

ANNEX VI

FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT

1. Description

1. Name of beneficiary of grant contract:
České fórum pro rozvojovou spolupráci – FoRS
2. Name and title of the Contact person:
Mr. Šimon Pánek, Mrs. Dagmar Trkalová
3. Name of partners in the Action:
 - Clovek v tisni (People in Need)
 - Development Worldwide (DWW)
 - ADRA
 - EDUCON
 - Multikuturni centrum Praha (Multicultural Centre Prague)
 - Prague Global Policy Institute – Glopolis
4. Title of the Action: Civil Society Organisations Development Effectiveness
5. Contract number: DCI-NSA/2008/167-740
6. Start date and end date of the reporting period¹:
October 1, 2008 – December 31, 2009 (incl. a 3-month non-cost extension)
7. Target country(ies) or region(s):
Czech Republic, Belgium (Brussels), European Union
8. Final beneficiaries &/or target groups² (if different) (including numbers of women and men):
Target groups:
 - Civil society organisations (CSOs): mainly NGOs in the Czech Republic, in EU member states and developing and transition countries.
 - Policy- and decision makers in the EU and the Czech Republic: members of the Czech Government, members of the Czech Parliament, members of the European Parliament, other elected representatives and civil servants in the Czech Republic and the EU.
 - Media and General public.
 - Other stakeholders of development cooperation, such as the EU Troika Countries NGDOs platforms and partner CSOs in both the EU and developing countries, and also in countries in transitionFinal beneficiaries: NGOs, CSOs, disadvantaged population groups from developing countries.
9. Country(ies) in which the activities take place (if different from 1.7):
Additional countries, in which FoRS representatives participated in different meetings/events, were Sweden, Portugal, Slovakia, Austria, Malaysia and South Africa.

¹ The entire implementation period of the Action

² “Target groups” are the groups/entities who will be directly positively affected by the project at the Project Purpose level, and “final beneficiaries” are those who will benefit from the project in the long term at the level of the society or sector at large.

2. Assessment of implementation of Action activities

2.1. Activities and results

The activities carried out in the framework of the Action were grouped under 3 interrelated clusters and contributed to 3 expected results according to the following scheme:

Expected results

1. The Czech CSOs and international partners are engaged in the global CSO development effectiveness process: forums allowing discussion on principles of development effectiveness are created and shared conclusion documents are adopted.
2. Strengthened NGO capacities for networking and effective development cooperation interventions.
3. Policy makers, media, CSOs and general public are informed on character and impact of the national and EU development cooperation.

Cluster 1: CSO Development Effectiveness Process

Activities:

- 1.1 Information exchange on CSO effectiveness process and preparation of CSO effectiveness principles
- 1.2 Organisation of Conference on CSO development effectiveness

These activities contributed to the achievement of all the three expected results of the Action. They were related to the key thematic priority of the Action (CSO dev. effectiveness) and presented the core means for the involvement of Czech CSOs in the global CSO development effectiveness process (Expected result 1). The essential elements for any engagement comprise the best practice and knowledge sharing, networking and capacity building. The activities under this Cluster 1 partially included these elements, but were also supported by activities under Cluster 2 (Capacity building and networking), contributing thus to the achievement of expected result 2. Moreover, the involvement in CSO effectiveness process provided some input for the activities under Cluster 3 (Advocacy, awareness raising and media activities) and thus could contribute to the achievement of Expected result 3.

Cluster 2: Capacity building and networking

Activities

- 2.1 Organisation of expert events on specific development topics
- 2.2 Collection of data and elaboration of case studies / papers
- 2.3 Organisation of an international conference on Development Education (DE)
- 2.4 Final evaluation

These activities contributed mainly to the achievement of Expected result 2, but they also supported the Expected result 1 (for assessing the development effectiveness) and contributed to the expected result 3 (for formulation of key messages for external communication).

Cluster 3: Advocacy, Awareness raising and Media activities

Activities

- 3.1 Promotional materials and awareness raising actions
- 3.2 Joint advocacy actions
- 3.3 Media activities

These activities partially responded to actual key issues in development cooperation at Czech European and international level and partially reflected the contents and conclusions originated from activities under Clusters 1 and 2 in the policy and awareness raising tools. As such, they contributed to the achievement of the Result 3 and partially also to the Results 1 and 2.

The performance and outcomes of the activities are characterized as follows:

Cluster 1: CSO Development Effectiveness Process

Activity 1.1

Title of the activity: Information exchange on CSO effectiveness process and preparation of CSO effectiveness principles

This activity was composed of a series of sub-activities (as per the contract):

- **Initial information seminar on CSO development effectiveness**

The one-day initial information seminar, organized by FoRS in cooperation with CONCORD, was the first activity of FoRS in the Action. It took place on November 18, 2008 in Prague and gathered 23 participants from member and observer organizations of FoRS.

The seminar fulfilled most of its planned objectives:

- The main topic of the project –the concept of CSO development effectiveness- was explained by a CONCORD’s representative (Franz Berger, that time assistant for CSO development effectiveness, currently the European Outreach Officer of the Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness, Open Forum³) in the context of a shift from *aid effectiveness* to *development effectiveness*, as well as the new global process of the Open Forum presented.
- The purpose, activities, expected outcomes and methodology of the Action as well as possibilities for CSOs to get involved were presented.
- The specific Czech contribution to the global and European CSO development effectiveness process (identification of principles for CSO development effectiveness, CSO roles etc.) was discussed. Considering that no concrete methodology to identify these principles and roles existed that time (a toolkit for regional and national consultations was finished by the Open Forum only in September 2009), the facilitator of CSO development effectiveness within the Action (Daniel Svoboda from partner organization DWW, “facilitator”) suggested that CSOs chose either to test a set of pre-selected principles or use a bottom-up approach where CSOs themselves identify the principles to be focused on within their working groups established for the Action. The seminar participants pre-selected 5 principles (partnership, democratic ownership, sustainability, empowerment and transparency). However, the final decision regarding the methodology was made at the first meeting of the steering group of the Action (December 10, 2008) and bottom-up approach with facilitation of the facilitator (formulation of the question for the case studies and other outputs of the reflection, editing, consultation) was suggested.

For detailed information (program, report), please see Annex 2. This event is also considered as an official event of the Open Forum.

- **Participation in the Open Forum in CSO Development Effectiveness**

Participation in the Open Forum was ensured through the following initiatives:

- FoRS membership in the Global Facilitation Group (GFG) of the Open Forum, which represents a body that provides an overview, coordination, political leadership and visibility to the Open Forum and is composed of 25 member organizations representing 7 world regions, international CSOs networks and women’s organizations. FoRS nominated Daniel Svoboda from FoRS member organization DWW in GFG. GFG appointed FoRS as one of the three European members to represent the EU Presidency group (troika) as well as new member states of the EU (EU NMS). In January 2010 Daniel Svoboda and FoRS’s mandate was renewed for one year and extended to a new position of the vice-chair of GFG. The FoRS representative’s role was to:

³ The Open Forum was created during the preparations of CSOs for the 3rd High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in 2008, officially launched in June in a seminar in Paris. The Open Forum brings together CSOs from around the world to discuss the issues and challenges to their effectiveness as development actors. Its objective is to propose, by late 2011 where the 4th HLF will take place in Seoul, a global effectiveness framework for CSOs.

- Participate in GFG coordination meetings (GFG Kuala Lumpur/Malaysia January 19-21 and Prague/Czech Republic June 21–22, 2009) and in working groups of CONCORD - CSO Development Effectiveness and Funding for Development and Relief (FDR).
- Comment on documents of the Open Forum: work plan and fundraising strategy, funding proposal etc.
- Promote Prague as the place for the second GFG meeting in order to foster synergies with the main event of FoRS Presidency program - the international conference on development effectiveness.
- Communicate with FoRS secretariat, provide information for FoRS Executive Board and member and observing organizations
- Communicate with NGDO platforms from EU NMS through FoRS (an official letter was sent) and Trialog project focused on EU NMS, candidate and accessing countries (information about FoRS events during Czech EU Presidency were published in Trialog information service).
- o Organization of an international conference on CSO development effectiveness (see activity 1.2), where the result of the consultation/reflection process among Czech CSOs facilitated by FoRS/D. Svoboda was presented and discussed with representatives of CSOs, governments and donors at the international level.
- o Proclamation supported by participants of the conference on CSO development effectiveness (see the last sub-activity under this activity 1.1 below)

- **Creation of FoRS group for development effectiveness**

Initially, it was supposed that the coordinators from the organizations working on the priority topics of the Action (sustainable technologies, agriculture and food security, migration and development, good governance, inclusive development and gender) and other interested organizations from FoRS organisations would form a working group to ensure the follow-up of the process of CSO contribution to development effectiveness and further information exchange on this topic.

Nevertheless, establishing any working group is a process that needs to be anchored by active engagement of individuals and should be a bottom-up response, not top-down imposing. In order to balance the real capacities for a fruitful involvement of the individuals (i.e. coordinators and FoRS members) and the expected outcomes of establishing another working group, the initial idea had to be modified. The coordinators to be actively involved in this group were already participating in the working groups formed for the six priority topics of the Action and at the same time were involved in the steering group of the Action. Therefore, it was decided in the first meeting of the steering group to give up the pro-forma establishment of another overarching working group at this moment. Instead, the Czech contribution would be based on the results of reflection in these six topics. This meant that the role of the facilitator of the CSO effectiveness process in FoRS was particularly important for personal approach to all important members and for the completion of main findings. The information related to CSO development effectiveness/Open Forum was provided to CSOs through internet communication and webpage.

In the end, there is a satisfactory outcome of this modification. After the reflection process on development effectiveness among FoRS organizations was completed and the final evaluation of the Action took place, the partner and other actively involved FoRS organizations, already strengthened in the topic of development effectiveness, expressed their interest in participating in a re-established FoRS working group Effectiveness. Its launch is planned for the first half of 2010.

- **Participation in key meetings related to development effectiveness and the Open Forum in CSO Development Effectiveness**

Apart from the representation of FoRS to the GFG of the Open Forum, representatives from partner and other organizations attended meetings and events on the European level related to development effectiveness and other official or FoRS priority topics for the Czech EU Presidency. The complete list of the meetings is as follows:

Date, place, country	Name/FoRS organization	Event	Outcome related to the Action
November 15-17, 2008, Strasburg, France (costs were not covered from the budget for the Action)	Tomáš Tožička (EDUCON)	European Development Days (EDD) 2008	Presentation of the topic “sustainable technologies and development cooperation” in cooperation with the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA).
January 19 – 21 2009, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Daniel Svoboda (Development Worldwide)	Meeting of the Open Forum GFG.	Establishment of a Consortium, confirmation of Prague as the place of the next GFG meeting in June 2009, agreement on a coordinated actions with Better Aid process in „enabling environment“ dimension, establishment of a new CONCORD working group on CSO development effectiveness.
January 20-21, 2009, Brussels, Belgium	Petr Lebeda (Glopolis)	Coordination meetings related to the Czech EU Presidency Development Agenda.	Updated information about the reaction of the EU Presidency on the financial crisis, EU commitments on quality and quantity of aid, climate change and agriculture and trade.
February 18 – 19, 2009, Brussels, Belgium	Eva Látalová (People in Need)	Meeting of CONCORD Development Education Forum (DEF).	An agreement on the proposed programme of the international conference on development education held within the Czech EU presidency in Prague.
March 9 - 12, 2009, Brussels, Belgium	Marie Zázvorková (FoRS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 1st meeting of CONCORD working groups on CSO Development Effectiveness. • Meeting with the EuropeAid contact person for the Action. • Meeting with the policy officer for international development of Caritas Europe and co-chair of CONCORD working group on CSO development effectiveness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a new CONCORD working group on CSO Development Effectiveness focused on this topic on European level. Preparation of the international conference on CSO development effectiveness within the Action. • Updating on the Czech presidency project. • Exchange of experience with internal consultation on effectiveness principles.
March 9 - 12, 2009, Brussels, Belgium	Daniel Svoboda (Development Worldwide)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 1st meeting of CONCORD working group on CSO Development Effectiveness. • Regularly meeting of Funding for Development and Relief (FDR) CONCORD working group as FoRS official representative to these two groups. 	Establishment of a new CONCORD working group on CSO Development Effectiveness focused on this topic on European level and closely related to CONCORD working groups on Funding for Development and Relief and Aid Watch.
March 14 – 21, 2009, Johannesburg, South Africa	Daniel Svoboda (Development Worldwide)	International inference „Getting to results – Evaluation Capacity Building and Development“ organized by International Development Evaluation Association (IDEAS).	Presentation of Open Forum process, invitation and discussion with potential speakers at the FoRS international conference on CSO development effectiveness (2 of them actually accepted the invitation).
April 16 – 17, 2009, Vienna, Austria	Daniel Svoboda (Development Worldwide)	Presentation of the evaluation of the Regional Partnership Programme (RPP).	Assessment of effectiveness of RPP, promotion and invitation for FoRS international conference on CSO development effectiveness.
June 4 – 5,	Marie	Meeting of CONCORD working	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on and invitation to the

2009, Brussels, Belgium	Zázvorková (FoRS)	group CSO Development Effectiveness.	activities related to FoRS EU Presidency programme provided <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement about the contribution to FoRS conference on CSO development effectiveness (overview about the European level of the Open Forum process).
June 3 – 6, 2009, Brussels, Belgium	Daniel Svoboda (Development Worldwide)	Meeting of the working groups of CONCORD CSO Development Effectiveness (CSO) a Funding for Development and Relief (FDR) as FoRS official representative to these two groups.	See the point above.
June 25 – 26 2009, Bratislava, Slovakia	Daniel Svoboda (Development Worldwide)	UNDP Conference „Sharing transition experiences among the EU Member States, the Balkan countries and the CIS programme“. The main topic: Aid Effectiveness and the role and coordination of small donors in EU NMS in Eastern Europe, the Balkans and CIS.	Representation of Czech NGOs, dissemination of information and materials from the FoRS conference on CSO development effectiveness.
September 11 – 14, 2009, Härnösand, Sweden	Petra Skalická (People in Need)	Seminar “How to improve the effects of global development education activities within the formal education sector” organized by Swedish Committee for Afghanistan in cooperation with Sida Civil Society Center.	Thematic follow-up of the international conference Effectiveness in development education and awareness raising. Identification of success factors for a long-term impact of global development education. Sharing experience and best practices in development education in schools.
September 16 – 18.9. 2009, Brussels, Belgium	Petr Lebeda (Glopolis)	Brussels Strategic Development Advocacy Meetings with European NGOs Oxfam and ActionAid	Updated information about development topics and the EU development cooperation.
October 12 – 15, 2009, Brussels, Belgium	Daniel Svoboda (DWW), Marie Zázvorková (FoRS)	Meeting of the working groups of CONCORD CSO Development Effectiveness a Funding for Development and Relief (FDR).	Presentation of planned <u>follow-up of the Czech contribution to the Open Forum</u> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the Prague Conference Proclamation on CSO development effectiveness. • Promotion of the Open Forum process among members of IDEAS. • Further involvement of FoRS in Open Forum activities at the European level. • Inputs from the discussion about impact and development effectiveness (European NGDO platforms). • Information about planned dialogue European CSOs-European institutions.
October 20 – 22, 2009, Stockholm, Sweden	Petr Lebeda (Glopolis)	Seminar “Spotlight on Coherence” organized by CONCORD and the Swedish NGDO platform CONCORD Sweden at the meeting of EDD, related to a key EU Presidency event and the topic of development effectiveness (policy coherence for development, PCD).	Presentation of experiences of Czech NGDOs with PCD, deepening of knowledge about this agenda in relation with activities of the Swedish Presidency, mapping and discussion further steps at the European and Czech levels.
October 22-24, 2009,	Šimon Pánek (People in	Moderation of the roundtable “East meets South” within the EDD on	Contribution from the debates on democracy governance and

Stockholm, Sweden	Need, Chairperson of FoRS Board)	October 23, focused on bringing together policy-makers, civil society representatives and academics from developing countries and the NMS to explore issues and share experiences in the fields of democracy building and economic transition.	development as a priority topic of FoRS program for the Czech EU Presidency.
October 21-24, 2009, Stockholm, Sweden	Jana Jenišťová, Pavel Žwak (INEX-SDA)	EDD 2009	Presentation of Czech CSOs activities, capacity building in development cooperation and education, networking with European NGDOs.
November 3 – 6, 2009, Brussels, Belgium	Michaela Hozáková (FoRS)	CONCORD AidWatch seminar/fair	Presentation of FoRS activities during Czech EU Presidency.
November 12-15, 2009, Portugal, Lisbon	Zuzana Pernicová (People in Need)	The 2009 Lisbon Forum “Creating of culture of human rights through education”, related to the FoRS conference on development education and awareness raising, esp. the stream of “Citizenship education as quality development education”.	Relevant update and input for ongoing work of FoRS (working group of development education) on cooperation with Czech institutions in preparation of a national strategy of global development education.

- **Drafting of the Czech contribution to the principles of the CSO development effectiveness**

The Czech contribution to the Open Forum was materialized in a publication on CSO development effectiveness and the “Prague Proclamation”.

➤ The publication gathers all the case studies and other documents elaborated within the working groups formed for the Action on priority topics with the cross-cutting/umbrella topic of development effectiveness (see the activity 2.2 below). It also includes a synthesis of the key aspects of development effectiveness, of the role of CSOs in development and of the enabling environment for CSO work. The editing work and synthesis was made by the facilitator of the process in FoRS (D. Svoboda).

➤ The “Prague Proclamation” was drafted by the FoRS facilitator on the basis of synthesis of the case studies and national and international consultations, and it was finalized and endorsed by the participants of the FoRS Conference on CSO Development Effectiveness (see Activity 1.2 below). The participants concurred in this document that the added value of CSOs in development cooperation is, among others, based on the following aspects: 1) access and commitment to use grassroots knowledge of local conditions, contexts and motivations; 2) sensibility to human rights, understanding and empathy; 3) genuine partnership based on common vision and interests; and 4) diversity of actors in terms of legal status, size and experiences or roles. In order to harness this added value, the participants committed to discuss and explore within the Open Forum how CSOs relate to concrete aspects of the four principles.

The Proclamation is considered to be an active document. It will serve in the continuing process of increasing effectiveness within FoRS and it will also be used to synthesise the results of national consultations in Europe and feed the European contribution to the Open Forum.

The publication and the proclamation are attached to this report as Annex 3 and 4 respectively.

Activity 1.2

Title of the activity: Organisation of a Conference on CSO development effectiveness

The international conference “Civil Society Organisations Development Effectiveness” was organized by FoRS in close cooperation with CONCORD in Prague on June 23 – 24, 2009. It was the main event of the Action and an ideal space for presenting and discussing the Czech contribution to the Open Forum (i. e. the results of the process of identification of development effectiveness principles by

Czech CSOs and their partners) with the participants around the world. As such, the conference contributed to the discourse in the global CSO development effectiveness process of the Open Forum. This event was also acknowledged by the Czech Government as an official accompanying event of the Czech EU Presidency.

The conference gathered over 170 representatives of civil society organisations, donors and governments from nearly 50 countries in Africa, Asia, Australasia, Europe, Latin and North America. The foreseen goals were met. The key results of the Czech contribution to the CSO development effectiveness process to date was presented in the plenary and thematic workshops, the proposal of a joint statement with principles of CSO development effectiveness was presented and finally supported by the conference participants. Moreover, the conference also fomented an establishment of new contacts among the diverse actors in development cooperation.

The conference program offered a variety of entry points into the topic of CSO development effectiveness. On the first day of the conference, a thorough overview of the Open Forum was provided by its representatives and a concrete situation from the global South presented. In the six thematic workshops on the priority topics of the Action, the results of the discussions on CSO development effectiveness among Czech CSOs and their partners carried out from February to June 2009 (see Activity 2.1 and 2.2) were presented and discussed with participants from different continents and backgrounds. The key findings of this Czech contribution to the global process as well as the draft of the conference proclamation were presented by the facilitator of the process within FoRS (see activity 1.1). The second day of the conference, multi-stakeholder debates were organized. CSOs, donor (including Czech government and the EC/EuropeAid) and government representatives shared their opinions and discussed topics such as the role of CSOs and donors, mutual cooperation, and future steps in the development and aid effectiveness processes in preparation for the 4th High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Seoul in 2011. The conference concluded with a lively discussion of the participants about the wording of the conference proclamation, which also reflected discussions from the workshops. The main suggestions to the final version of the proclamation were to include a greater understanding of human rights and a stronger emphasis on gender. The conference proclamation was then approved and the participants, all coming from diverse backgrounds and different continents, agreed on effectiveness principles in development cooperation, and committed to discuss and explore them within their organisations and within the Open Forum.

As to the organization of the conference, the program was prepared together with CONCORD (in its role of the Open Form Consortium coordinator and leader of consultations in Europe) and the GFG. While FoRS was in charge of the presentation of the Czech contribution to the global process and organization of thematic workshops with a cross-cutting issue of development effectiveness, CONCORD and the GFG ensured the presentation of the Open Forum and its regional levels. Moreover, they provided/suggested some relevant and high-level speakers, moderators and rapporteurs from CSOs and donor institutions.

The partner organizations in the Action had an important task in the preparation of the thematic workshops. They prepared their presentations, suggested and invited relevant speakers and experts.

A reception for the conference participants was organized at the end of the first conference day. A conference kit for each participant was prepared containing the program, FoRS program for Czech EU Presidency, invitation for a reception, logistical information, list of participants, and information about the key persons on the conference program.

In addition, in order to promote synergies among the different development stakeholders coming from diverse regions of the world, several side events took place: meeting of the GFG and a preparation seminar of the working group on sustainable technologies within the Action took place before the conference, a meeting of a multi-stakeholder group on CSO development effectiveness composed of donors, partner governments and CSO networks in parallel, and a roundtable discussion on inclusive development organized by a FoRS observing organization after the conference. Nevertheless, these side events did not represent any extra costs for FoRS and were covered by their organizers.

A press release in Czech was disseminated to the media and a press point was held on the first conference day (see activities in section 3.3 below).

The conference is considered to be an important achievement for FoRS in terms of its recognition of a relevant partner for discussion on development effectiveness within the Open Forum, achieving an agreement of the conference participants on a further exploring series of principles of development effectiveness in this global process, establishing new contacts and strengthening relations with CONCORD, among others. The conference is also cited as one of the sources for principles of CSO effectiveness in a report of One World Trust a World Vision (November 2009) and as a resource event for expert seminar “The Future of Civil Society Development Organisations (CSOs)” organized by TRIALOG in November 2009.

It must also be explained that being the main and a high-level event of FoRS programme during the Czech EU Presidency, an official accompanying event of the Presidency and an official event of the Open Forum, the conference provoked much higher than foreseen number of participants (by 50 persons, appr. 42%). However, the budget increased only by approx. 10% and was covered from saving in other budget lines under the main heading 5 (see the final financial report).

Conference documents, presentations, reports from the different discussion blocks and the “Prague Proclamation” are available at:

http://www.fors.cz/en/eu_presidency/seminars_conferences/international-conference-on-cso-development-effectiveness

Moreover, the conference program, report and proclamation are attached to this report as Annex 4.

Cluster 2: Capacity building and networking

Activity 2.1

Title of the activity: Organisation of expert events on specific development topics

Three expert seminars and a symposium on the priority topics of FoRS programme for the Czech EU Presidency were supposed to be organized by the project partners and the respective working groups coordinated in their particular topics. These activities were considered as an important tool for capacity building in these topics (through updated knowledge, sharing experiences) as well as in the cross-cutting issue of development effectiveness and for networking among FoRS organisations and between them and other CSOs and institutional stakeholders.

Apart from networking and capacity building, another important goal of these activities was to identify and discuss in the thematic working groups the most important factors that contribute to successful or not so much successful development initiatives of CSOs (principles of development effectiveness), the specific role of CSOs and factors for an enabling environment. Thus, Czech CSOs would contribute to the global process of identifying common principles of development effectiveness (the Open Forum).

In this sense, it is considered that the series of expert events described below fulfilled the expectations and contributed to an enrichment of the organizations whose employees/members participated in the actions and got new knowledge, insights and contacts. These expert events contributed mainly to the Expected result 2, but as mentioned above, they also supported the achievement of the Expected result 1 (reflection on CSO development effectiveness) and to a certain degree also of the Expected result 3 (for formulation of key messages for external communication). Moreover, the topics addressed in the events brought an aspect of policy coherence for development in the action as one dimension of development effectiveness.

The role of the partner organizations consisted in preparing the programme, inviting relevant experts, facilitators and participants from both CSOs and institutions, and disseminating the key outcomes.

As explained in the final financial report, the originally budgeted amounts allocated for the three expert seminars appeared to be under-estimated. The real costs were higher (on average by 80%) and were covered from unspent funds within the same main budget heading (5).

The concrete events are briefly characterized below. Detailed information such as the programmes and reports can be consulted at http://www.fors.cz/en/eu_presidency/seminars_conferences. These documents are also contained in Annex 5.

- **Expert seminar on Sustainable Technologies for Sustainable Development “Sustainable Technologies and Local Energetics”**

This seminar was organized by the partner organizations ADRA in cooperation with other partner organization EDUCON on February 13 and 14, 2009. These organizations coordinated an expert group on sustainable technologies composed of representatives of NGOs, companies and academy from Czech Republic and abroad. Their role in the framework of the Action consisted in working together on the topic of sustainable technologies in order to jointly identify the key problems of communities in developing countries, based on their expertise and concrete experience, and to prepare recommendations for an application of principles of sustainable development in projects focused on elimination of causes or effects of the identified problematic issues.

In total, 22 participants gathered in the seminar – 14 Czech experts and 2 European experts on sustainable technologies, 4 experts on other topics such as CSO Development Effectiveness (FoRS facilitator), evaluations, climate change and EU policy and 2 members of the support team. One of the European experts was also involved in an expert analysis on the current policy issues „Access to Sustainable Energy Sources on a Local Level” (December 2008) for the Czech MFA. Institutional partners were also invited (MFA, Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Industry). However, they could not participate. The seminar was interpreted from and to English.

The programme of the two-day seminar was composed of both presentations and discussions in the plenary and working groups. Initial ideas and recommendations had previously been summed up in a draft concept document related to four sectors fundamental for local sustainable development in developing countries (renewable energy sources, sustainable agriculture, management of local cycles and use and protection of water sources). A concept of sustainability was introduced followed by a presentation of three experts of their insights in relation to the draft concept document. The participants discussed the possibilities to use sustainable technologies in developing countries and in the Czech Official Development Assistance (ODA) as well as its effectiveness.

The draft concept document was discussed and amended in two working groups. Its final version was drafted by an elected 3-member committee and endorsed by the participants at the end of the workshop. The participants, especially the members of the working group on sustainable technologies, also agreed to prepare a series of case studies from concrete projects in the field of sustainable technologies (see activity 2.2).

Beside an emphasis put on sustainable development in the local context, several principles of development effectiveness were identified such as forms of new cooperation and partnership among different actors, ownership of all the direct participants of the expected results and methods of work (so called democratic ownership) and their participation during all the phases of the project cycle, including the joint (and diversified) responsibility for the results, ideally in a longer term and with a possibility to monitoring the results also after the end of implementation period of the project.

An agreement on future cross-sector cooperation was achieved. The concept document was suggested to be a first step to be followed by a series of activities focused on different target groups such as discussions and information and experiences exchange with experts from different sectors in the Czech Republic and other donor countries, promotion of principles of sustainability and partnership in concrete projects and during preparation of development policies, capacity building of CSOs and assistance with establishing new contacts in developing countries. As to a concrete use of the concept document, it was discussed with Czech and international actors in the workshop on sustainable technologies and local energetic organized by ADRA and EDUCON in the framework of the international conference on CSO development effectiveness (see activity 1.2).

Moreover, the event also provided an ideal scenario for experience sharing and networking among the experts.

Even though a one-day seminar was originally foreseen, due to the programme requirements it was extended in two days. Increased costs were covered from savings in other sub-budget lines of the same budget main heading 5.

- **Seminar on Agriculture and Food Security “Effectiveness in aid to agriculture - Czech action to strengthen food security“**

This seminar was organized by the partner organization Glopolis on February 18, 2009 in Prague. Its primary aim was to facilitate a discussion between CSOs, policy makers and donors of aid to agriculture and rural development in order to generate new ideas on the principles of good quality aid and lead to improved practices (not exclusively) of Czech CSOs and governmental actors. Moreover, the seminar was intended to raise awareness of Czech CSOs and other stakeholders about the importance of agricultural and rural development for attaining food security and fulfilling the MDGs. This strong link, which became more apparent during the food crisis peak in spring 2008, revealed new challenges for donors and CSOs. Due to this, the European Commission representative (from DG Development) was invited to present the needs and necessary responses on the EU level.

In total 39 participants both CSOs and donors attended the seminar, including 5 international and 3 Czech speakers (Department for International Development UK DFID, European Commission, Agence Française de Développement, Global Donor Platform for Rural Development, Vredeseilanden, People in Need, Czech University of Life Sciences and Caritas Czech Republic) and FoRS facilitator.

The programme was divided in two parts. In the first one, the global food situation, new challenges for aid in agriculture, and approaches applied by major donors, European and Czech CSOs were presented by the speakers. These presentations were intended to be a starting point for a common discussion on the principles of CSO development effectiveness during the seminar. In the second session, the participants discussed key lessons drawn from their field experience in three working groups and tried to define effectiveness principles and identify tools for monitoring development effectiveness in agriculture and rural development by CSOs and donors. The seminar participants elaborated a series of recommendations for effectiveness in agriculture and rural development.

Both the study of the Global Donor Platform and the experience of Caritas Czech Republic fed the elaboration of a case study on agriculture and rural development (see activity 2.2) and the workshop at the international conference CSO development Effectiveness (see activity 1.2) carried out within the Action.

Glopolis prepared a report from the seminar (in English, in Annex 5) and published information on its website (in Czech).

- **Seminar on Migration and development “Remittance flows from the Czech Republic and their development impact”**

The seminar was organized by the working group on migration and development coordinated by the partner organization Multicultural Centre Prague. The seminar was held on February 24, 2009 at the venue of the Czech Ministry of Finance, which was the co-organizer and interested in the topic of remittances. Such collaboration was beneficial since a broad variety of speakers and participants was attracted to the seminar (representatives of NGOs, the government, international institutions, embassies, migrant organizations, academics, bank institutions etc.) and a larger number of participants could be invited.

This group selected the topic of remittances considering its positive aspect of the connection between migration and development and lack of discussions on this issue in the Czech context.

Considering that the topic of remittances involves a large number of disciplines and stakeholders, the seminar was valuable in bringing together 43 representatives of diverse state/governmental bodies (the ministries of finance, home affairs, social affairs and labour, Czech Statistical Office and embassies), NGOs, the financial sector, migrants' organizations and the academic sector, which all approached the issue from a different perspective.

The goal of the seminar was to introduce the issue of remittances in its broader context, learn from experiences with the remittances of international financial institutions, assess the ongoing situation and evolution of this issue in the Czech Republic and encourage discussion among diverse actors, including CSOs. All this would contribute to a higher development potential of the remittances. An increased awareness of financial institutions, NGOs working with migrants and migrants themselves about remittances could help increase the competitiveness at the Czech financial market, reduce the

costs of transaction and improve and broaden the supply of financial services. An increased awareness could also lead to a higher cooperation between financial institutions from sending and receiving countries, to a better protection of clients, strengthening cooperation between the public and private sectors and remove constraints for international money transfer.

Five renowned speakers from both abroad and the Czech Republic raised many interesting issues that were further developed during three discussion sessions. The representative of the World Bank set remittances in a general frame and contributed some recommendations for research. The representative of the French Development Agency spoke about practical problems and successes in implementing their programmes on remittances. The Dutch development NGO Oxfam Novib came with the issue of the need of cooperation with migrant communities when striving to maximise the development impact of remittances. The case of Moldova, country of origin of many migrants in Czech Republic, was discussed in depth at the seminar by a representative of International Organization for Migrations (IOM). The Multicultural Center Prague introduced its pilot research of migrants' practices of remittance sending (that further fed the case study on remittances – activity 2.2) and the Ministry of Finance outlined its activities and visions for the future.

The action was considered very successful since it introduced many different actors to the topic of remittances from the development point of view and that it established fruitful collaboration among different stakeholders. In this respect the seminar played an important networking role, opened up new ways for research collaboration and policy dialogue (e.g. proposed collaboration between the Czech Statistical Office and NGOs and universities). It also showed the role of Czech CSOs in helping in networking both state and non-state actors and migrants and open new topics.

The seminar was interpreted from and to English. The transcript of the seminar and all the presentations were published on a website specialised on migration (www.migrationonline.cz) and elsewhere so to be accessible to wider public. A radio programme on the seminar and the issue of remittances in general was broadcasted http://www.rozhlas.cz/radionaprani/archiv/?p_po=1977.

The seminar had follow up activities, such as advisory work about remittances with the Czech Statistical Office. Cooperation with journalists on reporting on remittances was also established.

○ **Roundtable/Plenary “Democratic Governance: Development Cooperation and Mainstreaming of Human Rights and Democracy”**

This roundtable took place on March 10, 2009 and was organized by FoRS and the partner organization People in Need in the framework of the international conference “Building Consensus about EU Policies on Democracy Support” (March 9 – 11, 2009, Prague). The conference was held by the Czech MFA under the Czech EU Presidency, in cooperation with the European Commission. It was co-organized by another two CSOs (the European Partnership for Democracy and the Czech Association for Democracy Assistance and Human Rights). The organizers of the conference invited about 150 experts from EU institutions, governments of EU Member States and CSOs in order to discuss the role of the EU in providing democratic assistance and to search ways for its strengthening.

The discussion was organised to open dialogue on the issue if there was any conditionality between effective sustainable development cooperation, good governance and democratic control over power. The renowned discussants at the roundtable included professionals with key focus on democracy support as well as professionals with key focus on development cooperation. Some representatives combined both roles. They came from different backgrounds - ministries (Czech and Swedish MFA), implementing agencies of development aid (DFID UK), international bodies (DG Development at the EC), CSOs (Eurostep, One World Action, Westminster Foundation for Democracy). While terms and wording and even the approach – bottom up on one side and from the top down on the other side - are different, the final objective of these two groups is proclaimed to be the same: a better life for people living in non developed and/or non democratic countries.

The main conclusions of this roundtable were the need for a common approach, coherence, effectiveness and credibility of EU efforts in democracy building and EU external relations. The donors should coordinate better and contribute to democracy building rather than imposing democracy from outside. The role of CSOs was also highlighted and identified as the key for promoting democratization.

The outcomes of this discussion were used as a basis for a contribution on democracy governance and development to the FoRS joint publication (see activity 2.2).

It must also be explained that the form of the event was adequately modified according to the evolution of the debates about good governance in the context of the Czech EU Presidency. A roundtable was organized instead of a symposium, but the content and reach of the event remained unchanged and the purpose of the Action was not affected. This modification was also communicated to the contact person for the contract of the Action contract at EuropeAid.

Concretely, when the project proposal was submitted to the European Commission by FoRS in 2008, FoRS organizations agreed to organize an international symposium. Nevertheless, as good governance also became one of the priority development topics of the Czech government, the Czech MFA decided to organize a high-level international conference as an official event of the Czech EU Presidency. Being an important forum that would encourage networking of CSOs active in promoting good governance, FoRS was invited to contribute to this conference, concretely to organize one roundtable. FoRS took the opportunity to increase the synergy with other important stakeholders and contributed to the above described debate with specific CSO insights and experience.

As to the concrete roles, FoRS was responsible for the overall organization of the roundtable. The partner organization People in Need contributed mainly on the content part – they contacted several speakers and the director of People in Need and Chairperson of FoRS Executive Board moderated the roundtable. FoRS covered all necessary costs related to the roundtable and partly the study “A decade of democracy promotion by the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)” (see Annex 5) presented at Session 1 of the conference, which was also looking at the specific role of CSOs in relation to the effectiveness of EU democracy support and promotion. In addition, the director of FoRS Secretariat played the role of rapporteur at the roundtable. The adherence to this bigger event also allowed FoRS to economize on the funds (saving approx. 75% of the foreseen amount for the symposium) and use them adequately within the Action (see the final financial report).

Activity 2.2

Title of the activity: Collection of data and elaboration of case studies / papers

The foreseen purpose of the elaboration of these case studies / papers was fulfilled. Several FoRS organizations and their partners jointly worked (in the working groups formed for the Action) on the priorities of the Action (the topics of the expert events described above as well as the topics of gender and inclusive development) and tried to look at concrete projects from a broader perspective, identify CSO role as well as the most essential factors deciding about positive or negative effects on the developing world and their sustainability. Many case studies were fed by the outcomes of the expert events.

Due to a high interest, 15 instead of 5 originally foreseen contributions (case studies and papers) were elaborated on the six priority topics between February and June 2009. The additional cost requirements were covered from available savings of funds within the Action. Assessment regarding the identification/assessment of CSO development effectiveness aspects was provided by the facilitator D. Svoboda.

At the beginning of the Action (initial seminar), the basic characteristics of the case studies were suggested to the interested participants (topics, structure, timing, language), while some were clarified later such as the criteria to assess effectiveness of development activities of the participating organizations. These criteria were not set intentionally in advance in order not to limit reflections of the involved people. The authors were only asked to answer several relatively simple questions suggested by the facilitator such as: “What do you do in the development cooperation and why?” “Are you able to identify the most essential elements of your approach and practice?” “What is in your opinion the specific role of CSOs and where do you see their greatest added value?” “Could any part of your experience be generalized?” Despite the original intention was to present all CSO experience with development project effectiveness by means of case studies, it was finally decided to include also other forms of contributions to use their diversity and contrast. The case studies and a paper on good governance had a single structure (introduction, description on the topic, summary of the effectiveness aspects and the role of CSOs).

The process is pertinently characterized by the facilitator and editor of these contributions D. Svoboda: “Over time, dozens of additional questions sprung up, new contexts were discovered and the discussion became quite fierce at times. We had to clarify our understanding of the topic to each other and by doing so over and over, we exercised the main, albeit forgotten principles of effectiveness which is *mutual communication* and *patience*”.

“The studies also bring another interesting reflection: while we are usually capable to explain and defend our projects and their results from the professional perspective, we identified our inexperience with describing the real life and underestimating our own opinions and feelings”... “*Self-confidence* could thus be another principle to be strengthened above all with new donors and partners in the development countries.

These documents, except of one (Study on EIDHR was produced for the conference on democracy support, see activity 2.1), were gathered in the joint FoRS publication “*CSO Development Effectiveness - Searching New Ways. Czech Contribution to the Global Process of Civil Society Organizations*”, which represented the Czech contribution to the global process of the Open Forum for CSO development effectiveness (see activity 1.1). This publication was edited by the facilitator D. Svoboda. Its production was coordinated by FoRS and altogether 17 organizations contributed to it. Based on the case studies and other contributions, the editor elaborated a conclusion paper where he tried to identify some common key aspects of development effectiveness (such as grassroots knowledge, democratic ownership, partnership etc.), the role of CSOs and some common aspects for an enabling environment for CSOs. This conclusion paper served as a basis for the draft of the proclamation for the conference on CSO development effectiveness (see activity 1.1/1.2).

The publication was produced in both language versions (Czech and English) before the main event of the Action – the international conference on CSO development effectiveness (23-24 June, 2009). It was updated afterwards and the proclamation endorsed by the participants was included (see activity 1.2). The publication has been presented and disseminated in many different events in the Czech Republic and abroad (see section 2.4 and Annex 3).

The publication is the first work of FoRS of such character not only due to its extension, diversity of topics, but also the large number of authors from FoRS organizations. Based on this and representing the outcome of the internal process of FoRS, it was finally produced instead of the “manifesto” (see also activity 3.1 below).

The following contributions were elaborated and included in the joint publication:

- An introductory document “The basic aspects of multinational and multicultural cooperation” elaborated by Jiří Silný
- Sustainable technologies (elaborated by the working group on sustainable technologies coordinated by the partner organizations ADRA and EDUCON)
 - Framework document of the working group for sustainable technologies “Sustainable technologies and local Power Supply“
 - “Electrification of remote areas of Zambia” elaborated by Tomáš Tožička and Martina Mandová
 - “Electricity from the Sun brings water for drinking and irrigation” and “The Story of one island” elaborated by Katuše Kubíková
 - “The sustainable technologies in agriculture – experience from Bié Province, Angola” elaborated by Jana Mazancová, Jiří Hejkrlík
 - “Improving the quality of drinking and irrigation water in the Aral sea area” elaborated by Josef Miklík
- Migration and Development (elaborated by the working group on migration and development, coordinated by the partner organization Multiculture Center Prague)
 - “Why remittances? The development potential of remittances and the role of non-governmental organisations – an introduction” elaborated by Tereza Rejšková

- “Development potential of remittances – a brief outline of the issue” elaborated by Robert Stojanov
- “What do we know about remittances sent from the Czech Republic: previous and planned research” elaborated by Pavlína Šolcová
- “Sending remittances from the Czech Republic to the country of origin report – from a research investigation elaborated by Blanka Tollarová and Tereza Rejšková
- Make Development Inclusive (coordinated by FoRS organizations Sue Ryder International CZ and Life 90)
 - “The case of the Sue Ryder Foundation in Malawi elaborated by Kibble Ngalauka
 - “Including elderly people in the decent work agenda” elaborated by Kamala Truelove and Alice Livingstone
- Agriculture and Rural Development (coordinated by the partner organization Glopolis and elaborated by FoRS organization Caritas Czech Republic)
 - “Principles of aid effectiveness in everyday practice: Georgia and Indonesia elaborated by Jan Černík and Martin Váně
- Gender and Development
 - “Development effectiveness and gender: the Czech experience” elaborated by Míla Lukášová (ProEquality Centre of the Open Society)
- Good Governance
 - “Why good governance and democratic dialogue matter to development” elaborated by Veronika Divišová (People in Need)
- Case Studies Summary
 - “Development effectiveness – Searching new ways” elaborated by Daniel Svoboda
- Prague Conference Proclamation (added in the ex-post version of the document)

In addition, it is worth complementing two elements. Regarding that the case study on agriculture and development, it is worth mentioning that Glopolis, which coordinated this topic in the Action originally planned to draft the case study themselves. Nevertheless, as Glopolis (a think tank) got closer to setting concrete outline of the study, they decided that it would be more appropriate if someone with strong field experience could draft it. They agreed with Caritas Czech Republic actively involved in the expert seminar on the topic concerned that they would take this part over.

As to the case study on gender, it was used in the further paper “Strategy of gender integration into Czech development co-operation” for Czech MFA.

The electronic version in English as well as a CD-ROM with all the outcomes from the events carried out within the Action by June 2009, including the publication, is attached to this report as Annex 3. The publication can also be downloaded from FoRS website at http://www.fors.cz/en/eu_presidency/seminars_conferences/publication-on-development-effectiveness.

Activity 2.3

Title of the activity: Organisation of an international conference on Development Education

The international conference “Effectiveness in Development Education and Awareness Raising” was held on May 28 – 29, 2009 and organized by the partner organization People in Need in cooperation with FoRS and CONCORD (especially its Development Education Forum, DEF). Moreover, synergies were encouraged and a meeting of DEF was held before the conference.

Following the conference model built in Helsinki in 2006, where the process of elaboration of the European Development Education Consensus started, the preparation of this international conference was initiated already in 2007. The programme as well as the suggested experts/speakers were

discussed with various partners and experts (within DEF steering group on February 19th that counted with the participation of a FoRS representative - see activity 1.1 and the FoRS working group on development education) in order to reflect actual topics related to the Czech situation in the concerned topics, but also provided an European dimension of the conference.

Over 100 participants representing Czech and European NGOs (both NMS and OMS), national ministries, government agencies and EU institution, CONCORD and its members, programme DEEEP, experts, policy makers gathered at this event.

The role of development education and awareness raising has been acknowledged as essential for the EU to fulfil its European and international commitments to development. This has been particularly evident in EU NMS where a great deal of effort has been expended on development education and awareness raising actions to build up public support and strengthen the emerging national ODA policies. Inevitably the effectiveness and sustainability of these activities have been discussed in a growing manner.

Therefore, the conference aimed to contribute to these debates, focusing on evaluation and effectiveness of the development education and awareness raising actions, and to raise the quality in this field. Plenary debates and work in four groups provided a forum for sharing best practices on development education and awareness raising actions, strategic frameworks for their implementation and diverse tools for enhancing their quality. The working groups met both days of the conference, each of them guided by a facilitator with relevant experience of the given topic - monitoring, evaluation and learning of development education and awareness raising projects effectiveness in working with the media, effectiveness in advocacy actions, and citizenship education as quality development education. The recommendations based on an agreement in the working groups were presented at the end of the conference. They comprise requests to all relevant actors concerned with development education and awareness raising activities - European NGOs, national ministries, government agencies and EU institutions- to take into consideration the suggestions from the conference regarding planning, implementing and evaluating development education and awareness raising projects and programmes.

At the close of the conference a symbolic „relay baton“ with recommendations for the upcoming Swedish EU Presidency was handed over to a representative of the Swedish NGDO platform.

As to practical issues, conference kits for the participants were produced comprising the programme, logistics information, information about the participants, FoRS programme for the Czech EU Presidency, leaflet of the development education programme Varianty of the partner organization People in Need.

It must also be mentioned that the original budget of the Action counted only with funds to cover accommodation and catering costs. Since it was not possible to carry out this event in a venue provided by a local institution as originally foreseen (free of charge), the unspent funds allocated for accommodation and catering for this conference as well as additional unspent funds were used to rent the conference venue (see the final financial report).

One important outcome of the conference was further involvement of FoRS (through an expert on development education - Ondřej Nádvořík) in the preparation of the National Strategy for Global Development Education in the Czech Republic.

Moreover, following the conference, another expert on development education from the partner organization People in Need and leader of the conference organizing team (P. Skalicka), was invited to the seminar “How to improve the effects of global development education activities within the formal education sector” in September 2009. Z. Pernicova from the same organization participated in another related event - the 2009 Lisbon Forum focused on creating of culture of human rights through education(see activity 1.1).

The conference program and report form Annex 6.

Activity 2.4

Title of the activity: Final evaluation (consisting of an evaluation seminar and an external evaluation)

The external evaluation of the Action was carried out in order to verify the procedures and the results of the Action and assess the prospective outcomes and impacts. It took place at the end of its implementation period (November 16 – December 13, 2009). Therefore, some activities carried out in that period could not be properly assessed (especially cluster/expected result 3).

In September 2009, the work plan was elaborated including ToR, the tender was launched on October 22 and the advertisement was sent to FoRS members, Czech Evaluation Society and Czech Development Agency. It was also published on FoRS website and Czech NGO information servers, as well as on international expert websites (e.g. www.reliefweb.net, www.ideas-int.org, www.evaluation.org.uk). At the beginning of December the selection process took place based on the following criteria: proposal quality, evaluator's qualification and experience, price, references. The consultant Mrs Katarina Navratilova from Akses agency was selected. Apart from fulfilling the quality criteria, she also submitted the lowest offer. This was however higher by 283% than the foreseen allocated amount (1000EUR), which appeared to be underestimated. Due to availability of savings in the budget, the selected offer was finally accepted.

An inception meeting with the evaluator and FoRS was held in order to discuss the suggested detailed methodology and work plan (evaluation questions, judgment criteria, analysis strategy and information sources, evaluation seminar), clarify some unclear issues in the ToR, deliver project documentation and list of key respondents. The contract with the evaluator was also concluded. The methodology and the work plan were finalized by the evaluator based on the conclusions of the meeting.

The evaluation itself was carried out between 16 November and 13 December 2009 and comprised tasks reflecting data collection methods: desk research that provided information necessary for compiling checklist for semi-structured interviews and questionnaires for survey among target groups. Semi-structured interviews of key stakeholders inquiring about needs and expectations and their fulfilment, modifications of the Action during implementation, achievement of the expected results, factors that influenced them, positive and negative changes of the Action, the most useful results, plans for future use of results, recommendations on concrete activities to be ensured by FoRS, and experience from implementation process of the Action. Questionnaire survey for the participants of the conference on CSO development effectiveness was also carried out in order to assess the achievement of the specific objective of the Action. Finally, phone interviews were realised with random sample of FoRS organizations.

An evaluation seminar based on preliminary findings of the evaluation was organized in the framework of the external evaluation on December 8, 2009 (2.5 hours). The members of the steering group and other interested FoRS members involved in the implementation of the Action gathered (in total 10 participants). Since one of the important goals, besides discussing and validating the preliminary findings, was to discuss follow-up activities, the institutional partners did not participate in the seminar. Nevertheless, they received the final report from the evaluation. The evaluator presented the evaluation objective and methods, preliminary findings with regard to evaluation criteria as well as project benefits formulated by key informants. Recommendations collected from interviews were presented and discussed in the group.

Based on the conclusions of the workshop the evaluator finalized the draft report and submitted it to FoRS. FoRS subsequent comments were included, the final report was approved and payment made by FoRS (14 December - 21 December).

The results of the external evaluation were disseminated as foreseen among FoRS members and observers and other key stakeholders (CONCORD, the Czech MFA and the Czech Development Agency and the EC) and the report was published on FoRS webpage (<http://www.fors.cz/assets/files/Dokumenty/Evaluatreport.pdf>). The final report including the annexes is attached to this report as Annex 7.

The outcomes from the evaluation are presented in section 2.7 below.

Cluster 3: Advocacy, Awareness raising and Media activities

Before characterizing the activities under cluster 3 and their outcomes, it is worth explaining that some of them (especially some of those focused awareness raising and media) were not achieved as desired due to unsatisfactory human resources. The position of Information Officer had been advertised months before the start of the Action, the selection procedures went several times on, but appropriate candidate could not be found. Or – if finally found – decided to opt for another job opportunity elsewhere. We had to face unprecedented situation of competition of similar positions in the Czech Republic related to EU Presidency, and real lack of experienced human resources available. In the end, the person employed at the position Information Officer appeared to be a wrong choice and we had to cancel the work contract. We decided to contract several experienced external fellows in order to ensure a smooth preparation of the key conferences and campaigns, but knowing that the asset of a long-term contact making with the journalists will not be achieved.

Activity 3.1

Title of the activity: Promotional materials and awareness raising actions

The following activities/items were foreseen:

- Leaflet on FoRS Presidency Programme (the Action)
- Logo and corporate design for the Action
- Manifesto
- Promotional banners/roll-ups
- A joint public event
- Website
- A monthly newsletter
- Folders
- Other promotional materials and activities

Their outcomes are presented as follows:

- **Leaflet on FoRS Presidency Programme (the Action)**

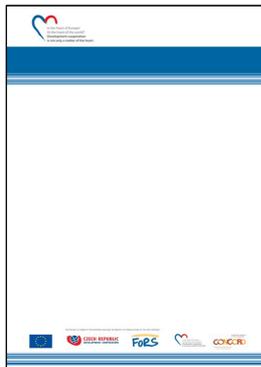
The elaboration of the leaflet presenting FoRS programme during the Czech EU Presidency was coordinated by FoRS. The partner and other actively involved organizations in the Action contributed with texts related to the topics they coordinated. The leaflet comprised a presentation of FoRS, the priority topics, the calendar of all planned events and contact to FoRS. 350 pieces of the leaflet in both language versions (Czech and English) were produced. The graphic and printing works were outsourced.

Although the production of the leaflet was delayed due to insufficient human resources (FoRS information and media officer) as explained above, and was finished in May 2009, FoRS had been previously disseminating its programme for the Presidency to all stakeholders via email. The leaflet was distributed at the two conferences and at meetings with key stakeholders.

- **Logo and corporate design for the Action**

Adequate, simple and visible corporate design for the Action was prepared as foreseen. A logo was elaborated (both Czech and English) by a graphic designer based on the motto “In the heart of Europe? At the heart of the world? Development cooperation is not only a matter of the heart”, suggested by the participants from FoRS organizations at a FoRS seminar on campaigning (in the framework of a parallel project) for events within the Czech EU Presidency. This motto was thought to reflect the efforts of CSOs in putting development cooperation higher on the agenda of Czech foreign policy, emphasising both quality and quantity of aid in order to improve the impact of aid and also comprise the aspect of global responsibility. The logo was used for a layout in the documents (invitations, programmes, etc.)





In addition, a single layout was elaborated and used especially for materials for the international conference on CSO development effectiveness (invitations, programme, report, proclamation, evaluation of the participants, logistics information, reimbursement form).

150 stickers for folders (conference kits) for both international conferences organized in the framework of the Action were produced by the graphic designer. These stickers included the title of the event, the project and the logos of FoRS, the cooperating organizations and the donors (see Annex 4 – Conference on CSO development effectiveness and Annex 6 - Conference on effectiveness in development education and awareness raising).

- **Manifesto**

The initial idea was to have a document with policy requirements (“manifesto”) focusing on the official priorities of the Czech EU Presidency and the main issues of the Action, which would be officially presented to the Czech Government and addressed to a wide NGO community, the policy-makers and the media, as was the case for the previous programmes of NGDO platforms for EU Presidencies.

However, when discussing the most appropriate content of the planned “manifesto” at the beginning of the Action, the specific character of the programme of FoRS for the Czech EU Presidency was taken into account. The specificities consisted in a process inside of the FoRS platform comprising discussions of FoRS members and their partners in several thematic working groups (activities 2.1 and 2.2 above) about the most important factors that contribute to successful or not so much successful development initiatives of CSOs (principles of development effectiveness), the specific role of CSOs and factors for an enabling environment. The result of these discussions constituted the Czech contribution to the global process of development effectiveness (Open Forum).

Based on this reflection, it was decided not to produce a parallel policy document with requirements, but to entre efforts on the inward oriented process. The most appropriate materialization of its final outcomes -case studies and other forms of contributions and interesting conclusions and recommendations- seemed to be a joint publication in Czech and English. This would constitute a useful and representative Czech contribution to the global process of the Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness. Finally, the publication “*CSO Development Effectiveness - Searching New Ways. Czech Contribution to the Global Process of Civil Society Organizations*” was produced, presented in the international conference on CSO development effectiveness in June 2009 and further key related events and distributed to the main development stakeholders in Czech Republic, Europe and other parts of the world. See activity 2.2 above and section 2.4 below.

The outcome has been well appreciated both by FoRS organizations since it represents the first joint publication as well as other stakeholders in development cooperation.

It must be also added that production of such a document obviously required higher funds than those foreseen for the manifesto. These additional funds were taken from available unspent budget lines under the same main heading 5 (see the final financial report).

- **Website**

A new website with information about FoRS EU Presidency activities including the sub-sections “priorities”, “seminars and conferences”, “CSO effectiveness”, “documents” both in Czech http://www.fors.cz/cz/predsednictvi_eu/predsednický-projekt-FoRS and English version http://www.fors.cz/en/eu_presidency/presidency_first_text was designed by a web designer company.

The website also includes a user-friendly editor system that enables easy updating. It was also promoted in printed materials.

Moreover, a web banner for the FoRS programme for the Czech EU Presidency was also produced in Czech language and uploaded on FoRS website (on the right side).



- **Promotional banners/roll-ups**

2 roll-ups with information about the FoRS Programme for the Czech EU Presidency (1 in Czech and 1 in English) and 3 plastic banners with the main motto, logos of FoRS and the donors (the EC and Czech MFA) were produced by two printing houses. See Annex 8.

- **A joint public event**

In cooperation with the partner coalition “Czechia against Poverty”, FoRS organized a small joint public event called “Development cooperation must not be put on a side track in a time of economic crisis” on May 14, 2009. It followed the press conference held on the same day under the same name (see below in activity 3.3). This public event aimed at raising awareness on the importance of aid for developing countries also in a time of economic and financial crisis. The event consisted in street performance realized in a small square at the entrance to a metro station in Prague where many people use to gather. The campaign was produced by the NGOs INEX-SDA, member of FoRS and “Czechia against Poverty”. In order to strengthen its impact, this event, as well as the above mentioned press conference, was carried out during CONCORD campaign „10 Days of Action for Development“. This campaign was also linked to the launch of the CONCORD AidWatch report „Lighten the Load: In a time of crisis, European aid has never been more important“, which monitored the quantity and quality of development policies of the EU and its member states. This report also included a contribution from FoRS concerning the Czech Republic. For details please see Annex 9.

The Action also used the other public activities organised under the frame of the coalition “Czechia against Poverty”. The main being the campaign “Football for development” held by INEX-SDA (FoRS member organisation) in Prague on May 13, 2009 and other 4 cities in the Czech Republic in the framework of the “Day for Africa”. For more information please see Annex 10.

Another joint event addressed to the public (through the media) can be considered the media campaign coordinated by People in Need, to which contributed all FoRS organizations (see activity 3.3 below).

- **A monthly newsletter**

Information related to the Action was published on the web sites of FoRS and its project partners. FoRS members were regularly informed about the activities of the Action by FoRS internet conference fors@pandora.cz. However, due to insufficient human resources explained above, a regular weekly newsletter as such was launched only in October 2009. FoRS members were invited to join the activities in the framework of the Action (parliamentary debate, final evaluation, media campaign) and informed about the results of the evaluation of the Action and follow-up activities. Till that time, the newsletter was replaced by a form of continuous information summaries prepared by FoRS Secretariat according to a related topic (e.g. after the meeting of Steering group, Executive Board, updates on activities and events, appeals to members).

FoRS also used communication channels of other awareness and information projects run by project partners to distribute the information about national and EU development co-operation. These were Ceskoprotichudobe.cz (“Czechia against Poverty”) and Rozvojovka.cz. The target groups of these campaigns include general public, NGOs, media and statutory sector.

- **Folders**

Instead of paper folders for conference kits, more appropriate, practical and low-cost plastic folders that could comprised more documents were purchased for both international conferences carried out within the Action. The folders were provided with above mentioned stickers. See Annexes 4 and 6.

- **Other promotional materials and activities**

White bands (4.100) with the website of Czech against Poverty, the partner coalition in the Action, were produced to be distributed during the joint small advocacy event (see 3.3), the international conference CSO development effectiveness as well as other event of the coalition. See Annex 9.

Activity 3.2

Title of the activity: Joint advocacy actions

The following activities were foreseen:

- Meetings of FoRS and CONCORD with CODEV, COHAFa, Joint Parliamentary Assembly EU-ACP countries.
- Regular consultation meetings with officials and decision-makers in the Ministry of Foreign affairs, Czech Council on ODA and other ministries.
- Position papers.
- Parliamentary debate.

The project succeeded to implement advocacy activities as expected. Before presenting them, it is worth providing explanation on two aspects. On the one hand, the Action searched for synergies with FoRS parallel projects. Many of these activities were carried in their framework and with a valuable contribution of FoRS Policy Officer funded from these projects.

On the other hand, some foreseen joint advocacy activities (especially the parliamentary debate) had to be postponed due to political situation in Czech Republic in 2009 after the fall of the Czech government during the Czech EU Presidency. Since the mandate of one of the target groups of the Action (policy and decision makers in the Czech Republic and the Czech EU representation) was limited before the foreseen convoked early elections, FoRS requested non-cost extension for three-months in order to implement the foreseen joint advocacy actions already with newly elected/appointed policy and decision makers. This request was approved by the EC and some of these activities were carried out in the extended period (parliamentary debate, some meetings with Czech MFA).

The joint advocacy actions were carried out as follows:

- **Meetings of FoRS and CONCORD with CODEV, COHAFa, Joint Parliamentary Assembly EU-ACP countries**

FoRS was invited by the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs to a series of meetings. Some of them were preparatory meetings for the Czech EU Presidency such as the meeting with Mr. Louis Michel, (previous) EC Commissioner for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid on October 27, 2009, with Mr. Peter Zangl, director of DG ECHO on November 11, 2009, and a consultation meeting about the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFa) to be established during the EU Czech Presidency. FoRS was also invited to present the position of European CSOs represented in CONCORD on the combat against tax havens and international tax evasion during the Informal Meeting of Ministers of Development at the end of January 2009 in Prague. FoRS together with CONCORD received two informal invitations to present a joint position on the impact of the financial crisis on developing countries to the Working Party for development cooperation (CODEV) on March 16 and the position on financing Non-State actors in development on June 25, 2009 in Brussels. In addition, the Chairperson of FoRS Executive Board was invited to the meeting of the Working Party on Human Rights (COHOM) in Prague at the end of the international conference “Building Consensus about EU Policies on Democracy Support” on March 2009.

FoRS also cooperated with CONCORD in organizing an informal meeting with members of Joint Parliamentary Assembly of EU and Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries with Czech and European CSOs on April 6, 2009 and organized a capacity building seminar of FoRS members and NMS NGOs on Cotonou agreement and EDF on April 5 in Prague.

- **Regular consultation meetings with officials and decision-makers in the Ministry of Foreign affairs, Czech Council on ODA and other ministries**

FoRS representatives (Executive Board member together with FoRS Policy Officer and/or director of FoRS secretariat) regularly met with policy and decision makers from the Czech MFA and other relevant ministries, the Permanent Representations of the Czech Republic to the European Union Czech Development Agency, inter-ministerial advisory bodies – the Council for Czech Official Development Assistance, members of the national parliament, incl. their foreign and development committees, policy advisers, and assistants officials, and Czech members of the European Parliament.

In these meetings, FoRS representatives presented FoRS activities related to the Czech EU Presidency as well as FoRS' positions on current issues in the field of development cooperation at the Czech and EU level. The most important issues were the final stage of the transformation of the Czech Development Cooperation, the new Act on Development Cooperation, and discussion on development effectiveness principles in the Czech ODA system and the new Concept on Czech ODA for 2011 – 2017. As a contribution to the process of formulation of this concept, FoRS members elaborated and presented a position paper on the future of the Czech Development Cooperation.

The working group on sustainable technologies active in the Action also cooperated with the Czech MFA sharing the issue on sustainable technologies, which was also one of the official Czech EU Presidency priorities. Experts from this working group prepared a presentation on “sustainable technologies and development cooperation” for the European Development Days (Strasbourg, November 2008) and one expert from EDUCON (Tomas Tozicka) took part of the official Czech delegation to this event.

- **Position papers**

FoRS, in occasions also in cooperation with CONCORD, elaborated the following joint positions/position papers for the Czech EU Presidency. See also Annex 11.

Topic/Instrument	Targeted actor	Occasion	Result
A letter dated 26 January 2009 with joint recommendations of FoRS and CONCORD on the impact of the financial crisis on developing countries sent and also presented by the FoRS Executive Board Chair.	Ministers for Development Cooperation of EU countries Mr. Jan Kohout	Informal Meeting in Prague on January 29 - 30, 2009	An official answer from the Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs dated 24 February 2009 informing that the Czech EU Presidency together with the EC will consider the recommendations in further EU discussions on the reaction to the financial crisis (preparation for G-20 summit in London, UN High Level Meeting in New York) and about continuous interest in discussing with CSOs
A letter dated 13 May 2009, with actual key issues in development cooperation that shall be reflected in the conclusions of the Council (e. g. lack of new commitments to support developing countries in dealing with financial crisis, lack of fulfilling the commitments of EU countries to meet the aid quantity targets, stop reducing budget for development cooperation, innovative sources of funding, climate change and impact on developing countries)	Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Jan Kohout	Meeting of General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) on May 18-19, 2009	An official answer from the Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs dated 29 My 2009 informing that the GAERC meeting adopted conclusions on the support of EU to developing countries during the financial and economic crises (e. g. confirmation of EU countries' financial commitments for ODA, highlighting the importance of aid effectiveness esp. Regarding coordination of donors, conclusions on good governance in developing countries).
An appeal dated 11 June 2009 requesting confirmation of the EU commitments in the field of development cooperation also in a time of financial and economic crisis and putting place coordinated approach of the EU towards the reform of the international financial system, among others	Czech Prime Minister Mr. Jan Fischer	Meeting of European Council on June 18-19, 2009	An official answer from the Head of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic dated 3 July 2009, informing about the inclusion of paragraph 24 of the Council Conclusions mentioning explicitly re-confirmation of the commitments on the quantity of ODA and confirming support for Czech development cooperation also after the end of the Czech EU Presidency.

- **Parliamentary debate**

As explained above, the parliamentary debate was postponed based on the political situation in the middle of 2009 – early elections convoked for autumn. FoRS thus planned to approach newly elected deputies and new officials at the Czech government. However, the early elections were finally cancelled and ordinary elections declared for May 2010.

Autumn 2009 was a confusing political context in the Czech Republic. The parliament (Chamber of Deputies) began to plan meetings and activities only when it was clear that ordinary elections will be held in spring 2010. An appropriate date for convoking an multi-stakeholder debate in the parliament about current issues of Czech ODA was agreed with the their foreign and development committees of the chamber, the speakers were identified and relevant actors from members of these committees, other deputies and senators, foreign development advisors from all parliamentary political parties, representatives from the Czech MFA, Czech Development Agency, CSOs (both development CSOs and human rights or environmental organizations) and Business Platform for Foreign Development Cooperation were invited.

The debate took place on December 3, 2009 in the framework of the historically first meeting of the Sub-committee on Development Assistance under the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies and under the auspices of its chairman. 25 participants discussed the current challenges of Czech ODA in its key momentum – the final phase of transformation and preparation of the new concept strategy ODA.

The debate was chaired by the chair of the subcommittee and moderated by FoRS representative (Jan Mrkvička). Speakers from Czech MFA and FoRS (the Chairperson and a member of Executive Board – Šimon Pánek and Petr Lebeda) presented their insights on the topic of the debate. Moreover, P. Lebeda presented FoRS new position paper (produced in the framework of another FoRS project) “What development cooperation of the Czech Republic do we want? – FoRS contribution to the new strategy document on ODA”.

The participants focused their discussion on the importance of Czech ODA including the legitimacy of the proposed goals and interests, as well as effectiveness, financing and policy coherence. An important outcome was the acknowledgment of the contribution of the debate by the Chair of the subcommittee and his invitation to continue in such multi-stakeholders discussions at the subcommittee. The event was concluded with a glass of wine.

Apart from strengthening relations with this new subcommittee, FoRS also could build up alliances with non-development actors for supporting joint goals, learning about different opinions, network and contact making with parliamentary representatives and governmental officials.

Activity 3.2

Title of the activity: Media activities

The following activities were foreseen:

- 3 Press conferences.
- Press releases.
- Regular publishing of articles.
- Media information pack.

Several foreseen media activities had to be postponed due to actual political situation in Czech Republic, based on which FoRS requested non-cost extension for three-months (see above). The media and political space were supposed to be fully occupied by the political campaigns and the Czech national elections expected originally for October/November 2009.



Some media activities were carried out during the Presidency (press releases, 1 press conference and press point), but the **biggest activity oriented towards the media** was the **media campaign “20 years of Czech Aid”** prepared by the partner organization People in Need, concretely its section of development awareness with a huge experience in working with media in the Czech context, in cooperation with FoRS. This campaign also closely followed the foreseen reach of

media activities in the Action (awareness raising on development issues and global interdependency as such) as contributed to the achievement of the purpose of the Action.

The timing of the campaign was closely linked to on the 20th Anniversary of the Velvet Revolution in the Czech Republic (November 17, 1989). It capitalized on this momentum and the assumed media attention linked to it. **The key message** of the campaign was formulated as twofold. Firstly to promote 20 years of the Czech development cooperation towards the Czech public with a special focus on decision-makers. Secondly to highlight the fact that an ongoing support to development cooperation is crucial especially now, in the time of economic crises, otherwise the up to date achievements of the Czech development cooperation will be lost and wasted. **The message of this campaign was formulated in a way as to capture the maximum media attention and consequently the attention of the general public.** This corresponds to the actual level of public awareness about the issue in the Czech Republic and was thus selected as the best media strategy.

Specific graphic look of the campaign visual was prepared (on the left side), together with banners for propagation on the internet. Audio ad was recorded.

The **main components** of the campaign were as follows and can be consulted in details in Annex 12.

➤ Website www.ceskapomoc.cz highlighting the Czech development projects in the world

The domain for this website was registered, texts on the selected Czech development projects prepared and the website designed. The website contains a world map with examples of Czech development projects, links to all Czech NGOs working in the relevant countries and media section including the media kit (press release, photos, ad visuals and banners for media use). Audio ad was also made available for a download.

Based on an agreement between People in Need and FoRS, this website was overtaken by FoRS and further used for the long-term promotion of the Czech NGOs involvement in development cooperation.

➤ Ads in the printed and electronic media

The campaign ad was published in 4 printed weeklies (Ekonom – reading rate 113 000 people, HN Víkend – reading rate 153 000 people, Respekt – reading rate 100 000 people, Zdravotní noviny – reading rate 41 000) and 1 printed bi-weekly (A2 – reading rate unavailable). The banner was placed on 10 websites, the average time of campaign duration was 2 weeks.

The audio ad appeared on 5 national (Čro 1 Radiožurnál – listening rate 794 000 people, Radio Praha – listening rate 343 000 people, Radio Country – listening rate 220 000 people, Radio Vltava – listening rate 74 000 people, Radio Proglas – listening rate 43 000 people) and 5 regional radio channels (Čro Hradec Králové – listening rate 30 000 people, Čro Pardubice – listening rate 17 000 people, Čro Ostrava – listening rate 49 000 people, Čro Budějovice – listening rate 92 000 people, Radio Čas – listening rate 218 000 people).

All of the media provided their services for minimum prices or free of charge (e.g. 7 radio channels).

➤ Outdoor advertisement

The options for the outdoor advertisement were agreed and negotiated with the advertisement providers. The outdoor campaign focused on covering both Prague and the regional cities of the Czech Republic. In the regions 200 posters were placed in the suburban transport of Brno, Plzeň, Ostrava and České Budějovice. In addition posters were placed free of charge in 45 bars and restaurants of the regional cities. In Prague 500 posters were present in the transport system (trams, metro) and on the public advertisement areas.

➤ Articles and interviews in the media

The campaign was covered by 2 national TV channels (ČT 2 – share approx. 4,2% and ČT 24 – share approx. 2,5%), 4 national radio channels (Čro Radiožurnál – 2 interviews and 2 short news, listening rate 794 000 people; Čro 6 – 1 interview, listening rate 35 000 people; Radio Česko – 1 interview, listening rate 6 000 people; Čro 7 Radio Praha – short news, listening rate 343 000), 2 internet news portals (Novinky.cz, visit rate 375 154 people and Ceskenoviny.cz, visit rate 20 652), 1 printed daily (Deník VLP, reading rate 1 003 000 people) and 1 printed weekly (E15, reading rate 58 000).

- Press conference linked to the presentation of the new Aidwatch 2009 with the focus on the impacts of economic crises on the developing countries and the Czech ODA

The date for press conference was set and the speakers selected in cooperation with FoRS. The event took place on 13th of November in the cinema Světozor in Prague. The invitation and information on the press conference and the campaign was distributed via People in Need media newsletter to 125 journalists. Selected media representatives were also contacted directly over the phone. A press release (see Annex 13) was distributed at the press conference and sent to the Czech News Agency (ČTK).

The speakers were Šimon Pánek (representative of Board of Directors of Czech NGDO platform and director of People in Need), Jan Bárta (Director of ADRA), Pavel Gruber (Head of Humanitarian and Development Aid Department of Caritas Czech Republic) and Hana Ševčíková (Head of the Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic).

Altogether 7 journalists attended the press conference, other journalists contacted the coordinators with request for interview separately. For results of the media coverage see Annex 12.

The result of the campaign

Approx. 2 287 000 readers or listeners had an opportunity to hear about the message of the campaign through printed and audio ad, some 2 634 806 readers or listeners could hear about the campaign through media articles or interviews (data for TV viewers not included) and additional number of Czech population was targeted by outdoor advertisement. The newly designed website had up to date of reporting 2570 unique visits.

Moreover, FoRS together with project partners carried out another media activities.

- **Press conferences/releases.**

Apart from the above mentioned press conference, FoRS organized, together with “Czechia against poverty” and UN Information Center in Prague, a press conference **“Development Financing of Development Co-operation on the time of Economy Crisis”**. This conference was held on 14 May 2009 in the venue of the UN Information Centre on the occasion of a launch of a new evaluation report of EU development co-operation produced by CONCORD and in the framework of CONCORD campaign “10 Days of Action for Development“ before a meeting of GAERC chaired by the Czech Republic on May 18 and 19. The speakers at the press conference were (that time) FoRS Secretariat director Jana Krczmářová, Petr Lebeda, director of the partner organization Glopolis and Michal Broža, director of UN Information Center in Prague. A press release was published and sent in the media. European NGOs, including the Czech ones, appalled on EU member states, because many of them do not fulfil their commitments regarding financing of development cooperation and some of them announced further reduction in their development aid. There were 8 outcomes in the media.

Moreover, a press point was organized by FoRS on the first day of the conference CSO development effectiveness on June 23, 2009. The press point consisted in inviting interested journalists after the opening session to the conference venue lobby where they had the opportunity to interview the facilitator of CSO development effectiveness process within the Action, D. Svoboda, which provided the journalists with information about the conference and FoRS initiatives during the Czech EU Presidency. Two journalists also attended the conference and made interviews with some conference participants from developing countries. A press release was also published before the conference.

The press releases are presented in Annex 13.

A press conference and press release were originally planned also around the Parliamentary multi-stakeholders debate (as per the non-extension request). Nevertheless, the Executive Board of FoRS decided that for this rather specific event it would not be appropriate and that another media campaign (around the 20th Anniversary) would be the most relevant scenario for work with media.

- **Press releases**

Beside the already mentioned press releases (linked to the press conferences held on May 14, June 23 and November 17, as well as to the conference on CSO development effectiveness on June 23-24), FoRS also joint to press releases of its partners such as CONCORD and Czech NGOs or their platforms and published them in the Czech Press Association and available websites (e. g. press release related to European NGOs appeal on EU politicians in formal GAERC meeting on January 30, 2009 in Prague, or related to a reaction of NGOs to an EC proposal on its position in the meeting on climate change in Copenhagen dated from January 28, 2009). These releases were produced in the framework parallel FoRS projects.

- **Regular publishing of articles**

The Action used distribution channels of project partners People in Need (Rozvojovka.cz) and the coalition “Czechia against Poverty” focused on raising awareness of the public about development cooperation and related issues.

Moreover, the partner organization in the Action –EDUCON- was in charge of an initiative focused to promote the topic of Effectiveness of Development Cooperation in the media in the period October – December 2009. The purpose of this activity was to write and publish interviews, articles and stories about development cooperation. The existing articles on that topic written by NGDO workers were usually not objective enough and focused too much on a particular concern of these NGDOs. This made them often not sufficiently interesting for the media and the readers. On the other hand, when articles were written by journalists, their lack of expertise led to lack of quality articles. Based on these constraints, EDUCON decided to connect the knowledge of NGDOs workers, managers, and evaluators with the experience of open-minded journalist for development issues. A new target group consisting of middle aged people, readers of life-style and storytelling journals was also identified. Stories and short novels were written for this media to advance their readers towards development issues on the life stories of ODA projects beneficiaries from least developed countries.

This initiative was carried out in three stages. In the first stage, background material (working concept and the work procedure) was prepared in order to provide a basic outline about the proceeding in the realization of the activity. Czech NGDOs (among them also FoRS members) were invited to participate. Interested participants were informed about how they will be contacted by the journalists, what kind of material they should prepare, how the interview should proceed and what sort of outputs they could expect.

In the second stage, journalists were contacted. The interview was tested with the coordinator of this activity in EDUCON and evaluated by the whole EDUCON team. The conditions and background materials needed for the work as the working procedure were finally defined.

In the third stage, the interviewed organizations were contacted. They selected their representatives for the interviews and prepared the requested materials. Further on, the interviews were carried out, each of them by two journalists. The interviews were rewritten from the tape and edited, submitted for the authorization to the interviewed persons and finalised. Other articles were written on the base of the interviews and other materials given by the organizations. It was done in semi-reportage form, in popular educational form or even more in the form of short novel. The story was based on experiences of the beneficiaries how it was documented by the project managers or evaluators. Final editing included the corrections and selection of three photos with legend.

In the final fourth stage all articles were given to the people in charge of distribution. In total, 16 articles, stories or interviews were produced by journalists and additional 2 by EDUCON coordinator. Seven articles were accepted by internet media and three by printed media. The articles not published in 2009 will be distributed during the 2010 mainly in printed media. All articles were elaborated in Czech language. See Annex 14.

2.2. What is your assessment of the results of the Action? Include observations on the extent to which foreseen specific objective and overall objectives were met and whether the Action has had any unforeseen positive or negative results. (please quantify where possible; refer to Logframe Indicators).

The achievement of the three expected results was based on the outcomes of the activities from the interrelated three clusters as explained in section 2.1 and is assessed as follows. This assessment is rather qualitative reflecting qualitative character of the Action, even though the achievement of the quantitative indicators is also showed.

Expected Result 1:

The Czech CSOs and international partners are engaged in the global process on CSO development effectiveness: forums allowing discussion on principles of development effectiveness are created and shared conclusion documents are adopted.

The following outcomes were envisaged:

- At least 10 Czech NGOs engaged in CSO development effectiveness discussions and involving their partners in the Czech Republic, as well as the EU, East and South.
- Improved information exchange, experience and knowledge sharing among FoRS organisations and other Czech and European stakeholders.
- Strengthened coordination and cooperation within FoRS, mobilisation of its active members and their partners, positive input for the network itself in the years to come as well.
- Creation of a focal group of the Czech NGOs for following the global process on CSO development effectiveness.
- Increased number of contacts at national and international levels.
- Participation of the FoRS expert representative in the Global Facilitation Group of the Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness as part of the European CSOs representation in GFG.
- Formulated draft principles on development effectiveness (or on particular aspects of it) arising from the Czech NGOs experience and reflecting international experience as well.
- The Czech experience and the principles are presented to the other stakeholders as the Czech contribution to the discourse in the global CSO development effectiveness process.

The core activities 1.1 and 1.2 as well as activities from the cluster 2 (as per the Action structure explained in the description of the Action) in our opinion successfully contributed to the realization of these outcomes and to the achievement of the expected result 1. Based on their own experience in the priority development topics of the Action and on the facilitation of FoRS expert, Czech CSOs were able to discuss in thematic groups/forums with international partners from CSOs and institutions from the global North, South and East (countries in transition to democracy) about the key principles of CSO development effectiveness, the roles of CSOs in development and factors for an enabling environment given by donors and governments (see activities 1.2, 2.1 and 2.2). Czech CSOs also presented the results of these discussions and the Czech contribution to the global process of the Open Forum for CSO development effectiveness and discussed them with key development actors coming from different backgrounds and continents at the international conference on CSO development effectiveness.

14 Czech CSOs (FoRS members or observers) were actively engaged in the global process of CSO development effectiveness -they organized expert seminars and other events, co-organized the workshops at the main conference on CSO development effectiveness and worked on the elaboration of case studies and other documents. Therefore, the first indicator of this result was fulfilled and overcome (140%). Some other Czech CSOs (7) got involved as participants of at least of one event organized in the framework of the discussion about CSO development effectiveness. In follow-up activities to this Action, FoRS will try to target other of its members and observers and involve them in the discussions about CSO development effectiveness.

The second indicator measuring the achievement of this result was also met as the Czech contribution to the global process was formulated, presented and finally served as a basis for a shared conclusion document (joint proclamation of the participants of CSO development effectiveness conference), which is supposed to be an active document used by the Open Forum, FoRS and possibly other CSOs.

The direct involvement of the project partners and other CSOs in the project activities constituted a key factor that contributed to their engagement in the process of development effectiveness by deepening their understanding of development effectiveness, and by discussing and identifying conditions and principles for their effective development co-operation. **The outcome – the joint**

publication- is considered the biggest achievement of FoRS platform so far due to the number of persons involved, the variety of topics and the fact it was the first time that concrete experiences have been presented in this coordinated manner. The role of the facilitator of the process of identifying and formulating principles of CSO development effectiveness was essential for reaching the foreseen result of formulating and presenting the Czech contribution.

This Czech experience was further shared with other interested CSOs or their networks, e.g. within CONCORD (working group on CSO development effectiveness) or to EU NMS CSOs and platforms. Czech CSOs had also an opportunity to establish new contacts with international and Czech development actors.

Cooperation within FoRS was strengthened by working in the thematic groups established for the Action. The initial idea of establishing a working group on development effectiveness was modified based on the consideration that establishing any working group is a process that needs to be a bottom-up response and not top-down imposing and on the fact that during the EU Presidency the real capacity of FoRS organizations (the partners and others) was limited. Nevertheless, the outcome of this modification appeared to be satisfactory since the launch of the re-established FoRS working group Effectiveness is planned for the first half of 2010.

Fulfilment of indicators for Result 1

Indicator	Target value	Actual value	Percentage of fulfilment
Min. 10 Czech CSO active in global CSO AE process	10	14	140%
Czech contribution to CSO development effectiveness is formulated and presented	n/a	The principles on CSO development effectiveness were formulated and concurred by the participants at the final conference	100%

Expected Result 2:

Strengthened NGO capacities for networking and effective development cooperation interventions.

Based on the outcomes of the components of this expected result presented below, we can assume the capacity of Czech CSOs and other development stakeholders that participated in the events jointly prepared by the working groups in the Action, and that contributed to the joint publication was strengthened in the sectors of their work as well as in the cross-cutting topic of CSO development effectiveness.

Moreover, outcomes of the activities under Cluster 1 (organization of the international conference on CSO development effectiveness, representation of FoRS in the Open Forum, meetings and participation in events within the EU) also contributed to the achievement of this result 2.

- Participation of at least 30% of FoRS individual organisations and other participants from at least 20 countries in the joint events.

More than 20 FoRS members/observers (almost 50% out of the 44 organizations at the beginning of the Action) were actively engaged in the preparation of joint actions (expert seminars, a roundtable and two conferences, elaboration of case studies and other documents) and/or participated in at least one joint event. These CSOs participating in all the events within FoRS programme for Czech EU Presidency came from more than 50 countries from the global South, East and North.

It is also worth mentioning that the Czech EU Presidency was a positive factor of attraction of participants from diverse backgrounds to the events organized in the Czech Republic.

- Greater mobilisation of FoRS individual organisations for cooperation among each other and building up new partnerships within a wider Czech NGO community as well as with such community abroad.

Through their joint work in groups set on the priority topics of the FoRS programme for the Czech EU Presidency and through participation in the diverse events, FoRS organizations could establish new partnerships, collaboration and contacts with CSOs as well as institutions from the Czech Republic and many different countries of the global South, East and North. This assumption can be supported

by a concrete example of the expert seminar on migration/remittances. A very fruitful cooperation has been initiated since CSOs, institutions and private (bank) sector gathered for the first time, discussed the topic of remittances and established cooperation necessary for searching for more effective ways for immigrants to send money back in their countries of origin and contribute thus to their development. However, all of these expert events (activity 2.1) contributed in a certain degree to this outcome.

In addition, the Action strengthened some already existing working groups. At this point, we shall explain why we put so much stress to the sense of working groups. Working groups are in any way the most tangible sense of initiating cooperation and dialog among various actors. The actual issues are discussed there, experience exchanged, and possible joint positions formulated and finally in some cases also to joint projects. Therefore, FoRS considers working groups as a very important part of its functioning and supports their existence. The Action initiated the establishment of a working group on sustainable technologies, which gathered not only FoRS members, but also other actors from the development area. Furthermore, the topic of gender and development effectiveness also mobilized more CSOs for this issue and could contribute to the establishment of a new working group in FoRS in the second semester of 2009.

- FoRS network strengthened by greater feeling of belonging to a network, FoRS support of member organisations' activities and overall coordination.

We can assume (and it was also confirmed by the external evaluation) that FoRS platform was effectively strengthened through cooperation of its organizations in working groups, through attending joint events and support provided by FoRS secretariat and that its role as an important development actor in the Czech context received higher visibility.

- Increased sharing of best practices and lessons learned from FoRS and the Czech NGO development experience, demonstrated by concrete approaches and achieved results and exposing them to the debate with the other European and international actors.

As mentioned when referring to activities under the Expected results 1 and 2 above, FoRS and other Czech CSOs had many opportunities to share their experience and knowledge especially in the six priority sectors of development cooperation and discuss them with their partners from diverse regions of the world.

- Fostered NGOs' reliability by proving good intentions, effective procedures and influential results of NGO projects in general, their experience and openness.

The outcomes of this result 2 and the whole Action are supposed to have contributed to highlight the openness of CSOs to share their experiences, both positive and negative, to discuss about their role in development cooperation as well as the conditions necessary for their effective work. Moreover, CSOs committed to further discuss and explore CSO development effectiveness principles in their practice in the joint proclamation of the participants of the CSO development effectiveness conference. FoRS will build on these achievements in order to further support the work of Czech CSOs focused on increasing their effectiveness and reliability.

- Creation of a multiplier effect by encouraging debate among the individual FoRS organisations and other NGOs and their own supporters and environments.

The Action was surely a very important factor for incentivizing debate among FoRS organizations, their partners and other Czech CSOs on the impact and reach of their work in development cooperation, development education and awareness raising. Nevertheless, these discussions shall be further nourished and facilitated in order to lead to a real and increased effectiveness of development actions. FoRS plans to support these initiatives (see section 2.6)

- Greater awareness of and participation of FoRS organisations in CONCORD structures and work.

The Action enabled very pertinently the participation of some FoRS representatives in related CONCORD working groups (e. g. CSO development effectiveness, AidWatch). Some new people involved in particular working groups of CONCORD (e. g. gender, FDR). Rather than attributing this to the Action, this involvement reflects the real requirements for FoRS work at the European level and the real capacities of the persons involved.

All proposed indicators were achieved as the table below shows.

Fulfilment of indicators for Result 2

Indicator	Target value	Actual value	Percentage of fulfilment
At least 30% of FoRS members active in the joint Presidency expert events	at least 30% of FoRS members	Almost 50% of FoRS members active in events*	142%
Thematic seminars, symposium and conferences jointly prepared by more than 3 NGOs	3 thematic seminars 1 symposium 2 conferences	3 seminars (Sustainable technologies, Food Security and Rural Development, Migration/ Remittances); 1 roundtable (Democratic Governance); 2 conferences (Development Education, CSO Development Effectiveness)	100%
National case studies/papers on best practises published	5	15 case studies/papers	300%
Participants from other countries active in the events	at least 20 countries	about 50	250%

*) Note: The baseline calculated in the project application form comes out from 44 FoRS organisations.

Expected Result 3:

Policy makers, media, CSOs and the general public are informed on character and impact of the national and EU development cooperation.

The expected outputs (underlined) were achieved as follows.

- Pressure on policy-makers, generated from targeted lobby initiatives and from the public – towards increased quantity and quality of the Czech ODA in the perspective of the EU development policy.
- Bringing the development agenda higher in the attention of the media, public and policy-makers.

Within the Action, FoRS carried out several initiatives accentuating Czech ODA to meet its international commitments regarding quantity and quality of aid, including aid effectiveness, policy coherence for development and gender issues and responding to current key events in development cooperation at the Czech and European level (see activities 3.1 - 3.3). These initiatives comprised submission of lobby letters and position papers to the Czech MFA or to the prime minister, the multi-stakeholder debate held in the Czech Parliament and a series of meetings with representatives of the Czech MFA (especially with the department for development cooperation and humanitarian aid), the Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the EU, the inter-governmental advisory body Council on development cooperation, and members of Czech Parliament or political parties. As also explained above, although enabled by the Action, some of these initiatives cannot be directly attributed to the action but rather reflect the search of synergies between this Action and other FoRS projects.

Pressure from the public is difficult to be measured since the results could be only seen in a longer term and can be based on a permanent activity with the public. Nevertheless, FoRS made efforts in targeting the public through media (e.g. the media campaign “20 years of the Czech Aid”, elaboration and publishing of articles, stories and interviews from Czech CSOs development practice, press releases on different actual issues from development cooperation or linked to events within the Action).

- Increased reflection and actions by FoRS members in support of the development issues in the media and public.

Several of the FoRS organizations directly involved in the Action elaborated and published articles related to the topics of their interest (e. g. Multiculture Center Prague/remittances, ADRA/EDUCON sustainable technologies). Moreover, the partner organization EDUCON coordinated elaboration of articles, stories and interviews on the development practice of Czech CSOs. A series of actions organized by the coalition “Czechia against Poverty” (or its members) was also carried out such as the campaign “Football for development” in June 2009 (see activity 3.1).

- FoRS position papers and other publications prepared jointly with the member organisations reflecting the current official presidency topics and distributed to the Czech governmental and EU official institutions.

The main document produced within the Action was the above mentioned joint publication “*CSO development effectiveness. Searching for New Ways*” based on the process of reflection on CSO development effectiveness by FoRS members, other Czech CSOs and their Czech and international partners. Nevertheless, this publication was not mentioned as a pure lobbying document but rather a tool for raising awareness, experience exchange, reinforcing/encouraging the debates and food for thoughts for further policy statements. It was distributed among the Czech, international CSOs and institutional partners in different scenarios.

Number of position papers and lobby letters on the current Czech EU Presidency issues were jointly produced by CONCORD and FoRS and sent to the Czech Ministers of Foreign Affairs responsible for development policy and the Czech Prime Minister ahead of the European Council meetings, Informal Meeting of the Development Ministers, G20 meeting and development GAERC.

In addition, FoRS elaborated other documents and distributed them to the key development stakeholders such as the position document towards the new Concept on Czech Development Cooperation and Czech AidWatch report “Czech Development Cooperation at the Crossroads” presented in the multi-stakeholder debate in the Czech Parliament. Nevertheless, as already explained above, these documents were produced in the framework of parallel projects of FoRS.

- Increased attention in the media to the EU development policy and its consequences for developing countries (through distribution of material to media, press conferences and press releases, media interviews, articles, more systematic engagement with the key journalists and policy-makers).

This foreseen achievement could be simply assessed by quantitative measures, but it is hardly to be really assessed without a wider context. As explained in details in section under activity 3.1 - 3.3, several activities were carried out, e. g. three press releases directly related to the Action were produced (and others linked to the Czech EU Presidency but produced within parallel FoRS projects), two press conferences and one press point were held. The media campaign “20 years of Czech aid” had a good coverage in different media. A series of articles, stories or interviews were produced and published. The study on remittances was published on www.migrationonline.cz. The Action planned to build on a close synergy with the already existing media work of “Czechia against Poverty” and particular member organisations which have already established communication channels and contacts with journalist and media space. Close cooperation with CONCORD was also widely used to target the Brussels-based media (database of European journalists interested in EU/development issues). Contact making meeting with Czech Brussels-based journalists was carried out in Brussels. FoRS representative also took part in the CONCORD press conference around the GAERC meeting in May 2009. These all have been a big asset for achieving increased attention in the media and without doubt have met the expectations.

However, the FoRS ambition to develop a more systematic engagement with key journalists has not been achieved as desired due to unsatisfactory human resources explained above.

Furthermore, it is worth explaining that the Czech media space has very limited awareness on development issues and gives little if any attention to that. The work with media could bring some outcome only in a very long-term run and the change could hardly be remarkable within a half-year of intensive activities related to EU Presidency, notwithstanding the over-competition of many other topics and actors during the Czech EU Presidency.

However, we can conclude that despite some constraints, the Action contributed to an increased attention to development cooperation issues in the media for a certain period and in some particular issues.

- Special advocacy meetings and parliamentary debate on development in general, and development effectiveness and selected topics in particular.

We consider this part of the Action as very satisfactory in terms of real impact on particular policy moments of the Czech EU Presidency related to development cooperation. A series of meetings with Czech policy and decision makers related to the Czech ODA (Czech commitments on quality and quantity of aid in its European context), EU development cooperation, as well as the Czech EU Presidency (CODEV, COHAFA, COHOM meetings), were held by members of FoRS Executive Board, director of FoRS Secretariat and FoRS Policy Officer.

In the multi-stakeholder debate in the subcommittee for development assistance of the committee on foreign affairs at the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament, current challenges of Czech ODA were discussed and principles of development effectiveness and the role of CSOs promoted.

Fulfilment of indicators for Result 3

Indicator	Target value	Actual value	Percentage of fulfilment
Joint advocacy positions submitted to institutional partners	at least 3 positions	3 joint statements*	100%
FoRS and its members contributions in public media	min. 10 contributions	Min. 30 contributions (articles, interviews, stories, audio messages, short news)	Min. 300%
Joint public action of FoRS organisations	min. 1 action	1 action (street performance, 14 May 2009)	100%

*Note: These 3 statements also received an official answer. Additional statements were produced within parallel projects of FoRS.

Specific Objective:

To formulate and share principles on development effectiveness in CSO practice and to promote these towards public and political stakeholders.

Indicators:

- **CSO position on AE principles supported by at least 30 Czech NGOs and 30 international partners**
- **CSO contribution to national and EU development policies communicated to stakeholders - min. 3 official responses from institutional partners**

Despite the broad and ambitious scope of the Action in terms of expected outcomes and variety of target groups, it can be stated that the results of the Action have contributed to the achievement of its specific objective.

On the one hand, a joint CSO position based on the results of the process of identification and formulation of principles of CSO development effectiveness coordinated by FoRS (“Prague Proclamation”) was supported by the participants of the conference CSO Development Effectiveness coming from Czech Republic and abroad (the global North, East and South) in June 2009.

On the other hand, political stakeholders were approached by joint statements and lobby letters, often prepared in cooperation with CONCORD, as well as through joint meetings of FoRS’s representatives in relation to key issues in the field of Czech and EU development cooperation (especially on necessary support of EU countries for developing countries in a time of financial and economic crises, necessity to meet the commitments regarding quantity and quality of aid including its effectiveness). Effectiveness of development cooperation was also promoted within the parliamentary multi-stakeholders debate in December 2009 and FoRS position paper on the new concept on Czech ODA. Although this paper is not directly attributable to the Action, the Action strengthened the capacities of FoRS platform with regard to development effectiveness aspects so that they could be reflected appropriately in the position document.

Rather than with development effectiveness principles as such, the public was approached with messages including this topic but in more appropriate manner (e. g. articles, stories, interviews related to concrete development projects).

The overview of the achievement of the indicators set for the specific objective can be observed in the following table.

Indicator	Target value	Actual value	Percentage of fulfilment
CSO position on AE principles supported by Czech NGOs and international partners	at least 30 Czech NGOs and 30 international partners	28 Czech NGOs* and more than 30 international organisations	Almost 100%
CSO contribution to national and EU development policies communicated to stakeholders**	min. 3 official responses from institutional partners	3	100%

*) Note: And other CSOs. Regarding Czech support, the topic was officially endorsed at two Annual Assemblies of the FoRS, so the engagement of Czech NGOs is not based only on participation in the Prague conference in June 2009.

***) Note: The Czech contribution to the Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness is communicated in this global process (e.g. within CONCORD, at GFG meeting in Mexico in January 2010, at the workshop for non-EU European countries in Vienna in March 2010 or through IDEAS channels).

Overall Objective:

To contribute towards effective EU development co-operation through engagement of civil society and enhanced public and political support

Indicator:

- **Common basis on Czech Aid Effectiveness agreed between Czech CSOs and political representation.**

The Action promoted the involvement of Czech CSOs and their partners in the global process (the Open Forum) of identification CSO development effectiveness principles, CSOs roles and factors of an enabling environment for CSOs performance in development cooperation. There were many opportunities to build capacity, establish partnerships, exchange knowledge and learn from other experiences in the different priority topics of the Action. Moreover, room was provided for multi-stakeholder discussions (CSOs, donors, governments, private sector from the global East, North and South). Many of these actors supported a joint proclamation where they committed to further explore and discuss the CSO development effectiveness principles.

This proclamation was further disseminated among diverse stakeholders, key actors of development cooperation in the Czech and international organizations and institutions. While FoRS intended (and continues to do) to promote and include development effectiveness in development cooperation policy on the Czech and EU levels, it must be stated that it is not realistic to achieve an agreement between Czech CSOs and politicians on this joint position within a few-month time and in addition to the context of political crisis.

FoRS can build on existing political support for effective development cooperation in the framework of the ongoing transformation process of Czech ODA. The fact that FoRS representing most of Czech NGDOs is invited into the official structures (e.g. Council for Foreign Development Co-operation and its working groups) is the outcome of a long-term process and cannot be attributed to the Action itself. FoRS can also build on strengthened relations with Czech Parliament, especially the committee on foreign affairs of the Chamber of Deputies and its subcommittee on development assistance.

Moreover, the Open Forum process is a longer-term process that will only finish in 2011 when the 4th high level forum on aid effectiveness will take place and where a joint framework is to be negotiated with multiple stakeholders. Such framework when promoted towards public and political stakeholders, is supposed to contribute to effective EU development cooperation and probably enhanced public and political support.

2.3. What has been the outcome on both the final beneficiaries &/or target group (if different) and the situation in the target country or target region which the Action addressed?

The target groups were the following ones:

- Civil society organisations: mainly NGOs in the Czech Republic, in EU member states and developing and transition countries.
- Policy- and decision makers in the EU and the Czech Republic: members of the Czech Government, members of the Czech Parliament, members of the European Parliament, other elected representatives and civil servants in the Czech Republic and the EU.
- Media and General public.
- Other stakeholders of development cooperation, such as the EU Troika Countries NGDOs platforms and partner CSOs in both the EU and developing countries, and also in countries in transition.

Among the final beneficiaries were disadvantaged population groups from developing countries.

As to **civil society organisations**, they were enriched in the following multiple dimensions (based on internal feedback from partners and findings of the external evaluation):

- **Capacity building, exchange of information and experience** in the priority topics of the FoRS program for the Czech EU Presidency (migration and development/remittances, sustainable technologies, agriculture and rural development, democratic governance, gender and development, inclusive development). One project partner invited an expert on gender to learn more about the theme within its organisation. Moreover, strengthening of FoRS platform as such is very valuable, both the experience of FoRS with leading a project funded by the EC and the cooperation of FoRS member or observing organizations as partners aimed to achieve common goals.
- **Establishment of partnerships, new contacts** with Czech and international CSOs and institutional partners, especially within the sectors of work of the NGOs, facilitated access to necessary information. Some concrete examples include invitation of a Czech CSO by an international partner to join a new project, or an agreement on mutual communication and cooperation with business platform for development co-operation (under Union of Industry)
- **Involvement** of many CSOs from the Czech Republic, global North, East and South in the **global process of CSO development effectiveness** through their participation in events, working on joint case studies and other documents.
- **Increased knowledge and understanding about CSO development effectiveness**, increased self-confidence of CSOs and ownership of the process.
- **Increased visibility and recognition/prestige of FoRS platform.**
- **Strengthening of FoRS platform, secretariat and some working groups** (such as sustainable technologies). The Action also contributed to a bigger visibility and credibility of the platform.
- Position papers contributed to consolidation of opinions inside FoRS.
- Strengthened cooperation of FoRS with institutional partners, including debate on effectiveness of development cooperation. For example, FoRS was invited by Czech MFA and ministry of education to get involved in the discussions and preparation of National Strategy of Development Education. Higher involvement into official structures of those FoRS organisations that worked on topics that were also official priorities of Czech EU Presidency (e. g. representatives of working group on sustainable technologies in the Action participated in several meetings of working group of the MFA on the same topic.
- **Improved knowledge and preparation of FoRS for constructive discussions with the institutional partners about development effectiveness**
- For most of project partners the project brought also strengthening of their organisational capacity through the experience they made with organisation of events of such a scope (number of participants, international aspects).
- NGDO platforms from EU NMS can also learn from the experience of Czech NGDO platform during the EU Presidency - from the phases of the preparation of the project to the closing one.

Nevertheless, the external evaluation also showed that some FoRS organizations considered the Action as a marginal activity since it did not directly address the key areas of their work.

Policy and decision makers from Czech Republic and the EU:

- Strengthened cooperation between Czech development CSOs with Czech policy and decision makers such as the Czech MFA, Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the EU, Committee on Foreign Affairs (and its subcommittee on development assistance) of the Parliament
- Learned about the global engagement of CSOs in discussion and identification of a joint framework of CSO development principles focusing on an increased impact of development cooperation.
- Could know the opinions of CSOs regarding the external factors (given by donors and governments) for CSO work in development (so called “enabling environment”).
- Established contacts with CSOs from Czech Republic and other regions of the world.
- Strengthened cooperation with Czech development CSOs – such as the Czech MFA, Committee on Foreign Affairs (and its subcommittee on development assistance) of the Parliament.

Media

- Received information about actual key issues from the field of development cooperation, practical examples of CSOs’ work in the field.
- Had an opportunity to make in-person interviews with CSO members or experts from developing countries or countries in transition.
- Received information about initiatives of Czech CSOs in development cooperation over the past 20 years.

General public

- Could learn, mostly through the media, about concrete development work of Czech and international CSOs as well as about current issues from development cooperation at Czech and EU levels.

Disadvantaged population groups from developing countries

Mentally and physically handicapped and elderly people and their involvement in development constituted one of the priority issues of the Action (“make development inclusive”). As such, CSOs, the public and institutional partners could learn about their situation and from good practices on making development inclusive. In a longer term, this can have an effect in improvement of life conditions for disadvantaged population.

2.4. Please list all publications (and no. of copies) produced during the Action on whatever format, amongst others containing new approaches, innovative ways of communicating... (please enclose a copy of each item, except if you have already done so in the past).

- Publication “CSO Development Effectiveness. Searching New Ways”
 - 450 printed pieces in English and Czech
 - 300 CDs (also including the outcomes of the events carried out within the Action up to June 2009)
 - Distribution: see the distribution list in Annex 3.
- Study “A decade of democracy promotion by the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)” was presented at international conference “Building Consensus about EU Policies on Democracy Support” (March 9 – 11, 2009, Prague) and distributed to all the participants (in the conference kit).

2.5. Please list all contracts (works, supplies, services) above 5000€ awarded for the implementation of the action since the last interim report if any or during the reporting period, giving for each contract the amount, the award procedure followed and the name of the contractor.

Contract	Amount awarded	Award procedure	Name of the contractor
Service contract for accommodation, rent of venue for the Conference “Effectiveness in Development Education and Awareness Raising” May 28-29, 2009, Prague	478.947,84 CZK (18.303,41 EUR)	Negotiated procedure without publication (a three-member tender committee selected one of the three consulted venues –the Hotel IRIS- based on three selection criteria)	Jerome Hotels s.r.o., Rostovská 79/25 , 100 00 Praha 10
Service contract for accommodation, rent of room and catering for the conference “Civil Society Organizations Development Effectiveness”, June 23-24, Prague	675.010 CZK (25.796,23 EUR)	Negotiated procedure without publication (a nine-member tender committee selected one of the six consulted venues –the Hotel Pyramida- based on four selection criteria)	OREA HOTELS a.s. Na Pankráci 58, 140 00 Praha 4
Service contract for the production and graphic design of the publication “CSO Development Effectiveness. Searching New Ways” June 2009	141.800,40 CZK (5.419,03 EUR)	Single tender (as per Art. 4.2 of Annex IV Procurement by grant Beneficiaries in the context of European Community external actions)	Idealab, s.r.o. Závěrka 11, 169 00 Praha 6-Břevnov
Service contract for printing the publication “CSO Development Effectiveness. Searching New Ways” June 2009	148.012,20 CZK (5.656,42 EUR)	Single tender (as per Art. 4.2 of Annex IV Procurement by grant Beneficiaries in the context of European Community external actions)	Carter\reproplus s.r.o. Jiří Brynda Štefánikova 29 150 00 Praha
Facilitation of development effectiveness process within FoRS	175.000 CZK (5.732EUR)	Single tender (as per Art. 4.2 of Annex IV Procurement by grant Beneficiaries in the context of European Community external actions)	Daniel Svoboda (FoRS member organization Development Worldwide)

2.6. Describe if the Action will continue after the support from the European Community has ended. Are there any follow up activities envisaged? What will ensure the sustainability of the Action?

The Action as such was planned only for the period related to the Czech EU Presidency and will not continue in the same form. Nevertheless, several solid multiplication effects and follow-ups were planned and are foreseen. For FoRS as the platform of Czech development CSOs, the topic of development effectiveness continues to be one of its priorities. This is reflected in the following ongoing or envisaged follow-up activities.

Reflection on principles for development effectiveness, the role of CSOs in development and enabling environment for CSOs will continue in FoRS in the following ways:

- Involvement in the global process of the Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness will continue through the representation of FoRS in its leading body Global Facilitation Group (the FoRS representative Daniel Svoboda was elected a co-chair of the GFG at its last meeting in January 2010 for one year). Moreover, updated information from Open Forum, the national and regional consultation will be disseminated and used within FoRS and vice versa – FoRS will try to feed the Open Forum (e. g. sharing the results of testing of implementation of the principles identified in the Proclamation within FoRS, provision of a report of the internal

process in FoRS during the Czech EU Presidency programme/the Action in the new format of the Open Forum (outreach toolkit from September 2009)).

- At the European level, FoRS continue being involved in the Open Forum/regional consultations through its membership in the working group of CONCORD on CSO development effectiveness and Funding for Development and Relief.
- At the Czech level, based on suggestions from the steering group at the evaluation seminar as well as recommendations from the external evaluation, FoRS working group Effectiveness will be restarted in the first half of 2010. It will focus on searching for tools for increasing effectiveness of own development initiatives, exchange experiences etc. In the framework of the process of identifying quality standards within FoRS and increasing impact of own activities.

Capacity building and networking:

- The working group on sustainable technologies that worked on this topic within the Action became a working group of FoRS.
- FoRS working group on development education plans to continue mutual learning by inviting foreign experts but also through information exchange and sharing between Czech CSOs.
- New FoRS working group on gender was established in December 2009.

Advocacy, awareness raising and media activities:

- FoRS will continue to follow the key development issues, including quality and quantity of aid, aid/development effectiveness debate and preparation for the 4th high level forum on aid effectiveness in 2011 in Seoul, among others. FoRS will continue promoting development effectiveness in the final phases of the transformation process of the Czech ODA.
- Cooperation in media and awareness raising activities will continue to be developed especially with “Czechia against poverty” and development focused web portal www.rozvojovka.cz.

Moreover, FoRS will intend to get funding for further projects that would enable a follow-up the topic of development effectiveness in the upcoming years, including funding within programme NSA-LA of the EC. FoRS will search for fruitful partnerships with more advanced partners (such as British and Irish NGDO platforms that have put in place their development effectiveness/capacity building programmes as well as with the Swedish platform - expert in the topic of policy coherence for development closely linked to development effectiveness).

In addition, FoRS will share its experience from its programme from the Czech EU Presidency and the Action with the Polish NGDO platform Grupa Zagranica in the framework of a one-year grant awarded by the Czech MFA.

Individual initiatives of FoRS members/observers (or other Czech development CSOs)

- Organization DWW was awarded a grant by the Czech MFA for a one-year project aiming to strengthen capacities of CSOs from EU NMS for international networking in the field of development effectiveness.
- The facilitator of development effectiveness within FoRS/the Action interlinked this topic with evaluation environment of International Development Evaluation Association (IDEAS). It chose development effectiveness as one of its priorities for 2010 (e.g. an internet conference on exchanging experiences and discussing the topic of development effectiveness is envisaged for the first half of 2010).
- The external evaluation shows that 3 interviewed FoRS organisations stated that they plan to reflect the principles in their practice.

2.7. Has the Action promoted gender equality, disabilities....? If yes, please explain⁴

Originally, **gender** was not established as a self-standing priority of the Action, but as a cross-cutting issue. Two FoRS organizations working on gender topics and development were consulted by FoRS

⁴ To refer to EC Guidelines on gender equality, disabilities...

regarding involvement of gender in the Action. They prepared guidelines for the project partners regarding the inclusion of gender in the case studies. However reflection of these comments in the final versions were not later followed up, since the partners themselves stated that they would follow their organizations' rules on gender.

Gender was integrated into the project in several aspects:

- Case study on gender and development

It was decided that a case study on gender and development effectiveness be elaborated. The expert dealing with this topic (Míla Lukášová from FoRS observing organization ProEquality Centre of the Open Society) joined the Action in February 2009. While the first part of the case study introduces gender as a cross-cutting topic, the second part illustrates a concrete project on women's empowerment. This case study forms part of the joint publication (see activity 2.2). It is considered as an achievement that gender is presented and published together with other themes as often is not the case.

- Workshop on gender and development at the final conference
- Principles on CSO development effectiveness

At the debate of the conference participants, one of the main suggestions for the final version of the Proclamation was to put a stronger emphasis on gender. Thus the gender is formulated as one of the principles "Promoting gender equality and advocating ..."

The topic of **disabilities** was one of the priority issues of the Action ("make development inclusive"), coordinated by FoRS organizations Sue Ryder International (focused on mental and physical handicap and development) and Life 90 (focused on elderly people and development). Case studies were elaborated on these topics, published in the joint FoRS publication and workshop at the international conference on CSO development effectiveness prepared.

In addition, the partner organizations dealt with gender and disabilities in the following manner:

- Gender equality and respect to any disabilities were ensured in the preparation phase of the conference on development education and awareness raising organized by People in Need (e. g. in the choice of the conference venue and of the approached experts/speakers).
- As to the media campaign "20 years of the Czech aid", organized by the same organization, both gender equality and disability issues were reflected in the Czech NGOs projects promoted through the designed website www.ceskapomoc.cz.
- Since the working group on sustainable technologies was composed of a higher number of men than women, the partner organization ADRA focused on ensuring gender equality rather than gender equity. This was achieved and at least one woman represented one of the main topics –sustainable energetics, agriculture, water resources and management of local cycles.
- Another partner organization, Glopolis, explained that they did not apply any preferences concerning gender while contacting speakers and inviting participants for the expert seminar on agriculture and rural development, being the selection criteria professional suitability for the topic.
- The gender aspect in the topic of migration and development coordinated by Multiculture Center Prague was taken into account both during the seminar and in the elaboration of the case study when dealing with the topic of remittances bearing in mind and stressing the differences between the situation of migrant women and men.

2.8. How and by whom have the activities been monitored/evaluated? Please summarise the results of the feedback received, including from the beneficiaries.

The activities were steered and monitored by the steering group of the Action. It consisted of the project coordinator, coordinators of the priority topics from partner organizations, the facilitator of development effectiveness within FoRS, director of FoRS secretariat and member of Executive Board. The steering group met on a regular basis (6 times during the implementation of the Action) and

reported to FoRS Executive Board about the progress of the implementation. The Board made key decisions as to the policy level (positions, lobby letters) and significant financial decisions.

The implementation of the Action was also regularly monitored by the project coordinator and discussed with the director of FoRS secretariat.

The final external evaluation carried out at the end of the Action (see activity 2.4. for the description of the process) also included an evaluation meeting for the project partners and actively involved organizations in order to validate and complement the findings. The evaluation provided some very useful conclusions on the progress of the Action and its results, as well as suggestions for further activities, which are presented below and as Annex 7. An external audit (expenditure verification) was carried out after the end of the implementation period of the Action. The findings of the evaluation and audit will be presented to the FoRS General Assembly in May this year.

As to the above mentioned evaluation meeting/seminar, its participants provided some suggestions for FoRS regarding networking, information and communication and follow-up activities in development effectiveness. As to this letter, it was suggested that FoRS coordinate efforts to increase NGOs development effectiveness, together its organisations continue in elaborating and publishing case studies as self-reflection tool (also used for information and advocacy actions), work further with the principles on CSO development effectiveness, to reflect them in the Conception on the Foreign Development Co-operation, explore relevancy and key aspects of the principles to CSO practice by questionnaire survey, restart the working group on effectiveness in order to work with the project results and continue monitoring the global process, work on monitoring and evaluation and contribute to FoRS representative in Working Group Evaluation established at the Council for Foreign Development Co-operation.

Results and recommendations from the external evaluation

The main evaluation objective was to assess progress made towards the achievement of project results with a special focus on sustainability. The evaluation was based on the main evaluation criteria (relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, sustainability) and their assessment ranged from moderately satisfactory, fairly satisfactory to highly satisfactory.

The main results:

- **Relevance** was assessed as highly satisfactory since the project addressed the needs of the organisations involved in the action and responded to the policy environment.
- **Efficiency** was assessed as fairly satisfactory explaining that the costs of the outputs of the Action such as seminars, conferences, the publication etc. were adequate to the achievements.
- As to the **effectiveness**, it was stated that the expected results were achieved fairly satisfactory with the exception of the information component, where the evaluation did not bring evidence how the project contributed to public information. The evaluation also mentioned that work with media and those CSOs, which were not directly involved in the project activities, was not sufficient, and that there was only limited number of Czech NGDOs addressed by the project. In this sense, it is worth explaining that important media activities were carried out at the end of the implementation period and could not be reflected properly in the evaluation (see activity 3.3/result 3 above).
- **Impact** was assessed as moderately satisfactory since some activities (towards politics and public) were implemented only during the last period of the Action and the results were not visible when the evaluation took place. The consultant could only assume based on evaluation findings that the project would be able to achieve its overall objective and enhance public and political support for effectiveness of development co-operation.
- Finally, the **sustainability** was assessed as fairly satisfactory and as the most durable results were considered give visibility and strengthened FoRS platform, secretariat and working groups (especially on development education and sustainable technologies), formulation of principles on CSO development effectiveness and their approval by the diverse platform of development actors, creation of networks provided they will be nourished, strengthened capacity of the partner organizations to contribute to the process of development effectiveness and strengthened organisational capacities of the organizations involved.

The key recommendations essential for ensuring the sustainability and impact of the Action (there were also recommendations that could contribute to the current project and those that could contribute to improve future projects)

- The participants of the international conference on CSO development effectiveness, who concurred the Prague Proclamation, declared to engage in global process on CSO development effectiveness by exploring and discussing the principles in Open Forum. In order to achieve their contribution, it was suggested that this network shall be nourished and facilitated by the leader of the global process, the GFG, and in a longer term global perspective to come to co-decision on unified CSO contribution (Seoul 2011).
- Further guidance and facilitation shall be provided to these CSOs on how to reflect these principles in organisation's practice in order to strengthen CSO capacities for effective development co-operation.
- Those FoRS organisations not participating in the Action shall be approached and involved in a dialogue about development effectiveness.

It is worth highlighting that FoRS will build further activities on some of these recommendations. Especially, FoRS **will continue to support activities focused on increasing the effectiveness of NGOs work in development cooperation** with the goal of contributing to its bigger impact. This support will be both on the Czech and international level. On the Czech level, it will be expressed in restarting the FoRS working group on effectiveness. On the international level, FoRS will remain involved in the process "Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness" and it will monitor other preparatory initiatives for the 4th High Level Forum.

Beside the final conclusions of the external evaluation, evaluations or feedbacks were received by stakeholders from different events of the Action as follows.

- Conference on development education and awareness raising
 - About 25% of the participants provided their feedback in evaluation forms at the end of the conference
 - The main conclusions – relevant and experienced speakers invited, interesting debates, networking. Some respondents identified the effectiveness issue as not addressed properly.
 - Recommendations - focus on practical exchange of experience, broader policy dialogue with institution representatives, clearer main outcomes
- Conference on CSO development effectiveness
 - About 25% of the participants provided their feedback in evaluation forms at the end of the conference
 - 75% of the respondents reckoned that the conference had managed quite or very well to strengthen direct participation and ownership of different stakeholders by offering space for discussing work to-date and challenges of the global process on CSO Development Effectiveness
 - About 50% of the respondents stated that the event contributed quite or very well to identify key positive or negative aspects of CSO development effectiveness and that it managed quite or very well to share best practices in CSO development work
 - A few respondents pointed out that they did not understand sufficiently the challenges as regards to framework principles on development effectiveness due to insufficient time, some mentioned that the workshops were not interactive enough, and that concrete, clearly defined problems/statements were lacking.
- Expert seminar on sustainable technologies

The partner organization that organized this event stated that after the seminar, most of participants showed willingness to keep on meeting and cooperating. Some of them made contacts already in course of the seminar and could agree on further project or technological cooperation, concerning mainly energetics and water resources.

- Expert seminar on agriculture and rural development

The partner organization in charge of this topic explained that at the beginning, it seemed to be rather challenging to get involved target groups in participating in the seminar. Many CSOs involved in development aid in agriculture were not motivated enough since they were interested in a process leading to outcomes usable in practice, not only in theoretical discussion. This challenge was finally overcome and many CSOs participated and shared their experiences and good practices with other participants.

The partner also stated that response from official institutions involved in development cooperation towards this event was rather weak. It was difficult to gain necessary information that was supposed to be public such as information on Czech approach/strategies/priorities concerning development in the area of agriculture and rural development.

There was a positive response from African CSOs, which showed interest in the planned activities (conference).

➤ Seminar on migration/remittances

The partner that organized this event reported on positive feedback received from the addressed NGOs, migrants etc. who wished to cooperate on the research on remittances in Czech context. The partner organization also received feedback from some participants of the seminar, many of whom found the event valuable and enriching. In addition, further cooperation was established, especially between stakeholders who would otherwise probably not come in professional contact (such as migrant communities and the researchers of the Czech statistical office).

A lot of positive feedback and further interest shown concerning the seminar from various stakeholders (journalists, state administration, Czech Statistical Office, universities) and some further cooperation was established among participants of the seminar, which is very important and beneficial

2.9. What has your organisation/partner learned from the Action and how has this learning been utilised and disseminated?

This Action was a process driven initiative of the individual FoRS members and observing organizations with the supporting and facilitating role of FoRS Secretariat, reflecting the FoRS's *raison d'être*. These processes thus depend on the initiative of these organizations and their willingness to cooperate and share experience and best practices in order to achieve common goals. In this sense, the Action as a whole a great experience and left many lessons learnt on different levels - the content, networking, policy, financial issues and management.

Inspiring insights were also provided in the external evaluation. In the evaluation seminar some lessons learned were mentioned and discussed and suggestions for further improvements were made. All these lessons learned will serve for an improvement of FoRS's performance.

The results from the evaluation were disseminated among multiple stakeholders, including FoRS members/observers and CSOs from NMS. FoRS has also shared its experience with management of EC funded projects, including financial and administrative issues, with its members/observers. Results and lessons learned from the development effectiveness process were shared with Open Forum/CONCORD.

Experience and lessons learned from FoRS activities during Czech EU Presidency will be shared with the Polish platform and will serve for updating of CONCORD manual.

3. Partners and other Co-operation

3.1. How do you assess the relationship between the formal partners of this Action (i.e. those partners which have signed a partnership statement)? Please specify for each partner organisation

All partners of the Action (ADRA, Development Worldwide, EDUCON, Glopolis, Multicultural Centre Prague and People in Need) are FoRS members. Thus, the relationship in general and within the Action in particular, was built on (and further fostered) trust and close cooperation. With all partners, except for Development Worldwide, FoRS concluded a partnership contract specifying mutual obligations and responsibilities. As to Development Worldwide, FoRS concluded a service

contract with the chairperson of this organization for facilitation of development effectiveness process within the Action.

The relation with the partners was based on permanent communication and coordination, problematic issues were tried to be solved on time. The partners shared with FoRS their well established contacts (e. g. on translators, journalists, contractors).

3.2. Is the partnership to continue? If so, how? If not, why?

The partnership will continue with all partners based on their membership in FoRS platform. This means that the organizations involved in FoRS can work together in several working groups, participate in events organized by FoRS or member organizations etc. As to the partners in this Action, almost all of them are very active members. Their representatives are members of FoRS Executive Board and/or involved in FoRS or CONCORD working groups.

3.3. How would you assess the relationship between your organisation and State authorities in the Action countries? How has this relationship affected the Action?

The relationship with the Czech institutions such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Czech Development Agency can be characterized as very good and constructive, based on cooperation built over the last years. FoRS got also an observer status in the inter-governmental Council for Development Cooperation. This relationship involved critical and constructive dialogue on key topics on the development agenda at the EU level during the Czech EU Presidency and on at the Czech level FoRS was invited to contribute to the new strategy on Czech ODA and to the new strategy on global development education. FoRS representatives also participated in many meetings with these key state authorities in Prague and Brussels as described above. Representatives of Czech MFA accepted invitations to be panellists at some of the key events of the Action. They also contributed to the fact that the international conference on CSO development effectiveness was held under the auspices of the minister of foreign affairs and was considered as an official accompanying event of the Czech EU Presidency. Moreover, the MFA provided valuable cooperation in the arrangements of the visa for participants coming from countries with visa requirement.

The working group on sustainable technologies (also the official priority topic of the Czech EU Presidency) also contributed to official actions of the Czech EU Presidency (e.g. by commenting government materials, experience and know-how sharing). One of its members was also invited to be part of an official delegation to the European Development Days 2009.

The Czech Ministry of Finance provided cooperation in organizing the seminar on remittances.

Relations with the Czech Parliament, especially the Sub-committee on Development Assistance under the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies, was also established and strengthened.

3.4. Where applicable, describe your relationship with any other organisations involved in implementing the Action:

- Associate(s) (if any) N/A
- Sub-contractor(s) (if any): Efficient working relations.
- Final Beneficiaries and Target groups:

Valuable relations were established and strengthened with actively involved (not official partners in the Action) organizations from FoRS.

Fruitful relationship with the European confederation CONCORD (provision of support especially in the topic of development effectiveness), NGDO platforms from EU NMS, Trialog project for EU NMS, candidate and accessing countries (dissemination information on events organized by FoRS) as well as participants from CSOs and donor institution from diverse regions of the world (international conferences and other expert events).

New contacts with some journalists were established.

- Other third parties involved

3.5. Where applicable, outline any links you have developed with other actions

- FoRS used synergies and coordinated activities carried out within the Action with its parallel ongoing projects that focused especially on policy work and advocacy activities at the Czech and European level.
- Cooperation with Czech against poverty and development awareness section of People in Need experienced in working with the media.
- FoRS also cooperated and coordinated with other Czech CSO platforms related to development cooperation, such as Association for Democracy Assistance and Human Rights (DEMAS) and Czech Climate Coalition

3.6. If your organisation has received previous EC grants in view of strengthening the same target group, in how far has this Action been able to build upon/complement the previous one(s)? (List all previous relevant EC grants).

The grant awarded for this Action was the first one where FoRS had the status of leading agency.

FoRS was also partner in the following projects funded by the EC and approaching some of the target groups of this Action:

- **“Fostering Global Responsibility: Building a Development Policy Knowledge Network to Enhance NGO Public Outreach Initiatives in EU New Member States”**

The leading organisations in this ongoing project are Polish Center for Social and Economic Research and British Overseas Development Institute. Through fostering relations among NGOs and leading development think-tanks in EU OMS and NMS, the project aims to increase understanding of development challenges, greater public support in EU NMS for development cooperation and poverty reduction efforts, and a more strategic and evidence-informed policy dialogue and engagement on international development issues in EU policy forums.

- **“Development Aid Watch in New Member States”**

The leading organisation of this project carried out in 2008 was the Polish NGDO platform Polish Green Network. Its aim was to support civil society groups in Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic for monitoring and awareness raising aimed at transparent and effective ODA.

- **“Helpdesk platform and support to New Member State (NMS) non-state actors and local authorities in the development sector”**

This ongoing project is led by an Italian organization punto.sud and intends to strengthen the capacity of non-state actors and local authorities from EU NMS in developing multi-actor partnerships and in dealing with the EU institutions.

While the first two projects contributed especially with deepened knowledge about the EU level of development cooperation and related EU policies as well as with providing contacts on CSOs from EU NMS, the latter mentioned project provided practical information on administrative and financial issues EC (EuropeAid) funded projects.

3.7. How do you evaluate co-operation with the services of the Contracting Authority?

The relations were based on good communication flows with the contact persons at EuropeAid in charge of the contract of this Action, especially the last one from the several persons that were in contact with FoRS since the submission of the project proposal. In this sense, smoother communication would surely be ensured if only one contact person could exist during the whole implementation period of the Action.

The participation of the Head of Unit F1 at EuropeAid, Mr. Baglio, as panellist at the main event of this Action was also much appreciated.

4. Visibility

How is the visibility of the EU contribution being ensured in the Action?

The visibility was ensured as per the visibility and communication guidelines. Basic visibility was ensured for all activities carried out by FoRS and its partner organizations. Concretely, EC flag and a notice on the EC funding was put on each communication about the activities (programs, reports etc.), publications included the suggested disclaimer and promotional materials such as banners and roll-ups, as well as the FoRS and the media campaign websites, include EC flag.

Concrete examples can be seen in all the Annexes 1-14.

The European Commission may wish to publicise the results of Actions. Do you have any objection to this report being published on EuropeAid Co-operation Office website? If so, please state your objections here.

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Signature:Location: Prague, Czech Republic

Date report due: March 31, 2010

Date report sent: March 26, 2010