

Requisition and Final report - Project 14224

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Project title: Support for Civil Society and Equality in Baltic

Contract number: 1

Requisition number: 3

Requisition amount: 65.287,80

Notes

The 1st payment of NCM in the amount of DKK 174,100.80, or 40%, was received on 20/01/2015 in the bank account of WRI; the 2nd payment of NCM in the amount of DKK 195,863.40, or 45%, was received on 12/08/2015 in the bank account of WRI.

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Project process

Is the project going according to pl Yes

Equality

% Men 20
% Women 80

Company accounts

Currency DKK

Type of statusreport line	Description	Budget	Actual
Revenue	Funds from NCM (NMR n	0,00	369.964,20
Revenue	Granted funds NCM not y	0,00	65.287,80
Revenue	Own contributions	0,00	63.428,00
Revenue	Sum Income	0,00	498.680,00
Expense	Audit (revision)	0,00	5.223,88
Expense	Consultant fee (konsulent	0,00	41.975,97
Expense	Main activities	0,00	71.566,86
Expense	Meeting and conference €	0,00	24.877,25
Expense	Other administration	0,00	77.444,23
Expense	Result dissemination (Re:	0,00	50.798,80
Expense	Travel costs (Rejseomkos	0,00	185.069,58
Expense	Wages, social security etc	0,00	41.723,43
Expense	Sum Expenses	0,00	498.680,00

Method of Information Dissemination

Contact to press (pressekontak
Event (Arrangement)
Marketing (markedsføring)
Other (andet)
Printed (trykt)
Web

Progress of project

Activity 1: implemented in the time period from 5 November 2014 to 30 April 2016. Place: Riga. Project management.

With the project during the time period from 5 November 2014 to 30 April 2016, Women's Rights Institute of Latvia, in partnership with 8 organisations from 7 countries of the Baltic Sea Region – Russia (Women's Union of the Kaliningrad Region), Estonia (Eesti People to People), Poland (Stowarzyszenie "Vesuvio"), Sweden (Svefi – Sverigefinska folkhögskolan), Finland (ALLIANCE – Russian-speaking Youth Organisation of Helsinki, and National Church Council Diaconia and Pastoral Counselling), Norway (Humana People to People – Bergen) and Lithuania (Lithuanian Multiple Sclerosis Union) – supported promotion of democracy, gender equality and influence of civic society through cooperation between NGOs. The project was implemented and administered with the help of 11 managers of the partner organisations and a significant number of volunteers.

6 activities were implemented to reach the set goal: the partners organized 5 preparation meetings of seminars and workshops, 7 seminars, 9 workshops, and a conference – fair with participation of 888 leaders and volunteers of NGOs, including 90 experts of NGOs. The website of the project at www.eapn.lv/baltic_project/ was maintained for the duration of the project, and 800 copies of the brochure of proposals on further cooperation among North-West Russia and Baltic and Northern countries concerning strengthening civic society and fostering equality was produced and distributed. 5 websites, social networks, presentations, and hand-out materials for publicity were used, 800 copies of the project booklet and 800 copies of the brochure of the conference – fair were produced and disseminated. 70 mobilities of participants were organized.

Activity 2: implemented in the time period from 1 January 2015 to 31 March 2015. Place: Svetlogorsk, Kaliningrad region. Achieved goals: increased knowledge and experience of 15 experts of NGOs and 19 volunteers of the Women's Union of the Kaliningrad Region on the position and role of NGOs in the Baltic Sea Region in relation to cooperation with the Nordic countries and participation in regional and international bodies, civil society, labour market and working environment policy, economic issues, cultural cooperation with the Nordic countries, legislative issues, educational and research issues, sustainable development, gender equality, and other issues during a workshop.

Activity 3: implemented in the time period from 1 January 2015 to 31 March 2016. Place: Riga, Kaliningrad, Tallinn, Vilnius, Rzeszow, Haparanda, Bergen and Helsinki. Achieved goals: increased knowledge of 205 leaders of NGOs on the opportunities of cooperation among North-west Russia and Baltic

Progress of project

and Northern countries concerning the establishment of civic society and fostering of equality during 7 seminars and 3 preparation meetings. 26 experts were involved.

Activity 4: implemented in the time period from 1 July 2015 to 31 March 2016. Place: Riga, Kaliningrad, Tallinn, Vilnius, Rzeszow, Haparanda and Helsinki. Achieved goals: increased knowledge and experience, summarized recommendations and suggestions of 251 leaders and volunteers of NGOs on the opportunities of cooperation among North-west Russia and Baltic and Northern countries concerning the establishment of civic society and fostering of equality during 7 workshops and 1 preparation meeting; the brochure with proposals for further cooperation towards the development of civil society and equality in the Baltic Sea Region produced and distributed. 21 experts were involved.

Activity 5: implemented in the time period from 1 January 2016 to 30 April 2016. Place: Kaliningrad. Achieved goals: increased knowledge and experience of 23 leaders of NGOs, cooperation opportunities among Latvian NGOs and North-west Russian (the Kaliningrad Region) organisations planned concerning the establishment of civic society and fostering of gender equality during a workshop. 2 experts were involved.

Activity 6: implemented in the time period from 1 March 2016 to 30 April 2016. Place: Riga. Achieved goals: increased knowledge and experience of at least 300 leaders and volunteers of NGOs, promoted cooperation between NGOs in joint project opportunities concerning the establishment of civic society and fostering of equality during the conference – fair and a preparation meeting; the brochure of the conference – fair of NGOs produced and distributed. 26 experts were involved.

Activity 7: implemented in the time period from 1 January 2015 to 30 April 2016. Place: Riga. Achieved goals: over 240 000 internet users in Latvia, Russia, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Norway, Finland, and Sweden had access to the information on the goals, partnerships, activities, and results of the project via the created project website.

Comments to Gender Equality

Partners of the project have united with the purpose to foster equality of all genders in civic society. At the moment the following number of women took part in the project activities: in Latvia – 90%, in Russia (Kaliningrad) – 90%, in Estonia – 80%, in Lithuania – 75%, in Poland – 60%, in Sweden – 75%, in Finland – 75%, in Norway – 100%.

Women played a very significant part in the operation of the project partner NGOs by giving the opportunity to organize public discussions on gender equality in politics, economy, and in social aspects. The project partners reflect the situation in the non-governmental sector of the partner countries where 80% of NGO leaders and managers are women. New opportunities for women foster the civic society in the Baltic Sea Region; therefore, it is important that the knowledge and skills of NGO leaders is improved, especially those of men, because an opportunity would thus arise to cooperate in order to establish and maintain quality gender equality policies. In the Baltic Sea Region (especially in Russia, the Baltics and Poland) there is a society-wide reaction at the moment against women in political and social processes; decision makers at the level of state governments and parliaments deny the necessity of gender equality policies, there are formal for-show attempts at international cooperation projects at the horizontal level of politics – promotion of gender equality. The project of WRI, where different partners have equally taken part from Russia, the Baltics, Poland and the Nordic countries, gave an actual opportunity to analyze and cooperate in order to achieve fostering of true gender equality.

Nordic benefit

The project partners were able to develop and implement the project thanks to the Nordic Council of Ministers' Programme for NGOs in the Baltic Sea Region designed to support the cooperation of Nordic countries with Russia and the Baltics. The results of the project correspond to the NCM Neighbourhood Policy, which envisages strengthening of civic society and equality in the Baltic Sea Region with the help of the resources of non-governmental organisations. In the programme of 2014 the project partners continue to foster democracy and seek for opportunities to promote cooperation of the Baltic and Nordic countries with the Kaliningrad Region in North-west Russia; by doing so they hope to continue the policies established in the first NCM support programmes for the Baltic Sea Region since 1995. Therefore, the project adds to the experience of such highly developed countries as Sweden, Finland, and Norway in the area of promoting civic society in such a problematic area as North-west Russia. Experience exchange between NGOs from the Kaliningrad Region on matters of education, social issues, economy, human rights, the development of civic society and gender equality, ethnicity, age, freedom of speech, sexual orientation, and other equality matters and NGOs of such European Union countries like Poland, Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia is crucial because by taking over and analyzing the experiences of the organisations of their neighbour countries, the NGOs of the Kaliningrad Region get the opportunity to improve their engagement in policy making, decision-making processes, and public events.

The project activities correspond to the subjects covered by NCM policy areas: Labour Market and Working Environment Policy, Gender Equality, Economic Issues, Nordic Cultural Cooperation, Legislative Issues, Educational and Research Issues, and Sustainable Development. The partners have highly valued the benefits of the policies obvious in Nordic countries and will try to build on this experience and invest in the following areas in their countries: democratic processes, promotion of gender equality, fortification of human rights, social and cultural support programs for residents, inclusive employment, especially regarding immigrants, investments in education and environmental protection, investment in the training of qualified experts of different areas in other countries, and allocating funding to poorer countries. To learn and take over this experience is of crucial importance to the civic society of the countries neighboring with the Nordic countries where the non-governmental sector is still developing. In addition to countries willing to take over knowledge, know-how, and experience from Nordic countries, the Nordic countries have an opportunity to improve their knowledge on the situation in Russia, the Baltics, and Poland. As a result of mutual cooperation of partner organisations, the project has succeed in increasing the knowledge of leaders and volunteers in the non-governmental sector on the opportunities of civic society cooperation and producing recommendations and proposals for the future development of civic society and equality.

Furthermore,

Nordic benefit

the project contributed to the implementation of the Northern Dimension Policy Framework for cooperation of Nordic countries – Norway, Finland and Sweden – with such regions and countries as Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, and Poland regarding such cooperation areas as freedom, security and justice, research, education, culture, and social welfare. Position of NGOs and active involvement in stakeholder dialogue with legislators provided with increase of own capacity and sustainability as well as preparation of innovative proposals promotes the development and stability of the aforementioned regions.

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Comments to statusreport

Own contribution in the amount of DKK 63,428.00 for the time period of 05/11/2014 to 30/04/2016 was provided by the partners' – Latvia, Russia, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden, Finland, and Norway – budget positions 1.1., 1.2., 1.3., 2.3., 4.1., 5.1. and 7.1.

Total project expenses, DKK – 498,680.00

Expenses, DKK:

- 5,223.88 – contract of audit – budget position 5.1.
- 41,975.97 – fees of experts and discussion leaders – budget position 1.2.
- 71,566.86 – seminars and workshops (premises/equipment, catering, stationery/copying), brochure of proposals preparation – budget positions 6.1.1.–6.1.4., 6.2.1.–6.2.4., 6.3.1.–6.3.4. and 3.1.
- 24,877.25 – conference (premises/equipment, catering, stationery/copying, cultural events, souvenirs) – budget positions 6.1.5., 6.2.5., 6.3.5. and 7.1.
- 77,444.23 – project administration (office costs, transport) and evaluation (stationery/copying) – budget positions 1.3. and 4.1.
- 50,798.80 – result dissemination/publicity events (project website, 4 partner websites, information in the media and on social networks, informative hand-out materials, presentations, videos and photos, project booklet, conference/fair booklet) – budget positions 7.1.–7.3.
- 185,069.58 – travel costs (flights, trains, public buses, private cars, visas) and hotel accommodation – budget positions 2.1., 2.2. and 2.3.
- 41,723.43 – wages and taxes, and social security payments for the project managers and the project accountant – budget position 1.1.

Planned NCM grant, DKK – 435,252.00

Transferred funding for project activities in partner countries

Comments to statusreport

(excluding co-financing), DKK – 435.252.00:

Latvia –	273,117.21
Russia (Kaliningrad) –	41,692.17
Sweden –	30,482.39
Lithuania –	21,515.67
Finland –	21,319.63
Estonia –	20,079.93
Poland –	18,343.28
Norway –	8,701.72

Balance of the grant on 01/05/2016: DKK 0.00

WRI used an exchange rate of 100 DKK x 0.134 = EUR 13.40. From other currencies to EUR, WRI used the Bank of Latvia exchange rate on the relevant date.

Information Dissemination

During the implementation of the project, 6 results were achieved that were used, distributed, and have influenced target groups and other beneficiaries in the Baltic Sea Region during the project, and that will last at least a year after the completion of the project. The following methods of information dissemination were used: 1) maintenance of 5 websites: in Latvia (general), Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, and Sweden; 2) a significant number of news items on social networks (Facebook, Twitter, etc.); 3) at least 18 presentations and 2 videos (distributed in Latvia, Russia, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden, Norway, and Finland) produced for participants of the seminars and workshops, and of the conference; 4) a significant number of informative materials distributed in the non-governmental sector in Latvia, Russia, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden, Norway, and Finland; 5) 800 copies of the brochure with the proposals for further cooperation towards the development of civil society and equality in the Baltic Sea Region distributed to the participants of the conference – fair; 6) 800 copies of the brochure of the conference – fair distributed to the project partners.

Other Circumstances

During the implementation of the project, the partner NGOs successfully solved several issues that had arisen:

- 1) the Lithuanian partner, NGO Institute for Social Innovations, Initiatives and Inclusion, retracted its partnership in the project as of 5 November 2014; instead a contract was signed with a different partner from Lithuania – Lithuanian Multiple Sclerosis Union; the Finnish partner, Alliance – Russian-Speaking Youth Organisation of Helsinki, retracted its partnership in the project as of 16 October 2015; instead a contract was signed with a different partner from Finland – National Church Council Diaconia and Pastoral Counselling;
- 2) when implementing activities, it was not always possible for all partners to stick to the planned schedule: several activities or participation of experts in activities of other partners took place later; however, all the partners were perfectly on the overall implementation schedule of the project;
- 3) participation of partners in events was planned in accordance with the law of the Russian Federation, taking into account that paid Russian visas would have to be formed; however, the rational actions of the Russian partner when sending out invitations permitted the project partners to obtain free-of-charge visas; when going to Sweden and Latvia, the Russian partners did not have to pay for their visas either;
- 4) the leading partner of the project in Latvia was witness to information that confirmed that the Russian, Finnish and Norwegian partners lack experience and skills necessary to organize activities; therefore, 4 additional project preparation meetings took place in Kaliningrad, Helsinki and Bergen.

During the implementation of the project, the partner NGOs could not solve some of the issues that had arisen:

- 1) due to the law of the Russian Federation, the Russian project partner from Kaliningrad was afraid to set up a project website and to popularize cooperation with other countries of the Baltic Sea Region as these activities would be funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers;
- 2) due to lack of experience, the Russian partner did not fulfill all the opportunities of project publicity presented during the project: for example, the Russian partner did not take photographs or did not film videos, did not produce informative hand-out materials during the second workshop and seminar that took place in Kaliningrad and consequently did not submit those for publication at the main website of the project;
- 3) project websites in Norway and Finland were not

Other Circumstances

established.

During the implementation of the project, the partner NGOs very successfully and with great responsibility have implemented the following activities:

- 1) communication of the partners in Russian and English and a professional and friendly working environment;
- 2) production of quality programmes in the form of meetings, seminars, workshops, and a conference (content, target group, experts, presentations) in all partner countries;
- 3) drafting and submitting proposals from the partners to the leading partner for producing a brochure of proposals on further cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region;
- 4) submitting materials for the main website of the project as well as the project booklets (logos, programmes, presentations, press articles, photographs, videos, etc.);
- 5) establishing the Baltic project section at the websites of partners in Poland, Sweden, Estonia and Lithuania;
- 6) timely preparation and submission of accurate financial documentation to the leading partner.