

Minutes from the Meeting:
“National Roundtable” under the framework of the project:
“The Access Initiative: Good Environmental Governance - a Prerequisite of Sustainable Development”

Date: 26th of June 2008
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
Location: The Stefan Batory Foundation
Country: Poland
Topic: TAI and Development project

Organizers: IGO in cooperation with
AidWatch working group of the Polish NGO platform Grupa Zagranica

In the meeting participated several representatives of the different Polish NGDOs as well as the representatives of the AidWatch working group of the Polish NGO platform Grupa Zagranica with its secretary general. The meeting was accompanied by the employer of the MFA Aid Department who however stated and underlined that he is not representing officially the MFA neither the position of the MFA.

The main topics discussed at the meeting, were good governance, participation in the public space and access to information.

The discussion was preceded by the presentation of the report of the three Tanzania think-tanks Lawyers' Environmental Action Team (LEAT), Agenda for Environment and Responsible Development and Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) based on the research and methodology used in the framework of the The Access Initiative (TAI).

The findings of the report, the recommendations and the initiative to bring Tanzanian expertise to Polish NGOs and State agencies was appreciated by the different stakeholders. All of the participants agreed that advocacy and improvement in the field of access to information has to be included in the official policies of national institutions, EU bodies as well as the Polish NGDOs working in the Global South countries.

Although in the roundtable we did not have a chance to hear official opinion of the MFA, the report and the recommendations were introduced to the official at MFA.

The report was handed in to the Programming Officer of the Foreign Aid during another meeting of IGO and partner organizations under the framework of another advocacy project.

Several conclusions and proposals to improve Polish Aid were drawn during the meeting that include both recommendations towards the NGDOs and the strategy for Polish Official Development Assistance. The proposals focus on improving the consultations and ownership with local communities, procedures of needs assessment of the projects of the NGDOs and better research based on the local expertise. The representatives of the NGOs proposed to elaborate the strategies for Polish Aid in the recipients countries, especially in the priority countries as Tanzania, which could contribute to improve of the impact of aid in long-term.