

TRIALOG

Development NGOs in the enlarged EU

TRIALOG Information Service (TIS)

(09/04/2008)

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. High interest and attendance in the latest RPP workshops
- 1.2. GLEN „RENew“ seminar in Slovenia
- 1.3. Seminar in Estonia: Humanitarian Action - Meeting the Challenges
- 1.4. Conference in Olomouc: Development Studies in Europe
- 1.5. Continuing cooperation between Ghana and Czech Republic

2. EU development policy and EU enlargement

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

- 2.1. EU Neighbourhood Conference in Slovenia
- 2.2. New Member States report adopted in the European Parliament
- 2.3. OECD figures: Lack of progress in EU development aid
- 2.4. Joint Parliamentary Assembly: SLOGA - CONCORD Press Release
- 2.5. Aidwatch discussed in European Parliament
- 2.6. The real work starts now: Multi Stakeholder Process on Development Education
- 2.7. AWEPA Seminar on New EU Member States and Development Cooperation

3. Events

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

- 3.1. May 14-16, 2008: TRIALOG-CONCORD Conference, Prague
- 3.2. June 9-10, 2008: SLOGA Development Education Conference, Ljubljana
- 3.3. June 11-13, 2008: Seminar on European Neighbourhood Policy, Maastricht
- 3.4. June 24-28, 2008: EADI 12th General Conference, Geneva
- 3.5. SLE plus Berlin Training for International Development

4. Funding opportunities

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

- 4.1. Fondation de France: Call for projects 2008 "The Enlarged Europe!"
- 4.2. New support for Civil Society under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
- 4.3. Launch of the Association of Charity Lotteries in the European Union

5. News from NGDO platforms

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

- 5.1. Czech ODA System Transformation and New Czech Development Agency

6. Sources of Information

<http://dialog-information-service.blogspot.com/search/label/Sources%20of%20Information>

- 6.1. Oxfam Resources for Schools: Catalogue 2008
- 6.2. WIDE report: EU bilateral and regional free trade agreements and gender
- 6.3. New DEEEP website
- 6.4. CONCORD Flash of February 2008

7. TRIALOG News

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

- 7.1. Expert Sending: TRIALOG Study Visit for NMS
- 7.2. The New Member States Tea Party for FDR
- 7.3. Through the labyrinth of an EC contract
- 7.4. New intern in TRIALOG Brussels office: Bosnian country report

1. Activities of European NGDOs

1.1. High interest and attendance in the latest RPP workshops

Information provided by Josefa Molitor-Ruckenbauer, RPP

<http://dialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2008/04/high-interest-and-attendance-in-latest.html>

The workshops on 'crossborder networking' and 'advocacy and lobbying', organised by the Regional Partnership Programme (RPP; <http://www.regionalpartnership.at/>) in Vienna in March 2008, were evaluated as great capacity building events by the participants.

In both workshops a good mixture and attendance of participants coming from all RPP countries (Slovenia, Hungary, Slovak Republic, Czech Republic, Austria) with high interest and motivation was reached. The events themselves therefore became good opportunities for networking and sharing of experience.

The 'networking' workshop (March 11) started with a common 'drawing lesson' to visualise the different networks people are working in. This exercise was followed by presentations of three different networks: WIDE Europe, the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) and Greenpeace Central Europe. In these presentations, networking practitioners shared their experiences on the challenges and potentials of networks.

The workshop was facilitated by Richard Bennett, a British consultant and former Executive Secretary of the British platform BOND. Richard summarized his longterm experience in networking in an extremely useful presentation. In working groups, the participants had the opportunity to reflect and share their experiences and develop ideas to be more effective in their networking efforts. The good atmosphere and the active and highly motivated participants contributed to the great success of the day.

The 'advocacy and lobbying' workshop (March 26-27) was facilitated by Ian Chandler, a British consultant who has longterm experience in advocacy and campaigning (eg. with Oxfam GB, Amnesty International) and concentrates now on passing on his knowledge to non- profit organisations. At first, the participants became acquainted with a wide range of definitions and approaches in advocacy and with the whole 'advocacy cycle'. Participants received a lot of 'food for thought' how to improve their advocacy work in their daily life. After the 1st day, everyone recognized the importance of putting advocacy work into a conceptual and strategic framework in order to achieve the goals. The second day of the workshop focussed on how to prepare and conduct lobbying meetings. Participants had the possibility to immediately try out the gained knowledge in role plays. At the end of the workshop, all participants - including already experienced advocacy officers and newcomers - underlined the great benefit they had gained.

The presentations of the workshops are available on the website of the Austrian platform: <http://www.eu-platform.at/deutsch/start.asp?b=790> They will soon also become available on: <http://www.regionalpartnership.at/>

1.2. GLEN „RENew“ seminar in Slovenia

Information provided by Johannes Krause, ASA-GLEN, johannes.krause@inwent.org
<http://dialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2008/04/glen-renew-seminar-in-slovenia.html>

„Review, Engagement and Networking“ (short: RENew) was the title of a GLEN seminar (Global Education Network of Young Europeans) taking place from March 26 to 30 in Slovenia. The RENew brought together over 120 young Europeans from 13 countries. It was the last stage of the GLEN training programme 2007 for Global Education multipliers.

All participants of the RENew had just come back from internships in Africa and Asia. The first part of the seminar was dedicated to evaluation and debriefing. But GLEN aims at transferring personal experience from the South into Global Education in Europe. On the second day, a „knowledge bridge“ was offered: Former GLEN participants and active global educators offered the participants workshops on topics such as Management of small projects, How to write an article, How to set up an NGO, Moderation & facilitation. DEEEP (<http://www.deeep.org/>) provided a workshop on the European Development Education Consensus.

In a one-day Open Space, the participants developed and planned their next global education activities: an action at the Poznan climate conference in December, a fair trade festival in Germany, trainings on the CONCORD „Code of Conduct on Images and Messages“ and much more.

Although the RENew marked the end of the training programme for the GLEN participants 2007, their mission has just begun: After the adventure in the South comes the adventure of raising awareness and understanding, of changing attitudes and behaviour here in Europe!

Meanwhile the GLEN cycle 2008 has started. Out of more than 1000 applications, 125 young people were selected to participate in the GLEN training programme 2008. They will attend two 5-days training seminars, taking place in the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, France and Poland, before leaving for their 3 month internships in Africa or Asia.

GLEN, the Global Education Network of Young Europeans, exists since 2003. It is a network of people and organisations active in Global Education in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Austria, Germany, France and Malta. Recently GLEN became an observer in the Development Education Forum of CONCORD.

More information: <http://www.glen-europe.org/>

1.3. Seminar in Estonia: Humanitarian Action - Meeting the Challenges

Information provided by Veronika Talviste, Estonian Roundtable for Development Cooperation, AKÜ, veronika@terveilm.net

<http://trialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2008/04/seminar-in-estonia-humanitarian-action.html>

On March 3-4, 2008 took place a seminar "Humanitarian Action: Meeting the Challenges" in Tartu in Estonia. It was organized by International Association of Universities NOHA and the University of Tartu, by the support of ECHO. This was the first time that NOHA carried out such a meeting in Estonia and the purpose of the two-days seminar was to sound chances of future co-operation. More precisely, the aim of the enlargement seminar is to strengthen the ties between potential new NOHA- partners and to explore critical issues related to humanitarian action with local experts as well as to inform academics, students and the third sector.

The issues covered in Tartu were: humanitarian security and humanitarian action, humanitarian action in Estonia, challenges, linking relief, rehabilitation and development and finally, humanitarian law and human rights law in humanitarian action. One of the topics most debated was blurring the lines between military and humanitarian activities. In general, the seminar focused rather on legal aspects of humanitarian action and state humanitarianism than on social science perspectives and independent humanitarian action.

To sum up, the event was very useful for deepening the knowledge on humanitarian action and strengthening the activities in this still nascent field in Estonia. It is hoped that other events- such as further seminars and summer schools – will grow out of this cooperation.

1.4. Conference in Olomouc: Development Studies in Europe

Information provided by Petra Krylova, ARPOK (Agency for Development Assistance and Humanitarian Aid of Olomouc Region), Czech Republic

<http://trialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2008/04/conference-in-olomouc-development.html>

The Department of Development Studies at Palacky University in Olomouc is one of the first academic institutions in the Czech Republic to focus on the topic of international development. Although this dynamically progressing study program is commonly offered in most western universities, development studies in the Czech Republic is slowly emerging. Therefore the study program cannot draw on its historical experience but can only learn from abroad.

The Conference "Development Studies in Europe" organised on 26th – 28th February 2008 by the Department of Development Studies at Faculty of Science, Palacky University in Olomouc focused mainly on sharing experience and cooperation in the area of development studies among European universities.

The representatives of 14 European universities introduced their development studies programs and discussed the possibilities offered to students in the areas of research and practical experience. Furthermore the participants presented their views on what should be the core content of development studies and to what extent it is necessary to have a solid background in one of the traditional disciplines. Discussions also concentrated on cooperation with other institutions such as non-governmental organizations, development agencies or research institutes.

On the last day of the conference the representatives discussed the possibilities of cooperation between the participating institutions. Although "western" universities tend to be hesitant to establish strong links of cooperation with their "eastern" partners, all parties agreed that cooperation is desirable in order to support the stabilization of development studies in the Central European region.

All participants agreed that the conference provided a good ground for discussions about the role and direction of development studies in Europe. The conference was supported by the European Social Fund and the State budget of the Czech Republic.

1.5. Continuing cooperation between Ghana and Czech Republic

Information provided by Tomas Bily, Society for Fair Trade – Czech Republic

<http://trialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2008/04/continuing-cooperation-between-ghana.html>

In late August 2007, a group of eight Austrians and two Czechs made a study trip to Ghana to find out how the Fair Trade cooperatives work in this West African country. A half-year later, Mary Mabel Tagoe, representative of the Ghanaian Fair Trade cooperative Kuapa Kokoo, visited Austria and the Czech Republic.

For the Czech NGOs Society for Fair Trade and Ecumenical Academy Prague, it was a great pleasure to invite Mrs. Tagoe to their country. Mrs. Tagoe spent five days in Prague and another one day in Brno. In this time, she made two interviews for the public broadcast, she met with representatives of the national Development Agency, public administration and Czech NGOs, and she spoke in a workshop focused on Fair Trade. Moreover, she spent two hours with children in a grammar school, she visited two world shops in Prague and she had the possibility to get to know the Czech Republic and its inhabitants.

Although the agenda of Mrs. Tagoe during her journey was demanding, she was very nice to all the people she met, always open to conversation and always happy to get acquainted with new topics. For sure, she took home some new experiences, she made new friends in a new country and the Czech partners hope that she would like to come back again to further deepen cooperation and exchange.

For further information on the visit, please contact: Tomas Bily, Society for Fair Trade – Czech Republic, tomas@fairtrade.cz, <http://www.fairtrade.cz/>

For information on the 2007 study trip to Ghana see TIS (Oct. 2007):

<http://trialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2007/10/czech-ngos-visit-fair-trade.html>

2. EU development policy and EU enlargement

2.1. EU Neighbourhood Conference in Slovenia

Information provided by Rebecca Steel, TRIALOG Policy Officer

<http://trialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2008/04/eu-neighbourhood-conference-in-slovenia.html>

Civil society actors from the European neighbourhood gathered in Slovenia on 2 April 2008, for an ECAS/CNVOS conference on giving a stronger voice to civil society in the European neighbourhood, hosted by the Slovenian Presidency of the EU.

An NGO roundtable the day before allowed civil society representatives from countries to the east of the EU's border and the Western Balkans to share findings from a questionnaire that had been disseminated around NGOs in each country. Presentations generally showed that civil society has rarely been consulted during negotiations on EU agreements. There were however also reports of promising developments in several countries, such as Croatia, where the government is actively engaged in improving relations with civil society.

The main conference programme included speakers from EU institutions, national authorities and civil society organisations from all over the region. Topics ranged from the role of the EU in promoting civil society development in its neighbourhood, including the Western Balkans, to involving civil society in the "aid effectiveness" agenda. Working group sessions split participants into groups discussing the Western Balkans and Turkey, and eastern European ENP (European Neighbourhood Policy) partner countries and Russia.

The conference produced the "Ljubljana Declaration", a text based on findings from the ECAS country reports and fine-tuned during the conference. The declaration calls on EU institutions and national

governments to listen to civil society, develop a long-term strategy for its sustainability and put the partnership principle into practice – treating civil society actors as partners rather than beneficiaries. The declaration also asks for the capacity of small organisations to be strengthened and a supportive environment for NGO sustainability to be created.

More information about the conference is available on the ECAS website: <http://www.ecas-citizens.eu/>

The ECAS country reports will be online soon.

CNVOS: <http://www.cnvos.si/>

Download the Ljubljana declaration from:

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

2.2. New Member States report adopted in the European Parliament

Information provided by Rebecca Steel, TRIALOG Policy Officer

<http://trialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2008/04/new-member-states-report-adopted-in.html>

A report on the Challenge of EU Development Cooperation policy for the New Member States (2007/2140(INI)) has been adopted in the European Parliament by an overwhelming majority. A large majority of 338 MEPs voted in favour of the report, with only 11 voting against and 16 abstaining, during a plenary session in Strasbourg on 13 March.

The parliamentary resolution points to the fact that EU Development Cooperation Policy is part of the *acquis communautaire*, which all member states are bound by. The change in the position of new member states from being development aid recipients to donors has been a challenging transition, with new requirements in terms of official development aid (ODA). The new member states' priorities of promoting democracy and the rule of law though are key to reducing poverty in developing countries.

The report highlights the new member states' historical links to EU's Eastern neighbours and CIS countries, at which most of the countries' development aid is targeted, but also shows which countries are beginning to have stronger links with ACP countries. As a significant proportion of the aid goes through multilateral channels, there is a strong indirect link with the ACP region already, but individual countries like the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia also have bilateral projects.

Development education is recognised as a priority for new member states, where awareness about development cooperation is not very widespread. The parliament has also called on the European Commission to launch an awareness raising campaign following this resolution, focusing on the advantages and added value new member states can bring to the area of development cooperation. The parliament has suggested that this expertise be drawn on and put to better use.

Related links:

EP press release: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/028-23875-070-03-11-903-20080312IPR23865-10-03-2008-2008-false/default_en.htm

Resolution procedure file: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oel/file.jsp?id=5498252>

Full text adopted: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2008-0097+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

2.3. OECD figures: Lack of progress in EU development aid

Source: <http://www.concordeurope.org/>
<http://dialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2008/04/oecd-figures-lack-of-progress-in-eu.html>

In 2007, European Aid falls by 1.7 billion EUR, show OECD figures released on April 4. NGOs from across Europe warn European governments that their failure will cost lives and speak of a scandalous lack of progress in EU development aid.

Read the joint Global Call for Action against Poverty and CONCORD press release :
http://www.concordeurope.org/Files/media/internetdocumentsENG/5_Press/1_Press_releases/1_Press_releases_2007/Press-release-04-04-08.doc

Visit the CONCORD press section for more information:
<http://www.concordeurope.org/Public/Page.php?ID=10856>

Release of OECD official development assistance figures:
http://www.oecd.org/document/8/0,3343,en_2649_33721_40381960_1_1_1_1.00.html

2.4. Joint Parliamentary Assembly: SLOGA - CONCORD Press Release

Information provided by Rebecca Steel, TRIALOG Policy Officer
<http://dialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2008/04/joint-parliamentary-assembly-sloga.html>

The Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA) was held in Slovenia throughout one week in March, bringing together parliamentarians from the European Parliament, and the parliaments of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries.

The parliamentarians were joined by civil society representatives including CONCORD, the Slovenian platform of NGOs SLOGA and African farmers groups.

One of the central issues discussed at the assembly was the situation surrounding the controversial Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs). Marc Maes, Chair of CONCORD's ACP Trade working group, slammed the agreements, stating that 'the EPAs were concluded in haste and under a great deal of pressure from the European Commission. These arrangements need to be thrown out.'

His comments were echoed by Louis Straker, a parliamentarian from St Vincent and the Grenadines, who said 'If we had not signed up to the EPAs, we would have been subjected to much higher tariffs. We had no choice.'

The lack of transparency surrounding the negotiations has been criticised, as the EPAs were primarily negotiated behind closed doors.

Development Commissioner Louis Michel was greeted on his arrival at the JPA with a demonstration against the trade agreements; placards that read Brussels-made EPAs will not fit ACPs, which he answered with a protest of his own. 'I do not agree with you,' he said, 'if you want to remain poor, just be against the EPAs.'

Source: CONCORD/SLOGA press release of 18 March 2008

Download the press release from:
http://www.concordeurope.org/Files/media/internetdocumentsENG/5_Press/1_Press_releases/0_Press_release_2008/JPA-press-release-18-3-2008-3.doc

2.5. Aidwatch discussed in European Parliament

Information provided by Rebecca Steel, TRIALOG Policy Officer

<http://trialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2008/04/aidwatch-discussed-in-european.html>

The European Parliament is following up the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness with a report, written by Belgian MEP Johan Van Hecke. The report was presented at the Development Committee meeting on 3 March, and was greeted enthusiastically by other parliamentarians, the EC representative present and CONCORD's Aidwatch Coordinator Jasmine Burnley.

Jasmine told the committee that CONCORD believes the EU, as the world's biggest provider of aid, could be much more ambitious and go further in its aid commitments. She said the EU had an obligation to lead the way and set an example for its member states.

The Aidwatch project was then presented, a CONCORD-led initiative on monitoring aid and advocating reform. Given the importance of aid effectiveness this year, leading up to the Accra meeting in the autumn, the next Aidwatch report will focus on issues of quality.

CONCORD's policy position on aid effectiveness can be seen on the CONCORD website at http://www.concordeurope.org/Files/media/internetdocumentsENG/4_Publications/3_CONCORDs_positions_and_studies/FINAL-EU-Aidwatch-position-Accra-2008---Jan08.doc

The draft EP report is available on the parliament's website at

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2004_2009/documents/pr/709/709878/709878en.pdf

2.6. The real work starts now: Multi Stakeholder Process on Development Education

Information provided by Tobias Troll, DEEEP, <http://www.deeep.org>

<http://trialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2008/04/real-work-starts-now-multi-stakeholder.html>

Last November, the European Development Education (DE) Consensus (see link below), was officially unveiled during the European Development Days in Lisbon. Since then, this framework on objectives, principles and challenges for development education got growing recognition: Commissioner Louis Michel stated that "this Consensus on development education is as important as the European Consensus on Development." The European Parliament "welcomed" the DE consensus in its 13 March plenary session (see also article "NMS report adopted in the European Parliament") and adopted a resolution highlighting the "importance of a report on development education [...] and its role in the implementation of the European Consensus on Development". The European Commission will provide translations into all 22 official EU languages and publish the document on the website of DG Development.

The initial purpose of the multi stakeholder process seemed to be fulfilled: The EU now has a reference document for DE, which receives growing ownership from different actors. Thus, the expectations to the forth meeting of the multi stakeholder steering group in the European Parliament end of February (after meetings at CONCORD, the Luxembourg MFA and the European Commission throughout 2007) were rather low: The work was done, after all.

However, the members of the steering group, coming from European Parliament, European Commission, member states, international organisations and civil society, decided differently: "The real work starts now", insisted Robert Zimmerman from the OECD-DAC. If the DE Consensus shall become a real political strategy for DE in Europe, the group would need a new mandate for the implementation of the Consensus, with precise political objectives, indicators and action plan. As host Hannu Takkula (MEP, Vice-president of the Culture and Education Committee) said in his opening speech: "Now the challenge is to put [the Consensus] into practice, on local, national and European level!".

At the international conference "Development Education and Intercultural Dialogue" on 9 and 10 June in Slovenia (see "Events") the multi stakeholder steering group will seek for this new mandate until after the European Elections in June 2009 to transform the DE Consensus into real politics. This second multi

stakeholder steering group will be open to newcomers and meet the first time before the summer holidays. One more reason to come to Ljubljana and to join the European Multi Stakeholder Process on Development Education, Version 2.0!

For further information, contact: Tobias Troll (DEEEP Advocacy officer), at t.troll@deEEP.org

Link: The European Consensus on Development: The Contribution of Development Education and Awareness Raising;

[http://www.deEEP.org/fileadmin/user_upload/downloads/Consensus_on_DE/Final Euro DEAR statement with annexes_301007.pdf](http://www.deEEP.org/fileadmin/user_upload/downloads/Consensus_on_DE/Final_Euro_DEAR_statement_with_annexes_301007.pdf)

2.7. AWEPA Seminar on New EU Member States and Development Cooperation

Information provided by Rebecca Steel, TRIALOG Policy Officer

<http://trialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2008/04/awepa-seminar-on-new-eu-member-states.html>

AWEPA is a group of 'European Parliamentarians for Africa' who organise seminars twice a year that coincide with the Presidencies of the EU. The Slovenian Presidency Seminar was held at the end of February, and was titled 'The role of the new EU member states in EU-Africa Development Policy'. The seminar included a session on 'The New EU Member States and Recent Development Cooperation Experience, Policies and Future Plans', which featured speakers from Lithuania and Slovenia.

The session was chaired by Alfa-Niaky Barry, the Secretary General of the NEPAD Forum for African Parliamentarians. He presented apologies on behalf of Professor Mathurin Nago, the president of NEPAD, who was unable to attend due to elections in Benin. Mr Barry spoke about the necessity of parliamentary control over public development aid that leads to the building of legitimacy within African institutions.

He spoke of a desire for new member states to break with traditional taboos, avoided by older member states, and to commit to transparency where development aid is concerned.

The other speakers within the session included Danute Budreikaite, the (Lithuanian) MEP author of a recently adopted EP report and Anton Kokalj, an MP from Slovenia who chairs the Committee on EU Affairs.

Dr Budreikaite spoke about new member states' experience targeting their immediate neighbours, and went on to present the situation of Development Cooperation Policy in her home country of Lithuania. She explained the history of her country's development policy and outlined their commitment to meeting the MDGs and promoting democracy, security and stability, primarily in neighbouring countries. She did however stress that new member states were beginning to revise their strategies to include African countries and stated that it is essential for new member states to enhance their bilateral development cooperation activities towards Africa and contribute more to the EU-Africa Development Policy.

Mr Kokalj covered the priorities for the Slovenian Presidency in terms of development cooperation; highlighting the provision of security and aid to women and children affected by armed conflicts. He also touched on the importance of development education, when discussing the conference that is to be held in June, and noted that particular attention would also be paid to environmental issues, social exclusion and dialogue between generations. Mr Kokalj underlined the importance of the adoption of the Africa-EU Joint Strategy and its first Action Plan, which the Slovenian Presidency is committed to getting off to a good start.

The seminar resulted in a set of recommendations for parliamentary actions, which can be found (together with the presentations) on the AWEPA website: <http://www.awepa.org/>

3. Events

3.1. May 14-16, 2008: TRIALOG-CONCORD Conference, Prague

Source: <http://www.trialog.or.at/start.asp?ID=139>

<http://trialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2007/11/may-14-16-2008-trialog-concord.html>

TRIALOG and CONCORD in cooperation with the Czech NGDO platform FoRS and the Ecumenical Academy Prague invite to the May conference:

ARE WE ON THE RIGHT TRACK?

PARADIGM REVIEW BY CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS (CSOs) AS DEVELOPMENT ACTORS

Venue: Prague Hotel Pyramida, Czech Republic

OBJECTIVES of the Conference

- To serve as a forum of civil society actors from the West, East and South: from the 15 old EU member states, from the 12 new EU member states, and from developing countries in the South (Africa, Latin America, Asia) and East (Eastern EU neighbourhood).
- To present an insight into the specific contexts and environments of CSOs in the field of development.
- To challenge current development approaches and paradigms.
- To find the most promising development approaches.

This conference will provide a basis for a second conference in 2009, which should focus on practical steps and the resources CSOs need to reach development aims.

Read the invitation letter.

Download the conference programme!

Read the description of the 6 workshops!

To register, download the registration form!

Please send the registration form by April 13, 2008 (extended!) to conference@ekumakad.cz

3.2. June 9-10, 2008: SLOGA Development Education Conference, Ljubljana

Information provided by Rilli Lappalainen, Chair of DEF, and Marjan Huc, Coordinator of SLOGA

<http://trialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2007/11/june-9-10-2008-sloga-development.html>

The Slovenian NGDO platform for development cooperation and humanitarian aid, SLOGA, is inviting you to the conference "Intercultural Dialogue in Development Education, the way towards the implementation of the European Consensus on Development - the contribution of development education and awareness raising", which will be held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 9 and 10 June 2008.

The event is the main and final event of the SLOGA presidency program. It is organised in cooperation with the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development, CONCORD, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia and the European Commission.

The additional information can be found under the following links:

Invitation letter for institutions:

http://www.trialog.or.at/images/doku/invitation_institutions1.pdf

Invitation letter for NGDOs:

http://www.trialog.or.at/images/doku/invitation_ngos1.pdf

Draft Conference program:

<http://www.sloga-platform.org/attachments/121/Draft%20Program.docm.org/attachments/121/Draft%20Program.doc>

Draft Conference concept note:

<http://www.sloga-platform.org/attachments/121/Draft%20Concept%20note.doc>

Registration form:

<http://www.sloga-platform.org/attachments/121/Registration%20form.doc>

For more information, visit the SLOGA web page: <http://www.sloga-platform.org/> or contact Sloga by e-mail: conference@sloga-platform.org,

Further reading:

- related TIS articles: <http://trialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2008/01/slovenian-eu-presidency-sloga-project.html>

- <http://trialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2008/02/new-sloga-website-for-slovenian.html>

- article on the Slovenian NGDO Presidency project in the TRIALOG bulletin:

http://www.trialog.or.at/images/doku/trialog_bulletin_2007_3.pdf

3.3. June 11-13, 2008: Seminar on European Neighbourhood Policy, Maastricht

Information provided by Dorina Claessens, EIPA, <http://www.eipa.eu>

<http://trialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2008/04/june-11-13-2008-seminar-on-european.html>

The seminar "The new relationship with our neighbours: A practical guide to the European Neighbourhood Policy" will take place in Maastricht (NL), 11 - 13 June 2008. It is organised by the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA). Fee: 850 EUR.

Information package (including the draft programme, general information and the registration form):

http://www.eipa.eu/files/repository/product/20080318164745_0830301_20080318_en.pdf

For more information: <http://www.eipa.eu/en/activities/show/&tid=2356>

For further questions, please contact Dorina Claessens, Programme Organiser, at d.claessens@eipa.eu

Please note that no TRIALOG funding is available for this event.

3.4. June 24-28, 2008: EADI 12th General Conference, Geneva

Source: <http://eadi.org/gc2008/index.php>

<http://trialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2008/02/june-24-28-2008-eadi-12th-general.html>

The European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI) General Conference is part of EADI's activities conducted in order to broaden and deepen the scientific network of development research among its members. It aims at influencing the public perception and policy implementation of development related subjects.

This year's General Conference "Global Governance and Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development - The Need for New Partnerships" is held in Geneva, 24-28 June 2008. The EADI General Conference is held every three years and assembles more than 500 participants involved or interested in development issues.

The program of the conference and more information can be found at: <http://eadi.org/gc2008/>,

<http://eadi.org/gc2008/programme.php>

Researchers are invited to submit papers for one of the thematic EADI-Working Group Sessions. In order to participate at all sessions and panels of the conference, you have to register in advance. To register, please use the registration form at: <http://eadi.org/gc2008/registration.php>

In order to keep yourself updated on other issues concerning the General Conference, subscribe to the conference e-newsletter: <http://eadi.org/gc2008/subscribe.php>

3.5. SLE plus Berlin Training for International Development

Information provided by Katharina Ochse, SLE, Katharina.Ochse@agrar.hu-berlin.de
<http://dialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2008/04/sle-plus-berlin-training-for.html>

This summer the SLE plus: Berlin Training for International Development Cooperation at the Humboldt-Universitaet Berlin is offering three short term courses:

- "Decentralised Management of Regional Development" (4.08.-15.08.2008)
- "Conflict Prevention and Conflict Management" (18.8.-29.8.2008) and
- "Project Cycle Management" (1.9.-12.9.2008).

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 opened to young professionals from all fields and all over the world in the area of development cooperation. In 2007 participants came from over 25 different countries, Germany included.

Costs for each 10-day-course are 500,- EUR. DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service)funded (partial) scholarships will be available for qualified alumni of German institutions of higher education from developing countries and for alumni of universities in developing countries who received a German sur-place scholarship. The SLE will be of assistance in finding adequate accommodation in Berlin.

Applicants have to fill out the online application form until 5th May, 2008.

For further information, including on scholarship requirements, please check the website:
http://www.berlinerseminar.de/bs/ecbp/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1&Itemid=2

Download the 2008 flyer from:
http://www.dialog.or.at/images/doku/sle_plus_berlin2008.pdf

The SLE is funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and the Senate of Berlin.

4. Funding Opportunities

4.1. Fondation de France: Call for projects 2008 "The Enlarged Europe!"

Information provided by Olivier Consolo, CONCORD and Martin Spitz, Fondation de France
<http://dialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2008/04/fondation-de-france-call-for-projects.html>

Fondation de France launched the Call for projects 2008 on "The Enlarged Europe! European citizenship and sustainable development".

Deadline for sending files: May 16th or September 26th 2008.

The programme "The Enlarged Europe!" launched by Fondation de France has supported since 2003 European partnerships between French non-profit organizations and organizations of the EU recently entering countries.

In 2008, the Foundation will support either projects in partnership with at least one (or more) “new members”, or projects concerning partnerships in order to make them known or valorised, creating or developing network, and finally, expertises aiming at strengthening said partnerships or projects.

This year, the Foundation will give its support to initiatives relating to sustainable development, projects of common interest to civil society in Europe.

Find more information in the following document: http://www.trialog.or.at/images/doku/dfd_europe_2008.pdf
Weblink: <http://www.fondationdefrance.org/>

4.2. New support for Civil Society under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance

Source: Original information from Agence Europe 05/03/2008

<http://trialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2008/04/new-support-for-civil-society-under.html>

The European Commission is currently establishing a new facility under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) to promote civil society development and dialogue in the Western Balkans.

This will cover three kinds of activity: support for local initiatives and capacity building reinforcing the role of civil society; bringing civil society groups into contact with EU institutions; and support for partnerships and networking between civil society in the Western Balkans, and their counterparts in the EU.

The new facility will be launched at a civil society conference in Brussels on 17 and 18 April, which will bring together 450 participants, including Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn, Commissioner for Science and Research Janez Potocnik, and George Soros, founder of the Open Society Institute.

Further information about the conference can be found here:

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/civil_society_conference/index_en.htm

4.3. Launch of the Association of Charity Lotteries in the European Union

Source: Civil Society Contact Group (CSCG) weekly mailing from March 6, 2008

<http://trialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2008/04/launch-of-association-of-charity.html>

The Association of Charity Lotteries in the European Union (ACLEU) was recently established to promote the model of a charity lottery in the European Union. The Association of Charity Lotteries in the European Union was officially launched in March 2008 in the European Parliament.

Three of the main characteristics of charity lotteries are:

- Primary aim of the lottery is to raise funds for civil society
- A large share of turnover goes to charity
- Funding is not earmarked

Find more information about charity lotteries and ACLEU on <http://www.acleu.eu/>

5. News from NGDO platforms

5.1. Czech ODA System Transformation and New Czech Development Agency

Information provided by Jana Krczmarova, Director of FoRS, sekretariat@fors.cz

<http://dialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2008/04/czech-oda-system-transformation-and-new.html>

The Czech NGDOs platform FoRS finds the year 2008 promising from one important view – the long-lasting advocacy efforts reached the partly milestone in kick-off of the transformation process of the Czech ODA system, which was agreed by the Czech Government by the end 2007. The transformation sees the aim of the actual centralisation of the ODA system under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which should lead to more transparency and effectiveness. As part of the process, two new bodies started to work at the beginning of the year as well.

The new Czech Development Agency (CZDA) was set up by the Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs as part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with effect from January 1, 2008. The CZDA will gradually overtake administration and monitoring of development projects from all ministries. The CZDA is the successor of the Development Centre of the Institute of International Relations. It has only 10 staff in 2008, but should rise up to 30 in two years. The fair relationship of FoRS with the Department of development co-operation at MFA as well as the Czech Development Agency has been kept and is believed to get new impetus to develop further.

The Czech Council on ODA was established as ODA inter-ministerial coordination body and advisory institution to MFA. The Council has 15 members – deputy ministers representing all ministries involved in the development co-operation. The Czech NGDOs platform FoRS has a statute of associated member to the Council (together with CZDA and platform of private sector in development). Thanks to this position, FoRS has direct access to all the matters on discussions and relevant documents, it can be actively participating in the Council working groups on different topics, and raise questions and issues vis-à-vis all ministerial stakeholders in development. The Council will mainly deal with preparation of legal base for ODA, programming, annual planning as well as evaluations of ODA. The Council should meet every 2 months – 1st meeting was in February, the next is on April 18.

The transformation process has only started – it is foreseen to be finalised by end 2010. The procedures and ways of operations are only to be developed and proven. Still, FoRS believes that this necessary transition period will in the end bring its fruits – in having more transparent and effective ODA system. The still challenging issue remains – not only to advocate for better aid but also for promoting the international commitments in financial levels that the Czech Government should meet till 2010 and 2015.

6. Sources of Information

6.1. Oxfam Resources for Schools: Catalogue 2008

Information provided by Susanna Griffiths and Pete Davis, Oxfam GB

<http://dialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2008/04/oxfam-resources-for-schools-catalogue.html>

Oxfam's catalogue for schools is packed with more than 450 teaching materials, specially selected by Oxfam from a wide range of publishers.

Resources in the catalogue support a global approach to teaching and learning, and help you empower pupils to understand their world and make a positive difference.

For copies of the Oxfam resources for schools catalogue in print or on CD, please email Oxfam to education@oxfam.org.uk. Browse and order securely online at: <http://www.oxfam.org.uk/publications>

Find more information on the Oxfam education work (incl. links to free resources) at:
<http://www.oxfam.org.uk/education>

6.2. WIDE report: EU bilateral and regional free trade agreements and gender

Information provided by Barbara Specht, WIDE Information and Advocacy Officer
<http://dialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2008/04/wide-report-eu-bilateral-and-regional.html>

In late 2007 WIDE organised a successful consultation on EU bilateral and regional free trade agreements and gender, which brought together members of WIDE, academics, researchers, non-governmental organisation activists and representatives of the European Commission and the private sector. The aim of the consultation was to increase understanding of the relationship between gender and trade and to provide a space for critical reflection and debate on the opportunities, challenges, strategies and the different policy options relating to trade liberalisation with a gender focus in the context of the ongoing EU bilateral free trade negotiations in Asia, the Middle East, Ukraine and Central America.

As a follow up to the consultation process WIDE has published the report 'EU bilateral and regional free trade agreements – bringing women to the centre of the debate', edited by Marilyn Thomson. The report summarises the key debates of the consultation and lists specific demands that were identified to transform EU external relations policies into a development agenda that is truly social and gender just and sustainable.

To download the full report please go to <http://www.wide-network.org/index.jsp?id=316>
To order a hard copy, contact Lidia at lidia@wide-network.org
To read the latest WIDE monthly newsletter, visit: <http://www.wide-network.org/>

6.3. New DEEEP website

Information sent by Chiara Tripepi, DEEEP Information Officer
<http://dialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2008/04/new-deeep-website.html>

The Development Education Exchange in Europe Project (DEEEP) has relaunched its website. Visit it at <http://www.deeep.org/> and find numerous relevant documents and links in development education.

The next issue of DEEEP's newsletter DE Times will become available soon.

6.4. CONCORD Flash of February 2008

Information provided by Agnes Philippart, CONCORD
<http://dialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2008/04/concord-flash-of-february-2008.html>

The last issue of the CONCORD Flash - which reports the latest news from the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development - has been published in March.

You can download the Flash in the version of your choice (PDF, Word, or Word without layout) from the CONCORD website <http://www.concordeurope.org/Public/Page.php?ID=10065>.

In this issue:

- CONCORD and the delegations of the European Commission
- Heading to Lima in 2008: civil society in action
- CONCORD and the Development Committee of the European Council
- Development Days are here again
- ... and many other subjects!

7. TRIALOG News

7.1. Expert Sending: TRIALOG Study Visit for NMS

Information provided by Valentin Burada, Civil Society Development Foundation, Romania

<http://trialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2008/04/expert-sending-trialog-study-visit-for.html>

Expert sending is increasingly perceived in Romania and other new EU member states (NMS) as one of the most effective ways to develop capacity for development cooperation and, very important, to create capacity and support for awareness raising and development education. Development cooperation is fundamentally about eradicating poverty and its associated problems throughout the most affected countries in the ACP (Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific).

In Romania/NMS however at present Sub-Saharan Africa and its endemic problems are out of the public agenda. Particularly after 1989 there is virtually no bounds left with Africa. Whatever legacy is left from the relations established with African countries during the Cold War era, this is generally compromised and perceived in a negative way. There is no exaggeration in saying that Africa has fallen off all Romanian/NMS maps. As a consequence, in the absence of direct links to Africa, promoting development cooperation in Romania/NMS, both as a national and European policy, is very difficult. People simply do not feel connected in any way to problems in the global south. Migration has not been an issue for Romania/NMS so far. There are very few migrants coming from poorer countries (mostly from Asia) and very few refugees from Africa. Economic ties with countries in Sub-Saharan Africa are very poor. Political linkages are almost non-existent. Mass media is only marginally interested in issues in this region of the world and usually by simply propagating negative stereotypes.

While most members of the Romanian NGDO platform FOND have contacts in the area covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), very few of them are connected to ACP partners. Therefore identifying ways to send development workers in the ACP countries seems essential to creating a sound basis for development cooperation in Romania/NMS.

It is in this context that the study visit organized by TRIALOG from March 2-8, 2008 has been particularly interesting. The first days were dedicated to an introduction in the concepts and system of expert sending, hosted by AGEH (Association for Development Cooperation) in Cologne and with the participation of Joachim Lindau (Consultant, former Programm Director Bread for the World, Germany) and Cliff Allum (FORUM ids, International FORUM on Development Service, Great Britain). Throughout its long experience in managing expert sending programmes, the German organization has developed an excellent system of recruiting, training, placing and reintegrating development workers. One of the secrets of the German success story is definitely the national Development Worker Act, regulating all this particular section of development cooperation. While the Act is the product of a very favourable political momentum in the 1960s, it is still at the core of German development policy.

The one-day stop in Bonn, at the headquarters of DED (German Development Service), clarified many of the implications of public support to expert sending and volunteer sending programme. It also offered the participants from NMS a more Government-like perspective on expert sending, by introducing topics such as Programming and Controlling of Country Programmes or Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation. In the following years the German Government, with the technical support of DED plans to send 10,000 volunteers in developing countries. This dwarfs any possible initiative coming from not only NMS, but also from the other old member states.

Albeit very enriching and with so much useful information, the study-visit days in Germany were felt among the members of the group as rather overwhelming: the situation in the NMS is so far away from the German context, both in terms of scale of the programmes and of the institutional and legal framework, that any thought of comparison can only cause disillusionment.

Therefore, the last stop, at HORIZONT3000 office in Vienna brought more confidence among the participants as the Austrian case is definitely more similar to what could be achieved in the NMS at the moment, in terms of both resources and scope of the expert sending programmes. HORIZONT3000 presented to the participants its own system, more simple and thus flexible, as well as the Austrian Development Workers Act. Also in Vienna, the participants to the study visit had the opportunity to become engaged in the discussion on the future of expert sending programmes during a Roundtable on European "Experts" in Development. Added Value or Time for a Change.

It seems that NMS will have to face a double challenge: the challenge of establishing development worker sending programmes, but also the challenge to adapting them quickly to the changes of a new international context.

View the online documentation of the Study Visit and the Roundtable discussion in Vienna on the TRIALOG website at: <http://www.trialog.or.at/start.asp?ID=148&b=74>

7.2. The New Member States Tea Party for FDR

<http://trialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2008/04/new-member-states-tea-party-for-fdr.html>

As a regular support and preparation activity prior to each meeting of the CONCORD Working Group FDR (Funding for Development and Relief), TRIALOG created the "Tea Party" for new member states (NMS) representatives in FDR. It is a follow-up of the first preparation meeting, that TRIALOG organised last September to motivate and empower NMS platforms to participate actively in this working group.

The FDR Working Group deals with:

- the EC financing instruments that NGOs have or 'should have' access to;
- the deconcentration process of the EC from Brussels to the partner countries;
- the financial regulations and the modalities of their implementation;
- the overall EC-NGO relationship;
- and a lot of related topics.

The second NMS Tea Party took place on March 17, 2008, prior to the 2days FDR-meeting in Brussels. The meeting focused on the question, whether the NMS representatives feel the need to create a new subgroup in FDR, but the very clear statement of the participants from Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Poland and Slovenia was to join as new members the already existing subgroups in FDR, instead of creating an additional group. As second important issue, the Annual Action Plan (AAP) 2008, has been discussed, with the goal to come to a common idea on the aspects relevant for NMS. The AAP was then also high on the agenda of the main FDR meeting and the FDR subgroup DCI (Development Co-operation Instrument).

What is the AAP?

The Annual Action Plan AAP is a yearly document adopted by the EC on the basis of the "Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in development (NSA-LA) Thematic Strategy Paper 2007 – 2010". It is the basic document for the EC to detail the specific actions that will be funded under each NSA-LA objective and the countries in which support will be concentrated (incl. the conditions of the different calls for proposals). For more information see the CONCORD Update Note on the Non State Actors-Local authorities programme (published in Dec. 2007) at:

<http://www.concordeurope.org/Public/Page.php?ID=2314&language=eng>. The AAP 2008 is expected to be approved by the EC by summer.

What are the next steps regarding the AAP 2008?

The subgroup DCI decided to continue with lobby activities also this year. The most important aspects to be tackled are:

- the right of initiative;
- the consultation process between the EC, the delegations and the local NGOs;
- the country list of only 68 prioritised countries;

- and smoother criteria for organisations from NMS.

Observations, comments and proposals regarding the AAP 2008 are collected by to the chair of the DCI Subgroup Belén Marin. By April 10, the FDR group will send a lobby letter to all Member State Representatives in the EC who will decide on the AAP. Parallel to that process, all national NGDO platforms are invited to do lobby work on the national level with MfAs and MS representatives.

For more information on the AAP 2008, possibilities for related lobby work or information regarding the NMS Tea Party, please contact your national FDR representative/your NGDO platform or TRIALOG Capacity Building Officer Petra Kreinecker at p.kreinecker@trialog.or.at

7.3. Through the labyrinth of an EC contract

<http://trialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2008/04/through-labyrinth-of-ec-contract.html>

In December 2007, the EC contracted 18 projects with lead agencies from new member states, which submitted their proposals in February last year within the Call for Proposals 2006 on “Actions to raise public awareness of development issues in Europe”.

As a follow-up activity to the trainings on “How to write an EC-proposal”, TRIALOG organized during the last months trainings to orient the lead agencies (and consortium partners) through the labyrinths of financial rules and regulations of EC contracts. Around 40 NGO representatives from Czech Republic, Estonia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Poland participated in the three trainings on finance and contract management in Prague, Ljubljana and Warsaw.

During the next months, TRIALOG will continue with this training activity on "EC contract management" for those new member states NGOs, who haven't participated until now.

For more information on training possibilities, please contact TRIALOG Capacity Building Officer Petra Kreinecker at: p.kreinecker@trialog.or.at

7.4. New intern in TRIALOG Brussels office: Bosnian country report

<http://trialog-information-service.blogspot.com/2008/04/new-intern-in-trialog-brussels-office.html>

Dijana Kadic, a university student currently studying at Vesalius college in Brussels, has joined the TRIALOG team as intern. Dijana will be with us until May, writing a report on the state of civil society in Bosnia and Herzegovina, her home country.

If you work with organisations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, please send contact details or any relevant information to Dijana at dijana.kadic@gmail.com. Thank you in advance.

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/db/editadr.asp?nuremail=yes> or contact office@trialog.or.at

You can download this issue and earlier ones also from our website

<http://www.trialog.or.at/start.asp?ID=97>

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

If you would rather not receive the TIS, please send an email to office@trialog.or.at.

TRIALOG - EU Enlargement and NGDOs

Vienna Head Office

Director: Christine Bedoya

Office Assistant: Brigitte Quehenberger

Information Officer: Anita Bister

Capacity Building Officer: Petra Kreinecker

Wohllebengasse 12-14

1040 Vienna

Austria

Tel: +43-1-319 79 49

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

Email: office@trialog.or.at

Web: <http://www.trialog.or.at>

TRIALOG - EU Enlargement and NGDOs

Brussels Liaison Office

Policy Officer: Rebecca Steel

10 Square Ambiorix

Brussels 1000

Belgium

Tel: +32-2-743 87 78

Fax: +32-2-732 19 34

Email: trialog@concordeurope.org

Web: <http://www.trialog.or.at>