

Did you know...?

Interesting Facts about EU13 Development Sector

1. In 2003, the founding members of CONCORD included 3 national platforms from EU10 countries - FoRS/Czech Republic, SKOP/Malta and Platforma MVRO/Slovakia.
2. Over the past 10 years, only three CONCORD Board members have been from EU13 countries: Jan Plesinger (2003-2005, FoRS/Czech Republic), Annamaria Kekesi (2007-2010, HAND/Hungary) and Olivia Baciu (2014-..., FOND/Romania).
3. There are currently five EU13 representatives taking up leadership positions in CONCORD working structures as co-chairs. Who are they? Mari-Helene Kaber from AKÜ/Estonia, Nadya Boneva from PBID/Bulgaria, Inese Vaivare from LAPAS/Latvia, Daniel Svoboda from FoRS/Czech Republic and Aurèle Destrée from FoRS/Czech Republic.
4. Altogether the EU13 Development NGO platforms represent 429 non-governmental organisations in Europe. Only 7 National Platforms are supported financially by their Ministries of Foreign Affairs/Development Agencies.
5. Slovenia was the first EU13 country to hold the Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2008 followed by the Czech Republic (2009), Hungary (2010), Poland (2010) and Lithuania (2013). Latvia will hold the EU Presidency in the first half of 2015.
6. Since 2004, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland and Slovenia have joined the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD. However, only 6 countries of the EU13 are members of the OECD.
7. EU13 countries provided around 1 billion euro for official development assistance (ODA) in 2013 which represents 1.8% of the collective EU ODA.
8. Poland provided more ODA in 2013 in absolute numbers (357 mil. euro) than Luxemburg (324 mil. euro) and Greece (230 mil. euro).
9. Two EU13 countries (Czech Republic and Slovakia) implement their bilateral ODA through development agencies. For the rest, bilateral ODA is administered by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs.
10. Between 2004-2013 EU12 NGOs led the implementation of 61 projects funded through the European Commission's Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) funding line, which represents 31.3 million euro or 14.17% of the overall budget.



10 Success Stories ... 10 Years On



CYPRUS – CYINDEP: Cyprus provided an example to state partners in 2009 when the two sides of the island united under a joint platform. Its work to promote civil society initiatives in development cooperation and development education across the island supported the EU presidency in 2012.



THE CZECH REPUBLIC – FoRS: FoRS, an officially recognised partner of the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, actively participated in the transformation of the Czech ODA system including involvement in the creation of a new law on development cooperation. Since 2004, a co-financing scheme for NGOs has eased access to EU funding and Czech NGOs now rate among the seven most successful EU countries in the EC's NSA-LA programme. FoRS has also adopted its own code on effectiveness.



ESTONIA – AKÜ: Estonia stands out for its work in the field of e-democracy and e-governance. The Estonian NGO e-Governance Academy (eGA) has analysed and systematised the Estonian transition experience and in close cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has shared it with almost 50 countries and many intergovernmental organisations. The geographical focus of eGA reaches from the Caucasus and Central Asia to Eastern and South Eastern Europe, but also the Arab Gulf and North Africa.



HUNGARY – HAND: Hungarian NGOs, working across the world, including Africa, have brought closer the notions of global inequalities and our own responsibility in resolving them to the general public and specifically youth. HAND significantly contributed to the improvement of the enabling environment for development NGOs in Hungary and through its advocacy contributed to the formulation of the first Hungarian development cooperation strategy, adopted in 2014.



LATVIA – LAPAS: The possibility for CSOs to work in a consistent, long term and systemic way involving the best of local and European expertise has allowed them to successfully introduce the global education theme to the education sector and wider society. Current project prioritise working with a wide range of stakeholders and monitoring the impact such a focus on global education has had so far.



LITHUANIA - LU: A diverse range of Lithuanian CSOs have played their role raising awareness of development cooperation policies among the public and supporting citizen engagement. Good working relations with policy makers have strengthened policy dialogue and resulted in the promotion of emerging topics such as post-2015 and PCD. The development sector in the country continues to grow, explore new themes and countries, work towards policy change, and reflect the complexity of developmental challenges.



MALTA – SKOP: SKOP has significantly raised the importance of development cooperation and global problems via its annual national seminar on development education and awareness raising which brings together foreign experts, government representatives and policy-makers, educational institutions, civil society organizations, local councils and other stakeholders. The main aim is to advocate for a National Strategy on Development Education and Awareness Raising.



SLOVAKIA – Platforma MVRO: Slovak NGOs have become reliable partners for local stakeholders in South Sudan, a priority country for Slovak ODA since 2004. Strong partnerships are essential in such complicated environments of the region. In May 2010, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Slovak NGDO Platform signed a Memorandum of Understanding. Thus the platform became an official partner of the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the process of preparation of the Slovak official documents related to development cooperation, but as well as overseeing the effectiveness of Slovak ODA.



POLAND - GRUPA ZAGRANICA: Grupa Zagranica achieved a major advocacy goal in 2011 when the Act on Development Cooperation was adopted and resulted in necessary institutional framework changes enabling better coordination and management of development aid. Internally, Grupa Zagranica increased its membership over the past 10 years from 23 reaching 61. Members are working together on a wide range of topics – from advocacy for human-rights in Belarus to members' peer reviews of global education projects.



SLOVENIA – SLOGA: In the last 5 years, Slovenian NGOs implemented projects in more than 59 different Least Developed Countries – so present where Slovenia does not provide aid itself. SLOGA proved to be an equal partner to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by actively participating in the process of planning, implementation and evaluation of national development policy. In addition SLOGA brought global issues to policy makers and to the general public and raised their support for global solidarity and active citizen's participation.

Later Accessions – Recent successes



BULGARIA – BPID: CSO members of the platform's DEAR WG promote global education in Bulgaria in partnership with schools. Despite the fact that it is not in the official curriculum, students and teachers have shown great interest with teachers diversifying teaching methods and students becoming more engaged with social topics as active open-minded searchers of knowledge.



ROMANIA – FOND: In 2013, FOND signed a Collaboration Protocol with the MFA which reiterates the continuous dialogue and mutual support and FOND's contribution to the implementation of Romanian development policy. Together, FOND and the MFA organise the Romanian Development Camp – an annual event reuniting the national community of actors active in development cooperation and the Black Sea NGO Forum – already known as a good practice of regional cooperation.



CROATIA – CROSOL: The most recent success in the enlarged EU has been the establishment of CROSOL the Croatian National Platform for NGOs working on Development. Already engaged in TRIALOG and CONCORD they are ready to bring their perspective to EU development policy.