



Conclusions of the core group meeting Strasbourg, 17 November 2008

Participants :

CzDA	Michal Prochazka
ADA	Petra Schirnhofer
AECID	David Navarro and Miriam Álvarez de la Rosa
AFD	Isabelle Richard (Brussels) and Alexander von Kap-herr
KfW	Bruno Schoen and Yasmin Tawfik
EuropeAid	Luc Bagur
Secretary	Benoît Mauduit

Conclusions from the Side Event

The core group agreed that :

- The workshop was a success in terms of attendance. However the room was too small and this may even have discouraged some possible additional auditors
- Time was too short (but it was impossible to get a 2-hour slot). More intensified discussions could have taken place if there had been more time for questions and answers
- The moderator was very good, he managed to keep the panellists in their speaking times and did it with humour.
- The Network ppt presentation could be completed with some figures, in order to give an idea of what the network represents (e.g. what % of European bilateral ODA), which could also be posted on the website.

Next step : *Benoît drafts a text (kind of press release) for the website*

Conclusions from the Heads of Practitioners meeting

A meeting gathering high-level representatives of all network members and participants took place on Sunday, 16 November. Participants were notably CzDA (P. Jelinek), EuropeAid (L. Bagur), AFD (H. de Cazotte, Ph. Chédanne and A. von Kap-Herr), EIB (M. Curwen), DFID (S. Williams), ADA (P. Schirnhofer), KfW (M. Wehinger and Y. Tawfik), SIDA (J. Beijmo), Secretariat (B. Mauduit).

The meeting has shown the interest of all participants in the Network and can be considered as a basis to give a new impetus to the Network.

Conclusions of the meeting were that :

- Network activities should be as flexible as possible, and not only focussed on thematic groups (confirming the orientations given by the core group in September). Network members can send ideas for future activities directly to the Secretariat.
- Network members are open to considering the issue of the Secretariat. A paper should be prepared by the Secretary, setting out the current tasks of the Secretariat and other possible tasks/options which could be added in the future, it being understood that the Secretariat should not substitute for each Member's commitment to the activities of the Network. Those should always be demand-driven.

Costs relating to different options should be estimated. After core group consultation and feed-back, the paper would be presented at the annual meeting in May 2009 (and therefore sent to all participants at least one month earlier).

- AFD proposes the idea of launching a staff exchange programme at the Network level. Many possible options can be imagined: secondments could be made either for junior staff or for experienced staff, for a few days, weeks or months, it could be on a bilateral basis or

a kind of “tour” of several institutions. AFD will prepare a paper on this subject for the next annual meeting.

Next steps :

- ⇒ *Benoît drafts a paper about the evolution of the Secretariat and shares it with the core group, before the next core group meeting*
- ⇒ *AFD drafts a paper on staff exchanges, before the next AM*

Guidelines for the management of the website

The new website was welcome by core group members. It enables the Secretariat to update contents as frequently as needed. As a consequence, we can post more infos and news

- As far as possible, infos, news or contributions to a specific subject will be just announced on the website and made accessible by link (notably to the Members' websites)
- Members are invited to send to the Secretariat the agenda of their organisation for 2009 and a list of future events.
- The contact list should be made accessible to all. To start with, it will be posted on the internal website. All members are invited to update the list and, in particular, to indicate the contact persons for specific issues or thematics within their respective organisations.

Next steps :

- ⇒ *Benoît invites all members to send their organisation's agenda and events planned for 2009*
- ⇒ *Benoît posts the contact list on the internal website*

Future workshops and activities of the thematic groups

- O. Werner has reported that first impressions collected from participants to the first workshop organised by **the Climate Change Group** on 6 November were very positive. The Group envisages deepening the subject by a 2nd workshop which would take place early 2009. Other topics were mentioned, for which participants have expressed a strong interest and this could lead the Group to organising another workshop in the 2nd quarter of 2009.
- **Quality Management** : an invitation has been sent to the contact list of the Network for a seminar organised by EuropeAid about the setting up of a Joint Monitoring System. However, it was not clear in the invitation that the project will take place in the framework of the Network – therefore contributing to its better visibility -, or even if it was meant for practitioners or in a broader sense to Member States. Luc will see the matter with Fernando Cerrutti in order to send a clear message to Network members.
- CzDA confirms that there is still a strong interest from several organisations for the workshop planned by the **Human Resources and ID Group**. InWent had committed to organise it on its premises in Bad Honef, but, for internal reasons, no longer has the capacities. CzDA has requested assistance from GTZ and/or DFID and is awaiting a reply.
- The projects of the Group on **Division of Labour** could not materialise in 2008 because the technical seminars organised on the same topic at Member States level already mobilised some of the participants and because of a work overload at AFD due to the French presidency of the EU. Alexander plans to re-launch the Group's activity early 2009. After Accra and Doha, the subject will still be very relevant and now changed its focus from the political to the implementation level, therefore even more relevant for practitioners.
- Likewise, the Group on **Civil Society Development** should be able to start its activities in the 1st half of 2009. Changes are going on within AFD, which is about to be transferred from the MFA all the civil society and NGO support activities. This transfer will be effective as of 1st January 2009 and the new team in charge will be full-fledged by then.

Next step : *Reviewing the context, scope and expected participants for the EuropeAid seminar (Luc, Fernando)*

Evolution of the Core Group

AFD and KfW had announced at the core group meeting in May 2008 that they wanted to respect the troika principle and proposed to withdraw from the core group after the EDD, or at the end of 2008 at the latest. They will however remain present through the representation of working groups.

In the meantime, AECID is now able to participate to core group meetings and has nominated Miriam Álvarez as contact person.

- AECID agrees with the principle of the troika
- We should think about a new member to succeed to ADA in May 2009.

Next meetings

The Annual Meeting will take place in May 2009, CzDA will communicate the exact date in the coming days. CzDA proposes to keep the same structure as the last AM, with plenary sessions on the 1st day and break-out groups on the 2nd day. With 2 plenary sessions, it would be possible to select 2 subjects:

- one in connection with the Czech presidency of the EU, e.g. access to energy sources at the local level.
- The 2nd one more organisational, like : implementation of Accra and Doha (use of country systems, transparency etc.)

The **next core group meeting** will be convened at the end of January (date to be agreed upon by e-mail). The main topic will be the preparation of the annual meeting.