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Editorial

From 15 to 27 EU Member States

Achievements and challenges for international development

The enlargement of the EU by 10 countries from Central and Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean in 2004 was celebrated as an historic reunification of Europe. With the accession of Romania and Bulgaria on the 1st January 2007, 27 member states now shape European development cooperation.

The twelve new EU member states (NMS) have created their own Official Development Assistance (ODA) systems and policies. In some of them, challenges connected to the transformation from aid recipient to aid donor still remain. On the other hand, post-communist NMS bring extra dimensions to EU development policy and add influence to the direction of European cooperation, with their geographic and sectoral expertise stemming from their traditional cooperation with the countries of Eastern Europe, the Western Balkans, the Caucasus and Central Asia, where they mainly support democratisation and good governance as well as economic reforms.

In most NMS, a long term ODA strategy and multi-annual programming, that would overcome the annuality of ODA budgeting and project financing, is still missing. The inclusion of civil society into strategy formation and programming processes is crucial and should be institutionalised, as is already the case in some NMS.

As for the quantity of aid, NMS committed themselves to spend 0.17% of GNI on development cooperation by 2010, and 0.33% by 2015. The NGOs in NMS doubt that this commitment is being taken seriously. Even if most NMS reported increased ODA volumes in 2006, this was mainly due to debt relief to countries like Iraq and Afghanistan and to the inclusion of in-country spending for refugees and foreign students' education. This is not specific to NMS but applies to many old member states as well. In 2006 these non-aid items accounted for almost one third of European ODA, and in some countries even more than half of their national ODA.

NGOs all over Europe play an important watch-dog role with regards to the quantity and quality of aid, and to policy coherence for development. In all NMS there are strong develop-



ment NGOs; in most countries they have succeeded in establishing stable platforms to fulfil the diverse tasks of an organised civil society, ranging from policy dialogue and advocacy to awareness raising activities. Further challenges include the lack of financial sustainability of these platforms and low levels of policy engagement at the EU level. TRIIALOG provides targeted capacity building, diversified according to the different needs in each NMS.

If development cooperation is to make a real impact on poverty eradication and the protection of vulnerable people, it requires strongly committed actors in civil society and in governments, but also public support. Public awareness is still very low and support for international development cooperation in NMS is weak. In 2006, the European Commission (EC) for the first time allocated an additional 10million Euros for awareness raising projects of NGOs in NMS. Special EC funds made it possible for public debates on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to be organised in all NMS, taking place around the International Day against Poverty 2007.

Slovenia's EU presidency in 2008 and a conference on the nature of development in May in Prague represent further opportunities to make NMS approaches more visible. It is up to all of us to join forces to push for more and better aid in order to finally move towards world-wide poverty eradication.

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Development Education: From Lobby to Action

LOOKING BACK AND FORWARD

TRIALOG capacity building activities have recently focused on trainings in relation to the European Commission (EC) Call for "Actions to Raise Public Awareness of Development Issues in Europe". As a result of EU-wide lobby actions, the EC allocated 10 million Euros in the 2006 budget especially for development education and awareness raising activities in the new EU member states (NMS). In October 2006, TRIA-LOG organized the Development Education Partnership Fair, where 200 NGOs from the entire EU came to Vienna to locate new partners and to begin the process of elaborating project proposals for participation in the EC Development Education (ED) Call. By January 2007, more than 150 participants had attended 10 TRIA-LOG follow-up trainings on proposal writing, held in 7 different NMS.

The result was a strong participation of NMS organizations in the two-stage ED Call. According to EC data, 63 concept notes were submitted by the 10 eligible NMS – Bulgaria and Romania were not yet eligible. In May 2007 the EC invited 38 pre-selected projects from NMS to submit full proposals. During 4 trainings in Ljubljana, Prague, Warsaw and Bratislava TRIA-LOG supported 50 participant NGOs from old



Plenum at the Development Education Partnership Fair

and NMS to clarify all remaining queries of their final project proposals. In the final selection, 18 projects with lead agencies from 8 NMS have been approved by the EC and will begin in 2008. Together with 4 projects which will operate in NMS, but lead by British, Greek and Dutch NGOs, the full sum of 10 million Euros allocated for ED activities in NMS will be used.

In the meantime the EC has adopted new financial instruments for 2007-2013. The Development Co-operation Instrument (DCI), especially the thematic programme "Non-State Actors and Local Authorities" is

replacing the NGO co-financing budget line 21 02 03. The main modification which strongly affects NGOs is that in future, funds will also be accessible by institutions like universities, political foundations and by local authorities. This conforms to the overall trend in donor policies to increasingly expend development

funds via public institutions rather than through non governmental actors.

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Useful Weblink:

Financial EC Instruments 2007-2013:
http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/delivering-aid/funding-instruments/index_en.htm

EPAN: WORKING GROUP ON ENLARGEMENT, PRE-ACCESSION AND NEIGHBOURHOOD

The Working Group (WG) on Enlargement, operating within the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development (CONCORD) under the auspices of TRIA-LOG, has been actively engaged in the recent CONCORD Assessment & Adjustment process. The major outcome of this process was that the scope of the WG was broadened to include a special focus on developing countries that fall under the remit of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), as well as to focus on the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA). The new WG was named **EPAN**, for **E**nlargement, **P**re-**A**ccession and **N**eighbourhood, and had its first meeting in May 2007.

In a letter from CONCORD in September 2007, these "new ambitions" were welcomed by the board, thereby confirming that EPAN will be focusing its policy work and information sharing on EU Neighbourhood, Pre-Accession and Enlargement issues. EPAN contributes to CONCORD strategic objectives by: a) aiming at making sure the

EU respects development objectives and principles when dealing with developing countries covered by ENPI and IPA; and b) contributing to stronger advocacy and policy work by development NGOs at national and EU levels, including those NGOs from current and future new member states (NMS).

In practice there are two subgroups. The **EU Neighbourhood sub-group**, which will monitor the implementation of ENPI, elaborate policy documents and organise advocacy actions. And the **Pre-accession sub-group** which will support the deepening of European integration and the development of civil society in the Western Balkan countries and Turkey. It will also identify stakeholders to help build a development cooperation framework.

To achieve its objectives EPAN will meet twice a year, with another two meetings envisaged for the steering group; regular electronic contact will be maintained throughout the year. TRIA-LOG is the convener of this WG, as it was for the WG on

Enlargement, and provides daily support from the TRIA-LOG policy officer based in Brussels. By the end of October, EPAN finalised its Working Plan for 2008. The Action Plan was further detailed during the November EPAN meeting held in Romania.

One of the major challenges now facing EPAN is to identify and engage the right people and expertise from within the CONCORD platforms and networks that will be most capable of ensuring the implementation of the rather ambitious targets EPAN has set for itself.

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Useful Weblinks:

EPAN:
www.trialog.or.at/start.asp?ID=107
ENPI:
www.enpi-programming.eu

“Difference is our Strength”

DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RAISING IN SLOVENIA

THE NGDO PROJECT FOR THE SLOVENIAN PRESIDENCY 2008

In the first half of 2008, Slovenia will be the first new EU member state (NMS) to hold the Presidency of the European Union. SLOGA, the Slovenian development NGO (NGDO) platform, set its presidency agenda on development education and awareness raising as the basis for effective development cooperation.

The inequitable North-South relations, the interdependence between the EU and developing countries and the resulting responsibility are not widely known to the Slovenian public. Development education does not exist in the education system and there is little pressure from the public to include development issues into school curricula and informal education systems. The Slovenian EU presidency seems the right moment to mobilize support for development among all stakeholders, with a special focus on raising awareness of the living conditions in African countries and of the situation in the Balkans.

AIMS AND TARGET GROUPS

Around 20 Slovenian NGOs from different sectors will implement the presidency project, which intends to address the lack of development issues in political discussion, in public and media awareness and in educational material, as well as to

strengthen the civil society already active in this field. The three target groups of the project are civil society organisations, political decision makers and the Slovenian public. The project aims to enable Slovenian citizens to look at their own lives in relation to the lives of people throughout the world, and at increasing understanding of the interrelations between economic, social, political and environmental factors as the main causes of poverty. One goal of the project is to develop skills and values within civil society which would encourage advocacy for equitable North-South and West-East relations.

THEMATIC FOCUS OF THE SLOGA PRESIDENCY PROJECT

The main focus is on development education and will be addressed on two levels: firstly as a cross cutting issue, which will encompass all activities in order to elaborate a variety of educational materials as well as to improve knowledge on development, and secondly as one of the core working groups of the presidency project. The further thematic priorities which the NGOs will concentrate on are linked to questions of social exclusion and environment. They are Climate Change, Women Trafficking, Children, Intergenerational Dialogue and Migration. Being the most relevant topics to the Slovenian context, they are able to serve as a basis for bringing development perspectives from civil society into the political discussion arena. Each topic will be tackled by a working group of interested NGOs who will organize related events, seminars, roundtables, trainings and press conferences to engage the attention of the various stakeholders. Regular meetings between SLOGA and representatives of the current and future Troika countries will ensure continuous cooperation across Europe and with the partners in developing countries.

LINKING WITH PREVIOUS AND SUBSEQUENT PRESIDENCIES

During the Finish presidency, a multi-stakeholder task force was established to



develop a European framework for development education and awareness raising. As a result, the European strategy on development education was presented during the Portuguese presidency. In close cooperation



International SLOGA Conference on the Western Balkans, February 2007

with the Development Education Forum of CONCORD, the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development, the Slovenian presidency project will follow up on this strategy and discuss its implementation on national and EU levels. It is planned that the final policy document will be submitted to the European Commission during the French presidency in the second half of 2008.

MAIN EVENT: DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION CONFERENCE IN JUNE

The main event of the Slovenian presidency project will be the international Development Education Conference in Ljubljana on 9-10 June 2008 which will address the role of NGOs in development education and awareness raising. This will be the opportune moment to discuss the European development education strategy and its Europe-wide implementation with key stakeholders and decision makers from NGOs, from governments and from the European Commission and Parliament.



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Main governmental presidency events

January 2008: Slovenia to chair the CODEV (Council Development Cooperation Working Party) meeting; focus on division of labor and aid effectiveness.

January 2008: Slovenian MFA in cooperation with the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) – launch of a study on Children and Women in Armed Conflicts as an issue in EU Development policy.

March 2008: EU-ACP (Africa Caribbean Pacific) joint Parliamentary Assembly in Ljubljana.

April 2008: Slovenia to chair the GAERC (General Affairs and External Relations Council) meeting.

Development Cooperation in New EU Member States

AN INSIGHT ANALYSIS

For the post-socialist countries which have been integrated into the EU, development cooperation including civil society participation became obligatory. In these countries, which have undergone radical changes of their societies, political change implied an abrupt end to politically motivated internationalism. Yet for many years the old concepts were not replaced by alternative ones – the transformation process absorbed capacities. The countries themselves became aid recipients and were considered competitors to developing countries. The situation only started to change by the end of the 1990s.

So far the quantity and quality of government activities are not very impressive. The efforts of civil society actors also leave much to be desired. There is not only insufficient funding and a lack of experience but also underlying conceptual problems regarding development cooperation. "Development" is predominantly perceived by governments as assistance to poor countries to enable them to catch up with "modern" industrialized nations, and this is combined with advancement for domestic industries. This means there is a mixing together of development assistance and export promotion.

Public opinion is driven mainly by a mentality of compassion. People are prepared to donate to concrete projects to benefit clearly perceived victims of catastrophes. In this light, civil society initiatives in the field of disaster relief and development aid were started. This happened even before the creation of the new political development programs, which were mainly initiated due to external pressure. Development education activities evolved only slowly. Awareness is increasing and undoubtedly there are good intentions and genuine efforts being made, but up to now the accent is more on "development aid" than on "development cooperation".

Another tendency is to export relatively fresh transformation experiences to countries with different cultural settings and different socio-economic problems. The role of political vehicle adopted by some NGOs in this context appears to be rather doubtful. On the other hand many organizations do miracles with a minimum of financial means. Lacking means is often compensated by lots of commitment and creativity. There are well conceived projects that function well, building on the participation of Southern partner organizations, and their number will surely increase. The problem of lacking financial ca-

pacities might be reduced over time given the access to EU funding – though this holds true primarily for bigger NGOs. For all organisations the integration into national development NGO platforms and through them into the European umbrella organisation CONCORD constitutes a positive and important learning process.

There is still insufficient awareness that global problems call for global solutions, and above all for structural changes in rich countries. Even within civil society the structural causes of poverty such as indebtedness, unfair trade relations, militarism and other means to defend the present hegemony are rarely made subjects of development education or political action. This indicates the presence of ideological reservations which can be traced back both to the experiences with authoritarian regimes before 1989 and to the neo-liberal ideological fog that followed. NGOs in the old EU member states address structural issues much more. This difference in perception often complicates communication and cooperation between "East" and "West", which are additionally aggravated by a general insecurity shared on both sides about the effectiveness of development cooperation.

TRIALOG has contributed a lot to enhance the NGO capacities in the new EU member states and has facilitated and strengthened contacts between new and old



Drum producer of the cooperative Kalangu in Accra, Ghana. Foto made during a study visit of Czech NGOs to Fair Trade cooperatives in Ghana. © Tomáš Bílý

member states. Following a recommendation from the project evaluation, TRIALOG will now – in cooperation with CONCORD and the Ecumenical Academy in Prague – create space for a Europe-wide debate on sustainable, effective development concepts and the role of civil society actors in their implementation. Two conferences will be organized in Prague, the first to take place on 14-16 May 2008, the second a year after. The first conference will invite NGO representatives from developing countries to describe their situation, expectations and dreams. This will be the basis for a debate in which NGOs from Europe and the European neighbourhood will critically assess and discuss their own and their governments' policies. The second conference will present the outcome in terms of emerging new ways, approaches and instruments to development.

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Weblinks to development NGO platforms in New EU Member States

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

Estonian Development Cooperation Roundtable (AKÜ): www.terveilm.net

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

Latvian NGDO Platform (LAPAS): www.lapas.lv

Maltese NGDO Platform: www.ngdomalta.org

Polish NGOs working abroad (Grupa Zagranica): www.zagranica.org.pl

Romanian NGDO platform (FOND): www.fondromania.wordpress.com

Slovak NGDO Platform (MVRO): www.mvro.sk

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

The websites of the platforms in Bulgaria, Cyprus and Lithuania are under construction.

NGO Cooperation: Bulgaria and Romania in the spotlight

A year after EU accession, the Bulgarian and Romanian networks of development NGOs (NGDOs) report on their past and future challenges and activities.

THE BULGARIAN NGDO

PLATFORM: CHALLENGES AND LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

The process of establishing the Bulgarian NGDO platform started in fall 2005. The first appearance of the platform as a visible group of NGOs working for development was in March 2006 when TRIALOG organized a seminar and a conference in Sofia. More than 30 organizations attended as well as governmental representatives responsible for the Bulgarian Official Development Assistance (ODA) policy. Since then, the platform has been active in two main directions: work with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the development of an ODA policy and strategy, and work on strengthening the platform itself.

STRUCTURE AND MISSION

The Bulgarian platform is an informal network of NGDOs. It currently has two coordinators, one from the CEGA Foundation and one from the ECIP Foundation. Two major documents were adopted by the platform members: the Mission and the Code of Conduct.

The mission of the Bulgarian platform is to support sustainable development abroad through civil society engagement and through cooperation with the institutions involved in promoting solidarity and effective development aid policies.

MEMBERS AND ACTIVITIES

The platform represents 33 NGOs which are involved in training, capacity building and exchange of experience on development issues; which participate in events, study visits and working groups in the framework of TRIALOG and the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development (CONCORD). The Bulgarian platform has also received capacity building support from experienced platforms in other EU countries, especially from the Polish platform "Zagranica Group". In the last two years it has made important steps towards becoming a reliable partner of state institutions. This appears to be proven by the fact that a platform representative was invited to give a speech during a national debate on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the Bulgarian Parliament.

CHALLENGES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

The main priority for the future is to move further in the direction of influencing policy making and of advocating for both transparency and appropriate allocation of Bulgarian development aid. A big challenge facing the platform is that many donors left the country after the EU accession and smaller NGOs experience difficulties in accessing the new EU funds. The state is not ready to support the platform, and the members themselves lack the financial capacity to secure its stability. However, the NGDOs see their role as achieving increased awareness within Bulgarian society of ODA issues and of the needs of developing countries. The platform will remain open to partnerships with other NGDO platforms and to exchanges of experience in order to enhance its ability to transform accumulated knowledge into working practices.

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CHANGE OF PERSPECTIVE: ROMANIA AS A DONOR COUNTRY

After almost one year of being part of the EU, Romania is struggling to come out of the transition period from a beneficiary to a donor country. For the time being, it continues to be both.

The process of forming FOND, the Romanian NGDO platform, started in 2005. It was not an easy task, but with sustained efforts from TRIALOG, a favourable context was created for the Romanian NGOs interested in working in the development cooperation field. The results of these efforts were the creation of a coherent and stable structure, FOND, which was legally registered in March 2007, and closer relations with European NGDO networks and platforms.

FOND's main objective is the responsible and effective involvement of Romanian civil society and government in international development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

MEMBERS AND ACTIVITIES

Most of the 34 member NGOs are interested in the following sectors: develop-

ment education, education and professional training, health, democracy and good governance (including human rights and child protection) with a focus on neighbouring countries (Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine).

In 2007, with support from its members and TRIALOG, FOND co-organized a series of events including: two seminars on the opportunities and challenges for civil society in Romanian development cooperation with the priority countries Moldova and Georgia, a seminar on EU Funding and Partnership Opportunities for NGOs, and a debate on Romania's Contribution to the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). FOND took part in the European Development Days in Lisbon and hosted the EPAN WG meeting (see page 2). An important activity the platform is working on now is a future nationwide awareness raising campaign for the general public.

COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT

The relationship with the government is extremely cooperative; FOND is affirmed as a major partner and consultant for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) in the national development cooperation strategy. One of the FOND working groups is the Roundtable with the MFA, and regular meetings are held between FOND and state representatives.

LESSONS LEARNT

The Romanian NGOs have learnt that the transition to their new role will be possible only if they can capitalize their expertise and transfer what they have experienced as aid beneficiaries to the status of fully capable development cooperation actors that are fighting to achieve the responsibilities Romania has assumed as a new EU country.



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CONCORD Aid Watch Report 2007

Hold the applause! EU governments risk breaking aid promises

At the 1970 General Assembly of the AUN a target was set for rich countries to give at least 0.7% of their Gross National Income (GNI) as aid to developing countries. Yet today only 5 countries worldwide (Denmark, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway and Sweden) have reached this target. In 2002, at the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development, and again in 2005, EU governments committed to substantial increases in the amount of aid they give to developing countries.

The 15 old EU member states have pledged to give as Official Development Assistance (ODA) 0.51% of GNI by 2010 and 0.7% by 2015. The 12 EU member states that joined the EU in 2004 and 2007 have committed to spend 0.17% of GNI by 2010 and 0.33% by 2015.

According to the official figures, the EU is well on track and most countries are living up to their aid promises. However, the report "Hold the Applause" that the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development (CONCORD) released in May 2007 reveals that many EU countries

are failing to meet their aid commitments. Flattering official figures fail to tell the whole story. Beneath the gloss, European governments are missing the mark. At EU average, around 30% of officially reported ODA in 2006 was in fact not genuine aid; EU member states have seriously inflated their aid figures by including spending on debt relief, refugees and educating foreign students in Europe in their statistics.

Of the 10 countries that joined the EU in 2004, several are relative newcomers to providing development assistance. Yet some are fast approaching levels of generosity comparable to the weaker performers of the more traditional EU donors. Malta, despite having decreased its aid since 2005, still gives the highest percentage of GNI as aid among the EU 10, at 0.15% (primarily spent on migrants in Malta), coming in just behind Greece. The Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovenia all reported 0.12% in 2006.

While most of these countries show rising aid levels – Cyprus jumped dramatically to 0.11% of GNI in 2006 from 0.03% in 2005 – some are showing worrying signs

of not progressing towards their 2010 target. The Slovak Republic's aid fell by more than 9% and Latvia's by 1% this year.

HOW THE REPORT WAS DONE

For the second year in a row, an unprecedented number of European development NGOs (NGDOs), in a truly pan-European and collective effort came together from all the major networks and NGDO platforms from 27 EU countries to produce this CONCORD report. The report analyses the 2005 and 2006 aid figures. It is part of a broader initiative called "European Aid Watching" under the umbrella of CONCORD.

There is much less information on ODA available for the new EU member states than for the old member states. Nonetheless national platforms in new member states (including Bulgaria and Romania) provided very interesting analyses of their countries' aid programmes and have also carried out extensive investigations of their own to supplement the limited statistical information that is publicly available.

The Aid Watch Report has helped to build a network of "aid watchers" in many new member states, where working groups on ODA have been set up within the national NGDO platforms.

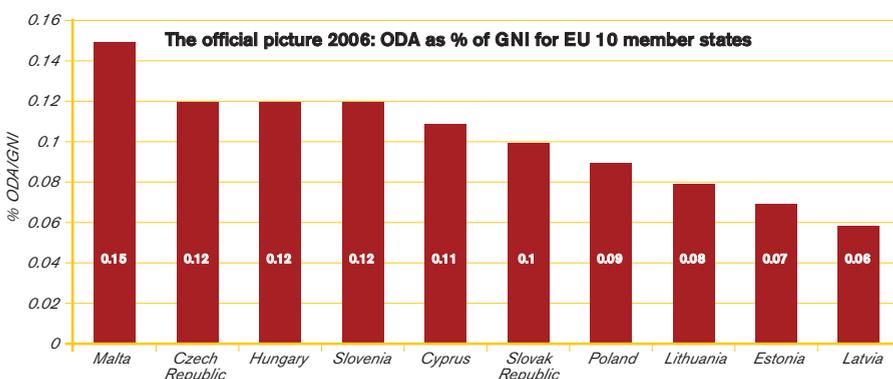
OUR MAIN DEMANDS

The report is calling on EU member states to:

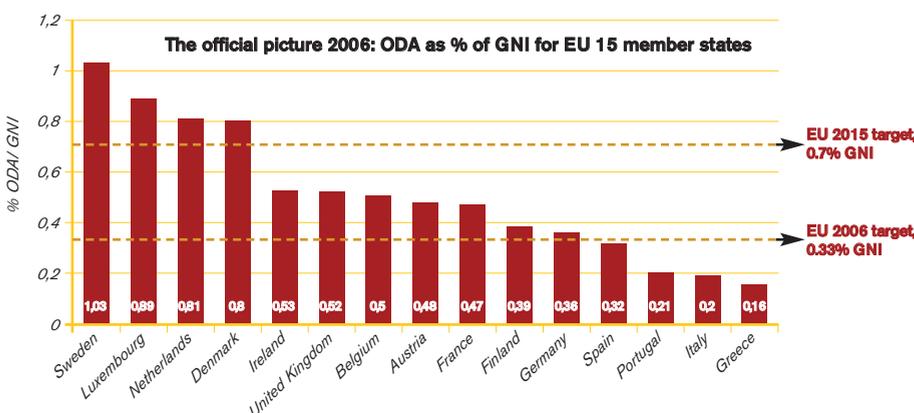
1. Provide genuine increases in European aid
2. Agree clear and binding year-on-year timetables to reach at a minimum the 2010 and 2015 targets with genuine aid resources
3. Stop including refugee costs, student costs and debt relief in official aid reporting
4. Improve transparency in aid reporting
5. Take further steps to make aid more effective
6. End all tied aid

CONCORD and development NGOs across the whole of Europe will continue to monitor and advocate for progress on these demands. We will applaud those governments who rise to the challenge of delivery but will continue to criticize those who fail to meet their promises.

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Source: European Commission (2007b), European Commission Communication (COM (2007) 164)



Source: OECD (2007) DAC preliminary figures, April 2007, www.oecd.org/dataoecd/14/5/38354517.pdf

Useful Weblink:

Full version of the Aid Watch Report
www.trialog.or.at/images/doku/hold_the_applause.final.pdf

Development cooperation target countries of the new EU member states (NMS)

ODA PRIORITY TERRITORIES

The Official Development Assistance (ODA) programs of NMS predominantly target countries in the Western Balkans, East Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (see table). The three Baltic states (EE, LV, LT) are almost exclusively committed to cooperating with East European and Caucasian countries. Central European NMS governments, though still maintaining very high interest in assisting the Western Balkans and East Europe, are also active in developing countries in Africa and Asia; Angola and Vietnam are of particular focus due to traditional links. Central European NMS have also allocated parts of their ODA to countries not labelled as priorities, mostly African, and some (H, CZ) have allocated assistance to a few Southeast Asian and Latin American countries. Poland has developed a system of small-grants which is operating in Africa. In the Mediterranean and the Near East, countries such as Palestine and Yemen are the focus of some NMS. Afghanistan is on the priority or active project list of nearly all NMS, while six NMS have prioritised or given assistance to Iraq. Malta is the only NMS which has no clearly defined priority countries, but instead broadly targets Sub-Saharan Africa, the Horn of Africa, the Mediterranean and „small island states“.

	CZ	HU	PL	SK	SI	EE	LV	LT	MT	CY	BG	RO
Albania			☐	☐	●							☐
Bosnia-Herzegovina	●	●	☐	●	●							☐
Macedonia		●	☐	✓	●							☐
Montenegro		●	☐	●	●							☐
Serbia	●	●	✓	●	●						●	●
Belarus			●	✓			●	●		☐		☐
Moldova	●	●	●		●	●	●	●		☐		●
Russia						✓						
Ukraine	✓	●	●	✓		●	●	●		☐		☐
Armenia			☐					●		☐		☐
Azerbaijan			☐					●		☐		☐
Georgia			●			●	●	●		☐		●
Kazakhstan			✓	✓								
Kyrgyzstan		●	☐	☐								
Tajikistan			☐	☐								
Turkmenistan											●	
Uzbekistan			☐	☐								

Legend

- ODA priority country
- ✓ Active programs
- ☐ Eligible for future programs

Being a priority country does not necessarily indicate that a project is operating; programs may not yet be set up. Eligibility conveys potential participation in programs because the country fulfils NMS' basic requirements for receiving ODA.

For detailed information on the ODA priority countries of NMS, please visit our website: www.trialog.or.at/images/doku/nms_oda_priority_countries.pdf

Additional countries of NGO activity*

NGOs work in the ODA priority territories of their governments (see the detailed information at the link given above) but also in other countries, e.g.:

Asia: Burma, India, Iran, North Korea, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, East Timor

Latin America: Haiti, Nicaragua

Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Namibia, South Africa

* This list might not be complete. Please send any amendments to office@trialog.or.at.

GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS OF NGO ACTIVITY

Looking at the geographic targets of development NGOs (NGDOs) in NMS, their development cooperation activities have different regional focuses:

In Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, NGDOs have concentrated on East Europe and Caucasus, like their governments. Central European NGDOs still have East Europe, the Western Balkans, Caucasus and Central Asia in their focus, but have also turned their attention towards developing countries of Africa, the Americas and Southeast Asia. Cypriot and Maltese NGDOs already have long traditions of cooperation with developing countries, and focus on their Mediterranean neighbours and certain African states. Romanian and Bulgarian NGDOs concentrate their interest and concern mainly on their Balkan and Black Sea neighbours.

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TRIALOG

A project to raise awareness of development issues in the enlarged EU.

Structure

A project in association with CONCORD. Financed by: the European Commission (83.6%), consortium partners and private European sources (12.4%), Austrian Development Cooperation (4.0%). Head Office in Vienna, Liaison Office in Brussels.

Consortium partners

HORIZONT3000 (Austria) – Lead agency, Brot für die Welt (Germany), Licht für die Welt (Austria), AGEH (Germany), eRko (Slovakia), Polska Akcja Humanitarna (Poland), Ekumenická akademie Praha (Czech Republic), CONCORD, Kopin (Malta) – European partner

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Eurizons 2007 –

HITCHHIKING ACROSS EUROPE FOR GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY



8 hitchhikers,
7 different
nationalities,
on the road from
Bratislava to
Prague

“We are part of this world, let's be part of its future!” was the motto of over 150 young Europeans who between August 22nd and September 14th 2007 carried out the second edition of Eurizons – European Tour for Global Responsibility. A “caravan” of 50 young people from 14 different countries travelled over 3,000km through 8 Euro-

pean countries by hitchhiking. In each city they were welcomed by a local team and together they organized colourful events with discussions, movie screenings, workshops, development games and street theatre for the local public. With this unconventional approach, Eurizons aimed at raising awareness among European citizens for global de-

velopment issues and involving them in an active reflection of their own responsibility towards global problems. The campaign reached around 250,000 people Europe-wide and required an active participation of over 150 volunteers.

“Why I consider Eurizons so unique”, says Christoph Hinske, project coordinator 2007, “is because it combines the aspects of a campaign directed at the public and at the same time provides an immense learning space for future global education multipliers”. During the 10-month preparation time, with the support of TRIALOG, multiple seminars took place where

the “Eurizonists” acquired knowledge and skills ranging from strategic planning and project management to creative methods for development education, and gained deep insight into topics like Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), global interdependencies and the challenges of international trade.

International trade was the focus of the final event, which was a meeting with Members of European Parliament (MEPs) in Brussels, where Eurizons wanted to encourage their engagement for fairer negotiations of the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) – trade liberalizing agreements which are to be signed between the EU and the Africa, Caribbean, Pacific countries (ACP). Unfortunately the attendance by MEPs did not meet expectations after last year's successful meeting in Strasbourg, however the learning potential from preparations was “fully exploited”, as some hitchhikers put it.

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Eurizons – GLEN

Eurizons is the first big Europe-wide project of GLEN – Global Education Network of Young Europeans. It was created to facilitate mutual learning and a greater exchange between global education multipliers in Europe.

Useful Weblinks:

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