



8th HEADS OF NETWORK MEETING **Gothenburg, Sweden, 7 – 9 November 2009**

INSIGHT EXCHANGE

Report from the Working Groups

Working Group 1:

COMMON ACTIONS & NETWORK SUPPORT/ CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Call for Proposals

- 1) Full support to thematic focus of the CfP on Diversity and Migrations.
- 2) **1+1 Partnership:** European countries (Balkans included) + Southern Mediterranean countries.
- 3) As it stands, the formula of having one partner from the EU and another partner from the non-EU Mediterranean countries is ambiguous.
- 4) The question concerns the European Countries which are not in the EU, in particular the Balkan states. Where should they stand in this formula? With the EU countries or with the non-EU Mediterranean countries?
- 5) The Secretariat explained that the Balkans will be included with the European EU countries.
- 6) Pointed out that the **Leaders** in this short term project should be already members of the network when applying for this call of application.
- 7) In case a non member applies as a leader of the project, his application will be considered invalid. The Secretariat must clarify that the applicant must be accepted as a Network member before a set date. The date should not go beyond the deadline for applications.
- 8) The **Partners** for this project can be from non-member associations.
- 9) There is a risk that NGOs will not be attracted by this call of proposals as the co-financing is high whilst the paper work is a lot and the budget is low. In other words, when one considers that this call is for small projects, NGOs would have less interest to participate in this call.
- 10) It was suggested that the **ALF contribution** will be raised to 70%. The suggestion was taken onboard by the Foundation, but only for projects submitted by Southern applicants.
- 11) Heads of Network asked that the **3% of total costs related to the preparation of the application** has a longer period of eligibility than the date of CfP launching. The Secretariat explained that this is not possible because otherwise HON which received the

Guidelines in advance would be enjoying of an advantage over Members in the preparation of the applications.

- 12) **Simplification of the administrative documents:** Logical Framework removed from the application form. It is too complicated and seen as unnecessary for small grants. It should be required if the applicant has been selected only.
- 13) It was agreed that there will be simplification of the administrative documents.
- 14) ALF needs to clarify which **contributions in kind** can be budgeted.
- 15) It was explained that co-financing cannot be in kind but only in cash, each expense supported with valid receipts.
- 16) It would be appreciated if the ALF explains what is understood by payment in kind and in cash. It is not clear in the mind of NGOs what constitutes payment in cash.
- 17) Previous consultation of HON on the **Guidelines and Application Forms.**
- 18) It was suggested that there should be more time available for the publication of the guidelines for the call of proposals.
- 19) It was suggested that these guidelines should be published 2 months before the launch of proposals. This was asked so that the network members can have more time to study them.
- 20) However, the Secretariat explained that the actual calendar allowed only a consultation period of two weeks only.

Network Strategic Development Scheme

- 1) HON value very positively the NSDS as it provides:
 - Incentives to work,
 - Stable infrastructures, and
 - Operational guidance (Action Plans and Network Rules)
- 2) Major progress made in Strategic Planning and Internal Reorganisation of the Network through the adoption of a Development and Action Plan and of Network Internal Rules, which have contributed in shaping HON as service – oriented bodies and facilitators.
- 3) Common Operations:
 - Have given cohesion and an input for national and regional action to Networks.
 - Are 34, 2 have been completed and around 10 are developed at the moment.
 - Certain Common Operations have things in common (theme, methodology, etc.) and concerned HON should work together.
- 4) Step 4:
 - HON support the framework of 18 months for Step 4.
 - HON support the focus on: Follow-Up Forum, National Initiatives, 2010 Report dissemination.
 - Resources allocation criteria between big, medium-sized and small Networks in line with Step 3.
 - Bonuses for Human Resources and Common Operations if good performance is proved (Accountability, Consultation & Transparent Decision-Making on Human Resources; Managerial Efficiency on Common Operations)
 - Simplification of procedures (non bureaucratic approach) is requested. Contractual documents should be simpler.
 - Grey zones between Steps 3 and 4 must be avoided.

- Payment calendar should be based on 60% - 30% (Mid Term) – 10% (End of Contract) formula. The Secretariat agreed upon a 50% - 40% - 10% formula.

Working Group 2:

PROGRAMMES (CULTURAL PRODUCTION; EDUCATION & YOUTH, RESTORE TRUST REBUILD BRIDGES; CITIES DIVERSITY & MIGRATION; SPIRITUALITY AND VALUES; MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION)

1) General remarks - How we must work

- *Focus* (cohesion for a better visibility - gaining a better credibility),
Priority (matching resources with activities),
Quality,
Partnership (joining already existing initiatives and providing the ALF- logo; to take an advantage of already existing programmes and agendas, like cultural capitals, collaboration with other Euro-Med institutions and initiatives - to ask for a place of the ALF in the most significant Euro-Med programs)
- *Call for ideas* - directed to all Network Members; the selection of co-organised activities in all thematic fields of the ALF should follow clear procedures. In this way, the principles of transparency and equal participation are respected.
- Marketing of existing resources eg. religious education publications
- Mobilization of members to continue with trainings on capacity-building, project-management and contact-seminars
- Networks need help to implement the programme
- Some Networks are suffering of the economical crises and asking for grants with flexible conditions

2) Topics – what we need to do

Intercultural Dialogue

- Is the added value: every activity of the Foundation should take place in this framework
- More interfaith actions instead of interfaith dialogue
- Projects must facilitate tolerance: the dialogue with secular and religious dimensions in order to understand better the community they are sharing

Youth:

- There is a common interest to work with youth – but not just by concentrating on them (other generations as well)
- How to reach the youth? We need to be flexible to go where the youth are!
- The language to define topics, programmes and projects must be improved in order to be attractive, creative and contemporary

Migration

- Migration as a bridge between cultures: dealing with topics taking into account the youth – dimension
- Attract more migrants – associations to become members in order to gain more sustainability

3) Communication and tools:

- To have the right logo; communication: virtual forum for HON at the ALF-website, the website should take into account what's going on in the networks
- Trainings for HON how to deal with the media
- HON should be informed of direct actions of the Secretariat eg. In selecting participants for activities

4) Media

- Is better a tool than a topic

5) Other questions

- ALF should try to gain other financial resources to be competitive and higher the level of ambitions of the Foundation
- What can the Networks provide to the Foundation in terms of concrete projects and activities?
- Sea of words: different opinions of the initiative – we need to improve the quality, the standards - enlarge this idea in form of a project dealing with video-clips
- Awards – Journalism Mediterranean Award should be spread out and should be used for the visibility of the network
- Necessity to break the European perspective of the major parts of projects and to have more with the perspective of the South
- National and sub-regional priorities could be expressed taking into account the local context.

Working Group 3:

ALF FORUM 2010 (SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS'; PREPARATORY MEETINGS; AGORA; MEDINA; PLAZA)

Intro:

The HON who took part in the working group on the ALF Forum agreed on the organisation of the First ALF Forum to be held in Barcelona in March 2010, which is a unique opportunity for the civil society at large to meet, share and exchange. This Forum should be an opportunity to strengthen the Networks.

A thematic approach and not national approach should be followed across the three areas (Agora, Medina, Plaza).

Registration fees:

Most of the HON agreed with applying a symbolic fee of participation to cover a fraction of what the participants will consume at the Forum, according to the following:

1. Fees should vary between members and non-members
2. Fees should be decided according to the level of participation (ex. 30 EUR for Agora only, 40 EUR Agora & Medina, 50 EUR for Agora, Medina & Cultural Plaza)
3. Selected members should be exempted from fees.

The Secretariat considered favourably the proposal of applying fees, but thinks that applying different fees according to the level of participation is not possible as the Forum is structured as a unified event.

Call for Participation:

- The HON agreed that the online call for participants is the best way to select the participants in the Forum. The call for participants and experts should be centralised at the ALF and the selection process should be done in consultation with the HON.
- Participants must be selected taking into account different factors, including the geographical representation (geographical distribution between the North and the South) and the size of the Network (balance between the large and small Networks).
- Reach out for the grass-roots organisations.
- The question of how many participants per Network (%) is urgent and needs to be resolved taking into account the participation in the different parts of Forum (Agora, Medina, Plaza)

Financial coverage:

- The ALF can cover around 220 participants (travel + accommodation). However, members and organisations which are interested to attend the Forum at their own expenses are most welcome.
- HON, Advisory Council and BoG members attending the Forum will be covered from another budget line, especially considering that there will be a gathering of the three institutional bodies at the Forum.

Suggested time-table:

- Launching of Call for Participation: end of November 2009
- Deadline for Call for Participation: end of December 2009 (the Secretariat proposes mid December)
- Selection of participants: 14 January 2010

AGORA

Seminar Topics:

Some HON were in favour of having less but stronger topics; others were more in favour of keeping the wide range of topics. Smaller groups would be better in order to enable more interaction and contact-making between the participants.

Rely on the members' survey for deciding about the seminar topics.

The majority was in favour of concentration and focus in the selection of the topics. The fields should be chosen taking into account the results of the Network Survey.

MEDINA

A suggestion to design parts of the Medina according to thematic areas (following the Agora topics) in order to establish a link with the Agora

A suggestion that the HON coordinate the participation of their members in the intercultural fair.

Pending topics for discussion:

- Content of the intercultural fair
- Number of booths per country
- Duration of booths display
- Number of Info sessions
- Criteria for selection of best practices
- Criteria for selection of project ideas
- Selection of the self-organised sessions

CULTURAL PLAZA

The Forum venue is a good place for exhibitions and film screenings but not for other public artistic events such as concerts, theatre, etc.

Choosing the artistic production at the Plaza should be made by experts from the Networks.

A suggestion to invite famous artists who are willing to join with symbolic fees.

A suggestion to involve youngsters in the cultural plaza

A suggestion to make an exhibition of the results of the cultural activities in Israel & Palestine

Assemble the cultural plaza products in one CD for dissemination.

A suggestion to print a brochure about the cultural happenings in Barcelona during the week or month of the Forum.

Pending Topic for discussion:

- Whether there should be a special call for applications for the cultural plaza.

Working Group 4:

ALF REPORT ON INTERCULTURAL TRENDS

Content and terminology

- Ensure a clear presentation of the methodology adopted by Gallup for the administration of the opinion poll questionnaire
- Combination of quantitative and qualitative analysis
- Need to present in the Report the rich reality of human exchanges across the Mediterranean as a result of increased mobility, mixed marriages, student exchange programmes, etc.
- To reflect on the use of some terminology such as *good practices* that could be replaced by “*pertinent*” or “*appropriate*” practices which make the Report something more than an academic work

Communication about the Report

Considering the Report as a tool at the disposal of the Networks, need for a marketing plan and coordination between the ALF Secretariat and Heads of Network to:

- Identify the most appropriate common message to make the Report appealing for the different target audiences across the region - identify clear topics and communication approaches tailored to each society of the region (identify also the controversial aspects of the content to engage media)
- Organize seminars in each country involving at least one of the expert contributing to the Report to invite a discussion and comments on the Report
- Possibility to address in a different way different target groups : academics, journalists, policy makers/governments, NGOs, general public.
- Benefit from already planned events to present the Report (such as Forum 2000 in Prague) and ensure high visibility
- Benefit from the EU delegations/representations present in all the countries of the region and EU personalities such as the next EU President, High Representative for External Relations
- Identify some key institutions in each country to promote the Report (UNESCO, ELIAMEP...)

Format

- Full Report of 250 pages in English, French and Arabic,
- Complementary products for wide distribution should be conceived such as USB key with full Report, annexes and related information.
- Produce a power point and a smaller version of the Report

Next steps

- Reflection on the thematic focus of the 2011 Report
- Reflection on the identification of the 13 countries to be surveyed in 2010
- Present not only the results but also what we will use it for recommendation

END