



SEMINAR PLAN

*Manual of Good Practices for development in the most disadvantaged countries of the Euro-Mediterranean sphere
Education, Gender Equality and Rule of Law*

Madrid, 26 November 2009

Introduction:

The Euro-Arab Network for Development and Integration (READI, Red Euro-Árabe para el Desarrollo y la Integración), created in 2001 by the FPSC, comprises 40 NGOs from the north and south of the Mediterranean region whose activity focuses on human and social development.

The general objective of the READI is to *“promote the integration of NGOs in Mediterranean countries by creating an inter-institutional network to promote new forms of co-participation among civil society organisations, Governments and the business sector which generate effective and efficient actions for all-round human development”*.

At the outset, the READI opted to provide itself with an innovative work framework for a fruitful dialogue between the societies of the southern and northern Mediterranean countries. Thus, it aims to reinforce the links between Spanish and European NGOs and their southern counterparts, as well as to strengthen the integration of its members, in order to help achieve its objectives efficiently. To this end, the READI wants to promote participation and dialogue and devise specific actions in order to reduce, thanks to the collective efforts of society as a whole, the inequalities between North and South, and thereby ensure a fair and lasting development for all.

With this forthcoming seminar, the READI wants to take another step forward in its gradual consolidation as a *permanent and integrationist space for dialogue*, open to successive incorporations into the established and integrationist framework of the necessary participation of the different social agents. Therefore, the seminar seeks to

promote and consolidate this space in the European sphere by inviting NGOs from Eastern Europe to collaborate. Traditionally, NGOs from this least advantaged geographical area of Europe have been somewhat disconnected from the development challenges of the Southern Mediterranean, which is why the seminar hopes to raise their profile and increase their involvement in the proposed solutions.

This event is regarded as extremely important, not only as means to ensure that the development process is effective and sustainable, but also to forge a solid commitment between the European world and the Arab world that will help to solve the main problems affecting the most disadvantaged countries in the Euro-Mediterranean sphere, by offering solutions and alternatives that contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, especially in the field of education for all and its relationship with access to employment, gender equality and its relationship with the establishment of the rule of law and the extension of human rights to all, taking into consideration the context of conflicts which, unfortunately, have been wreaking havoc in the countries of the Middle East and North Africa for several generations.

At the end of this seminar, the READI will present an action programme adapted to the reality of each society. This programme will give rise to the publication of the first chapters of a *Manual of Good Practices for development in the most disadvantaged countries of the Euro-Mediterranean sphere*, which will subsequently be distributed to all the organisations that work in the Euro-Mediterranean sphere, for which purpose the READI will request the advice and collaboration of the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies of the Foundation for the Social Promotion of Culture (CEMOFPSC, Centro de Estudios de Oriente Medio de la Fundación Promoción Social de la Cultura).

The speeches and the conclusions resulting from this seminar will be published via digital and written media, the purpose of this dissemination being to spread awareness and knowledge of the specific problems facing the societies of these countries, so that the shared experience can benefit cooperation for development. It will provide another opportunity to make Spanish society aware of its necessary contribution to peace-building.

The READI also aims to promote and consolidate these ties in the European sphere by requesting the collaboration of its member NGOs and the NGOs of Eastern Europe, in order to present a common view of the solutions to the development problems that exist in their respective countries.

Specific objectives:

1. Discuss the possible solutions for a framework of North-South cooperation whose purpose is to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.
2. Discuss current problems and possible solutions relating to quality education and vocational training that provides access to employment.
3. Promote the participation of women in political processes, especially in Rule of Law institutions, in order to promote equal opportunities for men and women and respect for human rights.

The specific problems posed by war situations and conflicts in the abovementioned issues will be analysed as a cross-cutting issue.

Expected results:

Promote a greater participation of European and Arab NGOs and research centres in the design and implementation of development policies related to the Millennium Goals. Specifically, we will focus on: education, the fight against unemployment, gender equality, and the dissemination of human rights.

Promote, through greater information in the communication media, cooperation for development and lasting peace in Mediterranean countries.

Define the READI's role in relation to achieving the Millennium Goals and cooperation for development with the most disadvantaged countries of the Mediterranean sphere.

The results, conclusions and investigations that arise from these conferences and their subsequent repercussions will be included in various publications and disseminated on the Internet; specifically, the *Manual of Good Practices for development in the most disadvantaged countries of the Euro-Mediterranean sphere*. The purpose of these publications is to demonstrate and disseminate the advances and new ideas expounded at this seminar.

Structure and thematic organisation of the conferences:

The seminar will be divided into two sessions. Each session will begin with the speeches given by experts who will outline the general themes and then open the second session with the debate. Each session will have moderators and rapporteurs, all of them experts who will introduce the speakers and rapidly summarise the most representative ideas.

The sessions will be held behind closed doors.

Both sessions have been defined in accordance with the typical work guidelines of a development cooperation organisation. The sessions will deal with the following topics:

Session 1: Education, vocational training and access to employment

The structure of the manual will be determined, and attention will focus on the topics of education and employment. The session will end with a debate.

Session 2: Equal opportunities for men and women, participation in political processes: Rule of Law and human rights.

The topics will include equal opportunities and rights for men and women in politics, economics and personal life, the role of the Rule of Law in this task, and respect for and compliance with Human Rights. The session will end with a debate.

The attached work document will serve as a basis for reflection on these topics.

Date and place:

The seminar will be held in Madrid on 26 November 2009.

Participants in the seminar:

It has been decided that the most suitable number of participants is 50, including: representatives of the political, communication, university and business spheres, development agents, civil society representatives, etc.

The participating countries and organisations will be: Spain, United Kingdom, Italy, France, Israel, Egypt, Palestinian Territories, Lebanon, European Union, Morocco, Mauritania, Tunisia, Algeria, Jordan, Syria, Latvia, Croatia and Estonia.

Visibility:

The leaflets, posters and publication of the minutes will clearly and visibly reflect the identity of the seminar funding bodies.

Languages:

Languages: A simultaneous interpretation service in English, French and Spanish will be provided by the organising body.

Organisation of the panels:

The speeches given by the experts will be 15 minutes long. We kindly ask speakers to send their speeches to the Technical Secretary's Office before 15th November for their subsequent publication.

Speakers are also requested to attach a brief curriculum vitae (approximately half a page).

Travel, accommodation and living expenses in Spain:

The Technical Secretary's Office will book and purchase the necessary tickets for the journey from the attendee's place of origin to Madrid, and will also take care of accommodation and living expenses in Madrid during the course of seminar. The Technical Secretary's Office will contact all attendees shortly.

Contact person:

READI

Félix Sánchez

C/ Huertas, 71- 5º drch

28014 – Madrid (España)

Tel.: 00 34 91 344 01 76

Fax: 00 34 91 344 03 66