



Conclusions of the core group meeting Prague, 13 May 2009

Participants :

AECID	Miriam Álvarez de la Rosa and Christian Freres
CzDA	Michal Prochazka
DFID	Simon Williams
AFD	Henry de Cazotte, Jean-Marc Bellot and Alexander von Kap-herr
KfW	Yasmin Tawfik, Bruno Schoen and Othmar Werner
EuropeAid	Luc Bagur and Alex Gerbrandij
Secretary	Benoît Mauduit

This meeting took place right after the Annual Meeting and was dedicated to summarising the next steps for the Core Group and the Secretariat.

It was chaired by Miriam Álvarez, representing AECID as incoming president. Participants welcomed Simon Williams as new core group member representing DFID.

1/ Preparation of a future permanent secretariat

There was a general understanding during the Annual Meeting that the scope of the Network should be extended, both in term of activities (being flexible about promoting all kind of initiatives by Network members) and as an information platform (cf. Annual Meeting report). To this end, there is a consensus about the necessity of a permanent Secretariat and subsequently the need for somehow financial contributions of members.

Therefore, a new paper is needed, to present again the various options, cost estimates, and to propose a precise contribution key. The possibility of externalising the secretariat to a think tank or another existing entity should be included into the options.

Besides, the issue of membership/participation should be clearly dealt with, since not all European practitioners are likely to contribute financially, at least in the first years.

The first envisaged deadline is the signature of a document by the institutions who are prepared to contribute financially, which could take place during the European Development Days in Stockholm. A few months would then be needed to actually establish the Secretariat.

Next steps:

- Secretariat to draft terms of reference and to gather a few indicative offers from a couple of think tanks or other entities, for carrying out the secretariat tasks.
- Secretariat to draft a revised paper on the future of the Network to be validated by Core Group (by mid-June).
- All members and participating institutions are requested by the Core Group to indicate their preferred option and their willingness to contribute, on the basis of the information provided in the new paper (information / request by mid-July for answer by mid-September)
- Drafting the document to be signed in October and preparing a “pledging” event where member’s high level representatives commit contributions (signature followed by a drink).

Preparing the European Development Days

Participants to the Annual Meeting agreed that the Network should again organise an event. In addition, there was a general consent that the Network identity should be made visible with a stand.

Next steps:

- Proposing a theme for the event, around citizenship (the EDD having as main theme this year “citizenship and development” with three “sub-themes”: democracy and development, climate change, the global crisis).
- Registering before the deadline of 1st June for the Event and the stand
- Preparing the Event and making invitations well ahead of the EDD.

Next meeting

Core group consultations until summer are expected to take place by teleconference. A physical meeting in Madrid might be needed in September.