

Project summary

1. GENERAL INFORMATION	
Name of the project : Platforms Unite: Partnerships for Advocacy	
National platform(s): Plataforma Portuguesa das ONGD and Federação de ONG de São Tomé e Príncipe	
Acronym(s) : PPONGD and FONG-STP	Number of members : 62 PPONGD + 108 FONG-STP
Intervention country/ies: Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe and Cape Verde	
Start and end dates : April 2018 to October 2019	Project duration : 19 months
Total amount of the project in euro: 42.268,40 €	Total amount of the project funded by Forus: 30.900 €
2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT	
<p>Presentation of the project:</p> <p>The project <i>Platforms Unite: Partnerships for Advocacy</i> was executed in a partnership between the Portuguese NGDO Platform and the NGO Federation of São Tomé and Príncipe, involving also other 5 Portuguese Speaking NGO Platforms. The project aimed to strengthen partnerships and networking between these organisations to improve the Platforms' advocacy work and reinforce the Platforms' interventions at national level, through a better articulation between them and other relevant stakeholders.</p>	
<p>Main achievements during the project:</p> <p>The project allowed for the beginning of an institutional relationship between the Portuguese Speaking NGO Platforms, as well as for the creation of a basis for common understanding on the areas of future possible collaboration. Within the project, the Platforms built the RePLONG (Network of Portuguese Speaking NGO Platforms) and prepared a joint Declaration of Principles, as well as an Advocacy Strategy to guide their future joint work on advocacy. During the project the members of the Network had the opportunity to meet several decision makers, in Portugal, but also in São Tomé and Príncipe and Cape Verde, and present the Network's Declaration of Principles and demonstrate their joint solidarity as Civil Society.</p>	
<p>Who are the stakeholders targeted by the project and which were the mechanisms for their participation?</p> <p>The main stakeholders targeted by the project include the leaders and representatives of the Portuguese Speaking NGO Platforms, as well as the Platforms' member organisations. The project also aimed to involve decision makers and governmental and public officials in Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe and Cape Verde and to connect with the media.</p>	
3. IMPACT OF THE PROJET	
<p>Please describe the impact of the project in terms of capacity building</p> <p>The project impacted the Platforms representatives' capacities in terms of articulation and building a thematic Network and in the subjects of Governance, Leadership and Advocacy, as several trainings and meetings were held that relate with these subjects. The project allowed the creation of a joint Declaration of principles that represents the basis for the Platforms jointly express their agendas, concerns and priorities at both national and international levels. Through the definition of the advocacy strategy for the <i>Network</i> that was prepared within the project, governments in each country may be accounted responsible in the future regarding inadequate implementation of Development and Civil Society's policies.</p>	
<p>Did the project have a concrete impact on public policies?</p> <p>The priority of this project was to establish the Networks' foundations in terms of leadership and advocacy, creating sustainable conditions to continue working after the project ended. The project contributed to start working with decision makers and public entities, letting them know the Network's perspective, but not working yet concretely on public policies. There was a public recognition of the Network which will have impact on public policies in the future, through the implementation of the advocacy strategy.</p>	

What are the potential long-term impacts of the project? What continuity will be given to the project?

This working approach and the possibilities for replication and dissemination of materials and strategies built, with other Forus' Platforms, will enhance opportunities for future joint work connecting other Forus members. The relationships built within the project and the creation of the *Network* will be the basis for future articulation and work between the Platforms involved in the project. The partners will continue to seek and to create opportunities for in person meetings and to implement the Advocacy Strategy.

4. RELATION WITH FORUS

To what extent has the project contributed to strengthening the Forus' network?

The project allowed for the relations and joint work between 6 Portuguese Speaking Platforms to be developed within Forus, contributing to an articulated participation in its' activities in the future. By creating a *Network of Portuguese Speaking Platforms*, the project resulted in a thematic approach to Forus work. The partners have the idea of proposing that the Network becomes an integral part of IFP's organizational structures, allowing for the definition of common actions and a thematic agenda in the future.

What was the added value of Forus' support to this project?

Forus' support was very important as it allowed for the implementation of contacts with several Platforms, that didn't know each other before the project, and created the conditions for the development of close relationships between them due to the possibility of meeting in person several times. If the partners hadn't had this support it would have been impossible to create the *Network of Portuguese Speaking Platforms* in such a short period of time and to be able to prepare an Advocacy Strategy and meet with decision makers.

Have you produced a deliverable that could be useful for other Forus members?

Once the *Network of Portuguese Speaking Platforms* was jointly created, a Declaration of Principles was produced and an Advocacy Strategy for the Network built. Following the training sessions carried out, a Leadership and Advocacy training manual was conceived and can be used in other contexts, even though it is written in Portuguese.

What are your recommendations for platforms wishing to implement a similar project in the future?

For a project like this, which has the objective of creating a Network between different organisations that had no previous experience of working together, it is fundamental to foresee several joint in person meetings, in order to promote the building of closer relationships between the representatives. In order to guarantee that the articulation between partners from different countries is effective and works smoothly, it is important that the partners create/mobilize a digital tool/mechanism that allows for working at distance and in different contexts.