



NGDOs and Development Cooperation in Malta

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About the Author



Vince Caruana was born in Malta on the 10th of April 1967. In 1991 he graduated with a B.Ed.(Hons) from the University of Malta, specialising in Physics and Mathematics. In 1994 he obtained a Diploma in Political Studies from the same university. In 1998 he obtained an MSc in Environmental and Development Education from South Bank University, London. The dissertation in part fulfilment of the MSc focused on NGOs and Sustainable Development.

Vince has been active in the NGDO sector since 1986 and has various experiences of voluntary service in Malta, Italy, France, Tunisia and India. He is the coordinator of the local action group of *Mediterranean 2000*, a large-scale project - supported by the European Commission and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs - that seeks to build partnerships for a Sustainable Future in the Mediterranean. Vince is a founding member and first president of *Koperattiva Kummerc Gust* - a not for profit fair trade initiative (IFAT member). He is also a founding member of *Koperazzjoni Internazzjonali (Kopin)* – a local NGDO working in the field of capacity building and North-South Cooperation – and of the Maltese Platform of Non Governmental Development Organisations. Vince is the acting chairperson of the CONCORD working group on enlargement and a member of the CONCORD subgroup on the Development Education Resolution. He also forms part of the steering committee of TRIALOG. Vince works as a self employed in the field of environmental and development education.

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Introduction

Conclusions attained during various summits, such as the Copenhagen Summit and the Millennium Summit, contain declarations related to sectors (e.g. health and education) or income group. For example the Copenhagen Summit requires that a minimum of 20% of donor aid be allocated to social services. The Millennium Development Goals include halving the number of people living on less than one dollar a day by 2015. While we know that both government actors and civil society actors are involved in Development Cooperation, we have no research to indicate to what extent are we as a country involved in the provision of basic education and basic health, nor to which extent are we reaching the poor(est) in low income countries, particularly in the least developed countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, Central and Southern Asia and Latin America. Although government actors are key actors in development cooperation, research on this sector falls outside the scope of this particular study.

Aim of Proposed Research

The aim of this research was to compile a profile of the current state of Development Cooperation in Malta as practiced by Non Governmental Organisations. The proposed research attempted to obtain data from the relevant development cooperation actors in Malta in order:

- To establish the key social sectors local development cooperation actors are currently involved in and to what extent;
- To establish a database of countries with whom local development cooperation actors already have contacts with and to classify them according to income; and
- To quantify the (average) number of volunteers Malta sends yearly to share skills and work towards poverty reduction.

Objectives of Proposed Research

Some of the questions that this piece of research attempted to clarify were the following:

- Who are the current Development Cooperation actors?
- Who are the current Humanitarian Aid actors?
- What are the areas currently being targeted for Development Cooperation? Are they LDCs? Are we currently targeting the poorest people?
- Under what categories can we classify current development cooperation activities?
- How many long-term volunteers are we sending abroad every year? How many short-term volunteers are we sending abroad every year? Do they receive adequate training?
- What is current situation of Development Cooperation? Have we moved beyond welfarism towards a sophisticated analysis of empowerment?

Note on the methodology used to elicit the required information

There is no current full updated directory of NGOs in Malta, due mainly to the fact that there is no law that requires NGOs to register. Therefore the first challenge faced in this research was compile a list of Non Governmental Development Organisations (NGDOs) according to the definition that follows in the next section. In the local circumstances, there is no guarantee that any list would be complete, and the author had to rely on his own experiences and contacts, as well as on that of other colleagues active in the NGDO field. The second challenge was to find the contact details of each organisation. A search was made in existing youth directories and most contacts were identified. Others were identified through a search over the web – however not all NGDOs have a web site and those that do are not all registered on a search engine. A few other contacts were again gathered through other colleagues active in the NGDO field. The NGDOs were subsequently contacted through email and asked to send an updated list of contact details by filling in a simple template. Most NGDOs responded within the required time frame, while some did not in spite of various reminders. These were then followed up by an informal interview, with questions based on the objectives of this research. In some cases these interviews were conducted face-to-face, while others were either too busy or had most of the required information posted on a website and where therefore followed through a telephone interview.

What is an NGDO?

Role of NGOs

Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) play an important role in society. Motivated by a desire for a caring and sustainable society, they establish and operate programmes of education, environmental protection, social welfare and economic improvement. They have long been involved in pioneering new approaches to meeting the needs of society and have been at the centre of renewed searches for sustainable patterns of social, environmental and economic development. A new issue of concern for NGOs is the expansion of an international system that does not give due importance to issues of justice, community, national sovereignty, cultural diversity, and ecological sustainability. One subset of NGOs is Non Governmental Development Organisations (NGDOs). This section is based on the NGDO Charter established by the former NGDO EU Liaison Committee in 1997.

Definition of an NGDO

NGDOs are voluntary non-profit and non-governmental organisations working within the framework of international development cooperation. They are concerned with poverty reduction, social justice, human rights and the problems of marginalisation within society, particularly with regard to women.

Some characteristics of NGDOs

- They are not set up to generate profit. Therefore, any surplus would not be distributed to the staff or members of the particular organisation;
- Their existence is not sanctioned or hindered by law, but results from the self-chosen voluntary initiative of a number of individuals pursuing a shared interest or concern;
- Formed by private initiative, they are independent - they are not part of government or controlled by a public body, nor are they legally attached to any political party;
- They are governed by the terms of whichever legislation they choose to be registered under;
- They are legitimised by their engagement in the fight against poverty and by the existence of the world's poor and powerless, by the circumstances these live in, and the injustices they experience;
- By and large, NGDOs act as intermediaries, providing support to those who legitimise them. They are not mutual benefit organisations or associations;
- They retain voluntary values and principles as the primary driving force in their working practice.

Some values of NGOs

- Social justice, equity and respect for human rights;
- The participation of the people with whom they are working;
- The centrality of civil society in development cooperation;
- Working with southern organisations – aiming for common development goals;
- Equality of opportunity.

NGO approach to development cooperation

- Taking a professional approach in their work;
- Providing support to southern partners to help increase their capacities;
- Supporting the empowerment of disadvantaged groups in particular.
- Working to reduce gender inequalities;
- Using responsible fund-raising methods;
- Ensuring that their actions produce sustainable results;
- Engaging in development education, awareness raising, and advocacy in the North;
- Using their bridging capacity to link different sectors of society.

Development Cooperation Actors

In order to understand who the current development cooperation actors are and who the current humanitarian aid actors are, each organisation was asked to give a brief description of its aims and activities. These have been summarised below.

The Maltese NGDO Platform

The Maltese NGDO Platform was set up in June 2000 on the initiative of *Koperazzjoni Internazzjonali (Kopin)*, after a need was felt to bring together all NGOs operating in the development sector, to work together on a common front. The vision of the Maltese NGDO Platform is to contribute, through the cooperative efforts of its members, to a just world where basic needs are met, where people are empowered, where there is equity in the management and distribution of resources and where human rights are respected. The *Maltese NGDO Platform* brings together Maltese Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) involved in development and relief overseas and/or in the provision of development education. The *Maltese NGDO Platform* aims to provide a forum for consultation and co-operation among its members, as well as whenever possible or desirable to help them speak with a single voice on development issues.

Objectives of the Maltese NGDO Platform

In furtherance of its vision the Maltese NGDO Platform aims:

- To promote the just interests of the peoples of the South in key areas of Maltese policy.
- To promote the achievement of the United Nations' target of 0.7% of GNP for Maltese official development aid.
- To promote, through development and global education, an understanding of the causes, and a commitment to correcting the effects of social and economic inequalities.
- To provide a forum for member organisations to share information, ideas and experiences.

Membership

Membership is open to NGDOs independently established and located in Malta who regard international development cooperation including development education as an important aspect of their aims and work. The following 10 organisations are currently members of the *Maltese NGDO Platform*:

1. *Centru Fidi u Gustizzja (CFJ)*
2. *Grupp ghat –Tielet Dinja (GTD/TWG)*

3. *Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)*
4. *Kare4Kenya*
5. *Koperattiva Kummerc Gust (KKG)*
6. *Koperazzjoni Internazzjonali – Malta (Kopin)*
7. *Moviment Graffiti*
8. *Share Foundation*
9. *SOS Albania*
10. *Voluntiera Lajci Missjunarji (VLM)*

Coordination

Kopin currently coordinates the *Maltese NGDO Platform*

CONCORD

The *Maltese NGDO Platform* is a member of *CONCORD* - the Confederation aimed to inform and co-ordinate the political actions of NGOs for Relief and Development at European level. *CONCORD* was created on January 30, 2003 by 10 networks and 18 National Platforms from the European Members States and from the candidate countries and represents 1200 NGDOs. The name *CONCORD* expresses the wish for fruitful alliances amongst NGDOs and their solidarity with the developing countries. The combination of its letters means CONFederation for CO-operation of Relief and Development NGOs. The objectives of *CONCORD* are:

- To co-ordinate co-operation among NGDOs in order to influence political debate and policy formulation on development and humanitarian issues;
- To improve the legitimacy and to firmly promote the political interests of European NGDOs as a whole as strategic partners of the European Union and Institutions;
- To ensure stable and quality access to funding by the European Union and Institutions;
- To promote the quality of NGDO work, in particular regarding the relationship with civil society in the South; and
- To contribute to capacity building at NGDO level.

The political agenda of *CONCORD* for the coming years will cover:

- Active policy influencing to achieve 0.7 % of GNP for Development Aid;
- To reformulate the role of the Northern NGDOs towards their Southern Partners;
- To establish a serious partnership with the European Institutions;
- To elaborate mechanisms to improve legitimacy, representation and quality; and
- To watch the maintenance of European responsibility toward the South in the process of Enlargement and the Reform of European Governance.

The *Maltese Platform* is active in *CONCORD*'s Working Group on Enlargement.

Brief Description of Platform Members

1. Centru Fidi u Gustizzja (CFJ)

The *Jesuit Faith and Justice Centre* belongs to the Maltese Jesuit Province, and promotes the integration of the service, faith and the promotion of justice, in line with the mission of the Jesuits worldwide. This mission is carried out in an insertion community for Jesuits and lay collaborators; social analysis, policy advocacy, and theological reflection on a national level; and the Centre's *Paulo Freire Institute* for adult literacy and community development. During 2003 the Centre is collaborating with *InYgo* (the International Jesuit Youth Network) on projects in Algeria, Ethiopia, Egypt, and Italy. Young people are inserted within humanitarian and social projects in those countries. The formation of *men and women for others* is at the heart of its mission. This is done within the various works of the Jesuits in Malta (secondary education, spirituality, tertiary education and campus chaplainries, and others) and on a national level. In particular, the role of the Centre is evolving to offer the richness of Catholic Social Teaching to a Church and a public, which are mostly unaware of this significant body of reflection and guidelines for action within the Christian tradition. The Centre also regularly publishes materials on global and local issues of justice.

2. Grupp ghat –Tielet Dinja (GTD/TWG)

The *Third World Group* is an NGO working in favour of people emarginated by society, usually labelled as poor. The Group was founded in 1977 and over the years gave its voluntary services regularly, both locally and in other countries, namely Italy, England, Tunisia, France and Egypt. Currently the *Third World Group* is preparing to send a group of short term volunteers to Alexandria, Egypt to organize and manage a Summer camp for children gathered by the Missionaries of Charity while also helping them in their work with residents at their house. These residents include mentally disabled children. The *Third World Group* considers “conscientisation” as part of its core work and regularly participates in the media, both written and broadcast. It has also organized various public activities on a large scale such as the African Week, a weeklong activity on African Culture with a developmental perspective

3. Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)

JRS Malta is the national branch of JRS International, a worldwide non-governmental organization created by the Jesuits in 1980 to support forcibly displaced people who are forgotten or whose needs are not met by others, a mission undertaken in over 50 countries. Over the years, the work of *JRS Malta* has been shaped by the needs of refugees and asylum seekers in Malta, whose numbers rose and fell depending on their chances to return home or resettle in a third country. Legal, pastoral and psychological counselling, material assistance, education sponsorships and language courses form part

of the services delivered, often to people who suffer from “fatigue of waiting so long without a future in sight”. During the current year *JRS Malta* is expanding its services to address the desperate needs of detainees who are largely forgotten, following the flurry of media attention that greets their coming. Its lawyers, social workers and other professionals accompany asylum seekers inside, while representing their interests with the world outside.

4. *Kare 4 Kenya*

Kare4Kenya is a group of people from Malta and Kenya working a) to create awareness of the hardships faced by Kenyans because of their poor conditions; b) to organise development programs in order to help with alleviation of poverty in Kenya; c) to educate the Maltese Public about the culture, history and life of the Kenyan population; and d) to co-operate with other developmental organisations in the fight against poverty. The type of work done includes Education & Health, Securing Livelihoods through Commitment to learning, Empowerment and Partnership. *Kare 4 Kenya* is currently financially supporting about eighty Kenyan children in order to make it possible for them to attend school by providing uniforms, a daily meal and other requirements. It is also providing assistance to students with special needs such as hospitalisation and extra tuition. Kenyan members, who are being remunerated by the group, do this. Through connection and partnerships with other developmental organisations in Malta and Kenya, *Kare 4 Kenya* is currently in the process of helping parents of the above-mentioned children to help themselves through giving them information and eventually training in the production of handicrafts.

5. *Koperattiva Kummerc Gust (KKG)*

Koperattiva Kummerc Gust (K.K.G.) is a cooperative society promoting development towards self-reliance and empowerment by establishing fair trade relations. The aims of *K.K.G.* are a) to create awareness of the unfair world trading system and to suggest ways in which we can all promote a change for the better; b) to campaign for a fairer division of income and labour between North and South and to influence international trade policy in this direction; c) to cooperate with other Fair Trade organisations and with Third World Organisations who are trying to create a fair chance and a fair share of the earth's resources for people in the South; d) to create new partnerships with small scale producers and socially excluded individuals and strengthen the partners' position; e) to import, sell and distribute fair traded products; and f) to import, sell and distribute products of a high ethical standard which complement the fair trade range and help raise funds. *Koperattiva Kummerc Gust* is a member of IFAT, the International Federation for Alternative Trade, a global network of over 160 Fair Trade organisations in more than 50 countries, which works to improve the livelihoods and well being of disadvantaged people in developing countries and to change the unfair structures of international trade. *Koperattiva Kummerc Gust* is also a member of CTM-Altromercato, a consortium of over 120 World Shops that promotes fair trade through: a) international cooperation with small holders in the south; b) financing the production and commercialisation of food products

using organic methods and of handicrafts promoting local self development; and c) education and public awareness.

6. Koperazzjoni Internazzjonali – Malta (Kopin)

Koperazzjoni Internazzjonali (Kopin) is a voluntary organization based in Malta set up to promote and increase the capacity of work in the field of North-South cooperation. *Kopin* was launched in public during a seminar on "The Policies of the European Union with regards to North South Cooperation" held on the 24th of June 2000. The aims of *Koperazzjoni Internazzjonali (Malta)* are: a) to alleviate poverty and promote social and economic emancipation in the majority world; b) to combat environmental degradation and promote a sustainable society based on alternative economic and social systems; c) to work in partnership with other associations, social groups and Development NGOs; d) to facilitate and promote the exchange of ideas and experiences with other European NGOs directly or through umbrella networks such as *CONCORD*; e) to facilitate and promote the exchange of ideas and experiences with the majority world; f) to heighten the awareness of the Maltese public of the problems faced by the majority world; g) to encourage concrete actions of solidarity in Malta on behalf of the majority world and to stimulate social, technical and cultural interest; and h) to organise training for its members and organisations with similar aims in project proposal and implementation.

7. Moviment Graffiti

Moviment Graffiti practices direct action and campaigns actively against all types of oppression and exploitation towards people, the environment and animals, while promoting and practicing radical democracy. *Moviment Graffiti* acts accordingly when topical issues arise and is currently campaigning against the destruction of the valley at Kalkara. Apart from being a member of the NGDO Platform, *Moviment Graffiti* is part of the *Front Kontra il-Golf Kors* and *Peoples Global Action*. It participates in World Anti-McDonald's Day – a worldwide action that symbolises the fight against multinational domination. *Moviment Graffiti* also campaigns against the economic globalisation imposed by the WTO (World Trade Organisation). *Moviment Graffiti* opposes the berthing of military ships in Malta on the grounds that it goes both against neutrality as explained in the constitution and world peace. During the recent months the movement has organised various public manifestations against the war. *Moviment Graffiti*, apart from direct action, regularly organizes educational activities as well as giving a helping hand. These include lectures on organic farming and film nights with a theme. Through the campaign *One World for All*, *Moviment Graffiti* collected clothing and other necessities for refugees and provided free maintenance in a home for refugees at Hal-Balzan. *Moviment Graffiti* organises a number of awareness campaigns including the environment, the Palestine issue and animal rights, and for this purpose exhibition boards are put up at the Valletta entrance.

8. Share Foundation

The SHARE Foundation is a local (Maltese) medical voluntary organisation. It is involved with a number of charitable associations working in Kenya, particularly the Daughters of the Sacred Heart in Mpekatoni and Ruiru. *Share Foundation* aids them by advising them on Medical facilities and performing fundraising to help them with setting up clinics and children's homes. Members of the foundation have also been themselves involved with providing medical services to various clinics, even in collaboration with the International Red Cross and the Swedish Rotary Doctor's Bank, prior to setting up *SHARE*. Apart from fundraising, the *SHARE Foundation* aims to send medical personnel to help staff the clinics being set up in Kenya, and to encourage local medical practitioners and staff to become involved in such development work.

9. SOS Albania

SOS Albania is a voluntary organisation set up in 1991 with the object of assisting materially the Albanian people in need especially through projects of social and charitable nature. It is a registered NGO in Korca, Albania, and is active in Albania and Kosovo. Its work includes Palliative Care, Education, and Community Development. On an emergency level *SOS Albania* has experience in managing a Refugee Camp during the Kosovo crisis in 1999 and were involved in the repatriation of refugees. *SOS Albania* has given talks in schools in Malta and Overseas about its work in Albania and Kosovo

10. Voluntiera Lajci Missjunarji (VLM)

Voluntiera Lajci Missjunarji (VLM) is a voluntary missionary society set up for the sole purpose of preparing lay volunteers to work for a minimum of one year or more in a third world country. Since its foundation 18 years ago, more than 50 volunteers were sent in Africa, Oceania and Latin America performing varied types of work. Currently it has a volunteer in Chaparron, Guatemala carrying out a variety of tasks including teaching English and Mathematics, social work and visits with the poor, handyman work, TV broadcasting, financial help and general helping.

Forum for Justice and Cooperation

Three of the Platform members, namely *Kopin*, the *Third World Group* and *Koperattiva Kummerc Gust* have an agreement on close cooperation and sharing of resources, and often act together under the umbrella name *Forum for Justice and Cooperation*.

Brief Description of Non-Platform Members

1. *Smile for Albania*

Smile For Albania is a student society of the University of Malta. Since 1994 it has been providing humanitarian dental care to school children at Preca College and other state schools in Korce, Albania. Members of staff and students as well as general dental practitioners visit Korce during the first two weeks of September. Its four unit dental clinic is housed at Preca College – a school run by members of the MUSEUM and providing free education up to I.B. Standard. *Smile for Albania* treats an average of 250 school children every year. A Jumble Sale is held in early August and proceeds from this sale are used to purchase dental equipment, materials and medicines required for treatment. The only other source of income is occasional donations.

2. *Centru Animazzjoni Missjunarju*

Centru Animazzjoni Missjunarju (CAM) helps lay people together with priests and religious members to further develop the missionary idea in Malta. *CAM* regularly sends lay volunteers to help in its missions in Peru. *CAM* is also known as LMSP (Lacji Missjunarji San Pawl). Volunteers undergo a one-year formal training programme, including in the Spanish Language.

3. *Living Waters*

Living Waters Mission Team is a missionary group formed by youths that work together on a voluntary basis to improve the quality of life of poor people. *Living Waters* has set up projects in Guatemala, while currently it is focusing its efforts on Ethiopia. During the year a number of fund raising activities are organised to gather funds for projects initiated by the group. During the year, one or two groups visit the country where the projects are being implemented. The work carried out is varied and has included teaching English, maintenance work, purchase of machinery to be used by the villagers, the setting up of a kindergarten school, the setting up of a grinding mill, nursing and medical assistance and the setting up of a house for sufferers from leprosy.

4. *Moviment Gesu fil-Proxxmu*

Moviment Gesu fil-Proxxmu helps poor children in Brazil, Ethiopia and Kenya. Ongoing projects include a children's home in Brazil for children suffering from AIDs, a children's home in Kenya and the provision of water to a village in Ethiopia. The main help is based in three sectors: a) Food; b) Education; and c) Health Assistance.

5. Mission Fund

The aim of the *Mission Fund* is to raise funds through various activities in Malta, to be sent on a roster basis to all Maltese and Gozitan missionaries working in Third World countries. Twelve years ago the *Mission Fund* decided that apart from sending money on a regular basis it would start sending people to carry out voluntary work, working side by side with the missionaries. The *Mission Fund* will this year send a group of volunteers to help build a hospitality home and clinic in San Manuel Chapparón in Guatemala, as well as to teach English and typewriting.

6. University Chaplaincy

The *University Chaplaincy* aims at assisting the members of the University of Malta in their growth as individuals and a Church Community. The ministry of evangelisation is directed to all at University through dialogue with all sectors, commitment to justice, especially where the poor are concerned, worship and education opportunities for faith development. While not an NGDO the *University Chaplaincy* shares the same values and annually sends short-term volunteers to Alexandria or Cairo, Egypt.

7. Reaching Out

Reaching Out is a recently formed philanthropic organization with the aim of raising funds for children in need in third world countries. Plans are in place to raise funds for children in Ethiopia, Kenya and Brazil. *Reaching Out* supports projects coordinated by *Moviment Gesu fil-Proxxmu*. *Reaching Out* is currently raising money towards the construction of a water harvesting system in Bonga, Ethiopia.

8. Malta Red Cross Society

The inspiration for the birth of the *Malta Red Cross* follows in the footsteps of the inspiration of the founding of the actual International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, namely the need of people, in various situations, of assistance and solidarity. The *Malta Red Cross* knows its foundation to a group of people who rose to the occasion when refugees started to arrive on the island in large and frequent numbers. This abnormal situation created a need, which the official local structure could not cater for. A group of volunteers formed the *Malta Red Cross (MRC)* in order to cater for this need, to give assistance to the community when and where needed, and as an auxiliary to the official structure provided by the government. The *MRC*, apart from the refugee sector, works on the dissemination of its principles of Basic First Aid knowledge by giving courses both to official entities, companies and the general public. *MRC* offers regular assistance, training and tools to work with to its pool of volunteers. While the *MRC* is mainly of service within the local community, being part of the International Family of Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, it is also starting off to assist overseas when called upon. To this effect one of its volunteers has recently been qualified with the

IFRCRC as an international delegate of the Field Assessment Coordination Team (FACT), and together with two others will join as delegates in the Emergency Response Unit (ERU). The *MRC* is currently cooperating with the Civil Protection Department on the rescue operation in Algeria following the recent devastating earthquakes. An appeal for children in Iraq is also currently in place.

9. *Youth for Palermo*

Youth for Palermo (YfP) is a Christian NGDO that organises a summer school for over 120 children in La Kalsa near Piazza Magione in Palermo. For 5 weeks during August, *YfP* meets with the children 5 days a week to play, organise crafts and singing and take the kids to the seaside to keep them off the streets. The summer school is organised in conjunction with the Missionaries of Charity who work in the area and enlist the children on behalf of *YfP* and offer their convent as their premises.

Target Countries

Each NGDO was asked to identify the countries it is currently cooperating with as well as countries it has a long history of collaboration. These have been classified geographically, according to the OECD criteria, and according to the UNDP Human Development Aggregate Classification, the UNDP Major World Aggregates, and Human Development Index Rank. The tables that follow provide a summary of results.

Table 1 - Geographical Classification of Country

Country	NGO	Geographical Classification
Albania	SOS Albania and Smile for Albania	Europe (Non EU) Central and Eastern Europe
Algeria	InYgo	Africa Arab State Mediterranean
Brazil	Moviment Gesu fil-Proxxmu	Latin America South America
Egypt	Third World Group and InYgo	Africa Arab State Mediterranean
Ethiopia	Living Waters, Reaching Out and InYgo	Africa Sub Saharan Africa
Guatemala	VLM and Mission Fund	Latin America Central America
Italy	Youth for Palermo and InYgo	Europe European Union Major OECD Country Mediterranean
Kenya	Kare4Kenya, Share Foundation & KKG	Africa Sub Saharan Africa
Peru	Centru Animazzjoni Missjunarju	Latin America South America

Table 2 - OECD Classification of Country

Country	NGO	OECD Classification
Albania	SOS Albania and Smile for Albania	Lower Middle Income Countries and Territories
Algeria	InYgo	Lower Middle Income Countries and Territories
Brazil	Moviment Gesu fil-Proxxmu	Upper Middle Income Countries and Territories
Egypt	Third World Group and InYgo	Lower Middle Income Countries and Territories
Ethiopia	Living Waters, Reaching Out and InYgo	Least Developed Countries
Guatemala	VLM and Mission Fund	Lower Middle Income Countries and Territories
Italy	Youth for Palermo and InYgo	OECD Country
Kenya	Kare4Kenya, Share Foundation & KKG	Other Low Income Countries
Peru	Centru Animazzjoni Missjunarju	Lower Middle Income Countries and Territories

Table 3 - UNDP Classification of Country (Human Development Aggregates)

Country	NGO	HDI Rank Aggregates (UNDP)
Albania	SOS Albania and Smile for Albania	Medium Human Development (HDI 0.500 – 0.799)
Algeria	InYgo	Medium Human Development (HDI 0.500 – 0.799)
Brazil	Moviment Gesu fil-Proxxmu	Medium Human Development (HDI 0.500 – 0.799)
Ethiopia	Living Waters, Reaching Out and InYgo.	Low Human Development (HDI below 0.500)
Kenya	Kare4Kenya, Share Foundation & KKG	Medium Human Development (HDI 0.500 – 0.799)
Egypt	Third World Group and InYgo	Medium Human Development (HDI 0.500 – 0.799)
Italy	Youth for Palermo and InYgo	High Human Development (HDI 0.800 and above)
Peru	Centru Animazzjoni Missjunarju	Medium Human Development (HDI 0.500 – 0.799)
Guatemala	VLM and Mission Fund	Medium Human Development (HDI 0.500 – 0.799)

Table 4 - UNDP Classification of Country (Major World Aggregates)

Country	NGO	Major World Aggregates (UNDP)
Albania	SOS Albania and Smile for Albania	Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States
Algeria	InYgo	Developing Country
Brazil	Moviment Gesu fil-Proxxmu	Developing Country
Ethiopia	Living Waters, Reaching Out and InYgo	LDC
Kenya	Kare4Kenya, Share Foundation & KKG	Developing Country
Egypt	Third World Group and InYgo	Developing Country
Italy	Youth for Palermo and InYgo	High Income OECD Country
Peru	Centru Animazzjoni Missjunarju	Developing Country
Guatemala	VLM and Mission Fund	Developing Country

Table 5 - HDI Rank of Country

Country	NGO	HDI Rank according to Human Development Report 2001
Albania	SOS Albania and Smile for Albania	85
Algeria	InYgo	100
Brazil	Moviment Gesu fil-Proxxmu	69
Ethiopia	Living Waters, Reaching Out and InYgo	158
Kenya	Kare4Kenya, Share Foundation & KKG	123
Egypt	Third World Group and InYgo	105
Italy	Youth for Palermo and InYgo	20
Peru	Centru Animazzjoni Missjunarju	73
Guatemala	VLM and Mission Fund	108

Various NGOs have cooperated with other countries in the past. What follows is a list of countries not previously mentioned, together with their OECD classification and the HDI Rank. This is not a list of previous engagements of the various NGOs but a list of countries that the NGDO community, taken as an aggregate, has experience of previous collaborations.

Table 6 – countries with which NGDOs have cooperated in recent years

Country	NGO that cooperated in the recent past	OECD Classification	Geographical Classification	HDI Rank
Tunisia	Third World Group	Lower Middle Income Countries and Territories	Africa Arab State Mediterranean	89
UK	Third World Group	OECD Country	Europe European Union Major OECD Country	14
Sudan	Voluntiera Lajci Missjunarji	Least Developed Countries	Africa	138
Uganda	Voluntiera Lajci Missjunarji	Developing Countries	Africa	141
Bolivia	Voluntiera Lajci Missjunarji	Developing Countries	Latin America South America	104
Papua New Guinea	Voluntiera Lajci Missjunarji	Developing Countries	Asia East Asia and the Pacific	122

NGDOs classified according to type of work

The work of NGDOs is often highly complex and does not give itself easily to categorisation. An NGDO can educate while fundraising and end up recruiting a future volunteer. An NGDO might initially provide emergency aid but finish off doing development cooperation. While risking oversimplification, the activities of local NGDOs could be categorised under the following headings:

- a) Short and long term volunteering;
- b) Development cooperation in the provision of water, education and health;
- c) Capacity building;
- d) Fair trade (and income generation projects);
- e) Development education;
- f) Humanitarian aid; and
- g) Fund raising.

The table that follows identifies the main actors involved in the various types of activities. Fund raising is not included since it is an activity common to all NGDOs.

Table 7 – Classification of NGDO Activities

Activity	NGDOs involved
Long Term volunteer Sending	Centru Animazzjoni Missjunarju, Voluntiera Lajci Missjunarji.
Short Term volunteer sending	Ignation Youth Network, Living Waters, Mission Fund, Smile for Albania, Third World Group, Youth for Palermo, (Kare4Kenya), (Share Foundation).
Development Co-operation in the Provision of Education and Health Services (Social Sector)	Centru Animazzjoni Missjunarju, InYgo, Kare 4 Kenya, Moviment Gesu fil-Proxxmu, Share Foundation, SOS Albania, Third World Group, Voluntiera Lajci Missjunarji, Youth for Palermo.
Capacity Building	Kopin
Fair Trade	KKG
Development Education	Centru Fidi Gustizzja, Jesuit Refugee Service, Koperattiva Kummerc Gust, Moviment Graffiti, Third World Group.
Humanitarian Aid	Red Cross, SOS Albania

Short term and long term volunteer sending

Local NGDOs have a long tradition of short term volunteer sending, in particular to regions close to Malta due to the relative low cost and accessibility. The period preceding the departure of the group abroad is characterised by months of training, meetings, fundraising, community building and practical preparations such as models for crafts to be used with children. Long-term volunteers also require a period of training and at times include learning the language of the host country. The number of volunteers abroad varies from year to year and the table below gives an approximation of the expected number of volunteers to be sent abroad in the name of the various NGDOs during 2003. Not included are a substantial number of individuals, often current or ex-members of NGDOs, who go abroad as volunteers in their own name.

Table 7 - Approximate number of volunteers to be sent during 2003

NGO	Country	Number of short term volunteers	Number of long term volunteers
Third World Group	Egypt	15	N/a
Mission Fund	Guatemala	29	N/a
Smile for Albania	Albania	8	N/a
Centru Animazzjoni Missjunarju	Peru	N/a	3
InYgo	Italy (Vittoria)	28	N/a
InYgo	Italy (Torino)	15	N/a
InYgo	Egypt	17	N/a
InYgo	Ethiopia	10	N/a
InYgo	Algeria	X	N/a
Youth for Palermo	Italy	27	N/a
Living Waters	Ethiopia	20	N/a
Kare4Kenya	Kenya	2	N/a
Share Foundation	Kenya	1	N/a
Moviment Gesu fil-Proxxmu	Brazil, Ethiopia and Kenya	30	N/a
VLM	Guatemala	N/a	2
TOTAL		202	5

Development Cooperation

Development is a process by which communities, families and individuals grow stronger so that they can enjoy fuller and more productive lives and become less vulnerable.

Development cooperation refers to the systems and procedures that NGOs use to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate the support provided to carry out development activities. This involves promoting long term sustainability to ensure that external assistance not only supports programmes in sectors such as health, education and social welfare but is harmonised with systematic efforts to develop a society's human and financial resources.

Development Cooperation in the Social Sector

An attempt was made to classify the development cooperation activities conducted by the various NGOs according to the social sectors of education and health (and other).

Education was further sub-divided into formal and informal education. Formal education refers to the orderly, logical, planned and systematic education one receives at school (and ends with school attendance) as opposed to informal education activities - social, cultural and recreational.

The current world need to provide a quality education is very urgent. 861 million adults cannot read or write and most have never attended school. Grinding poverty as well as wars, famine and natural disasters are generally to blame. Better educational facilities and systems are required to help these millions out of the poverty trap to which literacy, among other factors, has confined them. The Dakar World Education Forum in 2000 proclaimed the goal of sound primary education for all children everywhere by 2015 – the progress recorded thus far gives little cause for optimism. Of the 164 countries that committed themselves to achieving education for all by 2015, 70 appear to fall short, most of which are in sub-Saharan Africa but also include Bangladesh, China, India, and Pakistan.

Table 9 – Participation of NGDOs in the Social Sector

NGO	Education		Health	Other
	Formal	Informal		
Centru Animazzjoni Missjunarju		√	√	
InYgo	√			
Kare4Kenya	√		√	√ Securing Livelihoods
Koperattiva Kummerc Gust				√ (Social Premium for investment in the community)
Living Waters	√		√	√ Grinding Mill
Mission Fund		√	√	√ Hospitality Home
Reaching Out	√			√ Water harvesting system
Share Foundation			√	
Smile for Albania			√	
SOS Albania	√		√	
Third World Group		√		
Voluntiera Lajci Missjunarji	√	√		

Capacity Building

According to the *Community Foundation*, capacity building refers to developing or acquiring the skills, competencies, and tools, processes and resources that are needed to improve the ability of a non-profit organization to achieve success. *Kopin* is the major local actor in capacity building and the strengthening of the institutional capacity of Development NGOs.

Kopin, while intending to initiate small projects in the near future, has until now focused its energies in three main areas:

- a) Setting up the Maltese NGDO Platform, currently with 10 members. As the current co-ordinator of the Platform, *Kopin* participates actively in *CONCORD*, especially through the working group enlargement;
- b) Lobbying with government so that Malta will have its own development policy and desk for international development; and
- c) Training and capacity building of its own organisation and platform members, mainly through participating actively in *Trialog*, an Austrian led project set up to develop the capacity of NGDOs in accession countries.

Trialog

The *Trialog* project, partly funded by the European Commission, was set up by a consortium of NGDOs, led by the Austrian *Horizon 3000*, to create within the project period from 2000 to 2003, an operating network of people and organisations in candidate countries for whom a common understanding of global development issues is or could be an important topic. *Trialog* underlines the necessity of dealing with global development and policy issues like poverty eradication, world trade mechanisms, gender issues, global environmental threats, while supporting activities aimed at raising public awareness in both candidate countries and the EU of the need for co-operation between an enlarged EU and the South.

Naples Civil Society Meeting

One of the preferred ways of *Kopin* to increase its capacity and the capacity of Maltese NGDOs is to promote networking in the Mediterranean. With this objective in mind, *Kopin*, as current co-ordinator of the Platform, has participated in the civil society initiative *The role of NGOs in the dialogue of the civil society of the Mediterranean Countries*, promoted by the Association of Italian NGOs in collaboration with the Region of Campania and the Direction F of the European Commission, and held in Naples between the 12th and 16th of March 2003. The driving force of this initiative was a firm belief in the importance of dialogue and cooperation in building the human aspect of our civil society.

Development Education

The Development Education Association defines Development Education as a type of education that aims to raise awareness and understanding of how global issues affect the everyday lives of individuals, communities and societies and how all of us can and do influence the global. Various NGDOs consider Development Education to be a core part of their work. *Koperattiva Kummerc Gust* has an education officer that is responsible for writing articles in the press, visiting schools and organizing educational activities such as *Worldfest* and *Taste the World* – two national scale activities to increase awareness on fair trade. *Koperattiva Kummerc Gust* has also produced some curricular material to be used by both primary and secondary schools. The *Faith and Justice Centre* has produced a handbook *Ibda Ghix fid-Dinja* on development and social issues to be used by teachers. It also publishes a bilingual magazine called *Orbis* that often deals with development issues. *JRS* has a Communication Officer responsible for creating awareness on the challenges faced by forcibly displaced people to find a secure place where they can live in dignity. The *Third World Group* often participates in the media to create awareness on poverty issues, and was responsible for organising the *African Week* - a national scale activity to promote African cultures and to create awareness of the difficulties faced by various communities in securing food, water and other basic needs. The *Third World Group* is also the Local Action Group of an EU and Italian Foreign Ministry funded project *Mediterranean 2000* that aims to increase public awareness on the social economy. Most NGDOs participate in the media whenever an opportunity arises and it is quite common to have features on major newspapers publicising the work and experiences of NGDOs.

Fair Trade

The *International Federation for Alternative Trade* (IFAT) defines Fair trade as a trading partnership based on dialogue, transparency and respect, that seeks greater equity in international trade. It contributes to sustainable development by offering better trading conditions to, and securing the rights of, marginalized producers and workers - especially in the South. Key elements of fair trade include: a) Creating opportunities for economically disadvantaged producers; b) Transparency and accountability; c) Promoting independence; d) Payment of a fair price; e) Gender Equity; f) Decent conditions of work; g) Respect for the environment and h) Promoting Fairer Trade.

The NGDO focusing on Fair Trade is *Koperattiva Kummerc Gust* (KKG). Through the nature of its work – promoting development through trade - and its affiliation with CTM-Altromercato, KKG cooperates with an enormous number of countries in Africa, Asia and the Americas. The foodstuffs and crafts imported by *Koperattiva Kummerc Gust* come from 40 different countries and over 150 groups of producers. KKG's producer partners are found in Kenya, Uganda, Gambia, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, South Africa, Ghana, Congo, Senegal, Mali, Tanzania, Peru', Bolivia, Brazil, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, Ecuador, Cuba, Uruguay, Venezuela, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Chile, India, Nepal, Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Bangladesh, Palestine, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Humanitarian Aid

The Overseas Development Institute defines humanitarian aid as aid given in the case of natural disasters or armed conflict and in general in emergency situations that are of such dimensions that the area or country concerned cannot master them alone. The first aim of humanitarian aid is to save lives and to alleviate suffering among the population affected by the consequences of the emergency.

The *Malta Red Cross* is a significant local actor of humanitarian aid, and is able to act through the International Federation whenever there is an urgent situation such as floods, earthquakes or post-war emergency. Another major actor in providing humanitarian aid is *SOS Albania*. Since 1991 it has provided food, medicines and clothing to people in need in Korce, Elbasan, Durres, Lezhe and Skodra and members often travel to Albania on routine visits and to ensure a continuation of projects initiated. *SOS Albania* also managed a relief programme in Korce during the refugee crisis in 1999 and operations in Kosovo from October 1999 to June 2000.

Budgetary Considerations

The nature of most Maltese NGDOs is such that they in most cases run entirely by volunteers. However some are planning to scale up their operations in the future in such a way that remunerated staff might become a necessity - this would of course be subject to the ability of the NGDOs concerned to access funds. *Koperattiva Kummerc Gust* currently has two part-timers, while still others such as the *Jesuit Refugee Service* and the *Malta Red Cross* have a few full-timers. Also some NGDOs such as *Moviment Gesu fil-Proxmu* are co-ordinated by a priest who dedicates significant time to the movement.

It was originally planned to try and estimate the average amount of money leaving our country for humanitarian aid or poverty alleviation. However at the early stages of this research it was realised that this task is beyond the scope of this research. Due to no law on NGDOs, there is no standard of bookkeeping and styles and complexity varies greatly from one NGDO to another. Also certain NGDOs are also mission groups and it is not always possible to distinguish funds sent overseas for pastoral reasons or funds sent overseas for development reasons. For example the Mission Fund during 2002 sent Lm400 to each Maltese missionary abroad, amounting to Lm62 400. However it is hard to estimate how much went towards development purposes, and how much went towards other purposes such as pastoral. Since it was only possible to get partial information without a very detailed (and technical exercise), and therefore any estimate would be unreliable, it was decided not to follow up this objective.

All NGDOs are involved in fund raising - however it is worth pointing out that some, such as the *Mission Fund* and *Reaching Out*, fundraise mainly to support the activities of other entities, while others fundraise mainly to support their own development projects and activities.

Comments

1. Malta's Mediterranean Dimension

Maltese NGDOs have over the years established a relationship with various Southern Mediterranean countries, namely Tunisia, Algeria and Egypt, in most cases through a Maltese missionary or a religious community active in the mentioned countries. Others such as Morocco are conspicuous by their absence, in particular when one considers the relative ease of accessibility and the dire poverty of its various regions. Only recently has one NGDO (*Kopin*) established a relationship with an Eastern Moroccan NGO with a view of initiating possible projects in the future – subject to finding the necessary funding. Most relationships with Southern Mediterranean countries are based on short term volunteer sending – usually in periods ranging from two weeks to one month – and during the summer months of July and August. Usually the contacts established are not followed up during the other months and therefore most of the work done is of a temporary nature, such as a one-off maintenance of a house for the elderly or a summer camp for slum children. Therefore it is safe to conclude that no long-term development co-operation is operative with partners from the Southern Mediterranean countries. In the Eastern Mediterranean the picture is slightly different, with *SOS Albania* operating long term in Albania. The other long-term relationship is through fair trade. Although fair trade is still relatively underdeveloped in the Mediterranean, *KKG* does import couscous from Palestine and some crafts made from olive wood from the Holy Land.

2. The Fourth World

An interesting point is that Maltese NGDOs and associations have been cooperating with other organisations in what is often called the fourth world – poor pockets within the boundaries of the rich first world. During the last 30 years Malta has been sending volunteers to Palermo – either through *St. Aloysius College* or through the *Third World Group*, and most recently through the *Youth for Palermo* – to manage summer camps with children from the poor and problem ridden region of La Kalsa. During the summer of the current year, apart from a group volunteering to Palermo, through the *InYgo* network there will be a group at Vittoria in Sicily and another at Cottolengo in Torino. In the past few years the *Third World Group* has operated in various fourth world situations – including working with the Roma Community in Reggio Calabria as well as marginalized communities of people of colour in London. Thus throughout the years Malta has contributed to a better quality of life to various communities within the boundaries of countries of a much higher level of economic development than herself.

3. Individual Initiatives

Development cooperation is not limited to NGDOs. In fact it is quite common for short-term volunteers, active in a particular NGO, to decide at a later stage to venture further away and for longer periods of time. So the human and social capital of NGDOs is not

limited to the experiences of initiatives organised by the NGDO itself, but also enriched through personal initiatives taken by their members. In this sense NGDO members have contacts with various other communities, including in Brazil, Uganda and India.

4. *Training*

The lack of NGDO members formally trained in development cooperation and development education is a fact – whether this is to the better or worse is debatable. The author has only managed to identify one person with a formal specialization in Development Cooperation and one person with a formal specialization in Development Education. However through the *Trialog* project the *NGDO Platform* has been sending a number of its members on training seminars abroad. These have included a seminar on *Democratisation and Civil Society*, a study visit to Brussels, a seminar on *Gender Issues in Development Policies*, a seminar on *Labour Issues and Globalisation*, a seminar on *Capacity Building*, a seminar on *Human Rights and Development*, a seminar on *Debt and Structural Adjustment Policies*, and a seminar on *Environment and Development*, a workshop on *Fair Trade*, a Europe-wide Congress on *Global Education*, a workshop on *Personnel Development Cooperation*, and a visiting programme to *BOND* in UK. Also the volunteers sent abroad on various projects include very high skilled professionals, including post-graduate trained doctors and educators.

5. *Cooperation between sectors.*

Cooperation between sectors e.g. the NGDO and business sector or the NGDO and government sector is still relatively underdeveloped in Malta. However there have been some examples of good practice, such as the Centre for Faith and Justice holding a joint in-service course some years ago with the Education Department, and the Maltese Red Cross collaborating with the Civil Service Protection Department to send emergency goods to the victims of the Algeria Earthquake. The NGDO Platform is also increasingly learning to work in synergy with other actors and in the coming July an NGDO Platform representative will be conducting an in-service course for teachers in conjunction with the Social Studies Department of the Education Department.

6. *Access to Funding*

An issue that cropped up during most of the interviews held is the lack of access to funds. NGDOs spend a significant proportion of their time fundraising and most volunteers bear themselves the costs of activities carried out in the name of their NGDO. For example, in nearly all cases short-term volunteers pay for their own costs. Since sources of funding are very limited, NGDOs use up lots of their energies to cover operating costs. This lack of access to funding might be the major factor that endangers the sustainability of NGDOs. If an NGDO is constantly fighting to survive – less and less time will be

devoted to long-term planning, strategy and vision. A case in point is the *Maltese Platform's* membership in *CONCORD*. Though a founding and active member, its long-term participation is seriously endangered due to a lack of funds to pay the yearly fee and the possibility of putting too much energy into raising the necessary funds and thus endangering the day-to-day work of the member NGOs and their central mission. A prolonged situation of lack of access to funding might foster competition and discourage positive developments in the field of NGO cooperation and networking.

7. *Mission Work or Development Work*

The Catholic Church in Malta and its movements have a very strong tradition of missionary work. In fact a large number of organizations classified as NGOs for the purpose of this research have their roots in missionary work. Some would not identify themselves as NGOs but rather as missionary movements, and the term NGO has only been put in use in Malta since *Kopin* organised its first training course in capacity building in June 2000. However all organizations that have a strong component of development cooperation were included in this study.

8. *Charity or Empowerment?*

While the Church in Malta has fulfilled an extremely important role in poverty alleviation, it has at times adopted a charity based (as opposed to justice or rights based) approach and possibly through certain messages appealed mainly to emotions. This reality created difficulties for *Koperattiva Kummerc Gust* when during its first years, it sought to communicate to the public that it is possible to combat poverty through other ways than giving money, such as through establishing more fair trade relations. *KKG* has been at extreme pains to explain to the public that it is not a missionary group and that any citizen might promote justice through consuming ethically. A similar situation is currently being faced by organisations working with forcibly displaced people. These NGOs regularly encounter difficulties in promoting concrete solidarity but are inundated with requests to act as a “used clothes depot”. This indicates that a sustained development education campaign to promote a more empowering approach might be necessary. Some of the newer NGOs, such as *Kare4Kenya* are very much aware of the need to work within an empowering paradigm, and are currently planning to provide training in the production of handicrafts as a means to achieve secure livelihoods.

9. *The poorest of the poor?*

Maltese NGOs have a long professed tradition of working with the poorest of the poor. It might therefore look surprising that current cooperation with LDCs is limited to one country, namely Ethiopia. However this fact ought to be interpreted with caution. The fact that Maltese NGOs are not very much involved in LDCs does in no way indicate that NGOs are not actually targeting the poorest of the poor, since say in an Upper Middle Income country like Brazil, an NGO might be targeting communities that are living in dire and extreme poverty. Again *Koperattiva Kummerc Gust* is an exception,

and through its affiliation with CTM-Altromercato, it is promoting development through trade in various LDCs.

10. Possible Futures

The NGDO sector is by its very nature autonomous and the members themselves work out decisions, visions and strategies democratically. Therefore the following is not a list of recommendations in the sense of what the NGDO sector ought to do, but a list of possible futures that the current reality might point to:

- a) One option is the initiation of a process of reflection on our Mediterranean vocation that might eventually lead to the development of longer term projects with Mediterranean partners;
- b) The Cotonou Agreement has just been ratified and as a near future EU member, Malta will have to fulfil its obligations towards the ACP countries, the majority of which are LDCs. Civil Society participation is in-built in the Cotonou agreement and Maltese NGDOs are ill equipped to participate meaningfully. However recently a *Kopin* member has attended a briefing during a recent Brussels study visit, while during July another *Kopin* member will attend a study day on *Civil Society Participation in the Cotonou Agreement* in Bonn, Germany;
- c) An option for NGDOs to consider is whether to further develop established relations or whether to opt for other choices, such as producing a list of priority countries. Such considerations might be linked with our Mediterranean identity as well as whether NGDOs want to increase cooperation with LDCs.
- d) NGDOs through the *NGDO Platform* have already established a relationship with government counterparts. A current option faced by NGDOs is whether or not to lobby to establish mechanisms to participate actively in national policy and programme goal setting and decision-making.
- e) NGDOs are faced with a decision whether to put the EU enlargement issue as a priority on the agenda of their policy work in face of the new challenges of membership.
- f) NGDOs are faced with a decision whether or not to lobby in a coordinated fashion for an increased access to new and diverse sources of funds.

Conclusion

According to the National Statistics Office, during the last ten years there has been a rising interest in the third sector. In 2000 a total of 63,718 people became members of non-governmental organization – signifying a substantial rise of 31.1% during the previous four years. However environmental and animal rights groups and organisations concerned with social welfare, health, local community, Third World development and human rights tend to attract fewer young people than other organisations such as sports or religious ones. In spite of this the NGDO community seems to be consolidating itself – with new organisations being founded while others are expanding their work.

When Malta joins the European Union, government will eventually have to assume obligations on the “donor” side of development co-operation partnerships and fulfil its international obligations. It is common practice in Europe for governments to do this in conjunction with civil society. If it so decides, government will find an NGDO sector that is increasingly giving more attention to how it will be able to further promote sustainable development, reduce poverty and advance the conditions for peace. While the fragmentation often associated with the NGO movement might still at times hold true, there has been a trend towards more cooperation and collaboration as the foundation of the platform testifies. Also the resources of NGDOs are much more than the sum of themselves, since NGDOs have learnt to work in networks and in conjunction with partners abroad, whether other NGDOs, religious communities or projects such as *Trialog*.

A Personal Reflection

The main aim of this research was to provide a snapshot of the situation of development cooperation and humanitarian aid as practiced by civil society in Malta. Being a snapshot, this research has avoided elaborate analysis and has been mainly descriptive. However the comments section has attempted to chart possible futures for development cooperation in Malta. Of course it is up to the NGDO body to decide which of these possible futures are the most preferable and then work towards achieving them. However in this final section I am giving my own vision for the local NGDO community. The intention is to stimulate debate – knowing that it is only if we have a vision for the future that we can work so that our preferable future will actually become the most probable future! My views are organised below in point form and are presented in no particular order.

a) Upholding our Mediterranean dimension

Malta's Mediterranean geographical position, its status of neutrality, its language and the general trust that it enjoys within the region, puts it in a particularly suitable position to further the development and peace process within the Mediterranean region. In spite of this, long-term development cooperation initiatives within the region are somewhat limited, and any future NGDO initiatives ought to consider Malta's comparative advantage within the region before identifying the countries they choose to cooperate with.

b) Challenges of Enlargement

The NGDO Community Europe wide has often discussed the various challenges of enlargement on development policy and development cooperation. This debate has been comparatively lacking in Malta. However the implications are large. What is necessary is an urgent participative debate – involving all NGDOs - on the opportunities, constraints, and challenges that the enlargement process is putting forward locally. The best body to organise such a debate would be the NGDO Platform. The first output would be a simple position paper.

c) Creating a culture of cooperation

Before the establishment of the NGDO Platform, communication amongst NGDOs was somewhat limited. The establishment of the Platform was an important step to share information and provide a forum for debate and common action. However structures do not necessarily create cultures. It is a process of social learning that we as an NGDO community need to embark upon i.e. a collective process of change through experimentation and response.

d) A Development Education strategy involving all stakeholders

Support for Development Cooperation and the promotion of justice is only possible if we have an informed citizenship. In today's media of *real tv* and soaps the real life situation of millions of suffering people often go by unnoticed. Only an increased and improved development education can provide the basis for a citizenship aware of the various global issues as well as the various concrete possible responses to improve the

lives of those suffering abject poverty and lack of access to basic needs and rights. This is also necessary for NGDOs to ensure continuous support for their work. A first step should be the drawing up of a participative national development education strategy that involves civil society actors and all other major stakeholders.

e) Increased Access to Funding

Access to funding for NGDOs is very limited and this is a sector where NGDOs - under the umbrella of the Platform - ought to lobby for improvement and increase. Local fundraising ought to occur through the general public, national governments (as grant aid, project financing, tax exemptions, capital goods and expertise), local governments, and local funders, as well as - where no moral dilemmas arise - corporate support. This requires all NGDOs to ensure that their bookkeeping is according to principles of sound financial management. Learning how to access EU funds as well as funds from other international donors is a skill worth investing in.

f) Scaling up

Local NGDOs have the potential and right attitude to increase their impact on the alleviation of poverty. NGDOs and their supporters ought to examine the different ways that exist to increase this impact and then move forward. The potential strategies include scaling up via working with government, scaling up via operational expansion and increasing support to southern partner initiatives, and scaling up via lobbying and advocacy. Increasing full-time staff might become a necessity for various NGDOs in the very near future. The challenge will be to achieve greater impact while maintaining the traditional strengths of NGDOs as being flexible, innovative and attached to sound values and principles.

g) Training

NGDO work is governed by a strict code of ethics and by a commitment to a very high quality of work. Of course there is always place for the eager volunteer. However in-service training is a must and this has been something traditionally neglected till some years ago. The picture is rapidly changing and more and more supporters and staff of NGDOs understand the need for lifelong learning. The time has come for the NGDO body to make better use of its own resources, not just through the informal sharing of knowledge and skills but through well-designed short courses. Foreign experts in areas where no local expertise exists ought to be identified and brought over for the benefit of the whole NGDO community.

h) Relationship with Government

The recent government decision to set up a unit focusing on development cooperation is an important step in the right direction. The fact that there is an open and regular communication between the NGDO platform and the government unit points to an important improvement in the local development cooperation scene. In the immediate future this will most probably be an important arena where various strategies and needs are discussed, designed and negotiated. The NGDO community ought to make the best use of such a prospect, putting in the inputs of its best resources in a coordinated manner.

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Appendix 1 - The DAC List of Aid Recipients (1 January 2000)

Part I: Developing Countries and Territories (Official Development Assistance)					Part II: Countries and Territories in Transition (Official Aid)		
Least Developed Countries	Other Low Income Countries (per capita GNP < \$760 in 1998)	Lower Middle Income Countries and Territories (per capita GNP \$761-\$3030 in 1998)		Upper Middle Income Countries and Territories (per capita GNP \$3031-\$9360 in 1998)	High Income Countries and Territories (per capita GNP > \$9360 in 1998) ¹	Central and Eastern European Countries and New Independent States of the former Soviet Union	More Advanced Developing Countries and Territories
Afghanistan	*Armenia	*Albania	Palestinian Administered Areas	Botswana	Malta ¹	*Belarus	•Aruba
Angola	*Azerbaijan	Algeria		Brazil	Slovenia ¹	*Bulgaria	Bahamas
Bangladesh	Cameroon	Belize	Papua New Guinea	Chile		*Czech Republic	•Bermuda
Benin	China	Bolivia	Paraguay	Cook Islands		*Estonia	Brunei
Bhutan	Congo, Rep.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Peru	Croatia		*Hungary	•Cayman Islands
Burkina Faso	Côte d'Ivoire	Colombia	Philippines	Gabon		*Latvia	Chinese Taipei
Burundi	•East Timor	Costa Rica	South Africa	Grenada		*Lithuania	Cyprus
Cambodia	Ghana	Cuba	Sri Lanka	Lebanon		*Poland	•Falkland Islands
Cape Verde	Honduras	Dominica	St Vincent & Grenadines	Malaysia		*Romania	•French Polynesia
Central African Republic	India	Dominican Republic	Suriname	Mauritius		*Russia	•Gibraltar
Chad	Indonesia	Ecuador	Swaziland	•Mayotte		*Slovak Republic	•Hong Kong, China
Comoros	Kenya	Egypt	Syria	Mexico		*Ukraine	Israel
Congo, Dem. Rep.	Korea, Democratic Republic	El Salvador	Thailand	Nauru			Korea, Rep.
Djibouti	*Kyrgyz Rep.	Fiji	•Tokelau	Palau Islands			Kuwait
Equatorial	*Moldova	*Georgia	Tonga	Panama			

Guinea	Mongolia	Guatemala	Tunisia	•St Helena			Libya
Eritrea	Nicaragua	Guyana	*Uzbekistan	St Lucia			•Macao
Ethiopia	Nigeria	Iran	•Wallis and Futuna	Trinidad and Tobago			•Netherlands Antilles
Gambia	Pakistan	Iraq	Yugoslavia, Federal Republic	Turkey			•New Caledonia
Guinea	Senegal	Jamaica		Uruguay			Northern Marianas
Guinea-Bissau	*Tajikistan	Jordan		Venezuela			Qatar
Haiti	*Turkmenistan	*Kazakhstan		-----			Singapore
Kiribati	Viet Nam	Macedonia (former Yugoslav Republic)		--			United Arab Emirates
Laos	Zimbabwe			Threshold for World Bank Loan Eligibility (\$5280 in 1998)			•Virgin Islands (UK)
Lesotho		Marshall Islands		-----			
Liberia		Micronesia, Federated States		--			
Madagascar				•Anguilla			
Malawi		Morocco		Antigua and Barbuda			
Maldives		Namibia		Argentina			
Mali		Niue		Bahrain			
Mauritania				Barbados			
Mozambique				•Montserrat			
Myanmar				Oman			
Nepal				Saudi Arabia			
Niger				Seychelles			
Rwanda				St Kitts and			
Samoa							
Sao Tome and Principe							
Sierra Leone							

Solomon Islands				Nevis			
Somalia				▪Turks and Caicos Islands			
Sudan							
Tanzania							
Togo							
Tuvalu							
Uganda							
Vanuatu							
Yemen							
Zambia							

* Central and Eastern European countries and New Independent States of the former Soviet Union (CEECs/NIS)

▪ Territory

1. These countries and territories will transfer to Part II on 1 January 2003 unless an exception is agreed.
