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Editorial:

Dear Development Partners,

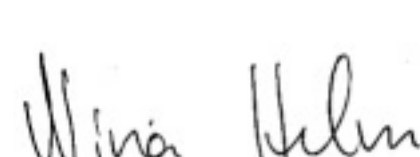
our aim this year is to establish a sound basis for future joint activities by finding common ground in various fields of decentralization and local governance.

Therefore we are looking forward to interesting and productive discussions on fiscal decentralization, capacity development and our specific guidelines at our annual meeting in Bratislava and hope to get good results in the follow-up of these discussions.

We are also very excited about 2 lead donor workshops in Sub-Saharan Africa and hope that this will be a further step towards harmonized activities and alignment among Development Partners.

If you come across interesting information in your daily work that you wish to share with the group in the next newsletter, we are happy to receive your messages at any time: nina.helm@inwent.org

Hope you have a nice day!



nina.helm@inwent.org

Agenda - DPWG-LGD:

- **Meeting in Bratislava, Slovakia 25 - 27 Mai 2009**

The facilitating committee met in Bonn on February 10th to set the agenda for the annual meeting.

>>> [programme download](#)

If you have questions regarding the annual meeting please contact: nina.helm@inwent.org

Activities - DPWG-LGD:

- **Ongoing DPWG activities:**

Three studies have been assigned:

1. One study is dealing with the topic "Fiscal Decentralization".
2. After adopting the general guidelines in November 2008, the group is now trying to refine them by developing "Specific guidelines for enhancing aid effectiveness that will apply to specific country context" for Enhancing Alignment and Harmonisation on Local Governance and Decentralisation.
3. The last study is a reference document on "Capacity Development" in the field of Local Governance and Decentralization.

All drafts will be discussed during the Bratislava meeting.

"Lead Donor Workshops" assigned:

InWEnt and the Development Partners Working Group on Local Governance and Decentralisation (DPWG-LGD) have invited Wageningen International to organise a Lead Donor Meeting on Harmonisation, Decentralisation and Local Governance in two Sub-Saharan African Countries.

The idea is to support the ongoing Harmonisation, Alignment and Ownership processes in the field of Decentralisation and Local Governance in the partner countries by assembling the Lead Development Partners and national representatives and conducting a workshop with them.

Depending on the needs, requirements and willingness of the lead donors, which are being assessed in several countries at this stage, objectives of such meetings are e.g.:

1. define a strategic agenda for improved donor harmonisation in the field of local governance and decentralisation, including harmonisation with Development Partners who provide more sectoral support.
2. define a strategy and a methodology that enhances learning and peer review amongst development partners in the field of local governance and decentralisation.
3. enhance communication between lead donors of sectors linked to LGD

More information will follow soon.

Brief Evaluation of the DPWG-LGD Secretariat has been undertaken and a first resume is envisioned for end of April.

News from our partner organisations:

- **"Global Forum on Local Development", in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, organized by UNCDF – February 2010**

Whether local governments in a particular country are intended to play specific roles defined by the central government or also claim a broader developmental role, there is a general need for adequate enabling frameworks, systems, processes and capacities that allow them to function effectively. In many developing countries, progress towards developing these foundational elements of a local government system has been slow, uneven or outright elusive. In some cases, disappointing results have motivated some degree of recentralization, further limiting local government potential.

>>> [download Global Forum Optimizing the role of local governments](#)

- **ICLEI WORLD CONGRESS 2009 (www.iclei.org/worldcongress2009)**

CONNECTING LEADERS: ADVANCING LOCAL ACTION FOR SUSTAINABILITY

14-18 June 2009, Edmonton, Canada

ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability is an international association of local governments as well as national and regional local government organisations that have made a commitment to sustainable development. Over 1074 cities, towns, countries and their associations worldwide comprise ICLEI's growing membership. ICLEI works with these and hundreds of other local governments through international performance-based, results-oriented campaigns and programs.

The 5 days of the World Congress will not only be dedicated to reviewing the progress, but to studying future challenges and sharing intense discussions on ICLEI strategies.

The deadline to register is 15 April!

- **European Charter on development cooperation in support of local governance**

The "European Charter on development cooperation in support of local governance" (<http://www.localgovernance-coop-charter.eu/>) focuses mainly on the following principles:

1. Regulation and management of a substantial share of public affairs by local authorities, through local elected representatives and citizen participation
2. Right of local authorities to exercise their initiatives with regard to any matter included in their powers and responsibilities and not assigned to any other country
3. Selection and recruitment of local government staff according to merit and competence
4. Conditions of office of local elected representatives to allow free exercise of their functions
5. Local authorities' financial resources to correspond to the responsibilities determined by the constitution and law, of which they may dispose freely within the framework of their powers
6. Administrative supervision of local authorities only to be carried out according to procedures determined by the constitution or by statute
7. Entitlement of local authorities to belong to an association for the protection and promotion of their common interests
8. Legal protection of local self government

- **COMMONWEALTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE 2009 (www.clqc2009.org)**

Improving local government: the Commonwealth vision

11-14 May 2009 Westin Conference Centre

Our Lucaya, Freeport, Grand Bahama Island

A three-day international conference on the future of local government to meet the needs and aspirations of its citizens.

The conference will look at:

- o What is local government's role in the future?
- o How should councils involve local people in planning and decision making?
- o How can we build capacity and strengthen local governments to be more effective and efficient? (www.clqc2009.org)
- o What can we do to help councils improve?
- o How can we measure if a council has improved?
- o What is the Commonwealth vision for good local government?

The conference will highlight some of the recent thinking and innovations in local government:

- o Local government as a community leader and space shaper, coordinating development of the area
- o Inclusive towns and cities that respond to needs of their local communities
- o The changing environment: how local government is responding to global trends and issues

- **Summercourse July 2009 on Decentralization by the The Hague Academy of Local Governance (<http://www.thehagueacademy.nl/index.php?id=26>)**

The Hague Academy for Local Governance in the Hague, Netherlands will repeat successful summercourse 6 - 9 July 2009:

Day 1: Assessing decentralisation practices
Day 2: Fiscal decentralisation and local service delivery
Day 3: Local leadership and capacity development
Day 4: Decentralisation and development goals

- **CEFEB: French trainings for local authorities in the South**

In order to strengthen AFD's strategy toward the local authorities, as new partners for development, CEFEB sets up training and capacity building sessions for municipal or regional representatives.

CEFEB organizes different short term trainings in Marseille or on-site, on two main topics:

- o Development project tools and methodology: Project cycle management, Feasibility study ToR, logical framework approach, monitoring and evaluation tools, financial analysis...
- o Implementation of a local strategy: which tools for which diagnostic? Populations needs? How to choose the "best strategy"? Tools for implementation.

Moreover, CEFEB tries to set up a complete program for municipalities executives capacity buildings. This program would be made up of 5 sessions (one week each):

- o general background
- o municipal financial analysis
- o urban development
- o urban public services management
- o local governance.

This program will be implemented progressively from 2009 to 2012.

All these trainings sessions are organized by the CEFEB at AFD local agencies requests, to prepare or support the implementation of a development project.

In 2008 & 2009, CEFEB has set up :

- o 9 training sessions on "development project tools" in Marseille (4), Ouagadougou (2), French Guyana (2), Rabat (1), for 25 participants each.
- o 12 training sessions on "implementation of a local strategy" in French Polynesia (4), New Caledonia (6), French Guyana (2), for 25 participants each.
- o The first session of the complete program will be organized in Marseilles on June 2009 and will welcome 28 participants from 10 French-spoken countries.

- **InWEnt: New trainings on Aid Effectiveness and Donor Harmonization, Decentralisation and Local Governance**

InWEnt organises in Bad Honnef (Germany) two trainings in May, July, October and November 2009 on following issues:

- [Decentralisation and local governance](#)
- [Aid effectiveness and Donor harmonisation](#)
- [Introduction to International Development Politics](#)

Contacts, newsletters and websites:

- **Aeryc Network (<http://www.aeryc.org/ingles/objetivos.htm>):**

[Findings of workshop in Latin America](#)

- **New ecdpm-publication on Decentralization and Local Governance in West Africa (<http://www.ecdpm.org/>):**

Assessing decentralisation and local governance in West Africa (279 pages)
Taking stock of strengthening the monitoring and evaluation capacity of local actors
Sonia Le Bay and Christiane Loquai (eds) (August 2008)

This document examines a number of initiatives to build the capacity of local stakeholders to monitor and evaluate decentralisation and local governance processes. It builds on the results of case studies done in five West African countries (Benin, Cameroon, Ghana, Mali and Niger), as well as discussions on the studies at a regional seminar in Bamako, 17-18 May 2006.

- **DECENTRALISATION AND LOCAL DEMOCRACY IN THE WORLD (<http://www.cities-localgovernments.org/gold/>)**

First global report by United Cities and Local Governments, 2008

A co-publication of the World Bank and United Cities and Local Governments

This report is the first global attempt to offer a comparative analysis of the situation of local authorities in every region in the world. The local elected representatives who are members of the governing bodies of UCLG share certain core values regarding local governance issues and support the principle of subsidiarity, whereby decisions should be made at the level of government closest to the citizens. This report will contribute to deepening reflection of these values. This report was drawn up by a network of experts and university academics on every continent, under the scientific direction of GRALE (Research Group on local Administration in Europe).

The report focuses strictly on the municipal level (or equivalent) or the intermediate tier of government when it is the main level responsible for local government. Relations between the local level and other levels of territorial administration are also taken into account.

The report takes readers through 7 regions of the world, defined in accordance with the continental sections that make up the structure of UCLG.

Each chapter deals with 3 main themes:

1. the evolution and development of regional structures
2. powers, management and finance
3. local democracy

An eighth chapter examines the forms of governance of the metropolises, where rapid growth presents significant challenges, particularly in countries of the global South and above all in Asia. This chapter is of particular interest to the metropolitan section of UCLG.

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