

Development Co-operation in the Nordic and  
Baltic countries:



Eastern Europe Studies Centre

NGO-to-NGO Training and Networking

27- 28, October, 2011, Vilnius, Lithuania

12- 13, January, 2012, Vilnius, Lithuania



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Nordic Council of Ministers  
Office in Lithuania

***Working Group Discussion moderated by Ringaile Trakymaite EESC  
October 27, 2011***

**General questions to be touched upon in the discussion**

Sustainability & development co-operation – 4 areas of work:

- How to be a green & sustainable organisation?
- How to be spread the message of sustainability at home?
- How to spread the message of sustainability in recipient countries?
- How to approach policymakers and influence DC policies and programmes to include sustainability?

**Main findings**

*Why should development cooperation be sustainable?*

- In French – *le développement durable* – as semantics indicate, it is a development the impact of which should last for a long time & should guarantee big & “clean” revenue long into the future.
- To be able to achieve a greater impact, any development should have holistic approach, which would lead to sustainability
- To avoid multiple meaningless efforts in development countries: one NGO scatters rubbish while another one organises a mission to collect it
- Sustainability, because everything is inter-related (both globally & locally), if you ruin 1 element somewhere, the whole system becomes damaged
- Human Security argument – it has to be sustainable if you want your children and grandchildren to live in a clean and safe planet
- Sustainability is striking a balance, also in sharing responsibility

*Development cooperation should always be seen in a specific context:*

- One always needs to carry out a contextual analysis to be able to make one’s actions sustainable
- All the goals and objectives of any action undertaken should be seen through a community’s perspective
- Individual versus collective (communal) approach – is common/public goods a value?

*Recommendations:*

- All the actors should act jointly, collaborate more & more efficiently

- Always do a contextual analysis
- Always engage your target group(s)/recipients of your actions into a dialogue & ask them questions concerning various aspects of sustainability
- Do you work at home – lobby your government on actions (e.g. your companies moving into the developing world, trade, etc.) that directly impact the lives of the people in the developing world
- Educate your politicians
- Join efforts with other civil society actors to build up pressure at home
- Analyse – what is it that you are “exporting” to the developing world – evaluate your values, actions and behaviour from a sustainability perspective
- Analyse local practices – sometimes developing countries are better at sustainable methods (e.g. in agriculture) that the developed world, help them preserve traditions
- Fight against corruption & mutual trust are crucial in making development cooperation sustainable

*New paradigm/ new thinking are needed for economy and finances that will impact all the other global processes!*

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