

2005 CONCORD Survey

Insights into the objectives, structures,
funding and capacities of CONCORD's
wide membership

SUMMARY

European NGO confederation
for relief and development

CONCORD

Confédération européenne des ONG
d'urgence et de développement

1. Introduction – Who is CONCORD?

The objectives of the study

The work of CONCORD to influence current European-level political and policy debates on important development and humanitarian issues relies on a strong relationship amongst its members. The confederation of CONCORD is made up of 21 National Platforms¹ and 19 International Networks² and represents over 1.600 NGOs, which are in turn supported by millions of individual citizens and donors across Europe³. CONCORD continually strives to strengthen the bonds amongst its members and coordinate their collective mobilisation and advocacy power towards the European Institutions. This survey is part of this confederation-strengthening process.

This study, from the outset, has sought to achieve two main objectives:

1 – To gain a greater understanding of each of CONCORD's members, in terms of their direction, structure, membership and capacities, to achieve a clearer picture of the European non governmental developmental organisation (NGDO) Community. More specifically, this survey has sought to present what their objectives are; what their focus(es) is/are; how they operate and are structured; their membership base; how their work is funded; and the problems they face or envisage for the future. This stands against the background of wide diversity between development and relief NGOs across Europe, and therefore is a complex, yet valuable, task. This research intends not to be merely a data mapping exercise, but the basis for greater knowledge on and cooperation between CONCORD's members.

2 – To reinforce the authority, legitimacy and transparency of CONCORD's members in the eyes of the European Institutions, and national and international organisations, who often question the role and contribution of NGOs in their work. It is increasingly common for NGOs across Europe to face criticism from across the political and social spectrum, and so a comprehensive overview of CONCORD's wide membership, would highlight the clear 'added value' that NGO and other civil society dialogue and engagement represents.

It seems quite remarkable that there has not been a similar study on the EU NGO Community, especially considering the budget size, capacity and scope of operations that it covers. Very few development actors have the capacity to act simultaneously in different key areas, to:

1. SUPPORT civil society organisation (CSO) partners in the south;
2. Engage in political-level ADVOCACY and improve the quality of civil society-institutional dialogue;
3. MOBILISE and educate the wider European public to be better informed on the need for more socially responsible policies towards developing countries and their peoples, through greater public awareness raising and improved development education.

¹ CONCORD's National Platforms are defined as the one national association (made up of individual national NGOs and Networks) representing the NGDO community in a particular EU-country or Accession country.

² A CONCORD Network member, according to CONCORD's Articles of Association and Internal Rules, must have at least 5 member organisations from at least 5 Member States of the European Union. The Network and at least 5 of its members should be at least three years in existence. Furthermore, the secretariat of a Network member shall be situated in a Member State of the European Union or of European Free Trade Association (EFTA).

The member organisations of a CONCORD Network are generally individual relief and development NGOs, but can also include other NGO networks and National Platforms.

³ At the time of writing CONCORD had only 20 National Platform members, in November 2005 the Polish National Platform (the Zagranica Group) joined CONCORD and became its 21st National Platform member, but data from the Polish NP was not available in time to be included in this survey. WIDE (Women In Development Europe Network) became a CONCORD network member in June 2006 and have not been included in this study.

4. Take an active role in GLOBAL COALITIONS to influence the international agenda.

Moreover, these four parts are interlinked, with for example, CONCORD's members' work, experience and expertise in the field feeding into its advocacy and political-level work, and also visa versa.

Therefore the added value of CONCORD and of EU NGOs as a whole is greater than simply the sum of these four parts. Specifically within CONCORD, the strong synergies and complementarities between the National Platform and Network membership translate into a strong confederation of European development and relief NGOs.

Most importantly, we must not forget that at the heart of all CONCORD's work, is the determination to tackle the causes of international poverty, inequality and conflict, and enable poor countries to develop in ways that are economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable.

Finally, the CONCORD Secretariat would like to thank everyone who completed the survey, which has yielded a number of interesting results. Special thanks go to the two assistants who actively contributed to the process since the beginning of 2005: Iris Chaabane and Michiel van Poelgeest, both from The Hague School of European Studies (HEBO). The final survey and report was compiled, analysed and written by Adam Davies, CONCORD Secretariat.

Full CONCORD Survey 2005

This document is the summary of the full CONCORD Survey 2005 published in June 2006 exclusively for CONCORD's members. If you are interested in reading the full survey, please contact Adam Davies, CONCORD Secretariat (Adavies@concordeurope.org).

Acronyms

ACP:	Africa, Caribbean, Pacific
EC:	European Commission
CSO:	Civil Society Organisation
CONCORD:	European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development
Constituency:	The members of CONCORD's members
DAC:	Development Assistance Committee (OECD)
EU:	European Union
GCAP:	Global Call to Action against Poverty
MDGs:	Millennium Development Goals
MS:	EU Member State
NGO:	Non-Governmental Organisation
NGDO:	Non-Governmental Development Organisation
NMS:	EU New Member State
NPO:	Non-profit Organisation
NP:	CONCORD National Platform
NW:	CONCORD Network
NW 'families':	Refers to ActionAid International, ADRA, Aprodev, CBMI, Caritas Europe, CIDSE, IPPF, Oxfam International, Plan Europe, Save the Children, Solidar, Terre des Hommes, and World Vision. Therefore not EU-CORD, EuronAid, Eurostep, Eurodad, FORUM.
ODA:	Official Development Assistance
OECD:	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
TRIALOG:	Project to raise awareness of development cooperation and humanitarian aid policies in the new EU Member States, and to integrate the NGOs from these countries
UN:	United Nations

CONCORD's members

NW	<u>ActionAid International</u>	NW	<u>IPPF European Network</u>
NW	<u>ADRA</u>	NP	<u>Ireland: Dóchas</u>
NW	<u>Aprodev</u>	NP	<u>Italy: Italian NGOs</u>
NP	<u>Austria: EU-Plattform</u>	NP	<u>Latvia: Lapas</u>
NP	<u>Belgium</u>	NP	<u>Luxembourg: Cercle de Cooperation</u>
NW	<u>Caritas Europa</u>	NP	<u>Malta: KOPIN</u>
NW	<u>CBM International</u>	NP	<u>Netherlands</u>
NW	<u>CIDSE</u>	NW	<u>Oxfam International</u>
NP	<u>Czech Republic: FoRS</u>	NW	<u>Plan Europe</u>
NP	<u>Denmark: EU-NGO</u>	NP	<u>Poland: Grupa Zagranica (*)</u>
NW	<u>EU-CORD</u>	NP	<u>Portugal: Plataforma portuguesa das ONG</u>
NW	<u>Eurodad</u>	NW	<u>Save the Children</u>
NW	<u>EuronAid</u>	NP	<u>Slovakia: MVRO</u>
NW	<u>Eurostep</u>	NW	<u>Solidar</u>
NP	<u>Finland: Kehys ry</u>	NP	<u>Spain: CoNgDe</u>
NW	<u>FORUM</u>	NP	<u>Sweden: CONCORD Sverige</u>
NP	<u>France: Coordination SUD</u>	NW	<u>Terre des Hommes</u>
NP	<u>Germany: VENRO</u>	NP	<u>United Kingdom: BOND</u>
NP	<u>Greece</u>	NW	<u>WIDE (*)</u>
NP	<u>Hungary: HAND</u>	NW	<u>World Vision</u>

NP: National Platform

NW: Network

(*) At the time of writing CONCORD had only 20 National Platform members. In November 2005 the Polish National Platform (the Zagranica Group) joined CONCORD and became its 21st National Platform member, but data from the Polish NP was not available in time to be included in this survey. WIDE (Women In Development Europe Network) became a CONCORD Network member in June 2006 and have not been included in this study.

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2. Methodology

This report is based on the results of a 25-question survey sent to CONCORD's National Platform and Network members in early 2005. The questions, both quantitative and qualitative, covered a broad range of issues, in order to gain a greater understanding of CONCORD's direct membership and their constituencies. Furthermore, the National Platform survey included an additional 14-question section in which they were requested to provide a brief overview of their own governments' development cooperation activities and their own assessments of their national NGDO community, going beyond their own membership.

To ensure that there was as wide a response rate as possible and as accurate information as possible, CONCORD provided financial support to those who considered that it would be difficult to collect such data without external assistance.

The questionnaire was completed by 18 of CONCORD's 20 National Platforms, and 17 of its 18 Networks⁴, which is a response rate of 92% which is excellent for a survey of this magnitude. Furthermore, the sample size represents over 1000 European NGOs.

Nevertheless, where members were unable to confidently provide accurate information to a question, this has been indicated in the footnotes.

Data weaknesses and limitations of the study

As with any questionnaire based report, there are undoubtedly some data weaknesses. However, we have endeavoured to identify them from the outset and have worked to minimise them to ensure as accurate a survey as possible.

First, the results presented in this survey are based on the questionnaire responses only⁵ and have not been verified by a third source or other research, such as balance sheets, membership lists, official governmental/OECD DAC data, etc, except for some 'best estimates' made by the CONCORD Secretariat, where indicated. Therefore the quality of the report is largely pre-conditioned by the commitment of CONCORD's members to provide accurate information and data for this survey. However, as some of the information has never been sought before, or is difficult to get hold off, it has proven to be a particularly challenging and unenviable task.

Second, this survey inevitably represents an average of best estimates, as not all of the members' constituencies are represented in the answers. A number of NPs and NWs commented that although relevant sections of this survey were forwarded on to all their own constituency members, not all of their members responded (to varying degrees). Nevertheless this information was used to form the basis of their overall National Platform/Network response.

Third and perhaps most critical, is the problem of 'overlapping memberships' between CONCORD's members and their constituencies. For example, some individual NGOs are part of both CONCORD's Networks and National Platforms, or multiple networks (in the case of The Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF), which is a member of CIDSE, Caritas Europe and BOND (UK NP)). Another potential area of double counting is that some national divisions of Networks are members of their National Platforms, or other Networks. For example, World Vision UK is also a member of EuronAid, and DanChurchAid is a member of the Danish National Platform and APRODEV, etc. **Therefore, to attempt to reduce the incidence of double counting of NGO data, the results of the National Platforms and the Networks were presented separately and were not aggregated at any point.** Furthermore, for the key financial information, particularly regarding constituency budgets, only data provided by the 'NGO network families' and not all the Networks were included, and this has been clearly indicated. The term 'NGO network families' refers to ActionAid International, ADRA, Aprovev, CBMI, Caritas

⁴ The survey was not completed by the Greek and Luxembourg National Platforms, or Oxfam International.

⁵ Furthermore, as data has been collected over the period of year, the figures may refer to slightly differing time periods, and figures may have changed since submission.

Europe, CIDSE, IPPF, Oxfam International, Plan Europe, Save the Children, Solidar, Terre des Hommes, and World Vision. Therefore not EU-CORD, EuronAid, Eurostep, Eurodad, FORUM, which are considered as 'Thematic Networks'.

While this has not eliminated the problem of double counting, it has been reduced, but must still be recognised as a potential data weakness of this report. Potentially in future, if it is requested by CONCORD's members, prospective surveys could attempt to 'untangle' the data by organisation and investigate each of the 1600 + constituency members in turn to ensure that all instances of double counting are removed, however this will require significantly greater resources.

Finally, and most importantly, one must remember that from the outset this survey has only ever sought to capture 'general figures and trends' and provide a rough guide on the EU NGO landscape and CONCORD's membership. Nevertheless, as the first survey of its kind, we feel that it provides an excellent overview of CONCORD's membership, and can form a confident foundation for future studies.

3. Summary of the main findings

A. EU Relief and Development NGOs

All the information in this section has been provided by CONCORD's National Platform members (NPs) and is based on their own internal assessments and research, and not necessarily directly from governmental sources.

The historical roots of EU NGOs

The roots of Development and Relief NGOs across Europe are diverse. Only a few broad generalisations on the factors behind the foundation of NGDOs across Europe can be made, without hiding the tremendous diversity within. The dates of emergence of these NGDOs are also diverse, in some countries going back to the 19th Century, while in others the national NGO landscape has emerged only in recent decades (e.g. Czech Republic in the 1990s). Again, the dates when NGOs began to significantly address international matters vary, from the 1960s-70s to the 1990s, though regional patterns are identifiable (for example, it is noticeably later in the EU New Member States (NMSs)).

Most NGDOs emerged out of existing civil society institutions within Europe, in particular the Church and missionary activities (13 out of 16), although others were also from other existing institutions, like Trade Unions and University movements. In three other countries, the primary factor behind the formation of NGDO was the response to a particular crisis, such as the two World Wars, etc. In a few other countries, NGOs were founded by the dedication and inspiration of an individual person or by a common concern by a group of individuals working in a particular field, such as students/nurses, etc. Finally, in addition to these common religious and social factors, the greatest political influences on the formation of NGOs have been the end of European colonialism, and the fall of Communism in the Eastern New Member States.

The number of European NGDOs and the coverage of CONCORD's National Platforms

Today it is estimated that there are several thousand NGOs active in international development, humanitarian aid, and development education across Europe – of which CONCORD's National Platforms represent approximately 1400, and CONCORD's Networks a further 400+. CONCORD is therefore very representative of the whole European NGDO landscape. Germany has the most NGOs, followed by Spain and the UK. Ireland, Latvia, Malta and Slovakia have the least.

Importantly, CONCORD only represents the large, formal NGOs that focus on external-EU development issues, and not the relatively large numbers of small informal NGOs or local solidarity committees, or those that focus only on domestic issues ⁶. To support this point, for example, Finland has a reported 400 NGOs, which is quite remarkable for a country of only around 5 million people.

Partnerships / Coordination

How NGOs are organised across Europe

In some countries the National Platform member of CONCORD is the national association representing the national community of NGOs for relief and development, for example, France, Belgium ⁷, Germany, Luxembourg, Ireland, Spain and Italy. However, in other cases the National Platform of CONCORD, for historical reasons, is a specialised EU Platform, e.g. Finland, Sweden, the Netherlands ⁸ and Denmark. Finally, in the New Member States, supported by the work of TRIALOG, the national associations have been encouraged to not create additional EU platforms, but rather National Platforms, which could later, if they wanted, become members of CONCORD.

⁶ However, please note that in some countries like Latvia, the majority of NGOs are nationally focused.

⁷ The Belgian Platform of CONCORD is unique in many ways, as it is not a single association, but 4 separate coordinating/federative institutions (CNCD-Opération 11.11.11, 11.11.11-Vlaanderen, ACODEV, COPROGRAM) with two representatives each, which together represent the Belgian National Platform.

⁸ Please note that the EU Dutch Platform is currently merging with the National Association.

NGO alliances with other civil society organisations (CSOs)

For all but one of the NPs, their constituencies⁹ are currently involved in other temporary alliances or coalitions with other civil society sectors, primarily NGOs that work outside of the fields of relief and development, both nationally and internationally.

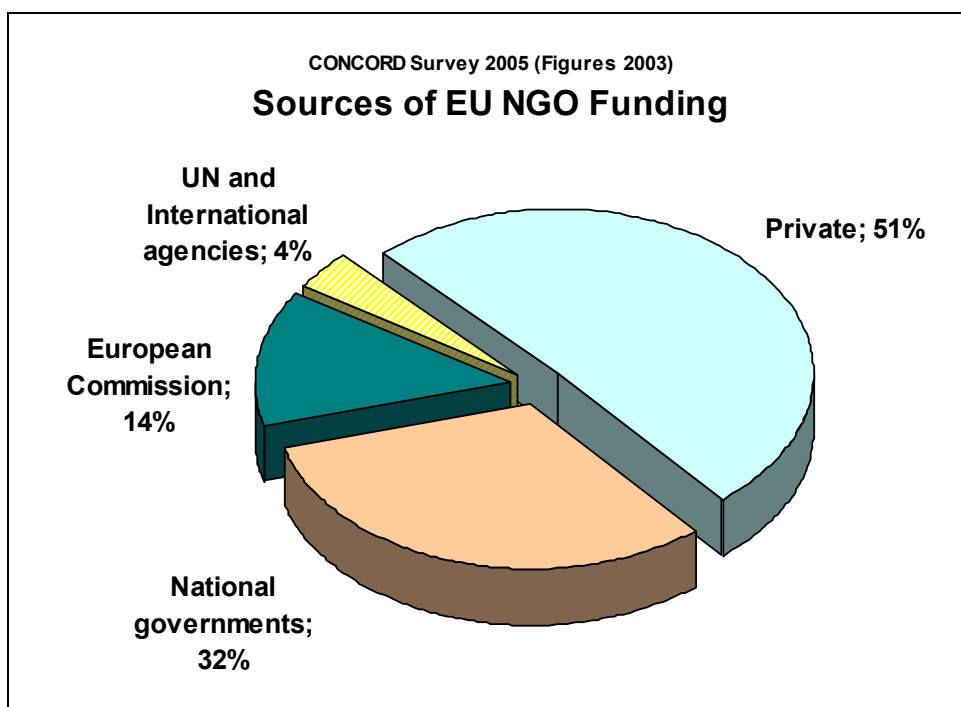
There is a rich diversity of formal and informal alliances across the NPs but they are generally for common lobbying, advocacy or public awareness raising. Some alliances appear to be strongly organised and regular while others are more *ad hoc* in nature, based around specific thematic issues.

Common national partnerships and coalitions involving CONCORD National Platforms' constituencies include:

- ★ Trade unions
- ★ Farmer/agricultural leagues
- ★ Church/religious movements
- ★ Environmental associations / NGOs
- ★ Other social movements, including on human rights, women/youth rights, disabled people, homelessness, immigration, etc.
- ★ Other issues: including corporate social responsibility, and responsible tourism, etc.
- ★ Wider international alliances, e.g. *Attac*, *Social Watch*, and other international *altermondialist* movements.

The varied nature of these alliances often typically reflect the character of the members of the NPs themselves, which are often not solely focussed on relief and development but nested within other civil society sectors. Furthermore, perhaps these results also reflect the increasing expansion and blurring of the definition of development sectors, which has grown to include human rights, trade and environmental issues.

Sources of funding for the European NGDO Community as a whole



⁹ Please note the term 'constituency' refers to the members of CONCORD's members.

EU NGOs continue to demonstrate their financial strength and independence from governmental sources – perhaps contrary to growing perceptions from the European Institutions and other international institutions – with more than 51% of their funding coming from the general public (private donations, private firms, foundations and others¹⁰). National government funding accounts, on average, for 32% while the European Commission only provides 13%, and the United Nations and other international agencies, only 4%. This information was provided by CONCORD’s National Platforms based on assessments of their own national NGDO sectors, but naturally it is hard to accurately estimate figures due to the sheer numbers of NGOs in each country.

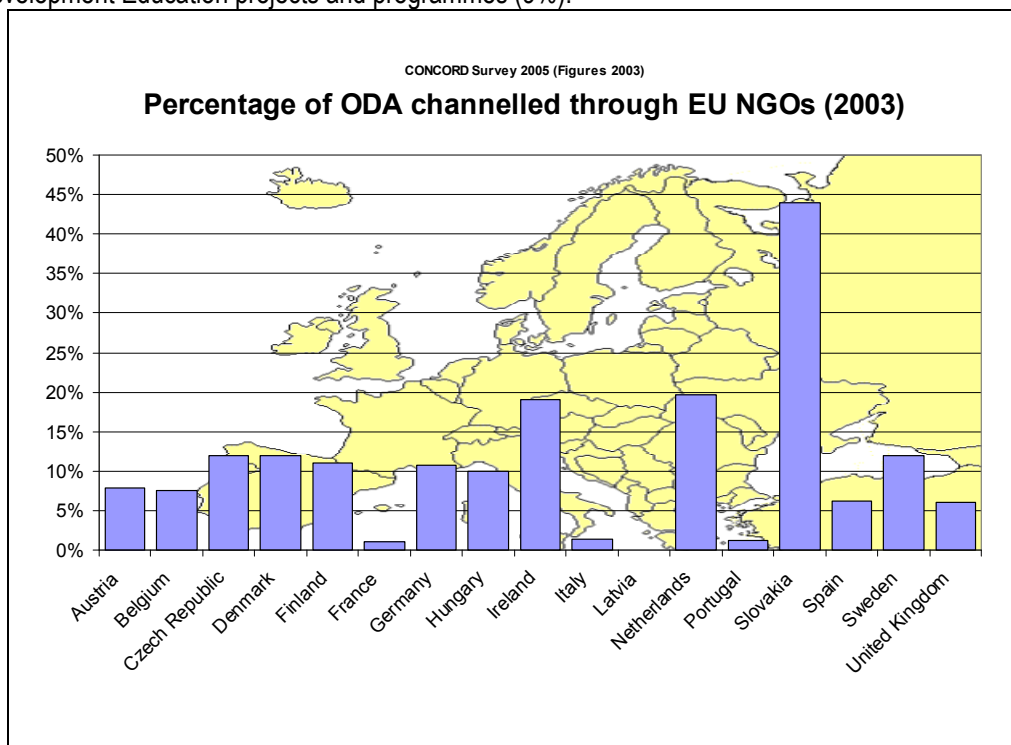
This also confirms another often underplayed important point that EU NGOs are a valuable ‘leverage’ for institutional donors. Each €1bn of development aid channelled through NGOs from governmental funding is matched by another €1bn by EU NGOs, out of their own funds, thanks to the generosity and solidarity of European citizens.

However, these figures do mask disparities between the countries, for example in Denmark, NGO funding from the government is more than double the average (at 70%), while in France, governmental funding is only 8% (and 65% from the public). As a proportion of their total funding, Italy and Latvia receive the highest level of EC funding (35% and 30% respectively). NGOs in Austria, France and Slovakia receive the highest proportion of private donation funding, and Hungary and the Czech Republic receive the lowest. Private donation levels also vary across countries, from 68% in Slovakia to only 12% in Hungary.

Funding for EU NGOs

There remains a lack of recognition and support for the essential and unique role of NGOs in development cooperation; improving the ‘quality of civil society-institutional dialogue’; and the fight against global poverty by EU governments.

For example, overall *less than 10% of Member State Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) is channelled through EU NGOs* (see graph below) - although there are wide variations across EU countries (e.g. 44% Slovakia; 0% Latvia/Malta; 1,1% France). The focus of this ODA to NGOs overwhelmingly goes to Development activities (76%), then Humanitarian Aid (15%) and Development Education projects and programmes (9%).

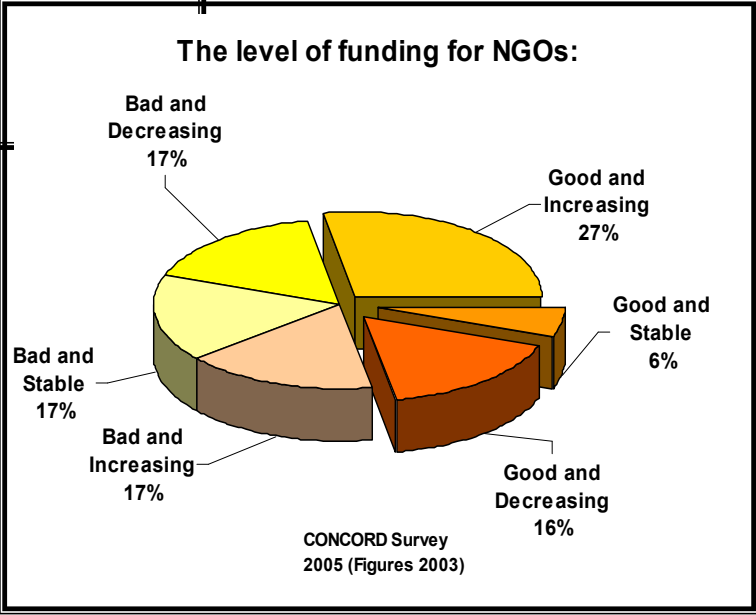
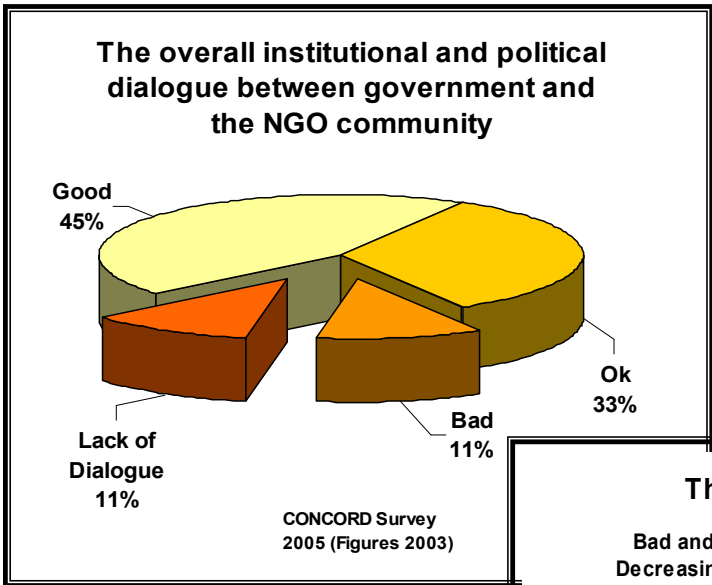


¹⁰ 11% is made up of other sources, such as from rents and investments, trading contracts and local governments.

Relations with national governments

Overall it is a disappointing picture – though there is a clear split between members

Seventy-seven percent of the National Platforms (NPs) regard institutional and political dialogue between EU NGOs and national governments to be 'OK' or 'Good'. But discouragingly, 2 NPs deem the relationship to be 'Bad' and 2 cite no dialogue whatsoever. Half of the NPs found their government's NGO funding levels to be 'Bad'.



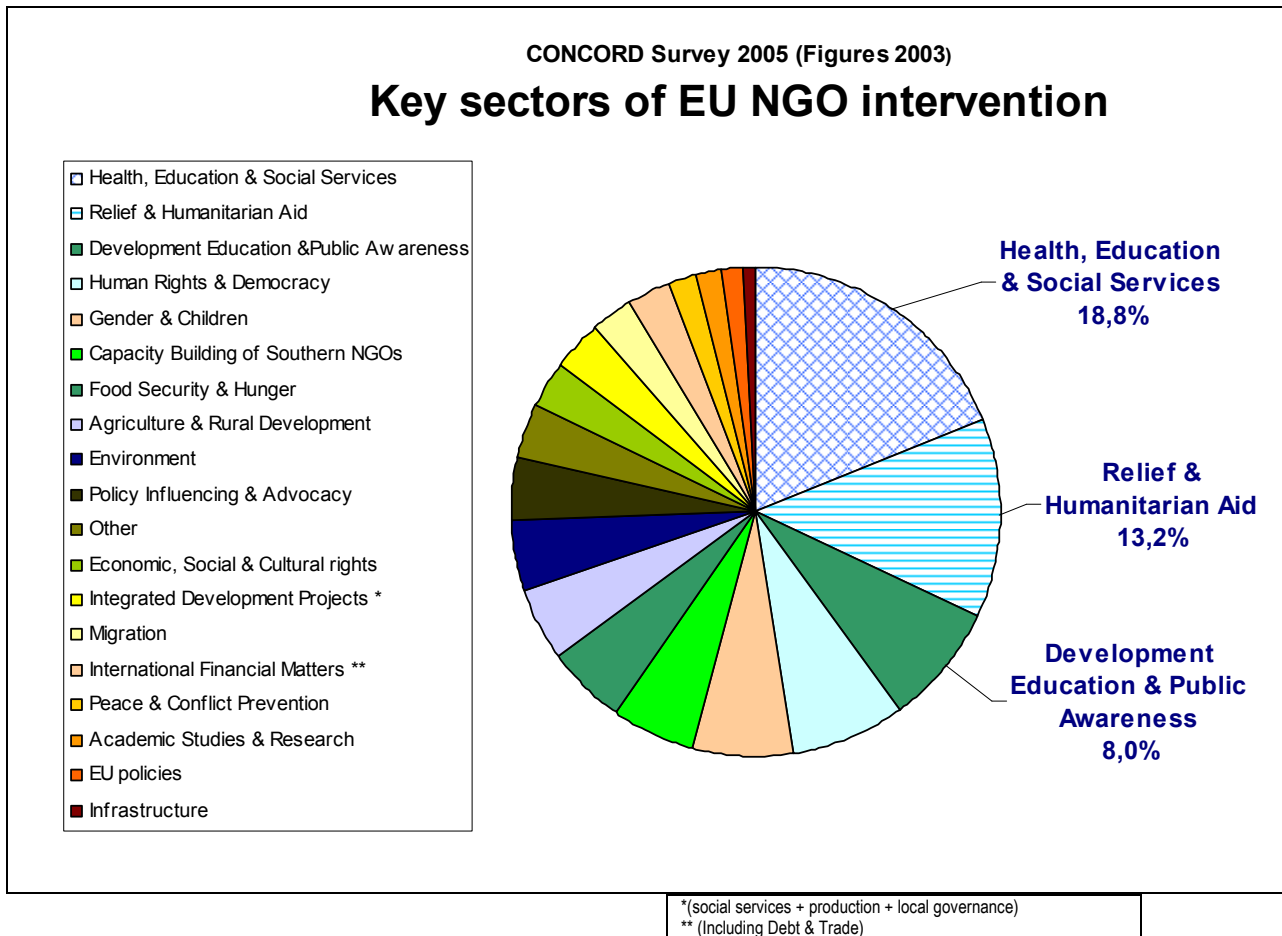
B. CONCORD'S MEMBERS AND THEIR CONSTITUENCIES

Sectors, Types and Geographies of EU NGO and CONCORD member intervention

EU NGOs are active across a wide range of field operations and advocacy sectors.

★ On the whole, however, there is no clear dominant sector of intervention or advocacy by EU NGOs. This is a confirmation of the wide scope of expertise and experience of EU NGOs.

Sectors of focus and intervention by EU NGOs



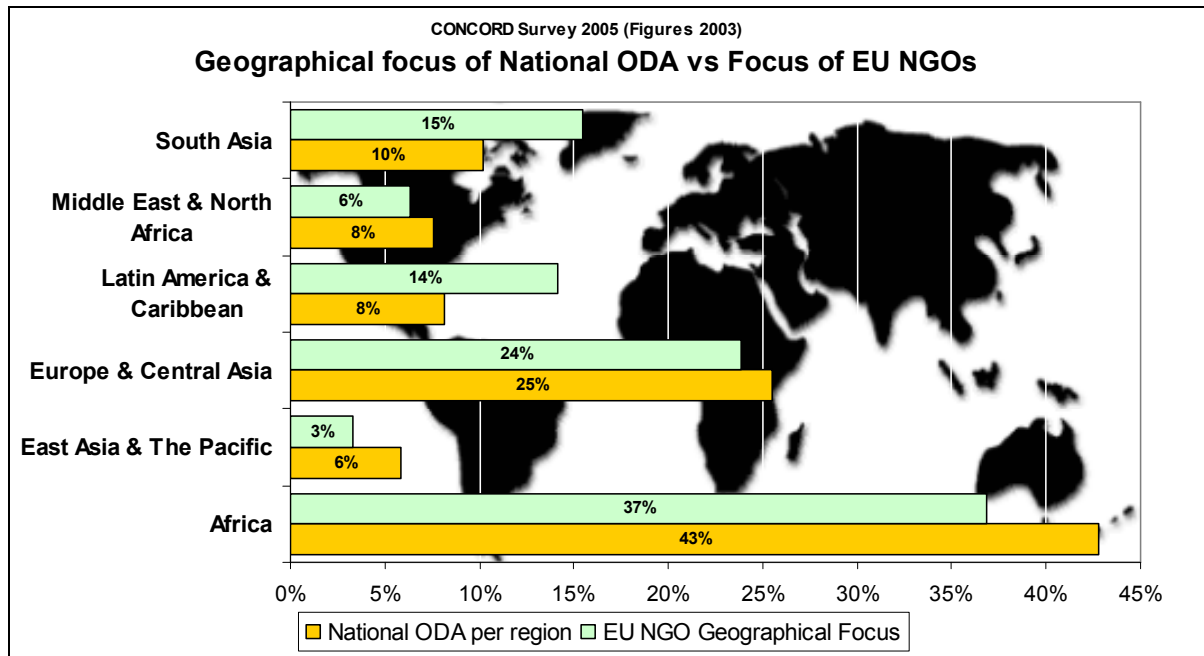
It appears hard to generalise about the key sectors of NGO intervention broadly stretched across Europe. The three sectors that receive the greatest attention are Health/Education/Social Services (with an average of 18,8%); Relief and Humanitarian Aid (13,2%); and Development Education (8,0%)¹¹. Perhaps such priorities reflect current efforts by EU NGOs to be simultaneously active in emergency crisis situations, long term social and sustainable development processes, and public awareness raising work across Europe.

However, given the significant variations in sector classifications across NGOs, National Platforms and Member State governments, it is often hard to clearly define and trace activities. Nevertheless, in some countries, the NGOs focus their attention away from the general average, notably in Denmark where 20% of attention is on 'Human Rights and Democracy', while the average is only 7,4%. Forty-five percent of the attention of Latvia's NGOs is on 'Health, Education and Social Services', while the average is only 18,4%, with Ireland (0%), Hungary and Finland (both 6%) going against the trend. Also for NGOs in the Czech Republic, 25% of attention is focused on the 'Environment' while this figure is only 4,6% for the average of other countries' NGOs.

¹¹ The NPs of Greece, Luxembourg and the Netherlands did not provide information for this question.

Geographical focus of EU NGOs

Geographically the key focus of EU NGOs (43%), the National Platforms (37%) and the Networks (44%) is concentrated on Africa. Followed by on Europe and Central Asia (25% EU NGOs; 24% National Platforms; but only 6% for the Networks).¹²



Portuguese ODA: 90% Africa
Spanish ODA: 43% Latin America & Caribbean
New Member States' ODA: 60%+ Europe & Central Asia

★ Also EU NGOs and European Member State ODA both follow very similar funding focus patterns – does this mean that NGOs are following governmental money, or needs, or both?

CONCORD's members also engage in a broad range of activities and sectors:

The focus of CONCORD's National Platforms' activities is fairly balanced across the members and clearly match CONCORD's core activities:

- Advocacy campaigning (25%) and lobbying on access to funding (22%).
- Others include: Exchange of experiences between members; Advocacy on European policies; and 'Public Awareness and Development Education' (13-17%).

The main focus areas of the Network members are: 'Advocacy on European policies' (27%) and the 'Exchange of best practises between their members' (26%), which also match CONCORD's chief priorities.

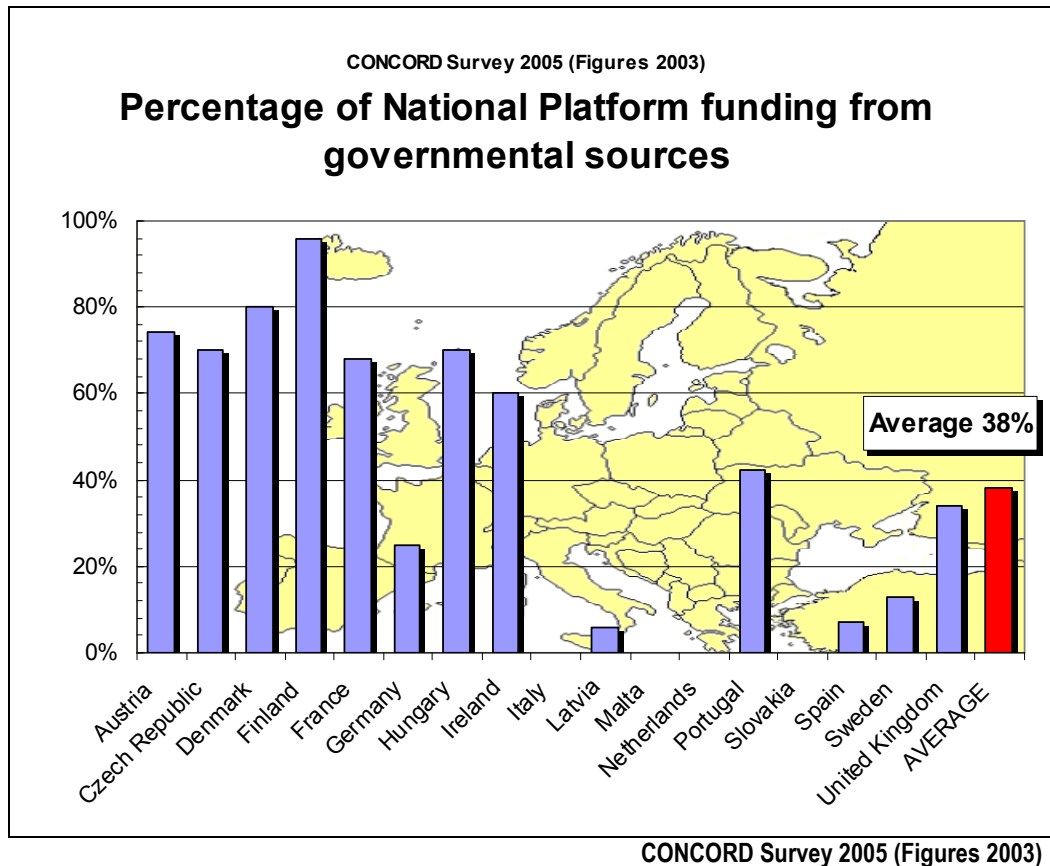
¹² Based on information provided by National Platform members.

Budgets and funding of CONCORD's Members

National Platforms

The current combined annual budget of CONCORD's National Platforms (NPs) is approximately €4,14 million¹³. No platform exceeds a budget of €1 million. Of this the NPs receive 38% of their funding from governmental sources.

Where the National Platforms have received governmental funding, this support appears to be fairly evenly split between 'core business and administrative support' and 'specific projects and campaigns' (50% and 50% respectively).



Networks

Using rough estimates, **the combined total annual budget of CONCORD's Network members is over € 8.65 million.** Half of the Networks have annual budgets of between €100,000 and €500,000, and 28% have a budget between €500,000 and €1m. None have budgets below €10,000.

Of this the Networks receive only 18% of their funding from governmental sources, with nearly half of the Networks receiving no governmental funding at all. Generally the Network members are much more confident of their financial sustainability than the National Platforms.

These figures strongly reinforce the independent, autonomous and non-governmental nature of CONCORD's members. It also illustrates that CONCORD's Networks are more financially independent from governments than the National Platforms.

¹³ These figures have not been externally verified, but are based on information provided directly by the National Platform members or estimated by the CONCORD secretariat, where figures were not provided. Therefore, this total should be seen as a 'best estimate'.

Annual budgets of CONCORD's Members

Annual budget of National Platforms	No. of NPs	% of NPs
0 – 10.000 €	1	6%
10.000 – 100.000 €	9	50%
100.000 – 500.000 €	5	28%
500.000 – 1.000.000 €	3	17%
More than 1 Million €	0	0%
Totals	18	100%

Annual budget of Networks	No. of NWS	% of NWS
0 - 10,000 €	0	0%
10,000 - 100,000 €	2	11%
100,000 - 500,000 €	9	50%
500,000 - 1,000,000 €	5	28%
More than 1 Million €	2	11%
Total	18	100%

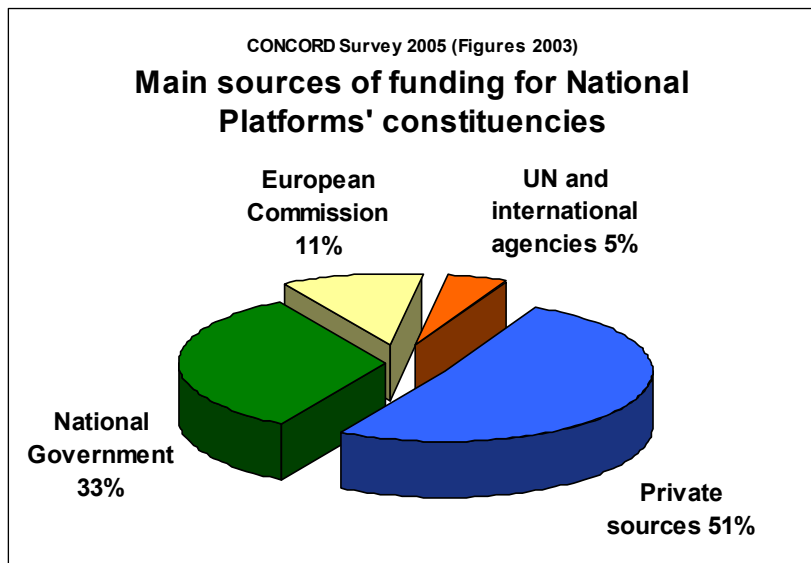
CONCORD Survey 2005 (Figures 2003)

Funding of Constituencies of CONCORD's Members

National Platform members: 51% Private donations, 33% National govts, 11% EC
Network members (NGO families only): 63% Private donations, 29% National govts, 6% EC.

National Platform constituencies

The combined annual budgets of the constituencies of NP members are in the region of **around €5.5 billion**, and around €3.7billion for the NW 'families'. These statistics are based on estimates by CONCORD's members on their own constituencies.



The chief source of funding of the members of CONCORD's National Platforms is from private donations (from the general public but also private foundations, companies, other sources, etc) – this represents 51% which is exactly the same proportion as that of EU NGOs as a whole. This reflects not only that CONCORD's NP members are representative of NGOs and citizens in their own countries and EU-wide, but also their tremendous financial clout, leverage power, and autonomous, non-governmental nature. Therefore, EU citizens provide over €2,5 billion annually to EU NGOs for development and humanitarian aid projects.

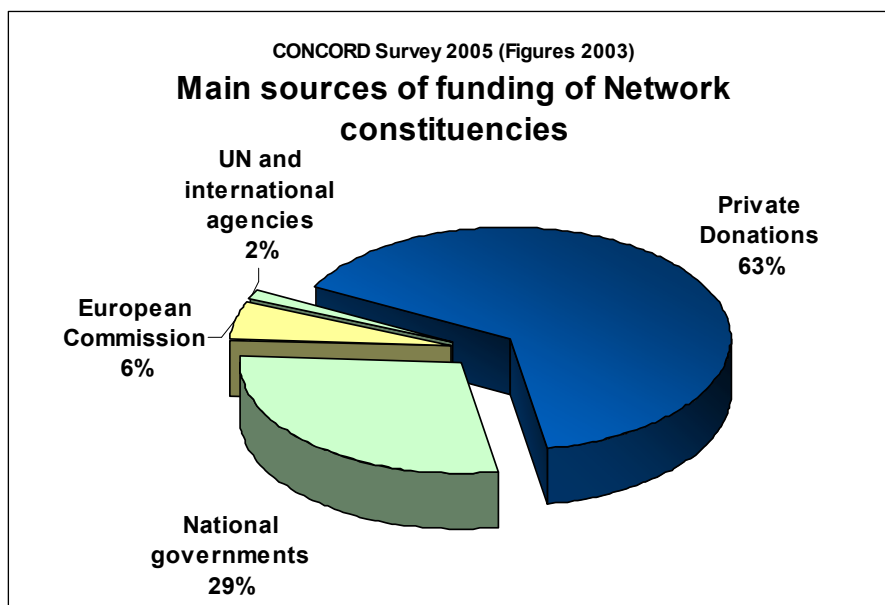
- Other funding: National governments: 33% (32% for EU NGOs as whole). The European Commission and the UN (and international agencies) make up 11% and 5% respectively (echoing 13% and 4% for EU NGOs).

Network 'families' constituencies

Given the great difficulties in data collection for CONCORD's Network members it has been very hard to accurately calculate the total annual budget of all of their members¹⁴. Using the data provided by the NGO families, it is estimated that their membership's total annual budgetary size is **nearly €3,7 billion**.

In fairly equal proportions, one third has a budget of between €10m-100m, one third has between €100m and 500m, and the final third has an annual budget exceeding €500 million.

The most significant points identified from the survey results are that over half of the funding of CONCORD's Network members ('NGO families' only) is from private donations (63%)¹⁵, with a third (29%) from national governments¹⁶. Only 6% of funding is from the European Commission, and only 2% from the UN. This strongly reinforces the clear independence the Network members have from the EC, and their own strong self-reliance. Interestingly, dependency on national governments remains clearly much more significant than dependency on the European Commission.



Membership support base

The tremendous strength of support for CONCORD's members is once again reinforced by the fact that:

- ★ the National Platforms' constituencies have over 12,6 million regular annual donors across Europe, with on average 845.000 donors per NP constituency.
- ★ the Networks' have over 10,5 million donors, including 40% that have between 1-5 million.

Capacity and staffing

- ★ On average, the National Platforms employ approximately 4 permanent staff each, but some rely entirely on non-permanent staff. Also the majority do not have permanent staff devoted to EU Affairs.
- ★ The Networks employ more people, on average around 7,5 permanent staff, with nearly 90% having permanent staff focussed on EU Affairs.

¹⁴ To ensure that double counting is reduced to a minimum, only data provided by the 'NGO families' were included. The term 'NGO families' refers to: ActionAid International, ADRA, Aprovev, CBMI, Caritas Europe, CIDSE, IPPF, Oxfam International, Plan Europe, Save the Children, Solidar, Terre des Hommes, and World Vision. Therefore not EU-CORD, EuronAid, Eurostep, Eurodad, FORUM.

Please note, therefore, there were only 13 respondents to this question. Where information was not provided, estimates were calculated by the CONCORD Secretariat, based on 'public' information.

¹⁵ This includes also funding from 'other' sources, including private trading (e.g. Eurodad), regional governments (e.g. Save the Children), etc.

¹⁶ Please note that the term 'national governments' may be misleading, for example, the members of ActionAid International can regard their national governments to be: DFID (UK), DCI, Greece, India, Malawi, Afghanistan, Denmark, Jersey.

- ★ The members of CONCORD's National Platforms' employ more than 79.000 permanent staff on important development and humanitarian aid issues across the world, with the majority working outside of their own countries (51.500 abroad). They also have around 425.000 volunteers assisting them.
- ★ The Networks' constituency members employ around 19.000 permanent staff on 'international issues' (including 11.000 abroad) and a further 440.000 volunteers. Perhaps these volunteer staffing figures also reflect that the NPs appear to be less aware of their constituencies' staffing and capacity levels than the Networks are? ¹⁷

Partnerships & the value of CONCORD

Level of participation in CONCORD activities: There is a high level of participation within CONCORD's activities, with nearly 250 people from 177 NGOs regularly attending CONCORD activities – on average 7,5 people per CONCORD member. Total participation in CONCORD's Working Groups, seminars, General Assemblies and Board meetings amounted to 1150 in 2004 ¹⁸.

Matching priorities and synergies: There is a clear match between the priorities of the Members' constituencies and that of CONCORD: (1) to advocate at political level (29%); and (2) to increase access to funding (25%).

In addition to great complementarities and synergies between the National Platforms and the Networks and their constituencies, there are also slight differences:

- 34% of the NPs' constituencies join their National Platforms to improve their access to funding, whereas only 15% of the NWS' constituencies join their Networks for this reason – which is perhaps a reflection of the Network's greater financial security?
- However, the NW constituencies appear a little more active on political-level advocacy than the NPs' (33% of NWS' vs. 27% of NPs').

Why do members join CONCORD? The response to this is a combination of interrelated factors but there are close ties between the National Platform and the Network members' rationales:

1st = To strengthen their **access to the EU political sphere** to improve NGO advocacy. Also for some members **CONCORD could lobby on their behalf.**

2nd = To be part of an **EU-wide forum** to facilitate **information sharing**, NGO partnerships and collective action.

3rd = To **strengthen capacities** and the **whole NGO community.**

4th = To **improve access to funding.**

Others = To improve their country's contribution to development.

None = To improve their transparency and accountability.

Cooperation with New Member State NGOs

★ Only half of CONCORD members (NW and NP) cooperate with New Member State NGOs.

★ Also only half of the Networks have members in the New Member States.

This would indicate potentially large undeveloped opportunities for cooperation.

Other civil society alliances

In addition to working to strengthen coordination and collaboration with other CSOs working in relief and development, CONCORD's members are almost all engaged in other temporary alliances and coalitions with other non-relief and development CSO sectors.

These coalitions and campaigns vary widely from cultural affairs to trade unions, child labour, sexual and reproductive health and rights; immigration and trafficking; and other human rights and minority rights movements.

¹⁷ To confirm these figures, more systematic analysis would be useful.

¹⁸ This is based on the CONCORD Working Group, Seminar, General Assemblies and Board registration lists for 2004.

4. Conclusion

This survey illustrates that CONCORD is a truly pan-European confederation. Its membership is made up of 21 National Platforms and 19 international networks, which work in every EU Member State, and represent over 1.600 individual NGOs¹⁹.

As CONCORD has grown in the 3 years since its foundation, there has been a corresponding need to find out about who is CONCORD: to get strong insights into the objectives, structures, funding, membership and capacities of CONCORD's wide membership.

The survey's results strongly reinforce the independent, autonomous and non-governmental nature of CONCORD's members. Over 50% of the funding of CONCORD's National Platforms' constituencies is from private sources and this is over 60% for the Network families' constituencies.

This confirms another often underplayed important point, that EU NGOs are a valuable 'leverage' for institutional donors, as for each €1bn provided from governmental funding, another €1bn is matched by EU NGOs out of their own funds, thanks to the generosity and solidarity of European citizens.

The combined annual budgets of the National Platform members' constituencies is in the region of approximately €5.5 billion, and approximately €3.7 billion for the network 'families', based on estimates by CONCORD's members on their own constituencies. The strength of support for CONCORD's members is also highlighted by the fact that the National Platforms' constituencies have over 12,6 million regular annual donors across Europe, and a further 10,5 million for the network families'.

However, there remains a lack of recognition and support for the essential and unique role of NGOs in development co-operation, improving the 'quality of civil society - institutional dialogue' and the fight against global poverty by EU governments. **For example, overall less than 10 per cent of Member State Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) is channelled through EU NGOs, although there are wide variations across EU countries.**

Civil society is an important actor in developing countries. It has a crucial role to play in building ownership and participation in national development strategies as well as holding public bodies to account. This is increasingly accepted as a cornerstone of international development policy. **EU development NGOs have a key role to play in this, in contributing to the emergence of new civil society organisations, building international alliances to respond to global challenges (Trade, Human Rights and Democracy, International Governance), and acting as a bridge between EU citizens, EU institutions and developing countries.**

EU development NGOs work, and have worked for many decades, in every country in the world, with the world's most poor and excluded communities, enabling them to claim their own rights to food, education, health, water and shelter.

CONCORD's members believe that they are practical as well as strongly reflective of the value and values of civil society actors both in Europe and the developing world. Civil society, in all its forms, has an essential role to play in progressing towards a just world that is free from poverty.

¹⁹ Note again that at the time of writing CONCORD had only 20 National Platform members. In November 2005 the Polish National Platform (the Zagranica Group) joined CONCORD and became its 21st National Platform member, but data from the Polish NP was not available in time to be included in this survey. Nor is WIDE (Women In Development Europe Network) included as it became a CONCORD Network member in June 2006.

Taking the survey forward

Once again, the work of CONCORD to influence current European-level political and policy debates on important development and humanitarian issues relies on a strong relationship amongst its members. We hope that we can use this survey to deepen and refine an understanding of CONCORD's members, their constituencies, and EU NGOs as a whole and use it to ensure that CONCORD continues to grow in strength and effectiveness to influence current European political and policy debates on development and humanitarian issues. Finally **we hope that this survey will form the basis for the reinforcement of the authority, legitimacy and transparency of CONCORD's members in the eyes of national, EU and international institutions, who on occasion, question the contribution and 'added value' of NGOs in their work in international development.**

Therefore, it is recommended that this report is widely circulated to all of CONCORD's members and their constituencies, to support and reinforce their institutional lobby work.

This survey, from the outset, only ever intended to investigate and derive general trends and figures on the broad EU NGO landscape and CONCORD's membership, to consolidate and reflect on the 3 years of CONCORD's formation. It is, nevertheless, a valuable foundation for future studies, with a number of important lessons learned that can be taken into account in subsequent research.

However, **further, deeper and more regular research is required to gain a confident, independently verified, set of quantitative and qualitative data on CONCORD's wide and strong membership, and particularly their constituency members.**

Rather than conducting such research in isolation, it is recommended that it is conducted in conjunction with other organisations, notably the OECD and the European Commission who are themselves in the process of undertaking similar studies. This would ensure that our expertise and resources are pooled and that a comprehensive and objective study of European relief and development NGOs is produced. Only once this is completed can the true value and contribution of NGOs to international development and the eradication of poverty, inequality and conflict be fully recognised.

Beyond reports and studies, given the tremendous breadth and size of the European relief and development NGO sector, perhaps an independent oversight and regulatory body needs to be established to analyse and assess the wide European relief and development NGO sector.

Finally, thank you very much again to everyone who has contributed to this study.