

*Newsletter N° 22 - March 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>.*

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**ARIAL - Supporting and strengthening ACP Local Government Associations**  
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**The ARIAL overall programme - Background**

The development cooperation component of the ACP-EU Cotonou Partnership Agreement is implemented at three levels: national, regional and intra-ACP. The European Development Fund (EDF) is the core instrument for geographic cooperation with the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. The ARIAL programme is part and parcel of the overall intra-ACP fund - 9<sup>th</sup> EDF totalling EUR 2 884 million. Activities funded under the intra-ACP allocation cover all ACP States.

The ACP-Local Government Platform (ACP-LG Platform) was formally established in May 2001 as an umbrella organisation by representatives of existing ACP-LG associations. In 2003 the Platform submitted a project proposal for ACP Local government institutional strengthening at national and regional levels. The Platform proposal was approved by the ACP Committee of Ambassadors in October 2003. In order to allow for a proper feasibility study of the project, the Platform submitted an updated and revised project in 2005.

Following the submission of a project proposal by the Platform in 2003, revised in 2005, and in the light of the revised Cotonou Agreement (especially Art. 4 & 33.4 thereof) the ACP and the EU have agreed to create a framework programme entitled 'Supporting and Strengthening Local Government Associations' (ARIAL). The revised project proposal was the subject of a feasibility study in 2006. This led to the signature of the Financing Agreement in November 2007.

ARIAL aims at supporting LGs in ACP States in the decentralisation process by reinforcing their representative associations [Local Government (LG) associations]. LG associations will be targeted through ARIAL from the national level through the regional to the all-ACP/EU level. The programme is to facilitate participation of LGs in the dialogue concerning development policies with civil society, private sector, central government, and donors (especially the EU).

The programme consists of support to 6 regional associations of LGs (RALG) and national associations of LGs (NALG) in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, which are to be identified, among existing associations, by the programme in consultation with stakeholders in the field - and support to the ACP-LG Platform.

To read the whole programme: [www.acplgp.net](http://www.acplgp.net)

**Find out how ARIAL will benefit your ACP Local Government Association**

In fall 2010, VNG International and its implementing partners officially launched the ARIAL programme. The specific objective of the project is to enable Local Government associations to take part in the dialogue and in the implementation of development policies, in particular with the EU, as provided for by the Cotonou Agreement. In the upcoming three years, the ARIAL programme will organise a wide range of supporting activities to reach this objective. LG associations in the ACP countries will be invited to participate in, among others, the following main activities:

- Capacity building activities for NALG and RALG in the field of communication, lobby and policy development
- Support to the establishment of Emerging NALG and RALG
- Capacity building of (sub-)continental LG associations
- Support in the creation and management of an information network and establishment of linkages between actors at ACP (sub-)continental level
- Increased capacity in the field of advocacy vis-à-vis national institutions and development partners (especially the EU).

The programme is currently implementing an extensive assessment of all identified LG associations. The assessments will result in an elaborate state of the art of local government representation in the ACP countries and provide valuable input for the further development of ARIAL support activities that will start in spring 2011.

The project has a duration of 3 years and will be completed in summer 2013. Partners within the project are the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), the Municipal Development Partnership for Eastern and Southern Africa (MDP-ESA), le Partenariat pour le Développement Municipal (PDM), the Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International (FSPI) and the University of the West Indies (UWI).

For further information: [www.arial-programme.eu](http://www.arial-programme.eu)

**Apply for funding to establish a Local Government Association - Deadline 1 June 2011**

The existence of an effective and efficient Local Government association is an important prerequisite for the effective representation of local governments. LG associations are not however present in all ACP countries, limiting the potential for participation of local government bodies in contributing to the development of the ACP regions. The ARIAL programme therefore specifically aims to support initiatives to create LG associations in countries where they do not yet exist through this 'Emerging Local Government Facility'. Interested local government representatives are invited to submit their application using the application form available on [www.arial-programme.eu](http://www.arial-programme.eu).

Approved projects will be implemented in two phases. During the first phase, an elaborate project plan towards the establishment of the LG association will be drafted with support of ARIAL experts. During the second phase, the activities of this plan will be implemented. The ARIAL support will run for a total 24 months between 1 August 2011 and 31 July 2013.

**Who can apply?** The Emerging LG association Facility is open to Local Government association advocates, from local government bodies, wishing to create a new LG association. LG association advocates can be defined as informal or formalised groupings and committees of local government politicians and/or officials actively seeking to start a local government association in their country, where one does not already exist. Only initiatives in countries part of the ACP Group of States are eligible.

### 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
Madagascar	11/04/2011	3.000.000	EuropeAid/131072/L/ACT/MG
Dominican Republic	20/04/2011	1.700.000	EuropeAid/131133/L/ACT/DO
Senegal	02/05/2011	500.000	EuropeAid/131057/L/ACT/SN
Swaziland	12/04/2011	750.000	EuropeAid/130351/L/ACT/SZ
Papua New Guinea	open	250.000	EuropeAid/130998/L/ACT/PG

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

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

Countries	Deadline	Budget (EURO)	Reference
Djibouti	open	300.000	EuropeAid/130188/L/ACT/DJ
Central African Rep.	02/05/2011	477.500	EuropeAid/131071/L/ACT/CF
Ethiopia	20/05/2011	300.000	EuropeAid/130797/L/ACT/ET
Mauritania	open	N.A.	EuropeAid/130180/L/ACT/MR
Papua New Guinea	open	295.000	EuropeAid/131030/L/ACT/PG
Solomon Islands	10/05/2011	300.000	EuropeAid/130804/L/ACT/SB
Sierra Leone	open	600.000	EuropeAid/129714/L/ACT/SL
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
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
Jamaica	open	900.000	EuropeAid/131171/M/ACT/JM
Chad	31/05/2011	2.600.000	EuropeAid/130586/M/ACT/TD
Kenya	22/08/2011	N.A.	EuropeAid/130926/M/ACT/KE
Uganda	30/05/2011	2.800.000	EuropeAid/131094/M/ACT/UG
Jamaica	11/04/2011	400.000	EuropeAid/130828/M/ACT/JM
Senegal	open	700.000	EuropeAid/130175/M/ACT/SN
Guinea (Conakry)	open	705.790	EuropeAid/129422/M/ACT/GN
Cap Vert	open	N.A.	EuropeAid/127698/M/ACT/CV
Guinea (Conakry)	open	1.000.000	EuropeAid/128104/M/ACT/GN
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

### News from the EU:

#### DevCo and EEAS websites

The DG Development website has been split and integrated into Development Cooperation (DevCo) and European External Action Service (EEAS) websites. Note that the general information on EU relations with ACP countries that was previously available on DG Development website is now posted on the EEAS website where you also find information on delegations websites and country strategy papers. Note finally that the CISoCh

website provides a lot of useful information for EU grant seekers and recipients with many links with relevant pages of the EC website. Information on the Structured Dialogue is also gathered there.

DevCo website: [http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/index_en.htm)

EEAS website: [http://eeas.europa.eu/countries/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/countries/index_en.htm)

CISocH website: [https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/index.php/Main\\_Page](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/index.php/Main_Page)

EC call for proposals website:

[https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1298651790024&do=publi.welcome&userlanguage=en)

[services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1298651790024&do=publi.welcome&userlanguage=en](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1298651790024&do=publi.welcome&userlanguage=en)

#### **Revised EU Operational Framework on Aid Effectiveness published**

"Development effectiveness" - emphasising policy coherence and the combined impacts of donors' development and non-development policies on partner countries - is increasingly the focus of international development policy debates. However, delivering on "aid effectiveness" commitments remains an important debate in its own right - seen as essential towards improved development results and enhanced poverty reduction. On 11 January, the EU published its revised "Operational Framework on Aid Effectiveness" aimed at accelerating progress and demonstrating concrete results in time for the fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness being held in South Korea in November 2011. The framework incorporates new chapters on cross-country division of labour and mutual accountability and transparency to accompany provisions on the use of country systems for alignment and technical cooperation for enhanced capacity development. Debate on division of labour among donors shows that while progress is being made, effective EU coordination remains an aspiration rather than a reality. Progress is hindered by political considerations and realities for both donors and partner countries. Implementation also requires appropriate mechanisms and instruments which are not always in place or used. The chapter on mutual accountability has been strengthened by a stronger focus on domestic accountability. This reflects efforts by both EC and a number of Member States to pay more attention to domestic politics, accountability systems and institutions, and governance dimensions. Donors can also affect domestic accountability relations in negative ways, and the challenge will be to ensure that this concern is reflected in this chapter. Other themes may also be added to the EU's Operational Framework ahead of the High Level Forum - such as South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation between the EU, developing countries and emerging donors and adequate response modalities including, inter alia, budget support operations.

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/10/st18/st18239.en10.pdf>

#### **European Commission launches €40 million to improve access to water in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific.**

To mark World Water Day on 22 March, whose focus is "Water for Cities - Responding to the Urban Challenge", EU Commissioner Andris Piebalgs announces the launch of a pooling mechanism in the framework of the ACP-EU Water Facility. €40 million are available under this mechanism, which has been created to blend grants from the European Development Fund (EDF) with loans from the EU multilateral and bilateral finance institutions to finance projects for access to water and sanitation services in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. This financial instrument should increase the leverage effect of the financial aid and will trigger private sector participation. It will also contribute to EU support to Developing countries' efforts to reach the MDG for drinking water and sanitation.

[http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_2010-2014/piebalgs/headlines/news/2011/03/20110322\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/piebalgs/headlines/news/2011/03/20110322_en.htm)

#### **European Commission proposes to amend EU Financial Regulation applicable to the 10th European Development Fund**

The Financial Regulation applicable to the 10th European Development Fund governs all the rules and procedures applicable to the use of EDF resources. This European Commission proposal aims at amending the Financial Regulation to take into account the creation of the European External Action Service. The main changes proposed include that the Heads of Union Delegations are to be given sub-delegated implementation powers by the responsible Commission Directors Generals and become authorising officers by sub-delegation. The Commission, however, remains responsible for the implementation of EDF resources. The Heads of Union Delegations should provide the necessary information and provide an assurance, together with a report including information on the efficiency and effectiveness of internal management and control systems in their delegation, as well as the management of operations sub-delegated to them. New provisions are also proposed to ensure that the High Representative plays a central role for the proper coordination and exchange of information between the EEAS and the Commission. The EDF regulation is aligned as far as possible with the provisions of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Union. This regulation is also being reviewed. Both regulations should be adopted by the EU Council, after having received the opinions of the European Investment Bank and the Court of Auditors.

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/11/st05/st05033.en11.pdf>

#### **EU Court of Auditors fears conflicting EC/EEAS priorities could hamper management of the EDF**

The EU Court of Auditors opinion on the European Commission's proposal to amend the Financial Regulation applicable to the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) to take into account the creation of the European External Action Service was published on 28 February. The Court of Auditors says careful management is needed to ensure that the new structure does not lead to conflicts of priorities since sub-delegations of the Commission powers of EDF implementation will be granted to authorising officers (Heads of Delegation) who will no longer belong to Commission departments. The Court is also concerned by the increased complexity in the financial management and reporting missions and operations of the Delegations. The Court suggests adding wording to the regulation to ensure that there are no derogations from the provisions of the complementary EU Budget

Financial Regulation. EU Member States are expected to approve the final regulation this month.  
<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/11/st07/st07077.en11.pdf>

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**News from the ACP**  
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**Acting SG Bassilekin says these are challenging times for the ACP Group**

Acting Secretary-General Mr Achille Bassilekin III, Assistant Secretary-General for Sustainable Economic Development and Trade told the 23rd Session of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly that these are challenging times for the ACP Group as a whole - as a number of issues and developments within and outside the EU framework have caused the Group to reflect seriously on its future. "We are nonetheless aware of the tremendous hurdles we need to overcome to place our countries on the path to sustainable development, especially at this time when Negotiations for Economic Partnership Agreements, as well as those on the multilateral front, the Doha Development Agenda, have all but stalled," Mr Bassilekin III, reading the statement on-behalf of Secretary-General Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas. He also said that the ACP Group should ask itself as what impact EPAs, EU initiatives and the perceived downgrading of the preferential status of the Group by the EU will have on the ACP Group as an entity, its organisational structure, role and purpose, and invariably its future? "As ever before, the foundations of our existence - ACP unity and solidarity - are being challenged," he said. The ACP Parliamentary Assembly had debated political, social and economical developments in the ACP countries.

**All Africa Ministerial Conference for Decentralisation and Local Development - AMCOD. Yaoundé. 12-14 January 2011.** Theme: local governance as catalyst for democratic governance and Africa's integration and development for the grassroots. <http://www.iag-agi.org/spip/AMCOD-All-Africa-Ministerial.html>  
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**Events**  
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**Aid Effectiveness Fourth High Level Forum. Busan, South Korea. 29 November-1 December 2011.**

Ministers and specialists will not only take stock of what has been advanced since 2008, but also set out a new framework for increasing the quality of aid in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Developing countries have named their priorities for HLF-4 as: predictable aid; use of country systems; an end to policy conditionality; country-driven capacity development; mutual accountability and reduced transaction costs. [http://www.oecd.org/document/12/0,3746,en\\_2649\\_3236398\\_46057868\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/12/0,3746,en_2649_3236398_46057868_1_1_1_1,00.html)  
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**Reading**  
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**Decentralisation and Local Democracy. Local Government Finance. The Challenges of the 21st Century. Local Economic Development Network of Africa Report. 2010.**

The report analyses the architecture of fiscal decentralisation in one hundred and ten countries as well as in metropolitan areas. In the majority of these countries, local authorities are taking on more and more responsibilities in terms of public investment and in the provision of essential services for both economic development and the well being of populations. Beyond a simple state of affairs the Report proposes recommendations to strengthen local government finance. The African section of the report was written by Dr. François Yatta, LEDNA Coordinator and Prof. François Vaillancourt of the Université de Montréal in Canada. It focuses on five aspects of fiscal decentralisation: structure of States and territorial organisation, responsibilities and expenses of local governments, revenues, transfers, and access to loans.

<http://www.ledna.org/links/localgovernment-finance-challenges-21st-century-gold-2010>

**Latest newsletter from the Development Partners Working Group on Local Governance and Decentralisation. March 2011.** This issue provides an update on DPWG-LGD's latest and upcoming activities as well as the latest research documents. These include a Working Paper on Donor Programme Harmonisation, Aid Effectiveness and Decentralised Governance; upcoming training courses on Peace-building & Reconstruction and on Local Governance and Rural Decentralisation; and more

[http://www.dpwg-lgd.org/cms/upload/pdf/NEWSLETTER\\_08.pdf](http://www.dpwg-lgd.org/cms/upload/pdf/NEWSLETTER_08.pdf)

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