



TRIALOG: Development NGOs in the Enlarged EU

What is it about?

TRIALOG is a project to strengthen civil society organisations (CSOs) in the enlarged EU for active engagement in global development. The project has been successfully led by HORIZONT3000 and an international CSO consortium. The 15 years of TRIALOG (5 project phases from 2000 to 2015) have been funded by the EC and the Austrian Development Cooperation.

Why an intervention?

Civil Society in newer EU Member States did not have a strong background in development issues and CSO structures at the time TRIALOG started. With EU accession, the 13 countries that became members of the Union after 2004 (EU13) had to set up their development cooperation and humanitarian aid strategies and became active in international development. Civil society involvement in this process and building up capacities was crucial.

What does it change?

The support of TRIALOG facilitated CSOs from the EU13 to engage in development education and global development projects. The establishment of national development CSO platforms was an important step for civil society in order to deal with development policy on national and EU level, to become members of the European CSO confederation CONCORD and to give CSOs a stronger voice.

HORIZONT
3000

AUSTRIAN ORGANISATION
FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Sector: Civil Society

Period: 2000-2015 (5 project phases)

Organisation: HORIZONT3000

Further material: Systematisation document,
<http://www.knowhow3000.org/en/content/countries/europe/>

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How does it work?

The work of TRIALOG can be divided into three main areas: "European integration of development CSOs from the enlarged EU", "CSO platform building support" and "Capacity building for development CSOs". A variety of activities such as training, workshops, study and field visits, peer-learning, conferences and meetings were organised all over the EU and even around the world to support networking, learning and empowerment and advocacy of the EU13 development CSO sector.

Who are the beneficiaries?

CSOs and development CSO platforms from EU13 countries are the main beneficiaries of TRIALOG. Furthermore EU policy makers and EU13 state officials dealing with international development issues have benefitted from strengthened civil society counterparts and themselves participated in certain project activities. CSOs from the Global South have been provided with spaces for networking with EU13 colleagues.

Who could use this approach?

CSOs in countries with EU accession prospects in particular might find this experience useful for inspiring examples of how to tackle the topic of development cooperation. There are also relevant conclusions for CSO platforms and their members, especially when it comes to working in large project consortia with diverse partners.

Who is already using it?

Elements of TRIALOG have been adopted by HORIZONT3000's knowledge management programme, such as the project governance structure and experiences in conference organisation and PR have been shared.

