

Development cooperation projects: Latvian experience

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LAPAS  LATVIJAS PLATFORMA
ATTĪSTĪBAS SADARBĪBAI

LAPAS

- National Development NGO platform
- Established in 2004
- 34 members - wide diversity (look for more in the members' data base on web)
- Work directions - global education and campaigning, development cooperation, capacity building and advocacy.



Development cooperation

- Historically - one of the lowest ODA payers in EU
- Low bilateral financing - only around 50 000 EUR annually for NGO projects
- Priority - Eastern Partnership, Central Asia, especially Ukraine

Policy challenges

- Government priority - multistakeholder systemic projects - how to transfer the money where the real need exists?
- Money spent in partner countries or for ourselves?
- Limited access to EU supported projects - low capacity, low turnover and limited partnerships
- Competitiveness with big networks and NGOs
- Is there a real need for the partnership?

Practical challenges

- Development of trustful and sustainable partnerships
- Time devoted for the drafting of applications
- Bureaucracy (e.g. document originals, registration in data bases)
- Who are the “right” persons
- Very big burden of the work on partner (contradictory with “being weak”)
- Cultural and legal differences, challenges
- Communication challenges in the distance work
- Language issue
- Organisational cooperation vs. expert cooperation

Opportunities

- Building partnerships in smaller projects first
- Using NPs as a resource (and their networks)
- Ideas' community
- Cooperation in policy change in both “sides” -
policy coherence for development

Some fresh Latvian examples

- Exchange for rural development
- Empowerment for girls and women
- Training of civil servants on combatting and prevention of corruption, good governance
- Study tours for partnerships
- Education reform

