

Practitioners' Network
for European Development Cooperation

The role of development
cooperation,
Europe's differential added value
for external action and
international partnerships,
in unlocking the full potential of
Global Gateway

*A Practitioners' Network for European Development Cooperation
position paper*

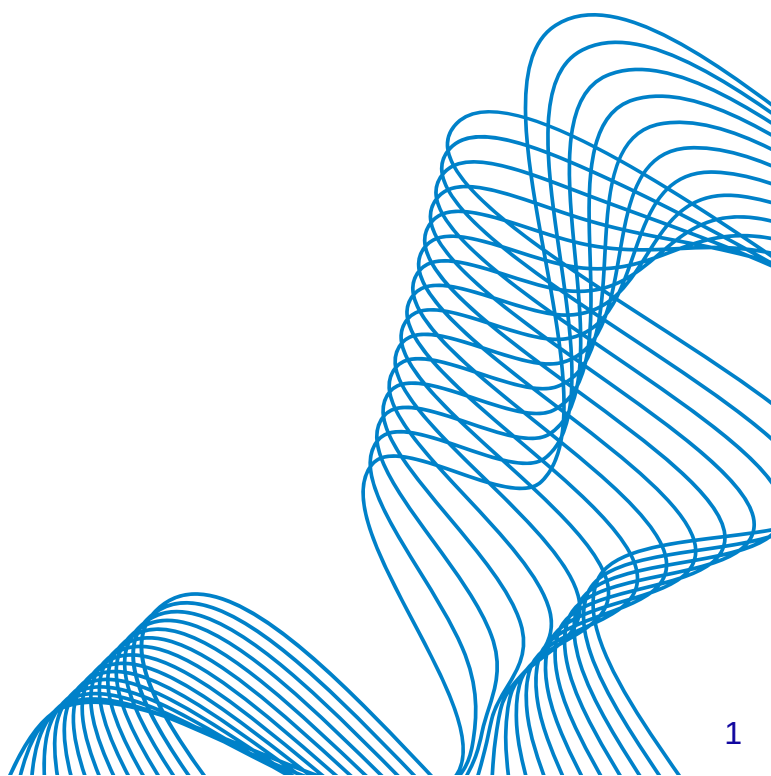
1. THE PRACTITIONERS' NETWORK AND ITS MEMBERS IN THE EUROPEAN ARCHITECTURE OF DEVELOPMENT (EAD)

In the current geopolitical context, Global Gateway, the Team Europe approach, and the EU roadmap to enhance the European Financial Architecture for Development (EFAD) constitute the foundations of a renewed European development cooperation system, designed to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, alignment with the Paris Climate Agreement and delivery of the EU strategic priorities.

On 17 March 2023, the Association of bilateral European Development Finance Institutions (EDFI), the Joint European Financiers for International Cooperation (JEFIC), and the Practitioners' Network for European Development Cooperation (PN), endorsed a Statement of Intent on the role and collaboration of the three networks, which include the majority of European financial and technical cooperation actors. EDFI, JEFIC and the PN reaffirmed their commitment to EU policy objectives for the benefit of partner countries, contributing through their respective roles within the EAD. The Statement is about acknowledging and using the strengths and rights of the members of the three networks in participating in the implementation of the Global Gateway.

The PN intends to further enhance development impact by harnessing its respective expertise in better coordinating financial and technical cooperation, and by drawing on its diverse membership as its work is guided by the shared conviction that we are Stronger Together. **We, as European public development agencies, playing a facilitating role and assembling competencies from all horizons, have in common a strong presence in partner countries, financial capacity and solid networks enabling us to engage in substantive, outcome-oriented policy dialogue with development actors in the Global South.** We gain our added value from our respective close and trustful relations with regional and country-level partners, our expertise in in-depth public policy dialogues, knowledge of investment readiness factors, and experience in working both with the public and private sectors.

The PN is willing to step up its efforts towards collaboration with the other two networks for the successful implementation of the Global Gateway.



2. THE PRACTITIONERS' NETWORK AND ITS MEMBERS IN GLOBAL GATEWAY

The PN and its Members are key actors of Team Europe in the implementation of Global Gateway. Effective development cooperation has a central role to play, contributing to Europe's value-based offer to partner countries.

We, as Practitioners, are committed to accompanying partner countries in their efforts to achieve the SDGs, enabling more impact and sustainability to Global Gateway investments, through:

- **Identification, formulation and implementation of effective and sustainable programmes**, working jointly with European financial institutions and ensuring development effectiveness. Synergies and collaboration between technical and financial cooperation need to go beyond feasibility studies to enhance implementation, guiding investments towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For a more credible and coherent Team Europe approach to leverage transformational impact, those potential synergies need to be more structured, strategic, incentivised for Team Europe cooperation, and tailored to the needs and priorities of partner countries and their citizens. How to better use the mix of instruments available within EFAD, including grants, concessional loans, and guarantees, to unleash investments in development is at the centre of this exercise.
- **Public Technical Cooperation**. Sharing and building public sector expertise, including peer to peer institutional engagement, is a key element of the EU development cooperation toolbox. Technical assistance and capacity-building are crucial to build and strengthen conducive environments for systemic and transformative change. Involvement of Member States Public Administrations and ownership from partners' public institutions are essential for the success of Global Gateway.
- **Strengthening a favourable regulatory, policy and business environment, and building capacities at central and decentralised levels in partner countries**, to attract public and private investments for sustainable development. Women's economic empowerment will be given particular attention within joint implementation.
- **Contributing to the visibility and ownership of Team Europe and Global Gateway** through inputs and implementation of strategic communication and joint narratives.

For European development cooperation and the implementation of the Global Gateway to be effective, **we will continue our joint efforts to:**

- **Ensure a good match between all financial instruments and technical assistance while ensuring that Team Europe’s existing expertise and know-how are fully used**, as well as other instruments available in the EAD toolbox, to promote an environment conducive to transformative and systemic change in partner countries; in a broader and more coordinated approach, making use of the full potential of technical assistance and scaling it up beyond targeting specific and individual actions. This is even more crucial in fragile contexts where the objective of mobilising the private sector can only be achieved with a strong and parallel capacity building action.
- **Ensure a more inclusive Team Europe approach**, improving in-country coordination and harmonisation. This should be complemented by coordination in Brussels in order to incorporate Team Europe members not present in-country; and avoiding broadening the development gap between regions, since the interest of the private sector in each region varies greatly.
- **Ensure partners’ ownership of cooperation implemented within the framework of Global Gateway and that it brings impact and results in line with their priorities**. The Practitioners’ Network, through our long-term presence in countries and our strong ties with all levels of government, civil society, youth and communities, is well placed to facilitate such ownership.

The Practitioners’ Network (PN) is composed of 24 Members from 18 countries. The PN is an open platform for exchange, coordination and harmonisation between European development cooperation organisations with a public service mission. Our goal is to contribute to coherence within the European donor community and, at the same time, benefit from the wide range of organisations active in this field to encourage an integrated, pluralistic and innovative approach to European development cooperation, implemented as efficiently as possible. Built on European values and on a strong commitment to deliver evidence-based policies and partnerships, the PN aims to strengthen cooperation, links and complementarity between European development players, creating opportunities for cooperation and synergies at the implementation level. It promotes the sharing of information and experience between practitioners and provides feedback on European development policies from the “HOW TO” perspective, in the spirit of #TeamEurope, to collectively ensure that we provide the most effective European cooperation support to accompany partner countries in their efforts to achieve the SDGs.