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**Development Cooperation in New EU Member States:
The Role of Non-Governmental Organisations**

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¹ The paper however expresses the opinion of its authors and not the organisations of their association.

Abstract

The paper addresses the policy and practice of EU new member states in the area of international development cooperation. Bearing in mind the potential of non-governmental development organisations as watch-dogs of the official national policies in the area international cooperation, the key argument of this paper is that the EU new member states lack multi-stakeholder approach to international development policy and strategic planning of development aid.

The paper examines the importance of partnership between government bodies and non-governmental development organisations in the process of establishment of effective development cooperation and public awareness/ development education processes in NMS. Thematically, the paper first presents the issue of international development cooperation in the NMS and the official policies towards integration of NGDO. It focuses on the role of NGDO national platforms in networking, advocacy, lobbying and campaigning activities. As case studies three NMS countries whose ratio GNI/ODA is the highest: Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovenia, have been analysed. Further, various multi-stakeholder national bodies for development cooperation at the governmental level, focusing on the cooperation of stakeholders, inclusion of NGDOs' representatives in strategic bodies, planning and implementation, etc., are presented. All these gives authors the basis to draw some concluding thoughts on how the future cooperation between NGDOs and the governments in NMS should develop in the future to achieve synergies, reflected in better assistance to developing countries.

1 Introduction

Member States, joining the EU in 2004 and 2007 have through accession also »graduated« to a donor status and became politically and morally obliged to build up an effective strategy for international development cooperation, based on the principles and policies, accepted within EU.

Existing analysis of current international development policies of New Member States (NMS) reflect insufficient interest of the governments for international development policy in general and several rather complex problems of integration of the principles and objectives of European international development policy into the national framework (Bucar, Mesic, Plibersek, 2007). The countries often lack the legal and institutional infrastructure to act as efficient donors, cannot increase the resources according to the agreed dynamics and have serious human resource problems.

On the other hand, the countries are not without experience in the area of international cooperation. In particular, non-governmental development organisations (NGDO) have established links with civil society organisations in the developing countries where development cooperation projects have been implemented. NGDO have been increasingly involved in development education activities and awareness raising campaigns in their countries.

Bearing in mind the potential of NGDOs as watch-dogs of the official national policies in the area international cooperation, the key argument of this paper is that the NMS lack multi-stakeholder approach to international development policy and strategic planning of development aid. Development institutions at the national level should not be divided into governmental and non-governmental but should build stronger partnerships, if the goals and objectives of EU international development cooperation are to be fully implemented. Only by building partnerships with civil society organisations can the governments in NMS hope to become more effective on the basis of division of labour in designing and implementing development strategies.

The paper examines the importance of partnership between government bodies and non-governmental development organisations in the process of establishment of effective

development cooperation and public awareness/ development education processes in NMS. According to our preliminary investigation, currently this type of cooperation is not sufficient: on one hand the government does not see NGDO as potential partners in international development cooperation, and on the other, the NGDO are still not sufficiently well-organised to form successful pressure group to have political clout. Several NMS have already prepared their basic strategic papers in the area of development aid and are in the process of setting up appropriate organisational infrastructure. It is essential that NGDO actively participate in this and offer their capabilities in the area of raising public awareness, development education as well as specific experiences in implementation/ cooperation in development aid projects. Also, an important role of NGDO is to monitor the official policies of international development cooperation and control the observance of the agreed objectives and principles, especially the three Cs: coherence, coordination and cooperation.

Thematically, the paper first presents the issue of international development cooperation in the NMS and the official policies towards integration of NGDO. It focuses on the role of NGDO national platforms in networking, advocacy, lobbying and campaigning activities. As case studies three NMS countries whose ratio GNI/ODA is the highest: Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovenia, have been analysed. Further, various multi-stakeholder national bodies for development cooperation at the governmental level, focusing on the cooperation of stakeholders, inclusion of NGDOs' representatives in strategic bodies, planning and implementation, etc., are presented. All these gives authors the basis to draw some concluding thoughts on how the future cooperation between NGDOs and the governments in NMS should develop in the future to achieve synergies, reflected in better assistance to developing countries.

This is still under-research topic, so there is considerable lack of information and documents. Therefore we rely mainly on non-structured interviews with government and non-government representatives, responsible for development cooperation and education policies, few existing documents and meeting reports.

2. Current level of international development cooperation in NMS and integration of non-governmental development organisations²

Until the accession to the EU, many of the NMS were themselves recipients of the donor funds (some still are). Their new donor status requires a different attitude in this area. To participate fully in the activities at the level of the European Commission and to contribute to the effectiveness of EU aid, these countries first had to design their development policies and strategies, raise the awareness among their citizens and engage in different development cooperation projects. The integration of an already well-developed concepts, principles and commitments of the EU and implementation of these policies is a challenging task for MNS as they emerge or re-emerge as donors (Bučar and Mrak, 2007).

At the initial stages of official aid programs in NMS, NGOs were de-facto not recognized by the state authorities as strategically important partners. A particular feature in all these post-communist societies was a lack of confidence between government and civil society. This attitude has its origins in the pre-transition period when NGOs often established and articulated themselves as a kind of the opposition to the government and are sometimes still closely associated with political opposition (Grimm and Harmer, p. 14).

In such a situation it is not surprising that that foreign aid policy formulation in NMS has not been nor very broad-based and that there is usually no systematic consultation on this subject carried out outside the government structures. According to the NGO sources, there is a lack of interest on the side of respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs to enter in a more comprehensive dialogue with the NGOs. The ministries are apparently not convinced that the NGO sector can play an important role in building public support for ODA, in policy formation and in project implementation. Further on, they apparently overestimate their own role, and are reluctant to delegate responsibilities (policy-related) to other stakeholders. On the other hand, NGOs sometimes find it difficult to understand priorities and constraints faced by the authorities, and as a result are impatient and also dismissive regarding the work of the authorities.

² This section draws extensively on paper by Bučar & Mrak, 2007.

In recent years, NGOs in several new member states have been involved in the formulation of development cooperation policy. An extremely important mechanism for strengthening this cooperation is the establishment of the national platforms for development NGOs in NMS, which can contribute significantly to a more institutionalized dialogue with authorities. Yet the existence of national platforms sometimes creates new problems. They are often dominated by a few large NGOs and a significant number of smaller players (grass-root NGOs) with often vested interests. Experiences show that governments are often more open to few larger organizations as the primary agencies to assist in development policy formulation and in responding to crises (Grimm and Harmer, p. 15) and tend to ignore the smaller ones.

3 The establishment and the role of NGDO Platforms

In the NMS, non-profit non-governmental organisations, working in the field of development co-operation, development education and relief have established 11 national platforms since 2002, with the aim to form stronger pressure groups, which will have a sufficient political clout at the national level.³ The NMS NGDO platforms have taken over the role of watchdogs with regards to aid effectiveness and policy coherence for development, and have played an important role in development education and awareness raising.⁴ Their main tool for planning of joint advocacy, lobbying and awareness raising activities have been specific thematic working groups (WG) which have created a place for mutual co-operation, capacity building, defining of common positions, information sharing and co-ordination towards the partners and the general public.

Before and after the NMS accession to the EU, the platforms have been able to join common development activities at the European level, particularly capacity building seminars and working groups, by the support of the European NGDO project in the enlarged Europe - TRIALOG.⁵ In 2003, the first NMS platform to become a member of the European NGO

³ Before the official registration, the majority of NGDO platforms in NMS had acted initially as informal networks of NGDOs. Their advocacy activities were therefore limited. The Bulgarian NGDO platform still exists unofficially. For more information see Annex 1.

⁴ Bedoya, Christine (2007) From 15 to 27 EU Member States – Achievements and challenges for international development. A Bulletin on EU Enlargement and NGDOs, Trialog. Available at: <http://www.trialog.or.at/start.asp?ID=112>

⁵ TRIALOG is a project to raise awareness of development issues in the enlarged EU. It was initiated in March 2000 for the period of 3-years and is now in the third phase (2006-09). It is financed by the European

Confederation for Relief and Development – CONCORD was the Czech NGDO platform and was followed soon by the Hungarian, Latvian, Maltese, Polish, Slovak and Slovenian NGDO platform.⁶ The NGDO platforms and networks from the remaining NMS have been present within the CONCORD Working groups as observers.⁷ This was an important place for strengthening of their capacities, especially in the field of development education and awareness raising where the majority of state institutions have failed to act. A low level of trust was demonstrated through a special Eurobarometer study on the new EU Member States and their aid policies where the support for a poverty-focused, Africa-based development policy was expressed, but responses also indicated that the majority of citizens are not aware of the role of a Member State within the European ODA. Moreover, it indicated lack of transparency and effectiveness of the NMS development policies by showing that the majority of NMS12 citizens consider EU institutions more efficient and trustworthy than individual states when it comes to the allocation of aid.⁸

Development Education Forum - DEF is one of the core Concord Working groups and the new NGDO-EU partnership.⁹ It has initiated the Development Education Exchange for Europe Project - DEEEP to increase capacities of NGDO in development education and awareness raising (DE/AR), to strengthen cooperation between NGDO and other European civil society actors to reach DE/AR effectiveness, as well as to establish and strengthen partnerships between NGOs, Member States and European institutions to gain political support for DE/AR in Europe.¹⁰ As a result, DEF in cooperation with DEEEP has coordinated the multi stakeholder process of drafting of the European Strategy framework for Development Education and Awareness Raising (European DE Consensus) and is planning

Commission (83,6%), Consortium partners and private european sources (12,4%) and Austrian Development Cooperation (4,0%). For more information: <http://www.trialog.or.at/>.

⁶ CONCORD consists of 20 international networks and 22 national associations from the European Member States who together represent more than 1600 European NGOs vis-à-vis the European Institutions. For more information see: www.concordeurope.org

⁷ The NMS NGDO platforms have been represented in the following CONCORD Working groups: WG Policy and European Presidency, FDR – EU Funding for Development and Relief, DEF - Development Education Forum, AidWatch, WG Enlargement, Pre-Accession and Neighbourhood (under the auspices of Trialog). See Annex 1.

⁸ Source: European Commission: Citizens of the new EU Member States and Development Aid, published in September 2007. Available at: http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_280_en.pdf (read on 23 February 2007).

⁹ See: http://www.deeep.org/english/europe/de_forum/

¹⁰ DEEEP is a programme initiated by the Development Education Forum of CONCORD to strengthen capacities of NGDOs to raise awareness, educate and mobilise the European public for worldwide poverty eradication and social inclusion. The project is managed by UCODEP (IT), ITECO (BE), DEA (UK), under the auspices of and in co-ordination with the Development Education Forum of CONCORD and co-financed by the European Commission – EuropeAid. For more information see: www.deeep.org

the implementation of the document within the framework of Slovenian NGDO Presidency Conference.¹¹

With the support of the DEEEP and TRIALOG Programme¹², the NMS platforms further managed to succeed in the 2006 Call for proposals of the European Commission (EC) for Development Education and Awareness Raising (DE/AR). In total, the EC allocated 10 mio EUR for 22 DE/AR projects in 10 NMS.¹³ Out of total, 18 projects had the lead applicant from the NMS: Hungary (6), Czech Republic (3), Poland (3), Slovenia (2), Slovakia (1), Lithuania (1), Estonia (1) and Cyprus (1). The NMS NGDO further applied to the 2007 EC DE/AR Call, but the results have not yet been published.

Another example of added value of the European NGDO partnership, particularly for the NMS platforms in terms of capacity building in policy and advocacy work, has been the Concord "Aid Watch" Initiative to monitor progress in reaching effectiveness of the European ODA. As a result, the Aid Watch WG launched the Report „EU aid: Genuine leadership or misleading figures?“¹⁴ in 2006, and the Report of all 27 NGDO platforms, titled »Hold the applause! EU governments risk breaking aid promises«¹⁵ in 2007. With the help of »Global Call to Action Against Poverty – GCAP«, the launching of the reports received great media attention.¹⁶ Following the successes, the Working group will continue to monitor the progress in reaching quality and quantity of the European aid, and will in the framework of Accra High level forum - where progress against the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness¹⁷ will be

¹¹ The document was officially unveiled at the European Development Days in Lisbon in November 2007. Source: News from the launch on November 9 2007, EU Development Days, Lisbon. Available at: http://www.deeep.org/english/europe/strategy/index.php#News_from_the_launch_on_November_9_2007. Its implementation will start at the Slovenian NGDO Presidency Conference, titled "Intercultural Dialogue in Development Education" - The way towards the implementation of the European consensus on development – the contribution of development education and awareness raising«, on 9-10 June 2008. Source: Concept note of Slovenian NGDO Presidency Conference, 2007. Available at: www.sloga-platform.org

¹² See Trialog priorities 2006-2009 at: <http://www.trialog.or.at/start.asp?ID=100&B=58>. See also: Kreinecker, Petra (2007): Development Education: From Lobby to Action – Looking back and forward. A Bulletin on EU Enlargement and NGDOs, Trialog.

¹³ There were 21 Consortium members; 14 with consortia lead by NMS and 7 with consortia lead by OMS. Source: The Experience of New Member States' NGOs in DE/AR Calls for Proposals – A perspective from the EC and challenges ahead. Presentation of Nicoletta Pusterla, DG EuropeAid, Unit F3, Sector »Non-state Actors and Local Authorities«, at the TRIALOG Central Training 2008, Brno, 20 February 2008.

¹⁴ The Report can be downloaded at: <http://www.eurodad.org/aid/report.aspx?id=122&item=0490>

¹⁵ The Report can be downloaded at:

www.concordeurope.org/Files/media/internetdocumentsENG/Aid%20watch/1-Hold_the_Applause.FINAL.pdf

¹⁶ For more information see: <http://www.whiteband.org/photos/gcap-photos-2007/europe-2007/gcap-europe-stunt-aid-watch-report-launch-may-15th-2007/view?searchterm=Aid%20Watch%20Report%202007?searchterm=Aid%20Watch%20Report%202007>

¹⁷ The Declaration can be downloaded at:

http://www.oecd.org/document/18/0,2340,en_2649_3236398_35401554_1_1_1_1,00.html

reviewed - advocate and lobby for a reform of the declaration, the so-called Prague declaration under the Czech EU Presidency.¹⁸

Focusing on particular NMS NGDO platforms, we will closely examine the case studies of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovenia, focusing on the nature of partnerships which have been established in the framework of the national NGDO platforms.

4. Promoting partnership at the national level

4.1. CZECH REPUBLIC

a) Legal framework for partnership in international development cooperation

Although the Czech Republic did not provide for the legally binding document, indicating the necessity of the Czech Government to cooperate with NGOs in the field of development cooperation, the non-state actors are mentioned several times within the different government programmes. **The Concept of the Czech Development Cooperation Programme 2002-2007**¹⁹ declared the cooperation with the NGOs as one of the most important principles along with the principles of partnership, efficiency and transparency of development cooperation.²⁰ According to the Concept, the governmental cooperation with NGOs should be established in the light of the transparency: the government should inform the NGO and other non-state actors about the results in the field of international development cooperation in order to increase the level of public support (*ibid.*).

Moreover NGOs are mentioned within the **Guidelines on the Czech Republic's Development Cooperation**,²¹ indicating in its Article 16, that the representatives of the non-

¹⁸ The Concord Aid Watch Working group will in cooperation with the Slovenian and French NGDO platforms organise an international NGDO consultation seminar in Ljubljana, Slovenia, from 9-11 April 2008, to draft a common NGDO position to be presented in Accra. For more information see: <http://www.concordeurope.org/Public/Page.php?ID=9914>.

¹⁹ The Concept of the Czech Development Cooperation Programme 2002-2007. Available at: <http://www.mzv.cz/wwwo/mzv/default.asp?ido=7633&idj=2&amb=1&ikony=False&trid=3&prsl=False&poccl=1> (20.2.2008).

²⁰ Targets and Principles of the International Development Cooperation. Available at: <http://www.mzv.cz/wwwo/mzv/default.asp?id=8622&ido=7633&idj=2&amb=1> (20.2.2008).

²¹ Guidelines on International Development Assistance, adopted in 2004. Law on development cooperation and humanitarian aid is under preparation.

governmental organisations should take part at the Council for Development Cooperation, as one of the main advisory bodies to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.²²

b) Organisational settings

The Czech Government established a complex mechanism of cooperation with NGOs based on the **Czech Development Centre**, who played the role of coordinator and communicating body between the governmental side and non-state actors. The Development Centre was also responsible for passing the relevant information about the mid- and long-term priorities of the Czech Government as well as current directions of development policy to the NGOs.²³

In the beginning of 2008 the **Czech Development Agency** was established by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to »support the implementation of the Czech development cooperation«. ²⁴ Czech Development Agency has taken up the activities of the Development Centre, which ceased to exist. Besides being responsible for the project implementation (including the formulation and tendering procedures) and data reporting mechanism, the Agency is also “enhancing capacities of NGOs and other ODA stakeholders, including organising professional trainings” (*ibid.*).

According to the Guidelines on the Czech Republic’s Development Cooperation, the representatives of NGOs are also taking part at the **Council for Development Cooperation**. The Council serves as the advisory body and its main responsibility is to “mediate the opinions of the development platform on the fundamental issues of the Czech Development Cooperation.”²⁵ The Council is established of the representatives of government institutions, NGOs, academic community, business sector, trade unions, civil society and media. Members are appointed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs (*ibid.*).

c) Financing mechanism

²² Guidelines on the Czech Republic's Development Cooperation. Available at: <http://www.mzv.cz/www/mzv/default.asp?ido=18661&idj=2&amb=1&ikony=False&trid=1&prsl=False&poccl=1> (20.2.2008).

²³ Euroresources, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grand Scheme for NGOs. Available at: http://www.euroresources.org/guide_to_population_assistance/czech_republic/mfa_grant_scheme_for_ngos.html (18.2.2008).

²⁴ Development centre: About the Development Centre. Available at: http://www.rozvojevostredisko.cz/about_en.php (20.2.2008).

²⁵ Guidelines on the Czech Republic's Development Cooperation. Available at: <http://www.mzv.cz/www/mzv/default.asp?ido=18661&idj=2&amb=1&ikony=False&trid=1&prsl=False&poccl=1> (20.2.2008).

Czech Republic has established a well-organised and complex system of financing the NGDO's activities, based on the Czech Development Centre, which was responsible for the coordination and management of the projects in implementation process. This mechanism was now taken up by the Development Agency.

The system of funding Czech NGDOs is rather decentralised, based on public tenders and multiple grant schemes. Every project has to be submitted to the relevant ministry responsible for the particular policy area, where the project is to be implemented, before the funding is provided.

In 2006 the special budget was provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the funding of NGDOs in the amount of 335.000 EUR. 18 project were chosen based on the public tenders.²⁶

d) Cooperation MFA-NGDOs in the field of project implementation

In the field of project implementation, as well as in setting the principles and priorities of ODA, development education, development training, awareness raising etc. there is a well-established cooperation between the Government and NGDOs. NGDOs play an important part in the field of bilateral projects implementation (in the last few years more than 30% of all bilateral projects were implemented by the NGOs).²⁷ Moreover, NGDOs are seen as the most important partner in the field of humanitarian aid (Mesic, Plibersek 2007).

An important part of the bilateral development programmes is also the joint financing of development projects in the countries or sectors, where NGDOs have their own professional expertise. This is especially true for the field of increasing awareness of global solidarity among the Czech general public. For this kind of project the government co-finance the activities up to 80% of the total value.²⁸ Co-funding is also available for the projects in all the fields, where Czech Republic has identified as those where they have a comparative advantages (health care, education and energy production) and if the projects will contribute to meet the targets and implement the priorities of Czech foreign aid programme.²⁹

²⁶ Euroresources, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grand Scheme for NGOs. Available at: http://www.euroresources.org/guide_to_population_assistance/czech_republic/mfa_grant_scheme_for_ngos.html (18.2.2008).

²⁷ Euroresources, Czech Republic, Information. Available at: http://www.euroresources.org/guide_to_population_assistance/czech_republic/introduction.html (18.2.2008).

²⁸ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Cooperation with Non-Governmental Organisation. Available at: <http://www.mzv.cz/wwwo/mzv/default.asp?id=8616&ido=7633&idj=2&amb=1> (19.2.2008).

²⁹ Eurosources, Project co-funding. Available at: http://www.euroresources.org/guide_to_population_assistance/czech_republic/project_co_funding.html (19.2.2008).

Besides the bilateral programmes, the Czech NGOs are also involved in the trilateral activities. Here the cooperation within the Canadian International Development Institution (CIDA) and the RPP programme is of special importance.³⁰

e) NGDO platform

Czech NGDO platform - FoRS was established in 2002 by 15 NGOs as founding members.³¹ It was one of the founding members of CONCORD. By the end of 2007, FoRS had consisted of 28 members and 11 observing organisations.³² Working Groups (WG) have been the main tool of FoRS members' and observers' common activities.³³ From 2005 to 2008, the number of WG has increased due to the scope of development education, awareness raising and campaigning activities³⁴ and because of the forthcoming Czech EU Presidency.

In 2005, FoRS established: WG for 8 programming countries to draft project proposals, 3 WG for awareness, education and volunteers and WG on International Relations for cooperation with CONCORD WG and the TRIALOG Programme.³⁵ The latter offered also the capacity building seminars to prepare project proposals for the EC Call 21-02-03. Moreover, FoRS had joined "Global Call against Poverty – GCAP" to plan campaigning activities. In 2006, WG for awareness split into the WG Czechia against Poverty to lead the campaign on Millennium Development Goals - MDGs for the second term and the new WG Sport for Development to lead the campaign program Football for Development. The WG Policy started the process of formulating the FoRS priorities for the Czech EU Presidency in 2009 and activities related to the topics of the next year. In 2007, the WG drafted the NGDO requirements for ODA transformation and ODA/GNI levels of funding (e.g. MD debate in the Parliament), has strengthened the volunteers base, produced the information materials and organised activities for different target groups in various Czech towns on the International Day of poverty – 17 October.

³⁰ CIDA, Projects. Available at: <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/CIDAWEB/acdicida.nsf/En/JUD-112911223-LTK?OpenDocument> (18.2.2008).

³¹ FoRS Annual Report 2006.

³² Czech DE/AR Campaigns in 2007 and National Platform in 2008: Presentation of FoRS at the Trialog Central Training 2008, Brno, 20 February 2008.

³³ See Footnote no. 17.

³⁴ From 2005 to 2007, 18 out of 37 platform members have been implementing DE/AR activities. Source: DEEEP (2007) Questionnaire about Development Education and Awareness Raising in Europe: Czech Republic. The 2003 and 2005 Questionnaires can be downloaded at: http://www.deeep.org/english/what_is_de/questionnaire/index.php

³⁵ See Footnote no. 17.

Since the very beginning, FoRS has been recognized as reliable institutional partner for Czech authorities involved in ODA.³⁶ The platform and the MFA have created a stable partnership, based on common agenda, regular consultations on key ODA documents and participation of FoRS in their formulations and the MFA financial support to NGOs activities.³⁷

The MFA introduced a Call for projects within the Grant Support Scheme for NGOs in the field of development education, raising awareness, building capacity and partnership and the support of platforms in 2004.³⁸ FoRS has participated in the overall setting of the grant schemes. In 2006, there were 13 out of 18 projects approved in support to FoRS members' activities, representing 72 % of the total sum of 9 220 839 CZK (app. 342 000 EUR). In 2007, the MFA allocated 14 462 207 CZK (536 000 EUR) for the grant support schemes. Out of 21 approved projects for support, 18 has been carried out by FoRS members and observing organisations, representing 90.4 % of the total budget and 85.7 % of the total number of projects to be implemented by FoRS membership. With regards to development education and awareness raising, the governmental institutions have introduced specific budget lines for DE/AR projects in 2007, allocating 253,623 EUR in 2007 and 311,594 EUR in 2008.³⁹ Back to the 2008 grant support scheme, the MFA will distribute 20, 1 mil. CZK (773 000 EUR) among 26 projects of capacity building, development education and awareness raising and strengthening of platforms.⁴⁰

4.2. HUNGARY

a) Legal framework for partnership in international development cooperation

The mechanism of the Hungarian international development cooperation is based on the **Concept Paper**, approved by the Government in 2001. The Concept Paper provides the basis

³⁶ Presentation of FoRS at the Trialog Central Training 2006, Budapest.

³⁷ Partnership between the civil society and Ministry of Foreign Affairs in development cooperation. Presentation for the Seminar on the role of the New Member States in the EU Development Policy, Warsaw, April 18-19, 2007.

³⁸ See Footnote no 17.

³⁹ Source: DEEEP (2007) Questionnaire about Development Education and Awareness Raising in Europe: Czech Republic.

⁴⁰ Czech DE/AR Campaigns in 2007 and National Platform in 2008, presentation of Jana Krczmářová, FoRS at the Trialog Central Training 2008. Available at: <http://www.trialog.or.at/images/doku/czech-republic-ct2008.pdf> (26 February 2008).

for the complex mechanism of ODA with the three stage delivery process, where the implementation should involve the public and private companies, as well as NGDOs.⁴¹

The legal framework of the Hungarian development cooperation mechanism is also based on the **International Development Cooperation Interdepartmental Committee Resolution 1/2003**,⁴² which declares that the development cooperation projects should be executed “with the widest possible social participation including civil organisations /.../” (*ibid.*). In the same year also the **Government Decision 2121/2003** provided for the establishment of the Civil Advisory Board to gather representatives of “social and professional organisations”.⁴³

Until 2003, there were no other legal acts regulating the Hungarian development cooperation.⁴⁴

b) Organisational settings

One of the main organisational instruments for the cooperation of the Government and NGOs is the **Civil Advisory Board**, with the main responsibility of awareness raising within the Hungarian society.⁴⁵ The Board, which is a voluntary advisory body, gathers the representatives of different political, public and professional organisations, MFA and NGOs and serves as a link between the Government and the non-state actors (*ibid.*).

Besides regular meetings between the representatives of the MFA and the representatives of NGDOs, gathered in the Platform HAND (see details below), for the moment there are no other formal mechanisms of cooperation between both parties.⁴⁶

⁴¹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Hungary, Hungarian Policy for International Development Cooperation. Available at: http://www.kulugyminiszterium.hu/kum/en/bal/foreign_policy/international_development/idc.htm (18.2.2008).

⁴² Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Hungary, International Development Cooperation Interdepartmental Committee Resolution 1/2003. Available at: http://www.kulugyminiszterium.hu/kum/en/bal/foreign_policy/international_development/interdepartmental_committee.htm (20.2.2008).

⁴³ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Hungary, Hungarian Policy for International Development Cooperation. Available at: http://www.kulugyminiszterium.hu/kum/en/bal/foreign_policy/international_development/idc.htm (18.2.2008).

⁴⁴ The Act on international development cooperation is under preparation.

⁴⁵ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Hungary, Civil Advisory Board of the Hungarian International Development Cooperation. Available at: http://www.kulugyminiszterium.hu/kum/en/bal/foreign_policy/international_development/civil_advisory.htm (18.2.2008).

⁴⁶ HAND, Hungarian Association of NGOs for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Hand Activities. Available at: <http://www.hand.org.hu/aboutus.shtml#tev> (20.2.2008).

c) Financing mechanism

The Hungarian support of the developmental NGDOs is based on *ad hoc* calls for proposals (first was launched in 2003). Tenders are available to the Hungarian NGOs, which can receive the resources up to 40.000 EUR per project (under condition that at least 20-25% percent of the total project value should be assured by the NGDO from other sources).⁴⁷

Another important mechanism that was launched by the Act on public finance in 2003, is the percentage of income tax (1%) to be devoted for the financial purposes of NGDOs.⁴⁸

d) Cooperation MFA-NGDOs in the field of project implementation

On the basis of the Civil Advisory Board's work, the cooperation of the Government and NGDOs is growing. MFA is running the tenders, which are open to all NGDOs, preferably working in the field of geographical and sector priorities of Hungarian development cooperation (Governance, Civil Society, Education, Health, Environment). Project activities are financed up to two years.

What is even more important, the NGDOs are also seen as the main implementing body in the field of humanitarian aid, since the government believes that they are capable of delivering aid quickly and efficiently.⁴⁹

As Slovenia and Czech Republic, Hungary is also participating in the Regional Partnership Programme (RPP)⁵⁰ and thus enlarging the possibilities of Hungarian NGOs to gain the financial sources for the project implementation.

e) NGDO platform

The Hungarian NGDO platform – HAND was established in 2003 by 12 ordinary members and 5 observers.⁵¹ The number of member organisations has increased to 13 member and 13

⁴⁷ Eurosources, Hungary, Ad hoc call for proposals. Available at: http://www.eurosources.org/guide_to_population_assistance/hungary/ad_hoc_calls_for_proposals.html (20.2.2008).

⁴⁸ Trialog, Hungary. Available at: http://www.trialog.or.at/docs/ngdostudy_hungary.pdf (19.2.2008).

⁴⁹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Hungary, Humanitarian Assistance. Available at: http://www.kulugyminiszterium.hu/kum/en/bal/foreign_policy/international_development/idc.htm (17.2.2008).

⁵⁰ Regional Partnership Programme is a joint programme of Austria, Slovenia, Slovakia, Czech Republic and Hungary with the overall goal to strengthen the capacities and the cooperation between the NGOs coming from NMS and Austrian NGOs. Joint programme is financed by all countries involved and organised as tenders targeted at NGOs. Available at: <http://www.eu-plattform.at/english/start.asp?b=812> (19.2.2008).

observer organisations by December 2007.⁵² The platform organises regular meetings (on a monthly basis) related to particular topics in order to build up and promote a regular dialog and cooperation between platform members, as well as has established several thematic working groups.⁵³

In 2004, the platform established three thematic working groups: volunteer sending, environmental issues and development education. By the end of 2007, HAND established the following WG: the Aid Watch WG, the Africa strategy WG (link to the Concord Cotonou WG), the Global Education WG, European Integration and Neighbourhood Policy WG (link to the Trialog EPAN WG), WG ODA and Awareness raising/campaigning WG.⁵⁴ With regard to the results in 2007, the most active were the Aid Watch, the Global Education and Awareness raising/campaigning WG.⁵⁵

In 2007, HAND issued the national AidWatch Report, titled »Hungarian International Development Policy in Figures«⁵⁶ to critically evaluate the Hungarian ODA, draw recommendations for improvement of the Hungarian International Development Cooperation and to make further efforts in cooperation with Concord and GCAP for deepening public awareness on international development activity and humanitarian aid.⁵⁷ During the research, HAND was confronted by complicated access to governmental data service, lack of data and its inconsistency.⁵⁸

The Global Education WG (GE WG) was established only in 2007 to initiate dialogue between different DE stakeholders in Hungary, particularly the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the aim to prepare the National Global Education Advocacy Strategy and the National Global Educational Strategy.⁵⁹ The GE WG started the process of

⁵¹ About us, <http://www.hand.org.hu/aboutus.shtml> (23 February 2008).

⁵² Among members are also national councils of some international organisations, such as Unicef, Caritas Hungarica, Hungarian Interchurch Aid and others. Source: Full members, <http://www.hand.org.hu/member.shtml> (22. February 2008).

⁵³ Workplan 2004 – Priorities for the Hungarian platform. Available at:

http://www.zpok.hu/img_upload/b4ebb6df1410140aa5215ec3d061f1b0/HAND_workplan_2004.doc

⁵⁴ Hungary – Country information., <http://www.trialog.or.at/start.asp?ID=79> (23 February 2008).

⁵⁵ From 2005 to 2007, 11 out of 25 platform NGOs have been working in the field of development education, awareness raising, campaigning and advocacy. Source: DEEEP (2007) Questionnaire about Development Education and Awareness Raising in Europe - Hungary.

⁵⁶ The research and the publication of the report »Hungarian International Development Policy in Figures« – written by Dr. KISS, Judit was supported by the Presidency Fund (see www.presidencyfund.org).

⁵⁷ For more information on HAND campaigning activities see: <http://www.trialog.or.at/images/doku/hungary-ct2008-overview.pdf> (23 February 2008).

⁵⁸ Kiss, Judit (2007) Executive Summary: Hungarian International Development Policy in Figures, HAND.

⁵⁹ For more information on the Global Education WG see: <http://www.trialog.or.at/images/doku/hungary-ct2008-ge-wg.pdf> (24 February 2008).

strategies' formulation in 2007 by drafting the Hungarian definition of Global Education. In October 2007, it organised in cooperation with DEEEP and the North-South Centre a capacity building seminar, titled »Introduction to the concept of Global Education and preparation of National Global Educational Strategy». Among participants were also the representatives of relevant ministries, particularly the Ministry of Education and the MFA, who expressed interest in further cooperation in this field. In December 2007, HAND submitted a project proposal to the MFA Call for DE/AR project proposals and won financial support for the drafting of the National GE Strategy.

4.3. SLOVENIA

a) Legal framework for partnership in international development cooperation

The legal framework of the Slovenian development cooperation was set by the adoption of the **Act on Slovenian development cooperation** (referred further in text as Act) in 2006.⁶⁰ Although the Act does not provide for the special cooperation mechanism between the Government and the NGOs, several articles are indicating the position of the non-state actors. In its Article 6 the Act is providing for the establishment of the **Council of Experts for International Development Cooperation**, which is responsible for the preparation of the draft Resolution on the international development cooperation⁶¹ and should serve as a permanent consultation body to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Council of Experts should include the representatives of the ministries, working in the field of development cooperation, individual experts, representative of the Chamber of Commerce as well as the representatives of the development projects' implementing institutions, including NGDOs (*ibid.*).

In the Article 8 of the same Act the institutions responsible for the implementation of international development cooperation are listed. Development cooperation project can be

⁶⁰ Act on Slovenian development cooperation (Zakon o mednarodnem razvojnem sodelovanju Republike Slovenije): Ur.l RS 7.7.2006 (70) 7256. Available at: <http://www.uradni-list.si/1/objava.jsp?urlid=200670&stevilka=2999> (10.2.2008).

⁶¹ According to the Act on Slovenian development cooperation the planning and implementation of development projects should be based on the Resolution of international development cooperation. The Resolution should include the geographic and sector priorities as well as financing mechanism and should be adopted by the Slovenian parliament.

implemented by the MFA and other ministries as well as other institutions, working in the field of development cooperation (*ibid.*).

Other legal acts (like the resolution on international development cooperation), which will address the cooperation with non-state actors in a more detailed way, are not yet in place.⁶²

b) Organisational settings

The mechanism of cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the national coordinating body of the international development cooperation⁶³ and the NGDOs is rather complex. On the one hand, a part of the developmental NGOs are gathered within the Platform of developmental NGOs Sloga,⁶⁴ which has established the cooperation with the MFA through the platform. The cooperation between the both sides has improved through the years. According to the Act of international development cooperation, one representative of the Platform was nominated to the Council of Experts for International Development Cooperation and did cooperate in the process of the drafting the Resolution on international development cooperation.⁶⁵ Moreover, the MFA is holding regularly meetings with the coordinator of the Platform and/ or other experts.

On the other hand there are some NGDOs and other relevant institutions⁶⁶ that are not a formally members of the Platform Sloga and therefore their cooperation with the Ministry was formed on a different basis. The representatives of the mentioned institutions are also involved in the work of the Council of Experts, however the cooperation with the MFA is based on their bilateral meetings (*ibid.*).

⁶² Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia: International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs. Available at: http://www.mzz.gov.si/si/zunanja_politika/mednarodno_razvojno_sodelovanje_in_humanitarna_pomoc/ (21.2.2008).

⁶³ The role of coordination was given to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by the Act on international development cooperation (Article 5).

⁶⁴ The list of the developmental NGOs included into Sloga Platform is available at: <http://www.sloga-platform.org/ustanovitelji> (20.2.2008).

⁶⁵ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, News, First meeting of the Council of Experts for International Development Cooperation. Available at: [http://www.mzz.gov.si/index.php?id=13&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=11814&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=](http://www.mzz.gov.si/index.php?id=13&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=11814&tx_ttnews[backPid]=) (20.2.2008).

⁶⁶ There are two different types of NGOs/institutions that are not formally members of the Platform: development institutions that were established by the Slovenian government and are still (co)financed by the different ministries and other NGOs.

Besides the representation in the work of the Council of Experts, there is currently no other formally established mechanism of cooperation between MFA and NGDOs (*ibid.*).

c) Financing mechanism

As in the case of the organisational setting for the cooperation, there is almost no firmly established financing mechanism to support NGDOs.⁶⁷ However in 2007, the MFA did finance the Sloga Platform in the amount of 34.000 EUR targeted at the administrative costs of the platform (*ibid.*). For the other projects, financing is provided on the *ad hoc* basis. In 2007 some projects, implemented by NGDOs, were co-financed by the MFA.⁶⁸

In the future, the MFA is planning to introduce public calls for the implementation of development projects, which will be also opened to NGDOs.

d) Cooperation MFA-NGDOs in the field of project implementation

The cooperation between the MFA and the NGDOs in the field of the project implementation is growing over the past few years. NGDOs are seen as important implementing actors, which is true especially for the institutions, established by the Slovenian Government.⁶⁹ Other NGDOs are still not seen as a major partner of the Government, although they are active in the field of project implementation, financed by different non-governmental sources.

A step forward was made with the establishment of the Regional Partnership Programme (RPP) and the participation of the Slovenia in it. Although again there were no direct

⁶⁷ At this part we are concentrating on the NGOs, gathered in the Sloga Platform and we are not taking into the consideration the institutions, established by the Slovenian Government since they have their own financing mechanism, which varies case by case.

⁶⁸ In 2007, the MFA co-financed two projects: »The rehabilitation of the children coming from Bosnia and Herzegovina« and »The rehabilitation of the children coming from Ukraine«. Available at: http://www.mzz.gov.si/si/zunanja_politika/mednarodno_razvojno_sodelovanje_in_humanitarna_pomoc/ (23.2.2008).

⁶⁹ Report on the Slovenian International Development Cooperation (Poročilo o mednarodnem razvojnem sodelovanju Republike Slovenije v letu 2006) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs. Available at: http://www.mzz.gov.si/si/zunanja_politika/mednarodno_razvojno_sodelovanje_in_humanitarna_pomoc/ (20.2.2008).

cooperation between the MFA and NGOs, Slovenia did co-finance the programme⁷⁰ and cooperated in the selection procedure.

The cooperation between the MFA and the NGOs increased especially during the preparation for the Slovenian presidency to the Council of European Union and during the presidency itself. MFA is financially supporting the presidency project of the Sloga Platform and will play an important role at the project's main event – the international conference on development education to be held in June 2008.

e) NGDO platform

The Slovenian NGDO platform - SLOGA was established in December 2005 by 19 NGOs.⁷¹ By the end of 2007, Sloga consisted of 28 member NGOs and several observers. Since the beginning, working groups (WG) have played an important role within the platform.⁷² With a financial assistance of Trialog, Sloga was able to participate within the European WG before gaining the Concord membership in February 2006. Sloga had formalised the work of its WG in 2007, taking advantage of the momentum, which had been created with the Slovenian EU Presidency preparations.

Sloga had established the Presidency WG to prepare and submit the Slovenian NGDO Presidency project to the EC Call for proposals in 2006.⁷³ After the approval of the project »You too are part of this world« in the 2nd half of the year 2007, the WG focused its work on

⁷⁰ In 2007 Slovenia co-finance the Regional Partnership Programme in the amount of 33.000 EUR. Available at: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs. Available at: http://www.mzz.gov.si/si/zunanja_politika/mednarodno_razvojno_sodelovanje_in_humanitarna_pomoc/ (20.2.2008).

⁷¹ For more information on the history of Sloga see: <http://www.sloga-platform.org/history> (23 February 2008).

⁷² The first NGO initiative for the creation of a national platform dates back to the year 2001 when a group of interested NGOs formed an informal NGO-coalition for cooperation with MFA and other relevant national and European stakeholders. The coalition was operating as a Working group, under the framework of CNVOS, Center for information service, cooperation and development of NGOs. For more information: <http://www.sloga-platform.org/history> (23 February 2008).

⁷³ The NGDO Presidency project had been developed in two years time and was submitted to the European Commission for approval in 2007. The project involves 7 Consortium members who aim to raise awareness about relevant development issues in Slovenia and Europe and to strengthen cooperation between different DE stakeholders at the national level. The project is focused on the following development topics: development education, social inclusion (intergenerational dialog, children advocacy, migration and human trafficking) and climate changes and development. The project »You too are part of this world« was launched in February 2008 with a press conference, presenting the NGDO Manifesto for the Slovenian EU Presidency and the project webpage: www.tuditi.si. For more information see: www.sloga-platform.org

the NGDO Manifesto, drawing recommendations for the Slovenian EU Presidency, and on the planning of the NGDO Presidency activities.

The already existing Policy WG intensified its activities when the Slovenian government initiated the preparation of the Slovenian Strategy and Resolution framework for development cooperation and humanitarian aid (2007). The WG prepared common NGDO positions and recommendations.⁷⁴ It managed to join forces of the Sloga member and observer organisations (the latter refers to: UNICEF Slovenia, Slovenian Caritas, Missionary centre and Slovenian Red Cross).

The Aid Effectiveness WG prepared the Slovenian Aid Watch Report 2007 and organised a press conference in Ljubljana.⁷⁵ It further organised in cooperation with OECD DAC and CONCORD a capacity building seminar, titled »ODA reporting and monitoring«, for governmental and non-governmental representatives from the NMS in November 2007.⁷⁶ The Development Education WG was established to bring DE/AR issues to the attention of Slovenian general public and to policy makers, and to strengthen DE stakeholders cooperation at the national level.⁷⁷ In 2007, the DE WG initiated a process of creation of the National DE Strategy in the framework of the Slovenian NGDO Presidency conference, titled »Intercultural Dialogue in Development Education - The way towards the implementation of the European consensus on development – the contribution of development education and awareness raising» which will be held in Slovenia in June 2008. Additionally, the WG will monitor the progress in DE Strategy formulation in NMS.

As already mentioned, the dialog between the Slovenian NGOs and the MFA intensified in the framework of the Slovenian EU Presidency, as well as the process of creation of the Strategy and Resolution IDC framework in 2007. Moreover, the MFA agreed on the co-financing of the main Sloga DE Presidency conference in 2007 and participated at the Sloga

⁷⁴ Internal reports of the Sloga Policy WG meetings.

⁷⁵ Ljubljana, 21 May 2007: Press release from the SLOGA press conference on ODA reporting.

⁷⁶ For more information on the seminar see: <http://www.sloga-platform.org/news/show/170> (24 February 2008).

⁷⁷ The Development Education WG drafted the Slovenian definition of development education and organised in cooperation with DEEEP a capacity building seminar for the governmental and non-governmental Slovenian representatives, titled »The future challenges in the field of development education/global learning«, in December 2007. For more information see: <http://www.sloga-platform.org/news/show/169> (24 February 2008).

international conferences and seminars.⁷⁸ In 2008, the MFA will allocate 100 000 EUR for NGDO development projects.⁷⁹

5. Concluding thoughts

The three case studies show that even in the NMS where development cooperation in terms of level of funding provided can be labelled as the most developed the cooperation between the government and the NGDO is underexploited. Czech Republic, however, can be cited as a good example of gradually establishing the settings for closer and more productive partnership, not only at the institutional level, but also through providing specific financing mechanisms.

In view of several others open issues in international development cooperation (see details in Bučar and Mrak, 2007) as well as problems of low awareness of development issues in general public and among the politicians, it is difficult to explain the reluctance of the government officials in the area of NGDO cooperation. Partly it can be attributed to already mentioned historical distrust to NGOs as the key political opposition organisations and partly to lack of well-established system for international development cooperation. As observed in our earlier work on development policies in NMS (Bucar, Mesic, Plibersek, 2007), most NMS are still looking for the best institutional setting for development cooperation. Also, the expected level of funding, to which they have committed themselves as new members of EU, is still a difficult target to achieve. The integration of the EU development aid principles and priorities in the national strategies has proved to be a demanding exercise. These tasks seem to somehow push aside the issue of cooperation with NGDOs.

The formation of national platforms and strengthening of their potential with the help of European programmes is leading to better coordination among NGDOs. This in the long run is extremely viable for their future national role. The poor coordination among NGDOs and even conflicting interests or disputes over their legitimacy has not contributed to their image as a reliable partner in international development cooperation. This can be true both for

⁷⁸ The MFA representatives participated as guest speakers at the Sloga international conference on the challenges of the development cooperation in the Balkans in February 2007, at the high level national consultation on MDGs in October 2007, at the high level international conference on sexual and reproductive health and rights and at the international seminar on ODA reporting and monitoring in November 2007. For more information on the Sloga events see: www.sloga-platform.org and www.tuditi.si.

⁷⁹ Out of total, 60 000 EUR will be allocated for development cooperation projects in the Balkans and Eastern Europe and 40 000 EUR for projects in sub-Saharan Africa. For more information see: http://www.sloga-platform.org/attachments/173/razpisna%20dokumentacija%20NVO_08.doc (29 February 2008).

involving them in policy setting as well as in implementation phase of development aid. In fact, NGOs lack of coherent position was occasionally used by the government as a welcome excuse; why not involve them in the partnership.

One of the common observations of different studies on NMS development cooperation has been the understaffing of different government offices, involved in these issues. The awareness that closer and more structured cooperation with NGOs could relieve these problems has yet to gain ground in NMS. Two of the important areas of NGOs activity, development education and awareness raising can contribute immensely to setting the more favourable political climate for increased government spending on development cooperation. This would suggest that the government offices in charge of development cooperation should see in NGOs their natural allies who can help them in achieving their strategies and commitments. In this case one could only hope to see this strategic partnership to develop as soon as possible.

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ANNEX : Overview of non-governmental development organisations in new member states

NMS	Status of the NGDO Platform	No. of members	ODA (2006)	Concord membership	Structure of NGDO platform	Working groups	DE/AR activities in 2007
Bulgaria	Informal NGDO network since 2005.	33	2 mio EUR (0.01% of GNI)	No, but participates as an observer within Concord and Trialog WG.	-2 coordinators -NGDO-MFA relations: Interdepartmental Council for Bulgaria's Participation in the International aid to Development	-Unofficial working group: strengthening platform, awareness raising (campaigns, events), fair trade promotion, joint project proposals, monitoring and lobbying activities.	-being among the priorities. -lack of resources!
Cyprus	Informal NGDO network since 2005.	9	16 mio EUR (0.11% of GNI)	No, but participates within Concord and Trialog WG.	-No coordinator or bodies (lack of information).	-Unofficial working group, focusing on lobbying activities and campaigning.	-Public Awareness and lobbying campaigns on environmental issues in relation to development -lobbying and campaigning activities for modifying the existing regulations for NGOs.
Czech Republic	FORS, founded in 2002 - http://www.fors.cz	28 members, 11 observers	124 mio EUR (0.12% of GNI)	Yes, since 2003.	- General Assembly, Executive Board, Secretariat and the Advisory Board	-WG Czechia Against Poverty (awareness raising, MDGs) -WG Sport for Development (campaigning) -WG International Relations (involved in Concord and Trialog WG) -WG Policy (Presidency 2009)	-Czechia Against Poverty Campaign and other DE campaigns -national DE projects -preparations for the NGDO Presidency project
Estonia	Estonian Roundtable for Development Cooperation (AKÜ), officially registered in December 2006 (being an informal NGDO network from 2002-2006) - http://www.terveilm.net/	16	8 million EUR (0.078% of GNI)	No.	-Secretariat.	Platform Working Groups (WGs) -WG Neighbourhood Policy -WG Development Policy -WG Development Education -WG Fair Trade	-DE events: Global Education Seminar "Creativity in Global Actions", World Day, MDG debate and other AR-activities -publication of handbooks
Hungary	Hungarian Association of NGOs for Development and Humanitarian Aid (HAND), officially registered in November 2003 (informal status 2002-03) - http://www.hand.org.hu	13 members, 13 observers Link to the platform members' list: http://www.hand.org.hu/tagszervezetek.shtml http://www.hand.org.hu/member.sh	96 million EUR (0.12% of GNI)	Yes, since 2004.	-Board, Board of Supervision and Secretariat.	Platform Working Groups (WGs) -WG Aid Watch (link with European Aid Watch WG) -WG Africa strategy (link with European Cotonou WG) -WG Global Education (link with European Development Education Forum) -WG European Integration and Neighbourhood Policy (link with European EPAN) -WG ODA -WG Awareness raising/campaigning	-Publication of national Aid Watch Report 2007. -Seminar "Introduction to the concept of Global education and preparation of National Global Educational Strategy".

Source: Trialog Central Training 2008, Brno, Czech Republic, 19-20 February 2008.

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