

FOCUS GROUP – ESTONIA May 2010

The study was contracted by the Estonian Roundtable for Development Cooperation, AKÜ (www.terveilm.net) and conducted by Research Centre Klaster (www.klaster.ee). The **aim of the study** was to map attitudes towards development co-operation, find possible obstacles to the work in the sector and determine opportunities for better distribution of information on related topics.

The **target groups** of the study were decision makers from the public sector (including members of parliament), opinion leaders and multipliers of information (i.e. NGOs, academia). AKÜ's various contacts were also invited to participate in the survey.

The study was conducted via an **online questionnaire** on Klaster's server. The responses were anonymous and were gathered on April 8-28, 2010. Invitations were personally distributed to 298 people and also through mailing lists of Estonian NGO networks. 85 people responded to the questionnaire, which is close to 30% of the invitees and can be considered a very good response rate. Since the number of respondents is rather small and many questions required open-ended answers, the study should be considered **qualitative** rather than quantitative.

Summary of Results

1. Most of the respondents have had some contact with development co-operation in their work.
2. Nearly half of the respondents have had many or very many in-depth contacts with at least one of the development topics.
3. The main obstacles to working on the development issues are lack of time, information and financial resources as well as other priorities.
4. The primary motivating factor for the respondents to work more intensely with development topics would be greater public interest in the issues.
5. The most important development issue is considered to be trade policy, because solving problems relating to that are thought to also resolve several other global challenges.
6. Migration is also considered to be an important issue, but the main emphasis is expected to be on solving the causes of it (e.g. improving the quality of life in developing countries).
7. The respondents have different opinions about the importance of the issue of climate change. Some find that climate change is increasing global economical and social problems, but others feel that the problem is heavily overestimated.
8. Most of the information about development topics is gathered from foreign websites, newspapers and the website of the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
9. More than half of the respondents consider their knowledge of development co-operation to be rather small.
10. The greatest need is for information on the links of trade and development policies, a smaller amount of people would like to know more about migration, and the demand for information about climate change is the lowest.
11. Estonian and English are the preferred languages of information materials for the majority of the respondents.
12. Most respondents consider their knowledge of EU development policies rather small and would like to get more information.
13. Other topics considered to be significant to development co-operation are education, science/research, democracy, exploitation of natural resources, entrepreneurship, civil society and human rights.