



Conclusions of the core group meeting Prague, 22 September 2008

Participants :

CzDA	Petr Jelinek and Michal Prochazka
ADA	Petra Schirnhofer
AFD	Isabelle Richard (Brussels), Alexander von Kap-herr, Carl Bernadac and Bastien Bedossa
KfW	Bruno Schoen
EuropeAid	Alex Gerbrandij
Secretary	Benoît Mauduit

News from members

- CzDA will be able to increase its staff from 10 to 20 from January 2009. There will be a new structure with one unit based on geographical competencies and one unit with sector experts. By the end of 2009, a new concept for development cooperation should be elaborated with new priority countries and concentration on fewer focus sectors. CzDA has already received mandates to organise Czech assistance in Georgia and in the Palestinian Territories.
- The French Government has announced that French ODA would increase by €1 Bn in 2009, meaning that AFD Group commitments would increase from €4 Bn (2008 forecast) to 5 Bn. AFD would have to hire 60-80 more staff. Furthermore, in the framework of competence transfers from DGCID to AFD, the agency will now be managing the funds for cooperation with civil society. A new team within the External relations and partnerships division should be in place by November.
- EuropeAid intends to build up an action plan for the implementation of the AAA. The EC might organise technical seminars for the follow up of Accra and division of labour. Furthermore, the EC has elaborated a toolkit for division of labour which should be approved soon.


Website

- The core group expressed some concern about the re-launching of the website due to still remaining various errors and quality defaults as well as slow progress so far. However it was considered that turning to a private provider would also take time. Moreover, Mr Krewer had confirmed that he would monitor the process in order to make sure that InWent's commitment is fulfilled.
- The proposed date for launching the new website, i.e. the day before the Dev Days, is too late. People should be able to consult it before the Dev Days and, even before that, core group members should have the possibility to test the website thoroughly. The launching should thus not be later than end October. A letter, prepared by CzDA, will be sent to InWent to emphasise the importance of launching the website in time.
- Since the current website will basically not change during the preparation of the new website and until the launching of the latter, a list of urgent to-do's on the old website will be established by the end of this week, centralised by Benoît and sent over to Ms Neuhaus.

European Development Days

Side event

- Participation by the mayor of Strasbourg is accepted. It is proposed that he would make a welcoming speech and shortly present on this occasion the AFD-city of Strasbourg



collaboration in a programme for the city of Jacmel in Haiti. However he would not participate as a panellist..

- The number of participants from the South should preferably be 2, possibly 3 (depending on the feedback that AFD receives from the Mayors of Antananarivo and Curitiba)
- The number of participants from the North should be 3 or max 4: Severino, Kroh, possibly Koos Richelle (to be checked by Alex G.) and ideally a representative of a smaller donor : de Laiglesia (to be contacted by KfW) or BTC.
- Petr Jelinek would present the Network and make the conclusions, but would rather not sit on the panel
- AFD Communication Dept. has announced that they would find a journalist to moderate the panel. The Core Group expects to be informed soon enough of the name of the journalist, in order to send her/him some background information.
- A meeting should be organised with the journalist before the Event, preferably on Sunday. .
- The scenario of the Event will be elaborated (Benoît) once the composition of the panel is known. The envisaged schedule is roughly as follows :
 - o Welcome word and testimony by the Mayor of Strasbourg
 - o Presentation of the Network by Petr Jelinek including mentioning of the CzDA-ADA initiative in Moldova.
 - o Presentation by each of the invitees from the South of their respective needs and experience of collaboration with European donors
 - o Common presentation by AFD and KfW (and possibly others) of their experience/attempts/results/difficulties of presenting a common response to partner countries and local entities.
 - o Reactions / exchange of views between panellists
 - o Questions and answers with the audience

Network meeting

- A meeting between heads of agencies and other practitioners could be organised on the occasion of their presence at the EDD, preferably over lunch after the Event. Time schedules of the relevant participants (Severino, Kroh, Koos Richelle, de Laiglesia, etc) should be checked and an agenda for the meeting should be proposed. In particular, EuropeAid proposed that K. Richelle might want to discuss his ideas about infrastructure financing with the other heads of the agencies (to be followed up by Alex G. with CzDA).
- As last year, a core group meeting is planned at the EDD


Thematic groups, state of play and next steps

Division of Labour

- No meeting has taken place for some time, the main reason therefore being that the Commission had organised technical seminars on the Code of Conduct which have already mobilised some of the possible participants to the working group.
- AFD would rather propose to organise meetings to review the pipelines of operations for specific regions and to consider possible cooperation..
- Provided there is enough support, another possibility could be to follow-up on a previous proposal, made during the TS - Roadmap to ACCRA in December 2007, and organise a meeting with legal and/or financial experts from the different agencies & administrations.

HR & OD

- A workshop is due to take place at InWent premises in Bad Honnef the week after the EDD. Details will be provided to core group members by CzDA within the coming days.

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- Before that, CzDA would like to gather some information on the HR systems of the network members, particularly on the issue of how professional training is organised
 - Other questions are
 - o Pertinence of organising a joint training specifically focussed on harmonisation
 - o Modalities of staff exchanges

Climate change, CC & ER

- A workshop is planned to take place in Frankfurt on 6 November.
- Planned outcome: recommendations to projects managers in the field of energy and climate change = what is our additionality, how do we assess the impact etc.
- Target audience is max 25 participants. If the workshop does not raise interest in other institutions than the 2 usual ones AFD and KfW, the option would probably be to close the thematic group
- A particular effort is to be put sending the invitations to the right people. Otmar has already sent out a first message after reviewing the whole contact list of the Network with Benoît. Further efforts should be made with the support of the secretariat to identify the energy and climate specialists within the practitioners.

Quality management

- Leaders have been a bit disappointed by the lack of responses by the members of the thematic group to their solicitations
- They plan to organise a workshop on joint monitoring (Donor / Partner country) on the basis of the new system which EuropeAid is about to introduce.

Civil Society development

The Dutch SNV has withdrawn their willingness to chair this WG. With regard to a possible lead of the WG assured by the forthcoming unit working on civil society within AFD, we first have to wait until this team is operational (probably by November 2008). This new team will then reassess the interest of the members of the Network for having a recurrent discussion on this subject at European level under the auspices of a thematic group/workshop.

General issues : working groups

On the basis of the reflexion paper proposed to the core group, it was decided that :

- Working groups should be maintained. They have the advantage that small groups of practitioners (in particular the WG leader) are committed to show some results in a few subjects which are relevant to the network, which otherwise would not be the case if the network only worked on a punctual and ad hoc basis.
- In this sense we should rather speak of thematic groups for all of the groups.
- However the network should definitely be used to gather participants for a one-time purpose, such as the meeting with the EP last August or the seminar on EPAs planned by the AFD end of October. To this end, it would be useful if the members of the Network informed the focal points in the other institutions regularly on the major events they organise. A functional website should help advertise this kind of events and place them under the umbrella of the Network.

Next meeting

A meeting of the Core group should take place on 17 November after the side event