



## TRIALOG Information Service (TIS)

*(02/04/2007)*

The TRIALOG Information Service (TIS) is addressed to NGOs and individuals who are interested in development issues in the context of EU enlargement.

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## 1. TRIALOG News

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### 1.1. May 15-16, 2007: Meeting of Working Group EPAN

Information provided by Asya Bocheva, TRIALOG

WG Enlargement will meet for the first time after it has been restructured into Enlargement, Pre-accession and Neighbourhood (EPAN) Working Group on 15-16 May 2007 in Brussels. This session will be primarily devoted to new developments in the Neighbourhood policy programming and implementation with contributions from Eurostep following the February seminar on ENPI implementation (see the related article 3.3.) and Vince Caruana for the Southern Mediterranean. The meeting will also deal with the Pre-accession instrument and the echo from the Balkan partner countries, whose representatives met in February in Slovenia (see the related article 4.2.). Furthering cooperation will be sought in the field of policy coherence with a view for targeted trainings for new member states (NMS) in this area. The group is enlarging its membership, looking for representatives of old member states active in the neighbourhood and the Balkans, and networks active on a policy level in Brussels to add to its expertise on its core topics.

For more information please turn to TRIALOG Policy Officer in Brussels, Asya Bocheva:  
[trialog@concordeurope.org](mailto:trialog@concordeurope.org)

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### 1.2. Five steps towards 10m EUR for Development Education - 47 concept notes submitted

Information provided by Petra Kreinecker, TRIALOG

As soon as it became clear that lobby actions across the EU were successful and the EC announced to allocate 10m EUR especially for development education and awareness raising activities in the new EU member states (NMS), NGOs started to prepare for this EC Call 2006 of the budget line 21 02 03.

The first step: The Development Education Partnership Fair in October 2006 organised by TRIALOG in cooperation with CONCORD brought together 200 NGO representatives and offered a space for them to find potential project partners from old and/or new EU member states, to start building consortia and consider to participate in the EC Call as "consortium members", "European partners" or "associates". As a result, 21 pre-agreements for common projects were signed at the Fair in Vienna by numerous participating NGOs.

The second step: As follow up of the Fair, ten "project-oriented" trainings with more than 150 participants from all NMS (incl. Romania and Bulgaria) have been organized by TRIALOG between November 2006

and Januar 2007 in different countries. During these trainings the number of elaborated joint NGO project proposals rose to around 40.

The third step: In February 2007, the NGOs submitted their concept notes to the EC within the 1st stage of this 2stage Call for Proposals in Development Education published by the EC in 2006. TRIALOG collected data on the submitted concept notes. The received questionnaires show a strong participation of NMS NGOs: At least 47 concept notes have been submitted for the Call for Proposal 2006 with the active participation of the 10 NMS and the 2 (in 2006) Accession Countries (AC) Bulgaria and Romania. 21 organizations from Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia presented projects as lead agency; 44 organizations from all 10 NMS are Consortium Members and 57 NMS-NGOs participated as European Partners. There was also considerable participation from Bulgarian and Romanian NGOs: 11 projects with the participation of 14 AC NGOs were submitted to the EC in Brussels by the deadline of February 20. In total, 136 NMS organizations were mentioned in an active role in the submitted project proposals.

Preparing the fourth step: It is expected that the EC will take the decision on the concept notes around April 20. As soon as more details will be known, the information will be circulated. In the meanwhile, TRIALOG is planning the next step in preparation of the 2nd stage of the application process. TRIALOG is offering further support for the project teams to elaborate their final application forms. If your organization or project team is interested in a respective training - please reserve already the following dates as probable training dates: Monday, 23rd – Tuesday, 24th of April; Thursday, 10th – Friday, 11th of May and Tuesday, 22nd – Wednesday, 23rd of May. In case the EC will publish its decision later than expected, we will inform you about the new training dates as soon as possible. TRIALOG hopes that a lot of NMS NGOs will receive an invitation to present a full project proposal within this second stage of the Call for Proposals.

It's a long way towards an EC financed project. However, the fifth and last step - the start and implementation of the finally approved projects - could then break new grounds for the awareness of development issues in Europe...

In the 2006 PVD Call (actions in developing countries), according to information received from NGOs by TRIALOG, at least 11 projects were submitted by Czech, Hungarian, Lithuanian, Polish and Slovak organizations within the January deadline.

For further statistical analysis of the collected information on submitted concept notes in the 2006 EC calls in ED and PVD, please see the following TRIALOG excel sheet:  
[http://www.trialog.or.at/docs/statistics\\_conceptnotes.xls](http://www.trialog.or.at/docs/statistics_conceptnotes.xls)

For the results of the previous 2005 ED and PVD calls of the NGO co-financing budget line 21 02 03 turn to the EuropeAid website:

PVD: <http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/tender/data/d32/AOF75232.htm>

ED: <http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/tender/data/d33/AOF75233.htm>

In ED 2005, only two organisations from NMS (from Czech Republic and Slovenia) were successful in getting a project as lead agency (compared to a number of 36 lead agencies from Old member states).

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### **1.3. TRIALOG Central Training in Estonia**

Information provided by Anita Bister, TRIALOG

The annual TRIALOG Central Training took place recently, on March 26-27. The main focus of the training for new EU member states (NMS) platforms was on "Management and Strategic Planning for National Platforms". Around 50 participants gathered in Tallinn, Estonia, including not only NMS but also a representative from a Croatian NGO network as well as 2 participants from the NGDO platform in Portugal which is the country to hold the next EU presidency right before the Slovenian presidency.

Theoretical input on strategic planning came from Eamonn Casey from Dochas, the Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations. Practical presentations on the lessons learnt in the platform building process were given by representatives from the Czech and Swedish NGDO platforms, Simon Panek and Magnus Falklof. By giving country presentations, all present NMS platforms shared with the group their experience and challenges in managing their platforms, assuring its sustainability, coordinating with their member NGOs, platform bodies etc.

According to the feedback from the participants, the input by the main speakers was as much appreciated as the possibility of mutual exchange between platforms and the presentation done by Karine Sohet from APRODEV on the new Financial EC Instruments 2007-2013. Andreas Vogt updated the audience on latest CONCORD news and priorities.

Most of the presentations held at the Central Training are already available for download. Please turn to the TRIALOG website at: <http://www.trialog.or.at/main.asp?m=4,24,227>  
The full training documentation will become available as soon as possible.

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#### **1.4. National and regional DEEEP Seminars**

Source: DE Times, February 2007 / Volume II, Issue 2

DEEEP, the Development Education Exchange in Europe Project, co-organises national or regional development education (DE) seminars together with national NGDO platforms. The project is particularly interested in providing expertise in the fields of the "evaluation of impact" and the "code of conduct on messages and images", "developing national DE strategies" and "DE and the school curricula". If your platform would like to propose a national/regional seminar in your country and jointly organise it together with DEEEP, please contact Angelo Caserta, DEEEP Project Coordinator, email: [a.caserta@deEEP.org](mailto:a.caserta@deEEP.org) for further information and proposal of a seminar. So far declarations of interest were received from Lithuania, Latvia, Cyprus, Slovenia, Slovakia, Portugal, Romania and Spain.  
Read the latest DE Times issue at: <http://www.deEEP.org/english/>

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## **2. Events**

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### **2.1. May 3-4, 2007, FORUM European Conference 2007 on Volunteering, Paris**

Source: e-CIVICUS 326 HTML

The conference will focus on international volunteering and co-operation in a European context. Including presentations on: recent developments in European based international volunteering, EC Initiatives in international volunteering, promoting international volunteering in the new member states. There will also be workshops on Monitoring and Evaluation, Recruitment and Training of International Volunteers, Models of support and benefits given to international volunteers and Using quality techniques to manage volunteer programmes. For more information please see:  
<http://www.forum-ids.org/forumsitecontent/pages/Euro%20Conference.html>

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### **2.2. May 3- 5, 2007: Civil Society Symposium in Cyprus**

Information sent by Carey Gordon, The Management Centre

The Fourth International Symposium on the "State of Civil Society: Where do we go from here?", organized by the Management Centre in collaboration with Intercollege and with a grant from UNDP-ACT, will take place from Thursday, 3rd of May to Saturday, 5th of May 2007, in Nicosia, Cyprus. More information is available at: <http://www.mc-med.org/Special/Symposium4/Symposium4.htm>  
For any further questions please contact Carey Gordon at: [cgordon@mc-med.org](mailto:cgordon@mc-med.org)

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### **2.3. May 14-15, 2007: MDGs - Inclusion of People With Disabilities, Bratislava**

Information provided by eRko and Light for the World

eRko, the Slovak partner of the EU project "Disability mainstreaming in Development Cooperation", invites to the European Conference "Millennium Development Goals: Inclusion of People With Disabilities" which takes place in Bratislava, Slovakia, from 14th – 15th May 2007. The event is organised by eRko (Slovakia) and Light for the World (Austria), project leader, and is supported by DG Employment and Social Affairs of the European Commission.

The main aim of the Conference is to bring together EU actors from Governments, EU institutions, organizations of persons with disabilities and development NGOs from the South and the North to discuss and examine how well the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have addressed the concerns of persons with disabilities in developing countries and what more needs to be done to make this happen.

This Conference offers a unique opportunity to:

- analyze the MDGs from the perspective of people with disabilities; and to consider the impact of MDGs' strategies in light of the new UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,
  - learn more about the practical experiences from the field on implementing inclusive development and rights based approaches to development,
  - provide a forum for exchange between key actors with experience of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its positive effect on promoting inclusive development cooperation policies across the EU and impact to improve the lives of persons with disabilities in developing countries,
  - develop practical tools and answers on how to mainstream disability into existing development policies
- The Conference is directed to and inclined towards the particular interests of the 12 New Member States of the European Union.

Find more information (Invitation, Registration Form, Preliminary Program, document on MDGs and Map how to get to the conference place) on:

<http://www.make-development-inclusive.org/newsdetail.php?wid=1024&spk=en&nb=9> or

<http://www.erko.sk/conference/>

Please register as soon as possible (the initial deadline was March 31) to conference organizer Zuzana Basistova: [zuzana@erko.sk](mailto:zuzana@erko.sk)

Representatives from new member states NGOs have the possibility to apply for travel reimbursement for the participation in this conference. If you would like to apply for financial support, contact the organisers, write to Zuzana Basistova ([zuzana@erko.sk](mailto:zuzana@erko.sk)) to send you the application form. The organisers will consider your application and get back to you.

For any additional information please contact:

Zuzana Basistova, Conference Organizer, [zuzana@erko.sk](mailto:zuzana@erko.sk)

Isabelle Wahedova, Project Coordinator, [Isabelle.Wahedova@light-for-the-world.net](mailto:Isabelle.Wahedova@light-for-the-world.net)

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### **2.4. June 14-17, 2007: WIDE Annual Conference, Madrid**

Source: WIDE News No. 3 - March 2007

WIDE's Annual Conference 2007 'New aid, old trade: What do women have to say?' will be hosted by the Gender and Development Working Group of the Spanish Platform of Development NGOs (CONGDE), in Madrid on 14-17 June 2007. 14 June will be a Capacity Building Day, 15-16 June are the dates of the Annual conference, on 17 June the WIDE General Assembly will take place.

The aim of this year's conference is to create a forum for constructive analysis of women's rights today and perspectives for gender equality in the new global development and trade architecture. The nature of

international trade policies, regulation of financial flows and investment, as well as the nature of international development policies, have all changed profoundly in recent years. New international development architecture has developed from the international donor community's shared commitments in the areas of trade, debt, investment and financing for development. However, while development and trade institutions are changing, structures of gender inequality are persisting. Despite multiple commitments, gender mainstreaming has not been put into practice throughout the world. Gender experts and women's organisations have expressed concern that these new aid modalities may even further sideline gender interests, shrink the spaces and resources available to gender equality advocates and undercut efforts towards women's empowerment.

The WIDE conference is intended to be a space for women from the East, North and South to analyse critically European and international aid and trade policies, in order to name the challenges, to identify the opportunities and to agree on a common agenda to ensure that this new aid, trade and foreign policy architecture reinforces and supports commitments on women's human rights and gender equality. The conference will be highly participatory in nature. It will be made up of four panels, where speakers from the East, South and West will share regional and personal experiences and perspectives, each panel followed by time for questions and debate. The conference will also include different workshops to encourage more in-depth debate and to provide spaces for joint strategising and advocacy planning. Open space sessions will allow participants to propose spontaneous workshops according to their interests. As in previous years, there will also be a space for learning, a day-long capacity building session, prior to the conference.

Further information will become available on the WIDE website in the coming weeks:

<http://www.wide-network.org>

Registration will start in the middle of April, but people can already contact Louisa Antolin if they want to attend: [annualconference@wide-network.org](mailto:annualconference@wide-network.org)

Accommodation in Madrid: There will be an officer working in Spain from April 16 onwards who can help with finding suitable accommodation etc.

Read the latest March WIDE newsletter at: <http://www.wide-network.org>

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## **2.5. Summer 2007: SLE Trainings for Development Cooperation**

Information provided by Katharina Ochse, SLE

This summer the SLE plus Training for International Development Cooperation at the SLE Humboldt University Berlin is offering three short term courses: The first course is on "Decentralised Management of Regional Development" (6.08.-17.08.2007), the second on "Project Cycle Management" (20.8.-31.8.2007) and the third on "Conflict Prevention and Conflict Management" (3.9.-14.9.2007).

See: [http://www.trialog.or.at/docs/hu\\_berlin\\_sle\\_plus\\_07\\_mail.pdf](http://www.trialog.or.at/docs/hu_berlin_sle_plus_07_mail.pdf)

A framework programme provides participants with the opportunity to become familiar with scholarly discussions in the area of development cooperation, and to meet with representatives of German governmental and non-governmental organisations active in the field of development cooperation. The programme is funded by DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service), the Senate of Berlin and TRIALOG. In 2006 programme participants came from 24 different countries.

Detailed information on the 2007 programme will become available on the SLE website by mid April (<http://www.berlinerseminar.de> ; follow the link "SLE PLUS: Berlin Training for Intern. Dev. Coop."). For further questions please contact Katharina Ochse at [katharina.ochse@agrar.hu-berlin.de](mailto:katharina.ochse@agrar.hu-berlin.de)

TRIALOG support: As last year, TRIALOG will consider to support financially the participation of staff of NGOs from NMS and AC under the following criteria:

- maximum 1 employee per NGO and per training
- each NGO can apply for 1 or 2 or 3 trainings if justified
- the employee has to work in a field related to the topic of the training (in order to make use of the knowledge he/she gets in the training).
- The SLE online application form has to be filled out until May 6, 2007.

- A separate E-Mail indicating the travel costs has to be sent to: sle-plus@agrar.hu-berlin.de until the same deadline.
  - SLE will do the selection in cooperation with the TRIALOG Capacity Building Officer by May 21.
  - TRIALOG will notify the applicants.
  - Those who are accepted for financial support by TRIALOG, will have to confirm their participation with the organisers (SLE) by May 29.
  - SLE will provide information about cheap accommodation for the participants paid by TRIALOG. Participants will have to make the accommodation reservations themselves.
- TRIALOG will reimburse travel and cheap accommodation costs for the accepted trainees. The training cost of 500 EUR for each training as well as food should be the own contribution of the participant or his/her NGO. For reimbursement please read the TRIALOG Travel Reimbursement Scheme in advance and use the Travel Expense Claim Form:  
[http://www.trialog.or.at/docs/trialog\\_reimbursement\\_scheme\\_may05.pdf](http://www.trialog.or.at/docs/trialog_reimbursement_scheme_may05.pdf)  
[http://www.trialog.or.at/docs/Travel\\_Expense\\_Form\\_inclReport.doc](http://www.trialog.or.at/docs/Travel_Expense_Form_inclReport.doc)

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### 3. Information on EU and EU Enlargement issues

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#### 3.1. European Parliament: Development cooperation of the "new EU donors" in the spotlight

Information provided by Asya Bocheva, TRIALOG

The Public Hearing on "New EU Donors" organised on 30 January 2007 by the Committee of Development of the European Parliament, comes as a specific follow-up of the Joint Committee Meeting held in October 2006 on "European Development Policies", an event where representatives of National Parliaments of the Member States and Acceding Countries exchanged views on main development matters, with a focus on the coherence and coordination of the EU development policy.

The purpose of the event was to focus on the "ten plus two" new EU Member States (NMS) and their performances so far in the mainstream of the European Development Cooperation Policy. The discussion covered the state of preparedness of the New EU donors in terms of capacity building to fully participate in the EU Development Policy – the Heads of the Slovenian and Polish Development Cooperation units in the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs presented their strategies for assistance.

TRIALOG was invited to reflect on the perspective of civil society and gave the floor to Marian Caucik, Chairman of the Slovak NGDO Platform, to represent the NMS development NGO community in this event. Marian Caucik gave an overview of the actions of NGOs in development cooperation, where they see the main problem areas and fields of cooperation with the government, and the European perspective. Marian stressed that NGOs are the best vehicles for raising the public awareness in new member states for the need of financing development aid, as they are closer to the people and often more trustworthy than political leaders. He also called on MEPs from the Development Committee to visit National Parliaments in NMS and discuss issues of development cooperation, still in the shadow of general foreign policy issues.

The moderator Filip Kaczmarek, MEP and DEVE Committee member from Poland retained the idea and concluded that EU development aid in New Member States cannot be effective without the general public being supportive of it and that the role of the civil society is crucial in mustering more awareness and understanding for development cooperation in the EU "New Donors".

For more information on the Hearing incl. the text of all speeches, please visit the website of the EP Development Committee at: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/comparl/deve/hearings/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/comparl/deve/hearings/default_en.htm)  
Download the speech of Marian Caucik, Slovak NGDO platform MVRO, from:  
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/comparl/deve/hearings/20070130/caucik.pdf>  
View some photos at: [http://www.trialog.or.at/docs/public\\_hearing\\_photos.doc](http://www.trialog.or.at/docs/public_hearing_photos.doc)

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### **3.2. Seminar on “Development Education - A Challenge for Emerging Donors”**

Source: [http://www.ada.gv.at/view.php3?f\\_id=9544&LNG=de&version=](http://www.ada.gv.at/view.php3?f_id=9544&LNG=de&version=)

25 participants from 13 European countries attended the international seminar on “Development Education & Awareness Raising for Development Issues - A Challenge for Emerging Donors”, which the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) organised in Vienna on 29 and 30 January 2007. The seminar centred round the challenges, realities and perspectives for development education and awareness raising for development issues in the newly emerging European donor countries.

The conference report on the ADA website (see link below) gives a summary on the seminar:

“The support and active participation of the people in our respective societies are decisive for reaching the internationally agreed development targets”, Ambassador Michael Linhart, Director General of ADA, emphasised in his welcoming words. “For more effectiveness and better co-ordination ADA sees it important to co-operate with the New EU-member states in capacity building in the areas of development education and awareness raising.” Representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and from contracting units from Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia as well as from the two most recent members Bulgaria and Romania met with experts from the OECD, from Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland and United Kingdom for an active exchange of experience.

Doug Bourn, Director of the Development Education Research Centre in London, related to the role of Global Education in the context of a rapidly changing Europe and pointed at the respective roles of governments, NGOs and education institutions. Ida McDonnell, expert adviser at the OECD Development Centre in Paris, presented the tasks, experiences and lessons learnt within the DAC Development Communication Network, which is looking back at many years of research and implementation of communication and awareness-raising activities in its member states. Christine Bedoya, Director of TRIALOG, explained the opportunities for co-financing of projects for European Development NGOs from the European Commission.

Case studies from Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia allowed insight in the already manifold and often different opportunities for development education in these countries. There was common agreement that the active exchange of information and the establishment of contacts between the Old and New EU member states and with the European Commission would be a relevant contribution to the success of any future development policy.

For more information (incl. the conference report and all presentations) please go to:

[http://www.ada.gv.at/view.php3?f\\_id=9544&LNG=de&version=](http://www.ada.gv.at/view.php3?f_id=9544&LNG=de&version=)

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### **3.3. ENPI: seminar report and new website on programming process**

Information provided by Florent Sebban, Eurostep

A seminar on the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) was organised jointly by Eurostep, WWF, Aprodev and WomNet on February 6 2007 in Brussels and entitled “Can Europe act as a responsible social and environmental player in its neighbourhood?” This initiative, has allowed around 20 civil society actors from the Mediterranean, Southern Caucasus and Eastern Europe (Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus) to exchange on the implementation of European aid to their countries under the new European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument, which will replace the former Meda and Tacis instruments. The final seminar report is available at:

<http://www.eurostep.org/wcm/dmddocuments/ENPI%20seminar%20summary%20report%20final.pdf>

Various follow up to this initiative are being organised, including the setting up of a specific website on the programming of EC aid to the Mediterranean, Southern Caucasus and Eastern Europe. This website is a tool for civil society actors to follow the discussions on the programming of EC assistance under the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI). This instrument has a budget of approximately 12 billion EUR and it is covering European Community aid to Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan,

Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Russia, Syria, Tunisia, and Ukraine for the coming seven years (2007-2013). The website includes background information and official documents aiming at helping civil society actors in their advocacy work on the programming of EC aid. Comments from local civil society actors will be available on the 17 country pages. In addition, the website includes various strategic documents, contact details, an updated calendar of important events and a news section to follow the progression of the negotiations. Visit the new website on European Community aid to Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus and South Mediterranean countries at: <http://www.enpi-programming.eu>

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### **3.4. The European Commission presents its results for development assistance in 2006**

Information provided by CONCORD EU Monitoring Newsletter, March 21, 2007; Source:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/351&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

On March 20 2007, the European Commission presented its results for external assistance and development aid in 2006. The EU (Commission and Member States) is the biggest donor providing around 55% of the world's development assistance. In 2006, the Commission remained one of the world's most significant donors. EU assistance goes to more than 150 countries, territories and organisations and focuses on global challenges such as tackling poverty, promoting democracy and security, social equity, economic prosperity, and environmental sustainability. Read the EC press release at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/351&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

For more information turn to: <http://europa.eu.int/europeaid>

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## **4. Information on activities of European NGOs**

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### **4.1. Development Education in Czech Republic and Austria: Sharing experience**

Information provided by Petra Krylová, ARPOK, Czech Republic

On the 1st and 2nd March 2007 the Agency for Development Assistance and Humanitarian Aid of the Olomouc Region (ARPOK) together with the Austrian Foundation for Development Research (ÖFSE) organized a conference focusing on experience sharing of development education NGOs from Czech Republic and Austria. The event took place in Czech Republic, near Olomouc, in a new unique building of the Center for environmental activities Slunakov. Over 30 participants from more than 20 Czech, Austrian but also Slovak and Hungarian NGOs attended the conference.

The conference focused mainly on the practical part of development education (DE) and the participants had a chance to learn about and try different methods used in DE such as producing flower sticks, knitting African soccer balls or experiencing what it would feel like to work in a sweatshop and live on a dollar per day. The conference was supported by the Austrian Development Cooperation and the Czech ODA programme and judging from the feedback of all participants it was truly worthwhile! View some photos at:

[http://www.trialog.or.at/docs/photos\\_olomouc.doc](http://www.trialog.or.at/docs/photos_olomouc.doc)

For more information about the conference, please contact Petra Krylová, [petra.krylova@arpok.cz](mailto:petra.krylova@arpok.cz).

For more information on APROK, please go to: <http://www.arpok.cz>

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#### **4.2. Balkan conference in Slovenia a success**

Source: <http://www.sloga-platform.org/>

The international conference "Changing conditions in the Balkan countries – challenges for future cooperation" took place in Ljubljana on February 26-27, 2007. The conference has been organized by the Slovenian NGDO platform SLOGA in the framework of the of the Regional Partnership Programme RPP (<http://www.regionalpartnership.at>).

Speakers came from international donors such as the EC, World Bank, USAID, from Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovak Republic as well as from the NGO sector. View the program at the following link: <http://www.sloga-platform.org/UserFiles/File/Conference/draft%20program%20-%202014.pdf>

Download the presentations of the speakers from <http://www.sloga-platform.org/> (under point 2: Mednarodna konferenca)

The participants repeatedly stressed the need for more co-operation and information sharing across the region. The Slovenian NGDO platform SLOGA will play an important role in further facilitating this process.

For further information please contact Marjan Huc: [office@sloga-platform.org](mailto:office@sloga-platform.org)

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#### **4.3. World Social Forum and Fair Trade**

Information provided by Gyorgyi Ujszaszi, Vedegylet, Hungary

The World Social Forum (WSF) has taken place between 20 and 25 January 2007 in Nairobi, Kenya. More than 40 thousand people attended the event. Appr. 800 workshops were organised on important issues. IFAT, the International Fair Trade Association, hosted fair trade related workshops focusing on Africa-related issues such as advantages and challenges of African organisations entering the fairtrade network or African certificates of fair trade products. Brazilian experiences arose during the Solidarity Economy workshop. Fair trade supporting NGOs, wholesalers, university researchers, fair trade producers had the chance to meet and change ideas, experiences and to build out networking links among all stakeholders.

The African chapter of IFAT - COFTA, the Cooperation for Fair Trade in Africa, run an information stand where the visitors were able to get information about fair trade and the work of IFAT, COFTA and KEFAT (Kenya Federation for Alternative Trade). The FTO (Fair Trade Organisation) Mark marked the tent. Fair trade producers had the chance to introduce themselves and their products. View some photos at: [http://www.trialog.or.at/docs/photos\\_vedegylet.doc](http://www.trialog.or.at/docs/photos_vedegylet.doc)

After the World Social Forum, Gyorgyi Ujszaszi from the Hungarian NGO Vedegylet/Protect the Future visited groups in Nairobi which produce fair trade products for the European market. She also visited the town of Tabaka. This place is famous for soap stone handicrafts. The whole process from mining through carving to packaging was introduced and documented by photos. These experiences and photos will be used in lectures, leaflets and brochures in Hungary in future. As Gyorgyi puts it: "Personal contacts are increasing the activity of the fair trade movement all over the world."

For more information on the World Social Forum, please go to: <http://www.worldsocialforum.org>

Find a report on the Fair Trade Workshops in Naorobi on the IFAT website at:

[http://www.ifat.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=265&Itemid=1](http://www.ifat.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=265&Itemid=1)

For more information on the Hungarian Fair Trade activities, please contact Gyorgyi Ujszaszi:

[gyorgyi@vedegylet.hu](mailto:gyorgyi@vedegylet.hu)

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#### **4.4. Results of the Midterm Review of the Regional Partnership Programme**

Information provided by Josefa Molitor-Ruckenbauer, RPP

The Regional Partnership Programme (RPP) for development cooperation aims to enhance the further cooperation between NGDO platforms (from Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia and Hungary) and to strengthen the capacities and the visibility of development cooperation in the participating Central European countries.

After half time of the project period of the Regional Partnership Programme (RPP, see <http://www.regionalpartnership.at>) the concept, strategies and activities so far have been reviewed. The purpose of this review was to give recommendations for the remaining phase of the programme. The recommendations form the basis for the modification and replanning of the project. Draxl & Zehetner network were contracted for this task. 38 qualitative interviews with resource persons from all RPP countries have been conducted and the main documents analysed. The main results were that the majority of the interview partners assessed the role of the RPP to be important and the activities that were carried out so far were appraised as correct and important. Especially the pilot projects have been mentioned as positive experience. On the whole, the satisfaction with the activities and cooperation of the platforms is very high and the wish of continuation of the cooperation after the end of the project is emphasized.

The main recommendations are:

- More reference to EU policy in the activities as the EU represents the important political frame of the cooperation.
- The aim and purpose of the regional cooperation among the central European countries has to be developed more clearly.
- The platforms have to work on their future cooperation to ensure sustainability once the project comes to an end.

Based on these recommendations, the programme will be modified and the new operational plan will be discussed with the donors. Find the Executive summary of the Midterm Review at:

<http://doku.cac.at/midtermsummary.doc>

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#### **4.5. Seminar in Malta: Cotton/Caught in a Dirty Business**

Information provided by Nina Zita, Koperattiva Kummerc Gust, Malta

On 9th of December 2006 a development education seminar with the theme "Cotton/Caught in a Dirty Business" was organized by Koperattiva Kummerc Gust, KKG, in collaboration with Global Action Schools (Kopin) in Valletta, Malta. During the seminar, Vince Caruana, Education Officer Forum for Justice and Cooperation/CEER, described our links with the global South through textiles. He presented some critique to the neo-liberal globalisation (economic, social and environmental aspects) and outlined the answer through Fair Trade. Nina Zita, a Swedish volunteer with KKG, showed her documentary film "Courageous Hearts without Retreat" about Cambodian garment workers and Swedish consumers. The seminar was targeted to teachers, youth leaders and interested individuals. At the end, a declaration was signed to urge the Government to take ethical aspects into consideration when purchasing goods and follow the example of many institutions in Europe, and to use Fair Trade products for internal service. The declaration was sent to the Prime Minister, the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee and the Director-General of the Contracts Division. It also attracted attention in the Maltese media.

For further information have a look at <http://www.l-arka.org> or contact Nina Zita at: [ninazzz@spray.se](mailto:ninazzz@spray.se)  
Find information about the film "Courageous Hearts without Retreat" at:  
[http://modigahjartan.northroad.net/start\\_eng.html](http://modigahjartan.northroad.net/start_eng.html)

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## 5. Sources of information

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### 5.1. CONCORD: Flash with latest news; Working Groups Newsletter for 2006

Information provided by Agnes Philippart, CONCORD

Read the latest issue of the CONCORD Flash which reports the latest news from the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development. From the content of the February issue: Consultation – a key word in improving relations between the European institutions and civil society. During the last month, CONCORD has come up with information and proposals on the Economic Partnership Agreements, the European Development Fund, the thematic programmes, and how to advance African agriculture. Read more in the Flash which you can download from: <http://www.concordeurope.org/Public/Page.php?ID=1186>

The latest Working Groups Newsletter covering the work of all CONCORD working groups from July till December 2006 is also available online. It contains not only CONCORD news (eg. on the Assessment and Adjustment Process) but also a summary on the work of the TRIALOG and DEEEP projects in the second half of 2006. Download the publication from: <http://www.concordeurope.org/Public/Page.php?ID=94&language=eng&PHPSESSID=d72381b1cf34844c04d4ae53885b03b0>

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### 5.2. Development and Transition

Information provided by Horatio Mortimer, LSE

The topic of the latest issue of "Development and Transition" (published three times a year jointly by UNDP and LSE) is Conflict and Development. The issue discusses the challenge of economic and political transition amid the aftermath of military conflict and the difficulties of post-conflict recovery. Download it from:

[http://www.developmentandtransition.net/uploads/issuesAttachments/18/Dev\\_And\\_Trans%20eng.pdf](http://www.developmentandtransition.net/uploads/issuesAttachments/18/Dev_And_Trans%20eng.pdf)

Read also the precious December 2006 issue on Poverty and Inequality with a special focus on Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS. The direct link is:

<http://www.developmentandtransition.net/uploads/issuesAttachments/15/DevTran5web.pdf>

For more information go to: <http://www.developmentandtransition.net>

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### 5.3. KARAT News

Information provided by Joanna Szabunko, KARAT

The latest issue of KARAT News is available at: [http://www.karat.org/news1/last\\_news.html](http://www.karat.org/news1/last_news.html)

It contains eg. an "Online Kit on European Neighbourhood Policy and Gender", a report on a 'Capacity Building Seminar on ENP and Gender' which took place in Warsaw and many other topics related to gender equality in the CEE/CIS countries.

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### 5.4. Latest Fair Trade Newsletters

Information provided by Fair Trade Center; Fair Trade Advocacy Office

Find the latest newsletters of the Fair Trade Centre, a programme implemented by the Belgian Technical Cooperation at the following link: <http://www.befair.be/en/articles/www-befair-be/4-newsletter/newsletters.cfm>

The Fair Trade Advocacy Newsletter, elaborated by the Fair Trade Advocacy Office in Brussels, a joint initiative of FLO (Fairtrade Labeling Organizations International), IFAT (International Fair Trade Association), NEWS! (Network of European Worldshops) and EFTA (European Fair Trade Association) can be downloaded from: [http://www.fairtrade-advocacy.org/141\\_newsletters.php?selected\\_menu=0](http://www.fairtrade-advocacy.org/141_newsletters.php?selected_menu=0)

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### **5.5. EU-Africa e-Alert**

Information provided by ECDPM

A new e-newsletter of the European Center for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) aims to provide quick and regular information and analysis on the EU-African relations, especially the decisions and processes that impact on the implementation of the new EU Strategy for Africa. The EU-Africa e-alert is expected to be a living document and is meant to offer African and European stakeholders the opportunity to share information and exchange points of view and is done in partnership with the African Union Commission. Read the latest issue at: <http://www.ecdpm.org/eu-africa-alert>  
Do not hesitate to send interesting links and articles which can contribute to enriching this e-alert. To subscribe, comment or contribute to the newsletter, please write to: [europafrica.e-alert@ecdpm.org](mailto:europafrica.e-alert@ecdpm.org)

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## **6. Funding Opportunities / Search for researcher / Prizes**

### **6.1. Third and final RPP Call for Proposals**

Source: <http://www.regionalpartnership.at>

The third and final Call for Proposals of the Regional Partnership Programme (RPP) was launched on February 14, 2007. It is open for initiatives in the field of development awareness/education and development cooperation. NGOs from new member states (NMS) participating in the RPP (Slovak Republic, Czech Republic, Slovenia and Hungary) are invited to submit their proposals together with Austrian NGOs. The lead agency has to come from the NMS. There are EUR 244.800,- available for grants in development education, EUR 247.500,- are available for grants in development cooperation. 78 % of these funds come from the Austrian Development Cooperation and 22 % from the respective national governments.

Applications have to be sent until 11th April 2007 the latest. The approved projects can start at the earliest in the beginning of June, results on the appraisal of the proposal will be published on the website. Find the call documents and more information at: <http://www.eu-platform.at/english/start.asp?b=1288>

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### **6.2. Presidency Fund: third Call completed, next Call depending on funds**

Source: <http://www.presidencyfund.org>

The Presidency Fund was created in 2005 to promote the engagement of NGOs and other civil society actors from the 10 New Member States (2004 EU entry) in the European Union's Development Policy Debates. So far, 2 calls for proposals have been concluded and the results are published on the Fund's website. As a result of the second call, the following organisations have received grants: CARDET, Cyprus; HAND, Hungary; Sisterhood Foundation, Hungary; Lithuanian Consumer Institute, Lithuania; Polish Green Network, Poland; SLOGA, Slovenia. The results of the completed third Call are expected to be published soon.

The next call which was initially foreseen for March/April 2007 will be issued subject to the availability of funds. Please check check the Presidency Fund website for the latest information: <http://www.presidencyfund.org>

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### **6.3. Polish NGO searching for short term researcher on EU development cooperation**

Information sent by Aleksandra Antonowicz, Polish Green Network

The programme "Action for Global South" of the Polish Green Network (<http://www.globalnepoludnie.pl>; <http://www.zielonasiec.pl>, member of the NGDO platform Zagranica) is looking for a short term researcher to cooperate in preparing an NGO guide and to do an analysis on EU development aid and its relations with new member states.

The needed analysis concerning EU Development Policy in theory and practice should answer the questions:

- What are the EU Development Policy strategic documents?
- How essential is the impact of EU Policy on creating national development aid policies (for new member states)?
- Short introduction of following EU mechanisms: Development Cooperation Instrument, DG Development, EuropeAid, new instrument for supporting democracy and human rights, EDF, EBI (How they use EU ODA; How these bodies are related one to another; How big impact on these bodies EU members can have and in what way)
- Short guidelines for NGOs interested in applying for EU development funds.

A honorarium of 1000 EUR is available for this analysis which needs to be ready by the end of April at the latest.

For more information please contact Aleksandra Antonowicz, Action for Global South coordinator, Polish Green Network at: [ola@globalnepoludnie.pl](mailto:ola@globalnepoludnie.pl)

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### **6.4. EADI Prize for Development Studies 2007**

Source: EADI e-newsletter No.1- 2007 (March)

EADI announces the 2007 prize for excellence in development research which intends to encourage creative, interdisciplinary, multifaceted research on development issues. Deadline for entries is 31st May 2007. For further information please visit [http://www.eadi.org/detail\\_page.phtml?page=eadi\\_prize\\_2007](http://www.eadi.org/detail_page.phtml?page=eadi_prize_2007)

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### **6.5. Call for nominations for the Council of Europe's 2007 North-South Prize**

Information provided by the North-South Centre

The North-South Prize of the Council of Europe has been awarded annually since 1995 to two public figures who are recognised for their deep commitment, outstanding achievements and/or the hope they have generated in the field of human rights protection, the defence of pluralist democracy and North-South solidarity and partnership. The North-South Centre would like to invite you to name individuals, a group of individuals or an organisation whose activities are considered worthy of distinction. The deadline for presenting nominations is 15 May 2007. Nominations should be sent to Mrs. Eliana Carvalho, Programming and Communication Sector: [eliana.carvalho@coe.int](mailto:eliana.carvalho@coe.int)

For more information please go to: [http://www.coe.int/T/E/North-South\\_Centre/](http://www.coe.int/T/E/North-South_Centre/)

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END

One of TRIALOG's aims is to intensify the exchange of information and experience between development NGOs (NGDOs) in accession countries, EU Member States and the global South. Through the TIS we forward you information on global development issues, conferences and seminars, NGO funding opportunities, enlargement issues and NGO activities in "East, West and South", provided to us by our

partners. Please note that the views presented in articles or publications/weblinks not authored by ourselves are not necessarily those of TRIALOG.

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.

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 at <http://www.trialog.or.at/main.asp?m=2,124> or contact [office@trialog.or.at](mailto:office@trialog.or.at)

You can download this issue and earlier ones also from our website <http://www.trialog.or.at/main.asp?m=2,124>

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