

News from the CIVICUS European Regional Office

Civil Society in a European Setting

Many readers expressed their interest in the working paper by Andrew Crook: *European Civil Society or Civil Society in Europe?* (EuroCIVICUS, February 2002). We have already received reactions, comments to it and to further stimulate the discussion please find the piece attached to this issue of EuroCIVICUS in .pdf format.

CIVICUS in Europe is looking for your comments (e-mail: europa@civicus.org), which we plan to include in the coming issues of EuroCIVICUS. ■

Government-Civil Society Relations

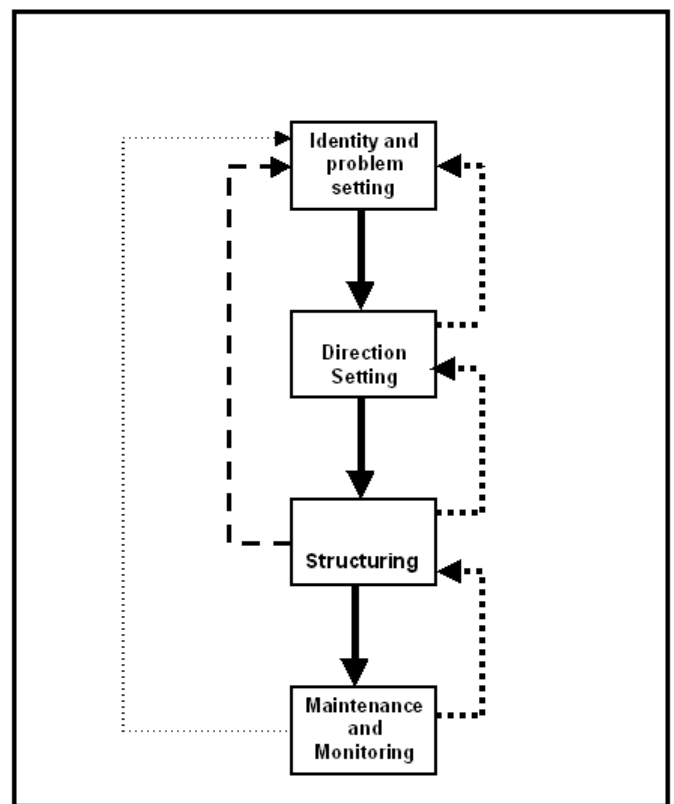
Developing Effective Government and Civil Society Relationships was the title of the presentation by Mr Les Hems of the University College London at the CIVICUS in Europe Meeting in Zagreb on 23 February, 2002.

He explored the complex and multi-faceted nature of inter-sectoral relations. Government and civil society interact in many ways, one of the latest developments being partnerships between the executive and the nonprofit sector in pursuit of a common goal "... typically in programmatic activities aimed at addressing persistent social problems."

He spoke of the experience with the 'Compact', the framework agreement of the UK government and nonprofit actors. A Research Programme on the Compact is being conducted in the UK to provide analytical

background to the co-operation including the Compact Process Template (see table below), a diagram through which the process of co-operation can be monitored. The findings of the UK Compact experience could be well used in other countries where similar agreements are expected to arise.

The full text of the speech is available in written form from europa@civicus.org. ■



Compact Process Template

CIVICUS Index Project - Bi-Monthly Update February-March 2002

by Volkhart Finn Heinrich, CIVICUS Index
Co-ordination Office

The completion of the external evaluation study on the CIVICUS Index on Civil Society by Ms Srilatha Batliwala, which was generously supported by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, has been a key development over the last months. Due to the crucial importance of the evaluation for the further progress of the Index project, I would like to share with you its ▶

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main findings at some length:

Key findings of evaluation study:

- The Index has demonstrated great potential to generate collective action for strengthening the positive role of civil society, though such action could not fully manifest itself in the short time frame of the Pilot Phase. However, the quality and impact of such action can be strengthened through a stronger and less subjective methodology.

- As a process the Index appears to be very successful as a creative and concrete instrument to mobilize civil society stakeholders, focus attention on the state of civil society, and create a basis for collective action. There does not appear to be any other comparable process that has as effectively achieved this. It has great potential to energize and inform social change efforts.

- As a methodology, the Index is a creative and innovative instrument, but attempts to capture too many complex phenomena. It has fundamental flaws in concept and design, and needs major simplification and re-designing. Such re-design is possible.

Key recommendations:

- The Index project should be continued. It should be called the Civil Society Assessment Project, rather than an Index.

- The Assessment methodology should focus on creating a sound diagnostic tool for the current status of civil society, and move away from normative concepts such as “healthy” civil society. Clarity about “healthy” civil society should emerge from the action agendas that the assessment helps generate.

- The assessment tools need to be overhauled and revised based on the experience of the Pilot Phase. While the Diamond can be retained, its components, and the indicators for assessing each, need to be revised. This should be done by a group of experts and the leaders of the NLOs involved in the Pilot Phase.

The study will inform the CIVICUS Board’s policy decisions on the future direction of the Index project, as the detailed recommendations made in the report will

provide the basis for the ensuing re-design phase of the project. CIVICUS has contracted Ms Carmen Malena to join the CIVICUS Index team in their task of designing and carrying out the re-design activities. Carmen has worked with the African Development Bank, World Bank, Oxfam and UNDP on civil society research and assessment projects as a senior researcher,

At a country level, the project is moving towards its completion in Pakistan. The Index co-ordination team has assisted the NGO Resource Centre, the Pakistani NLO, in analysing an additional round of stakeholder survey questionnaires. The findings of the Index in Pakistan will be presented and discussed at a national agenda-setting workshop, taking place in late April. Through a consultative process, the Wales Council for Voluntary Associations has adapted the stakeholder survey questionnaire to the specific situation in Wales and is currently identifying the survey sample. The survey is expected to go into the field in April.

At the CIVICUS in Europe conference in Zagreb (Croatia) the current status of the Index as well as the project’s findings in Croatia were shared with an audience of civil society and government representatives from various European countries. Here and at many other events, where CIVICUS has presented the Index project, civil society organisations reported their strong interest to partner with CIVICUS in implementing the project in their country in the coming years. These indications of interest, together with the encouraging results of the evaluation report, clearly show the relevance of the project to strengthening civil society around the world.

Contact the CIVICUS Index Co-ordination Office by e-mail: finn@civicus.org ■

CIVICUS Member from Bosnia and Herzegovina Applies to be NLO of Index

The Civil Society Promotion Center led by Mr Milan Mrda applied at the Index Co-ordination Office to become National Lead Organisation for the implementation of the CIVICUS Index Project in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The CIVICUS European Regional Office would like to wish Milan and the Center every success in their experience with the Index Project.

News from Europe

Convention for the European Future

At its meeting in Laeken in December 2001, the European Council convened a Convention on the future of the European Union. The task of the Convention is to consider the key issues arising for the Union's future development and to bring the EU closer to the citizen. Its focus goes beyond EU member countries and candidate country representatives also take part in its work on an equal footing (however, representatives of the 13 candidate countries are not able to prevent any consensus which may emerge among the Member States).

The inaugural session of the Convention was held in Brussels on 27-28 February, 2002 and opened its proceedings with a period of listening in order to find out what people want and expect from the European Union. The second stage will be a period of analysis for comparing the pros and cons of the proposals put forward for organising the European Union. The third phase will seek to draw together the different proposals and draft recommendations.

The Convention is composed of 105 members (MPs and government officials from member and candidate states, MEPs and representatives of the European Commission). Its meetings are held every 3 weeks.

CIVICUS member ECAS (Brussels) provides regular updates on the Convention's work to assist the involvement of NGOs outside Brussels in the debate on the future of Europe. The latest report is available on the internet on the second meeting of the Convention (21-22 March, 2002): www.ecas.org ■

Michael Brophy in Budapest

Michael Brophy, Chief Executive of the Charities Aid Foundation – one of the most reputed charities in the UK and a CIVICUS member organisation – paid a short visit to Budapest (Hungary) on 20 March, 2002 on the invitation of CIVICUS in Europe and the European House, Budapest. An informal meeting in the form of a dinner was organised with the participation of representatives of Hungarian civil society organisations. Brophy spoke of the appreciation of the development and the established high standards of the Hungarian

nonprofit sector in the past decade and expressed his hope for further co-operation.

He gave an interview to the biggest Hungarian daily newspaper with a circulation of 300,000.

We would also like to thank him for all his support and assistance provided to build the CIVICUS network a stronghold of civil society worldwide and CIVICUS in Europe in particular. ■

Reinhard Mohn Fellowship

On his 80th birthday, the entrepreneur and philanthropist Reinhard Mohn received the "Reinhard Mohn Fellowship" as a gift from the Bertelsmann AG Executive Board. The fellowship pays tribute to his lifetime achievements by sponsoring dedicated people to follow in Reinhard Mohn's footsteps. We have chosen an innovative and progressive approach to sponsorship: each year we will select between five and seven talented people from all over the world, who will spend 12 months in the Bertelsmann group, going through a demanding Fellowship program.

The Reinhard Mohn Fellowship is intended for people who have initiated, led or impelled innovative projects: leaders and entrepreneurial talents from all sectors of society - business, the public and non-profit sectors, science, culture, sports, or social services. In this particular case, degrees and academic merit are of secondary importance - the important thing is that their projects have made a discernible contribution to society. Fellows are given the opportunity to obtain valuable knowledge and expertise and build up extensive networks through selective training and a wide range of project work in a variety of divisions and at different locations within our global media company. Thus equipped, they are expected to expand on their existing potential and apply it to projects in their own field of activity. On top of this, they will become familiar with a philosophy of leadership that will serve both as an example and as motivation. At Bertelsmann, we not only appreciate the success of our corporate culture and leadership philosophy, but would also like to pass it along true to Reinhard Mohn's intention.

Interested persons may apply until 1 June, 2002. At the end of July 2002 the Fellows will be named by a Jury at a selection convention. The Jury consists of outstanding public personalities who represent the spirit and attitude we are looking for in our Reinhard Mohn Fellows.

More detailed information is available from our website: www.reinhard-mohn-fellowship.com. ■

Leading Social Entrepreneurs Participate in Annual Meeting in New York

by Mirjam Schöning, Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship, Geneva

Forty-one leading social entrepreneurs from around the world participated in the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in New York at the end of January 2002. They demonstrated to the participants of the Annual Meeting that progress in the social and environmental arenas is being achieved through grassroots action in enterprise development, health, education, environment, improved labour conditions, civic participation and human rights. The Forum recognises that the challenges posed by globalisation need more than ideology and debate. There is a pressing need to find innovative, practical solutions that work to ensure that the poor participate in and benefit from the global economy. That is the work of social entrepreneurs.

Among the social entrepreneurs participating in the Annual Meeting was Fabio Rosa from Porto Alegre in southern Brazil, who pioneered a new technique for electricity transmission that reduced the costs of providing electricity to rural consumers by more than 90%. As a consequence of having electricity, farmers were able to boost their incomes by 200-400%. Today, he offers solar energy and sustainable farming advice to poor remote rural farmers. Thanks to solar energy, farmers can build electric fences and use advanced grazing techniques to counteract environmental degradation.

Other social entrepreneurs participating in the Annual Meeting included Fazle Abed, Founder of BRAC in Bangladesh, who has pioneered innovations in health, education and gender equity that are widely replicated throughout the world. BRAC reaches 3.8 million women through 100,000 village organisations. Paul Rice, Founder of TransfairUSA, is connecting small-scale coffee growers in developing countries with large US coffee retailers to guarantee the farmers a price that will enable them to keep their farms and provide a decent living for their families. Thanks to TransfairUSA, Fair Trade is now the fastest growing segment of the US \$18 billion US coffee industry.

For further information please contact: Mirjam Schöning (Mirjam.Schoening@schwabfound.org) or visit: www.schwabfound.org. ■

Further reading on social entrepreneurship: *Falling down the Rabbit Hole of the World Economic Forum* by Pamela Hartigan, Managing Director of the Schwab Foundation (www.schwabfound.org).

Upcoming Events

What Role for CIVICUS in Europe? - Breakfast Meeting of CIVICUS in Europe

CIVICUS in Europe will be once again part of one of the major funders' forum in Europe: the Annual General Assembly and Conference of the European Foundation Centre. We will have our satellite event in form of a breakfast meeting in Brussels with the title: *What Role for CIVICUS in Europe?*

From the pre-programme brochure on the CIVICUS in Europe event: "CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation is undergoing a profound change to respond creatively to the new challenges facing global civil society. CIVICUS in Europe will present its main programmes including a government-civil society relations project, a concept paper on European civil society, and the "Building Bridges of Democracy" project for Central and South East European countries."

Date: 7.45 am - 9.15 am on 3 June, 2002

Venue: Brussels, Belgium

Further information: europe@civicus.org

More Philanthropy in Europe, More Europe in Philanthropy

EFC's European Union Enlargement Task Force Mission to Tallin, Estonia

The next meeting of the Enlargement Task Force will take place in Estonia. The choice of location for this first mission is significant. It was in Estonia that, over a decade ago, a group of forward thinking EFC members first came to meet with top public officials to call for the creation of an enabling environment for foundations and other civil society organisations. Today, Estonians enjoy one of the most favourable legal frameworks in the world. The Estonian 'Compact', an agreement formally recognising and regulating the relationship between public authorities and civil society ▶

will serve as an inspiration and a model to architects of legal reform throughout the New Europe, European Union included.

Date: 4-6 April, 2002

Venue: Tallin, Estonia

Organiser: EFC's EU Enlargement Task Force

Contact: Mall Hellam, Open Estonia Foundation, Chair, EU Enlargement Task Force

E-mail: mall@oef.org.ee

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development's Annual Meeting

Besides the 27 country presentations, the Business Forum includes 6 thematic seminars and we hope that at least the following three seminars: Financing modernisation of infrastructure; Improving efficiency in energy use and; Transition and accession, will benefit from your particular interest. In addition, we are preparing a programme of bilateral meetings between NGOs and the Bank and will provide more information about these meetings in the coming weeks.

Deadline for pre-registration is 23 April, 2002.

If you have already registered, please contact us at ngo@ebrd.com for more information on the NGO programme which is currently in preparation.

Date: 19-20 May, 2002

Venue: Bucharest, Romania

Organiser: EBRD

Contact: Doina Caloianu, Manager of Outreach & NGO Relations, EBRD

Tel.: (44-20) 733-86620

Fax: (44-20) 733-86102

E-mail: ngo@ebrd.com

Internet: www.ebrd.com

Foundations for Europe: Science and the Citizen - EFC's 13th Annual General Assembly (AGA) and Conference

During the last decade or so, traditional definitions of science have become blurred by the exponential growth of new technologies and the progressive dismantling of what were once perceived as insurmountable barriers to

human knowledge. It is not acceptable to leave to scientists alone the decision on how knowledge of the human being should be used to shape our social future. We must ask who owns science: the scientists or the public at large? The key question for foundations is surely: how can we broaden the scope of our expertise and involvement to play a full and responsible role in the discussion at this important intersection of science and social policy?

Date: 3-5 June, 2002

Venue: Brussels, Belgium

Organiser: European Foundation Centre (EFC)

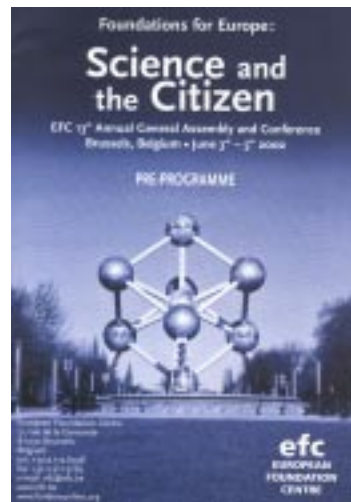
Contact: John Richardson, Chief Executive, EFC

Tel.: (32-2) 512-8938

Fax: (32-2) 512-3265

E-mail: aga@efc.be

Internet: www.efc.be



Brochure of the EFC meeting

World Civil Society Forum

The project of the World Civil Society Forum was initially conceived during the Millennium Forum on UN reforms (May 2000, New York), which recalled the desire of the United Nations to work closely with civil society in its activities, as well as the request of several non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to strengthen cooperation among themselves as well as with the United Nations System. The World Civil Society Forum intends to reinforce cooperation between civil society (NGOs, indigenous peoples, research centers, etc.) and international organizations. It will encompass the different areas of the international arena (the environment, health, human rights, humanitarian rights, education, peace, security, information

technology, etc.) and will allow, in each of these areas, the promotion of cooperation.

Date: 14-19 July, 2002

Venue: International Conference Center Geneva (ICCG), Switzerland

Tel.: (41-22) 959-8855

Fax: (41-22) 959-8851

E-mail: forum@mandint.org

Internet: www.worldcivilsociety.org

Global Governance 2002 - Civil Society and the Democratization of Global Governance (G02)

This non-profit event will bring together civil society representatives, high level officials from UN and multi-lateral agencies, parliamentarians, national and local government representatives, academics, human rights advocates, trade unionists and indigenous people to debate current trends in globalization and civil society and help define the role that global civil society can and should play.

Date: 13-16 October, 2002

Venue: Montreal, Québec, Canada

Organiser: Montreal International Forum

Contact: Geoff Bush

Tel.: (1-514) 481-7408

Fax: (1-514) 481-7379

E-mail: geoffbush@odon.ca

Internet: www.fimcivilsociety.org

CIVICUS Dates for your Diary

Brussels, Belgium, 3 June, 2002 (page 4)

CIVICUS Satellite Event during the Annual General Assembly and Conference of the European Foundation Centre

Budapest, Hungary, 28-30 June, 2002

Third Phase of the Building Bridges of Democracy Programme under the title „Bridging Civil Society through Regional Co-operation” in the form of a boat trip on the Danube.

If you would like to have more information or interested in attending please contact the CIVICUS European Regional Office: europe@civicus.org.

Profiles

New CIVICUS Global Addresses

The institutional rework of CIVICUS Global brought changes in office locations both in the United States, the new CIVICUS office in South Africa and the Index Co-ordination Office. EuroCIVICUS will keep track of and inform on further developments.

New CIVICUS Washington DC Office

1112 16th Street, NW Suite 540

Washington, DC 20036

The phone and fax numbers will remain:

Tel.: (1-202) 331-8518

Fax: (1-202) 331-8774

*New CIVICUS South Africa Office**

5th Floor, Braamfontein Centre

23 Jorissen Street

Braamfontein, Johannesburg

South Africa

Tel.: (27-11) 339-5200

Fax: (27-11) 403-1217

* New temporary office until move into permanent office.

*New CIVICUS Index Co-ordination Office**

CIVICUS Index Co-ordination Office

c/o Volkhart Finn Heinrich

Falkenweg 8, 76646 Bruchsal

Germany

Tel.: (49-7251) 505-558

Fax: (49-7251) 505-557

* Temporary office until re-location to the CIVICUS operational hub in Johannesburg, South Africa later this year. ■

New President of CIVICUS Member

The Macedonian Business Lawyer Association (MBLA) – a CIVICUS member organisation – has elected its new President, Mr Dimko Milenkov, PhD. The work of Executive Director will continue to be performed by Ms Liljana Cekovska. We would like to wish Mr Milenkov every success in his new position.

All correspondence to the President should be addressed to the address of the Macedonian Business Lawyer Association:

Address: Bul. Krste Misirkov bb, 1000 Skopje, Macedonia

Tel./Fax: (389-2) 214-088

E-mail: mbla@mp.com.mk

Mosaic

From the Reader

Dear Mr Barabas,

I am writing in order to express my opinion about the CIVICUS event in Zagreb in February 2002. It was extremely useful for me and the work of the NGO where I work. Although it was my first meeting of the CIVICUS net, I must point out that I found it as a good way to meet people and to establish a lot of new contacts.

Sincerely,

Goce Todoroski
Executive director, Center for Civic Initiative
Macedonia

E-mail: ccimk@mt.net.mk

Community Development and Citizen Participation

For those interested in community development and citizen participation, the International Association for Community Development (IACD) has now established a mailbase for discussion of community development, news of events, training, conferences and for general networking in east, central and western Europe. You can access it by sending a blank email message to the following address: iacd_euro_subscribe@yahoo.com

The next global IACD conference in association with the American Community Development Society

conference will be held in Cleveland, Mississippi, USA in July 2002: details from CFlora@iastate.edu.

Visit the IACD website at www.iacdglobal.com

For more details about IACD including how to affiliate, contact IACD@cls.dircon.co.uk

Eyecatcher Associates in Pristina

Lesley Abdela of the UK-based civil society and democracy-building organisation Eyecatcher Associates will be in Pristina on 17-21 April, 2002 conducting workshops for 25 new Kosovan NGOs on Media relations. This will include closed-circuit TV studio training for the NGO leaders and seminars with professional journalists.

For further information please contact Tim Symonds on tim.symonds@shevolution.com

EuroCIVICUS is a monthly publication of the CIVICUS European Regional Office

If you have any comments, proposals or would like to contribute to the *EuroCIVICUS* newsletter please contact us:

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CIVICUS in Europe would like to thank the :

Hungarian Government
National Council for Voluntary Organisations, UK
Croatian Government
Levi Strauss Europe
Charities Aid Foundation, UK
Carpathian Foundation
Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations

for their generous support.