# Malta, November 2019

## Project Information

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| Project acronym: | InterCap |
| Project number: | CSO-LA/2017/388-136 |
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## Document Information

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| Activity involved: | Activity 1.2.1: Establish national networks of Actors and Stakeholders focused on promoting PCD |
| Document author: | Kopin |
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## Document Version Control

| Version | Date | Description |
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| 1.0 | 05.12.2019 | Draft 1 (by Kopin) |
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As part of the European project "Developing capacities together: European CSO-university networks for global learning on migration, security and sustainable development in an interdependent world - InterCap", Kopin continued its work towards the establishment of a PC(S)D Network, following the steps taken during the first year of the project, which included the creation of ad hoc synergies with existing national working groups under the SKOP National Platform, with a specific focus on advocacy towards GCE and Development Aid.

After delving into the state of affairs for Policy Coherence as well as the existing framework for Sustainable Development in Malta, the group identified specific points of action with regards to the up and coming Maltese Sustainable Development Strategy, currently being developed by the Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change, following the launch of the Sustainable Development Vision for 2050.

## Developments from the PCSD Network in Malta

During the 2nd year of the project "Developing capacities together: European CSO-university networks for global learning on migration, security and sustainable development in an interdependent world - InterCap", Kopin organised two face-to-face meetings of its PCSD Network, whilst member regularly stayed in touch via email to discuss developments and foreseen actions.

The first meeting, which took place on the 7th of February, saw the attendance of 7 participants, all members of the National Platform SKOP's DEAR Working Group. During the meeting, the objectives of the network were reviewed and the results from the National State-of-the-Art Paper produced in December were further analysed in order to identify the main points of interest with regard to advocacy areas for PCSD. It was decided to approach SKOP Board and the AidWatch working group (whose work focuses on financing for development and ODA) from the National Platform and the 2nd face-to-face meeting took place with representatives from both on the 4th of June.

During the 2nd meeting, participants mapped relevant action points and stakeholders, with a special attention to the Government's works on a National Sustainable Development Vision and Strategy, the latter currently being drafted.

Members of the network are currently looking into drafting recommendations for said Strategy, on the basis of the contents of the already published Vision, to be presented to the relevant Ministry in charge (MESDC) by the end of 2019.

## Thematic examples of PCD (or lack thereof)

Towards the end of 2018, the Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change (MESDC) launched Malta's Sustainable Development Vision for 2050, as well as a public consultation involving different stakeholders, including CSOs representatives. In the document it is stated that the Vision "provides a platform for an integrated approach to development across all sectors to ensure a consistent, well-coordinated and multi-stakeholder approach towards its realisation." Furthermore, the Vision recognises the need for "economic growth, environmental protection and social cohesion" to "move forward in a mutually reinforcing manner".

The document goes on to reference the Sustainable Development Framework for Malta, and doesn't shy away from identifying a number of country-specific challenges and gaps to be addressed in order to realise sustainable development in all sectors.

In this sense, the document certainly constitutes a good basis to strengthen Malta's commitment to PCSD and a step forward in a more coherent approach towards Sustainable Development.

In terms of development aid, the 2019 AidWatch report once again brings to the fore the high amount of inflated aid that the Maltese Government is reporting. This points towards no effort being done to address the lack of PCD found within ODA expenditure. The main concern is the high proportion of ODA being in-donor refugee costs and student costs being reported as development aid. The argument here is that these support mechanisms should be additional to aid flows and reported separately.

Besides the instrumentalisation of aid to stem migration flows and seemingly addressing security concerns, the report also highlights the marked decrease of ODA spend on LDCs. Moreover, there is also no indication that Malta is effectively looking at implementing the Leave No One Behind principle.

More generally, the AidWatch also noted Malta's intentions to potentially link ODA to its political priorities for promoting trade in certain regions of Africa could turn out to be controversial and troublesome. Should aid be tied to economic growth and deployed for the promotion of Maltese private sector in developing economies, this would certainly indicate a lack of coherence in Malta's development policy.

As an EU Member State, Malta shares a big responsibility to make sure that more international aid is provided, but also that aid is used effectively for the people being left behind in the world today. PCD is another tool that would help ensure that aid will make the

biggest difference to people who are most marginalised, excluded or discriminated against and the poorest and most financially challenged countries.

## Conclusion

The launch of such an ambitious Sustainable Development Vision for 2050, whilst representing an advancement in the field of policy harmonisation, will be strengthen, in practice, on condition that further mechanisms to ensure PCSD are present in the upcoming Sustainable Development Strategy and its related Action Plan, in order to address the gaps identified in the 1st National Paper.

In view of the above, the focus for the PCSD Network for the third year of the project will be to provide specific feedback in this sense to be of use in the development of the Strategy itself and its Action Plan, as well as to foster Civil Society participation in policy development and advocacy towards coherence.

## References

- Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change, 2018, *Malta's Sustainable Development Vision for 2050*
- CONCORD Europe, 2019, *AidWatch Report 2019. Leaving no one behind. Time for implementation.*