Practitioners' Network
for European Development Cooperation

Effective Partnerships and Implementation Working Group
Co-leads British Council and CPMA | **Venue**: Webex

28 September 2021
MEETING MINUTES

Session 1 – Agenda setting for the session and the year
- **Overview of EPIWG Workplan for 2021-2022**
  - Prepared based on PN members' inputs and suggestions, following a survey that was carried out during the summer months
  - Overall and specific objectives remain the same as in previous years
  - Three results areas (increased from two in 2020-21):
    - R1 around enhancing the ability to work inclusively with other stakeholders
    - R2 around amplifying joint implementation knowledge and activity
    - R3 around enhancing knowledge of cross-cutting functional project management capabilities (added to reflect topics such as M&E, communications and visibility, and mainstreaming key issues such as gender and climate)
  - Identified deliverables by thematic in order to evaluate the success of the working group
  - Plan for upcoming sessions for rest of PN year to be put together, to allow agencies to plan ahead with regard to their inputs
- **Update by FIIAPP on the sessions on PSE that will be organised in the coming months:**
  - Based on PSE study recommendations
  - First session to be held in October (FIIAPP will send the information to PN members)
  - Discussions open to other PN members and stakeholders
  - PN members encouraged to inform relative PSE focal points in their line ministries
  - DG INTPA comment – currently working on Council Conclusions on PSE and inclusiveness, encourages to liaise with CODEV delegates on the topic

Attached:
- *PN Workplan 2021-2022 (also available on the PN website Members' Area)*

Session 2 – Strengthening PN members' mutual knowledge to collaborate and communicate outside of the PN – presentation by the Service for Knowledge Transfer, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia
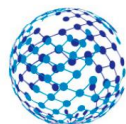
- Institutionally established in 2013; department within a directorate; team of 6 diplomats
- In line with Croatia's political priorities on development cooperation
- New Development Cooperation Law from 2018
- Focus area - transfer of Croatian knowledge on the EU accession process
- Geographical priorities – Southeast European countries (similar political and legal background), but open to other countries depending on needs
- Individual approach to each beneficiary
- Interested in strengthening bilateral cooperation with other MS and building new partnerships
- Active in Twinning projects

Attached:
- *Presentation by the Service for Knowledge Transfer, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia*

Session 3 – Knowledge sharing presentation by Sida: Corruption as an obstacle to development

- Corruption is a key problem in developing countries as it limits their recourses on development
- Threatens the entire Agenda 2030, not only SDG 16.
- Fighting corruption is a key priority for the Swedish Government.

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- Sida aims to apply a holistic and realistic approach and integrate anti-corruption efforts into all development cooperation areas.
- Guidance has been developed for Sida's work against corruption, focuses on what works, provides concrete examples.
- Analysis of the main drivers of corruption in partner countries and who has the incentives for reforms is key. Should look where there are realistic opportunities to work with PSE.
- Sida supports Swedish embassies with analysis, if needed.
- Sida takes part in the Anti-corruption Partnership Pilot (APP), a three-year multi-stakeholder initiative to implement an anti-corruption project based on best-practice principles across three pilot countries. The initiative is open for participation to other interested development partners.

Attached:
- *Presentation by Sida - Corruption as an obstacle to development*
- *Guidelines for Sida's work against corruption*
- *Concept paper for the anti-corruption partnership pilot*

Session 4 – Study presentation: Second presentation of the ROM review results for Joint Implementation interventions 19-20

- DG INTPA and the ROM team delivered a follow up to the ROM review results for joint implementation presentation given to the WG in June 2021.
- This time where was a specific focus on recommendations and examples of good and bad practice (please see the attached ppt).
- Problems in joint implementation interventions are similar to other those across other interventions. For example, logframes are not sufficiently developed; issues in ensuring continuous flow of benefits post intervention, and difficulties in smooth and efficient provision of resources, etc. The presentation provides good practice for PN members and others to follow in the future.
- Called to reflect the recommendations amongst implementers and field-based colleagues to decide on the most effective way of implementing these.

Action:
EPIWG co-leads will consider if a dedicated workshop on the topic would be useful to discuss what works and what does not, on how to include these important points into documents and to operationalise them.

Attached:
- *Presentation - ROM results on Joint Implementation (Part 2)*

Session 5 – Looking ahead to the 2021 Inclusiveness Workshop
- EPIWG co-leads presented the agenda for the Inclusiveness workshop, this year focusing on Aid Effectiveness (concept note shared prior to the EPIWG meeting):
  o Date and venue: Monday 18th October 2021, Thon EU Hotel on Rue de la Loi
  o Hybrid event – possibility to attend in person and online. Maximum of 50 people present in the room, however there is the possibility to interchange the individuals who are in the room throughout the day.
  o Invitee list includes PN, INTPA, EEAS, ECHO, NEAR, CODEV, EU Delegations and Concord.
  o Agenda split into the Busan Principles of Aid Effectiveness, with different agency leading on one specific principle – Ownership, Accountability, Partnership and Impact.

Reactions from the day and next steps
- Date for next meeting to be confirmed – to be held in November 2021.
- Overview for coming meetings to be shared with members, for feedback and changes if necessary.