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TRIALOG – reinforcing the role of NGOs in the enlarged  
European Union (TRIALOG II)

## Final Report for the European Commission

Reporting period: September 22, 2003 – September 21, 2006

Beneficiary: HORIZONT3000, Austria (Lead Agency)

Partners in the Consortium: AGEH (Germany)  
Brot für die Welt (Germany)  
Cordaid (Netherlands)  
Licht für die Welt (former CBM, Austria)  
AEC (France)

Other Partners: CONCORD  
Inwent (Germany)  
Kopin (Malta)  
Czech Platform  
Slovak Platform  
Polish Humanitarian Organisation (Poland)

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## Abbreviations

AC	Accession Countries to the EU
CONCORD	European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development
DEF	Development Education Forum
EC	European Commission
ELDC	Economically Less Developed Country
ENPI	European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument
EU	European Union
FDR	CONCORD WG "Funding for Development and Relief"
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
NMS	New Member States of the European Union since 2004
NP	National Platform of NGOs
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NGDO	Non Governmental Development Organization
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OMS	Old Member States of the European Union before 2004
PA	Participants
RPP	Regional Partnership Programme
WGE	Working Group Enlargement

## 1. Descriptive Section

### 1.1. Summary of the project objectives

The overall objective of TRIALOG II was to ensure smooth and full integration of Accession Countries' NGOs into the European Union and into the EU NGO community. This will be achieved by strengthening dialogue and partnerships with EU and ELDCs NGOs, enabling full participation in appropriate EU and National Development NGOs Forums, increasing understanding of the expected role of civil society in EU poverty eradication policies and capacity of the European Union to live up with its commitment towards the Millennium Development Goals.

The specific objectives were:

1. Facilitating the inclusion of NGOs and their co-ordination bodies from Accession Countries into the new NGO-EU co-ordination body of Development NGOs (CONCORD) and links with other relevant EU-NGO networks and key partners in ELDCs
2. Strengthening capacities of NGOs and their co-ordination bodies from Accession Countries in order to participate, together with their counterparts in ELDCs, in policy debates about Development policies of the EU institutions and national governments and in order to be able to use the political and financial External Aid opportunities available at EU and national level
3. Building the institutional capacity of NGOs in Accession Countries through the strengthening of National Platforms or other NGOs co-ordination bodies and informal Fora
4. Providing opportunities for increased networking, information exchange, mutual learning, partnership, joint projects between NGOs from EU, Accession Countries and ELDCs.
5. Increasing awareness in Accession Countries and future EU members of development issues, development concepts, paradigms and methodologies, its international discourses and activities like sustainable development, global justice, poverty eradication, the Millennium Goals, and the role of NGOs in EU Development policies.

## 1.2. Status of measures embarked upon

### 1.2.1. CONCORD Working Groups and Events

#### ➤ *WG Enlargement convened by TRIALOG*

The Working Group on Enlargement (WGE) is a CONCORD working group convened and organized by TRIALOG. It was set up in June 2003. Its main topic is 'Development policy, cooperation and education in an enlarged Europe'. Its aims/priorities are:

- 1) Analyze the impact of enlargement on development cooperation and policy at Brussels EU institution's level (in favour of the needs of and the experiences new member states/accession countries and their NGOs bring with them) and especially amongst the new officials (EC, EP, Council) coming from new member states/accession countries.
- 2) Lobby at national government level (for the support of NGOs and quick integration into all areas of EU development cooperation and policy)
- 3) Strengthen the role of new member states/accession countries delegates in other CONCORD WGs
- 4) Raise the profile of enlargement within CONCORD and its membership
- 5) Ensure a debate on development cooperation objectives, priorities and concepts between old and new members
- 6) Build alliances between like-minded NGOs amongst CONCORD's membership and between other stakeholders in order to build "real partnerships"
- 7) Act as a "think tank" to research on the impact of various specific issues related to enlargement and development.

"As an overarching aim of the WG it was agreed that it is supposed to guarantee an exchange of information and know how about the issue of enlargement and development."

The WGE meets twice a year, in 2006 three times (March, June and November). Membership is open to all OMS, NMS and AC (CONCORD members and non-members) as well as to networks that are CONCORD members. It has a Chair and a Steering Group. It also has sub groups.

The WG Enlargement generally exchanges information on a regular basis and further develops different strategy and briefing papers on development policy issues at stake – topics such as lobby work towards the European Parliament, EU Constitution, follow-up and amendments to CONCORD's position paper on Financial Perspectives etc.

Three meetings were convened in the last year of TRIALOG II, in November 05, in March 06 and in June 06. At all 3 meetings the main subject on the agenda was the follow up of the WGE position paper analyzing the European Commission's proposal to establish a new Instrument for European Neighbourhood and Partnership (ENPI). This instrument's proposal had raised concerns among the EU NGDOs such as on the position of the civil society and the future of EU's relations with Eastern European, Caucasian and Mediterranean neighbouring countries. This ENPI position paper, one of the most significant policy papers made by the WG Enlargement so far, was first drafted by a WGE subgroup on "Neighbourhood policy" in liaison with other CONCORD task forces (Task forces on the Financial Perspectives and on the Development Policy statement), and was then commented by the other members of the Working Group Enlargement.

As part of the follow up on the ENPI, the task force European Neighbourhood from WGE elaborated a document "Implementation of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument" which was finalized in October 2006. The paper was produced in close

consultation with civil society organisations from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and the Mediterranean.

The discussion on ENPI was one of the first CONCORD policy debates that provoked significant interest from a large number of New Members States representatives, as these countries are among the EU members most concerned by the relations with EU neighbouring states- the eight post-communist NMS have many close connections to the eastern neighbour countries, while Malta and Cyprus CSOs have many connections to Libya and the eastern mediterranean respectively. In all NMS, new EU security, immigration and asylum policies are forcing the EU neighbourhood question onto the domestic agenda.

The WG Enlargement also discussed other policy issues such as the review of the Development Policy Statement, the global call against poverty and the main campaigns linked to the EU presidencies, strengthening the links with the other CONCORD Working Groups activities like policy coherence for development and aid watching.

### ➤ *Participation of NMS' NGDO representatives in other CONCORD events*

#### ***CONCORD General Assembly***

NGDO platform or coordination bodies from all 10 NMS, and from Romania and Bulgaria, participate regularly in CONCORD's General Assemblies, email discussions and events. In the beginning of TRIALOG II, the Czech, Hungarian, Maltese and Slovak platforms were already members of CONCORD. In the life of TRIALOG II, the Latvian NGDO Platform joined CONCORD in April 2005 and the Polish NGOs Abroad Platform joined CONCORD in November 2005. The Slovenian NGDO Platform Sloga prepared their CONCORD membership which should be approved in the CONCORD GA in November 2006 (in TRIALOG III). The remaining 3 national platforms of NMS (Estonia, Lithuania and Cyprus) as well as the 2 AC Romania and Bulgaria participated in the CONCORD GAs (as well as in CONCORD core Working Groups) in 2005 and 2006.

This integration of NMS' Platforms into CONCORD continued to be one of the most significant achievements of TRIALOG, through continuous support and capacity building measures. During the project duration, TRIALOG shifted its focus from 'quantity' of NMS participation to 'quality', ensuring that NMS and AC get maximum benefit from CONCORD participation, and are able to actively participate.

#### ***FDR Working Group***

The FDR has meetings three times per year (November, March, June). In 2005 and 2006 was regular participation of representatives from Hungary, Malta, Slovakia, Poland and the Czech Republic, the Hungarian and the Czech representative even joined the FDR steering group in 2006. NMS participants were most interested in questions of eligibility criteria for NGO co-financing, and the future of NGO co-financing, the programme for non state actors. However, it seemed difficult for NMS participants to actively participate, and to relate these issues back to the NGDO sector in their own countries. FDR debates are difficult to understand for all but the largest and most experienced organisations, and even some 'old' member state participants find it hard to digest the information on offer. In some cases, it seemed that NMS participants were attracted to FDR in the expectation that this would increase their access to information about NGO funding possibilities. Not only is that information relatively easily accessible elsewhere, through periodical information provided by TRIALOG and CONCORD, but this kind of information is absolutely lacking in FDR meetings, which have a quite other focus. TRIALOG organised a special training for current and potential NMS FDR members on the main topics of FDR in order to enable their active participation.

### *Development Education Forum*

There is a consensus among all official and civil society stakeholders that more development education and awareness raising is urgently needed in the NMS and AC. Therefore, there is a huge interest in NMS to participate in the DEF which remains one of very few places which provides specific working groups on topics like school curricula, code of conduct on images, MDG campaigns and general DE policy. The DEF met twice a year, the spring meeting normally 2 days, the autumn meeting 3 days including a national DE day in the hosting country. DEF also co-organised the two major conferences on development education, 2005 with the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2006 within the Finnish presidency, with NMS NGOs and TRIALOG providing both theoretical, financial and logistical support as well as contacts and publicity.

All NMS and AC (RO, BG) participated regularly in this CONCORD Working Group (Cyprus, Romania and Bulgaria from 2006 onwards). DEF is the most popular CONCORD WG for NMS and AC because participation brings clear benefits for them and for the European networks: information sharing and peer-learning about campaigns and public opinion back home. NMS participants actively participated in all areas of debate, and enriched discussions with their own experiences.

Specific Objective 1	Expected results	Achieved/not achieved
<p>1. Facilitating the inclusion of NGDOs and the co-ordination bodies from Accession countries into the new NGDO-EU co-ordination body of Development NGOs (CONCORD) and links with other relevant EU NGDO networks and key partners in ELDCs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 Accession Countries NGDO co-ordination bodies fully included in Concord plus 3 others participating as observers by the end of the project</li> <li>• Establishment and functioning of a specific working group on Enlargement and Development in the new Concord with at least 2 meetings per year and the involvement of representatives from at least 15 countries (EU and Accession Countries)</li> <li>• Active participation of 14 people from Accession Countries in 5 other working groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Almost achieved:</b> 6 NMS - the National Platforms of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia Malta, Poland and Slovakia are full members of CONCORD. The other four NMS and Romania and Bulgaria are members of one or more CONCORD Working Groups. Representatives from Cyprus and Bulgaria and Turkey attended the June 2006 Concord GA.</li> <li>• <b>Achieved</b> The WGE has held two meetings a year since October 2003 with representatives from 20 countries (EU and New Member States)</li> <li>• <b>Achieved in terms of numbers:</b> 12 NMS/AC people participating in DEF; 6 in FDR and 8 in Policy WG. 26 people from AC/NMS in the 3 core WG. But active participation in FDR and Policy has been particularly difficult as the debates are often hard to understand even for those familiar with the issues.</li> </ul>

### 1.2.2. Training

#### ➤ *Direct learning program*

We provided three types of direct learning opportunities: three-month **volunteer-placements** for young people from the NMS and AC on EU NGDO projects in the developing countries (1.2.3), exchange and **study visits within Europe** and one month **internships** for project officers of NMS and AC NGDOs.

TRIALOG organised a **Study visit of Cyprus, Romanian and Bulgarian NGO and MFA representatives to Austria, Hungary and Slovakia, November 2005:**

Each delegation consisted of four persons, from each Bulgaria and Romania participated three representatives of the NGDO sector and one representative of the MFA, from Cyprus there were 3 NGOs from the Greek part of the Island and 1 from the Turkish part participating.

The programme in each visited country included:

- Meeting with the NGDO platform and the board: sharing the experience in building up the platform and models of functioning, information sharing, lobbying, advocacy
- Meeting with the MFA: discussion about development cooperation strategy & ODA policy
- Meeting with the official administrative ODA office: presentation of models of Call for Proposals, NGO co-financing, implementation of policy etc.

At the end of the study visit there was made an evaluation of all meetings and a plan for each country on the next steps. There was an agreement of all NGO participants to start immediately with the identification of interested development NGOs for the setting up of a national NGDO platform and to try to start with a platform at the beginning of 2006 in Cyprus, Romania and Bulgaria. The MFA participants in the study trip reported on the gained experience in their MFAs and convinced their ODA departments to include the NGDO sector in ODA policy and strategy building. NGOs became a real partner for their MFA in ODA policy and were consulted for the creation of the national ODA strategy. Another outcome was the agreed TRIALOG support to the NGDOs and the platform building in the 3 countries by providing trainings on specific development related topics and platform building seminars.

TRIALOG supported **one month study visits of NGO staff to developing countries:**

- In 2004, one Slovak and one Estonian person did each an internship in Ecuador at project partners of HORIZONT3000.
- In 2005, one Slovak NGO staff went for internship to Pakistan (with a project partner of the French NGO Architecture et developpement and a study visit to Afghanistan (field office of People in Need, Czech Republic). One Czech NGO person did an intersnhip with the Zambian partners of a German development NGO. Afterwards, he also established a Zambia working group within the Czech NGDO Platform.
- In 2006, again 3 Czech NGO representatives did study visits to Zambia where they visited projects of Czech but also other European NGOs. 2 Slovak NGO members did internships/study visits to South Sudan as Sudan is an ODA priority country of Slovak Aid. A Czech NGO representative was enabled to do a study visit to Vietnam.

➤ ***Overview of Trainings organised and/or supported by TRIALOG***

TRIALOG organised/supported 43 trainings in NMS/AC in TRIALOG II, including 3 central trainings: 10 trainings in project year 1, 10 trainings in project year 2 and 20 trainings in project year 3, additionally 1 central training in each project year. Following an overview on the trainings organised in the last year of the project duration.

<b>Trainings in year 3</b>	<b>Topics</b>
<b>Global Education Network</b> 23-24 September 2005 Czech Republic Organised by GLEN	A seminar on strategic planning and lobbying for finance for volunteer-sending CSOs in seven NMS.
<b>Ecumenical Academy of Prague Workshop</b> 14 – 15 October 2005 Prague, Czech Republic 30 participants	<b>“Odious Debts”:</b> Debt problems of poor countries – origin of those debts - definition of odious debts - current stand of the discussion on this topic - role of the Czech Republic and other former socialist states - possible ways how to deal with odious debts

<p><b>Ecumenical Academy of Prague Workshop</b> 4 – 5 November 2005 Prague, Czech Republic 30 participants from Czech Rep., Slovakia and Hungary</p>	<p><b>“Development and Media”</b> Ecumenical Academy in cooperation with the German magazine on development issues Zeitschrift Entwicklungspolitik. Role of media in development education and in development politics especially in the context of new member states and other CEE countries. Besides the analysis of the situation and needs also the possible concepts of media and publicity work were discussed.</p>
<p><b>TRIALOG Training</b> <i>3-4 December 2005</i> Budapest, Hungary</p>	<p><b>“Campaigning in international development context”:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is a campaign and what do we need for it?</li> <li>• The international context of campaigning on development issues</li> <li>• Which campaign tools to use what for?</li> <li>• Analyzing development campaigns</li> <li>• How to measure impact and what for?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Polish Platform/TRIALOG Training</b> <i>15-17 December 2005</i> Warsaw, Poland 23 participants</p>	<p><b>“NGDO cofinancing opportunities with EuropeAid”:</b> A seminar co-organised with the Polish Platform. Topics:  PCM, Logframe EC funding possibilities Call for Proposals and application to EuropeAid</p>
<p><b>TRIALOG Training</b> <i>23 February 2006</i> Goethe Center (“green zone” between TK and GR part), Cyprus 19 participants from both parts of Cyprus</p>	<p><b>“Platform building seminar for NGDO in Cyprus”:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structure of the CY NGDO platform (members, communication, policy, working groups etc.)</li> <li>• Main topics and focus of CY national ODA policy from NGO perspective</li> <li>• Development education and public awareness raising on development issues in CY</li> <li>• Main needs of the platform (finance, capacity building, networking etc.)</li> </ul>
<p><b>TRIALOG Conference</b> <i>24 February 2006</i> Nicosia, Cyprus 45 participants (NGOs, MFA, Planning Bureau, UNDP, EC)</p>	<p><b>“Conference on International Development”:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cyprus in the context of international development and the role of Civil Society Organizations</li> <li>• The capacity of CY NGOs to get involved in international development</li> <li>• NGDOs in the European Union new member states</li> <li>• The policy of European Commission and UNDP towards international development</li> <li>• Possibilities of cooperation between the NGDOs platforms and networks from EU and CY NGOs</li> <li>• Development Education and Public Awareness Raising on development issues</li> </ul>
<p><b>TRIALOG Central Training</b> <i>8 – 10 March 2006</i> Budapest, Hungary 69 participants</p>	<p><b>“Seminar for NGDO Platforms in NMS/AC”:</b> Country presentations Main topic was Advocacy and Policy Dialogue on national and European level for development cooperation and development education</p>
<p><b>TRIALOG Training</b> <i>23 March 2006</i></p>	<p><b>“Platform building seminar for NGDO in Bulgaria”:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structure of the BG NGDO platform (members,</li> </ul>

<p>Sofia, Bulgaria 47 participants</p>	<p>communication, policy, working groups etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main topics and focus of BG national ODA policy from NGO perspective</li> <li>• Development education and public awareness raising on development issues in BG</li> <li>• Main needs of the platform (finance, capacity building, networking etc.)</li> </ul>
<p><b>TRIALOG Conference</b> <i>24 March 2006</i> Sofia, Bulgaria 61 participants (NGOs, MFA, MoEE, UNDP, EC)</p>	<p><b>“Conference on International Development”:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bulgaria in the context of international development and the role of Civil Society Organizations</li> <li>• The capacity of BG NGOs to get involved in international development</li> <li>• NGOs in the European Union new member states</li> <li>• The policy of European Commission towards international development</li> <li>• Possibilities of cooperation between the NGOs platforms and networks from EU and BG NGOs</li> <li>• DE and Public AR on development issues</li> </ul>
<p><b>Polish Platform/TRIALOG Training</b> <i>27 – 29 March 2006</i> Warsaw, Poland 24 participants</p>	<p><b>“EuropeAid projects: Grant Management and Implementation”:</b> A seminar co-organised with the Polish Platform. Topics:</p> <p>Criteria and requirements of potential partnerships and consortia The current demands of the EC standard contract Project execution and the requirements for sound operational and financial planning Formats and the process of interim and final reporting</p>
<p><b>Global Education Network</b> <i>March 29 – April 2, 2006</i> Eberswalde, Germany</p>	<p><b>RENew Seminar:</b> Review, Engagement and Networking Seminar for participants in the GLEN projects 2005. Projects of 2005 were evaluated; plans for how to make use of the GLEN experience in further engagement in either development co-operation or global education in Europe.</p>
<p><b>Latvian Platform/TRIALOG training</b> <i>Riga, Latvia</i> 25 – 26 April 2006</p>	<p><b>“Development Cooperation and Development Education”:</b> An overview of actual topics and concepts in development: EU development policy MDGs Development Education CONCORD Financial perspectives 2007 - 2013</p>
<p><b>TRIALOG Training</b> <i>26 April 2006</i> Timisoara, Romania 33 participants</p>	<p><b>“DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN ROMANIA: Role of and opportunities for (rural development) NGOs”:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The European Development Policy</li> <li>• Development Education</li> <li>• Opportunities for the Romanian development NGOs</li> <li>• Romania’s role as a EU donor country</li> <li>• RO strategy for international development aid</li> <li>• Building a Romanian development cooperation NGO platform</li> </ul>

<p><b>TRIALOG Training</b>  27 April 2006  Cluj-Napoca, Romania  55 participants</p>	<p><b>“DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN ROMANIA: Role of and opportunities for Romanian NGOs”:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The European Development Policy</li> <li>• Development Education</li> <li>• Opportunities for the Romanian development NGOs</li> <li>• Romania’s role as a EU donor country</li> <li>• RO strategy for international development aid</li> <li>• Building a Romanian development cooperation NGO platform</li> </ul>
<p><b>Global Education Network</b>  2-7 May 2006  Werftpfuhl, Germany  organised by GLEN network  71 participants (35 from NMS)</p>	<p>A development education seminar for volunteer-sending CSOs in seven NMS.</p> <p>Topics of development co-operation and development policy, inter-cultural communication etc.</p>
<p><b>TRIALOG Training</b>  31 May 2006  Iasi, Romania  41 participants</p>	<p><b>“DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN ROMANIA: Role of and opportunities for Romanian NGOs”:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The European Development Policy</li> <li>• Development Education</li> <li>• Opportunities for the Romanian development NGOs</li> <li>• Romania’s role as a EU donor country</li> <li>• RO strategy for international development aid</li> <li>• Building a Romanian development cooperation NGO platform</li> </ul>
<p><b>TRIALOG Training</b>  8 – 9 June 2006  Bucarest, Romania  participants</p>	<p><b>“Platform building seminar for NGDO in Romania”:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NGDO partnership in the enlarged EU (national and international level)</li> <li>• Example from an old EU member state: The German NGDO platform – VENRO</li> <li>• Structure of the RO NGDO platform (members, communication, policy, working groups, regional structures etc.)</li> <li>• Main needs of the platform (finance, capacity building, networking etc.)</li> <li>• Main topics and focus of RO national ODA policy from NGO perspective</li> <li>• Development education and public awareness raising on development issues in RO</li> <li>• Advocacy and policy dialogue: actual challenges for NGDOs on national and international level</li> </ul>
<p><b>Global Education Network</b>  June 26- July 1, 2006  Stare Splyav, Czech Republic  organised by GLEN network;  71 participants (35 from NMS)</p>	<p>A development education seminar for volunteer-sending CSOs in seven NMS.</p> <p>Topics of development co-operation and development policy, inter-cultural communication etc.</p>
<p><b>RO MFA/DE MFA/RO Platform/TRIALOG Seminar</b>  Bucarest, Romania  7 September 2006</p>	<p><b>“Romanian NGOs and the Romanian Development Policy”:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Romanian National Strategy on Development Co-Operation and the role of Romanian NGOs in the development policy</li> </ul>

<p>followed by a platform building seminar for NGOs on 8 September 2006</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The opportunities of European NGOs in the field of development policy</li> <li>• Most important actual issues at EU level concerning civil society organizations involved in development cooperation and humanitarian aid</li> <li>• Raising public awareness for Romanian ODA</li> <li>• Development of the NGDO platform in Romania and the situation in Romania and the NMS</li> <li>• Specific funding instruments for NGOs from NMS</li> <li>• Presentation of Activities and Results of the Twinning Light Project 2006</li> </ul>
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➤ *Other capacity building initiatives*

TRIALOG supported the national platforms in their policy discussions with their MFAs, especially concerning the inclusion of Development Education/Awareness raising into the national ODA policies and funding. Special support and attention was given to Cyprus, Romania and Bulgaria as in these countries, the ODA strategy was just created in 2006.

Additionally to our trainings, only in the last project year we supported the **participation of NMS/AC participants to the following events/study visits/trainings of others:**

- 1 person from BG to the EADI conference on "Insecurity and Development", Bonn, DE, 21-24.9.05
- 3 coordinators of national GCAP campaigns to the GCAP meeting on "Trade Justice Lobby and People's Mobilisation", Brussels, 22.9.05
- study visit of 2 people to the Finnish microfinance institute Finnavera, Finland, 28-30 Sept. 05
- 1 person to the DG Trade – Civil Society Dialogue, Doha Development Agenda, Brussels, 22.9.05
- 1 LT coordinator to a study visit to Dublin, Ireland, 25-28.10.05
- 1 person to the European Burma network meeting, London, 8-9.10.05
- 1 coordinator of SK platform to the seminar of IGO Networks "How to support learning and capacity building", Amsterdam, 10-11.10.05
- 1 person to the seminar "Europe's Role in Making Poverty History", Leeds, GB, 24-26.10.05
- 1 coordinator of PL platform for a learning and study tour "Issues and Practices in International Development Cooperation and European Policies", Ede, NL, 23-29.10.06
- 1 person to the GCAP Europe Trade Justice Lobby meeting, Brussels, 7-8.11.05
- 1 person to the Romania Social Forum meeting, Bucharest, 15-16.10.05
- 1 person to the meeting "New Relationships with Africa to create Wealth together", Brussels, 22-23.11.05
- 1 person to the "Central and Eastern European Fundraising Workshop", Budapest, 8-11.11.05
- 1 representative of NMS in the IFAT representative group to the IFAT meeting in Brussels, 28.-29.11.05
- 1 participant to the Conference "Greening the ENP", Brussels, 5.-6.12.05
- 2 Persons from Macedonia to a meeting "Macedonian NGOs meet Hungarian NGOs", Hungary, 14.-19.12.05
- 5 people from NMS/AC and 2 resource persons to the seminar and conference "The Black Sea region: Setting a safe course on democracy", Vienna, 27.11.-1.12.05

- 9 people from NMS to the international training on fair trade education 12.-18.2.06 in France
- the participation of 1 NMS participant in 2006 in 3 european IFAT steering group meetings (in order to prepare the european IFAT conference end of September to which we also will finance participation of NMS people)
- 8 people from NMS to participate in the seminar "Globalization, sustainable development and trade" in Prague, May 21-24
- the participation of 45 people from NMS to the Alternative Summit Europe-Latin America in Vienna, May 10-13
- the participation of 2 TK to the European Social Forum in Athens, May 4-7
- 30 people from NMS and AC to the preparatory Assembly of the European social Forum, Vienna, Jan.
- 4 persons from NMS to the Aid watchers seminar in Brussels, April 6-7
- 4 persons from NMS to intensive trainings on PCM at the Humboldt-Universität Berlin, summer 06
- 1 person from Cyprus to intensive trainings on conflict prevention and resolution at the Humboldt-Universität Berlin, summer 06
- the participation of 14 people from NMS to the conference "Sound of Africa - EU-A Strategy", Vienna, June 22-23
- 16 women from NMS/AC NGOs to the WIDE international annual conference in cooperation with KARAT, Poland, June 1-4. Additionally, we supported 2 resource persons from developing countries to participate.
- the participation of 13 people from NMS/AC to the DEEEP Summer School, Germany June 11-18. Additionally, we supported 3 resource persons from developing countries to participate.
- the participation of 12 DEF members of NMS/AC to the DE conference in Helsinki, July 3-4
- the study visits of 7 persons from NMS NGOs to Sudan, Mali, Vietnam and Sambia respectively
- the study visit of 1 LT and 1 EE representative of the NPs to Poland, July 24-28
- 25 people from NMS to participate in the 8 events of the "European Tour for Global Responsibility" - Eurizons (promotion of MDGs) within 21 of August and 8 of September. The events were in Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Czech Rep., Slovakia, Hungary, Germany and France.

### 1.2.3. Activation of opportunities for joint projects

#### ➤ *Provision of technical advice*

TRIALOG provided technical advice on specific questions related to project applications and project design. We discussed with other stakeholders about how to improve training on these themes. Our own interventions increasingly focused on those countries and organisations that have had most difficulty in attracting national and EC co-financing for their activities.

In view of the additional 10 Mio Euro for DE/AR projects in NMS within the NGO co-financing Call for proposals 2006 (BL 21-02-03), TRIALOG did intensiv preparation and investigation work in all NMS. Taking into account that most NGOs in NMS still are not fulfilling the eligibility criteria for applicants in this budget line, TRIALOG prepared from May onwards the "Development Education Partnership Fair" which took place only after the end of TRIALOG II (Oktober 9-11, 2006). The main objective of the partnership fair was to identify and engage eligible NGOs from OMS and NMS and bring them together with other NGOs from NMS in order to prepare joint projects that will be presented in the upcoming call for proposals (end of 2006).

➤ ***ASA – Internship Program***

Continuing with the successful partnership, TRIALOG worked with the ASA programme to establish or strengthen national focal points for volunteer-sending. Additionally to paying the costs of 10 NMS volunteers (out of 35 NMS participants), TRIALOG supported several seminars and network meetings. By September 2006, stable focal points had been established in Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland and Slovakia and the **Global Education Network - GLEN** was created. Additionally, TRIALOG supported study visits of representatives of GLEN to Slovenia and Malta in order to check the conditions of NGOs in these 2 countries to join GLEN. Both countries were approved and thus already 8 NMS are participating in GLEN. National ODA agencies were approached to discuss national funding of these activities and TRIALOG support helped to convince some of the NMS MFAs to co-finance GLEN. In 2006, the MFA of Slovakia financed the participation of 3 Slovaks, the MFA of Latvia financed 2 Latvians and the MFA of Lithuania financed 2 Lithuanians.

➤ ***Regional Partnership Programme- RPP***

On initiative of WG Enlargement and TRIALOG, the RPP idea was born in 2004 and as consequence proposed by the Austrian platform in partnership with the national platforms in Czech Rep., Slovakia, Hungary and Slovenia to their respective governments for financing. Financed by Austrian ODA (70%) and the ODA programmes of the neighbouring countries (4x5%), the programme provides support for civil society networking and policy dialogue at the national and central European level, as well as for pilot joint projects in development education and overseas development for Austrian NGOs and their counterparts in the neighbouring NMS. TRIALOG participated in the project selection committee for the first two call for proposals, which identified strong projects in each country, in both development education and development cooperation. A series of thematic seminars was also launched, with the goal of developing common Central European perspectives and activities within European development cooperation. The first meeting was held in Bratislava in April 2006, as a regional preparation meeting for the EU-Africa conference organised by the Austrian NGO Platform during the Austrian presidency. TRIALOG also participated actively in the board of the RPP.

➤ ***Presidency Fund***

With the accession of the 10 New Member States to the EU in 2004 under the Presidency of the Irish Government, there was great interest to engage civil society organisations from the 10 New Member States (NMS) in the EU Development Policy Debate. In order to ensure that this was possible, the Irish Government invited Eurostep to establish the Presidency Fund in 2005. During its subsequent Presidency of the EU, the Dutch Government also agreed to support the Presidency Fund. The financial contributions of both Governments allowed the Presidency Fund to become operational from October 2005.

The objectives of the Presidency Fund are the following:

- To strengthen the EU Development Co-operation and the International Development Agenda by developing capacities of NMS NGOs to engage in actions toward this end.
- To create a deeper understanding within civil society in the NMS on issues related to EU Development Co-operation by facilitating interactions between civil society actors from developing countries (Global South) and those in the NMS.
- To create opportunities for NMS NGOs to exercise greater influence while engaging in the EU Development Policy Debate by strengthening or establishing National NGO Networks and Coalitions within NMS countries where these do not exist or are inadequate.

- To promote fair representation of the NMS NGOs and their access to EU institutions by facilitating their participation in Europe-wide networks.

TRIALOG is represented on the Board of the Fund and in the project selection committee. TRIALOG participated in the evaluation and selection of the first round of proposals (the call was launched Nov.05). A large number of excellent proposals were sadly rejected because they focused on development education, which is not the fund's remit. However, seven excellent proposals for lobbying and policy dialogue initiatives were selected. Several of the successful applicants were our NGDO Platform partners (Estonia, Latvia, Malta). The second call was launched in summer 2006, the selection of the projects was only done in TRIALOG III (Oct.06).

Specific objective 2	Expected results	Achieved/not achieved
<p>2. Strengthening capacities of NGOs and their co-ordination bodies from Accession Countries in order to participate, together with their counterparts in ELDCs, in policy debates about Development policies of the EU institutions and national governments and in order to be able to use the political and financial External Aid opportunities available at EU and national level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 trainings organized in Vienna and/or Brussels with 25 participants per training from Accession Countries, involving a minimum of 50 NGOs over three years</li> <li>• 12 to 15 training organized in Accession Countries with the support of TRIALOG.</li>   <li>• ASA/GLEN programme: 15 young development experts have shared their knowledge and experiences on national level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>More than achieved</b> - 3 central trainings were organized with 30 participants in the first training, 61 in the second and 69 in the third, involving 111 NGOs.</li> <li>• <b>More than achieved – 37 trainings in all.</b> In 2004, TRIALOG organized 10 trainings in Accession countries. It also organized two with other organizations. In 2005 it organized 10 trainings in New Member States, one of which was in collaboration with another organization. In 2006 it organized 17 trainings in Cyprus, Poland, Romania and Bulgaria. In addition, in 2006 alone we sent 166 people from NMS/Ac countries to conferences and trainings.</li> <li>• <b>More than achieved – 25 young people.</b> Annually, three GLEN workshops were supported by TRIALOG. 25 young development experts shared their knowledge at national levels.</li> <li>• <b>Additional:</b> TRIALOG supported 12 study visits and internships for members of NGOs in NMS to projects in Ecuador, Pakistan, Afghanistan Zambia, Mali, Vietnam and Sudan</li> </ul>

#### 1.2.4. Support to the creation of NGOs co-ordination bodies in NMS and AC

NGDO coordination bodies became stronger in all NMS and in those countries where there were no coordination bodies in the beginning of the project, those were built up or at least started the process (including Romania and Bulgaria). In 4 countries there existed a platform prior to 2003 (Czech Rep., Slovakia, Hungary and Malta), in 3 countries (Poland, Lithuania, Estonia) there was already a process of establishing a platform; these 7 and the 5 created in the duration of TRIALOG II have been strengthened and play now an active role at national level. Some are now already playing an active role at EU level. Out of the 10 new member states, 9 have established national coordination bodies with board, coordinator etc. In Cyprus, the platform is still under construction but there is a coordination committee. Also in Romania there is already an

existing national platform and in Bulgaria there is a coordination body that will establish the platform soon.

TRIALOG continued to provide occasional advice and accompaniment for all platforms, but increasingly focused our activities on the weaker and younger coordination bodies.

The NGDO Platforms in **Malta, Slovak Republic, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, Poland, Estonia** and **Latvia** continued to develop, with the Central European Platforms making most progress towards sustainability and active participation in national and European policy dialogue. TRIALOG provided ongoing support, through training and advice as required. In Slovenia, only in the third project year a stable platform was set up, legally registered in May 2006.

Special attention and support was given to **Slovenia** as this is the first NMS that will have the EU presidency (first half of 2008). Thus, TRIALOG not only supported the legal registration and the organisation of the Slovenian platform SLOGA, but also started to connect them to the Austrian, Finnish, German and Portuguese presidencies and to pay special attention to their capacity building related to the EU presidency. TRIALOG offered to support the elaboration of the Slovenian platform presidency project proposal which will be sent to the EC for financial support.

We also explored new ways to support the NGDO Platform in **Malta**. We supported the Platform's decision to engage a first (part time) paid coordinator, and to produce a series of briefing notes on different aspects of Maltese development cooperation, at the bilateral and European level

In **Lithuania** the NGDO coordination remained fragile. Visits were made to Lithuania to advise the leading NGOs, and accompany them in meetings with the MFA and other stakeholders. Additionally, we facilitated contacts to the Irish NGDO Platform DOCHAS, which agreed to develop a specific capacity-building programme for their Lithuanian counterparts. We supported study visits from Lithuania to Ireland and from Ireland to Lithuania.

**Cyprus** remains the NMS which is least present in EU development cooperation, at the official and civil society levels. In August 2005 a TRIALOG research mission identified a number of NGOs, in the South and North of the island, which are interested in international development themes, and in educating the local population about global issues. Following the study visit organized by TRIALOG in November 2005 for participants from Bulgaria, Romania and Cyprus, TRIALOG did a serie of visits to these countries in order to support the building of national development NGO platforms. TRIALOG Capacity Building Officer and Policy Officer visited Cyprus from 20-24 February 2006 during which were involved in the following activities:

- a) Meeting various NG(D)Os working or interested to work in the field of Development Cooperation and Development Education and Awareness Raising in both the Greek and the Turkish part of Cyprus.
- b) Helping those NG(D)Os to get together in one day seminar on platform building (please see 1.2.2. Trainings)
- c) Organizing a conference on International Development (please see 1.2.2. Trainings)

From 20-24 March 2006, both TRIALOG staff did the same visit with the same agenda in **Bulgaria**. In both Cyprus and Bulgaria there was set up a Steering Committee that should coordinate development issues till the final set-up of a national platform.

In **Romania**, the situation was a bit diferent as there are many NGOs active in other cities than the capital. Thus TRIALOG organised 3 trainings outside Bucarest (in

Timisoara, Cluj-Napoca and Iasi) in order to prepare the NGOs to participate in the national platform building seminar which was done afterwards in Bucarest. We made several visits to Romania, to support the emerging NGDO coordination, and to widen the group of active networked NGDOs. At the invitation of the Romanian MFA and NGDO working group, TRIALOG participated in their joint strategy seminar in March 2006, after providing a training seminar for NGDOs interested in learning more about their country's ODA responsibilities within the enlarged EU. We also engaged a Romanian intern in our Brussels office to ensure that Romanian NGDOs receive adequate information about EU development issues. By the end of TRIALOG II, the statutes of the platform FOND were already agreed and the legal registration process has started.

Specific objective 3	Expected results	Achieved/not achieved
<p>3. Building the institutional capacity of NGDOs in Accession Countries through the strengthening of National Platforms or other NGDOs co-ordination bodies and informal Fora</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 new NGDO co-ordination bodies established in Accession Countries by the end of the project.</li> <li>• Existing platforms and co-ordination bodies are strengthened, play an active role on national and EU level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>More than achieved</b> – of the 10 new member states, 9 have established national coordination bodies with board, coordinator etc. (not all legally registered). In Cyprus, the platform is still under construction but there is a coordination committee. Also in Romania there is already an existing national platform and in Bulgaria there is a coordination body that will establish the platform soon.</li> <li>• <b>Achieved:</b> In 4 countries there existed a platform prior to 2003, in 3 countries there was already a process of establishing a platform; these 7 and the 5 created in the duration of TRIALOG II have been strengthened and play now an active role at national level. Some are now already playing an active role at EU level.</li> <li>• <b>Additional:</b> Multiplier effect: Some stronger or more experienced platforms even supported the creation of new and the strengthening of weaker platforms in other NMS/AC.</li> </ul>

### 1.2.5. Advocacy, lobby and policy work at European level

As convenor of the CONCORD WG Enlargement the Policy Officer facilitated the elaboration of different position and briefing papers on present EU development policies and constantly disseminated update information on development topics at stake to the WG Enlargement members and TRIALOG partners (1.2.1.). The main focus of the WGE in 2005 has been on the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), which will from 2007 onwards replace the current TACIS and MEDA programmes in the EU neighbouring countries including Russia.

In autumn 2005 the focus of the WGE was broadened in order to include other important issues such as the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA), concerning the candidate countries Croatia and Turkey and the potential candidate countries from the Western Balkans. Aprovev in cooperation with TRIALOG prepared a set of

recommendations concerning the EC proposal. The WGE set up a IPA task force that followed the procedure of consultation within the EP and the Council.

In order support the NGOs from Bulgaria and Romania to prepare for the accession, the WGE decided to establish a Bulgaria-Romania task force. Last but not least, lobbying action on the eligibility criteria for the New Member States (NMS) NGOs for applying to the European Commission's Calls for Proposals is planned. This issue of fundamental importance needs to be addressed in order to ensure the possibility of access to EU financing for the NMS NGOs in the programming period 2007-2013. The CONCORD working group "Funding for Development and Relief"(FDR) elaborated a position paper concerning the future EC funding of NGOs, which mentions the problems of the NMS NGOs. In order to increase the impact of our lobbying actions, close cooperation between the various CONCORD Working Groups were ensured by our TRIALOG policy officer.

#### ➤ *European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument - ENPI*

In spring 2005 the WGE set up a ENPI task force which elaborated a list of recommendations concerning the September 2004 Commission's proposal for the ENPI. In May 2005 Aprovev, Eurostep and TRIALOG organised a workshop on the ENPI in Brussels and gave the participants from non-governmental development organisations (NGDOs) a chance to discuss this issue with the main EU stakeholders in this area. The ENPI task force elaborated a policy paper based on this fruitful discussion and started its lobbying campaign targeting the Members of the European Parliament (MEPs). Thanks to a long term policy dialogue of the Working Group Enlargement (WGE) with members of the European Parliament (EP) and thanks to a strong lobby of the national NGDOs platforms shortly before November 23, 2005, the results of the first reading of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) in the EP were rather positive. Most of the amendments proposed by the WGE such as those concerning the values, the integration of gender, eradication of poverty, the respect of human rights (and children rights), the protection of the environment, the strengthening of civil society, the respect of international law and the promotion of peace have been accepted. Unfortunately some of the core amendments on the MDGs and developing countries under ENPI were rejected as the rapporteur Szymanski together with many MEPs from the External Relations Committee (AFET) "did not want to make a development instrument out of the ENPI." In the Explanatory statement to the Draft report on the ENPI the EP however acknowledges that many of the countries covered by the ENPI are developing countries and states as a key point that "it seems appropriate to allow relevant countries to benefit not only from the ENPI, but also from the DCECI (Development Cooperation and Economic Cooperation Instrument)".

The ENPI will be the main framework for the provision of EU financial assistance to countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and the southern shore of the Mediterranean between 2007 and 2013. All but two of the countries covered by the ENPI are considered as developing countries by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD. The ENPI's main objective is to "avoid new dividing lines in Europe and to promote stability and prosperity within and beyond the new borders of the Union". But this can only happen if the implementation of this instrument addresses the root causes of poverty, instability and inequalities and promotes all human rights and the building up of participatory and sustainable societies in a way that reflects people's aspirations.

The implementation of the ENPI must therefore be guided by EU development policy as outlined in the European Consensus on Development. It should aim at delivering on the objectives of the Millennium Declaration. TRIALOG/WGE together with Aprovev and Eurostep elaborated a position paper "Implementation of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership instrument: Time to reach consistency between rhetoric and actions" which will be the basis of the WGE monitoring on ENPI.

➤ ***Funding for development education***

As probably everybody agrees, there is very low public awareness on international development issues and thus weak support for International development cooperation especially in the NMS and AC, and both the state and civil society face major challenges in development related activities. This weakens the European consensus in favour of international development cooperation, and could be a hindering aspect in the progress towards the EU's ambitious targets in terms of development financing, reaching the MDGs, and donor coordination.

In order to reach the aim of more money for DE/AR in NMS, TRIALOG (mainly the Policy Officer and the Capacity Building Officer) did a lot of direct advocacy and lobby work but also in cooperation with other actors, above of all CONCORD and its Working Groups and DEEEP.

At the end of 2005, the European Parliament has approved an allocation of 30 Million Euro for Development Education and Awareness Raising actions in Europe, to be assigned by the European Commission to NGOs and non-profit organisations within the Call for Proposals 2006. Following the Parliament and Member States decision, 10 Million should be given as priority to actions taking place in New Member States (countries which became EU members in 2004) and Romania and Bulgaria, from the date they become EU members.

More money for Development Education (DE) as well as adjusted size of grants and eligibility criteria for applicants from New Member States (NMS) were the main points that the WG Enlargement (WGE) members asked their national representatives to defend during the meeting of the NGO co-financing committee on January 25 in Brussels.

The NGO committee chaired by DG Development (DG Dev) and EuropeAid, consisting of national experts, gathered to discuss the Annual Work Plan 2006 for grants financed from the budget line 21-02-03. In spite of the previous decisions and recommendations made by the European Parliament and the Council, the EC proposal did not mention neither the increase of the budget allocated to the DE, nor the allocation of part of the DE budget to actions in NMS. The proposal for the size of grants and eligibility criteria for the next Call for Proposals did not take into account the continuing difficulties, which the NMS NGOs face while trying to access the EC grants.

The WG Enlargement in cooperation with the Development Education Forum (DEF) decided to act quickly and express its disapproval with such a proposal. As a result, the Commissioner for Development Luis Michel received a letter asking for more money allocated to DE and all members of the NGO committee received e-mails with the WGE position on eligibility criteria. Thanks to the lobby action, the committee decided to recommend the DG Dev to submit a new proposal with the following conditions: 30 mil EUR for DE (originally only 21 mil EUR) with 10 mil EUR allocated for actions in NMS.

The EC not only agreed to the additional 10 Mio EUR for DE/AR in NMS but also to different criteria for proposals financed under this envelope: the minimum size of grants for DE projects will be decreased to 15,000 EUR (originally 25,000 EUR) and the contribution of the EC should be increased to 85% (originally 75%). The final version and conditions of the call will only be known once the call will be launched (expected for December).

➤ ***Support for other policy dialogue initiatives***

TRIALOG continued to support the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP), one of the few poverty-oriented initiatives that have captured the imagination of NGOs in the post-communist NMS. We supported NMS/AC participants in GCAP events, and worked

with the GCAP secretariat to identify potential national contact points in under-represented NMS/AC.

TRIALOG supported a wide Central and Eastern European participation at the January 2006 Preparatory Meeting European of the European Social Forum, which was held in Vienna. We worked with the event organisers to ensure that themes of interest to NMS/AC were high on the agenda, and assisted the most active NMS/AC participants in building the ESF network in other parts of the region. This support led to the largest ever Central and East European participation at the ESF 2006, which was held in Athens in May.

TRIALOG worked in a similar way with the organisers of the Enlazando Alternativas civil society summit, organised on the occasion of the EU-Latin America head of state meeting in Vienna in May 2006. Noting that previous attempts to interest Central/East Europeans in Latin American issues had been largely unsuccessful, we worked with event organisers and key NMS/AC NGOs to organise a series of comparative discussions that looked at development questions in both a Latin American and East European context. This approach made Latin American issues much more relevant to our target audience, and contributed to the active participation of more than hundred NMS/AC civil society organisations at the Alternativas summit. TRIALOG supported travel costs for NMS and AC participants, and for Russian resource persons identified by NMS/AC.

#### **1.2.6. Conference on Development and Enlargement**

Together with the Austrian NGDO Platform, TRIALOG organised from 12-13 December 2005 a major conference on Enlargement and Development as the first public activity of the Austrian Platform's EU Presidency campaign. Whereas previous conferences had often treated the NMS/AC as weaker partners needing assistance, we decided to organise this event around a confident presentation of success stories from the NMS/AC, both on the MFA side and the NGDO side. We also included a round table discussion where Romanian, Bulgarian, Croatian and Turkish participants could present their own experiences, priorities and perspectives. Participants came from 20 different countries across Europe and discussed "Lessons learnt and Challenges for the next round".

TRIALOG not only participated in the contents of the conference and by moderating and leading workshops but also financially supported the participation of 22 people from NMS/AC to the International Conference "1,5 years after Enlargement – Lessons Learnt, Challenges for the Next Round".

#### **1.2.7. Newsletter, TRIALOG Information Service (TIS), Website**

The monthly to bimonthly electronic newsletter TRIALOG Information Service (TIS) is one of TRIALOG's main information tools. It is published on the TRIALOG website and sent out by email. See: <http://www.trialog.or.at/main.asp?m=2,124>

The information given in the TIS is widely used and appreciated. This is confirmed by the number of recipients which has been steadily increasing. The circulation of the TIS rose from 1,000 in September 2004 to over 2,100 towards the end of the project in September 2006. 57% of TIS recipients are from NMS and Accession Countries, 35% from OMS and industrialised countries, 8% from developing countries.

The content of the TIS has been constantly adapted to the needs of the TRIALOG partners and information services provided by other actors. Apart from the information on funding opportunities and upcoming events, especially the section on activities of European NGOs received positive feedback. The TIS has also contributed to the "ownership" of TRIALOG partners since more and more contributions are coming from

NGOs in the NMS and AC. Articles were increasingly reposted and republished by other stakeholders, e.g. the website of the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs – SlovakAid.

The TRIALOG Website was regularly updated, especially with regard to EC cofinancing opportunities, relevant conferences, and training opportunities. The volume of TRIALOG information and research materials increased. 6 country papers were published (on SLO, H, SK, BG, RO, TK) as well as 2 comparative tables on ODA priority countries and ODA spending in EU new member states. See: <http://www.trialog.or.at/main.asp?m=2,123>

Two printed newsletters were published in paper form (2004, 2005). They gave an overview about TRIALOG activities as well as promoted topics around developing cooperation and enlargement. They are also available online. See: <http://www.trialog.or.at/main.asp?m=2,125>

TRIALOG staff also contributed articles to a wide range of NGO publications, including the Austrian NGO weekly Glocalist, and the newsletters of the British and French development NGDO networks BOND and Coordination Sud.

Specific objective 5	Expected results	Achieved/not achieved
5. Increasing awareness in Accession Countries and future EU members of development issues, development concepts, paradigms and methodologies, its international discourses and activities like sustainable development, global justice, poverty eradication, the Millennium Goals, and the role of NGOs in EU Development Policies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some 100 participants to the Conference on Enlargement and Development</li> <li>• Over 800 NGOs, EU officials, Parliamentarians receiving the newsletter and the TRIALOG Information System; among them at least 500 in Accession Countries.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>More than achieved;</b> 120 participants from 20 states attended the Conference</li> <li>• <b>More than achieved;</b> by July 2006, there were 2080 recipients of the TRIALOG Information System newsletter. 1,203 were from NMS and Accession countries; 717 from OMS and 160 from the South.</li> </ul>

### 1.2.8. TRIALOG Database

The TRIALOG NGO database consists of NGOs from EU countries, EU accession countries and developing countries. The database is a tool to search for partners for development projects and for other networking and information exchange activities. It is used by TRIALOG partners as well as by other actors working in the field of development cooperation. This is for example proven by the fact that the 2005 established Presidency Fund is directing NGOs preparing proposals to the Fund to the TRIALOG database for exploring collaboration and networking possibilities.

The TRIALOG database has an internal and an online component. Between September 2004 and the end of the TRIALOG II phase in September 2006, the number of online database entries increased from 464 to 550. By constituting almost 50% of the entries, the main focus of the NGO database is on online profiles from NGOs from new EU member states and accession countries.

Specific objective 4	Expected results	Achieved/not achieved
<p>4. Providing opportunities for increased networking, information exchange, mutual learning, partnership, joint projects between NGOs from EU, Accession Countries and ELDCs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 40 participants from Accession countries exposed to the learning and networking opportunities offered by the Development Education Summer School and by the European World Shops Conference.</li> <li>• Some 10 new development co-operation or development education projects supported by a joint co-operation between old and new EU members (after first round of enlargement)</li> <li>• Maintenance of a specific database with information about Enlargement and Development to facilitate contacts and joint projects</li> <li>• At least 6 people offered a training by AGEH or other consortium partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Achieved:</b> 38 participants from NMS and AC were given the opportunity to participate in Development Education Summer School and 19 in the European World Shops Conference.</li> <li>• 6 NMS as consortium partners, and 25 as 'normal' partners for new development co-operation or development education projects were supported; in addition, TRIALOG was involved in lobbying for the 10 million euros that has been allocated for development education in NMS and Accession countries in 2006 and in October 2006 is organizing a development education partnership fair to facilitate the preparation of such joint projects.</li> <li>• <b>Achieved</b> TRIALOG has a database of contacts that has been widely used though needs frequent updating.</li> <li>• <b>Not Achieved</b> In cooperation with AGEH these trainings were postponed to TRIALOG III.</li> </ul>

#### 1.2.9. "Enlargement Evaluation"

On-going monitoring of TRIALOG activities was ensured by monthly meetings of the Management Group as well as through regular meetings of the Advisory Group. In the third project year the **Advisory Group** met three times. On 11 November 2005, the group met in Malta (as did the CONCORD Working Group on Enlargement). The Advisory Board identified priorities for the remaining 10 months of the project, including a refocusing of work towards the weaker platforms; a greater attention to Romania and Bulgaria; continued support and participation in other related initiatives that support NGOs in NMS, such as the Presidency Fund and Regional Partnership Programme; and support for partnership between NGOs from old and new member states in the field of

development cooperation and development education. It was also agreed to recruit one or more consultants especially for those NMS/AC facing the greatest challenges in developing their national networks and policy dialogue.

The Advisory Group met again in March 2006 in Brussels to approve the priorities for the remaining six months of TRIALOG II. TRIALOG seminars and conferences in Bulgaria and Romania, and the development of both policy dialogue coaching, platform-building support and thematic trainings in these countries was recognised as a priority. Other priorities within TRIALOG II were the follow-up of the DE/AR EC-funds for NMS and the realisation of the external evaluation. In the Advisory Group meeting in September, the main focus was on the validation of the evaluation and the clarification on the relationship between TRIALOG and CONCORD.

The **external evaluation** was organised in the third year of the project, from May to September 2006. The complete evaluation report was sent to the EuropeAid in September. Following only some statements and a summary of the results which are already or will be included in the next project phase (TRIALOG III).

"TRIALOG has more than achieved most of the general aims and quantifiable outcomes outlined in the original EU proposal, which contribute to the success of its objectives. (...) On all these levels, it has more than succeeded in what it set out to do."

"Given the size of the task, it is not surprising that there were also some difficulties." The evaluator has given recommendations for the elimination of those difficulties that can be influenced by TRIALOG. Most recommendations can be summarized on 4 main topics:

1. Decentralisation: gradually devolve some power and responsibility to National Platforms in New Member states
2. Relationship with CONCORD: has to be clarified
3. NMS NGOs and platforms are still finding it difficult to put successful joint projects to the EU. This is something that will take time to achieve and is not in TRIALOG's control alone, but has to do with the context in NMS and AC countries. Many NGOs are very small, and cannot hope to meet EU criteria for the size of funding applications. Co-funding, even 10 percent, is also very difficult in countries where there is no tradition of private fundraising.
4. Relations with the South: TRIALOG needs to help to build a wider cohort of people in NMS/AC who understand development and who can contribute to a debate about how it should be carried out in NMS and AC countries.

The closing words of the evaluator in the executive summary: "In conclusion, TRIALOG is a small project that has had a big impact on NGOs in NMS and Accession countries. Without TRIALOG's support, many would not have been able to build their National Platforms and most would not have been able to access the information necessary to begin to understand EU policies and processes. NGOs in NMS and Accession countries have traveled a long way since 2003, and TRIALOG has played no small part in this journey. The next challenge is to adapt the ways that it accompanies them over the next three years."

### **1.3. Did problems and delays occur during the given period? If so, are they a potential obstacle to the project's continuation as originally envisaged, and how will they be solved?**

#### **Personnel Changes:**

Personnel changes have been a big challenge for the project. There were 3 replacements of the project manager position in February 2004, October 2004 and July 2006; a change of information officer in May 2004, a change of the capacity building officer in August 2006 and 3 replacements of the Policy Officer position in Brussels in September 2004,

September 2005 and September 2006. This turnover has certainly brought some instabilities as well as overwork in the team and caused little delays in the implementation of few activities, particularly due to advertisement and selection procedures. However, these obstacles could be solved eventually by having replaced these positions without long delays combined with proper hand-over periods which enabled quick adjustments to the job for the newcomers and no idlings. Last but not least the constant support through HORIZONT3000 as lead agency and the Advisory Group contributed to a successful completion of the project.

#### **Growing diversity of the beneficiaries and their needs:**

It proved difficult to respond simultaneously to the needs of the advanced NMS platforms, the struggling Baltic and Slovenian platforms, and the smaller contact groups in Cyprus, Bulgaria and Romania. The more advanced platforms are better able to articulate their needs and apply for support which TRIALOG of course could not refuse to give. Additionally, we created new TRIALOG support such as support for participating in international policy or capacity building events, participation in more diversified international networks etc. Thus, it took longer than expected to re-focus TRIALOG efforts on the areas of greatest need, and to involve the more successful Central European NGOs and platforms less as recipients of TRIALOG support, and more as actors who can use their recent experiences to help their counterparts in less successful NMS and the AC.

#### **Decentralisation:**

It took longer than expected to integrate the principles of decentralisation and responsiveness into the project's work. Written capacity building guidelines were distributed to NMS NGO Platforms explaining TRIALOG's policy for supporting travel costs of AC and NMS NGOs to selected events. At the end of the project, written guidelines on TRIALOG's policy for supporting costs of locally-organised training events were distributed to NMS NGO Platforms and are available on our website. These lead to an increase in training activities proposed by NGO networks in the AC and NMS, within clear and transparent guidelines. Another issue that became stronger in the last year of the project and will be continued even stronger in TRIALOG III is the involvement of stronger NMS in capacity building activities towards weaker platforms.

#### **1.4. Conclusio:**

As it is stated by the tables on expected versus reached results in the respective chapters and also by the external evaluation, almost all expected results of TRIALOG II not only have been achieved but most of them have been more than achieved. All specific objectives have been reached and a considerable contribution to the overall objective - which was to ensure smooth and full integration of Accession Countries' NGOs into the European Union and into the EU NGO community - has been done.

#### **Final remark from the external evaluator in September 2006:**

TRIALOG is a small and unique project that has existed since 2000. Over the last three years, TRIALOG II has made a big difference to NGOs and NGOs in NMS and Accession countries. Many respondents acknowledged that without TRIALOG support, their National Platforms would never have been formed, and all recognize the crucial role of the project in bringing people from NMS and AC countries together and helping them to understand the complexities of development in the EU policies and processes. In conclusion, TRIALOG is a small project that has had a big impact on NGOs in NMS and Accession countries. Without TRIALOG's support, many would not have been able to build their

National Platforms and most would not have been able to access the information necessary to begin to understand EU policies and processes. NGOs in NMS and Accession countries have traveled a long way since 2003, and TRIALOG has played no small part in this journey. The next challenge is to adapt the ways that it accompanies them over the next three years.