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TALK SHOW

feeding back from working groups

Guests: Johannes Trimmel, Austria; Timo Lappalainen, Finland; Anna Chmielecka, France; Grzegorz Gruca; Poland

Moderator: Andra Tanase, TRIALOG



Johannes talked about the necessity for and advantages of a **code of conduct**. Such a code should be for CSOs, so we can be in control of our own organisations and not allow others to define our role. The title is not important but the elements are based in values, governance, diversity, ethics, grassroots. The group had a lengthy discussion on corruption – what it means to be active, to us and our partners. Corruption is a sin to some; it is wrong. We need a way to deal with it – having a document would be a start, then discussions could be held with others.

Grzegorz spoke of not one crisis but many **crises** all within one systemic crisis. These crises have consequences for society and our work. The best way to deal with crisis is to discover the change that could overcome current situation – the group’s suggestion was going back to real economy: social enterprises, strengthening social control. Tobin tax has been talked about for years but it is now being talked about in a different way and intended to be used for different purposes. We need to use the crisis as a window of opportunity.

Anna fed back from the group that discussed **processes that help and hinder CSOs**. There are so many that it is difficult to list them all. Some main hindering factors are administrative ones, access to technology/internet, the legal framework, competition for funding (although this can be positive as well). A culture of innovation helps CSOs and the economic system can have a major impact on the environment. The group talked about the instrumentalisation of CSOs and the solution discussed to deal with this was investing in professional leadership development. Positive processes relate to the legal framework, strong citizenship, culture, and the question of certification was discussed - should we have certification for good organisations?

Timo said several key issues had been discussed in relation to **development effectiveness**. These relate to how effectiveness is measured, how the division of labour is worked out, and contributing factors that make CSOs effective in development. Measuring is complex – but it is important because if the Accra Agenda for Action asks donors to go beyond aid effectiveness aims, we need to start working on that too. Timo said the process itself is important to help us get into the debate.

When asked what was next for each group's work, Johannes said that all the discussions would feed into the process and help to develop material in preparation for Nicaragua next year. We need a good set of criteria and questions which can be drawn up together to be promoted by wider public debate: a Managua declaration, with draft documents attached – such as a draft code of conduct. Anna highlighted one concern about the large scope of topics addressed and whether we could be concrete enough with our work. Christine explained that the elements gathered during the expert seminar will contribute to a draft document that will be sent out to a broader audience during the conference preparation. Joachim added that it was clear from the reader that there is no intention to reinvent the wheel. Grzegorz continued, saying one lesson learned in Prague was that we need something prepared beforehand, but also need to be aware that we should not come up with very simple solutions, but open the floor and see what will be contributed.

Timo underlined the importance of the open forum process, where work has been done at the national level with consultations. Ivan, also a member of the global facilitation group of the open forum, contributed more information about the process of consultations that have the aim of a consensus in 2011 on a CSO position towards governments at the high level forum in Seoul, Korea.

Further discussion in the group brought up several points: The importance of developing a mechanism of participation and engagement, not just for national platforms but other networks; how we link to the debate on climate change; The questions still surrounding a code of conduct – whether one is needed, if so, what it should include, whether it is just for CSOs or also relevant for parliamentarians and politicians, how this will link to the EC and DG Justice's code of conduct for which they are conducting a lot of research across the 27 member states and have a database of information. It will be important to look at responsibilities as well as rights – principles to adhere to that reflect the responsibilities as well.

Minutes: TRIALOG