

## ROMANIA, REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, BULGARIA

### PROCOPII CONCERTED PROGRAMME – PHASE II

LENGTH OF PROGRAMME: 3 YEARS + 10 MONTHS' PREPARATION

Start: September 2005. This programme is the continuation of an earlier MPCP in Romania (the Concerted Programme for Romanian Children)

Its aim is to:

- reinforce the organisation of Romanian, Bulgarian, Moldavian and French civil societies by setting up a regional network to protect children in Eastern Europe.
- formalise, disseminate and capitalise on positive treatment practices
- contribute to improving and applying public policies in the field of child protection in Romania, the Republic of Moldova and Bulgaria.

## MOROCCO

### MOROCCO CONCERTED PROGRAMME – PHASE II (PCM2)

LENGTH OF PROGRAMME: 4 YEARS - START: JUNE 2006

The aim of the PCM2 is to contribute to the greater involvement of young people in Moroccan society by means of a concerted strategy between French and Moroccan associations and their respective public authorities.

The field of application of this strategy focuses on 4 priority themes: education, the social and cooperative economy, training and employability of young people, citizenship and access to rights.

## CAMEROON

### CAMEROON MULTI-PARTNER CONCERTED PROGRAMME

PILOT PHASE (OCTOBER 2004 TO DECEMBER 2005)

PROGRAMME PHASE (JANUARY 2006 TO DECEMBER 2009)

The aim of the programme is to contribute to the democratisation of social, economic and political life in Cameroon by improving public policies and cooperation strategies, particularly debt reduction and development, through the instigation of dialogue between CSO representatives and the French and Cameroon public authorities.

## REPUBLIC OF CONGO - BRAZZAVILLE

### CONGO MULTI-PARTNER CONCERTED PROGRAMME – PHASE I

LENGTH OF PROGRAMME: 4 YEARS - START: JANUARY 2008

The CMPCP is based on the Citizen Dialogue Programme Convention (programme to provide support for relations between CSOs who are members of the CFSI (French international solidarity committee) and their partner CSOs in the South).

Its aim is to:

- encourage and help CSOs to widen their social base, by broadening and restimulating their community life and trade unions and/or strengthening their link with the populations and grass-roots organisations with whom they work.
- enable CSOs who are already on the way to "professionalisation" to continue and increase their actions by implementing poverty alleviation projects.

## ALGERIA

### MULTI-PARTNER CONCERTED PROGRAMME ALGERIA - JOUSSOUR

LENGTH OF PROGRAMME: 4 YEARS START: MAY 2008,

The programme is aimed at strengthening Algerian associations which work in the field of children and young people. The JOUSSOUR programme provides support for the development of projects for children and young people in Algeria and facilitates the exchange of Algerian and French experience. It provides financial backing for associations and joint reinforcement actions (training, running of thematic work groups, organisation of exchange meetings, capitalisation on experience, etc.)

## GUINEA

PROJEG: Concerted programme to reinforce the capacities of Guinean civil society and youth organisations

DURÉE DU PROGRAMME : 4 ANS - DÉMARRAGE : MARS 2008

The aims of PROJEG:

PROJEG aims at structuring Guinean civil society (professionalisation, networking, etc.) by strengthening the capacities of civil society organisations, supporting young people (and their visibility) and speaking in their defence (on four main themes: fight against corruption, debt reduction, mining resources and property management).

# CONTACTS

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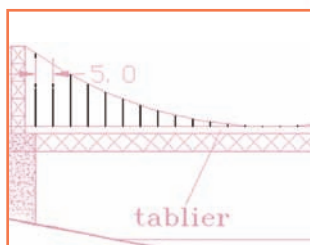
AIDE et ACTION : www.aide-et-action.org  
CCFD : www.ccfid.asso.fr  
CFSI : www.cfsi.asso.fr  
Coordination SUD : www.coordinationsud.org  
F3E : www.f3e.asso.fr  
MAEE français : www.diplomatie.gouv.fr  
Solidarité Laique : www.solidarite-laique.asso.fr





ALGERIA  
BULGARIA  
CAMEROON  
Republic of  
CONGO  
FRANCE  
GUINEA  
MOROCCO  
Republic of  
MOLDOVA  
ROMANIA

Shaping a new dialogue  
between civil societies and public authorities



**MULTI-PARTNER  
CONCERTED  
PROGRAMMES**

# BACKGROUND

International reflection on the efficacy of foreign aid\* has led to the conclusion that the most vulnerable populations have benefited very little from public development aid. It has also raised awareness of an essential issue: **in both the North and South, dialogue between a State and its civil society is an indispensable step in implementing effective poverty alleviation policies and fighting against inequality.**

\*Millennium Summit, Monterrey Conference, Paris Declaration.

## THE MPCP RESPONSE

The French Multi-Partner Concerted Programme (programmes concertés pluri-acteurs - PCPA) is an innovative cooperation programme developed and implemented in a context of ongoing dialogue among civil society organisations (CSOs), and between CSOs and the public authorities. According to the context, MPCPs provide the opportunity for interested parties to test an alternative type of relationship among CSOs or between CSOs and the public authorities. The main aim is to encourage the participation of civil societies in drawing up, implementing and monitoring public development policies. But dialogue does not happen automatically. It must be created and nurtured which means that MPCPs must lay the ground work. As a result, they recommend that CSOs in the South or East should strengthen their capacities in order to:

- organise themselves and unite, even momentarily, to jointly develop a coherent project based on specific themes (health/aids, child abuse, water, etc.),
- capitalise on their strengths in terms of practices and knowledge of the field and have them recognised by the local authorities,
- understand the complexity of political decision-making channels and the underlying national and international issues,
- create a new type of relationship with their Northern partners (CSOs and public authorities) and international financial backers,
- be recognised by the public authorities as a force for change without losing their activist identity,
- have direct access to international funding and be responsible for managing them.

## RESULTS

### In the nine countries concerned\*

- collective dynamics have enabled hundreds of organisations in the North, South and East **to exchange ideas and experience and progress together** with respect to complex local, national and international development themes and issues.
- signs of greater open-mindedness and even voluntarism have paved the way for **constructive dialogue between the public authorities and civil societies** in relation to the main current development issues in the South (youth policies, natural resource management, health/aids, corruption, water, governance, etc.) and East (child abuse).
- **several hundreds of projects** to support local CSOs have been implemented and/or jointly financed by the programmes,
- relations are changing between North and South, but not only between CSOs: a gradual change is also being observed between States.

\* see programme details overleaf (Algeria, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Republic of Congo, France, Guinea, Morocco, Rep of Moldova and Romania).

# MPCP - 8 key

## Interdependence

Based on the assumption that a public policy not only concerns the country in which it is implemented but affects other nations as well (development, environment, natural resources, migration, etc.), **MPCPs lend legitimacy to interpellation of the Northern States by civil societies in the South.**

Instead of the public policies in the South being dependent on decisions taken in the North, a new type of joint management or interdependence is being developed between North and South.

A collective approach does not mean deciding in the North and acting in the South! On the contrary, the civil societies in the South are now being invited, in conjunction with their counterparts in the North, to work together on the development of public policies implemented in the North.

## Changing relations between North and South

The temptation to believe that, despite theoretical assertions to the contrary, the North will continue to be the main provider of know-how and practices, has been largely reduced by MPCPs.

First, it can be clearly seen that CSOs in the South invent their own practices without copying their counterparts in the North and, second, that these new practices are a highly appreciated source of inspiration for French NGOs.

With their new-found confidence and the new balance in relations between North and South, Southern CSOs are now able to form and express a critical opinion of action taken by their French counterparts.

They have the courage to approach fundamental problems more directly. There is an **exchange of best practices** rather than a transfer of know-how or an unspoken attempt by the North to shape the future of the South.

## A new perspective on North/North relations

Although action is mainly focussed on the South, relations between French CSOs and the State authorities are nonetheless changing face.

First, the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs initiated an in-depth discussion with French CSOs on the best approach to be adopted. After negotiation, it was decided that the Ministry would only have the right to one seat on the programme steering committee (out of 12 to 15 seats depending on the programme). Its financial commitment (a maximum of 75%) is triennial.

For their part, French CSOs from different horizons and sometimes diverging cultures are able to work together to meet the demands of the Southern States. Their relations with the French Foreign and European Affairs Ministry are evolving and a constructive dialogue has now been set up. The CSOs have a better understanding of how the State operates and its decision-making channels. **French CSOs are joining forces and making "common cause" with the State in order to take international action.** And this concerted action contributes directly to the country's development.

## Shaping a new dialogue

The general aim of the programme is to promote an effective ongoing dialogue between CSOs and the Southern States. The first stage of dialogue takes place between CSOs and representatives of the public authorities (middle-level administrative staff or local authority representatives) considered to be "facilitators" between the State and civil society. **The role given to the middle-level administrative staff goes against the preconceived idea of a State being a "uniform body"** and reinforces the position of the public authority representatives as technical advisors to political decision-makers. It should be noted that the moment at which the dialogue takes place is not imposed by financial backers in the North: the pace set by the South or East is respected.

# / points

## Interaction between “programmes” and “projects”

The main guidelines, i.e. the programme, which provide the framework for MPCPs are aimed at strengthening the organisational and institutional capacities of CSOs in the South in order to meet the prerequisites for effective dialogue with the public authorities in view of developing, implementing and monitoring public development policies.

However, the means used to reach this goal are based on the **joint planning and joint implementation of a series of development projects** between Northern and Southern CSOs. There is no longer any opposition between a programme focus and a project focus.

## New-found confidence of CSOs in the South and East

The principle of **“joint project planning”** (often involving joint management) implicit in MPCPs enables CSOs in the South to “learn” formative development project management and monitoring as they go along. By assuming this **new responsibility**, they can analyse their own weaknesses, grasp the complexities of the problems and issues in the North and, above all, identify and capitalise on their own strengths.

This growing awareness of their strong points on the part of Southern CSOs implicitly generates the new-found confidence which underlies the entire logic of MPCPs, in addition to strengthening their technical capacities.

## Programme flexibility

Although the overall aim is clearly identified by the various partners, and the actions required to achieve that goal are also predefined (programme and projects), the internal solutions devised to achieve the best results (the process) are open to discussion and are **constantly evolving**.

## Ongoing evaluation and capitalisation

The MPCP partners believe that ongoing evaluation provides the opportunity to optimise their programmes. MACPs are obviously not the only programmes that practise ongoing monitoring, but the method used to ensure that the people in the South fully understand the issues involved is particularly innovative.

By defining the reference framework and choosing their evaluator with their Northern partners, the Southern partners no longer feel that they are being controlled by the financial backer, but are being offered an essential work tool.

Additionally, the capitalisation process carried out internally by the partners themselves is aimed at reviewing the situation at a given time, discussing and formalising practices and becoming aware of the lessons to be learnt.

By **incorporating ongoing evaluation and fostering its internalisation by their Southern partners**, MPCPs reinforce the organisational capacities of their partners from the South.

By capitalising on their experience, the various partners can formalise and define their common heritage in terms of know-how.

