

# Financial Situation of national platforms



TRIALOG Central Training

Vienna, 24 February 2009

Rebecca Steel, TRIALOG Policy Officer



# Financial Situation of national platforms

- **Questionnaire 1** to NMS and selected OMS:
  - Membership fees paid to CONCORD
  - Membership fees received by platform
  - Average salary of platform staff
- **Questionnaire 2** to NMS:
  - ODA changes due to global financial downturn
  - Changes in funding to the platform
  - Recent developments that will affect the future of the platform

# Questionnaire 1

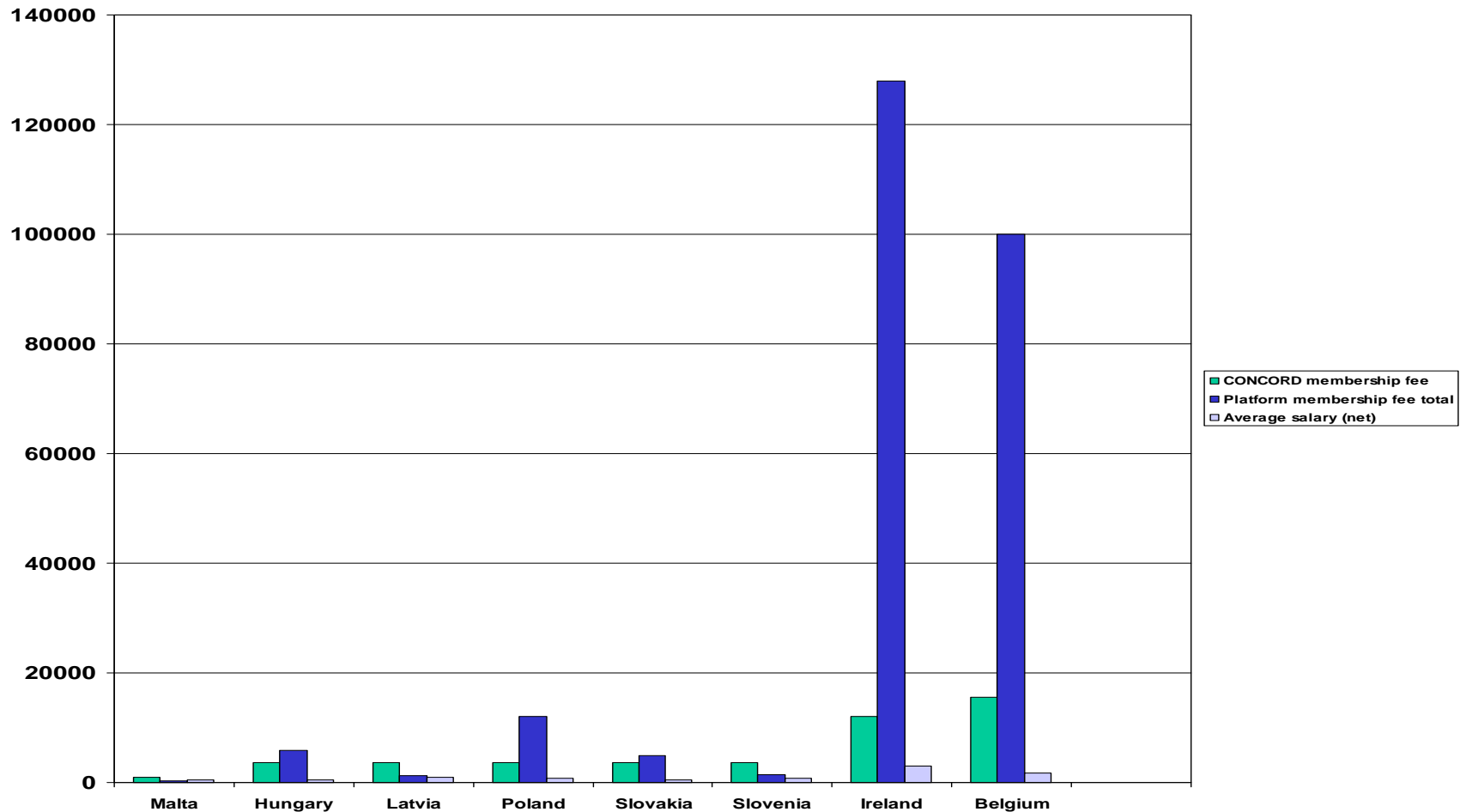
- 8 platforms responded to the request for information
- Membership fees paid to CONCORD
  - Scale €1,000 – €25,000
- Membership fees received by platform
  - Expected to correspond roughly with outgoing fees
- Average salary of platform staff
  - Expected OMS/NMS divide



# Questionnaire 1 Findings

	CONCORD Fees	NP Fees Received	Average Salary
Malta	<u>1,000 (333%)</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>450</u>
Hungary	3,660 (63%)	5,800	450
Latvia	3,660 (275%)	1330	910
Poland	3,660 (31%)	12,000	716
Slovakia	3,660 (74%)	4,979	500
Slovenia	3,660 (244%)	1,500	800
Ireland	<u>12,000 (9%)</u>	<u>128,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>
Belgium	15,500 (16%)	100,000	1,737

# Questionnaire 1 Findings

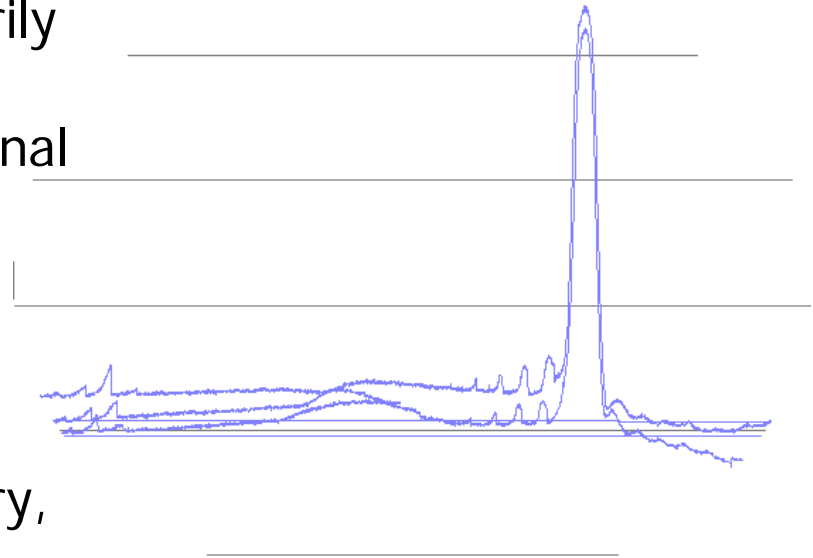


# Questionnaire 1 Findings

The CONCORD scale does not necessarily correspond to the pattern of membership fees received by national platforms

There seems to be a strong division between NMS/OMS in terms of membership fees received (more established platforms, longer history, more and stronger members?)

Platform staff in NMS are often voluntary or paid relatively low salaries



# Questionnaire 2

- 12 NMS responded to the request for information
- ODA changes due to global financial downturn
  - There are cuts happening across Europe, which will also affect ODA budgets
- Changes in funding to the platform
  - Changes in ODA budgets also affect those platforms who receive funding from their governments
- Recent developments that will affect the future of the platform
  - The global uncertainty means that platforms' futures are more uncertain than before

# Changes in ODA

Bulgaria – new thematic directions

Cyprus – no changes yet

Czech Republic – overall 5% cut, so each ministry needs to make its own cuts

Estonia – no changes yet

Hungary – ODA has been decreasing since 2007

Latvia – development budget to be approved in April

Lithuania – cuts being made

Malta – increase in ODA in 2009

Poland – ODA cuts in MFA

Romania – ODA cut by half in MFA for 2009

Slovakia – slight increase in 2009, but projections for years following not so optimistic

Slovenia – no changes yet

Ireland has seen a 10% cut in ODA budget this year!

# Changes to Platform Funding

Bulgaria – new platform, MFA willingness to provide financial support

Cyprus - no MFA funding for either GR or TK platforms

Czech Republic – MFA reduced support but not due to crisis (strategy to support more projects)

Estonia – some MFA funding (to remain at same level: 20%)

Hungary – no history of support from MFA, possible CfP in 2009

Latvia – no MFA funding (planned at 65%)

Lithuania – some MFA funding (no change from last year)

Malta – no MFA funding

Poland – no MFA funding (not planned)

Romania – no MFA funding

Slovakia – some MFA funding (first time 2008)

Slovenia – some governmental support

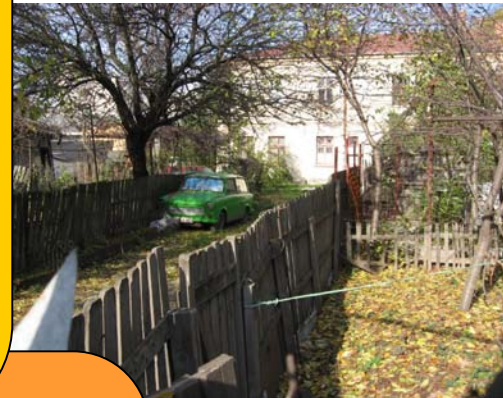
# Other recent/future developments

## BULGARIA

Newly established (27 January 2009)

Concerned by EC requirement of 2 year old registration

Already involved in 2008 consultation around development strategy with MFA for 2009-2011 involving multi-stakeholder group (Council of Ministers, MF, MFA, Ministry of Economics, CSOs)



## ROMANIA

Most funding going to UNDP, which decreases funding available to the platform

# Other recent/future developments



## MALTA

Currently able to maintain a half-time secretariat until September 2009 (presidency fund)

Future of the platform not guaranteed

## CYPRUS

Efforts underway to change NGO laws and make it easier for NGOs to receive government funding

Potential positive effects on GR platform, but not TK or island-wide platforms



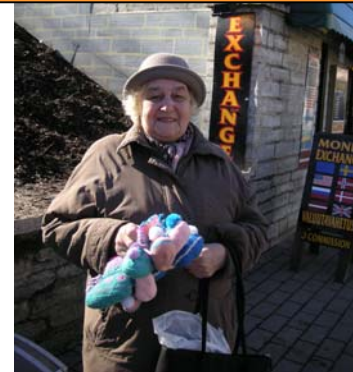
# Other recent/future developments



LATVIA  
IMF loan

ESTONIA

Postponement of commitments to increase funding for development cooperation



# Other recent/future developments

## CZECH REPUBLIC

CZ Presidency

Ongoing transformation of CZ ODA system

MFA to prepare 2011-2015 ODA strategy and Act on DC to be approved by parliament in 2009

CZ platforms FoRS enlarged thanks to EC grant for CZ Presidency (continued funding challenge for post-presidency period)



## SLOVAKIA

Applications with SlovakAid and EC

Changes in important positions within the Development Agency and the Development department of the MFA so impact of newcomers as yet unknown

Plan to increase membership fees for members

# Other recent/future developments

## POLAND

Currently going through internal process of assessment and reforms

Some new external budget lines opened, but other existing budget lines cut due to financial crisis

## HUNGARY

No core funds for 2009

Most funding from projects rather than members

Currently able to maintain a half-time secretariat until September 2009

## SLOVENIA

The establishment of a national development agency should happen soon

The development cooperation department in the MFA will become the department for economic diplomacy and development cooperation(!)



# CONCLUSION?

**Everything points to the  
need to explore the  
financial stability of  
platforms in more detail!**