




TRIALOG 2013 Partnership Fair Evaluation Report

Wilhelminenstraße 91/IIf
1160 Vienna Austria
Tel: +43 1 3197949-0 Fax -15
office@trialog.or.at
Skype: trialog.office
www.trialog.or.at

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List of Abbreviations

EU15	EU members prior to 2004; former “old member states”
EU12/AC	EU members since 2004 and 2007, Accession country Croatia (EU member in 2013)
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
DC	Development Cooperation
DE	Development Education
NGDO	Non-Governmental Development Organisation

The 2013 TRIALOG Partnership Fair was held from 13th to 15th March 2013 in Vienna. In all, the Fair counted 120 participants. It provided an arena to NGO participants from both old and new member states of the European Union to learn, network, find partners, create joint projects and work on project proposals that are to be submitted to the European Commission in the course of the coming EC call on Development Education.

Objectives

There were three clearly defined objectives of the Partnership Fair 2013:

1. Deepen the dialogue and mutual exchange between “old EU member states” (EU15) and “new EU Member states” (EU12/AC);
2. Enable EU12/AC platforms and organisations to access EC funds for DC;
3. Facilitate partnerships, cooperation, learning, and exchange at an international level for joint development projects.

Evaluation Methodology

An evaluation questionnaire was designed to analyse the effectiveness of the Partnership Fair in meeting the needs of the NGDO representatives. Its aim was also to identify which components of the programme were most useful and which could still be improved in order to ameliorate future performance at Partnership Fairs to come.

The questionnaire was disseminated among the Partnership Fair participants (not to the team, the resource persons, or the speakers) at the beginning of the closing session of the event. Participants were expected to return it upon their departure. Out of all 112 disseminated questionnaires, 68 completed forms were submitted by the end of the conference - 21 from EU15 and 47 from EU12/AC. Participants were also asked for oral feedback in the plenary during the final session at the Partnership Fair.

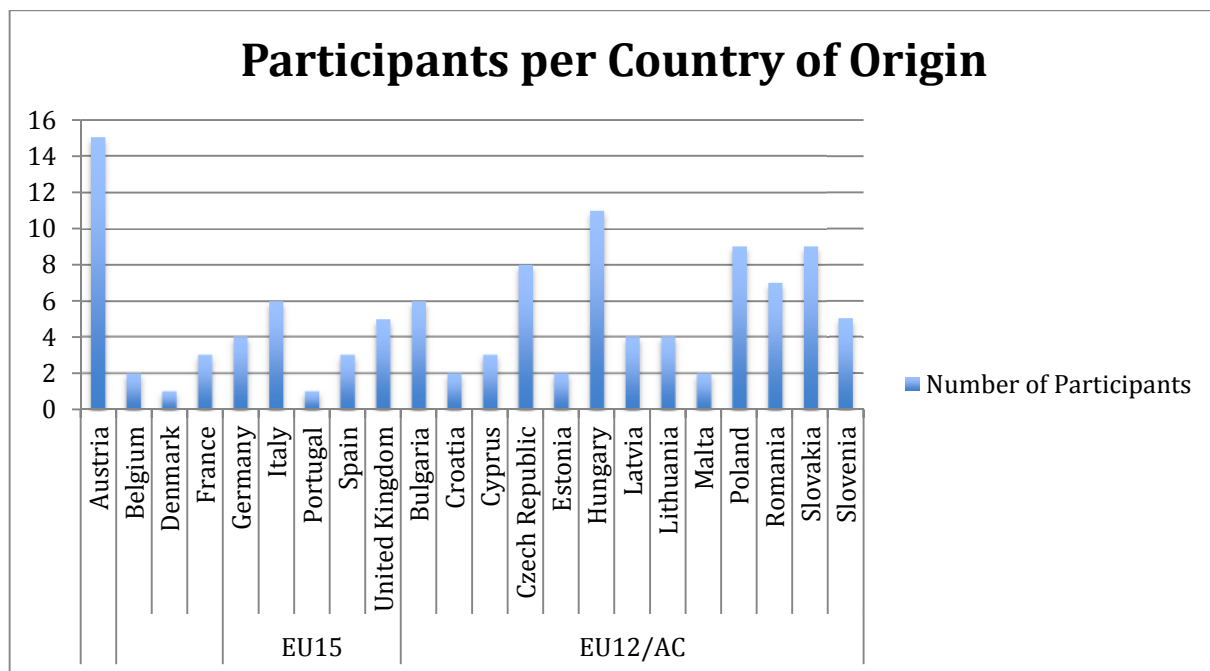
At this point it has to be mentioned that all the results in this report are given to the nearest decimal place.

The Evaluation Findings

1. General Information

1.1. Country Information of Participants

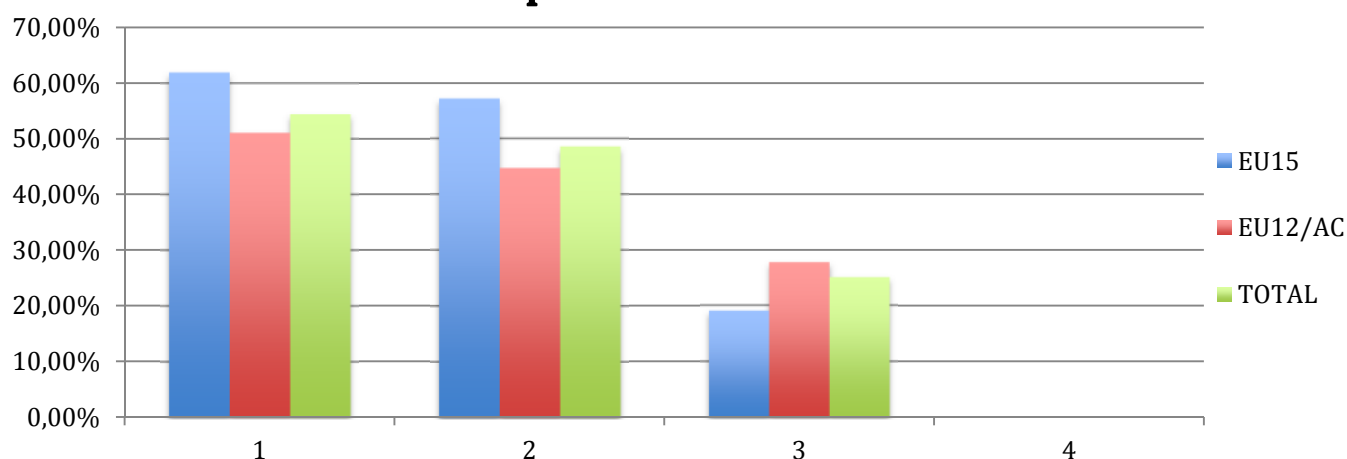
112 participants attended the Partnership Fair: 40 participants from EU15 states and 72 from EU12/AC states. With 15 participants, Austria was the country most represented at the Fair – this figure may be mostly due to the fact that the event was held in Vienna. It was followed closely by Hungary, Slovakia, and Poland, which were represented by 11 and, respectively, 9 participants. All EU12 and Croatia were represented.



1.2. Level of Knowledge of EC funding for European Development CSOs prior to the Partnership Fair

The survey depicted in the graph below shows that EU15 were more actively participating in project applications (61.90% of EU15 respondents) than their EU12/AC counterparts (51.09% of EU12/AC respondents). This pattern is repeated also when looking at active participation in project implementation: 57.14% of EU15 respondents display a higher part in this category when compared to the 44.68% of EU12/AC respondents. This trend is reversed, though, when regarding the third category: 19.04% of EU15 respondents and 27.65% of EU12/AC respondents claimed that they knew the financing possibility but never actively participated. Neither EU15 nor EU12/AC respondents checked the fourth category – apparently, everyone of the respondents had already heard of EC development calls at least once before.

Knowledge of EC funding for European Development CSOs prior to the Fair



- 1 - Actively participated in project application
- 2 - Actively participated in project implementation
- 3 - Knew the financing possibility existed but never actively participated
- 4 - Never heard of EC development calls

(multiple answers possible)

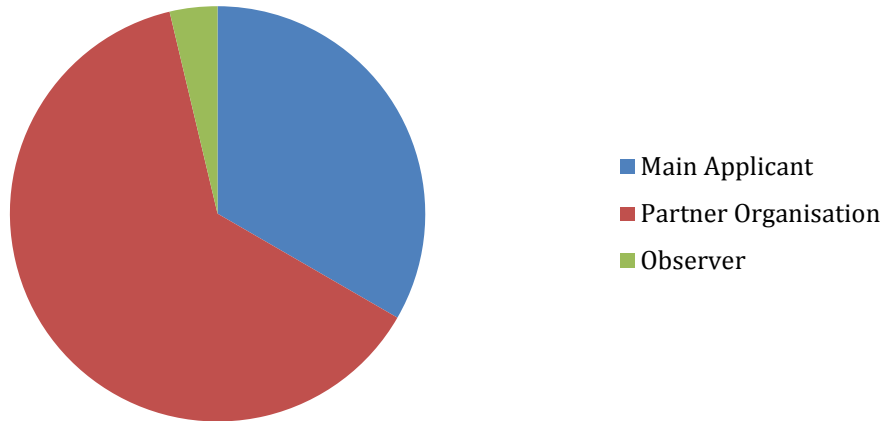
2. Expectations

2.1. When coming to the Partnership Fair, I intended to participate as...

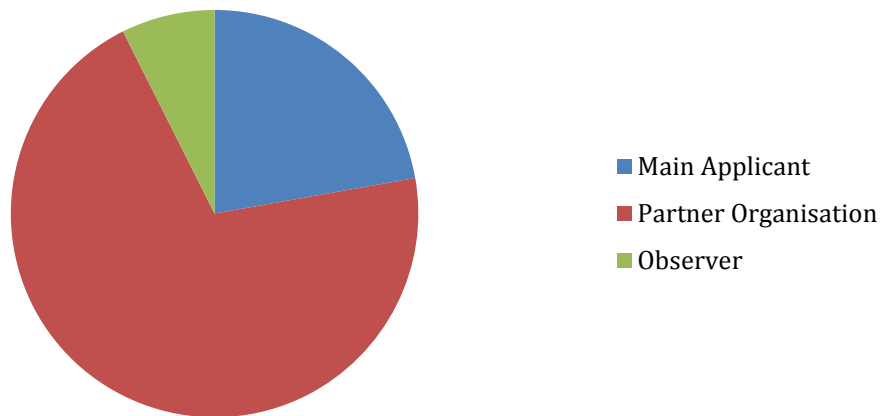
When trying to divide applicants into different categories of participation at the Partnership Fair, participants were asked to declare themselves as either Main Applicant, Partner Organisation, or Observer. Multiple answers were possible.

The results of this survey indicate that 42.85% of EU15 respondents took part as Main Applicants – this is opposed by 25.53% of EU12/AC respondents. We can therefore see a more distinct confidence of EU15 to take the lead in project proposals. Regarding the category “Partner Organisation”, 80.95% of both EU15 and EU12/AC respondents declared the willingness to take up the role as a partner organisation in a joint project. Only 4.76% of EU15 respondents participated under the category “Observer”, whereas a slightly higher percentage of 8.50% of EU12/AC respondents checked this category.

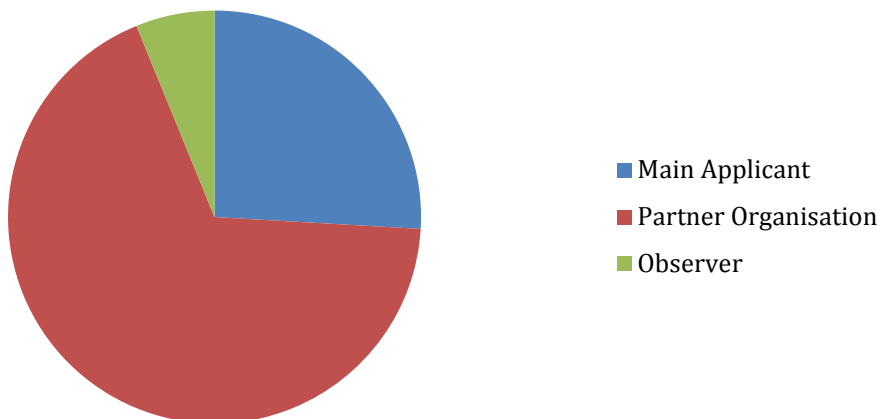
EU15
Participation as
(multiple answers possible)



EU12/AC
Participation as
(multiple answers possible)

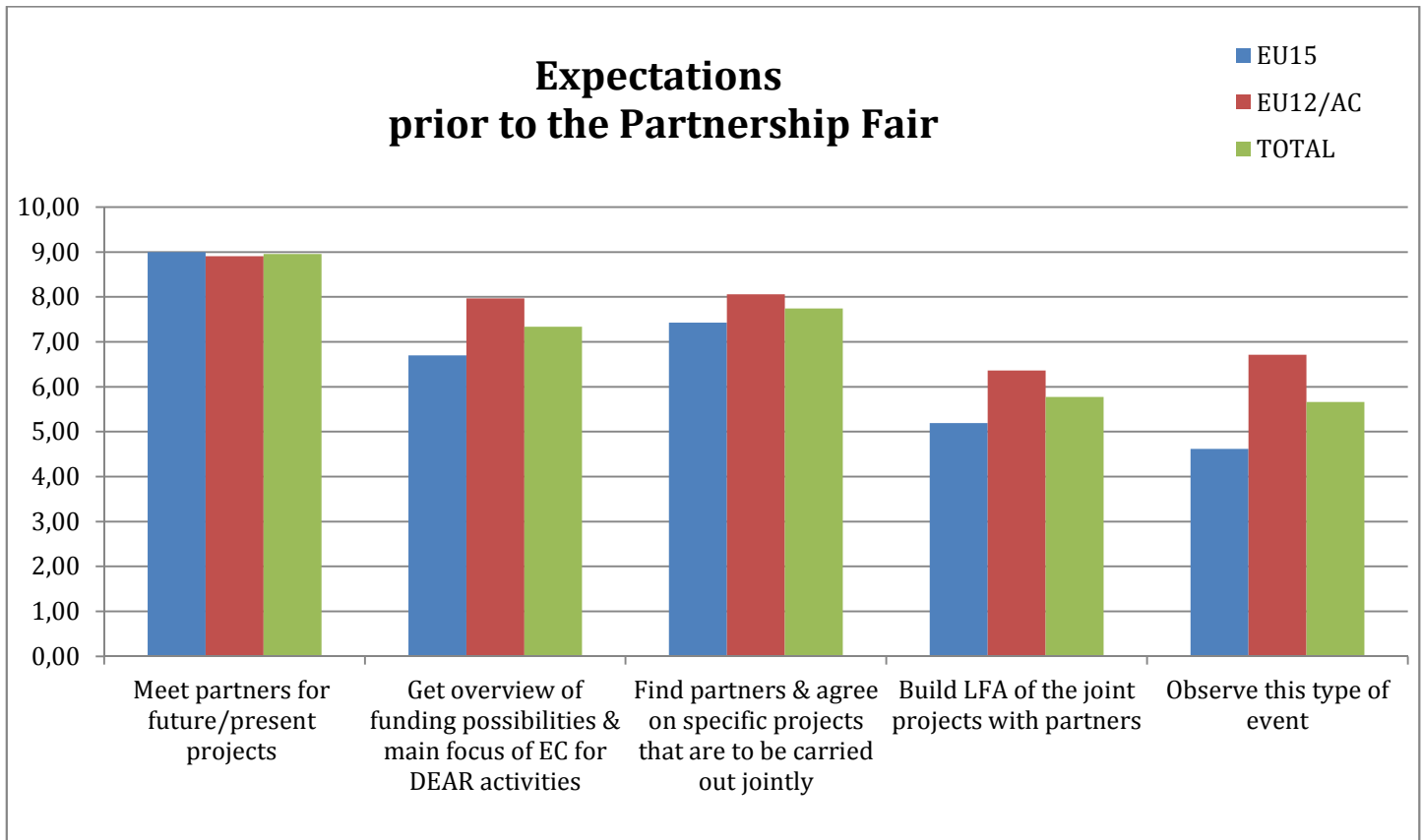


TOTAL
Participation as
(multiple answers possible)



2.2 What were your overall expectations for the Fair?

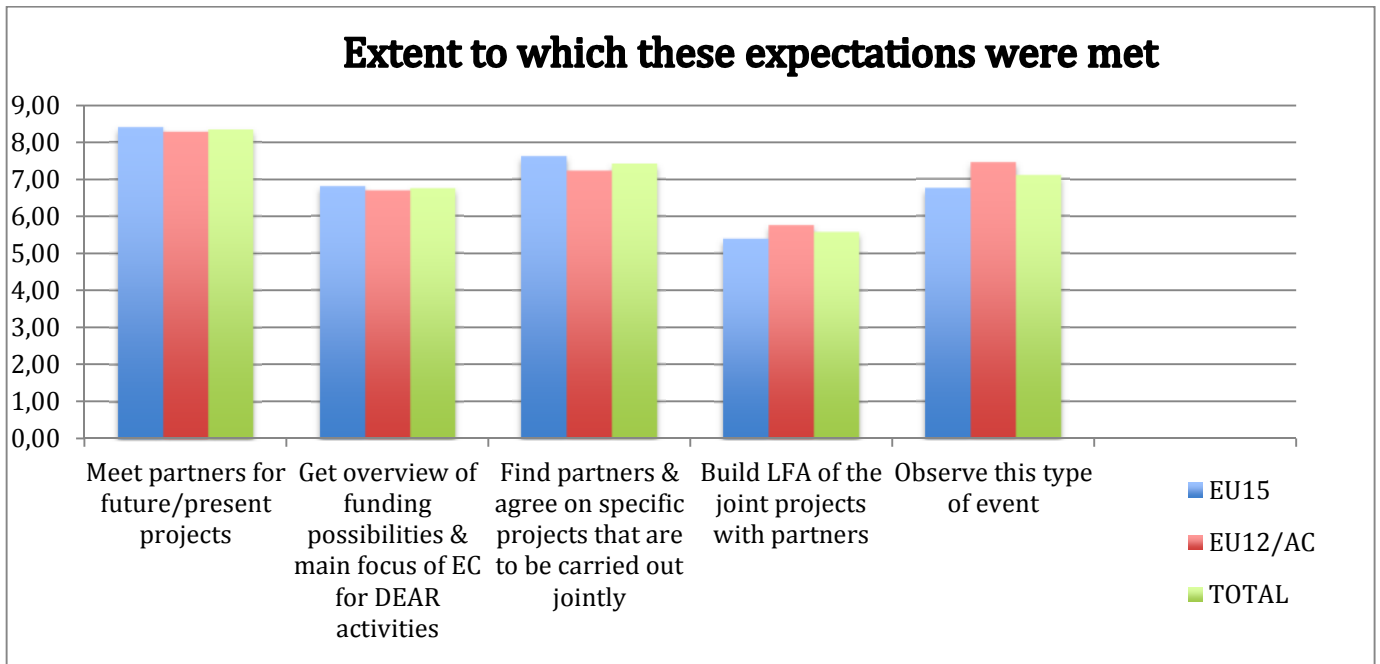
Above all, the expectation “Meet partners for future/present projects” was rated highest, with total average points of 8.96 out of 10 (9.00 points by EU15, 8.91 points by EU12/AC respondents). It was closely followed by the motive “Find partners and agree with them on specific projects to be carried out jointly” with 7.75 total average points - networking was therefore the highest priority for participants at the Partnership Fair. The categories “Build the logical framework (LFA) of the joint projects with partners” and “Observe how these types of events are run” were rated lowest, with only 5.78 respectively 5.67 average points in total, and therefore ranked last within the overall expectations.



3. Evaluation

3.1. To what extent did the Partnership Fair meet your expectations?

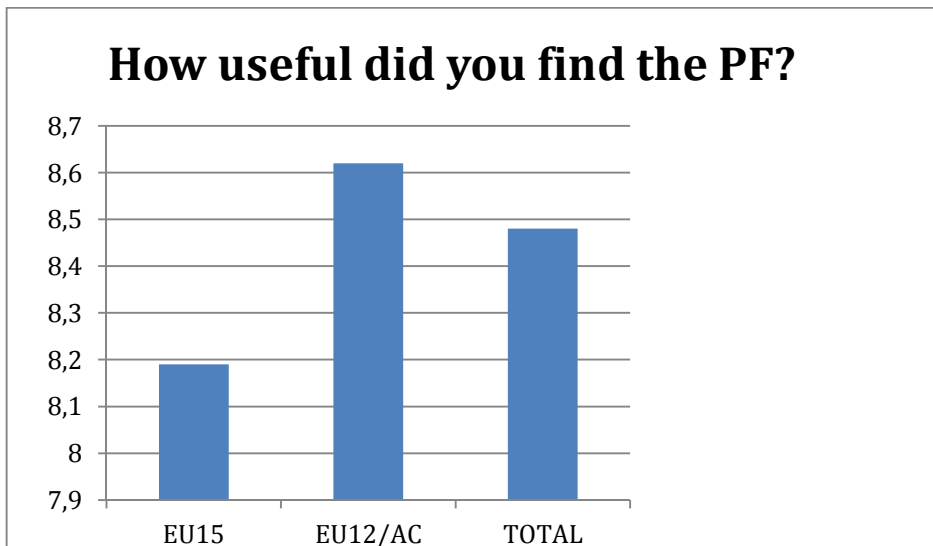
When regarding the results of the survey depicted below, one can draw the conclusion that the overall expectations of participants were quite successfully met in all categories. The categories “Meet partners for future/present projects” (total average points of 8.34) and “Find partners and agree with them on specific projects to be carried out jointly” (total average points of 7.43) were rated highest again, just as in the initial expectations prior to the Partnership Fair. While positioned next to last in the initial expectations, „Build the logical framework (LFA) of the joint projects with partners” now ranked last with only 5.58 total average points. “Observe how these types of events are run” climbed significantly up and received even higher ratings (7.11 total average points) than “Get overview of funding possibilities and main focus of EC for DEAR activities” (6.75 total average points).



3.2. Level of overall satisfaction with the Fair

3.2.1. How useful did you find the Partnership Fair?

When asked about how useful participants assessed the Partnership Fair, the general opinion of respondents bestowed high levels of usefulness to the event: EU15 respondents rated it at 8.19 average points, EU12/AC respondents at 8.62 – the total average lies at 8.48 average points out of 10.



3.2.2. Did you find partners for your projects?

In total, the survey shows that 95.58% of respondents found partners for their projects – 95.23% of EU15 and 95.74% of EU12/AC respondents.

3.2.3. Did you participate in any project proposal?

95.23% of EU15 respondents and 97.87% of EU12/AC respondents stated that they'd participated in project proposals. In all, there were 15 Pre-Partnership Agreements handed in to TRIALOG by the end of the Partnership Fair.

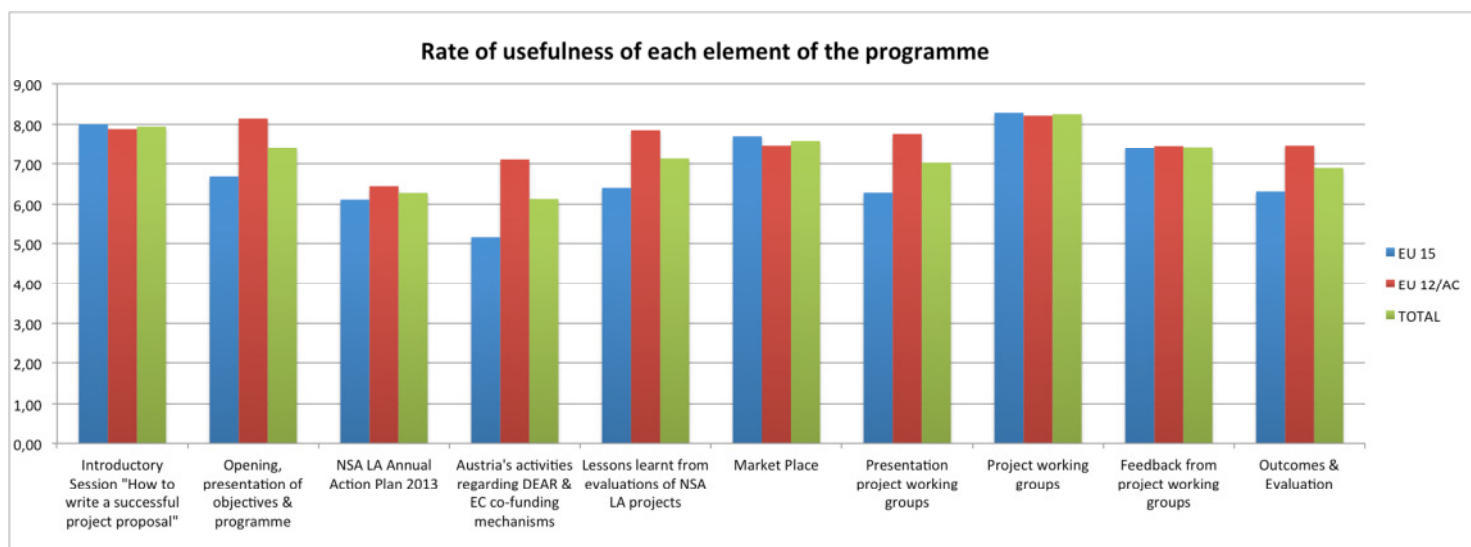
3.2.4. Do you believe this project will be adopted by your organisation?

90.74% of EU15 respondents believed their project would most likely be realised by their respective organisations. None of them thought that their project would not be realised. In the case of EU12/AC respondents, the answer to this question was answered slightly more positively: 93.61% believed their organisations would further realise the proposed projects. Just like their EU15 counterparts, none of the EU12/AC respondents clearly answered in the negative when it comes to the question of future realisation of projects by their organisations.



3.3. How would you rate the usefulness of each element of the programme?

In regard to the general usefulness of the individual elements of the Partnership Fair programme, most of the items on the agenda were rated more or less similarly. The elements ranked highest were “Project Working Groups” with 8.25 total average points, followed by “Introductory Session” (7.94 total average points) as well as “Market Place” (7.59 total average points).



3.4. Logistics

In what regards the logistical elements of the Partnership Fair, participants in general gave high ratings to the categories “Logistical support before the event” – we can thus draw the conclusion that respondents must have felt in good hands with the information pack that was sent out to participants prior to the event. The categories “Venue” and “Accommodation” also received excellent ratings – nevertheless, one has to bear in mind that in all, there were three different locations and ratings may therefore vary.

4. Additional comments

4.1. Would you recommend participating at a Partnership Fair to others?

Many participants answered with a clear “Yes” to the question whether they would recommend the Partnership Fair to others. Most of them considered the event a great opportunity to meet organisations that work in the same field, establish contacts and find potential partners for future projects, engage in common action, network, exchange experiences and knowledge, as well as deepen relationship-building all across Europe.

4.2. What could have made the programme even more effective?

Statements from respondents in this regard vary distinctively but are all equally valuable for the planning and organisation of future Partnership Fairs. These statements include the request to find a better way to divide participants into Working Groups and, also, to have more time for working within these groups. There should additionally be more flexibility in between the Working Groups before the closed session as several respondents reported difficulties while trying to find their proper groups. Recommendations

further include the plea for more facilitators/resource persons in order to help the Working Groups reach their goals e.g. successfully finalise their project proposals.

Moreover, there was a significant demand for more time to introduce organisations and participants in the course of the first sessions of the event in order to get a better perspective of who is present and which organisation could be useful in realising one's project. In this context it was also suggested that a list containing not only participants' names, but also those of the organisations taking part in the event, should be distributed among participants prior to the Partnership Fair.

The Market Place was predominant among the respondents' recommendations: It was strongly suggested that there should be more time scheduled for the Market Place.

There was also the request for the inclusion of more time for general debate and discussion as well as the presentation of former successes from previous DEAR calls since these could serve as good examples and source of motivation. Finally, there was also the recommendation to separately organise a social get-together after the first day of the Fair, in order to better get to know each other.

4.3. Plenary Feedback

In the course of the very last session at the Partnership Fair, participants were asked to take part in a preliminary oral feedback round. They were provided with three "traffic light" cards which they were supposed to hold up in order to show their (dis)content. The colour red signified "I disagree", yellow "I don't know", and green "I agree". Some of the statements that were being evaluated by participants included, amongst others, "*I shared ideas of future projects*", "*I learned a lot*", as well as "*I found partners for future projects*". They were all evaluated via the "traffic light" method with mostly green (agreement) and some yellow (I don't know) cards. Another feedback that proved valuable for TRIALOG and participants was "*I did not develop a project but made new contacts for future cooperation*" – in this case, there were cards of every colour held up in the plenary.

Before the final closing of the Partnership Fair, participants also got the chance to make their own statements and have them assessed via the traffic light method. The most evident statements (mostly green cards shown) TRIALOG will gratefully hold on to as valuable advice included the wish that more EU15 organisations should be present at the Partnership Fair as well as the demand for further information about former Partnership Fair successes that could be used as flagship projects in the future.

4.4. Selection of Participants' comments

„Looking forward to future events to come! Thanks!“ (Germany)

„Thank you to the TRIALOG team once again for a great event and I look forward to the next one!“
(Cyprus)

„Thank you for having made my participation possible.“ (Poland)

„Keep doing the good work! :-!“ (Slovenia)

„Great thanks to all organisation team of TRIALOG for their professionalism and kindness.“ (Slovenia)