

## Newsletter N° 21 - December 2010

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>.

### EC calls for proposals still open

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=&aoet=36538>

#### • Non-State Actors and Local Authorities thematic programme

Countries	Deadline	Budget* (EURO)	Reference
Niger	15/02/2011	1.500.000	EuropeAid/130864/L/ACT/NE
Cap-Vert	02/03/2011	650.000	EuropeAid/130817/L/ACT/CV
Somalia	10/01/2011	2.500.000	EuropeAid/130376/L/ACT/SO
Togo	15/02/2011	600.000	EuropeAid/130725/L/ACT/TG
Seychelles	28/01/2011	250.000	EuropeAid/130615/L/ACT/SC
Chad	24/01/2011	1.130.070	EuropeAid/130612/L/ACT/TD

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

#### • EIDHR: European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights

Countries	Deadline	Budget (EURO)	Reference
Salomon Island	14/03/2011	300.000	EuropeAid/130804/L/ACT/SB
All countries	open	N.A.	EuropeAid/126352/C/ACT/Multi
Fiji	05/01/2011	600.000	EuropeAid/130778/L/ACT/FJ
Lesotho	15/02/2011	300.000	EuropeAid/130530/L/ACT/LS
Mauritania	open	N.A.	EuropeAid/130180/L/ACT/MR
Swaziland	31/01/2011	900.000	EuropeAid/130349/L/ACT/SZ
Sierra Leone	open	600.000	EuropeAid/129714/L/ACT/SL
Djibouti	open	300.000	EuropeAid/130188/L/ACT/DJ
Jamaica	foreseen	600.000	EuropeAid/128794/M/ACT/JM
Cuba	foreseen	300.000	EuropeAid/128487/L/ACT/CU

#### • Food Security

Countries	Deadline	Budget (EURO)	Reference
Liberia	11/03/2011	6.000.000	EuropeAid/130791/L/ACT/LR
Mauritania	open	N.A.	EuropeAid/130131/L/ACT/MR
Haiti	open	4.500.000	EuropeAid/129015/L/ACT/HT

#### • Various fields in ACP countries

Countries	Deadline	Budget (EURO)	Reference
Chad	10/03/2011	2.500.000	EuropeAid/130681/D/ACT/TD
PNG	open	7.600.000 (PGK)	EuropeAid/130600/M/ACT/PG
Gambia	open	1.000.000	EuropeAid/130298/M/ACT/GM
Senegal	open	700.000	EuropeAid/130175/M/ACT/SN
Burundi	foreseen	N.A.	EuropeAid/127612/M/ACT/BI
Comoros	foreseen	250.000.000 (KMF)	EuropeAid/127491/M/ACT/KM
Vanuatu	foreseen	250.000	EuropeAid/127380/D/ACT/VU

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Assises of Decentralised Cooperation, Brussels - 29-30 March 2011

The European Commission and the Committee of the Region will jointly organise the 2<sup>nd</sup> Assises of Decentralised Cooperation on 29-30 March 2011. Five workshops will be held and will revolve around five themes, which are:

- Territorial approach of development and multilevel governance
- Decentralised cooperation for sustainable development
- Local government role for inclusive growth
- Instruments and aid modalities of support to local government
- Local government role in Food Security

About 25 ACP local governments will be invited. The process of invitation has already started. Those elected local government interested in participating in the Assises are invited to contact the Platform at [platform@acplgp.net](mailto:platform@acplgp.net) in order to get the registration form. Candidature from female local government is highly encouraged.

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## News from the EU:

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- **EU - Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities Structured Dialogue: wrapping up and future stages.** The structured dialogue between EU institutions and CSOs & LA active in development is now entering in a critical phase with the wrapping up and conclusion of the work on theme 1 (the roles and added value of CSOs and LA in external cooperation) and theme 2 (complementarity and coherence within the aid effectiveness agenda) and the start of dialogue on theme 3 dedicated to aid delivery and selection mechanisms. A draft paper collecting the synthesis of discussions, preliminary conclusions and preliminary recommendations from working groups 1 and 2 is posted on the CISOCH website for **consultation until 25 January**. The paper reflects quite well the richness of the discussions that took place in the two working groups as well as the inputs that were made on paper and forms a good basis for a final outcome to be discussed in a last working session for WG1 and 2 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011. Two more working sessions on the WG3 issues will take place on the 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> of January and on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March. Finally, by the end of March 2011, an issue paper including WG3 discussions will be produced as the main preparatory document for the final conference of the Structured Dialogue that will be co-organized with the forthcoming Hungarian Presidency of the EU on the 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> of May in Budapest. This Final Conference shall be the opportunity for all stakeholders to endorse the final document of the Structured Dialogue. In addition and following Bamako, Asuncion and New Delhi, Baku in Azerbaijan will host in February 2011 the last regional workshop for dialogue with CSOs and LA from developing countries. A so-called ‘process’ meeting on the Structured Dialogue was organised during the European Development Days to assess the progress of the process since its inception; to present the draft synthesis document of Working Groups 1 & 2 and the state of play of Working Group 3; to present the activities planned until the Budapest Conference and to exchange views on the process and possible final outcomes.  
CISOCH website: [https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/index.php/Structured\\_dialogue](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/index.php/Structured_dialogue)
- **EU External Action Service and new DG DevCo to begin work on 1 January.** The New Year will consecrate the EU’s new foreign policy and development departments. **The EEAS will consist of 1,500 officials**, with most coming from the former DG External Relations, and smaller numbers coming from the Council Secretariat and EU Member States’ diplomatic services. Roughly 100 officials from the country desks of former DG Development will be transferred into the service. **The newly merged EuropeAid Development and Co-operation Directorate-General, or DG DevCo, will have about 800 staff** - around 600 from the EuropeAid Co-operation Office and around 200 from DG Development. Its Director-General will be Fokion Fotiadis, coming from DG Development, who will finalize the DG’s new structure for April. Potential changes include consolidation of expertise on other EU policies impacting development, in the interests of policy coherence for development, and higher priority for issues raised in the EC green paper on growth, such as private sector investment, energy, agriculture, and “value for money”. **Negotiations are underway on a Memorandum of Understanding between the EEAS and DG DevCo**, to clarify how cooperation will work between the two services.
- [European External Action Service officially launches. New website. 1 December 2010.](#)
- **Development will remain at the heart of EU external policy says EU High Representative.** EU High Representative for Foreign Policy and European Commission Vice-President, Catherine Ashton, informed Members of the European Parliament’s Development Committee meeting on 8 November that she is committed to ensuring that development policy “remains at the heart of external policy” as set out in the Lisbon Treaty. The current focus, she said, is on ensuring that an operational framework is established that allows the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the European Commission’s new EuropeAid Development and Co-operation Directorate-General (DevCo) to “join up the jigsaw puzzle of different aspects of EU activity” - the EU Member States’ and European Commission instruments available to enable the EU to work more effectively and have a greater impact of the objective of eradication of poverty.
- [Fokion Fotiadis appointed DevCo director-general from 1 January. European Voice. 17 November 2010.](#) The European Commission has made a further reshuffle of its senior management with three changes at the level of director-general. Two of the appointments follow from the merger of the Commission departments dealing with development and foreign aid. [Koos Richelle](#), who currently heads the EuropeAid Co-operation office, is to become the Commission’s director-general for employment, social affairs and inclusion. He was due for a move, because Commission rules require that directors-general are rotated after five years and at most seven years, and he has been in his current job for six-and-a-half years. He joined the Commission in 2001 as director-general for development. Before that, in his time in the Dutch civil service, he was a director-general for welfare in the ministry of welfare and health, and director-general for change management in social security in the ministry of social security and labour. [Robert Verrue](#), the current director-general of employment, makes way for Richelle. The 63-year old Frenchman, who was only transferred to the department in June 2009, has been appointed an adviser, a common move for senior staff close to retirement. Fokion Fotiadis, who has been the director-general of development since June, is left to take charge of the department being formed out of the remnants of the development department (many of whose staff are being transferred into the [European External Action Service](#)) and the EuropeAid Co-operation office. The three appointments announced will take effect on 1 January.

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EC consultations - [http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/consultations/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/consultations/index_en.htm)

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- **Green Paper: "EU development policy in support of inclusive growth and sustainable development - Increasing the impact of EU development policy" - Deadline: 17 January 2011.** The objective of this Green Paper is to launch a debate on how the EU can improve the impact of its development policy, and how it can best support poorest countries' efforts in promoting inclusive and sustainable growth, including by leveraging new opportunities to speed up progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and to reduce poverty. In particular, it asks questions around four main objectives to be pursued collaboratively by the EU and its Member States:
  - **how to ensure high EU impact development policy**, so that every euro spent provides the best value added and value for money, the best leverage and the best legacy of opportunities for generations to come,
  - **how to facilitate more, and more inclusive, growth in developing countries**, as a means of reducing poverty and provide a chance for all to have a decent living and have a perspective for their future. It is increasingly obvious that MDGs will not be achieved without it. Each percentage of growth can significantly improve countries' capacity to achieve poverty reduction and have a multiplier effect through employment creation and social protection,
  - **how to promote sustainable development as a driver for progress, and**
  - **how to achieve durable results in the area of agriculture and food security.**

Growth and development are inextricably connected, and this is not a new debate. However, what is new is a changed global context, particularly the financial, climate, and food crises. An essential question is therefore, what kind of growth, and what kind of development is needed for the 21st century?

ACP local government are strongly encouraged to participate in the consultation process in order to make their voice heard. In addition to online consultation, EU delegations in ACP countries have been instructed to organise discussion tables and invite key stakeholders among which local government for debates. You are therefore invited to contact the EU delegation in your country in order to participate in the debates.

See: <http://ec.europa.eu/development/how/consultation/index.cfm?action=viewcons&id=5241>

Also: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/10/565&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

- **What funding for EU external action after 2013? - Deadline 31 January 2011.** The objective of this public consultation is to gather ideas and opinions on the future of the financial instruments that the European Union has at its disposal to fulfil its worldwide responsibilities. Responses are requested on a range of issues. These include the added value of EU financial intervention in several areas, the options for new forms of cooperation and delivery mechanisms with partner countries, as well as the efficiency, impact and visibility of EU external cooperation. The online consultation, which is open to all stakeholders, is preparing the ground for the Commission legislative proposals to be presented in 2011 on the financial perspectives after 2013.

See: <http://ec.europa.eu/development/how/consultation/index.cfm?action=viewcons&id=5240&lng=en>

- **Next EU Multi-annual Financial framework, the debate is launched.** In the coming months, the EU institutions will enter into a new cycle of budget planning and negotiations aiming at the adoption of the post 2013 EU Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF). This exercise is of particular importance as it will lock-in the EU main policy priorities until 2020 and maybe beyond. It is not only the EU budget and the instruments to implement it that are at stake but more broadly the EU integration process and the future role of EU in a variety of policy areas including external action and development. **Decisions are mainly in the hands of member states** and will inevitably reflect their perception of today's role of the European Union and their vision of economic, social or foreign and development priorities. Considering the actual financial and economic climate in Europe and the widespread decisions taken at national level to reduce public expenditures, a hard negotiation is to be expected in which issues such as, the added value of EU action, differentiation amongst EC partner countries, security and migration, EU economic interests and competition with emerging economies and value for money. One positive sign is the **new impetus offered by the Lisbon Treaty in favour of a stronger role for the EU at global level** and on the international scene. EU external action will probably be a priority area in the future and an increase of the budget allocated to it is foreseen. Key questions remain: what kind of priorities and objectives will this increased budget be used for and what impact will it have on development aid? And in the case a strong budget for development is maintained, which countries and objectives will it benefit most, what will be the instruments to deliver it, and what will be the role of CSO and local authorities in these instruments?

These are the type of questions that will be answered through the MFF negotiation process in the coming two years. If EU civil society organisations and local authorities want to make sure that the responses are the right ones, it is high time for them to engage in the process at both EU and national level.

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## News from the ACP

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[Renewal and transformation of the ACP. The Courier. 12 November 2010.](#) The need for "renewal and transformation" of the role of the Secretariat of the 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of nations

was voiced by its Secretary General, Mohamed Ibn Chambas at a meeting of ACP Council of Ministers in Brussels, 9-10 November. The aim, said Dr. Chambas, was to give the ACP more international personality, keeping pace with changing global context and the institutional changes within the EU itself. A standing committee on the future of the ACP Group has been put in place by the Committee of Ambassadors. **Strategic Plan 2011-2014**. Dr Chambas said that “renewal and transformation” of the ACP Secretariat was part of the Secretariat’s Strategic Plan 2011-2014 aiming to give it increased executive authority to mobilise resources and implement development projects. He explained that the EU’s Lisbon Treaty, which changed the EU’s internal institutional architecture with the setting up of a new External Action Service, had come into force in December 2009 but made no mention of the entity of the ACP Group. “What has been rather troubling for us is the fact that the Treaty makes no express reference to the longstanding partnership between the EU and ACP. It is also unclear whether the European Development Fund (EDF) will come under the Commission budget and if our countries can feel entitled to a predictable source of development assistance as has been the case hitherto,” said Dr.Chambas. The Cotonou Agreement (2000-2020) governing relations between the ACP and EU states expires at the end of the decade. Successive European Development Funds from EU member states’ development budgets provide development assistance to ACP countries. The current 10th EDF (2008-2013) has a total budget of €22.682bn. “Despite the size and geographic extent of the ACP, it has not exploited the power of its critical mass or its moral ascendancy as representative of the majority of the poor nations. Clearly, our organisation has to reinvent itself if it is to survive and remain relevant in the emerging global order,” he added.

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### Announcement

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**Municipality of Middelkerke is looking for a twinning partner.** Middelkerke, a municipality with 18,600 inhabitants and situated in Belgium is looking for a city in the South for a municipal international cooperation. The emphasis of the cooperation is not to offer material or financial assistance but rather to work together on various development themes to be commonly defined. If your city is interested in cooperating with Middelkerke, please fill out the questionnaire available at <http://www.middelkerke.be/page18081440.aspx> and send it to [tine.mayeur@middelkerke.be](mailto:tine.mayeur@middelkerke.be) before 31 January 2011.

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### Events

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- [All Africa Ministerial Conference on Decentralisation and Local Development adopts historic declaration. AfriMAP. 30 September 2010.](#) Members of the All-African Ministerial Conference on Decentralisation and Local Development (AMCOD) held an extraordinary session in Yaoundé on 30 September. Ministers responsible for Decentralisation and Local Development discussed and validated the revision of AMCOD’s legal basis and agreed on joint strategic orientations for the years 2010 to 2015. AMCOD which is a technical Committee of the African Union on matters of decentralisation, is now a permanent structure as its revised status were adopted. Yaoundé, Cameroon will be the headquarters of the Permanent Executive Secretariat of AMCOD. The next AMCOD meeting will take place in Cote d’Ivoire in March 2011. The President of the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA) expressed the wish of the African local governments to work hand in hand with the ministers for local governments. The agreement has been welcomed by international observers and representatives of the African local government movement as a breakthrough and an important step towards anchoring AMCOD and the topic of decentralisation in the governance structures of the African Union.
- [Local and Regional Leaders World Summit. United Cities and Local Governments. Mexico. 16-20 November 2010.](#) The members of UCLG and their partners have sent a strong signal to the international community by signing a Manifesto for the City for 2030 that shapes the City that mayors want for tomorrow. At a time where our world becomes more and more urban and where intermediate and small cities will grow tremendously in the next years, the local and regional leaders have recalled that cities, whatever their size is, are all facing similar challenges. In their Manifesto they established their vision for the urban future, insisting on the necessity to build an ‘inclusive City’, together with its population, whatever their origins, their ages and gender. A City that integrates at all levels of governance to be at the closest of the needs of the citizens, a city that fully cooperates with its regional and rural metropolitan environment. A city that is mobile, respecting the environment and endowed with an efficient public service and using renewable energies as well as non-polluting technologies.
- [5<sup>th</sup> European Development Days, Brussels 6-7 December 2010.](#) The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the EDD was attended by around 6.000 people. Launching the event, Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said ‘It is now clear that traditional development aid on its own it not enough. It needs to go hand in hand with policies which encourage growth. We need to boost trade and investment as well as tackle global challenges like climate change and poverty’. “The European Development Days are a landmark event in the European development calendar and Europe’s foremost platform for dialogue and exchange on development issues”, European Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs said. “It provides a unique opportunity for development actors to debate and share ideas; it provides a channel for the public to discover music, art, and films from the developing world. This year’s edition of the European Development Days takes place at a crucial time when development policy is evolving in response to the EU’s new institutional set-up and the current global context. ” [www.eudevdays.eu](http://www.eudevdays.eu)

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**Reading**

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[The Political Economy of Decentralization Reforms. Implications for Aid Effectiveness. World Bank. October 2010.](#) The framework offers a systematic approach to conceptualizing and examining the motives that drive politicians to transfer resources and functions to lower levels of government and lead bureaucrats to support or oppose reform throughout the implementation process. The framework aims to provide input into developing more suitable and attainable service delivery and poverty reduction objectives that take into account political and institutional obstacles and opportunities.

[Global Forum on Local Development Declaration. ANSA-Africa. 4-6 October 2010.](#) At the first Global Forum on Local Development, convened by the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and hosted by the Government of Uganda, over 600 delegates, including Heads of State, Government ministers, representatives of Local Governments and their associations, development partners, international organizations, academia, civil society and the private sector came together in Kampala on October 4-6th, 2010. Experts stress local approach to development initiatives. Development models that harness the potential of specific areas can help solve the problem of regional disparities in social advancement in the world's poorest countries. Experts stressed the importance of taking a regional or even district or commune-level approach to local development in developing countries.

[Multi-level Governance and Security. The Security Sector Reform Process in the Central African Republic. Institute of Development Studies. 30 November 2010.](#) This paper analyses how the security sector reform (SSR) process in the Central African Republic has been defined and then implemented, putting emphasis on the interactions between national and international actors. Therefore, it advocates an approach which consists of expanding the agenda of the traditional multi-level governance approach and which seeks to seize both the top-down and the bottom-up dynamics of decision-making processes. The first objective is to capture the sets of actors and procedures which drive the reform process, and to map out the various levels of government at which decisions are made. Secondly - and more fundamentally - is to capture the intermingling of domestic and international decision-making processes which increasingly overlap and interfere with each other in Southern countries.

[Development Partners Working Group on Local Governance and Decentralised Cooperation. Newsletter. December 2010.](#) The newsletter includes reports from recent key meetings and notification of key documents. It also reports on preparation of inputs to the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness 2011. The Case Studies presented at the Annual Meeting will be complemented by 4 additional case studies funded by Europe Aid and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Benin, Ghana, Mozambique and Peru. The findings and synthesis of those studies are supposed to be used for a DPWG-LGD publication on LGD and aid effectiveness as a contribution to the 4th high level forum to be held in Busan, South Korea end of November 2011. A first draft will be presented and discussed at the Annual Meeting 2011.

[Towards a characterisation of adaptive capacity. A framework for analysing adaptive capacity at the local level. Overseas Development Institute. December 2010.](#) This Background Note puts forward a 'Local Adaptive Capacity framework' developed as part of the Africa Climate Change Resilience Alliance (ACCRA) programme, in an attempt to incorporate intangible and dynamic dimensions, as well as capitals and resource-based components into analysis of adaptive capacity at the local level.

[Better Service Delivery in Developing Countries Through Improved Governance. EC high-level debate. 6 December 2010.](#) On the panel are top EC civil servants and civil society organisations. While poor governance is not the only reason for weak performance in sectors like education, infrastructure, health and water, there is strong evidence to suggest that better governance can improve the chances of sustainable sector development. But how should this shape donor interaction with partner countries? Increased spending at the sector level is not the solution. But improving the way public functions are carried out and how public resources are managed can have an impact. As can the manner in which governments exercise their regulatory powers.

[Taxation is a path to better governance. Launch of International Centre for Taxation and Development programme. Institute of Development Studies. 17 December 2010.](#) 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 (ICTD) 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.

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