



Conclusions from the Core Group Meeting on 22 September 2011 in Luxembourg

Participants:

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KfW:	Elke Metzen
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Lux Development:	Alice Risch (Chair), François Bary
PN Coordination Office:	Katja Legien

Participating through phone conference during the morning: Ana Martinez Alonso, DG DEVCO B4, EDD team leader

The main topics of this core group meeting were the event the Network would like to organise during the EDD in Poland 2011, and other upcoming activities/meetings.

1. European Development Days 2011 in Poland

The joint proposal from the PN and the Working Group on Local Governance and Decentralisation (DeLoG) for a high level event during the EDD (general theme "Development and Democracy") in Warsaw on 15-16 December 2011 entitled "Spotlight on Decentralization: Strengthening Local Governance and Accountability Mechanisms" should be approved. This was informally communicated by Ana Martinez Alonso, team leader European Development Days of the Commission. The official letter from the European Commission confirming this will arrive next week, together with a tentative agenda for the EDDs.

In this letter the Commission will propose to integrate another panel proposal entitled "Climate Alliance of European cities in action with indigenous communities – empowerment of indigenous people in the Amazon basin and in Malawi through sustainable development and raise of public awareness in partnership" with the 'Climate Alliance of European Cities'. However, this proposal to merge the two panel events is considered not feasible by the Core Group as the content of the two panels is too different and the timeslot for the panel (1:45 min) is too short to accommodate such a broad range of topics. The Commission requested to include and motivate the rejection of this proposal in the official reply.

On 20 October 2011, the 2nd stakeholder session of the EDDs will take place during which all selected panels present their panel proposal during 10 minutes. The core group agreed to set up a working group to work out the event, and to which the PN coordinator will invite all the PN members and DeLoG to participate.

Suggestions for the design of the event included:

Moderator: preference for Conny Czymoch (an experienced moderator of the German TV Channel Phoenix), reservations for Simon Maxwell (Senior Research Associate, ODI), because he might have own strong opinions on the topic. Other moderators could be examined if the two would not be available.

Course of the event:

- An introduction to the PN (objectives, members, activities...) for the visibility of network;
 - Possibly an introduction to DeLoG if wished so;
 - Keynote speaker presenting a summary of the lessons learnt on decentralisation (ideally a representative of the PN or DeLoG);
 - Panel discussion with 5 speakers:
 - Local government representative from the South (Mayor), e.g. Mr. Elang Mbassi Jean Pierre, Secretary General, United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA);
 - CSO representative from the South;
 - LuxDev (Presidency of the Practitioners' Network);
 - European Commission (possibly Commission member of DeLoG);
 - Representative from DeLoG.
- Criteria for selecting panelists will include geographical diversity and gender balance.
- Several "spotlight experiences" will allow PN members to showcase their best practices and lessons learnt in form of short videos, interviews, testimonies... (Ex: AFD is interested to organize a testimony from a representative from decentralized cooperation – Association des maires de France). These spotlight experiences will allow to break the rhythm of the panel discussions and illustrate these by providing concrete examples from the field.

The spotlight experiences might come instead of the previously planned voting mechanisms in order not to overload the event.

Language: translation from French to English should be possible. If not made available by the EDD organizers, the PN will have to procure translation services.

Budget: last year the PN had some sponsors (KfW, Commission), this year so far no sponsors yet so it will be financed by budget of PN.

Publicity: we will use existing PN brochures for the network publicity, and small flyers (to be produced) to advertise the event.

It was agreed to have a first phone conference with all interested PN members/DeLoG on the further design/speakers on Tuesday 4th October at 13:00 (MET).

2. Work Program for the Practitioners' Network

Several meetings were planned:

- 1) If logistically feasible, it was proposed that the Directors General of the PN Members will be invited to a short (ca. 1 hour) informal meeting during the EDDs by the Network. Content of the discussion might be the recent Communications of the Commission (on EU Development Policy, on Budget Support and on Aid Effectiveness in the context of Busan), and its impact on the implementing agencies/PN. An invitation would be sent out by LuxDev (holding the current PN Presidency). Details of the meeting will be further discussed.
- 2) In any case there will be during the EDD in December like in the years before an enlarged core group meeting with all present members.

- 3) High level DEVCO-PN meeting with regard to the MoU with the Commission that ended in March 2011: A small group of Network Members (LuxDev as Network Presidency, KfW as signatory of the MoU, AFD) will meet with DEVCO at high level (Martin Prada/Director A, and possibly Luc Bagur) in order to present the Network, objectives and activities, to hear what the topics are where the Commission wants a feedback from PN, and to discuss the MoU that needs to be renewed. If agreed upon, the MoU might be signed with a little ceremony during the EDDs. The details of the meeting will be further discussed.
- 4) Meeting proposed by the thematic group 'Implementation of European Division of Labour' led by AFD in November and open to all practitioners in order to bring the PN to the relevant COM/DEVCO directorates, now that DG DEVCO is fully organized in its new structure, and vice versa. Proposed DEVCO directorates to be involved are e.g. Directorate A (F. Moreau/A1: new Communication on EU development and Vincent Grimaud/A3); Directorate C: Sustainable Growth and Development; DEVCO/02: Luc Bargur, and some geographical units relevant to the PN. Proposed topics: Delegation agreement/delegated cooperation; Joint programming (emphasis on implementation issues, not political questions). The details will be further discussed – the DoL Group Leader will liaise with Karen De Jonghe.

Other planned activities are:

- 1) Thematic Group Climate Change: unfortunately the Commission (DG Climate Action) will not be able to hold the next meeting as planned. It was proposed by the Core Group to reschedule this workshop after Durban (into 2012) and to have another one in autumn on a different topic in order not to lose the momentum of the group.
- 2) Workshop on Mediterranean Cooperation, proposed by AECID: Tentative date is 25 October. B. Mauduit/AFD will support AECID in shaping the event.
- 3) Workshop on Experiences in Result-based Approaches, organised by GIZ: A concept paper and an outline of a working programme have been developed by J.Freiberg/GIZ. A first WS was proposed for December 2011 which might need to be revised due to Busan and the EDD.
- 4) Workshop on South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation, proposed by GIZ: Planned for 2012
- 5) Debriefing discussion on Post-Busan – implications for practitioners, to be organised by Lux-Dev, January 2012

With regard to the thematic groups it was suggested that we develop a reporting format focussing on the different workshops'/activities' outcomes so that we can add these reports to our Network publicity material. The Coordinator will get in touch with the thematic group leaders to follow up on this.

The exact dates, agenda and location will be communicated in due time.

The next Core Group Meeting will be on Thursday 10 November in Brussels and will deal with the EDD and governance of the Network.

The Annual Meeting of the PN (directors level) in 2012 will be in the second half of April or first half of May in Luxembourg.

3. Budget

All PN Members except the Commission paid their contribution, so that the PN has the financial resources to function this year. For the current year 2011/2012 the Commission cannot contribute due to the merger and its financial/legal implications, but would like to contribute next year, based on the MoU to be signed. According to the estimation, the remaining budget in March 2012 will be around 51.300 €.

The EDD can be financed from the PN regular budget, but sponsors are of course welcome.