



# NGO Cooperation

*Austrian Development Cooperation  
Policy document*



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# 1. Introduction

Austrian Development Cooperation and Cooperation with Eastern Europe (ADC) works with various partners in the implementation of its programmes. Apart from state bodies, these partners include multilateral organisations and non-governmental actors.

It is recognised throughout the world that the contributions by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are an important component of development cooperation both domestically and in partner countries. An essential feature of non-governmental development cooperation is the direct access to civil society groups in the South/East and in Austria. NGOs work locally with partner organisations and directly with the local target groups concerned. They are vital as a means of implementing strategic goals and in national and international development policy dialogue.

Development policy and ADC deal with a constantly changing framework, which obliges them to react to international trends and reconsider priorities (e.g. progressive economic globalisation, budget aid developments, decentralisation of donor decision-making and demand for greater coherence in programme work in partner countries, as set forth in the Paris Declaration<sup>1</sup>).

The roles of NGOs in the North and in the South and East have changed as a result. Independent professional NGOs receiving direct subsidies to implement project work in the South and East and also transnationally and the links between them are becoming stronger.

This NGO cooperation policy document serves as a guideline for Austrian Development Cooperation for the strategic design and implementation of cooperation with NGOs within the framework of bilateral development cooperation and cooperation with Eastern Europe. Although it provides a basis for the structuring of cooperation and institutional relations by ADC with NGOs, it cannot claim to cover all aspects of “civil society in development cooperation”. The cooperation with NGOs and other actors in specific areas (e.g. humanitarian aid, development communication and education) will be dealt with in greater detail in other thematic policy documents.

This policy document also serves to position ADC in its dialogue with developing and transition countries, the international donor community and other development policy actors in Austria.

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<sup>1</sup> Paris Declaration 2005: “Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness”

## 2. Definition of terms

As there are no international standardised definitions, the following section defines the terms used in this policy document as they are understood in the framework of ADC.

**State actors:** Public (centralised or decentralised) administration or directly associated bodies and parliaments as elected representatives and jurisdiction on the basis of the relevant constitutions.

**Civil society:** A variety of autonomous organisations and initiatives legally separate from the state whose actors guarantee individual and collective freedoms that enable them to pursue their interests.

**Development organisations:** According to the Development Cooperation Act (DCA)<sup>2</sup> these are non-profit making legal entities under private law if the objectives laid down in their statutes and their actual operations include development cooperation. Other institutions, in particular of the legally recognised churches and religious communities, the provincial and local governments and other corporations under public law as well as enterprises, if they perform development cooperation as defined by Section 2, Subsection 3, are treated as equivalent to development organisations.

**Non-governmental organisations:** Organisations in which the main social structures of a country – excluding public administration and government – come together. A distinction is made between profit and non-profit NGOs.

**Non-profit NGO:** NGOs may be defined as private, professional organisations with a distinctive legal character whose non-profit orientation distinguishes them from the profit orientation of the private economy at least in legal and ideological terms, and which are characterised by self-defined common altruistic and supportive values, which pursue non-commercial goals and which do not offer goods and services for profit.<sup>3</sup>

Non-profit development cooperation NGOs have the common aim of fostering a life in dignity for all people in the world and of reducing poverty.<sup>4</sup> They perform a variety of functions: as project holders, including the provision of human resources for development cooperation and humanitarian aid, as advocates and as providers of information, education, cultural and public relations services.

**The policy document on NGO cooperation deals with non-profit development cooperation NGOs in Austria and developing countries and their international networks. The term NGO is used in this document in this sense.**

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<sup>2</sup> Development Cooperation Act, Federal Law Gazette I No. 49/2002 as amended (DCA)

<sup>3</sup> Definition from “Die Rolle der NGOs in der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit”, M. Lenzen (2001)

<sup>4</sup> In accordance with the “NGDO Charter”, Liaison Committee (1997)

### 3. Current situation, trends, challenges

NGOs work in Austria and throughout the world in numerous fields and have extremely heterogeneous and varied focuses, basic orientations, structures and methods of working. This variety reflects the pluralism in developed civil societies.

#### 3.1 Cooperation with NGOs in Austria

Cooperation with NGOs has always been of great importance in Austrian development cooperation. This is due in particular to the traditionally intense commitment of private organisations and, in particular, organisations connected with the church, political parties and associations. Today there is a vast variety of Austrian organisations in terms of size, social links and activities. There are a large number of aid organisations/groups and NGOs in Austria supporting projects and programmes in over 130 countries in Africa, Latin America, Asia, the Middle East, Eastern and South Eastern Europe and South East Asia. Private and church organisations raise more than 70 million euros per year<sup>5</sup> to implement their activities. NGOs in Austria work primarily in the following areas:

**NGO project work, humanitarian aid, advocacy, development communication and education:** A major field of activity is the financing of projects carried out independently of state funding by the NGOs themselves and with local partners. A further important NGO field is humanitarian aid. Apart from project activities in various thematic areas, NGOs also act as advocates and in this way achieve public support for development policy aims<sup>6</sup>. Finally, NGOs contribute through their communication and education activities to enhancing awareness of the international context, existing problems and their causes, approaches to development cooperation and Austria's development policy.

**NGOs as development partners on a co-financing basis:** Some of the funds raised by NGOs are used for projects co-financed by ADC. These projects are based on the NGOs' own initiatives and thematic focuses but must be coordinated with ADC aims and programmes.

**NGOs as implementing organisations (contractors):** NGOs are commissioned to carry out projects/programmes in the framework of ADC country, sectoral and regional programmes. ADC uses two clearly defined instruments to select project partners and projects: tenders and award procedures. The latter can be in form of calls for proposals or specific awards.

Altogether, a significant proportion of ADC bilateral technical aid is provided by Austrian NGOs. The cooperation with NGOs in Austria has the following basic characteristics:

- The project implementation and quality assurance requirements by both ADC and the NGOs themselves have increased in the last few years.
- The number of organisations and projects submitted by NGOs to the EU Commission for NGO co-financing has increased.
- The implementation of ADC projects in other countries by Austrian NGOs has declined somewhat (in 2001 it was 40.5%) owing to the increase in the number

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<sup>5</sup> Source: ADC statistics

<sup>6</sup> Note: Not all NGOs are active in all fields since the extent of the activities differs considerably depending on the priorities and also the financial resources available.

of tenders for projects and the greater involvement as a result of other candidates such as enterprises or consultants and local project holders.

- Individual organisations are dependent to a greater or lesser extent on state financing.

### **3.2 Cooperation with NGOs in partner countries**

The situation of civil societies and NGOs in the countries of the South varies considerably. In many countries the conditions that NGOs have to deal with remain difficult and even life-threatening (fragile states).

The OECD has developed its own concepts for improving multilateral and bilateral aid in fragile states, in which NGOs play a relevant role. Not only is international aid to these states below the level of aid to comparable developing countries, but the flow of funds is also much more irregular because of the conflict situations in these countries. It therefore makes sense for these resources to be managed in the short and medium term by NGOs, the private sector or other independent agencies.

Even in fragile states, however, the aim is for the state itself to provide the basic supply and services for the population and to establish the conditions for economic development.

The last few years have seen the establishment of NGOs in Eastern and South Eastern Europe and in Central Asia that contribute in a wide variety of ways, depending on the country, to the fostering of participation in national development by civil society. In many countries, elements of civil society have made significant contributions to the transformation of society.

As far as cooperation with Eastern Europe is concerned, collaboration in the past has focused particularly on municipalities in priority countries and on Austrian enterprises.

The cooperation with NGOs in partner countries may be characterised as follows:

- The role of NGOs in ADC partner countries is changing in accordance with the social conditions.
- The proportion of funds in South cooperation going directly to NGOs in recipient countries for project management is increasing and is currently at around 5 per cent. At the international level, direct project management by local partners is also rising.
- Alongside private sector and employment focuses, areas such as conflict prevention and reconciliation, human rights education and strengthening of the social institutions (particularly for handicapped persons) are of increasing significance in the cooperation with Eastern Europe.

### **3.3 Main findings and recommendations of the DAC Peer Review and evaluations**

A DAC Peer Review was carried out in 2004 with the following findings and recommendations<sup>7</sup>, which will guide future cooperation with NGOs. ADC supports the following recommendations, which have a direct bearing on project and programme work:

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<sup>7</sup> OECD (2004): DAC Peer Review, Austria, Development Assistance Committee OECD, Paris

- Austrian NGOs are contractors and development partners of the Austrian government (on a co-financing basis), and at the same time they play an advocacy role, which could lead to a conflict of interest.
- Austrian development cooperation can be further characterised by its fragmentation in numerous small projects, which may restrict their impact on macro policy reforms and the Millennium Development Goals.
- Austria's support to local civil society is appreciated by partner countries, which may be seen as an Austrian comparative advantage. New instruments have been developed for support of NGOs – important in Austria's aid delivery – which should permit greater alignment to partner country strategies while respecting NGO roles, for example in advocacy. In line with the principles of ownership and partnership, Austria should increase the share of projects which are administered and implemented directly by local partners.
- Aside from its focus on smaller, locally oriented projects, Austria also seeks to support macro policies. The support of such policies might, however, make different aid instruments necessary such as capacity development of partner governments and civil society. In this context, Austria might consider developing orientations for the support of capacity development.
- Dialogue and consultation with partner governments needs to be strengthened and practical steps to harmonise and align all Austrian support (including NGOs) to partner country national strategies and systems should be increased.

The evaluations of NGO framework agreements (KEK-CDC Consultants, 2004) and of the role of NGOs as ADC partners in Nicaragua (INBAS, L&R Social Research, 2005) contain similar conclusions:

- The degree of coherence between activities within the framework programmes and the sectoral and geographical ADC aims, national programmes and international strategies such as PRSPs should be continuously monitored and improved in dialogue between the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and the NGOs (KEK-CDC).
- Greater harmonisation leading to an intensification of co-financed programming calls for a policy framework and corresponding budget line (KEK-CDC).
- In Nicaragua many NGOs prefer direct cooperation with coordination offices. This should be accompanied by capacity building of local partners (INBAS, L&R Social Research).
- Concentration on larger projects, coordination of these projects and inclusion of elements promoting an exchange of experiences and policy dialogue (INBAS, L&R Social Research).

### 3.4 International trends, Paris Declaration and challenges

In the international context the following trends can be discerned at the national level in relations between public bodies and NGOs<sup>8</sup>, some of which are discussed in the OECD-DAC Peer Review 2004 recommendations. The Paris Declaration also specifies five areas of central significance for improving the effectiveness of development cooperation: ownership by partners, adaptation to partners' systems, harmonisation of donor practices, managing for results and mutual accountability.

For ADC, these international orientation requirements also necessitate a redefinition of the role of NGOs:

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<sup>8</sup> KEK-CEC (2004): Endbericht, Evaluierung Rahmenvereinbarung; OECD (2004): DAC Peer Review; (2004) Nicaragua evaluation report; European Commission (2004): documents on the Paris Seminar "Evaluation, Capitalisation, Assessment of Impact"



- Greater emphasis in classic project management will be placed on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and coherence with development programmes.
- In the North, classic project management and knowledge transfer by NGOs is declining generally. Responsibility is shifting to partners in the South/East (NGOs, state actors). NGOs in the South are increasingly becoming implementing organisations (contractors/service providers).
- An imbalance remains between partners in the North and South with respect to resources and co-determination. Resources for projects continue to come for the most part from the North, either from private or public sources. In some cases this also influences the selection of and decisions about projects.
- The EU Commission is increasingly designing development cooperation instruments with a view to supporting non-state actors in the partner countries and/or enabling them to apply for financing themselves or in close cooperation with NGOs from the North.
- The role of NGOs in the North is moving more towards the development of partnerships and networks, support for local structures and organisations, exchange of experience and capacity building, advocacy and education, and towards providing advice in the design and implementation of democratic decision-making processes at all levels.
- NGOs remain partners in political dialogue although no longer as the sole representatives of civil society. Organisations such as trade unions or consumer associations are playing a greater role in development policy and globalisation issues.
- The relationship of the state to NGOs is the focus of numerous discussions, particularly with regard to the differing interpretations by NGOs of their role.
- There is also the question of the degree to which NGOs from the North and South are equal partners, or whether the Northern partners are too dominant. Whether partners in the South can perform without partners in the North is also a matter of discussion.
- In programme cooperation between public financiers and NGOs, the public donors are paying greater attention to the quality, cost/benefit ratio and poverty-reducing effect of the services.
- Public donors are increasingly monitoring the comparative advantages of an NGO, which in turn must demonstrate these advantages.
- There is a trend away from subsidy agreements to service agreements.
- Donor decision-making is becoming more and more decentralised. An increasing number of project cycle management tasks are also being shifted to the partner countries and away from the head offices in the North.

## 4. ADC principles and measures for cooperation with NGOs

The following section deals with the principles and measures that will guide future ADC cooperation with NGOs. The influence of the NGOs themselves on the design of their programmes and focuses remains unaffected by these guidelines.

### 4.1 Role of Austrian NGOs

NGOs are a decisive link between the civil societies in Austria and the partner countries and therefore remain an important partner for ADC. The priority aim of ADC cooperation with NGOs is to reduce poverty in developing countries and ADC partner countries in accordance with OECD criteria. This is also intended to foster ownership, independence and sustainable development in accordance with the UN MDGs.

ADC cooperation with NGOs basically involves the following areas:

**Programme and project work:** NGOs implement programmes and projects particularly in areas where they have specific focuses and know-how and work directly with local population groups. This includes the fields of health, rural development, education and scholarship programmes and the promotion of economic activities (MSMEs). This programme and project work can be performed by NGOs in two ways: as **contractors** (implementing organisation) for the direct implementation of ADC country, sectoral or regional programmes; or as **development partners** on the basis of **co-financing** through the funding of projects based on own initiatives and the NGOs thematic focuses but in coordination with ADC goals and programmes.

**Personnel development cooperation:** Through the dispatch of development experts and volunteers, valuable work is carried out in the countries themselves and knowledge and values from and about developing countries are brought back to Austrian civil society, thereby reinforcing public awareness of development policy. NGOs are development partners in this respect in the implementation of personnel programmes on a co-financing basis.

**Humanitarian aid:** Many NGOs have years of experience and well established local networks to deal with humanitarian crises, which can be activated to provide short-term humanitarian aid in case of sudden catastrophes. Aid projects are adapted in this way to internationally agreed minimum standards for the quality of humanitarian project interventions and to the basic humanitarian principles of needs orientation, impartiality and non-discrimination.

**Development communication and education:** NGOs play an important role in public information and awareness raising regarding the global context and sustainable development. Through their partnerships in the South/East and their contacts with civil society in Austria they provide information directly about the specific challenges of development cooperation and approaches to it and also carry out educational measures. Through their research activities and scientific work, specialist NGOs make a significant contribution to understanding and in some cases to attitudes to development cooperation. International exchange and coordination of actors is also necessary for this purpose.

**Advocacy:** Discourse with Austrian development cooperation actors and internationally active Austrian enterprises and the inclusion of development cooperation issues in global forums and networks are fostered in the interests of poor and disadvantaged populations in developing countries and also as a way of helping to establish a framework for promoting sustainability at the national, European and international levels.

NGOs can make specific contributions, in cooperation with official Austrian agencies if necessary, and help to guide political discourse at the international level.

ADC does not regard it as its task to support activities in the direct interests of the organisation, e.g. fund raising and organisation-specific public relations.

### General ADC measures<sup>9</sup>

- Development of the role of Austrian NGOs in capacity building, involving measures (including new concepts and strategies) for knowledge transfer and support for local NGOs in achieving autonomy.

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<sup>9</sup> Measures relating to humanitarian aid, scholarships and development communication and education, including advocacy are described in more detail in dedicated policy documents.

- Strengthening development communication and education, including the provision of adequate capacities for long-term programmes and the initiation of innovative projects.
- Encouraging networking and project partnerships between organisations (based on joint project work and capacity building).
- Support for innovative project work: pilot projects in new sectors or to test new systems, methods, approaches or sectors.

#### **ADC co-financing measures**

- Continuation of the NGO co-financing budget line within ADC programmes: further development of specific funding instruments described in the relevant policy documents, including micro-projects, individual South and East projects, NGO framework programmes, personnel development cooperation and EU-co-financing.
- Programme orientation: when co-financing several projects from a single organisation, the transition from individual or small projects to a programme is sought. The project holders (NGOs) should develop their programme activities in accordance with a clearly defined scheme coordinated with the ADC country, sectoral and regional programmes.

#### **Results**

- Networking and project partnerships between organisations
- Innovative project work contributing in the long-term to the achievement of the MDGs
- Improved quality and quantity of development communication and education

### **4.2 Role of NGOs from partner countries and local ownership**

In line with the aims and principles of the Austrian Development Cooperation Act and in agreement with international development standards, ADC is oriented primarily towards the needs of the local partners and the jointly elaborated programmes (local ownership).

NGOs in partner countries make essential contributions to the development of their own countries and societies. ADC strengthens the role of the NGOs in the partner countries in general through greater cooperation with local organisations in programme and project implementation.

Local NGOs provide services for disadvantaged population groups in municipalities, particularly in cases in which the state cannot itself provide the basic supplies and services in the short to medium term (e.g. in the health and education sectors). In the view of ADC, NGOs should not take over the roles of the state or public administration on a permanent basis nor should they form parallel structures.

When Austrian organisations are entrusted with implementing ADC projects, they work with local partners on the basis of subsidiarity and partnership. Projects are selected in accordance with specific local needs, with the local and Austrian organisation both having an equal say in the decisions. This means that the target groups and project partners are responsible for their own development and are supported by the Austrian NGO.

Local NGOs also have the task of empowering the civil population (e.g. in connection with decentralisation).

At the regional and national level, advocacy for the social groups concerned, in particular marginalised population groups, and involvement in the elaboration of development and strategy papers have great significance.

### **ADC measures to strengthen local partners**

- Transfer of responsibility and resources for projects and programmes to local NGOs when the conditions and situation allow
- Encouraging invitations to tender in ADC priority countries
- Provision of model texts for tenders and calls for proposals in the relevant languages to facilitate submissions in those languages
- Greater use of co-financing instruments through support and knowledge transfer by Austrian partners to strengthen internal competences and capacities of civil society organisations in the partner countries
- Participation by local NGOs in monitoring and evaluations

### **4.3 Quality requirements**

ADC normally cooperates in its programme and project work with NGOs that pursue the aims of poverty reduction, good governance and democracy, and sustainable development and have demonstrated ability to work in partnership in developing countries. It is also interested in organisations with the potential to include civil society actors involved in poverty reduction at the relevant process levels.

When selecting organisations for cooperation, the following quality standards and principles are of particular importance:

- Existing or potential capacities for programme and project management and provision of services
- Co-financing: formal access criteria for NGOs as defined in the relevant guidelines of the co-financing instruments
- Use of project cycle management as an instrument
- Planning and implementation of programmes and projects on the basis of sustainability and results orientation
- Existence of specific geographical and/or thematic knowledge and experience
- Existence of or access to experts with the relevant qualifications, professional experience and intercultural competence required to plan and implement the programmes and projects in question
- Selection of organisations, projects and programmes exclusively on the basis of the quality of the offer or project/programme application
- Further specific quality requirements can be defined in the thematic guidelines or policy documents.

### **4.4 Coherence with ADC programmes**

Every development cooperation activity (co-)financed by ADC resources should be coherent with the content of the Three Year Programme.

The DAC Peer Review also recommends that in spite of the anticipated increase in ODA resources, ADC should concentrate more on priority countries.

### **ADC measures to improve coherence**

- All projects should be harmonised with the national and regional development plans where they exist in the country in question (see “Harmonisation and Alignment”).
- Co-financed projects should allow more for synergies with ADC country, sectoral and regional programmes. In view of the percentage that NGOs contribute in terms of own funds and initiatives, project proposals could also be complementary to country, sectoral and regional programmes.
- Co-financed projects within ADC geographical and thematic focuses receive a higher percentage of public funding than projects and programmes of a global nature. Conversely, the proportion of NGO own resources for global projects

should be higher than for projects within ADC geographical and thematic focuses.

#### **4.5 Contribution to harmonisation and alignment**

There is an international call to increase the effectiveness of development cooperation. The response to this call is in the form of “harmonisation and alignment” aimed at bilateral and multilateral development cooperation with governments and public institutions in the partner countries.

ADC must ensure that Austrian measures fit in with the global picture formed by an increasingly interlinked and interacting worldwide development cooperation framework. This also applies to those areas of ADC managed in cooperation with NGOs. The implementation of these requirements in practice should take account of the following basic principles:

##### **ADC harmonisation and alignment measures**

- Co-financed programmes with a subsidy in excess of 100,000 euros should refer specifically to the MDGs, PRSP (where available for the country concerned), the EU-CSP (where available for the country concerned) and the national or regional development plans.
- Co-financed programmes should be coordinated with the national and regional programmes in the partner countries.
- Monitoring: ADC reports on coordination and harmonisation and alignment should also contain a report on NGO co-financing.

#### **4.6 Sustainability**

Projects and programmes implemented by local partners represent only a limited part of ADC in thematic terms and in the overall timetable for autonomous development without long-term dependence. These projects and programmes should contain activities that will permit the results or the main components to be continued over a longer period after the project has been completed. The aim of ADC is to achieve positive sustainable effects through the development cooperation.

Regular monitoring of the project quality is essential. Project and programme evaluations are carried out systematically on the basis of the relevant ADC policy document and evaluation guidelines<sup>10</sup>.

##### **ADC sustainability measures**

- Regular project and programme evaluations
- Of particular interest is the development of impact assessments on the basis of international standards, which take account of long-term results, multisectoral impacts, the opinions of the population affected, the implementing organisations and the local and national authorities, and allow for an improvement in future measures.

#### **4.7 Structured dialogue in Austria and the partner countries**

ADC regards structured dialogue with civil society and NGOs as an important working instrument that takes account of the points of view and concerns of both the Austrian NGOs and the civil societies in the partner countries. Both sides can address themes of relevance to their areas of work with a view to further elaborating them.

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<sup>10</sup> For evaluation policy document see [www.ada.gv.at](http://www.ada.gv.at)

The following points should mark out the framework for future dialogue:

### **Dialogue between NGOs and ADC in Austria**

The main contact for NGOs for consultations on development policy issues is the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs. ADA experts can also be consulted for particular thematic areas. The following forums for dialogue are available:

- Regular dialogue with the head of Section VII devoted to a general exchange of information and experiences. The agenda is agreed in advance by Section VII and the organisations responsible for the development cooperation NGOs in question.
- Once a year a meeting should take place between the Foreign Minister and/or State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and the representatives of the organisations responsible for development cooperation and humanitarian aid.
- Discussions on sectoral and country programmes or other areas can be arranged as required with the participation of NGOs with the relevant experience and knowledge.
- Contact for all **operative matters and ADC funding** is ADA. This includes the design of processes to develop and elaborate new funding instruments. At the start of the process the timetable, participants and responsibilities are clearly defined. The ADA experts are available at short notice for specific questions.

### **Dialogue in partner countries**

Where ADC has a coordination office, the following possibilities are available for dialogue with NGOs and civil society in the country:

- The coordination office is the contact for the local structure of the Austrian project holder (e.g. for the planning and implementation of programmes and projects and the development of country and sectoral programmes).
- The coordination office is the contact for local/national NGOs implementing ADC projects and contributing to the development of the relevant country or sectoral programme; it can also be involved in relevant political dialogue in the partner country.

## **5. Coherence with other public donors**

According to the DCA, Austria must establish coherence in all development policy matters. This requirement applies to implementation by the government but also affects NGO cooperation.

### **5.1 Austria**

Apart from the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, other federal ministries are involved to differing degrees in development cooperation agendas through financing or political decisions. The coherence requirement of the DCA is satisfied at the federal level through the annual updating of the Three Year Programme of Austrian Development Cooperation, which is coordinated with other departments and presented to the Federal Government by agreement with the Federal Ministry of Finance. Interministerial meetings are also held to ensure coherence. A joint working group has been set up with the Federal Ministry of Finance for this purpose. The Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs also verifies all relevant draft legislation to ensure its development policy coherence.

In accordance with the coherence requirement, all departments concerned with development cooperation and humanitarian aid also need to be involved in the cooperation with Austrian NGOs. The main instruments for coherence in this context are structured dialogue and the (co-)financing of projects and programmes. The Federal Ministry of the Interior, the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, ADA and the dispatching organisation also coordinate with regard to the possibility of performing community service abroad under the personnel development cooperation scheme.

Funds for ODA-imputable projects are also provided by the provinces and some municipalities. These are mostly implemented with Austrian NGOs, enterprises and international organisations. The provincial coordination meetings provide a platform for this exchange.

## **5.2 EU level and international forums**

Increased efforts are being made at the EU level to ensure development cooperation coherence. Austria is actively involved in the elaboration of the relevant working programmes, which will commit the European Commission and Member States to a coherent approach. This also has an impact on cooperation with NGOs within the individual Member States.

A reorientation of cooperation with NGOs is also taking place within international organisations (United Nations, international financial institutions, World Trade Organization). The demand for an ongoing process of change and adaptation in NGO cooperation in an international context is met through the active participation of Austria in the discussions at the international level and an exchange of views with other donors.

## Abbreviations

ADA	Austrian Development Agency
ADC	Austrian Development Cooperation and Cooperation with Eastern Europe
AGEZ	Working Association for Development Cooperation
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DCA	Development Cooperation Act, Federal Law Gazette I No. 49/2002 as amended
EU	European Union
INBAS	Institute for Vocational Training, Labour Market and Social Policy
KEK-CDC	Culture Development Communication consultants
KOO	Co-ordination Office of the Austrian Bishop's Conference for International Development
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MSMEs	Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PCM	Project Cycle Management
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
UN	United Nations
VENRO	Verband Entwicklungspolitik Deutscher Nichtregierungsorganisationen e.V.



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