



## Civil Society Dialogue Network Training Seminar

Advocacy towards the EU on Funding for Peacebuilding, 9-10 March 2017

### EVALUATION FEEDBACK FORM

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

##### Session 1 – Thursday morning: Welcome and objectives of the training seminar

excellent	good	average	poor	very poor
9	7			
<p><b>Did not respond: 1</b></p> <p><b>What worked well:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective</li> <li>• Useful</li> <li>• Clear <b>x3</b> (in setting the tone, aims and objectives of the training <b>(1)</b>; in giving an overview of the training and plan <b>(1)</b>)</li> <li>• Helped participants in thinking objectives through</li> <li>• Ensured objectives are attained throughout the training</li> </ul> <p><b>What worked less well:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would have been good to have more background reading</li> <li>• Would have been useful to receive PowerPoint presentations ahead of time in order to study</li> </ul>				

##### Session 2 – Thursday morning: EU institutions and funding programmes

excellent	good	average	poor	very poor
9	6	1		
<p><b>Did not respond: 1</b></p> <p><b>What worked well:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good/excellent overview <b>x3</b> (on trust funds <b>(1)</b>)</li> <li>• Very clear <b>x3</b></li> <li>• Concise</li> <li>• Useful <b>x2</b></li> <li>• Very informative</li> <li>• Good foundation for following sessions</li> <li>• Right introduction to kick start</li> </ul>				

- Table conversation and opportunity to engage with speakers in small groups were enjoyable
- Helped in getting a clearer picture of EU institutions organigrammes
- Helped in getting a clearer picture of EU funding programmes

**What worked less well:**

- A lot of information to digest
- Easier to follow with more visual supplementations **x2** (*Nicolas did not have a presentation*)
- Would have been nice to hear more about the differences of the instruments (Longer-term funds, work funded by DEVCO), which is interesting when thinking about how to get funding from another instrument other than IcSP
- Would have been good to show large acronyms next to the PowerPoint presentations
- Too general

**Session 3 – Thursday afternoon: EU funding cycle**

excellent	good	average	poor	very poor
8	6	2		

**Did not respond:** 1

**What worked well:**

- Well tied to the previous sessions
- Good to know when + how to influence and when not to
- Good to know what can and can't be done in terms of advocacy at each stage
- Valuable Q&A with resource people
- Appreciated Nicolas' intervention
- Session always to be kept in seminars

**What worked less well:**

- Would have been better to show an organigramme of decision-making cycles
- Lunch did not help to stay focused
- Would have liked to hear more on the process of submitting an application (time it takes to get the funding decision)
- Q&A could be extended
- Too general

**Session 4 – Thursday afternoon: Case studies of past advocacy strategies**

excellent	good	average	poor	very poor
4	11	2		

**What worked well:**

- Interesting **x2** (to hear about a campaign followed closely **(1)**; to know more on other NGO experiences **(1)**)
- Very useful
- Very good insights
- Very relevant
- Good example of how a well-designed strategy does not necessarily lead to the expected results
- Good to have a mix between an advocacy strategy on policy for a very specific issue and a much broader strategy for funding for peacebuilding
- Great idea to have a partner come and share their experiences
- Ben’s presentation was very practical
- The case-study on Yemen was a good learning opportunity to see how you can achieve a specific goal by advocating to the relevant stakeholders
- Kloé’s intervention was particularly good for understanding how advocacy works
- Gave the possibility to better understand an issue
- The case-study on the MFF was useful and practical

**What worked less well:**

- Need of more of this sharing experience between and during the seminar
- Possibly illustrate on an organigramme how one case links to the other and how it compares to “official” decision making
- Too fast **x2**
- Less relevant than the rest of the seminar
- Less focused than the rest of the seminar
- Would have been good to have more structure laying out the “how”
- The case-study on Yemen was not relevant (*for the participant’s work*)
- Would have been good to have more lobby examples

**Session 5 – Friday morning: Welcome and reflections on Day 1**

excellent	good	average	poor	very poor
8	8	1		

**What worked well:**

- Very informative
- Enriching
- Fun
- Energising
- Clear
- Concise
- Great that some of the questions left on the previous day were immediately answered and participants were presented with relevant resources
- Great way to grab attention
- Good to have a Q&A Session on what was learned the day before **x2**
- Chocolate is always good

## Session 6 – Friday morning: Discussion with EU officials

excellent	good	average	poor	very poor
9	7			
<p><b>Did not respond: 1</b></p> <p><b>What worked well:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent/good opportunity <b>x3</b> (to get the insider's point of view on the issues <b>(1)</b>; to network <b>(2)</b>)</li> <li>• Good mix / diverse group / different officials <b>x5</b></li> <li>• EU officials spoke frankly</li> <li>• EU officials gave practical tips</li> <li>• Increased the understanding of the challenges they face</li> <li>• Appreciated openness of the EU officials</li> <li>• Really useful insights into EU relationships and priorities</li> <li>• It served as a reality check</li> <li>• Good to hear what is good and bad advocacy from an EU official's perspective</li> </ul> <p><b>What worked less well:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Too much into details on themes that are not well-known for everyone</li> <li>• Possibly include a Member State representative</li> <li>• Smaller break-out groups like in Sessions 2 would have been appreciated</li> <li>• Some of the discussions maybe took too much time from other discussions</li> <li>• It would have been good to have a longer session</li> <li>• It would have been good to have a less formal Q&amp;A</li> <li>• Sometimes disturbing that EU officials do not know more about their own organisation/institution</li> <li>• Need more time to debate</li> </ul>				

## Session 7 – Friday afternoon: Group exercise

excellent	good	average	poor	very poor
8	8			
<p><b>Did not respond: 1</b></p> <p><b>What worked well:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very enriching/great opportunity to brainstorm <b>x3</b> (with people from different organisations and backgrounds <b>(1)</b>)</li> <li>• Necessary</li> <li>• Well thought</li> <li>• Useful <b>x2</b></li> <li>• Great to put what learned into practice <b>x5</b></li> <li>• Made you realise what you have learned</li> <li>• Excellent exercise <b>x2</b></li> <li>• Well-led discussion</li> <li>• Showed a good example/way of how to advocate</li> <li>• Good engagement</li> <li>• Stimulates ideas and dialogue</li> <li>• Good to have an expert facilitating</li> </ul>				

**What worked less well:**

- An extra session for feedback/reworking the different strategies would have been useful
- More information on the scenario would have been useful
- Potentially giving 3 slightly different scenarios for the 3 groups
- More interaction between the groups after the presentation would have been good
- Would have been good to agree on the methodology ahead of time

**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
6	11			

**Comments:**

- Useful **x5**
- Relevant **x2**
- Gave an idea of what to expect
- Helpful

**Problems:**

- Too dense

**Recommendations:**

- Would have liked more **x2**
- Would have liked further readings
- Would add the PowerPoints to the initial pack **x2** (to write notes directly on them and to have them on hand for the practical exercise **(1)**)
- Add updated power analysis
- Would have been good to ask organisations to bring more examples

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

Excellent	good	average	poor	very poor
10	6	1		

**Comments:**

- Clear presentations
- In time with the schedule
- One of the best seminars ever attended
- Diverse group of people
- The good setting ensured the discussion flowed
- It was good to draw together takeaways and learnings with the facilitators
- Sonya and Ben were amazing, cheerful and always sticking to the agenda
- Sonya was excellent
- Entire EPLO team was professional and competent

**Problems:**

- Presentations sometimes difficult to understand

**Recommendations:**

- More detailed PowerPoints would help understand
- Speak loudly and slower

**4) Usefulness of the seminar:**

Did you find the seminar useful?

- Yes **x17** (very **(6)**)
- Useful to be used as an introduction to a constant learning by doing
- Gave good takeaways

How much did you learn at the seminar? Please give examples.

- Useful teamwork.
- Great mix of learning styles.
- Better understanding of EU funding instruments **x7** (where peacebuilding sits in the instruments **(1)**; more clarity about specific funding instruments **(1)**)
- Better understanding of how to advocate towards EU institutions **x7** (learned advocacy tips **(1)**)
- Learned who to engage in advocacy at the EU level **x6**
- Learned where NGOs are effective at the EU level.
- Better understanding of how to put together an advocacy strategy and to target relevant stakeholders **x2**
- Learned to integrate and put together the aspects learned during the seminar.
- Learned the importance of an office in Brussels to advocate towards the EU institutions and/or an office in-country to advocate towards the delegations.
- Better understanding of the EU **x6**
- Better understanding of the role of collective action in funding advocacy **x3** (understanding of its leverage **(1)**)
- Learned practical examples of advocacy activities **x2** (valued a lot the practical strategy design exercise **(1)**).
- Useful to have a complete and strategic way of thinking about advocacy.
- Learned what to watch out for

- Learned what other organisations are out there
- Learned the importance of providing recommendations
- Learned the existence of trust funds

Will you apply what you learned in your work? Please give examples.

- Will use it in future advocacy strategies **x4**
- Will engage my organisation in collaborative/cross-sector funding approaches
- Will push my organisation to engage on collective action
- Will use it in my organisation's current campaigning work
- Will use it when coordinating meetings with field analysts
- This seminar will serve as useful background knowledge and may be useful in the future when applying/looking for EU funding **x3** (when devising strategies to apply for EU funds **(1)**)
- Will use for future work within CSOs or EU institutions
- Will do more travels to Brussels
- Will engage with a broader range of EU actors and provide them with reports and information from the field
- Will apply in external engagement
- Will use the EU advocacy table/template **x2**
- Will partner with some of the organisations present at the seminar
- Will use to engage with the EU both at HQ and delegation level
- Will share the documents and the key findings internally in my organisation **x2**
- Will help my organisation better understand the funding prospects
- Have already devised a strategy to influence a specific fund to include peacebuilding and civil society
- Will use it while writing an article on EU support to peacebuilding
- Will use it when working in coalitions with other peacebuilding organisations

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

- Should provide the PowerPoint on the day
- The exercise was helpful but could have gone deeper
- It would be good to have more experience sharing between participants
- Participants should do their reading (homework) before they come
- Would be good to have representatives from partner countries
- More panels with different actors
- Would be good to have everyone's contact details shared via mail **x2**
- Would be good to share EPLO's past advocacy templates
- Would be good to have small break-out groups with EU officials like it happened with resource people
- More time with EU officials
- More focused practical sessions
- More attention to people's comfort level / experience of advocacy before going into activity
- Think about doing a webinar
- Think about involving journalist/media
- Would have been good to link humanitarian and peacebuilding for building coalitions