



TRIALOG Information Service (TIS)

(29/01/2007)

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

CONTENT

1. TRIALOG News

- 1.1. TRIALOG Central Training 2007 to be held in Estonia
- 1.2. New Outlook for Working Group Enlargement: EPAN
- 1.3. Search for Project Partner: Malaria Advocacy Campaign
- 1.4. TRIALOG trainings in preparation of the EC Call in Development Education
- 1.5. Development Education (DE) Partnership Fair - Evaluation and Final Report
- 1.6. Back to HAND: "New" platform coordinator in Hungary
- 1.7. Latvia: New LAPAS Director
- 1.8. New DEEPer start for Development Education in Europe!
- 1.9. CONCORD General Assembly: planning for 2007 and beyond

2. Events

- 2.1. February 8, 2007: Kosovo Conference, Slovenia
- 2.2. February 26-27, 2007: RPP Balkan conference, Slovenia
- 2.3. March 1-2, 2007: Development Education Conference Olomouc
- 2.4. May 3- 5, 2007: Civil Society Symposium in Cyprus - Call for Papers
- 2.5. EsoDoc: European Social Documentary Workshop 2007
- 2.6. June 25 - July 2, 2007: Development Education Summer School 2007, Slovakia

3. Information on EU and EU Enlargement issues

- 3.1. The EU Presidency Project of VENRO: Prospects for Africa – Europe 's Policies

4. Information on activities of European NGOs

- 4.1. SLOGA: CONCORD member and very active life in autumn
- 4.2. Official registration of the Estonian platform: A small big step?
- 4.3. Cooperation of Polish NP with emerging Platforms in Romania and Bulgaria
- 4.4. 'Eastern Europe' meets the 'South' over migration and development

- 4.5. December Conference on ODA legal and institutional framework in Bratislava
- 4.6. NGO-Workshop: 'Policy Coherence still needs development'
- 4.7. GCAP Europe Face to Face Meeting in Berlin, Germany
- 4.8. Moldovan - Latvian Forum on Public Participation
- 4.9. Report on the Annual conference of Eurodad
- 4.10. HAND conference in October in Budapest
- 4.11. Report on RPP Study Visits in autumn
- 4.12. EsoDoc 2006: A Hungarian perspective

5. Funding Opportunities

- 5.1. EC Development Education Call: Bulgarian and Romanian NGOs only associates
- 5.2. Next RPP call to be launched soon
- 5.3. Presidency Fund: third Call entered into main phase, next Call in March

1. TRIALOG News

1.1. TRIALOG Central Training 2007 to be held in Estonia

Information provided by Petra Kreinecker, TRIALOG

This year the annual TRIALOG Central Training will be devoted to "Management and Strategic Planning for National Platforms" and will take place in Tallinn (Estonia) on March 26 and 27. In addition to this main topic, half a day will be reserved for the more theoretical input on the Financial instruments 2007 – 2013. Resource persons from the NGO-sector but also from the EC are invited.

Up to 3 persons per development NGO (NGDO) platform from all 12 new member states (incl. RO/BG), as well as NGO participants from the candidate countries Croatia, Macedonia and Turkey are invited to join the training. Interested NGO-representatives from new member states should - as soon as possible - apply to their national platform, who will do the pre-selection in case of more than 3 people interested. If you are selected, please fill in the registration form (http://www.trialog.or.at/docs/registration_form_central_training2007.doc) and send it to your platform coordinator. We ask each NGDO platform to return up to 3 completed registration forms by February 23, 2007 to TRIALOG Capacity Building officer Petra Kreinecker: p.kreinecker@trialog.or.at. Interested NGO-representatives from the 3 candidate countries should fill in the TRIALOG application form for participation in events (http://www.trialog.or.at/docs/application_for_events.doc) and send it to Petra Kreinecker by February 16, 2007.

For any further questions please contact Petra at: p.kreinecker@trialog.or.at

1.2. New Outlook for Working Group Enlargement: EPAN

Information provided by Asya Bocheva, TRIALOG

The meeting of Working Group Enlargement (WGE), held on 21-22 November 2006 in Brussels, defined new functioning modalities and leadership for the upcoming year 2007. Under the impetus of CONCORD's Assessment and Adjustment process, the WGE members took the decision to transform the group into Enlargement, Pre-accession and Neighbourhood Working Group (EPAN). The aim of this restructuring is to better target policy issues and enhance the group's efficiency and impact. In the future EPAN will be composed of two sub-groups:

- Pre-accession and Neighbourhood: discussing policy under the new European instruments for the Balkans, Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Mediterranean countries (European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument ENPI and Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance IPA)
- Enlargement: sharing information and exchanging experience on developments on country level and platform development

EPAN will meet twice a year, over two days, focusing on the first day over policy issues and dedicating the second day to new member states'/accession countries' issues. The Group also chose a new chair - Veronika Divisova from the Czech NGDO platform FoRS, replacing Vince Caruana (Malta), who after long and loyal services to the group is stepping down to concentrate on development topics regarding the Mediterranean region.

Discussions also touched on current events surrounding the coming into force of the ENPI from the 1st January 2007 and the point of view of the neighbourhood countries (Armenia, Palestine) regarding their expectations from the implementation of the instrument. The Group adopted the paper "Implementation of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership instrument: Time to reach consistency between rhetoric and actions" and decided on follow up advocacy actions for the upcoming 2007.

The next EPAN meeting will be held in May in Sibiu (Romania), the European Capital of Culture for 2007.

Download the Minutes of the WG Enlargement meeting in Brussels and the Terms of Reference for the EPAN Working Group at: <http://www.trialog.or.at/main.asp?m=4,32,225>

The paper on the "Implementation of the ENPI: Time to reach consistency between rhetoric and actions" is available at: http://www.trialog.or.at/docs/position_paper_enpi.pdf

For more information please contact Asya Bocheva at: trialog@concordeurope.org

1.3. Search for Project Partner: Malaria Advocacy Campaign

Information provided by Anita Bister, TRIALOG

The German Medical Aid Organisation (Deutsches Medikamenten-Hilfswerk action medeor e.V.) is seeking a project partner from new member states (NMS) for a Malaria advocacy campaign. The organisation will apply for funding from the European Commission. The NMS partner NGO should preferably work in the health sector, have partners in the South and capacities (personal and financial resources) for active support of the campaign. For more information turn to:

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

In case of interest, please contact Antje Mangelsdorf as soon as possible (best before January 31, 2007): Antje.Mangelsdorf@medeor.org

If you would like to post your Partner Search for a Joint NGO Project on the TRIALOG website, please see the following webpage for further information: <http://www.trialog.or.at/main.asp?m=4,142,156>

1.4. TRIALOG trainings in preparation of the EC Call in Development Education

Information provided by Petra Kreinecker, TRIALOG

In the 3 months (Nov. 2006 - Jan. 2007) after the Development Education Fair (for more information see: <http://www.trialog.or.at/main.asp?m=4,24,223>) TRIALOG realized 10 project-oriented trainings: in the Czech Republic (2), Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland (2), Slovakia and Slovenia (2) with more than 150 participants from 9 new member states (NMS), 4 old member states (OMS), Romania and Bulgaria. During these trainings, at least 40 concrete joint project proposals were prepared which will be sent to the EC within the already launched 2-stage-Call for Proposal in Development Education 2006, with deadline in February 2007 (see also the article in the "Funding Opportunities" section of this TIS).

After the first stage-selection-process of the EC, TRIALOG will offer supporting trainings for the preparation of the application form for the positively pre-selected projects which will enter into the second stage. Dates and places of these trainings will be known after the EC-decision in April or May. If you will pass the first stage of the EC call and are interested in further training, please contact your national NGDO platform or TRIALOG Capacity Building Officer Petra Kreinecker (p.kreinecker@trialog.or.at) for details.

1.5. Development Education (DE) Partnership Fair - Evaluation and Final Report

Information provided by Christine Bedoya, TRIALOG

The evaluation of the DE Partnership Fair in Vienna was completed in December on the basis of the questionnaires filled in by 133 participants. The overall response was highly positive. A high percentage of the participants stated that the fair met their overall expectations. About 35 concrete project concepts were born at the fair, some more ideas were created but couldn't find partners there.

Unfortunately some of the developed joint project ideas have been dropped in the meanwhile - after the publication of the EC DE Call which, against all expectations and announcements made by the EC earlier, does not allow activities to take place in the two new member states Bulgaria and Romania. For more information on this issue see the related article in the "Funding Opportunities"-section of this TIS.

Download the 3 pages evaluation report of the DE Partnership Fair:

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

Find the full evaluation of the questionnaires at the following link:

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

The final report on the DE Partnership Fair which includes links to all presentations/documents is available at: http://www.trialog.or.at/docs/report_de_partnership_fair.pdf

Or go to: <http://www.trialog.or.at/main.asp?m=4,24,223>

1.6. Back to HAND: "New" platform coordinator in Hungary

Information provided by Reka Balogh, HAND

After 4 months in Bosnia and Herzegovina spent with practical testing of the knowledge about development acquired during 2,5 years as the coordinator of the Hungarian NGDO Platform (HAND), Reka Balogh could not manage not to return to the office of the same organisation again as the person responsible for the overall coordination of HAND. "I'm sure that the experiences of these months help me in more accurately understanding what development is about, specifically if it comes to the question of practice and not only of theory.", Reka says. That was exactly the reason why she applied to be a participant of the ASA GLEN program and to work as a volunteer in Bosnia. She is now, according to her own words, recharged with new energy, which is surely needed since HAND is up to a big challenge this year.

As a core activity in 2007, thanks to the support of the Presidency Fund, HAND will enhance the professional work of its members and the platform itself by restructuring, establishing and stimulating the working groups of the Association and by facilitating a more serious involvement in aid monitoring activities.

For further information on the Hungarian platform HAND, go to <http://www.hand.org.hu> or email to: office@hand.org.hu

1.7. Latvia: New LAPAS Director

Information provided by Mara Simane, LAPAS

In November 2006, Mara Simane joined the team of the Latvian NGDO Platform LAPAS as new director. She brings with her in-depth knowledge of the NGO sector and public administration reform, having led the team that wrote the National Programme for Strengthening Civil Society and having engaged in different public administration reform activities. She has also authored Latvia's Millenium Development Goals Report on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a book analysing the UNDP's 15 years of transition assistance to Latvia. She is the lead author of Latvia's 2002-2003 Human Development Report

on Human Security which won the UNDP innovation award for its pioneering work in the subjective aspects of human security. Mara Simane has an M.A. in International Management from the School for International Training in Brattleboro, Vermont (USA).

In 2005 Latvia committed itself to achieving the MDGs at home while actively engaging in development cooperation. With Mara as the new director of the Latvian NGDO platform, LAPAS is well prepared to meet the challenges ahead.

For more information, please go to <http://www.lapas.lv> (in Latvian) or contact: info@lapas.lv

1.8. New DEEEP start for Development Education in Europe!

Information provided by Anne Storcks, DEEEP

DEEEP has been long waiting for it! Since January 2006, when the first phase ended, the Development Education Exchange in Europe Project (DEEEP) was waiting the approval of the new phase by the European Commission, whose services have signed the DEEEP 2 contract at the beginning of October. Thanks to the support of CONCORD, Plan Nederland, NCDO, TRIALOG, VENRO and the German Ministry of Cooperation, DEEEP was able to keep supporting the Development Education Forum and to organise the Development Education Summer School 2006. This shows how high have become Development Education, Awareness Raising, Campaigning, Advocacy on the agenda of public institutions and NGOs, and the importance given to coordination and networking in Europe.

The main activities DEEEP will work on during the next three years are:

- Support to the Development Education Forum and CONCORD to achieve the Development Education priorities approved by the General Assembly on November 2005. In particular DEEEP will support the multi-stakeholder process towards a European Strategic Framework for Development Education.
- Development Education Summer School. The next one will be in Slovakia, 25 June – 2 July 2007, on the theme "Achieving the MDGs: the role of Development Education" (see also "Events" section of this TIS)
- Reflection and training seminars at national and regional level. In particular we will focus on the evaluation of impact, continuing the work already done in DEEEP 1.
- Information and documentation, through the website, the newsletter, the mailing lists.

DEEEP will also act as an antenna in Brussels catching the opportunities offered by the Brussels environment.

For the new start DEEEP has new staff: Anne Storcks (a.storcks@deEEP.org), who organised the successful Summer School 2006, and Adam Davies (a.davies@deEEP.org), who has already proven his capacities in CONCORD, as Communication Assistant first and Policy Officer lately. Together with Angelo Caserta (a.caserta@deEEP.org), the "new-old" project coordinator, they will ensure the implementation of the project under the guidance of the Management Group (UCODEP, ITECO, DEA, CONCORD, NCDO, Development Education Forum). With the contribution of CONCORD members, DEEEP 2 will go DEEPPER, to consolidate the work already done and further "Develop European public Engagement for the Eradication of Poverty through Education and Reflection".

For more information and to read the latest issue of the Development Education Times please go to: <http://www.deEEP.org/>

1.9. CONCORD General Assembly: planning for 2007 and beyond

Source: CONCORD Flash N.38 - Nov. 2006, <http://www.concordeurope.org/>

Another CONCORD General Assembly (GA) uniting CONCORD's members took place on 23rd and 24th November 2006. This time the GA focused on internal issues and discussions in order to prepare for the challenges of 2007 and beyond.

The GA began on a positive note with highlights of the CONCORD success stories in 2006 and the new membership of the Slovenian National Platform, SLOGA (Slovenian Global Action), bringing the total number of CONCORD members to 41 (see also the section "Information on activities of European NGOs" of this TIS).

An important part of the GA was dedicated to discussions on the final phase of the assessment and adjustment of CONCORD working processes, the overall aim being to enhance the work of CONCORD members in increasing the collective impact on European development policies. Other interesting parts of the GA included a space for exchange and discussion on upcoming challenges for the work of NGOs around new development funding mechanisms, migration and new actors in development and planning for 2007. The core themes that will be developed by CONCORD in 2007 are 'more & better aid', 'policy coherence', 'governance', 'gender' as a cross-issue, and 'civil society engagement' including in public awareness & development education.

For more information contact Nathalie Ewing: newing@concordeurope.org

2. Events

2.1. February 8, 2007: Kosovo Conference, Slovenia

Information sent by the Slovenian platform SLOGA

The Center for European Perspective is inviting to an international Conference on Kosovo Inter-ethnic and Inter-religious Relations: Building Bridges of Understanding and Cooperation at Castle Jable, Slovenia, on February 8, 2007.

For more information please download the invitation letter and the agenda:

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

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

2.2. February 26-27, 2007: RPP Balkan conference, Slovenia

Information provided by Marjan Huc, office@sloga-platform.org

The following international conference will take place in the framework of the Regional Partnership Programme RPP (<http://www.regionalpartnership.at>) and is mainly organised by the Slovenian NGO platform SLOGA:

'Changing conditions in the Western Balkan countries – challenges for future cooperation with the EU and Central European countries'; 26 – 27 February, 2007

Venue at 'Center for European Perspective' (CEP), Loka pri Mengšu, Slovenia

View the agenda: http://www.trialog.or.at/docs/balkan_conference_program_final.pdf

Download the registration form (registration by February 2):

http://www.trialog.or.at/docs/balkan_conference_registration.doc

Please note that NMS RPP countries are only Slovenia, Slovakia, Czech Republic and Hungary. NGOs from these countries can apply to get reimbursed by the organisers. Please download the application form: http://www.trialog.or.at/docs/balkan_conference_rpp_application.doc

Interested NGOs from other new member states (non RPP countries) who are already active in the Western Balkans and have experience in the conference topics can apply to TRIALOG for financial support acc. to our usual procedures. Please fill in the TRIALOG application form at the following link and email it to Petra Kreinecker p.kreinecker@trialog.or.at by Wednesday, January 31, 2007: http://www.trialog.or.at/docs/application_for_events.doc

Successful applicants will get notified and have to fill in the TRIALOG Expense Claim form after the event and send it to our Vienna office together with all support documents. Please also see the TRIALOG reimbursement scheme for information. Both documents can be found at:

<http://www.trialog.or.at/main.asp?m=4>

Note that you also have to register directly with the organisers by February 2, 2007, office@sloga-platform.org

For further information please contact Marjan Huc, office@sloga-platform.org

2.3. March 1-2, 2007: Development Education Conference Olomouc

Information provided by the Austrian EU platform

The Agency for Development Assistance and Humanitarian Aid of the Olomouc Region and the Austrian Foundation for Development Research – ÖFSE invites Austrian and Czech NGOs to a development education conference that will take place in Olomouc on the 1st and 2nd March 2007.

Download the invitation letter from: http://www.trialog.or.at/docs/olomouc_de_czanda.pdf

For more information and the programme please contact: petra.krylova@arpok.cz or Lenka Dudkova: informace@arpok.cz

2.4. May 3- 5, 2007: Civil Society Symposium in Cyprus - Call for Papers

Information sent by Carey Gordon, The Management Centre

The Fourth International Symposium on the "State of Civil Society: Where do we go from here?", organized by the Management Centre in collaboration with Intercollege and with a grant from UNDP-ACT, will take place from Thursday, 3rd of May to Saturday, 5th of May 2007, in Nicosia, Cyprus.

Find the invitation letter and the Call for Papers for this Symposium at:

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

The deadline for abstracts is the 22nd of March 2007.

More information will become available at: <http://www.mc-med.org/Special/Symposium4/Symposium4.htm>

For any further questions please contact Carey Gordon at: cgordon@mc-med.org

2.5. ESoDoc – European Social Documentary Workshop 2007

Information sent by Thomas Righetti, ESoDoc

The ESoDoc workshop is targeting independent documentary film makers. ESoDoc – European Social Documentary is a training initiative offered by the ZeLIG School for Documentary, Television and New Media, in Bolzano, Italy. ESoDoc offers three 1-week workshops, held over a 6-month period, during which participants, either individually or in groups, develop projects based on specific Social Documentary themes. Deadline for applications for the 2007 workshop is March 16, 2007. For more information see:

<http://www.esodoc.eu>

TRIALOG encourages representatives from NMS NGDOs which have experience in this field to apply for participation and scholarship at ESoDoc. Please forward your application to TRIALOG as well (p.kreinecker@trialog.or.at) - if you are admitted but do not receive scholarship, TRIALOG will consider to support your participation (by covering travel costs and half of the enrolment fee).

2.6. June 25 - July 2, 2007: Development Education Summer School 2007, Slovakia

Information provided by DEEEP

The Development Education Summer School 2007 will take place in Slovakia, from the 25th of June to the 2nd of July 2007, on the theme "Achieving the MDGs: the role of Development Education". The event is organised jointly by DEEEP, the Slovak NGDO Platform, the Development Education Forum of CONCORD and is co-financed by the European Commission. On <http://www.deeep.org/english/> you find the full presentation (theme, methodology, participation rules) and the application form.

As agreed between DEEEP and TRIALOG, TRIALOG will support the event by covering travel costs for up to 2 NGO participants per new member state/candidate country and by contributing to the participation fee of these participants with 150 EUR/person. Please see the detailed information on how to apply on the DEEEP website mentioned above. Check with your national NGDO platform whether places are still available.

For any additional information please contact:

Zuzana Deáková, Summer School Organiser, secretariat@mvro.sk

Angelo Caserta, DEEEP Co-ordinator, a.caserta@deeep.org

3. Information on EU and EU Enlargement issues

3.1. The EU Presidency Project of VENRO: Prospects for Africa – Europe 's Policies

Source: <http://www.prospects-for-africa.de>

Africa's prospects are at the centre of the EU Presidency Project of VENRO, the Association of German development non-governmental organisations (NGOs). VENRO wishes to integrate the perspectives of African civil societies into German EU Presidency policies. Together German and African civil society organisations are critically and constructively accompanying official presidency policy. They call upon the German Federal Government to act at the European level in support of the following issues:

- Trade justice: Giving precedence to development in regional trade agreements,
- Human security: Focusing on preventing violent conflicts and on peace-building,
- Change in energy policies: Promoting renewable energy and making renewables work for development,
- Climate change: Supporting Africa in adapting to climate change,
- HIV/AIDS: Ensuring universal access to prevention, treatment and care,
- Gender: Implementing gender equality and the empowerment of girls and women as a cross-sector task,
- Role of civil society: Strengthening civil society as a political force in its own right.

Read more on these common positions in the "Development Policy Manifesto for the German EU Presidency 2007" at:

http://www.afrikas-perspektive.de/fileadmin/user_upload/downloads/Dokumente_VENRO/Manifest_Internet-e.pdf

For up-to-date information check the VENRO presidency website at: <http://www.prospects-for-africa.de>

4. Information on activities of European NGDOs

4.1. SLOGA: CONCORD member and very active life in autumn

Information sent by Marjan Huc, SLOGA

SLOGA, the Slovenian NGDO platform for development cooperation and humanitarian aid (SLOvenian Global Action, <http://www.sloga-platform.org>), has started to breathe during the last months and is about to develop its full potential. In November 2006, SLOGA joined CONCORD, the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development, as its 41st full member. A big challenge ahead is the Slovenian

EU presidency in the beginning of 2008. Since June/July 2006, the platform SLOGA has been very active in preparing the NGO presidency project. The draft proposal has been submitted to the EC in December 2006. Apart from the preparation of the Presidency Project, SLOGA currently puts most of its efforts to organizing the Balkan Conference in February (in the context of the Regional Partnership Programme, see "Events" section of this TIS), and to approaching relevant governmental ODA bodies.

Some of the main SLOGA activities in autumn have been the following:

- In order to prepare the presidency project, the SLOGA coordinator participated in the CONCORD troika meeting between Germany, Portugal and Slovenia and in the Development Education Partnership Fair (<http://www.trialog.or.at/main.asp?m=4,24,223>) where an agreement on TRIALOG support to SLOGA for the project preparation has been reached. It turned out to be a good basis for continuing the process of defining the project activities on the national level.
- With the facilitation of TRIALOG, two workshops (Nov., Dec.) were held in Ljubljana with the purpose to coordinate the interests of the Slovenian NGOs regarding the NGO presidency project. NGOs and the platform coordinator participated actively and the workshops were found very useful and crucial in defining the NGO presidency priorities and drafting the project proposal.
- In the context of the biggest Slovenian student festival, some Slovenian NGOs in cooperation with SLOGA have achieved that the first day of the festival was thematically dedicated to extreme poverty eradication. That day (October 17) went together with the GCAP campaign finishing. SLOGA also had the opportunity to meet with the EC representative Jeremy Nagoda who was invited to Slovenia by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Between October 17-20, 2006, 20 Slovenian NGOs attended a study visit to London. The group was split along three main issues: development cooperation, human rights and environment. Seven NGO representatives from Slovenia had the opportunity to meet with different NGOs from the UK (such as BOND, Development Education Association etc.). As a result, concrete joint projects will be developed.
- In cooperation with the Delegation of the European Commission to Ljubljana and CNVOS (Centre for information service, co-operation and development of NGOs), SLOGA organised a meeting for interested Slovenian NGOs with the ECHO representative responsible for public relations, Simon Horner (Nov. 16). He gave basic information about ECHO activities and very successfully linked his presentation to the Slovenian situation (case of a small country where NGOs are mainly oriented to development cooperation). The 17 participants welcomed this meeting very much.
- In the context of the Global Education week, the Slovenian coordinator Zlatka Kos (Governmental office for Youth) organised a round table on the national level (Nov. 21). Its topic was: "Lets act together for an equitable world". SLOGA was invited to present its activities, especially in the context of the possible role of NGOs to that endeavour.

For more detailed information, please do not hesitate to contact SLOGA coordinator Marjan Huc:

info@sloga-platform.org

Read also the article on SLOGA in the November CONCORD Flash (page 2):

<http://www.concordeurope.org/download.cfm?media=docUK&id=1772>

And the platform presentation in the DEEEP newsletter DE Times Vol. II, Issue 1 (page 3):

http://www.deeep.org/english/news/de_times/2times1/DEtimes_2_01.pdf

4.2. Official registration of the Estonian platform: A small big step?

Information provided by Sue Tack, AKÜ

In the end of December 2006 - in the middle of Christmas parties, the ending of the financial year and tasks to be done before the Season's break - AKÜ (Arenngukoostöö Ümarlaud or the Estonian Roundtable for Development Cooperation) was officially established by ten Estonian NGOs and registered as juridical body. The platform has existed informally already since 2003 and has been administratively hosted within a rotation system by its members. Currently AKÜ is still in the office of the European Movement Estonia but is looking for its own place. After previous failed attempts of establishing the platform also now it was not easy. It only happened when the NGOs realized that without this small step AKÜ would stop existing. Motivated by new enthusiasm, new leadership with Anu Eslas as platform coordinator and more stability reached throughout 2006, Estonian NGOs expressed their wish for the platform to exist and to continue.

For the AKÜ secretariat it is just a sign to accomplish a reaffirmed hard task: to create a vivid and active cooperation among NGOs and individuals to support equitable and sustainable development.

Among the priorities for 2007 are increasing the ownership and involvement of the members, improving the information flow, organizing a third successful World Day in June and capacity building for NGO representatives on themes like aid monitoring, sustainable consumption and campaigning.

For more information on the Estonian Roundtable for Development Cooperation please turn to <http://www.terveilm.net> (mainly in Estonian) or contact Anu Eslas or Sue Tack at the new AKÜ email address: info@terveilm.net

4.3. Cooperation of Polish NP with emerging Platforms in Romania and Bulgaria

Information provided by Justyna Janiszewska

From March 2006 till January 2007 the Zagranica Group - Polish National Platform (NP) ran a project with Romanian and Bulgarian NGOs, which have been working on establishing NGDO Platforms in their countries. The Polish Platform was happy to share its good and bad experiences from 5 years of existence of the NGDO coalition with Bulgarian and Romanian colleagues. It has to be, however, underlined that any successes achieved by the emerging Bulgarian and Romanian Platforms are resulting mainly and primarily from the will and determination of their constituencies. The project, financed by the National Endowment for Democracy, was started in spring 2006 with short visits to both countries during which representatives of the Polish NP presented their coalition to local partners and set up a framework for further cooperation.

A major activity of the project was a 5-days study visit to the Polish Platform, which was conducted in July. Thanks to the support of TRIALOG also the coordinators of the evolving NGDO platforms from Lithuania and Estonia took part in the visit. First of all, the participants were introduced to the general situation of the Polish third sector and a few models of existing networks and national coalitions were presented to them. Then particular aspects of the Platform were explained in details: structure and procedures, decision making process, communication system, membership rules, dialog with the government and statements which were produced by the Platform, working groups. There was also a meeting with a representative of the Polish MFA, who explained the mechanism of grant competitions for NGOs. Visitors were also given an opportunity to have some bilateral/ small group meetings on topics of their interest. The whole group was very active - almost every day the work was prolonged for one more hour and discussions were continued during dinners.

In autumn the project was continued in two ways: first of all small grants (of USD 800) were given to both emerging platforms for a common activity agreed by the members. The size of the grants was rather symbolical, nevertheless enough for conducting a small activity - the idea of the grants was to support building a clear decision making process and common identity within each platform. In both countries information/promotion materials about the platforms were produced as a result. Furthermore, there were seminars on networking conducted in each country.

Finally, in January 2007 there were 2 persons from Romania and 1 from Bulgaria invited to a member organization of the Polish NP - the Educational Society for Malopolska based in Nowy Sacz in the south of Poland to learn about development projects of this organization, which are run in the Balkans, Ukraine, Moldova and Caucasus.

The Polish Platform will be pleased to continue the cooperation with Bulgarian and Romanian NGOs. For more information about the project contact Justyna Janiszewska (justyna@edudemo.org.pl) or Marta Pejda (marta@zagranica.org.pl).

4.4. 'Eastern Europe' meets the 'South' over migration and development

Information provided by Asya Bocheva, TRIALOG

From 12 to 17 December 2006, Kontakt der Kontinenten (KdK), the Dutch training centre in development co-operation, with the financial support of TRIALOG, organised a seminar dealing with the various aspects of migration and development. The Winter School gathered participants of the NGO community working on development co-operation and migration issues from the EU New Member States, candidates and potential candidates like Croatia, Georgia and Serbia and migrant organisations based in different European countries such as Malta and Germany. The aim was to exchange best practices, strategies and information in dealing with migration flows and how they could be used for development.

The programme offered a broad view on the Dutch experience as a major immigration receiving country. Various actors provided inputs on the topic to map the current migration and development challenges the Netherlands is facing. Among the guest speakers were academics, government representatives, NGOs and the migrants themselves. Topical issues such as the use of remittances, development projects elaborated by immigrants for the benefit of their countries of origin, mainstreaming of immigrants expertise in the elaboration of national development strategies, or return migration schemes were touched upon. Participants could also visit the Buna Bet Coffee Shop – a successful project and a social enterprise run by Ethiopians that provides fair prices to Ethiopian farmers for their coffee and helps Ethiopian women escape prostitution by offering them skilled jobs in coffee processing.

Participants found the seminar useful in creating contacts and in exchanging information and experiences. The majority of the people present pronounced themselves for an active follow-up of the Winter School – the next event on migration and development is envisaged to take place in the summer in Georgia.

For more information please contact:

Asya Bocheva, TRIALOG Policy Officer: Asya.Bocheva@concordeurope.org

Wico Bunskoek, Director Kontakt der Kontinenten (KdK): wico.bunskoek@kdk-nl.org

4.5. December Conference on ODA legal and institutional framework in Bratislava

Information provided by Zuzana Kratka, Slovak NGDO Platform MVRO

Within the Regional Partnership Programme (RPP), the Slovak NGDO Platform (Platforma MVRO), in cooperation with the Austrian EU-Platform, organized an international conference on „ODA legal and institutional framework – flexibility in ODA management“ which took place in Bratislava on December 11th and 12th, 2006. Approximately 50 participants, representing 8 countries, were attending.

Given the context that all NMSs countries within the RPP (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia and the Slovak Republic) as well as Poland are establishing new systems of ODA legal and institutional framework, the conference created space for discussion in various related topics, among non-governmental organizations, Ministries of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and Ministries of Finance of all RPP countries and Poland.

During the Monday sessions, experts from Sweden and Great Britain presented their respective systems for managing the official development assistance. Alongside, representatives of MFAs from RPP countries and Poland delivered country reports on current status of system and management of national ODA. The presentations revealed different approaches to new ODA systems and current progress in their formation, but showed many similarities as well.

Among the main results of the Conference were:

- A widened knowledge on the various models used for ODA Management in the different countries
- An introduction to some alternative, flexible mechanisms that could be used in monitoring ODA activities.
- An increased awareness of dialogue procedures between Ministries and other ODA actors.

One expectation from the Conference is that the various actors (ministries, institutions and NGOs) from each country will continue the discussion from the conference when returning home, hopefully using new aspects and ideas brought up during the conference.

As for the continuation of the experience-sharing process on new ODA system formation there will be further activities in Poland in the first term of 2007, organized by the Polish national platform Zagranica <http://www.zagranica.ngo.pl/>.

For further information and a detailed conference documentation, go to the MVRO website: <http://www.mvro.sk/humanitarna-pomoc-konferencia-pravny-a-institucionalny-ramec-oda-.html> or contact Zuzana Kratka, RPP Manager at MVRO, office@mvro.sk

4.6. NGO-Workshop: 'Policy Coherence still needs development'

Information provided by Else Boonstra, Evert Vermeer Foundation

On Wednesday 22 November 2006, the Evert Vermeer Foundation and CONCORD organised, within the framework of the EU Coherence Programme, a workshop that aimed to focus on the role that NGOs can play in promoting Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) on the national level as well as on the European level. In an informal atmosphere, with participants from all over Europe, this led to a fruitful discussion.

The diversity of participants led to an interesting overview of the experiences NGOs have in promoting Policy Coherence for Development. Several participants represented NGOs or NGO-platforms from countries, where development cooperation is still being set up by the government as a distinct policy field (Cyprus, Slovenia, Latvia, Malta, Bulgaria, Armenia). For most of these NGOs, Policy Coherence for Development is something completely new. But they are eager to learn more about it. Right now seems to be a good time to exert pressure on the governments to take account of Policy Coherence for Development.

Other NGOs or platforms clearly have more experience and expertise in dealing with PCD issues. In Ireland the government is undertaking some steps in the direction of promoting PCD. But there is a distinction between promoting coherence and coherence for development. "Irish NGOs want to promote coherence for development, the government just wants to promote coherence", Eamonn Casey, from the Irish Platform Dochas, said. In Finland, PCD has been a major topic during the Finnish Presidency, and will also be an important issue during the next couple of years. Interestingly to note is that more experienced NGOs point out that promoting PCD is a time consuming process, and therefore demands NGOs to coordinate and aggregate their limited resources on the national level as well as on the European level.

The workshop made clear that there is a strong need among NGOs - whether experienced or less experienced - to set up some kind of framework, which could help to (1) learn more about PCD, (2) exchange information, expertise and experiences, and (3) pool resources. Among the participants was a preference to adopt a theme-based approach in setting up such a network. Some of the possible themes identified were trade, arms traffic, agriculture and migration. The fact that all participants were enthusiastic about the workshop and its informal atmosphere, once again showed that PCD is an important issue for many NGOs, and will only become more and more important in the future.

For more information please visit <http://www.eucoherence.org> or contact eboonstra@evertvermeer.org

4.7. GCAP Europe Face to Face Meeting in Berlin, Germany

Information provided by Balazs Frida, Anthropolis, Hungary

After the successful worldwide mobilization and lobbying campaign called "Stand Up Against Poverty!" in 2006, the branch of organizing NGOs within Europe gathered together in November (8-10, 2006) to evaluate their activities, outreach and experiences and also to plan further and more coordinated steps for the next year.

The movement of Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) is one of the most powerful global network of NGOs to eradicate poverty in the world started in Porto Alegre (Brazil) in 2003. GCAP is a massive global coalition from more than 100 countries and is made up of a diverse range of community groups, coalitions, trade unions, organisations, individuals, faith groups, activists and campaigners, who are all committed to the fight against poverty. These groups have formed country-based (national) coalitions, who use the symbol of the whiteband to promote GCAP's demands and enable concerned citizens to put pressure on world leaders and decision makers. The movement's famous slogan "Make Poverty History" has become well known everywhere in the planet, since they pressured governments to dramatically lessen inequality, and achieve the MDGS. In 2005, GCAP organized a global campaign to raise awareness in the name of fighting against poverty, at the same time when the G8 Ministerial Meeting was held in Hongkong, involving many world famous celebrities such as Brad Pitt, Madonna, Bono Vox or Nelson Mandela. In 2006, GCAP supporters were STANDING UP AGAINST POVERTY in the Month of Mobilisation activities from September 16 – October 17 (on the UN World Poverty Day), this initiative mobilized more than 23,5 million people worldwide, and was the "largest single coordinated movement of people in the history" of the Guinness World Record. For further information please visit:

<http://www.whiteband.org>

GCAP is continuing its widespread activity in 2007, focussing on aid efficiency, 07.07.07. (midpoint of achieving MDGs) and pressuring Ms. Merkel and the other world leaders during the German EU-presidency and the G8 Ministerial Meeting in Heiligendamm (Germany), 6-8. July 2007.

GCAP campaigners would like to involve more national coalitions from Central and Eastern Europe. If your country is interested to join GCAP Europe, please contact Balazs Frida (Hungary): Balazs.Frida@anthropolis.hu, Julien Vaissier (Belgium): Julien.Vaissier@actionaid.org or Ivy Kakiiza (UK) Ivy.Kakiiza@actionaid.org.

4.8. Moldovan - Latvian Forum on Public Participation

Information sent by Aiga Nebare, Latvian NGDO Platform

On November 7- 9, 2006, the Moldovan – Latvian Forum on Public Participation, organized by the Latvian NGDO Platform LAPAS, took place in Chisinau, Moldova with the participation of more than 100 people, representatives from NGOs, ministries and local municipalities from Moldova, Latvia, Georgia and Romania. The Forum was the core event of a joint 5-months project between Latvia and Moldova which started in July 2006. The project "Moldovan – Latvian Forum on Public Participation" was developed jointly by the Latvian NGDO Platform, the NGO Contact Center and NGO INRECO in Moldova and with close assistance of the Soros Foundation – Moldova and the Soros Foundation - Latvia. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, Open Society Institute in Moldova and Latvia East-East Programme, Soros Foundation – Latvia, EURASIA Foundation in Moldova financially supported the project.

The focus of the Moldovan – Latvian Forum was on public participation issues as integral and vital part of the process of European integration of Moldova. The event aimed at sharing the Latvian expertise at various levels – governmental, municipal and non-governmental. The idea behind the Forum was that only close and constructive cooperation between the NGOs, municipalities and the government can bring success and prosperity to any society. The Forum was the first public profile event of the existing cooperation among Moldovans and Latvians and had the ambition to address the decision-makers in Moldova and to give the civil society representatives an opportunity to discuss the issue of public participation together with representatives from the government and local municipalities. The core activity

of the Forum was done in three working groups on the following topics: how to strengthen the dialogue between the government and civil society; how to increase the role of public participation in promoting regional and local development and how to enhance the process of European Integration through public participation.

The Moldovan-Latvian Forum also prepared the ground for further cooperation in future. 15 project ideas among Latvian, Moldavian, Georgian and Romanian participants were developed. The Latvian NGOs and the Latvian NGDO platform benefited from the event by strengthening their profile and having the opportunity to reflect and re-evaluate their own public participation's strengths and weaknesses which helped to design an even more effective strategy for the future. Last but not least, the event contributed to the positive image of Latvia as a donor country and made the expertise in the field of public participation visible.

Read more on the background and outcome of the Forum in the following summary:

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

Read the press-release issued by LAPAS prior to the event:

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

For more information, please contact Aiga Nebare at: info@lapas.lv

4.9. Report on the Annual conference of Eurodad

Information provided by Jiri Silny, Ecumenical Academy Prague

Eurodad is the European Network on Debt and Development (<http://www.eurodad.org>). It is a network of 52 development non-governmental organisations from 17 European countries working on international economic justice issues. They press for national and international policies that overcome the current debt crisis and achieve poverty eradication and the empowerment of the poor. The role of the network is to coordinate its members knowledge and resources, to make effective campaigns, outreach and advocacy. The topics Eurodad tackles at present include multilateral and illegitimate debt, the conditionalities attached to multilateral and bilateral aid, reform of the international financial architecture, and aid effectiveness.

The Eurodad annual conference was held in collaboration with the German member Erlassjahr.de in Berlin, Germany from 29th – 31st October 2006 under the title "From illegitimacy to responsibility: transforming development finance".

The conference attracted 125 people from 39 different countries, including 30 from countries from the South and representatives from two new EU member states: the Development Research Centre from Bulgaria and the Ecumenical Academy Prague from Czech Republic. Among the speakers were numerous respected academic researchers and NGO experts. The conference covered the linked themes of illegitimate debt and responsible finance and led to a number of excellent insights and ideas for future work.

One of the most discussed and welcomed issues was the case of Norway. This country as the first of all debtors unilaterally and without conditions cancelled USD 80 million in illegitimate debts owed by 5 countries: Egypt, Ecuador, Peru, Jamaica and Sierra Leone. Norway's Government has in effect admitted that it's lending in these particular cases was irresponsible and motivated by domestic concerns, rather than an objective analysis of the development needs of the countries involved. "This is a groundbreaking decision which has huge ramifications for other lenders that acted irresponsibly in the past", said Gail Hurley from Eurodad. Eurodad and its members are for years pursuing the demand of cancelling the so called "odious" or illegitimate debts which served often to support dictatorships against their own population. The precedence of Norway is a great satisfaction and encouragement for the movement. The arguments for auditing the existing debts under the perspective of legitimacy are getting stronger.

Within the conference topic "responsibility in financing of development" the focus was especially on the responsibility of lenders, which was not pointed out enough yet. Also the question of corruption was discussed as an issue which is far to be a problem only on the side of the poor countries.

The full conference report and all presentation are available on the Eurodad web page:

<http://www.eurodad.org/articles/default.aspx?id=713>

For pictures from the event turn to: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/eurodad/sets>

4.10. HAND conference in October in Budapest

Information provided by Peter Juhasz, HAND

HAND, the Hungarian Association of NGOs for Development and Humanitarian Aid, was the organiser of an international conference entitled "Experiencing International Development" on October 20-21, 2006 in Budapest. The conference was followed by the annual festival for the wider public – called "Tranzit 2006 Festival for Global Solidarity" on October 21-22 (co-organized by HAND). Both events were closely linked to the European Development Days focusing on current European development policy priorities, and were aiming at increasing professional knowledge and public awareness on international development related issues. The events took place under the patronage of the Hungarian Foreign Minister, Dr. Kinga Göncz, and were sponsored by the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA).

At the conference participants discussed concepts of international development co-operation, goals and objectives, methods, challenges and achievements reached worldwide in the past in this field. Among the presented topics there was a debate around EU development policy and financial perspectives, and development policy priorities of the New Member States. There were presentations about aid watch and aid monitoring; as well as about new challenges in co-operation with the Balkan Region and Sub-Saharan Africa. A separate section was dedicated to public-private partnership: the co-operation between government agencies, NGDOs and private sector organisations. Participants represented the European Commission, CONCORD, the Hungarian MFA, experts from European research institutes, Hungarian NGDOs and private enterprises.

The Tranzit 2006 Festival contained various cultural and entertaining events, like concerts, dance shows, art exhibitions, films, a drawing competition for school children, completed by an award ceremony. Hungarian NGDOs displayed stands and organised panel discussions on international development issues and European development co-operation. The conference and the festival provided a good opportunity to discuss current issues and problems regarding international development activities and humanitarian assistance.

For more information please read the summary of the Hungarian "Make The World Round!" campaign (http://www.trialog.or.at/docs/maketheworldround_campaignsummary.pdf), download the conference programme (http://www.trialog.or.at/docs/agenda_hungary.pdf) or contact HAND at office@hand.org.hu

4.11. Report on RPP Study Visits in autumn

Information provided by Elke Gosch, RPP

In October 2006, the Regional Partnership Programme (RPP; <http://www.regionalpartnership.at>) organized three Study Visits on „Global Education“ to Austria (Vienna, Linz and Graz) for NGDO representatives of the participating new member states working in the field of development education.

The overall goal was to strengthen the dialogue between NGOs from NMS and Austria, to build new contacts and to share experiences of the daily work in schools, parishes and with guests from Africa, Asia, Latin America and Oceania. In every city the participants visited a Südwind office where they had the possibility to experience workshops on different topics such as globalisation, football, cotton and fair trade. In Vienna the study visit started at BAOBAB where the participants could try out some of the materials that

are used in schools. In the evening, a "get-together" with Austrian NGOs offered the possibility to discuss open questions from the day with more colleagues. On the next day Welthaus Wien, Linz and Graz presented their organisation and introduced their main educational tools for "Intercultural Dialogue" and the "guests-programme".

The Study Visits were characterized by a very open, communicative and friendly atmosphere and fulfilled mainly the expectations of the participants. Due to the professional preparation and the cordial implementation of the host organisations in Wien, Linz and Graz this RPP event was a great success.

For further information, details and photos please see:

<http://www.eu-platform.at/english/start.asp?b=872>

Or contact the RPP office at: officeRPP@eu-platform.at

4.12. EsoDoc 2006: A Hungarian perspective

Information provided by Klara Trencsenyi

Between May and October 2006 Klara Trencsenyi from Hungary took part in the EsoDoc European Social Documentary training course, organized by the Zelig School for Documentary, Television and New Media in Bolzano, Italy. EsoDoc is a three times one-week-training program where young filmmakers and NGO workers are trained together to be engaged with social documentaries: EsoDoc's aim is to widen the horizons of professionals in the documentary, NGO and media sector so that they create links between social issues and the world of broadcasters and New Media (for information on EsoDoc 2007 see the "Events" section of this TIS). Here Klara's report:

"During the first week of the training we mainly learned about the theory of social documentary filmmaking: we had presentations about socially engaged documentaries, video advocacy, participating video projects – illustrated by some excellent documentary films. The presence of a trainer from India, Neelima Mathur, and her very often emotional, engaged comments meant a lot for all participants – she complained that people tend to think about India only through stereotypes. She reminded us that local filmmakers, local NGO activists should be involved in covering local issues – and she emphasized that the same applies for films about Africa, Asia and other "exotic places" European filmmakers are so keen on misrepresenting. Further on we got acquainted with the work of the Italian branch of the African Medical and Research Foundation, AMREF, an NGO that works with street children in Kenya, training the kids themselves to make their own film about their own world. NGO workers, who never had a camera in their hand, had the opportunity to learn about the technical aspects and aesthetics of filmmaking, while filmmakers with film school education could learn about the activity and concern of people working in the fields of humanitarian and non-governmental work. Hopefully we participants will soon start shooting our common projects."

For further information visit <http://www.esodoc.com> or contact Klara Trencsenyi, Budapest, at:

klaritat@yahoo.com

5. Funding Opportunities

5.1. EC Development Education Call: Bulgarian and Romanian NGOs only associates

Information provided by benjo and Anita Bister, TRIALOG

In the guidelines of the open EC Call for actions to raise awareness of development issues in Europe (with deadline on February 20, all details can be found among "other - open - grants" on:

<http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/cgi/frame12.pl>) it was not quite clear whether project activities can take

place in Bulgaria (BG) and Romania (RO). In an email to the German platform the EC clarified this point.

Unfortunately the answer was that it is not possible to foresee projects for the implementation in BG and RO. NGOs from BG/RO can not be partners or applicants but only associates, which basically means they

can receive travel costs and per diems and this way participate in activities in the EU-25 (as it was in 2006). The argument is that Bulgaria and Romania entered the EU only on Jan 1, 2007 after the publishing date of the call.

The EC also points to the paragraph point 2.1.3. in the guidelines of the call which might be a very little "window of opportunities" since it allows some "activities in a limited scale in other countries". Here the whole sentence: "Activities which form part of an action may also be carried out, in a limited scale, in other countries, in particular in developing countries concerned by the issues, provided that these activities contribute directly to raising awareness in the European Union of the issues." But this is very vague/limited.

All announcements made by the EC before publishing the Call (e.g. at the DE Partnership Fair, see also section 'TRIALOG News') created the expectation that it would be possible to realize project activities in Romania and Bulgaria. Unfortunately the efforts made by TRIALOG/CONCORD and many NGOs across Europe to create real partnership and develop joint projects with Bulgarian and Romanian NGOs now seem to be without success. As in 2004, the NGO community has again proven to be one step ahead the institutions when it comes to making enlargement really happen.

In case of further questions in the context of the DE call, please write to TRIALOG Capacity Building Officer: p.kreinecker@trialog.or.at

5.2. Next RPP call to be launched soon

Information provided by Josefa Molitor, RPP

The next Call for proposals of the Regional Partnership Programme (RPP) will be open between February and April 2007 (launch: February 14; deadline: April 11). The Advance Notice of the 2007 call is published on the RPP website. The lead agency must be an NGO established and registered in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia or Slovenia. A co-operation with an Austrian partner NGO is a requirement for the application. Organisations are advised to start looking for cooperation partners in time.

The RPP Office is offering support in finding (Austrian) project partners: NGOs from CZ, H, SK and SLO are invited to send short project abstracts to the RPP office. These abstracts will be published on the website under 'search for cooperation'. Austrian NGOs are invited to also send short 'offers for cooperation' to the RPP office. These offers will be published on the website. To encourage more NGOs to participate in the Call and to improve the quality of the project applications, a capacity building day on proposal writing will be organised in March 2007.

Find more information on the RPP and the upcoming call at <http://www.regionalpartnership.at> or email to: officeRPP@eu-platform.at

5.3. Presidency Fund: third Call entered into main phase, next Call in March

Information provided by Samantha Saldanha, Eurostep; <http://www.presidencyfund.org>

The preliminary phase of the third Presidency Fund Call concluded on January 21, 2007. 36 applications have been accepted in the Preliminary Phase and will be invited to participate in the main phase of Call 3.

The Seven organisations receiving aid from the Presidency Fund as a result of the First Call for Proposals are in their second phase of the implementation process and have had very positive experiences in the course of the first six months. Summaries of their Mid-Term Reports are available on the Presidency Fund website (see below). These seven organisations are: People In Need, Czech Republic; Glopolis, Czech Republic; Network of East-West Women, Poland; Polish Humanitarian Organisation, Poland; KOPIN, Malta; LAPAS, Latvia; Estonian Roundtable for Development Cooperation, Estonia.

Call 2 has been concluded with 6 organisations being provisionally selected to receive aid from the Presidency Fund. Negotiations are presently underway between each of these organisations and the Fund Secretariat before finalising the decision to award aid. The details of these organisations and a summary of the selected projects will be available shortly on the Presidency Fund website.

The next 4th call is expected to be published on 3 March 2007, with the preliminary phase deadline on 3 May 2007 and the main deadline on 3 June 2007.

For more information, check the Presidency Fund website: <http://www.presidencyfund.org>

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.

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