



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

# **N**arrative & Financial Report January to December 2006

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# 1. Introduction

The Presidency Fund was established in 2005 to support and finance initiatives of NGOs from the 10 countries that joined the EU in May 2004 that increased their capacity to become engaged with the policy debate around the EU's development policies and their implementation. It was established in recognition that promoting NGO involvement in that debate during the initial years of their countries participation within the EU was important. The Fund made a commitment to provide funding support to proposals submitted twice each year over a three year period. These proposals have been sought through the publication of Calls for Proposals.

By the end of 2006 the Presidency Fund had completed the two Calls for proposal to from publication to agreeing contracts for successful applicants. The third Call was also published before the end of the year.

A review of the mechanisms and modalities of the calls were made after each of the calls to draw on lessons learnt in earlier Calls, with the processes being adapted to better respond to the needs of the NGOs applying to the Fund. For example, the application forms were simplified and made more accessible. The Projects selected in the Second Call for Proposals gave the Fund the opportunity to extend some much needed support to National NGDO Platforms in the New Member States, in particular Cyprus, where NGDOs are struggling to bridge the geo-political divide in order to establish a unified National NGDO Platform. The Presidency Fund is now playing a role in capacity-building of CARDET, which has taken the lead role in setting up a National NGDO Platform for Cyprus

In the second half of 2006, the Presidency Fund also followed with great interest the implementation of the seven Projects that were given financial support under the first call. The two Baltic National Platforms- LAPAS and the Estonian Roundtable for Development Cooperation went through structural changes that created delays in their implementation plan, however with their new set-up, they are confident that they will be able to make up this delay and will not have to compromise on any of the activities they had planned. The other four organisations continue to grow as a result of the experiences provided by the implementation process. KOPIN, the Maltese NGO, considering that it is managed by volunteers and has taken on a very ambitious project has also suffered delays in their project implementation and was unable to make their Mid-Term Report on time.

With the close of the year, the Presidency Fund was supporting 13 projects from the two first Calls. With each Call for Proposal, new experiences throw up new learning for all those involved in the Presidency Fund, whether it be those NGDOs applying to the Fund, some of whom look upon the application process as a training ground for participating in the EU Commission Calls for Proposals and others who have grasped the opportunity offered by the Presidency Fund to strengthen their position in development cooperation at their national and EU levels as well.

The relevance and quality of the proposals has led to € 476 658 being committed during the first two calls leading to an estimation that the resources initially provided by the Netherlands Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Irish Aid will be completely committed by the end of the Fourth Call for Proposals, instead of the originally planned five. In response to this Eurostep has been seeking additional contributions to be provided by other EU member States in support of the Funds activities. In particular the governments of Finland and Germany had been approached with discussions being pursued. No conclusions had been reached by the end of 2006.

## 2. The First Call for Proposals

### 2.1 Summary of proposals submitted to Main Phase, Call 1

The Main Phase of the Second Call for Proposals ran through from 20 December 2005 to 22 January 2006. The following is a very brief insight into the nature of the Project Proposals submitted to this main phase of the First Call:

Organisation	Objectives	Requested Budget
<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>		
<b>Ekumenical Academy</b>	Bring relevant information especially for decision-makers, the media and key persons in civil society and educational spheres, about causes and consequences for world poverty and development by applying "most popular myths" used by the media.	42,000
<b>People in Need</b>	To contribute to bringing the level of EU Development Policy awareness of the Czech Development Stakeholders, decision-makers and public to the level common in the old EU member states and in doing so, generate a public demand for increasing the Czech ODA and willingness of the Czech constituency to be a significant player at the European level	38,850
<b>CEE Bankwatch</b>	Strengthen the capacity of Bankwatch and its members to enhance our work on improving the EIBs (European International Bank) environmental and social standards and their implementation outside the EU and to develop effective cooperation around EIB's activities with NGOs in Africa, Latin America & Asia.	44,946
<b>Policy Association for an Open Society- PASOS</b>	To create a better informed policy-making culture in the NMS on development policy, more active engagement of NMS governments in the international development agenda at the political level, and a wider understanding of global development issues among the public at large in the NMS	44270
<b>Global Policy Institute- Glopolis</b>	To increase Trade and Development Policy coherence at Czech, Regional and European level by deepening understanding, extending dialogue, strengthening expert capacities and enhancing participation, networking and influence of national and Visegrad NGOs in the respective policy-making process	20015
<b>Agency for Development Assistance and Humanitarian Aid</b>	To raise more complex understanding of development cooperation within civil society with the context of the EU	45000
<b>Europlatform</b>	To increase the awareness and foster deeper understanding on issues related to EU Development Policy and to increase support among the Czech public and key target groups for a more active role of the Czech Republic in the shaping of EU Development Policy	40000
<b>HUNGARY</b>		
<b>Hungarian</b>	Facilitating access of NMS NGOs to EU Institutions,	45000

<b>Interchurch Aid</b>	strengthening partnerships between NMS NGOs and CSOs in developing countries	
<b>Freedom House Europe</b>	To increase the effectiveness of Nigerian Watch-dog NGOs in overseeing and supporting the reform process through a transfer of experience from NMS NGOs and to provide NMS NGOs an MFA policy-makers in the Czech Republic and Hungary an increased understanding of Nigerian and West-African development priorities, to increase their capacity of formulating EU Development Strategy.	45000
<b>Mahatma Gandhi Human Rights Organisation</b>	To advocate for the de-marginalisation of refugees and asylum seekers in Hungarian and Polish society and to ensure that public policy follows European Union Standards.	45000
<b>INDOK- Hungarian Human Rights Information and Documentation Centre</b>	To raise awareness and knowledge regarding human rights both on local and EU levels and contribute to strengthening of a general attitude towards human rights in accordance with the international, more specifically EU norms.	44900
<b>Environmental and Law Association</b>	To build the capacity of 'The Access Initiative' partners in Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland to engage and contribute to efforts by civil society actors from the Global South to promote good governance for environmentally sustainable development.	43450
<b>Ecological Institute for Sustainable Development</b>	Harmonise different elements of sustainable development strategies, such as Lisbon and Goteberg Strategy at EU level and national sustainable development strategies and Lisbon Action Programmes at national level in 4 NMS (Estonia, Poland, Czech Republic and Hungary)	40000
<b>Protect the Future</b>	To increase the visibility of civil society organisations in the NMS within the region and towards Western (and in time southern) civil society, to facilitate communications across wider Europe in order to enable broader participation in crucial civil society debates, campaigns and processes that are shaping the future of Europe.	44918
<b>SLOVAKIA</b>		
<b>Tabita N.O.</b>	To increase acceptance among youth and decision-makers in 3 NMS about mutual learning and partnership between North and South as a condition for global development through joint action of a strong European network of NGOs and competent, committed volunteers	27000
<b>ETP Slovakia-Centre for Sustainable Development</b>	To create a deeper understanding within Slovak civil society on issues related to EU Development Cooperation by facilitating the engagement of Slovak NGOs in India, by demonstrating areas of common interest and expertise, especially relating to disadvantaged communities and poverty, and by developing the capacities of Slovak NGOs to engage in direct actions.	44979
<b>POLAND</b>		
<b>SOLIDARNI-Society of African Missions and Voluntary Centre</b>	To increase the capacity of Polish civil society organisations to engage in EU Development Policy debates through a building partnership between NGOs and Missionary Church Organisations.	39458
<b>PHO- Polish Humanitarian Organisation</b>	To raise awareness on development issues among government actors, journalists and polish society and to enhance their commitment to the EU development society.	45000

<b>PHO- Polish Humanitarian Organisation II</b>	To prepare a basis for systematic advocacy in Poland through creating an easy to use methodology of education about EU Development Policy and MDGs in Polish schools- where most teachers and students never had a chance to talk even once with someone originating from the Global South.	45000
<b>eFKa- Women's Foundation</b>	To create deeper understanding within civil society issues concerning EU Development Policy by conceptualising and facilitating the interactions between activists from Indian women's NGOs and from Poland.	32410
<b>ERWIN- Association for Development of Democracy</b>	Strengthening the EU Development Cooperation and the International Development Agenda by developing capacities of NMS NGOs to engage in actions toward this end through raising the awareness about EU citizenship's values and civic society development	44000
<b>NEWW-Network of East-West Women</b>	To enable women NGO networks in NMS Accession Countries and EU Neighbouring Countries to cooperate in monitoring and lobbying the EU on its development policies in order to make the EU commitment to advance gender equality and its transition into policy action, allocation of resources reflected in EU assistance to countries of the region.	45000
<b>KARAT Coalition</b>	Capacity building of KARAT member NGOs from NMS in relation to utilising the EU Development Policy in advancing gender equality in South Eastern European countries and Commonwealth of Independent States.	45000
<b>Rule of Law Institute</b>	Networking legal reform NGOs in Poland in order to increase their ability to access EU Institutions and resources while working with other European NGOs in bringing Poland's experience in rule of law to the development field.	37970
<b>Social Ecological Institute</b>	To create in Poland awareness in civil society and NGOs about EU Development policy and build a lobbying capacity of Polish NGOs for bringing EU and National agriculture policies in coherence with development goals.	43900
<b>CYPRUS</b>		
<b>Cyprus Neuroscience &amp; Technology Institute</b>	To invite Cypriot NGOs located island-wide and active in Development Education to create a formal network to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Represent them in local, EU and international bodies</li> <li>• Serve as a facilitator &amp; coordinator to support their development work</li> <li>• Develop priority areas for international operations, priority target countries and collaboration principles in order to achieve maximum results</li> <li>• Organise island-wide awareness campaigns about the MDGs and DE</li> </ul> Organise capacity-building seminars and regional Central European programme visits	44645
<b>The Management Centre of Mediterranean</b>	To strengthen the local Cypriot NGO Platform to support Civil Society within the Turkish Cypriot community to build stronger links between Cypriot NGOs and European Institutions and	39620

	Networks	
<b>MALTA</b>		
<b>SOS- Solidarity Overseas Service</b>	To enhance capacity-building and networking among Maltese development-oriented civil society organisations, in view of influencing development policy at both local and EU level.	40001
<b>KOPIN</b>	To engage Civil Society in Malta, Slovenia and Cyprus in a European Dialogue about the future of the Euro-Med Region and influence an effective EU Development Policy. Kopin together with its members intends to create an action plan, based on the concerns of their partners in the South, to advocate for progress in the Barcelona Process that has no real impact on Poverty Eradication and that contributes to sustainable livelihoods at the local grassroots level by the CSOs in the Southern Mediterranean defining what constitutes sustainable livelihoods in their regions and nations and building the capacity of Malta, Cyprus and Slovenia to advocate for these concerns to be usefully employed by the European Institutions in any ongoing and future evaluations of the process and in any new negotiations related to the process.	45000
<b>Third World Group</b>	To build the capacity within civil society organisation in Malta to engage effectively with the European Union development policy debates regarding Africa.	15250
<b>SLOVENIA</b>		
<b>Focus Association for Sustainable Development</b>	To raise awareness and develop capacity of Slovenian NGOs, politicians and wider public to integrate climate change objectives into Slovenian and EU Development debates.	16500
<b>Nova Gorica</b>	To inform the general public (Slovenian and Foreign) of the Slovenian presidency of the EU in the first half of 2008 as the first New Member State to hold the presidency as well as to inform them about the intentions about the Slovenian Presidency delegation in that period.	44999,9
<b>CNVOS- Centre for Information Service Cooperation and Development of NGOs</b>	To strengthen capacity of Slovenian NGDOs by involving them to SLOGA (Slovenian NGDO Platform), to stimulate cooperation of NGDOs with MFA in development policy preparation, implementation and evaluation, and to make Slovenian NGDOs more active players in European development policy consultations.	45000
<b>ESTONIA</b>		
<b>Estonian Roundtable for Development Cooperation</b>	To strengthen capacity with more involvement and representation of Estonian non-governmental development organisations in development policy debates and awareness raising activities on Estonian and European Level through increasing the capacity of Estonian Roundtable for Development Cooperation	30000
<b>Baltic Environmental Forum</b>	To understand the role and potential contribution of Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian environmental NGOs in the EU development policy and to create a network of interested parties (NGOs) to start and maintain activities.	44963
<b>LATVIA</b>		
<b>SUSTENTO-Latvian Umbrella</b>	To enable the organisations of people with disabilities in Latvia to play an active part in development cooperation by providing	37440

<b>Body for Disability Organisation</b>	opportunities for them to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence necessary for full involvement in training process.	
<b>Minorities of Europe- Brach for Baltic and Scandinavian States</b>	To build and strengthen the capacity of NGOs working on or made up of ethnic minorities and developing Latvian NGDOs network by involving minorities' organisations active in social development thus stimulating the capacity of civil society in Latvia and engaging ethnic minorities living in Latvia in the EU Development Policy.	44224
<b>LAPAS Latvian NGDO Platform</b>	To strengthen the capacity of Latvian NGDO to be able to put development cooperation policy issues on the high political agenda at national and international levels and to contribute to forming comprehensive development cooperation policy in Latvia.	20653
<b>LITHUANIA</b>		
<b>Information Centre- Youth on the Way to Europe</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To create a deeper understanding about EU parliament work</li> <li>• To strengthen the EU Development Cooperation.</li> <li>• To develop youth public spirit.</li> <li>• To deepen knowledge about EU structures.</li> <li>• To acquaint young people with lobbying politics</li> </ul>	21100
<b>Family Planning and Sexual Health Association</b>	Policy makers and interested NGOs of Lithuania engage effectively in development cooperation and assistance policy programmes.	45000
<b>Non-Governmental Organisation Information and Support Centre</b>	To foresee strategic opportunities for Lithuanian NGOs to exercise greater influence while engaging in the EU Development Policy Debate by facilitating their participation in European networks	45000

## 2.2 Selection Process

### 2.21 Board Meeting in Lithuania

The Board Members came together to assess each of the 44 applications (Europa Przyszlosci Association from Poland did not submit an application in the Main Phase as a result of re-structuring) for aid from the Presidency Fund which were pre-selected in Preliminary Phase. These 44 applications were a good representation from all 10 New Member States allowing for an even-handed distribution across all the New Member States. However, the Board Members decided in advance of getting into the assessment process that the selection will be purely on the merit of the project proposal rather than attempting to select 10 project proposals, one from each of the 10 New Member States. The Fund Secretariat and two Board Members- Ms. Claudia Bonk and Mr. Adam Novak, had previous to the Board Meeting each conducted their own assessment of the project proposals and these comments were presented to the Board. The Board then discussed each project proposal as well as reviewed the organisations submitting these proposals. Seven of the 44 project proposals were then selected as they were most aligned to the Fund' objectives. These organisations were as follows:

### **2.21.1 Prague Global Policy Institute- Glopolis, Czech Republic**

**Project Title:** Trade and Development Policy Coherence in the EU and Czech Republic

**Total Budget:** 49 427 euros

**Total Request from Fund:** 20 015 euros

Prague Global Policy Institute- Glopolis' goal is to promote understanding and critical consideration of globalization in the media, civil society, and the Czech political sphere. The long-term objective of Glopolis is to trigger a wider political debate on issues such as sustainable development, international trade and global governance in the Czech Republic as well as in the Central European region, and to engage the Czech Republic actively in global problem solving.

The project aims at increasing Trade and Development Policy coherence at Czech, regional and European levels by deepening understanding, extending dialogue, strengthening expert capacities and enhancing participation, networking and influence of national and Visegrad NGOs in the respective policy-making processes. It intends to achieve this through carrying out research to map out information on Trade and Development and other activities to develop a deeper understanding the interaction of the two issues within the context of the EU Development Policy. The research will result in the publication of a policy paper that will make specific recommendations as a foundation for further initiatives. This policy paper will be widely distributed to civil society organisations, the media, government officials and policy-makers. A workshop organised for the NGOs involved in the National Network on "Czechia Against Poverty" will tie up the concerns and issues worked on within this network and link these up to the advocacy initiatives to promote a coherence between the Trade and Development Policies. To promote this issue at a regional level, a joint EU 15-Visegrad regional capacity-building seminar will be organised, ensuring participation of European Trade Policy Networks and Visegrad NGOs.

### **2.21.2 People In Need- PIN, The Czech Republic**

**Project Title:** Enhancing EU Development Policy Debate in the Czech Republic

**Total Budget:** 54 250 euros

**Request from the Fund:** 31 300 euros

People in Need has implemented relief and development projects in crisis regions around the globe and has promoted human rights and democracy in countries repressed by totalitarian regimes over its thirteen-year history. In the Czech Republic, People in Need has worked to foster tolerance and respect for others, while raising the awareness of the situation of individuals suffering from the effects of war, long-term poverty or oppressive regimes.

The project aims to bring the level of awareness on the EU Development Policy of the Czech development stakeholders, decision-makers and public to the level common to EU-15 member states and in so doing to generate a public demand for increasing the Czech Official Development Aid (ODA) and stimulate the willingness of the Czech constituency to become a significant player in development cooperation at the European level.

To begin with, PIN will organise meetings with Czech decision-makers- such as Czech MEPs, Deputies, Senators and Governmental Officials aiming at providing information on EU and Czech development strategies, and the Czech role in the EU development co-operation. In this interaction, PIN will monitor

Czech inputs to the EU Parliament debate on development cooperation and the evolution of the Czech development policy. PIN will also actively participate in the National NGDO Platform activities and the National NGDO campaign on “Czechia against poverty” to strengthen its own role in advocating the EU Development Policy within the Czech Republic. Taking this role to a European level, PIN shall participate in EU-wide networks and their initiatives to facilitate an exchange between Czech NGDOs and NGDOs across Europe. Moreover, to build a national consensus on the EU Development Policy within the Czech Republic, PIN will operate as a focal point for information on the EU Development Policy. It will establish close relations with the national media and promote national debates on development cooperation issues.

### **2.21.3 Network of East-West Women- NEWW, Poland**

**Project Title:** EU Gender Watch

**Total Budget:** 45 000 euros

**Total Request Budget:** 45 000 euros

NEWW is an international communication and resource network supporting dialogue, informational exchange, and activism among those concerned about the status of women in Central and Eastern Europe, the Newly Independent States, and the Russian Federation. NEWW coordinates research and advocacy that supports women’s equality and full participation in all aspects of public and private life. NEWW connects women’s advocates who work in partnership to promote women’s rights and to strengthen women’s role within civil society. NEWW members represent all strata of society – human rights activists, writers, students, journalists, lawyers, parliamentarians, professors, artists, union organizers, health care workers and feminist activists. NEWW’s overarching goal is to support the formation of independent women’s movements and to strengthen the capacities of women and women’s NGOs to influence policy regarding women’s lives.

The project aims to enable women NGOs/networks in the New Member States, Accession Countries and EU Neighbouring Countries to cooperate in monitoring and lobbying the EU on its development policies 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 potential member states in Western Balkans and South East Europe, as well as the “new EU neighbours” around the development agenda of the EU.

The project will support activities of women NGOs from the region of CEE/CIS aimed at promoting 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. Through the implementation of this project, the EU will be held accountable to play a role in promoting gender equality in the region.

NEWW will achieve this through capacity building workshops for women NGOs from the NMS, potential MS and the EU Neighbouring Countries, on the EU development policies (on EU mechanisms, regulations and funding mechanisms at sub-regional, and regional levels. On the basis of the increased understanding of the EU Development Policy, the participants will develop objectives and a plan for action to coordinate their monitoring, lobbying and advocacy actions. This project will also facilitate the establishment of a EU Gender Watch Secretariat to coordinate the work of the CEE/CIS development

network concentrating on gender issues. This Secretariat will operate as source of information for journalists, politicians and first of all women NGOs working on development issues. The Secretariat will also identify NGDOs across the EU to serve as role-models and facilitate learning from their methodology in researching the impact of EU development policies. The project will also link the target NGOs to existing EU-wide networks as well as create a CEE/CIS development network of women NGOs that will operate out of common objectives and a plan of action. The focal points of the Network will commit to collect information, carry on research, promote the network, engage in lobbying and advocacy activities. The research done in each country will lead to the identification of problems on gender issues that have to be taken up at the EU through a meeting involving the Council of the European Union, in particular on the governments of the countries where the NGO(s) is/are based, and on Members of the European Parliament. The research will also lead to drafting of "Development policy postulates" by the Secretariat together with the Focal Points on the These postulates will also be presented to the EU institutions, NGOs and the public with the final aim that the EU institutions will include these in development policies.

#### **2.21.4 Polish Humanitarian Organisation- PHO, Poland**

**Project Title:** Culture of engagement of Polish NGOs in debates on EU Development Policy with decision makers and the public

**Total Budget:** 45 000 euros      **Total Request from Fund:** 45 000 euros

PHO strives towards making the world a better place through the alleviation of human suffering and promotion of humanitarian values by helping communities in crises to regain responsibility for their own future and become self-reliant. PHO shapes humanitarian attitudes among the public and creates modern culture of mutual help. PHO combines effectiveness with the respect for human dignity.

The project aims at raising awareness among government actors, journalists and Polish society about development issues and in this way enhance their commitment to the EU development policy. NGOs shall be given the opportunity to broaden their knowledge-base and will acquire skills and tools to ensure their access to government and media. This will result in presenting the NGO's point of view on development issues to polish society and facilitate the role of NGOs as equal partners in policy dialogue. Providing journalists with information materials and the opportunity to visit a country of the Global South. In the latter initiative, meeting with a representative of a local NGO (in the developing country) will result in greater volume and more relevant reporting on development aid in the Polish media. Another outcome will be the launching of a public debate in the media on development issues influencing decision-making in this field. Identifying and facilitating relationships between NGDOs and government officials and politicians should lead to the implementation of the EU development policy by Poland.

#### **2.21.5 Koperazzjoni Internazzjonali- KOPIN, Malta**

**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.

**Total Budget:** 45 000 euros      **Total Request from Fund:**45 000 euros

Koperazzjoni Internazzjonali (*Kopin*) is a voluntary organisation based in Malta working in the field of North-South cooperation. Upon consideration of the

social situation of the poor and marginalized in the least developed countries, Kopin's mission is to alleviate poverty through the wholesome development and effective empowerment of communities and populations in the poorest nations and regions across the world. Kopin engages in dialogue with civil society organisations in Europe and the South and upholds advocacy and campaigning strategies directed at local and EU development policies. Kopin is also coordinating the National Platform of Maltese NGDOs, being a main link between the Maltese and European NGDO community. The project aims to engage Civil Society in Malta, Slovenia and Cyprus in a European Dialogue about the future of the Euro-Med Region and influence an effective EU development policy. In collaboration with partners within Malta as well as Slovenia and Cyprus, KOPIN shall create an action plan, based on the concerns of their partners in the southern Mediterranean region, to advocate for progress in the Barcelona Process so that it will have a real impact on Poverty Eradication in a way that builds sustainable livelihoods at the local grassroots level. In the course of project implementation, the NGOs from the three EU member states of the Mediterranean region will also go through a process of capacity building, that will not only facilitate more effective project implementation for the current project, but for future involvement in development cooperation initiatives as well. The ownership of project implementation will be shared by CSOs in the Southern Mediterranean who themselves will define what constitutes sustainable livelihoods in their regions and nations, and build/strengthen the capacity of Malta, Cyprus and Slovenia to advocate for these concerns to be usefully employed by the European Institutions in any ongoing and future evaluations of the process and in any new negotiations related to the process. The advocacy initiatives will take place not only at the national levels in Malta, Slovenia and Cyprus, but the NGOs from NMS of the Mediterranean Region will also take these concerns to Brussels.

#### **2.21.6 The Latvian NGDO Platform- LAPAS, Latvia**

**Project Title:** Engagement of the Baltic Region in Development Cooperation

**Total Budget:** 20 653 euros

**Total Request from Fund:** 20 653 euros

The project aims to strengthen the capacity of Latvian NGDOs in a way that will put development cooperation policy issues high on the political agenda at national and regional (Baltic) levels with the result that a comprehensive development cooperation policy is formulated in Latvia. This will be undertaken through various initiatives beginning with a research study that will identify all the NGDOs operating in Latvia and map out their strengths. This will strengthen the lobbying capacity of the National NGDO platform and enhance its credibility in its negotiations with the government. A Roundtable discussion bringing together NGDOs, media and decision-makers from the government. Through these discussions, the various stakeholders will evaluate the current situation on development cooperation in Latvia and the region, possible collaboration mechanisms between stakeholders at national and regional levels to facilitate the role of NGDOs in implementing the development cooperation policy (EU and National policies) and future financial perspectives. This roundtable discussion will also serve as a preparatory forum to identify priority topics for the Baltic conference on the Development Cooperation that is to be organised by the Platform in autumn 2006 and will take forward this project to the next level of implementation ensuring its sustainability and long-term impact. In order to build the capacity of Latvian NGDOs, study visits will also be organised to NGDOs in the Nordic region- Sweden, Finland and Denmark. This will also facilitate partnerships for future collaborations on development cooperation projects. All the information generated during the process of project

implementation will be available for public consumption will be available on the Platform's website as well as another policy-oriented website with a wide audience and through other mass media.

### **2.21.7 The Estonian Roundtable for Development Cooperation- AKU, Estonia**

**Project Title:** The Estonian Partnership for Development

**Total Budget:** 49 163 euros                      **Total Request from Fund :** 30 000 euros

AKÜ's mission is to promote and develop the Estonian State and Society's active participation and involvement in international development cooperation. The main objective of AKÜ is to promote and develop the Estonian and global policies on development cooperation and raising public awareness accordingly.

The project aims to strengthen capacities and create more opportunities for involvement and

representation of Estonian non-governmental development organisations in development policy debates and awareness raising activities at the Estonian and European level through increasing the capacity of Estonian Roundtable for Development Cooperation (AKÜ). This will be achieved through various initiatives such as seminars that will bring together various actors involved in the formulation and implementation of development policies in Estonia- specifically government decision-makers and NGOs (members and those not members of the National Platform). This meeting will result in the stakeholders committing to an action plan to promote Estonia's role in development cooperation. Capacity building opportunities for Estonian NGOs will be facilitated through workshops conducted on three specific topics relevant to enhancing an understanding of the EU Development Policy including perspectives on development issues in the global south, policy experts sharing information on advocacy strategies and study visits to government institutions. In this way the NGO members of the National Platform will be better informed to participate in the initiatives of the Platform in advocating for a National Development Policy that is aligned to the EU Development Policy as well as plays a more effective role in the implementation of the development policies.

## **2.3 Summary of Mid-Term Reports from Implementing Organisations- Call 1**

### **European Movement Estonia on behalf of the Estonian Roundtable for Development Cooperation - AKÜ**

**Project Title:** The Estonian partnership for Development

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Beneficiary</b>	<b>Effect</b>
New Estonian NGOs and interested individuals are involved in the activities of AKÜ and existing members are re-activated and strongly involved.	A) Awareness campaign on the relation between development, poverty and the agricultural policies of the EU. B) Public awareness on the MDGs were produced and disseminated. C) A delegation of 5 Estonians went to Finland	- NGO activists - students - official partners (ministries, parliament, EC representation)	1. Opportunities for Networking and plans to carry out joint actions.  2. Public awareness on MDGs and issues related to poverty and the agricultural policy.

	to the World Village Festival in May and shared information with 7 organisations		
3.2.2. Increased capacity of the AKÜ working groups and participants in policy work and awareness raising activities.	A) AKÜ developed a newspaper with involvement of governmental and non-governmental partners. B) AKÜ involved NGOs in advocacy work for national development cooperation action plan. C) Workshop on Development Education. D) Workshop on Fair Trade - AKÜ organised a public awareness raising event where members and non-member organisations participated.	Estonian organisations (NGOs, embassies, EC representation, MFA, informal action groups, FT shops)	- Interface between NGOs and decision-makers. - One third of the participants of the workshop on Development Education are currently involved in the development of joint Estonian or international projects on awareness raising activities. - Participants of the Fair Trade workshop agreed to jointly continue to cooperate on raising awareness on fair trade. - Organisations were able to present themselves to general public and gain public support.

#### LAPAS- Latvian NGDO Platform

**Project Title:** Preparing for the Baltic conference on Development Cooperation

<b>Objectives</b> <i>Outline the objectives as given in 3.2 of Table 3 in Proposal.</i>	<b>Activity</b> <i>List activities implemented to realise objectives</i>	<b>Beneficiary</b> <i>Target Group</i>	<b>Effect</b> <i>How the output has benefited (been made use of by) beneficiary</i>
3.21. To research and acknowledge the expertise and level of the participation of Latvian civil society in development cooperation activities in order to strengthen the representation and lobbying capacity of Latvian NGDO Platform	Research	Latvian NGDO Platform members	The research was first of its kind, revealing the current situation in Latvia, level of understanding of development cooperation among Latvian NGOs, as well as implemented projects and their nature.
3.22. To promote dialogue between all relevant stakeholders to	Roundtable Discussion.	NGDOs, Public, Ministry of Finance	- NGOs are informed about future funding possibilities for Development Cooperation projects

highlight the role of targeted and coherent development cooperation policy in Latvia as an EU new member state			- wider public can access the summary of the discussion in <a href="http://www.policy.lv">www.policy.lv</a> .
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### Prague Global Policy Institute

**Project Title:** Trade and Development Policy Coherence in the EU and the Czech Republic

Objectives	Activity	Beneficiary	Effect
Deepening Understanding, Strengthening Expert Capacities	research	Experts (NGOs, government, academia)	NGOs, government and other experts now more aware of trade and development linkages and need for policy coherence, dispose of new resources readily available for their work. New research resources available, new contacts, cooperation established, increased networking and communication among national and regional experts
Awareness Raising, Advocacy, Increasing Influence	policy paper	civil society organizations, development practitioners, media, government officials, decision-makers, schools, academia	Beneficiaries also dispose of practical, concrete recommendations for advocacy (NGOs and parliament), or implementation (government). Increased knowledge of and interest in the T&D issues among public and other target groups, English translation distributed to Visegrad countries
Increasing Influence (Advocacy)	International Policy Seminar (Senate) and National Presidency Seminar (Parliament)	Media, government, members of parliament, political parties NGOs, general public	Practicable recommendations drafted for policy-makers. - Government invited NGOs into process of preparation --- EU trade policy positions, considers globalization strategy - Foreign and EU Affairs committees of Parliament opened to NGO input on trade, development and other EU policies, Action Plan drafted for Glopolis and other NGOs, - Beneficiaries consider or implement recommendations: - NGOs drafting a common action plan for Czech Presidency of the EU
Strengthening National Networks  Increasing participation in Europe-wide Networks	Regional Seminar - Capacity Building	Visegrad regional NGOs, national NGOs, experts and interested public, EU NGOs, Networks and experts	Trade and development issue become commonplace on agenda of <i>Czechia against Poverty</i> national NGO network Pan-European networking taken place. Expertise shared and synergies planned-regionally and at EU-level.

## People in Need

**Project Title:** Enhancing EU Development Policy Debate in the Czech Republic

Objectives	Activity	Beneficiary	Effect
To create a focal point initiating the EU Development Policy Debate at the decision-maker level	Organising meetings with Czech <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MEPs,</li> <li>• Deputies,</li> <li>• Senators and</li> <li>• Governmental Officials</li> </ul>	Czech decision-makers Czech politicians Czech civil servants involved in the development cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive amendments of the Czech development policy</li> <li>• Active participation of Czech MEPs in the development agenda of the European Parliament</li> </ul>
To motivate and prompt active networking of the Czech development civil society players	Participation in FoRS (Czech NGDO platform) & Czechs Against Poverty campaign Presenting and promoting FoRS activities in CONCORD	Czech Civil Society  Czech civil servants involved in the development cooperation	Verifiable implementation of common network strategies Enhancement of PIN capacity to react to the issues on networks agendas Increase in PIN ability to bring own proposals to the networks agendas

## The Network of East-West Women/NEWW-Polska

**Project Title:** EU Gender Watch

Objectives	Activity	Beneficiary	Effect
Capacity building of CEE/CIS NGOs to engage in actions aimed at monitoring the EU Development policy and its implementation; Advocacy work concerning EU development policy Creating an awareness and demystifying the EU development policy amongst women NGOs in the CEE /CIS region.	Training workshop on the EU development policies mechanisms, regulations and funding mechanisms at sub-regional, and regional levels.)	Women NGOs representatives from 15 women's organizations representing sub regions: Central Asia, Caucasus, EU Neighbouring countries and New Member States of European Union.	Participants of the training at the end of the workshop gained enough knowledge of EU development policies to draft objectives and a plan for actions concerning monitoring, lobbying and advocacy actions.  Group of representatives was built of women NGOs from CEE/CIS trained on EU development policy willing to collaborate on this issue.
Creating a body of gender-based NGOs from NMS, potential member states and EU Neighbouring Countries that could represent the region vis a vis the EU and be considered as a reliable source of information for media, public and authorities.	Establishing of the EU Gender Watch Secretariat.	Gender-based NGOs from NMS, potential member states and EU Neighbouring Countries.	The EU Gender Watch Secretariat is serving a network of women NGOs, coordinating their activities, providing them with information and technical assistance.  The EU Gender Watch Secretariat is now a known source of information for journalists, politicians and gender-based NGOs working on

			development issues.
Developing global partnerships in order to provide women from CEE/CIS with models that could improve their chances in lobbying and advocacy concerning the EU development policies.	Networking with EU-wide networks involved in the gender debate such as PIN, HIVOS, NOVIB, Social Watch, Alliance 2015. There is also further collaboration with SOROS, WIDE, EUROSTEP, EEPA, UNIFEM.	Gender Watch Network Members	Through these collaborations a more critical enabled the Gender Watch to develop a deeper insight into the consultation process of ENP. Moreover, the Gender Watch Members could participate in consultations on the draft positions drawn up by CONCORD and the Polish National Platform on ENPI. Lobbying initiatives are facilitated through cooperation with EEPA and Eurostep.

### Polish Humanitarian Organization Foundation (PHO)

**Project Title:** Culture of engagement of Polish NGOs in debates on EU Development Policy with decision makers and the public

Objectives	Activity	Beneficiary	Effect
1. Strengthening the capacity of NGOs to engage in the EU Development Policy Debate as an initiator and active partner in dialogue among society and decision makers	<p>Collecting current information on development issues (building the knowledge base) with recognition of work and knowledge of TRIALOG, UNDP Poland.</p> <p>Running 14 days internship of a development policy officer in one of the OMS NGOs active in development advocacy.</p>	PHO	<p>There is a competent person in the PHO, who is responsible for drafting position papers the development Policy of the EU and Poland. PHO is also a resource on development issues for government actors and journalists;</p> <p>Cooperation with Camlahm and other Irish NGOs such as Trocraire, Christian Aid I Oxfam has facilitated the development of advocacy skills.</p>
2 Raising awareness on EU development policy among identified crucial decision makers thus motivating them to take part in the debate on EU development policy and policy formulation. This will strengthen recognition of the crucial role played by NGOs.	<p>Identifying crucial, current and potential government actors (e.g. MEPs, members of Polish Parliament and State Administration).</p> <p>Building special relationships with 3 decision makers (e.g. MEPs, members of Polish Parliament and State Administration).</p> <p>Using existing PHO contacts with decision makers in creating and publishing a national report on the state of development policy in Poland including information concerning carrying out EU Development Policy.</p>	Decision-makers	PHO successfully engaged decision-makers in their activities.
3 Awareness rising	Publishing free postcards to Polish	Students	Society had an opportunity

<p>in the Polish society on EU development issues in order to build commitment for contribution to achieve the Millennium Goals and stimulate proactive attitude.</p>	<p>citizens in order to send to decision makers supporting development issues. And a downloadable letter to be sent to decision makers through the organisation 's website</p> <p>Providing monthly, information to journalist related to EU development issues/policy to increase media coverage.</p>	<p>20 journalists of national media, Polish Press Agency, Television Information Agency, Radio Information Agency,</p>	<p>to speak up about budget proposal and particularly about its part on development aid. Via postcard campaign PHO was able to raise two other very important messages that Poland belongs to highest developed countries and that Poland had some commitments within the EU and UN</p>
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### 3. The Second Call for Proposals

The Second Call for Proposals ran through from 3 May to 17 August 2006. Initially the Call was scheduled to close on 12 August 2006, however, it was extended by one week to give the applicants a longer period of time to work on their Main Applications. There were a total of 43 applications that came in to the Preliminary Phase of Call 2 out of which 28 were invited to apply to the Main Phase with a detailed Project Proposal. Out of the 28, Hungarian Interchurch Aid from Hungary, SOLIDARNI, Poland and all three Latvian NGOs including LAPAS the National NGO Platform did not participate in the Main Phase. These organisations stated that they were unfortunately undergoing internal re-structuring and simultaneously responding to other Calls for Proposals and were unable to make the deadline of the Main Phase of Call 2.

The table below illustrates the country-wide statistics of the number of preliminary applications received including those accepted and rejected. The requested budget for grant of aid from the Presidency Fund by each country reflects the continued demand for the Fund.

It is interesting to note that 14 applications have been received from organisations that were unsuccessful in the previous Call. All but one of these proposals (Caritas, Czech Republic) have submitted good quality project proposals taking into consideration the feedback from the Fund Secretariat.

Country	Accepted		Rejected		TOTAL	
	Number	Requested Budget	Number	Requested Budget	Number	Requested Budget
Czech Republic	3	109000	4	143400	7	252400
Hungary	8	245800	1	42500	9	288300
Poland	5	224000	3	119500	8	343500
Slovakia	4	155000	3	147000	7	302000
Latvia	3	111500	2	85000	5	196500
Lithuania	2	90000	1	44000	3	134000
Cyprus	1	43000	0	0	1	43000
Slovenia	2	48000	1	15500	3	63500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1026300</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>596900</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>1623200</b>

#### 3.2 The Main Phase

The Main Phase of the present call closed on 17 August 2006. As with the selection process followed in the First Call, the Fund Secretariat along with Board Members independently assessed the 23 project proposals (five organisations decided to discontinue with their application to the Presidency Fund as a result of internal problems). The Board Meeting took place on 17 October 2006 in Brussels where six organisations were selected provisionally to receive aid from the Fund. Presently negotiations are underway between the six organisations and the Fund Secretariat based upon which contracts will be drawn up to enable the transfer of funds allowing for the project implementation to begin.

#### 3.1 Summary of Proposals selected for Main Phase, Call 2

The following provides a brief insight into the nature of the Project Proposals that participated in the Main phase of the Second Call for Proposals and were thus the

shortlist for the Presidency Fund Board to select the proposals that would receive aid from the Presidency Fund:

Organisation	Objectives	Requested Budget
<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>		
<b>ARS- Association for Development Cooperation</b>	To increase the awareness of the private and public sector institutions and NGOs about the opportunities of private sector involvement in efforts to attain the MDGs as a part of the European Development Policy at both a national and European level in three NMS- Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia.	43 337 euros
<b>People in Need</b>	To contribute to raising public awareness about Czech and EU policies in relation to the international development issues. To stimulate debate on development related policies and thus to inform and influence relevant stakeholders in Czech Republic to actively take part in shaping Czech and European Development policies	36 216 euros
<b>HUNGARY</b>		
<b>Environment Management and Law Association</b>	To build the capacity of The Access Initiative(TAI) partners in Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and Poland in order to engage in the EU Development Policy Use the existing TAI network to gain experience in direct collaboration with partners from Global South in support of the EU development objectives. Use this experience to engage in a development policy dialogue with development aid officials, thus building a comprehensive understanding of development cooperation within civil society in NMS	42 000 euros
<b>Demnet- Foundation for Development for Democratic Rights</b>	To connect Hungarian society including the different social sectors with a special focus on NGOs and the state actors to the European ODA strategies and networks through contributing to the MDGs by increasing the capacity of Hungarian NGOs to engage in, cooperate on and execute co operations with developing countries; by supporting, within the context of the EU Development Cooperation, existing efforts to build partnerships and coalition in cross-sectoral cooperation with actors involved in development, and to promote it and through contributing to a strengthened EU Development Cooperation, with special attention to European Union's Africa Strategy.	45000 euros
<b>HAND</b>	The project's principal objective is building the capacity of the Hungarian NGDO Platform and its members and creating opportunities for these NGOs for getting more actively involved in the formulation and implementation of the EU development cooperation policy at European and national level.	29245
<b>Hungarian Helsinki Committee</b>	To foster discussion on and encourage active participation in development cooperation and democracy promotion among Hungarian NGOs working in the field of protection and promotion of human rights	33 055 euros
<b>Sisterhood Foundation</b>	To create a national approach to development cooperation in harmony with the EU Development Policy.  To contribute to a wider knowledge base on the EU	45000

	Development Policy and the battle against women in poverty.  To facilitate greater competence among decision makers and gender-based NGOs in development cooperation towards playing a more active role in the European development Policy debates.	
<b>Partners for Democratic Change</b>	To create and operate an open network for women's NGOs and other civil society actors involved in development to set up a National Network and Platform to provide, exchange information on the EU Development Policy and raise awareness among women's NGOs about their role and potential contribution to achieve the MDGs, especially in the field of promoting gender equality and empowering women while working and emphasising on three of the areas of the EU Development Policy focuses: regional integration and cooperation, sustainable rural development and institutional capacity building.	43800 euros
<b>Védegylet- Protect the Future</b>	<b>Locally:</b> To engage with local policy makers to achieve responsive and responsible policy commitments in the light of the MDGs <b>Regionally:</b> To explore a regional response to development policy in the light of the different social situations of the NMS and their historic commonalities. <b>CEE-South:</b> To enable the best targeting of ODA and transparent use of funding. Visibility for ODA to facilitate public scrutiny through increased public awareness and commitment to international development.	44 345 euros
<b>POLAND</b>		
<b>Avski Polska</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To create a multi-level consensus on a common platform of action regarding EU development policy.</li> <li>2. Underline the needs of co-ordination and harmonisation at the operational level of the policy between donors</li> <li>3. To boost the debate and initiate a European approach at the national level to the Millennium Declaration and support for sustainable development with the purpose of a common policy framework for both the EU and the NMS.</li> <li>4. Integration of priorities and expectations of all parties involved in the strategies and programmes.</li> <li>5. Stronger political dialogue as an issue of debate particularly in the fields of human rights, gender equality and children's rights.</li> </ol>	43 030 euros
<b>KARAT Coalition</b>	Strengthening the focus on gender equality issues and on CIS in EU Development Cooperation by increasing the attention to these issues in development agenda and cooperation mainly in EU member states (in governments' policies as well as in NGOs' and national platforms' activities)	45 000 euros
<b>Polish Green Network</b>	To strengthen and stimulate Polish civil society groups' engagement in EU Development Policy dialogue on national and international levels by building capacity and cooperation with national and international authorities and partnerships with NGOs from EU and Global South	44 993 euros
<b>Polish Medical Mission</b>	To strengthen the participation of NMS Medical NGOs and global south NGOs and institutions in the EU Development	46 450 euros

	Policy	
<b>SLOVAKIA</b>		
<b>ETP Slovakia</b>	To create a deeper understanding within Slovak civil society on issues related to EU Development Cooperation by facilitating the engagement of Slovak NGOs with NGOs in India by cultivating areas of interest and expertise and developing capacities of Slovak NGOs to engage in a range of direct actions.	44990 euros
<b>People in Peril</b>	To strengthen European Development Cooperation by increasing participation of Slovak and other NMS NGOs in actions and debates that can best mobilise Slovak and NMS actors who are motivated both by development challenges and democratisation/ human rights issues stemming from our own experiences of authoritarian regimes.	45000
<b>Pontis Foundation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ To enhance Policy Dialogue in Slovakia and Brussels on Development Agenda of the ENPI/ Eastern dimension.</li> <li>❖ To strengthen policy capacities of Slovak NGOs on ENPI/ Action Plans for Civil Society in Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus.</li> <li>❖ Engage local NGOs from target countries into this process.</li> </ul>	37 410 euros
<b>Slovak Red Cross</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ To demystify the EU and its policies for public.</li> <li>❖ To increase media coverage on EU development policy issues.</li> <li>❖ To strengthen networks and creating new ones</li> <li>❖ To create coalitions and partnerships</li> </ul>	25 000 euros
<b>LITHUANIA</b>		
<b>Institute of Democratic Politics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ To contribute to the promotion of the EU Development Policy in the NMS.</li> <li>❖ To provide a floor for higher level debate on the EU Development policy, analysis of possibilities to increase involvement of the NMS in the policy debate and implementation.</li> <li>❖ To assist in establishing contacts among parliamentarians, government institutions, NGOs, business sector and academics in NMS.</li> <li>❖ To exchange ideas and experiences between the same group of stakeholders from different NMS and between different stakeholders within each individual country and the region as a whole.</li> </ul>	53 240 euros
<b>Lithuanian Consumer Institute</b>	To strengthen the capacity of NGOs from the NMS to engage in the EU Development Policy <i>Project aims to build a network of Human Rights based NGOs to work together with the government to channel aid to developing countries- Moldova, Belarus and Ukraine.</i>	43 810 euros
<b>NGO Information &amp; Support Centre</b>	To foresee strategic opportunities for Lithuanian NGOs to exercise greater influence while engaging in the EU Development Policy Debate by facilitating their participation in European networks.	45 000
<b>CYPRUS</b>		
<b>CARDET</b>	To build capacities of NGOs active in Development Education to improve their efficiency and advocacy on development issues at the local, regional and EU levels.	43 630 euros

SLOVENIA		
<b>Focus Association for Sustainable Development</b>	To raise awareness and develop capacities of the Slovene NGOs, politicians and wider public to integrate climate change objectives into Slovene and EU development debates	14 500 euros
<b>SLOGA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ To strengthen the capacity of Slovenian NGDOs by involving them in SLOGA</li> <li>❖ To stimulate cooperation of NGDOs with MFA and Slovene MEPs in development policy preparation, implementation and evaluation</li> </ul> <p>To make Slovenian NGDOs more active players in European development policy debates and consultations (on bilateral and multilateral levels)</p>	34 512 euros

### 3.2 Detailed Summary of Selected Project Proposals, Call 2

The Presidency Fund Board met on 17 October 2006 to select the projects submitted to the Main Phase of Call 2 that would receive aid from the Presidency Fund. The following six organisations were selected. It was noteworthy that in Call 1, the quality of no projects from Hungary was found to be acceptable; however in Call 2, two proposals were immediately identified as being worth supporting. This was also the case with Slovenia, where the National NGDO Platform put forward a compelling project proposal, which is receiving aid from the Presidency Fund as a result of Call 2. Secondly, the Presidency Fund Board decided as a matter of principle that the Fund should support good quality proposals submitted by National NGDO Platforms in the NMS.

The following six organisations were selected:

#### 3.21 HAND- Hungarian Association of NGOs for Development & Humanitarian Aid

**Project title:** Increasing capacity of Hungarian NGOs to engage in dialogue on European development issues

**Total Budget:** 39 745 euros

**Total Request from Fund:** 29 245 euros

Reflecting on global issues related to development cooperation is a new activity for NGDOs in Hungary. Only recently have formal structures been put into place, such as policies, that formalise the approach to development cooperation. However, the capacity of all stakeholders is very limited coupled with which there is little opportunity for cooperation between domestic and international stakeholders. Secondly, public awareness on development cooperation is almost non-existent.

In the given circumstances one of the biggest challenges facing the Hungarian NGDO Platform is to provide an opportunity for the NGDOs to become more actively involved in development cooperation whether it be in familiar or unknown development issues and geographical regions. Moreover, the National NGDO Platform needs to participate in the formulation of the development policy at both national and European levels. At the same time, providing the public with relevant information and building a strong public opinion in favour of development cooperation is a precondition for an effective Hungarian development cooperation policy, especially with regard to the Hungarian contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Through the implementation of this project, HAND will organise several workshops and establish different working groups among HAND member organizations to

introduce concepts, definitions, and various methodologies of international development cooperation and humanitarian assistance.

More directly, the project will achieve the following:

3.21.1 Enhance the level of coordination and involvement of the present member organisations of HAND active in EU development policy and will build new partnerships with other civil society actors. The member organisation will have easy access to good quality, updated information on development issues.

3.21.2 Facilitating coordinated actions in policy work.

3.21.3 Contributing to the common aid-watch activities of EU-wide networks, assessing the effectiveness of the Hungarian ODA, increase the capacity of Hungarian NGOs to participate in aid-watching.

### **3.22 Sisterhood Foundation, Hungary**

**Project title:** European development policy and the women's role – the demine face of poverty

**Total Budget:** 45 000 euros

**Total Request from Fund:** 45 000 euros

Hungarian society is one of the most conservative in Europe in its definition of gender roles. It has the highest rate of women not working outside the home. Women in the work-place are facing ageism and discrimination as a result of having children. Statistics reveal that Hungary has one of the least number of women in leadership demonstrated by the percentage of female MPs, which is 9.3%. A clear sign of how low a priority equal gender rights is in Hungary was demonstrated when the former government terminated the operation of the Women's Agency, which was responsible for equal opportunities for men and women. To add to the mainstream approach to gender roles, gender-based NGOs are weak. Consequently, gender issues are not included in debates on development issues both from the government and from the NGOs .

From this perspective, gender-based NGOs, women in leadership in the public sector- MPs, MEPs and public officials as well as those in leadership positions in the private sector should form a network and co-operate. Through this network, gender issues will be included on the national development agenda for debate and implementation by engaging HAND, the National NGO Platform.

Gender issues concerning countries that are a development priority such as Serbia, Montenegro and Ukraine will also be highlighted through cooperation with NGOs such as CARDS and TACIS.

This project will spread awareness to those involved in the struggle for equal gender rights and will relate this to the EU Development Policy. Decision makers- MPs, MEPs and MFA officials will be engaged in the gender debate and will be encouraged to give greater attention to gender issues while making decisions on development.

The Hungarian Women's Network will join with regional networks such as the Network of East West Women (NEWW) and European networks such as Women in Development Europe (WIDE). This will facilitate the Hungarian perspective on gender issues in the development debate.

The project seeks to achieve the following:

3.22.1 Placing concerns regarding equal opportunities on the national development agenda, which should be in harmony with the EU Development Policy

3.22.2 Creating a wider knowledge of the EU Development Policy and the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the battle against women's poverty.

3.22.3 Gender-based NGOs in Hungary and the Hungarian Government will work together on development issues as well as play a more active role in the European Development Policy Debates.

These objectives will be realised through carrying out the following actions:

- ◆ 2 study tours at NEWW-Poland and Wide Austria.
- ◆ Workshop on Gender mainstreaming, Millennium Development Goals and aligning the EU Development issues with the National Development Policy from three perspectives- the NGOs in general, Decision-makers and from the perspective of equal rights.
- ◆ Conference on EU Development Policy and the women's role – The feminine face of poverty.

### **3.23 Lithuanian Consumer Institute**

**Project title:** Strengthening attention to human rights in development of Lithuania by networking, advocacy and lobbying

**Total Budget:** 43 810 euros      **Request from the Fund:** 43 810 euros

The Lithuanian Government has recently outlined its Development Policy for 2006-2010, in which one of the priorities is the protection of human rights. This is a favourable time for the NGOs concerned with the protection of human rights to cooperate in a network and initiate a dialogue with the government. NGOs promoting human rights have built up a sound reputation with civil society as well as with decision-makers.

To initiate the project, research will be conducted to assess the level of knowledge of those NGOs working on the protection of Human Rights in Lithuania on the EU development policy issues, to determine their capacity to lobby. This research will also highlight the human rights issues that the National Development Policy should address.

The results of the research will then guide the second phase of the project that involves the following activities:

3.23.1 "Human rights: Can we help others" a Roundtable with the participation of the National NGO Platform, Human Rights NGOs, MPs, MEPs, the MFA this will create the necessary awareness on the EU Development Policy within the perspective of human rights.

3.23.2 Workshop on human rights concerns in Moldova, Ukraine and Belorussia.

3.23.4 Five live radio debates will be broadcasted through national radio where the NGOs and decision-makers will discuss their respective views and concerns regarding human rights.

Through this project, the Lithuanian Consumer Institute will build up a strong network of NGOs working on Human Rights in conjunction with the National NGDO Platform and together work towards lobbying the government for a National Development Policy aligned to the EU Development Policy, especially with regards human rights concerns.

### **3.24 Polish Green Network**

**Project title:** "Poland for Global South!" - Support for Polish civil society groups engagement in EU development policy dialogue on national and international level connected with public awareness campaign

**Total Budget:** 47 623 euros      **Total Request from the Fund:** 44 993 euros

Detailed research of development cooperation reveals a lack of knowledge about EU Development Policy, ODA mechanisms in Poland, the lack of partnership and cooperation among NGOs as well as unsatisfactory and weak discussion about sustainable development.

Polish NGOs are found to be unable to engage effectively in policy dialogue or to participate in the development debate either nationally or at the level of the EU. They also tend to have limited experience in development cooperation with the global south. Consequently, the public in general are even more unaware or continue to lack conviction for the need for development cooperation to be a priority in Poland.

With this proposed project we plan not only to build up the capacity of NGOs to function effectively at the National and EU levels in the area of development cooperation- both in its implementation as well as in the debates concerning development. A process of permanent dialogue between politicians and civil society groups will be created. This will facilitate a better aligned National Development Policy in theory and practice with the EU Development Policy. Lastly, the project will strengthen public approval for development aid.

The Project will implement the following actions to achieve this:

- 3.24.1 An analysis of the National Development Policy in the light of the EU Development Policy:
  - 3.24.1a To identify areas of concern in the EU Development Policy Debate where Polish contributions would be most effective
  - 3.24.1b To highlight development priorities for Poland from the perspective of NGOs.
- 3.24.2 Internship in an NGO in Western Europe to develop a comprehensive understanding of the EU Development Policy and the manner in which NGOs in Western Europe engage in the EU Development Policy Debate and effectively play a role in its implementation.
- 3.24.3 Developing a Guide on the EU Development Policy.
- 3.24.4 Seminar for Polish, Czech and Slovakian NGDOs to discuss the Guide on the EU Development Policy and to stimulate these NGOs to engage in the global south by highlighting development concerns from the global south.

3.24.5 Engaging decision-makers to discuss the development priorities and development aid.

3.24.6 Creating awareness among the public on development concerns in the global south.

### **3.25 SLOGA- Slovenian Platform for Development Cooperation & Humanitarian Aid**

**Project title:** Bridging the Slovenian NGDOs to EU issues

**Total Budget:** 46 532 euros

**Request from Fund:** 34 512 euros

Slovenian NGOs, dealing with development and humanitarian aid operate in a fragmented manner which gives an easy excuse to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to favour some NGOs and ignore the others. The MFA lacks transparency in its approach to development cooperation initiatives whether it be in the area of implementation or policy formulation.

Before the National NGDO Platform (SLOGA) was set up, there was no common representation of the broader interests of NGOs at large to the government. With the setting up of SLOGA, all NGOs, without bias are welcome to become members and have their interests represented. SLOGA also sees its role in supporting the MFA when it comes to policy formulation with regards to development cooperation and its implementation. The role of SLOGA would be as a coordinator and facilitator among Slovene NGDOs and other civil society representatives who are important stakeholders for development aid issues. Presently, SLOGA is still in its initial stage of operation and requires a lot of support as it gets formally established and begins functioning. This project will provide the opportunity for SLOGA to grow into a National Platform by expanding its membership nationally. Facilitating amongst its membership a greater level of awareness on development cooperation issues, especially in the context of the EU Development Policy. And of course become a more significant partner in development cooperation for the MFA, especially given the 2007 Presidency of Slovenia.

The following activities will help SLOGA realise these goals:

3.25.1 A dynamic website filled with information and opportunities for its membership to log in to current development cooperation issues and activities, nationally and at the EU level.

3.25.2 Organise a schedule for consultations with the MFA.

3.25.3 Training for its Membership on development cooperation issues within the context of the EU Development Policy.

3.25.4 Connect to EU networks to include the Slovenian perspective on development cooperation and learn from others.

### **3.26 CARDET, Cyprus**

**Project title:** Building capacity among Cyprus NGOs towards increased participation in EU development policy and action

**Total Budget:** 57 150 euros

**Total Request from Fund:** 43 630 euros

Presently, there is a pressing need in Cyprus to create a strong network of NGOs to stimulate actions in civil society towards advocacy. With the exception of a few, the majority of NGOs are incapable of participating in any serious advocacy at national or EU levels. Moreover with the geo-political divisions, the level of collaboration between Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot NGDOS was limited. Cypriot NGDOS that had participated in study visits and capacity building initiatives supported by TRIALOG soon became interested in advocacy and development education policy. Further involvement in workshops on advocacy and lobbying convinced 4 Cyprus NGOs that they needed to access training to develop skills in advocacy and they need to be helped to establish a clear strategic plan in their involvement with development cooperation. We therefore believe that this proposed project will enable Cyprus NGOs/NGDOS to develop the required capacities to engage in advocacy actions at the local, regional, and EU levels.

More specifically the project will undertake to achieve the following:

- 3.26.1 Build a comprehensive understanding of development co-operation within civil society in Cyprus within the context of EU Development Co-operation and thereafter build capacity among NGOs for advocacy at the local, regional and EU level.
- 3.26.2 Build an understanding among government officials and other stakeholders on EU development policy
- 3.26.3 Establish link with government officials and engage in policy dialogue at the local level that will enable NGOs to contribute towards the establishment of a local policy on development that is aligned to the EU development policy
- 3.26.4 Facilitate the formation of NGO networks and networking with EU  
NGDO networks

The project proposal will achieve this through carrying out the following actions:

- ◆ A conference and workshop on EU development policy with target audience government officials, MFA, MPs, Planning bureau, and NGO/NGDO staff.
- ◆ Workshops and meetings on building advocacy skills among NGO/NGDO staff.
- ◆ Organize meetings and events to facilitate the formation of NGO/NGDO networks.
- ◆ Plan formal working meetings with government officials.

Disseminate widely the information on EU development policy and outcomes of the project.

## 4. Board Members' Meetings In Lithuania

The Presidency Fund Board met in Lithuania for their second Board Meeting. The location of the meeting was selected on the basis of an analysis of the quality of proposals submitted to the Presidency Fund. It was found that the Lithuanian NGOs required extensive support in order to compete with NGOs in other New Member States for aid from the Presidency Fund. Moreover, the Lithuanian public opinion more than that in other NMS countries finds that Lithuania is itself an impoverished country and therefore development aid is not a priority. Such face-to-face interactions gave the Presidency Fund Board and Secretariat the opportunity to receive direct feedback from NGOs, for which the Fund was set up to provide a service. Moreover, as a result of dialogue with Julius Norvila of the Lithuanian NGDO Platform, it was identified that NGOs found it particularly challenging to establish a proper working relationship with the government in general and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in particular. As a result, two separate meetings were organised- one with the NGOs and the other with the Decision Makers.

### 4.1 Meeting with Decision Makers

Invitations were issued to the MPs, MEPs as well as officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From these the following persons attended the meeting- Ms. Danuté Budreikaite (MEP, vice-chairperson Development Committee), Ms. Birute Vesaite (MP, Committee member- European Affairs), Mr. Rokas Bernotas (MFA- Development Cooperation), Laura Bacinskiene and Juozas Meldziukas(State Youth Council). Mr. Julius Norvila who is presently managing the Lithuanian NGDO Platform also participated in this meeting along with the members of the Presidency Fund Board and Secretariat.

It appeared that the predominant perception among the decision makers of the NGO sector in Lithuania is that NGOs tend to be inward looking and cooperation between NGOs is rather limited. Moreover, Lithuanian NGOs require training in order to better access EU Funds that would in turn help them to build their capacity. There was also a feeling that NGOs and the private sector should dialogue more in order to achieve common goals.

In terms of the Lithuanian government's approach to development aid, it was said that Lithuania was struggling to achieve the standard of 0.3% of GNI in their ODA spending. Their present rate of ODA is 1% of their GNI, approximately 1 million euros. An interesting insight shared was that public opinion favoured development aid being channelled to humanitarian crises rather than development issues. Interestingly enough public opinion also favoured development aid going to Asian and African countries rather than the neighbouring countries.

### 4.2 Meeting with Lithuanian NGOs

The NGDOs were taken through the concept and function of the Presidency Fund as well as the EU Development Policy, especially since this latter aspect seemed to be unfamiliar to most NGOs. They were also given an outline of the role that the Fund sees the NGOs should play in Development Cooperation in Lithuania, particularly their partnership with the government toward the formulation of National Development Policy aligned to the EU Development Policy. The NGOs were also encouraged to participate in EU-wide NGO networks.

In the discussion that followed, the most important issue raised was the need for a well-functioning and focused NGO network and more importantly a strong National NGO Platform.

## 5. Statement of income and expenditure for period 1 January to 31 December 2006

Item	Cost (in euros)
<b>Balance held at 1 January 2006</b>	<b>562 636</b>
<b>Income</b>	
<b>Grants</b>	
Irish government	0
Dutch government	0
<b>Total grants</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Bank Interest</b>	
Interest on bank deposits	9 373
<b>Total bank interest</b>	<b>9 373</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>9 373</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
<b>Project grants</b>	
Payments to selected projects	285 711
<b>Total project grants</b>	<b>285 711</b>
<b>Administration</b>	
Salaries	20 619
Meeting of Board (Travel of Board Members and cost of Meeting)	6 957
Administrative Costs (Office Supplies and equipment)	2 783
Communication (telephone calls & post)	519
Travel	701
Miscellaneous	2 271
<b>Total administration</b>	<b>33 852</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>319 563</b>
<b>Balance held at 31 December 2005</b>	<b>252 446</b>

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

Call	Un committed funds available before call <sup>1</sup>	Funds committed for projects	Funds dispersed for implementation of projects	Balance of committed funds to be disbursed
	€	€	€	€
Call 1	902 158	235 468	177 286	58 182
Call 2	673 517	241 190	80 837	160 353
As on 31 December 2006	434 870	476 658	258 123	218 535

<sup>1</sup> Based on € 900.000 available for support of project proposals plus accrued interest on deposits held.

## 7. Conclusion

The projects receiving aid from the Presidency Fund are oriented toward creating a more unified focus on development cooperation across the EU. In this way, NGDOs in the New Member States are being supported in their lobbying efforts to obtain commitments from their governments to EU Development Policy and to the International Development Agenda not only through the legislation of a concrete National Development Policy but its fulfilment of the prescribed ODA as well. These projects also demonstrate that the Fund has created the opportunity for an animated exchange between NGOs across the EU, bringing diverse concerns to the debate on the EU Development Policy, especially concerns voiced from within the New Member States.

### 7.1 The Presidency Fund in the immediate Future

The First Call for Proposals brought into focus a wealth of information on the NGDO sector in the New Member States- their manner of operation, their concerns and their orientation. The interactive manner in which the Fund operates has helped to highlight various issues that need resolution. These will strengthen the operation of NGDOs in general and National NGDO Platforms in particular. NGOs in some New Member States need more attention than others – such as Lithuania, Cyprus and Slovenia. For the latter there is a particular importance to address the issues concerned as it steps into its role, not very far into the future, as a Presidency country. The Presidency Fund will compile its experiences of the last year and the two calls for proposals into a report that will be widely circulated across the EU among NGDOs, national governments and the EU institutions.

### 7.2 Funding Possibilities for the Presidency Fund

The Fund's operating capital of 1 million euros provides the basis for fulfilling the objectives of the Fund, as set out in the original proposal. However, as can be seen from the demand in the first two calls, the Fund's ability to meet these objectives on a larger scale across the New Member States within the envisaged timetable is limited by the level of funding available. On the basis of the current demands it can be anticipated that the current funding available will be fully committed well before the end of the Fund's three year life. As a result the Fund Secretariat, with the support of the Board Members continues to approach the past, present and future Presidency countries to invite them to extend monetary support. Additional contributions would greatly boost the Fund not only by enabling it to extend support to more NGDOs but also to find possible solutions to problems that have been raised by NGDOs in the NMS in the process of the Fund's interactions with them.

Until then, the Fund continues to work towards fulfilling the objectives for which it was established.