

Presentation from Working Group 1

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Point 1: Motivation

We talked about identity - whether this is a personal issue (CSOs have no motivation, but agreed objectives; people have motivations, CSOs are made of people). Among the motivating factors were: Promote justice, change, thinking in alternatives; making a better world possible, empower the base, compassion - can be productive if met with professionalism; (intercultural) learning from each other.

Point 2: Values

Values: mutual global respect, equality, equal participation, respect for human rights, inclusion, respecting of diversity, need for transparency. CSOs should have internal mechanisms of assessment of their own labour rights, their own respect within their organisations, how we are committed to the values of transparency, solidarity and global respect.

Point 3: Influences on our work

Our work is influenced by funding, donor policies, political agendas of the governments in our country and the partner countries, by our membership (by the priorities and values of our constituency, if they change, CSOs have to adapt to these circumstances), by the crises, by communication and relationship with the general public and the government, by our credibility, partnership with businesses, professionalism, by our perception and image - how we are seen by others and by the legal context.

Point 4: New Member States (NMS) versus Old Member States (OMS)

NMS:

- NMS highly depend on money from government, EC, US money; CSOs not so much rooted in terms of local private financing – from here arises the problem of legitimacy: how are we perceived, how legitimate are we, have development concepts be imposed on us or not?
- NMS don't have so many historical ties with developing countries (despite a lot of former alliances with the "third world", it was state or para-state rather than NGO experience)
- the term solidarity is corrupted in NMS (maybe also in OMS?)
- Less self-reflection in NMS, but "fresh blood" and more enthusiasm.
- NMS have been recipients until recently, now they are donors – brings along the question who we actually are and what does the public perceive as needs?
- Crisis brings opportunities also

OMS:

- OMS have multinational huge NGOs; they are leading model in development cooperation
- There are strong partnerships with government and private sector
- question of migration is more an issue in OMS
- OMS are OLD (NMS have more younger people); question whether they are learning organisations?

There is a lack of cooperation and not enough joint projects between OMS and NMS.