



Expert Seminar

“The Future of Civil Society Development Organisations”

Date: 10th – 11th November 2009

Venue: Kolpinghaus Wien, Gumpendorfer Straße 39, 1060 Vienna; www.kolping-wien-zentral.at

Objectives of the Expert Seminar:

- Establish the "status quo" of the debate on the role of CSOs.
- Reflect on the roles of CSOs - in the "Global South", the New Member States of the EU (NMS) and the Old Member States of the EU (OMS)
- Synthesise recent reviews and analyses on the status of CSOs
- Discuss the necessity of a global Code of Conduct for CSOs
- Prepare/focus the content of the Managua conference: South/East/North
- Identify themes and speakers for the 2010 Managua conference
- Prepare a first draft of the "Managua Declaration on CSO Participation in Development"

Rationale:

For some time, a central debate within the CONCORD family has focused on various aspects affecting the future work of non-governmental development organisations (NGDOs) and civil society development organisations (CSOs). Several events have challenged current development approaches and the role of CSOs in development. Just two examples: "Are we on the right track? Paradigm Review by CSOs as Development Actors" in Prague in May 2008, and "CSO Development Effectiveness - Searching New Ways" in Prague in June 2009. Furthermore, CONCORD is currently preparing for a consultation process between the European Union and civil society to define the future role of CSOs in shaping, monitoring and implementing European development policies (Quadrilogue "Palermo II").

The 2008 conference on Paradigm Review was initiated by TRIALOG and co-organised by the Ecumenical Academy Prague, the Czech platform FoRS and CONCORD, for whom it represented a first milestone in its strategic planning. The event evaluation was very positive, and participants felt that the debate should be taken forward, with more focused contributions on practical steps for the CSO community in the South, East and North. Therefore a second conference was agreed on, which is now planned for November 2010 in Managua, Nicaragua.

The enormous amount of written material, including studies and evaluation reports, as well as attempts to achieve a widely shared code of conduct led the TRIALOG Advisory Group to plan an Expert Seminar in November 2009 in Vienna. To make sure that the Managua Conference has optimum impact it was felt that a document with the working title “Managua Declaration on CSO participation in Development” should be proposed.

The Expert Seminar will collate the elements for a first draft, which will then be shared with organisations worldwide for comments. We consider it necessary to undertake such an ambitious and demanding initiative as it is clear that the overall political environment for the work of genuine CSOs is getting less and less favourable. Particularly during the present economic and social crises, ground needs to be regained and the profile of CSOs sharpened.

Agenda

Tuesday, November 10, 2009

- 9:00 Welcome
- 9:15 Introduction and presentation of the expert seminar rationale
- 9:30 Keynote speeches on:
- **Definition of CSOs: NGDOs, liberation movements, social movements**
Vince Caruana, KOPIN Malta
 - **The actual role of European CSOs in development cooperation**
Verena Winkler, Eurostep
 - **The actual role of “Southern” CSOs in development**
Iván García Marengo, Coordinadora Civil Nicaragua
- 10:30 Coffee break
- 11:00 Working groups:
- Discussion on perceptions and roles of selves
 - Discussion on perceptions and roles of others (CSOs from 15 old EU member states, 12 new EU member states, “South”)
 - Dependency in the relationships between CSOs in the North and South
- 12:30 Lunch break
- 13:30 Presentations from working groups and discussion
- 14:30 Keynote speeches on:
- **Processes and factors that help or hinder the development of the role of CSOs** – *Nilda Bullain, European Center for Not-for-Profit Law Hungary*
 - **The current crisis: Consequences, survival strategies, demands to donors** – *Jiri Silny, Ecumenical Academy Prague*
 - **CSO development effectiveness** – *Melanie Oßberger, Global Responsibility - Austrian Platform for Development and Humanitarian Aid*
 - **Code of conduct, good CSO governance and the role that corruption plays** – *Joachim Lindau, development expert*

- 15:30 Coffee break
- 16:00 Working groups on the topics of the keynote speeches
- 17:30 Presentation and discussion
- 18:30 End of day 1
- 19:30 Joint Dinner**
“Las Mexikas”, Lange Gasse 12, 1080 Vienna

Wednesday, November 11, 2009

- 9:00 Presentations of key findings of day 1
- 9:30 Group work:
- Which topics have to be included in the Managua Conference?
 - Proposed speakers?
- 10:00 Collection of topics and decision on main areas for the Managua Conference
- 10:30 Coffee break
- 11:00 Elements for a first draft of the “Managua declaration on the role and relevance of CSOs in development cooperation”: collection, discussion and first joint elaboration
- 12:30 Lunch
End of the expert seminar