

Annual Meeting

2nd June 2015

Ministry of Finance and Public Administrations, Madrid

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Henriette C. GulbrandsenSenior Adviser

FMO (Financial Mechanism Office)

Stine AndresenDirector

Stein MonaCountry Officer

SPANISH MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIONS

José M^a Piñero CamposGeneral Director of Community Funds

Pilar Soler Oroz.....Executive Director (NFP EEA Grants)

Moisés Blanco Maceiras.....Deputy Executive Director (NFP EEA Grants)

Cristina Blas MirandaCommunication Officer (NFP EEA Grants)

Jerónimo Ríos BoetaCertifying Authority

NORWEGIAN EMBASSY

Johan Christopher VibeAmbassador

Lars Andersen.....Minister Counsellor

Eva Puig Syversen.....EEA Grants and Communication Adviser

AGENDA

1. Opening Remarks / Adoption of the Agenda
2. National Focal Point Obligations
3. Status of Programme Implementation
 - 3.1. ES05 Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage Programme
4. Strategic Report
 - 4.1. Risk Assessment and Management
 - 4.2. Communication
 - 4.3. Approval of Strategic Report
5. Bilateral Relations and Bilateral Fund at National Level
6. AOB/Closing Remarks

Opening Remarks

The General Director of Community Funds, José María Piñero, welcomed the participants and put the focus on the agenda. He gave the floor to the FMO director, Stine Andresen, for her opening remarks.

FMO Director, Stine Andresen, thanked the NFP for hosting the Annual Meeting. She praised the good work developed by the NFP and in general she expressed her satisfaction with the progress in the implementation of the EEA Grants in Spain during the last year. She highlighted that there were seven challenging months ahead until the projects closing but she was confident that everything will develop as expected. She confirmed the communication event to be held next day and accepted Norwegian Embassy suggestion to hold a big closing event in June 2016.

Ambassador Johan Vibe pointed out in his opening remarks their satisfaction for the cooperation that has allowed giving a high profile to the EEA Grants in Spain. He emphasised that there are seven very challenging months ahead and especially in the García Lorca Centre project.

National Focal Points Obligations

Mr. Piñero admitted that this issue was a major concern, but he confirmed that the Ministry is going to comply with the requirements set up in the Regulation and other legal documents. He added that 2016 is going to be a transition year from a NFP fully

dedicated to the EEA Grants to a NFP with key personnel with additional tasks, but the compliance of the obligations is guaranteed.

Ms. Pilar Soler admitted that closing a fund is a difficult task, but the obligation of the NFP is to fulfil the commitments. Ms. Andresen thanked for these insurances and offered the help of the FMO if needed.

Status of Programmes Implementation

Ms. Soler made a presentation of the status of implementation and stated that all programmes and projects are running well and the first results are exceeding the initial expectations.

In her words, 2014 has been a very important year when everything has been done and in one year and a half, more than 425 projects are running. Ms. Soler praised the good work developed by programme operators and project promoters and pointed out the excellent and fruitful relations between Spanish Programme Operators and Donor Programme Partners.

Ms. Andresen expressed the FMO concerns about the ES05 Programme.

Ms. Soler admitted that even though ES05 Programme is a simple one from the technical point of view, there is a high level of political implication and this is always risky. She added that the most difficult part will be how to compress the plan of activities for the center in only six months. For that reason, she suggested a low profile opening just in order to start the activities and maybe a big opening after the summer.

Ms. Andresen acknowledged that this is a very good approach and offered the FMO technical support.

Mr. Jerónimo Ríos explained that the financial implementation is similar to other programmes, so there is not a risk in this sense.

Ambassador Vibe asked for a small clarification about who has the legal authority in the Consortium to take over the building when handed over. Ms. Soler answered that the Consortium as a body, but neither Junta de Andalucía nor Granada City Hall has representatives at the moment due to the 24th May Local and Regional Elections. So, the formation of the new local and regional governments is needed to unlock the issue.

Ms. Andresen commended the NFP for the presentation which confirmed the good results. She emphasised the need for all the Programme Operators to upload all the information about the projects in Doris.

Strategic Report

Risk Assessment. Ms. Soler insisted that the main risk is the short period of implementation as well as the time needed to study the projects after their finalization.

Communication. Ms. Soler pointed out the main activities developed in the communication field and the intense work developed.

Ms. Andresen thanked the NFP for the excellent Strategic Report, which can be officially approved during this Annual Meeting 2015, highlighting the increased quality on the NGO and Gender Equality Programmes Report. She added that the final strategic report should include an assessment on the horizontal concerns.

Ms. Andresen pointed out also the excellent communication work developed by the NFP.

Bilateral Relations and Bilateral Fund at National Level

Ms. Soler made a presentation of the Bilateral Relations activities at National Level.

Ms. Andresen expressed her satisfaction about how these bilateral relations plans are developing and she hoped that this cooperation will continue in the future without the EEA Grants support. She asked for a special follow up to those programmes which don't have donor programme partner in order to be sure that the bilateral relations funds are properly implemented.

AOB/Closing Remarks

Mr. Stein Mona reminded that there are some changes in Annex A, requested in the Annual Meeting 2014, concerning the name of the Subdirectorate. Due to the recent discussion on the National Focal Point obligation, the formalization of this was put on hold. Formalization will happen in the near future.

Ms. Andresen concluded the meeting by emphasising the good results from the projects in Spain and the willingness to continue the close cooperation between the FMO and the NFP. She insisted on the need to follow up the García Lorca Centre project.

For its part, Mr. Piñero expressed its gratitude towards the attendants for having a fruitful discussion in the Annual Meeting.