



Lithuanian
National
Non-Governmental
Development
Cooperation
Organisations'
Platform



From Political Will to Political Action

Lithuanian Non-Governmental Development Cooperation Organisations'

POSITION

on Development Cooperation Policy Issues for the
Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of
the European Union

September, 2013





LITHUANIAN NATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION ORGANISATIONS' PLATFORM

The Lithuanian National Non-Governmental Development Cooperation Organisations' Platform (NGDO Platform) aims to shape and implement Lithuanian and EU development cooperation policies, strengthen the capacities of its member organisations, and raise public awareness and knowledge about development cooperation via public events and educational campaigns. As part of the Lithuanian Umbrella, the NGDO Platform is an active member of the European Confederation for Relief and Development NGOs - CONCORD, and closely cooperates with NGDO platforms in Scandinavia and the Baltic States. www.pagalba.org



LITHUANIAN DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION AND COOPERATION NETWORK (ASSOCIATION) OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS (LITDEA)

It an association acting as an umbrella for non-governmental organisations. Its mission is to disseminate and promote values and ideas of development cooperation and education in Lithuania and beyond. LITDEA strives to cooperate and maintain continuous dialogue with Lithuanian public authorities, responsible for relevant policy and strategy of development cooperation, as well as with other interested parties. LITDEA works in the interests and for the needs of its members, informing them about international and national trends, policies, strategies and actions in the fields of development cooperation and education. It also provides consultations on drafting, preparing and implementation of projects and programs. www.litdea.eu

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This policy paper is prepared by Lithuanian NGDO Platform Executive Director Marta Cubajevaite and Policy Officer Giedre Birzyte. Its' content is written in coordination with CONCORD. We would like to sincerely thank all the commenters and contributors to the report.

CONTENTS

Introduction	3
SUMMARY	4
Priority One: Post 2015	8
Civil Society Vision of the World Post-2015	9
Priority Two: Policy Coherence for Development	13
Civil Society Call on Policy Coherence for Development (PCD)	14
Conclusions	18



Father and his daughter in the Himalayas (India). Photo: Simona Zemaityte

INTRODUCTION

This document aims to summarise the Lithuanian civil society position on two development cooperation issues of the current international agenda. It presents a vision on development goals that will replace the widely known Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set to expire by 2015 and the core principles advocated by the civil society that should underpin the new international development framework. In this document, Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) is seen as a main instrument to achieve the desired results in a global development agenda.

This document is meant to serve Lithuanian politicians, diplomats and civil servants, standing at the forefront of Lithuania's historical presidency to the European Union (EU) Council. It is also meant to inform and be at the interests of the Lithuanian academia, media, civil society and international partners.

The Manifesto was prepared by the National Non-Governmental Development Cooperation Organisations' Platform which brings together 16 non-profit, non-partisan Lithuanian organisations working in the field of development cooperation.

Marta Cubajevaite

Executive Director

NGDO Platform

PRIORITY ONE: POST 2015

What we urge Lithuanian Government to:

With the next MDGs Review Summit scheduled for September 2013, and global negotiations underway on devising a framework to replace the MDGs in 2015 (including the intergovernmental working group on sustainable development goals), Lithuania, as a country presiding over the EU Council, has a role in facilitating

- Together with other leaders of the world, **ensure the full achievement of the MDGs**, in particular those that are lagging behind.
- Set an example among the new EU donor countries by **increasing the Official Development Assistance (ODA)** and establishing a clear timeline when the agreed 0.33 % of GNI for development cooperation purposes will be allocated and showing clear commitment to reach 0.7 % of GNI.
- Ensure, at a minimum, that the **EU position at the MDGs Review Summit** in September 2013 calls for a framework that is:
 1. **Universal**, so that the goals agreed in the post-2015 framework apply to all countries and all countries are expected both to contribute to fulfilling the global goals and to take measurable steps towards improvements in all goal areas in their own national contexts;
 2. **Comprehensive**, so that the interconnected dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) are addressed in full, as well as issues of governance, peace and security;
 3. **One Integrated Framework** for Sustainable Development Goals and Post-2015 commitments;

4. Based on **Goal** that respect and protect **all human rights**, paying particular attention to incorporating the key pillars of a human rights-based approach (such as non-discrimination, participation and empowerment and accountability) in the design, implementation and monitoring of the framework, aim to reduce inequality (including gender-based), **prioritize People and the Planet**, re-orient the economy to secure human well-being and protect the natural environment and transform indicators of economic growth to reflect these priorities, use **natural resources respectfully, equitably and sustainably**, and protect the **global commons**.

5. Consistent with **accountability** mechanisms (time-bound and with clearly defined duty-bearers), **climate change** adaption and mitigation factored in the framework, that entails an adequate and comprehensive **framework financing the implementation** and respects the principle of **Common But Differentiated Responsibility** with all countries fulfilling certain minimum commitments in line with human rights obligations.

- Ensure a continuous and **meaningful participation and inclusion** of the civil society (especially initiatives directly engaging people living in poverty and marginalization) in all stages of the post- 2015 framework, from its design to implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- Ensure that EU respects its Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) commitments, while also maintaining it at the core **of discussions on a new post-2015 framework and its financing mechanism**. PCD should be negotiated as an international norm or standard that countries agree to abide by, monitor and report on.



Ghana. Cape coast. Fishermen village kid. Photo Aqua Stunzenaite

PRIORITY TWO: POLICY COHERENCE FOR DEVELOPMENT

Development cooperation is not only about aid. Decisions made here, in Europe, do have serious impacts on developing countries. Instead of contributing to the creation of a just world, they too often deepen the problems or create new ones, from cheap subsidised exports that local food producers can't compete with, to EU companies eating up the precious natural resources of those societies living in poverty. It's often an expensive and destructive prevalent practice of giving with one hand and taking with the other. PCD should ensure that all the decisions made in Europe are in compliance with development goals.

AS PRESIDENCY OF THE EU, WE URGE LITHUANIA TO:

- Prepare a separate Foreign Affairs Council (FAC council) conclusion on PCD with special emphasis on strengthening the EU institutional mechanisms in line with the CONCORD Spotlight Report's recommendations in this area.
- Ensure a strong new EC PCD Work Programme (2014-2017) with clear, realistic and tangible political objectives for all focus area.
- We urge Lithuania to create a Lithuanian PCD implementation strategy with clear outlined political objectives, coordination mechanisms, and monitoring and assessment mechanisms built on lesson learned from other EU member states.
- We urge Lithuania to push for FAC conclusions on Financing for Development (FFD), which state that PCD should be at the core of the future financing of a post 2015 framework and a central part of the EU's position in all relevant negotiations at the international level.



Togo. Afiawi Biramah selling snacks on the beach. Photo: Žilvė Eidukevičiūtė.

PRIORITY ONE: POST 2015

In 2000, Lithuania and other countries of the world adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration, through which a new global partnership aiming to reduce extreme poverty was formed. A series of targets, with a deadline for their achievement in 2015, known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), were set. Thanks to the MDGs, huge progress has been achieved in areas such as healthcare and education, and significant gains have been made in tackling poverty. For the Lithuanian NGOs which mainly work in the former Soviet Union countries, transferring the know-how of democratization, state building and European integration, the MDGs framework was instrumentally beneficial for drawing the attention of the governments to focus on social issues interrelated with poverty reduction and sustainable development, and for targeting some (although not all) marginalized groups usually excluded from the political agenda in the region.

However, the MDGs have been widely criticized for their non-participatory, top-down creation process, as well as for failing to address the root causes of poverty and challenges the globalized world faces today, e.g. climate change, growing inequality, unsustainable systems of production and consumption, etc. Moreover, insufficient improvements in the areas of environmental sustainability, maternal and child mortality, the fight against HIV, and aid allocation¹ have been achieved to date.

Already in 2010 the preparations for the new post-2015 framework that will replace current

MDGs have begun. To date, several complex and parallel processes framing the post-2015 agenda are taking place including national, thematic and online consultations, engaging various stakeholder groups, e.g. governments' representatives, civil society, academia, the private sector, and EU Member States and the European Commission (EC) actively engaging in the process. On the civil society side the Beyond 2015 campaign has brought together more than 800 civil society organisations from over 95 countries across the world with the goal of creating a strong and legitimate successor framework for the MDGs².

With the next MDGs Review Summit scheduled for September 2013, and global negotiations underway on devising a framework to replace the MDGs in 2015 (including the intergovernmental working group on sustainable development goals), Lithuania, as a country presiding over the EU Council, has a role in facilitating and ensuring that the negotiated framework reflects the concerns and requests of the civil society.

NGDO Platform members hold that world leaders must make accelerated efforts **towards achieving the MDGs** to the greatest extent possible by 2015, even while **shaping a more ambitious and rights-based framework to succeed them**, in order to better address the structural causes of poverty and inequality.

¹ The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013, <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/report-2013/mdg-report-2013-english.pdf>

² **Beyond 2015** works to achieve the global, overarching, cross-thematic framework to succeed the MDGs, reflecting Beyond 2015's policy positions, which is developed in a participatory, inclusive and responsive way especially to the voices of those directly affected by poverty and injustice. More information about the campaign can be found here: www.beyond2015.org

CIVIL SOCIETY VISION OF THE WORLD POST-2015

As part of the European regional hub of the Beyond 2015 campaign, NGDO Platform members advocate for a single, integrated and comprehensive post-2015 framework, based on economic, environmental and social dimensions of sustainable development and just governance, building on the interlinkages between all areas. Our vision of the outcomes of the post-2015 framework is **a just, equitable and sustainable world in which every person can realise their human rights, fulfil their potential and live free from poverty**. This vision translates into a series of key principles, which must underpin the design of the framework and which are expressed in the CONCORD Beyond 2015 Task Force report, "Putting People and Planet First"³.

The European civil society calls for a framework that embraces the **human rights principles** of equality and non-discrimination, participation and empowerment, responsibility and accountability with all people and especially those most marginalized benefiting from the outcomes of the framework. The post-2015 framework must place a much greater emphasis on **meaningful participation** of both adults and children through open and transparent processes.

In order to properly address global challenges, the post-2015 framework must be **universal**, with global goals pertaining to all countries and all countries contributing to their achievement. Every country must commit to make improvements in all goal areas, but the nature of the improvement

must necessarily be tailored to the precise context of the country concerned.

It is essential that **changes happen in rich countries as well as poor** in order to address global inequalities. This also needs to include changing policies, e.g. in areas like trade, agriculture, taxation, security, and debt that undermine progress to sustainable human development, as well as re-thinking and changing the prevailing production and consumption models in the world of plenty where almost half of all produced food is thrown away while one out of every eight person goes hungry⁴. The post-2015 framework for global development needs to establish **Common but Differentiated Responsibilities** among these different actors **with clear accountability** for meeting those responsibilities, thus properly addressing the inter-connections between the extremes of wealth and consumption on the one hand, and related poverty, food, energy and climate crises on the other.

In order to tackle the root causes of **poverty** it shall be looked at from a **multi-dimensional perspective** that encompass a shortage of capabilities, choices, security and power as well as of resources such as income. Indeed, the well-being measure proposed as an overarching indicator for the entire framework moves beyond the artificial and limited understanding of poverty based on \$1.25 or \$2 income per day, also addressing the paradox that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the poor currently live in middle income countries⁵.

⁴ Information from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation and Institution of Mechanical Engineers

⁵ Sumner, A. (2010): Global Poverty and the New Bottom Billion: What If Three-Quarters of the World's Poor Live in Middle Income Countries? <http://www.ids.ac.uk/files/dmfile/GlobalPovertyDataPaper1.pdf>

³ Concord Beyond 2015 Task Force position paper "Putting People and Planet First"
<http://www.concordeurope.org/234-report-putting-people-and-planet-first-concord-beyond2015-tf>

With the growing realisation that the benefits of economic growth are not shared equally among a population and therefore does not necessarily lead to reduced poverty or inequality, or improved well-being for the majority of people, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), as a widely accepted measure of a country's progress, should therefore be replaced with a measure based on well-being.

Inclusive social development must be delivered and complemented by a **thorough transformation of economic processes**. There are four main areas which need to be addressed in order to reorient the economy to serve the people and the planet. Firstly, finance should be a pillar that supports the vision of the new framework, rather than the primary force driving the economy. The post-2015 framework must therefore contribute to re-directing finance and to tightening and supervising financial regulations and standards. Secondly, trade policy must become a tool for empowerment and an engine for development. This means that it must become more transparent and less dominated by a narrow set of interests working in favour of the biggest companies, and rather promote sustainable and equitable trading relationships with a focus on small-scale producers and businesses which can contribute to spreading employment and wealth more evenly in society. Thirdly, tax systems need to be reformed and strengthened so that they perform critical tasks such as redistributing income between people and so that the state can fulfil its responsibilities in terms of providing quality social services and adequate social security, thereby also raising much of the development finance needed to implement the post-2015 framework. Lastly, the International Financial Institutions must be reformed and democratised in order to fulfil the human rights obligations of their members.

Crucial for the success of the post-2015

framework is the **Policy Coherence for (Sustainable) Development (PCD)** that refers to the requirement for all actors to ensure that their policies in any area do not negatively impact people's prospects for progress or the realisation of their rights, and preferably support those objectives. Binding regulation should be envisaged for major actors in the global economy and international policy. The EU's legal obligation under the Lisbon Treaty and OECD practices to ensure that all policies take account of development objectives makes for interesting models, even if further work is needed on implementation.

NGDO Platform urges the Lithuanian EU Presidency to:

- Together with other leaders of the world, **ensure the full achievement of the MDGs**, in particular those that are lagging behind.
- Set an example among the new EU donor countries by **increasing the Official Development Assistance (ODA)** and establishing a clear timeline when the agreed 0.33 % of GNI for development cooperation purposes will be allocated and showing clear commitment to reach 0.7 % of GNI.
- Ensure, at a minimum, that the **EU position at the MDGs Review Summit** in September 2013 calls for a framework that is:

1. **Universal**, so that the goals agreed in the post-2015 framework apply to all countries and all countries are expected both to contribute to fulfilling the global goals and to take measurable steps towards improvements in all goal areas in their own national contexts;

2. **Comprehensive**, so that the interconnected dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) are

addressed in full, as well as issues of governance, peace and security;

3. **One Integrated Framework** for Sustainable Development Goals and Post-2015 commitments;

4. Based on **Goals** that respect and protect **all human rights**, paying particular attention to incorporating the key pillars of a human rights-based approach (such as non-discrimination, participation and empowerment and accountability) in the design, implementation and monitoring of the framework, aim to reduce inequality (including gender-based), **prioritize People and the Planet**, re-orient the economy to secure human well-being and protect the natural environment and transform indicators of economic growth to reflect these priorities, use **natural resources respectfully, equitably and sustainably**, and protect the **global commons**.

5. Consistent with **accountability** mechanisms (time-bound and with clearly defined duty-bearers), **climate change** adaption and mitigation factored in the framework, that entails

an adequate and comprehensive **framework financing the implementation** and respects the principle of **Common But Differentiated Responsibility** with all countries fulfilling certain minimum commitments in line with human rights obligations.

- Ensure a continuous and meaningful participation and inclusion of the civil society (especially initiatives directly engaging people living in poverty and marginalization) in all stages of the post- 2015 framework, from its design to implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- Ensure that EU respects its Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) commitments, while also maintaining it at the core of discussions on a new post-2015 framework and its financing mechanism. PCD should be negotiated as an international norm or standard that countries agree to abide by, monitor and report on.



Togo. Akoua Ekue cooking food. Photo: Zivile Eidukeviciute.

PRIORITY TWO: POLICY COHERENCE FOR DEVELOPMENT

Stop the Practice of Giving with One Hand and Taking with the Other

At a time when the international community is rethinking the measures and results of the global development framework and planning the new steps after 2015, the question of Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) is of a major importance. A historical lesson was learned and it was widely agreed that development cooperation **is not only about aid and that decisions made here, in Europe, do have serious impacts on developing countries**. Instead of contributing to the creation of a just world, they too often deepen the problems or create new ones, from cheap subsidised exports that local food producers can't compete with, to EU companies eating up the precious natural resources of those societies living in poverty. It's often an expensive and destructive prevalent **practice of giving with one hand and taking with the other**. The time has come for European leaders to take responsibility and make PCDA reality.

European Leaders Have an Obligation to Implement PCD

PCD is a legal obligation of the EU enshrined in the *Lisbon Treaty, Article 208*: *"The Union shall take account of the objectives of development cooperation in the policies that it implements which are likely to affect developing countries"*. To make this a reality, throughout all policy processes the EU decision makers must take the rights of people living beyond the EU's borders into account.

PCD offers a lens through which every policy created in the EU has to be examined in regard to any impact it might have on developing countries. Despite the obligation of the Lisbon

Treaty Article No.208, neither the EU nor its member states have put PCD into practice to a sufficient extent yet. The reality is a highly complex matter, and so is PCD. However, it cannot be an excuse to delay necessary actions, as the price of incoherence is just too high and continues to rise. For example, the **size of illicit outflows of resources from developing countries is about the same as that of all external inflows**: foreign direct investment, ODA, remittances, government borrowing—combined⁶. Needless to say, the well-being of all countries is also a guarantee of Europe's security. Therefore, the economic crisis in the EU cannot be used as an excuse to put development policies and PCD on a lower priority list. Ignoring or abstaining from active problem-solving could have detrimental results. Lithuanians have a saying "Kerti šaką, ant kurios pats sėdi" – "Cutting a branch on which you sit", which means that not thinking wisely nor in a long-term fashion can lead to costly and unwanted result.

Lithuanians have not yet forgotten the fight for freedom and a life of dignity. This precious experience **is our moral obligation to help those in need** today, be it people in Africa, Asia, Latin America or any other part of the world. Lithuania is first among the Baltic States to hold the Presidency of the EU Council. This provides a historical opportunity to make a significant progress in shaping a **qualitative new approach to development through actual implementation of PCD**. Currently, the EU is deciding on what obligations for its development and financing it will undertake after 2015. These decisions will be put on the table for international community negotiations in upcoming UN meetings. Therefore, it is time for Lithuania as well as the EU to make a major commitment – **to make the move from political will to political action**.

⁶ CONCORD's AidWatch publication (2013): Global financial flows, aid and development

CIVIL SOCIETY CALL ON POLICY COHERENCE FOR DEVELOPMENT

Strengthening the EU Institutional Mechanism and Expertise on PCD

European decision-makers have not yet demonstrated the political courage needed to make fair policies a reality. The European Commission (EC) has taken the lead among the EU institutions in putting PCD into practice by reporting every two years on progress made on PCD by EU institutions and its member states. It has a work programme for 2010-2013 in five priority areas. One of the good practices which the EU introduced is the Impact Assessment (IA), which should help prevent incoherent policies from advancing by ensuring that every new major policy or legislative proposal at the earliest possible stage is evaluated from the perspective of impact on developing countries, including long-term consequences in economic, social, security and other areas. However, recent analyses showed that **in the period from 2009 to June 2013, the IA ratio is only 19% for all EC legal initiatives.** Out of 177, only 33 IAs actually acknowledged a potential impact on development.⁷ This remains a very unsatisfactory record.

The EC still faces a lack of institutional and expert capacities, especially in those unrelated to the development cooperation directorates, which prevent faster progress and better results on PCD⁸. The ECs should take the necessary

measures to increase its capacities in PCD sphere in all its directorates. One practice that would help increase efficiency and expertise is a **dialogue with the civil society and other stakeholders working “on the ground”**, which should be used throughout all policy making cycles. The dialogue should also include the stakeholders from developing countries and allow them to directly approach the EU decision-makers with issues of incoherence.

Finally, **PCD is a matter which should be dealt with at the highest political level** to ensure that sufficient progress is made and that contradicting interests do not jeopardise all EU efforts in the development area. Often different EC directorates, for example, Trade and Development, have diverging viewpoints on policy matters. The EC's work programme for PCD expires this year and it is therefore crucial that the next one will have much clearer objectives for the EC's efforts across policy areas. Moreover, the EC will launch its biennial report on PCD in autumn 2013 and the Council Conclusions on this report are foreseen at the Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) meeting in December 2013.

CONCORD's new report “Spotlight on EU Policy Coherence for Development. The real life impact of the EU policies on the poor” elaborates on the current EU institutional mechanisms in the area of PCD and brings forward a number of specific recommendations for the EU's future implementation of its PCD obligation:

- the new Impact Assessment guidelines should make explicit reference to PCD obligations, and that development impacts should be made a key section of the assessments, alongside the present economic, social and environmental assessments;
- the Commission should mainstream

⁷ Screening was carried out by CONCORD Denmark <http://www.concorddenmark.dk/?type=page&id=448&itemid=1919>

⁸ CONCORD “Spotlight on EU Policy Coherence for Development. The real life impact of the EU policies on the poor” 2013 <http://www.concordeurope.org/259-spotlight-on-eu-policy-coherence-for-development>

PCD in public consultations and policy dialogues that focus on questions relevant to development;

- the Commission and European External Action Service should take urgent action to implement the FAC Council Conclusions from May 2012 regarding PCD;
- a system should be set up to feed information and evidence collected into the policymaking cycle, leading ultimately to the correction of incoherencies where they occur, and a commitment to do this should be made.

As presidency of the EU, we urge

Lithuania to:

- **Prepare a separate FAC council conclusion on PCD with special emphasis on strengthening the EU institutional mechanisms in line with the CONCORD Spotlight Report's recommendations in this area.**
- **Ensure a strong new EC PCD Work Programme (2014-2017) with clear, realistic and tangible political objectives for all focus areas.**

Making Progress in EU Member States

The Lisbon treaty also obliges the EU Member States to ensure synergies between policies in favour of development objectives. Unfortunately, performance of the member states on the national level in most cases is even less satisfactory than that of the EU. The newest CONCORD study⁹ shows very varied records of setting up appropriate mechanisms for delivering PCD at the

national level. In recent years, **a growing number of governments made strong commitments to PCD** (Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the United Kingdom). However, the **confusion of PCD with policy coherence in general is still common. Only a few countries have the implementation strategy** (e.g. the Netherlands and Sweden) necessary to achieve sufficient results. **Only several member states have a structural coordination mechanism in place** (e.g. Sweden and Finland), others lack efficiency or/and transparency (e.g. Belgium, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom, Lithuania, and the Netherlands) or structures that do not exist on the relevant scale. The necessary tools to ensure PCD are monitoring and assessment of the policies; however, it is yet to be achieved for the vast majority of the analysed countries. **There is a growing need for country-level analysis** – knowledge about incoherence cases is needed in order to make the case for PCD. Without country-level knowledge, PCD loses its relevance.

Lithuania: Converting Political Will to Actual Implementation of PCD

Lithuania is one among a few countries that was committed to implementing PCD in 2006 and recently reconfirmed its position in the new Law on Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, which will come into force in October 2013.

Republic of Lithuania Law on Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (May 16, 2013) No. XII- 311)

Art.4 "Lithuania's development cooperation policy principles are <...> policy coherence, i.e. while creating other policies the aims of development cooperation are taken into account".

⁹ CONCORD's PCD Spotlight report 2013. According to the OECD methodology, national development NGOs from 18 countries contributed their observations and data. These are: Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, United Kingdom <http://www.concordeurope.org/259-spotlight-on-eu-policy-coherence-for-development>

The government also contributes input to the EU report on PCD whilst demonstrating a continuous commitment to PCD at the highest level. However, there is still a lot to be achieved. With the newly adopted law, a strategy for Lithuania's development cooperation policy should be drawn up to develop the country's approach to PCD. Also, the coordination mechanism - the inter-ministerial commission – should work on regular rather than ad hoc bases. The principle of PCD should be discussed more broadly and in-depth, so as not to confuse it with a routine institutional coordination procedure rather than a priority principle to be promoted and mainstreamed. The analysis, monitoring and reporting mechanism should be created and put into practice. Transparency should also be improved – a step forward in this direction is the opening of the inter-ministerial coordination commission to participation by CSOs from October 2013, when the newly adopted law will come into force. With some improvements, which would demonstrate the practical results, Lithuania and Scandinavian countries could be among those countries making the biggest progress towards PCD implementation.

We urge Lithuania to create a Lithuanian PCD implementation strategy with clear outlined political objectives, coordination mechanisms, and monitoring and assessment mechanisms built on lesson learned from other EU member states.

PCD at the Core of Discussions on Financing for Development (FFD)

Despite the long term efforts of the entire international community, the eradication of poverty remains unreached. Ongoing international discussions on financing for development in the post- 2015 period provide an important opportunity to review what did not work and

what could be done in the EU and outside more effectively. On July 16, 2013, the EC launched the communication: "Beyond 2015: Towards a Comprehensive and Integrated Approach to Financing for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development". Council Conclusions on this communication are foreseen to be adopted during the Lithuanian presidency, at the FAC meeting in December 2013.

The EU is a key actor in financing for development. It is home to many transnationals with a globally significant financial sector. It is the biggest provider of Official Development Assistance (ODA), and a major exporter and importer from the Global South. Therefore, ensuring that all EU policies integrate the EU's development objectives is the most sustainable and efficient way the EU can contribute to global goals. A lack of Policy Coherence for Development not only violates EU Treaty obligations, but also has devastating effects on the poorest and most marginalised people in the world¹⁰.

Europe can only be capable of tackling global challenges effectively by looking sincerely at what harmful practices it supports or simply does not face. European tax payers' finances spent and redirected for development will not be used effectively if in all the EU financial policies the interests of people living outside the EU borders will not be taken into account.

Thus, Policy Coherence for Development is the key which allows for defining and answering the problem of financing efficiency.

¹⁰ A new CONCORD report "Financing for development negotiations – what should the EU bring to the table" (2013) highlights the transformative changes needed for a just, equitable and sustainable world with universal enjoyment of human rights requiring reliable and effective sources of financing

Lithuania in its Presidency should pay special attention to this matter for the benefit of all the European citizens and the people of developing countries.

In 2012, based on the support and commitment of the Danish Presidency, the EU leaders reiterated their commitment to PCD emphasizing the need for a more evidence-based approach and enhanced country-level dialogue through the EU delegation in the developing countries. It is time

to take one step forward and, therefore, **Lithuania should take the initiative to put PCD at the core of discussions on a new Financing for Development Framework.**

We urge Lithuania to push for FAC conclusions on FFD, which state that PCD should be at the core of the future financing of a post 2015 framework and a central part of the EU's position in all relevant negotiations at the international level.



Jaipure Kor: Working in Construction Site (India). Photo: Simona Zemaityte

CONCLUSIONS

Post 2015

This year and the next is a time when the international community must review the progress made in the fight against poverty and make new commitments for the upcoming period. Therefore **it is essential that the honest assessment of the goals, methods and results be made**. Many important questions should be asked and answered. What is the understanding of poverty today after all that was learned about its root causes? **What is the responsibility of the EU and each Member State?** What has been done right and wrong in tackling problems? What were the reasons of successes and failures in achieving results? What should be done better? What new commitments is the EU ready to make? Will they be ambitious and well-grounded? Will there be sufficient motivation to achieve and support them?

The Civil Society urges taking a new step forward that would make a qualitative progress in the global development framework. But before that, earlier commitments should be fulfilled to **ensure the full achievement of the MDGs**. Also, a **clear timeline** should be stated when the agreed 0,33 % of GNI for new donor countries and 0.7 % of GNI for the old ones for development cooperation purposes will be allocated. But most importantly, the EU must demonstrate the will and raise **Universal Goals** that respect and protect **all human rights**. Consciously, the priority should be put for the **People and the Planet**, re-orienting the economy to secure human well-being and protecting the natural environment also transforming indicators of economic growth to reflect these priorities. This approach would ensure that the new framework and its implementation are focused on, and delivering for, the people it is supposed to serve.

Political will has to take the shape of **firm time-frames of the EU's responsibility** to act. The EU's position must have **concrete indications** of what the EU is ready or willing to do. The sustainable development agenda has to be linked to human development goals and this means that a **road map of substantial transformations** in current trade, economic and financial systems and institutions is needed. Finally, effective **accountability mechanisms** have to be established to eliminate one of the major factors undermining the achievement of the MDGs.

Between now and 2015 the EU can play an important role in supporting the emergence of an impactful 2015 agreement by advancing agreement and action at home in key areas, including enhancing Policy Coherence for Development.

Policy Coherence for Development

We cannot demand results and question the lack of progress in developing countries as long as **our own policies continue to undermine Europe's own commitment** to poverty eradication. But just as important as these moral grounds, **PCD is motivated by the evidence-based need for getting value-for-money** in development policy intimes of austerity across Europe. No matter how focused Western countries find themselves supporting and inciting new and innovative development and poverty-eradicating policies, the potential **incoherencies of Western non-development policies may render all these efforts useless**.

PCD is not an administrative burden, but rather **an answer for politicians on how to act in a complex and changeable world**, where the traditional perception of development assistance and aid is challenged by externalities

and incoherencies of policies. Policies naturally can never achieve a level of perfection and isolation, and **PCD thus becomes a case of making trade-offs** by understanding the effects it has outside the national state or the EU.

The EU is the only region in the world to date to have taken on a **binding obligation to be accountable** for how all of its policies affect the world's poorest. Putting this commitment into practice, however, requires determined political leadership and a sustained effort to create a different and more just international order. And it also needs active CSOs to be continuously reminding decision-makers to turn this political commitment into a real impact on peoples' lives. Thus **we call the Lithuanian and the EU decision makers to move from political commitment to solid and effective implementation of PCD in all EU policies**. The Lithuanian Presidency and the following year is a **crucial time** when the EU has to make those commitments that will shape

the course and results of future development cooperation efforts. Civil society of the entire EU expects that this time it will not merely be mere commitments, but rather concrete actions.

Lithuanian's Presidency is especially important and is very needed to bring PCD to the spotlight of EU accountability and policy making. Lithuania has a precious experience of transition to a democratic and fully-righted EU country. The history of dictatorships and scarcity is not yet the past, as it lives as a fresh memory in peoples' minds. This experience obliges the Lithuanian government to stand for the freedom of the peoples and countries in need. Now it is our chance to give in return and stand for freedom from external oppression firstly, but equally as much for the freedom to live life in dignity. In this way **Lithuania would use a unique opportunity to transform PCD into a universal standard** making all countries' policies conducive to global poverty eradication.



Lithuanian
National
Non-Governmental
Development
Cooperation
Organisations'
Platform

LITHUANIAN NATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION ORGANISATIONS' PLATFORM

CONTACTS:

Lukiskiu 5 – 417
Vilnius 01108
Lithuania
www.pagalba.org

Our members:

Association "Positive life"
Lithuanian Centre for Human Rights
Trust in Development
Lithuanian Children's Fund
Lithuanian Association of Adult Education
House of Europe
Economic Research Centre
Mental Health Perspectives
Humana People to Lithuania People Baltic
Save the Children
Baltic Charity Foundation Heifer
Centre for Equality Advancement
Women's Issues Information Centre
Non-Governmental Organisations' Information and Support Centre
Eastern Europe Studies Centre
Institute of Regional Development and Democracy

Project "Quality Partnership for Development-EU Presidency Project for the Lithuanian EU Presidency, 2013" is implemented in cooperation between the National Non-Governmental Development Cooperation Organisations' Platform and Lithuanian Development Education and Cooperation Network (Association) of Non-Governmental Institutions.



Togo. Photo: Zivile Eidukeviciute.



This project is co-funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania (Project "Quality Partnerships for Development", no. 457-13-VBD).



This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of Lithuanian National Non-Governmental Development Cooperation Organisations' Platform and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.