



Federația Organizațiilor Neguvernamentale pentru Dezvoltare din România

Study Visit Report

Paris / Coordination SUD

08.12 – 10.12.2008

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This study visit is part of the project „**Development Cooperation in Romania-Building Foundation for Policy Work**”, implemented by FOND, and which aims at strengthening the capacity of civil society in Romania, to engage public authorities in development cooperation in order to influence national policies in the field, as well as the political debate at European level.

The aim of the visit:

A delegation of 5 FOND members visited the French Platform, Coordination Sud (project partner) and 4-5 member organizations, which develop projects in the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP), in order to learn more about the activities and projects of Coordination Sud and its members, in order to identify potential partners for future projects.

Participants: Valentin Burada (FDSC), Dragos Davidescu (Centras), Adela Rusu (FOND coordinator), Mihaela Sabadac (ProWomen), Andreea Tudorache (ARTFusion).

08.12.2008

1. Coordination Sud:

Founded in 1994, the platform is composed of 6 large groups of organizations (CLONG-Volunteer, CNAJEP, Coordination d'Agen, CRID, FORIM, Groupe Initiatives) and over 130 NGOs that work on humanitarian aid, external assistance, environmental protection, human rights, development education .

Coordination Sud is mainly sustained by the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (around 60%), by French Foundation, Charles Léopold Mayer pour le Progrès de l'Homme Foundation, Ford Foundation and United Nations Development Program (together with the contributions of private, cover approximately 25%) and contributions of members (15%).

Coordination Sud has a double mission: to support capacity building of French NGOs and to represent their positions in front of public and private institutions in France, in Europe and around the world. Among the most important objectives are: support to NGOs in increasing their institutional and organizational capacity; bringing the positions taken by NGOs in the public debate and support cooperation with the French government, European Union and international organizations in order to influence the public policies in the field of humanitarian aid and external assistance; partnerships with other families of non-state actors, economic, social and political actors; promoting international cooperation in all the public backgrounds (media, parliamentarians, private sector...).

François FIARD, Coordination Sud (Support to NGO programme)

Francois Fiard (Coordination Sud) presented the services offers by the French Platform to the members organizations , covering three directions: access to public financing (French MFA, EU) and management, cooperation with other actors (trade unions, authorities, ACP organizations); lobbying/advocacy and financing activities proposed by members. It also gave some details about a special fund for the evaluation of projects, F3O (Fond pour etudes et evaluation) that provide assistance for writing and evaluating projects to member organizations .



Alexandre Tiphagne, Coordination SUD (International programme)

Mr. Tiphagne presented the international programs of the Platform, especially the relations with other national platforms. Tiphagne also mentioned some aspects of non-governmental diplomacy (for more details see Report of External Trip of the platform Coordinator at this conference- Paris, 2008).

2. Équilibre et Populations

Robert TOUBON, (Publications and Public Affairs)

Equilibres & Populations was founded in 1993 by journalists and doctors, and is based in Paris. It is also represented in Burkina Faso. It's a member of several networks, including the Coordination Sud and the European network EuroNGO's (www.eurongos.org). In order to promote an effective external assistance, Equilibres & Populations has several objectives: advocacy, communication, technical and institutional support.

Robert Toubon mentioned that the focus of his organization is on lobby, the target being centered on girls / women (maternal health, planning, gender equality). The lobby is sustained both at national and European (EU) level. The Equilibres & Populations organization provides expertise on building lobby capacity for African NGOs, on education related to women's rights. The countries where EP are developing projects are: Senegal, Niger, Benin, Mali, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Morocco.

Also, Robert Toubon described one of the most important projects of the organization, which actually involves a program funded by World Bank, through a special budget line for NGOs. This program has an annual budget of 7-8 million euros. In this case, EP has the intermediary role to maintain the relation between donors and local African NGOs, involved in this program. More specifically, the EP promotes the ideas of local NGOs and adapts them to be acceptable to donors. One of the most important suggestions was the importance given to the local authority involvement and traditional powers.

09.12.2008

3. Solidarité Laïque

Solidarité Laïque (which is responsible for the ProCopil program implemented in Romania) was recognized as a public utility in 1990. The programmes developed in France and all over the world concern the protection of human rights. Solidarité Laïque fights against inequality and exclusion. The conception of solidarity promoted by Solidarité Laïque is based on responsibility and mutual respect.



Solidarité Laïque operates in the following areas: human rights protection, universal education, access to healthcare and proper nutrition, development cooperation, fight against inequality and exclusion and humanitarian aid.

Marie Laluque described the PROCOPIL program (child protection), started in 2005/2006 in Romania, Moldova and Bulgaria. This program has four major components: the sustainability of the project (social services for children will be assumed by public authorities); innovation, art therapy; training (socio-educational animation) and the last component of the program -

lobbying/advocacy. Romania is trying to harmonize its internal rules with the European legislation in this field.

Nawal Besri (charge of West Africa Program) presented the organization's activities in West Africa, specifically in Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali. The role of Solidarité Laïque (SL) in this region is to support local NGOs in the education field. The Program includes a group of NGOs working with local partners. The SL role is to coordinate this program and to facilitate the cooperation with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This program started in 2005 and French MFA is one of financial supporters.

Philippe Jahshan spoke about the ProCopil project in Morocco and the agreement between France and Morocco in terms of support Marocco civil society. This program developed in Morocco was negotiated in 2001, by the French non-governmental organizations with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. SL is a Euromed member and participated at the Mediterranean Sea Forum (2008 November).

4. Aide et Action

Martin PERICARD (regional coordinator), Claire HEUZÉ (communication officer)

Aide et Action has been working in development cooperation since 1981. The main goal is to promote universal education The organization has currently implemented over 120 projects in 21 countries and has received funding from the 63.000 donors. This organization has over 70 volunteers and almost 600 employees. It is recognized as public utility by the French Ministry of National Education. It is also recognized by UNESCO as one of the 50 important actors in the education field.

The main fields of activity include: high quality education, education for girls and women, inclusive education (integration of young and excluded people based on social and economic criteria), development education, training, health education, migration and education for risk prevention, and sustainable reconstruction.

According to the "social demand", Aide et Action is in charge with the selection of the projects, usually having the role of mediator / facilitator. It also contribute to build capacity for local NGOs. Another important aspect was the relation with the authorities, the state must support the projects. Claire and Martin gave examples of two projects, one in Morocco where they faced difficulties because of the "ownership" deficiency, and the other in Laos, where the methodology used by the authorities received the input of the Aide et Action.



10.12.2008

5. Comité français pour la solidarité internationale- CFSI

Anne Françoise TAISNE, CFSI- (déléguée générale Adjointe)

Le Comité français pour la solidarité internationale was founded in 1960 and is recognized as public utility. CFSI includes 26 organizations active in development cooperation.

Among CFSI priorities are sustainable fight against hunger, poverty and inequalities, following four principles: to act on the long term in Africa, Latin America and Asia, to realize development projects, to respond at the local initiatives and to improve the situation of the poor. CFSI works at the European and national level, offers information to the public about the causes of extreme hunger and poverty.



CFSI works in three areas: agriculture and nutrition, social economy (broad on young), strengthening civil society in developing countries. CFSI supports projects in Africa, Brazil and Cambodia, promoting development education (in France and at European level). CFSI has also a mechanism to sustain the members, by organizing an annual call for proposals to finance their projects. CFSI has currently two projects PCPA (Programme Concerte Plusieurs Acteurs)

in Congo and Algeria, projects that involve all the important stakeholders. CFSI members cooperate with local partners.

CFSI receives money from individual donors and grants from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and from the EU, for specific projects. The targeted countries are: Algeria, Congo, Guinea, Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Madagascar, Niger, Togo, etc. ...

Development education is supported through national campaigns having the role to raise awareness about GMOs (genetically modified organisms, bio-friendly farm), and film festivals which make a wider audience.

6. Association Française des Volontaires du Progrès (AFVP)

Jean-Loup CAPDEVILLE

Association Française des Volontaires du Progrès (AFVP) offers the opportunity to work in volunteering missions for the developing countries. It was founded in 1963 and, since then, AFVP sent over 10,000 volunteers all over the world. About 300 volunteers are involved in different missions in over 30 countries in Africa, Southeast Asia, the Indian Ocean and the Caribbean and Latin America. Since

February 2005, AFVP is officially recognized as a representative of the French government. Its mission is a part of the Development Cooperation of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs Program.



AFVP is funded by the French MFA, but also by other institutions, like regional and local councils, bilateral and multilateral sponsors, NGOs, foundations, etc. .. In 2007 the budget was around 13 million euros.

AFVP receives about 4-5000 applications/per year and offers a week of training before sending the volunteers in their mission. Most volunteers are sent to West

Africa and Central Madagascar, Maghreb (Morocco, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria), Southeast Asia (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia), China, Latin America.

Jean-Loup Capdeville expressed his interest in sending volunteers from Romania.