

# **The Green East-West Dialogue**

## **Report of GEWD Fringe Meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Barcelona**

### **Participants**

About 40 persons from 23 parties and foundations from 22 countries: Albania (Albanian Green Party), Austria (Die Grünen), Belgium (Groen!), Bulgaria (Zelenite), Bosnia-Herzegovina (Heinrich Böll Foundation, Sarajevo), Croatia (Green List), Estonia (Estonian Greens), Germany (Bündnis 90/Die Grünen and Heinrich Böll Foundation), Georgia (Green Party), Greece (Eco-Greens), Hungary (LMP-Politics can be different), Lebanon (Green Party), Macedonia (DOM), Moldova (Green Alliance), Netherlands (Groen Links), Romania (Partidul Verde), Russia (Green Alternative and Green Russia), Serbia (Heinrich Böll Foundation, Belgrade), Slovenia (SMS-ZELENI), Sweden (Miljöpartiet), UK (Green Economics Institute), Ukraine (Party of Greens PZU and Green Party).

**Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 19:00-21:00** (part 1, around 15-20 participants)

### **Reports on GEWD activities**

- Meeting of Black Sea Greens, Sevastopol/Ukraine, October 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup>, 2009: participation of young Greens and NGO's, both Green Parties of Ukraine cooperating, brochures in English and Russian before and after the meeting, website [www.blackseadialogue.org](http://www.blackseadialogue.org) maintained by Dutch Green Foundation with inputs from Serghiy and Turkish Greens.
- Meeting Balkan Greens on Green New Deal in Istanbul, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009: Kick-off meeting, supported by GEF, HBF offices of Istanbul and Zagreb present.
- Activities together with LMP/Hungary: Press conference of Austrian MP Christiane Brunner in Szombathely on cross-border pollution (February 4<sup>th</sup>), Press conference of GGEP on Green position towards EU Danube Strategy with MEP Eva Lichtenberger in Budapest (24<sup>th</sup> February), 1<sup>st</sup> Green Regional Meeting Western Hungary/Eastern Austria in Szombathely with "brainstorming" on common activities, organized by LMP and Grüne Bildungswerkstatt Austria (March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010) - good media coverage.

### **Up coming events (Calendar 2010)**

- Balkan Greens Meeting: date (June?) and venue (Croatia, Macedonia?) to be decided. Focus on "Green New Deal".
- 6<sup>th</sup> Central European Round Table of Green Local Councillors, Vienna, September 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>, 2010 (Grüne Bildungswerkstatt): focus on local campaigning and exchange of experiences.
- Meeting of Black Sea Greens, October 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup>: focus on multi-cultural co-existence, security questions, "Eastern Partnership", party building. Venue to be decided.
- GEWD Fact Finding Missions (in Summer): in some ex-Yugoslav countries like Serbia, Kosovo or Bosnia-Herzegovina, the party landscape is changing and some info about potential partners for Greens is required.

### **Discussion on applications for EGP membership/observership**

- Croatia: Zelena Lista/application for full membership (report Vlasta). GEWD Steering Group in favour, ZL tripled their number of local councillors, 19 local branches.
- Macedonia: DOM/application for observership/membership: After report from GEWD Fact Finding Mission to Macedonia, July 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 (Anne, Gerhard), SG recommends observer status. DOM clearly stands for the "Green option", their reputation among NGO's is very good (particularly of their MP Liljana Popovska), but risks resulting from the participation in a conservative-nationalist government coalition can not be ruled out.
- Turkey: Yeşiller/application for full membership: SG in favour, although Turkish Greens will probably never become a parliamentary party due to obstacles in electoral law (10% threshold etc.). But the EU needs Turkey and Turkey plays a crucial role.

**Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 19:00-21:00** (part 2)

**Alexei Kozlov**, from "Green Alternative Russia" (GROZA), new EGP Committee member responsible for GEWD, present himself.

### **Reports from countries**

Hungary: Parliamentary election on April 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, LMP managed to collect more than 90,000 (!) endorsement forms and submitted party lists in all 20 counties. Opinion polls give them 5%, which is exactly the threshold for MP seats.

Info on Serbia (new party law: parties need to collect 10,000 signatures to be registered, two "green" parties did so far) and Bosnia-Herzegovina (Parliamentary election in October, "Naša Stranka" did not yet decide on their political orientation) by HBF representatives.

Some short info from countries in which local elections take place in Autumn 2010 (Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine) and from others present (Albania, Bulgaria, Georgia, Lebanon, Macedonia, Romania, Russia, Turkey).

### **Election of 4 Steering Group Members (2 female, 2 male) from CEE countries**

Review and analysis of GEWD work in the Steering Group period 2007-2010 by Anne: The impact of GEWD activities has increased, strong focus on Balkans (EU enlargement area) and Black Sea (progress of network). Fact finding in some countries, better cooperation among Foundations (including HBF) and with new GEF. Thanks outgoing SG members (Vlasta Toth, Davida Pertena). Candidates nominated by registered participant parties:

Women: Daniela Bozhinova (Zelenite/Bulgaria, presented by Denitza Petrova), Jasmina Pakaški (DOM/Macedonia), Tímea Szabó (LMP/Hungary, presented by Kristóf Szombati), Keida Ushtelenca (Party of Greens/Albania, presented by Manjola Lala).

Men: Darko Krajnc (SMS-ZELENI/Slovenia), Serghiy Kurykin (Green Party/Ukraine), Paul Lettens (Estonian Greens/Estonia), Toni Ristov (DOM/Macedonia).

In each election round, 1 woman and 1 man can be voted for. Those with more than 50% of the vote are elected. Each of the 26 registered participant parties has one vote (present: 12-15).

1<sup>st</sup> round (12 votes):

Women: 4 Keida, 3 Daniela, 3 Tímea (2<sup>nd</sup> round), 2 Jasmina.

Men: 5 Darko, 3 Paul (2<sup>nd</sup> round), 2 Serghiy, 2 Toni.

2<sup>nd</sup> round (12 votes):

Women: 4 Daniela, 4 Keida, 4 Tímea (all in 3<sup>rd</sup> round).

Men: 7 Darko (elected), 5 Paul.

3<sup>rd</sup> round (15 votes):

Women: 6 Daniela, 5 Keida (4<sup>th</sup> round), 4 Tímea.

Men: 6 Paul, 6 Serghiy (4<sup>th</sup> round), 3 Toni.

4<sup>th</sup> round (15 votes):

Women: 9 Keida (elected), 6 Daniela.

Men: 9 Paul (elected), 6 Serghiy.

5<sup>th</sup> round (15 votes):

Women: 6 Daniela, 6 Tímea (6<sup>th</sup> round), 3 Jasmina.

6<sup>th</sup> round (15 votes):

Women: 8 Daniela (elected), 7 Tímea.

**Composition of the new Steering Group:** Daniela Bozhinova, Darko Krajnc, Paul Lettens, Keida Ushtelenca. The supporting foundations will nominate their representatives in the coming week.

*Notes: Gerhard Jordan*