



Relation and cooperation between CONCORD and TRIALOG

TRIALOG project: Strengthening Development Co-operation in the enlarged EU

The overall objective of TRIALOG is a stronger European system of international development cooperation through the inclusion and active participation of non governmental organisations (NGOs) from the New EU member states (NMS) and Accession Countries (AC). Thus, TRIALOG builds capacities of NGOs in the enlarged EU with the aim to facilitate the emergence and consolidation of legitimate NGO platforms at national level and to integrate them in the European NGO community.

Specific objectives are:

- Increased understanding of and support for international development cooperation among the public in NMS and Accession Countries.
- A qualified NGO discourse and practice reinforcing ODA policies and mechanisms in the NMS and AC.
- European development cooperation incorporates the perspectives and priorities of the NGOs in the NMS and AC.
- NMS and AC development cooperation is coherent with EU policies and practice, and possibilities for cooperation and coordination are explored.

One of the expected results of TRIALOG is that development NGOs and their co-ordination bodies from AC and NMS are fully integrated into the EU coordination body of Development NGOs (CONCORD) and other relevant regional and EU NGO networks.

CONCORD: European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development

CONCORD is a space where NGOs gather, share expertise and intelligence, and advocate for a just world. Being an integral part of European civil society, CONCORD and its members have the role to promote coherent development policies at EU and national level.

International Solidarity is an “acquis communautaire”. Every country willing to join the EU must sign on these collective achievements, adopt them and implement specific policies. The involvement of development NGOs in this process is essential for the EU to live up to its commitment to eradicate world poverty. Main challenges of NGOs in the enlarged EU are

- 1) to raise public awareness with regard to development cooperation
- 2) to establish a policy dialogue with their government

- 3) to engage with, participate in and to scrutinise the shaping of national development assistance structures and policies
- 4) to participate actively in EU development policy debates and advocacy

CONCORD - to have an impact on European decision making - needs strong and representative national NGO platforms in all EU member states. Only with and through these structures CONCORD can have a strong influence on governments and – through them - on the European Council, the ultimate decision making body in the EU.

Within this perspective, development NGOs in NMS and in AC need to be strong individually and collectively.

Beyond shaping European development policies, CONCORD aims at raising awareness in Europe about global inequalities, poverty, and injustice. Through its expertise and specific resources, TRIALOG contributes to this collective effort in countries shifting from being pure aid receivers to becoming new donors.

Cooperation CONCORD – TRIALOG

In order to reach the above mentioned objectives, it's crucial to have a strong cooperation between CONCORD and TRIALOG. The relationship is defined as follows:

- **TRIALOG is a project in association with CONCORD**
- **CONCORD is the principal partner for TRIALOG**
- **The integration of platforms from NMS and AC into CONCORD is an expected result of TRIALOG**
- **CONCORD is part of the TRIALOG III consortium in the EC co-financed project**

The cooperation includes activities on the political, operational and financial level.

Background information to TRIALOG:

TRIALOG III (Sept. 06 to Sept. 09) is the third phase of a project which started in 2000 and aims to support development NGOs in EU Accession Countries (AC) and in the new EU member states (NMS).

TRIALOG III is a project co-financed by 84 % from the EC and 16% by a consortium of European NGOs and the Austrian Development Agency. The lead agency of the consortium is HORIZONT3000 (AT), consortium members are CONCORD, AGEH (DE), Brot für die Welt (DE), Ecumenical Academy Prague (CZ), Erko (SK), Licht für die Welt (AT) and Polish Humanitarian Organisation (PL).