**EU financing for Trade Unions: future approach**

*Background*

In 2014, the European Commission (EC) launched two calls for proposals:

1) on Development Education and Awareness Raising in the EU (DEAR program) and

2) on Informal Economy in developing countries.

Following the expression of interest of TUDCN organizations, the secretariat organized two brainstorming seminars[[1]](#footnote-1) in order to jointly strategize on how best approaching these opportunities.

The outcomes of the seminars concretized in two project proposals (concept notes), which have been finally submitted to the EU.

*State of Art*

Although both proposals have been rejected by the EC, the evaluation grids clearly show different perceptions of appreciation, based on contents but also on the role itself of trade unions in the fields concerned by the call for proposals.

DEAR results:

The Concept Note received a lower score than those selected to go through to the next step of the procedure. This means that it was technically adequate but others were better.

Positive points: Overall Relevance; action coherence; problem analysis

Weakest points:

- Relevance to the particular needs and constraints of the target countries: 2.5/5

- Definition and choice of final beneficiaries and target groups: 3/5

- Feasibility of the action in relation to the objectives and expected results: 3/5

Informal Economy results:

* Relevance of the action: 6/10
* Relevance to the particular needs and constraints of the target countries: 3/10
* Definition on target groups and beneficiaries and relevance of the proposals to their needs: 1.5/5
* Specific added value elements (environment; gender; disabilities; minorities): 2/5
* Action Coherence and problem analysis: 4/10
* Action feasibility and consistency with the objectives/results : 4/10

*Future Opportunities and challenges*

*Opportunities*

Under the Civil Society Organizations and Local Authorities EC Program, 2 calls for proposals will be launched in 2015:

* Development Education and awareness Raising (DEAR)
* Support to Regional Networks in the South

See Priority 2 and 3 in the document linked below:

[Multi Annual Programme CSO-LA 2014-2020](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/images/2/2b/CSO_LA_MIP_CSO_LA_2014_2020_EN.pdf" \o "CSO LA MIP CSO LA 2014 2020 EN.pdf) [New.jpg](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/index.php/File:New.jpg)

Under the Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) EC Program, the calls for proposals will be launched in 2016. The GPGC is composed by various strategic areas:

1. Environment & Climate change
2. Sustainable energy
3. Human development (Health, Education, Gender Equality, Child Well-being, Employment/Decent work/Social inclusion/Social protection, Growth/Jobs/Private Sector)
4. Food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture
5. Migration & Asylum

See strategic area 3 in the document linked below, p. 60 and ‘Flagships’ at the end:

[Multi Annual Programme GPGC 2014-2017](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/images/2/20/C_2014_5072_F1_ANNEX_EN_V2_P1_774176.pdf) [New.jpg](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/index.php/File:New.jpg)

*Challenges*

→ Traditional development NGOs are still strongly seen by the EC as the point of reference in the field of awareness raising and development education. We have to consolidate our visibility and strengthen our political influence towards the EC. How to go about it?

→ The Regional Development Networks will have the opportunity to apply for EC funds. The EC this time is introducing a new award procedure based on a call for proposal first selection, followed by a framework agreement. The EC aims at selecting 5 programme max. How to get organized to support regional organizations?

→ Social Dialogue and the role of social partners are not sufficiently reflected in the current Multi Annual Programme. We still have a chance to provide inputs during the drafting process of the Annual Action Plan-AAP 2015, involving the European Parliament under its right of scrutiny. How can we best coordinate on this?

1. Florence seminar on development Education <http://www.ituc-csi.org/report> September 2013; and Lome seminar on Informal Economy, February 2014. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)