

EURO
step

Annual Report 2006

Introduction

Eurostep seeks to influence the development co-operation policies and practices of the European Union such that they contribute to building a global community based on principles of sustainability, justice and equity. Eurostep believes that as a global player the European Union has the capacity, together with the responsibility, to work towards this objective.

Established in 1990 Eurostep brings together 17 European NGOs collectively working in some 100 countries world wide. With a combined annual budget of 750 million Euro Eurostep's member organisations work with local NGOs, women's organisations and peoples movements to support and encourage development policies and practices that draw on people's own experiences.

Eurostep provides a framework through which member organisations and their partners in developing countries can work together to use these experiences to influence the policy and practice of the European Union.

With a secretariat in Brussels, and with members and active partners in 21 European countries, Eurostep is able to engage in dialogue and debate with the Institutions of the European Union and national governments in Europe. Eurostep sees this as a contribution to developing common strategies for global sustainability, justice and equity in partnership with networks and organisations all over the world.

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Eurostep is registered in Belgium as European Solidarity Towards Equal Participation of People, as an *association internationales sans brut lucratif (aisbl)* no. 12316/94

Looking for transparency in EC development cooperation

In 2006 the European Parliament demonstrated its intention to play an increasingly active and engaged role in EU development cooperation. This can only be welcomed as it will strengthen accountability of the EU in the implementation of its support for development in different parts of the world, and in so doing increase its legitimacy. This is not only important but vitally necessary as can be seen from the evidence gathered about the way in which the planning of the EU's aid for 2007 onwards has been implemented.

The European Commission continually stresses that it is working within the framework of the aid efficiency agenda of the Paris Declaration, in which the principals of "partnership" and "ownership" of development strategies by developing countries themselves is paramount. Yet the planning of most country strategies takes place behind closed doors, with little or no meaningful involvement of civil society actors in the process. The national Parliament is not involved in the process and indeed, in many instances there is no involvement of relevant government departments in partner countries.

In general, approaches to the European Commission, both in Brussels and at the level of national delegations, for access to draft plans have been rebuffed. There are some exceptions, but these are few and far between. As our country case studies indicated, there are significant differences from country to country, and in some national governments have sought to involve civil society and other non state actors, but in the end the outcome has frequently been changed by the European Commission in Brussels. A clear case of "*We decide, you own!*", the title we gave to the series of case studies we published in November.

In following the planning of EU aid, to all parts of the developing world – whether in Africa, the Caribbean, and Pacific, in Asia and Latin America, or in countries on the southern coast of the Mediterranean sea and the southern Caucasus – the pattern is broadly similar. There is consistent pressure to broaden the development agenda, move it away from being poverty focused with the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals being a central part of the strategy, towards encompassing objectives that are primarily driven by Europe's own interests. The fight against terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, controlling migration, trade liberalisation.

It is not that we are against these objectives – although we might question elements of their associated policies. We do not, however, believe that they should be a principal driving force in the planning of EU development cooperation. Of course Europe should be clear about what it sees as being in its own interests, but if the spirit of cooperation is to have real meaning, where the partnership is between equals, and ownership of national strategies is precisely that, then the imposition of Europe's agenda has no place.

One of the key outcomes of the negotiations to establish a revised framework for governing the use of EU aid managed by the Commission was recognition of the emphasis that needs to be given to investing in basic social services. The 20% benchmarking agreed for basic health and basic and secondary education should be seen as the means to underline that emphasis. No-one can dispute that what matters in the end is that an effective universal access to high quality in these services is put in place. The critical question is about how, and by whom, and until there is an approach where this is ensured the EU and other donors should recognize the responsibility they have for achieving this aim. It is not only central to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, but is critical for any country's development.

In 2008 the Paris Declaration will be reviewed. We can all support the principles behind the approach that the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD adopted in Paris in 2005. However, as the Chair of the DAC, Richard Manning, pointed out to a conference in Brussels later that year, it could only be effectively implemented when the concepts of "partnership" and "ownership" were effectively realized. This remains far from being the case, and regrettably the EU has missed the opportunity of the current planning process to make progress. But this can still be rectified as these plans are reviewed over the coming years.

Simon Stocker
Director

Eurostep's Vision of a Responsible Europe in the World

Eurostep not only believes that the European Union has an important global role to play, but wants to see this role pursued according to the principles and values that the EU espouses. In 2004 Eurostep published its *Vision of a Responsible Europe in the world*. The EU's relations with developing countries lies at the heart of this vision, with the EU consciously working towards the eradication of poverty, diminishing inequalities and promoting peace and stability.

The EU's relations with developing countries is primarily based on the development policy objectives that the member States have adopted, and set out in the European Consensus for development.

In 2004 Eurostep asked candidates to the European parliament elections to commit themselves to Eurostep's *Vision of a Responsible Europe* and to act on the principles underlying the vision in the decisions they took if they were elected to the Parliament.

Candidates from many countries signed up to the Vision. On the basis of these commitments Eurostep has continued to discuss the implementation of the EU's development cooperation and the role of the European Parliament.

In 2005 Eurostep asked a number of prominent people to give us their *Vision of Europe in the World*. These includes politicians, ex-heads of states, civil society leaders, past and present European Commissioners.

They were drawn from Europe and from developing countries. These visions were published in European Weekly and posted on the Eurostep website.

In 2006 further visions from individuals have been added to the growing collection. While these visions focus on different aspects of the EU's role they all clearly express a desire to see the EU having an important global role to play.

European Solidarity Towards Equal Participation of People

EURO step

Vision of a Responsible Europe in the World

The European Union is a community, born of a desire for peace and stability, and based on a commitment to the values of democracy, equality, solidarity, social justice, human rights, tolerance and the international rule of law. It is also a unique model of cooperation amongst states, and a testament to the importance of recognising strength in diversity, fostering common interests, increasing collective prosperity and building strong and secure relationships. As it evolves in size and stature, these shared values must continue to shape Europe's cooperation both within and beyond its borders.

As a global player and as the largest provider of development aid, Europe now has both the opportunity and the mandate, to articulate an alternative to the increasingly unilateral world order by rooting its Foreign Policy in positive values. It should become the advocate of people living in poverty by fighting harder in favour of a fairer world in which injustices and inequalities are abolished, women are empowered, human rights are respected and the environment is protected.

Our Vision of Europe is a community of states, which honours our shared values and recognises our shared responsibilities - a Union that manifests itself in word and deed as a Responsible Europe.

Logos of participating organizations: SNV, 11.be, Hivos, Oxfam Novib, alliance sud, Marie Stopes International, Oikos, manitese, terre des hommes, NIZA, and others.

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Strengthening the legal base for EU development policy

Eurostep's objective :

To ensure that EU development co-operation policy is based on a clearly defined legal framework focused on poverty/ MDGs

Eurostep believes that the EU's cooperation with all developing countries needs to be clearly defined and based on the EU's development policy objectives. The EU's treaties and legal instruments define this framework. Eurostep has therefore been working over the past few years to ensure that the next set of changes to the EU's Treaties includes a strengthening and clarification of the legal basis for EU cooperation with developing countries.

The inclusion in the European Constitutional Treaty of revised articles that clarified the basis for the EU's cooperation with developing countries was welcomed. Even though the Constitutional treaty has failed to be ratified Eurostep believes that in the process that led to the Constitution the interpretation of the Treaties existing articles were usefully clarified. This can clearly be seen in the legal opinions that were produced during the negotiations. Eurostep is now calling on the EU to ensure that these clarifications are fully included in whatever changes are subsequently made to the Treaties.

Importance was also given to the revisions of the legal instruments that govern the use of European Community funds for developing countries. The revisions were proposed by the European Commission to simplify the regulatory framework. The aim was for these to come into effect with the new 7 year financing agreement for the EC's activities.

In September 2004 the European Commission published proposals for six legal instruments to govern the use of EC funds on its external programmes. These would replace the 16 existing at the time. The three geographical instruments were designed to cover funding in countries applying for membership of the Union; funding for neighbouring countries; and funding of the EC's activities beyond the neighbourhood.

A blank cheque

In the Commission's proposals for the third instrument – the Development Cooperation and Economic Cooperation Instrument (DCECI) the aim was to mix developing countries cooperation with cooperation with other countries. The Commission wanted as much flexibility as possible for managing the use of the funds available.

This meant that cooperation with countries in Asia, Latin America and South Africa would be covered by the same legal framework for EC cooperation industrialised countries beyond the EU's neighbourhood, a mixing of development aid with funding for other purposes, opening the possibility for EC development cooperation to be driven by other EU policy objectives primarily intended to promote EU internal interests. It would allow the Commission to use funds provided in the EC budget for development on other purposes. There was a danger that the distinct role for the EC's development policy with its primary objective to eradicate poverty would be eroded.

Eurostep's objectives

To counter the Commission's proposals Eurostep set out to seek the establishment of a new instrument solely dedicated to development that would ensure that the principal objective for the use of development funds was poverty eradication and the achievement of the MDGs. To this end the strengthening of the role of the European Parliament in setting priorities for the use of EC aid was also an objective.

Building alliances with key actors

Agreement on the shape and content of the new instrument involved the European Commission, European Parliament and European Council. From an early stage Eurostep

worked with central actors from the Parliament and member States. This involved both the secretariat and Eurostep's members, particularly Eurostep's Irish member, Concern, as the Parliament's rapporteur was an Irish MEP.

Eurostep followed the two year process very closely providing analysis and proposals in advance of key negotiations and discussions. It worked with other NGO networks, both within Concord and outside, and sought to ensure a common overall strategy. The broad coalition of NGOs consciously worked within the common framework, particularly supporting the positions taken by the European Parliament in the negotiations.

Outcome

When the Development Cooperation Instrument was adopted at the end of 2006 it met all the objectives originally set. It was:

- i An instrument specifically covering the EC's cooperation with developing countries. Cooperation with non developing countries was covered by a separate instrument;
- ii The instrument was solely based on development article of the Treaty and included a commitment that the use of substantially all funds would be ODA compatible.
- iii A 20% benchmark was established for funding of basic health, primary education and secondary education, to be achieved by 2009;
- iv The European Parliament was given right to scrutiny of the country and regional strategies and programmes covered by the instrument.

Conclusion

The outcome was a significant success to strengthen the legal basis for the EC's development policy. The development focus of the instrument was essentially secured, and with the increased role for the European Parliament there is increased transparency in the process.

However, the achievements will only be realised if the implementation of the EC's cooperation under the instrument conform to the letter and spirit of the agreement. This will not happen automatically, but only through the full use of the opportunities provided by the terms of the instrument. In this the European parliament has a crucial role. So too do NGOs and civil society organisations from both Europe and the countries covered by the instrument. From this perspective the collaboration that was built between a broad range of NGOs in Europe provides an important basis to draw on the different areas of expertise within the group and to strengthen partnerships with civil society in developing countries.

EU development policy in practice

Eurostep's objectives:

To promote an effective implementation of EU development co-operation policy that is derived from the principal objectives of eradicating poverty and achieving the MDGs.

While the focus on the legal framework of the EU's development cooperation is important for ensuring a clearly defined and effective role for that cooperation, there is a need to follow this up in practice.

Since 2005 the European Union has been planning how its aid will be used for the seven year period from 2007. The EU's cooperation is funded from both the EU budget, and through the European Development Fund (EDF). The budget for 2007 to 2013 is defined in broad terms in an agreement between the Member States. Within this context annual budgets are agreed jointly by the European Parliament and the Member States. The EDF is an intergovernmental agreement between the Member States that finances EU cooperation with countries in the African Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP), defined by the Cotonou Agreement. The 10th replenishment of the EDF covers 2008 to 2013.

During 2006 there was significant focus on planning the use of EU aid to developing countries in all regions of the world. For the first time the approaches towards each region following a broadly similar process. The overall process includes:

1. The preparation of Country and Regional Strategy Papers. These are supposed to review past cooperation, assess the status of development, and identify the potential role of EC support. These strategies are supposed to be developed jointly by the European Commission and the country concerned. Civil society is supposed to be involved in this process. Once adopted the strategy papers provide the overall framework for the EC's cooperation with the country and region concerned.
2. The National and Regional Indicative Programmes are produced at the same time as the CSPs/RSPs and identify the sectors in which the EC's aid will be used.
3. An Annual Action Programme is drawn up by the Commission delegation in the country concerned. This identifies the specific projects and programmes that it is intended will be financed, together with details.

Transparency and access to information

The European Union claims that partnership and national ownership of development strategies are central principles of its cooperation with developing countries. The involvement of civil society is seen as being a fundamental part of this approach. Yet the ability of national civil society actors to engage in these processes is constrained because necessary information is not available – both about the substance of the debate as well as the scheduling of the process.

Eurostep has been continually asking the European Commission to be more transparent in its planning process, and to make the papers and documents available to civil society so that they can provide relevant inputs and comments. In particular Eurostep has continually urged that access be given to draft country strategy papers as these form the substantive basis for debate on the planned cooperation.

Eurostep has sought to increase access to information. Over the past two years a number of websites have been built that focus on planning and implementation of EC managed aid to different parts of the world. These website are designed to help understand the basis and process for the planning of EU cooperation with developing countries, with a focus going from the overall legal instruments and policies of EU development to country specific planning. One of the key aims is to encourage civil society actors from individual countries

to share their assessments and perspectives on the role that the EU should be playing in their country.
The four websites have a similar design and structure.

Promoting civil society involvement in planning the use of EC aid

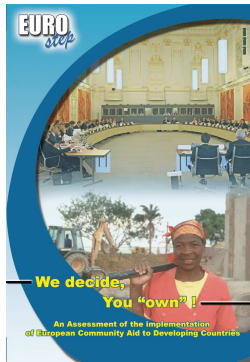
Civil society and other non state actors will be involved in the development approaches of the European Union. This is a commitment that has been repeatedly made in EU policy documents, with provisions being made within the legal instruments and agreements that govern EU cooperation with developing countries. During 2006 Eurostep asked civil society actors from developing countries in all parts of the world to assess how much involvement of civil society actors there had been in the EU's aid planning process in their countries. The responses suggested that while there were some instances where this was taking place, in general the engagement of civil society in the process was weak, haphazard and lack credibility. Eurostep concluded that there was probably less engagement of civil society in the current process than in the planning of country strategies in 2002. These findings were sent to the European Commission.

Proposed measures needed to start a credible participation of CSOs in the programming process:

- The release of documents that specify the guidelines for the process;
- The release of documents that record all consultations held, regionally and national, outlining the participants and the conclusions of the meetings;
- The release documents of progress on the programming, especially the draft CSPs, so that meaningful input can be given.

We decide, you "own"!

Eurostep asked civil society actors from four African countries to assess the planning process in their countries. This resulted in the publication of a report containing detailed analysis from Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, and Zambia. While there were clear differences in the approaches taken towards each country, and in the level of involvement of civil society, there was an overall conclusion that the process did not stand up to the much stated claim that the ownership of national strategies was in the hands of national governments, and that the choice of sectors which would be supported by the EC would be chosen by them. There were clear indications that choices made in country for priority sectors were not accepted by the Commission in Brussels who effectively imposed its own priorities instead.



It was concluded that the scheduled reviews of country strategies should provide for adequate time to engage civil society, with plans to sustain this throughout the whole process of the review. Documentation necessary for discussion should be provided in time to enable civil society actors to prepare themselves effectively. Concerted efforts should be made to involve a wide range of civil society actors, including from outside the country's capital city.

The publication of the case studies was followed up with a seminar in Brussels that looked at the way in which the planning of EU aid was being approached in the different regions. The case studies were presented at the seminar. Information was also presented on experiences in Asia and Latin America by civil society actors from SAAPE and Alop.

EU cooperation with Asia and Latin America

In parallel with the negotiations to reach agreement on the Development Cooperation Instrument the European Commission was planning for the use of the aid that would be managed by the Commission in Asian and Latin American. This was supposed to be done jointly with the governments of the countries concerned, and with some engagement of civil society and other non-state actors. Through its civil society partners in these countries Eurostep sought information on the extent to which there had been any effective involvement of civil society in the preparation of country strategy papers. It also encouraged its partners to initiate a dialogue with the European Commission representatives in their country and to ask for information about the planning process. Websites were established to provide a focus for information on the programming of EC aid in Asia and Latin America.

SAAPE Food sovereignty delegation to Brussels

In the context of the joint strategy with SAAPE towards the EC's cooperation with South Asia a delegation of SAAPE visited Brussels in November to have discussions with MEPs, EU Member State representatives and officials from the European Commission on the strategies for promoting food sovereignty in South Asia. The delegation was drawn from representatives from organisations in India, Nepal and Pakistan working with small scale farmers whose livelihoods are under threat from large scale farming practices and the illegal introduction of GMO crops. The delegation argued that there were no viable alternatives for the small scale farmers and called on the EU to promote policies that protected these farmers.

Aid planning to Europe's neighbours

The European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument was also established in 2006 as the legal framework for financing the EU's cooperation in countries in the Southern Caucuses and the Southern Mediterranean. Just as with countries in Asia and Latin America the European Commission planned how the funds for these regions should be used over the next seven years. Eurostep worked with civil society organizations in a number of these countries to seek information on the proposed plans and encouraged civil society actors to seek a dialogue with Commission representatives. Information provided by these partners was collated with similar responses from civil society in other regions and used to demonstrate to the European Commission, Parliament and Member States the lack of effective involvement of civil society in the process.

EuroMed Civil Forum

To support activities to involve civil society in the planning process Eurostep supported the preparations of the EuroMed Civil Forum that took place in Marrakech in November. The Forum was established to promote and facilitate an engagement of civil society from Europe and the Southern Mediterranean with the EU-Mediterranean Partnership established by the Barcelona process. It was the first time that the Civil Forum had been held outside the EU.



UN review of LDC Brussels Programme of Action

In 2001 the European Union hosted the 3rd UN Conference on Least developed Countries. The implementation of the outcome of that conference, the Brussels Programme of Action, was reviewed by the General Assembly of the UN. In preparation for the review there was a civil society hearing in New York in June.



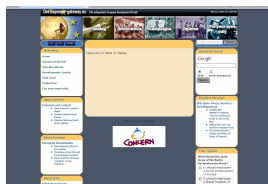
LDC Watch, a coalition that was established out of the civil society activities in Brussels at the time of the conference, organized a strategy meeting in Kampala, Uganda in May. The Eurostep secretariat was instrumental in the organization of the meeting and supported the follow up process that included interaction with the LDC ministers preparations for the review. Eurostep was also represented in the civil society hearing in June by a representative from Irish member Concern.

Future challenges

With the establishment at the end of 2006 of the legal frameworks provided by the European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument (ENPI) and the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), the principal question for the future will be about how the funds provided for the EU's cooperation with the countries concerned will be used in practice. The majority of countries covered by these instruments are designated as "developing" by the OECD/DAC. This should mean that the cooperation with these countries is primarily based on the EU's development policies and objectives. Civil society has a key role to play in helping to ensure that the support provided does this. This is the challenge for the coming years.

A portal on EU development

In 2006 plans were developed to build a portal that will enhance the objectives of Eurostep to engage in the policy debate about the European Union's development cooperation. Its aim is to inform that debate and to influence their outcome.



The portal will bring together all of the websites relating to Eurostep and its activities. This will provide easier overall access to the information available on the different sites. It will also provide a news feed from the relevant sites and pages of member organisations so that their work related to EU development cooperation is also easily accessible from the Portal.

The portal will have four main focal areas that relate to the EU development agenda and the focal issues in which Eurostep and its members are involved.

Information & analysis

The provision of information and analysis on issues relating to the EU's development cooperation will be central to the portal. The input for will come from a range of sites such as the site on the Constitutional Treaty, the sites following the EC's aid planning process in different parts of the world, and the site of Europe External Policy Advisors.



Advocacy & Campaigns

The section on advocacy and campaigning will provide access to the information on the different activities that promote specific messages on issues related to the work towards the EU's development cooperation within Eurostep and its constituency. This covers issues such as trade, education, child labour, the implementation of the MDGs, support for the LDCs, etc



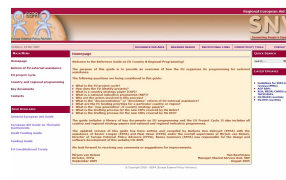
Opinion

The opinions of different actors in development are also prominently included in the site. This includes opinions and information from civil society actors in developing countries, which are primarily included through the sites relating to the planning and implementation of EU development cooperation.



Funding

There are also sites included within the structure of the portal that give specific information on funding opportunities. This includes the presidency Fund managed by Eurostep, but also a set of sites that give information on the funding opportunities.



The role of Eurostep's membership

Eurostep's membership is drawn from European NGOs involved in promoting development in all parts of the world. The majority are actively involved in supporting practical development initiatives in developing countries, working with national and local civil society organizations. Collectively Eurostep's members use over € 750 million in support of these development activities carried out in over 100 countries. Through their programmes they are involved in a range of different aspects of development including humanitarian crisis (resulting from both man-made and natural causes); situations of conflict; various aspects of social development – education, health, HIV/AIDS, child rights and welfare; promoting gender equality; promoting fair trade and adherence to corporate social responsibility; food security and sustainable agriculture; the upholding of human rights; and the promotion of effective governance and democracy.

The members are committed to using the expertise and experiences gained through their work with organizations in developing countries to inform and strengthen development practices of the donor community. In this they see a central role for the civil society actors with whom they work in developing countries, and seek to provide opportunities for them to make their voices heard in Europe.

These assets of Eurostep's members are vital for the implementation of Eurostep's activities. They have a particular role in:

- Bringing their knowledge, expertise and experience to discussions that define strategies and positions on development policy and practice, and in particular on the role that the European Union should play;
- Facilitating the involvement of civil society actors from developing countries in these debates and activities;
- Facilitating the links between the sectoral networks in which they are involved and the strategic objectives being promoted by Eurostep;
- Engaging their government representatives and parliamentarians on issues relating to the EU development policy debate;
- Linking the common action plan of Eurostep to the agenda of the national NGO coalition and its members.

Member organisation's of Eurostep are:

- Development organisations based in European countries, well connected to the citizens and civil society of their own country.
- Actively involved in working for the eradication of injustice and poverty in developing countries.
- Autonomous organisations who regardless of their relationships can be seen to play an independent and critical role towards political parties, state, religious and corporate institutions.
- Actively involved in the global social movement.
- Committed to working for effective policy changes of European governments, institutions and the corporate sector to allow the development of a just and equitable world.
- Are guided in their activities by a common set of values and standards regarding respect to human rights, for practices of real and participatory democracy, peaceful relations, equality and solidarity between peoples, genders, societies and nations.
- Are committed to being fully transparent, accountable and coherent in their policies and practice regarding what they demand of others and are/adhere to themselves.

Eurostep's European partners

As the European Union has expanded Eurostep has sought to establish strategic partnerships with civil society organizations in all parts of Europe. This has been seen as being particularly important with the recent accession of countries in Central and Eastern Europe where development NGOs are relatively new and lack the level of resources and capacity that exist in most countries of Western Europe. The purpose of these partnerships is to strengthen the capacity of NGOs in those countries to engage in the EU development policy debate, and Eurostep's policy initiatives to be implemented in those countries. Many of Eurostep's strategic partners are associated with the internal discussions of Eurostep and participate in meetings of the General Assembly.

In support of the engagement with NGOs from the 12 countries that joined the Union in 2004 and 2007 the Eurostep secretariat has been involved in making many inputs at various seminars, workshops and other meetings. It also led to the establishment of the Presidency Fund that is described in more detail on page 15. The list of Eurostep's European partners can be found on page 19.

Eurostep also works closely with **Europe External Policy Advisors (EEPA)** in following the development agenda of the EU and in developing strategic approaches to the development policy debate. EEPA is a research office that has a special expertise on European development and other aspects of external policy. It provides support to NGOs, international organisations and governments on EU related external policy issues, and facilitates the work of such organisations. EEPA is involved in the implementation of a number of Eurostep's activities.



Building international coalitions

Since its inception Eurostep has sought to work with civil society organizations in different parts of the world in order to build common strategies that promote social justice and equality, and the eradication of poverty. Eurostep's aim is to help facilitate their involvement in activity related to the role of Europe in the world.

The principal global networks with which Eurostep works closely are:



Social Watch is a global network of citizens Groups that was established in 1995 to monitor the implementation of commitments made by governments at the Copenhagen World Summit for Social Development and the Beijing Fourth UN Conference on Women. Since that time Social Watch has produced an annual report that tracks the implementation on international commitments. Eurostep plays a coordination role within Europe for Social Watch.

The **South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE)** is a regional network of civil society organisations from the 8 countries of the South Asia region. It was established in 2000. Eurostep has actively worked with SAAPE to promote engagement between the EU and the South Asia region on development strategies. During 2005 a SAAPE delegations visited Brussels focusing on food sovereignty. SAAPE members have also been involved in scrutinising the draft country strategies being developed for their countries by the EC .



The **Asociación Latinoamericana de Organizaciones de Promoción (ALOP)** is a regional network of Latin America NGOs. One part of its work focuses on issues of co-operation between the EU and Latin America. ALOP was the principal Latin American actor involved in the joint action around the review of the EU's Asia Latin America regulation. Eurostep has continued to collaborate with ALOP on specific EU-Latin American co-operation issues. ALOP has been involved in scrutinising the draft country strategies being developed for their countries by the EC .

LDC Watch was established after the 2001 Brussels UN LDC III Conference. Its aim is to monitor the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for LDCs and to promote civil society engagement with governments and the UN system in realizing the 7 commitments of the BPOA. Eurostep has supported the creation of LDC Watch, providing administrative support and as part of the Board. Eurostep supported the preparations of a strategy meeting of LDC Watch in Kampala.





The **Arab NGOs Network for Development** is a regional network of civil society organizations that aims at strengthening civil society and enhancing the values of democracy and respect of Human Rights and sustainable development in the Arab region. ANND has been particularly active in the context of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership. Eurostep has worked with the ANND in the framework of its activities around the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument.



EU Gender Watch is a project of the Network of East West Women based in Poland. It was initiated to enable women NGOs/networks in NMS, Accession Countries and EU Neighbouring Countries to cooperate in monitoring and lobbying the EU on its development policies in order to make the EU commitment to advance gender equality and its translation into policy, action, and allocation of resources reflected in EU assistance to countries of the region.

The **Global Call to Action Against Poverty** was established at the end of 2004 to mobilise citizens groups around the world in calling for more and better aid, the cancellation of unjust debt, and for fair trade. Under GCAP organisations mobilised around the G8 Summit in July, the 2005 World Summit in September, and the Hong Kong WTO meeting in December. In 2006 GCAP helped a month of action culminating in events on the International day for the eradication of poverty on 17 October.



Working with others in Europe

Eurostep pursues its objectives by working together with other organisations, networks and alliances that are pursuing the similar objectives. These relationships are built inside Europe and elsewhere. These include:



Eurostep is an active member of the **Confederation of European Development and Humanitarian Organisations** and participates in a number of its working groups, including its Advisory Group looking at future perspectives on European development, the Policy Working Group and some of its Task Forces, the Enlargement Working Group, the Gender Working Group, the Presidency Working Group, the Funding for Development and Relief Working Group and the Cotonou Working Group.

The **Civil Society Contact Group (CSCG)** brings together European NGOs from the Cultural, Development, Environment, Gender, Human Rights, Social sectors. Formed to co-ordinate approaches to the Convention on the Future of Europe the CSCG continues to provide a forum to identify common ground between the sectors towards the policy agenda of the European Union. Eurostep is one of the development sector NGOs involved on behalf of Concord.



Karat is a regional coalition of women's NGOs in the Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and Confederation of Independent States (CIS) region. Karat joined with Eurostep in the preparation of the report *To the Furthest Frontiers* on promoting gender equality within the region.

Women in Development Europe is a Network Women in Development Europe is a European network of development NGOs, gender specialists and human rights activists. WIDE monitors and influences international economic and development policy and practice from a feminist perspective. WIDE's work is grounded on women's rights as the basis for the development of a more just and democratic world order.



Presidency Fund

In June 2004, *Eurostep* proposed the establishment of the **EU Presidency Fund**, which would provide seed capital to New Member State NGOs for co-ordinated projects aimed at strengthening EU Development Cooperation. EU member States holding the Presidency have been approached to contribute toward the Fund. The Dutch and the Irish provided the initial contributions of a half million euros each. Managed by *Eurostep*, the fund started operating in July 2005. The first call for proposal was issued in November 2005. Since then two more Calls for Proposals have been published, in May 2006 and November of the same year.



The Presidency Fund is a short-term facility in which the capital available will be committed over a three year period. The projects supported by the Fund are expected to have been completed by the end of 2009, although the aim is for the activities that are started in this process to continue beyond this date without the support of the Fund.

The principal objectives of the Fund are:

- To strengthen EU Development Co-operation and the International Development Agenda by developing capacities of NMS NGOs to engage in actions toward this end.
- To create a deeper understanding within civil society in the NMS on issues related to EU Development Co-operation by facilitating interactions between civil society actors from developing countries (Global South) and those in the NMS.
- To create opportunities for NMS NGOs to engage in debate around EU Development Policy Debate, both within their own national context and in Europe as a whole
- To encourage collaboration between NGOs within NMS countries and in the process to strengthen, and where relevant establish, National Networks and Coalitions to that end.
- To promote fair representation of the NMS NGOs and their access to EU institutions by facilitating their participation in Europe-wide networks.

Nearly €680 000 has been committed to 19 initiatives taking place in all of the European Union's newest members. The projects that are being supported are:

The Estonian partnership for Development (€ 30 000)
European Movement Estonia on behalf of the Estonian Roundtable for Development Cooperation – AKÜ

Preparing for the Baltic conference on Development Cooperation (€ 20 653)
LAPAS- Latvian NGDO Platform, Latvia

Trade and Development Policy Coherence in the EU and the Czech Republic (€ 20 015)
Prague Global Policy Institute , Czech Republic

Enhancing EU Development Policy Debate in the Czech Republic (€ 31 300)
People in Need, Czech Republic

EU Gender Watch (€ 45 000)
NEWW - The Network of East-West Women, Poland

Culture of engagement of Polish NGOs in debates on EU Development Policy with decision makers and the public (€ 45 000)
Polish Humanitarian Organization Foundation (PHO), Poland

Strengthening the Capacity of Civil Society in Malta, Cyprus and Slovenia to engage effectively in dialogue with the European Institutions over Sustainable Livelihoods in the Mediterranean and the Barcelona Process. (€ 45 000)
Koperazzjoni Internazzjonali – Malta

Increasing capacity of Hungarian NGOs to engage in dialogue on European development issues (€ 29 245)

HAND - Hungarian Association of NGOs for Development & Humanitarian Aid, Hungary

European Development Policy and the women's role – The feminine face of poverty. (€ 45 000)

Sisterhood Foundation, Hungary

Strengthening Attention to Human Rights in Development Policy of Lithuania by Networking, Advocacy and Lobbying (€ 43 810)

Lithuanian Consumer Institute, Lithuania

"Poland for Global South!" – support for Polish civil society groups engagement in EU Development Policy dialogue on national and international level connected with public awareness campaign. (€ 44 993)

Polish Green Network, Poland

Bridging the Slovenian NGOs to EU issues (€ 34 512)

SLOGA- Slovenian Platform for Development Cooperation & Humanitarian Aid, Slovenia

Building capacity among Cyprus NGOs towards increased participation in EU Development Policy and Action (€ 43 630)

CAREDET, Cyprus

The Access Initiative: Good Environmental Governance - a Prerequisite of Sustainable Development (€ 37 500)

Environmental Law & Management Association, Hungary

Increasing capacity of Hungarian NGOs to more engagement to EU level lobby activity and to increase ODA management (€ 43 000)

HAND - Hungarian Association of NGOs for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Hungary

EU-CIS GENDER WATCH (€ 43 880)

NEWW - Network East-West Women, Poland

Developing while safeguarding climate? Yes, it is possible! (€ 17 220)

Focus Association for Sustainable Development, Slovenia

"The right for all not to be poor": European social policy for a global agenda (€ 45 000)

MiTi Foundation, Latvia

Improvement of civil society involvement in policy dialogue (€ 15 233)

National Platform of Maltese NGOs, Malta

Further information on the Presidency Fund can be found at:

www.presidencyfund.org

Publications and resources

Press Releases

- The European Parliament puts Europe's Development Policy back on track (20 January 2006)
- Towards a development instrument for the EC (21 March 2006)
- DCI negotiations (18 September 2006)
- Agreement on DCI (20 September 2006)
- EU's GMO position threatens development policies for farmers (22 November 2006)
- ACP and EU Parliaments demand transparency of European aid (23 November 2006)
- Legitimacy of EC aid programming questioned (29 November 2006)

Eurostep Weekly

Eurostep in the news

- EU Tightens Aid Control
Stefania Bianchi, Inter Press Service News Agency, 29 March 2006
- Development: EU Countries 'Massaging' Aid Figures
Stefania Bianchi, Inter Press Service News Agency, 4 April 2006
- EU to agree on using aid funds for peacekeeping
David Cronin, European Voice Vol 12 N° 13 6-12 April 2006
- Brussels attacked over aid rewards
Andrew Bounds, Financial Times, 7 August 2006
- The Barroso Commission - two years on
Judith Crosbie, European Voice, 16 November 2006
- Joint Parliamentary Assembly calls on Louis Michel to encourage ACP governments to consult national parliaments and civil society in EDF planning
Agence Europe, 23 November 2006
- Global Hero Or Evil Populist: World View Is Split On Chavez
Shada Islam & Heather Lima, DPA
Playfuls.com 1 December 2006

Open Letters

- To Irena Belohorská, MEP, AFET Committee rapporteur on the DCECI, Re: Second Draft Opinion of the Committee on Foreign Affairs to the Development committee on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and the Council on establishing a financing

instrument for development cooperation and economic cooperation, PA601437EN, 21 February 2006

- To David Martin, MEP, Inta Committee rapporteur on the DCECI, Re: second draft opinion on the proposal for a regulation establishing a financing instrument for development co-operation and economic co-operation., 22 February 2006
- To Commissioner Michel, Re: Benchmarks for the programming of aid under the 10th EDF, 29 March 2006
- Template letter to Development Ministers/government representatives General Affairs and External Relations meeting on 10/11 April 2006, 4 April 2006
- To Members of the European Parliament, Re: Your vote on the Development Cooperation (and Economic Cooperation) Instrument, 10 May 2006
- Aux Membres du Parlement Européen, Objet : Votre vote sur l'Instrument Coopération au Développement (et Coopération économique), 10 mai 2006
- To President of the General Affairs and External Relations Council, Re: concern about the lack of attention given to human and social development in the proposed structures for EC external aid under the next financial perspective (2007 – 2013), 12 May 2006
- To James Elles, MEP, Re: Budget 2007 Chapter 19 10 Co-operation with Developing Countries in Asia - Concern on the proposed decrease of aid to Asia, 28 August 2006
- To Jürgen Schröder, MEP, Re: Draft EU Budget for 2007, 28 August 2006
- To Ralf Walter, MEP, Re: amendments on targets in 2007 budget, 4 September 2006
- To Mr. G. Debo, European Commission, Re: Request for draft Country Strategy Paper 2007-2013 for Zambia, 29 September 2006
- To Mr. D Ringrose, European Commission, Re: Request for draft Country Strategy Paper 2007-2013 for Nepal, 29 September 2006
- To Stefano Manservigi, DG Dev, Re: Civil society involvement in the

programming process, 27 October 2006

- To Catherine Day, Secretary General, European Commission, Re: Reconfirming request for draft Country Strategy Paper 2007-2013 for Nepal, 26 October 2006
- To the Editor of the Daily Mail, Re: article on JPA in Barbados, 29 November 2006
- To Luisa Morgantini, Re: DCI programming, 13 December 2006
- To German Minister of the State Ms Wierzbicka-Zeul, Re: Negotiations of the European Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), 15 December 2006
- To Finnish Ministers of the State Mr Tuomioja, and Ms Paula Lehtomäki, Re: Negotiations of the European Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), 15 December 2006
- To Portuguese Minister of the State, Dr. Luís Amado, Re: Negotiations of the European Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), 15 December 2006
- To Slovenian Minister of the State, Dr Dimitrij Rupel, Re: Re: Negotiations of the European Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), 15 December 2006

Briefings

- Briefing N°30: Development cooperation instrument: The EU Parliament puts the EU back on track (January 2006)
- Briefing N°31: Comments on the Commission Non-paper of 3 February 2006 on development cooperation and economic cooperation instrument (February 2006)
- Briefing N°32: Information on the Programming of EC Aid for African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries (March 2006)
- Briefing N°33: Understanding the European Parliament Second Draft Report on Development cooperation and instrument (March 2006)
- Briefing N°34: Response to Presidency Proposal on Development Instrument (June 2006)
- Briefing N°35: Analysis of the Presidency Proposal on Development Instrument (July 2006)
- Briefing N°36: From DC(EC)I to DCI: Finalising the detail, delivering on the rhetoric (August 2006)
- European Solidarity for Democracy, Human Rights and Peace in Nepal,

Background briefing for meeting on 1 February 2006, Brussels

Reports

- We decide, you "own"! An assessment of EC programming 08 November 2006
- Social Watch 2006 Report: "Impossible Architecture"

Visions of Europe in the world

- Rukmini Rao
- Harry Vassallo
- Octavian Rusu

Others

- EU Constitutional Treaty: What Next? **February 2006**
- Presentation to the European Parliament Constitutional Affairs Committee, 25 April 2006, Simon Stocker, on behalf of Concord

Statements

- The Future of Democracy, Peace and Human Rights in Nepal, February 2006
- Informal Interactive Hearings with non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector on the midterm review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least developed Countries, United Nations Headquarters, 22 June 2006, New York, Olive Towey - Concern Worldwide - Chair of Eurostep

Accounts for 2006

Balance Sheet - 31 December 2006

	2006 €	2005 €
Assets		
Fixed assets	3 600	6 415
Other assets	0	1 075
Cash in bank and in hand	326 669	593 948
Receivable	35 067	272 811
Accruals & deferrals	19 521	0
Total assets	384 858	874 249
Liabilities		
Equity	23 621	23 821
Reserve funds	29 234	0
Amounts payable	79 507	9 209
Accruals and deferrals Membership contributions	0	278 783
Accruals and deferrals Presidency Fund	252 446	562 636
Total liabilities	384 858	874 249

Income & expenditure - Year ending 31 December 2006

Income	2006			2005		
	Total	Eurostep	Presidency Fund	Total	Eurostep	Presidency Fund
Membership contributions	408 588	408 588		329 450	329 450	
Bank interest	11 722	2 349	9 373	3 979	1 821	2 158
Other income	30 913	30 913		1 030	1 030	
Project grants	310 190		310 190	47 638	30 274	17 364
Transfer from reserve				40 883	40 883	
Total income	761 413	441 850	319 563	422 982	285 591	19 522
Expenses						
Human resources	263 884	243 265	20 619	219 139	205 493	13 646
Meeting, conferences, seminars	68 672	65 816	2 846	32 156	31 139	1 017
Research & information	4 216	4 139	77	2 810	2 448	362
Grants to NGOs	285 711	0	285 711	0	0	0
Travel & subsistence	28 817	23 922	4 895	20 485	17 494	2 991
Subscriptions to other networks and organisations	18 300	18 300	0	16 700	16 700	0
Office & services	44 460	41 501	2 959	45 604	44 854	750
Other & exceptional expenses	11 428	7 991	2 190	7 146	6 566	580
Depreciation	6 701	6 435	266	6 483	6 307	176
Transfer to reserves	29 234	29 234	0	0	0	0
Total expenses	761 413	441 851	319 563	351 079	387 603	19 522
Result for the year	0	0	0	7 617	7 617	0

The activities of Eurostep are primarily financed by its members, either through contributions towards the costs of the secretariat and its activities, or through direct support for activities undertaken within the framework of Eurostep.

The Presidency Fund is financed through grants provided by the Irish and the Dutch governments.

Management & secretariat

The General Assembly of Eurostep meets twice each year. It is comprised of a representative from each member organisation. The General Assembly is the principal policy making forum. The Board of Directors, which is elected by the General Assembly each year at its annual meeting in December, meets two times during the year. The Steering Committee is appointed by the Board and oversees the implementation of the decisions taken by the Assembly and the Board.

Board of Directors

Rudy De Meyer, 11.11.11 (Belgium)
 José Moises Martín Accur – Las segovias (Spain)
 Peter Niggli, Alliance Sud (Switzerland)
 Paddy Maguinness, Concern (Ireland)
 Ulrich Post, Deutsche Welthungerhilfe (Germany)
 Ionut Sibbian, FDSC (Romania)
 Manuela Monteiro, Hivos, (Netherlands)
 Timo Lappalainen, Keba (Finland)
 Giorgio Conconi, Manitesse (Italy)
 Joyce Haarbrink, Marie Stopes International (UK)
 Lars Udsholt, Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke (Denmark)
 Peter Hermes, NiZa (Netherlands)
 João Fernandes, Oikos (Portugal)
 Sylvia Borren, Oxfam International
 Simon Panek, People in Need (Czech Republic)

Steering Committee

Paddy Maguinness, Concern (Chair)
 Sylvia Borren, Novib (Vice-Chair)
 Timo Lappalainen, KePa
 Peter Niggli, Swiss Coalition
 Rudy Demeyer, 11.11.11

Secretariat

Simon Stocker, Director
 Florent Sebban, Policy Advisor
 Xavier Longan, Campaign Advisor (To February)
 Samantha Saldanha, Presidency Fund Administrator
 Yvette Pierret, Office Co-ordinator

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