

Newsletter N° 24 - September 2011

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 organisations, local authorities & countries. This Newsletter is also accessible via the ACPLGP Website at <http://www.acplgp.net>.

Non-State Actors and Local Authorities Programme - Call for proposals to be published on 01/11/2011

The European Commission will publish soon a global call for proposals within the framework of the thematic programme "Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development". It will be addressed to Local Authorities within the objectives 1b [Actions in partner countries (multi-country interventions)] and 2 [Raising public awareness of Development issues and promoting Development Education in the EU] of the programme. It will be published on the DG-DEVCO website on 1st November 2011.

EC calls for proposals still open/foreseen

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

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

- Non-State Actors and Local Authorities thematic programme

Countries	Deadline	Budget* (EURO)	Reference
Congo Brazzaville	28/11/2011	3.610.000	EuropeAid/131947/L/ACT/CG
Congo Democratic Rep.	15/12/2011	4.900.000	EuropeAid/132015/L/ACT/CD
Uganda	10/10/2011	5.180.000	EuropeAid/131693/L/ACT/UG
Eritrea	open	1.000.000	EuropeAid/131937/L/ACT/ER
Cameroon	17/10/2011	7.000.000	EuropeAid/131649/L/ACT/CM
Eritrea	open	250.000	EuropeAid/131033/L/ACT/ER
Liberia	open	1.999.000	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
Jamaica	open	N.A.	EuropeAid/131840/L/ACT/JM
Swaziland	open	600.000	EuropeAid/131819/L/ACT/SZ
Niger	12/12/2011	600.000	EuropeAid/131797/L/ACT/NE
Mali	12/10/2011	300.000	EuropeAid/131850/L/ACT/ML
Uganda	04/10/2011	299.522	EuropeAid/131525/L/ACT/UG
Burundi	open	400.000	EuropeAid/131770/M/ACT/BI
Jamaica	foreseen	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

- Food Security

Countries	Deadline	Budget (EURO)	Reference
Congo Democratic Rep.	17/11/2011	22.805.700	EuropeAid/131530/L/ACT/CD
All countries	foreseen	20.000.000	EuropeAid/131792/C/ACT/Multi

- Various fields in ACP countries

Countries	Deadline	Budget (EURO)	Reference
Swaziland	17/10/2011	9.870.000 (SZL)	EuropeAid/131788/M/ACT/SZ
Swaziland	14/11/2011	150.000	EuropeAid/131794/M/ACT/SZ
Swaziland	14/11/2011	150.000	EuropeAid/131795/M/ACT/SZ
Belize	open	N.A.	EuropeAid/131679/M/ACT/BZ
Vanuatu	foreseen	250.000	EuropeAid/127380/D/ACT/VU
Saint Lucia	open	2.764.500	EuropeAid/127383/D/ACT/LC
Burundi	foreseen	N.A.	EuropeAid/127612/M/ACT/BI
Guinea (Conakry)	open	1.000.000	EuropeAid/128104/M/ACT/GN
Ivory Coast	open	2.520.000	EuropeAid/128169/M/ACT/CI
Guinea (Conakry)	open	705.790	EuropeAid/129422/M/ACT/GN

The forecast of the up-coming 2011 global calls for proposals has been updated.

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

European Development Fund annual action programmes for ACP countries

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/ap/aap/2011_en.htm

News from the EU:

Hearts and minds for ACP-EU relations

The African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) needs to strengthen itself politically while the EU must be prepared to renew its partnership with ACP countries, taking it beyond the donor-recipient relationship. These are some of the opinions set forth in a [Special Report](#) on the future of the ACP-EU relationship published by The Broker, and a [conference](#) on the topic organised by the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) in Maastricht in July. The ACP-EU partnership, sealed by a treaty known as the Cotonou agreement, is due to expire in 2020. As one would expect from a gathering of such prominent stakeholders, most agreed that the partnership is worth renewing. However, it is widely shared that in its current form, the partnership is too much of a donor-recipient relationship. If it was not for the € 4400 million in funding allocated annually to ACP countries from the European Development Fund (EDF), would the ACP in fact exist as a group of states on the international stage? Many conference participants expressed their hope that the ACP pursue a more prominent, political position in international decision-making, and explore new opportunities for cooperation with emerging countries such as China, India and Brazil. Others are more sceptical, pointing out that the ACP group is too diverse and geographically dispersed to operate effectively as a political bloc. Still others believe that the ACP should continue to focus on its role as principal partner for European development cooperation, and strengthen intra-group relations.

http://brussels.cta.int/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=5771:hearts-and-minds-for-acp-eu-relations

Piebalgs suggests reflection time about future ACP-EU partnership

At a meeting with the development committee of the European Parliament, Development Commissioner Andris Piebalgs took a sceptical note when speaking about the ACP-EU partnership after 2020. "We need a detailed political debate with our partners," he said, adding that ACP countries should actively reflect on the ACP-EU partnership as well. We don't want the lowest common denominator of the ACP group to determine our relations," Piebalgs stressed, pointing to human rights and governance issues in particular. He showed his disappointment that the Commission had been unable to advance further on these issues in negotiations with ACP countries. The European Commission is set to publish its new development policy outlook this autumn and focus more strongly on human rights and good governance.

MEPs welcomed proposals for the new development budget in the Multi-annual financial framework 2014-2020. Chair Nirj Deva said that the Commission's propositions represented a "significant increase" of development funds at a time of financial constraints for both the European Development Fund (EDF) and the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI). Commissioner Piebalgs commented that the Commission was trying to be humble, yet ambitious. "I try to make a proposal that is still acceptable to member countries," he said.

In the future, MEPs hope to see an arrangement between the Council and the European Commission that would allow the Commission a greater autonomy in decision-making, albeit under parliamentary scrutiny. This could allow the Commission to react swiftly to changing developments in partner countries. However, member states representatives recently advised the Council not to agree to this proposal.

http://brussels.cta.int/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=5791:piebalgs-suggests-reflection-time-about-future-acp-eu-partnership

News from the ACP

African, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) Group new website. <http://www.acp.int/>

Cotonou: dark clouds on the future of the ACP-EU relationship

Dark clouds are forming on the future of the ACP-EU relationship. Some see 2020, the expiry date of the current Cotonou agreement, as the time to sweep under the carpet this original partnership and the very existence of the ACP Group, and this, for the benefit of strategies already under construction between Europe and each individual continent as well as economic partnership agreements with the South divided into several regions (markets). Of course, the group of the ACP countries, backed by a long (and sometime difficult) experience of a common political destiny, partly holds its future in its own hands. Between accepting a long gradual erosion of its relationship with the EU and simply wanting to extend the Cotonou Agreement in 2020, various formulas exist (and, in fact, are already explored), for instance to expand the group to integrate other countries but also to other partnerships in order to compensate the growing lack of interest observed in the EU.

The institutional reforms and cooperation approaches that are being developed accelerate the need for thinking deeply on the future of the ACP-EU relationship. The Green Paper does not mention this agreement neither proposes any substantial reflection on the partnership issue though this should remain the base of any cooperation policy. No 'ACP desk' is foreseen in the European External Action Service (EEAS) but rather regional desks (Africa, Asia, Pacific and Americas, etc.). This seems to mean that the EU favours the regionalisation of its political dialogue. Thus the Africa-EU strategy should become the new framework for the relationship between Africa and the EU in spite of the limitation of its implementation (no clear financial support, weak involvement of EU member states, etc.). This regionalisation of the political dialogue can therefore lead to the marginalisation of the Cotonou agreement and to the weakening of ACP-EU institutions and dialogue. In addition, political dialogue with some African countries tends to focus on security issues: the EU has recently adopted specific strategies for the Sahel and Horn of Africa regions, partly due to its concern in the matter.

Moreover, the priorities of the Green Paper will probably be reflected in the aid programming to the ACP countries. The EDF, for instance, could be more used to support growth or finance investments or large infrastructure projects rather than to support social sectors. Part of the EDF fund will be used to finance the EU strategy for Sahel and Horn of Africa.

Finally, given that the EEAS is responsible for the European security policy and will be involved in the EDF programming, the interests of the EU foreign and security policy could be more reflected in country strategy papers. There is already tendency of using development resources to finance military objectives (for instance through the Peace Facility of the EDF). Source: Bulletin Cotonou N 42 - <http://www.cncd.be/-Bulletin-Cotonou->

Good practices / Capacity development

Voices of capacity development. Capacity.org. September 2011.

External aid can provide a significant boost to country-led processes. However, if external partners focus on the performance of their own aid, policies, approaches and knowledge, their support is more likely to hinder than support a country's efforts. In this special issue published to coincide with the Fourth High Level Conference on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, Korea, Capacity.org invited a number of change agents in the South to speak about their experiences in leading change processes. The interviews cover a wide range of sectors and countries: achieving universal access to energy in South Africa, improved sanitation in Nepal, a more favourable business environment in Kenya, enforcing compliance with environmental laws in Zambia, and introducing active approaches to learning in Laotian schools.

<http://www.capacity.org/capacity/opencms/en/journal/issues/voices-of-capacity-development.html>

Announcement

How can local governments be proactive in responding and adapting to climate change? How can they plan and implement solutions for environmental and natural resource challenges? How can they promote more sustainable ways of development? What can be learned from countries like Brazil, Indonesia and Bhutan?

In this intensive training course which will be held from 16 until 21 October 2011 in The Hague , The Netherlands, leading experts will share with you the latest insights on climate change adaptation and mitigation. We will zoom in on the design and implementation of sustainable local development programmes that aim to protect the global environment, as well as improve the quality of life of citizens. Furthermore, you visit innovative projects on issues such as combating air-pollution and sustainable water management. Throughout the course there will be ample of time to share your experiences, ask questions and learn from your fellow participants. The course is primarily targeted at mid-career and senior staff of municipalities, ministries, bilateral donors, multilateral agencies and NGOs who wish to be well-informed about cutting-edge developments in this important and expanding field. More information can be found at

<http://www.thehagueacademy.nl/training-programmes/open-courses-2011/training-climate-change-and-sustainable-local-development/>

Course on Local governance and rural decentralisation

Wageningen UR and the Royal Tropical Institute in the Netherlands are pleased to announce the organisation of the international course on Local Governance and Decentralisation, to be held in the Netherlands from February 27 to March 9, 2012. The past decade has seen a growing interest in the role of governance in stimulating local economic development and sustainable management of natural resources. The role of governments is shifting towards creating an enabling environment and to facilitating development rather than steering it. This has led to the understanding that local governance for rural development should be addressed as a multi-stakeholder process with interactions taking place at different levels amongst actors with different ambitions or perceptions. Participants will learn to deal with the complexity of governance and how to engage with different stakeholders to improve service delivery, steer local economic development and improve natural resource management. Participants will leave the course with increased understanding of their organisation's current and desired position, roles, and interests in relation to local governance for rural development.

http://www.cdi.wur.nl/UK/newsagenda/agenda/Local_governance_and_rural_decentralisation.htm

Reading

Laboratoire Citoyennetés. Bulletin d'information. Janvier - Juin 2011.

http://www.labo-citoyennetes.org/documents/173_Bulletin18_LC.pdf

Development Partners Working Group on Local Governance and Decentralisation Newsletter N 9.

http://www.dpwg-lgd.org/cms/upload/pdf/NEWSLETTER_09_DeLoG.pdf

Accountability through dialogue. The Presidência Aberta e Inclusiva in Mozambique. German Development Institute. Accountability is a central feature of democracy. Developing countries as well as the OECD-donor community have committed themselves to working towards the improvement of domestic accountability in developing countries. This paper summarises the results of an empirical study on accountability in Mozambique. It focuses on the Presidência Aberta e Inclusiva (PAI, Open and Inclusive Presidency), a legally not codified institution for accountability introduced by President Armando E. Guebuza. It provides a public forum for the president to engage in a dialogue with the population and the local administrations, in combination with an ongoing process of decentralisation. This study shows that the interaction between formal and more informal

institutions has a mixed influence on policymaking and democracy. Overall, there is an untapped potential to improve the PAI as an institution for accountability that strengthens formal institutions.

[http://www.die-gdi.de/CMS-Homepage/openwebcms3_e.nsf/\(ynDK_contentByKey\)/ANES-8JBEG2?Open&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+local_governance_decentralisation+%28Governance%3A+Local+Governance+and+Decentralisation+%29](http://www.die-gdi.de/CMS-Homepage/openwebcms3_e.nsf/(ynDK_contentByKey)/ANES-8JBEG2?Open&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+local_governance_decentralisation+%28Governance%3A+Local+Governance+and+Decentralisation+%29)

Decentralisation in Commonwealth Africa. Experiences from Botswana, Cameroon, Ghana, Mozambique and Tanzania. Commonwealth Secretariat. The aim of a well-designed decentralisation programme is to deliver effective services to all citizens and to deepen democracy through active popular participation in local governance. Through detailed case studies of decentralisation policies in five sub-Saharan African countries - Botswana, Cameroon, Ghana, Mozambique and Tanzania - this book edited by Janet Kathyola and Oluwatoyin Job examines the challenges presented, lessons learned, and recommends ways to improve policy implementation. It is clear from the analysis that there is no 'one size fits all' design of decentralisation policy. Policy-makers worldwide can use the lessons learnt and good practices presented here to better inform and advance their own decentralisation agenda.

http://publications.thecommonwealth.org/decentralisation-in-commonwealth-africa-868-p.aspx?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+local_governance_decentralisation+%28Governance%3A+Local+Governance+and+Decentralisation+%29

Resource Guide on Decentralisation and Local Government. Commonwealth Secretariat. Estimates suggest that decentralisation is currently being pursued in over 80 per cent of developing countries worldwide. For many people, local government is the part of government that most directly impacts on their lives, particularly via the provision of local services like water, sanitation, primary education and primary healthcare. This resource guide provides practical guidance for designing, implementing and evaluating decentralisation reforms and local government practices to ensure they are as effective as possible. It also synthesises and presents current debates on the impact of decentralisation and local government on poverty reduction, service delivery and conflict as well as providing links to cutting-edge research and recent case studies. The guide includes summaries of key texts. Each short summary provides a link to an extended summary which can be found in the alphabetised appendix.

http://publications.thecommonwealth.org/resource-guide-on-decentralisation-and-local-government-861-p.aspx?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+local_governance_decentralisation+%28Governance%3A+Local+Governance+and+Decentralisation+%29

Local Governance and ICTs in Africa, Case Studies and Guidelines for Implementation and Evaluation.

With governance high on the agenda in Africa, many governments are using information and communications technologies (ICTs) to introduce innovations in their structure, practices and capacities as well as in the ways they use human capital and deliver services to citizens. But the potential for e-governance in Africa remains largely unexploited. This book addresses the lack of evidence on ICTs in local governance in Africa. At its heart lies the conviction that ICT can enable local governments to engage citizens to participate in democratic processes and to engage in public sector management so creating socio-economic developments at local and national levels. It provides an important collection of studies and analyses on the transformative potential of ICT. The book provides a synthesis of the findings and a roadmap to assist government decision makers in implementing and evaluating their own e-local governance projects.

http://fahamubooks.org/book/?GCOI=90638100266630&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+local_governance_decentralisation+%28Governance%3A+Local+Governance+and+Decentralisation+%29

Support local governance to get research into policy.

Researchers who work in developing countries are increasingly being asked by funders to demonstrate that their findings are being taken up in policy and practice. One way researchers can draw attention to their results is by building relationships with highly influential individuals, often referred to as 'policy entrepreneurs'. Policy analysis research has repeatedly shown that well-placed, well-networked, or highly respected people can play an important, informal role in getting research issues on the agendas of decision makers, or moving the policymaking process forward when it stalls. But there is a key problem with this strategy - it is not exactly a model of good governance. Donors concerned with getting research findings into policy, but equally concerned with not dominating local priorities, should work to support or develop local institutions that review, process and recommend evidence to policymakers.

http://www.scidev.net/en/science-communication/influencing-policymakers/opinions/support-local-governance-to-get-research-into-policy-1.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+local_governance_decentralisation+%28Governance%3A+Local+Governance+and+Decentralisation+%29

For any request for information/comment/contribution to the ACPLGP e-Newsletter, please contact:

ACPLGP - Avenue Eugène Plasky, 8/12 - 1030 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32.(0)2.732.85.62 - Fax: +32.(0)2.742.36.73

Email: platform@acplgp.net - Website: www.acplgp.net



With the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are sole responsibility of the ACPLGP and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

