

Updating and overview of the project activities

Next period: October 2008 —January 2009

Next events:

National level

Mani Tese Annual Meeting
RivadelGarda, 1-2 November

Participation of the SW Italian
Coalition to Eco&Equo (to be
confirmed)
Ancona, 6-8 December

Launch of the Polish SW Re-
port (to be confirmed)
Warsaw, 10 December

Launch of the Italian and
Czech SW Report: dates have
to be set up



International level:

Global Civil Society Forum
Doha, 27-28 November

Follow-up International
Conference on Financing for
Development to Review the
Implementation of the
Monterrey consensus
Doha, 29 Nov—2 December

Training and capacity building activities

Around end of November a specific second training facilitated by Oxfam Novib's trainers will be organized in each country (Italy, Poland and the Czech Republic).

The training of maximum 2 days, will be focusing on methods and techniques for advocacy and lobbying activities of the Social Watch coalition in its own country. Further details about dates, place and programme can be requested to the focal points of each national coalition.

In each country regular meetings with the national coalition for planning and implementing activities as well as for widening and/or enhancing the SW membership will take place.

Researching and reporting activities

From September national coalitions are working on drafting the **National Social Watch Report** whose publication is foreseen in December, soon after the launch of the International Report 2008 whose launch is expected at the end of November.

Simon Stocker (from Eurostep), Tommaso Rondinella (from Lunaria) and Federica Corsi (from Ucodep) met in Brussels on the 2nd of October for discussing more in details content and structure of **European Social Watch Report**. On the basis of the inputs emerged in July in Warsaw, a more specific proposal for the theme of the first report has been suggested and before proceeding further with proposing it to all the national European coalitions, this proposal will be analysed at the next SW Coordinating Committee for Europe, foreseen in November.

The research for drafting a **Report on 4 case studies** of national coalitions of the SW network started in September and will be carried out along the next months.

Raising awareness and lobbying activities

Both the launch of the International and National report focusing this year on Human Rights will be organized (if possible) around the 10th of December in each country.

As first theme for the realization of the promotional materials that should help the national coalitions to spread out during the project years the issues of the SW in their national countries (focusing on several targets: academics, students, media, institutions) has been proposed by the Italian coalition to work on a fact-sheet referring to the financial crisis and its impact on the social rights. This issue is very relevant for all the three national coalitions. The first draft with a proper design will be realized by FCRE and then shared with the other coalitions that should adapt the content to their national context (with specific data and comments).

For further information...

On the EU project:

Federica Corsi
Project Manager—Ucodep
federica.corsi@ucodep.org

On the Italian Coalition:

Jason Nardi
Italian SW Coordinator
jason.nardi@gmail.com

On the Polish Coalition:

Magda Pochec
Polish SW Coordinator
magda.pochec@karat.org.pl

On the Czech Coalition:

Jiry Silny
Czech SW Coordinator
ekumakad@volny.cz

Promoting Social Development: building capacities of Social Watch national Coalitions

A newsletter for sharing ideas...

If you have an apple and I have an apple and we exchange these apples then you and I will still each have one apple. But if you have an idea and I have an idea and we exchange these ideas, then each of us will have two ideas.
George Bernard Shaw

Project Information

Title: Promoting Social Development: building capacities of Social Watch Coalitions

Duration: March 2008 – February 2011

Beneficiaries: national Coalitions of Italy, Poland and the Czech Republic

Partners of the project:
Ucodep (IT) Lead Agency;
Karat (PL); Ekumenica
Akademie of Prague (CZ);
Mani Tese (IT); Lunaria (IT);
Fondazione Culturale Responsabilità Etica (IT); Oxfam Novib (NL); Eurostep (BE)

Funding Agency:
European Commission



This newsletter would like to be a basic tool for sharing information among the three Social Watch Coalitions involved in the European project. The idea came from a common need to make more concrete the relationship among the three coalitions during the project duration and develop new communication channels which can be effective also beyond the project duration.

To keep this newsletter a lively instrument will be everybody's responsibility. The team who has drafted this first issue wants very much to encourage people belonging to the national coalitions to be proactive in proposing articles and news that could circulate through this newsletter. We expect to issue it three times a year, every 4 months. It means that a regular update will reach all of you around October, February and June every year.

We strongly hope this idea will find your approbation and enhance always more our collaboration in the project and beyond. This is a flexible instrument that could be adapted to our needs and improved according to your suggestions which will be very much welcomed.

It's a chance for us to get more in touch...let's make it true and effective!

If you want to contribute at drafting this newsletter, please come back with your suggestions and ideas by writing at federica.corsi@ucodep.org

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October 2008

SOCIAL WATCH

News from the International Secretariat

On the 22nd of September during the High Level Event on MDGs at the UN General Assembly, Social Watch launched the 2008 Basic Capabilities Index. The results shows that progress is too slow and far away from achieving the MDGs by 2015. For detailed information please refer to the SW website.

SW has taken a stand as well at the 3rd High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Accra, 2nd September), please refer to the intervention made by Roberto Bissio and published on the SW website.

Next important appointment: the Doha conference on Financing for Development. The SW Report 2008 on Human Rights will be launched during that event.

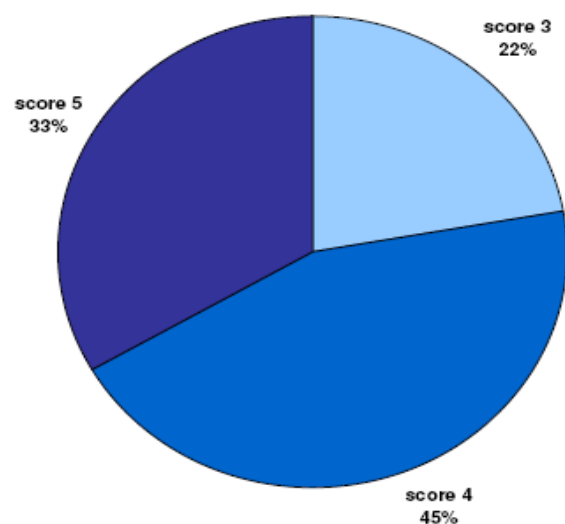
SW International Secretariat

c/o Instituto Tercero Mundo
(ITEM)

Montevideo, Uruguay

If you are interested in knowing more about SW network
www.socialwatch.org

Overall evaluation of the workshop



From the 7th to the 10th of July it took place in Warsaw a training session for the Czech, Italian, and Polish Social Watch coalitions. This first training session was envisaged within the European project as a first moment for the three coalitions in order to share experiences in building national Social Watch coalitions and deepen the research and analysis methodology for processing national Social Watch report.

19 participants attended the training (4 from Italy; 5 from Czech Republic and 10 from Poland). The training has been facilitated by Oxfam Novib, who is partner as well of the project. Plenary sessions alternated with small working groups in order to better focus the discussion and share ideas among all the participants.

Roberto Bissio, coordinator of the international Social Watch network and Jens Martens from the Social Watch European Coordinating Committee, have given lectures during the training.

First training session for national SW coalitions

Warsaw, 7th -10th of July 2008

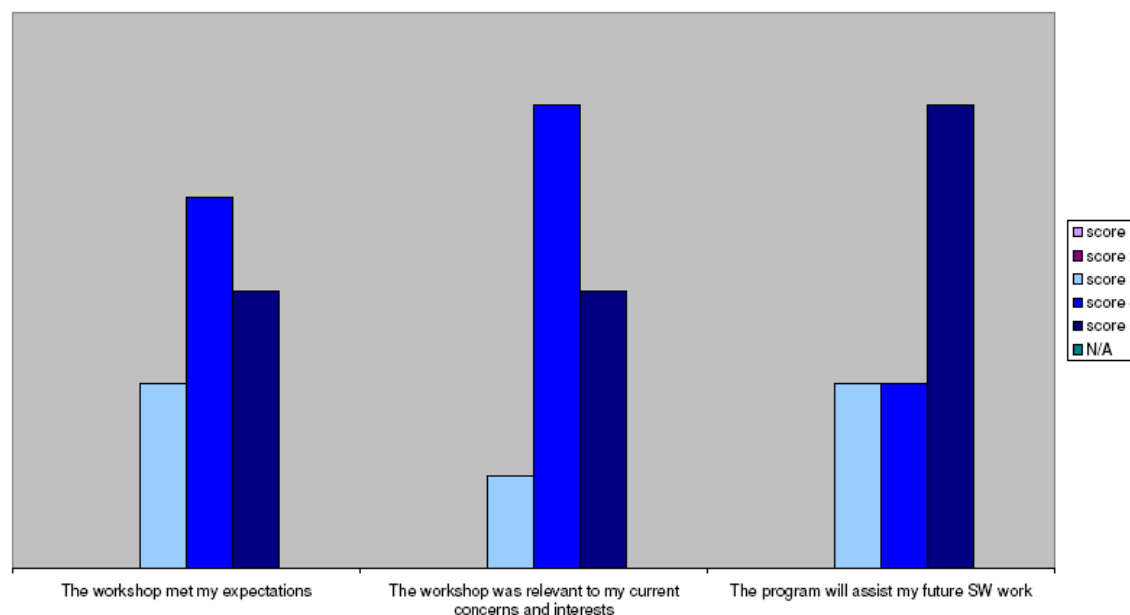
An ex-post evaluation has been carried out in order to assess the satisfaction of the participants about the three days training and collect comments and suggestions for improving the organization of a second training session foreseen for each coalition in November 2008.

The evaluation sheets have been duly filled in by 9 out of 19 participants and on the basis of their evaluation, the training seems to have got a good level of satisfaction among the participants.

Here below the main results of that evaluation with the most recurrent recommendation for the next training session.

Score 1 lowest; 5 highest

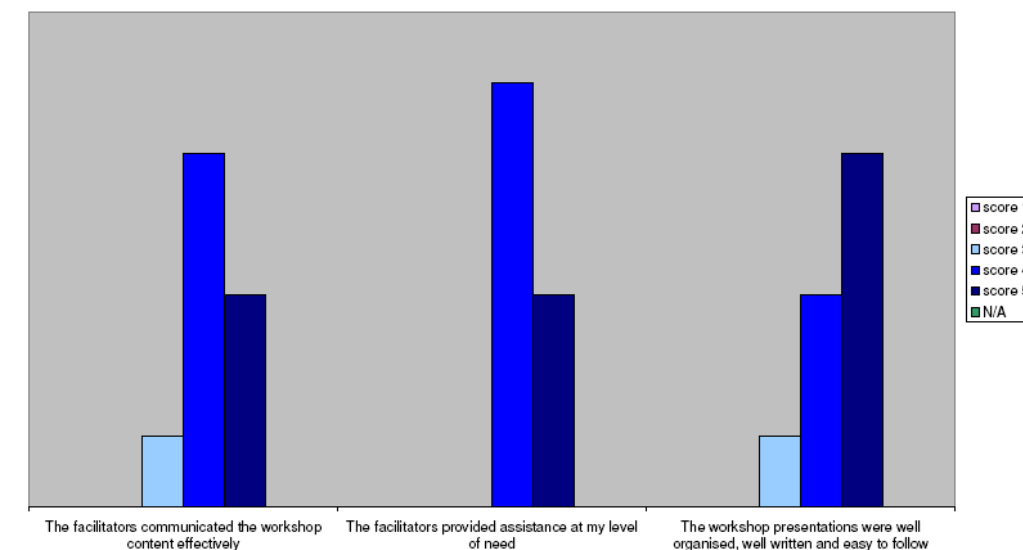
Relevance



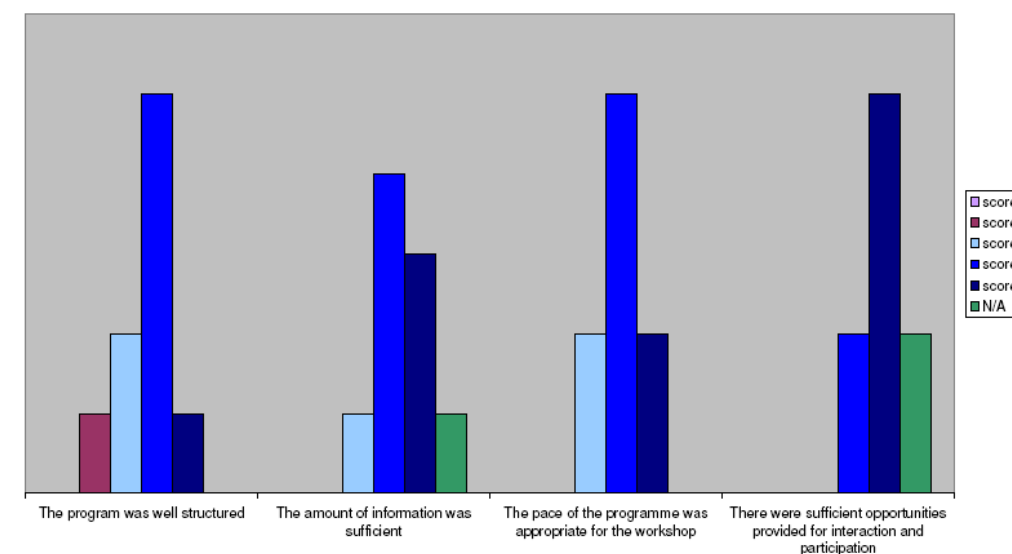
Main recommendations for next training session:

- be shorter (max 2 days)
- ex-ante training assessment needs among the participants
- more focused on specific issues

Facilitators



Programme



News from national coalitions

The Italian Social Watch Coalition

• From September the Italian Coalition has started to discuss and draft a proper Action Plan of the Italian Social Watch Coalition with its strategy and commitments for the next three years (2009-2012). In order to share with all the organization members the drafting of this Plan, Ucodep is in charge of proposing common tools for sharing ideas and coordinate the discussion during each meeting where some time will be dedicated to facilitate a brainstorming on specific issues (medium-long term objectives; activities; membership's duties and rights...). The final version of the Action Plan is expected around February 2009.

• In the coming months will be online a proper website of the Italian Coalition: www.socialwatch.it

• The Italian Coalition is managing to publish with a national magazine "Valori" the Italian version of the SW Overview 2007

Research on the most successful case studies

One of the project's activity for the first year is to carry out a research on the most successful national coalitions around the world in order to stress best practices which could be applied also by other national platforms.

Four case studies, one for each continent, have been chosen for this research: **Benin, Brazil, Germany and Philippines.**

The whole research will be coordinated by Ucodep and a pool of researchers coming from Oxfam Novib, Lunaria, Ucodep, Eurstep/EEPA will be in charge of investigating and drafting each case study.

On the 2nd of October a proper meeting took place in Brussels among all the researchers in order to refine and agree the common research methodology to be applied for analyzing the case studies and make their findings as much comparable as possible.

By beginning of 2009, the research will be finalized and a proper Report on it will be available for internal upgrading of competencies among the national SW platforms and why not as an additional tool for promoting the Social Watch network.