

Raising Awareness for Development Cooperation

A periodical newsletter published by KOPIN's project "RADC" – a project funded by EuropeAid (DCI-NSA 2009/202-400)

IN FOCUS

Herzlich Willkommen!

Kopin welcomes you to the third newsletter for Malta issued within the project "Raising Awareness on Development Cooperation". This *special edition* was developed in collaboration with the European Documentation and Research Centre (EDRC) of the University of Malta. More precisely, this edition features articles on current development related issues written by students of Stefano Moncada's course "Development Studies and the EU" (course number EST2210).

YANIKA CHETCUTI'S contribution discusses women and poverty issues in Kenya. The author argues that "poverty and gender are two concepts closely related and dependent upon each other", for which "[...] a realistic and concrete reduction of poverty is achieved through measures of female empowerment, which in turn, is highly strengthened through such poverty-eradication strategies. Thus both concepts are interlinked and should be tackled as such."

GAYNOR SALIBA presents an essay on the relation between human rights and poverty, which he introduces with a quote of Muhammad Yunus, Founder of Grameen Bank and Nobel Prize Laureate who said that "poverty is the absence of all human rights. Every person living in poverty has no rights. You name it, they don't have it."

JACQUELINE CALLEJA looks into development in Zimbabwe, with a focus on the European Union's role. She concludes that "the EU has been an important contributor in the region and managed to obtain very positive results in spite of all the challenges."

Enjoy reading!

William Grech and Dominik Kalweit

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KOPIN expresses its Solidarity with its partner European Perspective and other Hellenic Development NGOs



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Poverty in Kenya: A gender issue

Poverty and gender are two concepts closely related and dependent upon each other. This essay argues that a realistic and concrete reduction of poverty is achieved through measures of female empowerment, which in turn, is highly strengthened through such poverty-eradication strategies. Thus both concepts are interlinked and should be tackled as such.

Gender is a socio-economic concept which goes beyond the basic sex differences between men and women. Hence it incorporates issues such as the division of labour and the access and control of resources and opportunities. It is a concept which influences the individual choices of men and women as well as their future aspirations. Society tends to attribute its citizens with roles and needs built upon a 'gender neutral'¹ idea thus not considering the intrinsic differences which exist between men and women. These differences must be accounted for when implementing policies on development and poverty-reduction.

The World Bank defines poverty in terms of the individual's income. Yet a more holistic and multidimensional definition, approved by the UN Beijing Platform for Action 1995 and used in this essay, is one which also includes the access to education, health care, shelter amongst others². As is shown by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, 40% of Kenyans live on less than 2 US\$ a day and have a life expectancy at birth of 55.6%.³ Yet the majority of the poor in Kenya are women with 50% of them living in the rural areas.⁴ This is a situation common to all African societies and results mainly out of gender inequalities. Thus women, when compared to males have less access to education as well as no ownership and control upon family assets and resources, making them more prone and vulnerable to be poor.

Improvements were made by the Kenyan government on poverty reduction, with Kenya's mean years of schooling increasing by more than 4 years, GNI per capita increasing by 15% and an HDI value increase of 16% between 1980 and 2010.⁵ Yet more needs to be done especially in relation to gender mainstreaming with Kenya's strategies often described as 'gender blind'.⁶

The Platform for Action regards poverty-reduction as a combination of anti-poverty programmes, democracy and changes in the economic strategies which enhance the full and equal participation of men and women in the economy as both actors and beneficiaries.⁷

The Kenya Vision 2030⁸, the document guiding the Government Development Agenda, puts gender mainstreaming as a central part to achieving poverty reduction. It recognizes, amongst others, that:

1. Men and women respond differently to poverty due to different gender needs and should thus be addressed separately;
2. Gender responsive policies would generate greater productivity and social wellbeing. Such policies bridge the gender gap elevating women and girls on a par with men and boys.

The EU took an indirect position to gender poverty: both poverty reduction and gender inequality are addressed in relation to the targets proposed by the MDGs. Hence the EU will contribute to the achievement of the MDGs through the adoption of the Commission 2010 Action Plan⁹.

The project "Raising Awareness on Development Cooperation"

Kopin 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 - Bucuresti*) 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. 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.

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The MDGs have allocated 2 goals explicitly dealing with gender issues, which are far from a gender-sensitive approach.¹⁰ As part of the post-2015 initiatives¹¹, it was stated that more focus should be allocated towards gender mainstreaming, if the MDG targets as well as long-term equality is to be achieved. This must be done by pushing for actions which build upon the already existing mechanisms: the MDG achievements, the fight against the discrimination on women – UNCEDAW, the Platform for Action, UNIFEM, and the Kenya Vision 2030 – with regards to Kenya's position on gender poverty, amongst others. In 2008, the UN has approved the setting-up of a gender 'super-agency' which superseded the rather institutionally weak UNIFEM. However the creation alone of an institution might not be sufficient. It would also be important to see that this agency is kept well-resourced - both in terms of human and financial resources, and that the implementation of its gender goals is monitored.

In conclusion, it appears that most of the research and policy community agree on the fact that gender poverty should be addressed in a more holistic manner. Tackling gender inequality through policies and strategies which recognize the different gender needs and concerns which exist between men and women, would inevitably increase development in a more sustainable manner, as well as enhancing female empowerment and reduce poverty.

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FOOTNOTES:

1 'Gender and poverty reduction: A Kenyan context' Kimani & Kombo Pg026

2 The UN Fourth World Conference on Women:
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/plat1.htm> [retrieved 8/4/2011 1:48pm]

3 'Country Briefing: Kenya MPI At a Glance' Alkire & Santos 2010
<http://www.ophi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Kenya.pdf> [retrieved 5/4/2011 8:00pm]

4 Ibid 1 Pg025

5 UNDP HDI:
<http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/KEN.html> [retrieved 8/4/2011 2:22pm]

6 Ibid 1 Pg026

7 Ibid 2 [retrieved 8/4/2011 2:25pm]

8 Ibid 1 Pg026

9 European Commission(2010) 634 final:
http://ec.europa.eu/development/icenter/repository/COMM_COM_2010_634_RELATIONS_UE_AFRIQUE_EN.pdf [retrieved 5/4/2011 8.10pm]

10 UNDP:
<http://www.undp.org/mdg/goal3.shtml> ;
<http://www.undp.org/mdg/goal5.shtml> [retrieved 5/4/2011 8.15pm]

11 'Poverty in Focus' No19 Pg028
Jones, Holmes, Espy: <http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCPovertyInFocus19.pdf> [retrieved 8/4/2011 2:42pm]

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Poverty and Human Rights

'Poverty is the absence of all human rights. Every person living in poverty has no rights. You name it, they don't have it.'

Muhammad Yunus,
Founder of Grameen Bank
and Nobel Prize Laureate

In the past decades, considerable improvements in the level of income per capita and the overall economic growth have been recorded in many countries, particularly in the developing world. Yet, human development - which promotes the expansion of people's freedoms to live longer, healthier and more creative

lives, and to advance other goals they have reason to value¹ – continues to proceed at a slower rate and with many imbalances. Although many people came out of extreme poverty in the last 20 years, there is still a very high proportion of human population that lives in poverty, deprived from the means of providing subsistence for themselves and without access to basic needs and services such as adequate food, clean water, shelter, education and healthcare.

Human development and poverty reduction have been recognised as key goals to be achieved by the international community. Indeed, the United Nations has established in 2000 the Millennium Development Goals², aiming to eradicate poverty and hunger, among other crucial objectives, by 2015.

Although improvements are evident in certain countries, extreme poverty has not yet been eradicated. About 1.75 billion people still live in multi-dimensional poverty, deprived of their basic human right to live in dignity and equality.

Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, irrespective of nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language or any other status. All human beings are equally entitled to human rights, without any discrimination. These rights are considered as being interrelated, interdependent and indivisible.³

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, established international standards of the rights and freedoms that each and every citizen is entitled to in his daily life. The Declaration states: "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights... Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status."⁴

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Despite the efforts to guarantee universal rights for all human beings, human rights violations still occur around the world. In certain areas, especially in sub-Saharan African countries, the lack of proper governance and the conflict over the control of natural resources, often bring about the violation of such rights. Some countries have been experiencing lack of proper governments and the absence of the rule of law such as their citizens are not recognised basic civil and human rights. A case in point is Somalia, whereby during the past three years of brutal conflict, many human rights activists were either killed or forced to flee the country⁵.

While human rights derive from human dignity as a human value, poverty entails the absence of human dignity. If poverty is derived in terms of lack of choices, no poor person can be dignified since the option of choice is restricted and constrains the freedom to choose. On the other hand, human rights imply the process of empowering citizens to make choices. Therefore, the two social processes may be seen as acting in opposition to one another, and this may explain why human rights are not observed in a situation of extreme poverty.⁶

Moreover, human rights violations are more likely to occur in states whereby 'good governance' practices are not abided to and where there is no transparency and accountability in the management of public affairs. In such circumstances, there is no place for institutional pluralism other than those respected or created by the government and citizen participation is either not allowed or disregarded. Such states are not based on the principle of rule of law and thus not democratic in nature.

A typical example of a government with a poor democratic performance, which has repeatedly violated human rights, is the ruling government of Sudan, led by President Omar Hassan al-Bashir. Mr Bashir came into power in a military coup in 1989 and has ruled with an iron fist ever since. He was a perpetrator of

the violent conflict in western Darfur, where thousands of people died of violence, disease and displacement during the fighting between the government and rebel forces. In fact, he faces two international arrest warrants (by the International Criminal Court in The Hague) on charges of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.⁷

Poverty is no exception in Sudan – in terms of the Human Development Report 2010⁸, Sudan ranks 154 out of the 169 countries. This relatively bottom position portrays the lack of action of the Sudanese quasi-dictatorial government to improve the undesirable situation of poverty in the country. In such situation of extreme poverty, there is no place for human rights and it is evident that the oppressive government has failed to fulfil his obligations towards his citizens. Citizens are so deprived from their human dignity and their basic needs to subsist, that they prefer to flee the country and adopt the status of refugees.

Whatever the resources of a country, poverty reduction, human development and respect for human rights require good governance. Decisions on the opportunities for human development in poor countries are largely made by the government of the countries concerned. However, the quality of life of the great majority of people in a country will only be improved when all strata of the population have a part in the shaping of public affairs and when the freedoms and basic rights of every individual are protected and upheld by an independent judiciary according to the rule of law. Help from outside can always improve the situation and accelerate the process, but cannot put right what is in an intrinsically poor state to repair.⁹

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FOOTNOTES:

1 United Nations Development Programme; Human Development Report 2010; The Real Wealth of Nations: Pathways to Human Development.

2 The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are a set of eight development objectives that 189 world leaders (in September 2000) agreed to achieve by 2015. The eight goals aim to: eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; achieve universal primary education; promote gender equality and empower women; reduce child mortality; improve maternal health; combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability; and develop a Global Partnership for Development.

3 United Nations Human Rights; 'What are human rights?'; Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; Available at: www.ohchr.org.

4 The Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Articles 1 and 2.

5 Human Rights Watch: World Report 2010.

6 Byaruhanga Rukooko. A; 'Poverty and human rights in Africa: historical dynamics and the case for economic social and cultural rights'; Volume 14; The International Journal of Human Rights; February 2010.

7 BBC News; Sudan Country Profile; Available at: www.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/820864.stm.

8 United Nations Development Programme; Human Development Report 2010; The Real Wealth of Nations: Pathways to Human Development.

9 Leisinger. K; 'Overcoming poverty and respecting human rights: ten points for serious consideration'; International Social Science Journal; UNESCO; 2004.

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Human Development in African sub-Saharan countries: The role of the EU in Zimbabwe

The 1990 human development report published for the United Nations development programme (UNDP), introduced inter alia a more inclusive method of measuring development through the combination of a number of indicators into a composite human development index.¹ This index presented a breakthrough in that it provided a multidimensional vision, including measurement of human development. The report is updated on a yearly basis to reflect societal changes in the developing world including political freedom, empowerment, human security and environment threats.² One of the prominent contributors on the subject, Amartya Sen, rightly points out that a great deal has been achieved in this field but we have to keep abreast of new realities which pose danger on the human well-being and freedom.³

According to the 2010 human development report, there are still several challenges that countries in the sub-Saharan region have to face. Notwithstanding, significant progress has been shown in the education field which could be considered an investment for the future in the long term. The European Union along with other donor countries assists with millions every year in this regard as only through education, one can share basic and/or advanced academic and technical skills with others. Overall, countries such as Ethiopia, Mozambique, Burkina Faso among others have shown significant improvement in their human development index, particularly in the average literacy rate and life expectancy levels.⁴ According to 'The Economist' in 2010 Nepal was the best performer in the developing world, whilst Zimbabwe featured at the bottom of the list.⁵

Graph 1 below provides a graphical indication of the development trends in the past three decades across the world. It is evident that the sub-Saharan region is lagging behind when compared to the rest of the world.⁶

The case of Zimbabwe is even more significant, given the fact that its Human Development Index is below that of the overall Sub-Saharan region. Many argue that the political instability in Zimbabwe is the cause, and origin, of the country's low level of development, which often triggers economic stagnation. Following a 30-year grip on power, President Robert Mugabe lost the 2008 elections against Mr. Morgan Tsvangirai opposition movement. Mr. Mugabe did not want to recognise Mr. Tsvangirai as the winner and remained in power by instigating political turmoil through his supporters, thus forcing Tsvangirai to ask the intervention of the international community to solve the political stall. Following several attempts to reconcile the parts, eventually in 2009 a power sharing agreement was concluded with Mr. Mugabe as President and Mr. Tsvangirai as prime minister. Notwithstanding the formation of this special type of government, Zimbabwe's economic recovery and overall development did not progress. On the contrary, hyperinflation, unemployment and unresolved conflicts governing ownerships and division of land have been negatively effecting Zimbabwe's present and future.

Zimbabwe's main exports are tobacco, cotton, gold and other minerals. Its agriculture sector used to be very strong; however, land reforms in 2000 removed many white farmers and effectively destroyed the sector's productivity.⁷

Furthermore, the UNDP observes that from 1980 to 2010, Zimbabwe's life expectancy fell by 12 years. The average Zimbabwean now lives for no more than 47 years due to the HIV epidemic coupled with health and welfare services that leave much to be desired. Recurrent droughts which are detrimental to agricultural produce coupled with the government's poor fiscal management are two other important factors which do not help the situation either.⁸

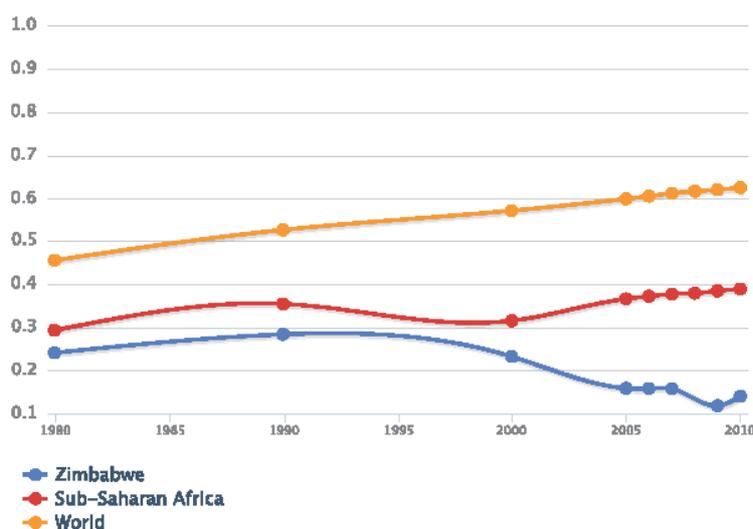
National policies which do not address the development and welfare of a community of people would naturally force people to relocate and as such this increases the problem of migration.

EU assistance to the Sub-Saharan region: A brief assessment of the situation in Zimbabwe

The EU institutions have been key for nearly three decades to assist the Sub-Saharan region, with the aim to foster further development; in his paper prepared for the conference 'Promoting Resilience through Social Protection in Sub-Saharan Africa' in 2010, Mr. Jimi O. Adesina⁹ argues that in the context of

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Graph 1 - Human Development Index – graphical analysis between 1980 and 2010¹⁰



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meeting Africa's development challenges social policy has various roles including nation-building. Economic development must therefore combine growth with a structural change in the economy as well as societal changes in a framework of gender equality and social solidarity.¹¹

If a focus is taken on Zimbabwe, the EU along with the rest of the international community have been supporting its development all along, from independence to date; however due to the political instability in the country Zimbabwe had to face various sanctions and restrictive measures on financing from various institutions and countries.¹²

Nonetheless, the European Commission supplies aid programmes in Zimbabwe through EuropeAid. It also manages programmes under the European Development Fund and the European Union's general budget¹³. Hereunder is a list of some of the EU-financed programmes in Zimbabwe:

1. Since Zimbabwe is highly affected by the AIDS and HIV epidemics, in 2005 the Commission launched an intensive health programme aimed at preventing mother to child transmission of the disease and to reach as much pregnant women to enrol in the programme.¹⁴

2. In 2009 the EU funded the Education Transfer Fund to boost up learning support material in primary schools including textbooks in basic skills.¹⁵

3. In 2009/2010 the EU provided for fertilizer needs of smallholder farmers. This has had helped to reduce the food security deficit for last year.¹⁶

4. In 2009/2010 the EU provided funding aimed to support social services which address humanitarian crises.¹⁷

5. The EU is also present in supporting key governance reforms aimed at achieving credible general elections.¹⁸

6. In January 2011 the European Commission announced a 2-million Euro project consisting in the supply of safe blood, blood products and medical gasses which are aimed to sustain basic health services, public safety and to reduce maternal deaths in district and provincial hospitals.¹⁹

Hence and as shown in this article, the EU has been an important contributor in the region and managed to obtain very positive results in spite of all the challenges.

Ultimately, the process of development and key players must ensure that it is need-oriented, endogenous (coming from within a society), self-reliant in terms of human, natural and cultural resources, ecologically sound and based on structural transformations of economy, society, gender and power relations.²⁰

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FOOTNOTES:

1 Human Development Report, 1990

2 International Human Development Indicators by the United Nations Development Programme – accessible on: <http://hdr.undp.org/en>

3 Human Development Report 2010: 'The real worth of nations: Pathways to Human Development'.

4 Ibid.

5 The Economist Online, 4th March 2010

6 'Human Development Index – Trends 1980 – present' accessible on: <http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/ZWE.html>

7 'EU Relations with Zimbabwe' European Union External Action http://eeas.europa.eu/zimbabwe/index_en.htm

8 UNDP Report, 2010

9 Jimi O. Adesina is a lecturer in the Department of Sociology, Rhodes University, Republic of South Africa. He is also the Secretary of the South African Sociological Association, the interim Secretary-General of the African Sociological Association, and a member of the Executive Committee of Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa.

10 Ibid., graph illustration

11 Adesina Jimi O. – 'Rethinking the Social Protection Paradigm: Social Policy in Africa's Development' – accessible on: <http://erd.eui.eu/media/BackgroundPapers/Adesina.pdf>

12 Smith-Höhn Judy, 'Situation Report', 'Zimbabwe: are targeted sanctions smart enough?' article accessible on: <http://www.iss.co.za/uploads/4Jun2010.pdf>

13 http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/acp/country-cooperation/zimbabwe/zimbabwe_enb.htm

14 'A comprehensive HIV treatment and care package in Zimbabwe', accessible on: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/documents/case-studies/zimbabwe_health_hiv_en.pdf

15 'Delivery of Books and Learning Materials for all of Zimbabwe's Primary School Children' accessible on: http://www.delzwe.ec.europa.eu/en/what_snew/education.pdf

16 'Development Assistance' accessible on http://www.delzwe.ec.europa.eu/en/what_snew/2zimflyer1March.pdf

17 Ibid.

18 Ibid.

19 Press Release dated 25 January 2011 accessible on: http://www.delzwe.ec.europa.eu/en/what_snew/Blood%20and%20Gases%20Press%20Release.pdf

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20 Baylis John et., The Globalisation of World Politics, chapter 27 p. 479 – quoting from a publication in 1975 by the Dag Hammarskjold Foundation of What Now? Another Development?

REFERENCES:

1. Human Development Report, 1990
2. International Human Development Indicators by the United Nations Development Programme – accessible on: <http://hdr.undp.org/en>
3. Human Development Report, 2010
4. The Economist online.
5. 'EU Relations with Zimbabwe', European Union External Action, accessible on: http://www.eeas.europa.eu/zimbabwe/index_en.htm
6. Adesina Jimi O. – 'Rethinking the Social Protection Paradigm: Social Policy in Africa's Development' – accessible on: <http://erd.eui.eu/media/BackgroundPapers/Adesina.pdf>
7. 'Human Development Index – Trends 1980 – present' accessible on: <http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/ZWE.html>
8. Smith-Höhn Judy, 'Situation Report', 'Zimbabwe: are targeted sanctions smart enough?' article accessible online on <http://www.iss.co.za/uploads/4Jun2010.pdf>
9. 'European Aid Development and Cooperation', European Commission http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/accountry-cooperation/zimbabwe/zimbabwe_en.htm
10. 'A comprehensive HIV treatment and care package in Zimbabwe', accessible on: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/document/s/case-studies/zimbabwe_health_hiv_en.pdf
11. 'Delivery of Books and Learning Materials for all of Zimbabwe's Primary School Children' accessible on: <http://www.delzwe.ec.europa.eu/en/whatsnew/education.pdf>
12. 'Development Assistance' accessible on: <http://www.delzwe.ec.europa.eu/en/whatsnew/2zimflyer1March.pdf>
13. EU Press Release dated 25 January 2011 accessible on: <http://www.delzwe.ec.europa.eu/en/whatsnew/Blood%20and%20Gases%20Press%20Release.pdf>
14. Baylis John, The Globalisation of World Politics, chapter 27 p. 479 – quoting from a publication in 1975 by the Dag Hammarskjold Foundation of What Now? Another Development?



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KOPIN expresses its Solidarity with its partner European Perspective and other Hellenic Development NGOs

The financial crisis in Greece has left its mark on many Hellenic non-governmental organisations. In recent months, the national platform of Greek development organisations, the Hellenic Platform for Development, has lost half of its member NGOs, many of which had to shut down due to the lack of finances to maintain their staff and to continue their operations.

Due to the same financial crisis, the Greek national development agency Hellenic Aid is not in a position to honour the financial commitments it has made over the previous years to support the exemplary efforts made by many Greek organisations working in the fields of global poverty eradication, development education and humanitarian relief, in Greece and many countries of the Majority World.

One of the organisations that has been hit hard by the Hellenic crisis is KOPIN's partner European Perspective. Together with European Perspective, KOPIN, the Local Council of Valletta, SKOP (the National Platform of Maltese NGOs), the Migrants' Solidarity Movement, the Cypriot NGO Future Worlds Center and other partners in Greece and Cyprus have implemented a highly successful project entitled MEDEVNET – Mediterranean Development Network. The project was the first of its kind to build the capacities of and to establish networks between civil society organisations and local authorities in the three countries, to more effectively and, equally important, to jointly contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In fact, the project's activities saw the participation of over 60 Maltese individuals representing Maltese development and migration NGOs, local councils, ministries, UNHCR and MEUSAC.

Many members of European Perspective continue working for the organisation despite immense financial and, thus, psychological pressures, and the organisation does its best to continue its operations in Europe and overseas. KOPIN and its members express their solidarity with European Perspective and its members in overcoming these difficult times and wish their Hellenic partners strength to continue their efforts in making this world a more just place.

**READ MORE ABOUT THE IMPACT OF
THE GREEK CRISIS ON DEVELOPMENT
NGOs:**

http://www.trialog.or.at/images/doku/greek_ngos_financialcrisis_feb2011.pdf

Useful links

WEBSITE OF THE RADC PROJECT

<http://www.developmenteducation.org>

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

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals> <http://www.stopovertymalta.org> <http://www.whiteband.org>

SKOP – THE NATIONAL PLATFORM OF MALTESE NGDOs

<http://www.skopmalta.org>

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA

<http://www.um.edu.mt>

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA – EUROPEAN DOCUMENTATION & RESEARCH CENTRE

<http://www.um.edu.mt/edrc/>

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, autonomous, non-profit and non-governmental organisation (NGO) based in Malta working in the field of North-South cooperation and global education. KOPIN aims at poverty eradication and the wholesome development and effective empowerment of the poorest communities. It carries out development education and advocacy work on North-South issues directed mainly at local and EU policies. Although KOPIN is not bound to any other organisation, it has good relations with a number of Maltese and foreign organisations and networks.

In fact, 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 global education, and to build a strong position in advocating for a rights-based approach to social global justice.

KOPIN is the founding organisation of The National Platform of Maltese NGDOs, today called SKOP (www.skopmalta.org), which it was mandated to coordinate from its establishment in June 2001 until May 2007. KOPIN also participates in a number of thematic working groups at local and European level. KOPIN is also a member of the Maltese Forum for Justice and Cooperation (FJC / www.maltaforum.org), and actively collaborates with networks like EUROSTEP (www.eurostep.org), the Terre des Hommes International Federation (www.terredeshommes.org), and in networking and advocacy projects such as TRIALOG (<http://trialog.or.at>) and DEEEP (www.deeep.org).

The organisation has implemented a number of projects in the fields of North-South Collaboration, such as *Global Action Schools* (GAS / www.globalactionschools.org), *Building Unity Through Diversity* (BUTD / www.butd.net), 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”, and a policy research project on Development Issues in Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia. KOPIN's current projects are a "Global Action Schools 2 Communities" (S2C / www.schools2communities.eu), **an awareness raising campaign on Food Security, a project to design eight university modules that provide a wide ranging introduction to International Development Cooperation (“Raising Awareness on Development Cooperation” / www.developmenteducation.org**), and a networking and capacity building project involving Maltese, Greek and Cypriot CSOs and local councils www.medevnet.org.

Following its research and partnership building visit to Ethiopia in late 2008, KOPIN is the first Maltese NGDO to bring a structural approach to the collaboration between Maltese and Ethiopian civil society. KOPIN has also substantially contributed to the MOU between SKOP and the Consortium of Christian Relief and Development Association (CCRDA / www.crdaethiopia.org), Ethiopia's and East Africa's biggest network of NGOs. Moreover, it has itself established partnerships with two Ethiopian NGDOs, namely the Emmanuel Development Association (EDA / www.edaethiopia.org) and the Women and Children Development Organisation (WCDO / www.wcdo.org.et). In 2009, KOPIN organised a visit of the director of CCRDA and the Ethiopia representative of the Catholic NGO MISEREOR to Malta, during which KOPIN's representatives and their Ethiopian partners had meetings with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and with a number of Maltese civil society organisations.

KOPIN also acts as the Maltese focal point for Social Watch International (www.socialwatch.org). It submits a national report for the yearly publication and undertakes advocacy initiatives with the national authorities regarding the relevant policies.

KOPIN is a registered voluntary organisation with the Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations, ID Number VO/0200. KOPIN is also registered in PADOR (Potential Applicant Dated Online Registration), an on-line registration service of the EU Commission for organisations working for the development of developing countries.

For further information, visit www.kopin.org



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