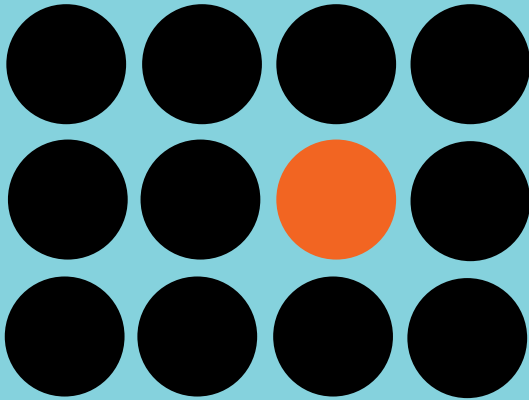




Confédération européenne des ONG  
d'urgence et de développement

# Report #EYD2015

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2.0



# YOU CAN MAKE A CHANGE

### RESOURCES

Official EYD2015 website

Civil Society Alliance  
informational platform

European Year for  
Development materials

Civil Society Alliance  
communication toolkit

### WHERE

EXPO Milan  
Cascina Triulza  
Civil Society Auditorium  
+ Milan City hall

### WHEN

28-29 October

### REGISTER NOW

Please register yourself through this form:  
<http://goo.gl/forms/A1YGu8ZBqN>

Hashtags: #EYD2015 +  
#myEYD2015



2015  
European Year  
for Development

# Declaration from the Addis Ababa Civil Society Forum on Financing for Development



We, members of more than 600 civil society organizations and networks from around the world that have been engaged in the process leading up to and including the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa, July 13-16 2015), convened a CSO Forum in advance of the conference. We have the following reflections and recommendations to convey to the Member States of the United Nations and the international community. We want to express appreciation for the participation and access civil society was accorded in the preparatory process so far.

As the first in three important UN Summits on sustainable development this year, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (“Addis Agenda”) has the opportunity to set the tone for an ambitious

## Sustainable development 2.0: You can make a change

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has*

*Margaret Mead*

### Why is it worth to come?

The best, if not the only, way to achieve sustainable development and build societies that are fair, prosperous and respectful of the planet is through strong commitment of all, world leaders, local decision-makers and individual citizens. We all can make a change and contribute to the new global goals and priorities through our choices. Important discussion on how to do so and what can we learn from the past will take place within the second European level event of the EYD project on 28-29 October in Milan in the framework of EXPO.

The scale of the Civil Society Alliance and presence of different sectors and focuses among its members is a great opportunity to coordinate different actions and engage various types of actors including citizens and media into a critical discussion about lessons learned and practical actions for change.

### Why is it worth to come?

This event will be not only a traditional conference but a moment to inspire and foster critical discussion through combination of various methodologies including theater show “Pop Economix LIVE SHOW” and high level panel discussion “How to make a change? Working together for a global sustainable development” hosted by the EXPO area on the first day and number of interactive workshops covering the most important issues of the Civil Society on the second day. The link with MILAN EXPO is also fundamental to make the

connection with the global issues of food and food security, one of the great challenges of SDGs.

**Pop Economix LIVE SHOW** by Alberto Pagliarino, Nadia Lambiase and Paolo Piacenza is a great collective story encouraging the audience to find the thread of the memory and line up facts, names and mechanisms which, without even noticing, have swept our world and our hopes in the last fifteen years. It investigates – in nonconventional, simple and fun way through the eyes of a narrator – the roots of the global economic crises that affected the lives of everyone. How did the crisis start and transfer from the United States to Europe? Who is responsible? Are we just innocent victims? It is a story of Jack, an average American believing in the dream of loan for all, story of a secret pact signed between the Christoforos Sardelis and Goldman Sachs, story of a financial speculator Willi, story of the fall of Lehman Brothers and story of our lives before and after the crisis. The show is enriched by the video projection that interacts with the narrative throughout the piece. The challenge lies in translating meanings and thick narratives into words, making everyone, absolutely everyone, able to understand and therefore to choose how to act freely and consciously in the future.

Among confirmed speakers are inspirational and important voices of the Civil Society:

**Johannes Trimmel**, CONCORD President, Director of Policy and Advocacy in the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, who has been working in the field of development cooperation for NGOs for the last 20 years and has rich experience on practical, policy and political levels across the ‘developing world’ particularly in

promoting the concept of inclusive development. He has travelled widely to plan, monitor, and evaluate programs in developing countries (Asia and Africa mainly) on grass root, regional and national level.

**Carlotta Sami**, since January 2014, she has been the spokesperson for Southern Europe at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Previously she was director general at the Italian branch of Amnesty International and for ten years worked with Save the Children in humanitarian operations in different crisis spots.

**Marina Sarli**, Founder and President of the Board of Directors in Fair Trade Hellas and Concord board member; founder and coordinator in the Greek Bank of Memories; Project Manager & Consultant, who has a long experience both in governance and management of CSO's (the only member of WFTO in Greece).

**Mamadou Cissokho**, the charismatic founder and honorary president of the Network of Peasant Organizations and Agricultural Producers in West Africa (ROPPA)

**Inese Vaivare**, Co-chair of the EYD2015 Civil Society Alliance and Director of Director of LAPAS Latvian National Platform

**Nora McKeon**, an expert on food issues and author of 'Including Small Farmers in Global Food Politics.' Nora now divides her time between research and activism around food systems, peasant farmer movements and UN-civil society relations.

**Orsola de Castro**, ethical fashion designer and co-founder of Fashion Revolution, a global coalition of designers, academics, writers, business leaders and parliamentarians calling for systemic reform of the fashion supply chain. Orsola is an internationally recognised pioneer in sustainable fashion, she works tirelessly to raise awareness, demonstrate the true cost of our clothes and show the world that change is possible.

**Antonella Valmorbidia**, Secretary General of the European Association of Local Democracy. She has a senior experience in promoting local democracy, empowerment of civil society and good governance in Europe, Eastern Europe and in the Mediterranean area.

## The Dev Reporter Network meets CinemAmbiente – Environmental Film Festival Turin, Italy



and transformative agenda that will tackle the structural injustices in the current global economic system, as well as ensuring that all development finance is people-centred and protects the environment. The world faces challenges in the form of historic levels of inequality within and among countries, the confluence of financial, food and environmental crises, the underprovision of essential services and pronounced employment deficits. However, the draft outcome document does not yet rise to the challenges that the world currently faces, nor does it contain the leadership, ambition and practical actions that are necessary.

In what follows, we highlight our overarching concerns about the Addis Ababa Action Agenda ("Addis Agenda"), followed by our reflections and suggestions on its different aspects.

The Addis Agenda as it stands undermines agreements in the Monterrey Consensus of 2002 and the Doha Declaration of 2008. It is also hardly suited to function as the operational Means of Implementation (MoI) for the, post-2015 development agenda, which is one of the goals of this conference, and to inspire the hope of reaching a successful agreement towards COP 21 in Paris.

The Third Financing for Development (FFD) conference must unequivocally assert that development processes should be led by countries under the ultimate responsibility of the States through participatory processes to include all right-holders. The principles of democratic owner-



ship and leadership have been affirmed in many global forums since Monterrey and it is now time to place it at the heart of the whole financing framework as a fundamental qualification of countries' policy space, which the draft Addis Agenda itself recalls. An enabling environment for civil society agency is essential.

[Download attachments](#)

## #WEAPOLOGI-SE: CSO open letter to people fleeing war, persecution and poverty



We understand that making this journey was not an easy decision for you and may have involved putting the lives of your loved ones at risk, or worse. We will continue to urge our decision-makers to provide safe and regular channels to the EU, so that your wellbeing does not rest in the hands of people smugglers.

Civil society organisations and thousands of people across the EU are taking a stand despite many governments' inaction by

by *Andrea Micconi, Director of COP*

On the 7th of October 2015, in Turin, two documentaries winners of the Dev Reporter Grant have been selected to participate to one of the most important Environmental Film Festival in the world, CinemAmbiente - Turin, Italy. Realised by independent journalists in Peru and in Ethiopia, with the support of two Ngos members of COP - Consortium of Piedmont Ngos, the two documentaries tell about women and environment, and their fight for human rights and global justice.

The first one, by Simona Carnino, is titled AGUAS DE ORO (Gold waters) and reports about the story of Maxima Acuña de Chaupe and her peaceful struggle against US-based Newmont Mining Corporation and its Peruvian subsidiary Yanacocha. By doing so, she is also defying a deeply entrenched system of impunity and injustice that afflicting communities and activists engaged in the ongoing conflicts over resources in Peru.

The second one, by Niccolo Bruna, is titled A CLOSED MOUTH CATCHES NO FLIES (Wuchale's Girls) and present the situation of the women of Wuchale, northern Ethiopia, bound by ancient customs under which women are expected to silently submit to men's authority. As the proverb says, "A closed mouth catches no flies". Silence is the

rule. But today's young women want to break the rule and talk. The luckier ones, like Tirongu, manage to get an education; the others migrate to Arab countries to escape the hardships of their homeland.

Soon the two documentaries and other reportage produced by the 18 "transformative communication" projects financed by the Dev Reporter Network will be available at [www.devreporter-network.eu](http://www.devreporter-network.eu). Stay tuned!

Dev Reporter is an interregional network (Catalonia, Rhone-Alps and Piemonte) of journalists, university graduates and communication professionals of the area of International Solidarity (IS), created thanks to an DEAR European project (DCI-NSAP-VD / 2012 / 279-805) aiming to work for the dismantlement of stereotypes and to improve media information about development cooperation and its challenges. The project is realised by the COP - Consortium of Piedmont Ngos, the Catalan Federation of NGOs and Resacoop. For more information: [cop@ongpiemonte.it](mailto:cop@ongpiemonte.it).

Watch the videos:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0L5eYwguYaw9mf1TKCZo\\_nR-zyhHgSAWj](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0L5eYwguYaw9mf1TKCZo_nR-zyhHgSAWj)

## Fashion Week in New York: when will the industry address its toll on workers and the environment?





by Orsola de Castro - *Fashion Revolution*

A few years ago I was sitting at a meeting discussing the state of “ethical fashion” with a group of very influential fashionistas. One of them scornfully commented, scrunching up her Botox-injected face, “Oh, but this saving the planet thing is so worthy.” It was as if, on Planet Fashion, “worthy” meant dull.

Today, “worthy” is the new “decadent”, and we’re beginning to reimagine aspirational fashion in a completely new way, taking into consideration garment workers and environmental issues throughout the supply chain. We still want to look good, but we are also looking for a sense of meaningfulness that goes beyond our mirror. The power of a carefully chosen, sustainably made garment has never been more relevant.

This isn’t to say that saving the planet and having a social conscience are new concepts: they were alive and well last century, culminating in the 1960s peace and love ethos. Fashion was a major part of that movement’s aesthetic and messaging.

Blue jeans and beyond

Just look at blue jeans: an outspoken canvas of painted and embroidered slogans and personal opinions, they were a symbol of protest, of anti-conformism, the look of a generation who wanted an end to the Vietnam War, or nuclear power. In that same era, consider the miniskirt, and how it became a shocking symbol of emancipation and freedom for young women.

Clothes are our chosen skin. They are a reflection of ourselves and of what we stand for. And as the wardrobe of the 1960s showed, matching our clothing to our beliefs is a fundamental and powerful form of political self-expression.

Drowning in a sea of choices

But something happened as we went from the Age of Aquarius to the era of Reagan and beyond. Stupefied and spoiled by a sea of choices – of things to

buy, of opportunities and stuff – we forgot about the planet for a few decades. We forgot about the people who make our clothes. The industry decamped to developing countries that offered cheap labor and the opportunity to bypass regulations that ensured decent wages, the right to unionize and the controlled disposal of waste. Lower cost and lower regulation, in turn, paved the way for fast fashion, mass production of luxury goods and hyperconsumerism.

Karl Marx used to say that religion is the opiate of the masses. To upgrade this to a contemporary context, consumerism is our crack cocaine. The implication that the quantity of goods that are available to us somehow represents a form of freedom has left us with a massive debt towards the people who produce those goods – and towards the planet we inhabit.

The fashion industry directly employs at least 75 million people and likely more than double that are indirectly dependent on the sector — an estimated 80 million in China alone. While fashion employs a staggering number of people, it hasn’t necessarily extended the benefits of its profits to its extensive workforce in developing countries. Rather, it has continued the long-held practice of keeping workers in conditions of semicaptivity, slavery and exploitation. In the process, it has had catastrophic effects on our environment and the people who inhabit it, impoverishing rather than enriching our global culture.

Fast fashion pollution

To put it into context, in order to produce 80bn garments annually, we produce 400bn square meters of cloth, 60bn of which are wasted on the cutting room floor. And that doesn’t even take into consideration accessories such as handbags, shoes, jewellery and hair clips. These are made from dangerous and environmentally unsound materials such as plastic and polluting metals.

The environmental impact of fashion extends far beyond such materials and into the water supply. For example, it takes 2,720 liters of water to produce

opening their homes, sharing their food and donating their clothes. We will keep pressuring our politicians to fulfil their humanitarian obligation to ensure the provision of such services rather than leaving it up to individuals or organisations to provide them without support. The decision you made that led you here to Europe required a lot of courage. We implore our leaders to demonstrate the same courage by coming together to find a pan-European response that respects each individual’s human rights regardless of their status

While several of our leaders seem to have forgotten the EU’s core values of solidarity and human rights, we have not. The EU has the capacity to welcome you with open arms, and the unwillingness to do so is an embarrassment to us. We acknowledge your right to seek refuge in safer regions and to be treated with dignity. We also recognise the contribution that you can make and we will fight to give you this opportunity.

In solidarity,  
Social Platform

AEGEE-Europe

AGE Platform Europe

ATD Fourth World

Autism-Europe

CECOP-CICOPA Europe

Eurochild

European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN)

European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD)

European Citizen Action Service (ECAS)

European Civic Forum

European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)  
European Disability Forum (EDF)  
European Environmental Bureau (EEB)  
European Federation of Older People (EURAG)  
European Federation of Parents and Carers at Home (F.E.F.A.F)  
European House Budapest (Hungary)  
European Network Against Racism (ENAR)  
European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development (CONCORD)  
European Social Action Network (ESAN)  
European Students' Forum  
European Network of National Civil Society Associations (ENNA)  
European Network of Social Integration Enterprises (ENSIE)  
European Parents Association (EPA)  
European Platform for National Non-Profit Umbrella Organizations and for National Associations of General Interest (CEDAG)  
European Platform for Rehabilitation (EPR)  
European Roma Information Office (ERIO)  
European Volunteer Centre (CEV)  
European Youth Forum (YFJ)  
ILGA-Europe  
Inclusion Europe  
International Council on Social Welfare Europe (ICSW)  
International Union of Tenants (IUT)  
Mental Health Europe  
Pax Christi International  
Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented

one T-shirt. Not surprisingly, the Aral Sea, which provides water for cotton irrigation in Uzbekistan, one of the world's largest cotton producers, is now almost completely dry. Further, up to 20% of China's industrial water pollution comes from chemical textile waste discharge in rivers.

All of this environmental destruction adds up: the fashion industry is the second most polluting industry in the world, right behind oil. And while it has been corrupting our environment, it has also been selling a dream of aspiration and glamour. The "It" bag, craved as a status symbol, is actually mass-produced by underpaid workers. They have, in turn, taken the place of skilled artisans who once made high quality products but have since lost their livelihood.

Fast fashion has actually been labeled a democratization – but it's hard to see how something made in such exploitative conditions could possibly be democratic. For something to be democratic, or aspirational, it should advance everyone involved in its production, not merely function as a status symbol for its end users.

Most big brands, whether high street or high-end, are redesigning themselves to become sustainable. What's interesting is that, instead of blazing new trails, they're following the lead of small, pioneering innovators, designers and individuals for whom doing things right has never gone out of fashion. In the process, they're exposing their own ethical inadequacies.

What consumers can do

While the fashion industry explores its sustainable evolution, what can consumers do to become a part of the solution? The answer is as simple: they can buy garments that are made to last by people who are paid well for their work. With that in mind, here are three quotes from three great women:

Joan Crawford: "Care for your clothes like the good friends they are."

Vivienne Westwood: "Buy less, choose well and make it last."

Lucy Siegle: "If you aren't going to wear it at least 30 times, don't buy it."

And I'll add one more: demand quality, not just in the product you buy, but in the life of the person who made it.

## 'European Vision in Action' EYD 2015 Photo Exhibition in Cyprus



by Charalambos Solonos -  
CYINDEP

Within the framework of the national programme of Cyprus for the European Year for Development (EYD 2015) a photographic exhibition entitled 'European Vision in Action' will run island-wide in order to raise awareness to development and all its dimensions, as well as the vision and actions that the European Union (EU) has undertaken in regards to international development. The exhibition features photos of nine Cypriot photographers who shared material from their personal collections: Andri Josef, Anikitos Hadjicharalampous, Charis Zevlaris, Demetris Vattis, Katia Christodoulou, Marina Shakola, Marios Taramides, Pavlos Vrionides and Stefanos Kouratzis. The exhibition will be presented both

outdoors and indoors in five major cities from September 23rd - December 9th 2015. The first outdoor exhibition, under the auspices of the Mayor of Larnaka, Mr. Andreas Louroutziatis, was inaugurated on September 23rd at 18:30 in Kimon Square and will run until October 15th. The exhibition will then travel to Limassol, Pafos, Nicosia and Paralimni. The exhibition will be open to the public. Planned school visits will be also arranged. For public viewing hours and more information, the public can visit [www.cyindep.org](http://www.cyindep.org).

Cyprus national programme is implemented by CYINDEP (Cyprus Island-wide NGO Development Platform), under the coordination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture of Cyprus.

## Ethics of ICT in Sustainable Development

by Amouzou Bedi - K4DWB

Connecting the unconnected to development resources (education resources, ICT tools, information, knowledge, skills to demand accountability, inputs, availability, financial capacity, and technical capacity, social facilitation etc.). ICT tools have the potential to create opportunities for development in rural and remote regions in a range of areas, such as the supply of new production inputs and processes, the creation of new services, the improvement of communication flows, and the empowerment of local people...

E.g. Smart Mobile Phone Solutions and online applications are changing the way we are communicating, learning and teaching.

Connecting the most vulnerable (people who have the greatest need) to these available development tools, and help them to use these tools efficient for their own well-being is an absolute Value. A Value that demands: reaching, connecting, educating, empowering,

motivation, capacity-building, and, raising awareness on the availability of these technologies.

Development tools could not connect themselves to the users. The users need to connect to these precious tools. Even connected users need the required skills and guidance for the exploitation.

The ignorance on the availability, the lack of guidance, and capacity to exploit well these ICT tools, devices and infrastructures for local development handicaps massive sustainable development efforts...

Connecting the most vulnerable to these potential ICT tools, devices and infrastructures is a crucial first step to make poor people benefit of these tools. Information or data collection for sustainable development requires a first step which is raising awareness on these goals as well as on the driver and enabler tools- Click on the following link to visit our field development support program.

Migrants (PICUM)  
SMES-Europa  
SOLIDAR  
The Salvation Army  
Transgender Europe (TGEU)

## Open letter to the President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker on the new Gender Action Plan (GAP)



Dear President Juncker, As organisations working on gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment, both within Europe and globally, we are writing to call upon you to show leadership by transforming your personal commitment to gender equality from rhetoric and into practice.

Strong political accountability policies for the EU, both internally and globally are crucial for the European Union (EU) to maintain any credibility regarding its commitment to lead by example on gender equality. Therefore, we ask you to make



gender equality a top priority by launching the renewed EU Action Plan on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in development (GAP) as an official Communication.

Ahead of your European People's Party (EPP) nomination as candidate to the European Commission (EC) Presidency, we welcomed your assurance that the EU must promote, defend and protect women's and children's rights, fight violence against women and girls, and tackle high maternal mortality, as laid out in the EPP manifesto. We applauded your support for the UN Women "HeForShe" campaign in March 2015, mobilising all male Commissioners within the College to follow suit. We commend your Commission's commitment to gender equality as a fundamental value of the EU. Furthermore, we praise the instrumental role of the EU and its Member States in ensuring that women's and girls' rights remain at the core of the new sustainable development framework.

The EU institutions' work on gender equality, in particular the implementation of the Plan has been far from satisfactory. In May 2015, the European Council called for revitalised leadership from the EC and the European External Action Service (EEAS) on gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment; including a robust successor to the current GAP. Making the GAP an official Communication would allow for necessary inter-institutional dialogues and send a strong

Reaching, educating, empowering, connecting, encouraging, and raising awareness on the advantage of efficient use of the available ICT tools, devices and infrastructures is another development challenge post-2015.

We are contributing to close this gap while designing a project named: Reach, connect, educate, empower and raise awareness on the efficient use of ICT tools in sustainable development post-2015.

## A tale of champions



by *Silvana Enculescu - Inclusion Europe*

Abandoned at birth and then secluded in Romanian residential institutions for almost 25 years, Nicoleta Nicolici and Ghizela Ghereben are living proof that people with intellectual disabilities can achieve greatness, if encouraged and supported in their goals.

Living in institutions, where human rights abuses were rife, the women had been labeled "irredeemable," or unable to ever live a normal, fulfilling life. They had no decision-making power, not even in choosing what to wear or eat. It was like their fate had already been sealed - and prospects were grim for the two of them. Luckily, in 1999, their lives drastically changed. Nicoleta and Ghizela became part of a deinstitutionalisation project run by Inclusion Europe member Pentru Voi, and moved from the large residential service into a supported living arrangement.

Sixteen years on, in Los Angeles, Nicoleta and Ghizela are waving proudly, showing their Olympic medals for all to see. Nicoleta is the Gold medalist of the 2015 Special Olympics World Games in the mini javelin competition, while Ghizela, Nicoleta and the rest of the Pentru Voi team, have also won Silver in relay. Back in Romania, Nicoleta works as a cleaning staff, as is respected by colleagues who see her as a true team player. In her spare time, she plays table tennis, enjoys running, and is actually the Romanian Special Olympics gold champion in badminton as well. Ghizela has a job as a chef's assistant, loves singing and doing sports, and is vice-champion in the Romanian national Karate tournament for people with disabilities. The two women are also committed self-advocates, working to uphold the rights of people with disabilities to live independently in the community and to be fully included in society.

In a country where many people with intellectual disabilities still live secluded from the rest of society, the story of Nicoleta and Ghizela is unfortunately the exception, not the rule. But this could change. The two women prove that any person with a disability can thrive, if treated with respect and consideration,

and offered the same opportunities as anyone else. As Laila Onu, the Director of the Pentru Voi Foundation said, “their phenomenal progress just goes to show how crucial it is for every person, whether they have a disability or not, to be offered their chance.”

## Young people show the world their #YouthPower



by Georgia Potton - Restless Development

Youth have proved time and time again that they have the will, credibility and right to be at the heart of the Global Goals. At the European Development Days Conference in Brussels, Restless Development brought 3 youth delegates to champion this potential: sparking an exciting 3 months of action.

On the 12th August, International Youth Day, we asked young people to show us their #YouthPower: to demonstrate that as the largest generation of young people in history, it's down to us to hold world leaders to account over the promises they make in 2015.

The response? Over 100 different events took place in 70+ countries (check them out on the interactive map [here](#)), 115,446 young people were physically mobilised and our hashtag reached over 36 million people in a single day. Just one month later the UK's Department for International Development

hosted its first ever Youth Summit, an event entirely designed and led by young people themselves. Finally, Ronagh Craddock, one of our original youth delegates in Brussels, accompanied Justine Greening to the SDG Summit in New York as part of the UK's official delegation. As Ban Ki Moon said in his message to the Youth Summit, young people are the “rights holders, agents of change and torch-bearers of the new agenda” and our “energy, ideas and initiative” are needed “to push governments for results”. If we can harness the power of over half the world's population, we can make sure these ambitious Global Goals become a reality for all.

message to all relevant stakeholders, particularly to EU delegations. It would enable EU institutions and Member States to realise the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), both internally and externally. Conversely, by downgrading the GAP to a Staff Working Document it would send a clear political signal that the Commission is not prepared to respect its own commitments or the call from Member States on gender equality. Unless otherwise – and we will be happy to be persuaded why non-communication would be better - we remain a strong stance on the case as it is too important an issue to be sacrificed on the altar of efficiency and “Better Regulation”.

The EC has twice promised to deliver an EU strategy on equality between women and men to the European Parliament, yet there is still no sign of this strategy. We ask you to support Commissioner Jourova to deliver such a strategy to realise women's and girls' rights, and gender equality.

It is time for the EU to adopt these two policies as strong Communications to ensure coherence between its internal and external policies and strengthen its accountability.

We are counting on you, to make 2015 a turning point in the history of women's and girls' rights.

We thank you in advance for your attention to this letter, and hope to discuss these fundamental issues with you, critical



to the lives of women and girls in Europe and around the world.

Download attachments:  
[09092015 Letter to EC President Juncker on GAP final Concord EWL sign off.docx](#)

## CSO open letter to Vice-President Timmermans on the 2030 agenda



Dear First Vice-President Timmermans,  
We, European Civil Society Organisations working on both international and domestic EU policies across a variety of sectors ranging from Youth, Sustainability, Social Justice, Fair Trade, International cooperation, Health, Culture, Environment, Gender Equality, Migration, Climate Change, Local Democracy, Human Rights and Media Development, are writing to you in your capacity as Vice-President of the European Commission, mandated with the horizontal responsibility for sustainable development. At the UN Summit in New York taking place from 25-27 of September, Heads of State and Government will adopt the univer-

## Are you too a #GlobalNeighbour?



### ARE A #GlobalNeighbour

by Adriana Aralica - SLOGA

An awareness raising campaign “You too are a global neighbour” is launched by SLOGA, NGO Platform from Slovenia. Their goal is to raise consciousness about international development cooperation and importance of global solidarity in the European Year for Development 2015.

SLOGA is addressing questions such as: “What is international development cooperation and who are the actors involved? Why is cooperation important? What are the results of such global policies and what is the input of European Union and its member states? How can

individuals join the common journey towards sustainable development and global solidarity?

Actions involved in the campaign include educational events, promotional materials and policy papers. Besides, they are organizing a web movement, through which they will collect photos of individuals who consider themselves #GlobalNeighbours.

Are you a #GlobalNeighbour? Join their campaign, take your photo with the printed slogan below and share it on your Facebook or Twitter profile! Don't forget to use #GlobalNeighbour and #EYD2015 hash tags!

## Slovenian MEPs Peterle, Fajon and Šoltes for a united response to the migration issue





by *Adriana Aralica - SLOGA*

The debate on development challenges, organized on 18 September in Ljubljana, Slovenia, by SLOGA and European Parliament Information Office, was attended by Slovenian Members of Eu-

ropean Parliament Lojze Peterle, Tanja Fajon and Igor Šoltes. The MEPs agreed that arrival of high numbers of refugees to Europe requires a united response – states should agree on short-term and long-term measures.

## Advocacy on humanitarian aid and response to influx of refugees

by *Adriana Aralica - SLOGA*

Last few months SLOGA is intensively involved in a dialogue with different government officials on the topics of humanitarian aid and Slovenian capacity for a response to an influx of refugees moving on the so called Western Balkans route.

SLOGA participated in the consultations on the preparation of Guidelines on international humanitarian assistance of Republic of Slovenia in July 2015. The meeting was aimed at exchanging views and suggestions regarding the content of the Guidelines, which should be prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the coming months.

Apart from that a lot of efforts were concentrated on the question of growing refugee crisis in the wider

region. SLOGA is very active coordinating a huge coalition of NGO's in Slovenia, which is responding to the refugee crisis in terms of advocacy, planning the distribution of humanitarian aid, questions of integration etc. This coalition also sent an open letter to the Prime minister of Slovenia which sparked a direct dialogue with the Government. Operation Center was established, where a representative of SLOGA is also present. The aim of Operation Center is to coordinate response between different actors, and to share information and good practices among them. Apart from ongoing dialogue and advocacy a huge pressure on Government was also exerted before the meeting of the Council of EU for Justice and Internal Affairs.

## Promoting international development cooperation and raising awareness



sal, people- and planet-centered 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ('Agenda 2030'). As European civil society, we now expect the EU to match the ambition of this Agenda with a clear EU implementation strategy, which reflects the integrated, interlinked and comprehensive nature of the Agenda, in order to ensure well-being for all within planetary boundaries. We welcome the mapping exercise that you have initiated within the Commission to analyse where the EU has appropriate policies in place to implement Agenda 2030 and where there are gaps. This exercise is a first important step in order to elaborate an EU strategy to implement Agenda 2030. The EU strategy must build on your mapping exercise and cover all Goals and targets of the Agenda. The development and implementation of such a strategy should happen through a meaningful participatory process, reaching out to marginalised people. We therefore urge you to make the results of both the mapping and the subsequent analysis public and to hold a consultation on the next steps with civil society in all its diversity.

Lastly, we call for the creation of a robust, effective, participatory and transparent monitoring and accountability mechanism at EU level to guide and review implementation of the strategy, to analyse progress and redirect efforts as necessary.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss our ideas further with you, after the

UN Sustainable Development Summit in New York, at which a number of us will be present, and we remain at your disposal to provide any additional information needed. We wish you great success in these crucial discussions.

Yours sincerely, Beyond 2015 Europe, CIVICUS, Civil Society Alliance, Climate Action Network Europe (CAN Europe), CONCORD – the European Confederation for Relief and Development, Cooperatives Europe, Culture Action Europe, Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW), European Disability Forum (EDF), European Environmental Bureau (EEB), European Network of Political Foundations (ENoP), European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), European Women's Lobby (EWL), European Youth Forum (EYF), Fair Trade Advocacy Office (FTAO), Global Call to Action against Poverty Europe (GCAP Europe), Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD), Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF), Women's Major Group

## **AGENDA 2030: CONCORD-Beyond 2015 ETF calls for EU action to achieve well-being for all within planetary boundaries**

*by Adriana Aralica - SLOGA*

SLOGA intensified its efforts to promote international development cooperation to general public in Slovenia with its »Global Neighbour« campaign. Part of these efforts is an awareness raising campaign on social media, which strives to show the subject of development cooperation from alternative perspective, emphasize good news and practices, and bust the myths related to that field on weekly basis.

SLOGA also organized several events which were aimed at promoting international development cooperation. Thus, several panels and group discussions (called Skuhna Talks) were organized on the topics of positive consequences of migration, gender equality and the role of youth.

Aforementioned campaign and its messages were also presented and different workshops were held on several inter-

national events such as World Schools Debate Academy in Kranjska Gora, MUNSC Salient: Youth Conference on Global Matters 2015 in Ljubljana, AidWatch platform event in Serbia, and United Nations Summer School in Ljubljana. We also joined the World's Best News project organized by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and distributed best news on development cooperation in Ljubljana.

SLOGA was also present on several public events with the aim to present both the role and work of the platform and its projects as well. Therefore, SLOGA took part at Šušarska nedelja in Tržič, Pikin festival in Velenje, NGO festival in Cerkno, Bivak festival and festival of local action groups in Ljubljana. Part of SLOGA's efforts there were also to gather signatures for petition for a European Year of Social and Solidarity Economy 2018 as a part of Challenging the Crisis campaign.

## **I am sisterhood – turning your life around thanks to migration**



*By Laura Zorrilla Fernández - ICMC Europe*

In recent years, there has been a growing interest in the number of women that migrate and the gender-specific dynamics and consequences of this

migration. According to recent statistics from the World Bank, women make up about 48% of international migrants. The most common occupations found by women are care work and domestic work. A combination of factors in Europe, such as the ageing population,



lowering fertility rates and higher participation from women in the workforce, coupled with cuts to the care sector in EU-wide austerity measures, fuel demand for many workers in these sector, where traditionally, women are more sought out.

Gender and cultural norms or misguided policies are structural barriers to women migrant workers' empowerment, preventing them from realising the socio-political benefits of their migration. Many studies cite the gender-specific aggressions that women may be subject to during the migration journey, but it's not often that gender-based violence is cited as a reason to migrate.

In spite of the inherent difficulties and dangers, women may decide to migrate as a mechanism to escape a situation of violence. They are resilient actors that can transform and contribute to the development of their countries of origin, transit and destination, transforming their own and other's lives in the process.

Back in May 2015, ICMC Europe, coordinating the Europe Chapter of the Migration and Development Civil Society Network (MADE) hosted the photo competition 'Untold stories: how migrants contribute to human and economic development', to showcase how migrants contribute to the economic, social and human well-being of their communities and countries of origin, heritage and residence, bringing to light their too often untold and unheard stories of migration. Eunice's portrait 'I am Sisterhood' by Lisa Burnell, was winning photograph and her migration story illustrates the numerous possibilities for positive social change behind one individual's decision to migrate. Eunice Oyugi is originally from Kenya and moved to South Africa in 2003 to find a better life. In her new country, Eunice found other women who were experiencing difficult situations and

looking for support. Together they started Sisters 4 Sisters in 2008. The group promotes positive role models, identity, relationships and life styles without violence. Sisters 4 Sisters is the first point of contact providing general support and facilitating access through partnerships to other service organisations. The facilitated support group meetings for women and children provide a safe space where the members can share their stories, experiences, listen with empathy and provide emotional and practical support.

Eunice has a deep interest in gender and women's issues and is committed towards the creation of platforms where multiple stories of womanhood can be told and also she has a deep belief that women's empowerment is key to development. A mother of three, Eunice is inspired by her mother who continually feeds her with wisdom and encouragement in life's journey.

See other stories of migration and their contributions to development here. Policy-makers have taken note of this phenomenon in recent years and are incorporating a gender dimension to their agendas on migration. Concretely, this month the Turkish Chairmanship of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) will host the last of a series of Thematic Meetings prior to the GFMD on October 14-16 in Istanbul to explore the contributions of women migrants to economic and social development in countries of origin and destination.

The Civil Society Days preceding the GFMD on 12-13 October will explore the needs and specificities of women and children in migration as a cross-cutting issue, making concrete recommendations to governments in this area through the figure of dedicated rapporteurs.



As Heads of State and Government meet in New York to formally adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – the centerpiece of the Sustainable Development Summit and 70th UN General Assembly – the CONCORD-Beyond 2015 European Task Force urges all EU Member States to start prioritizing implementation.

“After four years of hard work to draw up the framework, now it's time to put all our energies into making sure every country implements the spirit of the Declaration as well as the letter of the Goals and targets. That means that people and planet must remain front and centre of all implementation efforts”, said Sally Nicholson, co-chair of the CONCORD-Beyond 2015 European Task Force

“It's crucial that both the EU and Member States, now that they are beginning to think about implementation, put in place a truly participatory process to draw up their sustainable development plans. And those plans must be as comprehensive as the framework itself: now is not the moment to start cherry-picking the bits of the framework they like and leave the rest which doesn't suit them. If they do that, there is no way we'll leave no



one behind' or start undoing the harm we are causing to the environment", said Tanya Cox, co-chair of the CONCORD-Beyond 2015 European Task Force.

CONCORD-Beyond 2015 ETF is calling on EU and its Members States to commit to implementing the Agenda 2030, these SDGs and their means of implementation, in full.

## Campaigners called on world leaders to 'Light the way' ahead of key un summit



On 24 September activists in Brussels joined the global movement and called on governments to #Light-TheWay for a better future for all. Action/2015 Europe has brought together citizens on the Esplanade of the European Parliament to write a message to world leaders with 5000 candles.

During the European Year for Development 2015 the European Institutions and the European organized Civil Society

## A special guest from the European Parliament visits peace clubs in Kosovo



By Klevisa Breshani, World Vision

On August 25, Julie Ward, British Member of the European Parliament, visited World Vision's "Kids and Youth for Peace" clubs from several Kosovo and Serbian communities.

They spent approximately three hours together, discussing youth concerns in Kosovo, peace building, as well as their dreams, hopes and their vision for the future of their country. Ms. Ward listened to their wise thoughts, and she also inspired them by sharing her own story. Apart from being a politician, her aspiration and love is to help people who have no voice and those in need. "Doing what is the best for people and the planet — this is the way I do politics," she said.

Members of the peace building club had prepared a line of photos hung on the walls representing their initiatives taken over the years in helping their communities and making peace work in Kosovo. They took some minutes explaining them to Ms. Ward.

"In this country we, the children, still have hope and we believe we can change something and this gives us hope,"

said Altina, 15, a member of the peace clubs.

While spending time talking with the children and youth and being inspired by them, Ms. Ward said, "You are the people who understand there is a responsibility to shape the future and [you] are very concerned to find a way to live together [as Serbian and Albanian]. "I will go away with these memories of such positive, active and creative young people, and what I do hope for you is that you can follow your dreams. Somehow it can and must be a better society so you can achieve your best, but without forgetting your responsibilities," she said.

Mr. Philip Harris, World Vision Albania and Kosovo Operations Director added "The 'Kids for Peace' project empowers youth to have a stronger voice in their communities. They promote peace for their country and are an inspiring example."

During the meeting time children and youth shared information about their traditional costumes from both Serbian and Kosovo communities and played a game with Ms. Ward.

Krenare, 17, one of the Youth for

Peace members, who was explaining to Ms. Ward about Serbia's and Kosovo's traditions and costumes, said, "Our job is not to make our elders change their opinion, but for the youngest to change it so they can pass down new ideas to other generations. This will make our future better and better, so we will not have such problems as we have now," said Krenare. Speaking directly to Ms. Ward, she added, "If we continue to hate each other how much hate might come in this land? We don't want the past to be repeated in the future!" she added.

At the end of her stay, club members gifted Ms. Ward with a t-shirt with their signatures and a photograph showing members from both communities united as one.

"The biggest gift is you, your time, your enthusiasm, your hope and humour," responded Ms. Ward while holding their gifts in her hands. "I hope you can always communicate with me because I represent [all] young people, not just those from the North West of England. I have responsibilities for children and people all around [Europe]," she said.

## Free training: Positive development stories for your classroom

# Think Global



By Amy West - Bond

2015 is The European Year of Development (EYD). The EYD seeks to increase understanding of the progress that has been made in development, inspire young people to take part in conversation and encourage them to take action. At Think Global, we have been working on this through thinking about how we bring positive development stories in to our classrooms.

I wonder if we sometimes forget to reflect back, and remember the progress that has been made globally since the Millennium Development Goals were introduced in September 2000? In the media we are often faced with quite stereotypical images about poverty, and our pupils may receive incomplete messages about global issues across the world. Although it's important to

critique the reality of these challenges with our pupils, it's also important that we keep sharing the progress that is being made. There is still lots of work to be done to eradicate global poverty, but there are many positive stories about how communities are progressing! As teachers, I think we have a responsibility to make sure that these stories are shared with our pupils too.

You may have already ordered our free global wallplanner or our positive development stories PDF teaching resource. I know that these have been really popular with schools this year. I think it would be good to start reflecting on this topic a bit more deeply together. As a starting point, I am leading some free online training over the Autumn term called Positive development stories for your classroom.

are working together to inform and involve citizens into this broad initiative. The EYD2015 is a unique opportunity to foster critical thinking and direct engagement of all generations in Europe and abroad to reach a real "sustainable development" on our planet, giving the same opportunities to all.

A light show projected on the European Parliament building added to the call to leaders gathered in New York to commit to the new Global Goals for Sustainable Development and tackle the most urgent issues of our time – poverty, inequality and climate change.

The new Global Goals for Sustainable Development are a historic opportunity to accelerate progress towards a better future for everyone. The Global Goals has been adopted on Friday 25 September, have the potential to shape the next 15 years of global development and create momentum for a long-term climate agreement in December.

"The universality of the new Sustainable Development Goals' framework is one of the most important features as it eliminates the old division between North and Southern countries. It makes us all responsible for the planet we inhabit and respectful of all its populations. We call on the European Union and world governments to involve civil society as partners at all levels in the implementation of new Agenda 2030," stated Sergi Corbalán, co-chair of the EYD2015 Civil Society Alliance and Director of the Fair Trade Advocacy Office who atten-



ded the event. Present was also the Director of ONE Brussels Tamira Gunzburg, Director of CONCORD Europe Seamus Jefferson and board member of CONCORD and Spanish national platform (CONGDE) board member Carlos Gabo. For an overview of the mobilisations taking place around the world and in Belgium, please see [here](#).

News by CSAlliance members

## 24th Annual Volonteurope Conference: Active Citizens for Sustainable Development and Global Justice

by Esmé Clifford Astbury  
*Volunteering Matters*

Marking the deadline for the Millennium Development Goals and the start of the post-2015 development agenda, 2015 has been named the European Year for Development (EYD2015). The 24th Annual Volonteurope Conference, organised in partnership with Volonteurope's Spanish member Alianza por la Solidaridad, will be delivered in the context of EYD2015 and focus on the role of civil society in promoting sustainable development and

## Good news in Europe



By Thomas Gringer Jakobsen - *World's Best News (DK)*

During September, eight European countries have distributed physical copies of the World's Best News paper, and more countries are to follow later this fall.

Every year, World's Best News prints and distributes a newspaper with good news about the development results that the world has achieved, regarding poverty reduction, treating diseases, giving all children an education, protecting the environment, and many other issues.

This year, a number of EU countries have decided to participate, translating and distributing the newspapers in many parts of Europe.

Portugal, Slovenia and Germany distributed the papers on September 11th, the same day as Denmark.

"World's Best News in Slovenia is a great success - it exceed my expectations. All the smiles I got today... and all the media report yesterday and today", wrote national coordinator Nataša Adlešič Barba from the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Czech Republic, Great Britain, Latvia, and Ireland distributed their newspapers a few days later, with Spain and Slovakia to follow in October. Austria, Hungary, and Italy are planning to con-

duct distributions later this fall. Luxembourg, Romania, France, Belgium, and Poland have not yet set a date for their distribution events.

The Danish event remains the largest in Europe, handing out 75,000 editions of the newspaper. In addition, 365.000 editions of the WBN paper were distributed as wrappers on the Danish version of the free newspaper Metroxpress. The European issues had a distribution of between 2000 and 20,000 papers. In the international editions, the European Union has contributed with its own stories about development progress, as part of the project European Year for Development. The purpose is to highlight some of the impacts of the European development aid, which in total amounts to the world's biggest aid contribution.

The main message of this year's WBN newspaper was the same in all countries: People of the world now generally live longer and better, with regards to average expected lifespans, income, and education. At the same time, this year's newspaper talks about the new Global Goals (Sustainable Development Goals) that the UN is set to sign this month, and which will guide global development progress until 2030.us hope," said Altina, 15, a member of the peace clubs. While spending time talking with the children and youth and being inspi-

red by them, Ms. Ward said, “You are the people who understand there is a responsibility to shape the future and [you] are very concerned to find a way to live together [as Serbian and Albanian]. “I will go away with these memories of such positive, active and creative young people, and what I do hope for you is that you can follow your dreams.

Somehow it can and must be a better society so you can achieve your best, but without forgetting your responsibilities,” she said.

Mr. Philip Harris, World Vision Albania and Kosovo Operations Director added “The ‘Kids for Peace’ project empowers youth to have a stronger voice in their communities.

## Why is EU Humanitarian Aid important?



### VOICE General Assembly 2014



By VOICE network

Disasters, natural and man-made, are increasing in frequency, severity and complexity. At a time when the world is again facing an increasing number of severe humanitarian crises that have serious impacts at national, regional and international levels, EU humanitarian aid is even more relevant than ever to save lives, alleviate suffering and prepare grounds for longer term development. In addition to effects of natural disasters, the humanitarian community is now witnessing spiralling needs of crisis-affected populations due to conflicts in Syria, Central African Republic and South Sudan and due to a combination of conflict and climate change in Somalia.

EU humanitarian aid is spent on lifesaving assistance such as food, nutrition, shelter, healthcare and medical support, water, sanitation, protection and disaster preparedness. The Commission's

department for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) assists around 120 million people every year focusing on the most vulnerable who are affected by disasters. The EU including its Member States may be the leading donor of humanitarian aid worldwide but the amount spent through the Commission is less than 1% of the EU's annual budget (equivalent to €2 per EU citizen). 9 out of 10 EU citizens say it is important for the EU to fund humanitarian aid. EU humanitarian aid is delivered by over 200 professional partners, primarily NGOs as well as the Red Cross movement and the UN. EU aid is guided by a policy framework, the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, (hereafter ‘Consensus’) which commits the EU and its Member States to the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. Reaching out to people in need across the world, humanitarian aid is essential in demonstrating the

global justice.

As well as hearing from experts in the field, participants will be invited to the launch of Volonteuropes report on Mobilising Citizens for Global Justice, which features contributions Red Cross EU Office, Peace Brigades International and Social Platform, among others.

The conference will also engage the participants in debates through four focused roundtables. Volonteuropes is delighted that its partner network, European Civic Forum, represented by its Director, Alexandrina Najmowicz, will co-lead the roundtable on ‘Participatory Democracy and Social Justice at Local Level’.

For more information and to register, please visit the [Volonteuropes website](#).

## Faith communities urge the EU to take the lead in tackling climate change

by Angela Maria Ocampo  
CIDSE

Christian Churches have increasingly taken bold steps to address climate change. Pope Francis has called each of us to take care of our common home in his encyclical letter *Laudato Si'*, and Christian Churches from different traditions have



mobilized their communities across the continent through the organization of pilgrimages for climate justice and the organization of local climate actions. The Ecumenical Conference on Climate Change and Papal Encyclical took place on 29 September at the European Parliament. Organized by several faith-based organizations (CIDSE, Caritas Europa, COMECE, ACT Alliance EU and The Conference of European Churches) tackled the need for the EU to take the lead in climate action and to set the way towards complete decarbonisation by mid century. On 18 September the ENVI Council already decided its position, and on 23 September the ENVI Committee of the European Parliament voted on the draft Paris report that the European Parliament will adopt in plenary on 14 October. Nevertheless, we know a big deal is still at stake ahead of the meeting of the European Council. According to Msgr. Van Looy, President of Caritas Europa, who intervened during the conference: "Policies need to be inclusive and aimed to overcome injustice (...). Stewardship of the creation is key in every human action, therefore the Encyclical calls on the need to rethink our own habits by considering consequences on our planet and on poor people. Political institutions have the responsibility to lead this change and to make it more feasible and easy for people to be involved." Faith-based groups called on policy makers to work together to look beyond short-term

solidarity of European citizens towards those affected by disasters.

### **The added value of European humanitarian NGOs**

NGOs are the main deliverers of humanitarian aid to crisis affected populations worldwide, providing aid where it is most needed, in accordance with humanitarian principles. The members of the VOICE network have a wealth of professional, diverse and specialised expertise, and work in close partnership with affected communities and local civil society organisations. We are a direct expression of active European citizenship. We are constantly seeking to improve the quality of our work and are committed to mobilising rapidly and preserving our flexibility and cost-effectiveness. NGOs are supported by citizens in their own countries across the European Union, and are often strongly backed by private financial contributions as well as funding from their own governments.

### **What can you do to support European humanitarian aid?**

The VOICE network calls upon the Commission, the European Parliament and the 28 Member States in the Council of the European Union to support the delivery of needs-based and principled humanitarian aid through the following actions:

#### *1. Ensure continued EU humanitarian leadership and representation on the international stage*

A strong and visible European Commissioner for humanitarian aid brings EU humanitarian leadership to the world stage, as demonstrated over recent years.

The Commissioner has an important role in promoting the values of principled needs-based humanitarian aid, and of working with professional humanitarian partners.

The European Parliament should appoint a proactive standing Rapporteur on humanitarian aid.

#### *2. Ensure respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and the humanitarian principles*

The EU should continue to insist on the importance of humanitarian access to crisis-affected people as well as monitor and use its influence to address breaches of IHL.

The Action Plan to the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid expired in 2013. The Commission and Member States should develop and deliver on a follow-up Action Plan, to ensure continued joint implementation of the principles of the Consensus.

Fragile States and conflict situations are the contexts where the majority of EU humanitarian aid is delivered. The recently set-up EU Comprehensive Approach seeks to develop integrated strategies for EU external action in such crises. However, the humanitarian community is concerned that the linking of humanitarian aid to political objectives in this sort of approach can threaten the security of aid workers and the affected populations they are assisting. Humanitarian aid should always be given in line with the European Consensus, which states that humanitarian aid is not a crisis management tool.

#### *3. Commit to predictable and timely funding for humanitarian aid.*

Recent EU humanitarian funding shortfalls are having an impact on crisis-affected populations. The European Parliament and Council must vote for additional resources for humanitarian aid when the Commission presents its Draft Amending Budget later this year. This is necessary to implement all EU humanitarian operations in 2014 as planned.

To ensure predictable humanitarian funding and maintain a consistent level of assistance to crisisaffected populations, the European Parliament and Council must agree to raise the payment credits for humanitarian aid to the level of commitment credits in the 2015 EC budget.

#### *4. Support better linking of Relief and Development*

The EC and Member States must include Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in development and recovery programmes. This is necessary to reduce the impact of disasters on affected popu-

lations. Development of more flexible funding approaches between the EC institutions is crucial to build bridges between humanitarian and development work.

Recently, the EU has placed increased emphasis on approaches that support community resilience. Improving accountability in following up the Commission Communication on Resilience is needed and will contribute to more coordinated and effective measures to bolster the EU's efforts in DRR and in linking relief, rehabilitation and

development (LRRD).

### Why should you support European Humanitarian Aid and NGOs?

EU humanitarian aid saves lives and alleviates suffering, and is an expression of the shared European value of solidarity. It has strong citizen support and has demonstrated that it is taxpayers' money well spent. NGOs are the main deliverers of humanitarian aid to crisis-affected populations worldwide. Their added value includes flexibility, professionalism and cost-effectiveness.

## The ECOMaps



by *Henrique Gonçalves - International Young Naturefriends*

Kindly supported by the sub-granting mechanism of CONCORD EYD2015, the ECOMaps aims to create a European web mapping service and database of the most sustainable and healthiest options in a certain location. The project is being developed by International Young Naturefriends (IYNF), an international organization based in Prague and is expected to be launched in October.

A vast information including restaurants, organic and bio shops, fair trade brands, local markets, as well as organizations, institutions and other entities that promote respect and care for nature and society, will be showcased in the platform.

Furthermore, ECOMaps allows information to be updated by anyone, anytime, anywhere. Users will be able to navigate through a list of European cities, explore them, select specific categories, update an old place or introduce a new one. Additionally, explanations and comprehensive information on how certain choices affect our health, economy and environment will be incorporated on the website, therefore this platform will help eco-minded consumers and travellers, but also encourage all citizens to be more eco-friendly and supportive of the a green, low carbon and fair economy, which can bring a positive impact on a global scale. The ecomaps relies mainly on the contributions from dozens of volunteers and anyone can join. See how and stay tuned at [ecomaps.eu](http://ecomaps.eu).

actions and take lasting decisions for the common good. Their calls also reflect the key principles that Pope Francis raised when he met the environment ministers just a couple of weeks ago: solidarity with the most vulnerable and justice in solving the ecological debt and participation. Bernard Pinaud, Director of CCFD-Terre Solidaire and Vice-President of CIDSE, reminded during his intervention a key point of Laudato Si' and one that was taken on board by faith-based groups in their calls: there are not several crisis, but only one complex and systemic socio-environmental crisis.

They called the EU political leaders to step up efforts to overcome divisions between developed and developing countries, by contributing a fair share of global efforts and by providing financial technical support to the poorest and most vulnerable countries. These countries are not responsible for climate change and are already facing adaptation challenges and deadly losses and damages.

They called the EU to undertake long term action in developing measures for inspiring and engaging its citizens. Climate change policies must not be targeted only at industrial activities. Climate change is the result of an economic model that demands ever increasing consumption in our households and individual lives. This drive has to be addressed at its root and not just dealing with its consequences. Although science and technology play a significant role in responding to climate



change, relying on them alone will not be sufficient. Addressing ethical issues, educating and involving people are musts in climate programmes.

Catholic groups CIDSE and Caritas Europa also ask that the 1.5°C threshold is enshrined in a legally-binding global agreement, to realize the vision set by *Laudato Si'*. By ensuring that 1.5°C degree remains within our reach, the world community would show commitment to protect all vulnerable groups. Agreeing in Paris and beyond will only happen with putting aside our various private interests and by focusing on this challenge which we can only solve all together.