

Meeting minutes

June 2, 2003, Thessaloniki

Present at meeting:

Alexander Deliyannis, Greek National Center for the Environment and Sustainable Development

Michalis Tremopoulos, Environmental Movement of Thessaloniki

Nina Blagoeva, BlueLink Information Network, Bulgaria

Gabor Heves, The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe

General introduction to BlueLink Information Network, Bulgaria

(A concise overview is available at www.bluelink.net)

General introduction to the Greek environmental movement

- About 100 environmental NGOs, about 20 of them the most active
- Relatively segregated NGO sector: most NGOs focus on a specific topic and work locally.
- NGOs in the humanitarian field have a web news portal: www.anthropos.gr (contact person: Ava Babili, babili@anthropos.gr)

Fundraising

- There is a rather large dependence on EU LIFE funds. These are typically large projects, and once the project is over the NGO staff may drop drastically.
- The Ministry of Environment disburses funds to NGOs, for proposals of about 30-40,000 EUR. The next call is expected this June.
- Mostly international companies give out grants to NGOs, local ones not so much.
- As an obligation from the OECD membership, 0.2% of the GDP is allocated to assistance for developing (non-OECD) countries. These so called "DAC" funds are disbursed primarily as part of bilateral cooperation. Neighbouring Balkan countries represent a priority focus in this. The next call is expected some time in 2003.

About the National Institute for Environmentally Sustainable Development (NCSD)

(A concise overview about the NCSD is available as a PDF file and on the website:

<http://www.ekpaa.gr/index2eng.htm>)

- Active since 2001, NCSD is like a Greek EEA, but in addition to environmental research they also have the mandate to propose actions and policies.
- By 2004 they will have a staff of about 30 people and a large consultant pool.
- They support NGOs with expertise and assistance with fundraising.
- They are very active in providing public access to environmental information, primarily in the framework of implementing the Aarhus convention
- NCSD prepares the national state of the environment reports

Project ideas

1. Issue-oriented meetings for NGOs working on similar issues, also with NGOs from other countries.
2. Training workshop for small organisations
3. Training and planning workshop on electronic networking

Media coverage

Interviews were conducted with Nina Blagoeva, Gabor Heves, Alexander Deliyannis. The interviews covered the topic of electronic networking as well as some environmental issues. The recordings will appear in a programme called “Conference of people” – an evening programme of ET3 (the 3rd national TV channel). This programme focuses to issues related to the Greek EU Presidency.

Next steps

At the next Ministry of Environment call or DAC call we may consider submitting a joint proposal. Any ideas and suggestions are welcome!