

### ABOUT CONCORD

CONCORD is the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development.

#### **Our members are:**

**28**National Platforms

21 Networks O3
Associate Members

which represent over 2,600 NGOs, supported by millions of citizens all around Europe.

Our confederation brings Development NGOs together to strengthen their political impact at the European and global level. United, we advocate for European policies to promote sustainable economic, environmental and social development based on human rights, justice and gender equality. We also work with regional and global civil society allies to ensure EU policies are coherent in promoting sustainable development in partner countries.

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#### **CONCORD PERIODIC PUBLICATIONS**

#### **AIDWATCH:**

Since 2005, Aidwatch has monitored and made recommendations on the quality and quantity of aid provided by EU member states and the European Commission. With these publications, we want to hold EU leaders accountable for their commitments to dedicate 0.7% of their Gross National Income to development assistance and to use this aid in a genuine and effective way.

www.concordeurope.org/aidwatch-reports

#### **EU DELEGATIONS:**

The EU Delegation reports look at political and policy dialogue and programming processes, including the Civil Society Organisation (CSO) roadmap process. The objectives of these publications are to contribute on improving the working relationship between the EU delegations and CSOs, gather examples of good practice and lessons learned, and make recommendations to the EU, Member states and CSOs.

www.concordeurope.org/eu-relationships-publications

#### **SPOTLIGHT REPORTS:**

Every two years since 2009, the Spotlight reports look into the policy coherence of the EU institutions and their impact on the vulnerable communities in countries outside Europe. These reports aim to raise awareness among EU political leaders and citizens on the need to change some domestic and external EU policies to ensure a fairer and more sustainable world.

www.concordeurope.org/spotlight-publications-policy-coherence-development

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### FOREWORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear members and readers.

Transformation is one of the key concepts and demands in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This seems to be very logical and rational, analytically concluding that today's way of living moves beyond planetary boundaries, and that political and economic systems in place are not successful in ending inequalities and achieving social justice.

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda we have observed supportive rhetoric on the Sustainable Development Goals and their importance. Documents were published, reports written, speeches held. Yet, I am getting increasingly impatient: when do we actually start the transformation?

At this stage, this is may be already a question too far away. I don't think we are at a point where the urgent need for transformational change that puts people and the planet first and leaves no one behind is shared by political leaders in Europe beyond Sunday speeches to selected audiences who want to hear this. Otherwise, the 2030 Agenda would have been the political vision and guiding global framework to develop European strategies, priorities and budgets for the next decade...

So far, it has rather been treated as a separate work area or a sub-theme among many others to be looked at.

For CONCORD, raising our voice and advocating for the ambition of the 2030 Agenda to move at the heart of European politics, including their direct and indirect impact on people experiencing poverty, social injustice and inequality in developing countries, has been a priority in 2017 and will remain a priority in 2018 and beyond.

I would like to see a Europe that takes up current and future challenges with a positive spirit, with a commitment to try out transformational ideas, and most importantly with real consideration of the people and the situation they are in. I cannot read statements anymore that manage to talk about people in desperation without using the words 'people', 'persons', 'women', 'men', 'children' even once. CONCORD will continue to support people talking about their hopes, aspirations, worries and anxieties. We will bring those often distant voices to the table when the future of Europe and Europe's role in the world is discussed. We will not shy away from continuing to talk about the rights of people; they are not negotiable.

We know that when feeling threatened, one goes back to use well-known and acquired old response mechanism (even if this threat is not real). It is a common phenomenon.

It seems that European - and global - politics are moving exactly along these lines. This phenomenon is expressed in the current policies which are building fences and walls, investing in military security (rather than in human security), and compromising the human rights of people.

Another expression of this phenomenon is Europe's imposition on other countries for what concerns the aid budget. Providing limited funding on the condition of certain actions being put in place, and sanction mechanisms if this condition is not respected, is what I would call "filling old wine in a new bottle". CONCORD will continue to fight against aid conditionality and tied aid, as well as its diversion. Development aid is meant for and needs to reach people living in poverty, not border control officers or forces that keep migrants in custody.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is an agenda of hope. And hope is there. Many women, men, and young people get mobilised and engaged for their and their peers' rights. Alternatives are presented. CONCORD has been and will stay close to these initiatives. CONCORD will continue its work with other civil society networks across Europe to build an alternative and to develop a true transformation for a *Europe We Want* in a *World We Want*.

I am looking forward to continuing to build this movement of hope in 2018 together with CONCORD and our partners.

Johannes Trimmel, President of CONCORD Europe

### FOREWORD FROM JOANNA MAYCOCK



**In 2018,** it is important to appreciate how far we have come in strengthening women's rights over the past century. Equality between women and men is one of the EU's "founding values" and the women's movement has been a pivotal player, collaborating with governments, trade unions, businesses and EU institutions to drive real and lasting change in the lives of women and men throughout Europe. We have also seen the EU lately increasing its emphasis on gender equality in its external actions, with the Spotlight Initiative for example.

Even so, gender equality in Europe has stagnated and even gone backwards in some areas. Women are still very much treated as second-class citizens in Europe. Women's lifelong earnings are lower than men's by almost 40% which, in the long term, impacts on their economic independence and heightened exposure to poverty. The burden of unpaid and low paid care work continues to rest on women's shoulders — especially on migrant women, and

women have simply no time to be able to invest in paid work and political participation. Men continue to dominate leadership roles at powerful central banks, finance ministries and in the top positions of the largest companies. We know that one in three women in the EU, or 62 million women, has experienced physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15. Male violence against women knows no geographical boundaries, no age limit, no class, race or cultural distinctions and is manifested in multiple forms and involves a wide variety of perpetrators from intimate partners and family members to work colleagues. This is true inside the EU as well as around the world.

We witness that populism is on the rise in Europe. Flowing from fear, poverty, inequality, and growing global complexity. Fuelled by manipulation of media and information, it a poisonous blend of patriotism and patriarchy; tradition and nostalgia and always negative for women. At the same time, we are experiencing an unprecedented engagement in women's rights, women mobilising on the streets, on social media speaking up about sexual harassment under the hashtag #metoo, across sectors including in the development sector and is connected across borders and political divides. Women around the world are at the forefront of mobilising against populists for a more equal, more sustainable and peaceful World.

It is time for Civil Society Organisations to bring women's voices into the heart of the political discussion about the future of Europe and deliver change for all. This means seriously addressing the barriers to women's leadership within CSOs. We need to elaborate comprehensive and ambitious strategies to realise women's and girls' rights which should not only develop and implement legislation, but also make a concrete change in mentalities and values. We need to make sure that all policies are designed to not leave a single girl or woman behind. We need to demand a real commitment is made to end all forms of violence against women and girls, in order to reach the highest level of equality, development and peace for all.

Internationally, as CSOs, we need to play a critical role in accelerating the realisation of the Beijing Platform for Action and all women's and girls' human rights and instruments; further enhance gender mainstreaming in all United Nations entities and activities, including in support of the implementation of the post-2015 agenda and the SDGs. There is no more time to waste, no more negotiation to undertake. Women's and girls' rights are universal goals, which cannot tolerate any exception, justification or excuse. Peaceful and sustainable development cannot be achieved if half the planet's population is not fully enjoying their human rights.

I am looking forward to continue the work with CONCORD to ensure that no women or girls are left behind in Europe's future policies and practices inside Europe as well as in the context of EU external action.

Joanna Maycock Secretary General European Women's Lobby

### **CONCORD STRUCTURE & MISSION**

Sufficient and effective Aid

Private sector

Democratic ownership

Democratic ownership

Gender-sensitive development financing

Foster global citizenship and engage citizens in EU decisionmaking

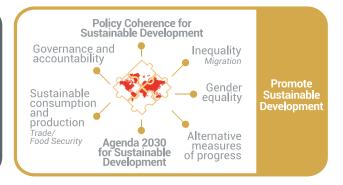
Campaigning and awareness-raising

Challenging paradigms

Global citizenship

Gender equality

Global justice



Back in 2016, CONCORD embarked on a new seven-year strategy. This strategy has been translated into 4 streams of work, internally named 'Hubs' - gathering several thematic areas of work:

- Sustainable Development and Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development
- Financing for Development
- Promoting Civil Society Space
- Global Citizenship and People's engagement

In parallel to these four streams of work, various structures support the work of the confederation and the implementation of the strategy:

- three committees, transversal structures overseeing the work of the members
- the Gender Reference Group, working transversally on mainstreaming gender

On top, the whole work of the Confederation is lead by a governing Board which provides strategic guidance and oversight and is supported by a secretariat coordinating the implementation of the activities.

Twenty seventeen marks the second year of the implementation of this new strategy. The structures were strong of the first year's experience and more confident in achieving the new objectives.

For an interactive description of the strategy and the structure, we invite you to watch the YouTube video.



### THE BOARD



President:
Johannes TRIMMEL
Globale Verantwortung
(Austrian National Platform)
- re-elected in June 2017



Vice-President: **Laura SULLIVAN** ActionAid - re-elected in June 2017



Secretary: Floris FABER ACT Alliance EU



Treasurer:

Marina SARLI

Hellenic Platform
for Development
(Greek National Platform)



Lars BOSSELMANN CBM



Rudy DE MEYER CONCORD Belgium (Belgian National Platform)



Farah NAZEER Bond (British National Platform)



Maurice CLAASSENS SOLIDAR - elected in June 2017



Bruno RIVALAN Coordination SUD (French National Platform) - elected in June 2017



Sigrid SOLNIK AKU (Estonian National Platform) - co-opted in October 2017

#### **MEMBERS WHO STEPPED DOWN:**

Former treasurer: Olivia BACIU, Fond (Romanian National Platform) - June 2017

Former secretary: Maria-Izabella TOTH, CIDSE - June 2017

Former board members:

**Carlos CABO GONZALEZ,** Coordinadora ONGD (Spanish National Platform) - June 2017 **Alexandra MAKAROFF,** Plan International EU - Elected in June 2017, stepped down in October 2017



#### **OUR IMPACT**

#### Towards a new membership strategy

Throughout the year, the board was working on building a new membership strategy in the view of presenting it to the General Assembly of June 2018. The first part was to design a participatory session at the General Assembly of 2017 to get the members' input on what CONCORD's membership should look like. After that discussion the board reviewed the comments of the members and created a task force with the mandate to develop a membership strategy to be presented at the 2018 General Assembly.

#### Supporting members in difficult environments

This past year brought many challenges for civil society throughout Europe. Our members were on the frontlines, whether it was in Italy, Poland, Cyprus or Hungary. The board met with the members to see what could be done to support them and to discuss the challenges they are facing, whether it was by visiting some specific members directly, like Grupa Zagranica (Polish National Platform) in Warsaw in September or meeting with CONCORD Italia (Italian National Platform) in March and CYINDEP (Cypriot National Platform) in November at the Learning and Exchange Forum. Several board members also attended the Europe We Want workshop that was organised in Rome to see how National Platforms can be better linked with the work happening in Brussels. To support members facing difficult situations, one of the decisions taken by the board was to create a response mechanism to allow CONCORD to react quickly when members are under attack. Another tool put in place to support members in difficult situations is the Inclusion Fund, which will help under-resourced members to attend CONCORD events when they cannot cover the costs.

### **CONCORD SECRETARIAT**

#### **LEADERSHIP**



Seamus Jeffreson Director

#### **FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**



Kate Carpenter
Human Resources Officer
- acting as Head of Finance
& Administration



Marion Coat Administration and Events Officer



Adrien Serafin Finance and Administration Assistant

#### **ADVOCACY & POLICY**



Kasia Hanula-Bobbitt Head of Policy and Advocacy



**Lonne Poissonnier**Policy and Advocacy
Coordinator



Francesca Romana Minniti Policy and Advocacy Coordinator



Alexandra Rosén Policy and Advocacy Coordinator



**Zuzana Sladkova**Policy and Advocacy
Coordinator

#### **COMMUNICATION & MEMBERSHIP**



Soledad Briones Head of Communication and Membership - on maternity leave until September



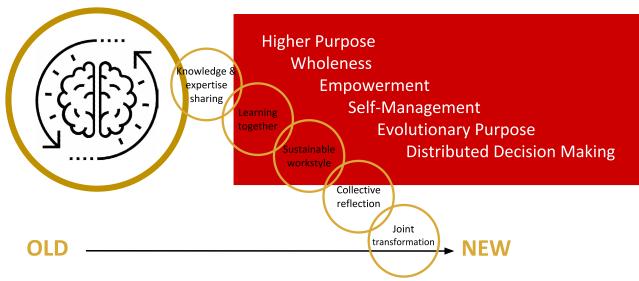
**Helene Debaisieux** Communication Coordinator



**Cecilia Rolland**Governance Coordinator



Rebecca Steel-Jasińska Membership Engagement Coordinator, acting Head of Communication and Membership (February - September), on maternity leave from November



values, frames and worldviews of control, competition, hierarchy values, frames and worldviews of wellbeing, sufficiency & (global) solidarity

#### **OUR IMPACT**

#### 1. CONCORD getting greener

In 2016, CONCORD adopted a Green Office Policy to save energy and minimise consumption of natural resources. In 2017, CONCORD continued to apply these best practices:

- **Travelling:** 85% of the meetings take place via internet, phone or video-conferences to minimise travel.
- Public Transportation and Cycling are the favorite methods of commuting to and from work.
- Office Supplies: 76% of the office supplies are "green".
- Printing: CONCORD recycles or reuses all the unused printouts and discarded documents. Since 2016, the secretariat has reduced the use of hard copy by 32 %.
- Recycling: The secretariat recycles all the paper, plastic, glass and organic waste.
- Carbon offset: CONCORD offsets the carbon every time a staff member travels by plane. In 2017, CONCORD offseted 24.374 kg of CO<sup>2</sup> Greenhouse Gases.

#### 2. Organisational culture and spirit

The CONCORD secretariat is committed to creating a collaborative team dynamic in a mutually supportive working environment.

In the framework of our personal and professional development plan, CONCORD organised a team building and a training programme to maintain the collective spirit and continue to implement the new ways of working to deliver the long-term strategy.

"Along with animating a broad and diverse network of members, the CONCORD Secretariat tries to 'walk the talk' on sustainability, promoting a conducive and creative work environment, and nurturing talent. Our green office policies, training and team building activities and participation with other European CSO networks on re-thinking how we work form part of this effort."

Seamus Jeffreson, Director

#### **COLLEAGUES WHO LEFT:**

Blandine Bouniol - Policy and Advocacy Coordinator - acting as Head of Advocacy until February Paul Kleiber - Finance Officer - until September

#### TRAINEES AND INTERIMS:

Anke Seidler - Head of Resources - from November
Konstantine Zhvania - Finance Intern - from December
Claudia Conticello - Policy and Advocacy Officer - until March
Valentina Galeano - Policy and Advocacy Intern - from May to August
Riccardo Roba - Policy and Advocacy Intern - from September

Riccardo Roba - Policy and Advocacy Intern - from September

Antoinette van Haute - Policy and Advocacy Assistant (March - August) - Policy and Advocacy Coordinator (September - December)

Filip Waszczuk - Policy and Advocacy Assistant - from September

Cinzia Basilici - Membership Intern - from February

Claudia McKenny Engstrom - Communication Officer - from April to December

Filip Nguyen - Communication Intern - until March

### **POLICY DIRECTION COMMITTEE**

The Policy Direction Committee (PDC) oversees CONCORD policy and advocacy work and ensures this work is coherent, impactful and in line with the objectives and principles set out in the strategy. The Committee provides political and policy direction to CONCORD's work in support of the change objectives and CONCORD's multi-annual strategic plan. The composition of the PDC ensures that the extensive membership is represented by providing the mix of expertise coming from different Members States, with different advocacy expertise from international networks, as well as representatives from the board and the 4 policy Hubs.

"The PDC promotes a holistic approach to inclusive, universal, cross-sectoral policy coherence for sustainable development based on a rights based approach while promoting civil society space, global citizenship and sound financing for development - by ensuring blue-sky thinking, a helicopter view, getting our ducks in a row, drinking our own champagne, have a end-user perspective, pushing the envelope, boiling the ocean and avoid picking the low hanging fruit."

Maurice Claassens, SOLIDAR

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

#### **Co-Chairs**

**Maurice Claassens** - Solidar, Hub 3 representative - until October 2017

**Tanya Cox** - Plan International, Hub 1 representative **Sally Nicholson** - WWF - from October 2017

#### Members

Ad Ooms - Partos (Dutch National Platform), Hub 2 representative - until October 2017 **Amy Dodd** - Bond (British National Platform), Hub 2 representative - from October 2017 Izabella Toth - CIDSE, Hub 3 representative Rilli Lappalainen - Kehys (Finnish National **Celine Mias** - CARE International, representing the Gender Reference Group Laura Sullivan - ActionAid International, Rudy de Meyer - CONCORD Belgium (Belgian National Platform), representing the Board **Eva Bordos** - HAND (Hungarian National Platform) Francesco Petrelli - CONCORD Italy (Italian National Platform) Peter Sorbom - CONCORD Sweden (Swedish National Platform) **Claire Godfrey** - Bond (UK National Platform)

#### **OUR IMPACT**

CONCORD is a main interlocutor for the EU institutions when it comes to development issues, therefore our advocacy positions are being prepared and supported by a broad membership base. For effective and impactful advocacy, the PDC supports CONCORD's secretariat in conducting informed and influential advocacy by providing check of coherence and continuity of messages.

Part of this work is also demonstrated in the planning process, which aims at better prioritising and ensuring coherent and strategic policy outputs. The PDC plays a crucial role in understanding what our confederation wants to achieve as a whole and is the guardian of CONCORD policy messages.

In 2017, in order to facilitate coherent messages across the confederation, the PDC identified three cross-cutting topics linking the work of different workstreams and communities. These so called "red threads" should be reflected in all CONCORD advocacy messages and policy actions. These overarching issues are:

- Inequality
- Shrinking CSO space
- Sustainable Development

# HUB 1 ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY COHERENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

#### **OUR IMPACT**

### 1. Taking the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Europe a step further

Thanks to the **clear and timely messages** and collective advocacy of Hub 1 members, the first half of 2017 concluded with strong Council conclusions in which Member States call on the Commission to set out by mid-2018 an implementation strategy with timelines, objectives and concrete measures to implement the 2030 Agenda in all EU policies. This strategy should be based on a gap analysis of where the EU needs to do more by 2030 in the areas of policy, legislation, governance structures for horizontal coherence and implementation. The European Parliament echoed CONCORD's messages in its 'EU action for sustainability' report. A few months later, CONCORD managed to obtain a seat on the high-level EU SDG multi-stakeholder platform, to advise the European Commission on the implementation of SDGs at EU level. Under the Estonian presidency, a new Council working party has also been set up focusing on Agenda 2030 that will report to the General Affairs Council. It however remains to be seen to what extent these calls and structures will lead to an ambitious long-term transformational implementation strategy that will lead to a sustainable EU by 2030.

Through its paper 'Monitoring Agenda 2030 implementation across the EU', CONCORD monitored to which extent EU Member States and institutions have set up the necessary governance structures, clear plans or robust monitoring and accountability mechanisms to take this holistic agenda forward, thereby holding governments to account and inspiring more ambitious actions from all actors involved. The Hub 1 presented this report to Member States during a joint meeting of the Council working parties of development, international environmental affairs and UN affairs.

### 2. Food Security and agriculture: Influencing the new European Consensus on Development

CONCORD has been successful in getting a few key elements into the <u>new European Consensus on Development - 'Our world, our dignity, our future'</u> with regard to food security and agriculture: the right to food; support to enhanced capacity for diversified local and regional food production; resilience of the most vulnerable in situations of food insecurity; and the commitment that the EU and its Member states will support agro-ecological practices (in line with our <u>agroecology paper</u>) and actions to reduce food losses, as well as explicitly mentioning the importance of traditional farmer based seed systems. Towards the end of 2017, the Hub launched the report <u>'Mixing means and ends. What role for (which) private sector in agriculture and food & nutrition security?', which should serve as a building block for future advocacy on food security and agriculture, but also - more</u>

"International solidarity, which is what brings us together in CONCORD, is not guiding EU policies for the moment. CONCORD's work has been adapting to that changing context, showing how aid has been increasingly used to serve restrictive EU migration policies, or how policy coherence for development has in fact been ignored. I hope our next Hub 1 meeting will allow us to collectively steer CONCORD towards being more strategic and impactful than ever in such a hostile context."

Isabelle Brachet, ActionAid International



specifically - for CONCORD's work on financial instruments like the European Investment Plan and AgriFI. The Consensus was also robust regarding inequality, with strong commitment to mainstream it in development cooperation. We now need to ensure that effectively happens.

### 3. Advocating for another EU approach to migration and development

The Migration group in Hub 1 analysed how the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa and the Migrations Compacts are being used and what impact they have in three specific countries, namely in Libya, Niger and Ethiopia. By looking at these three case studies, the report 'Migration or conditionality? Monitoring the Migration Compacts and the EU Trust Fund for Africa' sheds light on whether the implementation upholds development effectiveness principles or causes a so-called "diversion" of aid. A short version of the report, including its main findings, has been released on 22 November 2017 during a very participated event hosted by the Chair of the Migration

group of the DEVE Committee in the European Parliament. Thanks to the report, a lot of attention was raised from members of the European Parliament and media. Hopefully this attention, together with continued advocacy by the Hub, will convince the EU to improve its approach to migration and development. The full report was officially published in January 2018. Several workshops at national level have also been organised in 2018 to continue the advocacy work in the European capitals.





### 4. EU Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development under scrutiny

In its report 'The impact of EU policies in the world. Seeing the bigger picture', Hub 1 examined the impact assessments that accompanied proposals issued by Directorates-General of the European Commission in 2016, singling out four cases in which there was an adequate, an inadequate or no impact assessment, exploring them in greater depth in an attempt to learn the strengths and weaknesses of the Commission's current approach to impact assessments and propose recommendations for the future. The report has been well-received by the European Commission, the Regulatory Scrutiny Board, several Member States as well as by CSOs and think tanks. It increased the understanding of how EU policy proposals can be made more coherent with sustainable development. This will also feed into the upcoming consultation on Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) to be launched early 2018.

#### **GENDER**

After the long-awaited release of the Commission's first <u>Gender Action Plan II implementation progress report</u>, the Hub organised a panel discussion 'Taking stock - One year into the Gender Action Plan' to share our analysis and discuss this

report with relevant decision-makers, while putting forward recommendations for improvement, several of which have been taken on by the subsequent **Council conclusions** and in the draft European Parliament report.

#### **PARTNERSHIPS AND ALLIES**

Through the 'Expert Seminar on Genuine Measures of Progress: From Theory to Practice', the Hub managed to reflect and build a common understanding on how we can overcome obstacles to going beyond GDP as the unique measure of progress in our society and using Genuine Measures of Progress, while building strategic alliances with high-level academics, statisticians, politicians, EU and OECD officials and civil society from all over Europe.

"To reach the Sustainable Development Goals, Member States and the EU must step up the work and take a stand for human rights. In 2017, CONCORD once again coordinated and strengthened national platforms' advocacy at national and EU level. The Thunderclap Campaign gave members a tool for campaigning towards the EU Commission and monitoring the Agenda 2030 implementation across the EU gave pressure at national level."

Sofia Svarfvar, CONCORD Sweden

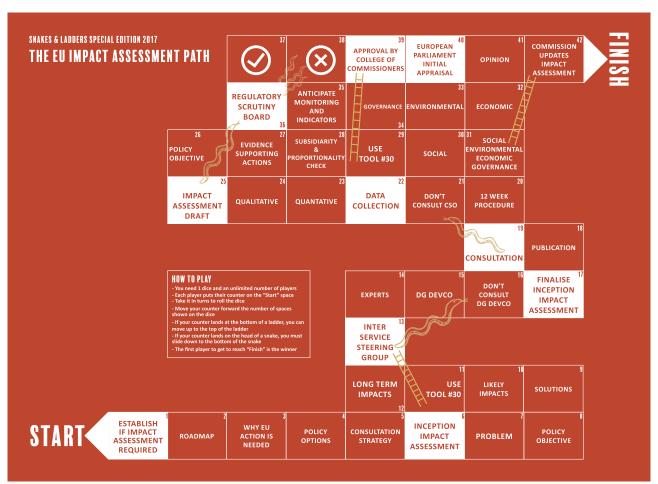
#### **STEERING GROUP MEMBERS**

#### **Co-Chairs**

**Evert-Jan Brouwer,** EU-CORD **Jussi Kanner,** Kehys (Finnish National Platform)

#### Members

Andrea Stocchiero, CONCORD Italy (Italian National Platform)
Gyorgy Sumeghy, Habitat for Humanity
- from October 2017
Isabelle Brachet, ActionAid International
Sally Nicholson, WWF
Sofia Svarfvar, CONCORD Sweden
(Swedish National Platform)
Tanya Cox, Plan International
Wiske Jult, CONCORD Belgium
(Belgian national platform) - until October 2017



Snakes and ladders special edition 2017: The impact assessment path from the CONCORD report 'The impact of EU policies in the world - Seeing the bigger picture'

#### BLOW THE CANDLE OUT. CAMPAIGN FOR THE 2ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE SDGS

Two years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, CONCORD conducted the <u>'Blow the candle'</u> campaign for the second anniversary of the SDGs. With the help of a video, a dedicated website and a social media thunderclap, CONCORD's priorities for how the Commission should launch a long-term sustainable development strategy have been launched. The campaign reached no less than 575,000 people with its tweet and almost 11,000 people saw the campaign video.





### **HUB 2 ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT**

#### **OUR IMPACT**

#### 1. Advocating for genuine aid all across Europe

The 2017's edition of the **AidWatch Report**, an evidence-based report monitoring aid in the EU and its Member States, was launched on 16 October 2017. The launch event held in Brussels attracted a lot of attention and a full room listened to the panelists debating the key findings of the 2017 report. The panel, included Heidi Hautala, Vice President of the European Parliament, Laurent Sarazin, Head of Unit A2, European Commission - DG DEVCO, Amy Dodd, Hub 2 Steering Group member and Helena Lagerlöf, Minister Counsellor, Swedish Permanent Representation to the EU.

The AidWatch report was also launched and debated across Europe during the fall and winter: in Malta, Sweden, France, Portugal, Denmark and Spain to name a few. The key findings were presented to CODEV in October, to the African - Caribbean - Pacific (ACP) ambassadors in September and at <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/jhb/47/">https://doi.org/10.1007/jhb/47/</a> / The AidEx Brussels Conference in November, where Seamus Jeffreson, CONCORD's Director, participated in the opening panel debate.

The work on aid and development effectiveness in Hub 2 also resulted in two longer pieces of research on the links between aid and migration as well as aid and security. These thematic papers, which have been finalised in 2018, will continue to help framing the discussions around the "instrumentalisation of aid".



### 2. Roadmap for Europe on the role of the private sector in development

What is and what should be the role of the private sector in development? CONCORD launched its report "10 point roadmap for Europe on the role of the private sector in development" in October 2017, compiling ten areas of action for the EU to ensure a fair, sustainable and accountable contribution of the private sector to the 2030 Agenda. The report was developed by CONCORD members in collaboration with CSO allies and experts. It includes case studies, provided by members and collaborators from across the world which

"Reporting of in-donor refugees costs, tied aid, debt relief or interest repayments as development aid has gone up and quite dramatically in some countries. That's a worrying trend that looks set to continue. Arguably this is all emblematic of a continued shift in EU aid and development which is seeing progressive instrumentalisation of EU aid away from genuine, sustainable development in favour of migration control, securitisation and the private sector in donor countries — all of which have slightly more dubious development impact."

Amy Dodd, Bond (UK National Platform)

illustrate both opportunities for positive outcomes as well as existing gaps and concerns. CONCORD's position on the private sector in development was also publicly shared via the op-ed "Private sector and development: the EU is not doing enough!" on EurActiv written by Isabelle Brachet (ActionAid). The paper was also presented during the "Effectiveness and Impact of Private Sector in Development" workshop on 10 October 2017 in Berlin by VENRO.

### 3. Hub 2 members in the CSO Reference Group to the OECD DAC

Several CONCORD members from Hub 2 were actively involved in formalising the CSO group advocating the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC). Members of the group include both Civil Society organisations from the global North and the global South. The reference group's priorities focus on improving opportunities for a permanent dialogue with the DAC as well as on access to information and key documents. The top policy issues on the table include the reform of the DAC reporting rules on Official Development Assistance (ODA) for in-donor refugee costs as well as private sector instruments leveraged through public finance. A milestone for the group was the High Level Meeting in October 2017, when for the first time civil society representatives were invited. The group continues to advocate for its messages towards the DAC secretariat and the DAC members to safeguard ODA and to ensure meaningful consultations with civil society.



#### **GENDER**

In 2017, a section on gender was reintroduced in the AidWatch report. The section explores donor progress on gender and women's empowerment as 85% of new EU programmes should have gender as a "significant objective" or "principal objective". However, and as stated in the latest AidWatch report, Sweden was the only EU member state to meet this target. Seven countries are also making significant progress, reaching 50-75%. Most Member States, however, still have a long way to go to reach the 85% target by 2020. The EU Commission had reached only 34% in 2014-2015, but it has recently claimed that as many as 57% of its programmes now have gender as a significant or their principal objective, which is considerable progress.

#### **PARTNERSHIPS AND ALLIES**

During the drafting of the report "A 10-point roadmap for Europe - the Role of Private Sector in Development" several non-members organisations contributed meaningfully to the work. Among the contributors were Cooperatives Europe, Fair Trade Advocacy Office (FTAO), European Coalition for Corporate Justice (ECCJ), Counterbalance, Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Eurodad (the European Network on Debt and Development).

#### STEERING GROUP MEMBERS

#### **Co-Chairs**

Luca de Fraia, ActionAid Italy Adriana Zaharia, FOND (Romanian National Platform)

#### Steering group members

Amy Dodd, Bond (British National Platform)
William Grech, SKOP (Maltese National Platform)
Gautier Centlivre, Coordination Sud
(French National Platform)
Pedro Morazan, VENRO (German National Platform)

Ingrid Coenen, Partos (Dutch National Platform)
Tatiana Lambin, WWF - until October 2017
Ad Ooms, Partos (Dutch National Platform)

- until October 2017

Marjan Huc, Sloga (Slovenian National Platform)

- until October 2017





# EU AID UNCOVERED WILL WE REACH THE TARGET?

#### AIDWATCH REPORT 2017 - EU PUSHES COMMITMENT UP TO 2052

The CONCORD AidWatch Report 2017 revealed that it would take the EU and its Member States another 30 years to reach their commitment to 0.7% GNI. We should not expect to reach the target before 2052. The 0.7% target was adopted in a 1970 UN Resolution, so this means the EU will live up to its commitments 82 years after the target was first set. The CONCORD AidWatch Report 2017 presents a detailed analysis of recent aid spending by the EU and its member states, and makes recommendations for how the EU can provide transparent, accountable aid with the primary purpose of ending poverty and achieving sustainable development.

### **HUB 3 ON CIVIL SOCIETY SPACE**

#### **OUR IMPACT**

#### 1. CONCORD answers to Public Consultation on the EU External Financing Instruments, March 2017

The consultation was held in preparation of the revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework – as regards the External Financing Instruments – and the European Development Fund (EDF). The objective of the consultation was to gather feedback from the broadest possible range of stakeholders on the emerging conclusions from the evaluations, as well as preliminary ideas on the future external financing instruments. In general, CONCORD would like to see increased EU investment in people-centered development including gender equality, democratic governance and human rights, climate resilience and environmental rights, social security and well-being of all women, men, girls and boys. This is particularly important regarding the design of new programmes which address migration and development where the human rights of refugees and migrants should be front and center. A summary of the recommendations has also been developed.

#### 2. The Cotonou Agreement - What will happen next?, June 2017

CONCORD is closely following the revision of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, the broadest EU partnership with developing countries. In June 2017, CONCORD prepared several briefing papers aiming to provide EU NGDOs' views on the future of the institutional set-up, the development cooperation and global challenges, the private sector and trade, and

STEERING GROUP MEMBERS

#### **Co-Chairs**

Åsa Thomasson, CONCORD Sweden **Izabella Toth,** Partos (Dutch National Platform) - from October 2017 Maurice Claassens, Solidar - until October 2017

#### Members

Karine Sohet, ACT Alliance EU Katarina Macejakova, ActionAid EU Machteld Bierens de Haan, Save the Children EU **Daniel Svoboda**, FoRs (Czech National Platform) **Robert Krizanic,** Sloga (Slovenian National Platform) - from October 2017 Alexandra Makaroff, Plan International EU Office - until August 2017

"Civil society organisations as partners in EU development cooperation bring a wide variety of expertise, help bringing Europe closer to the world through development education and fostering pro-poor policies and programmes, and are a key partner in fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals. In order to maximise this potential, the EU can be a strong partner and a flexible donor to civil society in ways that respect the particularities, diversity and strengths of civil society."

> Åsa Thomasson, CONCORD Sweden (Swedish National Platform)

the role of civil society. These papers were presented at the Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA) in Malta from the 19th to 21st of June 2017. This event gathered members of the Parliaments from Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) and members of the European Parliament. MEPs discussed sport, development aid, famine and security issues in Sahel regions. CONCORD organised a side event that addressed migration issues and lessons learned from the 11th European Development Fund which took place on the 19th June. Migration and aid were at the centre of the discussions during the JPA, these topics being key elements of the new Consensus on Development.



#### 3. EU-CELAC Civil Society Forum and regional workshop, El Salvador, September 2017

The EU-CELAC group within CONCORD worked very closely together with our partner Mesa de Articulacion to organise the Civil Society Forum in El Salvador in September and a pilot regional workshop back to back with the Forum.

The regional workshop in El Salvador gathered 25 civil society representatives from Latin America with the aim to increase their ability to actively engage with the EU Delegations. To support the organisation of the workshop, a toolkit was developed in English, **Spanish** and **French** versions.

The Forum brought together CSOs from both Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean, and one of its major outcomes was the **El Salvador Declaration**, developed with civil society from both continents. The Declaration was disseminated by CONCORD, in coordination with Latin America's counterparts, ahead of the *EU-CELAC Summit*, which is to be rescheduled for 2018.



4. EU-Africa Summit and Civil Society's Alternatives to 5 EU Narratives on EU-Africa Partnership, November 2017

Ahead of the EU-Africa Summit in Abidjan, 80 representatives of civil society organisations from Africa and Europe – including CONCORD Europe – met at the *EU-Africa Civil Society Forum* in Tunis in July 2017 and adopted a joint **Tunis Declaration.** They noted that the shrinking space for civil society organisations remains a major challenge for the partnership, and stressed the importance of fostering space for civil society organisations of both continents as independent actors and integral partners within the Joint Africa-EU Partnership and Strategy. CONCORD also drafted a complementary CONCORD Paper proposing 5 Alternatives to EU Narratives on the EU-Africa partnership, focusing on migration, security, the private sector, trade and tax, and youth. During the EU-AU Summit civil society representatives were prevented from speaking and the parallel Civil Society Summit was stopped by police intervention. CONCORD played an important role in **reacting to these grave** incidents.



#### 5. EU Funding Training, December 2017

On 11-12 December 2017, The Hub 3 Funding Training Task Force organised a two-day workshop for CONCORD members on accessing European development funds based on **the EU Funding and Proposal Development Training Toolkit.** The Toolkit is divided in two parts: a) Facilitator's toolkit containing detailed session plans, propositions and answer sheets for the trainer and b) Workshop handbook including agenda, EU standard documents, key learning sheets and workbook. Hub 3 hopes it will help CONCORD members to navigate through the complex EU funding landscape and succeed in applying for funds through a range of instructions, interactive examples and exercises.

"Roadmaps are particularly important to build a structured dialogue and to support Civil Society structuration and capacity building for advocacy, domestic accountability and active citizenship. The roadmap helped to raise the profile of the EU delegation, increase its contact with different organisations, bring about more events in which civil society took part, and promote contacts between civil society and the ambassadors of EU member states."

National Office of INGO, Peru (EU Delegations Report 2017)

"It is important that the EU defends the independence of civil society and resists any attempts from governments to make civil society merely implementers of the government's agenda. To ensure government-organised organisations do not take over dialogue processes, a good indepth analysis and knowledge of civil society in each partner country is important. EU country roadmaps process for engagement with civil society can be developed further to become a tool for both strategic dialogue with civil society, and coherent approaches between member states, also on shrinking space issues."

Karine Sohet. ACT Alliance EU

### 6. European Parliament Report on shrinking space in developing countries

Together with other members of Civil Society Europe, CONCORD contributed with comments and suggestions to the *Joint report on shrinking space in developing countries* prepared by the Development and Foreign Affairs committees of the European Parliament. Among other activities, an informal meeting was held in April with the rapporteur and Karine Sohet (Hub 3 steering group member) representing civil society speaker at the hearing in the Parliament. A number of the comments from civil society organisations were accepted in **the final report**.

#### **GENDER**

Gender has been mainstreamed across the areas covered by the Hub 3. Together with the Gender Reference Group, Hub 3 develops a Gender Toolkit as part of the regional workshops organised in partner countries.

#### PARTNERSHIPS AND ALLIES

For different communities of Hub 3, alliances are crucial. Biregional Community actively co-operated for example with *Mesa de Articulacion* on the Civil society forum in El Salvador and wrote the *El Salvador Declaration* together with them.

Around the EU-AU Summit, CONCORD was an active Steering Committee member of the European and African Civil Society Steering Committee on the JAES and co-organise the *Civil Society Forum* in Tunis, where the Tunis Declaration was developed together with other European and African CSOs. The Enabling Environment Community has been involved in Civil Society Europe and *CSO Partnership on Development Effectiveness* on different areas related to shrinking space for CSOs.



#### **EU DELEGATIONS REPORT 2017, FEBRUARY 2017**

The EU Delegations report of CONCORD, titled "Towards a more effective partnership with civil society", offers recommendations to encourage EU Delegations, EU headquarters, EU Member States as well as Civil Society Organisations to improve their partnership, dialogue and coordination. The report based on a broad survey with 392 responses and 15 interviews with CSOs, EU Delegations and Member States embassies around the world is enriched with five country examples: Cambodia, Honduras, Kenya, Mali and Tunisia. To present this report in an interactive way, CONCORD developed a dedicated webpage in 3 languages (EN, FR, ESP) as well as the country examples.



# HUB 4 ON GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION AND PEOPLE'S ENGAGEMENT

#### **OUR IMPACT**

### 1. CONCORD participation in 'Raise your Voice, DEAR!' International Symposium

The work carried out by Hub 4 members including the ongoing work around the GCE Funding Study were presented on November 9th, 2017, in Milan, during the International Symposium 'Raise your voice, DEAR!', organised in the frame of the European project EAThink 2015 - eat local, think global!. During the symposium, held between the 8th and 10th of November 2017, more than 200 teachers. educators, NGOs representatives and academics from over 13 countries met to discuss Global Citizenship Education (GCE) perspectives and challenges and to explore best practices and needs of the different stakeholders involved - Local Authorities, Ministries, Universities, Schools and educators. Policies, practices and national strategies on GCE and Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) were shared and discussed in parallel working groups throughout the duration of the event. The high level presentation by the Hub 4 was delivered right before the event closure by the member Federica Di Giulio, from the Maltese National Platform SKOP.

### 2. Campaign and engagement: campaigning laboratory in November in Tallinn

It all started in Hub 4, the idea to organise a Laboratory to discuss concretely what Campaign means, how NGOs and Civil Society Organisations are working on campaigns in the different Member States and abroad. Thanks to the opportunity of the **Learning & Exchange Forum** we could make it real! Upon Hub 4 suggestions, participants were challenged by Martin Kirk from /TheRules and Marta Benavides, Activist from El Salvador, who encouraged them to challenge the development narrative: both when launching a campaign but also more broadly in their daily work. We need to pin the problem down before acting and thus, be able to move from false hope to real hope. This could mean radically changing the way we work...

"Diversity is key to interpret life. Empathy and recognising one's differences as an added-value are the best way to generate respect and peaceful relationships between cultures."

Paola Berbeglia - CONCORD Italia (Italian National Platform)

#### STEERING GROUP MEMBERS

#### **Co-Chairs**

Paola Berbeglia, CONCORD Italia (Italian National Platform) Stefan Grasgruber, Globale Verantwortung (Austrian National Platform)

#### Members

Veronica Castaneda, Coordinadora ONGD (Spanish National Platform) - maternity replacement of Freest Saralegui

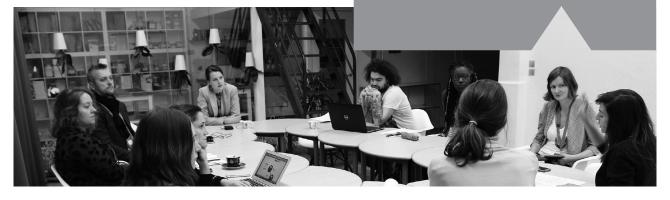
Mathieu Chaveneau, Coordination Sud

Monika Duelge, VENRO (German National Platform) Veronika Golianova, Habitat for Humanity

Mari-Helene Kaber, AKU (Estonian National Platform)

Raffaela Kihrer, EAEA

**Rilli Lappalainen**, Kehys (Finnish National Platform)



#### 3. DEAR call and programming

The Hub 4 worked closely with the European Commission through a constructive dialogue to ensure a meaningful role for Global Citizenship Education, including funding, in CSOs contribution.

Feedback to the DEAR programming was provided and the Hub took an active role in the broad EC event organised in July 2017 called "Partnership forum". The work on the DEAR components has been done in cooperation with the Funding community of Hub 3 and this match positively contributed to find the best synergies and mutual support within CONCORD constituency.

#### **GENDER**

In 2017, Hub 4 proposed to explore new avenues on the topic of Gender. Global Citizenship Education does not only aim to educate on global issues and interdependencies, but is also a set of training and learning methods with an emancipatory approach. This means reaching out to and working with disadvantaged groups. Considering this, Hub 4 perceived the active promotion of gender equality as an inherent element of its work on GCE.

#### **PARTNERSHIPS AND ALLIES**

Hub 4 carried on the dialogue with other Global Citizenship Education actors in Europe. **GENE** (Global education network in Europe) launched a **global education Innovation Award** where CONCORD shared its expertise in the selection process. **North-South Centre of Council of Europe** is a long-standing partner promoting global citizenship education. It focuses especially on Baltic, Visegrad and Balkans areas countries. CONCORD and its members have been key partners in the implementation of global education activities during the "GCE week". Hub 4 representatives continue regular dialogue with the European Commission and other international actors like the Bridge 47 network.

"Global Citizenship Education and People's Engagement became even more crucial in 2017 with populism and authoritarian governments on the rise and civil society spaces shrinking in Europe. Hub 4 therefore had an intense year and we prepared ourselves and CONCORD in the Campaign Lab in Tallinn for a broad Campaign around the European Elections 2019"

Stefan Grasgruber Kerl - Globale Verantwortung (Austrian National Platform)





#### GCE FUNDING STUDY - FINALISATION OF THE RESEARCH AND LAUNCH

The Hub 4 commissioned this research to capture the level of investment in Global Citizenship Education (GCE) by National Governments across all EU member states (+ Norway) between the years 2011 and 2015. This study is primarily a quantitative analysis of the primary sources of investment by national governments directed at NGOs. On top, there is a qualitative narrative which focuses on some of the differences in contexts and language. Identifying the level of investment in GCE and attempting to gauge patterns of support between 2011 and 2015 allows the Hub 4 to work from a baseline, which this study provides. Hub 4 also acknowledges that different countries refer to GCE as Development Education, Global Education or Global Learning. This study assumes that those areas of endeavour are close enough in terms of frames and values to report them as GCE. The study officially has been launched in March 2018 but all the research work has been carried over 2017.

## TRANSVERSAL TOOLS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

#### 1. THE EUROPEAN CONSENSUS ON DEVELOPMENT

The Consensus is a new common framework for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for the EU and its Member States. Our confederation welcomed this initiative, reflecting on EU leadership in that matter, and encouraged EU leaders to use this framework as opportunity to reaffirm EU engagement towards poverty eradication, fight for inequality, human rights, and sustainable development.

As such, bringing the experience and demands of our constituency to the development of this policy constituted a key priority for CONCORD in 2017. CONCORD positioned itself as a key player on the Consensus early in the process and remained a reference until the end.

Concretely, CONCORD coordinated a number of reactions (responses) to the different Presidency drafts, updating positions and demands as the negotiations evolved. Communication and media actions were used to generate interest and disseminate CONCORD's positions. Efforts were also made to encourage advocacy in key Member States. In addition, CONCORD's position was used as a reference by the European Parliament and other interested stakeholders. While the first version of the text was worrying, pro-solidarity elements have been progressively integrated and the

"We were very happy that the Maltese Presidency - and indeed the whole Council Working Group on Development - was so open to civil society's views on the new European Consensus, providing opportunities, both formal and less so, to feed in. The Consensus evolved in a positive direction over the course of the months and we have ended up with a very comprehensive policy which will shape the EU's development cooperation for the foreseeable future. While we regret the confirmation of some trends in EU policy, such as an increasing reliance on the private sector to deliver development results, without adequate safeguards being in place, we were able to strengthen the policy in many areas such as women's and girls' rights and community-based sustainable energy."

Tanya Cox, Plan International EU

#### EUROPEAN CONSENSUS LEADING GROUP MEMBERS

Tanya Cox, Plan International EU
Luca De Fraia, CONCORD Italia
(Italian National Platform)
Karine Sohet, ACT Alliance EU
Jussi Kanner, Kehys (Finnish National Platform)
Jan de Mayrhofer, Oxfam
Isabelle Brachet, ActionAid
Rachel de Plaen, CONCORD Belgium
(Belgian National Platform)

impact of CONCORD's advocacy work has been translated in numerous issues added into the document, like human and social development provisions as well as CSO's role in development, the contribution and priority of small-scale farmers, and, to a more limited extent business accountability and the overarching principles. However, CONCORD was unable to influence highly the strategic direction of the Consensus that influence major political developments across the EU in areas such as security and migration.





#### 2. MULTIANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK 2021-2027

In Spring 2017, CONCORD started to mobilise members to prepare for the negotiations of the MultiAnnual Financial Framework (MFF) post 2020. Over the summer, CONCORD contracted consultants to facilitate its understanding of how development policies under the next MFF can be supported in a broader framework of increased accountability, efficiency, transparency and consistency. The outcome of the process is an <u>internal report</u> divided in three parts: a) background and status of MFF discussions, b) options for

CONCORD's engagement and includes possible messages and c) recommendations for CONCORD. The research paper was presented at the MFF workshop in October 2017 during which key elements were discussed with members and the guidance was used for the CONCORD's position paper: Making the case for a strong EU development cooperation budget released in December 2017. It tries to cover all current discussions with the European Commission, European Parliament and Member States on the external action of the EU. MFF negotiation is one of the key priorities for CONCORD in 2018.

### **INCLUSIVE NETWORK COMMITTEE**

The Inclusive Network Committee advises the CONCORD governance on specific topics regarding the organisational development of the confederation. It fosters ownership of the CONCORD identity, to improve inclusion and to build a peer learning culture in the confederation. It also works to ensure the effective participation of all members, in their diversity, in CONCORD's activities.

**OUR IMPACT** 

#### 1. Supporting a learning culture in the confederation

The Committee organised successfully the second edition of CONCORD's Learning and Exchange Forum in Tallinn on 8 & 9 November. It focused on campaigning and it was organised together with the Global Citizenship Education and People Engagement Hub (4) and with the invaluable support of AKU, the Estonian National Platform.

This edition aimed to create a space for members to come together beyond the daily work of influencing policies and politics at EU level. The event was a participatory forum, with sessions ranging from speeches and panel discussions to those involving role play, all tailored to encourage participants to challenge their way of thinking, namely by stepping into other actors' shoes. The participants were invited to reflect on the notion of campaigning, both in conceptual and practical terms. To find out more, have a look at the report of the Learning & Exchange Forum.



#### 2. Strengthening inclusion and effective participation

During the General Assembly, the members of the Inclusive Network Committee were also actively welcoming new members and sharing the committee's work during the marketplace session, which resulted in the recruitment of a couple of new members for the Committee.

"We are living very challenging moments for CSOs in Europe. CONCORD and its members are working together, through the Inclusive Network Committee, to discuss the future of the Europe we want. As a Committee, we aim to create different opportunities to discuss and collaborate together, to learn and to hear from each other and to fight together for a fairer Europe."

Alba Gonzalez, CBM

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

#### Co-chairs

Alba Gonzalez, CBM Robert Krizanic, SLOGA (Slovenian National Platform)

#### Members

Ruth Faber, EU CORD Benedicte Hermelin, Coordination Sud (French National Platform) Paola Berbeglia, CONCORD Italia

(Italian National Platform)

Daniel Svoboda, FoRs (Czech National Platform) Marina Sarli, Hellenic Platform for Development

(Greek National Platform)

Farah Nazeer, Bond (British National Platform)

Magnus Falklöf, CONCORD Sweden

(Swedish National Platform) - until June Luciana Almeida, Plataforma ONGD

(Portuguese National Platform) - from June

**Stefan Cibian,** FOND (Romanian National Platform)

Mousumi Saika, Islamic Relief - from November

During the second half of the year, the Committee launched a survey to measure the happiness of members within the confederation. Based on the answers, a list of recommendations was created and shared with the board to foster a more qualitative and active participation of CONCORD members. The Committee also worked on the activity monitoring, which measures members' participation in the different structures of the confederation. They will continue to work on improving this very useful instrument.



3. Transparent and accessible information

Several toolkits and guides have been created to facilitate CONCORD work and help the members understand better how the confederation works. These include the CONCORD guides for **newcomers**, for **Hub members** and for **delegates**, the ABC for anyone taking on a role in the confederation.

Additionally, several toolkits related to communication have been developed. Technologies and processes should be crystal clear after our members have read **the webinar toolkits**, **the social media best practices** and all the other guides you can find in **the "comms toolkits" folder**.

#### **GENDER**

As every year the Inclusive Network Committee monitored the gender of the participants to CONCORD activities as part of the annual activity monitoring (see Annexes).

"The Learning and Exchange Forum has proven, after only two editions, that it's at the same time a major thematic event as well as a great networking opportunity for all CONCORD members. The Inclusive Network Committee is working to ensure the Forum remains relevant and addresses the concerns of members."

Robert Krizanic, SLOGA (Slovenian National Platform)



#### **ENABLING ENVIRONMENT**

To follow-up on the work of the last Learning & Exchange Forum, which focused on shrinking civic space, the Inclusive Network Committee ran a survey in the first half of 2017 to map the situation CONCORD members face in terms of an enabling environment, or lack thereof. The committee then worked together with the Membership and Communication Team in the Secretariat to provide <u>feedback to the members</u>, including highlighting tools already available to support members. <u>Infographics</u> were also created to showcase the main outcomes of the survey at the CONCORD General Assembly.

### FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Financial Advisory Committee advises the CONCORD Board and CONCORD Director on all matters relating to our finance and resources and ensures that these issues are communicated transparently to the members, in particular at Board Meetings and at the General Assembly.

#### **OUR IMPACT**

#### 1. New members

In April, the Committee welcomed three new members Branka Juran, Roderick Agius and Sigrid Solnik in April. In June, Olivia Baciu's mandate ended and Marina Sarli became the new treasurer and chair of the Committee.

#### 2. Strategic Financing

Following on from the successful work in 2016, the Committee continued to play a strategic role to safeguard and reinforce CONCORD's financial health and independence. The Committee equally put improving and expanding the financial information presented to members at the heart of its work so that the confederation has a strategic overview of the resources and a better understanding of how they are invested.

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

#### Chair

**Marina Sarli,** Hellenic Platform for Development (Greek National Platform)

#### **Members**

Izabella Toth, CIDSE

Michael Steeb, VENRO (German National Platform) Roderick Agius, SKOP Malta (Maltese National Platform)

Branka Juran, CROSOL (Croatia National Platform) Sigrid Solnik, AKU (Estonian National Platform) Olivia Baciu, FOND (Romanian National Platform) - until June 2017

#### Advisor to the committee

**Graham Mckay,** Bond (UK National Platform) **Stefan Cibian,** FOND (Romanian National Platform) "CONCORD needs to ensure financial independence and sustainability. To achieve this, the Committee framed the work on the new long-term financial strategy and launched the consultation process with members. The work will continue in 2018 and the new strategy will be presented at the next General Assembly."

Marina Sarli, Chair of the Financial Advisory Committee

#### 3. Financial sustainability and independence

To ensure CONCORD remains financially sustainable and stable to deliver its strategic ambitions, the Committee worked on an outline for a long-term financial strategy. This outline was presented to the Board in September and approved. CONCORD and the Committee enlisted the help of an external specialist in carrying out a participatory process and draft the strategic options.

The work started in November 2017 with a member survey. Key principles will be sustainability, stability, independence, accountability and transparency, solidarity and inclusiveness across the membership, non-competition between CONCORD and its members and innovation in how the organisation secures funding for the foreseeable future. The principles will be discussed by the General Assembly in June 2018.

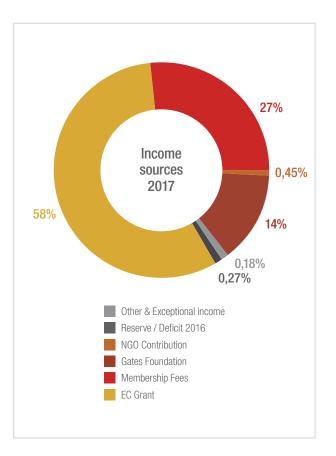
CONCORD received a grant of 900.000 € from the European Commission, as part of the three-year Framework Partnership Agreement that started in 2016. The partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation also continued successfully in 2017 with 221.099 €. This funding has provided the confederation with an opportunity to deepen and broaden the work foreseen in the long-term strategy of 2016 - 2022 on issues such as more and better aid, the European Consensus, the Cotonou Agreement and the Gender Action Plan.

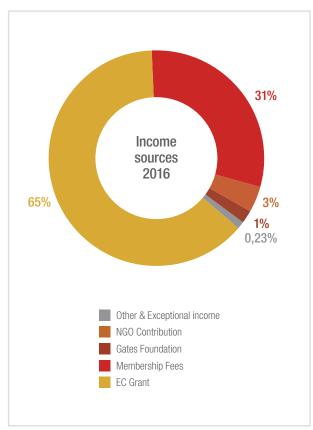
### 4. Ensuring the commitment of members regarding resources

CONCORD has had a system of self-selecting fees since 2015. Every three years, members commit to a level of fees according to their capacity. Members were last invited in 2015 to commit new fees (2016-2018). In 2017, members continued to show a strong commitment to CONCORD and the income was slightly down on projections.

### 5. Ensuring the commitment of members regarding resources

Maintaining a core budget is an integral part of CONCORD's way of working. As in previous years, it has been funded by membership fees and the operational grant from the European Commission. In 2017, the overall budget was allocated to the following working structures: four thematic hubs and three steering committees.





### **FINANCE & ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

#### **ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES**

- CONCORD's accounts are held in euro and are maintained on a historical cost basis in compliance with international accounting standards and the legislation on associations applicable in Belgium.
- The core operational budget of CONCORD covers the cost of the secretariat, studies, consultancy and communication and the member-led working bodies (Hubs, general meetings, trainings).
- Subject to the travel reimbursement rules, the budget allows for the participation of at least one representative per member at such meetings, covering travel and accommodation on request when these are not covered by the member organisation itself.

 The core budget is funded by members and co-financed with an operating grant from the European Commission and a 3-year grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

#### **BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017**

The balance sheet shows the state of CONCORD's finances as on 31 December 2017. The intangible and tangible fixed assets are written off over several years (2 - 5 years). The long-term financial assets comprise a guarantee deposit of one month's root.

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Intangible assets	€ 9.956	€ 17.178	€ 14.371	€ 6.876	€ 28.684	€ 13.751	€ -
Tangible assets	€ 1.918	€ 3.279	€ 7.357	€ 6.853	€ 5.435	€ 5.969	€ 8.801
Financial assets	€ 10.838	€ 10.798	€ 10.778	€ 10.658	€ 21.089	€ 20.941	€ 20.585
Long term assets	€ 22.712	€ 31.256	€ 32.506	€ 24.387	€ 55.208	€ 40.661	€ 29.386
Debtors	€ 188.811	€ 192.283	€ 409.365	€ 316.899	€ 286.123	€ 410.803	€ 252.309
Cash	€ 640.871	€ 846.680	€ 315.313	€ 1.354.254	€ 893.040	€ 1.073.257	€ 1.067.520
Accrued income/deferred expenses	€ 10.555	€ 9.997	€ 10.089	€ 7.637	€ 12.517	€ 8.585	€ 17.898
Short term assets	€ 840.237	€ 1.048.960	€ 734.766	€ 1.678.790	€ 1.191.681	€ 1.492.645	€ 1.337.728
Total assets	€ 862.949	€ 1.080.216	€ 767.272	€ 1.703.177	€ 1.246.889	€ 1.533.305	€ 1.367.114
Short term creditors	€ 182.308	€ 175.299	€ 239.245	€ 293.625	€ 291.761	€ 343.368	€ 198.420
Accrued expenses / deferred revenues	€ 230.189	€ 453.288	€ 17.000	€ 941.484	€ 562.196	€711.489	€ 904.442
Short term liabilities	€ 412.497	€ 628.587	€ 256.245	€ 1.235.109	€ 853.957	€ 1.054.858	€ 1.102.862
Provision for liabilities and charges	€ 6.146	€ 11.480	€ 19.328	€ 7.779	€ 13.451	€ 49.720	€ 8.801
Reserves	€ 440.150	€ 491.699	€ 462.138	€ 379.481	€ 428.728	€ 255.451	€ 148.033
Special Reserve for Directors' transition					€ (45.000)		
Surplus/Deficit	€ 4.157	€ (51.549)	€ 29.561	€ 80.808	€ (4.247)	€ 173.277	€ 107.418
Members' Equity	€ 444.307	€ 440.150	€ 491.699	€ 460.289	€ 379.481	€ 428.728	€ 255.451
Total financing	€ 862.950	€ 1.080.216	€ 767.272	€ 1.703.177	€ 1.246.889	€ 1.533.306	€ 1.367.114
	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Reserve/expenditure	28.72%	30.69%	39.75%	31.17%	22.21%	26.73%	20.45%

The reserves at 28% of annual expenditure remain within the targeted percentage bracket of 25% to 50%.



### **INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2017**

#### **SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

#### **INCOME**

In 2017, CONCORD had a total income of 1.546.881, as compared to 1.383.020 in 2016. This is due to the increase in income from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Core expenditure was 1.542.724 and the year end result therefore resulted in a 4.157 surplus.

#### **EXPENDITURE**

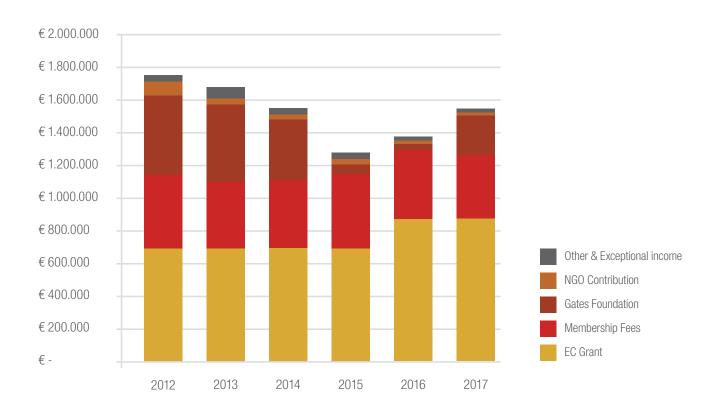
The analysis of the overall expenditure shows some variations from the original planning for the 2017 budget.

 Expenditure for travel and meeting costs were lower than projected due to cooperation with external partners who contributed to some of the events, such as the Learning and Exchange Forum and the regional workshop in San

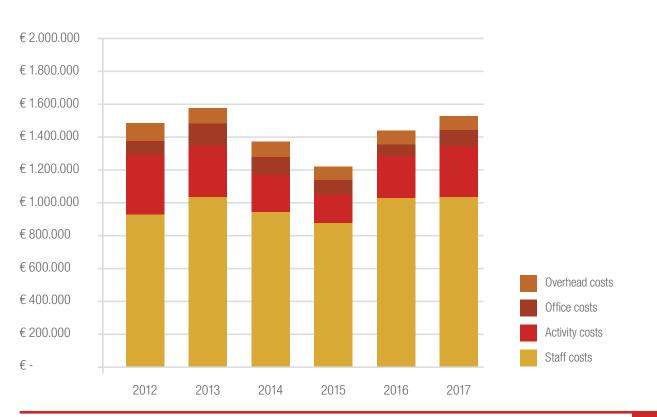
- Salvador. This also reduced overall costs for communication and logistics, as this includes renting venues;
- External services were adapted to developments in the course of the year. A significant part of this budget went towards the work on toolkits and publications;
- Staff costs exceeded projections due to staff changes and because temporary staff were engaged or extended to cover project deliverables;
- Office costs were slightly higher due to a rent increase and the year-end regularisation of the charges;
- Overheads were less than projected due to savings on costs, office supplies and the continued decrease in the amortised investments (website and IT expenditure);
- "Others" covers expenditure deemed ineligible for the EC grant (e.g. missing documentation, late submission etc):

	2017 Budget	2017 Actuals	2016 Actuals	2015 Actuals	2014 Actuals	2013 Actuals	2012 Actuals
Income							
Membership Fees	€ 425.000	€ 415.988	€ 420.488	€ 429.720	€ 420.470	€ 425.540	€ 462.145
NGO Contributions	€ 20.000	€ 6.954	€ 19.949	€ 31.917	€ 30.800	€ 13.777	€ 47.171
Other contributions							€ 36.866
	€ 445.000	€ 422.942	€ 440.437	€ 461.637	€ 451.270	€ 439.317	€ 546.182
EC Grant	€ 900.000	€ 900.000	€ 900.000	€ 700.000	€ 700.000	€ 700.000	€ 696.736
Public Subsidy	€ -						
	€ 900.000	€ 900.000	€ 900.000	€ 700.000	€ 700.000	€ 700.000	€ 696.736
Gates Foundation	€ 200.000	€ 221.099	€ 39.370	€ 92.655	€ 388.407	€ 492.058	€ 511.460
Other Income	€ -		€ 3.213	€ 12.136	€ 15.141	€ 22.533	€ 19.939
Exceptional Income	€ -	€ 2.840	€ -	€ 99	€ 4.731	€ 50.499	€ 3.023
	€ 200.000	€ 223.939	€ 42.583	€ 104.890	€ 408.279	€ 565.090	€ 534.422
Total Income	€ 1.545.000	€ 1.546.881	€ 1.383.020	€ 1.266.527	€ 1.559.549	€ 1.704.407	€ 1.777.340
Expenditure							
Travel and meeting costs	€ 150.508	€ 120.367	€ 102.968	€ 68.036	€ 84.904	€ 150.072	€ 172.675
Communication & logistics	€ 62.712	€ 51.276	€ 51.914	€ 60.478	€ 55.630	€ 49.556	€ 69.076
External services	€ 156.780	€ 120.003	€ 88.602	€ 78.174	€ 90.064	€ 147.281	€ 128.840
	€ 370.000	€ 291.646	€ 243.484	€ 206.688	€ 230.598	€ 346.910	€ 370.591
Staff	€ 1.000.000	€ 1.069.964	€ 1.018.430	€ 859.985	€ 959.720	€ 1.037.139	€ 920.256
Overheads	€ 75.000	€ 60.964	€ 68.913	€ 66.829	€ 77.951	€ 90.022	€ 98.887
Offices	€ 100.000	€ 109.880	€ 102.647	€ 83.438	€ 105.601	€ 116.116	€ 102.525
Other external services	€ -		€ -	€ 20.000	€ 99.378	€ 111.123	€ 111.805
Others	€ -	€ 10.270	€ 1.096	€ 25	€ 3.645	€ 7.344	
	€ 1.175.000	€ 1.251.078	€ 1.191.086	€ 1.030.278	€ 1.246.294	€ 1.361.744	€ 1.233.472
Total Expenditure	€ 1.545.000	€ 1.542.724	€ 1.434.570	€ 1.236.966	€ 1.476.892	€ 1.708.654	€ 1.604.063
Surplus/Deficit	€-	€ 4.157	€ (51.550)	€ 29.561	€ 82.656	€ (4.247)	€ 173.277

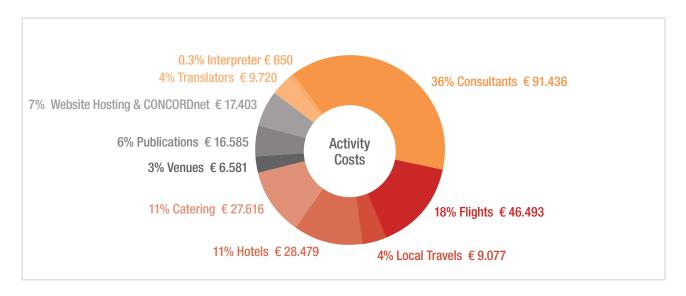
#### **INCOME SOURCES FROM 2012 TO 2017**

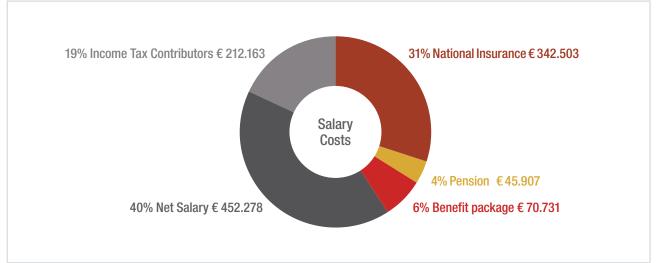


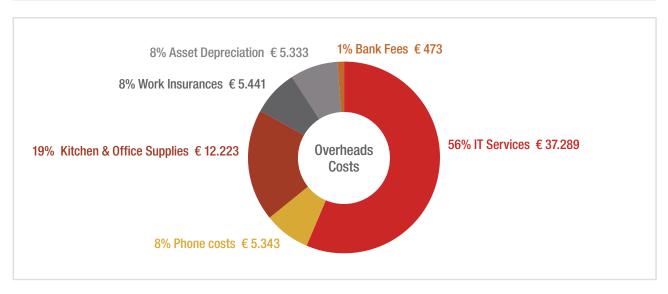
#### **BREAKDOWN OF EXPENSES FROM 2012 TO 2017**



#### **DETAILS OF 2017 EXPENDITURE ON ACTIVITIES, STAFFING AND OVERHEADS**







### **ANNEXES - ACTIVITY MONITORING 2017**

For the second year in a row CONCORD was able to measure the participation of its structures that were created in 2016 to reach the goals of its new strategy. With the activity monitoring 2017 our confederation can now start spotting some trends in the participation of members.

In 2017, 630 people were involved in CONCORD structures, this represents 75 people more than in 2016.

Туре	Name	Membership	Members represented	Female	Male
	Hub 1: Sustainable Development & Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development	151 (+25 from 2016)	28 NP (National Platforms) 20 NW (Networks) 3 AS (Associate Members)	109	42
Hubs	Hub 2: Financing 87 for Development (+8 from 2016)	27 NP 16 NW 2 AS	57	30	
Hubb	Hub 3: Promoting Civil Society Space	190 (+60 from 2016)	28 NP 20 NW 2 AS	140	50
	Hub 4: Global Citizenship Education & People Engagement	64 (+10 from 2016)	26 NP 5 NW 3 AS	53	11
Transversal initiatives	Gender Reference Group	24 (-26 from 2016)	8 NP 9 NW 0 AS	23	1
	Financial Advisory Committee	6 (+3 from 2016)	5 NP 1 NW 0 AS	4	2
Committees	Inclusive Network Committee	11 (+2 from 2016)	8 NP 3 NW 0 AS	8	3
	Policy Direction Committee	12 (-1 from 2016)	7 NP 4 NW 1 AS	9	3
Covernonce	General Assembly (Delegates)	75 (-7 from 2016)	26 NP 20 NW 3 AS	51	28
Governance	Board	10	6 NP 4 NW	4	6

#### **PHYSICAL MEETINGS 2016**

During this year, 61 "internal" meetings took place, with a total number of 961 participants. Among the participants 50% came from National Platforms, 41% from Networks, 4% from Associated Members and 5% from Allies.

If we compare with 2016, we note that the amount of meetings held more than doubled (from 26 to 61) and the total participation increased as well (from 703 to 961). This increase could be explained by the fact that the new working structures were put in place during 2016 and needed at first to focus on getting started. Now that the structures have been established they have more capacity.

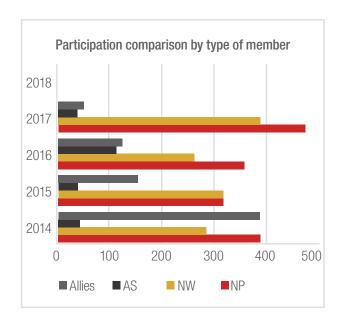
Regarding gender balance, women is, as every year, the most represented gender in CONCORD meetings.

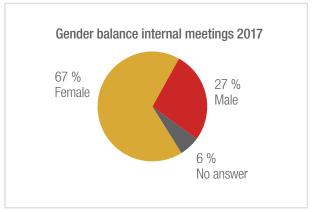
**Transversal events** are not linked with any particular structure, such as the Learning and Exchange forum, the workshop on the Europe We Want in Rome: Horizon Scanning, or trainings on public speaking. There were 5 transversal events with a total participation of 94 people, 66 from National Platforms, 21 from Networks, 4 from Associate members and 3 Allies.

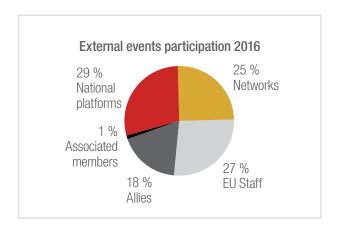
**External events** are organised by CONCORD and open to non-members, such as publication launches, breakfast with stakeholders, etc. There were 6 external events organised in 2017 with a total of 198 participants: 29% National Platforms, 25% Networks, 3% Associated Members, 18% Allies and 27% EU Staff.

#### Webinars

We organised 136 webinars in 2017 with a total of 703 participants. The amount of webinars CONCORD organises increases every year. In terms of participation 50% of the participants were from National Platforms, 42% from Networks, 6% Associated Members and 2% Allies. In gender terms, 68% of participants were women and 31% were men.







### **ANNEXES - LIST OF PUBLICATIONS**

CONCORD launched the following publications in 2017. This list includes reports, letters, papers and media pieces.

**JANUARY:** 

PAPER: Monitoring a moving target: Assessment of the implementation plan of the EU Food Security Policy Framework

**FEBRUARY:** 

JOINT LETTER: The Europe we want: Just, Sustainable, Democratic and Inclusive Développement Durable - Des enjeux plus importants que jamais

(translation in French of the report "Sustainable Development - Stakes could not be higher")

REPORT: Kestlik Areng Panused on Korged

(translation in Estonian of the report "Sustainable Development - Stakes could not be higher")

MEDIA PIECE: Human rights? Irrelevant for EU migration policies!

**MARCH:** 

JOINT LETTER

& MEDIA PIECE: The Europe we want: Just, Sustainable, Democratic and Inclusive

REPORT: EU Delegations Report 2017 - Towards a more effective partnership with civil society

MEDIA PIECE: Opposition rises to planned agriculture mega-mergers

LETTER: Our three demands for a Brexit putting people and our planet first

**APRIL:** 

MEDIA PIECE: Slight increase of global aid explained by rise of in-donor refugees' costs
PAPER: Recommendations from CSOs for the finalisation of the EFSD regulation
CSOs expressed concern on recent Hungarian legal measures
PAPER: EU Action for Sustainability: 10 recommendations from CONCORD

MEDIA PIECE: EU's 'New Consensus on Development' puts migration control centre-stage

MAY:

PAPER: CONCORD reply to the European Commission's public consultation on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

MEDIA PIECE: New European Consensus on Development: Double Standards for Sustainable Development

MEDIA PIECE: CONCORD Europe backs Italian NGOs after accusations

PAPER: CONCORD answers to Public Consultation on the EU External Financing Instruments

JUNE:

REPORT: Annual Report 2016

PAPER: Papers on Cotonou presented at the Joint Parliamentary Assembly

JULY:

MEDIA PIECE: Migration: Diverting attention from the lack of solidarity between EU Member States onto civil society

organisations

**SEPTEMBER:** 

PAPER: Agro-ecology to strengthen resilience

PAPER: El Salvador Declaration

CAMPAIGN: Blow the Candle out - SDG anniversary

PAPER: Sustainable Development is the future of Europe

OCTOBER:

REPORT: A 10-point roadmap for Europe - On the role of the private sector in Development PAPER: CONCORD analysis and recommendations on the Gender Action Plan report 2016

REPORT: The Impact of EU Policies in the World. Seeing the bigger picture.

REPORT: AidWatch 2017 - EU Aid Uncovered, how to reach the target

MEDIA PIECE: Genuine aid: EU pushes commitment up to 2052

PAPER: CONCORD's alternatives to five EU narratives on the EU-Africa Partnership

MEDIA PIECE: Today, less than one euro out of 5 reaches least developing countries. OECD, time to reverse the trend.

MEDIA PIECE: Private sector and development: the EU is not doing enough!

**NOVEMBER:** 

PAPER: EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa - Partnership or conditionality?

**LETTER** 

& MEDIA PIECE: Civil Society barred from speaking at the Africa-Europe Summit

**DECEMBER:** 

REPORT: Mixing means and ends. What role for (which) private sector in agriculture?

PAPER: Making the case for strong EU development cooperation budget in the next Multiannual Financial Frame-

work

## **ANNEXES - MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS**

Member	NP/NW/AM	Country	2016 Committed Fees	2017 Committed Fees	Difference	Paid 2017
ACT ALLIANCE EU	NW		€ 18.000	€ 18.000	€ -	€ 18.000
ACTIONAID INTERNATIONAL	NW		€ 16.000	€ 16.000	€ -	€ 16.000
ADRA	NW		€ 8.000	€ 8.000	€ -	€ 8.000
ALDA	AM		€ 2.500	€ 2.500	€-	€ 2.500
	NP	Estonia	€ 1.000	€ 1.000	€-	€ 1.000
	NP	Italy	€ 8.000	€ 8.000	€-	€ 8.000
	NP	United Kingdom	€ 20.000	€ 20.000	€-	€ 20.000
	NP	Bulgaria	€ 500	€ 500	€-	€ 500
	NW	Dalgaria	€ 13.000	€ 13.000	€-	€ 13,000
07 11 12 11 17 11 10 11 10 10 1C	NW		€ 8.000	€ 8.000	€ -	€ 8.000
	NW		€ 12.000	€ 12.000	€-	€ 12.000
CERCLE DE COOPERATION DES ONGD DU LUX.	NP	Luxembourg	€ 12.000	€ 12.000	€-	€ 12.000
		Luxernbourg	€ 12.000			
CHILD FUND ALLIANCE	NW			€ 4.500	€-	€ 4.500
CIDSE	NW	Dalaium	€ 16.000	€ 16.000	€-	€ 16.000
	NP	Belgium	€ 16.500	€ 16.500	€-	€ 16.500
	NP	Sweden	€ 16.000	€ 16.000	€-	€ 16.000
	NP	Spain	€ 6.000	€ 6.000	€-	€ 6.000
	NP	France	€ 20.000	€ 15.000	€ (5.000)	€ 15.000
	NP	Croatia	€ 1.000	€ 1.000	€ -	€ 1.000
CYINDEP	NP	Cyprus	€ 500	€ 500	€ -	
OOCHAS	NP	Ireland	€ 12.720	€ 12.720	€ -	€ 12.720
EU CORD	NW		€ 6.500	€ 6.500	€ -	€ 6.500
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR EDUCATION OF ADULTS	NW		€ 500	€ 500	€ -	€ 500
FOND	NP	Romania	€ 1.000	€ 1.000	€ -	€ 1.000
FORS	NP	Czech Republic	€ 2.500	€ 2.500	€ -	€ 2.500
GLOBALE VERANTWORTUNG	NP	Austria	€ 8.000	€ 8.000	€ -	€ 8.000
GLOBALT FOKUS	NP	Denmark	€ 12.000	€ 12.000	€ -	€ 12.000
HELLENIC PLATFORM FOR DEVELOPMENT	NP	Greece	€ 500	€ 500	€ -	€ 500
GRUPA ZAGRANICA	NP	Poland	€ 1.000	€ 1.000	€ -	€ 1.000
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INTERNATIONAL	NW		€ 5.000	€ 5.000	€ -	€ 5.000
HAND	NP	Hungary	€ 500	€ 500	€ -	€ 500
HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL	NW		€ 4.770	€ 4.770	€ -	€ 4.770
PPF	NW		€ 12.720	€ 12.720	€-	€ 12.720
SLAMIC RELIEF	NW		€ 7.500	€ 7.500	€ -	€ 7.500
KEHYS RY	NP	Finland	€ 10.000	€ 10.000	€ -	€ 10.000
APAS	NP	Latvia	€ 1.000	€ 1.000	€ -	€ 1.000
	NP	Lituania	€ 500	€ 500	€ -	€ 500
	NP	Slovakia	€ 1.000	€ 1.000	€ -	€ 1.000
OXFAM INTERNATIONAL	NW	Ciovaria	€ 14.000	€ 14.000	€ -	€ 14.000
	NP	The Netherlands	€ 16.000	€ 16.000	€-	€ 16.000
PLAN EUROPE	NW	THE NEUTENANIA	€ 10.000	€ 10.000	€-	€ 10.000
	NP	Portugal	€ 3.880	€ 3.880	€-	€ 3.880
	NW	Tutugai	€ 3.000	€ 3.000	€-	€ 3.000
	NP	Molto	€ 12.000			€ 12.000
		Malta		€ 1.000	€-	
	NP NA/	Slovenia	€ 1.000	€ 1.000	€-	€ 1.000
	NW		€ 5.000	€ 5.000	€-	€ 5.000
	NW		€ 12.500	€ 12.500	€-	€ 12.500
	NW		€ 11.000	€ 11.000	€-	€ 11.000
	NP	Germany	€ 20.000	€ 20.000	€ -	€ 20.000
WORLDVISION INTERNATIONAL	NW		€ 16.000	€ 16.000	€ -	€ 16.000
/WF	AM		€ 9.198	€ 9.198	€-	€ 9.198
			€ 421.488	€ 416.488	€ (5.000)	€ 415.988

### **OUR MEMBERS**





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