



Building capacity of Non Governmental Organisations in the New Member States toward a stronger EU Development Policy

Annual Report

January to December 2007

CONTENT

Introduction	page 3
1. The Third Call for Proposals	page 5
2. Summary of Project Proposals Projects receiving aid as a result of Call 3	page 10
3. Fourth Call for Proposals	page 16
4. Summary of Project Proposals Projects receiving aid as a result of Call 4	page 20
5. Mid-Term Report- KOPIN Project receiving aid as a result of Call 1	page 24
6. Mid-Term Reports Projects receiving aid as a result of Call 2	page 26
7. Final Reports Projects received aid as a result of Call 1	page 34
8. State of Commitments relating to calls for proposals	page 42
9. Financial Statement January to December 2007	page 43
Conclusion	page 44

Introduction

The year 2007 was a defining year for the Presidency Fund. In the course of one year not only were two Calls for Proposals issued, processed and aid distributed to nine more organisations, it was also during this time that Mid-Term Reports came in from projects receiving aid from the Second Call for Proposals. The Final Reports detailing one year of the projects being realised as a result of the first call for Proposals were the first real indication of the extent to which the Presidency Fund has achieved its objectives in real terms.

Three of the seven projects receiving aid as a result of Call 1 completed their project implementation. The other four Proposals receiving aid with this Call required their implementation phase to be extended in order to ensure that their objectives would be satisfactorily realised. Of these, the Maltese NGDO, KOPIN, had to overcome a number of obstacles that slowed down the momentum of its project implementation.

The two Calls for Proposals issued this year brought with them diametrically opposite experiences. The third Call presented itself with several high quality proposals while the Fourth Call was disappointing the level of proposals that it had to offer.

In the Third Call for 44 proposals were submitted to the Preliminary Phase with a total demand of One million Five Hundred Ninety-four Thousand Two Hundred Eighty-six euros (€ 1.594.286). The twenty-two projects selected from these submissions to participate in the Main Phase of Call 3 were of a standard that made this Call extremely competitive and consequently the selection process all the more demanding. Interestingly, twenty-seven of the forty-four applications received in the Preliminary Phase were from Polish NGDOs.

Among the projects selected by the Presidency Fund Board was one by a Slovenian NGDO with its focus on the coherence between Climate Change and Development Cooperation, development priorities proposed by the upcoming Presidency of Slovenia. The National Platform of Maltese NGDOs has recently formalised its structure and will strengthen its capacity and that of its members to participate in policy discussions both within Malta and the EU with the aid from the Fund as is a second award for aid for the Hungarian National NGDO Platform- HAND with an initiative to promote skills of its members to monitor ODA spending. The Latvian NGDO MiTi is receiving aid and will be in the coming year holding the EU governments in general and the NMS governments in particular accountable by applying the Social Watch methodology through NGDOs from the EU-10. An environmental NGDO operating out of Hungary, Environment Management and Law Association (EMLA), is another recipient of aid in this Call with their project promoting accountability through the mechanism of "The Access Initiative" Network. Lastly aid was awarded again to the gender network set up by the Network of East-West Women, which had earlier received aid in the first call for Proposals. This extension will enable the Gender Watch Network to focus on an important issue, viz. aid-monitoring, the need for which was highlighted while implementing the first project during which a Gender Network was set up in the CIS and CEE countries.

The penultimate Call for Proposals- Call 4- received 40 project proposals in the Preliminary Phase with a total demand of One Million Five Hundred Sixty-Three Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Two euros (€ 1.563.742). Nineteen full project

proposals were processed in the Main Phase of the Call. As a result of the low quality only four proposals were finally passed by the Board. Out of these four only the project proposals of the Czech National Platform was acceptable as it was and could be implemented with just a few clarifications. The other three required further negotiations to make them acceptable to the standards expected of the Presidency Fund. By the end of the year two of these four short-listed project proposals were able to be finalised, the negotiations on the two other project proposals, unfortunately, continued into the New Year as the dialogue between the Presidency Fund Secretariat and the possible implementing organisations was intense.

The two projects that have begun with implementation as a result of the Fourth Call for Proposals are co-incidentally two Czech-based organisations- FoRs- the Czech National NGDO Platform and an international gender-based network- International Gender Policy Network. As always, the Board decided to support a National Platform especially given that the Czech National Platform had participated in a Presidency Fund Call for Proposals for the first time and that it was poised to strengthen its capacity to contribute to the debate on the EU Development Policy at the EU-level as well as to promote the alignment of the National Development Cooperation Policies with the International Development Agenda and the EU Development Policy. The International Gender Policy Network through the project will organised a campaign in both the Balkan countries (recipients of aid) and in the New Member States (donors of aid) to include gender equality as an important factor in policy-making within the context of the EU Development Cooperation Policy.

2007 has provided the Presidency Fund with much information to begin assessing whether it is on its way to achieving its objectives and has given the Board important insights that have enlightened their approach to making decisions on the award of aid in subsequent Calls. The Mid-Term and the Final Reports have provided positive feedback revealing the effectiveness of the Presidency Fund in supporting NGDOs in the 10 New Member States towards participating in the EU-wide debate on the EU Development Policy.

While the Third Call for Proposals has brought to life various creative approaches by NMS NGDOs to engage in policy dialogue nationally, regionally and at the EU-level. The Fourth Call for Proposals continues with this theme- each of them in their unique way are facilitating a networking of NGDOS around a specific theme and thus seeking to enter into the debate on the EU Development Policy from this position.

1. The Third Call for Proposals

THE PRELIMINARY PHASE

The Third Call for Proposals was issued from 21 November 2006 to 21 February 2007. A total of 44 applications were made to the preliminary phase of this Call. Interestingly, 27 of these applications, more than half of the total, were made by Polish NGOs. 22 of the Preliminary Applications were invited to submit a full application to the Main Phase of Call 3.

Table 1.1 illustrates the quantity of project proposals submitted to the Preliminary Phase of Call 3 across the 10 New Member States with the corresponding figures of request for aid from the Fund.

Country	Accepted		Rejected		TOTAL	
	Number	Request from Fund in euros	Number	Request from Fund in euros	Number	Request from Fund in euros
Czech Republic	2	68 389	1	45 000	3	113 389
Poland	8	351 930	19	632 682	27	984 612
Hungary	5	203 000	0	0	5	203 000
Slovakia	2	57 285	1	36 000	3	93 285
Latvia	2	84 000	1	43 000	3	127 000
Lithuania	1	45 000	0	0	1	45 000
Malta	1	13 500	0	0	1	13 500
Slovenia	1	14 500	0	0	1	14 500
TOTAL	22	837 604	22	756 682	44	1 594 286

Key to Table:

Accepted: Preliminary Proposals invited to submit a Main Application in the Main Phase of Call 3

Rejected: Preliminary Proposals that have been assessed as unsatisfactory in the Preliminary Phase of Call 3.

Number: Quantity of project proposals

Requested Budget: Total request by submitting NGOs from the Fund for grant of aid.

THE MAIN PHASE

Of the 22 organisations invited to participate in the Main Phase of Call 3 two organisations did not participate - the Lithuanian organisation NGO Information & Support Centre and the Czech Transitions Online. As a result only 20 applications were processed in the Main Phase.

Table 1.2 provides a brief overview of the projects submitted to the Main Phase of Call 3:

	Requested Budget
CZECH REPUBLIC	
CEE Bankwatch	45 000 euros
<p>Objective:</p> <p>The overall goal of CEE Bankwatch activities is to ensure a strong and coherent framework that guides the EIB's activities in development and to help the Bank to contribute to the EU development agenda to eradicate poverty, foster sustainable development and achieve the millennium development goals (MDGs).</p> <p>The specific objectives of the project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to increase awareness about the development impacts of the EIB's financing and increase the involvement of civil society in NMS; • to enhance the active involvement of policy makers from NMS in the creation of a strong and coherent framework guiding EIB operations in the developing countries; and • to advance European debate about reforms and instruments which are needed for the EIB to truly deliver for the achievement of EU development objectives. 	
HUNGARY	
Hungarian Baptist Aid	28 000 euros
<p>Objective:</p> <p>Strengthening the role of Hungarian NGOs in order to be able to enhance their influence on Hungarian and EU policy-makers and to raise awareness about development issues in the Hungarian society</p>	
Vedegylet: Protect the Future	32 525 euros
<p>Objective:</p> <p>At the national level, to identify clear points of wider engagement for wider Hungarian NGO participation in key European networks. Information and activity resulting from this engagement will be passed onto key local multipliers for awareness-raising activities. Results of presently ongoing research into Hungarian ODA spending will provide additional, locally contextualised material for informative and well-based educational activities.</p> <p>At the European level, to present a CEE-voice in the EU's Development debates and to contribute to the EU's policy making in International Development by strengthening CEE-co-operation and creating communication and networking opportunities Hungary-"South": To better understand the South (inc. NGOs) as an agent of development, donor-recipient country relationships, and to scrutinise areas of targeted ODA undertaken by the NMS governments.</p>	
DemNet	45 000 euros
<p>Objective:</p> <p>The main objective is to strengthen the capacity of NGOs in Hungary and gradually in the NMS to be able to play a much more intense and active role in formulating the European Development Policy.</p>	

As a condition to this, Hungarian NGOs must have a deeper and comprehensive understanding of European policies and need a space in Hungary and forums to be able to introduce and articulate these policies to wider sectors of society, gather reactions, facilitate the construction of national level reactions, stand points and policies and NGOs also must be able to reach European forums where they can represent and articulate the Hungarian reactions in the European Development Policy Dialogue. NGOs must be able to play the role of the mutual communicator between Hungarian society and the EU, get a deeper knowledge about and represent both sides within the context of EU Development Co-operation.

As a result, in Hungary, a national approach to development issues will be born that conforms to the EU's Development Policy, and at the European level, the Hungarian NGOs and the government will strongly advocate and participate in debates to influence an effective EU development policy.

HAND: Hungarian Association for Development & Humanitarian Aid	43 000 euros
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Objective:

The project's principal objective is building the capacity of the Hungarian NGDO Platform and its members and creating opportunities for these NGOs for contributing to more efficient Official Development Aid.

The previous Presidency Fund project of HAND enables Hungarian NGDOs to have more expertise on international development content-wise, while this recent project we aim to develop the suitable *skills* of NGDOs to reach their goals in their specific fields.

EMLA- Environment	37 500 euros
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Objective:

Build the capacity of The Access Initiative (TAI) partners in Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland in order to strengthen the capacity to engage in the EU Development Policy Debate.

Use the existing TAI network in order to gain experience in direct collaboration with partners from the Global South in support of EU development aid objectives.

Use this experience to engage in a development policy dialogue with development aid officials, thus building a comprehensive understanding of development co-operation within civil society in NMS.

POLAND

NEWW- Network of East-West Women	43 880 euros
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Objective:

The main objective of the "EU-CIS Gender Watch" project consists in enabling women NGOs/networks in NMS, Central Asia, the Caucasus and EU Neighbouring Countries to cooperate in monitoring and lobbying the EU on its development policies as well as ODA - in order to make the EU commitment to advance gender equality and its translation into policy, action, and allocation of resources reflected in EU assistance to countries of the region.

Its goal is to promote cooperation between NGOs in the new member states and the "new EU neighbours" around the development agenda of the EU. By the cooperation we understand also sharing the knowledge about the new geographical instruments with other regional NGOs (through workshops and trainings) and monitoring them from the gender perspective – as a continuation of EU Gender Watch – but with an extended scope (including ODA).

The project will aim at coordinating and supporting women NGOs from the region of

CEE/CIS in their activities aimed at promotion of such development policies that would promote gender equality and empower women, reduce poverty, and meet the Millennium Development Goals in compliance with the International Development Agenda. EU-CIS Gender Watch would be dedicated to monitoring the EU for its accountability to the promotion of gender equality in the region.	
Education for Democracy Foundation	39 416 euros
Objective: To strengthen the capacity of Polish Non-Governmental Organizations to engage in debates on policy and implementation of EU development cooperation and neighbourhood policies by providing expertise, tools and opportunities for common actions.	
KARAT Coalition	45 000 euros
Objective: To draw attention of the NGOs, the general public as well as the social and political actors to the need of strengthening the gender component in the EU development policy through an exhibition of artwork by women from the developing Eastern European, Balkan and Central Asian countries. The exhibition will depict the situation of women in these countries and their diminishing economic position resulting from the widening economic gap between the EU and the above mentioned developing states.	
CASE- Centre for Social and Economic Research	45 000 euros
Objective: The principal objective is to stimulate NGDOs and civil society in NMS to reflect upon and promote their own country's and region's economic development and integration process and to use this to draw relevant lessons for development of the Global South.	
Institute of Public Affairs	42 530 euros
To contribute to the EU Development Policy debate by evaluating national development policies of the New EU Member States and, consequently, to strengthen the capacity of non-governmental development organisations in public-awareness raising	
Institute for Strategic Studies	44 998.25 euros
Objective: To strengthen the EU Development Co-operation and the International Development Agenda by developing capacities of NMS NGOs to engage in actions toward this end.	
Polish Humanitarian Organisation	45 000 euros
Objective: To develop a culture of engagement - give the means for advocacy actions - of NGOs in the debate on EU Development Policy and development issues with participation of decision makers and the public.	
Tischner University	44 992 euros
Objective: Strengthening of the capacity of Non Governmental Development Organisations (NGDOs) from the New Member States (NMS) to engage in the EU Development Policy Debate.	
SLOVAKIA	
Pontis Foundation	44 970 euros
Objective: The principal objective of the project is to provide a substantial input into EU Development Policy debate, especially as far as the priorities of the Development Policy concerns, to support meaningful development policies and assure purposeful, efficient, effective and transparent use of public funds for the EU Development Assistance and to improve the aid effectiveness.	

APEL	29 590 euros
Objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations for EU Development Policy based on Slovak experience and experience of best practices in developing countries • Strengthen interest of experts and public, educational institutions and NGOs about engagement in EU development policy <p>3. To increase the capacity of APEL in this field and increase interest of others associations and institutes about engagement in EU development policy.</p>	
MALTA	
National Platform for Maltese NGOs	20 857 euros
Objective: The Maltese National Platform has the opportunity and the responsibility to embed development policies with a clear focus on poverty eradication in government practise at a national and European level and also to strengthen global citizenship. This project will strengthen the Platform's capacity to engage in effective policy dialogue on the local and EU Development Policy.	
SLOVENIA	
Focus Association for Sustainable Development	17 220 euros
Objective: The main objective of the project is to raise awareness and develop capacity of Slovene NGOs, politicians and wider public to integrate climate change objectives into Slovene and EU development debates.	
LATVIA	
LAPAS- The Latvian National NGDO Platform	39 000 euros
Objective: The principal objective of The Programme/Study visits between Latvia and Kenya is to raise awareness on the Global South within the EU Development policy at Latvian national and EU level, to increase common understanding of various stakeholders in Latvia about the Global South thus to engage more effectively in the EU Development Cooperation Policy implementation.	
MiTi	45 000 euros
Objective: To increase the visible accountability of European governments, including those of NMS, and the EU as a whole for the implementation of international commitments on social and human development, including the MDGs, made in international conferences over the past decade or so.	

2. Summary of Proposals

Projects receiving aid as a result of Call 3

The Presidency Fund Board met on 27 March 2007 to assess the application submitted to the Main Phase of Call 3. The Presidency Fund Board first had to determine whether the available resources of the Fund should be utilised in the current Call or whether these should be stretched to facilitate a fourth Call for Proposals. It was decided that the objectives of the Fund would be best met with an opportunity provided by another Call for Proposals and therefore the Board set out assessing the proposals keeping in mind the limited resources available.

The quality of applications in Call 3 was superior, on an average, to the previous two Calls. Therefore, the assessment had to be conducted on technical issues related to the applications as most of the proposals were relevant to the objectives of the Fund. In the first place, the Board decided that, preference should be given to support to projects of National NGDO Platforms. Therefore the Hungarian National Platform, HAND and the newly set up National Platform of Maltese NGDOs were selected to receive aid. With the upcoming Presidency of Slovenia and its focus on climate change, the project submitted by Focus Association for Sustainable Development with their project to link the issues of climate change with the general debate on development cooperation was also an obvious choice for the Board. The project submitted by the Environment Management & Law Association, EMLA, was also selected for its interesting focus on environmental governance in the global south and the implementation of the project which would involve NGDOs from five of the EU-10 countries. A Latvian NGDO was also awarded aid in a project applying the principles of the global movement Social Watch to the EU-10. Lastly, the Network of East-West Women was awarded aid again to continue the project "Gender Watch" in order to expand the activities of the Gender Watch Network to focus on aid monitoring at the EU level especially with respect to development cooperation with the CEE/CIS countries. With aid received in the first Call for Proposals, NEWW set up the Gender Watch.

HAND- Hungarian Association of NGOs for Development and Humanitarian Aid

Project Title: Increasing capacity of Hungarian NGDOs to engage in EU-level lobby activity and to increase ODA management

There is very little public opinion in favour of development aid and consequently decision makers at national and European levels are not inclined to include development cooperation on their agenda. In this situation, it is essential that Hungarian NGDOs play a proactive role in pushing for greater attention to development cooperation and specifically development aid Hungary and in participating in the debate on development cooperation in the EU.

The Presidency Fund is supporting a project of HAND in Call 2 which is enabling NGOs to develop greater expertise in international development in general, to be updated about ongoing policies and improve the content of working groups within HAND. With this current project we aim to develop suitable *skills* of NGDOs to reach their goals in their specific fields. Therefore, this project will focus on building skills, familiarising with contemporary methodologies and know-how development on lobbying for a more efficient ODA.

The primary target group of this project are the member organisation of the national Platform, which will learn about lobby and advocacy methodology. By facilitating their participation in international events they will see concrete examples of this methodology.

They can develop or participate in alliances focusing on certain specific issues and can gain experience in developing and representing their position at international events.

With regards activities relating to content of the institutional and legal background of ODA in Hungary, best practices from Europe will be used to design the Hungarian model. The activities will also provide a space for NGO-government discussion, which was missing until now. It is expected that the framework of this project would lead to consensus-based positions with the involvement of NGOs, experts, government representatives and politicians.

The following are the expected results of this project:

- Supporting efficient representation of Hungarian development actors at EU-level fora
- Capacity building on EU-level lobbying activity
- Establishing a working group within HAND on ODA institutional and legal background.

EMLA: Environmental Management & Law Association, Hungary

Project Title: The Access Initiative: Good Environmental Governance - a Prerequisite for Sustainable Development

The Access Initiative (TAI, www.accessinitiative.org) is a global coalition of public interest groups monitoring good governance specifically regarding environment. The Access Initiative-Europe is a part of this global network. Armed with databases and analyses of national “good governance” progress and gaps, the TAI national coalitions have recently turned their attention from assessment to successfully engaging their governments and implementing strategies for public awareness-raising towards influencing policy reform.

With this project, members of the TAI network in 5 countries within the EU-10, viz. Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland will collaborate to share their experience and knowledge while learning about improving “access” directly from their partners from the Global South. In this way, the participating organizations will be in better positions to inform their countries’ development aid agencies, ministries of foreign affairs, their public as well as EU institutions about Global South realities and needs. This information will travel further to governments outside the five countries through the Partnership for Principle 10 (PP10, www.pp10.org), which is a forum where governments, international organizations, and civil society groups work together to implement practical solutions to promote access to information, participation, and justice for environmentally sustainable decisions.

Specifically, the project will seek to achieve the following:

- Build capacity of existing TAI national coalitions and improve the understanding of NGOs within the EU-10 of the access needs in the global south
- Create awareness among all stakeholders including development aid institutions at the national, regional and EU levels, NGOs and the public that environmental governance are key elements of development.
- Help build a coalition among countries of the EU-10 that will promote environmental governance in the Global South through influencing development aid distribution
- Engage development aid officials, NGOs and media, in a dialogue on strategies and actions to support good governance in the Global South.

- Build skills of 5 EU-10 NGOs for lobbying relevant national and EU institutions towards promoting environmental governance in the Global South

The proposed project will engage the coalition of 5 EU-10 NGOs to use the existing TAI network to gain experience in direct collaboration with partners from the Global South through activities including Roundtables organized in each of the five participating EU-10 countries. A conference will include the participation of representatives from NGOs from the Global South. As a result an agenda for action will be designed.

NEWW: Network of East-West Women, Poland

Project Title: EU-CIS Gender Watch

Gender equality in the CEE and CIS has been adversely influenced by a declining economic situation, human rights abuses due to military conflicts and/or rising fundamentalism which have marked the transition of the newly independent states from an authoritarian regime to democracy; from a planned economy to one dependent on market forces. Violence against women in this region, abuse of their reproductive rights, discrimination in the labour market and low participation of women in decision-making has become a serious issue in the recent years.

Despite a common history, there exists a great distinction between gender-based NGOs in the New Member States (EU-10) and in the rest of the CEE/CIS region. The Network of East-West Women (NEWW) has been trying to use commonalities and common experiences of both groups of countries for mutual benefit. NEWW, with members both in the NMS and CIS, serves for more than a decade as an information resource and a coordinator for lobbying and advocacy campaigns.

NEWW is concerned that the EU commitments to gender equality are being diluted by the new trend to merge gender equality with non-discrimination, equal opportunities, or human rights themes. As a response to this, the EU Gender Watch was established in 2006 with the support of the Presidency Fund and was created by NEWW as a network of organisations to monitor gender and development issues from the perspective of the EU and that of developing countries in the CEE/CIS. In the course of implementation of this project, gender equality advocates in CEE/CIS raised concerns over the gap between the European Union's commitment to advance gender equality and its translation into practice in the region. Reports based on studies conducted in from Georgia, Tajikistan and Ukraine as a part of this project highlighted these concerns.

At the end of its one-year implementation, the project has reached a crucial stage as the Network is broadening its focus towards achieving transparency in EU development aid with specific reference to gender issues. The Network in the second phase of this project, shall continue to highlight gender concerns of the CEE/CIS region and monitor EU commitments to advance gender equality and lobby for its translation into policy, action, and allocation of resources are reflected in EU development assistance to countries of the region (in the new instruments as well as in ODA).

To achieve this, workshops and "training the trainers" session shall be carried out to multiply the knowledge of development aid utilization which would enable gender-based NGOs from the region to develop skills that would enable to familiarize themselves with current debates on EU Development Policy and the Financial Perspective 2007 – 2013, and to be able to carry out research, monitoring and later on lobbying and advocacy actions and campaigns to ensure the inclusion of a gender perspective in development policies of the EU.

This project includes extensive networking with NGOs within Poland and at the EU-level as well. At the national level, NEWW Poland is a member of the Polish NGO platform,

“Grupa Zagranica”, which joins CONCORD in 2007 and other European NGDO networks to participate in EU-wide initiatives to monitor the Official Development Assistance (ODA). NEWW-Poland sees its role in contributing to the “gender element” in this analysis. NEWW also plans to cooperate with The Polish Green Network, another Platform member and a recipient of aid from the Presidency Fund to monitor the national development policy. The EU Gender Watch Secretariat will continue to network with WIDE, EUROSTEP and EEPA. The EU-CIS Gender Watch project will also strengthen and expand existing CEE/CIS regional networks and create new ones where lacking. NEWW will collaborate with all existing regional networks like Gender Policy Network (former Network Women’s Program of OSI), ASTRA (a network on reproductive rights), KARAT (a lobbying network) or La Strada.

The desired results of this project would be the engagement of civil society in advocacy efforts to ensure that EU commitment to advance gender equality is reflected in EU development assistance to countries of the region (new EU instruments for years 2007-2013, as well as in ODA of the donor countries).

FOCUS ASSOCIATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Project Title: Developing while safeguarding climate? Yes, it is possible!

Climate change is one of the biggest threats our planet is facing today and recent studies have demonstrated that this phenomenon is artificially created by humans. While the global south bears little historical responsibility for climate change, presently their contributions to this problem can not be undermined. However, in all debates on this issue, the global south maintains that adopting measures to limit greenhouse gas emissions would hinder their economic growth. Therefore it is necessary to engage countries of the north and south in a dialogue on climate change. This dialogue should throw-up possibilities for economic growth with limited consequence for the climate system. As donor-countries, the members of the EU need to include climate change in debates over development, development strategies and development aid.

Slovenia now being a member of the EU has now assumed its role as a ‘donor’ country and is working on its own development policy to guide this role. Therefore, it is a crucial moment to include issues on climate change on the national development agenda. We wish to address this challenge through the project *Safeguarding climate while developing? Yes, it’s possible!*

The main objective of the project is to raise awareness and develop capacity of Slovene NGOs, politicians and wider public to integrate climate change objectives into Slovene and EU development debates.

The actions that will be undertaken to achieve this will be:

- Drafting of a background paper/analysis on how climate-development relation is perceived by the people in developing countries and what solutions they can propose.
- A public awareness campaign will be designed on the basis of the information generated above.
- A capacity building workshop on the relation between climate and development objectives for those engaged (and potentially wish to engage) in development cooperation resulting in identifying solutions to achieve synergies for both.
- A Roundtable will be organised with specific focus on the challenge of including the global south countries as part of the solution for climate change. The

outcome of this discussion will be issued in a press release and shall raise public awareness on the issue.

- Lobbying for political action on this issue will take place at three fora: clean-development mechanism (CDM) talks, development strategy formulation and activities under the presidency of Slovenia.
- A climate-development position paper will be drafted and presented to CAN Europe, an EU-wide NGO network, relevant EU institutions and Slovene MEPs. Through the co-operation with CAN Europe, Slovenia should find itself better represented at the EU-level on issues regarding the debate on the synergy between climate-development cooperation. Slovenian MEPs will be encouraged to provide better insight in the Slovenian situation and proposals on climate change. Similarly, the position paper will be presented at the Agree.net Seminar where it is expected that skills of representatives from NGDO representatives from Central Europe will be developed to take home this debate.

In the course of project implementation, FOCUS along with Humanitas and Umanotera will work closely with Sloga, the Slovenian NGDO platform, in its preparation for the Presidency.

NATIONAL PLATFORM OF MALTESE NGDOs

Project Title: Improvement of civil society involvement in policy dialogue

Maltese society, politically, economically and socially is far removed from the ideals outlined in the EU Development Policy especially given that the National policy on development cooperation is not yet aligned to that of the EU.

Activities will be carried out to create awareness among the general public on current issues relevant to the debate within the EU on development cooperation to create a wide base of support for the activities of the NGDOs as well as to influence relevant development policies at national level.

The project will address the prevalent lack of transparency in the political arena, especially with regards the ODA spending. Among the initiatives to be undertaken to achieve this will be the capacity building of Maltese NGDOs to develop strategies and carry out campaigns to lobby on these issues.

The Platform will also make concerted efforts through regional networks to realise the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the poverty eradication campaign, through advocating the implementation of National Programmes towards this end. Besides facilitating international networking opportunities for its members, this project will also enable better representation of Maltese NGDOs in CONCORD working groups.

In the course of the implementation of this project it is expected that the Platform will be restructured with a Board that will manage the Platform to represent more effectively the positions of its members. Initiatives to build up the human and financial resources of the Platform will ensure the sustainability of the Platform in the long term.

Through their participation in the activities of the project, the Platform members will be better equipped to organise and engage in activities such as public-awareness raising, campaigning and lobbying. This will result in an increased pool of individual members who would be able to take on leading roles in the Platform's core initiatives as well as in national, regional and European working groups. The Platform Secretariat will also develop competencies to function as a key coordinating post and an important resource of information for its membership.

MiTi FOUNDATION, LATVIA

Project Title: The right for all not to be poor- European social policy for a global agenda

The Presidency Fund sees its role in providing NGOs in the EU-10 with opportunities to work with international networks that offer them structures that best suit their unique approach to development cooperation and place this in the global context. From this perspective a unique project from a Latvian NGDO proposes linking NGDOs in the NMS with the Social Watch Network.

The project is designed around the methodology developed by Social Watch and its coalitions across the world. The project will ensure an engagement between the civil society organisations and actors in the political sphere and will seek to build national coalitions of civil society organisations as a means to strengthen impact. The underlying objective is to increase the visible accountability of European governments, including those of NMS, and the EU as a whole for the implementation of international commitments on social and human development, including the MDGs.

Through the implementation of the project NGDOs in the NMS will be engaged in the preparation of the 2007 International Report of Social Watch to be published in October 2007. This will be followed by their involvement in the publication of the European Social Watch Report. Through this process, national coalitions will be built and these coalitions will dialogue with decision-makers and manage the debate on policy issues thrown up by the Social Watch Reports. These national coalitions will also be involved in the Social Watch European strategy meeting.

The final outcome of this project is that NGDOs from each of the 12 NMS are involved with aid monitoring and will have developed the competencies to lobby their governments towards the realisation of the goals set out in the international development agenda.

3. Fourth Call for Proposals

The Preliminary Phase

The Fourth Call for Proposals was issued from 14 May to 30 September 2007. A total of 40 applications were made to the preliminary phase of this Call.

Table 1 illustrates the quantity of project proposals submitted to the Preliminary Phase of Call 4 across the 10 New Member States with the corresponding figures of request for aid from the Fund.

Key to Table:

Accepted: Preliminary Proposals invited to submit a Main Application in the Main Phase of Call 4

Rejected: Preliminary Proposals that have been assessed as unsatisfactory in the Preliminary Phase of Call 4

Number: Quantity of project proposals

Requested Budget: Total request by submitting NGOs from the Fund for grant of aid.

Country	Accepted		Rejected Number	TOTAL		
	Number	Request		Request	Number	Request
Czech Republic	5	€ 163.900	1	€ 45.000	6	€ 208.900
Hungary	3	€ 130.000	0	0	3	€ 130.000
Poland	6	€ 238.100	12	€ 429.242	18	€ 667.342
Slovakia	2	€ 90.000	1	€ 45.000	3	€ 135.000
Latvia	1	€ 45.000	1	€ 45.000	2	€ 90.000
Lithuania	1	€ 41.500	1	€ 41.000	2	€ 82.500
Estonia	1	€ 42.000	0	0	1	€ 42.000
Malta	0	0	1	€ 37.000	1	€ 37.000
Cyprus	2	€ 87.000	1	€ 44.000	3	€ 131.000
Slovenia	0	0	1	€ 40.000	1	€ 40.000
TOTAL	21	€ 837.500	19	€ 726.242	40	€ 1.563.742

The Main Phase

Of the 21 organisations invited to participate in the Main Phase of Call, two organisations did not submit a Main Application, viz. Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights as they lost the email from the Secretariat inviting them to participate in the Main Phase. The Education for Democracy Foundation was invited to submit an application directly to the Main Phase of Call 4, but found the timing inappropriate and requested for the possibility of participating in Call 5. The Latvia's Association for Family Planning and Sexual Health did not get in touch with the Secretariat and also did not submit a Main Application, but it was learnt that the organisation was seeking funds for their organisational set-up rather than for a project.

Table 2 provides a brief overview of the projects submitted to the Main Phase of Call 4:

Organisation	Requested Budget
CZECH REPUBLIC	
International Gender Policy Network	45.000 euros
The project will serve to strengthen the capacity of NGOs and develop cooperation of NGOs in EU new member states, together with NGOs in candidate countries and developing countries (It means we will work at the same time in donor countries and also in recipient countries of Official Development Aid). The capacity building will enable NGOs to engage in the EU Development Policy Debate about one of the most important cross cutting issues – Gender Equality and to fulfil the context of EU Development Cooperation.	
FoRs- Czech Forum for Development Cooperation	44.796 euros
This project will foster active participation of the Czech NGDOs in development policy work on the national and EU levels and hence support a stronger contribution by the Czech Republic and the EU towards implementation of the MDGs.	
People In Need	11.264 euros
The project will strengthen civil society and encourage opinion-makers and decision-makers facilitating Czech Republic's participation in EU development cooperation.	
Development Worldwide	34.596 euros
Real development partnership for strengthening aid effectiveness (through mutual understanding and capacity building for real participation and shared responsibilities within introduction of fair and influential development policies)	
Development Worldwide	35.322 euros
The project will facilitate the engagement of non-state actors from the New Member States and the Global South countries towards the implementation of the EU Development Policy by strengthening the links in the chain of EU development cooperation through deeper understanding of EU development policy - Perspectives of NMS and Global South	
HUNGARY	
Foundation of the Women of Hungary	45.000 euros
The project will support the active participation of new member state NGOs in Europe-wide networks with particular focus on enabling their fair representation at and access to EU institutions.	
Freedom House	41.694 euros
The project seeks to elevate the profile and strengthen the influence of NMS NGOs working in the democratization and human rights fields through the creation of a focused network linking these organizations and coordinating their efforts in engaging their governments and the EU in the development policy debate.	
The network would also serve as the key catalyst and conduit for the elaboration of a unique NMS approach and skill-set to democracy promotion and human rights protection and as a vehicle for members to share experiences and develop joint initiatives.	
DemNet	43.200 euros
This project will increase the overall social support of Africa-democracy and good governance in Hungary through developing Hungarian NGDOs knowledge about the fields, provide them with skills and methods and enabling them to participate in national and EU policy debates related to Africa, democracy and good governance.	
POLAND	

Polish Green Network	45.000 euros
In implementing this project, civil society groups in Poland engaged in the national and international dialogue on development will be strengthened through capacity-building initiatives, facilitating co-operation with national and international authorities and establishing partnership with NGOs from EU and Global South.	
Centre for International Relations	45.000 euros
The project will increase and strengthen the capacities of NGOs in the new member states, and Poland in particular, to shape the political agenda of the European Parliament and their National Parliaments in the area of European Development Policy by building a platform and drafting a best-practices report based on a fact-finding mission in EU-15 countries.	
Salesian Missionary Voluntary Service- Youth for the World	45.000 euros
The project aims to create a deeper understanding of the development issues, interdependence of EU and developing world within polish civil society, to mobilise support for the achievement of European Development Policy and Millennium Development Goals as well as to strengthen the capacity of NGOs in Poland in order to acquaint them with possibility for cooperation and active participation on the European Level.	
Foundation Institute for Eastern Studies	24.200 euros
The project will engage politicians, NGOs and civil society from Poland in a Development Policy Debate at Polish and European Levels.	
SLOVAKIA	
Slovak Foreign Policy Association	44.975 euros
The project will facilitate a substantial input to the EU Development Policy debate, especially as far as the priorities of the Development Policy are concerned, to support meaningful development policies and assure purposeful, efficient, effective and transparent use of public funds for the EU Development Assistance and to improve aid effectiveness.	
People In Peril Association	41.230 euros
The project will address the Europeanization of Slovak international development cooperation, on the basis of increased coordination, complementarity and coherence between national, regional (central European) and European-level efforts, and with a reinforced commitment to European development policy goals, through a series of policy and geographical focuses which correspond to both European and Slovak bilateral ODA priorities.	
Cyprus	
NGO Support Centre	50.471 euros
The project will facilitate the engagement of Cypriot Non-Governmental Organisations with Civil Society Organisations from developing countries, such as Asian and African countries, in order to influence policy and practice on the local, regional and European levels, around issues such as migration, inclusion and cooperation between the North and the South.	
Future World's Centre	44.987 euros
The project will draw attention of the NGOs, the general public as well as the social and political actors to the need of strengthening the gender component in the EU development policy through an exhibition of artwork by women from the developing Eastern European, Balkan and Central Asian countries. The exhibition will depict the situation of women in these countries and their diminishing economic position resulting from the widening economic gap between the EU and the above mentioned developing states.	

LITHUANIA	
House of Europe (Lithuanian NGDO Platform)	41.500 euros
The project will develop a strong network of Lithuanian NGOs engaged in the formulation and implementation of Development Cooperation Policy nationally and internationally	
ESTONIA	
AKU- Estonian Roundtable for Development Cooperation	45 000 euros
The project will increase public awareness and citizen's support about Development Cooperation as such, strengthen capacity of Estonian Roundtable for Development Cooperation (AKÜ) and its member organizations on the context of EU development policy via strategic planning and reasoned activities to start to actively participate in the EU-wide debate at the national and European level and through that enhance the EU Development Policy general.	

4. Summary of Proposals

Projects receiving aid as a result of Call 4

The Presidency Fund Board met on 6 November 2007 to determine the distribution of aid to project proposals received as a result of the Main Phase of Call 4. The Board were also able to review the Final Reports of the projects that had received aid as a result of Call 1 that had completed their implementation. This review also better informed the Board Members in their decision-making for subsequent Calls. With the overall poor quality of project proposals that Call 4 had received, the Board decided to limit the number of successful projects and save the funds for Call 5 especially given that the Board had unanimously advised that the donors be approached to open up Call 5 to Romanian and Bulgarian NGOs.

The best application, requiring very little modification was that submitted by the Czech Forum for Development Cooperation, FoRs, the National NGO Platform of the Czech Republic. This application also conformed to the policy that National NGO Platforms are given priority in receiving aid from the Fund. The second organisation- International Gender Policy Network- was a relatively new membership, gender-based organisation with NGO members in 7 EU member states and in the Balkan republics. The project proposal needed much clarifications, all of the questions raised being answered satisfactorily, the decision was made to support their ambitious project that would raise the gender-element of the EU Development Policy not only in 7 EU member states in their role as donors, but in the Balkan republics, in their role as partners in the implementation of projects receiving aid from the EU.

Negotiations with the third possible implementing organisation- Polish Green Network- is coming to a close with the possibility of implementation beginning by end January 2008. This project had to be reviewed as the context of the project has changed with the political changes that have taken place in Poland at the latter part of the year, after the project was submitted. Therefore, the organisation was given an opportunity to redefine its activities within the same frame-work of objectives of the original proposal. Finally the fourth organisation, Estonian Roundtable for Development Cooperation, is still pending a final decision based on two issues. Firstly, pending the Final Report of the organisation's implementation of the project that had received aid from the First Call for Proposals and secondly awaiting further clarifications on their project proposal.

Below, are the summaries of the three definitive Project Proposals for which the decision for aid have been made already:

FoRs- Czech Forum for Development Cooperation

Project Title: Starting up policy activities of the Czech NGOs' Platform

Total Budget: 49.974 euros

Total Request from Fund: 44.796 euros

Czech NGOs focus on implementation of development programmes in the South and on development education rather than engaging in debates over the EU development policy related international policy agenda. There is insufficient expert capacity for and experience in policy work among the Czech NGOs. Financial sustainability of operations remains in the forefront of the Czech NGO needs, EU is

therefore largely perceived as a source of potential programme financing, rather than as an important driver of the international development cooperation.

FoRS members increasingly perceive FoRS as playing an essential role in both the national and European policy arenas. The project will in the medium-term should enable FoRS to fulfil its role as an advocacy centre on development cooperation policy. Moreover, FoRS will be better poised to make use of the opportunity offered by the 2009 Czech EU Presidency to further its position as a key stakeholder in the policy dialogue over the EU Development Policy both at national and EU levels.

Through this project, the following policy tasks will be undertaken by FoRS and its membership and shall continue post-implementation:

- Analysis of development policy priorities, assess FoRS and the Czech Republic's role in contributing to development cooperation nationally and Europe-wide, and identification of a main focus for FoRS policy work.
- A consistent and systematic monitoring of the Czech ODA performance in the light of the Czech Republic's international commitments and the ODA effectiveness.
- Actively promote policy coherence for development as well as greater coherence of Czech development policy with the EU development policy.
- Continue advocacy work of the Czech GCAP campaign "Czechia against Poverty" and to project the promoted aims of the campaign into the FoRS policy actions.
- Mobilisation of NGDOs and their expertise for the upcoming Czech Presidency of the EU and network with other NGO partners and coalitions inside and outside of the Czech Republic.
- Participation in coordinated joint policy and advocacy work within the NGDO community of the CEE region.

IGPN: International Gender Policy Network, Czech Republic

Project Title: Equal Opportunities for Women and Men- Advocacy for Change Development

Total Budget: 97.000 euros

Total Request from Fund: 44.000euros

In the EU pre-accession and post-accession process, the situation of equal opportunities of men and women was monitored in the countries of accession and South Eastern Europe, framed by the EU legislation and policy. Equal Opportunities for Women and Men (EOWM) reports raised questions on the discrepancies between law and practice and brought to light the need to lobby and advocate at the national and EU level for implementation of legal changes and practical measures.

This project, Equal Opportunities for Women and Men – Advocacy for change, will actively engage approximately NGDOs from 25 countries, 20 IGPN members and 20 experts and trainers. In real terms, 30 NGOs will collaborate for the implementation of this project. Among the members of the IGPN, participating in this project are those from new member states, candidate states and neighbouring states. These are countries that relate to the EU Development Policy and ODA in various ways- as donors, recipients and possible recipients. This situation gives IGPN the chance of overall view of the situation and possibility to help with recommendations on this field.

Our project will first help with strengthening the capacity of NGOs in the region. Empowered NGOs will be able to participate in shaping, debating and advocacy for the EU Development Policy, they will be able more effectively dialogue with their

national governments on this issue in the donor countries and those stakeholders responsible for implementation of EU Development Policy as a result of receiving EU aid.

On 8 March 2007, the European Commission proposed a European strategy to promote gender equality in development cooperation. With this strategy the Commission translates into practice the EU commitment to put gender equality at the heart of its development policy. The strategy provides guidelines on how to improve gender mainstreaming in development policy and shows the potential of budget support for the promotion of gender equality. This project will facilitate the dissemination of these guidelines.

Lastly, IGPN is poised to collaborate with partners from new regions (especially to ACP countries – sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean, the Pacific and the Indian Ocean). This cooperation will be kicked off during the implementation of this process and will continue post-implementation.

POLISH GREEN NETWORK

Project Title: Challenging Poland in EU development policy decision-making”

Total Budget: 36.804 euros
euros

Total Request from Fund: 35.045

A ground-breaking report by civil society groups in Poland has revealed that effective ODA management is problematic for Polish government issued this year. This report raised the need to analyse Polish ODA in comparison to MFA strategy and to verify governmental strategy and performance in relation to the real needs of developing countries and commitments made at the EU level.

Rooted in this report, the main goal of the project is to identify the lack of coherence between EU Development Policy and the existing and the proposed Polish development cooperation policy. Thematic working meetings for key NGO interested in advocacy on development are needed for working out arguments coherent with the EU NGO position and based on their experience. Policy partnerships need to be forged with NGDOs from Polish priority countries to monitor development goals and to ensure that needs of these priority countries are properly assessed and Polish performance will meet MDGs. The drafting of a report on Polish policy compliance will inform an effective advocacy campaign. This report will be available to all partners from partner countries. Report will not only focus on the divergences between Polish commitments on EU level and performance of Polish government but will also include recommendations connected with meeting EU commitments. With the help of the report Polish Green Network supported by allies will advocate for necessary changes through discussion with the decision makers - in a more detailed, convincing and concrete way putting EU perspective to the issue (EDF scrutiny, the problem of genuine aid, choosing priorities, governance standards).

Polish MPs will be engaged to undertake public scrutiny on strategic moves of MFA's ODA management and the framing of the Polish Development Policy.

Desired results of project are:

- engaging Polish decision makers with proposed solutions ensuring compliance of the Polish National Development Cooperation policy with the EU Development Policy;
- establishing effective legal framework for providing Polish development assistance in line with committed plans;
- possibly establishing a new Parliamentary sub commission responsible for ODA.

5. Mid Term Report, KOPIN

Project receiving aid as a result of Call 1

The Mid-Term Report summarised below was submitted late to the Presidency Fund Secretariat by KOPIN . This project is one of the projects being implemented as a result of the First Call for Proposals. The delay was a result of internal changes in the organisation coupled with the complexity of the project. However, this delay has little implication for the success of the activities in achieving their goals.

Project Title: Strengthening the capacity of Civil Society in Malta, Cyprus and Slovenia to engage effectively in dialogue with the European institutions over Sustainable Livelihoods in the Mediterranean and the Barcelona Process

Objectives	Activity	Beneficiary	Effect
1. To create a deeper understanding of Civil Society Organisations in Slovenia, Cyprus and Malta on policy issues related to the European-Mediterranean Partnership.	Concept paper drafted defining parameters within which project operates including those issues where the MDGs relate to the Mediterranean countries as well as how the Barcelona process and the ENPI can compliment each other.	Kopin and other NGOs in Malta, Humanitas & Friends of the Earth, Cyprus. Mediate & its members	Better collaboration between civil society in Malta, Slovenia & Cyprus. Heightened awareness of Kopin, Humanitas & Friends of the Earth on Euro-Med issues. Project website created
2. To strengthen advocacy efforts in Cyprus, Malta & Slovenia for progress in the Barcelona process that has a real impact on poverty eradication and contributes to sustainable livelihoods at the grass-root level	NGDOs from Egypt, Jordan, Morocco Palestine and Tunis are trained to develop Local Participatory Sustainability indicators measuring real progress at the grass-root level in the Barcelona Process. At the training a template was given to the participating NGDOs along with a list of priority indicators.	Kopin and other NGOs in Malta, Humanitas & Friends of the Earth, Cyprus. Mediate, its membership & its focal points in Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunis and	Better collaboration between NGDOs in Malta, Cyprus, Slovenia and those in the Southern Mediterranean Countries. A strengthened capacity among NGDOs in Malta, Cyprus & Slovenia to design appropriate tools to deliver more effective policy work.

<p>3. To create awareness of Europe's commitment to the International Development Agenda, particularly the Millennium Development Goals towards creating a plan to participate in debates that would influence an effective EU-Mediterranean Development Policy.</p>	<p>Meeting between representatives from participating NGDOs from EU-10 to collate the Local Participatory Sustainability Indicators into a Concept Paper as a first step in designing the Advocacy Tool Kit.</p> <p>Organising meetings with MEPs, Foreign Ministers and representatives of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly.</p>	<p>Turkey</p> <p>Policy-makers, Government Representatives, MPs, MEPs and Euro-Med Parliamentarians from participating EU-10 countries.</p>	<p>Public Awareness on EU Development Policy with respect to the Poverty Eradication Campaign.</p> <p>Advocacy Plan for each country including information on: Engaging CSOs at local level.</p>
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6. Mid-Term Reports

Projects receiving aid as a result of Call 2

The Mid-Term Reports of the Projects receiving aid as a result from Call 2 were a revelation in terms of the extent to which small-scale organisations were able to gain basic experience in the field of policy debates in a period of six short months. This was particularly so with the Slovenian National NGDO Platform- SLOGA and the Hungarian gender-based organisation- Sisterhood Foundation. On the other hand, there were disappointing performances from organisations such as the Lithuanian Consumer Institute, as a result of which the Presidency Fund Board decided that the organisation must submit one more interim report by the beginning of the New Year to determine whether the organisation is staying true to its project proposal. For the most part the organisations have begun their implementation satisfactorily as illustrated in the summaries provided below:

CARDET- Building capacity among Cyprus NGOs towards increased participation in EU Development Policy and Action

Objectives	Activity	Beneficiary	Effect
Build an understanding among NGOs/NGDOs, policymakers, government officials, and decision makers about EU Development policy	Organized 2 workshops on Advocacy and EU development policy	NGOs/NGDOs staff, general public, and civil servants	Participants aware of the background on ODA. Presentation of the NGDO platform presented.
Participate in EU meetings on development policy	Attended the EUROSTEP GA in Berlin.	CARDET	Networking
Establish links to government, and enhance advocacy power of civil society	Meetings on Development with NGOs and MFA	NGDO Platform and civil society in general in Cyprus.	Initiating dialogue for the first time with government on development policy and ODA. Government acknowledges National NGDO Platform

Disseminate widely documents and resources relating to development policy at the local and EU level. Build a comprehensive understanding on EU development policy	Develop website and Newsletter	Turkish/ Greek Cypriot NGOs	1 newsletter issued
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HAND: Increasing capacity of Hungarian NGOs to engage in dialogue on European development issues

Objectives	Activity	Beneficiary	Effect
Improving coordination and involvement of HAND members in EU development policy while building new partnerships with other civil society actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparatory and follow-up meetings to stimulate effective participation in international meetings, • Follow-up of TRIALOG's, CONCORD's and other relevant stakeholder's initiatives, • Cross-sectoral consultative occasions 	HAND members, potential members, CSO partners, MFA and other ministries	<p>Greater involvement of diverse development actors in policy making procedures in CONCORD.</p> <p>Members better informed about activities at EU level and want to participate in EU-level meetings on policy issues.</p> <p>In-depth discussions with MFA</p> <p>MFA better informed about details of CONCORD Aid Watch Report.</p>
Facilitating coordinated actions in policy work, encouraging sharing ideas and developing joint positions and actions on specific topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working groups established on Global Education, Africa, ODA, Aid Watch, European Integration and neighbourhood Policy, Awareness raising and Volunteerism • Workshop on Global Education & Awareness-raising 	HAND members	<p>Each working group has defined their own mission and has formulated an action plan for a year.</p> <p>Internal website for working group members</p>

Contributing to aid- watch actions at European level by monitoring Hungarian ODA and facilitating the participation of Hungarian NGOs in aid-watching.	Aid watch workshop	HAND members, CSOs, government, MPs and MEPs, Media, European NGOs and institutions	Participants better equipped to collect and analyse data not only raising their awareness on development aid spending but also to use this information as a basis for advocacy.
Providing better quality and higher frequency of information on development issues, which is easily accessible and structured	Weekly electronic newsletter for member organisations	HAND members, CSOs, government, MPs and MEPs, private sector, Media European NGOs and institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information flow and network-building. • Members use the newsletter for promoting their own programs and ongoing projects.

Lithuanian Consumer Institute: Strengthening Attention to Human Rights in Development Policy of Lithuania by Networking, Advocacy and Lobbying

Objectives	Activity	Beneficiary	Effect
To increase the capacity of NGOs in NMS to engage in, co-operate on and execute actions/ activities such as advocacy, public-awareness raising, campaigning and lobbying; over time contributing to a strengthened EU Development Co-operation.	Research on NGO knowledge on EU and national development policy, preparation to participate(advocate), priorities	NGO working in area of human rights, Government bodies engaged in Development Policy and Mass Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conclusions and recommendations are drafted for NGO and Government bodies. • Public awareness about civil society. • Research forms basis for three activities: Roundtables "Human rights: can we help others"; Live radio debates and Workshop on support of human rights in developing countries

Sisterhood Foundation: Gender-based Hungarian NGDO Network

Objectives	Activity	Beneficiary	Effect
<p>Building capacity of gender-based organisations to strengthen their position to raise awareness of the gender component in the EU Development Policy and the MDGs among decision makers (MPs, MEP) and the media.</p>	<p>Putting in place the Project Team</p> <p>Meetings with HAND</p> <p>Meetings with MFA</p>	<p>Hungarian gender-based organizations</p>	<p>Membership to HAND: as a result of which it is part of the gender working group of CONCORD. Secondly it will establish a working group on gender within HAND</p> <p>Established a working relationship with MP and has registered itself on the database of the MFA to receive government bulletins.</p>
<p>Deepening knowledge on the EU Development Polic, MDGs. Learning from successful gender-based networks in the EU and seeking to apply their lobbying and advocacy initiatives.</p>	<p>Study visit to WIDE, Austria</p> <p>Preparation for study visit to NEWW, Poland</p>	<p>Hungarian gender-based organisations</p>	<p>Clearer idea of role in advocating for greater attention to gender issues in national development policies.</p> <p>Membership to WIDE network to engage in debate on the EU Development Policy from a gender perspective.</p> <p>Resource for gender issues and advocacy/ lobbying campaigns as well as global concerns on gender (MDGs) through organisation's website.</p>

Polish Green Network: Poland for Global South

Objectives	Activity	Beneficiary	Effect
To develop capacities of Civil Society groups for participation in the dialogue over the EU Development Policy and national development strategy and their implementation	Initial analysis	relevant officials from MFA, EC; Polish and other NGOs experienced in development issues;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of relevant documents of related to development cooperation policies issued by the Polish government and EU Commission. Monitoring process of managing Polish ODA • Studied policies of international development networks such as CONCORD, Oxfam. • Polish Green Network has joint "Grupa Zagranica", Coordinator started cooperation within the new working group focused on monitoring Polish ODA. • Networking with 11.11.11., Both ENDS, Novib
	Internship	PGN, MEPs, officials from DG Development, 11.11.11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MEPs informed of Polish NGDOs' development perspectives. • MEPs committed to working with PGN on MP's orientation to the EU Development Policy. • NGDO better informed about operation of EU Institutions and CONCORD • Better understanding of the functioning of a Policy Officer. • Guide drafted on the EU Development Policy and the EU Institutions for NMS NGOs

To create opportunities of the dialogue between NGOs with national government, EU officials to achieve a better understanding of development issues.	Meetings with officials	MEPs, representatives of DG Development, Polish MPs, representatives of MFA	Established working relationship with relevant officials from MFA, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economy, 2 Polish MEPs as well as DG Development and EuropeAid officials.
To raise awareness among Polish civil society on the EU Development Policy and Polish commitments as well as of situation and needs of the Global South to promote cooperation between NMS and Global South societies.	Photo Exhibition in central railway station in Kraków	General public, NGOs, media	Easy access in a public place to information for the public on development cooperation activities of Polish NGOs in Africa. Information available on website on Polish development perspective, global development aid issues, aid, situation of the poorest countries, policy moves etc.

SLOGA: Bringing Slovenian NGOs to EU Issues

Objectives	Activity	Beneficiary	Effect
Be a resource on development issues and inform Slovenian NGOs on current debates on development policies within the EU and Slovenia.	Slovenian NGOs database created Website updated Weekly e-newsletter offering NGOs information on funding and other opportunities and NGO activities. Circulation of information on European development policy issues	Slovene NGOs and individuals	Updated website open to public. Creation of email database of NGOs and other stakeholders including MFA 100 NGOs receive updates about national and European development issues Weekly emails informing and stimulating Slovene NGOs for accurate planning of new activities.

<p>To ensure participation of Slovene NGOs in preparation, implementation and evaluation of policy processes and awareness raising</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly briefings for MFA, SMEPs and other stakeholders to present them best practices • NGOs involved in Inter-governmental group for more coherent national development policy • Promotion of transparent funding for development and humanitarian aid at national level 	<p>Slovene NGOs and individuals</p>	<p>NGOs have better access to MFA and through the MFA to other relevant ministries</p> <p>NGDO-friendly draft Resolution on Slovenian development cooperation. MFA accepted suggestion to include additional mechanisms for making small development grants in the draft strategy for development cooperation.</p> <p>SLOGA gained credibility with EC allowing it to submit a project proposal on the Slovenian Presidency.</p> <p>Slovene permanent representation to EU has agreed to partner SLOGA during Slovenian presidency.</p>
<p>Increase the capacity of Slovene NGOs to work competently on development issues and stimulate their participation in lobbying and advocacy campaigns of SLOGA.</p>	<p>One day training on development education by Rilli Lapalainen</p> <p>Seminar for Slovenian NGOs and expert for EU strategy for Africa from the MFA</p> <p>Seminar with 2 representatives from WPF and IPPF to discuss relevance of reproductive health in the development debate</p>	<p>Slovene NGOs and individuals</p>	<p>Dialogue between SLOGA members and Balkan NGOs over development issues of interest in the Balkan region</p> <p>Four more working groups created: WG DE is advocating for the inclusion of development topics in school curricula.</p> <p>WG ODA Monitoring has verified reported national spending on aid according to DAC criteria. The summary was included in the</p>

	Meeting between NGOs and European Peace-building Liaison Office representative		Concord annual report "Hold the applause..." WG for Slovene Strategy Preparation is included in the Expert Committee at MFA for the preparation of draft Strategy and draft Resolution on Slovenian development cooperation.
Facilitate cooperation between practitioners/ development workers and other actors not directly involved in development, for example, media	Exchange of experiences with other NMS platforms Close cooperation with Concorde working groups and Trialog initiatives Stimulated dialogue and exchange of experiences & good practices between Slovene NGOs and European NGOs Supported exchange of ideas with other stakeholders such as students, academicians, etc.	Slovene NGOs and individuals/ education institutions	Better awareness of operation of successful operation of National Platforms. SLOGA Working Group leaders participate in Concord Working Groups Attended the EUROSTEP General Assembly where networking with other European NGOs was facilitated.

7. FINAL REPORTS

Projects receiving Aid as a result of Call 1

Three organisations of the seven, viz. Prague Global Policy Institute, Network of East West Women and Polish Humanitarian Association, receiving aid as a result of Call 1 concluded their project within the one-year implementation period and therefore their reports were processed in this time. Two organisations, People In Need and the LAPAS submitted their reports at the end of the year as they had received an extension of three months each to allow for their projects to be more effective in meeting their goals.

KOPIN, the Maltese NGDO at the beginning of project implementation experienced structural re-organisation with the NGDO transforming itself from a purely volunteer-based organisation to a more formal set-up with hired staff. This change and transfer of responsibility interrupted the first phase of project implementation.

The Estonian Roundtable for Development Cooperation faced another set of organisational problems, delaying the submission of its Final Report although the organisation had successfully implemented its activities to which it was committed.

The organisations whose reports are included hereunder are:

- Prague Global Policy Institute, Czech Republic
- Network of East West Women, Poland
- Polish Humanitarian Association, Poland

PRAGUE GLOBAL POLICY INSTITUTE

The Project Proposal

The project aimed at increasing Trade and Development Policy coherence at national, regional and European levels by deepening understanding, extending dialogue, strengthening expert capacities, enhancing participation and networking to increase the influence of Visegrad NGOs in policy-making processes.

The starting point of the project was **research** focusing on Trade & Development issues and the policy-making processes enabling the drafting of a **policy paper** which would raise awareness and offer practicable recommendation for policy changes. Outcomes of the research and recommendations of the policy paper would be the basis of discussions at **three events with key target groups** – seminar with the policy-makers (government and parliamentarians), a press conference and roundtable with the media, and a seminar for Czech NGOs and advocacy groups. The coalition “Czechia against Poverty” would be a key partner in all these activities. Through these activities, the project was expected to build up public consensus on the issue.

Finally, an **EU-Visegrad capacity-building seminar** was to be to provide space for networking, exchange of views and best practices, learning and building specific capacities identified by regional NGOs. This would also provide an opportunity for national and regional organisations to interface with European networks.

Project Implementation- The Process

During the 12 months of project implementation, five activities were carried out:

1. Regional Capacity-Building Seminar
2. Research on Trade and Development Policy Coherence
3. Policy Paper and Policy Brief
4. International Policy Seminar

5. The National Seminar on EU Presidency

1 Regional Capacity-Building Seminar

“Globalization, Sustainable Development and Trade – Policy Issues, Advocacy Skills and Needs of Central and Eastern European NGOs” took place in Prague. The content and format of the Seminar was prepared in cooperation with Seattle to Brussels Network, discussed with national NGOs within the Czechia against Poverty Network and with expert input by Czech, Visegrad, German and EU-15 NGO experts and funded by 7 other institutions besides the Presidency Fund. Altogether, 64 participants took part in the 4-day seminar.

Results

- A better understanding of regional commonalities and differences was facilitated.
- A dialogue between National and Visegrad NGOs took place highlighting common regional concerns.
- Capacities were strengthened and expertise was identified towards a Global Partnership for Development.
- Integration between EU old and New Member States was fostered.

2. Research Studies

Research on Trade and Development Policy Coherence in the EU and the Czech Republic was conducted in Prague, Brussels, Vienna and Helsinki. The Research included a review of available international resources on the topic, interviews with about 10 national policy-makers and other experts, participation at expert meetings and an international conference.

Results

- Glopolis developed expert capacity to monitor and analyse the content and process of trade and development policies at national and EU level.
- More Czech NGOs drawn into the debate on policy coherence.
- Increased the influence of Glopolis and the National NGO coalition “Czechia against poverty” in the national trade and development policy-making processes

3. Policy Paper & Policy Brief

Based on the findings of the research, a **Policy Paper** was drafted on “How to Increase Trade and Development Policy Coherence in the Czech Republic”. The executive summary served as the **Policy Brief**. The English and Czech versions of both documents were distributed to key stakeholders and participants of the Policy Seminar. The documents contained an introduction to the coherence concept, analysis of the situation in the EU and the Czech Republic and comparison of Finnish and Austrian approaches. Both documents made 7 recommendations to the Czech state administration on how to increase policy coherence. The analysis and drafting was aided by 3 other sponsors.

Results

- Policy coherence placed higher up on the agenda of the Czech state administration.
- Parliamentarians developed an understanding of policy coherence issues bringing them into the development policy debate in the Czech Republic.
- Practical and concrete proposals made on how to improve work of MFA and Ministry of Trade and Industry.
- Opportunities have been identified for civil society groups to influence trade policy-making processes

- The national and Visegrad NGOs have gained valuable experience in policy procedures and developed new contacts with their respective policy-makers.

4 International Policy Seminars

“How to Increase Trade and Development Policy Coherence in the Czech Republic?” was organised on 9 October 2006 in the Senate of the Parliament. All major Czech stakeholders- officials of key ministries, parliamentarians, NGOs and journalists were involved in organising the Seminar. Three sponsors (other than Presidency Fund) and international experts provided the input. 45 persons participated in the seminar with input from 2 Senators, an MP, key heads of ministerial departments and the director of the National NGDO Platform.

Results

- The MFA accepted comments and suggestions of Glopolis on the draft proposal for a new Development Cooperation Act in the area of policy coherence for development.
- Acceptance of Glopolis’ proposal to include globalization management in a strategic government document on the preparation for the Czech Presidency was accepted.

5. The National seminar

“How To Prepare Czech Presidency of the EU?” for policy-making community was organised on 22 November 2006 in the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament supported by the Chairmen of the Foreign and the European Affairs committees hosted jointly by Glopolis and Masarykova dělnická akademie (policy NGO close to social democrats). Glopolis was only responsible for co-designing, moderation and part of the logistics. This seminar was initially unplanned and replaced the three separate events planned with separate stake-holders. The expenses were shared by the four actors. The Seminar was attended by 40 persons including MPs, Senators, Head of EU Permanent Mission, MFA officials and NGO representatives.

Results

- Creation of the National Forum on Europe – a Czech NGDO initiative in preparation for the Czech’s Presidency tenure.
- Opportunity to lobby for recommendations proposed in the Policy Brief on the Czech globalisation strategy.

Conclusion

As a result of the experiences in the one-year project implementation, there has been a shift in the focus of Glopolis, which was primarily on lobbying actions relating to trade policy issues towards those more prominent in the national and EU political debate (such as Lisbon agenda, common agricultural policy or climate change) and exploring their links to – and coherence for – development.

NETWORK OF EAST-WEST WOMEN

The Project Proposal

In implementing this project NEWW has positioned itself as an advocacy bridge between the CEE/ CIS region and the EU development policies.

This project should facilitate the creation of a Gender Network that would bring gender concerns of in the CEE/CIS region to the attention of the national and European policy makers while coordinating advocacy efforts to ensure commitments to gender equality are

reflected in EU development assistance to countries of the region. Simultaneously the project would enable NGOs from the region to engage in the EU Development Policy Debate towards this end.

The starting point of NEWW's project would include a workshop that would facilitate the development of skills to monitor the impact of the EU development policies on gender issues in CEE/CIS. Gender-based Organisations would also be put in touch with current debates on EU Development Policy and the Financial Perspective 2007 – 2013.

Based on this research, the network members would draft country reports identifying gaps in fulfilling commitments to gender equality in their respective countries- Ukraine, Georgia and Tajikistan. These reports would be sent to EU Parliament working groups, EU DGs in the respective countries as well as to Council of the European Union, in particular, the governments of the countries where the NGO(s) is/are based. The Network would then advocate for the inclusion of gender issues in the development and implementation of the EU Policies.

The project would also facilitate network-building with European-wide networks to strengthen advocacy efforts such as Social Watch, WIDE, EUROSTEP, EEPA, Deutsche Weltherhungerhilfe, Concern from Ireland and 2015 Watch. In the CEE/CIS region NEWW would collaborate with all existing regional networks like ASTRA (a network on reproductive rights), KARAT (a lobbying network) or La Strada.

Project Implementation- The Process

During the 12 months of project implementation, four activities were carried out while the fifth activity was expected to take place in September.

1. Training workshop
2. Establishing the EU Gender Watch Network and Secretariat
3. Networking
4. Drafting four Country Reports based on research on neighbouring countries.
5. Advocating gender concerns of CEE/CIS.

1. Training Workshop

Fifteen participants were selected out of 35 applicants from the NMS and Neighbouring countries based on criteria such as having knowledge of development, economic and gender issues, academic/research experience, being engaged in lobbying and/ or advocacy, fluency in English. The participants included Armenia-1; Georgia-2; Moldova-1; Tajikistan-2; Ukraine-2; and 6 representatives from Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia and Slovenia and a gender expert from Serbia. Facilitators from EEPA and Social Watch conducted the two-day training that dealt with EU development aid, application of the Social Watch Gender Equality Index for research and networking. Participants received a handbook with the relevant EC and EP documents.

Results

- Demystified the EU Institutions, documents and Instruments.
- Identified valuable partners for the implementation of the project.
- Built capacities of participating NGOs to carry out activities of project.
- Creation of the EU Gender Watch Network

2. Establishing the EU Gender Watch Network and Secretariat

Participants of the Training Workshop formed the base for the EU Gender Watch Network by providing letters of commitment to the objectives of the Network. The

Network accounted for a total membership of 27 gender-based NGOs across the region. A Secretariat coordinated the actions of the Network and served as a resource centre and support for its membership in report-writing, etc.

Results

- Creation of a Regional gender-based Network.
- Collaboration of NGOs with a common focus to achieve the following objectives
 - Advocate gender equality in development instruments
 - Monitor the implementation of EU policies in the CEE/CIS region
 - Inform the public, media and civil society about gender issues related to EU development aid.

3. Networking

In order to improve its own capacities in managing the Network, NEWW identified various European and international networks with which it collaborated-

- NEWW became a member of Grupa Zagranica to highlight the gender component of the Platform's focus as well as to link with other European and International Networks.
- NEWW as a member of Social Watch will contribute to the next report based on the research conducted in Georgia, Tajikistan and Ukraine.
- NEWW also worked with Alliance 2015, NOVIB, PIN, Open Society Fund, Frauennetzwerk, HIVOS, APRODEV, EUROSTEP, EURODAD, WOMNET through the implementation of this project.

Results

- Collaborations for joint advocacy and lobbying initiatives.

4. Drafting Country Reports

Three country-reports for Georgia, Ukraine and Tajikistan were drafted exploring the impact, if any, the implementation of the EU development policies had on gender issues including experts' views on past (2000-2006) and present (2007-2013) EU Financial Instruments for Development (ENPI). The reports analysed current situations based on which recommendations were made to governments and EU Institutions for fulfilling women's needs in the East. The Reports were released on June 20th 2007 and distributed to gender-based organisations, individuals and development organizations. The advocacy strategy would be based on this report, beginning with an event in September 2007 in Brussels in cooperation with EEPA. MEPs and Commission officials would be invited to this event.

Results

- Concrete information on the state of gender equality and an analysis of financial instruments from the gender perspective available for countries like Georgia, Ukraine and Tajikistan.

5. Advocating gender concerns of CEE/CIS

The most important event of this project was the meeting in Brussels on September 11th 2007. This would coincide with the EC/UN Partnership on Gender Equality for Development and Peace. Hereby, EU Commission desk officers and representatives were briefed about the outcomes of the reports followed by a discussion on the most relevant issues of the development financial instruments, particularly, strengthening of the gender component in the European instruments relevant to the CIS, the inclusion of civil society organizations from these countries in the consultation and implementation process.

Results

- Representation of gender-based civil society organizations from CIS, specifically authors of country reports, in dialogue with decision-makers from the EU Institutions
- The consideration of gender issues by the European Commission in its approach to development cooperation.
- Participating NGDOs more aware about recent points of debate relating to the EU Development Cooperation Policy in particular the EU's approach to gender issues in the financial instruments.
- Concrete recommendations submitted to the European Commission with regards to approaching gender issues in the represented countries.

Conclusion

The NEWW project has succeeded in bringing together gender-based organizations in the CEE and CIS regions and has engaged them in the debate on the gender component of the EU Development Policy. Capacities have been built of these organizations to monitor and report the implementation of EU Development projects with a gender focus applying methodology of the Social Watch. The Network has not yet identified funding alternatives to the Presidency Fund raising questions of the sustainability of such a network once the Presidency Fund withdraws aid (the Fund is supporting the project for a second year with Call 3).

POLISH HUMANITARIAN AID

The Project Proposal

This project would strengthen the position of Polish NGOs in the implementation of the EU Development Policy. As a result of this project, Polish NGOs would have a broader knowledge-base and skills to engage in policy dialogue with the Polish government to obtain a greater commitment to the EU Development Policy. This would be achieved through developing an intense working relationship with the media including an exposure visit for journalists to Africa that would be followed up by a development actor from Africa to share their perspective on development cooperation with the Polish media, decision-makers and NGDOs stimulating a public debate in the national media on development issues.

Project Implementation- The Process

During the 12 months of project implementation the following activities were carried out to achieve the proposed objectives:

1. Internship to Camlám, Ireland
2. Training of PHO Staff
3. Awareness Raising- decision-makers and public through interface with journalists
4. Public Debate between decision-makers and NGDOs
5. Participating in activities of Grupa Zagranica
6. Visits between Africa and Poland

1. Internship to Camlahm

Through the two-week long internship at Camlám, the project manager attended meetings with Irish government officials, attended a debate in the Irish Parliament on the whitepaper on development policy and met with other Irish NGOs cooperating with Camlám on the advocacy campaign on the development policy. Contact was also made with partners from the Global South. The project manager was trained in organising advocacy campaigns and initiating contacts with decision makers. Through

the process of mentoring much was learned about operating within an NGDO on a daily basis.

Results

- Developed skills to initiate and manage an advocacy campaign
- Clear idea about the operation of an NGDO and networking for common goals
- PHO joined the Campaign against the EPAs

2. Training

A general training was organised for staff of PHO on current development issues.

Results

- Updated information on current trends in development cooperation

3. Awareness Raising

- **Monthly Information Packages** were distributed on the following topics- Millennium Development Goals, EU development policy, EU's Policy Coherence for Development and Finland's Presidency agenda, statistics of EU's development aid of development cooperation to 100 decision-makers, NGDOs and 20 journalists. As preparation of such an information package was too time-consuming and very demanding on the attention of its readers, it was replaced by a newsletter in the last six-months of project implementation.
- **National Report on Polish Development Cooperation** analysed Polish policy and commitments in the context of the international development agenda and the European Consensus. This report included a study of the level of Polish political will to fulfil the commitments made to development cooperation. The report was published on the organisation's website and sent to NGOs and decision makers.
- **Press Briefing:** A press briefing was organised for journalists with a focus on explaining concepts of development cooperation.

Results

- MPs better informed about current issues in development cooperation and opinions of various stakeholders in the development sector.
- NGOs further published information on their websites giving it a wider audience.
- National Report on the State of Polish Development Cooperation.
- Press coverage of development issues.

4. Public Debate

"How to help the poorest? Challenges and dilemmas of Polish strategy for development" was the subject of a public debate organised on 11 December 2006 at Warsaw University. Among the participants were two decision-makers and NGDO staff. Special guests to this event were Jeremy Nagoda and Aristotelis Bouratsis. A journalist from a national daily was the moderator. The UNDP was one of the key organisations collaborating on this event.

Results

- Opinions of various stakeholders in the Polish development cooperation arena were openly shared.
- Public concerns on development cooperation were addressed by various stakeholders.

5. Participation in activities of Grupa Zagranica

The organisation actively participated in the activities of the National NGDO Platform including their newly set up Working Group on Aid Monitoring and contributed to the Report prepared by this Working Group.

Results

- Participation in National NGDO Platform's Working Group on Aid Monitoring

6. Visits between Africa and Poland

- **A Study Visit to Kenya for journalists** was organised to stimulate them to report about development issues in the national press. Initially the organisation had considered a study visit to their partner in Ghana, however, since an invited journalists had already visited Ghana, Kenya was identified as a destination.
- **Conference on EPAs from African perspective** where a development worker from Seatini, an NGDO from Uganda addressed issues related to EPAs. The workshop took place on 12-13 April in Warsaw. NGO staff members, volunteers, young researchers and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Economy participated in the workshop.
- Meetings were also organised between Ms. Nalunga and a Member of Parliament, a deputy director, counsellor of minister and young specialist from the department of Trade Policy in the Ministry of Economy as well as the Head of development policy and programming unit and the Counsellor of minister from the development cooperation department in the Ministry of Foreign affairs

Results

- 3 Articles published in one of the biggest nationwide daily newspaper on micro-credit, HIV and slums.
- Better understanding of EPAs from the perspective of a development worker in Africa.

7. Building up Public Consensus

Free postcards were distributed to Polish citizens to be sent to MEPs, MPs and State Administration officials. An electronic version of this postcard could be downloaded from the organisation's website. This campaign was timed for the period just before the Annual Budget Meeting of the Polish government at which time the quota of ODA was decided and coincided with the International Day Against Poverty. Through the postcards MPs were expected to be reminded about pledges for development assistance. About three thousand electronic postcards were sent. PHO is continuing to collect signatures on its server, which will be sent to Parliament.

Results

Although there was a limited public response to the campaign, this marked the beginning of public consensus building in the context of Poland's commitment on development aid.

Conclusion

As a result of the one-year implementation it is clear that there has been an increase in the capacity of PHO in terms of its staff's skills, broadening its own perspective on development cooperation and gaining recognition by the media and a few government officials and MPs. However, this project failed to widen the scope of this project for the benefit of other Polish NGDOs. Secondly the focus of this project was primarily at the national level, with limited interaction with the MEPs as well as with NGDOs at the European level, which the organisation expects to consider post-implementation.

8. State of commitments relating to projects adopted under calls for proposal

Call	Uncommitted funds available before call ¹	Funds committed for projects	Funds dispersed for implementation of projects	Balance of committed funds to be disbursed
	€	€	€	€
Call 1	902 158	236 968	225 121	11 847
Call 2	669 943	241 190	120 596	120 594
Call 3	433 372	207 457	103 728	103 728
Call 4	449 448	123 841	22 000	101 841
Call 5	326 607	pending	0	-

- Based on € 900.000 available for support of project proposals plus accrued interest on deposits held.
- An additional € 220.955 can be added to this following the agreement reached in July 2007 with BMZ. This contribution is linked to support for specific initiatives supported by the Fund.

6. Provisional Financial Statement

January to December 2007

Item	2007 January to December
Balance held at 1 January 2007	252 446
Income	
Grants	
Irish government	0
Dutch government	155 317
	125 000
Total grants	280 317
Other income	
Interest on bank deposits	2 578
Other income	11
Total bank interest	2 589
TOTAL INCOME	282 906
Expenses	
Project grants	
Payments to selected projects	305 260
Total project grants	305 260
Administration	
Salaries	28 212
Meeting of Board	1 622
Administrative & communication	5 472
Travel	235
Miscellaneous	1 874
Total administration	37 415
TOTAL EXPENSES	342 675
Result	-59 769
Balance held at 31 December 2007	192 677

Conclusion

The Presidency Fund has been in operation for two years during which Four Calls of Proposals have been issued and 21 NGDOs in the EU-10 are receiving support for the implementation of projects. The cycle is almost complete with the organisations that received support as a result of Call 1 are nearing the end of their implementation period of which two organisations have just begun implementation of projects. Simultaneously, the Fifth Call for Proposals is underway.

2007 provided an insight into the extent to which the Presidency Fund has been achieving its goals with the first three Final Reports submitted by organisations that received aid as a result of Call 1. The mid-term reports of the projects selected as a result of Call 2 allow the Fund Secretariat and Board to ensure that projects are implemented according to commitments made in achieving the objectives of the Fund. While most of the organisations were found to fulfil their commitments, those that do not are monitored closely, thus limiting the risk of organisations failing to meet commitments.

In terms of the focus and its objectives as the Proposals received in the Third Call are more relevant to the subject of the Fund- the EU Development Policy. This in a way is a break-through as NGOs in the EU-10 are beginning to relate the relevance of the EU Development Policy in their specific contribution to development cooperation. The Fourth Call for Proposals gave the Presidency Fund Board and the Secretariat an opportunity to find creative solutions to meeting challenges raised there. Intense negotiations with selected organisations, proved to be a learning process where organisations were given the time and space to clarify their positions in their project proposals elevating the capacity of these organisations to define their perspectives within the parameters given them.

The Fifth Call for Proposals with the inclusion of the Romanian and Bulgarian NGDOs offers another interesting chapter in the life of the Presidency Fund as will the insights provided by the reports in the following six months. The contribution by the German government of about 250 000 for the activities of the Fund has also helped in making this possible.

It is clear that in these two years of a very small Fund with its limited capacity, many NMS NGDOs are beginning to feel more empowered to participate in EU-level debates on the EU Development Policy and are interested in both, learning more about the Europe's commitment to the International Development Agenda as well as to bring in their unique experience to the debate.

30 April 2008