

General Evaluation of Actions to Raise Public Awareness of Development Issues in Europe / Development Education EC

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This evaluation has the specific purpose of helping to define the European Commission's strategy on Development Education and Awareness Raising and making recommendations to improve the overall impact of Development Education (DE) projects. This is particularly important since the current programme "Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development" sits under a new legal framework where Development Cooperation and DE/AR are now further integrated. The stated aim of the new programme is to find a more integrated, decentralised, multi-actor, multi-sector approach to development co-operation that reflects calls for the programme to be more inclusive. Integration between both DE/AR activities in Europe and Development Cooperation activities in developing countries will help to give greater synergy and coherence to EC policy in these areas and bring about greater inter-dependence in north-south relations as the world becomes increasingly globalised. The evaluation will also provide lessons aimed at fostering the full and active participation of EU citizens in development issues through DE/AR activities.

Specific mention of TRIALOG:

the contribution of TRIALOG in **improving dialogue and building capacity** in its work with NMS and accession states has been effective; (page 15)

The programme has also been successful, especially through the targeted projects DEEEP and TRIALOG, in **encouraging experiential exchanges between OMS and NMS**. (Page 49)

The introduction of TRIALOG, to **build capacity in NMS NGOs**, helped to facilitate their participation in the programme and was therefore an **important element in enabling the consortia** to function across the EU. (page 51)

In NMS the advantages are that lessons can be learned from the experiences in OMS that can help NMS engage with the issues more readily. A unique feature of the programme is that it can **facilitate the coordination of this exchange of information** through DEEEP or TRIALOG for example. (page 51)

The **strengthening of NGDOs and networks** has been one major result of the implementation of the projects, due to different factors:

- the implementation of consortium projects has increased the lead NGO's project management capacity,
 - as well as the DE expertise of all the project partners. It also strengthened relations within NGO families and thematic networks involved in the same initiative;
 - multi-projects and capacity-building projects clearly contributed to raising the capacity of smaller NGOs;
 - Presidency projects reinforced DE working groups and national platforms by offering them the opportunity to structure DE approaches and methods;

- the targeted projects DEEEP and TRIALOG - through the summer school pan-European exchange of experiences and the **partnership fair** providing links between OMS and NMS NGOs – considerably reinforced networks of platforms and NGOs, **giving coherence to the programme itself**. (page 67)

TRIALOG has **increased the capacity of NGOs in NMS to work in DE and initiate dialogue with their own national government as well as networking amongst themselves**. TRIALOG has had an **impact on Civil Society's involvement** in the field of development in New Member States, which was not so common at the beginning of the enlargement process. Under the “Co-financing European Development NGOs” programme; the work by the DE fora/working groups of platforms, the expertise within NGOs of DE issues and the possibility of the EU dimension to extend and build capacity have all been positive aspects. This has also helped to **increase dialogue on DE/AR at the national level**. (page 74)

The **strategic use of targeted projects has helped to achieve the objectives of the “Co-financing with European Development NGOs” programme**. DEEEP has been an important coordination mechanism for increasing dialogue, promoting exchanges of best practice and building networks and partnerships at EU level and between national platforms and the EU. The **contribution of TRIALOG in improving dialogue and building capacity in its work with NMS and accession states has been effective**. (page 81)

6.2.2.2 Specific Recommendations for coordination Projects

- The team suggests that priority is given to 1) setting up coordination mechanisms (or **continue them**) for the existing and new eligible actors to bridge gaps and 2) pan-European initiatives that in particular will help strengthen co-ordination at EU level. The team would recommend that a specific Call for Proposals could be launched for these projects. A minimum period of 3 years to a maximum of 5 years is recommended to allow the projects to develop and establish themselves.
- The evaluation team recommends that capacity-building projects should be prioritised for all the new eligible actors in OMS and NMS to ensure their participation in the new programme.

6.2.2.4 Specific Recommendations for NMS:

- The evaluation team recommends that EC retain **the special conditions of eligibility criteria** in NMS and acceding countries to permit their continued participation in the programme as a priority in the programme.
- The evaluation teams recommends the EC should offer **more support such as training and information on handling budgets, implementation and accountancy** to capacitate all eligible actors in NMS so they can all develop the capacity to lead consortia.

The full report is available at http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/civil-society/documents/de-ar_evaluation2008.pdf