

ASSOCIATION OING-SERVICE

Maison des Associations
1, place des Orphelins, F - 67000 STRASBOURG
Inscrite au registre des associations
Tribunal judiciaire de Strasbourg Vol 72, Fol 105

Moral Report OING-Service 2020

adopted by the General Assembly of 15 December 2021

1) INTRODUCTION

In our report last year we wrote that we were at the heart of the coronavirus epidemic. We can only note that one year later, the pandemic is more present than ever in Europe and in the world. This health crisis has degenerated into an economic and social crisis, causing bankruptcies, job losses, increased poverty and widespread anxiety. The hope for a return to normalcy lies in vaccination for all, quickly, to counter the spread of the virus variants.

The Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe has not escaped the multiple constraints caused by the containment and other measures. Member associations have been forced to slow down, postpone or stop their activities. Thanks to IT, meetings are possible by video-conference, but this does not replace the human contact that is so necessary for everyone, but even more so for vulnerable people.

OING-Service has adapted as best as possible to all these constraints in order to help financially in the realisation of the ongoing projects. Concerning the 2020 activity of our association, we have selected the projects that carry the values of solidarity, often innovative, which have been proposed by the Standing Committee of the Conference of INGOs and by our member INGOs.

Our team has been the same since the GA in June 2018.

2) MAIN ACTIVITIES

- World NGO Day

The Conference of INGOs celebrated World NGO Day with the holding of a seminar at the Council of Europe premises in Brussels on 28 February entitled “From the Past to the Future : A Living Civic Space for a Living Democracy”.

The quality and commitment of the speakers and other participants, the fact that the event was live-streamed on the Council of Europe's website and the meeting of representatives of the Conference of INGOs - whose costs were borne by INGO-Service - with NGO delegates present primarily or solely at the European Union made it possible to go beyond the usual channels and to create many new and interesting contacts for the Conference's future activities.

- “INGOs under lockdown get involved and prepare for the future”

To keep the connection with the member INGOs, the Bureau of the Conference of INGOs has conducted an innovative project through video and thematic videoconferences:

« The civil society sector has been involved and present on the ground since the beginning of the crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Civil Society Organisations, activists and volunteers around the World assist the vulnerable population and monitor the respect of fundamental rights and needs related to different contexts and fields of public policies.

The Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe proposes a series of exchanges on the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. These exchanges show the sector's extraordinary adaptation and resilience from which stems the strength of the proposals formulated and carried out by the organisations and their leaders.

The cycle of conversations is initiated by a short video entitled “INGOs under lockdown get involved and prepare for the future”. We invited some INGO members to discuss the impact of the pandemic on their activities, the adaptations made as well the actions and steps which need to be undertaken in order to #BuildBackBetter, to repair the damages but above all to not repeat the mistakes made in the past and build a better future for all, at the European level, by placing it in the global perspective of North-South relations“ (*quote from the website of the Conference of INGOs* <https://www.coe.int/en/web/ingo/covid-19-response>).

This activity was funded by INGO-Service and we also thank all the people who volunteered to make it happen.

- Representation of the INGO Conference

INGO-Service reimbursed the travel expenses for a meeting of the Standing Committee in January, the travel and subsistence expenses of the representatives of the Conference of INGOs to Steering Committees and subordinate groups as well as to the Committee of the Parties of the Istanbul Convention and the High Level Conference on Environmental Protection and Human Rights. With special permission, the President of the Conference of INGOs was able, despite the health situation, to travel to the Council of Europe on numerous occasions for meetings with members of the secretariat, Ministers' Deputies and others, which were essential to make the voice of civil society heard and to consolidate the position of the Conference of INGOs within the Council of Europe - the related expenses were also reimbursed by INGO-Service.

3) ACCOUNTS

The accounts show a surplus of nearly €13,000 on a budget of nearly €30,000, which is due to the sanitary constraints mentioned.

The number of contributing INGOs has decreased from 119 in 2019 (€18'010) to 104 in 2020 (€15'610).

At the beginning of June the Council of Europe grant was adapted, by an amendment to the initial contract, to the new situation to allow the use of funds for communication actions.

Details of resources and expenditure are published in the accountant's report.

4) PROJECT

As membership fees were in danger of becoming scarce and in order to be able to develop our activities within the Conference, we had considered an experiment in seeking donations from a targeted public likely to respond favourably to this request. This project was not successful and was therefore abandoned.

On behalf of all of us, I would like to thank our president Annelise Oeschger and our treasurer Heleen Jansen for the quality of their work, their availability and their kindness.

Marie-Claire Galibert, Vice-President