Global Compact Local Networks European Regional Meeting

Berlin, 2015

Summary Outcome Document

The Global Compact European Regional Meeting took place in Berlin, Germany on the 15th and 16th of October, 2015 and was attended by 23 networks: Portugal, Greece, Germany, Turkey, Georgia, Russia, Belarus, Nordic Countries, Switzerland, Poland, Bulgaria, Israel, Netherlands, Czech Republic, Serbia, Romania, Macedonia, Croatia, Italy, France, UK, Belgium, and Spain.

The UNGCHQ presented a summary of 2015 including the statistics – raising the important issue of recruiting and retaining participants – as well as the various activities that took place in 2015: the outcomes of the 2015 ALNF including the progression model, the new tools and resources, and the new GC website. Another focus area was also the re-introduction of the DNV-GL Impact Report and the how the LNs can use it to build their value proposition (a webinar will be scheduled with DNV-GL and the LNs for more detailed explanation).

Following that, the LEAD team presented the work of Global Compact LEAD and the possible connections with the local networks. A more general discussion on how to engage MNC's subsidiaries in the local Networks took place and Local Networks request that LEAD companies should show leadership where they operate and not just in the countries where they are headquartered and suggested that the LEAD companies should also form a working group to, together with their subsidiaries, elaborate on an engagement policy instead of the GC imposing it on them.

A special SDGs session was led by the LEAD team to introduce the SDGs to the LNs and their role in awareness raising and implementation at the local level and the different activities they can undertake. Some LNs have already started to introduce the SDGs including Spain and Belgium. Belgium is also looking at introducing the SDG Ambassadors concept with the difference CSR alliances in Belgium (details will follow once they are finalized). LNs were also recommended to take part in national policy dialogue whenever possible – it’s worth to mention that the language used is difficult for companies to understand and they request that the UNGC develops a clear business case why the businesses should be engaged.

The results of the LNAG survey were presented to the LNs and the LNAG Chair - Isabel Garro – together with the LNAG representative of Eastern Europe – Nikica Kusinikova- ran a working session with the LNs on how to tackle the issues they are facing with the objective of making commitments to take active steps to tackle those issues at the local level in cooperation with UNGCHQ. Some issues revolved around SME recruitment and retention, communication, sharing of best practices or that the LNs really become a core element of the GC initiative. Detailed outcome document will follow from the LNAG. The GC also talked about the barriers that we see sometimes with the LNs including funding and human resources at the local level, communication, the use of technology and low reading rate of our general communications with LNs and low response rate for the Annual Local Networks Survey.

The new LN logos were presented and all the networks agreed on them.

The SME engagement project was presented and most LNs agreed that recruiting SMEs has to be done in a strategic way in order to ensure that they will remain within the initiative and they also saw that
MNCs have a big role to play with their supply chains. Funding was also discussed: Turkey and Germany pointed out that they have good results at the local level with the collaborative funding model while other LNs noted that the collaborative funding model needed to be revised. COP21 was presented by the French Network.

At the end, a full session was held where LNs presented their best practice with a view on how they can collaborate together in the future.

It was also agreed that the upcoming regional meeting will take place in the Czech Republic in May 2016 prior to the Leaders Summit and the 2016 ALNF scheduled for October 2016 in Dubai. They all felt that a meeting every 6 months on average is beneficial for all.