



Report Development Education partnership fair Vienna, 9-11 October 2006

Background of the DE partnership fair:

Actually there is little public awareness about the concerns of developing countries in the new EU member states and the accession countries. Engagement in worldwide poverty reduction is low since it is a relatively new field of activity. The TRIALOG project has been supporting development NGOs in new EU and accession countries since 2000 and organised the development education partnership fair to raise awareness on development in the enlarged EU.

For the first time, the EC will allocate 10m EUR especially for development education and awareness raising activities in the new EU member states (NMS) and Bulgaria/Romania. This is good news but the EU funding and eligibility criteria are not easy to meet by development NGOs from these countries. As almost no NGO in the NMS is fulfilling the eligibility criteria for applicants set up in the EC guidelines, it's crucial to bring them together with eligible NGOs from the 15 old member states (OMS) in order to prepare joint projects between NGOs from OMS and NMS. Additionally, this should have a very positive effect in information sharing and learning from experienced NGOs in OMS and the overall capacity building of NGOs in NMS.

The DE partnership fair:

Therefore, TRIALOG in cooperation with the Development Education Forum (DEF) of the European NGO Confederation CONCORD organised the "Development Education Partnership Fair" in Vienna from October 9-11. Nearly 200 NGOs from all parts of the EU came together to exchange experiences, to find partners for their project ideas and to elaborate concrete project proposals.

Introducing the 2006 call for proposals for Development Education and Awareness Raising (Additional funds for development education and awareness raising actions in new member states), Almudena Morante and Joseph Schermesser from EuropeAid (unit 04) presented the selection process for the call. Furthermore, Almudena Morante presented first results of the NGO co-financing Call for Proposals in Development Education from last year. While in 2004, no single NGO from a new member state received a contract as applicant, two projects were successful in 2005: one from Slovenia and one from Czech Republic. Still a disappointing

number when comparing with the number of 36 projects which were awarded to old member states NGOs.

During the moderated discussion the EC announced that this year's Call for Proposals is expected to be launched end of October/beginning of November and that the general conditions for NGOs from new EU member states will slightly improve.

Following there was a moderated discussion between Almudena Morante (EuropeAid, unit 04), Joseph Schermesser (EuropeAid, unit 04), Sam Biesemanns (BE Government and member state committee) and Helmuth Hartmeyer (Austrian Development Agency and member state committee), on history, scope and limits of the NGO co-financing budget line (21-02-03) for Development Education/ Awareness Raising projects.

By a presentation on writing successful co-financing applications, participants had the opportunity to gain useful information about methodology and experiences in how to elaborate project objectives, expected results and activities.

In order to encourage partnership finding and the elaboration of joint projects, a participants-centred methodology was used through which the participants could discuss issues of their interest in a free structured way. In context of this open space methodology, groups were oriented to create partnership for specific joint project topics which will be elaborated together and hopefully jointly implemented through a grant of the European Commission or other donors.

On the second day of the fair the groups gained a deeper insight in the writing of successful co-financing application dealing specifically with problem, risk and opportunity analysis. Followed by a presentation about development education in Europe and building partnership via using a partnership check-list. During the rest of the day the participants of the event could develop in project groups their own project ideas in various fields such as: development cooperation in school curricula, informal development education targeting youth, sustainable tourism, fair trade, HIV/Aids and development, volunteering, migration and development etc.

Finally, in order to increase the feasibility of the projects methods and strategies for raising funds from private sources where introduced by SAZ, accompanied by a specific examples of fundraising opportunities presented by the Dutch Charity Lottery.

The development education partnership fair ended with a very positive evaluation of the fair and promising projects for the future. About 35 concrete project concepts were born at the fair, some more ideas were created but couldn't find partners there. According to the questionnaire, distributed during the fair and filled out by 133 participants, the overall response was highly positive. The report on the evaluation of the DE partnership fair please download from the following link:

http://www.trialog.or.at/images/doku/report_evaluation_de_partnership_fair.pdf

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