

Development Education: From Lobby to Action

LOOKING BACK AND FORWARD

TRIALOG capacity building activities have recently focused on trainings in relation to the European Commission (EC) Call for "Actions to Raise Public Awareness of Development Issues in Europe". As a result of EU-wide lobby actions, the EC allocated 10 million Euros in the 2006 budget especially for development education and awareness raising activities in the new EU member states (NMS). In October 2006, TRIA-LOG organized the Development Education Partnership Fair, where 200 NGOs from the entire EU came to Vienna to locate new partners and to begin the process of elaborating project proposals for participation in the EC Development Education (ED) Call. By January 2007, more than 150 participants had attended 10 TRIA-LOG follow-up trainings on proposal writing, held in 7 different NMS.

The result was a strong participation of NMS organizations in the two-stage ED Call. According to EC data, 63 concept notes were submitted by the 10 eligible NMS – Bulgaria and Romania were not yet eligible. In May 2007 the EC invited 38 pre-selected projects from NMS to submit full proposals. During 4 trainings in Ljubljana, Prague, Warsaw and Bratislava TRIA-LOG supported 50 participant NGOs from old



Plenum at the Development Education Partnership Fair

and NMS to clarify all remaining queries of their final project proposals. In the final selection, 18 projects with lead agencies from 8 NMS have been approved by the EC and will begin in 2008. Together with 4 projects which will operate in NMS, but lead by British, Greek and Dutch NGOs, the full sum of 10 million Euros allocated for ED activities in NMS will be used.

In the meantime the EC has adopted new financial instruments for 2007-2013. The Development Co-operation Instrument (DCI), especially the thematic programme "Non-State Actors and Local Authorities" is

replacing the NGO co-financing budget line 21 02 03. The main modification which strongly affects NGOs is that in future, funds will also be accessible by institutions like universities, political foundations and by local authorities. This conforms to the overall trend in donor policies to increasingly expend development

funds via public institutions rather than through non governmental actors.

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Useful Weblink:

Financial EC Instruments 2007-2013:
http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/delivering-aid/funding-instruments/index_en.htm

EPAN: WORKING GROUP ON ENLARGEMENT, PRE-ACCESSION AND NEIGHBOURHOOD

The Working Group (WG) on Enlargement, operating within the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development (CONCORD) under the auspices of TRIA-LOG, has been actively engaged in the recent CONCORD Assessment & Adjustment process. The major outcome of this process was that the scope of the WG was broadened to include a special focus on developing countries that fall under the remit of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), as well as to focus on the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA). The new WG was named **EPAN**, for **E**nlargement, **P**re-**A**ccession and **N**eighbourhood, and had its first meeting in May 2007.

In a letter from CONCORD in September 2007, these "new ambitions" were welcomed by the board, thereby confirming that EPAN will be focusing its policy work and information sharing on EU Neighbourhood, Pre-Accession and Enlargement issues. EPAN contributes to CONCORD strategic objectives by: a) aiming at making sure the

EU respects development objectives and principles when dealing with developing countries covered by ENPI and IPA; and b) contributing to stronger advocacy and policy work by development NGOs at national and EU levels, including those NGOs from current and future new member states (NMS).

In practice there are two subgroups. The **EU Neighbourhood sub-group**, which will monitor the implementation of ENPI, elaborate policy documents and organise advocacy actions. And the **Pre-accession sub-group** which will support the deepening of European integration and the development of civil society in the Western Balkan countries and Turkey. It will also identify stakeholders to help build a development cooperation framework.

To achieve its objectives EPAN will meet twice a year, with another two meetings envisaged for the steering group; regular electronic contact will be maintained throughout the year. TRIA-LOG is the convener of this WG, as it was for the WG on

Enlargement, and provides daily support from the TRIA-LOG policy officer based in Brussels. By the end of October, EPAN finalised its Working Plan for 2008. The Action Plan was further detailed during the November EPAN meeting held in Romania.

One of the major challenges now facing EPAN is to identify and engage the right people and expertise from within the CONCORD platforms and networks that will be most capable of ensuring the implementation of the rather ambitious targets EPAN has set for itself.

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Useful Weblinks:

EPAN:
www.trialog.or.at/start.asp?ID=107
ENPI:
www.enpi-programming.eu