



Fostering Global Responsibility: Building a Development Policy Knowledge Network to Enhance NGO Public Outreach Initiatives in EU New Member States

ANALYSIS FOR THE CZECH REPUBLIC

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In June 2008, 22 out of 40 FoRS members took part in a survey aimed to analyse the functions, skills, expertise and policy influence of NGDOs and their expectations towards the national platform. The survey is part of the project 'Fostering Global Responsibility: Building a Development Policy Knowledge Network to Enhance NGO Public Outreach Initiatives in EU New Member States' which intends to build a knowledge network of non-governmental development organisations (NGDOs) in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. The project is EU-funded and led by a consortium of the Centre for Social and Economic Research (CASE) in Poland and the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) in the UK; FoRS is one of the project partners.

The following results are the most relevant conclusions of this survey for the Czech NGDOs and the Czech national platform FoRS.

Role of FoRS and its members in policy

- FoRS members believe that the Czech NGDO sector has at least a modest impact on development policy and practice in the Czech Republic, although only **13,6%** of the respondents consider this impact significant.
- The **political context for NGDO engagement** in development policy making in the Czech Republic is **favourable** according to **25%** of the respondents and average according to two quarters.
- About **4/5** of the respondents feel that their organisation has been at least **sometimes effective at influencing** development policy at local, regional, national and global level. The remaining respondents consider their organisation not to have been effective.
- The **most effective types** of evidence when seeking to influence development policy are **case studies, field reports and personal contacts**.
- The main **constraints** Czech NGDOs face when trying to engage in policy processes are **lack of time, insufficient staff capacity, lack of financial resources, and a policy process that is not open to NGDOs**.
- Advocacy of FoRS members is mainly related to national **development policy, development education and rural livelihoods**. There seems to be a strong wish to increase advocacy on environmental issues.

Role of FoRS as national platform

- The most important development issues the respondents want FoRS to work on -monitoring as well as being pro-active: **1) National development policy 2) Development education 3) Aid 4) EU positions**.
- FoRS should take an especially **pro-active role**, formulate its own positions and push for change, in the **field of aid, according to 76% of the respondents**.
- According to the respondents, the most important function of their organisation is **development education**. In the future they want to see their organisations more as actors for community empowerment and research.
- The field, in which the respondents have the most expertise (57%), is the field of development education. They wish to considerably increase the level of expertise in the field of governance, and to a lesser extent in the fields of international finance, aid, rural livelihoods and EU positions.
- **Cooperation and sharing** happens most frequently in the fields of **development education and national development policy**.

