

## Newsletter N° 25 - December 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>.

### Local Authorities Programme - Open call for proposals - Deadline: 01/02/2012

The 2011 call for proposals for the 'Local Authorities in Development' programme is now open and can be seen at <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome> (go to 'advanced search'; in programme: go to 'non-state actors and local authorities'; type: click on 'grants'; status: click on 'open'; then click on 'search'). See EuropeAid/131143/C/ACT/Multi.

There are 2 lots but ACP local authorities and association of local authorities (LA & ALA) should concentrate on Lot 1 'Support to LA and ALA projects implemented in two or more partner countries' corresponding to Objective 1B of the programme (multi-country intervention).

**Global objective:** to support multi-country actions proposed and implemented by LA & ALA from the EU and partner countries, in order to: i) empower LA & ALA in public policy making in line with international development commitments (i.e. MDGs); and ii) promote and support regular structured and inclusive dialogue with their communities and in multi-stakeholder forums.

**Specific objective:** enhancement of capacities of LA in partner countries.

**Priorities:** Priority will be given to:

- **Institutional Capacity Building:** reinforcement of the internal structure and operating modalities of existing membership-based ALA with representativeness at regional, continental or international level.
- **Decentralised Cooperation:** promotion of decentralised cooperation within the LA areas of responsibility, competence and expertise.

**Co-financing rule:** the maximum rate of EC co-financing of the action total eligible costs is 90% for actors from developing countries and 75% for actors from the EU

**Grant size:** minimum Euro 500.000 and maximum Euro 1.500.000

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

**Budget:** Euro 6,470,677 are allocated to Lot 1

A document called 'How to write a good project' is available on the Platform website [www.acplgp.net](http://www.acplgp.net)

### 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>

- Non-State Actors and Local Authorities thematic programme

Countries	Deadline	Budget* (EURO)	Reference
Somalia	10/01/2012	2.375.000	EuropeAid/131991/L/ACT/SO
Central African Republic	26/01/2012	3.450.000	EuropeAid/132242/L/ACT/CF
Angola	Foreseen	3.000.000	EuropeAid/132197/L/ACT/AO
Eritrea	Open	250.000	EuropeAid/131033/L/ACT/ER
Sao Tome e Principe	29/02/2012	3.600.000	EuropeAid/132105/L/ACT/ST
Namibia	01/03/2012	2.250.000	EuropeAid/132056/L/ACT/NA
All countries	01/02/2012	16.240.520	EuropeAid/131143/C/ACT/Multi
Chad	06/02/2012	1.425.000	EuropeAid/132124/L/ACT/TD
Guinea Bissau	28/02/2012	4.750.000	EuropeAid/132146/L/ACT/GW
All countries	01/02/2012	25.904.500	EuropeAid/131140/C/ACT/Multi

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

- EIDHR: European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights

Countries	Deadline	Budget (EURO)	Reference
Mozambique	07/02/2012	300.000	EuropeAid/132262/L/ACT/MZ
Nigeria	02/03/2012	300.000	EuropeAid/131574/L/ACT/NG
South Africa	31/01/2012	890.000	EuropeAid/131543/L/ACT/ZA
Papua New Guinea	Open	288.000	EuropeAid/132161/L/ACT/PG
Angola	Foreseen	600.000	EuropeAid/132222/L/ACT/AO
Liberia	28/02/2012	597.000	EuropeAid/132228/L/ACT/LR
Jamaica	Open	N.A.	EuropeAid/131840/L/ACT/JM
Swaziland	Open	600.000	EuropeAid/131819/L/ACT/SZ
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
Madagascar	06/03/2012	1.100.000	EuropeAid/132173/L/ACT/MG
All countries	07/02/2012	20.000.000	EuropeAid/131792/C/ACT/Multi

- **Various fields in ACP countries**

Countries	Deadline	Budget (EURO)	Reference
Somalia	10/01/2012	2.075.000	EuropeAid/132170/L/ACT/SO
Malawi	06/02/2012	3.000.000	EuropeAid/132284/M/ACT/MW
Belize	Open	1.000.000	EuropeAid/132016/M/ACT/BZ
Kenya	31/01/2012	9.000.000	EuropeAid/132230/M/ACT/KE
Cameroon	Open	1.000.000	EuropeAid/132195/L/ACT/CM
Chad	08/03/2012	2.286.735	EuropeAid/132171/M/ACT/TD
All ACP countries	31/01/2012	14.000.000	EuropeAid/132128/C/ACT/Multi
Tanzania	31/01/2012	9.500.000	EuropeAid/131346/L/ACT/TZ
Chad	31/01/2012	2.286.735	EuropeAid/132032/M/ACT/TD
Chad	20/02/2012	3.300.000	EuropeAid/132157/M/ACT/TD
South Africa	03/01/2012	1.000.000	EuropeAid/132200/L/ACT/ZA
Uganda	23/01/2012	1.100.000	EuropeAid/132172/M/ACT/UG
Ethiopia	31/01/2012	600.000	EuropeAid/132022/M/ACT/ET
Guinea Conakry	Open	613.000	EuropeAid/132043/M/ACT/GN
Vanuatu	Foreseen	250.000	EuropeAid/127380/D/ACT/VU
Burundi	Foreseen	N.A.	EuropeAid/127612/M/ACT/BI
Guinea Conakry	Open	1.000.000	EuropeAid/128104/M/ACT/GN

### Opening of the Portal of Decentralised Cooperation for development

The Portal of Decentralised Cooperation is now available at <http://lra4dev.cor.europa.eu/portal> and you are kindly invited to register in order to participate actively in the debates, declare your cooperation projects and activities, and search for/propose new partnerships.

For further information, please contact [LRA4DEV@cor.europa.eu](mailto:LRA4DEV@cor.europa.eu).

**Introduction.** The Portal of decentralised cooperation for development is a joint initiative of the Committee of the Regions and the European Commission. It is the result of a proposal and commitment to involve local and regional authority (LRA) more closely in development cooperation policy. The Portal is also the result of a need for both LRA and other actors to have access to better information about decentralised cooperation and the specific needs of LRA in this area. The Portal is an interactive working tool at the disposal of all local and regional authorities from the EU and partner countries as well as of all those interested in issues related to decentralised cooperation. The Portal grows richer with the participation and contribution of each one of them. It consists of four main parts: an Atlas, a library, a stock exchange of projects, and a forum.

**Atlas.** Based on information reported directly by the LRA, the Atlas brings together and classifies data on decentralised cooperation while offering a series of interactive maps that illustrate the main trends of decentralised cooperation in the EU and in partner countries. With these maps, the Atlas makes a detailed presentation of decentralised cooperation activities by the EU's local and regional authorities, including their geographical and sectoral distribution. Thus, the Atlas provides information about who does what, when and where. The Atlas also has a multi-criteria search interface which allows for detailed extraction of information from the database.

**Library.** In offering the possibility of wider dissemination of information, the online library has two main objectives: i) to facilitate the registration of LRA's initiatives in a broader context so as to better involve them in the definition and/or implementation of comprehensive development cooperation strategies; and ii) to increase the dissemination of funding opportunities for development cooperation. In order to facilitate access to documents, the online library has a multiple criteria search tool so that users can select the documents most relevant to their needs.

**Forum.** The Portal is also a meeting place for online exchanges, as well as to prepare and follow up debates on decentralised cooperation. Online forum discussions bring together people from different backgrounds to exchange information and experiences on issues related to decentralised development cooperation. All registered users of the Portal can not only actively participate in forum discussions but also propose new topics and start new discussion threads. In addition, if they wish, they can moderate and facilitate those forum discussions.

**Project Stock Exchange.** The Project Stock Exchange is designed to facilitate contacts between LRA which are looking for partners willing to engage in further decentralised cooperation activities. It is thus a tool to meet the requests (the demand side) made by some LRA with the offers (the supply side) put forward by other LRA. To participate in this process, the relevant LRA must complete a specific online form. The Stock Exchange provides an automatic mechanism to match the requests with the offers for decentralised cooperation activities. In addition, by using existing information in the Atlas, it can identify which LRA are already active in any given country, region, sector or working with one particular partner. Once a match is established, detailed information is made available to both LRA so they can contact each other bilaterally.

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**News from the EU:**  
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**2011 European Development Days.** The 2011 European Development Days (EDD), one of the EU's key events in the international development community, took place in Warsaw on 15-16 December. Hosted by the Polish Presidency and the European Commission, this year's event focused on the Arab Spring, especially on issues of democracy and human rights. "As we look to the future, governance, democracy and human rights will form a central part of our vision for EU development policy going forward," said Commissioner for Development, Andris Piebalgs, in his opening speech. The 2011 EDD was an opportunity to discuss the Commission's Agenda for Change by which development efforts will be targeted towards the poorest countries. This strategy will be based on two main pillars. "The first is a better focus in EU development policy on good governance and human rights; the second, a concerted effort to create inclusive and sustainable growth in developing countries", said Piebalgs, the number one promoter of this new approach. First launched in 2006, the European Development Days are an opportunity for key partners and stakeholders to talk about making aid more effective and ways for building on European development cooperation. <http://www.eurostep.org/wcm/eurostep-weekly/1852-updates-from-the-development-community-european-development-days.html>

**Post 2013 EU External Action Budget: an overview of future cooperation instruments.** The Commission adopted its proposals for financing EU external action for the 2014-2020 Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF) on 7 December. While member States are still discussing the future ceiling of the overall EU budget and the way to raise EU's own resources, the Commission and the External Action Service (EAS) worked hard in the last months to draft almost all legislative acts that are necessary to implement future EU's policy priorities, the so-called instruments. These instruments are set-up for the whole period of the next Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF) and will be in force from 1st January 2014 to 31 December 2020 (7 years in total). The ambitious EC proposal for its future development and external action budget represents a breakthrough in the current climate of budgetary austerity and of questioning the value for money and effectiveness of development assistance. Indeed the EC proposes to **increase the 'Global Europe' heading of the budget by 25%** while several member states are strongly contesting the increase by 5% requested by the EC for the overall budget (total of 1.083 B€ or 1,11% of EU GNI). Three factors should however facilitate MS acceptance: 1) the 'Global Europe' would only represent 6.8% of the overall budget, 2) the new orientations of EU external actions are in line with MS approaches and support EU interests and EU 2020 strategy and 3) increasing ODA share in the EC budget will help MS meeting their own ODA commitments without having to disburse more money. Still the difficult question remains: where to find the money in a constrained and contested overall budget?

The complete external actions toolbox of the EU contains **14 different "instruments" out of which the European Development Fund (EDF) and the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) of interest to ACP local government** as well as a Guarantee Fund and an Emergency Reserve. At the end of June, the EC proposed a **total budget of around 100 B€** (in constant prices) for the whole toolbox of the future MFF. At the exception of the European Development Fund (EDF) and the Emergency Reserve that will be maintained outside the budget, all these financial tools are included in Heading 4 of the EU Budget entitled 'Global Europe' (70 B€ in constant prices).

The European Development Fund

The decision to maintain the EDF - the financial arm of the Cotonou Agreement between the EU and 78 countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific - outside the EU budget was taken for 2 pragmatic reasons: this is the last EDF under the current Cotonou Partnership Agreement and it is probable that no consensus in favour of EDF 'budgetisation' would have been reached by Member States. Member States have now to agree on the total amount of the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF (EC requested 34.3 B€ in current prices), and on the way to distribute that financial effort amongst them. The EC proposes a new contribution key by which Germany (20.5%), France (17.8%), UK (14.3%) and Italy (12.6%) would be the biggest providers. These two questions will certainly be subject to difficult negotiations. In 2012 the EC will also table a proposal for 11<sup>th</sup> EDF implementation rules.

The Development Cooperation instrument

The EC proposes to **increase by 17% in constant prices the budget of the DCI**, to streamline and simplify its implementation and to increase its flexibility are welcome. The EC/EEAS proposes to reduce the number of thematic programmes to 2: one actor oriented programme for **Civil Society and Local Authorities** very much in prolongation of the existing NSA-LA programme and one programme on **Global Public Goods and Challenges** that will cover issues of existing thematic programmes (environment and climate change, sustainable energy, human development, agriculture and food security and migration and asylum). 37% of the DCI envelope will be allocated to these 2 thematic programmes (6.3 B€ to global challenges of which 31.8% for environment and climate and 2 B€ to CS-LA) and to a **newly established pan-African envelope worth 1 B€** that would support pan-African processes and activities of the Joint EU-Africa strategy action plan. The rest of the DCI, 14 B€ will be allocated to the geographic programmes for Latin America, Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East and South Africa without pre-established distribution.

Next steps

It is important to remember that the **draft legislative acts and budgets** contained in the December package are only proposals and that they might undergo serious changes during the co-decision process of the European Parliament and the Council. The Development Committee of the EP will take the lead on the Development Cooperation Instrument. The proposed council decisions for the EDF will be discussed by the Member States and adopted by the Council only.

[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/finance/mff/financial\\_framework\\_news\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/finance/mff/financial_framework_news_en.htm)

<http://ec.europa.eu/budget/reform/>

**At Busan, EU announces new transparency and coordination initiative.** Over 2000 participants attended the High Level Forum for Aid Effectiveness (HLF4) event in Busan, South Korea, between 29 November and 1<sup>st</sup> December, which follows on from previous aid effectiveness events at Paris and Accra. One of the main objectives of the event was to agree on a new and inclusive Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation - an arrangement to include partner countries as well as their development partners, including emerging economies, the private sector and civil society organisations from across the world. After days of debates, a 12-page document sums up the general guidelines for an expected worldwide partnership. This document, however, is not binding, as many stakeholders would have wished for. Regarding the future of the post-Busan agenda, the negotiators did not manage to reach agreement on a follow-up process. Main issues to be decided upon are the composition, mandate and intended outcome of the new global Partnership, action plans and mechanisms for implementing Busan and the development or not of new indicators and targets to strengthen the Busan outcome document. It seems that this will be discussed in June during the last meeting of the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness. Speaking in Busan, EU Development Commissioner, Andris Piebalgs, presented the European Union's new proposals to make its aid more effective: EU Joint Programming, which involves EU donors working together on aid delivery and then dividing the work needed in the most efficient way, and an EU Transparency Guarantee, which means that EU Member states will publicly disclose all information on aid programmes so that it can be more easily accessed, shared and published. The EU also underlined the need to focus more on how aid is delivered on the ground, and encourage partner countries to take forward new 'Country Compacts', which are flexible agreements in place to enable different development partners to better respond to countries' priorities and specific needs on the ground at the time.

**The future of structured dialogue: how to build on the good outcome of Budapest?**

On 9 & 10 November, the first follow-up meeting after the Budapest conference on the structured dialogue took place in Brussels. It was a broad meeting gathering all stakeholders to discuss an EC proposal on the way to organise the future dialogue between the EU institutions and civil society organisations and local authorities from both the EU and partner countries. The EC proposes to organise a 'structured' on-going dialogue with civil society and local authorities at three levels: the national (in-country) level under responsibility of EU delegations, the regional level and the Brussels level. All participants insisted on the necessity to strengthen and prioritise the dialogue at national level around three main themes: 1) Political and sectoral policy dialogue including the enabling environment, 2) a dialogue on EC assistance, both thematic and geographic and 3) for CS to take part in coordination mechanisms between donors. Some principles were highlighted to make that dialogue fair, effective and relevant, they include the need to be context tailored, to be linked with existing dialogue (e.g. on Budget support) and with MS, UN and other international actors, to be facilitated by EU delegations where necessary, for DEVCO to provide the political backup and the guidance (tools, training material...). [https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/index.php/Structured\\_dialogue](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/index.php/Structured_dialogue)

**The 'Agenda for Change' of EU development policy: Commission to increase aid impact, concentrating on fewer sectors, focusing on countries most in need.** The EU will re-prioritise its delivery of aid to developing countries to ensure maximum impact on poverty reduction. On 13 October, EU Commissioner for Development, Andris Piebalgs, presented the 'Agenda for Change' of EU Development policy and a new policy for EU budget support. These communications set out a more strategic EU approach to reducing poverty, including through a more targeted allocation of funding. Future EU spending should concentrate on sectors which are key for long-term and inclusive growth, target countries that are in the greatest need of external support and where aid can make a difference. "Representing more than 50% of global aid, the EU is already the biggest donor in the world. I want to make sure it remains the most effective one, too" said EU Commissioner for Development, Andris Piebalgs. He added: "We must keep pace with changing realities in the world and adapt the way we fight poverty as a result. That's why I'm proposing today that we refocus our aid priorities to ensure that countries are on track to achieving sustainable and inclusive growth. I want to make sure that every euro reaches those that need it most. Fighting poverty abroad is EU "insurance policy" for a more stable and prosperous world. "

Good governance, agriculture and food security and clean energy

EU aid should focus on sectors setting the foundations for inclusive and sustainable growth. These include:

- Good governance, including respect of human rights and democracy; gender equality, role of civil society and the fight against corruption,
- Social protection, health and education,
- Supporting a favourable business environment and deeper regional integration,
- Sustainable agriculture and clean energy, helping to provide safeguards against external shocks and turn challenges of food security and climate change into opportunities for growth.

In order to generate more resources, the EU will explore innovative ways of financing development, like the blending of grants and loans.

The Commission will also encourage the EU and its Member States to jointly prepare strategies and programmes (so called "joint programming") and better divide labour amongst themselves in order to increase aid effectiveness.

A new contractual approach for EU Budget support

A significant share of EU aid is delivered in the form of budget support: financial transfers to government budgets in developing countries, coupled with policy dialogue, performance assessment and capacity building.

The Commission proposes an EU approach to make budget support more effective and efficient in delivering development results by strengthening the contractual partnerships with developing countries.

- "Good governance and Development contract" will be set up for providing general budget support where the partner country can demonstrate a commitment to fundamental values. The EU will put more emphasis on human rights, democracy and the rule of law through a focus on dialogue with partner countries, creating incentives for reform and asking countries to commit to fundamental values.
- The promotion of sector service delivery will go through "Sector reform contracts". Sector budget support remains a useful tool even when the conditions do not exist to permit the use of a Good Governance and Development Contract.
- Budget support will be used in fragile countries on a case by case basis to ensure vital state functions and support the transition via "State Building contracts".

Budget support should contribute to the fight against corruption and fraud, and help countries to build their own financial resources, in order to reduce dependence on aid in the long run.

#### Background and next steps

In autumn 2010, the European Commission launched a consultation on the future of development policy and on the instrument of budget support. Today's proposals draw on the analysis of the feedback received from global partners, governments, NGOs and the private sector.

The proposals come in the form of two Communications:

- Increasing the impact of EU Development Policy: an Agenda for Change
- The future approach to EU budget support to third countries

The main principles of the 12-point Agenda for Change will be progressively reflected in the remainder of the current programming cycles, and then in future EU programming. In spring 2012, the Commission will ask EU Foreign Ministers to endorse the new EU budget support approach.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/1184&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&uiLanguage=en>

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#### News from the ACP

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#### Technical retreat between the All Africa Ministerial Conference on Decentralisation and Local Development (AMCOD) and the Political Affairs Department of the African Union.

On 23 November 2011, a technical retreat between the African Union Commission (AUC) and the All Africa Ministerial Conference on Decentralization and Local Development (AMCOD), was held at the Haile Resort Hotel, HAWASSA in Ethiopia, to reflect on joint activities to be implemented throughout and beyond 2012, which has been declared as the Africa year of shared values. The agenda comprised the following items:

1. The current status of collaboration between AMCOD and the AUC
2. The outcomes of the second ordinary session of AMCOD held in Maputo from 8-10 August 2011
3. Collaboration between AMCOD and AUC within the framework of celebrations to mark the Africa year of shared values
4. The way forward and recommendations for the future

The presentation of each agenda item was followed by discussions and recommendations.

[http://www.au.int/en/sites/default/files/Report\\_Retreat\\_AMCOD\\_AUCAWASSA\\_final\\_23-11-2011\\_En\[1\].pdf](http://www.au.int/en/sites/default/files/Report_Retreat_AMCOD_AUCAWASSA_final_23-11-2011_En[1].pdf)

#### ACP-EU cooperation to remain strong, Parliamentarians assert at the Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA).

The JPA that convenes twice a year brings together Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and their counterparts from the national parliaments of ACP countries to discuss current development issues on the basis of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement (Cotonou), signed in 2000. The 51<sup>st</sup> session of the JPA was held in Togo, from 19-24 November, and focused on the consequences of the Arab Spring in Sub-Saharan Africa, the impact of indebtedness on development aid as well as the food crisis in the Horn of Africa. Participants have warned against potential aid cuts as a result of the on-going European crisis that could put at risk development efforts achieved so far.

<http://www.eurostep.org/wcm/eurostep-weekly/1815-ACP-EU-cooperation-to-remain-strong-parliamentarians-assert-at-jpa.html>

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#### Good practices / Capacity development

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#### Developing capacities for better research uptake: the experience of ODI's Research and Policy in Development programme. ODI Background Notes, December 2011.

Over the past decade funders have, increasingly, demanded that development and poverty reduction goals be informed by research-based evidence. As a result, there has been a growing focus on developing the capacities of think tanks, networks, policy-makers and donors to generate such evidence. In response, the Research and Policy in Development (RAPID) programme at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) has supported capacity-building to make better use of research in informing policies and practices. To date, little published material has assessed this work.

This Background Note aims to fill this gap and provide a candid analysis of RAPID's work to date, ahead of the programme's tenth anniversary in 2012. It draws on the experience of RAPID staff, project reviews and reports to key funders, including the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC). We focus on the process, rather than impact (beyond

changes among those that we have worked with directly). We provide a brief history of the RAPID programme, then outline RAPID's evolving capacity development work in four key dimensions:

- the issues or themes RAPID has worked on
- the activities through which capacity development has been delivered
- the mode in which support has been provided
- how RAPID has structured itself to deliver such support.

The final section draws lessons from RAPID's work and concludes with a set of recommendations.

[http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/details.asp?id=6195&title=research-uptake-rapid-research-policy-development&utm\\_source=ODI\\_Update&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Google+Reader](http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/details.asp?id=6195&title=research-uptake-rapid-research-policy-development&utm_source=ODI_Update&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Google+Reader)

**Capacity results. Case stories on capacity development and sustainable results.** This publication is a collection of stories that showcase how endogenous investments in capacity development have led, over time, to produce short, medium and long-term sustainable results. These stories tell how investments in leadership capacity, coalitions for change, knowledge and skills and other capacity assets, have led, over time, to better performing public institutions, communities and civil society organizations; and how these, in turn, have contributed to better health services and outcomes, economic policies and other sustainable development results that have benefited the people. This publication is the results of the collaboration of LenCD partners, representing more than thirty organisations, including government institutions, bilateral and multilateral organizations, and non-governmental and civil society organizations.

[http://www.lencd.org/files/group/busan/document/2011/Capacity\\_Results:\\_Case\\_stories\\_on\\_capacity\\_development\\_and\\_sustainable\\_results/Capacity-Results-web.pdf](http://www.lencd.org/files/group/busan/document/2011/Capacity_Results:_Case_stories_on_capacity_development_and_sustainable_results/Capacity-Results-web.pdf)

**African Solutions: Best Practices from the African Peer Review Mechanism.** A new book released by the South African Institute of International Affairs and published by Jacana Media examines the governance success stories of a number of African states. Entitled "African Solutions: Best Practices from the African Peer Review Mechanism", the book is the outcome of research into the policies, programmes and experiences identified as "best practices" from the first 12 countries that published Country Review Reports (CRRs) under the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). These countries are Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa and Uganda. The APRM was conceived as a voluntary mechanism and, in the absence of 'hard pressure' for compliance, incentives - rather than sanctions - could be the way to strengthen governance on the continent. <http://www.saiia.org.za/books/african-solutions-best-practices-from-the-african-peer-review-mechanism.html>

## Announcement

**Decentralisation, Democratisation and Development Training.** The Hague Academy. The Hague. 19-30 March 2012. Local governments play a crucial role in providing basic services and fostering sustainable economic development. As government layer closest to citizens, decentralised government moreover has the potential to contribute considerably to increased accountability and democratic governance in a country. This course discusses how to design, implement and support effective decentralisation strategies in order to strengthen governance and development from the bottom up. In our courses, we aim to offer you a real local governance experience. By seeing, doing, discussing and exchanging experiences you will be actively involved throughout the course. Evaluations have shown that this way of learning has far more impact than the traditional class room training. [http://www.thehagueacademy.nl/nc/training-programmes/open-courses-2012/training-decentralisation-democratisation-and-development/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+local\\_governance\\_decentralisation+%28Governance%3A+Local+Governance+and+Decentralisation+%29](http://www.thehagueacademy.nl/nc/training-programmes/open-courses-2012/training-decentralisation-democratisation-and-development/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+local_governance_decentralisation+%28Governance%3A+Local+Governance+and+Decentralisation+%29)

**Multi-stakeholder processes for institutional strengthening. Local governance and rural decentralisation training.** Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation. 27 February-9 March 2012. Thinking about the relationships between government, the private sector and civil society has changed considerably. Instead of being perceived as passive beneficiaries, rural populations are increasingly seen as citizens who have the right to participate and who demand good local governance. 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. In this course you will learn how to deal with the complexity of governance and the engagement with multiple actors each with their own ambitions. You will gain increased understanding of your organisation's current and desired position, roles, and interests in relation to local governance for rural development. You will work with multi-stakeholder and social learning concepts and methodologies for institutional change, and you will learn to reflect on them. [http://www.cdi.wur.nl/UK/newsagenda/agenda/Local\\_governance\\_and\\_rural\\_decentralisation.htm](http://www.cdi.wur.nl/UK/newsagenda/agenda/Local_governance_and_rural_decentralisation.htm)

## Reading

**Can Islands of Effectiveness Thrive in Difficult Governance Settings? The Political Economy of Local-level Collaborative Governance.** Brian Levy, World Bank. October 2011. Many low-income countries contend with a governance syndrome characterized by a difficult combination of seeming openness, weak institutions, and strong inter-elite contestation for power and resources. In such countries, neither broad-based policy nor public management reforms are likely to be feasible. But are broad-based approaches necessary? Theory and evidence suggest that in such settings progress could be driven by "islands of effectiveness"—narrowly-focused initiatives

that combine high-quality institutional arrangements at the micro-level, plus supportive, narrowly-targeted policy reforms. This paper explores whether and how local-level collaborative governance can provide a platform for these islands of effectiveness. The paper also reviews the underpinnings of successful collaborative governance.

<http://www->

[uds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2011/10/11/000158349\\_20111011150735/Rendered/PDF/WPS5842.pdf](http://www-uds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2011/10/11/000158349_20111011150735/Rendered/PDF/WPS5842.pdf)

**Comparative Assessment of Decentralisation in Africa. Final Report and Summary Findings.** US AID. October 2011. Decentralisation has advanced considerably in Africa in the last two decades. Since 1990, many African central governments have initiated or deepened processes to transfer authority, power, responsibilities, and resources to sub-national levels. To examine the results of these processes, USAID has commissioned a comparative study to draw lessons from 10 country experiences with decentralization: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda. This study is a comparative report drawing upon desk studies of the countries above, plus follow-up field studies in five of the countries (Botswana, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Tanzania).

<http://trademarksa.org/news/decentralisation-africa-summary-findings>

**Supporting domestic accountability in developing countries: Taking stock of the approaches and experiences of German development cooperation in Mali.** Loquai, C. 2011. (Discussion Paper 115).

[http://www.ecdpm.org/Web\\_ECDPM/Web/Content/Navigation.nsf/index2?readform&http://www.ecdpm.org/Web\\_ECDPM/Web/Content/Content.nsf/0/6DA81B49E33238D6C1257961004DE232?OpenDocument](http://www.ecdpm.org/Web_ECDPM/Web/Content/Navigation.nsf/index2?readform&http://www.ecdpm.org/Web_ECDPM/Web/Content/Content.nsf/0/6DA81B49E33238D6C1257961004DE232?OpenDocument)

**Decentralisation. Learning Lessons from the Developing World.** Capacity4Dev. 11 November 2011. Decentralisation is not always easily implemented and many developing countries have failed or are failing to introduce effective decentralised governance systems. But why? Francois Vaillancourt from the University of Montreal, Canada, considers the obstacles, conditions for success and how these might be relevant to European Commission staff. Speaking at a recent event in Brussels, Mr Vaillancourt presented the findings of his book 'Obstacles to Decentralisation: Lessons from the Developing World' written with Jorge Martinez-Vazquez. Key to Mr Vaillancourt's approach is that decentralisation is a tool for better service delivery and not an end in itself. "Decentralisation should never be a goal, as such. Decentralisation is a tool for better public policy," said Mr Vaillancourt. "Decentralisation usually makes it easier for people to get the level of services and the type of services they want in the region they live in than when it's provided at a central level simply because the central level is physically, and in a sense intellectually, further away."

<http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/article/decentralisation-learning-lessons-developing-world>

**Busan and Beyond. Localising Paris Principles for More Effective Support to Decentralisation and Local Governance Reforms.** Development Partners Working Group on Decentralisation & Local Governance (DeLoG). November 2011. <https://community.oecd.org/docs/DOC-34911>

**Building an African Infrastructure, Paul Collier, Key political decisions are needed to build critical rail networks for a continent well suited to them.** The coming decade could be Africa's opportunity for investment. Globally, there is a massive pool of investable private resources. Prospects in the advanced economies look bleak, and in the major emerging economies—the so-called BRICs: Brazil, Russia, India, and China—the future is looking more uncertain. Although Africa is not immune to global risks, its continued growth is likely to rest on the potential for further resource discoveries and for commercial cultivation of its vast, underused agricultural land. <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2011/12/collier.htm>

**The hopeful continent: Africa rising.** After decades of slow growth, Africa has a real chance to follow in the footsteps of Asia. The shops are stacked six feet high with goods, the streets outside are jammed with customers and salespeople are sweating profusely under the onslaught. But this is not a high street during the Christmas-shopping season in the rich world. It is the Onitsha market in southern Nigeria, every day of the year. Many call it the world's biggest. Up to 3m people go there daily to buy rice and soap, computers and construction equipment. It is a hub for traders from the Gulf of Guinea, a region blighted by corruption, piracy, poverty and disease but also home to millions of highly motivated entrepreneurs and increasingly prosperous consumers. <http://www.economist.com/node/21541015?frsc=dg|a>

**The Least Developed Countries Report 2011. The Potential Role of South-South Cooperation.** The least developed countries (LDCs) are a group of countries that have been classified by the United Nations as least developed in terms of their low gross domestic product (GDP) per capita, weak human assets and high degree of economic vulnerability. The Report examines how South-South cooperation could support development LDCs against this background. It shows that there are intensifying economic relationships between the LDCs and other developing countries and that these helped to buffer LDCs from the downturn in advanced economies. A major new trend in the pattern of integration over the last decade or so has been the deepening and intensification of economic and political ties with more dynamic, large developing countries, acting as growth poles for the LDCs. While intensifying South-South relations presents major new opportunities for LDCs in terms of markets, foreign direct investment, remittances and official financing, they also bring many challenges, ranging from extreme competition to de-industrialization. Therefore, the long-term impact of South-South economic relations on the LDCs still remains a puzzle.

The Report explores how the potential of South-South cooperation can be turned into a reality that promotes the development of productive capacities, structural transformation and decent employment in the LDCs. It argues that the benefits of South-South cooperation will be greatest in the LDCs when a dynamic two-way relationship is established in which policies carried out by catalytic developmental States in the LDCs and South-

South cooperation reinforce each other in a continual process of change and development. In such a dynamic relationship, the catalytic developmental State in the LDCs enhances and shapes the benefits of South-South cooperation, and South-South cooperation supports both the building of the catalytic developmental State in the LDCs and the successful achievement of its objectives.

<http://www.unctad.org/Templates/WebFlyer.asp?intItemID=6164&lang=1>

**Developing a strategy for knowledge translation and brokering in public policymaking.** The challenge for policymakers is to ensure that the decision-making process effectively meshes different types of knowledge such as scientific knowledge, knowledge of the local context and wider knowledge of what has worked in the past; and to do this whilst involving different types of organisation such as line ministries, research providers, non-governmental organisations, advocacy groups, local delivery bodies and citizens. Supporting this complex decision-making process often requires people and organisations able to facilitate the links between these different groups; working as neutral intermediaries to translate and 'broker' different types of knowledge. Because policy processes are complex, there is no single role for knowledge brokers. Instead, they perform different functions at different times and for different issues. Understanding this helps managers develop a strategy for investing in these intermediary/brokering functions; deciding how to do so cost-effectively, what exactly it would entail, what would need to be in place, and what sort of return they might expect.

<http://zunia.org/post/developing-a-strategy-for-knowledge-translation-and-brokering-in-public-policymaking/>

**What leads to peaceful societies. Structures of Peace Report.** Institute for Economics and Peace. Structures of Peace is a new conceptual framework for understanding and describing the factors that create a peaceful society. Derived from an empirical and statistical analysis of the Global Peace Index. Over 300 country data sets were used to define the key economic, political and cultural determinants that foster the creation of a more peaceful society. The Structures of Peace, derived from the analysis presented in the report, consist of the following elements:

- Well-functioning government
- Sound business environment
- Equitable distribution of resources
- Acceptance of the rights of others
- Good relations with neighbours
- Free flow of information
- High levels of education
- Low levels of corruption

These eight factors were found to be associated with peaceful environments and can be seen as both interdependent and positively reinforcing of each other. This means the relative strength of any one 'structure' has the potential to either positively or negatively influence peace.

<http://www.visionofhumanity.org/info-center/structures-of-peace-2/>

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