más interdependiente (...) donde no hay fronteras” y donde problemas como el Ébola o el radicalismo afectan a todos, afirmó el presidente de la CE. “La ayuda de Europa marca la

climate change. So we have a particular duty in Europe to tackle our unsustainable consumption habits. The EYD is an opportunity to discuss with the public how our consumption directly effects other parts of the world and what we can do about it.

**But isn't the answer European or national level policy changes? Isn't CONCORD's job to advocate for that?**

Absolutely, but we also need to contribute to the creation of greater awareness of consumption, why present practices and trends are a problem and what can be done. One way of doing that is for individuals and organisations to look at their own consumption.

I hope we also can show others what can be done - sometimes in very simple ways - to reduce consumption. We are lucky enough to have members and partners who have done great work in this area to give inspiration and practical tips.

## Policy Coherence for... what did you say?

Over the last seven or eight years I've been working with ActionAid and CONCORD to try to get the European Union to acknowledge and set right its negative footprint on some of the world's poorest communities.

When you say 'international development', peoples' first thoughts are of development aid. But a much bigger part of the story is the likes of trade deals, energy and agriculture policies which can totally obliterate the good work done with that aid. From Europe. From the US. From anywhere. In EU speak this is known as Policy

Coherence for Development or PCD.

Ahh Policy Coherence for Development. Every time I say that phrase, I sigh. Because unfortunately, it tends to have the effect of either putting people off to sleep, completely confusing them or setting them off on a tangent. It is sometimes confused with completely other things. I once typed PCD into a search engine, only to be told that to the rest of the world PCD is short for 'Pussycat Dolls'. Maybe its time to start rebranding it?

So just what is Policy Coherence for Development?

It ultimately is about the EU taking a fair and coherent approach to developing countries, making sure that not just its work on development but all of its policies do no harm to and indeed reinforce human rights and poverty eradication.

As many of you'll know it's the European Year for Development 2015 and there's a real opportunity for both NGOs and institutions to communicate development issues better.

### **Fair agricultural policies – the role of small producers**

The reality is that small producers and farmers, predominantly women, are simultaneously the main producers and the poorest sections of society. They are half a world away from being able to break into national, not to mind international trade markets. DG Development is conscious of the need to support women farmers to access the benefits of trade deals. But the issue is still timing. It is impossible to slap trade deals on countries when the majority of their populations cannot even hope to benefit, and then call this poverty eradication by trade. The reality is that only a small elite are benefitting. And that has got to be the deciding factor 'who

diferencia en la vida de millones de personas", añadió.

La jefa de la diplomacia europea, Federica Mogherini, subrayó la necesidad de involucrar a ciudadanos, actores políticos, ONG, universidades, medios de comunicación y opinión pública.

Entre los retos de 2015, Mogherini destacó la lucha contra el cambio climático, la pobreza o la violencia y el fomento del desarrollo sostenible, la igualdad de género o la paz, así como "que las economías emergentes acepten nuevas responsabilidades" en el marco de ayuda a otros países.

"No es caridad, está en nuestro propio interés; si tenemos éxito este año, 2015 podrá ser considerado como el principio de una nueva era", concluyó.

Todos los ponentes coincidieron en que 2015 será decisivo, pues es el año que se fijó para alcanzar los Objetivos del Milenio, en el que Naciones Unidas analizará los avances en la lucha contra la pobreza y cuando se debe alcanzar un acuerdo internacional sobre el clima en París.

"Aquellos que tienen menos responsabilidad en el aumento del cambio climático son los que están sufriendo las peores consecuencias", lamentó el director de la Confederación de ONG de Europa CONCORD, Seamus Jeffreson.

Por su parte, la jefa de la Comisión de Desarrollo del Parlamento

Europeo, Linda McAvan, consideró que "este año nos brinda una oportunidad para despertar conciencias y mejorar las políticas europeas". McAvan mostró su inquietud por quienes piensan que "no podemos permitírnos el dinero destinado a cooperación internacional" y estimó que estas políticas son necesarias, pues gracias a ellas hay "millones de personas con acceso al agua potable o millones de niños salvados de la malaria".

También manifestó su deseo para que "la Comisión Europea trabaje muy duro en asuntos de género" y advirtió de que "la educación de las mujeres está en riesgo de ataque". La igualdad entre hombres y mujeres, la inclusión social y el espíritu de la sociedad civil son algunos de los valores que, a juicio del presidente del Comité Económico y Social, Henri Malosse, deben integrarse en el plan de ayuda al desarrollo. "Hace falta que estas políticas sean más accesibles y visibles al ciudadano", basadas siempre en los valores, el respeto mutuo, la igualdad y una mayor confianza en la sociedad civil, sugirió.

Para el presidente del Comité de Regiones, Michel Lebrun, es necesario fomentar una "fuerte sensibilización pública sobre el tema del desarrollo". Lebrun pidió la "intervención inmediata" de las autoridades para avanzar en el desarrollo de servicios primarios dirigidos a "factores esenciales de la vida humana como la salud, la pobreza o la alimentación".

## **OUR WORLD, OUR DIGNITY, OUR FUTURE**

*Published on 9 January 2015 in EESC website*

EESC president Malosse takes part in the launch of the European Year for Development in Riga today

On 9 January, the European Year for Development will be launched officially at a special event in Riga in conjunction with the opening of Latvia's presidency of the Council of the EU. European Commission



president Jean-Claude Juncker, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini and the Latvian prime minister Laimdota Straujuma will be among the speakers at the opening. The EESC president Mr Malosse has called for a reform of European development policy: “We have to seize the occasion of the European Year for Development to make our policy more effective in resolving the huge problem of poverty. First of all, we should make the policy for development a Community policy.” “It is also vital to redesign procedures, by reducing the bureaucracy involved, and to concentrate our funding efforts on populations’ concrete needs”.

The EESC has played an influential role in establishing 2015 as the official European Year for Development (EYD2015). In 2013, the EESC adopted a special opinion on the European Year of Development with rapporteur Andris Gobiņš, which provided firm support for the first ever European Year with a strong global and rights-based dimension. The idea was consistently promoted by the EESC, together with other civil society organisations, the most prominent of which was CONCORD – the European confederation for relief and development – until EYD2015 received official approval from the EU institutions in the spring of 2014.

our world  
our dignity  
our future

“It is the first year which explicitly looks beyond the EU’s geographic territory and seeks to be more than just about informing people or campaigning. It aims to increase engagement and discussion, and puts civil society at the core of the process. It presents a great chance to go beyond the traditional players by involving more stakeholders, including those from the private

sector, trade unions, consumers, environmentalists, NGOs”, said EESC member Andris Gobiņš. The EESC has worked to put civil society at the core of EYD2015 and supported the establishment of a broad alliance of civil society organisations, coordinated by CONCORD, to play a key role in designing a wide civil society action programme.

benefits?’ For the record, when I asked DG Trade to provide evidence of how the EPAs have served the EU’s poverty eradication goals, I got no answer. The response was ‘DG Trade takes development very seriously’.

DG Trade representative explained that they work hand in hand with DG Development so that on one hand they can strike a good trade deal which will offer open access to EU market and on the other hand EU development projects are set up to help local farmers to enhance their export capacity. At the same, we were told that there is not much they can do when observing human rights violations in a country with which they have a trade deal; this is the primary prerogative of the country government to deal with it. Hmmm.

#### **The New Alliance on Food Security and Nutrition**

There are some other programmes supported by the Commission and DG Devco itself which are not entirely development friendly. The New Alliance on Food Security and Nutrition for example. This is a G8-born initiative to support MNC agribusiness in agricultural investment in Africa as a means of creating jobs and prosperity for Africans. A win win. Except it’s hard to see that double win.

The New Alliance is a framework to create an ‘enabling environment’ for investment. It puts MNCs in a position to negotiate with African countries on rearranging a whole range of policies that are potentially interesting for their business e.g. land and seed laws. It has seen countries setting aside huge tracts of land for agribusiness, complicating matters at a time when already complicated land reforms to establish peoples’ rights to land are ongoing. To boot it has no real poverty framework to show how it is impact on poverty.

Looking at the last progress report, the figures of smallholder farmers benefitting comes from the MNCs investing themselves and it is pretty impossible to figure out where they got those figures. DG Devco is doing some pretty amazing work in terms of supporting 10 African countries to adopt the internationally agreed Voluntary Guidelines on Land Tenure. It would be the height of irony if in a given country, the EC was funding that process, whilst simultaneously supporting an enabling environment for land grabbing. This issue will be part of a big discussion at the World Social Forum this March. The EU needs also to start an honest discussion on it, answering the ultimate question 'who really benefits?'

### **The EU and biofuels**

There were many other issues on the table at that event, the impact of biofuels targets and subsidies in terms of incentivising land grabs and food price volatility for example. In 2009 the EU signed off on a 10% target for renewable energy in transport by 2020. Thanks to the efforts of DG Climate Action - who recognised that a) biofuels were not the climate silver bullet they were thought to be and b) the idea of using food as fuel was a ludicrous idea to begin with - the European Commission proposed that the target be capped at 5%. Just last Tuesday, on the same day we were talking about the Pussycat Dolls in Brussels, the European Parliament voted for it to settle at 6%, a compromise with the EU member states, many of whom have been battling for it to stay as high as 7%. The battle of those numbers continues and we will see if sense and rights prevail there. But the important issue is this: development and green NGOs have managed to reframe the debate. It is no longer that biofuels are a smart

## 2015 — Europe's year for development



*by By Richard Jones on 10 April 2014 in Devex*

The flag of the European Union. The year 2015 has been designated the official European Year for Development. Photo by: Francisco Luis Benitez / CC BY-NC

Next year promises to be "a very exciting and groundbreaking year for international development." The statement comes from European Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs, commenting after the European Parliament voted last week by overwhelming majority to designate 2015 as the official European Year for Development. But what is EYD2015 and what does it aim to achieve?

Every year since 1983, the EU has designated a specific theme around which it has encouraged debate and dialogue within and among the bloc's member states. The aim is to raise awareness and — ultimately — to change attitudes.

EYD2015 would be the first designated to a global, external action-related theme.

"This year provides an unparalleled opportunity for us to engage with EU citizens, to showcase our strong

commitment to eradicating poverty worldwide and to inform them how every euro of support helps to make a difference in the lives of so many, in some of the world's poorest countries," Piebalgs said.

### **Activities**

EYD2015 aspires to inform EU citizens about development cooperation efforts and highlight the EU's role as the world's biggest aid donor. As in previous years, measures will include communication campaigns, conferences, events, initiatives, studies and surveys at European, national, regional and local levels, to convey key messages and encourage participation among the general public.

Marius Wanders, a board member at CONCORD — the European NGO confederation that first advocated for the EYD2015 initiative — believes the year represents an opportunity for open public debate with citizens, but cautions that it "should not be only about aid — what Europe gives — but also about the consumption choices that we make as citizens that affect global development."

It's not clear whether consumer

behavior will be among the topics of the year, which is expected instead to focus efforts on stimulating interest in development issues and creating opportunities for active engagement and on-the-ground implementation of policies through the Commission's new aid volunteer scheme, among other priorities.

### **Funding**

Although extra funding will likely be made available — as in most previous European years — for local, national and cross-border projects that address the year's theme, the availability of extra EU funding for overseas projects remains uncertain. However, EYD2015 will certainly be considered a flagship campaign of the first 12 months of the next European Commission — only expected to be nominated in November or December 2014 — and an opportunity for the incoming president and development commissioner to send a strong signal that development features prominently in future policymaking.

The Commission may also propose new legislation that could see strengthened policy integration and coherence among the work of directorates-general in fields such as energy, trade, agriculture or gender, to name a few.

### **Impact**

According to Wanders, the initiative is very timely: "It's the year when important global agreements to decide how to tackle global poverty will be negotiated."

Indeed, 2015 is the final year for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the year in which the post-MDG agenda will build up a head of steam to take the major

decisions on what the future framework will look like in practice. For the EU Commission, it also marks four years since the adoption of the "Agenda for Change" — the blueprint to refocus its development aid to ensure it reaches those sectors and countries most in need.

Piebalgs, who praised the work of the European Parliament in bringing the concept to fruition, said EYD2015 promises to be a major event that "will need the broadest support possible to match its ambition and its huge geographical reach."

Next year will see donors and stakeholders once again come together to look at what has been achieved and — most importantly — what remains to be done.

And despite many EU member states finding themselves falling behind with their official development assistance targets during the ongoing economic downturn, the institutions will at least be encouraged by the public levels of support for development aid. For example, in a Eurobarometer survey released at the European Development Days in November 2013, some 85 percent of EU citizens agreed that Europe should continue helping developing countries.

With continued strong backing from the European public and the institutions, the aid community may feel more optimistic that 2015 can indeed meet expectations and prove a truly pivotal year for the future of development.

alternative to fossil fuels. It is about 'no food for fuel'. This is a fairness agenda, a PCD agenda, which the EU cannot afford to ignore in its next moves on the 2030 energy package.

Leaving the event this week I felt hopeful. Sitting around the table with the people working on these policies is the first very positive step forward. Even if we are still at the stage of clarifying concepts, we have well and truly managed to challenge each other to think more broadly. Bringing in a southern perspective to redefine PCD is also a good idea. As Biraj Patnaik from the India Right to Food Network put it, it's simple, it's about 'A just world via just means'.

## **"Sustainable development" and greater citizens' involvement: successful launch event of EYD in Greece**

On Friday 6, March Christos Stylianides (European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid & Crisis Management and EU co-ordinator for combating Ebola), Nikos Chountis (Alternate Foreign Minister for European Affairs), Nikolaos Vamvounakis (Director General of the Foreign Ministry's International Development Cooperation Service) and Marius Wanders, (CONCORD board member and ambassador for the EYD Civil Society Alliance) officially launched the European Year for Development in Greece with a captivating event at the Foreign



Ministry's Kranidiotis Amphitheatre in Athens.

The plan of activities, which includes cultural and sporting events, development education seminars (teacher training, actions at schools and universities), conferences, actions for informing public opinion was presented. The Foreign Ministry is coordinating the EYD2015 actions, through the International Development Cooperation Service and in cooperation with Ministries and public agencies, civil society organizations and the academic community.

Marius Wanders, after a short presentation of CONCORD and the Civil Society Alliance, remarked the importance of the EYD2015 for giving a new meaning to the concept of "sustainable development". "Not enough citizens of the EU understand that "sustainable development" stands for a universal and transformative global agenda that promotes social justice at home and abroad and that will eradicate dehumanising poverty across the world, without compromising the future of the planet we live on" he declared during his speech.

The persistent myths around the concept of "development cooperation" – like "development aid is money wasted" or "We have a crisis and increasing poverty here at home in Europe, so therefore we cannot afford to fight poverty elsewhere" – need to be busted according to Wanders. And this can be achieved only through a new narrative that "should not just be about "what Europe gives", but should include an honest and self-critical examination of "how we live". We may need to step outside our comfort zone and critically examine how our lifestyles, our consumer decisions, but also the trade, agricultural and economic policies that we adopt in Euro-

## Details emerge about the European Year for Development 2015

*Published on 10 December 2014 in Euractiv*

The European Union is launching the "European Year for Develop-

ment 2015". The first details were disclosed during a public event held in Brussels on Tuesday (9 November). The European Year for Development 2015 is the first year designated with



such a global theme, since European years have been designated thematically since 1983.

The initiative originated in Latvia. The European Year for Development 2015 will take place in Riga on 8 January, as part of the events marking the beginning of the first Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The second half of the European Year for Development will be during the Luxembourg presidency. Seamus Jefferson, Director of

CONCORD Europe, the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development who was instrumental for the launch of the "European Year for Development 2015", called the coming year "seminal" in terms of expected events and decisions. He mentioned the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris in December, as well as the expected decisions concerning the post-2015 development agenda. But 2015 is also the year of expiry of the Millennium Development Goals, with many European Union

states falling off track on anti-poverty aid targets.

Commission representatives, communication experts, as well as figures from the NGO and business sector all agreed that the European Year for Development 2015 should provide an opportunity to reach out to a wider public regarding the importance of the development agenda. Possible new alliances are being sought with youth and women's organisations, local authorities, and unions.

A study made by Weber-Shandwick highlighted the fact that a new "swing" audience could be reached, especially if messages are better thought. As an example, Julian Lambertin, head of Strategy, said that "self-reliance" or "empowering women" worked better than goals such as "ending poverty", which act like trigger for sceptics.

Commission experts also said that people aged 15-24 were showing the highest degree of openness to international development, and that they were among the "swingers" the 2015 campaign was trying to reach.

It was also highlighted that the campaign was aiming to reach audiences in new member states, mostly Central European European countries that haven't been very involved in development activities up to now. Key broadsheets and broadcasters in all member countries are expected to participate to the campaign.

### Thematic months

The various events during the European Year of Development will

focus on 12 themes. The month of January will be dedicated to the theme "Europe in the world", February will focus on "Education", March on "Women and Girls", April on "Health", May on "Peace and Security", June of "Sustainable green growth, decent jobs and businesses", July on "Children and youth", August on "Humanitarian aid", September on "Demography and migration", October on "Food security", November on "Sustainable development and climate action" and December on "Human rights and governance".

Among the major events of the European Year of Development are a Belgian opening event with Bozar and Africaliato be held on 17 January, a gender event in Latvia on 2 March, the European Development Days on 2-3 June, as well as a closing event by the Luxembourg presidency on 8 December.

In addition, the Committee of the Regions highlighted another major event, called "Assises of Decentralised Cooperation", to be held on 1-2 June in Brussels, with 800 to 1000 participants, many of whom would come from developing countries. Maarten Roest, communication coordinator in Brussels of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), announced that his organisation would organise together with the Italian government a concert "with a very promising list of stars".

pe and in member states impact on the lives, prospects and living conditions of other global citizens with whom we share this one sole planet".

In this perspective, the statement of the Director Vamvounakis about the importance to establish a good relationship with the honest and efficient CSOs that were seriously harmed by the media campaign on the scandals of mismanaged funds becomes even more important: a step forward in the right direction.

## EU needs to rethink its Latin America relations

EU relations with Latin America should promote greater cooperation and socioeconomic equality with a focus on human rights, according to NGOs meeting at the second EU-CELAC Civil Society Forum held in Brussels, organised by CONCORD and Mesa de Articulación.

The event hosted Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs, as EU leaders are set to meet in Brussels today for the EU Council.

The EU in Latin America: a good partner?

The EU plays a major role in Latin America, being one of its biggest development aid donors and its second largest trading partner.

From 2001 to 2011 exports of raw materials from Latin America to the EU increased steadily by a total of 52%. Yet often the aggressive extraction of natural resources has negative impacts on the local environment and increases the forced displacement of local people and other rights violations.

For Laura Sullivan, Vice-President

of CONCORD, the European NGO confederation for relief and development: "Europe needs to have a fairer relationship with Latin America, ensuring that its policies on trade, energy and agriculture are coherent and do no harm. 2015 is a make or break year for EU development commitments."

Human rights and poverty reduction vs economic interests Miguel Santibáñez, Coordinator of the Mesa de Articulación says that "in the present context, the two regions show similar worrying trends. Economic interests are prioritized in bi-regional relations over human rights and poverty reduction, and universal access to basic social services is limited." European civil society networks based in Brussels with a strong focus on EU-Latin America relations including the EU ACT Alliance, CIDSE, Cifca, Grupo Sur and Oidhaco view the forum as a strategic opportunity to highlight the importance of promoting relations between the two regions, focused on human rights and gender equality, sustainable alternatives to the current economic model and the creation of a more just and inclusive society.

## WORLD SOCIAL FORUM 2015 IN TUNIS

The world social forum 2015 is a global meeting place for civil society organisations and activists from around the world.

CONCORD, the European NGO confederation of Development NGOs will be present at the forum, taking part in a range of activities. FOLLOW OUR STORIFY

# The European Year for Development 2015 started in Latvia

*Published on 10 December 2014 in Euractiv*

A telephone conversation in 2010 launched the idea of designating 2015 as European Year for Development, Andris Gobiņš told EurActiv in an exclusive interview.

*Andris Gobiņš is President of the*

*European Movement – Latvia and Member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). He was speaking to EurActiv's Senior Editor Georgi Gotev.*

**The European Year for Development 2015 would be the first dedicated to such a global theme, since European years have been**



**designated from 1983 up to now. Is it true that you personally launched the idea of the European Year for Development 2015?**

Everything started with my call to my colleague, the Director of the Latvian platform for development cooperation Mara Simane in 2010 when I said: we have a lot of problems in Latvia with development cooperation, with development policies, with development goals, and the modest financial commitments our country makes. And I added it was very hard to push through and to keep the promises we made. So I said if 2015 is a special year

for the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 agenda, what would you say if we push for a European year of Development? And she immediately said yes, this is a good idea. Two days later we were in Concord, in the General Assembly, and presented the idea. Again, we got extremely positive feedback from the members. After gaining this positive feedback from Concord, it was clear that this idea will fly, and as I am a member of the European Economic and Social Committee and I'm leading the European Movement in Latvia, I managed to get this idea into an



opinion of the EESC, which became the first EU institution on board, already in November.

And my colleague Mara Simane spoke to Development Commissioner Andris Piebalgs, who is also from Latvia, and once I was travelling with him on our way to Brussels, I asked him: How do we do this in reality? And he named his vice director of cabinet Peteris Ustubs as person in charge of the European year of Development, and from that moment, step by step with Concord, we addressed the Committee of regions, we addressed the Parliament President Martin Schulz, who was very positive. We then reached to different political parties' representatives in the European Parliament. Charles Goerens (ALDE, Luxembourg), Thijs Berman (S&D, Netherlands), Phillippe Boulland (EPP, France), again to have the major groups represented, and the European Parliament voted [in April 2014] to make the European Year of Development a reality.

### **It the European Year of Development one of the key events of the launch of the Latvian EU Presidency?**

Actually it's the first big event of the Latvian Presidency. The European Year of the Development will be launched on 9 January in Riga. It will coincide with the visit of the College of Commissioners. It will be Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker with the Latvian Prime Minister [Laimdota Straujuma] and the Latvian Commissioner [Valdis Dombrovskis, Commission Vice President and former Prime Minister of Latvia] who will inaugurate the European Year of Development.

**We hear opinions that some EU countries, especially new members from the East, who lack traditions in development cooperation, should be involved more. Is Latvia**

### **providing a good example?**

In terms of funding we are a bad example. We are not even close to the commitments we have made. But it could have been even worse if we didn't have a European Year of Development, because such an initiative increases the visibility and puts some positive pressure on the politicians to keep their promises. I think where we are extremely strong in Latvia is in real cooperation, not in the traditional aid-type of things. We don't call this type of aid development cooperation, we simply do it. So there is a lot of cooperation with Georgia, Moldova. A lot of people don't realise these countries are also recipients of development aid. These are the countries where the most projects from Latvia take place. And it's real exchange, real cooperation. It's not about Westerners teaching Georgia democracy, it's real development projects which I think are extremely efficient and need-based. Development is much more than donating money, it's much more than percentage of GDP dedicated to development aid. It's about a coherent and fair policy. As an example, it makes no sense to send humanitarian aid to Georgia, and through our subsidies to destroy their farming sector. I'm exaggerating, but this is an example that we need more coherent policies. That's the strength of Latvia and I hope my government will continue in the same direction.

### **Speaking about development cooperation, isn't it unusual to mention countries covered by the EU's Eastern Partnership initiative, which suggests another level of rapprochement?**

It's a priority area for Latvia, for us it makes sense to work with those countries, because the transition they experience now is something we have experienced some 20-25 years ago.

# **No sustainable development without social accountability**

In terms of development cooperation and global social justice, we are living through times of profound change, especially during this pivotal year 2015, the European Year for Development.

The global community is counting down to the adoption of an ambitious and comprehensive new framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which will be recognising and building on undeniable achievements of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) while at the same time acknowledging and addressing their weaknesses and shortfalls. The global community, individual countries and organisations can indeed celebrate that progress has been made, for instance in terms of reducing child mortality.

The number of children under the age of 5 around the globe who are dying each year has fallen from 12.6 million per year to 6.6 million per year in the past two decades. Nobody can deny that these statistics indicate progress. But equally nobody can be complacent. Every young child dying needlessly of often easily preventable causes, is one too many and constitutes a deep individual human tragedy for the affected families and communities.

The fact of the matter remains that at a time when major advances in global child health are being rightly applauded, millions of children around the world still die unseen, invisible, unregistered and unable to access the kind of health services that could save their lives.

**To end that tragic injustice and**

**to make development cooperation truly sustainable, more accountable public institutions are needed at local, national and global levels.**

The first step towards improving accountability of public institutions is to improve citizens' access to key information about the most critical issues in their lives, the issues that touch their lives directly. By raising the awareness of citizens – wherever they are in the world – about their rights and entitlements and about the performance of critical services like health care and education on which they depend, we lay the foundation for an evidence-based dialogue between citizens and government.

But increased access to information is not enough to ensure accountability. In addition, communities need to be engaged in the decision-making processes that affect their lives. Citizens and government need venues (virtual and physical) to discuss the information and evidence they have and to ensure an institutional response. Citizens no longer want to be considered as passive beneficiaries with needs, but rather as true agents of change and partners in the process of development. Families and communities hold the key to unlocking accountability in governance, from local services to global frameworks.

**Social accountability – the act of enabling citizens to hold their state to its promises and obligation – improves and sustains progress in development, enables the involvement of some of the world's most vulnerable children and people, and generates data that helps to track and improve the well-being of children.**

Civil society organisations with ample experience in long term development work have over recent years developed and field tested

## The European Year for Development 2015 started in Greece



*Speech Marius Wanders on 6 March 2015*

Ladies and gentlemen,  
On behalf of CONCORD, the European Confederation of Relief and development NGOs, I wish to thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for organising and hosting this opening event of the European Year 2015 for Development and for inviting CONCORD to make a contribution. Our member organisation, the Hellenic Platform of Development NGOs, also thanks the Hellenic Aid Office for having sought and used civil society input and advice in shaping the plans and activities that are now part of your National Work Programme for the European Year. Allow me to begin with a brief introduction of CONCORD. Our network brings together close to 2.400 development NGOs from across all 28 member states of the EU, from Dublin to Nicosia and from Lisbon to Tallinn. They are in turn supported by millions of citizens, making financial or material contributions, doing voluntary work, being advocates and sometimes actively working in projects in the field shoulder to shoulder with

local communities and partners, digging water wells, building and running schools and health care centres, treating Ebola patients, re-foresting or irrigating dry lands and all those other critical interventions to address the most critical needs. Their expertise and field based experiences consistently feed into the CONCORD working structures and into fundamental and evidence-based contributions we make to EU and national development cooperation policies, projects and programs. Over more than a decade, EU institutions have come to recognise CONCORD and its membership as a credible and reliable partner and a legitimate voice in European civil society.

Thanks to that profile, CONCORD has also been asked by the EU to convene and lead a broad alliance of civil society organisations from across Europe and from across different sectors, specifically for this European Year 2015 for Development.

That alliance extends well beyond the membership of CONCORD. It will enable us to reach out to even larger and more diverse audiences of EU citizens. We will be able to

tap into the highly diverse and rich expertise of these different sectors of civil society. This will enrich the public debate, and it will allow forging new cross-sector civil society partnerships, leading to greater synergies that will benefit our work well beyond the year 2015.

For many citizens in the EU, “development” is synonymous to charitable donations of money and goods given by richer countries to poorer countries. Some will believe that we can ill afford this kind of charity in a time when European societies themselves are struggling with the effects of a long and difficult economic and financial crisis.

Not enough citizens of the EU understand that “sustainable development” stands for a universal and transformative global agenda that promotes social justice at home and abroad and that will eradicate dehumanising poverty across the world, without compromising the future of the planet we live on.

In the European Year 2015 for Development, we wish to engage and mobilise citizens as critical thinkers and as active participants in moving towards the vision expressed in the motto of the year: Our world, Our dignity, Our future.

The objectives for the European Year are ambitious and to succeed, we will first and foremost need to communicate with citizens, using language and stories that all of them can somehow relate to. Because we are working out there every day in the front line of where it is all happening, we have thousands of these stories to share. Simple stories about normal everyday people around the world, told to normal everyday people in Europe. Stories that will engage people’s hearts as well as their minds.

Not everyone may be equally thrilled to hear such stories. We will probably need to engage in some difficult and uncomfortable conver-

sations with fellow citizens of the EU, who have reasons to reject the notion of investing scarce resources in reducing poverty in faraway countries at a time of such great suffering and hardship at home. Difficult as these conversations may be, they are essential to bring about better understanding of what drives each of us and to begin building bridges between opposing mind-sets. That will be a valuable reward for stepping outside our comfort zone. This year, CONCORD wishes to launch a new narrative that should not just be about “what Europe gives”, but should include an honest and self-critical examination of “how we live”. Here again, we may need to step outside our comfort zone and critically examine how our lifestyles, our consumer decisions, but also the trade, agricultural and economic policies that we adopt in Europe and in member states impact on the lives, prospects and living conditions of other global citizens with whom we share this one sole planet. The timing for this European Year could not have been better. Three major global processes are converging in the year 2015 and will shape the global development agenda for the next decades. The EU was absolutely right in designating that crucial year 2015 also as European Year for Development.

So how does one measure the success of such a European Year? Many of us have different expectations about the outcomes. For CONCORD, for instance, the success of the Year will be measured by how we will have managed to build lasting relationships and alliances with our colleagues across civil society. The European Commission will probably wish to see the indicators and trends in the recent Eurobarometer survey improve as a result of the European Year. For me personally, an indicator of a successful year would be the ex-

quite successful social accountability methodologies and approaches. These methodologies and approaches equip communities to engage in constructive dialogue with government to hold it accountable for the services that communities, families and children use on a daily basis, like healthcare and education services, and ultimately to take hold of their own future in a sustainable way.

By using a simple set of participatory tools, communities monitor local public facilities and compare reality against government commitments. The methodology lies at the intersection of data collection, awareness raising and community-led advocacy.

Social accountability approaches often combine activities that can be divided into three phases:

- enabling citizen engagement (civic education about concrete rights and entitlements)
- engagement through community gathering (a scorecard, social audit and interface meeting)
- improving services and influencing policy (implementation of an action plan to improve services)

These approaches help to improve relationships between people and their government to sustain development progress over the long term and to foster constructive, evidence based dialogue among citizens, government and service providers that strengthens relationships and renews trust.

Through social accountability approaches:

- Communities learn about basic human rights and how these rights are articulated under local law;
- Communities work collaboratively with government and service providers to compare reality against government commitments using an adapted social audit tool;



- Communities rate their government's performance against subjective criteria that they themselves generate, using an adaptation of the 'community scorecard';
- Communities convene town-hall style 'interface meetings' that foster constructive, evidence-based dialogue about concrete ways to improve services. Citizens, service providers and local government work with other stakeholders to influence decision makers to improve services, using a simple set of advocacy tools.

A post-Millennium Development Goals world will greatly benefit from robust mechanisms for social accountability that equip citizens themselves to drive effective, sustainable development.

As the world's biggest aid donor, the European Union (EU) and its Member States have an influential role to play in shaping the next development framework. But we need political champions willing to stand up for those children furthest from the kind of healthcare and education they deserve. It is now time for the EU to enable the systematic and meaningful involvement of all stakeholders in holding their governments accountable, especially the most vulnerable children and communities, whose voices are rarely heard. The European Commission Communication "Increasing the impact of EU Development Policy: an Agenda for Change" recognises that good governance is one of the two main priority areas of EU development policy, along with inclusive and sustainable growth. **Social accountability is an essential element of good governance, and all EU policies and programmes should reflect this.**

The EU has a strategic policy framework for engaging with communities through civil society

tent to which we have succeeded in busting some very persistent myths around the concept of 'development cooperation', like the myths that "development aid is not working; it is money wasted" or worse still that "our aid is only helping to make corrupt leaders in poor countries richer"? And then there is the most difficult myth to bust of all: "We have a crisis and increasing poverty here at home in Europe, so therefore we cannot afford to fight poverty elsewhere." It is hard to imagine an EU member state where that last myth may be harder to bust than right here in Greece, where society faces incredibly difficult challenges. On top of all the economic and financial challenges that the Greek society and government face, you also happen to be one of the 'border states' of the EU that by their geographical location have to deal

with large numbers of refugees and asylum seekers desperate to escape the violence, misery and poverty in their home countries and desperately seeking safety and a more humane future in Europe.

I therefore want to conclude with a personal appeal to the citizens of this beautiful country, the cradle of European civilisation, the birthplace of European democracy and the country that was home to some of the greatest philosophers that the world has ever known.

Citizens of Greece, please make a personal effort to collect and spread your own stories during this European Year for Development. You could do this by reaching out personally to just one of those countless refugees or asylum seekers migrating to Europe through Greece. Ask him to tell you his story: Where did he come from, why did he leave,



what has he left behind, how hard was it to get here, what are his hopes and dreams for tomorrow, for next week, for next year, for 5 years from now, and what does he expect Europe to offer to help realise those hopes and dreams?

Doing this, you will learn a lot. You will gain new insights and perhaps even discover reasons to re-evaluate the way you look at your own situation. You will at the least have a gre-

at story to share with your friends and families, who can in turn share it with others.

But you will also have made that simplest of human connections, a conversation between two individual people from different parts of the same planet. And finally, for one brief moment you will have broken the isolation that most asylum seekers and refugees face in their host societies.

All it requires is a bit of time and once again the courage to step outside your own personal comfort zone. I wish all of you in Greece a won-

derful, exciting and inspiring European Year for Development. Thank you for your attention.

organisations, in the interest of the most vulnerable children and families. And it has also committed to enhancing accountability approaches.

Now is the time for the EU to position itself as a leading voice in promoting inclusive governance through support for social accountability approaches. It can demonstrate leadership by further encouraging EU Delegations to work with governments of partner countries to develop social accountability guidance and frameworks with existing government planning, monitoring and review processes, and ultimately scale up funding for social accountability.

Concretely, civil society organisations promoting social accountability call on the European Union to:

- Allocate and track significant resources that scale and measure the impact of social accountability approaches, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.
- Integrate and strengthen social accountability approaches across EU programming aimed at crisis prevention and recovery, democratic governance and addressing the underlying causes of chronic poverty.
- Champion the inclusion of robust mechanisms for social accountability in the post-2015 development agenda.

Ensure that citizens are involved in the planning and review of local services and monitoring of related national and global development targets.



our world  
our dignity  
our future



**2015**  
European Year  
for Development

## RESOURCES

Official EYD2015 website

Civil Society Alliance  
informational platform

European Year for  
Development materials

Civil Society Alliance  
communication toolkit

Hashtags: #EYD2015 +  
thematic tags  
(e.g. #genderequality)



## Sustainable Consumption and Production

### Connecting the dots from Civil Society in the upcoming new development framework

by Francesca Minniti - CONCORD

“Connecting the dots” is not always an easy task. Especially when organizations, people and colleagues coming from different worlds and sectors are sit at the same table, gathered at the same meeting with different expectations and goals. How then to join forces and work together during the European Year of Development 2015?

How to better involve citizens in this action?

These are some basic questions we tried to answer with our first event of the EYD-CONCORD project. The EYD2015 and the Civil Society Alliance gave us an important opportunity to do so.

The first of the two planned events

in the project CONCORD EYD2015 CS Alliance took place in Brussels on June 9th, 2015 and had as its primary objective to reflect together on a theme linked to development and European policies and a topic very concrete and practical, understandable by the public audience. Talking about the Sustainable Consumption and Production helped to tackle complex issues but also issues that pertain to the everyday life of citizens, in Europe and globally. With expert speakers, prepared and motivating we succeeded in the first part of the day to reveal the starting points and challenges, and in the second part, in workshop-modality, we tried to discuss common solutions and concrete proposals from NGOs and Civil society overall.



# Spotlight on Policy Coherence for Development 2015

The report “Spotlight on EU Policy Coherence for Development” is a flagship report produced by CONCORD every two years since 2009, to raise the awareness of EU political leaders and citizens on the need to apply changes to some European domestic and external policies in order to eradicate global poverty. The report is prepared by CONCORD members and draws from their analysis and the evidence they can gather, especially through their interaction with poor and vulnerable communities in countries outside Europe. In 2015, the Spotlight report is declined in a series of thematic policy papers published one after the other throughout the year.

Twitter hashtag: #ForFairEurope

## TRADE

The first Policy Paper is on Trade: The EPA between the EU and West Africa: Who benefits? In this paper, CONCORD calls for the Members of the European Parliament not to ratify the EPA, because of the negative development impacts it will have.

[English version](#) and [French version](#)

## TAX

The second Policy Paper is on Tax: The Role of the EU in ensuring Global Tax Justice. This paper identifies and elaborates key reforms of the international tax system that the EU must push for ahead of the Addis Ababa conference.

[English version](#)

Download attachments:

Sergi Corbalán, director FTAO, moderator of the whole day, well-articulated the main reasons that led the CS Alliance to work on this thematic strand and he described the great work done in particular by some members of the Alliance.

- Roberto Ridolfi, Director of DG. DEVCO C - Sustainable Growth and Development - key-note speech In his speech he introduced the topic from the European Commission perspective including some extremely relevant remarks, stressing the need for concrete measures by the institutions (in particular European ones but also national) for sustainable and shared development of the planet.

- Bibi Bleekemolen, Fair Phone company - A real example: the “Fair Phone” initiative Thanks to Bibi we saw how the Private Sector can “be” and can “operate” FAIR. The work of Fair Phone company in trying to produce a commodity

in a just and sustainable way (with a particular eye to the supply chain and to the mining/extracting industry) has brought a fantastic real example for the participants of the event and explained how to find ‘shared solutions’ in the Private Sector not necessarily geared exclusively to profit.

- Bernd Nilles, CIDSE Secretary General - “Looking for a systemic change” Secretary-General of a member organization of CONCORD Europe and active part of the Alliance - CIDSE accompanied all participants in a virtual journey into the reasons of the ‘right cause’. Why shall we be concerned with sustainable development? Why do we need to work together in areas such as sustainable consumption and production, agriculture, food, lands, etc. ?

If you are curious please listen to Mr. Nilles and all other interventions [HERE](#) (video recording of the morning session)

## Sustainable Consumption and Production: what is this for me?

*by Sabah Hussain – Intern at CONCORD*

In order to take sensible steps towards being more sustainable with consumption and production, we need to heedfully implement a systemic change; not only in the roots of a production chain but also in the roots of our conscious. A video shown at the EYD2015 Civil Society Alliance event on sustainable consumption and development, titled “Who’s got the power?” ([Click here to view video!](#)) makes clear that “he who sows does not reap the rewards”. It is evident that as

consumerism has grown, a lacking level of morality has developed in our learned behavior. Why do we not emotionally engage and relate to the inequalities that exist? While knowing how unfair the producer of the food, garment, technology etc... is treated, both in terms of money and the rights of the workers, why do we continue to consume in this way? Our everyday lives are made to feel so distant from these inequalities; down to advertising, marketing and media. Social pressures to have the best and most, carry more importance and weight for most people than feeling the guilt, shame

and disparity that the reality of the dishonest production to consumer chain holds.

So who is profiting the most? A hierarchy within communities, societies, cultures and races exists. We buy here, in the west, knowing that someone in the world has been exploited for it. A lot of production and supply chains dehumanize people and unrightfully suspend many childhoods. Why is this not a mainstream issue? It needs to become our responsibility to find out the route of the production chain – make it transparent. Most mainstream products do not disclose the

information, and if they do, it is not very easy to access.

Who has the power to change? We do. Through campaigning, lobbying for policy change, promoting ethical production organizations and fair trade consumerism; however we all need to start as individuals.

The EYD2015 Civil Society Alliance Sustainable Consumption and Development event was a wonderful space to display the similar beliefs of many of CONCORDS members. It was comforting to see that even though it may not appear to be a mainstream issue, many people



want to see and be a part of a systemic change. A particular striking part of the day for me was a workshop discussing sustainable textile and garment production and consumption, some of the participants included were from Fashion Victims and World Fair Trade Organisation. It was an extremely effective discussion, and concluded with some interesting points to think about; how to strengthen workers' rights and their access to justice?, to denounce the current business models in place and work together to improve them

so the common good of society comes first instead of profit, to develop ourselves as a society and to convince the EU Commission the need for regulation and the fact that it needs to change on a global political level therefore different countries need to work together.

Orsola De Castro, Fashion Revolution Co-founder (website) gave great hope and encouragement whilst presenting the great success of their global campaign for raising awareness of the true cost of fashion and a sustainable future.

[Spotlight 2015 TRADE EPA April 2015 EN.pdf](#)  
[Spotlight 2015 TRADE EPA April 2015 FR.pdf](#)  
[Spotlight 2015 TAX April 2015 EN.pdf](#)

## Communication training webinar on #EYD2015, 5 May, 14:00 - 16:00 CET

Here you find all the materials and the full video of the communication training webinar Programme Introduction by Marius Wanders, Ambassador of the Civil Society Alliance

CONCORD's communication strategy and resources by Francesco Verdolino, Communication Officer - [Download PDF](#)

Code of Conduct on Images and Messages, by Keelin FitzGerald, Information Officer at Dochas, CONCORD Irish NP - [Download PDF](#)

Best practices by Maria Grabowski Kjær, Project Manager at World Best News, CONCORD Danish NP - [Download PDF](#)

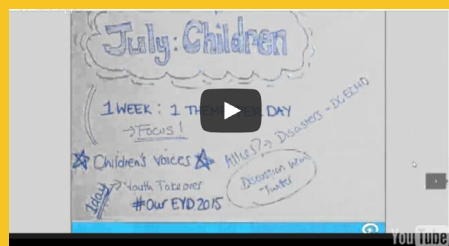
Best practices by Louise Hagendijk, Communications and Campaigns Officer at Plan International - [Download PDF](#)

Best practices by Elvira Buijink, Communications and Media Officer at European Women's Lobby - [Download PDF](#)

European Commission intervention on EYD communication tools, by Ms. Doerte Bosse and Mr. Chi Te Wong on behalf of the Unit Communication and Transparency European Commission DG DEVCO Europeaid - [Download PDF](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7OhcYmqnmdI>

The video of the webinar



## Eu leaders could drop aid commitment to poor countries for first time

European governments could drop their aid pledge to developing countries, known as the 0.7% aid target, as disagreements between member states ahead of the Foreign Affairs Council on 26 May threaten the EU's historic anti-poverty commitment.

For Seamus Jeffreson, Director of CONCORD, the European confederation of Relief and Development NGOs:

“Breaking the 0.7% aid commitment would be a historic mistake for EU countries and jeopardise ambitious agreements set to take place on sustainable development and finance at the G7 summit in June, and the Third International Conference for Finance for Development in Addis Ababa in July, which is widely expected to lay the groundwork for achievement of the new global goals.”

The EU, along with other rich countries, committed to spend 0.7% of GNI on Official Development Assistance (ODA) at a UN General Assembly in 1970. This pledge was renewed in 2005, when EU Member States committed to reach the target by this year.

Some Member States have already met or exceeded the 0.7% target – Sweden, Luxembourg, Denmark and the UK. Two Member States, Belgium and

## European Development Days 2015



CONCORD, the EYD2015 Civil Society Alliance and Action/2015 participated in the European Development Days 2015 with a lounge of Civil Society.

The lounge offered a fantastic opportunity to meetings and organizing interactive activities – bring together members of CONCORD, NGOs in Development and Cooperation, and the Civil Society Alliance, NGOs from other sectors as well, who attended the EuDevDays.

For the first time a space so large and visible was awarded to CONCORD and this thanks to the great work that we are doing for the European Year together with the other EU institutions.

Several activities were organized within the lounge, such as interaction with LAPAS – Latvian National Platform – and their young Representatives and a game quiz of TRIALOG project where participants were asked what they knew of the EU13 countries and their experience in development. Thanks to the TRIALOG

team for organizing it!

In case you are curious to know how well you know civil society organisations from the EU13 countries, [take this fun quiz with 10 questions!](#)

In general, EuDevDays are an opportunity for development sector experts. But this year, perhaps because of the European Year for Development, the organisers managed to open the doors also to people not in the field making it more inclusive. And this is what we asked for.

Hopefully in the future these kind of events will be more and more open to the general public.



# Balancing the mind-set of youth work in Serbia

by Petar Djurovic - AidWatch Serbia

First of the three planned seminars within the project *Balancing the mind-set of youth work in Serbia - from aid receivers to global development supporters* gathered 30 participants, namely youth workers and representatives of youth offices from various Serbian cities. The event was organized in city of Leskovac, from 15th to 18th of June, 2015 and the focus of the event was on development cooperation and prospective role of Serbian youth organizations in global development.

During the seminar, participants had an opportunity to learn more about Post 2015 Agenda, Sustainable Development Goals, EYD 2015 campaign, global development and global education, etc. Also, participants could hear more about opportunities for cooperation with European NGOs in the field of development cooperation. Seminar was held in very good atmosphere and participants expressed their satisfaction with the seminar agenda and information they received on the above mentioned topics.

## ACTION 2015 – SAVE THE DATES

by Claire des Mesnards - Action/2015

Many action/2015 happenings took place in Europe and in the world since our latest call one month ago. THANK YOU to all of you who made it happen!

Together with our fellow campaigners in European countries but also in the global South, on 26 May we have called the EU leaders to keep their promises on aid for the world's poorest. By occupying Brussels' events centers like Tour & Taxis on 3-4 June at the EDDs, we made our fight known across Europe and got some charismatic supporters conveying through temporary tattoos our key ask to take action in 2015. We moved people with concerts on the G7, and many of them joined us in our request to G7 leaders that they play their part in the fight against poverty, inequality and climate change.

Yet the action is only starting. As the decisive summits draw near, positions are toughened up and public pressure is more needed than ever. It is up to us, organised civil society, to strengthen it and make it converge towards large-scale actions just ahead of the crucial decisions. We have 3 appointments with the people and the world of tomorrow:

- **11 July:** use people's currency and call your members and partners for action to remind our States how we expect them to finance sustainable development!

This joint concept for action is fully adaptable to your policy asks. Check now how you may use this toolkit and contact me for any support needed to adapt it to your/ your member's needs.

- **24 September:** get your members prepared to put the spotlight on their initiatives, priorities and actions! We will light up the world

Ireland, have expressed their commitment to allocating 50% of ODA to LDCs. But France and Germany are leading the group of Member States which have not yet agreed on a time-bound commitment to 0.7% ODA/GNI, nor providing half of their assistance to LDCs with providing 0.15% of GNI to LDCs by 2020 and 0.2% by 2025 as a bare minimum. Civil society across Europe is calling for EU leaders to:

- Recommit to 0.7% by 2020 at the EU level, backed by timetables at the national level that show how and where countries are gradually increasing aid to meet 0.7% by 2020.
- Taking action to increase aid to LDCs and commit to the current UN target of 0.15–0.20% ODA/GNI, and setting themselves the even more ambitious target of providing at least 50% of total ODA to these countries.

This year, with major agreements on the UN agenda, it is critical that the EU doesn't drop the ball by sending a message to the world that it has given up on ever fulfilling a pledge first made 45 years ago.

## How can civil society make the SDGs work for the most marginalised?

Watch the video message of Danny Srisankarajah, Secretary General of CIVICUS, on the challenges for civil society in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.



# CONCORD recommendations to Heads of State on migration and development

Multiple conflicts in nearby countries, an ongoing global displacement crisis as well as the lack of safe passages to Europe have pushed people fleeing wars, abject chaos and despair to take increasing risks and for many, to face deaths. The European Union cannot turn a blind eye on its responsibility in contributing to this situation and in addressing the situation now. This is the moment to live up to European founding values of solidarity and human rights.

At their meeting in Brussels this week, CONCORD calls on European leaders to act for the safety of people first and for their right to well-being. Make migration a driver for development

For CONCORD, continued and predicted tragedies at sea constitute a grave indictment of current EU approach to migration that continues focusing on security and border controls rather than on ensuring the safety of people arriving on its shores. The balance between security and migrants' rights is deeply uneven, against the fundamental values of the European Charter.

Current EU border enforcement approaches neither protect the fundamental human right to life nor respect international and regional treaties that require protection: for those fleeing persecution, serious human rights violations and torture; for those abused by human traffickers or smugglers; and for children.

CONCORD regrets that migration is clearly designed as a component of a security policy rather than a driver for development.

Therefore, CONCORD calls on Heads of States to take a holistic approach

that day. As global plans become clearer, a very preliminary draft to coordinate actions specifically in Europe is being prepared here

- **29 November**: save the date for a

main mobilisation on climate! The COP21 will be decisive for many communities affected by climate change. All our energy will be needed to have our leaders make the right choices - more coming soon.

## Ethical Fashion 2020: a new vision for transparency?



by Carry Somers - FashionRevolution

On Monday 29 June 2015 in the UK House of Lords, industry leaders, press and political leaders attended the roundtable debate Ethical Fashion 2020: a New Vision for Transparency. The aim of the event was to help to shape a vision of what transparent supply chains could look like in five years time and set out what steps are needed to transform the fashion industry of the future.

The event at the House of Lords, now in its second year, was co-ho-

sted by Fashion Revolution, the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) and the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Ethics and Sustainability in Fashion. Introducing the event, IOSH Chief Executive Jan Chmiel said "Transparency matters because it can drive improved workplace standards. It can also increase recognition of good health and safety performance. And importantly, it can help ensure more people view health and safety as an investment, not a cost – one that saves lives, supports business and sustains communities.

Whereas, a lack of transparency can do the reverse. Crucially, it can mean that firms don't know the factories that are supplying them, so they can't actively manage their risks – potentially leading to tragedy, disaster and business failure”.

Co-founder of Fashion Revolution, Carry Somers, set the scene as to why transparency is a crucial issue to address over the next 5 years “So much is hidden within the industry, largely because of its scale and complexity. The system in which the fashion and textiles industry operates has become unmanageable and almost nobody has a clear picture how it all really works, from fibre through to final product, use and disposal. The low or non-existent levels of visibility across the supply chain highlight the problematic and complex nature of the fashion industry. A few brands have received a lot of public pressure to publish information about their suppliers and some have responded by disclosing parts of it. Yet, the rest of the industry remains very opaque. It's not just brands; it's the myriad other stakeholders along the chain too. We believe that knowing who made our clothes is the first step in transforming the fashion industry”.

The two hour debate, chaired by Lucy Siegle, acknowledged where progress needed to be made, highlighted opportunities for change and set out a vision for how the fashion industry could and should look by 2020.

Some of the key points made by the speakers are set out here.

Finally, Lucy Siegle asked the panelists what one thing would make a massive difference by 2020?

Garrett Brown: The Accord mo-

del of public disclosure is critical. Brands have to disclose where their factories are and tell us about the conditions.

Simon Ward: A lot of big and complex change is required. We need a magic story to tie it all together so it is understandable.

Baroness Lola Young: Information leading to activism. Supporting organisations like Fashion Revolution which are build on the work of other organisation like the EFF, ETI, Labour Behind the Label. Information needs to be acted on and we need coalitions like Fashion Revolution which can lobby for change.

Rob Wyass: Audits, credibly performed

Peter McAllister: The ETI has made a commitment to develop a public form of the audits of their companies which we hope will showcase some of the best performers.

After the debate, guests adjourned to River Room, overlooking the Thames, for a drinks reception and networking. Baroness Lola Young and Lord Speaker, Frances de Souza, both gave speeches at the reception and many of the guests were filmed for an upcoming series of mini films being produced and directed by Fashion Revolution as part of the European Year for Development.

The event at the House of Lords brought together many of the key people from within the fashion industry and beyond who are at the forefront of creating meaningful change. The challenge now is to translate the vision set out for transparency in 2020 into a reality in order to transform the fashion industry of the future.

and address seriously the root causes of forced migration; these are the factors that force people to seek protection and a better life in Europe. Portraying the criminal activities of traffickers as the root causes of people migrating deliberately ignores these many factors.

CONCORD calls on Heads of States to reaffirm, like EU's Development Ministers did recently, that the EU is committed to work on the “links between migration and development”, emphasizing that “development cooperation can contribute to ensuring that migration is a choice rather than a necessity”.

The EU should increase investment in inclusive development, decent work and social protection in countries of origin so that migration becomes an option among others and not a necessity, for people who migrate. EU should forge a new humanitarian and development policy for preventing crisis and conflicts as well as trade and common security policies that are coherent with development objectives. Furthermore, under the ‘Cooperation with third countries’, the EU must refuse to negotiate with countries that do not respect human rights.

Open legal safe channels of migration Restrictions on mobility and border controls currently in place create lucrative markets for traffickers as people seeking protection will inevitably continue to cross the Mediterranean even at high risks for their own lives. As long as legal migration routes to Europe remain closed, lives of migrants are in danger and their right to asylum is denied.

CONCORD calls on Heads of State to adopt measures to open realistic legal safe channels of migration to the EU, in order to reduce irregular migration and ensure that people migrate without risking their lives.

Especially, the EU should adopt proposals to enable safe, legal migration of low skilled/educated migrants, which represents the vast majority of migrants who will continue to migrate to Europe. Adopting a ‘Blue Card’ policy to “choose” our migrants is a denial of the realities on the ground and of the necessity of economic



migrants to seek legitimate jobs and living conditions. In addition, this creates new brain and skill drains in countries of origin.

#### Shared responsibility

We urge Heads of States to agree on a responsibility-sharing mechanism between Member States at the forefront of the crisis and the rest of the EU and adopts a binding, and not voluntary, policy of participation by all Member States in the reception and resettlement of migrants in a way that respects human dignity and the specific needs of vulnerable groups such as women, mothers, children and youth, people with health problems etc. It is important that the solutions found by EU governments re-affirm the need to uphold asylum and refugee protection.

The new Commission relocation proposal is not a sufficient response to the number of migrants arriving and those that will arrive in the coming months. CONCORD highly questions the categorization of refugees used in the Commission proposal as it implies that for asylum seekers, who are not eligible to relocation, European solidarity will not apply. Italy and Greece will therefore remain alone to deal with their reception. The EC relocation proposal is already an admission that the Dublin Regulation is a failure. Heads of States should ensure that asylum applications are examined in the country chosen by the asylum seeker.

#### Safety and dignity first

We are deeply concerned that the identification process of "persons in clear need of protection" (measure mainly targeting Syrians and Eritreans) involves coercive measures, through the detention of asylum seekers in administrative centers for months. Moreover, the identification should not be based on the nationality criteria but on the effective protection needs of the asylum seekers. Migrants' rights and dignity must be preserved at all times.

Furthermore, the plan for military naval interventions to destroy vessels is not acceptable from both political and ethical points of view as this runs high risk to put migrants' lives in

## Fair Weeks Südwind NÖ Süd

by Südwind

In the frame of the Concord-funded project "EYD2015 in the FairTrade Region Bucklige Welt-Wechselnd" Südwind NÖ Süd organised more than 20 events in cooperation with local communities and municipalities. Those took place in the frame of the so called "Fair Weeks" between April 20th and May 20th 2015.



### FAIRE WOCHEN SÜDWIND NÖ SÜD

Veranstaltungen und Aktionswochen von Südwind NÖ Süd  
zu "2015 Europäisches Jahr für Entwicklung"  
in den Regionen Industrieviertel und Weinviertel

FÜR ALLE DAS BESTE  
20. APRIL  
BIS 20. MAI  
2015  
FAIRER HANDEL

SÜDWIND NÖ SÜD  
2700 Wiener Neustadt, Bahngasse 46  
Tel.: 02622/24832  
www.suedwind-noesued.at



Unter dem Motto "Es ist genug für alle da" stehen die Fairen Wochen von Südwind NÖ Süd.

Gerade 2015 im Europäischen Jahr für Entwicklung wollen die Fairen Wochen den Fairen Handel verstärkt in das Bewusstsein der KonsumentInnen tragen und Handlungsalternativen aufzeigen.

Die Fairen Wochen finden in Zusammenarbeit mit Gemeinden, Schulen, Weltläden, regionalen Initiativen, Gastronomiebetrieben und anderen Organisationen statt

Im Rahmen der Fairen Wochen

2015 in der Zeit vom 20. April bis 20. Mai 2015, möchte Südwind NÖ Süd ein öffentlich sichtbares Zeichen für globale Gerechtigkeit und Nachhaltigkeit setzen. Es geht um menschenwürdige Lebens- und Arbeitsbedingungen in den Ländern des Südens aber auch um Regionalität und Nachhaltigkeit bei uns. Ziel der Fairen Wochen ist daher auch die Sensibilisierung für den Fairen Handel und für ein bewusstes Konsumverhalten.

Für die Gemeinden in den Regionen Industrieviertel und Weinviertel sollen die Fairen Wochen ein Anlass sein, Gemeinderesolutionen für

den Fairen Handel zu beschließen sowie konkrete und nachhaltige Maßnahmen zur Förderung des Fairen Handels in den Gemeinden öffentlich wirksam umzusetzen und den Weg als bzw. zur FAIRTRADE Gemeinde weiterzugehen.

Workshoptage und Ausstellungen von Südwind NÖ Süd für Gemeinden und Schulen, Seminare für LehrerInnen und MultiplikatorInnen, Verkostungen von FAIRTRADE Produkten etc. laden zum Mitmachen ein und beleuchten die Lebens- und Arbeitswelten der ProduzentInnen in Asien, Afrika und Lateinamerika.

Das detaillierte Programm zu den Fairen Wochen 2015 und zu den einzelnen Veranstaltungen wird laufend aktualisiert und kann auf unserer Homepage von Südwind NÖ Süd eingesehen werden.

„Filmpräsentation oder Schulfilmtag“ von Südwind NÖ Süd mehr Europäisches Jahr für Entwicklung Globale Verantwortung und Entwicklung für eine faire Welt Veranstaltungsanregungen von Südwind NÖ Süd für NÖ Gemeinden mehr 2015- Europäisches Jahr der Entwicklung mehr

[More info can be found here](#)

## Urgenci @ Expo dei Popoli, June 2-6, 2015



by Morgane Iserte - Urgenci

Since 2011, a number of Italian organizations operating in very diverse sectors (development, environment, human rights, producers and consumers rights, etc.) have been looking forward to the “Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life” Universal Exposition held in Milan with the aim of influencing the public debate with another concept of Feeding the Planet, based on the principles of food sovereignty and environmental justice. Their final goal was to hold an international forum, the People’s Expo, in Milan on June, 2-6, 2015, animated by around 20 international multi-country delegations

of networks already active on the issues of food sovereignty, environmental justice and human rights, for a total of 200 delegates.

A 10-people international delegation from Urgenci, the international Community-Supported Agriculture network, has been invited to participate in this event. It has been a good opportunity to launch our European Charter writing process, taking advantage of the presence of many food sovereignty activists. The workshop took place during the weekend with European activists from 15 European countries, and the process will continue next September in Berlin, during the Solidarity

great danger. Already, some say that “collateral damages” would be inevitable. This is an intolerable military response to a humanitarian structural phenomenon.

CONCORD strongly opposes such a risky military intervention and calls on the responsibility of the EU’s Heads of States to protect the lives of migrant women, men and children.



# Greening the Grass South of the Mediterranean - Peace and Security in the MENA region

*By Charalambos Solonos - CYINDEP*

Our second official event, a public lecture on European Year for Development 2015 with title 'Greening the Grass South of the Mediterranean - Peace and Security in the MENA region', was held at Tuesday night, 16th of May, 2015 at the UNESCO Amphitheater of University of Nicosia with great success. More than 35 people coming from different backgrounds (including officials from Embassies and ministries) attended, discussing on the important topic of the EU thematic month Peace and Security.

The lecture was organised within the framework of The European Year for Development 2015 and the EU thematic month dedicated to Peace and Security, by CYINDEP (Cyprus Island-wide NGO Development Platform) and NGO Support Centre Cyprus, in association with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Speeches were made by Mr. Abdallah Homouda, writer and journalist, member of the UK Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham house), Ambassador Andreas Mavroyiannis, former of Cyprus Deputy Minister for European Affairs and Mr Farid Mirbagheri, professor at European Studies and International Relations department of University of Nicosia.

The event was held under the auspices of the Rector of the University of Nicosia, Professor Michalis Attalides and the Diplomatic Academy of the University of Nicosia. Interpretation

Economy Forum. This is part of the Common Ground for CSA in Euro-

pe project, financed by EYD2015/Concord.

## Overviewing Fairtrade's regional conference work in September 2015

*by David Finlay - Fairtrade UK*

Fairtrade is working to support four regional supporter conferences in 2015 in York, Birmingham, London and Belfast. The conferences will bring together activists from Fairtrade Towns, schools, faith communities and universities to raise awareness and inspire action on a range of European Year of Development thematic areas.

Each event will cater for the training of between 50-100 campaigners, representing hundreds of campaigning groups from across the country, with full event details included below:

South East England (London)  
5 September 2015  
The Abbey Conference and Community Centre, London

Yorkshire (York)  
19 September 2015  
The Priory, York

Northern Ireland (Belfast)  
26 September 2015  
Venue TBC

West Midlands (Birmingham)  
26 September 2015  
University of Birmingham

Keynote speakers will include Chief Adam Tampuri (cashew nut farmer and Chair of Fairtrade Africa), Arun Ambatipudi, (Chetna Organic Cotton Farmers' Association, India), as well as a selection of national MPs and MEPs.

Each regional event will include a range of workshops and interactive sessions focused on providing practical tools to help local campaigners in the following ways:

- Improving campaigners engagement with schools and young people to build a movement for change: a range of 'best practice' case studies will be shared to help campaigners find the most relevant and cost effective ways of working with 'the next generation' as agents of change during the European Year of Development and beyond,
- Raising awareness of ways to engage with political actors at national and EU levels – practical information will be shared to help campaigners use the most effective means to contact and meet with decision makers at local, regional and EU levels
- Providing an overview of the shape and relevance of the Sustainable Development Goals – we will use this opportunity to raise awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals with our supporter base including the ways in which Fairtrade supports various of these Goals and actions supporters can take to support the achievement of the goals themselves
- Facilitating campaigner participation in setting the future direction of Fairtrade: as a people-led movement focused on trade justice Fairtrade has always valued and relied on the input of campaigners to shape our future work. We will use these conferen-



ces to consult with campaigners on our future plans as we enter a new strategic period and to find new and innovative ways to par-

tner with campaigners and other elements of civil society to maximise impact for the farmers we represent.

## Young people from alternative care programmes speak out at the European Development Days

*By Fontal Ana - SOS children Villages / World Vision*

Children and young people continue voicing their demands regarding the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - the set of guides for global development work that will be agreed upon by United Nations (UN) member states in September. Migena Xhaferaj Mairita Eglite Daniel Mihajlovski and Margari-ta Vinickyte, who grew up in SOS Children's Villages' alternative care programmes in Albania, Latvia, FYR of Macedonia and Lithuania respectively, had an important responsibility at this year's edition of the European Development Days <http://eudevdays.eu>, Europe's leading forum on global development and cooperation.

They have raised the most burning issues faced by children and young people who have lost parental care or are at risk of losing it, and asked representatives from the institutions, the private and the non-profit sector, to join hands and address them in the Post-2015 development framework.

Decent employment, inclusive education, quality child care and pro-

tection, are the necessary conditions for sustainable human development, according to the young people.

Migena Xhaferaj, Albania, 18 years old

"If parents don't have a decent job, children will risk being abandoned" Unemployment is a big problem.

If parents don't have a decent job, they'll be poor and, in the end, children will risk being abandoned.

Also for the young people it is very difficult to have a decent job. They often end up working irregularly, for long hours and for very little money. Many young people, especially people leaving alternative care, have to go to work early in order to survive, and don't have the time to go to University. Allowing them to attend free courses that will provide them with a degree would be very helpful. The government should also lend money without interests to young people, so that they can open their own business where services are lacking, for example in rural areas. Someone who knows well the labour market should advise young people leaving alternative care what to study, in order to be able to find a decent job. Someone who guides us, step by step.

was offered into English and Greek and guests were invited to a small reception after the end of the lecture.

## Creating a new narrative for international development



*By Tom Baker, Head of Campaigns and Engagement, Bond*

Walking into European Development Days is like walking into a bubble, you can move from one talk about development to listening to a EU luminary making the case for what the European Commission will do in 2015. But step outside onto the streets of Brussels, or indeed any other capital across the EU member states and that pro-development bubble bursts quickly!

While this year's Eurobarometer survey shows that Europeans continue to feel very positively about development cooperation – 67% of respondents across Europe think that development aid should be increased – with front page attacks on our aid budget in the UK press and European leaders struggling to reach agreement on aid targets, it feels like the level of public support and concern for development is very fragile.

And it matters, because much of our ability to push governments to deliver the big, bold and ambitious changes that we want to see, comes from them knowing that the public (or at least part of it) is supportive of what we're asking them to do. Our arguments can't just be factually and morally

right, we need public support. Which is why we want to use the European Year for Development to change the way people think about international development.

Our session at European Development Days focused on how we can develop a narrative that builds that support. Alongside colleagues from Denmark and Ireland, we wanted to showcase research and examples that could help to shift the conversation. I wanted to make three key points. First, there is confusion about the multiple causes and solutions to poverty. The findings from our Change the Record research, the culmination of two years of work to understand what those in the UK thought about aid and development, showed the need for a clear, compelling and overarching narrative to counterbalance the negative perceptions of aid and development. Put simply, we need to tell a better story, something that the European Year for Development is attempting to do with its focus on storytelling.

Second, we need to be more targeted about who we want to reach. Our goal doesn't need to be to win 100% of public support; we simply to focus our efforts. Research from the Gates Foundation has shown that in the UK, France and Germany there is a significant percentage of the population, whose views on development "swing" – if we can win them over to our arguments we can double the number of people who think and feel more positively about development.

Third, we need to find the right frames. From the Finding Frames report, to the Gates Foundation Narrative Project, to research on how to talk about corruption without losing support, all the evidence shows that we need to talk about our work through a different set of frames. We need to highlight:

Independence – the end goal of all development is to help people to stand on their own two feet

Shared Values – people living in the world's poorest places have the same hopes and dreams as the rest of us, and that we have a moral obligation to help them reach their potential

## Millennium Youth



*By World Vision*

11 young delegates from 4 different continents participated in the European Development Days in Brussels in early June 2015. They were part of the Millennium Youth project, an EU funded project aimed at raising awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) amongst young people. The young delegates took part in a high-level panel debate with the United Nations Secretary General's

Envoy on Youth, Ahmad Alhendawi, the Prime Minister of Latvia Laimdota Straujuma and the chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Development, Linda McAvan.

The young people shared their concerns about the SDG framework and asked the high-level decision-makers to take action on certain key issues that impact on their lives.

[Watch the video](#)

## Civil Society in the EU Open Doors 2015

On Europe Day, the European institutions open their doors to the public to show how they work. This year, as part of the European Year, the overarching theme for events and activities was development. Also CONCORD and the EYD2015 Civil Society Alliance shared a stand with Action/2015 on the Open Doors Day in Brussels 9 May.

The stand in front of the European Parliament was a forum for people with different backgrounds,

the public, different CSOs' representatives, development experts, representatives of institutions and youth networks.. Discussions on the current European situation, global justice and Sustainable Development Goals were lively. And Action/2015's activities ensured a constant buzz – signing the petition, giving statements on what kind of world you want to live in, and making (temporary) tattoos.

# International, regional and local civil society projects supported by the sub-granting mechanism in the implementation of the EYD2015 activities

Almost 100 proposals were received for the Call for Applications from a very broad range of NGOs and CSOs from both, CONCORD member organisations and CONCORD partner organisations. All applicants came forward with very good proposals which bear potential for successful outcomes. The total contributions (excluding co-financing) requested by all applicants corresponded to more than 3.3 million euro and exceeded the total of 525.000,00 euro (excluding the co-financing) available for sub-granting; this made the process extremely competitive.

All applications were duly evaluated and the decisions were made by the Selection Committee for sub-granting composed by Pierrette Pape, Chair of the Selection Committee, (European Women's Lobby), Paola Berbeglia (CONCORD Italy – Italian National Platform), Marco Boaria (ALDA), Frazer Goodwin (Save the Children), Stefan Grasgruber-Kerl

(Sudwind- Austrian National Platform), Oli Henman (CIVICUS), Mari-Helene Kaber (DARE Forum), Ellie Kennedy (BOND – UK National Platform), Seamus Jeffreson (CONCORD Director) and Mirjam Sutrop (TRIALOG Project Secretariat).

The sixteen sub-granted projects involve different sectors, such as youth, education, agriculture, development cooperation, decent work, sustainable development, poverty, climate change, ethical tourism, and peace. Cross-sectorial approach was encouraged in the call. The projects include creative and innovative, technological and social, ideas and initiatives and the project activities are taking place in 20 different EU Member States.

Now that all administrative and contractual issues are processed and most of the projects have started, please find their information below.

## News by CSAAlliance members

Partnership – people in developing countries actively participate in making development programme work  
Progress – supporting the other frames by educating the public about what has been achieved

Bond is working to deliver the European Year for Development in the UK. Drawing on our network in all its diversity and working with member organisations throughout the UK, we'll be linking up with other campaigns to carry out a range of activities around key moments in 2015.

## Health Bulletin

THE BENEFITS OF INVESTING IN HEALTH CAN BE UP TO 20 TIMES GREATER THAN ANY COSTS INCURRED.

*by Dearbhla Crosse - Action for Global Health*

Action for Global Health commissioned a health bulletin on the right to health for European Health month. The 12-page bulletin contained articles from key stakeholders across the health sector, including the European Institutions, on financing for health, health systems strengthening, poverty-related diseases, universal health coverage, inequity and sexual and reproductive health and rights. The bulletin continues to be distributed in the lead up to Addis Ababa Conference and up until the UNGA in September. The newspaper was circulated at various parliamentary events and high-level conferences, including at the World Health Assembly in Geneva, and at our high level panel at the European Development Days. Dedicated to health, this was a chance to remind ourselves how far we have come since the Millennium Development Goals were first implemented, and how we can continue to influence the agenda through raising awareness of the importance of health for all.

[Download the bulletin](#)



# If I could live in a city like this

by Mina Mata - Observatory for the Children's Rights

In the framework of the local elections taking place in Albania, Observatory for the Children's Rights has monitored the political programs of all the candidates of the 61 municipalities regarding the focus they have had in the social programs and the attention they have had in the realization of the human's rights of the locality. This monitoring was accompanied with real stories from children in Albania and the needs they have. All this monitoring was wrapped up and published in the national newspaper "Shqip" in the form of an article on 19th June 2015, and was done as a pre-election action. Here the article:

Ana is eight years old and she lives in a village of Fier. Her mother does not live for several years. She should take care of her sister who is three years old. But Ana must keep clean the house, cook and take care of her sister. The father is unemployed and mostly not present in the house. At school teachers try to help, but it is not enough to relieve the burden that needs to take this girl on her shoulders. If this area would have a kindergarten, Anna would be very happy for her sister. If this area would have a community service center where she and her sister would eat lunch, and will be able to learn and to entertain themselves, Ana probably will not forget to smile. And if the Health Centre will have doctors and nurses at any time, she will not worry so much when her sister gets sick. But Ana is one of hundreds of thousands of children who try to survive with all her force in this country where services for children are almost nonexistent. Across the country officially are identified 54 thousand children (INSTAT Albania) who are forced to work in various forms, and a large part of them are used for begging or/ and trafficking.



## Ambassadors of Change

**Empowering young people to get actively engaged in a critical debate concerning the SDGs and EYD issues.**

The Project Ambassadors of Change – Effective Communication for Sustainable Development aims at engaging youth in the Czech Republic in a critical debate about the SDGs related topics and international development.

An integral part of the project is a Global learning cycle "Ambassadors of Change". Through a series of trainings and seminars based on critical approach to global learning, the participants (mainly volunteers and students) will be provided with tools of non-violent communication and critical thinking. Further, media workshop will enable participants to learn about the concept of the code of conduct and ways to ethically communicate their stories from placements in so called global South.

Furthermore this project aims at establishing a communication campaign Volunteers Best News! Action 2015, by promoting practical approach to volunteering in global South directly through volunteers themselves, which are skilled to be the ambassadors of change, and thus bearers of the cooperation between Europe and North/South.

The project promotes volunteering, active global citizenship and critical approach to global education and a broad understanding of SDG, and fosters a sense of joint responsibility, empathy and solidarity in the world.

We are extremely proud to bring these topics and values into the debate and motivate young people to become engaged European and Global citizens.

Lead beneficiary: Inex – Association for Voluntary Activities  
For further information contact: [glen@inexsda.cz](mailto:glen@inexsda.cz)



## ARSICRO 2015

### **Raising awareness about international development cooperation and building global solidarity. "You too are a global neighbour"**

Project aims at raising public support for global cooperation and development aid and awareness raising of general public, civil society, policy-makers and especially youth about different issues and perspectives in the field of international cooperation and global solidarity.

As stated, special target group are young people, since they are the ones who will build the future of international development cooperation and strengthen global solidarity.

Therefore, young people should be aware of the significance of international development cooperation and humanitarian aid and the role of different organizations working in this field. We see the need to break down prejudice and bust the myths surrounding the image of these organizations.

This is why we want to take more direct approach using personal stories and multimedia in order to present more realistic image of the field of international development cooperation and humanitarian aid, while emphasizing the role of each individual in improving existing conditions and building global solidarity.

Lead beneficiary: Sloga

For further information contact: [adriana.aralica@sloga-platform.org](mailto:adriana.aralica@sloga-platform.org)

But the lack of services feels more for children that for various health reasons can't move without the aid of a wheelchair. Daniela is one of them. She lives in the village of Drithas and she can't walk without the aid of a wheelchair. A few days before the end of the election, she write a letter to the mayor of Vlora by asking him to help her and many other children in her condition to be able to move in the city but also to go to school. "Today I am unable to move alone, as there is no road and the majority of schools are not accessible without assistance of a wheelchair. There is no convenient transportation for me, so please Mr. Mayor keep our needs in mind when you begin your duty".

After a few days will end the battle between the candidates of the local government, who will be responsible for improving the life of the Albanian citizens but mainly young people, teenagers and children, who make up more than one fourth of the country. Differently from many years ago, candidates of all political forces, have shown us and have promised that not only are well aware of all the problems and deficiencies relating to children and young people, but have promised to commit seriously to solve them.

Luke is 11 year old boy who lives in Tirana. He wants to have more space to play but also to develop sports activities. He addressed a letter to the mayor in which he reminds the mayor that the place where he is growing doesn't have a zoo, and in his neighborhood, there is no free space where he can play with friends.

Observatory for Children's Rights has compiled a long list of those promises, which listed in this form make us feel hopeful and proud. Candidates have promised that during their mandate will work to build Community Centers for children, there will be alternative services for prevention of institutionalization of children, special programs in protection and care of street children, housing and employment of orphans, creating entertainment areas for children, significant improvements in infrastructure for kindergartens, schools.

In neighborhoods where Roma live, they will intervene to have drinking water, and to create the real possibility that all Roma children attend preschool and to be more involved in social activities. But in a house where many things are missing, and where the economy is in difficult conditions, sounds difficult and incredible that everything will be renewed and everything will go in its place. Although children deserve much more, and all of us will be felt much calmer and more peaceful if our children grow in warm nursery with quality food, in schools where the number of students is not higher than 30 and teachers merit to have this status, in health centers equipped with proper medication and trained staff, or to spend free time in parks with trees. I'd really like this to happen and in the streets of Tirana children who beg and sell are not shown, because this is the only way to pass hunger. I'd really like to believe, that these promises will be realized even if many will accuse me as a very naive person.

## Baby food Mama plus: from Haiti to EXPO 2015

By AVSI

AVSI successful experience in feeding the planet and nurturing hope  
Mama plus is a baby food, made by maize, cassava, beans, moringa and flour rich in micronutrients, which are scarce in the diets of poor children in Haiti. The chronic lack of micronutrients is the cause of the hidden hunger, an insidious form of malnutrition that affects the everyday life of billions of people, especially in poor countries.

About 15% of Haitian children suffer from hidden hunger. The consequences are delayed growth, as it becomes visible in body measurements and in impaired learning abilities. It strikes at the core of health and vitality, posing



## Balancing the mind-set of youth work in Serbia

**Motivating and supporting youth-serving civil society and local authorities from Serbia to get engaged with global development issues**

This project will help many entities active in youth work in Serbia to design and implement initiatives, for instance aimed at raising domestic public awareness of global development issues or supporting development elsewhere via volunteering or other types of project where young people are able to support development and make a difference.

One of the project activities will consist of series of 3 seminars for youth workers, with focus on development cooperation and prospective role of Serbian youth organizations in global development. Besides that, some of those youth workers will have a unique opportunity to connect with Slovenian development NGO's community and Concord by joining the study visit to members of Slovenian NGDO platform for development cooperation and humanitarian aid – SLOGA.

Youth workers whom participated in project activities will have mentoring assistance to develop and apply with projects involving young people but with more focus on development education.

We expect that project will affect youth organizations in a way to be more focused on development and be able to start work on new projects, possibly in synergies with development NGO's from Europe. Also, we expect more projects in areas connected to global development issues and greater number of young people from Serbia getting interested and involved in development projects.

Lead beneficiary: Association "People's Parliament"  
on behalf of Aid Watch Serbia Coalition  
For further information contact: [office@parlament.org.rs](mailto:office@parlament.org.rs)





## Common Ground for Community-Supported Agriculture

**Community supported agriculture (CSA) is a partnership between farmers and the local community, in which the responsibilities, risks and rewards of farming are shared**

Community supported agriculture (CSA) is a partnership between farmers and the local community, in which the responsibilities, risks and rewards of farming are shared. CSA schemes provide access to markets for family farmers, and yet, they have implications that reach far beyond agricultural issues: CSA is powerful on many levels. It is a proactive response to concerns around resilience and transparency in the food system and provides a logical step for consumers towards reclaiming sovereignty over the way their food is grown, processed and traded.

CSA initiatives are blossoming all over Europe, and lately, they've been cross-fertilizing thanks to exchange programs. The current priority is to strengthen the European movement and to establish what is common to all the CSA initiatives in Europe, after having explored its diversity.

The main objectives of this Common Ground project is to:

- Launch and support the European CSA Charter writing process according to a demanding co-constructive methodology.
- Implement a participatory action-research process to gain deeper insight into the social and economic impacts of CSA on European society.

Lead beneficiary: Urgenci

For further information contact: [morgane.iserte@urgenci.net](mailto:morgane.iserte@urgenci.net)

devastating threats to health, education, economic growth and to human dignity in developing countries.

Mama plus has been experimented and produced in the framework of the AQUAPLUS program, carried out by a successful partnership of key actors: Rotary International, EXPO 2015, Unicredit Foundation, World Food Program, Canadian Cooperation and AVSI Foundation. The involvement of the University of Milan and of the Catholic University of Haiti "Université Notre-Dame d'Haiti" (UNDH), has been crucial

in finding the right composition of ingredients, that is pleasing to the taste of the children.

AVSI intervention aims to strengthen the Haitian supply chain in order to address food insecurity in the country and to identify best practices.

It promotes the cultivation and the processing of the basic ingredients of MAMA PLUS such as cassava, corn, but mainly the Moringa Oleifera. This tropical plant is commonly referred to as the "Miracle Tree", because of the nutritional properties, especially the high protein concentration in the leaves.

Furthermore, it is naturally very fast-growing and every part, including the seeds and roots, can be consumed and has beneficial properties for the human being. Because of the Moringa leaves nutritional benefits, individual vendors in Haiti could also sell them at local markets, providing a reliable cash income.

The project includes a training and awareness component to be developed through workshops and the creation of an experimental production laboratory for students with milling and roasting facilities and test equipment to ensure quality and safety.

This project is successful in achieving a balance between traditional practices, accessible to local producers, bringing at the same time significant aspects of innovation.

AVSI realized a video projected for the first time at the event on Sustainable Consumption and Production hosted by CONCORD on 9th of June.



## I want a world!

by Matleena Seppälä -  
The Finnish NGDO Platform to the EU  
Kehys

In what kind of world would you like to live in? How the world should be like so that everybody everywhere would feel good and have a good life? Development cooperation is a means to reach this kind of world! European Year for Development in Finland is collecting especially the visions of the youth. You can participate as well in social media with hashtags #EYD2015 and #haluanmaailman!



## A good life for all – How to reach a good life for all in a sustainable way?



## Ecomaps

**Discover the most sustainable places and fair options in your surroundings.**

The Ecomaps aims to create a European web mapping service and database, displaying the most sustainable, ecological and healthier options in a certain location, area or city.

This information includes services, restaurants, organic and bio shops, fair trade brands, local markets, organizations and other entities that promote respect and care for nature and for society.

The Ecomaps was primarily conceived to help people find green and eco-friendly places of their surroundings, which would be very useful not only for travelers, but also for citizens that want to get to know better their cities from a green and sustainable perspective.

Furthermore, the platform also intends to provide a strong educational component to attract new targets, as well as to encourage and educate people who are usually out of the environmental and social scope.

Lead beneficiary: International Young Nature Friends  
For further information contact: [henrique@iynf.org](mailto:henrique@iynf.org)



## EU citizens call for a Fashion Revolution

**Raise awareness about the lack of transparency in the fashion supply chain, as well as the social and environmental impact of the textile and garment sector.**

Fashion Revolution is a global movement with Coordinators and teams in 21 EU countries.

Our project will raise awareness about the lack of transparency in the fashion supply chain, as well as the social and environmental impact of the textile and garment sector. We will also be showcasing ways in which European citizens can move from awareness to action fostering a sense of solidarity with the producers of their clothes. We will also encourage them to look at the clothes they purchase in a different way through #haulalternative videos.

We will film and edit a series of short video interviews for social media which highlight the effect of development throughout the supply chain. Raising awareness and promoting positive actions, the short videos are intended to go viral. Our series of short videos will focus on the question 'who made my clothes' and will encourage a dialogue between consumers, retailers, workers and practitioners, and fashion-lovers. They will raise awareness on important issues related to this industry as well as providing advice and viable alternatives on better buying practices and ways to be more informed, encouraging positive actions for EU citizens.

Our videos will lead to actions which create demand for more transparent supply chains and foster positive attitudes towards sustainability. The short videos will come with related contents and actions available to download online (quiz, education packs, ways to get involved) ensuring that following the sustainable fashion thread is an exciting, creative and rewarding way to reimagine fashion for a positive future.

We will also advocate for policy action through events in London and Brussels, showcasing the mini videos, with high level panel and public discussions on the issues raised.

Lead beneficiary: Fashion Revolution

For further information contact: [carry@fashionrevolution.org](mailto:carry@fashionrevolution.org)



*By Elise Steyaert - Climate Alliance*

Climate Alliance's new project, "EYD2015: The future we want – Local Authorities for Sustainable Development", focuses on the European Year for Development 2015 (EYD2015) and empowers citizens and local authorities to take active part in the post-2015 development agenda debate. Via the project, the 16 project partners from 10 European countries, will give citizens and politicians a deeper understanding of global interdependencies by calling into question European overconsumption of natural resources and showing the way toward more responsible and globally fair consumption habits. The Europe-wide awareness raising campaign "A good life is simple" showcases positive examples to follow in daily life, urges people to integrate climate action into their lives and strengthens them to become active in the fields of mobility, nutrition, consumption and energy. Since May the campaign is available in English and in July we also will provide the materials in twelve different languages! Feel free to contact us!

The second main activity of the project brings together different realities; indigenous 'counsellors' from the Amazon Basin are travelling to Europe and are spreading actively their wisdom to evaluate pressing European challenges. In April the first travel took place: Eriberto Gualinga from the community of Sarayaku, Ecuador visited Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany and discussed with politicians, CSO and children the question: How can we translate their knowledge into our life and culture and how can this be translated into concrete recommendations towards national and European policy makers?



- Visit our website [www.overdeveloped.eu](http://www.overdeveloped.eu)
- Follow us on [facebook](#)

## Estudo revela novos dados sobre Educação para o Desenvolvimento



*By Rita Caetano - Fundação Gonçalo da Silveira*

Já está acessível online o “Estudo sobre Perceções e Relevância da Educação para o Desenvolvimento em Portugal” que apresenta novos dados sobre esta matéria. A grande maioria dos participantes no estudo considera que a Estratégia Nacional de Educação para o Desenvolvimento 2010-2015 (ENED) teve impactos na sua instituição: impacto conceptual (indicado por 69,6% dos inquiridos), impacto estratégico (60,7%) e impacto prático (53,6%).

O documento mede, pela primeira vez, o entendimento e a relevância da “Educação para o Desenvolvimento” em Portugal. Os dados agora tornados públicos foram recolhidos junto de 100 inquiridos, a maioria a trabalhar numa Organização Não-Governamental (ONG) (44%) ou numa Instituição do Ensino Superior/Centro de Investigação (34%).

Este estudo foi promovido pela FGS - Fundação Gonçalo da Silveira e



## How to make European Regions fair

**Make the region "Bucklige Welt-Wechselnd" a FairTrade Region and share our experience and strategy via a handy guidebook with NGOs and other stakeholders all around Europe.**

Our organisation Südwind NÖ Süd was a main force to make the region "Bucklige Welt-Wechselnd" a FairTrade Region.

In this project we will deepen this process and share our experience and strategy via a handy guidebook with NGOs and other stakeholders all around Europe.

In the process we engage as many stakeholders as possible, starting from politicians over schools, parishes until enterprises. It is a pleasure to see, how many actors are involved and engaged in the development of the region.

Lead beneficiary: Südwind

For further information contact: [matthias.haberl@oneworld.at](mailto:matthias.haberl@oneworld.at)



## Live Below the Line

**Helping youth in Slovakia to understand better the challenges of living in poverty.**

The project has three aspects:

1. Experience in a box - sleeping rough in a cardboard box
2. Experience on a plate - eating for 5 days for 10 eur
3. Experience in your wallet - starting to donate money regularly via SMS

The project has not yet started, but I think the best impact will be the experience on a plate.

Lead beneficiary: The Integra Foundation

For further information contact: [allan.bussard@integra.sk](mailto:allan.bussard@integra.sk)

pelo CEAUP – Centro de Estudos Africanos da Universidade do Porto, no âmbito do projeto “Sinergias ED: Conhecer para melhor Agir”, cofinanciado pelo Camões - Instituto da Cooperação e da Língua, I.P., no ano de fim da vigência e da avaliação final da ENED e de celebração do Ano Europeu para o Desenvolvimento. [Consulte aqui o Estudo.](#)

## International Forum DevReporter Network



*by Andrea Micconi - COP*

More than 220 journalists and international cooperation professionals for the International Forum “[DevReporter Network](#)”: training, exchanges, best practices and a Vademecum about how to communicate development issues to the general public. Organised in Turin, Italy, on the 11th-12th June 2015 by [COP – the Consortium of Piedmont Ngos](#), the [Catalan Federation of NGOs](#) and [RESACOOOP](#)

The city of Turin, Italy, on the 11th-12th of June 2015 has been at the centre of the international debate on journalism and the challenges of global development. More than 220 participants, 100 of which journalists, met and discussed with development cooperation experts, local authorities, academics from several European and southern countries within the Second International Forum of the European project DevReporter Network. Among the speakers also important

names of the international journalism, such as Ahmad Ashour, from Al Jazeera Public Liberties & Human Rights, Chris Arsenault, from Thomson Reuters Foundation, Ziad Maa-louf from Radio France International, Cristina Mas from ARA, Barcelona, Ellen de Lange from OneWorld and many others.

Objective: to improve the quality and the quantity of information on the challenges of global development and to draft a handbook (Vademecum) of recommendations shared between journalists and international cooperation professionals.

“How to overcome the concept of aid, to give space to the protagonists of the South, to distinguish between cooperation and emergency, are just some of the issues discussed during the Forum and during the drafting phase of the Vademecum” says Umberto Salvi, president of COP - Consortium of Piedmont Ngos., promoter in Italy of the European project DevReporter Network “The challenges of global development are becoming increasingly complex, urgent and interrelated with each other. Therefore it is extremely important to provide accurate, timely and understandable information to the general public on these issues. The Vademecum we elaborated is a summary document that responds to the new needs of information on these issues, and it is designed to be both practical and a concrete support to journalists and international cooperation professionals. We called it Vademecum because it has the function of being a memorandum summarizing our common discussions and a guide that can help us to better direct our future actions”.

The main points of the Vademecum can be summarized as follows:

1. To improve the mutual understanding between medias and international cooperation actors.
2. To create places and moments of effective collaboration between journalists and international cooperation professionals.
3. To develop together new stra-



## Millennium Youth

### Young people engaging in the universal sustainable development agenda 2015-2030

Giving children and young people a sense of dignity requires that they are treated as important stakeholders in processes that will impact most upon their futures.

Children and young people have proven time and time again that they are perfectly capable of articulating their opinions, recommendations and demands, particularly about matters that impact upon them. They also have the capacity – in spite of their young age – to be powerful and effective ‘agents of change’, especially in local contexts. Under this sub-granted project, children born around the time the MDGs were developed and now between 14 and 17 years old have been selected by their peers and carefully prepared by project partners in Ireland, Latvia and some countries in the developing world to represent their generation at the European Development Days (EDD15) in Brussels in June.

During a special auditorium session on the EDD15 program and in a direct open dialogue with a high level panel consisting of leaders and opinion makers representing the UN and EU institutions and EU Member State governments, the selected children and young people will express what matters to them when a new post-2015 framework is concluded, while at the same time demonstrating their proven capacity and ability as well as their motivation to be effective agents of change in the implementation of the new SDG framework. Following the EDD15, the children will be followed as they feed back and are accountable towards their peers about how they represented them and what they have learned from this experience. They will also actively disseminate this through social media and encourage and mobilise other children and young people to become engaged in promoting sustainable development around the world.

Lead beneficiary: World Vision Brussels & EU representation  
For further information contact: [deirdre\\_deburca@wvi.org](mailto:deirdre_deburca@wvi.org)





## See the World Differently with Development Perspectives

**Challenge and engage people in examining issues relating to development, whether it's climate change, poverty or any of the other issues that affect them and other people across the globe.**

The Insight programme is designed to challenge and engage people from all over Ireland in examining issues relating to development, whether it's climate change, poverty or any of the other issues that affect them and other people across the globe.

The Insight programme is 8 months long and consists of 3 phases: Phase 1 Takes place in Ireland and focuses on an introduction to development education. This pre-departure phase consists of team building exercises, an introduction to development, preparation and logistics, debates, discussions and talks from a variety of speakers involved in the development field. During phase one participants are asked to take part in a residential weekend, which is fundamentally important in developing a strong group dynamic

Phase 2 Is the overseas phase, which gives participants the chance to examine development in the context of another country and explore what issues effect people from that country. During the overseas phase Irish participants work within a local community on a project that has been chosen by the local people. Local development activists are invited to facilitate workshops that provide a better idea of the reality on the ground for people living in that community. Experiential and active learning forms an important part of Development Perspectives work highlighting the value of learning through theory and practice.

Phase 3 Is the final phase of the programme which takes place in Ireland. Participants are asked to commit to three weekends where the focus is on the reflection of the individuals experience and public engagement. African partners who have taken part in the second phase of the programme are given the opportunity to travel to Ireland to contribute to the reflection, evaluation and exhibition phase held in November.

Lead beneficiary: Development Perspectives  
For further information contact: [bobby@developmentperspectives.ie](mailto:bobby@developmentperspectives.ie)

tegies to reach the general public (using social networks and multi-media products, for instance).

4. Not to give in to sensationalism or to pity, but arouse curiosity and identification processes.

5. To make protagonists the actors and the partners of the southern countries.

6. To distinguish between cooperation and emergency, giving room for positive news. To avoid the information "spot" and to give continuity over time.

7. To pay attention to the language and to the vocabulary, avoiding technical terms and stereotypes.

8. To overcome the simple storytelling of "Cooperation projects", by improving the contextualization of the news, preferring long format news and articles.

9. To highlight the links between micro and macro dimensions, and to bind global issues to the local agendas.

10. To avoid self-referentiality of the Ngos and to distinguish between information and institutional communication.

The two days Conference, organized at the Congress Centre of the Arsenal of Peace of Turin (for the program and all materials in 4 languages click [here](#)) opened with a lively interactive exhibition with 21 stands in a single "DevReporter Open Space", where each Study Case had the opportunity to tell and to show participants their communication products. A sort of "market" for the exchange of ideas and contacts that ended with the "Case Studies Pitches" Round Table, moderated by Bianca La Placa of the association Caffè dei Giornalisti (Journalists' Coffee) during which some selected speakers intervened with short presentations.

The Forum continued with the presentation of a Seminar organised in May 2015 in Burkina Faso by COP - Consortium of Piedmont Ngos and

one of its Ngos (LVIA), then with the presentation of the Dóchas Code of Conduct on Images and Messages and of Concord Europe (by Naomi Linnahan, Dóchas - the Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations) and of the Communication Guide for Ngos by IDLEAKS (Siri Lijfering).

After this, the workshops for the drafting of the Vademecum started and ended the day after with a public Round Table entitled "Development journalism: how to inform the general public about development and International cooperation", inserted within the training programs of the National Chamber of Journalists.

The Dev Reporter Forum has been organised by the COP - Consortium of Piedmont Ngos, with the Catalan Federation of NGOs and Resacoop, in collaboration with the Association of Journalists of Piedmont, Stampa Subalpina, the Association of Journalists Caffé dei Giornalisti, the Piedmont Region, the University Turin, the Coordination of Municipalities for Peace, and the Center for African Studies, Concord Europe and its Civil Society Alliance within the European Year of Development 2015. The project Dev Reporter Network is co-financed by the European Union (DCI-NSAPVD / 2012 / 279-805).

For more information:  
cop@ongpiemonte.it

## Make Fruit Fair!



© Abbie Taylor - Smith/Orlan

by Mirjam Hägele - Oxfam Deutschland

Campaign for fair and sustainable fruit production in the EYD2015 and beyond  
Bananas are the most traded fruit in



**FAIRTRADE**  
FOUNDATION

## Show Your Hand: Make Trade Fair

**Joining up government policy on trade and sustainable development to make trade work for the poorest.**

Unfair subsidies, unreasonable regulations, self-interested trade tariffs and one-sided trade deals supported by the UK government prop up British and European interests. But they often do little for – and sometimes actively harm – poor farmers and workers, blocking them from building up their businesses, and forcing them out of markets leaving them unable to sell their produce.

Later this year, UK Prime Minister David Cameron will take to the global stage at the UN, backing new global targets to end global poverty and reduce inequality – the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Prime Minister has a unique opportunity to ensure that the UK's leadership on issues of international aid and development is not now undermined by UK and EU self-interest and business as usual when it comes to trade. Otherwise, it's a case of giving with one hand and taking with the other.

At Fairtrade, we know from our experience that global trade can work for the poor, if the rules of the game are fair ones. We need our government to put the poor first in trade.

We will mobilise Fairtrade supporters and the wider public to build wide-spread political support throughout the new UK government for pro-poor trade policies that contribute to, rather than undermine, achieving the SDGs.

Lead beneficiary: Fairtrade Foundation

For further information contact: [giorgio.mariani@fairtrade.org.uk](mailto:giorgio.mariani@fairtrade.org.uk)



## Social actors in Development

### **To build and position a common narrative on Development – broader than the traditional one - with other social actors**

The project will bring together different social actors working on several topic & agendas (development, environment, gender, migration, advocacy, human rights) to exchange experiences, analysis, sharing and linking agendas and proposals in order to generate common narratives that include comprehensive explanations about the multidimensional and interconnected root causes of global inequalities.

These common and new narratives will enable advocacy making from different perspectives: traditional policy making, and a broader approach from citizens and organized and non organized civil society (including civil society groups, mass media, grassroots, and social movements).

The electoral context in Spain will be used as a hook to gather both political and social attention around developmental discussions, taking advantage of an increased social demand for democracy and participation in political decision-making.

We will held, among others, these activities: construction and dissemination of political common positions within the national electoral context and elaboration and implementation of communication strategy to explain the common analysis and narratives.

Lead beneficiary: Coordinadora – Ong para el desarrollo Espana  
For further information contact: [direccion@coordinadoraongd.org](mailto:direccion@coordinadoraongd.org)

the world. The international trade of tropical fruits like bananas, pineapples, oranges, avocados, and mangos is expanding rapidly. So does the market power of supermarket chains and international fruit companies.

A handful of powerful supermarket chains such as Aldi, Carrefour, Lidl and Tesco dominate the highly concentrated European retail market. They abuse their enormous buyer power by squeezing suppliers to keep costs extremely low. These pressures are passed on to people at the very beginning of the supply chain. Farmers have no guarantees about the payment they will receive. Workers are often forced to work long hours, for low pay in degrading conditions, exposed to harmful agrochemicals.

With the pan-European campaign Make Fruit Fair!, 15 European and 4 Southern partners claim fair prices, living wages and compliance with labour and human rights as well as environmental protection in the tropical fruit sector.

In June 2015 the 19 partners launched the Make Fruit Fair! petition to EC Commissioner Bieńkowska to ask the EU to ensure fair conditions in supermarket supply chains. The EU needs to enable small farmers, workers and EU consumers to get a fair deal. The respect for human rights, fair prices and sustainable production are key.

Please sign our petition under [www.makefruitfair.org](http://www.makefruitfair.org)



# Day of the African Child 2015: Youth dreams for a better world



by Louis Fourmentin -  
IDAY-International

In memory of the 1976 Soweto Youth uprising, the members of the IDAY network celebrates each year the Day of the African Child all together. To celebrate this year's edition in Europe, IDAY invited 4 African Youth Ambassadors to Brussels to exchange with young Europeans about their aspirations for a better future.

After a brainstorming session on Monday, they presented their dreams in the first part of the conference which took part at Fondation Universitaire on the 23 June 2015.

Conference at Fondation Universitaire  
The conference started with an inspiring speech from James Kofi Annan (Family for Every Child / Challenging Height) on "Is the African youth given the chance to participate in Africa's development?"

The first session of the conference saw the four IDAY Youth Ambassadors (Joanna Dogbey from Ghana, Marième Diop from Senegal, Charles Kigotho from Kenya and Eric Rwamucyo from Rwanda-Belgium) expressed their dreams for a better world and their recommendations to better include young people in



## South for South!

**Strengthening the awareness on international solidarity and the relationship between associations, media and institutions.**

Although international cooperation for development is often described (especially by institutions) as an essential instrument of solidarity among peoples and for the full realization of the fundamental human rights, as well as a strategy for social, civil and economic growth, the allocation of resources to support and make visible, shareable and sustainable this cooperation is often well below the needs. This is even more the case in Sicily, where the average income and the resources of the institutions are under the European average.

Sicily, for its geographical position and history, could aspire to a role of leading region in the Mediterranean basin in the promotion of the values of social and economic integration and human rights. The opportunities offered by the EYD 2015 could be a helpful tool in this sense.

The attention dedicated both by the media and the institutions to the cooperation and the education on global citizenship is few and marginal. This lack of attention and resources has consequences also at social level, translating itself in insufficient sensibleness or disorientation of the citizens towards these issues.

Yet, information and awareness on the values of solidarity and cooperation could help in giving answers to the difficulties also of those who work for social and cultural development in Sicily itself and can even be a premise and a stimulus for socio-economic improvement at local level.

Thanks to the Action, we want to strengthen the knowledge and the communication opportunities on these issues and on the role of Europe, involving especially journalists, young people (students of schools and universities), civil society and local institutions in Palermo, Catania, Messina. At the same time, the Action will give to the existing regional network of solidarity associations the possibility to improve its ability to share experiences and methodologies.

Lead beneficiary: Sicilian network of Ngo and associations of solidarity - Congass  
For further information contact: [p.decandia@cissong.org](mailto:p.decandia@cissong.org)



## Tattoo-Petition Action for Global Justice in Post-2015

### **Temporary tattoos for long-lasting change - let the world know you want Global Justice!**

The Tattoo-Petition gives European citizens the opportunity to express demands for global justice before the global summits in 2015 that will decide the framework of sustainable development globally for the next 15 years.

By making the Post-2015 development agenda and the UNFCCC processes accessible to a broad audience, we empower people to take part in the global conversation and to influence the international political decisions that affect our world.

Exciting temporary tattoos will be the tool to make European citizens – especially youth – interested and involved in these issues. Through a series of activities including drafting workshops, festivals and meetings of high-level politicians, people will play an active role in wording their collective interests and views into petitions addressed to at least 10 governments in Europe. Highlight will be the 24th September 2014 - the Global Day of Action of action/2015 before the Sustainable Development Goal Summit of the United Nations.

Options for “liking”, “clicking” and “signing” on the web and with mobile phones will of course be available to reach to a broad audience and we will definitely make the buzz on social media. But we are not just about that: temporary tattoos will indeed be the main way to show one’s offline support to petitions, therefore involving people with their brains, hearts and bodies for Global Justice after 2015!

Lead beneficiary: GCAP Global Foundation

For further information contact: [claire.desmesnards@whiteband.org](mailto:claire.desmesnards@whiteband.org)

decision-making processes. The session was brilliantly moderated by Claire Veale and Mrs McAvan (MEP and Chairman of DEVE) spoke just after the youth ambassadors to deliver refreshing ideas and to conclude the first part of the conference.

After a quick break, the second session started with Daniel Wisniewski (WYA Europe), H.E. Ajay Bramdeo (African Union Representative to the European Union), Cécile Kyenge (MEP), Amadou Wade Diagne (Moderator), Maria Rosa de Paolis (International Cooperation Officer at DEVCO), Francesca Minniti (Concord Civil Society Alliance) and Jean-Marie Sohier. With some Q&A with the audience, the panel provided some very interesting propositions to better include youth in political processes in Europe and Africa. The intervention from CONCORD highlighted how relevant and unavoidable is the cooperation among Africans and Europeans in the new development framework and the SDGs that will be agreed at the UN General Assembly in September 2015. For Europe and its partner countries the European Year for Development EYD2015 is a very important moment to involve more and better the EU citizens into the political dialogue on development, global justice and solidarity.

### Cultural reception at Brussels City Hall

After the conference, a bus took the participants to Brussels City Hall, where a cultural event was organised. After a buffet generously offered by the City of Brussels, a great exhibition of Rosalie Colfs photography series on domestic workers was presented and Charles Kigotho from Kenya highlighted the work of the Mwelu Foundation in Mathera slum.

After the event, advocacy actions will be conducted in each African and European country about their exchanges with other youngsters. The review of the conference will be published soon on IDAY website and social media.

# Call for funding communication projects

by Stefania Piccinelli - GVC

GVC is launching a call for applications in partnership with the municipality of Bologna to find the best and most valuable experiences concerning migration and development amongst European cooperation actors.

Our common goal is to make public opinion aware of migration issues and to promote active participation at TERRA DI TUTTI ART FESTIVAL rights, communities and cooperation in social cinema and performing arts where winners of the call shall be invited to present their results.

The Festival will take place in October 2015 in Bologna and this year marks its 9th Special Edition for the European Year for Development 2015 #EYD2015.

The Festival is organized within the project AMITIE CODE [DCI-NSA-ED/2014/338-472] co/funded by the European Union and coordinated by the municipality of Bologna.

The 2015 European Year of Development is the perfect opportunity to acknowledge and value the educational role that local experiences can have on citizenship and to display the results of development cooperation and its relations with migration flows and the promotion and protection of human rights.

We expect 50.000 people to be reached and moved by the activities of TERRA DI TUTTI ART FESTIVAL - rights, communities and cooperation in social cinema and performing arts. Each selected project will receive from a minimum amount of 3.000 Euro to a maximum amount of 8.000 Euro as financial support.

[Here you are the link with the call for proposal and its supporting documents.](#)



## The Roles We Play, Here and There

**Recognising and celebrating the contribution of people from deprived communities in development and peace building.**

In October 2015, "The Roles We Play, Here and There" will promote the newly adopted UN Sustainable Development Goals and will invite citizens in Ireland, EU and worldwide to share via Twitter and the hashtag #RolesWePlay what "roles" they will play to achieve these new goals.

Momentum of campaign will be 17 October, UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Lead beneficiary: ATD Fourth World Ireland Ltd  
For further information contact: [pierre@atdireland.ie](mailto:pierre@atdireland.ie)





## World Suitcases

### **Promoting sustainable and ethical tourism as a tool to “translate” EU development policies and raise awareness about post-2015 development agenda**

The Project promotes sustainable and ethical tourism (SET) – being directly related to globalisation and sustainable development (SD), as a tool to foster broad understanding of SD and personally contribute to achieving its goals, and to advocate with government and business to formulate and implement relevant policies. The project envisages capacity-building of young people, thus enabling them to actively participate in the European Year for development.

To this purpose, a training camp for 30 young people (aged 14-19) from 5 regions in Bulgaria will be organised to inform and sensitise them about development issues and policies and to engage them in taking action towards raising awareness among their peers and local communities. They will be encouraged to elaborate a Charter of the responsible traveller.

The Project proposes a number of lobby and advocacy activities for implementing the principles of SET in policy and practice: with Bulgarian tourism industry; central government and local authorities (via the local information centres on culture and tourism – municipal structures).

To raise public awareness about SET, SD goals and policies, the trained students will work with their local communities by: circulating the Charter of the responsible traveller; presenting to school boards; participation in public events by disseminating materials, organising happenings, etc.

To provide information about SET and guidelines for practical application of its principles (serving also as advocacy tools), a number of products will be created: Plan-your-trip questionnaire; Manual and a Leaflet for sustainable and ethical tourism; special section in an existing website with materials on SET. This will contribute to disseminating the project results and ensuring sustainability.

Lead beneficiary: Global Initiative on Psychiatry  
For further information contact: [vhristakeva@gip-global.org](mailto:vhristakeva@gip-global.org)

## What's in it for humanitarian aid?

*by Celia Cranfield - Voice NGO*

2015 is the first ever European Year to deal with the European Union's external action and Europe's role in the world. The European Year for Development (EYD) is a unique opportunity to make progress on some important dimensions of how we link humanitarian and development work. With that in mind, this issue of the [VOICE newsletter](#) invites NGOs to share their views on the importance of considering long-term approach in humanitarian action.

Following the remarks of Marius Wanders, Ambassador for the EYD Civil Society Alliance on the opportunities of this year for European NGOs, VOICE members - Handicap International, Concern Worldwide, Habitat for Humanity and International Rescue Committee – share their approach on linking humanitarian assistance and development work in the area of disaster risk reduction and shelter and urbanization. Furthermore, Caritas Luxembourg highlights the opportunities and challenges of being a multi-mandated organization, and DanChurchAid presents the transition to a certification process.

In the “View on the EU” section, VOICE is pleased to hear from Mr. Guerrero Salom, European Parliament Standing Rapporteur on Humanitarian Aid on the EU humanitarian budget, as well as on the EU's role at a global level, including the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit (WHS).

In relation to that, the newsletter also includes two joint statements of NGOs: one on the humanitarian principles, as a contribution to the WHS, and one on the implementation of the post-2015 Framework for DRR (Disaster Risk Reduction).

Finally, in the “field focus”, People in Need reports on the consequences of instability in the Ukrainian crisis.

# Taking action against extreme poverty

*by Robin de Wouters - ONE*

The European Year for Development is not just a European thing – 2015 is a huge year for development worldwide, because of the new Sustainable Development Goals that will be unveiled at the United Nations General Assembly in September. These can be a true game-changer for millions of people to lift themselves out of poverty, but only if our leaders deliver sufficient financial backing during the Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa in July.

## Time to act

In May, the EU recommitted to its longstanding promise of providing 0.7% of national income in development assistance. It also agreed to spend 0.2% of national income on the poorest countries. But more will be needed for Addis to be a success. Besides a basic spending package for social services and increased domestic resource mobilisation, a much stronger focus on the poorest countries is critical if they are to achieve the new Goals in time for the 2030 deadline. That is why ONE calls upon the EU Heads of State and Government to increase the EU's ambition and collectively commit to directing half of development assistance to Least Developed Countries.

To make a point, ONE and its Youth Ambassadors took action to the streets of Brussels. ONE's actions around the European Council Summit, with their Youth Ambassadors and boards, intend to raise awareness among the public and pressure our policy makers to help those who need it most.



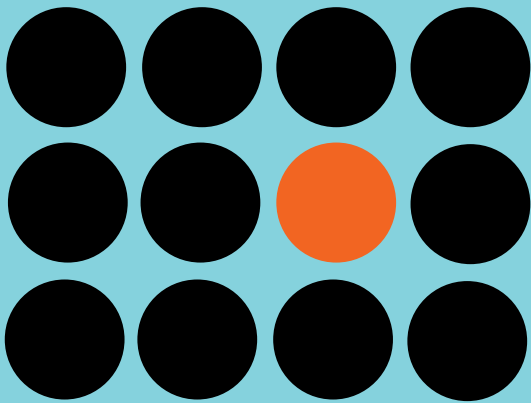
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Confédération européenne des ONG  
d'urgence et de développement

# Report #EYD2015

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2.0



# YOU CAN MAKE A CHANGE

### RESOURCES

Official EYD2015 website

Civil Society Alliance  
informational platform

European Year for  
Development materials

Civil Society Alliance  
communication toolkit

### WHERE

EXPO Milan  
Cascina Triulza  
Civil Society Auditorium  
+ Milan City hall

### WHEN

28-29 October

### REGISTER NOW

Please register yourself through this form:  
<http://goo.gl/forms/A1YGu8ZBqN>

Hashtags: #EYD2015 +  
#myEYD2015



2015  
European Year  
for Development



# Declaration from the Addis Ababa Civil Society Forum on Financing for Development



We, members of more than 600 civil society organizations and networks from around the world that have been engaged in the process leading up to and including the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa, July 13-16 2015), convened a CSO Forum in advance of the conference. We have the following reflections and recommendations to convey to the Member States of the United Nations and the international community. We want to express appreciation for the participation and access civil society was accorded in the preparatory process so far.

As the first in three important UN Summits on sustainable development this year, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda ("Addis Agenda") has the opportunity to set the tone for an ambitious

## Sustainable development 2.0: You can make a change

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has*

Margaret Mead

### Why is it worth to come?

The best, if not the only, way to achieve sustainable development and build societies that are fair, prosperous and respectful of the planet is through strong commitment of all, world leaders, local decision-makers and individual citizens. We all can make a change and contribute to the new global goals and priorities through our choices. Important discussion on how to do so and what can we learn from the past will take place within the second European level event of the EYD project on 28-29 October in Milan in the framework of EXPO.

The scale of the Civil Society Alliance and presence of different sectors and focuses among its members is a great opportunity to coordinate different actions and engage various types of actors including citizens and media into a critical discussion about lessons learned and practical actions for change.

### Why is it worth to come?

This event will be not only a traditional conference but a moment to inspire and foster critical discussion through combination of various methodologies including theater show "Pop Economix LIVE SHOW" and high level panel discussion "How to make a change? Working together for a global sustainable development" hosted by the EXPO area on the first day and number of interactive workshops covering the most important issues of the Civil Society on the second day. The link with MILAN EXPO is also fundamental to make the

connection with the global issues of food and food security, one of the great challenges of SDGs.

**Pop Economix LIVE SHOW** by Alberto Pagliarino, Nadia Lambiase and Paolo Piacenza is a great collective story encouraging the audience to find the thread of the memory and line up facts, names and mechanisms which, without even noticing, have swept our world and our hopes in the last fifteen years. It investigates – in nonconventional, simple and fun way through the eyes of a narrator – the roots of the global economic crises that affected the lives of everyone. How did the crisis start and transfer from the United States to Europe? Who is responsible? Are we just innocent victims? It is a story of Jack, an average American believing in the dream of loan for all, story of a secret pact signed between the Christoforos Sardelis and Goldman Sachs, story of a financial speculator Willi, story of the fall of Lehman Brothers and story of our lives before and after the crisis. The show is enriched by the video projection that interacts with the narrative throughout the piece. The challenge lies in translating meanings and thick narratives into words, making everyone, absolutely everyone, able to understand and therefore to choose how to act freely and consciously in the future.

Among confirmed speakers are inspirational and important voices of the Civil Society:

**Johannes Trimmel**, CONCORD President, Director of Policy and Advocacy in the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, who has been working in the field of development cooperation for NGOs for the last 20 years and has rich experience on practical, policy and political levels across the 'developing world' particularly in

promoting the concept of inclusive development. He has travelled widely to plan, monitor, and evaluate programs in developing countries (Asia and Africa mainly) on grass root, regional and national level.

**Carlotta Sami**, since January 2014, she has been the spokesperson for Southern Europe at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Previously she was director general at the Italian branch of Amnesty International and for ten years worked with Save the Children in humanitarian operations in different crisis spots.

**Marina Sarli**, Founder and President of the Board of Directors in Fair Trade Hellas and Concord board member; founder and coordinator in the Greek Bank of Memories; Project Manager & Consultant, who has a long experience both in governance and management of CSO's (the only member of WFTO in Greece).

**Mamadou Cissokho**, the charismatic founder and honorary president of the Network of Peasant Organizations and Agricultural Producers in West Africa (ROPFA)

**Inese Vaivare**, Co-chair of the EYD2015 Civil Society Alliance and Director of Director of LAPAS Latvian National Platform

**Nora McKeon**, an expert on food issues and author of 'Including Small Farmers in Global Food Politics.' Nora now divides her time between research and activism around food systems, peasant farmer movements and UN-civil society relations.

**Orsola de Castro**, ethical fashion designer and co-founder of Fashion Revolution, a global coalition of designers, academics, writers, business leaders and parliamentarians calling for systemic reform of the fashion supply chain. Orsola is an internationally recognised pioneer in sustainable fashion, she works tirelessly to raise awareness, demonstrate the true cost of our clothes and show the world that change is possible.

**Antonella Valmorbida**, Secretary General of the European Association of Local Democracy. She has a senior experience in promoting local democracy, empowerment of civil society and good governance in Europe, Eastern Europe and in the Mediterranean area.

## The Dev Reporter Network meets CinemAmbiente – Environmental Film Festival Turin, Italy



and transformative agenda that will tackle the structural injustices in the current global economic system, as well as ensuring that all development finance is people-centred and protects the environment. The world faces challenges in the form of historic levels of inequality within and among countries, the confluence of financial, food and environmental crises, the underprovision of essential services and pronounced employment deficits. However, the draft outcome document does not yet rise to the challenges that the world currently faces, nor does it contain the leadership, ambition and practical actions that are necessary.

In what follows, we highlight our overarching concerns about the Addis Ababa Action Agenda ("Addis Agenda"), followed by our reflections and suggestions on its different aspects.

The Addis Agenda as it stands undermines agreements in the Monterrey Consensus of 2002 and the Doha Declaration of 2008. It is also hardly suited to function as the operational Means of Implementation (MoI) for the, post-2015 development agenda, which is one of the goals of this conference, and to inspire the hope of reaching a successful agreement towards COP 21 in Paris.

The Third Financing for Development (FFD) conference must unequivocally assert that development processes should be led by countries under the ultimate responsibility of the States through participatory processes to include all right-holders. The principles of democratic owner-



ship and leadership have been affirmed in many global forums since Monterrey and it is now time to place it at the heart of the whole financing framework as a fundamental qualification of countries' policy space, which the draft Addis Agenda itself recalls. An enabling environment for civil society agency is essential.

[Download attachments](#)

## #WEAPOLOGI-SE: CSO open letter to people fleeing war, persecution and poverty



We understand that making this journey was not an easy decision for you and may have involved putting the lives of your loved ones at risk, or worse. We will continue to urge our decision-makers to provide safe and regular channels to the EU, so that your wellbeing does not rest in the hands of people smugglers.

Civil society organisations and thousands of people across the EU are taking a stand despite many governments' inaction by

by *Andrea Micconi, Director of COP*

On the 7th of October 2015, in Turin, two documentaries winners of the Dev Reporter Grant have been selected to participate to one of the most important Environmental Film Festival in the world, CinemAmbiente - Turin, Italy. Realised by independent journalists in Peru and in Ethiopia, with the support of two Ngos members of COP – Consortium of Piedmont Ngos, the two documentaries tell about women and environment, and their fight for human rights and global justice.

The first one, by Simona Carnino, is titled AGUAS DE ORO (Gold waters) and reports about the story of Máxima Acuña de Chaupe and her peaceful struggle against US-based Newmont Mining Corporation and its Peruvian subsidiary Yanacocha. By doing so, she is also defying a deeply entrenched system of impunity and injustice that afflicting communities and activists engaged in the ongoing conflicts over resources in Peru.

The second one, by Niccolò Bruna, is titled A CLOSED MOUTH CATCHES NO FLIES (Wuchale's Girls) and present the situation of the women of Wuchale, northern Ethiopia, bound by ancient customs under which women are expected to silently submit to men's authority. As the proverb says, "A closed mouth catches no flies". Silence is the

rule. But today's young women want to break the rule and talk. The luckier ones, like Tirongu, manage to get an education; the others migrate to Arab countries to escape the hardships of their homeland.

Soon the two documentaries and other reportage produced by the 18 "transformative communication" projects financed by the Dev Reporter Network will be available at [www.devreporter-network.eu](http://www.devreporter-network.eu). Stay tuned!

Dev Reporter is an interregional network (Catalonia, Rhône-Alps and Piemonte) of journalists, university graduates and communication professionals of the area of International Solidarity (IS), created thanks to an DEAR European project (DCI-NSAP-VD / 2012 / 279-805) aiming to work for the dismantlement of stereotypes and to improve media information about development cooperation and its challenges. The project is realised by the COP - Consortium of Piedmont Ngos, the Catalan Federation of NGOs and Resacoop. For more information: [cop@ongpiemonte.it](mailto:cop@ongpiemonte.it).

Watch the videos:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0L5eYwguYaw9mf1TKCZo\\_nR-zyhHgSAWj](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0L5eYwguYaw9mf1TKCZo_nR-zyhHgSAWj)

## Fashion Week in New York: when will the industry address its toll on workers and the environment?





by Orsola de Castro - *Fashion Revolution*

A few years ago I was sitting at a meeting discussing the state of “ethical fashion” with a group of very influential fashionistas. One of them scornfully commented, scrunching up her Botox-injected face, “Oh, but this saving the planet thing is so worthy.” It was as if, on Planet Fashion, “worthy” meant dull.

Today, “worthy” is the new “decadent”, and we’re beginning to reimagine aspirational fashion in a completely new way, taking into consideration garment workers and environmental issues throughout the supply chain. We still want to look good, but we are also looking for a sense of meaningfulness that goes beyond our mirror. The power of a carefully chosen, sustainably made garment has never been more relevant.

This isn’t to say that saving the planet and having a social conscience are new concepts: they were alive and well last century, culminating in the 1960s peace and love ethos. Fashion was a major part of that movement’s aesthetic and messaging.

Blue jeans and beyond

Just look at blue jeans: an outspoken canvas of painted and embroidered slogans and personal opinions, they were a symbol of protest, of anti-conformism, the look of a generation who wanted an end to the Vietnam War, or nuclear power. In that same era, consider the miniskirt, and how it became a shocking symbol of emancipation and freedom for young women.

Clothes are our chosen skin. They are a reflection of ourselves and of what we stand for. And as the wardrobe of the 1960s showed, matching our clothing to our beliefs is a fundamental and powerful form of political self-expression.

Drowning in a sea of choices

But something happened as we went from the Age of Aquarius to the era of Reagan and beyond. Stupefied and spoiled by a sea of choices – of things to

buy, of opportunities and stuff – we forgot about the planet for a few decades. We forgot about the people who make our clothes. The industry decamped to developing countries that offered cheap labor and the opportunity to bypass regulations that ensured decent wages, the right to unionize and the controlled disposal of waste. Lower cost and lower regulation, in turn, paved the way for fast fashion, mass production of luxury goods and hyperconsumerism. Karl Marx used to say that religion is the opiate of the masses. To upgrade this to a contemporary context, consumerism is our crack cocaine. The implication that the quantity of goods that are available to us somehow represents a form of freedom has left us with a massive debt towards the people who produce those goods – and towards the planet we inhabit.

The fashion industry directly employs at least 75 million people and likely more than double that are indirectly dependent on the sector — an estimated 80 million in China alone. While fashion employs a staggering number of people, it hasn’t necessarily extended the benefits of its profits to its extensive workforce in developing countries. Rather, it has continued the long-held practice of keeping workers in conditions of semicaptivity, slavery and exploitation. In the process, it has had catastrophic effects on our environment and the people who inhabit it, impoverishing rather than enriching our global culture.

Fast fashion pollution

To put it into context, in order to produce 80bn garments annually, we produce 400bn square meters of cloth, 60bn of which are wasted on the cutting room floor. And that doesn’t even take into consideration accessories such as handbags, shoes, jewellery and hair clips. These are made from dangerous and environmentally unsound materials such as plastic and polluting metals.

The environmental impact of fashion extends far beyond such materials and into the water supply. For example, it takes 2,720 liters of water to produce

opening their homes, sharing their food and donating their clothes. We will keep pressuring our politicians to fulfil their humanitarian obligation to ensure the provision of such services rather than leaving it up to individuals or organisations to provide them without support. The decision you made that led you here to Europe required a lot of courage. We implore our leaders to demonstrate the same courage by coming together to find a pan-European response that respects each individual’s human rights regardless of their status

While several of our leaders seem to have forgotten the EU’s core values of solidarity and human rights, we have not. The EU has the capacity to welcome you with open arms, and the unwillingness to do so is an embarrassment to us. We acknowledge your right to seek refuge in safer regions and to be treated with dignity. We also recognise the contribution that you can make and we will fight to give you this opportunity.

In solidarity,  
Social Platform

AEGEE-Europe

AGE Platform Europea

ATD Fourth World

Autism-Europe

CECOP-CICOPA Europe

Eurochild

European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN)

European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD)

European Citizen Action Service (ECAS)

European Civic Forum

European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)  
European Disability Forum (EDF)  
European Environmental Bureau (EEB)  
European Federation of Older People (EURAG)  
European Federation of Parents and Carers at Home (F.E.F.A.F)  
European House Budapest (Hungary)  
European Network Against Racism (ENAR)  
European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development (CONCORD)  
European Social Action Network (ESAN)  
European Students' Forum  
European Network of National Civil Society Associations (ENNA)  
European Network of Social Integration Enterprises (ENSIE)  
European Parents Association (EPA)  
European Platform for National Non-Profit Umbrella Organizations and for National Associations of General Interest (CEDAG)  
European Platform for Rehabilitation (EPR)  
European Roma Information Office (ERIO)  
European Volunteer Centre (CEV)  
European Youth Forum (YFJ)  
ILGA-Europe  
Inclusion Europe  
International Council on Social Welfare Europe (ICSW)  
International Union of Tenants (IUT)  
Mental Health Europe  
Pax Christi International  
Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented

one T-shirt. Not surprisingly, the Aral Sea, which provides water for cotton irrigation in Uzbekistan, one of the world's largest cotton producers, is now almost completely dry. Further, up to 20% of China's industrial water pollution comes from chemical textile waste discharge in rivers.

All of this environmental destruction adds up: the fashion industry is the second most polluting industry in the world, right behind oil. And while it has been corrupting our environment, it has also been selling a dream of aspiration and glamour. The "It" bag, craved as a status symbol, is actually mass-produced by underpaid workers. They have, in turn, taken the place of skilled artisans who once made high quality products but have since lost their livelihood.

Fast fashion has actually been labeled a democratization – but it's hard to see how something made in such exploitative conditions could possibly be democratic. For something to be democratic, or aspirational, it should advance everyone involved in its production, not merely function as a status symbol for its end users.

Most big brands, whether high street or high-end, are redesigning themselves to become sustainable. What's interesting is that, instead of blazing new trails, they're following the lead of small, pioneering innovators, designers and individuals for whom doing things right has never gone out of fashion. In the process, they're exposing their own ethical inadequacies.

What consumers can do

While the fashion industry explores its sustainable evolution, what can consumers do to become a part of the solution? The answer is as simple: they can buy garments that are made to last by people who are paid well for their work. With that in mind, here are three quotes from three great women:

Joan Crawford: "Care for your clothes like the good friends they are."

Vivienne Westwood: "Buy less, choose well and make it last."

Lucy Siegle: "If you aren't going to wear it at least 30 times, don't buy it."

And I'll add one more: demand quality, not just in the product you buy, but in the life of the person who made it.

## 'European Vision in Action' EYD 2015 Photo Exhibition in Cyprus



by Charalambos Solonos -  
CYINDEP

Within the framework of the national programme of Cyprus for the European Year for Development (EYD 2015) a photographic exhibition entitled 'European Vision in Action' will run island-wide in order to raise awareness to development and all its dimensions, as well as the vision and actions that the European Union (EU) has undertaken in regards to international development. The exhibition features photos of nine Cypriot photographers who shared material from their personal collections: Andri Josef, Anikitos Hadjicharalampous, Charis Zevlaris, Demetris Vattis, Katia Christodoulou, Marina Shakola, Marios Taramides, Pavlos Vrionides and Stefanos Kouratzis. The exhibition will be presented both

outdoors and indoors in five major cities from September 23rd - December 9th 2015. The first outdoor exhibition, under the auspices of the Mayor of Larnaka, Mr. Andreas Louroutziatis, was inaugurated on September 23rd at 18:30 in Kimon Square and will run until October 15th. The exhibition will then travel to Limassol, Pafos, Nicosia and Paralimni. The exhibition will be open to the public. Planned school visits will be also arranged. For public viewing hours and more information, the public can visit [www.cyindep.org](http://www.cyindep.org).

Cyprus national programme is implemented by CYINDEP (Cyprus Island-wide NGO Development Platform), under the coordination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture of Cyprus.

## Ethics of ICT in Sustainable Development

by Amouzou Bedi - K4DWB

Connecting the unconnected to development resources (education resources, ICT tools, information, knowledge, skills to demand accountability, inputs, availability, financial capacity, and technical capacity, social facilitation etc.). ICT tools have the potential to create opportunities for development in rural and remote regions in a range of areas, such as the supply of new production inputs and processes, the creation of new services, the improvement of communication flows, and the empowerment of local people...

E.g. Smart Mobile Phone Solutions and online applications are changing the way we are communicating, learning and teaching.

Connecting the most vulnerable (people who have the greatest need) to these available development tools, and help them to use these tools efficient for their own well-being is an absolute Value. A Value that demands: reaching, connecting, educating, empowering,

motivation, capacity-building, and, raising awareness on the availability of these technologies.

Development tools could not connect themselves to the users. The users need to connect to these precious tools. Even connected users need the required skills and guidance for the exploitation.

The ignorance on the availability, the lack of guidance, and capacity to exploit well these ICT tools, devices and infrastructures for local development handicaps massive sustainable development efforts...

Connecting the most vulnerable to these potential ICT tools, devices and infrastructures is a crucial first step to make poor people benefit of these tools. Information or data collection for sustainable development requires a first step which is raising awareness on these goals as well as on the driver and enabler tools- Click on the following link to visit our field development support program.

Migrants (PICUM)  
SMES-Europa  
SOLIDAR  
The Salvation Army  
Transgender Europe (TGEU)

## Open letter to the President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker on the new Gender Action Plan (GAP)



Dear President Juncker, As organisations working on gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment, both within Europe and globally, we are writing to call upon you to show leadership by transforming your personal commitment to gender equality from rhetoric and into practice.

Strong political accountability policies for the EU, both internally and globally are crucial for the European Union (EU) to maintain any credibility regarding its commitment to lead by example on gender equality. Therefore, we ask you to make



gender equality a top priority by launching the renewed EU Action Plan on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in development (GAP) as an official Communication.

Ahead of your European People's Party (EPP) nomination as candidate to the European Commission (EC) Presidency, we welcomed your assurance that the EU must promote, defend and protect women's and children's rights, fight violence against women and girls, and tackle high maternal mortality, as laid out in the EPP manifesto. We applauded your support for the UN Women "HeForShe" campaign in March 2015, mobilising all male Commissioners within the College to follow suit. We commend your Commission's commitment to gender equality as a fundamental value of the EU. Furthermore, we praise the instrumental role of the EU and its Member States in ensuring that women's and girls' rights remain at the core of the new sustainable development framework.

The EU institutions' work on gender equality, in particular the implementation of the Plan has been far from satisfactory. In May 2015, the European Council called for revitalised leadership from the EC and the European External Action Service (EEAS) on gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment; including a robust successor to the current GAP. Making the GAP an official Communication would allow for necessary inter-institutional dialogues and send a strong

Reaching, educating, empowering, connecting, encouraging, and raising awareness on the advantage of efficient use of the available ICT tools, devices and infrastructures is another development challenge post-2015.

We are contributing to close this gap while designing a project named: Reach, connect, educate, empower and raise awareness on the efficient use of ICT tools in sustainable development post-2015.

## A tale of champions



*by By Silvana Enculescu - Inclusion Europe*

Abandoned at birth and then secluded in Romanian residential institutions for almost 25 years, Nicoleta Nicolici and Ghizela Ghereben are living proof that people with intellectual disabilities can achieve greatness, if encouraged and supported in their goals.

Living in institutions, where human rights abuses were rife, the women had been labeled "irredeemable," or unable to ever live a normal, fulfilling life. They had no decision-making power, not even in choosing what to wear or eat. It was like their fate had already been sealed - and prospects were grim for the two of them. Luckily, in 1999, their lives drastically changed. Nicoleta and Ghizela became part of a deinstitutionalisation project run by Inclusion Europe member Pentru Voi, and moved from the large residential service into a supported living arrangement.

Sixteen years on, in Los Angeles, Nicoleta and Ghizela are waving proudly, showing their Olympic medals for all to see. Nicoleta is the Gold medalist of the 2015 Special Olympics World Games in the mini javelin competition, while Ghizela, Nicoleta and the rest of the Pentru Voi team, have also won Silver in relay. Back in Romania, Nicoleta works as a cleaning staff, as is respected by colleagues who see her as a true team player. In her spare time, she plays table tennis, enjoys running, and is actually the Romanian Special Olympics gold champion in badminton as well. Ghizela has a job as a chef's assistant, loves singing and doing sports, and is vice-champion in the Romanian national Karate tournament for people with disabilities. The two women are also committed self-advocates, working to uphold the rights of people with disabilities to live independently in the community and to be fully included in society.

In a country where many people with intellectual disabilities still live secluded from the rest of society, the story of Nicoleta and Ghizela is unfortunately the exception, not the rule. But this could change. The two women prove that any person with a disability can thrive, if treated with respect and consideration,

and offered the same opportunities as anyone else. As Laila Onu, the Director of the Pentru Voi Foundation said, “their phenomenal progress just goes to show how crucial it is for every person, whether they have a disability or not, to be offered their chance.”

## Young people show the world their #YouthPower



by Georgia Potton - Restless Development

Youth have proved time and time again that they have the will, credibility and right to be at the heart of the Global Goals. At the European Development Days Conference in Brussels, Restless Development brought 3 youth delegates to champion this potential: sparking an exciting 3 months of action.

On the 12th August, International Youth Day, we asked young people to show us their #YouthPower: to demonstrate that as the largest generation of young people in history, it's down to us to hold world leaders to account over the promises they make in 2015. The response? Over 100 different events took place in 70+ countries (check them out on the interactive map [here](#)), 115,446 young people were physically mobilised and our hashtag reached over 36 million people in a single day. Just one month later the UK's Department for International Development

hosted its first ever Youth Summit, an event entirely designed and led by young people themselves. Finally, Ronagh Craddock, one of our original youth delegates in Brussels, accompanied Justine Greening to the SDG Summit in New York as part of the UK's official delegation. As Ban Ki Moon said in his message to the Youth Summit, young people are the “rights holders, agents of change and torch-bearers of the new agenda” and our “energy, ideas and initiative” are needed “to push governments for results”. If we can harness the power of over half the world's population, we can make sure these ambitious Global Goals become a reality for all.

message to all relevant stakeholders, particularly to EU delegations. It would enable EU institutions and Member States to realise the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), both internally and externally. Conversely, by downgrading the GAP to a Staff Working Document it would send a clear political signal that the Commission is not prepared to respect its own commitments or the call from Member States on gender equality. Unless otherwise – and we will be happy to be persuaded why non-communication would be better – we remain a strong stance on the case as it is too important an issue to be sacrificed on the altar of efficiency and “Better Regulation”.

The EC has twice promised to deliver an EU strategy on equality between women and men to the European Parliament, yet there is still no sign of this strategy. We ask you to support Commissioner Jourova to deliver such a strategy to realise women's and girls' rights, and gender equality.

It is time for the EU to adopt these two policies as strong Communications to ensure coherence between its internal and external policies and strengthen its accountability.

We are counting on you, to make 2015 a turning point in the history of women's and girls' rights.

We thank you in advance for your attention to this letter, and hope to discuss these fundamental issues with you, critical







by *Adriana Aralica - SLOGA*

The debate on development challenges, organized on 18 September in Ljubljana, Slovenia, by SLOGA and European Parliament Information Office, was attended by Slovenian Members of Eu-

ropean Parliament Lojze Peterle, Tanja Fajon and Igor Šoltes. The MEPs agreed that arrival of high numbers of refugees to Europe requires a united response – states should agree on short-term and long-term measures.

## Advocacy on humanitarian aid and response to influx of refugees

by *Adriana Aralica - SLOGA*

Last few months SLOGA is intensively involved in a dialogue with different government officials on the topics of humanitarian aid and Slovenian capacity for a response to an influx of refugees moving on the so called Western Balkans route.

SLOGA participated in the consultations on the preparation of Guidelines on international humanitarian assistance of Republic of Slovenia in July 2015. The meeting was aimed at exchanging views and suggestions regarding the content of the Guidelines, which should be prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the coming months.

Apart from that a lot of efforts were concentrated on the question of growing refugee crisis in the wider

region. SLOGA is very active coordinating a huge coalition of NGO's in Slovenia, which is responding to the refugee crisis in terms of advocacy, planning the distribution of humanitarian aid, questions of integration etc. This coalition also sent an open letter to the Prime minister of Slovenia which sparked a direct dialogue with the Government. Operation Center was established, where a representative of SLOGA is also present. The aim of Operation Center is to coordinate response between different actors, and to share information and good practices among them. Apart from ongoing dialogue and advocacy a huge pressure on Government was also exerted before the meeting of the Council of EU for Justice and Internal Affairs.

## Promoting international development cooperation and raising awareness



sal, people- and planet-centered 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ('Agenda 2030'). As European civil society, we now expect the EU to match the ambition of this Agenda with a clear EU implementation strategy, which reflects the integrated, interlinked and comprehensive nature of the Agenda, in order to ensure well-being for all within planetary boundaries. We welcome the mapping exercise that you have initiated within the Commission to analyse where the EU has appropriate policies in place to implement Agenda 2030 and where there are gaps. This exercise is a first important step in order to elaborate an EU strategy to implement Agenda 2030. The EU strategy must build on your mapping exercise and cover all Goals and targets of the Agenda. The development and implementation of such a strategy should happen through a meaningful participatory process, reaching out to marginalised people. We therefore urge you to make the results of both the mapping and the subsequent analysis public and to hold a consultation on the next steps with civil society in all its diversity.

Lastly, we call for the creation of a robust, effective, participatory and transparent monitoring and accountability mechanism at EU level to guide and review implementation of the strategy, to analyse progress and redirect efforts as necessary.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss our ideas further with you, after the

UN Sustainable Development Summit in New York, at which a number of us will be present, and we remain at your disposal to provide any additional information needed. We wish you great success in these crucial discussions.

Yours sincerely, Beyond 2015 Europe, CIVICUS, Civil Society Alliance, Climate Action Network Europe (CAN Europe), CONCORD – the European Confederation for Relief and Development, Cooperatives Europe, Culture Action Europe, Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW), European Disability Forum (EDF), European Environmental Bureau (EEB), European Network of Political Foundations (ENoP), European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), European Women's Lobby (EWL), European Youth Forum (EYF), Fair Trade Advocacy Office (FTAO), Global Call to Action against Poverty Europe (GCAP Europe), Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD), Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF), Women's Major Group

## AGENDA 2030: CON- CORD-Beyond 2015 ETF calls for EU action to achieve well- being for all wi- thin planetary boundaries

by *Adriana Aralica - SLOGA*

SLOGA intensified its efforts to promote international development cooperation to general public in Slovenia with its »Global Neighbour« campaign. Part of these efforts is an awareness raising campaign on social media, which strives to show the subject of development cooperation from alternative perspective, emphasize good news and practices, and bust the myths related to that field on weekly basis.

SLOGA also organized several events which were aimed at promoting international development cooperation. Thus, several panels and group discussions (called Skuhna Talks) were organized on the topics of positive consequences of migration, gender equality and the role of youth.

Aforementioned campaign and its messages were also presented and different workshops were held on several inter-

national events such as World Schools Debate Academy in Kranjska Gora, MUNSC Salient: Youth Conference on Global Matters 2015 in Ljubljana, AidWatch platform event in Serbia, and United Nations Summer School in Ljubljana. We also joined the World's Best News project organized by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and distributed best news on development cooperation in Ljubljana.

SLOGA was also present on several public events with the aim to present both the role and work of the platform and its projects as well. Therefore, SLOGA took part at Šušarska nedelja in Tržič, Pikin festival in Velenje, NGO festival in Cerkno, Bivak festival and festival of local action groups in Ljubljana.

Part of SLOGA's efforts there were also to gather signatures for petition for a European Year of Social and Solidarity Economy 2018 as a part of Challenging the Crisis campaign.

## I am sisterhood – turning your life around thanks to migration



By *Laura Zorrilla Fernández - ICMC Europe*

In recent years, there has been a growing interest in the number of women that migrate and the gender-specific dynamics and consequences of this

migration. According to recent statistics from the World Bank, women make up about 48% of international migrants. The most common occupations found by women are care work and domestic work. A combination of factors in Europe, such as the ageing population,



lowering fertility rates and higher participation from women in the workforce, coupled with cuts to the care sector in EU-wide austerity measures, fuel demand for many workers in these sector, where traditionally, women are more sought out.

Gender and cultural norms or misguided policies are structural barriers to women migrant workers' empowerment, preventing them from realising the socio-political benefits of their migration. Many studies cite the gender-specific aggressions that women may be subject to during the migration journey, but it's not often that gender-based violence is cited as a reason to migrate.

In spite of the inherent difficulties and dangers, women may decide to migrate as a mechanism to escape a situation of violence. They are resilient actors that can transform and contribute to the development of their countries of origin, transit and destination, transforming their own and other's lives in the process.

Back in May 2015, ICMC Europe, coordinating the Europe Chapter of the Migration and Development Civil Society Network (MADE) hosted the photo competition 'Untold stories: how migrants contribute to human and economic development', to showcase how migrants contribute to the economic, social and human well-being of their communities and countries of origin, heritage and residence, bringing to light their too often untold and unheard stories of migration. Eunice's portrait 'I am Sisterhood' by Lisa Burnell, was winning photograph and her migration story illustrates the numerous possibilities for positive social change behind one individual's decision to migrate. Eunice Oyugi is originally from Kenya and moved to South Africa in 2003 to find a better life. In her new country, Eunice found other women who were experiencing difficult situations and

looking for support. Together they started Sisters 4 Sisters in 2008. The group promotes positive role models, identity, relationships and life styles without violence. Sisters 4 Sisters is the first point of contact providing general support and facilitating access through partnerships to other service organisations. The facilitated support group meetings for women and children provide a safe space where the members can share their stories, experiences, listen with empathy and provide emotional and practical support.

Eunice has a deep interest in gender and women's issues and is committed towards the creation of platforms where multiple stories of womanhood can be told and also she has a deep belief that women's empowerment is key to development. A mother of three, Eunice is inspired by her mother who continually feeds her with wisdom and encouragement in life's journey.

See other stories of migration and their contributions to development here. Policy-makers have taken note of this phenomenon in recent years and are incorporating a gender dimension to their agendas on migration. Concretely, this month the Turkish Chairmanship of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) will host the last of a series of Thematic Meetings prior to the GFMD on October 14-16 in Istanbul to explore the contributions of women migrants to economic and social development in countries of origin and destination.

The Civil Society Days preceding the GFMD on 12-13 October will explore the needs and specificities of women and children in migration as a cross-cutting issue, making concrete recommendations to governments in this area through the figure of dedicated rapporteurs.



As Heads of State and Government meet in New York to formally adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – the centerpiece of the Sustainable Development Summit and 70th UN General Assembly – the CONCORD-Beyond 2015 European Task Force urges all EU Member States to start prioritizing implementation.

“After four years of hard work to draw up the framework, now it's time to put all our energies into making sure every country implements the spirit of the Declaration as well as the letter of the Goals and targets. That means that people and planet must remain front and centre of all implementation efforts”, said Sally Nicholson, co-chair of the CONCORD-Beyond 2015 European Task Force

“It's crucial that both the EU and Member States, now that they are beginning to think about implementation, put in place a truly participatory process to draw up their sustainable development plans. And those plans must be as comprehensive as the framework itself: now is not the moment to start cherry-picking the bits of the framework they like and leave the rest which doesn't suit them. If they do that, there is no way we'll leave no



one behind' or start undoing the harm we are causing to the environment", said Tanya Cox, co-chair of the CONCORD-Beyond 2015 European Task Force.

CONCORD-Beyond 2015 ETF is calling on EU and its Members States to commit to implementing the Agenda 2030, these SDGs and their means of implementation, in full.

## Campaigners called on world leaders to 'Light the way' ahead of key UN summit



On 24 September activists in Brussels joined the global movement and called on governments to #Light-TheWay for a better future for all. Action/2015 Europe has brought together citizens on the Esplanade of the European Parliament to write a message to world leaders with 5000 candles.

During the European Year for Development 2015 the European Institutions and the European organized Civil Society

## A special guest from the European Parliament visits peace clubs in Kosovo



By Klevisa Breshani, World Vision

On August 25, Julie Ward, British Member of the European Parliament, visited World Vision's "Kids and Youth for Peace" clubs from several Kosovo and Serbian communities.

They spent approximately three hours together, discussing youth concerns in Kosovo, peace building, as well as their dreams, hopes and their vision for the future of their country. Ms. Ward listened to their wise thoughts, and she also inspired them by sharing her own story. Apart from being a politician, her aspiration and love is to help people who have no voice and those in need. "Doing what is the best for people and the planet — this is the way I do politics," she said.

Members of the peace building club had prepared a line of photos hung on the walls representing their initiatives taken over the years in helping their communities and making peace work in Kosovo. They took some minutes explaining them to Ms. Ward.

"In this country we, the children, still have hope and we believe we can change something and this gives us hope,"

said Altina, 15, a member of the peace clubs.

While spending time talking with the children and youth and being inspired by them, Ms. Ward said, "You are the people who understand there is a responsibility to shape the future and [you] are very concerned to find a way to live together [as Serbian and Albanian]. "I will go away with these memories of such positive, active and creative young people, and what I do hope for you is that you can follow your dreams. Somehow it can and must be a better society so you can achieve your best, but without forgetting your responsibilities," she said.

Mr. Philip Harris, World Vision Albania and Kosovo Operations Director added "The 'Kids for Peace' project empowers youth to have a stronger voice in their communities. They promote peace for their country and are an inspiring example."

During the meeting time children and youth shared information about their traditional costumes from both Serbian and Kosovo communities and played a game with Ms. Ward.

Krenare, 17, one of the Youth for

Peace members, who was explaining to Ms. Ward about Serbia's and Kosovo's traditions and costumes, said, "Our job is not to make our elders change their opinion, but for the youngest to change it so they can pass down new ideas to other generations. This will make our future better and better, so we will not have such problems as we have now," said Krenare. Speaking directly to Ms. Ward, she added, "If we continue to hate each other how much hate might come in this land? We don't want the past to be repeated in the future!" she added.

At the end of her stay, club members gifted Ms. Ward with a t-shirt with their signatures and a photograph showing members from both communities united as one.

"The biggest gift is you, your time, your enthusiasm, your hope and humour," responded Ms. Ward while holding their gifts in her hands. "I hope you can always communicate with me because I represent [all] young people, not just those from the North West of England. I have responsibilities for children and people all around [Europe]," she said.

## Free training: Positive development stories for your classroom

# Think Global



*By Amy West - Bond*

2015 is The European Year of Development (EYD). The EYD seeks to increase understanding of the progress that has been made in development, inspire young people to take part in conversation and encourage them to take action. At Think Global, we have been working on this through thinking about how we bring positive development stories in to our classrooms.

I wonder if we sometimes forget to reflect back, and remember the progress that has been made globally since the Millennium Development Goals were introduced in September 2000? In the media we are often faced with quite stereotypical images about poverty, and our pupils may receive incomplete messages about global issues across the world. Although it's important to

critique the reality of these challenges with our pupils, it's also important that we keep sharing the progress that is being made. There is still lots of work to be done to eradicate global poverty, but there are many positive stories about how communities are progressing! As teachers, I think we have a responsibility to make sure that these stories are shared with our pupils too.

You may have already ordered our free global wallplanner or our positive development stories PDF teaching resource. I know that these have been really popular with schools this year. I think it would be good to start reflecting on this topic a bit more deeply together. As a starting point, I am leading some free online training over the Autumn term called Positive development stories for your classroom.

are working together to inform and involve citizens into this broad initiative. The EYD2015 is a unique opportunity to foster critical thinking and direct engagement of all generations in Europe and abroad to reach a real "sustainable development" on our planet, giving the same opportunities to all.

A light show projected on the European Parliament building added to the call to leaders gathered in New York to commit to the new Global Goals for Sustainable Development and tackle the most urgent issues of our time – poverty, inequality and climate change.

The new Global Goals for Sustainable Development are a historic opportunity to accelerate progress towards a better future for everyone. The Global Goals has been adopted on Friday 25 September, have the potential to shape the next 15 years of global development and create momentum for a long-term climate agreement in December.

"The universality of the new Sustainable Development Goals' framework is one of the most important features as it eliminates the old division between North and Southern countries. It makes us all responsible for the planet we inhabit and respectful of all its populations. We call on the European Union and world governments to involve civil society as partners at all levels in the implementation of new Agenda 2030," stated Sergi Corbalán, co-chair of the EYD2015 Civil Society Alliance and Director of the Fair Trade Advocacy Office who atten-



ded the event. Present was also the Director of ONE Brussels Tamira Gunzburg, Director of CONCORD Europe Seamus Jefferson and board member of CONCORD and Spanish national platform (CONGDE) board member Carlos Gabo.

For an overview of the mobilisations taking place around the world and in Belgium, please see [here](#).

#### News by CSAlliance members

## 24th Annual Volonteurope Conference: Active Citizens for Sustainable Development and Global Justice

*by Esmé Clifford Astbury  
Volunteering Matters*

Marking the deadline for the Millennium Development Goals and the start of the post-2015 development agenda, 2015 has been named the European Year for Development (EYD2015). The 24th Annual Volonteurope Conference, organised in partnership with Volonteurope's Spanish member Alianza por la Solidaridad, will be delivered in the context of EYD2015 and focus on the role of civil society in promoting sustainable development and

## Good news in Europe



*By Thomas Gringer Jakobsen - World's Best News (DK)*

During September, eight European countries have distributed physical copies of the World's Best News paper, and more countries are to follow later this fall.

Every year, World's Best News prints and distributes a newspaper with good news about the development results that the world has achieved, regarding poverty reduction, treating diseases, giving all children an education, protecting the environment, and many other issues.

This year, a number of EU countries have decided to participate, translating and distributing the newspapers in many parts of Europe. Portugal, Slovenia and Germany distributed the papers on September 11th, the same day as Denmark.

"World's Best News in Slovenia is a great success - it exceed my expectations. All the smiles I got today... and all the media report yesterday and today", wrote national coordinator Nataša Adlešič Barba from the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Czech Republic, Great Britain, Latvia, and Ireland distributed their newspapers a few days later, with Spain and Slovakia to follow in October. Austria, Hungary, and Italy are planning to con-

duct distributions later this fall. Luxembourg, Romania, France, Belgium, and Poland have not yet set a date for their distribution events.

The Danish event remains the largest in Europe, handing out 75,000 editions of the newspaper. In addition, 365.000 editions of the WBN paper were distributed as wrappers on the Danish version of the free newspaper Metroxpress. The European issues had a distribution of between 2000 and 20,000 papers. In the international editions, the European Union has contributed with its own stories about development progress, as part of the project European Year for Development. The purpose is to highlight some of the impacts of the European development aid, which in total amounts to the world's biggest aid contribution.

The main message of this year's WBN newspaper was the same in all countries: People of the world now generally live longer and better, with regards to average expected lifespans, income, and education. At the same time, this year's newspaper talks about the new Global Goals (Sustainable Development Goals) that the UN is set to sign this month, and which will guide global development progress until 2030. us hope," said Altina, 15, a member of the peace clubs. While spending time talking with the children and youth and being inspi-



red by them, Ms. Ward said, “You are the people who understand there is a responsibility to shape the future and [you] are very concerned to find a way to live together [as Serbian and Albanian]. “I will go away with these memories of such positive, active and creative young people, and what I do hope for you is that you can follow your dreams.

Somehow it can and must be a better society so you can achieve your best, but without forgetting your responsibilities,” she said.

Mr. Philip Harris, World Vision Albania and Kosovo Operations Director added “The ‘Kids for Peace’ project empowers youth to have a stronger voice in their communities.

## Why is EU Humanitarian Aid important?



### VOICE General Assembly 2014



*By VOICE network*

Disasters, natural and man-made, are increasing in frequency, severity and complexity. At a time when the world is again facing an increasing number of severe humanitarian crises that have serious impacts at national, regional and international levels, EU humanitarian aid is even more relevant than ever to save lives, alleviate suffering and prepare grounds for longer term development. In addition to effects of natural disasters, the humanitarian community is now witnessing spiralling needs of crisis-affected populations due to conflicts in Syria, Central African Republic and South Sudan and due to a combination of conflict and climate change in Somalia.

EU humanitarian aid is spent on lifesaving assistance such as food, nutrition, shelter, healthcare and medical support, water, sanitation, protection and disaster preparedness. The Commission's

department for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) assists around 120 million people every year focusing on the most vulnerable who are affected by disasters. The EU including its Member States may be the leading donor of humanitarian aid worldwide but the amount spent through the Commission is less than 1% of the EU's annual budget (equivalent to €2 per EU citizen). 9 out of 10 EU citizens say it is important for the EU to fund humanitarian aid. EU humanitarian aid is delivered by over 200 professional partners, primarily NGOs as well as the Red Cross movement and the UN. EU aid is guided by a policy framework, the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, (hereafter ‘Consensus’) which commits the EU and its Member States to the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. Reaching out to people in need across the world, humanitarian aid is essential in demonstrating the

global justice.

As well as hearing from experts in the field, participants will be invited to the launch of Volonteurope's report on Mobilising Citizens for Global Justice, which features contributions Red Cross EU Office, Peace Brigades International and Social Platform, among others.

The conference will also engage the participants in debates through four focused roundtables. Volonteurope is delighted that its partner network, European Civic Forum, represented by its Director, Alexandrina Najmowicz, will co-lead the roundtable on ‘Participatory Democracy and Social Justice at Local Level’.

For more information and to register, please visit the [Volonteurope website](#).

## Faith communities urge the EU to take the lead in tackling climate change

*by Angela Maria Ocampo  
CIDSE*

Christian Churches have increasingly taken bold steps to address climate change. Pope Francis has called each of us to take care of our common home in his encyclical letter *Laudato Si'*, and Christian Churches from different traditions have

mobilized their communities across the continent through the organization of pilgrimages for climate justice and the organization of local climate actions. The Ecumenical Conference on Climate Change and Papal Encyclical took place on 29 September at the European Parliament. Organized by several faith-based organizations (CID-SE, Caritas Europa, COMECE, ACT Alliance EU and The Conference of European Churches) tackled the need for the EU to take the lead in climate action and to set the way towards complete decarbonisation by mid century. On 18 September the ENVI Council already decided its position, and on 23 September the ENVI Committee of the European Parliament voted on the draft Paris report that the European Parliament will adopt in plenary on 14 October. Nevertheless, we know a big deal is still at stake ahead of the meeting of the European Council. According to Msgr. Van Looy, President of Caritas Europa, who intervened during the conference: "Policies need to be inclusive and aimed to overcome injustice (...). Stewardship of the creation is key in every human action, therefore the Encyclical calls on the need to rethink our own habits by considering consequences on our planet and on poor people. Political institutions have the responsibility to lead this change and to make it more feasible and easy for people to be involved." Faith-based groups called on policy makers to work together to look beyond short-term

solidarity of European citizens towards those affected by disasters.

### **The added value of European humanitarian NGOs**

NGOs are the main deliverers of humanitarian aid to crisis affected populations worldwide, providing aid where it is most needed, in accordance with humanitarian principles. The members of the VOICE network have a wealth of professional, diverse and specialised expertise, and work in close partnership with affected communities and local civil society organisations. We are a direct expression of active European citizenship. We are constantly seeking to improve the quality of our work and are committed to mobilising rapidly and preserving our flexibility and cost-effectiveness. NGOs are supported by citizens in their own countries across the European Union, and are often strongly backed by private financial contributions as well as funding from their own governments.

### **What can you do to support European humanitarian aid?**

The VOICE network calls upon the Commission, the European Parliament and the 28 Member States in the Council of the European Union to support the delivery of needs-based and principled humanitarian aid through the following actions:

#### *1. Ensure continued EU humanitarian leadership and representation on the international stage*

A strong and visible European Commissioner for humanitarian aid brings EU humanitarian leadership to the world stage, as demonstrated over recent years.

The Commissioner has an important role in promoting the values of principled needs-based humanitarian aid, and of working with professional humanitarian partners.

The European Parliament should appoint a proactive standing Rapporteur on humanitarian aid.

#### *2. Ensure respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and the humanitarian principles*

The EU should continue to insist on the importance of humanitarian access to crisis-affected people as well as monitor and use its influence to address breaches of IHL.

The Action Plan to the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid expired in 2013. The Commission and Member States should develop and deliver on a follow-up Action Plan, to ensure continued joint implementation of the principles of the Consensus.

Fragile States and conflict situations are the contexts where the majority of EU humanitarian aid is delivered. The recently set-up EU Comprehensive Approach seeks to develop integrated strategies for EU external action in such crises. However, the humanitarian community is concerned that the linking of humanitarian aid to political objectives in this sort of approach can threaten the security of aid workers and the affected populations they are assisting. Humanitarian aid should always be given in line with the European Consensus, which states that humanitarian aid is not a crisis management tool.

#### *3. Commit to predictable and timely funding for humanitarian aid.*

Recent EU humanitarian funding shortfalls are having an impact on crisis-affected populations. The European Parliament and Council must vote for additional resources for humanitarian aid when the Commission presents its Draft Amending Budget later this year. This is necessary to implement all EU humanitarian operations in 2014 as planned.

To ensure predictable humanitarian funding and maintain a consistent level of assistance to crisisaffected populations, the European Parliament and Council must agree to raise the payment credits for humanitarian aid to the level of commitment credits in the 2015 EC budget.

#### *4. Support better linking of Relief and Development*

The EC and Member States must include Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in development and recovery programmes. This is necessary to reduce the impact of disasters on affected popu-

lations. Development of more flexible funding approaches between the EC institutions is crucial to build bridges between humanitarian and development work.

Recently, the EU has placed increased emphasis on approaches that support community resilience. Improving accountability in following up the Commission Communication on Resilience is needed and will contribute to more coordinated and effective measures to bolster the EU's efforts in DRR and in linking relief, rehabilitation and

development (LRRD).

### Why should you support European Humanitarian Aid and NGOs?

EU humanitarian aid saves lives and alleviates suffering, and is an expression of the shared European value of solidarity. It has strong citizen support and has demonstrated that it is taxpayers' money well spent. NGOs are the main deliverers of humanitarian aid to crisis-affected populations worldwide. Their added value includes flexibility, professionalism and cost-effectiveness.

## The ECOMaps



by Henrique Gonçalves - International Young Naturefriends

Kindly supported by the sub-granting mechanism of CONCORD EYD2015, the ECOMaps aims to create a European web mapping service and database of the most sustainable and healthiest options in a certain location. The project is being developed by International Young Naturefriends (IYNF), an international organization based in Prague and is expected to be launched in October.

A vast information including restaurants, organic and bio shops, fair trade brands, local markets, as well as organizations, institutions and other entities that promote respect and care for nature and society, will be showcased in the platform.

Furthermore, ECOMaps allows information to be updated by anyone, anytime, anywhere. Users will be able to navigate through a list of European cities, explore them, select specific categories, update an old place or introduce a new one. Additionally, explanations and comprehensive information on how certain choices affect our health, economy and environment will be incorporated on the website, therefore this platform will help eco-minded consumers and travellers, but also encourage all citizens to be more eco-friendly and supportive of the a green, low carbon and fair economy, which can bring a positive impact on a global scale. The ecomaps relies mainly on the contributions from dozens of volunteers and anyone can join. See how and stay tuned at ecomaps.eu.

actions and take lasting decisions for the common good. Their calls also reflect the key principles that Pope Francis raised when he met the environment ministers just a couple of weeks ago: solidarity with the most vulnerable and justice in solving the ecological debt and participation. Bernard Pinaud, Director of CCFD-Terre Solidaire and Vice-President of CIDSE, reminded during his intervention a key point of Laudato Si' and one that was taken on board by faith-based groups in their calls: there are not several crisis, but only one complex and systemic socio-environmental crisis.

They called the EU political leaders to step up efforts to overcome divisions between developed and developing countries, by contributing a fair share of global efforts and by providing financial technical support to the poorest and most vulnerable countries. These countries are not responsible for climate change and are already facing adaptation challenges and deadly losses and damages.

They called the EU to undertake long term action in developing measures for inspiring and engaging its citizens. Climate change policies must not be targeted only at industrial activities. Climate change is the result of an economic model that demands ever increasing consumption in our households and individual lives. This drive has to be addressed at its root and not just dealing with its consequences. Although science and technology play a significant role in responding to climate



change, relying on them alone will not be sufficient. Addressing ethical issues, educating and involving people are musts in climate programmes.

Catholic groups CIDSE and Caritas Europa also ask that the 1.5°C threshold is enshrined in a legally-binding global agreement, to realize the vision set by Laudato Si'. By ensuring that 1.5°C degree remains within our reach, the world community would show commitment to protect all vulnerable groups. Agreeing in Paris and beyond will only happen with putting aside our various private interests and by focusing on this challenge which we can only solve all together.



Confédération européenne des ONG  
d'urgence et de développement

# Report #EYD2015

## Policy Recommendations



our world  
our dignity  
our future



**2015**  
European Year  
for Development

### RESOURCES

Official EYD2015 website

Civil Society Alliance  
informational platform

European Year for  
Development materials

Civil Society Alliance  
communication toolkit

Hashtags: #EYD2015 +  
thematic tags  
(e.g. #genderequality)



## Policy Recommendations EYD2015 Civil Society Alliance

**DOWNLOAD ---> <http://bit.ly/10AvcvZ>**

*by Marius Wanders, Ambassador of  
the EYD2015 CSA and Member of  
the Board of CONCORD Europe*

In many ways, 2015 has been a quite  
remarkable milestone year

We all remember that at the start of  
this millennium, in the year 2000,  
the international community adop-  
ted an ambitious, shared global  
agenda aimed at eradicating poverty  
and inequality around the world:  
the Millennium Development Goals  
(MDGs). The MDGs were a set of  
eight global goals and 18 targets, all  
to be met by 2015. They were drawn  
up by government representatives  
using a rather top-down approach,  
and involved little consultation with  
citizens, civil society or other sta-  
keholders.

Even the greatest sceptic has to  
admit that a lot has been achieved.  
The spread of HIV and AIDS has  
been halted, and is even beginning  
to reverse. More children than ever  
before now have access to primary  
education. The number of women  
dying while giving birth has been  
dramatically reduced, as has the  
number of children dying before  
their fifth birthday.

But even the greatest optimist has  
to admit that, in many ways, the  
goals and targets set in 2000 have  
not been achieved. More than one  
billion people in the world still go  
to sleep hungry each night, a good  
deal of progress remains to be made  
on gender equality, inequality and  
discrimination are still rampant, and  
violent conflicts still fill our news

# Justice, democracy and diversity in our food systems

*By Nora McKeon, Terra Nuova*

Nora McKeon, is a representative of CONCORD Italia, Terra Nuova and a member of the European Food Security Group of CONCORD Europe. She is a former UN Food & Agriculture Organization civil society director, an expert on food issues, and the author of *Food Security Governance: Empowering Communities, Regulating Corporations*.

The issue of food security has climbed to the top of the international development agenda since the riots in capital cities around the world that accompanied the food price crisis of 2007-2008 sounded a wake-up call for the international community. The European Union and its member states have significant influence on global food policy. They could play an important role in defending the right to food of the world's population...if they do not drift with the tide of the corporate capture of the global food system.

The past two decades have witnessed the systematic introduction of international trade and investment regimes, which have reinforced the structural and discursive power of agri-food corporations and aggravated the impact of corporate food chains on small-scale producers and local food systems. A small number of multinational corporations have attained a level of concentration in production, processing and retailing stages that is unacceptable even in terms of orthodox economics.

The five largest traders in grains are estimated to control 75% of international grain trade, while the top three seed companies claim almost 50% of

bulletins every day.

The world is very different from when the MDGs were designed at the turn of the century. The threats associated with climate change have grown, inequality between and within countries has taken deeper root, and our economic system has been shown to serve the interests of the few and to be unsustainable in the long term. To respond to these complex global challenges, in 2015 the world is gearing up to start implementing a new, more ambitious common agenda for the next 15 years, building on the lessons learnt from the MDGs and the UN Rio+20 process, and addressing the root causes of poverty, inequality and unsustainability. Compared to the MDGs, a far more participatory global process has led to the formulation of these new global goals and their detailed targets.

This new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is universal, people-centred, indivisible and integrated in nature. It balances the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, the social and the environmental.

2015 was also remarkable because it was the European Year for Development

The idea for this European Year for Development (EYD) came from CONCORD. It was CONCORD that initiated, inspired and coordinated the lobbying of the relevant EU institutions to make it happen. Once the idea had been turned into a political reality, CONCORD had considerable – and substantial – input into shaping and preparing the year.

Recognizing CONCORD's pivotal role in the genesis of this special year, the EU institutions lent it their support in this project and invited it to convene and coordinate the

activities of a broad alliance of civil society actors, recognising them as a group of stakeholders that were essential to achieving the objectives of the European Year for Development. This EYD Civil Society Alliance succeeded in mobilising hundreds of very different organisations – from the social sector, the humanitarian sector, the environmental sector, the fair-trade sector, local authorities, youth movements, women's movements and many others – all of which felt that, in one way or another, there was something at stake for them in the European Year for Development. They all shared the belief that greater awareness and a stronger engagement of citizens across the EU were vital, in order to achieve their objectives and increase public ownership of development cooperation in the EU and its Member States.

As a tangible legacy of the partnership and cooperation between civil society organisations from many diverse sectors, and our year-long dialogue with and between citizens, we wish to anchor our involvement in this European Year in the following set of policy recommendations which we put to decision-makers around the world, in particular those within the European Union and its Member States.

The recommendations reflect the engagement of citizens, and their critical thinking, in the dialogue about development cooperation. On behalf of those hundreds of civil society organisations that took part in the activities of the European Year, and the millions of citizens across the Union that they are in touch with, this is what we humbly offer today as we celebrate 2015, the European Year for Development, in its closing ceremony.



# Catch a glimpse of Luxembourg: „Change the world by changing your perspective“

by Aneta Haimannova, *CONCORD Europe*

The European Year for Development 2015 put development issues into the spotlight, kicked up public discussion about Europe's role in poverty eradication worldwide and encouraged more Europeans to get involved. The year is now slowly coming to its end and the Civil Society Organizations together with EU policy makers gathered in the EYD2015 Civil Society Alliance event "Development is not about what Europe gives but how Europe lives" in Luxembourg on 9 December to discuss the lessons learned from their cooperation and ways to make the implementation and monitoring more efficient and move forward towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The event took place within the conference Responsibility to Act organized by Cercle de coopération des ONG de Développement de Luxembourg and Caritas Luxembourg. The EYD2015 CS Alliance's common work resulted in Policy Recommendations to decision-makers within the European Union and its Member States, and around the world, and they were presented during the event in Luxembourg by EYD2015 Project Ambassador Marius Wanders. The recommendations were handed over to the representatives of the European Commission and the Committee of the Regions in the event. In the discussion, the important role of local media and appropriate language in order to attract the attention of wider public were raised. Also, the success of collaboration

between different stakeholders throughout the year was highlighted. Speakers called upon the change of our perspectives on development and a video #myEYD2015: You can make a change created through collaboration of the EYD2015 sub-granting beneficiaries was launched.

Stina Soewarta, Head of Unit in DG DEVCO Communication and transparency, emphasized storytelling and cooperation of EU institutions and Civil Society as success factors of the European Year for Development 2015 and introduced a video Change your perspective: 3 Continents, 5 Countries, 10 Days

Thomas Ravn-Pedersen, Head of Secretariat and Editor-in-Chief in World's Best News, Denmark, especially called upon the revision of language used to communicate development issues. People are interested to hear good news and learn how they can contribute to the achievement of SGDs through their individual choices.

Johnny Sheehan, Project Coordinator for the EYD2015 at Dochas — the Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations — introduced their activities which took place during the year and Rilli Lappalainen, Secretary General of Kehys – The Finnish NGDO Platform to the EU – told about the challenges which the development organisations are currently facing in Finland.

Alexandrina Najmowicz, Director of European Civic Forum, representing Civil Society Europe stressed the importance of solidarity within Europe in order to rebuild the trust and cooperation in the EU.

the global proprietary seed market. Unjust trade rules force markets in food insecure countries to open up to unfair competition from abroad. The global corporate food regime promotes unsustainable consumption patterns and production methods and a race to the bottom in food provision. The financial speculation and the commodification of land, water and seeds that have accompanied the corporations' triumphal march is dispossessing small-scale producers and herding many into the flow of migrants-without-choice who are assailing the borders of Europe today.

The corporate sector's investment in agriculture in the global South has been marginal up to now. Their fuel-hungry agricultural production and food distribution regime is in crisis as we run up against the ecological limits of the planet. Yet over the past few years the agri-food corporations have been able to normalise themselves as aid actors under a development paradigm that focuses on "modernisation", productivism and narrowly-defined "effectiveness".

How to combat this trend? What public policies can lead us in the right direction? What approaches to food production and provision should we be promoting? Concord credits the EU with having adopted in 2010, in reaction to the food price crisis, an intelligent and progressive policy framework aimed at supporting the attainment of food security and the right to food in developing countries. This text, which remains the reference point for the EU's food security strategies, accents the need to support small-scale producers – responsible for some 70% of the food consumed in the world – defend their access to land, water and biodiversity, and ensure that more of the value added in food provision is retained in family farms and rural economies.

But this orientation risks being undercut by EU policy incoherencies, of which the Economic Partnership Agreements are only the most flagrant. The CAP continues to subsidise unsustainable large-scale commodity production while governments of

the global South are forbidden from supporting and protecting their own agriculture. DGAGRI pushes the notion that profits for European agribusiness can dovetail nicely with “promoting” African family farmers to becoming “modern entrepreneurs” despite eloquent evidence to the contrary from the objects of their attention.

Concord notes with concern the current tendency for the EU to shift from a rights-based, smallholder-oriented food security strategy towards a private sector-led approach to development, with the risk of joining the corporate-engaged chorus that extolls agribusiness as the paladin of food and nutrition security.

The 2014 Communication advocating A Stronger Role for the Private Sector in achieving Inclusive and Sustainable Growth in Developing Countries advocates regulatory environments in developing countries that are business-friendly rather than smallholder-friendly and the multiplication of public-private partnerships, despite a lack of evidence for their effectiveness in attaining development objectives. The EU participates in the G8 New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, which is distinguishing itself by pushing African governments to redesign land, seed, and investment policies to suit corporation interests, without the participation of national actors – an attack against the kind of democratic governance of which the EU portrays itself as a staunch defender.

What do European civil society organisations ask of the EU? That it withdraw from the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition. That it promote the establishment of robust regulatory frameworks to protect the rights and food security of the vulnerable, within which private sector actors must operate. That it implement the Maastricht Principles on Extraterritorial Obligations of States to protect people in third countries from human rights abuses by European investors. That it apply to its own operations the recommendations of the UN Committee on World Food

Ingo Ritz, Director of GCAP, called upon an improved conversation with private sector, and he also emphasized the successful cooperation and partnership between Civil Society and European Institutions during the year.

The event was moderated by Ian Hall, UK Director of EurActiv.com, and complemented with a [Live Twitter Streaming](#) facilitated by Chiara Patricolo, Human Rights and Solidarity Coordinator from European Student Unions. The streaming resulted to more than 250 posts, approx. 50 users contributing and over 800.000 impressions.

Click on the following [link](#) to see pictures from our event, capturing interventions and interaction between the speakers and the audience.

In Luxembourg on the same day, Ms. Leymah Gbowee gave an inspiring speech in the framework of the [Kapucinski Development Lecture](#). These events were followed by the official European Year for Development 2015 Closing Ceremony by Luxembourg Presidency. We invite you to watch the full [video recording](#) of the ceremony including the great speech of EYD2015 Project Ambassador Marius Wanders.

## One World Week 2015

By *National Youth Council of Ireland*

This year's theme was The Sustainable Development Goals and YOUTH where we view the new global agreement through the lens of the 5Ps - People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership. We also looked at the silent P that is Participation.

One World Week is a week of youth-led awareness raising, education and action that takes place throughout Ireland during the third week in November every year. During One World Week young people learn

about local and global justice issues and are empowered to take action to bring about positive change. Young people and those who work with young people from all over the country undertake activities from the education pack. Some organise public events, quizzes and debates, invite guest speakers or have intercultural evenings. Many groups publicly display the work they have done in preparation for One World Week, or lead other people in doing a public action.

For more information:

<http://www.oneworldweek.ie/>

## 3RD REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE EU-ARAB PARTNERSHIP



*by Barbara Caracciolo, Solidar*

From 30-31 October 2015, the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND), together with the Euro-Med Non-Governmental Platform and SOLIDAR, organised a two-day regional conference in Beirut, in order to discuss the ongoing challenges related to the EU-Arab Partnership, in the framework of the upcoming revision of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP).

The regional dialogue brought together around 80 participants from CSOs from the Arab region and Europe, including SOLIDAR members active in the MENA region, representatives from the Trade Unions and EU officials.

On 30 October 2015, the dialogue opened with the key challenges related to the revision of the ENP highlighting the necessity to take stock for socio-economic inequalities and stressing the necessity to prioritise the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs) at the heart of the revised policy in order to achieve peace, stability and prosperity. In this regard, Maciej Golubiewski, from the EU Delegation in Lebanon, pointed out at the major priorities in the upcoming revised policy, stressing the importance of a consistent human rights framework, and of building a real partnership that involves the citizens of both EU and partner countries.

MEP Pier Antonio Panzeri, Chair of the Delegation for the relations with Maghreb Countries, and member of the AFET Committee in the European Parliament insisted on the necessity to keep human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, at the top of the new policy and on the crucial role played by civil society in policy change. Similarly, MEP Richard Howitt discus-

sed the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy insisted on the challenges related to the application of human rights conditionality in bilateral agreements, insisting on the necessity that the new action plan should take concrete actions to develop and implement human rights criteria. You can read the full speech, [here](#).

Finally MEP Cecilia Kyenge, Member of the LIBE Committee, spoke about the role of the European Parliament in tackling the on-going refugee “crisis”, stressing the need to find a comprehensive migration policy that aims at protecting and upholding the rights of all migrants. This can be achieved by promoting the opening of safe and legal channel for migration, including humanitarian admissions, enhancing the cultural, socio-economic developmental potential of migration, and starting by finding a political solution to the conflict in Syria. Raffaella Bolini from ARCS presented the recent work of the SOLIDAR Advisory Group on Migration.

In addition, the regional dialogue saw the participation of Trade Unions representatives that shed light on the urgent issues to be tackled in order to ensure the social dimension of the new policy, including decent work and social protection policies, and organizing undocumented labor. In particular, Sergio Bassoli from CGIL, Mustapha Tlili from the Arab Trade Union Confederation (ATUC), and Kacem Afaya from the UGTT insisted on the urgency for the new policy to enable cooperation between trade unions and CSOs in order to ensure the sustainability of the new policy in designing and delivering sustainable socio-economic policies that are inclusive and foster citizen's participation.

The first day of the conference was also an opportunity for SOLIDAR

Security, the only global food policy forum in which small-scale food producers are in the room on the same footing as governments. In a word, that it honour its commitments to human rights and to Policy Coherence for Development, to the values that make us proud to be Europeans. Food and nutrition security will be a key topic under discussion at the event organised by civil society at the Milan EXPO on 28-29 October in the context of the European Year for Development 2015. The objective of the discussion in Milan is to inform European citizens about the current situation of global food provision, the actors and the interests involved, and identify the messages that should be at the heart of advocacy addressed to the European authorities.

## Civil society and the European Year for Development 2015

*by Marina Sarli, CONCORD*

Civil society organisations must apply the lessons learned from the 2015 Year of Development, starting by clarifying and communicating their message effectively, writes Marina Sarli.

Marina Sarli is a board member of CONCORD Europe and President of Fair Trade Hellas.

Citizens and representatives from Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) from across Europe were invited to an open debate with thematic workshops at the “You can make a change – Sustainable Development 2.0” conference in Milan on 28 and 29 October. The aim of this conference was to address, on one hand, the principle of ‘Universality’ of the new UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



framework in specific areas such as migration and food security, and on the other hand, the complementary actors in the implementation of the new SDG framework, such as local authorities and the private sector. One very clear message resulted from the two day event: the development sector must communicate its work in a better way if we want to be regarded as effective actors by society and provoke deeper engagement and commitment from citizens.

“Communication” is one of the four words I retained in the days’ conclusions. In fact, I could resume the whole day through a line connecting four words starting with the letter C. Concepts: we need to simplify the concepts behind complex issues and to change not only the narrative driving our work, but also to clarify the connections between global issues and their local relevance in Europe. We should be brave and change our point of view. The migrant crisis offers an ideal dramatic field to turn upside down not only policies on migration and on development but also our perspectives: migrants are not ‘a problem’, migrants have a problem. Migration is not a problem that affects us; it is a problem that affects them. There is huge potential for strengthening our values of solidarity, respect and justice in our society as strong as the dangerous threat of losing them.

Complexity: we are not alone. We need “alliances and partnerships”. A multi-stakeholder approach is needed and we, as CSOs, have to find our place and role not only as implementers of actions and activities but also as watchdogs and policy shapers. In this frame, the workshops on Local Authorities and the Private Sector in Development offered several critical incentives for reflection. Let’s be honest: things become even more complex when we have to plan and work to share our vision, to relate to people coming from different sectors. But only through this complexity will we reach a holistic view that improves the effectiveness of our work.

Coherence: everything has already been said on different occasions on

members and partners to present the preliminary results of the Social Protection Monitoring reports for the European Neighbourhood Policy for Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine and to address the regional trends and commonalities affecting the region.

On 31 October, the regional dialogue focused on the challenges related to the Public-Private- Partnerships (PPPs) and EU energy policies in the region, with the participation of SOLIDAR partner in Egypt, Mohamed Adel from the Egyptian Center for Economic and Social Rights.

On the same day, SOLIDAR participated at a parallel conference organised by the Global Progressive Forum (GPF), the Party for Europe-

an Socialists (PES) and S&D Group on “Addressing the Root Causes of the Refugee Crisis”, and organised a visit to the activities of ARCS and ANND partners in Shatila Refugee Camp for Gianni Pittella, President of the S&D Group.

On the same day, SOLIDAR organised a SOLIDAR members and strategic partners meeting share practices and experiences around the ongoing work of SOLIDAR members’ and partners around the Syria conflict. This meeting was attended by MPDL, ARCS, ApS, CGIL, Norwegian People’s Aid, Solidarité Laique, UGTT, and ANND.

## The European Neighbourhood Policy



by Barbara Caracciolo - Solidar

Today the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, Federica Mogherini, together with Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, Johannes Hahn presented issued the joint communication with the review of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) to the members of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the

European Parliament.

The new policy aims tend to shift away from an EU-centered approach towards more strengthened and equal partnerships to tackle common challenges and seize common opportunities in the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood. Whilst the communication addresses the common challenges on socio-economic development, youth employability, good governance, democracy and rule of law, SOLIDAR is concerned about the strong focus given to “hard” security, both

declined in the energy and migration sectors, instead of investing in social protection contributing to social and economic stability.

Also, despite referring to the universality and indivisibility of human rights and the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy, it needs to be more specified how human rights conditionality will be implemented. Lastly, despite mentioning support to CSO fora, the recognition of the role of civil society in bringing about transformative change, defined in the Agenda 2030, requires a stronger focus.

This communication comes after the conclusion of a CSO dialogue that brought together 70 civil society organisations from the Middle East and North Africa region and Europe, that was organised on 16 November by CONCORD, Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) and the EuroMed Non-Governmental Platform, hosted by the European Economic and Social Committee, in preparation of the launch of the reviewed European Neighbourhood Policy.

The dialogue clearly highlighted that investing in young people, working together in providing them better socio-economic future perspectives, was considered to be one of the 'mainstream' points – together with a strong gender perspective – to promote sustainable and inclusive development throughout the region and that the reviewed ENP should take close to its heart, and hence we welcome the reference in the joint communication given to youth and socio-economic rights of women. In order to put these principles into practice, the civil society organisations participating at the dialogue recommend the following elements upon which the new partnership between the EU and the countries in the region can be build:

- Uphold values and Human Rights, including human rights con-

ditionality, against which systems to promote reform in the MENA region, supported by the EU, will be evaluated.

- Support the statutory role of civil society that needs to be recognised as key interlocutor for an open, meaningful, transparent, structured dialogue on local, national, regional and EU level.

- Enhance the role of civil society allowing them to have a meaningful and concrete impact on the ground, especially by taking concrete actions against practices by partner countries that limit the space for civil society in the region.

- Embrace the human security approach: Security is not about barbed wire, but it is about investing in people, especially in education, decent jobs, social protection and to foster the sense of solidarity among people.

- Migrants and refugees: A set of mechanisms needs to be taken such as humanitarian corridors, tackling root causes of migration, and other efforts. Moreover political courage of EU member states is needed to provide suitable answers to the current crisis.

- Trade and investment: A real partnership, in light of the EU Agenda 2030, should be established to ensure policy coherence for sustainable development. This would necessitate a change in the underlying approach of the trade agreements (i.e. DCFTAs).

- Specific attention has to be dedicated to people with special needs, in particular Persons With Disabilities (PWDs), to ensure their integration in society as well as participation in decision making processes.

this issue. We have to keep high on our agenda our policy makers' commitment to implementing coherent policies. Only this can guarantee a radical systemic shift towards the sustainable development we all envision under the new SDG framework. But we have to go a step forward and put coherence in our lives, moving towards that paradigm shift that changes our individual lives and influences community life, creating a real positive impact. An impact that becomes a change.

Communication: we need better internal communication to improve the effectiveness of our networks, alliances and partnerships as well as stronger external communication. Most importantly, we need to bring citizens with us: show them evidence of our work and engage them in building a society of solidarity and respect for human rights as recommended by the EYD 2015 Civil Society Alliance event in Milan.

One year ago, when the EYD was announced, I was invited to a conference in Rome and I tested something: I asked the audience in the room to raise a hand if participants knew which European Year we were going through in 2015.

Very few hands were raised at that time.

In one year, the Civil Society Alliance (through the EYD project) has organised several events touching important themes for the development sector: issues that are relevant for us and our work but also out there for the wider society, issues that are as burning as hot potatoes at social and political level.

National, local and European institutions have interacted with CSOs to build more efficient ways to reach out to citizens, but this is only the beginning: only by involving people and making them aware of what are we talking about will give us the legitimacy to speak in their name and therefore reach higher consensus for the policies we demand.

Because only consensus that becomes political opinion brings about political change.

This European Year for Development

2015 focused on an important communication and awareness raising campaign.

“Diversity is richness”: CONCORD and the Civil Society Alliance – including many Civil society Organisations from sectors other than development – made a very small part but planted a seed that will bear important fruit: first among them a new way to communicate the world of development cooperation starting from the statement “development is not how much we give but how we live”.

As said by Ms Orsola De Castro, co-founder of the Fashion Revolution movement “yes, even fashion is political!”

We will do our best to get EYD 2015 policy recommendations recognised as an important tool that will be finalised in November and presented during the closing conference of the European Year for Development 2015 ahead of the Informal meeting of Development Cooperation ministers in Luxemburg. We will make them an important tool for dialogue with our EU, national and local institutions. The goal of this EYD is that if in January 2016 you ask people to raise their hand if they know which European Year has just ended, more hands will be raised.

And those hands raised will measure the first step of a process of engagement and commitment; individual commitment that becomes political and ethical positioning in society. The kind of individual commitment that can really change our world in a better way.

“You can make a change – Sustainable Development 2.0.” This key event was organised by CONCORD and the Civil Society Alliance on 28 and 29 October 2015, in the frame of the European Year for Development 2015.

- In the management of the humanitarian crisis more support has to be provided to civil society (i.e. grassroots organisations) to promote a sustainable resilience agenda over the long term.

SOLIDAR and its members and partners in the region have publi-

shed seven country reports on the European Neighbourhood Policy for Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Palestine, Lebanon, Egypt and Jordan. Please read SOLIDAR Policy Briefing “Social Protection: Key for Peace and Prosperity in the Middle East and North Africa Region”.

## Migration and Development Perspectives to the Mediterranean Crisis



by *CYINDEP*

Our third official event, a public lecture on European Year for Development 2015 with title ‘Migration and Development Perspectives to the Mediterranean Crisis’, was held at Monday night, 9th of November, 2015 at B108 Amphitheater of University of Cyprus (Anastasios Leventis Building) with great success. More than 55 people coming from different backgrounds (including officials from Embassies and ministries) attended, discussing on the important topic of Migration and the impact of it on the greater Mediterranean region, thus contributing to the problems of an already turbulent region of the world. The lecture was organised within the

framework of The European Year for Development 2015 and the EU thematic month dedicated to Demography and Migration, by CYINDEP (Cyprus Island-wide NGO Development Platform) and CARDET, in association with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, University of Cyprus and International Organisation for Migration Cyprus. Speeches were made by Mr. Socrates Hasikos, Minister of Interior and Mrs Laura Thompson, Deputy Director General of the International Organisation for Migration. Interpretation was offered into English and Greek and guests were invited to a small reception after the end of the lecture.



# Screening the World- Documentary Film Projections



by CYINDEP

Within the framework of the national program of Cyprus for the European Year for Development (EYD 2015), documentary film screenings entitled: 'Screening the World - Documentary Film Projections' will run island-wide in order to raise awareness to international development and all its dimensions. The documentary projections will feature 11 films based around the EYD2015 thematic months such as Women and Girls, Sustainable Growth and Fair Trade, Education, Food Security, Children and Youth and Demography and Migration. The documentaries will be screened in six settings from October 16th – November 28th, 2015. The opening event was under the auspices of Mr. Costas Kadis, Minister of Education and Culture and was held on October 16th at 18:00 in the Cine Studio at the University of Nicosia, Cyprus. The Minister took also the opportunity to announce and hand the prizes of the EYD Production of Movie school competition, held

among Cypriot lyceums during the past school year. The projections were inaugurated by Greek MEP Mr. Stelios Kouloglou, Vice-Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Development (DEVE), who also introduced the featured documentary 'Seeds of Freedom'. The documentary was shown in conjunction with World Food Day. The projections will then travel to Larnaka, Pafos, Paralimni, Limassol and Agros. The projections are free and open to the public. For documentary synopsis and screening times, please visit [www.cyindep.org](http://www.cyindep.org). 2015 is a special year within the EU as it has been designated as the European Year for Development (EYD 2015). It is the first European Year to deal with the European Union's external actions and Europe's role in the world. Under the coordination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cyprus' national programme for EYD 2015 is implemented by CYINDEP (Cyprus Island-wide NGO Development Platform), in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture.

## Seamus Jeffreson: EU leaders divert aid money at our peril

by *Euractiv*

If, instead of providing billions to Turkey to stop refugees, EU leaders had supported the countries hosting them three years ago, with a fraction of these funds, Europe and the world would be better off now, Seamus Jeffreson told EurActiv in an exclusive interview.

Seamus Jeffreson is Director of CONCORD, the European confederation of Relief and Development NGOs. CONCORD is made of 28 national associations, 20 international networks and 3 associate members that represent over 2,600 NGOs, supported by millions of citizens across Europe.

He spoke to EurActiv's Senior Editor Georgi Gotev.

Was the European Year of Development successful? Its aim was to bring development to the attention of the general public, not just in Brussels but in the member states. What was achieved?

I think one of the achievements was that we made a real link with these global processes, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals. And the link that we made was with other civil society organisations, not directly involved in development, but talking about common themes.

What we tried to do at Concord, as the development NGO network, was to try to involve the other civil society networks in this European Year for Development, and I think that was a big success. This is because we got together with some of the other networks – youth, the women's lobby, the disability forum, the social platform,

and obviously environmental NGOs – throughout the year, and has a very good conversation about common agendas.

The glue that put that all together was the SDGs. We asked ourselves at the very beginning of the European Year what success would look like. One of the things we thought would constitute success was if we made or reinforced lasting alliances and relationships. I can confidently say that into 2016 and beyond, we will be working with those same alliances on some of the questions we started addressing in the European Year for Development. So that was a big success.

Another success was about what we call “the narrative”: what development is about. We had two big conferences, where what we looked at was, essentially, consumption in Europe and its relationship to the rest of the world.

So we had a number of projects looking at, for example, where we buy clothes and the impact that has on other parts of the world, mobile phones and conflict minerals, and these sorts of issues. And I think that was a rather fresh way of looking at our sector. It took us beyond the charity “sponsor a child” narrative, to an understanding that it is not just by giving to charities or demonstrating that we make choices or that we are aware of our impact on other parts of the world, but it is through our consumer choices that we can have a positive impact. And I know that has been done before 2015, but I felt there was a lot of activity around that in the conferences we did, and in some of our sub-grants.

My third and last point is that, as you said, a lot has had to happen, not just in Brussels, but around the EU, and I think there were many examples of different countries in Europe trying to engage with this topic. We started the EYD in Riga, under the Latvian Presidency, and throughout the year, there have been voices and stories and projects from different parts of Europe, with their own understand-

## Winning team of Cyprus EYD 2015 Youth Documentary Film competition in Brussels



by *CYINDEP*

Within the framework of the National EYD 2015 programme in Cyprus, in spring 2015 a challenging call for a competition was put out to all lyceums both public and private asking for teams of five students to produce a short film concerning one of the thematic months under EYD2015. Submitted films covered a wide range of themes related to the idea of international development and included particularly EYD themes such as Health, Women and Girls, Sustainable Development, Human Rights, Sustainable Growth, Decent Jobs and Businesses, Education. The winning team was from Lyceum of Giannakis Taliotis, Geroskipou in Paphos with their film ‘MyTomorrow’. The winning team received a three night/four day educational trips to Brussels. The team consisted of 5 students, Christofi Evlampia, Tsangara Lamprini, Christiana Faye Constandinou, Zavros Savvas, Stylianos Loukas and

their teacher Theodorou Franginos. During their stay in Brussels, they visited Cypriot MEPs, Permanent Representation of the Republic of Cyprus to the EU in Brussels, European Commission, European Parliament and European Council. CYINDEP, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education and Culture would like to thank all of the lyceums in Cyprus that submitted a film for this competition. We would also like to thank Mr. Marios Stylianos and his teams from MS Viewpoint for his expertise and collaboration during this competition. Great thanks we owe to the amazing staff of Permanent Representation of the Republic Cyprus to the EU in Brussels for their contribution in arranging this field visit. The school team was announced winners on 16th of October in Nicosia, Cyprus, during the inauguration of the EYD Cyprus Documentaries series ‘Screening the World’.



# Insight 2015 documentary



by Deborah Conlon, *Development Perspectives*

Development Perspectives have just released their Insight 2015 documentary. The Insight programme is designed to challenge and engage people in examining issues relating to development, whether it's climate change, poverty or any of the other issues that affect them and

other people across the globe. This documentary follows the learning journey over 8 months of a group of Irish and Tanzanians taking part in this transformative experience. Insight 2016 is now open for application at [www.developmentperspectives.ie/insight](http://www.developmentperspectives.ie/insight)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKxjFdByDEI>

## SERBIAN YOUTH WORKERS ON A STUDY VISIT TO SLOVENIA



ding of the issues of development and Europe's relationship with the rest of the world. In our project, we certainly involved a lot of member states from Eastern Europe, and we even had a lot of project partners from outside the member states, in Serbia for example, which I think was a good thing. We have often been quite a Western European-focused community, so this was a success.

You will probably have an easier time communicating the SDGs now that more people are aware of what they are about.

Yes, I think so, but the communication of the SDGs is still a huge battle! But it was very appropriate to use the EYD to link to this global process, which we all hope will interest people a little bit more, and that people will become more involved in it. People have become very involved in the climate change talks, and there has been a lot of media attention, and we have also had some of that in the European Year for Development. We tried to echo some of these wider processes.

What do you see as the missed opportunities or the developments that negatively affected your work? One thing that comes to my mind is that the EU is going through difficult times with the refugee crisis, and we hear a lot about development funding being diverted. How serious is this?

It is very serious, there is no doubt about that. What had been positive about the EYD is that we do talk a lot about root causes, and our whole narrative on the debate about using aid budgets on the migration issue is that we should be using those aid budgets to look at the root causes of migration, not to meet the costs of dealing with refugees in Europe. Of course we must still do this, but not from the aid budget. This is robbing Peter to pay Paul. It is short-termism. But the EYD has been an opportunity to underline the root causes of this issue.

We have managed not to be pushed off track, while people have been



asking whether development is really relevant in our current context – there is still austerity in Europe, there is Greece and so on. But, with the issue of the diversion of aid towards migration costs, we have been able to bring the debate round to the root causes of migration and look at the external policy we need to tackle these. So I wouldn't see that as a missed opportunity, but as the beginning of a long debate.

What would you like to say to the highest European authorities?

That we divert aid money at our peril, and that we will come back in three years' time and regret it. If we had been focusing on the conflict in Syria three years ago, if we had been supporting the counties that are hosting those populations three years ago with a fraction of what we are now talking about, and what we have now provided to Turkey, we may not be where we are now. If we had followed up the military intervention in Libya with real political, diplomatic and aid attention, as we should have done, we may not have been in the situation we are currently in.

So I think we often come back to regret those topics we did not deal with in the early stages of a crisis. It is always easy to look back in hindsight, but it is our job to say what we should have done. If we do that again, and we decide to cut our aid programme to Central Africa, to stop paying for projects we want to do in Kenya, then in three or four years' time we will see that this will again become an issue.

But there were NGOs active on the ground in those camps, not only in Turkey. I find it quite disappointing that we do not talk much about Lebanon or Jordan, but there were a lot of indications that the funds were getting scarce, and indeed that is what happened. The NGOs were clearly not being heard.

Our voice was clearly not heard, but it was there. I was in Jordan. That is what I was doing before I came here,

*By Petar Djurovic, Aid Watch Serbia*

Association People's Parliament, in cooperation with Slovenian NGDO platform for development cooperation and humanitarian aid, organized study visit to Slovenia for 10 youth workers from Serbia. The event was organized in Slovenia, in Ljubljana and Celje, from 1st to 4th of December 2015. During the study visit, participants have visited seven civil society organizations which are active in the field of development cooperation and development education; then they have visited youth center in Celje where they could learn more about their activities connected to development cooperation and activities with young volunteers on local and international level, and at last they

had a meeting with local decision makers from Youth Department of Municipality of Ljubljana. All these meetings were great opportunity for participants to learn more about global development and global education activities those organizations implemented through numerous projects, but also an opportunity to connect youth organizations from Serbia with Slovenian development NGO's community and indirectly with other CONCORD members. Study visit was organized within the project "Balancing the mindset of youth work in Serbia - from aid receivers to global development supporters" supported by European Commission under the CONCORD project EYD2015 Civil Society Alliance

## Fashion Revolution publishes White Paper



*by Orsola De Castro, Fashion Revolution*

Fashion Revolution launched its first white paper in Brussels, "It's Time for a Fashion Revolution", setting out the need for more transparency

across the fashion industry, from seed to waste.

The paper contextualises Fashion Revolution's efforts, the organisation's philosophy and how the public, the industry, policymakers and others around the world can work

towards a safer, cleaner, more fair and beautiful future for fashion. As well as describing the present social and environmental impact of the fashion industry, considered to be the second most polluting industry in the world and one of the most labour intensive, the Fashion Revolution White Paper highlights hopes for a fashion future that will provide real answers and innovative supply chain solutions.

By 2020 the vision is for a fashion industry where demand for sustainable practices and ethically made clothes is endemic, where brands and retailers are united in magnifying transparency throughout the entire supply chain, and where makers, farmers and producers are proudly visible and appreciated for their work making our clothes. “Whether you are someone who buys and wears fashion (that’s pretty much everyone) or you work in the industry along the supply chain somewhere or if you’re a policymaker who can have an impact on legal requirements, you are accountable for the impact fashion has on people’s lives. Our vision is is a fashion industry that values people, the environment, creativity and profit in equal measure.” explained Sarah Ditty on behalf of Fashion Revolution. Carry Somers, co-founder of Fashion Revolution, said “Most of the public is still not aware that human and environmental abuses are endemic across the fashion and textiles industry and that what they’re wearing could have been made in an exploitative way. We don’t want to

wear that story anymore. We want to see fashion become a force for good”.

Transparency isn’t just a technical word, it isn’t merely about the mechanical understanding of where our clothes are being made and out of what raw materials: it is the first step in humanising fashion.

Transparency is a journey, populated by human stories - this is why it matters - because there are people who are being affected, negatively and positively, by the effects that this industry has on their daily lives.

Transparency is not an abstract concept, on the contrary, it is the storytelling that defines everything we wear (everything we buy in fact), and therefore us, our choices and our individual impact on society. The White Paper launch took place in Brussels at a joint event with the Fairtrade Advocacy Office, hosted by Arne Leitz, Member of the European Parliament, to mark the European Year for Development. Co host Sergi Cobalan from the Fairtrade Advocacy Office clearly stated that the EU should provide support so that an integrated approach from cotton farmer to consumer can become a reality, whilst Dr Roberto Ridolfi, Director at the European Commission Directorate-General for Development and Cooperation, proudly announced “My ambition, as of tomorrow, is to become a Fashion Revolutionary!”

[You can download the White Paper pdf from this link](#)

and I remember exactly what you are talking about. UN appeals from the FAO and the WFP asked for basic things for refugees inside Syria, at the time when it could still be delivered, but also in Jordan and Lebanon, and they struggled to fulfil those appeals – from the EU but from other donors as well, including the Gulf States.

The EU likes to say it is the biggest donor, but it wasn’t really up to the task there. We hear this fact being recognised, but it seems that nobody is to blame.

You said it yourself: NGOs have been quite vocal in identifying areas of need and in seeking support. The message now is that we should avoid doing that again. If we need to spend money on supporting the refugees that have made it to Europe, as we so clearly do, let’s not take that from budgets that we need to tackle to root causes not only of migration, but also of insecurity and climate change. We need to find other sources of revenue.

That is the big issue, because budgets are getting scarce. I understand that even the EU is struggling to find the money pledged to Turkey. They pledged it, but where is it? Member states have to deliver most of it, but most of them don’t know where it will come from. Is innovative finance the answer?

That is very interesting, and we will look at it. At the very beginning of the EYD, I participated in a very interesting event. It was a lunch given by the Latvian foreign minister for all the EU foreign ministers, and I was speaking, so as a civil society representative I also received an invitation. We were given a speech by the OECD, which said that money is not the problem; the problem is political will.

We could argue about that, but there is also a lot to it. It is not that the finances do not exist in the system. If we want to save banks, we can find the money to do it. The money is there, so it is a question of political will.



I am going to a side event at the COP21 in Paris, where one of the issues that will make or break an agreement is climate financing. Many of our members have argued for a long time for a Financial Transaction Tax to slow down the sort of “casino” investments and to use some of the revenue from that for climate change mitigation and development in some of the poorest countries.

Europe has a carbon trading system to try to put a tax and a price on carbon. We think the revenue from that should also go to those countries that have had the least to do with causing climate change but are suffering the most. So I don't think there is a shortage of innovative ideas for financing, but we need the political will to do it. And it is really a short cut and a short-termist attitude to just take money from the aid budget, and use that for a purpose other than the one it was designed for.

Of course everybody is thinking about what needs to be done to contain the refugee crisis, but there is a school of thought that says we have this refugee crisis because, maybe thanks to development, there is a middle class that is able to come our way. Is this a valid judgement?

It means we can't win either way. Either people will say that development doesn't work, or they will say, yes it works, but now look at the mess you have made! We can't win.

What is true is that in a globalised world, people are mobile in a way that they have not been before. As Angela Merkel has quite rightly said, we cannot go back to walls and barriers, this is not the response. We now live in this globalised world, we live in a world where people travel, and we now need to look for other ways of dealing with that. It is not about going back to wall-building and trying to stop people.

As we see, if people want to get somewhere, they will get there. They will find a way. So we need to adapt to

## Inclusive Education as the key for the success of Nicaragua as a community with equal rights



by Alba Gonzalez, CBM

Including children with disabilities in Education has a positive impact in a community. It endorses diversity and respect for human rights as it spreads from children to their families, local authorities and to national governments; as such national governments need to be aware of this impact. An example of this approach is seen in CBM's collaboration with the Association of Integral Programmes in Community Education Astrid Delleman (ASOPIE-CAD), Nicaragua. The collaboration began in 2006, with the purpose of promoting the rights of children with disabilities from an early age based on Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) principles. Children with disabilities are often exposed to stigma and exclusion, some even on a daily basis, and this even from their own families, who do not see the value of sending their children with disabilities to school. The CBR approach, as described

by the World Health Organisation (WHO), has a multi-sectoral strategy that empowers persons with disabilities to access and benefit from education, employment, health and social services, aims to include children with disabilities in mainstream education as well as to create schools for children with disabilities with specific needs. To complement this, CBM advocates for a Twin-Track approach in Education, this means mainstreaming disability in school and empowering children with disabilities. CBM, through its partners has also successfully provided training to teachers and families on how to promote the inclusion of children with disabilities in all aspects of community life. In 2012 through the CBM and ASOPIE-CAD partnership, 561 children with disabilities were included in their local and social environment by accessing mainstream education. Family support has had a double impact on the inclusion of children with disabilities in the com-



munity: on the one hand, families can encourage other families with children with disabilities to include their children into mainstream schools, and on the other hand they can advocate more strongly for their children's rights at a political level. In addition, CBM provided vocational training for young people with disabilities; training in inclusive education for pre-school and kindergarten teachers, and courses in sign language for teachers and families. This work has led to collaboration with local authorities for the implementation of the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) in Nicaragua.

Maria Nazareth, a 10 year old girl with Down Syndrome from Juigalpa, Nicaragua, is proof of the success of the project. With the support of her family, she goes to a regular primary school and she is part of the community. CBM and its partner ASOPIECAD, have supported Maria and her family, strengthening their capacities in order to include Maria in their local community and sup-

porting her to attend the community school. Currently, Maria's mother is supporting and encouraging other families to include their children through sharing her experience with them. This is only one of the examples by which CBR demonstrates its value for moving from a medical approach to a human rights approach which regards the rights of persons with disabilities.

The European Union (EU) is the first regional body to sign and ratify the UN CRPD, demonstrating its commitment to the rights of persons with disabilities. It is also the biggest donor in International Cooperation, promoting an inclusive approach to its development projects. The fact that the EU was the biggest contributor to the Global Partnership for Education last year, where the need of including children with disabilities in Education was highlighted by a large number of speakers and participants, demonstrates the political will of the EU in order to establish a quality and inclusive Education for all.

## Sustainable growth through disability-inclusive labour market



globalisation and the way the world now works. We have done a lot of work over the years on migration and development, and one of the things we have said is that we need to be much more reasonable about opening legal and dignified channels of migration. Apparently we can do it for Turkey, all of a sudden!

We have also always said that if people want to stay in their own place and for their children to be educated and grow up using the language of their parents and grandparents, we should do more to allow that to happen by stimulating the economy locally, through prioritising support for small-scale farmers and so on, so people don't feel that they have no economic or social opportunities where they live. We can't pull up the drawbridge, go back to 1850 and say we will stop people from moving. People are going to move, there is a free flow of information, there is a growing middle class, which is a good thing.

We need to be much more rational about legal avenues of migration, which we know we need in Europe. There is a care sector that is ballooning with an ageing population and nobody to look after them. And finally, we need to do better for the people who don't want to migrate, but want to stay where they live – which is the vast majority of us in the EU and everyone else – and ask ourselves what we can do to make their lives better.

Any worries about the political developments in Europe? I am thinking particularly about the French regional elections.

Yes, I think that is very worrying. I read a piece in Le Monde that said, yes, the National Front is in the second round of the elections in all these regions, they stand a good chance of coming to power in some of them, and now it is time to look at their programme, to examine what they are saying they want to do.

But when you look at their programme, and the programmes of some of the other extreme right parties in Europe, it just doesn't make sense. It doesn't add up. They do not provide the answers that we can go back to. So I think that the prospectus they are offering voters, who are very upset and disturbed by the situation that they see: year after year of austerity and no way out. I can see why people are frustrated but I don't think that the policy solutions being offered are in any way the answer, so I think it is very worrying. We see this very much in the development sector, where on a member state level there have been proposals for big cuts in aid budgets from countries that traditionally have been very supportive internationally, like the Scandinavian countries and the Netherlands.

The push factor is of course that in many national governments, there are far right parties, nationalist parties, xenophobic parties.

Absolutely. We tend to focus on those voices that are calling for the cutting of aid budgets and so on. I believe they are still a minority, even if they now have quite an influential position, either inside or outside government, propping up governments with their votes.

One of the things we have tried to do, going back to the EYD, was to present positive voices. On the migration issue, one thing we all have to do more is to listen to the positive experiences of the migrant and diaspora communities that are now very much a part of our societies. People don't hear that enough. People hear about terrorist attacks carried out by migrants and they think this has to stop. People don't hear about migrant communities – and if you look back through the generations, you will see that none of us are too distant from migrant communities – and the positive contribution that they make.

So yes, it is very worrisome, but I think there is another narrative there, and we shouldn't underestimate the

by CBM

Exclusion in work and employment is frequently the consequence of marginalization in health or education of those people who have to face vulnerable situations, such as persons with disabilities, according to the report “The economic costs of exclusion and gains of inclusion of people with disabilities”, published by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine with the support of CBM.

Inclusion of persons with disabilities in the labour market is about human rights. Article 27 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) “recognizes the right of persons with disabilities to work, on an equal basis with others; this includes the right to the opportunity to gain a living by work freely chosen or accepted in a labour market and work environment that is open, inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities”.

In addition, it is a proven fact that inclusion in employment can increase individual and household income, and this has an impact on society by increasing labour productivity, profits and business. Inclusion of persons with disabilities can improve diversity, skills and the general work environment. The study “Disability in the Workplace: Company Practices” developed by the International Labour Organisation shows that employing people with disabilities can increase morale and teamwork among all staff, which in turn can increase productivity. Due to these reasons, employment of persons with disabilities is one of the top priorities of CBM, which works with its partners to reduce barriers to employment for persons with disabilities in low-income countries worldwide. In 2014, CBM directly contributed towards voca-

tional training and skills development in mainstream and disability specific training programmes of 38,474 people, and the employment in the formal and informal sector of 92,080 men and women with disabilities.

For instance, the collaboration between CBM and the Association for the Physically Disabled of Kenya (APDK) allows Chaka Tsuma to develop his skills. After an accident at his previous job, Chaka Tsuma needed the support of his mother for the daily living activities. Chaka filed civil proceedings against his former employer and the compensation from the suit allowed Chaka to buy a piece of land and construct a decent home and shop. After several microloans, Chaka now manages a shop which generates benefits for himself, his mother and his wife. Through his success, Chaka has earned the respect of others in the community and helped change perceptions about the capabilities of people with disabilities.

However, according to some estimates such as UN Enable, 80 to 90% of persons with disabilities are not participating in the labour market, and this situation can be even worse for women with disabilities who find more difficulties to access employment opportunities and who often earn significantly less than men doing similar jobs. The role of the European Union, as first regional body on signing and ratifying the UN CRPD as well as the biggest donor in International Cooperation, can encourage the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the labour market, ensuring an economic and social impact which will contribute to the sustainable development of the whole society.

# Discover and vote the 18 journalistic reportages

by *Andrea Micconi, COP*

Since the beginning of December 2015 it is possible to discover and appreciate the 18 reportages (6 realised by Italian journalists, 6 by Catalans journalists and 6 by French journalists) winners of the Dev Reporter Grant, an initiative launched in January 2015 within the European project Dev Reporter Network.

Realised by independent journalists in several countries of the world, with the support of Ngos and other international cooperation actors based in the Piedmont Region (Italy), in Catalan Region (Spain) and in Rhone-Alpes Region (France), the reportages have been selected with the aim to improve the quality of communication and information about development, through the concrete collaboration between medias and the sector of International cooperation.

On this basis, the project has been creating a network of journalists and development professionals in order to implement exchange opportunities, training, international meetings, etc, and to share deep thoughts and strategies aimed at improving information to the European public about issues related to human development, following a strategy able to have an influence, both in the short and in the long term.

The reportages and documentaries produced by the 18 “transformative communication” projects financed by the Dev Reporter Network are now available on line at <http://devreporternetwork.eu/it/les-reportages-gagnants/> and the public is invi-

ted to discover and appreciate them, giving a simple vote of preference which will bring to the election of the 3 most appreciated ones (one per Region), while a technical jury will analyse each work considering the criteria established by the Call for Proposals launched in January 2015.

The best journalistic reportages will be awarded in the occasion of the Dev Reporter Network final forum, which will take place in Barcelona at the beginning of February 2016. Stay tuned on [www.devreporter-network.eu](http://www.devreporter-network.eu)

Dev Reporter is an interregional network (Catalonia, Rhône-Alps and Piemonte) of journalists, university graduates and communication professionals of the area of International Solidarity (IS), created thanks to an DEAR European project (DCI-NSAPVD / 2012 / 279-805) aiming to work for the dismantlement of stereotypes and to improve media information about development cooperation and its challenges. The project is realised by the COP - Consortium of Piedmont Ngos, the Catalan Federation of NGOs and Resacoop. For more information: [cop@ongpiemonte.it](mailto:cop@ongpiemonte.it)

<http://devreporternetwork.eu/it/les-reportages-gagnants/>

proportion of the general public that still very much supports good causes and keeps paying year in and year out, our members that still get contributions from their supporters at Christmas time and other times. People still want to give and they want to support refugees and others. It is also very important to keep a spotlight on those other voices that contribute a positive narrative. And the politicians need to feel that as well.

## CONCORD AND THE CIVIL SOCIETY ALLIANCE AT THE EYD2015 CLOSING CEREMONY

by *Marius Wanders, Ambassador of the EYD2015 CSA and Member of the Board of CONCORD Europe*

The European Year for Development has been a year of telling stories. So today I want to tell a short story too. It is a story about three children growing up around the world in 2015. It is called “Tablets, T-shirts and Teenagers” and it incorporates the elements of the motto of this European Year.

Our world is full of tablets and smart phones. Our world would not be able to function without them. We are in constant touch with each other and the world around us through our gadgets, exchanging vital information, communicating, exchanging messages, music and images. They are great tools, also for educational purposes. But one image missing on our tablets is the face of the 12 year old boy in the Congo who cannot get an education because instead of going to school he is forced to work in the mine producing the minerals required to make our gadgets function.



How long will we continue to accept this reality of “our world”?

Our dignity as human beings requires us to be properly dressed. Our closets are full of clothes. Among them there are many T-shirts. They are cheap. We can buy them at any discount store for around 2 Euro. We wear them to identify the group we belong to or associate with. We even give them away at parties, printed with text or colorful images. But one image missing from our festive party T-shirts is the face of the 14-year old girl in Bangladesh who instead of getting an education is working 70 hours a week or more in a sweatshop to make our T-shirts. Her slave-like labor pays part of the true value of our T-shirts. She cannot afford the T-shirts she is making for us. How long will we still tolerate this reality of “our dignity”?

Our future lies with the young people of today. The teenager in my story today is Ellen O’Driscoll, she lives in Ireland and she is 16 years old. A lovely, bright eyed girl with a razor sharp mind. She was one of 10 Millennium Kids, Youth Ambassadors that my organization World Vision International brought to the European Development Days in Brussels in June this year where they engaged in direct dialogue with high level political leaders including Linda McAvan to talk about their wishes and concerns for the future. But also to talk about their commitment to actively contribute to shaping that future. Two weeks ago, I saw Ellen again, this time on YouTube. She stood up and spoke at a big rally held in Ireland at the end of November, where thousands of young people were marching together to call for a comprehensive climate deal next week in Paris. She spoke with remarkable clarity of voice and eloquence. Ellen said that she refused to be part of yet another generation that failed our planet. Instead she was determined to be part of the generation that saved our planet. I remember when the Millennium Kids were in Brussels in June, and we were preparing these young people for their political encounters, we

## Your Guide to both Exploring and Taking Care of the World



by Morgan Henley, IYNF

Do you have access to the internet?  
Do you like traveling, exploring your city or just getting out of your own bed from time to time?  
Do you consider the planet we live on as an important and not just a giant trash bin ?

Then Ecomaps is for you!

Whether you are a die-hard environmentalist or are just a little curious, Ecomaps will connect you with new places in your own community or abroad that offer an alternative to the “work, consume, sleep, repeat,” mantra that has led to lifestyles that are simply not sustainable for our planet. It’s time we started to think more about what we consume and how we act, and we want to prove that doing so doesn’t have to be difficult.

We paid particular attention to those who may be new to ideas of sustainability and being “green.” In

addition to the interactive maps, you will also find hand-picked articles, videos, and infographics that explain various issues which we hope will give you some context to the various things included in the map. With the help of this guide, we hope that making the step from being environmentally conscious to applying it to your everyday life will be easier and easier.

Our aim is to connect all people with the environmentally sustainable lifestyle that they did not even know was possible. We know that the options are out there in cities in all corners of Europe, and we want to help you discover them! Whether it be with introducing you to more local food options, alternative forms of transport, or finding a job that leaves you with a clean conscience, the possibilities of what you can find in Ecomaps are endless. The map will be always growing with new listings and new areas.

With info from locals in the know,

we want you to be able to navigate a new city in a way that helps you discover the places that are making a difference in their communities and can make traveling more environmentally-friendly. We want you to be able to find the spots that locals really love and experience cities from the perspective of fellow environmentally-conscious citizens. Also, what better way to experience a new city than by trying out unique restaurants with healthy food, finding local products to bring home, or discovering the city's green spaces?

We hope this project will not only guide you but that you can also guide it. Please send us your own suggestions for things to add and rate the listings to help out other users of the map. We want Ecomaps

to grow and learn from its users so we can make it as useful as possible for you. We envision this to be a project that you can give back to just as much as you take from it. This is a philosophy we believe in for life and Ecomaps is no different!

This project has been fun to create, but we are truly excited about what happens now, once its users can really start to use the guide. So please, don't let our work go in vain and get out and start discovering!

For more information:

<http://ecomaps.eu/en/learn/ecomaps/>

Promotional video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AjiGbIOUZ7E>

## Guidebook- How to make a region fair

*by Matthias Haberl, Südwind NÖ Süd*

In the frame of EYD2015 the Austrian NGO Suedwind NOE Sued published a guidebook for NGOs and other stakeholders how to make a region fair. It builds upon its own experience with the region "Bucklige Welt- Wechselland" in Austria. The region went through a multi-year process which had an important milestone in the reward as 1st Fair-Trade Region in Lower Austria. This process is reflected in the guidebook and shall support NGOs,

political initiatives, FairTrade Centers, Parishes, ... to follow this process and implement it in their own region Europe-wide. The guidebook includes various perspectives on the process, the one of an NGO as well as the one of the region and the one of a national FairTrade Organisation.

You can download this guidebook in English language for free here:

[www.suedwind-noesued.at/files/guidebook\\_fairen\\_region\\_english.pdf](http://www.suedwind-noesued.at/files/guidebook_fairen_region_english.pdf)

explained to them a lot about the EU and its key political strategies, including of course the pursuit of growth and jobs. Ellen then asked a question which we found extremely difficult to answer. Her question was "What is the point of pursuing growth and jobs on a planet that in the process continues slowly dying, bit by bit?"

I believe that Ellen and thousands of committed young people like her are the brightly shining lights of hope for "our future".

The initiative for this European Year 2015 for Development was born within CONCORD, the European Confederation of relief and development NGOs. The European Commission invited and supported CONCORD to convene a broad multi-sectoral alliance of civil society to help achieve the objectives of the Year.

The public discourse and development education of citizens that was a goal for this European Year should continue beyond 2015. But it should no longer be so much about "what we give" but much more about "how we live", in particular how we must learn to fairly share the limited resources of this planet with close to 7 billion global citizens by the year 2030. Against this challenging backdrop, the world now gears up to start implementing an ambitious common agenda for the next 15 years, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The civil society alliance we created for this European Year intends to continue working together well beyond 2015 as we embrace the challenges of these sustainable development goals. In my capacity as Ambassador of Civil Society for the European Year, I wish to confirm today the offer of this broad civil society alliance to also continue partnering with the EU and with governments of the member states in the pursuit of the vision anchored in the motto of this European Year: "Our World, Our Dignity, Our Future".

I have sometimes been referred to as the Godfather of this European Year for Development, because I was one of the persons who took the initiati-

ve and drove forward the advocacy towards the institutions of the EU to make this year a political reality. So let me end today in true Godfather style: The offer of the civil society alliance that I am representing here today to continue to partner with and contribute to the work of the EU institutions and member states governments, is a solid offer. We believe we are making you an offer you cannot refuse.

# Thousands of people hit the streets demanding Climate Action

by Astrid Vanackere, GCAP

In September, world leaders met at the UN General Assembly and committed to the Sustainable Development Goals. If implemented correctly over the next fifteen years, these goals could put an end to some of the most pressing issues of our time: poverty, inequality and climate change. Now comes the time for leaders to deliver a bold new international climate agreement; this will be the first test to their ambition for a better future for people and planet.

As the governments of over 190 countries prepare to deliver a historic new global climate agreement in Paris this December, thousands of people across the globe have taken to the streets for a Global Climate March to urge our leaders to play their part in the fight against climate change and deliver an ambitious climate agreement at the COP21 in Paris.

We as GCAP have been working to strengthen the links between development and climate movements, which culminated on November 29th in the Global Climate Marches. GCAP national coalitions took part in the Climate Marches all over the world to demand change and to

highlight how the decisions made in Paris will have an impact on the national level.

Also in European cities climate marches took place and were big in number. Despite the Paris Climate March being cancelled due to security concerns of the French authorities, people still found creative ways to make their demands heard. Nevertheless people in Berlin marched for a 100% clean, renewable future. In Madrid 20 000 people hit the streets for climate action, campaigning with awesome temporary EYD tattoos to “stop cambio climático.” In Vienna people demanded “System Change, not Climate Change” and also in Rome, Dublin and Athens people came together for amazing climate marches.

Development organisations, climate movements, indigenous people, trade unions, people young and old marched together to demonstrate that addressing climate change is important to all of us. A strong agreement in Paris can help set a path to a safer, more equal and more sustainable future for all. Because we simply cannot deliver on sustainable development, without tackling climate change.



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