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d'urgence et de développement

Report #EYD2015

Policy Recommendations



our world
our dignity
our future



2015
European Year
for Development

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Policy Recommendations EYD2015 Civil Society Alliance

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*by Marius Wanders, Ambassador of
the EYD2015 CSA and Member of
the Board of CONCORD Europe*

In many ways, 2015 has been a quite remarkable milestone year

We all remember that at the start of this millennium, in the year 2000, the international community adopted an ambitious, shared global agenda aimed at eradicating poverty and inequality around the world: the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs were a set of eight global goals and 18 targets, all to be met by 2015. They were drawn up by government representatives using a rather top-down approach, and involved little consultation with citizens, civil society or other stakeholders.

Even the greatest sceptic has to admit that a lot has been achieved. The spread of HIV and AIDS has been halted, and is even beginning to reverse. More children than ever before now have access to primary education. The number of women dying while giving birth has been dramatically reduced, as has the number of children dying before their fifth birthday.

But even the greatest optimist has to admit that, in many ways, the goals and targets set in 2000 have not been achieved. More than one billion people in the world still go to sleep hungry each night, a good deal of progress remains to be made on gender equality, inequality and discrimination are still rampant, and violent conflicts still fill our news

Justice, democracy and diversity in our food systems

By Nora Mckeon, Terra Nuova

Nora McKeon, is a representative of CONCORD Italia, Terra Nuova and a member of the European Food Security Group of CONCORD Europe. She is a former UN Food & Agriculture Organization civil society director, an expert on food issues, and the author of *Food Security Governance: Empowering Communities, Regulating Corporations*.

The issue of food security has climbed to the top of the international development agenda since the riots in capital cities around the world that accompanied the food price crisis of 2007-2008 sounded a wake-up call for the international community. The European Union and its member states have significant influence on global food policy. They could play an important role in defending the right to food of the world's population...if they do not drift with the tide of the corporate capture of the global food system.

The past two decades have witnessed the systematic introduction of international trade and investment regimes, which have reinforced the structural and discursive power of agri-food corporations and aggravated the impact of corporate food chains on small-scale producers and local food systems. A small number of multinational corporations have attained a level of concentration in production, processing and retailing stages that is unacceptable even in terms of orthodox economics.

The five largest traders in grains are estimated to control 75% of international grain trade, while the top three seed companies claim almost 50% of

bulletins every day.

The world is very different from when the MDGs were designed at the turn of the century. The threats associated with climate change have grown, inequality between and within countries has taken deeper root, and our economic system has been shown to serve the interests of the few and to be unsustainable in the long term. To respond to these complex global challenges, in 2015 the world is gearing up to start implementing a new, more ambitious common agenda for the next 15 years, building on the lessons learnt from the MDGs and the UN Rio+20 process, and addressing the root causes of poverty, inequality and unsustainability. Compared to the MDGs, a far more participatory global process has led to the formulation of these new global goals and their detailed targets.

This new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is universal, people-centred, indivisible and integrated in nature. It balances the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, the social and the environmental.

2015 was also remarkable because it was the European Year for Development

The idea for this European Year for Development (EYD) came from CONCORD. It was CONCORD that initiated, inspired and coordinated the lobbying of the relevant EU institutions to make it happen. Once the idea had been turned into a political reality, CONCORD had considerable – and substantial – input into shaping and preparing the year.

Recognizing CONCORD's pivotal role in the genesis of this special year, the EU institutions lent it their support in this project and invited it to convene and coordinate the

activities of a broad alliance of civil society actors, recognising them as a group of stakeholders that were essential to achieving the objectives of the European Year for Development. This EYD Civil Society Alliance succeeded in mobilising hundreds of very different organisations – from the social sector, the humanitarian sector, the environmental sector, the fair-trade sector, local authorities, youth movements, women's movements and many others – all of which felt that, in one way or another, there was something at stake for them in the European Year for Development. They all shared the belief that greater awareness and a stronger engagement of citizens across the EU were vital, in order to achieve their objectives and increase public ownership of development cooperation in the EU and its Member States.

As a tangible legacy of the partnership and cooperation between civil society organisations from many diverse sectors, and our year-long dialogue with and between citizens, we wish to anchor our involvement in this European Year in the following set of policy recommendations which we put to decision-makers around the world, in particular those within the European Union and its Member States.

The recommendations reflect the engagement of citizens, and their critical thinking, in the dialogue about development cooperation. On behalf of those hundreds of civil society organisations that took part in the activities of the European Year, and the millions of citizens across the Union that they are in touch with, this is what we humbly offer today as we celebrate 2015, the European Year for Development, in its closing ceremony.

Catch a glimpse of Luxembourg: „Change the world by changing your perspective“

by Aneta Haimannova, CONCORD Europe

The European Year for Development 2015 put development issues into the spotlight, kicked up public discussion about Europe's role in poverty eradication worldwide and encouraged more Europeans to get involved. The year is now slowly coming to its end and the Civil Society Organizations together with EU policy makers gathered in the EYD2015 Civil Society Alliance event "Development is not about what Europe gives but how Europe lives" in Luxembourg on 9 December to discuss the lessons learned from their cooperation and ways to make the implementation and monitoring more efficient and move forward towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The event took place within the conference Responsibility to Act organized by Cercle de coopération des ONG de Développement de Luxembourg and Caritas Luxembourg. The EYD2015 CS Alliance's common work resulted in Policy Recommendations to decision-makers within the European Union and its Member States, and around the world, and they were presented during the event in Luxembourg by EYD2015 Project Ambassador Marius Wanders. The recommendations were handed over to the representatives of the European Commission and the Committee of the Regions in the event. In the discussion, the important role of local media and appropriate language in order to attract the attention of wider public were raised. Also, the success of collaboration

between different stakeholders throughout the year was highlighted. Speakers called upon the change of our perspectives on development and a video #myEYD2015: You can make a change created through collaboration of the EYD2015 sub-granting beneficiaries was launched.

Stina Soewarta, Head of Unit in DG DEVCO Communication and transparency, emphasized storytelling and cooperation of EU institutions and Civil Society as success factors of the European Year for Development 2015 and introduced a video Change your perspective: 3 Continents, 5 Countries, 10 Days

Thomas Ravn-Pedersen, Head of Secretariat and Editor-in-Chief in World's Best News, Denmark, especially called upon the revision of language used to communicate development issues. People are interested to hear good news and learn how they can contribute to the achievement of SGDs through their individual choices.

Johnny Sheehan, Project Coordinator for the EYD2015 at Dochas — the Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organizations — introduced their activities which took place during the year and Rilli Lappalainen, Secretary General of Kehys – The Finnish NGDO Platform to the EU – told about the challenges which the development organisations are currently facing in Finland.

Alexandrina Najmowicz, Director of European Civic Forum, representing Civil Society Europe stressed the importance of solidarity within Europe in order to rebuild the trust and cooperation in the EU.

the global proprietary seed market. Unjust trade rules force markets in food insecure countries to open up to unfair competition from abroad. The global corporate food regime promotes unsustainable consumption patterns and production methods and a race to the bottom in food provision. The financial speculation and the commodification of land, water and seeds that have accompanied the corporations' triumphal march is dispossessing small-scale producers and herding many into the flow of migrants-without-choice who are assailing the borders of Europe today.

The corporate sector's investment in agriculture in the global South has been marginal up to now. Their fuel-hungry agricultural production and food distribution regime is in crisis as we run up against the ecological limits of the planet. Yet over the past few years the agri-food corporations have been able to normalise themselves as aid actors under a development paradigm that focuses on "modernisation", productivism and narrowly-defined "effectiveness".

How to combat this trend? What public policies can lead us in the right direction? What approaches to food production and provision should we be promoting? Concord credits the EU with having adopted in 2010, in reaction to the food price crisis, an intelligent and progressive policy framework aimed at supporting the attainment of food security and the right to food in developing countries. This text, which remains the reference point for the EU's food security strategies, accents the need to support small-scale producers – responsible for some 70% of the food consumed in the world – defend their access to land, water and biodiversity, and ensure that more of the value added in food provision is retained in family farms and rural economies.

But this orientation risks being undercut by EU policy incoherencies, of which the Economic Partnership Agreements are only the most flagrant. The CAP continues to subsidise unsustainable large-scale commodity production while governments of

the global South are forbidden from supporting and protecting their own agriculture. DGAGRI pushes the notion that profits for European agribusiness can dovetail nicely with “promoting” African family farmers to becoming “modern entrepreneurs” despite eloquent evidence to the contrary from the objects of their attention.

Concord notes with concern the current tendency for the EU to shift from a rights-based, smallholder-oriented food security strategy towards a private sector-led approach to development, with the risk of joining the corporate-engaged chorus that extolls agribusiness as the paladin of food and nutrition security.

The 2014 Communication advocating A Stronger Role for the Private Sector in achieving Inclusive and Sustainable Growth in Developing Countries advocates regulatory environments in developing countries that are business-friendly rather than smallholder-friendly and the multiplication of public-private partnerships, despite a lack of evidence for their effectiveness in attaining development objectives. The EU participates in the G8 New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, which is distinguishing itself by pushing African governments to redesign land, seed, and investment policies to suit corporation interests, without the participation of national actors – an attack against the kind of democratic governance of which the EU portrays itself as a staunch defender.

What do European civil society organisations ask of the EU? That it withdraw from the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition. That it promote the establishment of robust regulatory frameworks to protect the rights and food security of the vulnerable, within which private sector actors must operate. That it implement the Maastricht Principles on Extraterritorial Obligations of States to protect people in third countries from human rights abuses by European investors. That it apply to its own operations the recommendations of the UN Committee on World Food

Ingo Ritz, Director of GCAP, called upon an improved conversation with private sector, and he also emphasized the successful cooperation and partnership between Civil Society and European Institutions during the year.

The event was moderated by Ian Hall, UK Director of EurActiv.com, and complemented with a [Live Twitter Streaming](#) facilitated by Chiara Patricolo, Human Rights and Solidarity Coordinator from European Student Unions. The streaming resulted to more than 250 posts, approx. 50 users contributing and over 800.000 impressions.

Click on the following [link](#) to see pictures from our event, capturing interventions and interaction between the speakers and the audience.

In Luxembourg on the same day, Ms. Leymah Gbowee gave an inspiring speech in the framework of the [Kapucinski Development Lecture](#). These events were followed by the official European Year for Development 2015 Closing Ceremony by Luxembourg Presidency. We invite you to watch the full [video recording](#) of the ceremony including the great speech of EYD2015 Project Ambassador Marius Wanders.

One World Week 2015

By *National Youth Council of Ireland*

This year's theme was The Sustainable Development Goals and YOUth where we view the new global agreement through the lens of the 5Ps - People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership. We also looked at the silent P that is Participation.

One World Week is a week of youth-led awareness raising, education and action that takes place throughout Ireland during the third week in November every year. During One World Week young people learn

about local and global justice issues and are empowered to take action to bring about positive change. Young people and those who work with young people from all over the country undertake activities from the education pack. Some organise public events, quizzes and debates, invite guest speakers or have intercultural evenings. Many groups publicly display the work they have done in preparation for One World Week, or lead other people in doing a public action.

For more information:

<http://www.oneworldweek.ie/>

3RD REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE EU-ARAB PARTNERSHIP



by Barbara Caracciolo, *Solidar*

From 30-31 October 2015, the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND), together with the Euro-Med Non-Governmental Platform and SOLIDAR, organised a two-day regional conference in Beirut, in order to discuss the ongoing challenges related to the EU-Arab Partnership, in the framework of the upcoming revision of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP).

The regional dialogue brought together around 80 participants from CSOs from the Arab region and Europe, including SOLIDAR members active in the MENA region, representatives from the Trade Unions and EU officials.

On 30 October 2015, the dialogue opened with the key challenges related to the revision of the ENP highlighting the necessity to take stock for socio-economic inequalities and stressing the necessity to prioritise the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs) at the heart of the revised policy in order to achieve peace, stability and prosperity. In this regard, Maciej Golubiewski, from the EU Delegation in Lebanon, pointed out at the major priorities in the upcoming revised policy, stressing the importance of a consistent human rights framework, and of building a real partnership that involves the citizens of both EU and partner countries.

MEP Pier Antonio Panzeri, Chair of the Delegation for the relations with Maghreb Countries, and member of the AFET Committee in the European Parliament insisted on the necessity to keep human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, at the top of the new policy and on the crucial role played by civil society in policy change. Similarly, MEP Richard Howitt discus-

sed the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy insisted on the challenges related to the application of human rights conditionality in bilateral agreements, insisting on the necessity that the new action plan should take concrete actions to develop and implement human rights criteria. You can read the full speech, [here](#).

Finally MEP Cecilia Kyenge, Member of the LIBE Committee, spoke about the role of the European Parliament in tackling the on-going refugee “crisis”, stressing the need to find a comprehensive migration policy that aims at protecting and upholding the rights of all migrants. This can be achieved by promoting the opening of safe and legal channel for migration, including humanitarian admissions, enhancing the cultural, socio-economic developmental potential of migration, and starting by finding a political solution to the conflict in Syria. Raffaella Bolini from ARCS presented the recent work of the SOLIDAR Advisory Group on Migration.

In addition, the regional dialogue saw the participation of Trade Unions representatives that shed light on the urgent issues to be tackled in order to ensure the social dimension of the new policy, including decent work and social protection policies, and organizing undocumented labor. In particular, Sergio Bassoli from CGIL, Mustapha Tlili from the Arab Trade Union Confederation (ATUC), and Kacem Afaya from the UGTT insisted on the urgency for the new policy to enable cooperation between trade unions and CSOs in order to ensure the sustainability of the new policy in designing and delivering sustainable socio-economic policies that are inclusive and foster citizen’s participation.

The first day of the conference was also an opportunity for SOLIDAR

Security, the only global food policy forum in which small-scale food producers are in the room on the same footing as governments. In a word, that it honour its commitments to human rights and to Policy Coherence for Development, to the values that make us proud to be Europeans. Food and nutrition security will be a key topic under discussion at the event organised by civil society at the Milan EXPO on 28-29 October in the context of the European Year for Development 2015. The objective of the discussion in Milan is to inform European citizens about the current situation of global food provision, the actors and the interests involved, and identify the messages that should be at the heart of advocacy addressed to the European authorities.

Civil society and the European Year for Development 2015

by Marina Sarli, *CONCORD*

Civil society organisations must apply the lessons learned from the 2015 Year of Development, starting by clarifying and communicating their message effectively, writes Marina Sarli.

Marina Sarli is a board member of CONCORD Europe and President of Fair Trade Hellas.

Citizens and representatives from Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) from across Europe were invited to an open debate with thematic workshops at the “You can make a change – Sustainable Development 2.0” conference in Milan on 28 and 29 October. The aim of this conference was to address, on one hand, the principle of ‘Universality’ of the new UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

framework in specific areas such as migration and food security, and on the other hand, the complementary actors in the implementation of the new SDG framework, such as local authorities and the private sector. One very clear message resulted from the two day event: the development sector must communicate its work in a better way if we want to be regarded as effective actors by society and provoke deeper engagement and commitment from citizens.

“Communication” is one of the four words I retained in the days’ conclusions. In fact, I could resume the whole day through a line connecting four words starting with the letter C. Concepts: we need to simplify the concepts behind complex issues and to change not only the narrative driving our work, but also to clarify the connections between global issues and their local relevance in Europe. We should be brave and change our point of view. The migrant crisis offers an ideal dramatic field to turn upside down not only policies on migration and on development but also our perspectives: migrants are not ‘a problem’, migrants have a problem. Migration is not a problem that affects us; it is a problem that affects them. There is huge potential for strengthening our values of solidarity, respect and justice in our society as strong as the dangerous threat of losing them.

Complexity: we are not alone. We need “alliances and partnerships”. A multi-stakeholder approach is needed and we, as CSOs, have to find our place and role not only as implementers of actions and activities but also as watchdogs and policy shapers. In this frame, the workshops on Local Authorities and the Private Sector in Development offered several critical incentives for reflection. Let’s be honest: things become even more complex when we have to plan and work to share our vision, to relate to people coming from different sectors. But only through this complexity will we reach a holistic view that improves the effectiveness of our work.

Coherence: everything has already been said on different occasions on

members and partners to present the preliminary results of the Social Protection Monitoring reports for the European Neighbourhood Policy for Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine and to address the regional trends and commonalities affecting the region.

On 31 October, the regional dialogue focused on the challenges related to the Public-Private- Partnerships (PPPs) and EU energy policies in the region, with the participation of SOLIDAR partner in Egypt, Mohamed Adel from the Egyptian Center for Economic and Social Rights.

On the same day, SOLIDAR participated at a parallel conference organised by the Global Progressive Forum (GPF), the Party for Europe-

an Socialists (PES) and S&D Group on “Addressing the Root Causes of the Refugee Crisis”, and organised a visit to the activities of ARCS and ANND partners in Shatila Refugee Camp for Gianni Pittella, President of the S&D Group.

On the same day, SOLIDAR organised a SOLIDAR members and strategic partners meeting share practices and experiences around the ongoing work of SOLIDAR members’ and partners around the Syria conflict. This meeting was attended by MPDL, ARCS, ApS, CGIL, Norwegian People’s Aid, Solidarité Laique, UGTT, and ANND.

The European Neighbourhood Policy



by *Barbara Caracciolo - Solidar*

Today the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, Federica Mogherini, together with Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, Johannes Hahn presented issued the joint communication with the review of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) to the members of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the

European Parliament.

The new policy aims tend to shift away from an EU-centered approach towards more strengthened and equal partnerships to tackle common challenges and seize common opportunities in the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood. Whilst the communication addresses the common challenges on socio-economic development, youth employability, good governance, democracy and rule of law, SOLIDAR is concerned about the strong focus given to “hard” security, both

declined in the energy and migration sectors, instead of investing in social protection contributing to social and economic stability.

Also, despite referring to the universality and indivisibility of human rights and the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy, it needs to be more specified how human rights conditionality will be implemented. Lastly, despite mentioning support to CSO fora, the recognition of the role of civil society in bringing about transformative change, defined in the Agenda 2030, requires a stronger focus.

This communication comes after the conclusion of a CSO dialogue that brought together 70 civil society organisations from the Middle East and North Africa region and Europe, that was organised on 16 November by CONCORD, Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) and the EuroMed Non-Governmental Platform, hosted by the European Economic and Social Committee, in preparation of the launch of the reviewed European Neighbourhood Policy.

The dialogue clearly highlighted that investing in young people, working together in providing them better socio-economic future perspectives, was considered to be one of the 'mainstream' points – together with a strong gender perspective – to promote sustainable and inclusive development throughout the region and that the reviewed ENP should take close to its heart, and hence we welcome the reference in the joint communication given to youth and socio-economic rights of women. In order to put these principles into practice, the civil society organisations participating at the dialogue recommend the following elements upon which the new partnership between the EU and the countries in the region can be build:

- Uphold values and Human Rights, including human rights con-

ditionality, against which systems to promote reform in the MENA region, supported by the EU, will be evaluated.

- Support the statutory role of civil society that needs to be recognised as key interlocutor for an open, meaningful, transparent, structured dialogue on local, national, regional and EU level.

- Enhance the role of civil society allowing them to have a meaningful and concrete impact on the ground, especially by taking concrete actions against practices by partner countries that limit the space for civil society in the region.

- Embrace the human security approach: Security is not about barbed wire, but it is about investing in people, especially in education, decent jobs, social protection and to foster the sense of solidarity among people.

- Migrants and refugees: A set of mechanisms needs to be taken such as humanitarian corridors, tackling root causes of migration, and other efforts. Moreover political courage of EU member states is needed to provide suitable answers to the current crisis.

- Trade and investment: A real partnership, in light of the EU Agenda 2030, should be established to ensure policy coherence for sustainable development. This would necessitate a change in the underlying approach of the trade agreements (i.e. DCFTAs).

- Specific attention has to be dedicated to people with special needs, in particular Persons With Disabilities (PWDs), to ensure their integration in society as well as participation in decision making processes.

this issue. We have to keep high on our agenda our policy makers' commitment to implementing coherent policies. Only this can guarantee a radical systemic shift towards the sustainable development we all envision under the new SDG framework. But we have to go a step forward and put coherence in our lives, moving towards that paradigm shift that changes our individual lives and influences community life, creating a real positive impact. An impact that becomes a change.

Communication: we need better internal communication to improve the effectiveness of our networks, alliances and partnerships as well as stronger external communication. Most importantly, we need to bring citizens with us: show them evidence of our work and engage them in building a society of solidarity and respect for human rights as recommended by the EYD 2015 Civil Society Alliance event in Milan.

One year ago, when the EYD was announced, I was invited to a conference in Rome and I tested something: I asked the audience in the room to raise a hand if participants knew which European Year we were going through in 2015.

Very few hands were raised at that time.

In one year, the Civil Society Alliance (through the EYD project) has organised several events touching important themes for the development sector: issues that are relevant for us and our work but also out there for the wider society, issues that are as burning as hot potatoes at social and political level.

National, local and European institutions have interacted with CSOs to build more efficient ways to reach out to citizens, but this is only the beginning: only by involving people and making them aware of what are we talking about will give us the legitimacy to speak in their name and therefore reach higher consensus for the policies we demand.

Because only consensus that becomes political opinion brings about political change.

This European Year for Development

2015 focused on an important communication and awareness raising campaign.

“Diversity is richness”: CONCORD and the Civil Society Alliance – including many Civil Society Organisations from sectors other than development – made a very small part but planted a seed that will bear important fruit: first among them a new way to communicate the world of development cooperation starting from the statement “development is not how much we give but how we live”.

As said by Ms Orsola De Castro, co-founder of the Fashion Revolution movement “yes, even fashion is political!”

We will do our best to get EYD 2015 policy recommendations recognised as an important tool that will be finalised in November and presented during the closing conference of the European Year for Development 2015 ahead of the Informal meeting of Development Cooperation ministers in Luxemburg. We will make them an important tool for dialogue with our EU, national and local institutions. The goal of this EYD is that if in January 2016 you ask people to raise their hand if they know which European Year has just ended, more hands will be raised.

And those hands raised will measure the first step of a process of engagement and commitment; individual commitment that becomes political and ethical positioning in society. The kind of individual commitment that can really change our world in a better way.

“You can make a change – Sustainable Development 2.0.” This key event was organised by CONCORD and the Civil Society Alliance on 28 and 29 October 2015, in the frame of the European Year for Development 2015.

- In the management of the humanitarian crisis more support has to be provided to civil society (i.e. grassroots organisations) to promote a sustainable resilience agenda over the long term.

SOLIDAR and its members and partners in the region have publi-

shed seven country reports on the European Neighbourhood Policy for Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Palestine, Lebanon, Egypt and Jordan. Please read SOLIDAR Policy Briefing “Social Protection: Key for Peace and Prosperity in the Middle East and North Africa Region”.

Migration and Development Perspectives to the Mediterranean Crisis



by *CYINDEP*

Our third official event, a public lecture on European Year for Development 2015 with title ‘Migration and Development Perspectives to the Mediterranean Crisis’, was held at Monday night, 9th of November, 2015 at B108 Amphitheater of University of Cyprus (Anastasios Leventis Building) with great success. More than 55 people coming from different backgrounds (including officials from Embassies and ministries) attended, discussing on the important topic of Migration and the impact of it on the greater Mediterranean region, thus contributing to the problems of an already turbulent region of the world. The lecture was organised within the

framework of The European Year for Development 2015 and the EU thematic month dedicated to Demography and Migration, by CYINDEP (Cyprus Island-wide NGO Development Platform) and CARDET, in association with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, University of Cyprus and International Organisation for Migration Cyprus. Speeches were made by Mr. Socrates Hasikos, Minister of Interior and Mrs Laura Thompson, Deputy Director General of the International Organisation for Migration. Interpretation was offered into English and Greek and guests were invited to a small reception after the end of the lecture.

Screening the World- Documentary Film Projections



by *CYINDEP*

Within the framework of the national program of Cyprus for the European Year for Development (EYD 2015), documentary film screenings entitled: 'Screening the World - Documentary Film Projections' will run island-wide in order to raise awareness to international development and all its dimensions. The documentary projections will feature 11 films based around the EYD2015 thematic months such as Women and Girls, Sustainable Growth and Fair Trade, Education, Food Security, Children and Youth and Demography and Migration. The documentaries will be screened in six settings from October 16th – November 28th, 2015. The opening event was under the auspices of Mr. Costas Kadis, Minister of Education and Culture and was held on October 16th at 18:00 in the Cine Studio at the University of Nicosia, Cyprus. The Minister took also the opportunity to announce and hand the prizes of the EYD Production of Movie school competition, held

among Cypriot lyceums during the past school year. The projections were inaugurated by Greek MEP Mr. Stelios Kouloglou, Vice-Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Development (DEVE), who also introduced the featured documentary 'Seeds of Freedom'. The documentary was shown in conjunction with World Food Day. The projections will then travel to Larnaka, Pafos, Paralimni, Limassol and Agros. The projections are free and open to the public. For documentary synopsis and screening times, please visit www.cyindep.org. 2015 is a special year within the EU as it has been designated as the European Year for Development (EYD 2015). It is the first European Year to deal with the European Union's external actions and Europe's role in the world. Under the coordination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cyprus' national programme for EYD 2015 is implemented by CYINDEP (Cyprus Island-wide NGO Development Platform), in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Seamus Jeffreson: EU leaders divert aid money at our peril

by *Euractiv*

If, instead of providing billions to Turkey to stop refugees, EU leaders had supported the countries hosting them three years ago, with a fraction of these funds, Europe and the world would be better off now, Seamus Jeffreson told EurActiv in an exclusive interview.

Seamus Jeffreson is Director of CONCORD, the European confederation of Relief and Development NGOs. CONCORD is made of 28 national associations, 20 international networks and 3 associate members that represent over 2,600 NGOs, supported by millions of citizens across Europe.

He spoke to EurActiv's Senior Editor Georgi Gotev.

Was the European Year of Development successful? Its aim was to bring development to the attention of the general public, not just in Brussels but in the member states. What was achieved?

I think one of the achievements was that we made a real link with these global processes, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals. And the link that we made was with other civil society organisations, not directly involved in development, but talking about common themes.

What we tried to do at Concord, as the development NGO network, was to try to involve the other civil society networks in this European Year for Development, and I think that was a big success. This is because we got together with some of the other networks – youth, the women's lobby, the disability forum, the social platform,

and obviously environmental NGOs – throughout the year, and has a very good conversation about common agendas.

The glue that put that all together was the SDGs. We asked ourselves at the very beginning of the European Year what success would look like. One of the things we thought would constitute success was if we made or reinforced lasting alliances and relationships. I can confidently say that into 2016 and beyond, we will be working with those same alliances on some of the questions we started addressing in the European Year for Development. So that was a big success.

Another success was about what we call “the narrative”: what development is about. We had two big conferences, where what we looked at was, essentially, consumption in Europe and its relationship to the rest of the world.

So we had a number of projects looking at, for example, where we buy clothes and the impact that has on other parts of the world, mobile phones and conflict minerals, and these sorts of issues. And I think that was a rather fresh way of looking at our sector. It took us beyond the charity “sponsor a child” narrative, to an understanding that it is not just by giving to charities or demonstrating that we make choices or that we are aware of our impact on other parts of the world, but it is through our consumer choices that we can have a positive impact. And I know that has been done before 2015, but I felt there was a lot of activity around that in the conferences we did, and in some of our sub-grants.

My third and last point is that, as you said, a lot has had to happen, not just in Brussels, but around the EU, and I think there were many examples of different countries in Europe trying to engage with this topic. We started the EYD in Riga, under the Latvian Presidency, and throughout the year, there have been voices and stories and projects from different parts of Europe, with their own understand-

Winning team of Cyprus EYD 2015 Youth Documentary Film competition in Brussels



by *CYINDEP*

Within the framework of the National EYD 2015 programme in Cyprus, in spring 2015 a challenging call for a competition was put out to all lyceums both public and private asking for teams of five students to produce a short film concerning one of the thematic months under EYD2015. Submitted films covered a wide range of themes related to the idea of international development and included particularly EYD themes such as Health, Women and Girls, Sustainable Development, Human Rights, Sustainable Growth, Decent Jobs and Businesses, Education. The winning team was from Lyceum of Giannakis Taliotis, Geroskipou in Paphos with their film ‘MyTomorrow’. The winning team received a three night/four day educational trips to Brussels. The team consisted of 5 students, Christofi Evlampia, Tsangara Lamprini, Christiana Faye Constandinou, Zavros Savvas, Stylianos Loukas and

their teacher Theodorou Franginos. During their stay in Brussels, they visited Cypriot MEPs, Permanent Representation of the Republic of Cyprus to the EU in Brussels, European Commission, European Parliament and European Council. CYINDEP, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education and Culture would like to thank all of the lyceums in Cyprus that submitted a film for this competition. We would also like to thank Mr. Marios Stylianos and his teams from MS Viewpoint for his expertise and collaboration during this competition. Great thanks we owe to the amazing staff of Permanent Representation of the Republic of Cyprus to the EU in Brussels for their contribution in arranging this field visit. The school team was announced winners on 16th of October in Nicosia, Cyprus, during the inauguration of the EYD Cyprus Documentaries series ‘Screening the World’.

Insight 2015 documentary



by Deborah Conlon, *Development Perspectives*

Development Perspectives have just released their Insight 2015 documentary. The Insight programme is designed to challenge and engage people in examining issues relating to development, whether it's climate change, poverty or any of the other issues that affect them and

other people across the globe. This documentary follows the learning journey over 8 months of a group of Irish and Tanzanians taking part in this transformative experience. Insight 2016 is now open for application at www.developmentperspectives.ie/insight

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKxjFdByDEI>

SERBIAN YOUTH WORKERS ON A STUDY VISIT TO SLOVENIA



ding of the issues of development and Europe's relationship with the rest of the world. In our project, we certainly involved a lot of member states from Eastern Europe, and we even had a lot of project partners from outside the member states, in Serbia for example, which I think was a good thing. We have often been quite a Western European-focused community, so this was a success.

You will probably have an easier time communicating the SDGs now that more people are aware of what they are about.

Yes, I think so, but the communication of the SDGs is still a huge battle! But it was very appropriate to use the EYD to link to this global process, which we all hope will interest people a little bit more, and that people will become more involved in it. People have become very involved in the climate change talks, and there has been a lot of media attention, and we have also had some of that in the European Year for Development. We tried to echo some of these wider processes.

What do you see as the missed opportunities or the developments that negatively affected your work? One thing that comes to my mind is that the EU is going through difficult times with the refugee crisis, and we hear a lot about development funding being diverted. How serious is this?

It is very serious, there is no doubt about that. What had been positive about the EYD is that we do talk a lot about root causes, and our whole narrative on the debate about using aid budgets on the migration issue is that we should be using those aid budgets to look at the root causes of migration, not to meet the costs of dealing with refugees in Europe. Of course we must still do this, but not from the aid budget. This is robbing Peter to pay Paul. It is short-termism. But the EYD has been an opportunity to underline the root causes of this issue.

We have managed not to be pushed off track, while people have been

asking whether development is really relevant in our current context – there is still austerity in Europe, there is Greece and so on. But, with the issue of the diversion of aid towards migration costs, we have been able to bring the debate round to the root causes of migration and look at the external policy we need to tackle these. So I wouldn't see that as a missed opportunity, but as the beginning of a long debate.

What would you like to say to the highest European authorities?

That we divert aid money at our peril, and that we will come back in three years' time and regret it. If we had been focusing on the conflict in Syria three years ago, if we had been supporting the countries that are hosting those populations three years ago with a fraction of what we are now talking about, and what we have now provided to Turkey, we may not be where we are now. If we had followed up the military intervention in Libya with real political, diplomatic and aid attention, as we should have done, we may not have been in the situation we are currently in.

So I think we often come back to regret those topics we did not deal with in the early stages of a crisis. It is always easy to look back in hindsight, but it is our job to say what we should have done. If we do that again, and we decide to cut our aid programme to Central Africa, to stop paying for projects we want to do in Kenya, then in three or four years' time we will see that this will again become an issue.

But there were NGOs active on the ground in those camps, not only in Turkey. I find it quite disappointing that we do not talk much about Lebanon or Jordan, but there were a lot of indications that the funds were getting scarce, and indeed that is what happened. The NGOs were clearly not being heard.

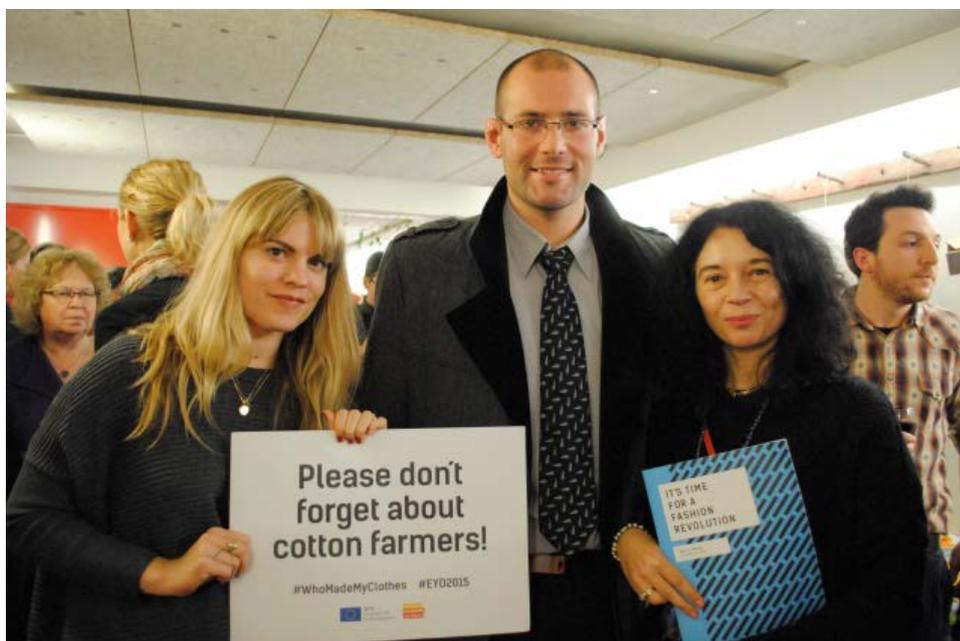
Our voice was clearly not heard, but it was there. I was in Jordan. That is what I was doing before I came here,

By Petar Djurovic, Aid Watch Serbia

Association People's Parliament, in cooperation with Slovenian NGDO platform for development cooperation and humanitarian aid, organized study visit to Slovenia for 10 youth workers from Serbia. The event was organized in Slovenia, in Ljubljana and Celje, from 1st to 4th of December 2015. During the study visit, participants have visited seven civil society organizations which are active in the field of development cooperation and development education; then they have visited youth center in Celje where they could learn more about their activities connected to development cooperation and activities with young volunteers on local and international level, and at last they

had a meeting with local decision makers from Youth Department of Municipality of Ljubljana. All these meetings were great opportunity for participants to learn more about global development and global education activities those organizations implemented through numerous projects, but also an opportunity to connect youth organizations from Serbia with Slovenian development NGO's community and indirectly with other CONCORD members. Study visit was organized within the project "Balancing the mindset of youth work in Serbia - from aid receivers to global development supporters" supported by European Commission under the CONCORD project EYD2015 Civil Society Alliance

Fashion Revolution publishes White Paper



by Orsola De Castro, Fashion Revolution

Fashion Revolution launched its first white paper in Brussels, "It's Time for a Fashion Revolution", setting out the need for more transparency

across the fashion industry, from seed to waste.

The paper contextualises Fashion Revolution's efforts, the organisation's philosophy and how the public, the industry, policymakers and others around the world can work

towards a safer, cleaner, more fair and beautiful future for fashion. As well as describing the present social and environmental impact of the fashion industry, considered to be the second most polluting industry in the world and one of the most labour intensive, the Fashion Revolution White Paper highlights hopes for a fashion future that will provide real answers and innovative supply chain solutions.

By 2020 the vision is for a fashion industry where demand for sustainable practices and ethically made clothes is endemic, where brands and retailers are united in magnifying transparency throughout the entire supply chain, and where makers, farmers and producers are proudly visible and appreciated for their work making our clothes.

“Whether you are someone who buys and wears fashion (that’s pretty much everyone) or you work in the industry along the supply chain somewhere or if you’re a policymaker who can have an impact on legal requirements, you are accountable for the impact fashion has on people’s lives. Our vision is a fashion industry that values people, the environment, creativity and profit in equal measure.” explained Sarah Ditty on behalf of Fashion Revolution.

Carry Somers, co-founder of Fashion Revolution, said “Most of the public is still not aware that human and environmental abuses are endemic across the fashion and textiles industry and that what they’re wearing could have been made in an exploitative way. We don’t want to

wear that story anymore. We want to see fashion become a force for good”.

Transparency isn’t just a technical word, it isn’t merely about the mechanical understanding of where our clothes are being made and out of what raw materials: it is the first step in humanising fashion.

Transparency is a journey, populated by human stories - this is why it matters - because there are people who are being affected, negatively and positively, by the effects that this industry has on their daily lives.

Transparency is not an abstract concept, on the contrary, it is the storytelling that defines everything we wear (everything we buy in fact), and therefore us, our choices and our individual impact on society.

The White Paper launch took place in Brussels at a joint event with the Fairtrade Advocacy Office, hosted by Arne Leitz, Member of the European Parliament, to mark the European Year for Development. Co host Sergi Cobalan from the Fairtrade Advocacy Office clearly stated that the EU should provide support so that an integrated approach from cotton farmer to consumer can become a reality, whilst Dr Roberto Ridolfi, Director at the European Commission Directorate-General for Development and Cooperation, proudly announced “My ambition, as of tomorrow, is to become a Fashion Revolutionary!”

[You can download the White Paper pdf from this link](#)

and I remember exactly what you are talking about. UN appeals from the FAO and the WFP asked for basic things for refugees inside Syria, at the time when it could still be delivered, but also in Jordan and Lebanon, and they struggled to fulfil those appeals – from the EU but from other donors as well, including the Gulf States.

The EU likes to say it is the biggest donor, but it wasn’t really up to the task there. We hear this fact being recognised, but it seems that nobody is to blame.

You said it yourself: NGOs have been quite vocal in identifying areas of need and in seeking support. The message now is that we should avoid doing that again. If we need to spend money on supporting the refugees that have made it to Europe, as we so clearly do, let’s not take that from budgets that we need to tackle to root causes not only of migration, but also of insecurity and climate change. We need to find other sources of revenue.

That is the big issue, because budgets are getting scarce. I understand that even the EU is struggling to find the money pledged to Turkey. They pledged it, but where is it? Member states have to deliver most of it, but most of them don’t know where it will come from. Is innovative finance the answer?

That is very interesting, and we will look at it. At the very beginning of the EYD, I participated in a very interesting event. It was a lunch given by the Latvian foreign minister for all the EU foreign ministers, and I was speaking, so as a civil society representative I also received an invitation. We were given a speech by the OECD, which said that money is not the problem; the problem is political will.

We could argue about that, but there is also a lot to it. It is not that the finances do not exist in the system. If we want to save banks, we can find the money to do it. The money is there, so it is a question of political will.

I am going to a side event at the COP21 in Paris, where one of the issues that will make or break an agreement is climate financing. Many of our members have argued for a long time for a Financial Transaction Tax to slow down the sort of “casino” investments and to use some of the revenue from that for climate change mitigation and development in some of the poorest countries.

Europe has a carbon trading system to try to put a tax and a price on carbon. We think the revenue from that should also go to those countries that have had the least to do with causing climate change but are suffering the most. So I don't think there is a shortage of innovative ideas for financing, but we need the political will to do it. And it is really a short cut and a short-termist attitude to just take money from the aid budget, and use that for a purpose other than the one it was designed for.

Of course everybody is thinking about what needs to be done to contain the refugee crisis, but there is a school of thought that says we have this refugee crisis because, maybe thanks to development, there is a middle class that is able to come our way. Is this a valid judgement?

It means we can't win either way. Either people will say that development doesn't work, or they will say, yes it works, but now look at the mess you have made! We can't win.

What is true is that in a globalised world, people are mobile in a way that they have not been before. As Angela Merkel has quite rightly said, we cannot go back to walls and barriers, this is not the response. We now live in this globalised world, we live in a world where people travel, and we now need to look for other ways of dealing with that. It is not about going back to wall-building and trying to stop people.

As we see, if people want to get somewhere, they will get there. They will find a way. So we need to adapt to

Inclusive Education as the key for the success of Nicaragua as a community with equal rights



by Alba Gonzalez, CBM

Including children with disabilities in Education has a positive impact in a community. It endorses diversity and respect for human rights as it spreads from children to their families, local authorities and to national governments; as such national governments need to be aware of this impact. An example of this approach is seen in CBM's collaboration with the Association of Integral Programmes in Community Education Astrid Delleman (ASOPIE-CAD), Nicaragua. The collaboration began in 2006, with the purpose of promoting the rights of children with disabilities from an early age based on Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) principles. Children with disabilities are often exposed to stigma and exclusion, some even on a daily basis, and this even from their own families, who do not see the value of sending their children with disabilities to school. The CBR approach, as described

by the World Health Organisation (WHO), has a multi-sectoral strategy that empowers persons with disabilities to access and benefit from education, employment, health and social services, aims to include children with disabilities in mainstream education as well as to create schools for children with disabilities with specific needs. To complement this, CBM advocates for a Twin-Track approach in Education, this means mainstreaming disability in school and empowering children with disabilities. CBM, through its partners has also successfully provided training to teachers and families on how to promote the inclusion of children with disabilities in all aspects of community life. In 2012 through the CBM and ASOPIE-CAD partnership, 561 children with disabilities were included in their local and social environment by accessing mainstream education. Family support has had a double impact on the inclusion of children with disabilities in the com-

munity: on the one hand, families can encourage other families with children with disabilities to include their children into mainstream schools, and on the other hand they can advocate more strongly for their children's rights at a political level. In addition, CBM provided vocational training for young people with disabilities; training in inclusive education for pre-school and kindergarten teachers, and courses in sign language for teachers and families. This work has led to collaboration with local authorities for the implementation of the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) in Nicaragua. Maria Nazareth, a 10 year old girl with Down Syndrome from Juigalpa, Nicaragua, is proof of the success of the project. With the support of her family, she goes to a regular primary school and she is part of the community. CBM and its partner ASOPIECAD, have supported Maria and her family, strengthening their capacities in order to include Maria in their local community and sup-

porting her to attend the community school. Currently, Maria's mother is supporting and encouraging other families to include their children through sharing her experience with them. This is only one of the examples by which CBR demonstrates its value for moving from a medical approach to a human rights approach which regards the rights of persons with disabilities.

The European Union (EU) is the first regional body to sign and ratify the UN CRPD, demonstrating its commitment to the rights of persons with disabilities. It is also the biggest donor in International Cooperation, promoting an inclusive approach to its development projects. The fact that the EU was the biggest contributor to the Global Partnership for Education last year, where the need of including children with disabilities in Education was highlighted by a large number of speakers and participants, demonstrates the political will of the EU in order to establish a quality and inclusive Education for all.

Sustainable growth through disability-inclusive labour market



globalisation and the way the world now works. We have done a lot of work over the years on migration and development, and one of the things we have said is that we need to be much more reasonable about opening legal and dignified channels of migration. Apparently we can do it for Turkey, all of a sudden!

We have also always said that if people want to stay in their own place and for their children to be educated and grow up using the language of their parents and grandparents, we should do more to allow that to happen by stimulating the economy locally, through prioritising support for small-scale farmers and so on, so people don't feel that they have no economic or social opportunities where they live. We can't pull up the drawbridge, go back to 1850 and say we will stop people from moving. People are going to move, there is a free flow of information, there is a growing middle class, which is a good thing.

We need to be much more rational about legal avenues of migration, which we know we need in Europe. There is a care sector that is ballooning with an ageing population and nobody to look after them. And finally, we need to do better for the people who don't want to migrate, but want to stay where they live – which is the vast majority of us in the EU and everyone else – and ask ourselves what we can do to make their lives better.

Any worries about the political developments in Europe? I am thinking particularly about the French regional elections.

Yes, I think that is very worrying. I read a piece in *Le Monde* that said, yes, the National Front is in the second round of the elections in all these regions, they stand a good chance of coming to power in some of them, and now it is time to look at their programme, to examine what they are saying they want to do.

But when you look at their programme, and the programmes of some of the other extreme right parties in Europe, it just doesn't make sense. It doesn't add up. They do not provide the answers that we can go back to. So I think that the prospectus they are offering voters, who are very upset and disturbed by the situation that they see: year after year of austerity and no way out. I can see why people are frustrated but I don't think that the policy solutions being offered are in any way the answer, so I think it is very worrying. We see this very much in the development sector, where on a member state level there have been proposals for big cuts in aid budgets from countries that traditionally have been very supportive internationally, like the Scandinavian countries and the Netherlands.

The push factor is of course that in many national governments, there are far right parties, nationalist parties, xenophobic parties.

Absolutely. We tend to focus on those voices that are calling for the cutting of aid budgets and so on. I believe they are still a minority, even if they now have quite an influential position, either inside or outside government, propping up governments with their votes.

One of the things we have tried to do, going back to the EYD, was to present positive voices. On the migration issue, one thing we all have to do more is to listen to the positive experiences of the migrant and diaspora communities that are now very much a part of our societies. People don't hear that enough. People hear about terrorist attacks carried out by migrants and they think this has to stop. People don't hear about migrant communities – and if you look back through the generations, you will see that none of us are too distant from migrant communities – and the positive contribution that they make.

So yes, it is very worrisome, but I think there is another narrative there, and we shouldn't underestimate the

by *CBM*

Exclusion in work and employment is frequently the consequence of marginalization in health or education of those people who have to face vulnerable situations, such as persons with disabilities, according to the report “The economic costs of exclusion and gains of inclusion of people with disabilities”, published by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine with the support of CBM.

Inclusion of persons with disabilities in the labour market is about human rights. Article 27 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) “recognizes the right of persons with disabilities to work, on an equal basis with others; this includes the right to the opportunity to gain a living by work freely chosen or accepted in a labour market and work environment that is open, inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities”.

In addition, it is a proven fact that inclusion in employment can increase individual and household income, and this has an impact on society by increasing labour productivity, profits and business. Inclusion of persons with disabilities can improve diversity, skills and the general work environment. The study “Disability in the Workplace: Company Practices” developed by the International Labour Organisation shows that employing people with disabilities can increase morale and teamwork among all staff, which in turn can increase productivity. Due to these reasons, employment of persons with disabilities is one of the top priorities of CBM, which works with its partners to reduce barriers to employment for persons with disabilities in low-income countries worldwide. In 2014, CBM directly contributed towards voca-

tional training and skills development in mainstream and disability specific training programmes of 38,474 people, and the employment in the formal and informal sector of 92,080 men and women with disabilities.

For instance, the collaboration between CBM and the Association for the Physically Disabled of Kenya (APDK) allows Chaka Tsuma to develop his skills. After an accident at his previous job, Chaka Tsuma needed the support of his mother for the daily living activities. Chaka filed civil proceedings against his former employer and the compensation from the suit allowed Chaka to buy a piece of land and construct a decent home and shop. After several microloans, Chaka now manages a shop which generates benefits for himself, his mother and his wife. Through his success, Chaka has earned the respect of others in the community and helped change perceptions about the capabilities of people with disabilities.

However, according to some estimates such as UN Enable, 80 to 90% of persons with disabilities are not participating in the labour market, and this situation can be even worse for women with disabilities who find more difficulties to access employment opportunities and who often earn significantly less than men doing similar jobs. The role of the European Union, as first regional body on signing and ratifying the UN CRPD as well as the biggest donor in International Cooperation, can encourage the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the labour market, ensuring an economic and social impact which will contribute to the sustainable development of the whole society.

Discover and vote the 18 journalistic reportages

by *Andrea Micconi, COP*

Since the beginning of December 2015 it is possible to discover and appreciate the 18 reportages (6 realised by Italian journalists, 6 by Catalans journalists and 6 by French journalists) winners of the Dev Reporter Grant, an initiative launched in January 2015 within the European project Dev Reporter Network.

Realised by independent journalists in several countries of the world, with the support of Ngos and other international cooperation actors based in the Piedmont Region (Italy), in Catalan Region (Spain) and in Rhone-Alpes Region (France), the reportages have been selected with the aim to improve the quality of communication and information about development, through the concrete collaboration between medias and the sector of International cooperation.

On this basis, the project has been creating a network of journalists and development professionals in order to implement exchange opportunities, training, international meetings, etc, and to share deep thoughts and strategies aimed at improving information to the European public about issues related to human development, following a strategy able to have an influence, both in the short and in the long term.

The reportages and documentaries produced by the 18 “transformative communication” projects financed by the Dev Reporter Network are now available on line at <http://devreporternetwork.eu/it/les-reportages-gagnants/> and the public is invi-

ted to discover and appreciate them, giving a simple vote of preference which will bring to the election of the 3 most appreciated ones (one per Region), while a technical jury will analyse each work considering the criteria established by the Call for Proposals launched in January 2015.

The best journalistic reportages will be awarded in the occasion of the Dev Reporter Network final forum, which will take place in Barcelona at the beginning of February 2016. Stay tuned on www.devreporter-network.eu

Dev Reporter is an interregional network (Catalonia, Rhône-Alps and Piemonte) of journalists, university graduates and communication professionals of the area of International Solidarity (IS), created thanks to an DEAR European project (DCI-NSAPVD / 2012 / 279-805) aiming to work for the dismantlement of stereotypes and to improve media information about development cooperation and its challenges. The project is realised by the COP - Consortium of Piedmont Ngos, the Catalan Federation of NGOs and Resacoop.

For more information: cop@ongpiemonte.it

<http://devreporternetwork.eu/it/les-reportages-gagnants/>

proportion of the general public that still very much supports good causes and keeps paying year in and year out, our members that still get contributions from their supporters at Christmas time and other times. People still want to give and they want to support refugees and others. It is also very important to keep a spotlight on those other voices that contribute a positive narrative. And the politicians need to feel that as well.

CONCORD AND THE CIVIL SOCIETY ALLIANCE AT THE EYD2015 CLOSING CEREMONY

by *Marius Wanders, Ambassador of the EYD2015 CSA and Member of the Board of CONCORD Europe*

The European Year for Development has been a year of telling stories. So today I want to tell a short story too. It is a story about three children growing up around the world in 2015. It is called “Tablets, T-shirts and Teenagers” and it incorporates the elements of the motto of this European Year.

Our world is full of tablets and smart phones. Our world would not be able to function without them. We are in constant touch with each other and the world around us through our gadgets, exchanging vital information, communicating, exchanging messages, music and images. They are great tools, also for educational purposes. But one image missing on our tablets is the face of the 12 year old boy in the Congo who cannot get an education because instead of going to school he is forced to work in the mine producing the minerals required to make our gadgets function.

How long will we continue to accept this reality of “our world”?

Our dignity as human beings requires us to be properly dressed. Our closets are full of clothes. Among them there are many T-shirts. They are cheap. We can buy them at any discount store for around 2 Euro. We wear them to identify the group we belong to or associate with. We even give them away at parties, printed with text or colorful images. But one image missing from our festive party T-shirts is the face of the 14-year old girl in Bangladesh who instead of getting an education is working 70 hours a week or more in a sweatshop to make our T-shirts. Her slave-like labor pays part of the true value of our T-shirts. She cannot afford the T-shirts she is making for us. How long will we still tolerate this reality of “our dignity”?

Our future lies with the young people of today. The teenager in my story today is Ellen O’Driscoll, she lives in Ireland and she is 16 years old. A lovely, bright eyed girl with a razor sharp mind. She was one of 10 Millennium Kids, Youth Ambassadors that my organization World Vision International brought to the European Development Days in Brussels in June this year where they engaged in direct dialogue with high level political leaders including Linda McAven to talk about their wishes and concerns for the future. But also to talk about their commitment to actively contribute to shaping that future.

Two weeks ago, I saw Ellen again, this time on YouTube. She stood up and spoke at a big rally held in Ireland at the end of November, where thousands of young people were marching together to call for a comprehensive climate deal next week in Paris. She spoke with remarkable clarity of voice and eloquence. Ellen said that she refused to be part of yet another generation that failed our planet. Instead she was determined to be part of the generation that saved our planet. I remember when the Millennium Kids were in Brussels in June, and we were preparing these young people for their political encounters, we

Your Guide to both Exploring and Taking Care of the World



by Morgan Henley, IYNF

Do you have access to the internet?
Do you like traveling, exploring your city or just getting out of your own bed from time to time?
Do you consider the planet we live on as an important and not just a giant trash bin ?

Then Ecomaps is for you!

Whether you are a die-hard environmentalist or are just a little curious, Ecomaps will connect you with new places in your own community or abroad that offer an alternative to the “work, consume, sleep, repeat,” mantra that has led to lifestyles that are simply not sustainable for our planet. It’s time we started to think more about what we consume and how we act, and we want to prove that doing so doesn’t have to be difficult.

We paid particular attention to those who may be new to ideas of sustainability and being “green.” In

addition to the interactive maps, you will also find hand-picked articles, videos, and infographics that explain various issues which we hope will give you some context to the various things included in the map. With the help of this guide, we hope that making the step from being environmentally conscious to applying it to your everyday life will be easier and easier.

Our aim is to connect all people with the environmentally sustainable lifestyle that they did not even know was possible. We know that the options are out there in cities in all corners of Europe, and we want to help you discover them! Whether it be with introducing you to more local food options, alternative forms of transport, or finding a job that leaves you with a clean conscience, the possibilities of what you can find in Ecomaps are endless. The map will be always growing with new listings and new areas.

With info from locals in the know,

we want you to be able to navigate a new city in a way that helps you discover the places that are making a difference in their communities and can make traveling more environmentally-friendly. We want you to be able to find the spots that locals really love and experience cities from the perspective of fellow environmentally-conscious citizens. Also, what better way to experience a new city than by trying out unique restaurants with healthy food, finding local products to bring home, or discovering the city's green spaces?

We hope this project will not only guide you but that you can also guide it. Please send us your own suggestions for things to add and rate the listings to help out other users of the map. We want Ecomaps

to grow and learn from its users so we can make it as useful as possible for you. We envision this to be a project that you can give back to just as much as you take from it. This is a philosophy we believe in for life and Ecomaps is no different!

This project has been fun to create, but we are truly excited about what happens now, once its users can really start to use the guide. So please, don't let our work go in vain and get out and start discovering!

For more information:

<http://ecomaps.eu/en/learn/ecomaps/>

Promotional video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AjiGbIOUZ7E>

Guidebook- How to make a region fair

by Matthias Haberl, Südwind NÖ Süd

In the frame of EYD2015 the Austrian NGO Suedwind NOE Sued published a guidebook for NGOs and other stakeholders how to make a region fair. It builds upon its own experience with the region "Bucklige Welt- Wechselland" in Austria. The region went through a multi-year process which had an important milestone in the reward as 1st Fair-Trade Region in Lower Austria. This process is reflected in the guidebook and shall support NGOs,

political initiatives, FairTrade Centers, Parishes, ... to follow this process and implement it in their own region Europe-wide. The guidebook includes various perspectives on the process, the one of an NGO as well as the one of the region and the one of a national FairTrade Organisation.

You can download this guidebook in English language for free here:

www.suedwind-noesued.at/files/guidebook_fairen_region_english.pdf

explained to them a lot about the EU and its key political strategies, including of course the pursuit of growth and jobs. Ellen then asked a question which we found extremely difficult to answer. Her question was "What is the point of pursuing growth and jobs on a planet that in the process continues slowly dying, bit by bit?"

I believe that Ellen and thousands of committed young people like her are the brightly shining lights of hope for "our future".

The initiative for this European Year 2015 for Development was born within CONCORD, the European Confederation of relief and development NGOs. The European Commission invited and supported CONCORD to convene a broad multi-sectoral alliance of civil society to help achieve the objectives of the Year.

The public discourse and development education of citizens that was a goal for this European Year should continue beyond 2015. But it should no longer be so much about "what we give" but much more about "how we live", in particular how we must learn to fairly share the limited resources of this planet with close to 7 billion global citizens by the year 2030.

Against this challenging backdrop, the world now gears up to start implementing an ambitious common agenda for the next 15 years, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The civil society alliance we created for this European Year intends to continue working together well beyond 2015 as we embrace the challenges of these sustainable development goals. In my capacity as Ambassador of Civil Society for the European Year, I wish to confirm today the offer of this broad civil society alliance to also continue partnering with the EU and with governments of the member states in the pursuit of the vision anchored in the motto of this European Year: "Our World, Our Dignity, Our Future".

I have sometimes been referred to as the Godfather of this European Year for Development, because I was one of the persons who took the initiati-

ve and drove forward the advocacy towards the institutions of the EU to make this year a political reality. So let me end today in true Godfather style: The offer of the civil society alliance that I am representing here today to continue to partner with and contribute to the work of the EU institutions and member states governments, is a solid offer. We believe we are making you an offer you cannot refuse.

Thousands of people hit the streets demanding Climate Action

by Astrid Vanackere, GCAP

In September, world leaders met at the UN General Assembly and committed to the Sustainable Development Goals. If implemented correctly over the next fifteen years, these goals could put an end to some of the most pressing issues of our time: poverty, inequality and climate change. Now comes the time for leaders to deliver a bold new international climate agreement; this will be the first test to their ambition for a better future for people and planet.

As the governments of over 190 countries prepare to deliver a historic new global climate agreement in Paris this December, thousands of people across the globe have taken to the streets for a Global Climate March to urge our leaders to play their part in the fight against climate change and deliver an ambitious climate agreement at the COP21 in Paris.

We as GCAP have been working to strengthen the links between development and climate movements, which culminated on November 29th in the Global Climate Marches. GCAP national coalitions took part in the Climate Marches all over the world to demand change and to

highlight how the decisions made in Paris will have an impact on the national level.

Also in European cities climate marches took place and were big in number. Despite the Paris Climate March being cancelled due to security concerns of the French authorities, people still found creative ways to make their demands heard. Nevertheless people in Berlin marched for a 100% clean, renewable future. In Madrid 20 000 people hit the streets for climate action, campaigning with awesome temporary EYD tattoos to “stop cambio climático.” In Vienna people demanded “System Change, not Climate Change” and also in Rome, Dublin and Athens people came together for amazing climate marches.

Development organisations, climate movements, indigenous people, trade unions, people young and old marched together to demonstrate that addressing climate change is important to all of us. A strong agreement in Paris can help set a path to a safer, more equal and more sustainable future for all. Because we simply cannot deliver on sustainable development, without tackling climate change.



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