Kopin welcomes you to the first newsletter for Malta issued within the RADC project.

The newsletter will be published every four months and will contain information relating to international development cooperation and global education. It will also contain information on volunteer issues relating to development work as we see volunteer work as: (a) a more experiential way of building public support for the MDG agenda and the fight against world poverty; and (b) a way of bringing universities and NGDOs ever closer together.

We look forward to this regular meeting with our readers and also to receive your views and feedback. We also welcome contributions from NGOs and other institutions working in the sector.

Regards,

William Grech and Dominik Kalweit
Project Management
kopin@maltaforum.org

Kopin launches the “Raising Awareness on Development Cooperation” project

Kopin (Koperazzjoni Internazzjonali – Malta) is partnering the Centre for Environmental Education and Research (University of Malta) in an international project named “Raising Awareness on Development Cooperation” (RADC) and funded by EuropeAid Office. The project brings together NGOs and universities in Malta, Cyprus and Romania to strengthen the support of these countries’ citizens in the fight against global poverty and to raise awareness on the historical context and scope of the EU international development cooperation policy.

The international consortium is made up by CARDET (Centre for the Advancement of Research and Development in Educational Technology), which is leading the international consortium, and the University of Nicosia from Cyprus, the University of Piraeus Research Center from Greece, World Vision Romania Foundation and the Academy of Economic Studies, Faculty of International Business and Economy (Academia de Studii Economice – București) from Romania.

The project will also offer the possibility to NGOs and universities to build their capacities to get involved in helping the developing countries and to offer opportunities to those citizens who wish to commit themselves in the fight against world poverty.

Most importantly, the NGOs and universities will develop the first specialised curriculum on international development cooperation that can be implemented in Malta’s University or used by anyone interested in furthering their knowledge on international development cooperation. They will also elaborate and distribute an information toolkit (that will include abstracts of the courses, methodological suggestions regarding their implementation, list of resources, case studies etc), and deliver workshops, seminars and conferences for students, teachers, student organisations, volunteer centres and other NGOs interested in development issues.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)
The curriculum will be made up of 8 modules of 4 ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) each. Each module will correspond to one of the 8 Millennium Development Goals and will present educational and informational resources for every person interested in comprehending the international development cooperation field: academia, students, civil society representatives, public and local authorities’ representatives, mass media and the general public.

The project is thus expected to bring about higher awareness of the general public regarding the values and the need of international solidarity and a higher level of involvement of the youth, civil society representatives, public and local authorities, academia and the general public in debates on development cooperation, and finally a better collaboration between universities and NGOs in the field of development cooperation.

SKOP’s 5th National Development Education Seminar on 10th May 2010

SKOP, the National Platform of Maltese NGOs working in international development cooperation and global education, will be organising its 5th National Development Education Seminar on 10 May 2010 at the Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta.

The main aims of the seminar are to (i) show case the initiatives on global education implemented in collaboration between schools and NGOs in Malta, (ii) to provide workshops on different topics related to global education, and (iii) to kick-start the process of developing a National Development Education Strategy for Malta.
Development NGOs demand urgent revision of the current EEAS proposal as it puts the world’s poorest at risk

Development NGOs, from across Europe and beyond, call for an urgent review of the proposal on the European External Action Service (EEAS) by foreign policy chief, Catherine Ashton, at the EU Foreign Ministers’ meeting, in Luxembourg. The blueprint breaches the Lisbon Treaty and goes against common EU interest and that of the world’s poorest, NGOs warn.

What are the lawyers saying?

- “The role of the EEAS under the Treaties is restricted to the EU’s Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), which represents only part of the EU’s external action. Development cooperation is outside the scope of the CFSP and therefore the EEAS has no capacity in respect of it.” (1.2)

- “The Ashton proposal, which is intended as an instrument setting out the organisation and functioning of the EEAS, cannot alter areas of competence as defined under the Treaties, such as the ‘exclusive competence’ of the Commission in development cooperation activities. Detracting from the exclusive competence of the Commission would require a formal Treaty amendment.” (3.11)

- “As primary law the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) is binding on all EU institutions and therefore irrespective of whether the EEAS becomes involved in development cooperation activities, poverty reduction must remain the ‘primary objective’.” (4.1)

What is Baroness Ashton putting on the table?

- EEAS to have unprecedented control over development cooperation and its budget.
- To mix intergovernmental and community policy.
- To make poverty reduction objectives hostage to foreign policy interests.

What are NGOs calling for?

Developing groups are calling for a complete review of Ashton’s proposal which involves all stakeholders: European Commission, European Council, European Parliament, and civil society, to ensure that:

- The spirit and letter of the Lisbon Treaty are fully respected.
- The European Commission takes full control over the development budget.
- The binding objective of “poverty eradication” towards developing countries is fully respected.


Maltese activist shot in Palestine

SKOP’s Euromed Working Group expressed its admiration and solidarity with Bianca Zammit, a Maltese activist who was injured during a protest calling for an end to the blockade of Gaza. She was shot in the leg by the Israeli military. It also extended its solidarity to all Palestinians shot in many other similar incidents.

The group vouched for Ms Zammit’s non-violent and peaceful resistance. From information they received, it was revealed that she even talked to soldiers by megaphone telling them what the demonstration was about. This is all essential information in light of the other so-called official information coming from Israel about the incident. The SKOP working group also urged EU institutions to reconsider Israel’s privileged status in relation to the EU in light of these serious and fundamental violations towards Human Rights.

The Euromed working group also expressed its support towards the Maltese Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ immediate response to the attack on Bianca Zammit, showing appreciation for the firm stance that the MFA expressed towards Israel and requesting Minister Tonio Borg to bring up this abuse before all international fora possible as this was not a one-off incident but a constant mistreatment of Palestinians by the Israeli military. It also noted with dismay that the Israeli military was not acknowledging the fact that they shot a Maltese national, saying that they hit three Palestinians. The Israeli military said it fired “warning shots” at a group of Palestinians gathering “very close to the security fence” in central Gaza. A spokesman said Israeli forces had identified “hitting three of the Palestinians”.

“The area adjacent to the security fence is a combat zone used by terrorist organizations to execute attacks against Israel,” the Israeli army said, adding that it would “not allow anyone to be present in it, since it is considered a threat to the residents of Israel and to Israeli security forces”.

The Euromed Working Group is one of the working groups within SKOP – The National Platform of Maltese NGDOs. It focuses on Mediterranean issues, particularly Palestine.
Raising Awareness for Development Cooperation

The news as reported on The Times of Malta

The protest was held near the Al-Maghazi refugee camp in Deir Al-Balah, central Gaza, earlier today. “It was a peaceful protest, they had no reason to shoot us,” Ms Zammit said from her hospital bed. She said that similar protests were held in the past and the Israelis usually fired in the air. This time they shot at the protesters. Ms Zammit said the bullet had gone through a muscle in one of her legs but missed the bone, and she would be able to walk again.

The AFP reported that Israeli troops shot and wounded two Palestinians and the Maltese woman. The three were shot after they entered a 300-metre-deep no-go zone previously declared by Israel on the Gaza side of the frontier.

The incident occurred when some 150 people, including six foreigners, began a demonstration to protest against the ban, which prevents Gaza farmers from using the land. Bianca Zammit is a member of the International Solidarity Movement. The ISM said Zammit was wounded as she filmed the demonstration, east of the Al-Maghazi refugee camp, some 100 metres from the border.

An army spokesman said a “group of Palestinians approached the security fence in a provocative manner.” “Some soldiers spotted them and fired warning shots. Two Palestinians were hit.” The spokesman added that the army considered the area to be a “combat zone” and therefore out of bounds.

(No. 1/2010)

The Development Cooperation Report 2010

The Development Cooperation Report is the key annual reference document for statistics and analysis on trends in international aid. With only five years left to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), much remains to be done. The task has become even more challenging given the economic, food and climate change crises of recent years. This report describes how the DAC has responded swiftly, putting the development dimension of these crises firmly on the political agenda and keeping the development community focused on providing more aid, and delivering it more effectively.

How do the economic, food and climate change crises impact on efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals? The Development Co-operation Report (DCR) 2010 looks at the growing challenges for both donors and developing countries alike.

In his introduction to the report, Eckhard Deutscher warns, however, that the development community should avoid entering into a “fire-fighting” mode. Instead, it must maintain a clear and consistent focus on the principles of effective aid set out in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action: “The world has changed profoundly, but our development goals remain the same.”

Over the past year, the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) has worked to keep the development dimension of the crises high on the political agenda, while helping the development community to formulate its best response.

(No. 1/2010)

Keeping Promises

DAC analyses show that aid volumes reached their highest historical level in 2008: USD 121.5 billion. Nonetheless, reduced growth in that year and the economic contraction in 2009 have lowered the dollar value of pledges made in 2005 at the Gleneagles G8 and Un Millennium +5 summits from the projected USD 130 billion to about USD 124 billion (in constant 2004 dollars).

DAC’s monitoring of funding projections shows that most donors plan to continue increasing their aid. But some donors have not lived up to their promises, and may fall further behind their commitments as ODA budgets stagnate or shrink. Based on current information, the overall expected ODA level for 2010 is estimated at USD 107 billion (expressed in 2004 dollars, based on first estimates that may change slightly when the 2009 official development assistance figures are released in April). The shortfall vis-a-vis the 2005 projections has a particular impact on Africa.

The combined effect of the food, energy and economic crises is presenting a major challenge to the development community, raising searching questions about the real impacts of development, how to demonstrate them, what really underlies them, and our ability to control and account for them.

Eckhard Deutscher, OECD DAC Chair

(The report is available on http://puck.sourceoecd.org/upload/4310031etemp.pdf)

(Sources:
http://www.oecd.org/document/62/0,3343,en_2649_33721_42195902_1_1_1_1,00.html,
http://www.oecd.org/document/10/0,3343,en_2649_33721_44774218_1_1_1_1,00.html)
Useful links

**ACADEMIA DE STUDII ECONOMICE**
http://www.ase.ro

**CARDET**
http://www.cardet.org

**GLOBAL ACTION SCHOOLS 2 COMMUNITIES**
http://www.kopin.org
http://www.schools2communities.eu

**KOPIN**
http://www.kopin.org

**MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**SKOP – THE NATIONAL PLATFORM OF MALTESE NGDOs**
http://www.skopmalta.org

**UNIVERSITY OF MALTA**
http://www.um.edu.mt

**UNIVERSITY OF NICOSIA**
http://www.unic.ac.cy

**UNIVERSITY OF PIRAEUS RESEARCH CENTER**
http://www.kep.unipi.gr

**WORLD VISION ROMANIA FOUNDATION**
http://www.worldvision.ro
**Background information**

*Kopin* is a voluntary non-governmental organisation (NGO) based in Malta which works in the field of North-South cooperation, Development and Global Citizenship Education and advocacy for development-related issues. Although Kopin is not bound to any other organisation, it has good relations with a number of Maltese and foreign organisations.

Ever since its foundation in the year 2000, a main aim of Kopin is to network with other NGOs so as to share experiences and expertise with a focus on Development Cooperation and Development Education and to build a strong position in advocating for fair North-South relations that have a focus on the Southern, rights-based perspective.

Kopin is the founding organisation of The National Platform of Maltese NGDOs, (today called SKOP), which it coordinated until May 2007. At present, a member of Kopin is the chairperson of SKOP. Kopin is also a member of the Maltese Forum for Justice and Cooperation (FJC). It actively engages in CONCORD and SKOP working groups and collaborates with networks like EUROSTEP and projects such as TRIALOG and DEEEP.

The organisation has implemented a number of projects in the fields of North-South Collaboration, such as Global Action Schools (GAS), Building Unity Through Diversity (BUTD) and a project on “Strengthening the Capacity of Civil Society in Malta, Cyprus and Slovenia to engage effectively in Dialogue with the European Institutions over Sustainable Livelihood in the Mediterranean and the Barcelona Process”. Kopin’s current projects are a “Global Action Schools 2 Communities” (S2C) and a policy research project on Development Issues in Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia (Presidency Fund).

Kopin is a registered voluntary organisation with the Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations, Identification Number VO/0200.

For further information, visit www.kopin.org

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