

Berlin Civil Society Center

2007 ANNUAL REPORT



Entrance to Berlin Civil Society Center

Message from the Founders

Having worked in and with civil society organisations for many years both of us felt that there was a serious gap in advisory and support services for international civil society organisations (CSOs). There were professional advisers who offered their services on current market terms, there were university based Civil Society Centers with their own research agenda, there were large international consulting firms some of whom provided pro bono support to some of the CSOs and there were various networks focussing on specific aspects of CSO work. But there was no place where Board Chairs, CEOs and senior managers of international CSOs could come together with their own agenda and learn from each other.



With the Berlin Civil Society Center we want to close this gap. We want to provide a resource center for international civil society organisations. The core of our – and the Center’s – philosophy is that we want to be at the service of civil society organisations. We want to start from their needs and offer the Center’s help with convening, capacity building and research. We are very happy with the positive reaction we have had from key actors in our sector and we are satisfied with the preparation phase which ended with the year 2007. Our first two workshops in 2008 are already fully booked. This is an encouraging sign of trust from the leaders of our sector. Honouring this trust will be an exciting challenge for our new organisation.

We would like to thank all those who have supported us in 2007 by using our premises, by asking for our service, by sharing their knowledge and experience with us, by providing us with pro bono support, by working for the Center as volunteers or interns and by supporting the Center financially. We are looking forward to working with you and with many new friends, participants and users of our Center in 2008.

Berlin, 25 February 2008

Peter Eigen

Burkhard Gnärig

Management Center for a Better World

The Berlin Civil Society Center helps international civil society organisations improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their work. Working with leaders of key organisations the Center wants to contribute to strengthening the sector's positive effects on human and children's rights, poverty alleviation and environmental protection.

The Berlin Civil Society Center supports international civil society organisations with:

- devising successful strategies
- pursuing good governance
- securing transparency and accountability
- strengthening management in all areas of their work.

Starting from the concrete needs of global civil society organisations the Center runs workshops for practitioners. Research projects aim at delivering results which can be applied in the work of international organisations. The Center offers professional support in the fields of strategy, management and governance. The Center's library is one of the largest civil society libraries worldwide. As a meeting point of civil society, the Center disseminates information and essential know-how.

CSO-Academy

The CSO-Academy offers workshops for senior managers on issues such as good governance, effective leadership, strategy development, transparency and accountability, human resources development, finance management and logistics.

Vision Works

Vision Works offers Chairs and CEOs the opportunity to step away from their daily pressure and to enter into a well prepared process of defining their own visions for the organisations they lead.

Triologue

Triologue provides a basis for governments, business and civil society to discuss the challenges of globalisation, to share experience, to learn from each other and, where appropriate, to build coalitions addressing specific issues.

Global CSO Forum

The Global CSO Forum provides an annual meeting place for global civil society organisations their partners and the related industry. As a combination of a fair and a conference the Forum aims at providing an overview on opportunities, challenges and trends affecting civil society organisations.

First Steps to Make a Dream Come True

“It is our dream to achieve real change for exploited children, for the poor, for people deprived of their human rights and for the protection of the environment by helping leading civil society organisations to be more effective in the work they do.”

Peter Eigen and Burkhard Gnärig

Devising the Concept

In the endeavour to create an appropriate framework for its role as a service provider the Center worked closely with key civil society organisations in elaborating the concept. As a result the Center’s approach has been supported by ActionAid International, Amnesty International, Civicus, Greenpeace International, International Federation of Terre Des Hommes, International Save the Children Alliance, Oxfam International, Plan International, Transparency International, World Vision International and WWF International.

Registering the Center

In September 2007 the Center was officially registered as a charity with tax exempt status.

Planning the first Workshops

At the invitation of the Center international civil society organisations proposed 19 different issues for future workshops and three of these were selected to be addressed in the first half of 2008. All workshops will be prepared with questionnaires and/or structured interviews with those who have registered their participation. And all workshops will aim for concrete outcomes which can be implemented by the participants

Delivering strategy, management and governance support

Three organisations have approached the Center for support:

Amnesty International has been supported with the “Review of Committees serving the International Executive Committee”. The review will continue into 2008.

Forum for Active Philanthropy has been supported with the “Working with Civil Society Organisations” series, a number of texts advising major donors how best to cooperate with civil society organisations. This cooperation will continue in 2008.

Transparency International has been supported with the project “Operationalising the Strategic Framework 2007-2010”, conducting a senior management discussion process aiming at sharpening the International Secretariat’s strategic focus.

Establishing the finance basis

Early finance support to the Center was provided by the Vodafone-Stiftung, the Zeit-Stiftung, Greenpeace International, World Vision International and the Europa-Universität Viadrina.

2007 Calendar

On 01 April the Berlin Civil Society Center started its operations. Based in the building of the old Robert Koch Institute next to the German Parliament and key Embassies, the Center shares the premises with the Humboldt-Viadrina School of Governance and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). Together with these sister organisations the Center has organised or hosted the following events:

On 10 April we hosted a Board meeting of **EITI**, the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative which is being chaired by Peter Eigen. The meeting was addressed by the German Sherpa of the G8 Meeting, State Secretary Dr. Bernd Pfaffenbach.

On 24 April we hosted the press conference of the launch of the **Africa Progress Panel** which brought Kofi Annan, Michel Camdessus and Bob Geldof (and about 50 journalists and 25 TV cameras) into the Center.



On the same day **Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul**, the German Minister for Development Cooperation visited the Center.

On 20 May we hosted a reception in honour of **Festus Mogae**, President of Botswana, which was attended by **Thomas Yayi Boni**, the H.D. President of Benin, **Obiageli Katryrn Ezekwesili**, the Vice President of the World Bank for

Africa, **Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul**, the German Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Peter Eigen as the Chairman of the EITI Board of Directors as well as a great number of representatives of domestic and international media, German civil society and officials from the World Bank Forum.

On 01 June we hosted **Euclid**, a European network of Third Sector Leaders who held their Board Meeting combined with a presentation of the network to German civil society leaders.

On 31 May **Eveline Herfkens**, the UN Secretary General's special representative for the UN-Millennium Campaign visited the Center.

On 20 June **Greenpeace International** and the **Forum for Active Philanthropy** invited a selected group of philanthropists, activists and politicians to attend a dinner at the Center. During the event Mr. Lo Sze Ping, the campaign and communication director of Greenpeace China spoke about campaigning against climate change in China.

On 30 August the **UN Millennium Campaign** together with **German Agro-Action** organised a panel discussion on the role of rich and poor countries in implementing the UN Millennium Development Goals.

On 20 September we hosted a convention of the Working Group on Development and Peace, of **FriEnt** (an association of seven German governmental and non-governmental organisations working in the field of development cooperation and peace building).

On 25 to 26 September the **CEOs of Greenpeace International, Oxfam International and WWF International** attended an informal CEOs meeting at the Center.

On 3 to 5 October the **Global Action Network (GAN)** had its annual meeting at the Center. Global Action Network is a nationally incorporated non-profit organization, dedicated to fostering environmental awareness and action. GAN's mission embraces education, grassroots organizing, coalition building, and political networking.

On 1 to 3 November the **Policy Association for an Open Society (PASOS)** held a conference and their annual meeting at the Center. PASOS promotes and protects open society values, including democracy, the rule of law, good governance, respect for and protection of human rights, and economic and social development, by supporting policy centres.

On 5 November **Prof. John Ruggie**, the UN Secretary General's Special Representative for Business and Human Rights addressed a workshop on Ethical Corporations and Business in Conflict Zones.

On 7 November the **Africa Coordinator of the UN Millennium Campaign**, Dr. Tadjudeen Abdul Raheem, visited the Center.

On 13 December **Publish What You Pay** and the **Heinrich Böll Foundation** conducted a civil society meeting on the eve of the German government-hosted conference on 'Transparency in the Extractive Sector'. The meeting reviewed the G8 process and civil society's engagement with the G8.

On 17 December Peter Eigen received the **Gustav Heinemann Bürgerpreis 2007** awarding his civil society and anti corruption engagement.

Prospects

Three major workshops in the first half of 2008 will test the Center's capacity to deliver:

Good Governance in Voluntary Organisations: on 28 and 29 February 2008 the workshop will bring together Chairs and CEOs of major civil society organisations to discuss strategies how to strengthen volunteer based governance in global organisations. The workshop is fully booked.

Global Talent Development: on 07 and 08 April a group of global HR Directors will come together to work on strategies how to systematically attract, select, develop and retain high performing staff. The workshop is fully booked.

Living in a Connected World: on 04 and 05 June the workshop will bring together leaders of IT companies and civil society organisations exploring how to optimise the use of the Internet.

A series of workshops on global governance is under consideration for the second part of 2008.

Two projects of management and governance support will continue from 2007 and one new project has been agreed:

Amnesty International: review of Board committees started in 2007 and will end in February 2008. A second project strengthening Amnesty International's democratic governance will start in February 2008.

Forum for Active Philanthropy: phase two of the "Working with Civil Society" project will start in March and end in June 2008.

With three workshops and two ongoing cooperation projects the present capacities of the Center are fully booked for the first half of 2008.

Finance and staff: In order to fully realise its potential and to achieve sustainability the Center will have to strengthen its finance basis in 2008 and employ a small number of salaried professional staff.

Income and Expenditure in 2007

	EUR
Income	91,839
Unrestricted Grants	18,839
Restricted Grants	50,000
Workshop Income	3,000
Core Support	20,000
Expenditure	91,661
Workshops	27,859
Personnel	3,550
Secretariat Infrastructure	14,252
<i>Reserve for workshops in 2008</i>	
Global Governance in Voluntary Organisations	16,000
Global Talent Development	15,000
Living in a Connected World	15,000
<hr/>	
Result	178