

THE TRIALOG INFORMATION SERVICE (TIS)

18/11/02

is addressed to NGOs and individuals who have signed in to our online-database or have been involved in TRIALOG's activities.

One of TRIALOG's aims is to intensify the exchange of information and experience between NGOs in candidate countries, EU member states and the global South. Through the TIS we forward you information on global development issues, conferences, seminars, NGO funding opportunities, etc., provided to us by our partners.

You are welcome to actively participate in the networking of TRIALOG by sending us important information, documents, position papers, etc. which we can then spread to our partners in candidate countries, EU countries and the global South.

Please feel free to forward the TIS to interested friends and colleagues.

If you have had this passed to you by a friend and want to receive the TIS yourself, you can sign in to our online-database at <http://www.clong-trialog.at/frame.asp?ID=5>

If you would rather not receive the TIS, please send an email to <mailto:office@clong-trialog.at> .

TRIALOG - EU Enlargement and NGDOs

Vienna Office

Wohllebengasse 12-14

1040 Vienna

Austria

Tel: +43-1-319 79 49

Fax: +43-1-319 79 49-15

Email: <mailto:office@clong-trialog.at>

Web: www.clong-trialog.at

TRIALOG - EU Enlargement and NGDOs

Brussels Office

10 Square Ambiorix

Brussels 1000

Belgium

Tel: +43-1-319 79 49

Fax: +43-1-319 79 49-15

<mailto:office@clong-trialog.at>

www.clong-trialog.at

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1. **Update on Founding Committee's Activities to build on a New European NGDO Co-ordination Structure** – Newsletter Nr. 7

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the members of the Founding Committee I am pleased to send you herewith the 7th issue of our Newsletter. (Click here to download in pdf format http://www.clong-trialog.at/images/docs/FC_7.pdf)

We hope you will enjoy the reading and welcome your suggestions or comments.

Kind regards,

Frans Polman
Chairman

2. Estonian NGOs comment draft of Estonia's Development Policy and discuss further steps

Information sent by Riina Kuusik, The Estonian Refugee Council

Dear colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to inform you that 18 NGOs active in the field of human rights, environment and other cross-border activities submitted their joint comments on the new draft of the Estonian development cooperation principles. It is the first effort by the Estonian NGOs to actively participate in the policy formulation in the field of development assistance. The next meeting time was set for November 11 to discuss further issues of joint projects and a possible coordination structure.

At this second roundtable of the Estonian development cooperation NGOs it was decided that

1) the development NGOs (currently 10) will continue to meet in the format of the roundtable (*Arengukoostöö Ümarlaud*) and will not establish a formal National Platform. The majority of us felt that given our future plans and priorities, a more informal roundtable set-up will serve us best. At least for the coming year.

2) The next roundtable will convene on January 15, 2003, and will be held in Tartu, hosted by the Estonian UN Association. (the first one was organized by the Estonian Refugee Council, and the second one by the Estonian Nature Fond in Tallinn). The Roundtable will have its internal rules, its mailing list, and regular meetings.

3) The third Roundtable in January will finalise the code of conduct and other internal matters of the forum, and will work on the two draft proposals set up on November 11.

a) The joint project the Roundtable will have in the development education and awareness raising is Fair Trade. We will prepare a campaign, series of seminars, and establish working relations with the Nordic Fair Trade Associations in order to find ways to start selling fair trade products. We will also emphasize products made by Saami, Komi and other Finno-Ugric minority groups in the Northern Russia to support the life-style and livelihoods of our kin nations.

This will be a long-term project with many dimensions.

b) The second focus of the Roundtable will be a joint visit to Georgia next year to assess the needs and potential for cooperation among several Georgian NGOs. We would take a comprehensive approach by which each organization would work in its own field in cooperation with similar organizations in Georgia. Several contacts have already been made. The idea originates from Caritas Estonia who has the largest network of contacts in that region.

It is a message from the Roundtable that, as a fledgling forum with two specific programs to work on, we simply cannot prioritize our efforts in integration to EU NGDO structures during the next year. The Roundtable will serve as a communication and representational body. More details will be available after January 15 meeting.

Sincerely,

Riina

The Estonian Refugee Council
Endla 3, Tallinn 10122, Estonia
Tel.Fax: 372-630-7383
<http://www.estref.org.ee>

3. Contribution of Women's NGOs in the Candidate Countries to the Convention for the Future of Europe

Document provided by Karat Coalition, Poland

Dear Friends,

Please click here http://www.clong-trialog.at/images/docs/Convent_contribution.pdf to download the Contribution of women's NGOs from Central and Eastern Europe to the Forum of the Convention for the Future of Europe. This document has already been sent to the Forum and the document is provided purely for your information.

However, if you are interested in any of the issues covered in this document or would like to find out more about EU related initiatives currently undertaken by women's NGOs in Central and Eastern Europe, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Malgorzata Peretiatkowicz
<mailto:karat@zigzag.pl>

4. “Participation of Non-State Actors in EC Development Policy” – Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee

Document provided by the Rapid Information Service - RIS 81, Liaison Committee of development NGOs to the European Union, Brussels

1. CURRENT SITUATION

1.1. Introduction

The joint Council/Commission Policy Statement on the EC's Development Policy (20.11.2000) is based on the recognition that ownership of strategies by the partner countries is the key to the success of development policies. The most wide-ranging participation of all segments of society must be encouraged. Partnership, ownership of development processes by the population, participation of economic and social stakeholders and the representation of civil society, are all principles shared by donors. The Community is moving in this direction. Implementation of the Cotonou Agreement is leading to the progressive involvement of ACP Non-State Actors (NSAs) across the development process. In Latin America, the political dialogue at regional, sub-regional and sometimes at national levels includes a parallel dialogue with NSAs. Growing consultation as well as support for NSAs is included in political summits and recommendations as well as in agreements. Implementation in various fields is largely carried out by civil society. Under the MEDA programme, NSAs receive support to improve their structures and reinforce their operations and governments are encouraged to dialogue with civil society. In addition, the implementation of local development projects within the framework of social funds is, in a number of cases, attributed to civil society organisations in MEDA countries.

The participatory approach must be implemented whilst respecting both the particular situation in each partner country and the central role of the Government complemented by the decentralised local authorities, the business sector and the other NSAs. In this context, EC policy aims at further strengthening and involving NSAs in the development process. More extensive deconcentration of project management to the Commission's Delegations is under way. The ongoing rationalisation of development aid instruments, which aims at facilitating sound management and coherence of development programmes also provides an opportunity to clarify the EC's approach to working with NSAs. This Communication on the EC's approach to dialogue with, and programme implementation by NSAs is intended to contribute to the broad policy discussion with all the stakeholders. The aim is to clarify expectations and inform the debate with partner countries. This paper focuses on the strengthening of NSA organisations in developing countries and does not deal with other levels of dialogue (Porto Alegre, Johannesburg, etc).

This paper is consistent with and complements the principles presented in the White Paper on European Governance,¹ which states that “The organisations which make up civil society mobilise people and support, for instance, those suffering from exclusion or discrimination... Non-Governmental organisations play an important role at global level in development policy. They often act as an early warning system for the direction of political debate... The Commission will improve the dialogue with governmental and

non-governmental actors in third countries when developing policy proposals with an international dimension”.

Please click here to download the document in pdf

<http://www.clong-trialog.at/images/docs/Non-state-actors-EC-DevPolicy.pdf>

5. Overview of the “**Report of the European Commission on the progress towards accession by each of the candidate countries**”

Information provided by Maja Dufinova, trainee at the TRIALOG office in Brussels, and Lena Krichewsky, former trainee at the TRIALOG office in Vienna

Please click here <http://www.clong-trialog.at/images/docs/RegularReport2002-overview.pdf> to read an overview of the paragraphs on “Development Assistance”.

Remarkable about the Reports of this year: NGO co-operation is mentioned for the first time! And especially in the case of Czech Republic, where **the recently created Czech Platform of development NGOs (Czech Forum for Development Cooperation)** is mentioned.

6. The European Commissioner in charge of Development and Humanitarian Aid, **Mr Poul Nielson, visits Czech Republic** to discuss development and humanitarian issues

Press release by Sam Biesemans, E.U. Unit Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Co-operation, Brussels

Press release of the EC

Brussels, 11 November 2002

Commissioner Nielson visits the Czech Republic
The European Commissioner in charge of Development and Humanitarian Aid, Mr Poul Nielson, starts a 2 day trip (11-12 November) today to the Czech Republic. The overriding objective of this visit is to raise awareness of development and humanitarian issues linked to enlargement and discuss these questions with the Czech authorities and civil society. Mr Nielson will meet with Prime Minister Vladimir Spidla, other government Ministers, Parliamentarians, academic and civil society. Mr Nielson stated, "I aim to inform the government and general public about what the Commission and the EU are doing in the area of development co-operation and humanitarian

aid.

Once the Czech Republic and other candidate countries become EU members, they will become part of a group which provides over 50% of global development assistance to the developing world. This aspect of enlargement has been largely overlooked in the public debate."

The Czech Republic's role as an emerging bilateral aid donor
Foreign aid constitutes an integral part of the Czech foreign policy

and contributes to the implementation of the country's political and foreign

policy goals. The Czech Government has made good progress in defining its

development policy and approach, drawing on international best practice.

The

Czech Republic is becoming more and more involved in the international development co-operation as a donor. The aims, principles and priorities of

the Czech Republic's foreign aid programme for the 2002-2007 period are defined in the Concept of the Czech Republic Foreign Aid Program 2002-2007:

<http://www.czechembassy.org/wwwo/mzv/default.asp?ido=7633&idj=2&amb=1&i>

The Evolution of the EU's Development Co-operation

Enlargement will enhance the EU's role as one of the primary actors

in international development. The new Member States will join the existing

EU-15 in implementing the objectives and instruments of the EC's development

policy. From the date of their accession, they will also become part of the

EU's various partnership and co-operation agreements, including the Cotonou

Agreement, and adopt other policies of importance for developing countries

such as preferential and free trade arrangements.

Since the end of the Cold War, and through a series of UN conferences over the past decade, the international community has gradually

developed a new, more ambitious framework for development co-operation.

The

key focus now for the EU as part of the international Community is the

'Millennium Development Goals' reflected in the report of the UN Millennium

Summit. In November 2000, the European Member States and the Commission adopted a Joint Statement on the European Union's development

co-operation

policy based on the objective of eradicating poverty.

Today, the EU is the largest source of official development assistance and humanitarian assistance in the world. The EU contributes over

half of global ODA over \$26 billion in 2001 - of which around 20% is managed

by the Commission on behalf of the Community.

At the Monterrey Conference in April this year, the EU committed to significantly increasing ODA from the current level of 0.33% of GNP to 0.39% between now and 2006. Effective implementation of this decision could bring EU ODA up to EUR35 billion per year by 2006.

A full version of the document can be found on the following website:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/index_en.htm

7. Call for Proposals for EU based organisations: Enhance EC Development Assistance, Deadline: 18 January 2003

Information provided by OneWorld International Partner News – November 2002

Third call for proposals: EC-PREP is a DFID funded grant programme to generate research on improving the effectiveness of the EC's development assistance. Open to EU-based organisations carrying out research on development coordination. Non-EU based institutions can make a joint application with an EU partner. Deadline ***18 January 2003***

<http://www.ec-prep.org>

8. WORLD SOCIAL FORUM, 23-28 January 2003, Porto Alegre, Brazil and ASIAN SOCIAL FORUM, 2 – 7 January 2003, Hyderabad, India

The World Social Forum is an open meeting place where social movements, networks, NGOs and other civil society organizations opposed to neo-liberalism and a world dominated by capital or by any form of imperialism come together to pursue their thinking, to debate ideas democratically, for formulate proposals, share their experiences freely and network for effective action. The five thematic areas for WSF 2003 are:

- Democratic sustainable development
- Principles and values, human rights, diversity and equality
- Media, culture and counter-hegemony
- Political power, civil society and democracy
- Democratic world order, the fight against militarism and promoting peace

Registration for delegates and workshops at WSF 2003 is now open and the forms are available on the newly updated site: <http://www.forumsocialmundial.org.br>.

See also <http://www.portoalegre2003.org>.

OneWorld is planning a special report on the forthcoming World Social Forum (WSF). If your organisation is planning to publish content relating to the WSF (press releases, campaigns, reports, opinion pieces etc.) or will be reporting from the event itself, please contact OneWorld Special Reports editor Daniel Nelson (mailto:daniel.nelson@oneworld.net) if you would like your material to be included in our special report.

Current OneWorld Special Reports: <http://www.oneworld.net/specialreports/>

The ASIAN SOCIAL FORUM is being held in Hyderabad from 2nd – 7th January, 2003.

The Asian Social Forum is a follow up of the two successful World Social Forum events organised in Porto Alegre and the decision to have regional and thematic events.

For more information on the Regional Social Forum in Hyderabad please click here <http://www.focusweb.org/publications/press-statements/ASF-invitation.htm>

9. The Legal Information Centre for NGOs in Slovenia has now its website also in English

Dear all!

We are informing you that we now have our web page also in English language. There are still some final details to work on, but you can already find all the information about our Centre, projects, counselling, co-workers etc. The website is www.pic.si.

Please feel free to put the news to your newsletters/information letters/news.

Thank you and kind regards,

Katja Oblak
Legal Information Centre for NGOs Slovenia
Povsetova 37
Ljubljana
Slovenia
tel: + 386 1 540 19 14
fax:+ 386 1 540 19 13
katja.oblak@pic.si
www.pic.si

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