



## Civil Society Dialogue Network

Training Seminar on Peacebuilding Advocacy towards the EU, 29-30 June 2017

### EVALUATION FEEDBACK FORM

#### 1) Content of the training seminar:

##### Session 1 – Thursday morning: Basic facts about the EU

excellent	good	average	poor	very poor
10	11			
<p><b>What worked well:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good/effective presentations: <b>x4</b></li> <li>• Useful/fruitful presentations: <b>x3</b></li> <li>• Good use of time</li> <li>• Deep, detailed, focused</li> <li>• Good to have different people presenting different institutions: <b>x4</b> (it brings dynamism <b>(1)</b>; good to share experience <b>(1)</b>)</li> <li>• Good facilitation for participants with different levels of EU knowledge</li> <li>• Active participants</li> <li>• Good background documents: <b>x2</b> (especially the power analysis <b>(1)</b>)</li> </ul> <p><b>Suggestions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It would be good to receive copies of the Power Points to get back to the info later</li> <li>• More time for the “speed dating” with resource people <b>x3</b></li> <li>• Provide more anecdotes</li> <li>• It would be nice to have a very basic introduction “treating us as 5 year olds”</li> </ul> <p><b>Criticisms:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organigrammes too tiny, difficult to read</li> </ul>				

##### Session 2 – Thursday morning: How the EU operates in conflict-affected countries (Andrew Sheriff)

excellent	good	average	poor	very poor
12	8	1		

**What worked well:**

- Great/useful: **x4** (to understand how to engage with delegations (1); to have an overview (1) )
- Good part about EU-CSO relations
- Thorough presentation
- Really good Q&A
- Interesting **x2** (for case studies/examples (2); for description of practice (1))
- Good addition to/worked well with the morning session: **x3**

**Suggestions:**

- Focus more on the perception of the different institutions
- Talk about how local conflict expertise affect the work of the EU
- Support the presentation with images, graphics and pictures

**Criticisms:**

- Too detailed
- Heavy, difficult to stay focused

**Session 3 – Thursday afternoon: Influencing the EU institutions: Case studies of past advocacy strategies**

excellent	good	average	poor	very poor
12	9			

**What worked well:**

- Good/excellent/interesting: **x8** (especially Crisis Action’s (3), especially EPLO’s (1))
- Eye-opening
- Useful to understand decisions to make during advocacy strategies
- Good Q&A

**Suggestions:**

- Talk more about success-stories and not-so-success stories
- Use power point presentations so that you can go back to get information
- Talk about advocacy towards military/arm industry as well

**Criticisms:**

- Shame to have missed the third case study

**Session 4 – Friday morning: Discussion with EU officials**

excellent	good	average	poor	very poor
14	7			

**What worked well:**

- Encouraging
- Helpful **x7** (to deconstruct perceptions about the EU **(1)**; to understand how they see the role of civil society **(1)**; especially European Commission official **(1)**; to understand the EU actors' working environment **(1)**; to understand how to maximise our impact with the EU in very practical terms **(1)**)
- Interesting to learn about the perception of civil society capabilities
- Very practical answers
- Honest and humble panellists
- Good timing
- Great opportunity
- Eye-opening (especially on the tips for entry points)

**Suggestions:**

- Encourage participants to think of questions in advance
- Do this on day 1, so that day 2 is dedicated exclusively to the work group
- Put it after session 1 and 2

**Session 5 – Friday afternoon: Group exercise**

excellent	good	average	poor	very poor
15	4		1	

**Did not respond: 1****What worked well:**

- Very empowering/enriching **x2**
- Great/good opportunity **x8** (to apply real life situations into advocacy towards the EU **(1)**; to apply information and knowledge shared earlier **(3)**; to interact more with each other / build team work **(4)**; to understand how other organisations work on advocacy
- Enabled more engagement with peers
- Hands-on work
- Good challenges
- Very educative/informative **x2**
- Good facilitation **x2** (Thanks Colin **(1)**)

**Suggestions:**

- Use less time
- Provide more information before the session, for instance with concept papers / more reading **x2**
- Provide some introduction to basic policy and advocacy work
- Use a more structured process led by the facilitator

**Criticisms:**

- Not the best format to present the strategies
- Frustrating due to the different backgrounds in the group

**2) How would you rate the quality of the background documents that were distributed in advance of the training seminar?**

Excellent	good	average	poor	very poor
14	6			

**Did not respond: 1**

- Comprehensive **x2**
- Relevant
- Sent early enough
- Informative **x2**
- Useful (also after the training)
- In-depth
- Right amount
- Brilliant

**Suggestions:**

- Provide something about the different instruments
- Provide something about the planning/implementation cycle
- Avoid printing them (email is enough)
- Provide the list of participants in advance

**3) How would you rate the overall facilitation of the training seminar and the quality of the presentations?**

excellent	good	Between good and average	poor	very poor
14	6	1		

**Comments:**

- Experienced
- Knowledgeable
- Clear roles
- Good timing for the pauses
- Excellent logistics
- Amazing
- Nice hotel

#### 4) Usefulness of the seminar:

Did you find the seminar useful?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Yes (to build capacity (1); to provide answers (2); to understand the EU (3); to provide clarity and orientation (1); very relevant to my work (1); to meet people based in different locations (2); good balance between information and practical tools)</li></ul>
How much did you learn at the seminar? Please give examples.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The structure of the EU <b>x7</b> (the difference between the EEAS and DEVCO (1))</li><li>• Functioning of the EU <b>x5</b></li><li>• Advocacy approaches and institutions to target <b>x9</b> (importance to lobby at a personal level (1); possibility to target the Parliament (1))</li><li>• EU policies on peacebuilding <b>x2</b></li><li>• The complexity of the EU</li><li>• How to relate to each other</li><li>• Importance of lobbying at a personal level</li><li>• EU jargon</li><li>• Importance of timing <b>x2</b></li><li>• Learned what changed since the adoption of the Lisbon Treaty</li><li>• EU's orientation</li><li>• EPLO's function</li></ul>
Will you apply what you learned in your work? Please give examples.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Most certainly <b>x2</b> (in terms of entry points, delegation-level work (1))</li><li>• Yes <b>x15</b> (in future advocacy strategies (7); in forging partnerships (2); in engaging with the EU institutions/delegations (5); in looking for funding opportunities (1); in promoting a report/research (2); in showing what my organisation can offer instead of begging for funding (1); in my research (1); engaging with non-EU actors (1); in mapping stakeholders to engage with (1))</li><li>• Probably not (<b>x1</b>), as my organisations engage with capitals, but will recommend to my organisation to become more active towards the EU</li></ul>

**5) Please give your suggestions for improving the training seminar or further comments:**

**Suggestions:**

- Provide more case studies and practical examples
- Print double-sided handouts to save trees
- Make it last longer **x3** (increase to three days **(1)**)
- Give opportunities to participants to present examples of their work
- Provide an overview of the EU instruments and policies relevant to peacebuilding
- Invite more guest speakers from the EU
- Create a “question board” with specific questions coming up throughout the sessions
- Make a quick session on policy and advocacy tools and tips
- Make participants share their interest in attending (maybe adding it to the bios)
- More analysis on existing policies (strengths and weaknesses) – each EPLO person provide a 20 minutes overview of a specific thematic and we choose who to listen to
- Provide all maps in A3 format, so that they are easier to read.