

Deliverable Number 4:

Minutes of Core Group Meeting 1

Project Funding



RTD Partners



University of Brighton



Univerzita Karlova v Praze
Charles University in Prague

CSO Partners



EBBF

European Bahá'í Business Forum

BASED • UK

Bahá'í Agency for Social and Economic Development

ARC

ALLIANCE OF RELIGIONS AND CONSERVATION
launched in 1995 by HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh KG KT



Earth
Charter
Initiative



People's Theater
mitdenken, mitbewegen!

MINUTES

CONSORTIUM GENERAL MEETING (CGM) 1
Present: Alliance of Religions for Conservation (ARC) – John Smith; Earth Charter Initiative (ECI) – Alicia Jimenez; People’s Theater – Curtis Volk; European Bahá’í Business Forum (EBBF) - Daniel Truran, Xuan Feng, Gianpere de Martinis; Arthur Dahl; Charles University (CUEC) – Tomas Hak, Martin Zahradnik and Svatava Janouskova; and University of Brighton (UoB) - Marie Harder, Georgia Piggot, Julie Carter, and Dimity Podger
Apologies: BASED-UK – Ismael Valesco
Date: 6-7 April 2009
Where: Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic
Meeting Start: 1.30pm, 6 April 2009
Meeting Close: 5pm, 7 April 2009

1. Welcome (Professor Moldon)

2. ESDInds Overview (Professor Marie Harder)

The ESDInds project was inspired by the observation that where CSO projects tapped into, or overlapped with, the local values of the people involved with the project, the projects seemed to perform better than when this was not the case. The research focus emerged to look at projects of CSOs with a values-lens and to determine whether you could ‘measure’ the values in some way and identify important features that could be incorporated into future projects. The research is also to determine whether indicators and evaluation approaches could be developed that could be useful to a wider range of CSOs. Refer to Appendix A in the document titled *ESDInds: Appendices to CGM1* for the discussion.



3. CSO Presentations and Discussion of Expectations

Each of the CSOs gave a short presentation of their organisation and responded to questions. The presentations provided information contained in the CSO document, circulated prior to CGM1, as well as additional points. A summary of the presentations and question and answers is included at Appendix B in the document titled *ESDInds: Appendices to CGM1*.

4. Discussion of the Research Approach to Learn about Values in Projects

Following the presentations the CGM considered different approaches to learning about values in CSO projects. Four areas emerged from the discussion. The notes to each point are included at Appendix C in the document titled *ESDInds: Appendices to CGM1*. The following are main points raised:

- Between now and November, the research approach is to begin with a broad-scale look at CSO projects to understand what has happened in a project, what was special, and did things happen in a particular way? The research will try to understand values evident in the projects (according to different parties) and local values influencing project implementation. It will try and understand how values expressed themselves in projects.
- The research may identify clusters of values, with varying expressions and associated family of indicators. A challenge for the research might be to learn whether taxonomy of values to reflect all of the CSOs and target groups can be developed.
- Concern was raised that long term projects which extend beyond ESDInds' timelines should be accommodated in the research.
- The research design should acknowledge that the researchers bring their own values to the project.



5. Values and values based indicators (Dr Arthur Lyon Dahl)

Dr Arthur Lyon Dahl provided a conceptual presentation on values and values-based indicators (refer to his presentation for more information). A summary of the points made and comments from CGM participants are included at Appendix D in the document titled *ESDInds: Appendices to CGM1*. Briefly the presentation and discussion looked at:

- Values-based indicators: What do values look like in practice and how can they be captured through indicators?
- Values: It was suggested that values may be understood as behaviours that benefit society. Values may also be understood as a spectrum of expressions across a myriad of dimensions. For example, individuals, groups, and organisations may operate from base impulses or from something more cooperative. It is important conceptually to be clear that values, behaviour, attitudes, and so on, are different things and have different dimensions. Further, the research needs to have a socially justifiable basis on selecting the values for which it identifies indicators.

6. Sustainability and Education for Sustainable Development (Dimitry Podger)

A brief presentation was given to provide an overview of the concepts of sustainability and Education for Sustainable Development (refer to the presentation for the detail). ECI suggested collaboration with the global monitoring project for the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development as well as national level organisations.

7. Indicator Unit, Environment Center, Charles University, Prague (Professor Tomas Hak)

Professor Hak provided an overview of the Indicator Unit at Charles University. Please refer to Appendix E in the document titled *ESDInds: Appendices to CGM1* for a summary of the presentation and the power point presentation. Professor Hak emphasised the importance in the research to precisely determine the difference between values, norms, attitudes, knowledge, skills, and behaviour as they are different things, and be clear on the variables for the research.



8. Evaluation and Indicator Presentation (Martin Zahradnik)

The presentation covered different evaluation designs and the ideal forms of evaluation design (refer to the document circulated on Indicators and Evaluation). Additional points made are included at Appendix F.

9. Discussion of Project Values, Impacts and Research Approach with CSOs Partners

The afternoon session on Day 2 included a facilitated discussion about the values and impacts of CSO projects to contribute further to the development of the research approach. CSOs also identified specific areas of interest in the research. This discussion was followed by a brainstorm with each participant in the CGM 1 of values they would look for in a successful project. The notes from the discussion are included at Appendix G.

10. Clarification of Concepts and Terms

The meaning of different concepts and how they relate to the research goals needs to be clarified as part of the research. A broad understanding of sustainable development and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) was accepted by the group. Clarity is needed how these terms provide guidance or parameters to the research and understanding of a socially justifiable set of values. It is understood that CSO projects, whether they are identified by CSOs as being faith-based, spiritual, or secular, are relevant to ESDInds. Value is another term that the review will address.

11. Summary of CGM 1 Decisions and Agreements

- 11.1 It was agreed that CSO Partners may bring additional people to the CGM meeting. It was agreed that additional people would primarily play an observation role, except where the CSO Partner felt they had an important contribution to make to the consultation. It was agreed that the CSO Partners would ensure people they bring are completely up to date prior to participating in a CGM. It was clarified that each CSO had one vote.



- 11.2 The RTDs confirmed that it would complete a significant review of indicators of all types for circulation to the CSOs.
- 11.3 The RTDs agreed that at each CGM they should meet for a half day following each CGM to confirm the plans for the next phase of the research.
- 11.4 UoB advised that the website for the project is still under development.
- 11.5 CSOs were supportive of RTDs looking at a wide range of projects at the grass roots level and interviewing project participants. CSOs agreed to facilitate the relationship and contacts with the projects for the RTDs and the RTDs will work sensitively with project schedules. EBBF and ARC have gatherings which the RTDs can use to interview a large number of people about projects. ARC's main meeting is from 2-4 November. EBBF has a special meeting on values 5-7 June (www.ebbf.org/living_values.html) and an annual conference 24-27 September (www.ebbf.org/annual_conference.html). ECI and PT have specific activities and research opportunities that are time sensitive. PT has a period of training for its new intake of youth volunteers commencing 9th -10th August. The current intake will leave in July. For ECI there are Community Summits taking place in different parts of the world (for example they take place in October in the USA).
- 11.6 CSOs agreed to begin collecting informal and anecdotal information about projects, in terms of what is working or not working and share that information with the RTDs.
- 11.7 CSOs are agreed for the RTDs to look at 2-3 projects proposed by EBBF before November on a pilot basis to learn and provide feedback at the CGM 2. This will be done in parallel with overview of EBBF projects as per the other CSOs.
- 11.8 RTDs agreed to circulate a progress report to CSOs between now and November.
- 11.9 It was agreed that the latest version of ESDInds documents should be placed on the website (such as the progress report, newsletters, and minutes).
- 11.10 It was agreed that newsletters can be circulated broadly and that CSOs will provide a distribution list to UoB for this purpose.
- 11.11 Agreement of financial arrangements: It was confirmed that 25% of the budget is allocated to the CSOs when the consortium agreement is signed. The total allocation is 70%. The CSOs agreed to give UoB flexibility in paying Dahl 70% in packages of money left to its discretion.
- 11.12 It was agreed that Dahl will liaise with BASED-UK to determine involvement and ensure responsibilities of BASED-UK are fulfilled.



11.13 It was understood that a goal of ESDInds is to create a framework of indicators and tools that can be useful to a wide range of CSOs and value sets. It was understood that if there are specific tools that are of interest to the CSOs, the CSOs can work with the RTDs to develop a bid proposal.

12. Role of ARC/ECI to monitor balance of faith and secular view points

The Description of Work (DOW), WP1, requires that at each CGM there is a standing agenda item where the two umbrella CSO partners, ARC and ECI, are asked to report to the CGM whether they note any bias towards particular faiths, or secular view points, ensuring that the outcomes of the project are applicable to a diversity of CSOs. Both ARC and ECI representatives agreed to report on this item.

REPORT: ARC: No detection of bias regarding particular faiths; ECI: In the group be conscious of not reinforcing stereotypes with respect to particular faiths.

13. Monitoring gender equity in relation to operational matters

The DOW requires a standing agenda item at each CGM which reconsiders all ESDInds operational matters discussed in light of gender issues. BASED-UK is stated as the responsible party in the DOW to note that the Core Group has considered gender issues where relevant, and note any issues. Professor Harder observed that it may emerge that some values may be influenced by gender and some indicators may work better with one gender than another and that some reflection be given to whether there was a relationship. It was suggested that that this also be considered. As BASED-UK was not represented at the meeting the whole group responded.

REPORT: Contribution has been above gender.



14. Date for Next CGM

- The next CGM will be held from **5-6 November**, 2009 in Brighton at the University of Brighton, UK.
- CSOs were asked whether they wanted an additional day prior to the CGM 2 to review the results of the research. CSOs to confirm with UoB.
- The CSOs and RTDs should look at the DOW for deliverables for CGM 2.

*Minutes from ESDInds CGM1, 6-7th April 2009
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