

Newsletter N° 23 - June 2011 - Special edition

The ACP Local Government Platform e-Newsletter is an electronic newsletter produced every three months by the ACP Local Government Platform (ACPLGP). The editor of this e-Newsletter invites readers to make comments & contribute news on local government issues from their organizations, local authorities & countries. This Newsletter is also accessible via the ACPLGP Website at <http://www.acplgp.net>.

10th Anniversary of the ACP-LG Platform

Background

When governments in the ACP countries came up with a development partnership with the European Union (EU) years back they did not include local government (LG). In theory local governments were assumed to participate in ACP-EU development cooperation. In practice this was not the case.

From 1994, African LG associations started to lobby for the inclusion of local government in the Lomé IV Convention and any successor Agreement. They also understood the need to team up together as local governments with their colleagues from the Caribbean and the Pacific in the endeavour. In May 1994 African LG associations started in earnest to organise consultations that led to the establishment of the Platform while the actual establishment took place in Rio de Janeiro in May 2001.

The establishment of the Platform was further aided by the December 1999 seminar in Brussels organised by the European Commission (EC) and the ACP Secretariat which consisted of a two-day strategic dialogue between a selected group of representatives from African and EU local government organisations and Commission/ACP Secretariat officials on ways and means to build a stronger partnership between the EC and local government actors in the ACP and in Europe. This meeting was the result of both the political evolution in ACP countries - characterised by new forms of governance and the mainstreaming of decentralisation - and the promising new opportunities offered by the negotiations of a successor agreement to the Lomé IV Convention - which aimed at extending partnership to a wide range of decentralised actors. The objectives of the seminar were threefold:

- To review past cooperation experiences between the EC and local government actors;
- To define possible building blocks of a stronger partnership between the EC and local government in the context of the Post-Lomé IV negotiations;
- To explore the relevance and feasibility of setting up an ACP Local Government Platform of local government associations.

The status of the seminar was that of an informal strategic dialogue which ended up with a memorandum including various conclusions. Amongst the major conclusions agreed during the seminar was a plan to gradually set up a full-fledged and operational Platform to represent the interests of local governments in ACP-EU cooperation, among other things by seeking to extend the process to local government associations in the Caribbean and the Pacific. The memorandum also defined guiding principles to strengthen partnership relations between the EC and local governments in ACP-EU cooperation.

The Harare Workshop produced the structure of the Platform that included the Caribbean and the Pacific and recommended a meeting of the ACP local government delegates to the Rio de Janeiro World Conference.

From Rio to Brussels

In May 2001 - during the 35th World Conference of the International Union of Local Authorities held in Rio de Janeiro - a general meeting of ACP delegates formally established the ACP Local Government Platform, thereafter called the Platform, a representative structure to defend the interests of local governments from Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific in ACP-EU cooperation.

Those who were present during the formal establishment of the Platform in Rio de Janeiro are local government associations from the 6 regions of the ACP as well as continental/international local government organisations.

The ACP-LG Platform is thus established to support the operationalisation of the Cotonou Agreement. Within this context, the ACP-LG Platform seeks to respond to a number of fundamental concerns:

- The crisis of poverty - now a global challenge - as it grows in scope and intensity;
- The worldwide recognition that democratic governance is an important component of good governance practices for poverty reduction; and
- The urgent need for governments and development partners to recognise, engage with, as well as contribute to capacity development of all actors in order to confront this crisis and work together to ensure that poverty does not become an engrained feature of our societies.

The imperative is to re-define the role of local government in national development policy programming and implementation, and most particularly in ACP-EU development cooperation.

Subsequently a Coordinating Secretariat was set up in November 2004 with a Coordinator and an office in Brussels (8 Avenue E. Plasky, 1030 Brussels).

Major achievements

Ten years after its formal establishment, the Platform is on the right track in achieving its overall objective of promoting the political recognition and engagement of LG as partners of development and promoting their participation in ACP-EU development cooperation process. The set-up of the *Assises* of Decentralised Cooperation - meant to be a high level political dialogue between LG and the EU institutions - and the EU Structured Dialogue on the role of civil society organisations and local authorities (CSOs & LAs) in EU development cooperation further strengthen the political recognition of LG as key development actors.

Thanks to the various supports (see below) the Platform has been legally established and undertaken various Cotonou-related activities in its role of representation and advocacy, information and networking, and technical support to its members. These activities have started to produce some results such as:

- The Platform is increasingly recognised by official parties and other actors as representative of ACP LG.
- The Platform is becoming more effective in fulfilling its mandate and responding to members' needs.
- ACP LG members are increasingly aware of the various provisions for participation in ACP-EU and relevant EU programmes.
- There is an increasing number of ACP LG participating in EC calls for proposals and improvement in the rate of successful projects.
- ACP LG begin to be familiar with the Cotonou Agreement, and consequently, with the recognition of their role as partners in the ACP-EU development cooperation processes.
- ACP LG start to express their position to the National Authorising Officers (NAOs) and EC delegations and participate in EDF programmes and EU development initiatives.

Things are progressing, though slow, and a lot is still to be done to make effective ACP LG participation in ACP-EU cooperation.

The various supports to the Platform have helped to strengthen its capacity to be an effective interlocutor of the interest of all ACP LG at ACP-EU level and to respond to the increasing demands of ACP LG. For that purpose the organisation needs to be consolidated and this required action on a wide range of organisational and management issues.

The vision of the future

The Platform was established in the form of a light apex structure whose 'raison d'être' is to defend the common interests of ACP LG in relation to ACP-EU cooperation. The Platform has however evolved since its establishment in 2001. In February 2008, it reflected on how it will evolve in the coming years as a structure, membership organisation and interlocutor of the ACP-EU institutions. The current format and resource base has served well in the initial years of setting up the Platform and acquiring some visibility. Now that the Platform is a recognised player and expectations are likely to increase (from various sides), it needs to strengthen its overall institutional base, including the issue of membership development and financial sustainability.

The Platform has also considered the challenge of ensuring its further institutional strengthening, including with regard to its advocacy capacity (towards official parties) and service delivery capacity (towards its members). As part and parcel of the reflection it decided on two major issues to strengthen the Platform and to move it forward in respect of its membership and governance structure. The statute of the Platform has therefore been reviewed to reflect this new structure.

Membership structure

The Platform membership has been enlarged in order to be effectively representative of LG in all ACP countries and also to improve its financial sustainability through broadened membership. In line with the Georgetown Agreement, the membership structure of the Platform reflects the spirit of the ACP Group: the members of the Platform are local government associations with membership in ACP countries. They are represented by:

- All the national associations/institutions of local government of ACP
- The 6 regional associations/organisations/institutions of local government in the ACP (West Africa, East Africa, Central Africa, Southern Africa, Caribbean and Pacific)
- The continental/international organisations which represent specific categories of local governments in the ACP

Governance structure

In order to improve the Platform functionality and its democratic system, its governance structure has been amended. The governance structure of the ACP-LG Platform is executed by the following organs: the Conference; the Board; and the Coordinating Secretariat.

- **The Conference:** The Conference is the political body and supreme organ of the ACP-LG Platform. It has responsibility for the overall policy, direction and oversight of the organisation. The Conference comprises all members of the ACP-LG Platform, through their duly appointed representatives.
- **The Board:** The Board is the principal policy-making body of the ACP-LG Platform. It decides the ACP-LG Platform's policies and ensures that general policies decided by the Conference are implemented. The Board may delegate any of its powers to the Chairman or the Coordinator. The Board supervises the work of the Coordinating Secretariat. The Board comprises core members from all the 6 regions of the ACP (West Africa, East Africa, Central Africa, Southern Africa, Caribbean and Pacific).
- **The Coordinating Secretariat:** The day-to-day administrative functions and operations of the Platform at the apex level are conducted through the Coordinating Secretariat. The Secretariat is headed by the Coordinator, who serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Platform, in which capacity he/she has full general management responsibility and is accountable to the Board. The Coordinator carries out his/her duties with the technical support and assistance of technical support agencies.

The Platform having decided to adopt the new membership and governance structure, the next step will now be its implementation and the revision of the statute to reflect these changes. These activities are part and parcel of strengthening the Platform both legally and structurally. However, since this will require time and financial resources, their implementation will be phased over a 4-year period. It is expected that the funding sought under the intra-ACP fund will, together with other donor support to the ACP-LG Platform, assist with this implementation process.

Focus

The goal of the ACP-LG Platform is to promote the role of ACP local government in political dialogue and ACP-EU development cooperation at national, regional and all-ACP-EU levels. In order to achieve this goal, the Platform defines the following objectives:

- To promote the universal and fundamental principles of decentralisation as a logic of governance and promotion of development and to support such process across the ACP and within the ACP-EU framework.
- To structure and organise ACP LG for interest articulation and dialogue with the EU and the ACP at different levels, and to promote the establishment of consultation mechanisms.
- To strengthen and reinforce the capacity and resources of the structures that represent ACP LG at all levels (national, regional and all-ACP-EU) to enable them provide valued support service to their members.
- To foster and strengthen the development of strategic partnership and alliance between ACP LG associations and other non-state actors, and in particular with their EU LG counterparts and to foster opportunities for working together (with due respect for the comparative advantage and added value).

Key programmes

The Cotonou Agreement now recognises decentralised LGs of ACP countries as key strategic partners of ACP-EU cooperation providing added value. The new partnership implies a huge capacity agenda for the LG actors. Strategies and resources are needed with a view to promote and facilitate this partnership in general and the dialogue between the ACP, EU and the new decentralised players that this partnership implies, in order to define cooperation strategies (dialogue based on the identified needs and problems of LG).

In order to achieve its objectives, the key programmes of the Platform are:

- National capacity building programme. This programme will help local government in each ACP country to establish/develop/consolidate their national association provided with a resource centre which will deliver capacity development activities to the members thus enabling them to participate in the dialogue and development programmes at national level.
- Regional capacity building programme. This programme will help developing a wide range of technical support activities for local government and their association (where they exist) in the different ACP regions (West Africa, East Africa, Central Africa, Southern Africa, Caribbean and Pacific) through regional information centres (RICs).
- Institutional development of the Platform at the apex level. This programme aims to strengthen the Platform at the apex level to perform a number of highly critical advocacy functions and services to the benefit of all its members, thus complementing the activities planned under the national and regional programmes. The activities of the Platform at the apex level revolve around its three roles of representation and advocacy; information and networking; and technical support to its members.

Expectations

From the activities to be undertaken at the various levels, we expect that the local government representation mechanism at the national, regional and all-ACP-EU levels is supplemented and consolidated. It means that local governments are represented in each country/region and at the all-ACP-EU level by effective, fully representative and well-resourced associations:

- capable of defending their interests
- to promote their role
- to reinforce their capacities
- able to bring them the necessary information and tools to play their roles; and
- to take part in dialogue and implementation of development policies with development partners, in particular the EU at the national/regional and ACP-EU level.

Financial resources

In order to support the process of building an effective ACP local government network that can play a positive role in ACP-EU cooperation, initial support from donors is vital. In this phase, contributions from local government have mainly been in kind or through limited financial contributions. Over time, the ACP-LG network/Platform should be able to generate sufficient trust and delivering capacity so as to diversify its funding sources and to enhance contributions by members. This in turn should enhance the ACP-LG Platform's viability. In the meantime various sources of fund are sought to help the Platform achieving its goal including through donors contribution (EU Member States, ACP-EU, etc.), members' contribution and other sources.

Between May 2001 and March 2003, the Platform concentrated its initial efforts at securing funding to establish the structures as well as undertake activities necessary for operationalising the Cotonou Agreement regarding the role of local government. From the onset, it was quite clear that the Platform had to firstly address policy/legal/technical issues relating to mainstreaming the role of local government in ACP-EU cooperation. Beginning March 2003, some donors and key development partners were approached for support and this has received some positive responses. DFID [UK Department for International Development] was among donors approached and, in 2004, agreed to provide 'seed funding' over a 3-year period. This allowed the Platform to undertake part of its activities, in particular the institutional development of the Platform at the apex level. In addition, the DED [the German Development Service] in Harare also contributed to the support of the Platform. We have also benefited immensely from the support of our technical partners, amongst other ECDPM.

In January 2005, the Platform organised a get-to-know-you introductory session to about 50 key partners coming from the EC, members of the European Parliament, the ACP Secretariat, ACP Committee of Ambassadors, EU Member States as well as European civil society and local government associations.

In 2009/2010, the ACP-EU provided support to ACP local government with a 3/4-year programme called ARIAL "Appui et Renforcement des Initiatives des Associations Locales" - Supporting and Strengthening ACP Local Government Associations, funded under the 9th EDF Intra-ACP fund. This programme will enable us to accomplish a substantial part of our goal by strengthening the capacity and resources of local government associations at both national, regional and all-ACP-EU levels. However this programme will not cover all the activities foreseen for the period 2009-2013 allowing the Platform to fully achieve its goal. Therefore the Platform is still actively seeking other sources of funding from other donors' contribution and other sources.

2011 Annual Action Programme for the NSA-LA programme - Call for proposals in second quarter 2011

The European Commission published the 2011 Annual Action Programme of the 'Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development' programme which is part of the new multi-annual Strategy for the period 2011-2013 drawn up to ensure a large degree of continuity with the previous programming period 2007-2010, while introducing improvements proposed by the Mid-Term Review (MTR).

The following information concerns only ACP local authorities. As a reminder, the programme has three objectives but ACP local authorities are eligible only to the objective 1 (covering 82% of the overall LA budget), i.e. actions in partner countries including ACP, with two categories of interventions: in-country interventions managed by EU Delegations and multi-country interventions managed by EU Headquarters.

In 2011 the in-country interventions (Obj. 1a) cover around 90% of the overall budget dedicated to objective 1 and the remaining 10% are dedicated to the multi-country part (Obj. 1b). This is in line with the MTR which recommended for the period 2011-2013 to reduce the multi-country part of the programme while increasing the in-country interventions. This re-equilibration is based on i) the increasing demand for the in-country interventions (where subsidiarity and complementarity can be better ensured); and ii) the conclusion of the MTR highlighting the limited added-value of multi-country interventions.

Calls for proposals are expected to be published as of second quarter 2011. The system of restricted call for proposals will be used, i.e. first phase: only concept note; second phase: complete proposals.

Overarching objective: the strengthening of local authorities in partner countries as a pre-condition for a more equitable, open and democratic society, as well as strengthening their capacity to deliver services to the citizens, and in particular the most disadvantaged groups of population. Principles of Human Rights, Good governance and Gender equality must apply to all activities.

Sectors and themes: the interventions shall comprise small-scale development activities in a wide range of sectors and themes, including economic development, health, education, institutional support, rural development, waste management, water facilities and other areas in which local authorities intervention has a strong added value.

Cross cutting issues: Cross cutting issues of children's and older people's rights, rights of persons with disabilities, the environment and climate change, as well as the fight against HIV/AIDS, will be ensured. All projects will need to show, whenever relevant, how these issues are taken into account in the design, implementation and monitoring of their activities. Principles such as empowerment, participation, non-discrimination of vulnerable groups and accountability will be adequately taken into account.

Actions: All actions in the framework of Objective 1 (in-country and multi-country) should be based on an initiative of local partners and should ensure their involvement during all the stages of the action implementation. Actions proposed by local authorities originating from the European Union must demonstrate to **have an established and effective partnership** with local authorities and associations in the partner countries where the actions are taking place.

All actions must include an element of capacity building of local actors.

In all actions the execution of operations must remain under the responsibility and supervision of the LA and associations of LA, and mechanisms must be put in place to ensure sustainability of the actions after the EU-cofinanced project ends. Furthermore, steps should be taken under every project to ensure coherence with relevant sectoral policies, fair conditions of access to the most vulnerable parts of the population, quality of services rendered.

In-country intervention (action taking place in a single partner country).

Expected results: could consist, among others, in:

- Increased capacity of local authorities to strengthen their participation in poverty reduction and sustainable development strategies;
- Changes in government policy and practice towards local authorities in favour of their involvement in the development process;
- Increased participation of the poorest sections of the population in the policy making processes, including particularly marginalised and vulnerable groups that do not have access to social services;
- Fostering quality partnerships to promote the networking and alliances between large numbers of different actors from the EU and partner countries (South-South and North-South);
- Increased interaction between state and non-state actors in different contexts, including non-state actor involvement in policy dialogue with government and capacity to play an oversight role;
- Strengthened capacity of citizens to launch actions, defend their rights and to participate in the political dialogue on a regional, national and international level.

Budget available for ACP NSA-LA and Eligible countries:

The budget available for ACP NSA is € 71.800.000 while the budget available for ACP LA is € 12.425.000. However, both NSA and LA can apply in each other specific programme as partners.

Stable partnerships between NSA and LA are encouraged, provided that the partnership demonstrates in the application its added value for the implementation of the action.

Eligible country	Budget line 210301 (€) (for NSA)	Budget line 210302 (€) (for LA)	EU delegation website
Angola	3.000.000	No	http://www.delago.ec.europa.eu/
Benin	1.300.000	No	http://ec.europa.eu/delegations/benin/index_fr.htm
Burundi		No	N.A.
Cameroon	3.000.000	1.000.000	http://www.delcmr.ec.europa.eu/
Cape Verde		No	http://ec.europa.eu/delegations/cape_verde/index_pt.htm
Central African Rep.	3.000.000	450.000	N.A.
Chad	1.500.000	300.000	http://ec.europa.eu/delegations/deltcd/fr/index.htm
Comoros			http://www.delmus.ec.europa.eu/
Congo Democratic Rep.	5.000.000	No	http://ec.europa.eu/delegations/rdc/index_fr.htm
Congo Brazzaville	3.800.000		N.A.
Djibouti	300.000	No	N.A.
Dominican Republic	3.000.000	1.250.000	http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/dominican/index_es.htm
East-Timor		No	http://ec.europa.eu/delegations/timor/index_en.htm
Equatorial Guinea		No	N.A.
Eritrea	250.000	No	http://www.deleri.ec.europa.eu/index.php
Gabon	1.750.000	800.000	N.A.
Gambia		No	N.A.
Ghana			http://www.delgha.ec.europa.eu/
Guinea Bissau	3.500.000	1.250.000	http://ec.europa.eu/delegations/delqnb/
Guinea Conakry	No		http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/guinea/index_fr.htm
Guyana	300.000	225.000	http://www.delguy.ec.europa.eu/
Haiti	3.650.000	1.200.000	http://ec.europa.eu/delegations/haiti/index_fr.htm
Ivory Coast			http://www.delciv.ec.europa.eu/
Kenya	5.000.000	No	http://ec.europa.eu/delegations/kenya/index_en.htm
Lesotho	300.000	No	http://www.dello.ec.europa.eu/
Liberia		No	http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/liberia/index_en.htm
Madagascar	1.500.000	1.000.000	http://www.delmdq.ec.europa.eu/
Mali	No		http://www.delmli.ec.europa.eu/
Mauritania			http://www.delmrt.ec.europa.eu/
Mauritius		No	http://www.delmus.ec.europa.eu/
Mozambique	5.000.000	200.000	http://ec.europa.eu/delegations/mozambique/index_en.htm
Namibia			http://delnam.ec.europa.eu/home.htm
Niger			http://www.delner.ec.europa.eu/
PNG		No	http://www.delpng.ec.europa.eu/
Rwanda	2.500.000	600.000	http://www.delrwa.ec.europa.eu/
Sao Tome and Principe	1.300.000	600.000	N.A.
Senegal	1.000.000	750.000	http://ec.europa.eu/delegations/senegal/index_fr.htm
Sierra Leone	3.500.000	1.000.000	http://ec.europa.eu/delegations/sierra_leone/index_en.htm
Solomon Islands	450.000	No	N.A.
Somalia	2.500.000	No	N.A.
Sudan	5.000.000	No	http://ec.europa.eu/delegations/delsdn/
Swaziland	2.500.000	No	http://ec.europa.eu/delegations/swaziland/index_en.htm
Togo		No	http://www.deltgo.ec.europa.eu/
Tonga		No	http://www.delfji.ec.europa.eu/
Uganda	2.700.000	No	http://www.deluga.ec.europa.eu/
Zambia	3.000.000	800.000	http://ec.europa.eu/delegations/zambia/index_en.htm
Zimbabwe	2.200.000	1.000.000	http://www.delzwe.ec.europa.eu/
TOTAL	71.800.000	12.425.000	

Countries that have no amount stated in the corresponding column are foreseen to receive an allocation in 2012 or 2013 unless a 'No' is put which means no allocation is foreseen either in 2012 or in 2013. Where there is no delegation website available, please check the EU Headquarters website at

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome>

Co-financing rule: the maximum rate of EC co-financing of the action total eligible costs is 90%. In duly substantiated exceptional cases, the Commission can decide to allocate 100% of co-financing.

Grant size: minimum € 20.000 and maximum € 1.000.000.

Duration of the action: minimum 24 months and maximum 60 months.

Multi-country intervention (actions in at least 2 partner countries)

Actions: Priority will be given to actions comprising activities aiming at:

- Actions targeting issues common to different regions (for example water management, participative development, or other issues, common to different regions, that traditionally fall within the remit, statutory responsibilities, competence and expertise of LA). Actions must focus on issues of **global concern** dealt by networks of LA at multiregional or global level.
- Actions aiming at **structuring networks of local authorities** on the global, interregional and regional level. Actions must focus on strengthening the regional, interregional or global aspect of the networks structure.

Those above mentioned actions should be undertaken within the framework of decentralised cooperation that focus on poverty reduction and sustainable development, by taking a more participatory approach to development, responsive to the needs and initiatives of the populations in the partner countries; contributing to the diversification and reinforcement of civil society and democracy in the countries concerned.

Expected results: Results could consist, among others, in:

- Increased number of transnational activities, exchanges, confidence building, networking and coordination activities between non-state actors and local authorities (North-South or South-South);
- An increased in local authorities' support for and involvement in global and regional development processes and dialogues; and/or
- Dissemination of best practices at global or regional level and replication at national or local level.

Initiatives and projects with a supranational dimension may lead to an added value vis-à-vis the country programmes and to increased support of local populations and their involvement in regional integration processes.

Co-financing rule: the maximum rate of EC co-financing of the action total eligible costs is 90%.

Grant size: minimum € 500.000 and maximum €1.500.000.

Duration of the action: minimum 24 months and maximum 60 months.

Interesting links

2011 Annual Action Programme for the NSA-LA programme

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/documents/aap/2011/af_aap_2011_dci-nsa.pdf

2011-2013 NSA-LA Strategy Paper

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/finance/dci/documents/nsa-la_strategy_2011-2013_-_en.pdf

NSA-LA Mid-Term Review

http://ec.europa.eu/development/icenter/files/europa_only/consultation_non_state_actors_main_report.pdf

Global calls for proposals - Budget years 2011-2012

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/funding/documents/call_forecast.pdf

List of calls for proposals to be launched in 2011, 2012 and 2013

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/finance/dci/documents/2011-2013_-_calls_for_proposals_forecast_-_objective_1_in-country_en.pdf

EC calls for proposals: open / foreseen

Various EC calls for proposals open/foreseen for some programmes of interest to local authorities can be seen at

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome&PubliList=25&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&searchtype=AS&pgm=7573847&ZGEO=&debpub=&finpub=&aoet=36538>

- **Non-State Actors and Local Authorities thematic programme**

Countries	Deadline	Budget* (EURO)	Reference
Djibouti	07/08/2011	600.000	EuropeAid/131265/L/ACT/DJ
Mauritania	open	N.A.	EuropeAid/131502/L/ACT/MR
Senegal	26/07/2011	1.000.000	EuropeAid/131357/L/ACT/SN
Mozambique	04/08/2011	6.600.000	EuropeAid/131572/L/ACT/MZ
Mauritania	24/07/2011	N.A.	EuropeAid/131562/L/ACT/MR
Solomon Islands	28/07/2011	450.000	EuropeAid/131139/L/ACT/SB
Liberia	open	1.990.000	EuropeAid/131290/L/ACT/LR

* Total budget for non-state actors and local authorities.

- **EIDHR: European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights**

Countries	Deadline	Budget (EURO)	Reference
Madagascar	15/09/2011	600.000	EuropeAid/131667/L/ACT/MG
All countries	01/08/2011	15.700.000	EuropeAid/131086/C/ACT/Multi
Djibouti	26/07/2011	300.000	EuropeAid/131350/L/ACT/DJ

Cuba	foreseen	300.000	EuropeAid/128487/L/ACT/CU
Jamaica	open	600.000	EuropeAid/128794/M/ACT/JM
Djibouti	open	300.000	EuropeAid/130188/L/ACT/DJ
Papua New Guinea	open	295.000	EuropeAid/131030/L/ACT/PG
All countries	01/08/2011	21.600.000	EuropeAid/131085/C/ACT/Multi
Eritrea	open	300.000	EuropeAid/130950/L/ACT/ER
Chad	28/07	870.000	EuropeAid/131270/L/ACT/TD
Guinea Bissau	28/07	1.140.000	EuropeAid/131333/L/ACT/GW

- Food Security

Countries	Deadline	Budget (EURO)	Reference
Haiti	open	4.500.000	EuropeAid/129015/L/ACT/HT
East Timor	12/07/2011	2.200.000	EuropeAid/131523/L/ACT/TL

- Various fields in ACP countries

Countries	Deadline	Budget (EURO)	Reference
Chad	30/09/2011	2.286.735	EuropeAid/131611/M/ACT/TD
South Africa	25/08/2011	3.000.000	EuropeAid/131343/L/ACT/ZA
All ACP countries	01/08/2011	7.500.000	EuropeAid/131603/D/ACT/Multi
Angola	20/09/2011	3.000.000	EuropeAid/131663/D/ACT/AO
Burundi	11/07/2011	7.000.000	EuropeAid/131418/L/ACT/BI
Chad	19/09/2011	2.100.000	EuropeAid/131468/M/ACT/TD
Vanuatu	open	250.000	EuropeAid/127380/D/ACT/VU
Saint Lucia	open	2.764.500	EuropeAid/127383/D/ACT/LC
Comoros	foreseen	250.000.000 (KMF)	EuropeAid/127491/M/ACT/KM
Burundi	foreseen	N.A.	EuropeAid/127612/M/ACT/BI
Guinea Conakry	open	1.000.000	EuropeAid/128104/M/ACT/GN
Cote d'Ivoire	open	1.520.000	EuropeAid/128169/M/ACT/CI
Guinea Conakry	open	705.790	EuropeAid/129422/M/ACT/GN
Liberia	foreseen	15.600.000	EuropeAid/129931/L/ACT/LR
Senegal	open	700.000	EuropeAid/130175/M/ACT/SN
South Africa	open	1.000.000	EuropeAid/131470/L/ACT/ZA
Chad	31/08/2011	2.286.735	EuropeAid/131506/M/ACT/TD
Fiji	31/08/2011	5.800.000	EuropeAid/131067/L/ACT/FJ
All ACP countries	open	7.000.000	EuropeAid/130741/D/ACT/Multi
Jamaica	open	900.000	EuropeAid/131171/M/ACT/JM

News from the EU:

Structured dialogue: civil society and local authority take role in development policy

Structured dialogue was initiated by Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs, in May 2010 with the aim to form and make EU development policy more efficient, by involving and considering the needs of civil organisations and local authorities. During the final conference of the series of events on 17 May 2011, Andris Piebalgs appreciated the Hungarian Presidency's efforts for organising the event. He stressed that several developing societies reached a new chapter in the past period, and civil societies and local authorities play a key role in establishing and maintaining democracy, good governance and the rule of law; as well as in securing human rights. Mr Piebalgs announced: "based on the experiences of structured dialogue, the Commission will issue a communication on the involvement of civil societies and local authorities in EU development policy". The Commissioner added: "the aid delivery mechanism will be simplified, and a centre will be built in Brussels to facilitate the continuation of the dialogue". http://brussels.cta.int/index.php?option=com_k2&id=5580&view=item&Itemid

ACP directorates within DG DEVCO

Following the merger of DG for Development (DG DEV) and DG for Aid and Cooperation - Europeaid (DG AIDCO) the official organisation chart of DG DEVCO is now available (see below). The creation of a single DG within the Commission, responsible for Development Policy and implementation, is one of the institutional changes brought about by the Lisbon Treaty. DG DEVCO sees itself as a central player in coordinating with the European External Action Service (EEAS) in ensuring coherence of other policies with development. The organisational structure of the new Directorate General, which includes 50 units, 1,400 officials in EC Headquarters and 3,000 officials in 110 EU Delegations, was presented by Fokion Fotiadis, Director-General of DG DEVCO to the European Parliament's Development Committee on 26 May. According to the organisation chart, the directorate responsible for African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) matters has been split into separate directorates with one for sub-Saharan Africa, and Caribbean and Pacific matters now dealt with in the Latin America and Asia directorates, respectively. In reply to MEPs' questions concerning this change, Fotiadis stressed the European Commission's intentions to uphold its policy commitments towards ACP countries and to assure coordination on ACP issues among the three respective geographical directorates. To this end, horizontal ACP matters have been kept within the directorate for sub-Saharan Africa, the EU official pointed out. With regards to the details of cooperation between the EEAS and DG DEVCO, Fotiadis hinted at unsolved issues at institutional level, specifically concerning the division of responsibilities on various matters.

Subsequently, it remains unclear whether the EEAS should have a say on the Commission's prerogatives in budget support assistance to a given country and to what extent should political considerations play in this respect. Another important issue is the shared responsibility between the Commission and EEAS over the newly transformed EU delegations, he added. Following the question on the countries DG DEVCO is planning to disengage with, Fotiadis announced that this issue will be covered by the EC Communication on the Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF) set to come out at the end of June. http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/who/documents/organigramme-devco_en.pdf

Commitment to the Aid effectiveness agenda reaffirmed at the Joint Parliamentary Assembly

From 16 to 18 May, the 21st session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA) was held in Budapest. The consultative body, made up of equal numbers of member of the European Parliament (MEPs) and ACP representatives, reviews the EU's relationship and cooperation with ACP countries. The assembly saw the adoption of a comprehensive declaration setting out participant's priorities for the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, to be held in Busan in November this year. The declaration re-iterated the importance of providing budget support as "one of the best ways to increase aid effectiveness". In a report on "Budgetary support as a means of delivering Official development assistance (ODA) in ACP countries" adopted in plenary session, the JPA's Economic Development Committee stressed that although ACP countries should meet the criteria of the Cotonou Agreement, including transparent public financing and "well defined policies aimed at eradicating poverty", budget support "should not be overburdened with political demands". The Committee called on donor countries to provide up to 50% of their aid to ACP countries as budget support and to set a collective EU target. Participants also urged donor countries to uphold their commitment to providing 0.7% of GNI in ODA and emphasised the necessity to increase aid predictability through "reliable timetables on their financial flows and long-term development agreements with partner countries, based on mutual accountability for development". The need for greater inclusion of actors from a wide range of governance levels was also emphasised at the ACP-EU JPA. The importance of non-state actors was stressed by the participants who call on "the EU and partner countries to deepen and broaden the structured dialogue process for civil society organisations (CSOs) and local authority engagement so as to ensure their full and meaningful participation in the planning, implementation, monitoring and assessment of budgets and programmes".

For further information: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/acp/60_21/default_en.htm

News from the ACP

ACP Summit in 2014 to give political guidance on future of ACP

A special summit of Leaders from the ACP nations will be convened in 2014 to give political guidance on the future of the group, at the expiry of the Cotonou Agreement in 2020 according to the special Working Group, comprising Brussels based Ambassadors tasked to find a way forward for the ACP. For the next two years, a consultant will be engaged to conduct an in-depth study on the various options and scenarios for the transformation of the ACP Group while managing change and continuity. The study will examine the relevance of the ACP in the new and evolving global environment and review its privileged relations and co-operation with the EU, taking account of the Second Revised Cotonou Partnership Agreement, the Economic Partnership Agreement, the Lisbon Treaty as well as relations with other development partners. A final decision will be made on the basis of the findings of the study, on-line consultations with all stakeholders and hearings from a selected group of persons.

<http://www.pina.com.fj/?p=pacnews&m=read&o=14546831704de13c3908f1ff47fe00>

Good practices / Capacity development

Updated/new items on the ACP-LG Platform website. The 'Good practices' item of the Platform website has been substantially upgraded and updated. It now contains two sub-items 'Good practices in brief' and 'Interesting links'. The first sub-item is made up of various articles explaining how local government in other countries/regions/continents deal with specific/common problems of local government. The second sub-item contains links to relevant websites dealing with LG good practices. A new item 'Capacity development' has been created and contains links to various capacity development platforms/portals. Comments are welcome. <http://www.acplgp.net/> Train4dev course material on decentralisation. New open source training materials from a pilot training course on "harmonisation, decentralisation and local governance" are now available on the train4dev website. This material has been developed by ECDPM, The Hague Academy for Local Governance and Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation on behalf of the Development Partners Working Group - Local Governance and Decentralisation (DPWG-LGD). The five day training course follows a modular approach, which has been tested with staff from a range of donor agencies in January 2011 and revised in line with comments and suggestions. The material can be downloaded free of charge and users are invited to provide feedback.

http://www.train4dev.net/index.php?id=109&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+local_governance_decentralisation+%28Governance%3A+Local+Governance+and+Decentralisation+%29

Announcements

Appointment of Josep Roig as UCLG Secretary General. The 12th UCLG Executive Bureau, hosted by Rabat, was attended by over 300 participants, including 200 local and regional leaders from 40 countries from all continents. The Executive Bureau took place from 22 to 24 June in the capital city of Morocco. The UCLG Executive Bureau appointed Josep Roig as UCLG Secretary General following an international recruitment process. Josep Roig, Secretary General of Metropolis since 2000, has been involved in the Metropolitan Section of UCLG as a founding and active member since

1985. Economist by education, he worked at the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona in different positions and was Executive Director of the University of Barcelona during the period 1990-1994.

<http://www.cities-localgovernments.org/>

6th Annual Meeting of the Development Partners Working Group on Local Governance and Decentralisation (DPWG-LGD). From May 18th to 20th 2011 the informal Development Partners Working Group on Local Governance and Decentralisation held its 6th annual meeting in Brussels, hosted by EuropeAid and co - hosted by the Swiss Development Agency (SDC). A total of 47 participants from 24 organisations were present at the meeting. The thematic sessions were centred on challenges of integrating decentralisation and local governance issues in sector wide approaches, measuring progress of decentralisation reforms and impact of donor support as well as fiscal decentralisation and its linkages and importance for public finance management. Especially the subject around measuring of results and impact has generated a great interest amongst participating DPs. The main focus of the meeting was the upcoming 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-4) in Busan, South Korea in November this year. The key issue was to discuss how the working group can best position itself and the issue of decentralisation and local governance at the HLF-4. The group is currently producing an input derived from a total of 7 case studies that have been conducted in 2010 and 2011 comprising Benin, DRC, Ghana, Indonesia, Mozambique, Peru and Uganda. http://www.dpwg-lgd.org/cms/front_content.php?idart=151

Events

Training on Citizen Participation and Accountability. The Hague Academy. 12-23 September. 2011.

Trust between governments and citizens is essential for good governance and participation. In order to build trust, governments need to communicate in a transparent way about past and future decisions and actions. Governments however, should not only inform but also involve citizens. The ideas and opinions that they put forward in policy-making and implementation processes, provide valuable input for improving the quality of local policies and services. Key questions to be discussed in this two-week innovative training course include: How can municipalities increase accountability towards their citizens? And how can they benefit from involving citizens and organisations in a smart way? You will discuss the accountability chain, the participation ladder, do's and don'ts and you will visit participation projects in urban planning, social cohesion and safety.

http://thehagueacademy.com/index.php?id=388&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+local_governance_decentralisation+%28Governance%3A+Local+Governance+and+Decentralisation+%29

International Course on Local Governance and Rural Decentralisation. Wageningen. 27 February - 9 March 2012. Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation and the Royal Tropical Institute in the Netherlands organise international course on Local Governance and Rural Decentralisation. This course will be held in February 27th to March 9th 2012. The course is designed for people who are involved with governance processes in a context of rural decentralisation.

http://www.dpwg-lgd.org/cms/upload/pdf/0311_Local_Governance_and_rular_decentralisation.pdf

Reading

Reshaping Institutions. Evidence on External Aid and Local Collective Action.

Although institutions are believed to be key determinants of economic performance, there is limited evidence on how they can be successfully reformed. The most popular strategy to improve local institutions in developing countries is "community driven development" (CDD). This paper estimates the impact of a CDD program in post-war Sierra Leone using a randomized experiment and novel outcome measures. We find positive short-run effects on local public goods provision, but no sustained impacts on fund-raising, decision-making processes, or the involvement of marginalized groups (like women) in local affairs, indicating that CDD was ineffective at durably reshaping local institutions.

<http://cyrussamii.com/?p=789>

Taxation is a path to better governance. Launch of the Institute of Development Studies' International Centre for Taxation and Development programme

While there may be no easy prescriptions for better governance, there are factors that can strengthen the responsiveness of states to the needs of their citizens. Tax is now widely considered to be one such factor. The International Centre for Taxation and Development is a new five-year research programme funded by the UK Department for International Development which aims to mobilise knowledge that will help make taxation policies more conducive to pro-poor economic growth and good governance. The Centre's belief is that better tax systems lead to better governments, better state-society interaction and better development outcomes.

<http://www.ids.ac.uk/go/news/taxation-is-a-path-to-better-governance>

Several new guidelines for decentralisation and sector reform published on Capacity4Dev's Public sector reform and decentralisation group page. April 2011. <http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/pubpubsecref/dashboard>

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