



TRIALOG Information Service (TIS)

(03/08/2007)

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

Read the TIS online at: <http://www.trialog.or.at/tis>

CONTENT

1. Activities of European NGOs

<http://trialog-information-service.blogspot.com/search/label/Activities%20of%20European%20NGDOs>

- 1.1. CONCORD exhibition: Call for photos open until August 31
- 1.2. DEEEP Development Education Summer School 2007
- 1.3. 126 European Global Education multipliers trained by GLEN in 2007
- 1.4. Genderglobal - awarded with the EUREGIO innovation price 2007
- 1.5. Countdown for the GLEN Eurizons 2007 Tour
- 1.6. Glopolis seminar: Climate, Agriculture and Development - CEE NGO Advocacy
- 1.7. GLEN training seminar: Transferring South Experience into quality global education

2. EU development policy and EU enlargement

<http://trialog-information-service.blogspot.com/search/label/EU%20development%20policy%20and%20EU%20enlargement>

- 2.1. Portuguese Presidency Project: EU-Africa Dialogue
- 2.2. Europeans and Development Aid: EC publishes Eurobarometer Survey
- 2.3. EP resolution: The Millennium Development Goals at the Midway Point
- 2.4. Understanding EU Development Cooperation: Brochure and RPP Seminar

3. Events

<http://trialog-information-service.blogspot.com/search/label/Events>

- 3.1. October 14-19, 2007: Study Visit on Expert Sending
- 3.2. September 24-25, 2007: Added Value of FDR for new member states
- 3.3. September 12-15, 2007: Uniting Humanity. Toward a World Citizenship
- 3.4. September 10-12, 2007: CONCORD event for NGDO Platforms
- 3.5. September 6-7, 2007: Sustainable Agriculture, Bio-Diversity Protection and Fair Trade

4. Funding opportunities

<http://dialog-information-service.blogspot.com/search/label/Funding%20Opportunities>

- 4.1. Call for Proposals for NGOs from 12 NMS: development debates
- 4.2. Presidency Fund: Results of the Third Call for Proposals

5. News from NGDO platforms

<http://dialog-information-service.blogspot.com/search/label/News%20from%20NGDO%20platforms>

- 5.1. Moldovan and Latvian NGO summer cooperation
- 5.2. Hot summer for Romanian NGDOs
- 5.3. The Baltic Platform Meeting in June

6. TRIALOG News

<http://dialog-information-service.blogspot.com/search/label/TRIALOG%20News>

- 6.1. Relation between TRIALOG and CONCORD
- 6.2. New TRIALOG information folder

1. Activities of European NGDOs

1.1. CONCORD exhibition: Call for photos open until August 31

Information provided by CONCORD

<http://dialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2007/07/concord-exhibition-call-for-photos-open.html>

The European Union is the biggest economic actor and aid donor in the world. How do developing countries see Europe?

CONCORD, through its membership, has launched a call for photos on what is the impact of Europe in developing countries. By taking and sending their pictures to CONCORD, people from developing countries can demonstrate the influence of Europe on their life and their country. All photos will be displayed on the CONCORD website and everyone will be able to vote for their favourite photos. The fifty photos with the strongest messages will be presented as a photo exhibition which will travel within Europe for a couple of years starting in October 2007.

Communicate this initiative to your colleagues and partners of the Global South. The call for photos is open from now on until 31 August 2007. For more information, to participate in the call or to vote for your favorite photos, go to the CONCORD website <http://www.concordeurope.org/>.

1.2. DEEEP Development Education Summer School 2007

Information provided by Chiara Tripepi, DEEEP

<http://dialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2007/08/deep-development-education-summer.html>

The 2007 Development Education Summer School, co-organised by DEEEP and the Slovak NGDO Platform was held near Bratislava, Slovakia, from June 26th to July 3rd. Around 100 participants from more than 36 countries (26 EU countries, and 10 from developing countries) met in Casta-Papiernicka for a week-long learning process during which they tackled the issue of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the role played by development education. Several experts, from international organisations as well as NGOs gave the participants the opportunity to broaden their knowledge on MDGs. The choice of MDGs was not casual: 2007 represents the mid-term point towards the achievement of the MDGs.

Participants were divided into 5 working groups - Group A: Politicians and decision makers; Group B: Media; Group C: teachers and youth movements; Group D: Migrants organisations and diasporas; Group E: Business and companies - each joined by a facilitator and another expert - called at the summer school the 'devil's advocate'- who closely followed the participants' learning process. During the last plenary session, participants presented the outcomes of their discussions and debates in order to share with everyone the work they carried out during the week. A lot of space was also given to the participants so that they could easily meet each other - in the open space sessions or the audiovisual market, just to name a few.

For more information on the 2007 Development Education Summer School (incl. the daily summer school newsletters), please visit the following websites: http://www.deeep.org/english/about_deeep/summer_school and <http://summerschool.mvro.sk>. A final report will be available around mid September.

Save the date for next year's Development Education Summer School, which will be held in the Netherlands, with once more a very topical issue: "Getting global poverty on the European political agenda through development education, campaigning, advocacy". For more information visit <http://www.deeep.org/> or contact DEEEP Information Officer Chiara Tripepi at: c.tripepi@deeep.org

1.3. 126 European Global Education multipliers trained by GLEN in 2007

Information provided by Laure Heinrich, ASA/GLEN

<http://dialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2007/08/126-european-global-education.html>

The preparation phase of GLEN 2007 is finished! 126 young Europeans are now leaving in bi- or trinational teams for a three month-stay in Africa, Asia or South-Eastern Europe. They will work together with local organisations in the South on specific development projects.

GLEN, the Global Education Network of Young Europeans, founded in 2004, aims at raising awareness on global interdependencies and development issues. GLEN consists of 12 civic partner organisations from old and new member states of the European Union : Austria, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovak Republic and Slovenia. In 2007, 4 new partners joined the network (Austria, Slovenia, Malta and France).

In 2007, the preparation phase was split into three groups: French speaking Africa, with the preparation in French, English speaking Africa and Asia, with the preparation in English. The preparation of the participants of GLEN was carried out by former participants. Topics such as development politics, intercultural communication, European diversity and global interdependencies were covered. In a participatory way, the participants were encouraged to critically discuss and exchange on these topics. The main goal of the preparation was to let the participants reflect on the experience they will make and on how to make use of it back in Europe.

TRIALOG financed in 2007 the preparation costs and the scholarships of ten GLEN participants from the new member states. After their return to Europe, these young Europeans can act as multipliers on development issues in Europe. They will meet again, make common projects, actions, exhibitions and more, together with the GLEN organisations, and thereby contribute to a better understanding of global issues within Europe.

For more information on GLEN and the preparation of the new cycle in 2008, please go to <http://www.glen-europe.org/>.

1.4. Genderglokal - awarded with the EUREGIO innovation price 2007

Information provided by Andrea Pavlovec-Meixner, Genderglokal

<http://dialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2007/08/genderglokal-awarded-with-euregio.html>

"Genderglokal - Gender sensitive education for sustainability" - is an interregional project for raising awareness on ecology, gender and development issues carried out by Südwind Niederösterreich (project management: Gertrude Eigelsreiter Jashari) in cooperation with Austrian and Czech partner organisations and the regional government of Niederösterreich/Lower Austria (department of environment and department of gender issues). In June "Genderglokal" has been awarded with the EUREGIO innovation price 2007 in the category „human and culture “.

On the basis of the UN decade of education for sustainable development (2007 – 2013), the EU gender programme and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as well as the Climate Alliance, Fair Trade and on the basis of the priorities of the environmental and development programme of the Lower Austrian government in regard to the MDGs, the project focuses on the following main themes: sustainability and development, gender and development as well as intercultural communication.

"Genderglokal" officially started on March 6th 2007. Until November 2007 a number of activities are planned. „Genderglokal “is co-financed by the government of Lower Austria and by the European Fund for Regional Development (EFRE) of the European Union.

For further information please visit the project website <http://www.genderglokal.at/>.

Or contact Südwind Entwicklungspolitik Niederösterreich at: suedwind.noewest@oneworld.at

1.5. Countdown for the GLEN Eurizons 2007 Tour

Information provided by Zuzana Kissova, Eurizons

<http://dialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2007/07/countdown-for-glen-eurizons-2007-tour.html>

"We are part of this world - let's be part of its future" - After the successful campaign in 2006, GLEN Eurizons, the European Tour for Global Responsibility, will also take place in 2007.

The last preparations are running: young Europeans from 14 countries are getting ready for the great summer adventure with a noble goal. Between August 22nd and September 13th 2007, a team of 60 campaigners will hitch-hike 3000 km through 8 European countries, joining 8 events in 8 cities and creating a colorful development education caravan.

On their way they want to:

- raise awareness and educate about global interdependencies and development issues and involve Europeans in an active reflection of their responsibility;
- remind politicians to fulfill their promises towards the 8 Millennium Development Goals and
- stand up for fair trade regulations within the EPA (Economic Partnership Agreement) negotiations.

The highlight of this year's tour will be the meeting with the members of the European Parliament in Brussels, where the "Eurizonists" will bring the voices and opinions of European public to the discussion about trade policy and currently criticized EPAs with the ACP countries.

As last year, the campaign was thoroughly prepared. TRIALOG supported the preparation team members from NGOs in the new EU member states. Two capacity building seminars in Krakow and Gdansk took place. In the beginning of July the team had its final meeting - now the real countdown starts - in less than 4 weeks Eurizons will hit the road and 'rock' the cities of Riga (LV), Krakow (PL), Bratislava (SK), Praha (CZ), Basel (CH), Freiburg (DE), Nancy (FR) and Brussels (BE) with street actions, political street theatre, panel discussions, development education workshops, concerts and much more - everyone's sincerely invited!

For details on the events schedule, background info, news from the tour, discussions in the weblog, photos and contact details please go to <http://www.eurizons.net/>. Eurizons is a project of GLEN, the Global Education Network of Young Europeans, please visit <http://www.glen-europe.org/>

For more information please contact the project coordinator of Eurizons, Christoph Hinske, at: christoph.hinske@eurizons.net

1.6. Glopolis seminar: Climate, Agriculture and Development - CEE NGO Advocacy

Information provided by Marek Vaculik, Glopolis

<http://dialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2007/07/glopolis-seminar-climate-agriculture.html>

A regional capacity-building seminar focused on Climate, Agriculture and Development – CEE NGO Advocacy. The seminar was organized by Glopolis - Prague Global Policy Institute (<http://www.glopolis.org/>) and took place in Prague from May 21 until May 23, 2007. The seminar hosted about 30 participants, mainly from development, environmental, alter-globalization and other civil society organizations (CSOs) from the Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries along with top NGO experts from the EU-15 countries.

The main objectives of the seminar were to:

- find linkages between climate change, agriculture and development,
- exchange experience with other civil society organizations from the CEE region and with experts and NGOs from the EU,
- strengthen regional and EU networks,
- strategize, brainstorm and plan how to enhance NGO advocacy and policy work in the region.

The seminar was divided into two parts – an analytical one with panel discussions, workshops and brainstormings where participants presented different views on, and links between, economic globalization and sustainable development (food sovereignty, climate change, EPAs). They identified and discussed pro-development and pro-sustainable alternatives to these global problems.

The second part consisted of meetings between Czech NGO representatives and decision-makers on the advocacy work and lobbying. This was followed by a debriefing of the meeting and strategic brainstorming about advocacy strategies for CEE NGOs.

The recommendations can be summarized as follows:

CEE NGO's need to monitor and analyze relevant national, EU and international policies (agricultural, energy/climate and trade policy) and their impacts on sustainable development (with a view to increasing policy coherence for development) to be able to advocate for alternatives in these fields among key target groups (decision-makers, media, public). This includes learning how to hand over advocacy skills in the local work, through transfer of knowledge and skills from selected international and European development campaigns.

For further information on the Glopolis seminar please contact: vaculik@glopolis.org

1.7. GLEN training seminar: Transferring South Experience into quality global education

Information provided by Joanna Muenker, ASA/GLEN

<http://dialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2007/07/glen-training-seminar-transferring.html>

The Global Education Network of Young Europeans, GLEN, established in 2004, is active in global education activities. It organises three-month stays for selected young Europeans in East-European, Asian and African countries. Since the stay abroad is part of a wider range of activities aiming at awareness raising in Europe, GLEN organises accompanying activities which prepare participants of the program for using their experience in global education activities.

"Transferring South experience into quality global education" was the topic of a seminar, conducted within this broader framework for participants of GLEN in May 2007. The Slovene Philanthropy, a new member of GLEN hosted the seminar, which took place in Vojsko, West of Ljubljana, Slovenia. 22 Europeans from 6 European countries participated in the 4 days seminar co-financed by TRIALOG. Those participants, most of which were former and future participants of GLEN, will work as multipliers for issues of global development in the future.

The seminar was facilitated by the former GLEN participants Dorota Gadzinowska and Gabriele Lipska who work for the Polish Humanitarian Organisation (PHO). After the GLEN project phase, they have conducted several global education activities in cooperation with Polish schools. The seminar offered a broad overview on organisational, methodological and conceptual aspects of global education particularly in schools.

A special emphasis was put on how to use South experience without reproducing stereotypes. Representation of the so-called South, such the assumption, is often using pictures which show a very small and distinct part of the reality of life in these countries. GLEN is concerned with producing an alternative picture in and through its global education activities. The seminar offered a great possibility for sharing ideas concerning this topic and for exchanging on different country contexts. The international context of the seminar contributed to strengthening exchange of knowledge for further networking and engagement in global education on country- and cross-country level.

For further information visit the GLEN website at: <http://www.glen-europe.org>

For additional information please contact Joanna Muenker, ASA/GLEN, at: joannamue@gmx.de

2. EU development policy and EU enlargement

2.1. Portuguese Presidency Project: EU-Africa Dialogue

Source: <http://www.plataformaongd.pt>

<http://trialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2007/08/portuguese-presidency-project-eu-africa.html>

The Presidency Project of the Portuguese NGDO Platform which is focused on the Europe-Africa Dialogue was officially launched with a public event in Lisbon on the 5th of July. During the event the main priorities and activities of the project were presented, as well as the methodology of coordination with other national and international initiatives. The event was attended by over 50 participants, including representatives from NGOs and national and international institutions, and got good media coverage.

Taking into account the Portuguese Presidency of the EU and the EU-Africa Summit, which will take place during the second semester of 2007, the Portuguese NGDO Platform has prepared a project focused on civil society participation in the dialogue between the European and African continents. The project will address three main interconnected themes: Governance, Migration, and Development Co-operation. Its main event will be a Civil Society Forum, gathering together representatives from European and African organisations.

For more information (incl. the first presidency project newsletter issue) please go to the website of the Portuguese NGDO platform at <http://www.plataformaongd.pt/> and click on "Portuguese EU Presidency" in the left-hand menu. Official presidency website: <http://www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN>

2.2. Europeans and Development Aid: EC publishes Eurobarometer Survey

Source: CONCORD EU Monitoring Newsletter, July 11, 2007

<http://dialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2007/08/europeans-and-development-aid-ec.html>

On the eve of the symbolic mid-term date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a European Commission survey (published in June 2007) shows broad public support for the European Union's priorities in development co-operation. Most Europeans (66%) consider reducing extreme poverty and hunger in developing countries as a priority. Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases is the second goal (46%). And across the EU, Sub-Saharan Africa stands out in most people's minds as being in greatest need of aid (64%).

The fieldwork of this study was conducted between 14 February and 18 March 2007 in the 27 Member States of the European Union.

Access the full EC survey results (64 pages) and look at the responses in your country at:

http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/michel/speeches/docs/ip/2007/EurobaroEN.pdf

2.3. EP resolution: The Millennium Development Goals at the Midway Point

<http://dialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2007/08/ep-resolution-millennium-development.html>

2007 marks the mid-point to meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2015. On 20 June 2007 the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the MDGs' midway point. The document lists 108 points which refer to the state of the art in different areas and calls for further action.

Find the text adopted by the European Parliament at:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2007-0274+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>

2.4. Understanding EU Development Cooperation: Brochure and RPP Seminar

Source: <http://www.eu-platform.at>; <http://www.regionalpartnership.at>

<http://dialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2007/07/understanding-eu-development.html>

European Council # Council of the EU # Council of Europe???

The Austrian EU platform has recently printed a very useful publication on "Understanding EU Development Cooperation". The brochure gives a good overview and explanations on the EU development cooperation structures and procedures. It is available for download at: <http://www.eu-platform.at/english/start.asp?showmenu=yes&fr=&b=805&ID=14032> If you would like to order a hardcopy or obtain the rights to use the raw version for a publication in your own language, please write to Claudia Bonk: office@eu-platform.at

In the framework of the Regional Partnership Programme (RPP), the Austrian EU platform held a seminar on 'Understanding EU Development Cooperation' in Vienna on 13 and 14 June 2007. 22 people coming from NGOs from the different RPP countries (CZ, SK, H, SLO, A) participated in the seminar. Experts from the Austrian EU-Platform gave a comprehensive overview of the functioning of the European Union and Community. They explained the different institutions and bodies, their functions and influence as well as informed on the processes between the institutions regarding legislation, programming and budgeting. After a substantial introduction on the functioning of EU development cooperation, the participants were also informed about the possibilities and importance of NGOs to actively involve themselves in the EU development cooperation policies e.g. by participating in the European network CONCORD (<http://www.concordeurope.org>).

3. Events

3.1. October 14-19, 2007: Study Visit on Expert Sending

<http://dialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2007/08/october-14-19-2007-study-visit-on.html>

TRIALOG is organizing a study visit to German and Austrian expert sending organizations.

After an introduction into the topic with external experts and with the possibility to discuss different terms and definitions as well as the image that one has about the own organization and its profile, the participants will be visiting AGEH (Germany), DED (Germany) and HORIZONT3000 (Austria). On Thursday, October 18, it is planned to hold a high-level roundtable with representatives from new member states and the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Vienna. The last day of the study visit will be used as a reflexion day.

What are the main topics to be tackled during the Study Visit?

In every organization the group will get information about the advertisement of open positions, the selection process of possible candidates (so called experts or development workers), the preparation before the stay abroad and the monitoring of these missions. Additionally the legal context in different countries and social security aspects will be touched upon - e.g. how to deal with political or natural crisis situations. Both will be looked at on an organizational and individual level.

Who is the target group of the Study Visit?

This first Study Visit in October is targeted to Czech, Polish, Slovak, Slovenian and Hungarian decision makers from NGDOs, but also from the relevant Ministries or other state agencies. The NGDO-participants should represent organizations which are within the process of founding a department of development-worker/expert-sending within their organizations. A second Study Visit will take place in spring 2008 for participants from Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta and Romania.

What are the objectives of the Study Visit?

At the end of the Study Visit, having visited 3 NGOs and met international experts, the participants will have a broad perspective and basic knowledge of (dis-) advantages of different expert-sending systems applied in other European and non-European countries. According to the principle "the more we know, the more questions we have ..." – the participants will also have a better idea which aspects they still have to clarify in their home countries.

Deadline for registration: Friday, 10th of August 2007

For further information please contact TRIALOG Capacity Building Officer Petra Kreinecker at p.kreinecker@dialog.or.at

3.2. September 24-25, 2007: Added Value of FDR for new member states

<http://dialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2007/08/september-24-25-2007-added-value-of-fdr.html>

The TRIALOG seminar "Added Value for NMS organizations" in preparation of the next FDR meeting (Funding for Development and Relief) will take place in Brussels from 24th – 25th of September.

All NMS platforms are warmly welcomed and encouraged to participate in the FDR working group meetings which take place regularly in March, June and October. At the last meetings, only one or two

NMS platforms were represented. Therefore it was decided to organize this seminar to lower the obstacles for NMS platforms to participate in these FDR meetings.

FDR - Funding for Development and Relief is one of the four CONCORD core working groups to which all CONCORD members are supposed to send one representative.

The September seminar is targeted to representatives of NMS NGOs which are part of their national development NGO-platform. They should be selected by their national NGDO platform and represent their country platform in the FDR-meetings in Brussels. The participants should be motivated and able to bring the news from the FDR working group meetings back to their national platforms.

The seminar will make the work of the FDR group (and of the EC) more accessible and better understandable to FDR-"newcomers" explaining the actual work of FDR. The agenda will focus on the needs of NMS and will highlight the possibilities for NMS to play an active role within the European NGO-scene and to influence European policies.

The deadline for registration (via your platform) has been extended to Wednesday, August 8, 2007.

For further information please contact TRIALOG Capacity Building Officer Petra Kreinecker at: p.kreinecker@dialog.or.at

3.3. September 12-15, 2007: Uniting Humanity. Toward a World Citizenship

Information sent by Virginia Valova, Executive director, Open Education Centre
<http://dialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2007/08/september-12-15-2007-uniting-humanity.html>

In the framework of the "Uniting Humanity. Learning Advocacy for a World Citizenship."- GRUNDTVIG Project realized by 12 partners from the European Union, the Open Education centre in Bulgaria in co-operation with the Scarman Trust (UK) organizes a dissemination seminar in which the Uniting Humanity - materials will be presented.

The Seminar will take place in the Black sea resort of Primorsko, Bulgaria, from September 12th to September 15th. The convener of the seminar will be Rumen Valchev from the Open Education Centre. Guest lectures will be given by Andy Harvey, administrator of the Uniting Humanity - project and freelance consultant (UK) and by Kiril Temkov, professor at the University of Skopje, Macedonia.

Accommodation will be covered by the organizers. Participants from Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey, Greece, Poland and South Africa are expected to attend the seminar.

For more information on the topics to be discussed download the programme at http://www.dialog.or.at/docs/uniting_humanity.pdf or contact oecontact@mbcontact.bg

3.4. September 10-12, 2007: CONCORD event for NGDO Platforms

<http://dialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2007/08/september-10-12-2007-concord-event-for.html>

CONCORD (<http://www.concordeurope.org>) is inviting all its affiliates to Brussels to discuss two issues which have been high on the list of priorities of many members:

- Financial sustainability of Platforms / Networks
- Inter-regional Civil Society Dialogue

During the first day of the event, CONCORD members are invited to share their experience, identify pros and cons of the different funding options and develop new approaches on financial aspects of NGO Platforms/Networks. This first day is part of CONCORD's initiative to strengthen the capacities of its members (in line with the seminars of August 2006 and April 2007).

On the second day and the morning of the third day, CONCORD members will meet with national NGDO platforms from Latin America (gathered in the regional network "Mesa de Articulacion") to exchange on experiences and to discuss potential common interests.

Participants to this meeting:

Representatives of National NGDO Platforms and Networks (preferably elected/board members) wanting to engage at a strategic and prospective level on questions linked to financial strategy and on the relation of Europe with other regions of the world.

Accommodation will be provided by CONCORD. TRIALOG will reimburse travel costs of the 5 representatives of NMS platforms which are not yet CONCORD members (LT, EE, CY, RO, BG). Participants who want TRIALOG support for their participation in this event (all days or either 1st or 2nd/3rd day) and are nominated by the platform should send their application (http://www.trialog.or.at/docs/application_for_events_2007.doc) to TRIALOG Capacity Building Officer Petra Kreinecker before August 15. Email to: p.kreinecker@trialog.or.at

For more information on this CONCORD capacity building event please contact: Andreas Vogt, CONCORD Membership and Networking Officer, at: Andreas.VOGT@concordeurope.org

3.5. September 6-7, 2007: Sustainable Agriculture, Bio-Diversity Protection and Fair Trade

<http://trialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2007/08/september-6-7-2007-sustainable.html>

A seminar on "Sustainable Agriculture, Bio-Diversity Protection and Fair Trade – together against Poverty" will take place in Warsaw from September 6-7, 2007. It is organised by the Italian NGO CEFA (European Committee for training and agriculture) together with the Slow Food Foundation and Fair-Trade in the context of their development education project (financed by the EC under the budget line 21-02-03). A broad spectrum of topics - from fish to honey.. - and participants from the "global South", the "East" and the "North" will guarantee an interesting discussion around traditions and innovations in agriculture with the aim of poverty eradication.

Find more on the seminar at: http://www.trialog.or.at/docs/sustainable_agriculture_poland.pdf

For further information on the seminar or the project, please contact Aloys Rutakamize: a.rutakamize@cefaonlus.it

4. Funding opportunities

4.1. Call for Proposals for NGOs from 12 NMS: development debates

Information sent by Jan Szczycinski, UNDP Communications Officer

<http://trialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2007/07/call-for-proposals-for-ngos-from-12-nms.html>

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Commission announce a call for proposals for non-profit organizations from 12 EU New Member States (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia) to organize national debates on development cooperation and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The project is funded by the European Commission and is implemented by UNDP - UNDP Bratislava Regional Centre and UNDP Country Office in Poland.

UNDP and EC cooperation aims at raising awareness and building support for development cooperation and achievement of MDGs. To this end UNDP will be contracting non-profit organizations from these

countries for organizing debates in October 2007, promoting the issue in national media, preparing materials/brochures.

The debates have primary objectives of promoting the European Development Days 2007, mobilizing national media coverage of development/MDGs topics (including MDGs mid-point assessment), mobilizing participation of Members of Parliaments (MPs) and decision-makers in discussing development topics.

Eligible non-profit organizations, which have capacities of mobilizing participation of MPs and media, are encouraged to apply for this project. The project does not require providing co-funding. It is advisable that the applicant has at least one Member of the Parliament (for example the Speaker or Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs or European Integration committee) and at least one nationwide media as co-organisers of the debate.

The detailed information accompanied by application templates is available at:

http://europeandcis.undp.org/?menu=p_tenders&tid=175.

The deadline for submitting the applications is 24 August 2007.

For further inquiries about this initiative, please contact Ms. Simona Petru, Project Manager, simona.petru@undp.org, tel. +421 2 59337-413 or Mr. Jan Szczycinski, UNDP Communications Officer, jan.szczycinski@undp.org.

4.2. Presidency Fund: Results of the Third Call for Proposals

Information sent by Samantha Saldanha, Presidency Fund

<http://dialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2007/07/presidency-fund-results-of-third-call.html>

The Third Call for Proposals issued by the Presidency Fund (<http://www.presidencyfund.org>) came to a close on 21 February 2007. As a result of the call 44 applications were submitted to the Preliminary Phase of which 22 were invited to participate in the Main Phase of the Call. Unfortunately two organisations did not submit a Main application and so, 20 project proposals were assessed by the Presidency Fund Board. It must be said that the quality of the proposals submitted to the Preliminary and the Main Phase were of a quality that surpassed the previous two calls and the Board members deliberated much before selecting six proposals.

To begin with, the National Platform of Maltese NGOs was selected with its proposal to build up its capacity and that of its members to participate more actively in the debate on the EU Development Policy. This project would also help build up the Secretariat to ensure the long term sustainability of the Platform. With the upcoming Presidency of Slovenia and its focus on climate change, the project submitted by Focus Association for Sustainable Development with their project to link the issues of climate change with the general debate on development cooperation was also an obvious choice for the Board. The project submitted by the Environment Management & Law Association- EMLA was also selected for its interesting focus on environmental governance in the global south and the implementation of the project which would involve NGOs from five of the EU-10 countries. A Latvian NGO was also awarded aid in a project applying the principles of the global movement Social Watch to the EU-10. Lastly, the Network of East-West Women was awarded aid again to continue the project "Gender Watch" in order to expand the activities of the Gender Watch Network to focus on aid monitoring at the EU level especially with respect to development cooperation with the CEE/CIS countries. With aid received in the first Call for Proposals, NEWW set up the Gender Watch. The Hungarian National Platform, HAND, was also selected for its proposal to build up its capacity to focus on aid-monitoring.

To read summaries of each of these Projects, you can follow this link

<http://www.presidencyfund.org/wcm/content/category/24/349/129/>

5. News from NGDO platforms

5.1. Moldovan and Latvian NGO summer cooperation

Information provided by Mara Simana, Latvian NGDO platform LAPAS

<http://dialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2007/08/moldovan-and-latvian-ngo-summer.html>

It is very difficult for individuals in societies in transition to believe that they can effect change. Building a strong civil society was one of Latvia's greatest challenges during its transition from a command to a market economy. In June 2007 representatives of 5 Moldovan NGOs visited five active Latvian communities in which the non governmental sector plays a pivotal role. Together with the Latvian counterparts, they detailed a programme for the "Latvian Moldovan NGO Summer Academy" which will take place from 17 – 24th August, 2007, hosted by LAPAS, the Latvian NGDO platform.

15 Moldovan and 15 Latvian NGOs will take part in the August event to discuss such issues as:

- Work and activities of Community Foundations.
- Development of local partnership between NGOs and Public Authorities.
- Community centres as a tool for local development.
- Work with youth. Initiatives, programs and activities. Youth involvement and increasing of its activity in a community development.
- NGO associations and coalitions. NGO and civil society representation in the development, implementation and monitoring of legislation.

The Academy experience will give NGOs from both countries the opportunity to explore cooperation on future projects.

For further information please contact: simane@lapas.lv or info@lapas.lv

5.2. Hot summer for Romanian NGDOs

Information provided by Claudia Iatan, National Platform Coordinator, FOND, Romania

<http://dialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2007/08/hot-summer-for-romanian-ngdos.html>

The end of June and the month of July featured three events supported by TRIALOG:

28-29 June, Iasi: "Moldova in the context of the Romanian Development Cooperation Policy and of the European Neighbourhood Policy - opportunities and challenges for the civil society organizations"

The Moldova – Georgia working group of the Romanian NGDO platform FOND, through CSDF (Civil Society Development Foundation) and Pro Women, organised a seminar on civil society and development co-operation that brought together 40 NGOs from Moldova and Romania to discuss financial assistance to Moldova provided through the Romanian bilateral programme and the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI). The seminar had three main objectives: elaborating a common position of the civil society representatives from Romania and Moldova on the necessity to accelerate the programming of the Romanian development assistance for Moldova and to ensure that the process will involve civil society on both banks of the Prut river in the identification of the priorities and types of assistance; a general need assessment and exchange of information between NGOs in Romania and Moldova; discussion on ENPI programming and monitoring in Moldova. "It is vital that the fight against poverty remains at the heart of any financial assistance. Poverty is at the centre of all our problems, which include migration of skilled workers, corruption, HIV/Aids..." said Victor Munteanu from the Open Society Institute in Chisinau.

14-15 July, Bucharest: Work meeting of FOND board on strategic planning and strengthening platform coordination and effectiveness

Members of the FOND board, with the help of Angela Haynes - BOND Policy Officer and Joachim Lindau – former Chairmain of the Liaison Committee of NGDOs to the EU and former Executive Secretary of Bread for the World, Germany -, worked on the consolidation of FOND's internal rules of conduct and strategic papers for 2007-2008. Among other things the focus was put on two things: FOND's policy and advocacy strategy and the creation of a common vision on development cooperation and common objectives for the member organizations - strictly connected to the Romanian context and to the member organizations' capacity to implement projects.

24 July, Bucharest: Seminar on „EU Funding and Partnership Opportunities for Romanian NGOs”

On the 24th of July representatives from 12 FOND member organizations took part in a one day seminar organized by FOND and CSDF with the participation of TRIALOG Capacity Building Officer Petra Kreinecker and Julien Vaissier from the GCAP Europe Secretariat (Global Call to Action Against Poverty). The main purpose of the seminar was to give updates on EU funding opportunities for NMS NGOs, discuss on the eligibility criteria and how they can apply to the context of Romanian NGOs and raise the question of partners and associates. The end of the day was dedicated to a presentation on GCAP and a discussion on potential involvement of FOND members in GCAP activities in 2007-2008. The discussion continued on the 25th of July in a small workshop where FOND member organizations evaluated their capacities and their needs in establishing contact with GCAP.

For further Information please contact Claudia Iatan, FOND, Romania:
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FOND Website: <http://www.fondromania.wordpress.com>

5.3. The Baltic Platform Meeting in June

Information provided by Mara Simane, Latvian NGDO platform LAPAS
<http://trialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2007/08/baltic-platform-meeting-in-june.html>

The first ever Baltic NGDO platform meeting took place on June 4th and 5th in Jurmala, Latvia. Participants from AKU, the Estonian platform legally established in late 2006, the Latvian platform LAPAS and the newly established Lithuanian platform exchanged information on issues of importance in each of the Baltic States and agreed on areas in which cooperation is valuable and in which areas cooperation is not necessary. Following a tour de table on national strategies for development cooperation in the three Baltic States and platform evolution, TRIALOG Policy Officer Annika Kool described similarities and differences regarding the NGDO platforms in the three Baltic States that she observed while preparing Baltic country reports for TRIALOG.

The Baltic representatives concluded that there is room for cooperation in activities in countries of national priority such as Georgia and Moldova. They also discussed the differing approaches in addressing development needs in the Global South and the role of the platforms in influencing politicians' opinions on the European development policy. Finally, all meeting members decided to meet with Nordic platforms representatives to discuss cooperation in the East and South and expressed a common concern about the interface between security policy and development policy in their nations. The meeting was supported by the Presidency Fund (<http://www.presidencyfund.org>).

For further information on the Baltic meeting please contact Mara Simane, LAPAS, at: simane@lapas.lv

6. TRIALOG News

6.1. Relation between TRIALOG and CONCORD

<http://trialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2007/08/relation-between-trialog-and-concord.html>

“Perceptions of TRIALOG’s relationship with CONCORD vary widely” was one of the main messages of the external evaluation of TRIALOG which was finalised in September last year. On the basis of interviews with the project’s target group and key partners, the evaluator made a number of recommendations, one of them asking for clarity and transparency regarding the relationship between CONCORD and TRIALOG.

This was the starting point for joint discussions which led to a concrete definition of the cooperation between TRIALOG and CONCORD and their specific roles towards the new EU member states. As a result of this process, the document at the following link was agreed upon:

http://www.trialog.or.at/docs/relation_concord_trialog.pdf

It gives an answer to all points raised in the evaluation and we hope that it not only clarifies the mutual relationship but further fosters our cooperation.

For a summary of the evaluation results go to:

http://www.trialog.or.at/docs/executivesummary_evaluation.pdf

For further information please contact Christine Bedoya, TRIALOG Director, at c.bedoya@trialog.or.at

6.2. New TRIALOG information folder

<http://trialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2007/08/new-trialog-information-folder.html>

Those of you who are not yet that much familiar with the work of TRIALOG can now download our new information folder which summarizes TRIALOG’s main objective, target groups and countries, activities and priorities. It is directed to NGOs which are interested to get involved in development cooperation or education and want to get in touch with us. Find the information folder at the following link:

http://www.trialog.or.at/docs/trialogiii_folder_final.pdf

If you would like to obtain hardcopies (e.g. for distribution at events which you organise), please write to office@trialog.or.at

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

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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