



ARE WE ON THE RIGHT TRACK ?

Dear CONCORD members and partners,

CONCORD is your common tool for advocacy work at European level. Over the past years, we have developed many collective actions and we are having an increasing impact on policy making with regards to development and aid policies. And we have created success stories like the AidWatch reports.

But the world around us is changing in a tremendous speed. Southern Civil Society is voicing up strongly; China, India and Brazil are emerging as regional and economic powers; donors change their funding patterns; new issues are coming into the development debate.

The European Union is evolving as well: after two phases of enlargement, the 27 member states will strengthen their common foreign policies to increase their impact at global level. The enlargement and the Lisbon Treaty have a direct impact on development policies and NGO's work.

Before defining **CONCORD's next Strategic Plan** (process going from April to November 2008), we wish to bring our member organisations together to reflect on and to challenge our individual and collective approaches to development cooperation, the paradigms which guide all our work. And we want to create a space for understanding in which way NGOs from "New Member States" are enriching our collective approaches and responses to poverty and inequalities.

As a **result of the TRIALOG external evaluation** in 2006, which recommended to organise a debate on the nature of development, the TRIALOG Advisory Group took this idea forward and initiated the organisation of a conference which would provide a space for exchanging perspectives between NGOs from old and new member states and their partners from 'South' and 'East'.

Therefore, **CONCORD** and **TRIALOG**, in cooperation with the Czech NGDO Platform **FORS** and the **Ecumenical Academy Prague**, invite you to the

<p style="text-align: center;">CONFERENCE: ARE WE ON THE RIGHT TRACK? PARADIGM REVIEW BY CSO'S AS DEVELOPMENT ACTORS PRAGUE, 14-16 May 2008</p>

The objectives of the conference are

- 1) To serve as a forum of civil society actors from the West, East and South: from the 15 old EU member states, from the 12 new EU member states, and from developing countries in the South (Africa, Latin America, Asia) and East (Eastern EU neighbourhood).
- 2) To present an insight into the specific contexts and environments of CSOs in the field of development.
- 3) To challenge current development approaches and paradigms.
- 4) To find the most promising development approaches.

Renowned CSO activists from developing countries (South and East) will challenge participants with regards to current approaches. Six thematic workshops will allow confronting specific paradigms and in-depth discussions. This event will be one of the rare occasions to have holistic discussions around what drives our day-to-day work.

We invite **CONCORD members and partners** to participate in this event. (In order to achieve a balance among participants, members from EU-15 can nominate one or two participants, members from EU-12 one to four participant.) We encourage the participation of persons which are in a position to feed the debates in Prague back to their constituency.

We would appreciate if CONCORD members could be accompanied by representatives from **partner organisations** in order to enrich the debates.

The organisers of the conference are still **looking for speakers** with a relevant expertise for the workshops (see draft programme and description of workshops enclosed). If you have specific proposals, please contact Andreas Vogt (avogt@concordeurope.org).

Enclosed, you can find the programme and the **registration form (to be sent by 10th April)**

Best regards,

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