**NARRATIVE REPORT**

**Please include the following information (up to two pages in length):**

1. **Briefly state the purpose of the grant**

This project aimed to enhance the effectiveness and quality of policies, practices and projects of the Czech civil society organizations (CSOs) working in the field of development cooperation and to promote quality standards for planning, implementing and evaluation of the development projects. The project was planned to foster consultations among CSOs and to provide opportunities to learn from international best practices. Furthermore, the project was to contribute to awareness among CSOs, experts, media as well as general public about the nature and performance of Czech CSOs working in development cooperation and allied in FoRS – Czech Forum for Development Cooperation (FoRS).

1. **Outcomes**

* What were the expected outcomes of the project – who or what was expected to change as a result of the grant?

Result 1. Quality standards for the Czech development CSOs are endorsed and the capacities of development CSOs for their implementation in planning, monitoring and evaluation are increased.

Result 2. Quality standards / Code of Conduct are promoted among CSOs, media, experts and general public in the Czech Republic and abroad.

* To what extend were these expected outcomes realized?

Building up of the capacities was realized through the process of elaboration and endorsement of the Code of Conduct on Effectiveness and piloting the self-evaluations among FoRS CSOs. The CSOs gained new knowledge at the workshop on the participatory planning, monitoring and evaluations and share experience within the FoRS working group on Effectiveness. The quality standards as well as the results of the self-evaluations were promoted through the FoRS websites and also through personal presentations at international and national expert gatherings. This promotion is still to be continued and will be further extended.

* What unexpected outcomes resulted from the project, including, for example, the impact on other programs your agency operates or on the agency as a whole?

CSOs Development Effectiveness is one of the top priorities for FoRS. The adoption of the Code of Conduct set FoRS forward among the few national platforms in the EU that have generally accepted own quality standards for their constituency. The Code was created to be a vivid tool to be amended according to the changing environment and the roles CSOs are playing there. This outcome set an interesting challenge for FoRS as the process of capacity building and increasing CSOs effectiveness is a long-term run. The Code is just one of the tools just as it is in use, updated and shared among other partners (state as well as non-state). The self-evaluations and peer-reviews shall be seen to become a regular process in FoRS.

1. **Activities**

* What were the intended activities to bring about the stated outcomes?

1.1. Endorsement of common quality standards – Code of Conduct for development CSOs in the CR

1.2. Workshop on participatory planning, monitoring and evaluation

2.1. Development of www.ceskapomoc.cz as a focal portal for presenting the Czech development CSOs and the Code of Conduct

2.2. Informing selected media, experts and partners

* To what extend were the intended activities accomplished?

1.1 The FoRS Code of Conduct on Effectiveness was elaborated in a participatory process engaging the FoRS members and built on the experience exchange shared by CONCORD Europe and other partners, endorsed by the FoRS General Assembly on June 1, 2011. The procedure for self-evaluation according to the Code was proposed and piloted among FoRS members on a voluntary basis (33 organisations took part in the self-evaluations).

1.2 A two-day workshop on participatory planning, monitoring and evaluations was organized on May 9-10, 2011 in the American Center in Prague, lead by two FoRS experts, linking the Code with practical skills necessary for project cycle management (17 participants from FoRS and the Czech Development Agency - CZDA). The participants evaluated the workshop mostly as positive, meeting their expectations and having contributed to gaining new knowledge.

2.1 The new website layout and content management system were designed for both [www.ceskapomoc.cz](http://www.ceskapomoc.cz) and [www.fors.cz](http://www.fors.cz), so that they are interlinked and easy to be updated at once and directly by each FoRS member. The launch was at the end of the year 2011 and the updating is a work to be done continuously.

2.2 Information sharing and promotion of the Code and websites were done continuously through meetings with CONCORD and TRIALOG, among the members of FoRS (Newsletter) and other partners (MFA, CZDA, other platforms). Media was approached individually (e.g. we fed in Radio Wave coverage available at [<http://media.rozhlas.cz/_audio/02575691.mp3>](http://www.rozhlas.cz/radiowave/rentgen/_zprava/neuron-a-tydny-pro-neziskovy-sektor--1029181))

1. **Strengths and Limitations**

* What were the strengths and limitations of the project?

Strengths: the well-established FoRS membership constituency, strong partners at the international and national levels, relevance of the project within the overall FoRS long-term strategy.

Limitations: ambitious goals to be achieved in so short duration of the project, media not really interested in the topics of development effectiveness

* How did the staff address these limitations?

Searching for synergies with other projects/activities of FoRS and its members, extension of the project, media approached individually and with selected topics.

1. **Project Concerns**

* What concerns or problems arose during the project?

Concerns: Code of Conduct sets a valuable base for increasing quality standards within the sector, on the other CSO need feeling the ownership in the process which must stay inclusive and supportive to those CSOs not fully in compliance with the Code. Problems: partly technical ones with the new website content management system, connected to the limited funds in the budget.

* What did the staff do to these concerns?

The meaning and use of the Code need to be continuously shared among the CSOs, they need to get engaged on a voluntary basis, see it as an opportunity and a tool for their own professional development. FoRS is seeking for development of other tools (e.g. peer-reviews).

* What changes were made in the project plan?

The project completion was extended till Dec 31, 2011.

1. **Budget Revision**

* Describe any changes in the original budget that may have occurred as a result of changing circumstances.

The honorarium for Expert for Code was subcontracted together with the translation (in total app. 23 USD saved); Travel costs for participants to the workshop (app. 20 USD saved); Fee for web design and web hosting (increased for app. 39 USD); Contribution to office space (increased for app. 4 USD).

1. **Future Funding**

* Indicate if this project is continuing and, if so, how will it be funded in the future.

FoRS will continue promoting and implementing the Code among the members and partners. The CSOs are encouraged to undergo another self-evaluation this year. We plan to organize more capacity building opportunities focused on evaluation and monitoring. We tried to include the minor costs related to supporting the CSO effectiveness in the project funded by the CZDA in 2012, but there has not been prepared any specific project this year.

**ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

**Copies of any significant materials:**

* Copy of the Code of Conduct of Effectiveness
* Program and attendance list of the workshop on the participatory planning, monitoring and evaluation
* Summary from the self-evaluations of FoRS members according to the Code of Conduct
* Website links – [www.fors.cz](http://www.fors.cz) and [www.ceskapomoc.cz](http://www.ceskapomoc.cz)