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**Editorial:**

Dear Development Partners,

Our 4th annual meeting last May in Bratislava highlighted complex issues of local governance and decentralization and we would like to thank all of the 35 participants who discussed them with us. These debates will help us to keep working efficiently on harmonization and coordination. (For more information please see [minutes](#) and [list of participants](#).)

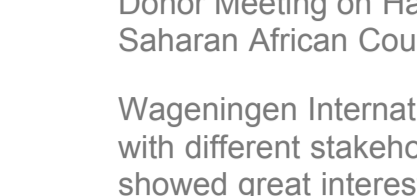
We are pleased to inform you that the first lead donor meeting will take place in Uganda from 6-8 October 2009 and that positive contacts have been established in Senegal for the organization of a second meeting in the next months.

The draft for specific guidelines is revised and ready to be validated until 14 September 2009 ([150709 Revised Specific Guidelines.pdf](#))

This newsletter also presents news, events and publications from our partners.

Feel free to send us any information you would like to share in our next newsletter. Contact: [nina.helm@inwent.org](mailto:nina.helm@inwent.org)

Hope you have a nice day!



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**Agenda - DPWG-LGD:**

- **Lead donor Meeting in Uganda, 6-8 October 2009**

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.

Wageningen International started to assess the need and relevance of a lead donor meeting with different stakeholders in a couple of Sub-Saharan countries. Within this process Uganda showed great interest in such a workshop. Wageningen International has invited representatives of the National Government of Uganda, Local Government Associations, Chairs of Sectoral Development Partners Groups and members of the DDPG (Decentralization Development Partners Group of Uganda) to participate actively in this three-day meeting from October 6-8 at the Imperial Royale Hotel, Kampala, Uganda. ([Invitation Uganda Meeting.pdf](#)) The agenda of the meeting is currently being developed jointly by Wageningen International and the DDPG and will be approved in August. The DPWG-LGD still needs to discuss the participation of resource persons from neighbourhood countries like Tanzania or Rwanda.

- **Lead donor Meeting in Senegal:**

Moreover, progress was made concerning a regional workshop in Senegal. The government and the decentralisation group have already expressed their commitment and their interest in organising a regional workshop with three or four other decentralisation leads and their governmental counterparts in Western Africa. Benin lead's participation is confirmed and the participation of Burkina/ Niger/ Mali/ Rwanda/ Cameroun is targeted.

Further information on both meetings will be available in the end of August.

**Activities - DPWG-LGD:**

- **Ongoing DPWG activities:**

Revised draft study on specific guidelines ([150709 Revised Specific Guidelines.pdf](#)) Please send us your comments until 14 September 2009

Draft study on capacity development, fiscal decentralisation and a resume of a joint training module on decentralisation were discussed in Bratislava. Now in the follow-up-phase the members of the DPWG have the opportunity to provide more comments and relevant working materials to be integrated in the studies/activities. For more information, please see:

[minutes\\_Bratistava.pdf](#)  
[List of participants\\_Bratistava.pdf](#)

Working plan for the Development Partner Working Group in 2009 / 2010 ([Workplan DPWG 2009-2010.pdf](#))

**News from our partner organisations:**

- **European Development Days, Stockholm, 22-24 October 2009.**

<http://www.eudevdays.eu/>

On October 22-24 will take place the European Development Days which are hosted by the European Commission and the EU Presidency in Stockholm. The event will bring up debates around four main topics:

**1. Democracy**

Democracy cannot be imported from the outside – it must be home-grown. The idea of a European policy on democracy support is not to add further layers to existing development work. Rather, it is concerned with ensuring that development support:

- enjoys local ownership;
- is consistent with democratic and good governance principles; and
- contributes to the strengthening of democratic institutions and human rights.

**2. Adapting to climate change**

The world's climate looks set to continue changing at rates unprecedented in human history. Even though they are often the least responsible, our partners from developing societies are likely to be the hardest hit by rising sea levels, desertification and natural disasters.

**3. Promoting energy efficiency**

Energy efficiency is a precondition for growth for every country, economy and company. Investments in energy efficiency can help reduce poverty. Secure and efficient energy supply is critical to growing economies, while cleaner energy is needed to break the development-pollution cycle holding back many nations.

**4. Global recession – no countries left behind**

With the global economy contracting and trade shrinking, the crisis in credit and confidence is affecting every corner of the world. The least-developed countries are seeing their access to credit evaporate, export-lead growth plummet and the delivery of aid postponed. The EDD will be taking stock of efforts to shield partner countries from the global recession. Any new commitments would have to take account of development assistance already promised

- **Nordic Plus Group**

Denmark, Finland, Ireland, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom are creating new relationships between donors and partners by lowering policy and administrative barriers to DC.

**1. The Joint Financing Arrangement (JFA)**

<http://norad.no/en/Tools+and+publications/Publications/Publication+Page?key=109785>

The JFA is a tool to help aid practitioners involved in multi-donor cooperation. It can be used as an instrument to design or redesign the structure of such cooperation. Because of its versatility and flexibility, the JFA can be used for a broad range of aid modalities (budget support, the pooling of funds or projects). The goal of the JFA is to provide practical support to the field in the often time-consuming process of harmonisation.

**2. The Practical Guide to Delegated Cooperation**

<http://norad.no/en/Tools+and+publications/Publications/Publication+Page?key=109585>

Delegated cooperation is aimed at significantly reducing the transaction costs for both partner governments and donors.

- **Africities and Citexpo, Marrakesh, December 16-20, 2009-07-30**

The 5th edition of the Africities Summit will take place in Morocco next December. This event to which about 5,000 participants are expected to attend will focus on the theme "African Regional and Local Governments' Response to the Global Crisis: Promoting Sustainable Local Development and Employment".

During five days, ministers in charge of local government, economy, environment and employment, mayors and regional/ local authorities, development cooperation partners and many other officials and stakeholders dealing with local governance will take part to thematic, special and political sessions.

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At the same time, **Citexpo** will be held in Marrakesh. The show provides the opportunity for international companies and organisations to meet officials and stakeholders involved in local governments in Africa. 120 exhibitors plan to attend to the show and/or to the 50 conferences and 35 workshops organized during the 5 days.

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- **Trainings in the field of local governance and decentralisation**

**Train4dev trainings**

Train4Dev promotes improved aid effectiveness for poverty reduction through enhanced donor co-operation in the field of competence development and training. The main activity of Train4dev is the organization of joint learning events and open courses all over the world. While the first are reserved to a group of member donors, the latter can be attended by some members' personnel under specific conditions.

Here are some joint learning events in Europe:

- Course in Public Financial Management (JFA) - 01-08-2009 - Brussels, Belgium. Deadline 30-08-2009
- Various Workshops and Seminars in the Area of PFM. 31-08-2009 - Ljubljana, Slovenia
- Knowledge Sharing 4 Development - E-Learning Course
- Procurement and Aid Effectiveness - E-Learning Course
- Course in Public Financial Management 31-08-2009 - at Sida in Stockholm. Deadline 26-08-2009
- Fundamentals of Public Procurement. 08-09-2009 - Copenhagen, Denmark. Deadline 08-09-2009
- Promotion de l'égalité de genre dans la coopération au développement de la CE 21-09-2009 - Brussels. Deadline 16-09-2009
- Women, peace, security and development - what can the EU do? 23-09-2009 - Brussels. Deadline 16-09-2009
- Public-private partnership (PPPs), 02-11-2009 - Turin, Italy. Deadline 02-11-2009

- Decentralisation and EU Accession, Hague Academy, 16-27 November 2009 for South Eastern Europe  
[http://www.thehaqueacademy.nl/fileadmin/user\\_upload/docs/MTEC\\_Decimalisation\\_and\\_EU\\_Accession\\_training\\_programme.pdf](http://www.thehaqueacademy.nl/fileadmin/user_upload/docs/MTEC_Decimalisation_and_EU_Accession_training_programme.pdf)

- Course on Decentralisation and public sector reform. Royal Tropical Institute. 16 - 20 November 2009  
[http://www.mdf.nl/page/MDF-GENERAL/Course-calendar/decentralisation-and-public-sector-reform?mod\[MDFCourseCalendarModuleItem\]=111](http://www.mdf.nl/page/MDF-GENERAL/Course-calendar/decentralisation-and-public-sector-reform?mod[MDFCourseCalendarModuleItem]=111)

- Decentralization and Local Governance, InWEnt, Germany, 30-09 to 02-10 2009 and 18 - 11 to 20 - 11 2009  
[Decentralisation and Local Governance.pdf](#)

**In French:**

Seminar Cooperation décentralisée. Sciences Po, Paris, France. 11-12 December 2009  
<http://www.sciences-po.fr/spf/programmes/pdf/IPE06.pdf>

- Course on Financial Programming and Policies (FPP), Joint Africa Institute. 29-09 to 09-10-2009  
<http://www.afdb.org/en/program/ai-training/course-on-financial-programming-and-policies-fpp-2/>

**Information, links and downloads**

- **"A user's guide to measure Local Governance" by UNDP**

The first section of the User's Guide discusses issues relative to the complexity of assessing local governance and decentralisation and also provides a general framework for leading an assessment. The Source Book is proposed as a second part. It does not provide a new and universal tool but compiles 22 assessment methodologies for decentralised governance so that every stakeholder can develop new tools or adapt existing approaches to a specific context based on proffread methodologies.

Three different categories of sources are therefore suggested:

- 1. Comprehensive local governance assessment approaches based on multiple stakeholder perspectives:**
  - Urban Development Index (UN-Habitat)  
[http://ww2.unhabitat.org/campaigns/governance/activities\\_6.asp](http://ww2.unhabitat.org/campaigns/governance/activities_6.asp)
  - Local Governance Barometer (Impact Alliance) <http://www.pact.mg/lgb/>
  - Local Democracy Assessment Guide (International IDEA)  
[Local\\_Dem\\_Assessment\\_Guide\[1\].pdf](#)
  - Indicators of Local Democracy (Toqueville Research Centre and OSI)

[Toqueville Reseach Center- Indicators of Local Democratic Governance Project.pdf](#) and 7 others

- 1. Local governance assessments based on citizen (or single stakeholder) perspectives:**
  - Citizen Report Cards (Public Affairs Centre, India) <http://www.pacindia.org/>
  - Social Audit of Local Governance (Bosnia and Herzegovina)  
[http://sitesources.worldbank.org/INT/SOCCACDEMSIDFCOV/ Resources/Prism\\_SocialAuditInBIH\\_SurveyQuestionnaire\\_final.pdf](http://sitesources.worldbank.org/INT/SOCCACDEMSIDFCOV/ Resources/Prism_SocialAuditInBIH_SurveyQuestionnaire_final.pdf) and 2 others

- 1. Local governance and performance and self-assessments by local government institutions:**
  - Local Governance Performance Management System  
<http://bigs.gov.ph/lapmsv2/cmshome/> (Philippines)
  - Assessments Informing Performance Based Grant Systems Local Integrity (UNCDF)  
[Assessments Informing Performance Based Grant Systems UNCDF.pdf](#)
  - Initiative (Global Integrity) <http://local.integrity.org/> and 4 others

It is important to be aware that not all local governance deficits can be addressed simultaneously and that stakeholders have to identify priority areas to focus on. Thanks to a short matrix summary, they are able to choose appropriate tools relying on their focus and on the specific context (diagnostic, starting democracy, decentralisation reforms in process...).

In addition, stakeholders can refine their search by examining various features of each tool (such as financial and time investments required, data sources, poverty/gender focus...) and also identify the most appropriate tool.

Last but not least, the Source Guide provides detailed profiles on each tool including information about their development, their objectives, their applicability, their methodology and their strengths and weaknesses. Contact information and links to find the tools are also given.

- **PEFA**

Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability, aims at supporting integrated and harmonized approaches to assessment and reform in the field of public expenditure, procurement and financial accountability.

To support the strengthening of recipient and donor ability to assess the condition of country public expenditure, procurement and financial accountability systems, and develop a practical sequence of reform and capacity-building actions, PEFA activities mainly focus on the establishment of a PFM Performance Measurement Framework.

- **Managing for Development Results from OECD**

Managing for development results (MDR) is a management strategy that focuses on using performance information to improve decision-making.

The concept is supported by several development banks, development agencies and organisations as well as partners. MDR is also a central strategy for every international meeting focusing on global development and the achievement of the Millennium Goals its actions aims at (i) strengthening country capacity to manage for results, (ii) improving the relevance and effectiveness of aid and (iii) fostering a Global Partnership.

Furthermore, MDR creates tools for a better evaluation of results such as the Capacity Scan (CAP-Scan) which allows countries to conduct assessments that provide a clear view of strengths and capacity gaps, develop actions to address resource needs, and target donor support.

Last but not least, a yearly sourcebook on emerging good practice is published to provide solution-oriented examples of MDR in action for practitioners at many levels and in many contexts

- **The EU donor Atlas 2008, European commission**

The EU Donor Atlas 2008 is produced by the European Commission to strengthen coordination and harmonisation between the 27 Member States which fund development activities throughout the world. The Atlas provides an impressive amount of maps and charts organized by themes (education, health, infrastructure...) and countries (partners or donors). It is also easy to know at a glance the EU aid in the world and its general trends by country or by sectors. Last but not least, it assesses EU aid performance in countries in situation of fragility.

- **Contribution of Decentralized Cooperation to Decentralization in Africa. Ministerial Conference on Leadership Capacity Development for Decentralized Governance, Yaounde, 28-30 May 2008**

This study which was led by The Euro-African Partnership for Decentralized Governance aims at assessing whether the Euro-African decentralized cooperation activities have an impact on decentralization process in African nations. Based on primary and secondary resources, the paper analyzes the positive effects of decentralized cooperation on North-South relations such as a better transfer of knowledge from Northern local partners to Southern local partners. The core of the study is yet made of the analysis of past experiences and of the different lessons which have emerged for both African and European partners. Finally, it suggests some recommendations to improve cooperation efficiency on both sides.

- **Intercooperation's Experience Capitalisation Documents on Capacity, Building for Decentralization and Local Governance**

Intercooperation is a leading Swiss non-profit organization engaged in development and international cooperation since 1982. It has accomplished a lot of work in nature resource management, rural economy, local governance and civil society.

Most of intercooperation.ch offers are available online at  
<http://www.intercooperation.ch/offers/download>

- **Francois Paul Yatta, La décentralisation fiscale en Afrique: ENJEU et Perspectives, Karthala, Direction du développement et de la coopération DDC, April 2009**

Decentralisation started in Africa at the time of decolonisation. This innovation has largely spread off but it is still facing the challenge of fiscal decentralisation since the implementation of new local public services is relying on it. The book introduces the different schemes of fiscal decentralisation all over African regions. Thanks to a strong analysis of local governments tax systems and how they deal with state systems, the author suggests the tools for a ranking of fiscal decentralisation in African countries.

- **Fiches Pays - Country profiles, Partenariat pour le Développement Municipal (PDM)**

PDM provides on his website complete summaries about decentralization in most of the African countries. Country profiles are established based on many indicators of development, decentralization and institutions. Moreover, the presentation includes decentralization policies and their implementation. Each country is analyzed through the same outline which therefore gives excellent tools to compare the level of decentralization in Africa.

- **The 2009 Millennium goals report**

The Millennium Development Goals Report 2009 has been released. As expected, the world economic crisis is going to increase extreme poverty by more than 55 million of people and hunger grew in 2008 due to higher food prices. However, the document reports that progresses were made in education, children mortality and climate change.

- **Democracia, Descentralización y Reforma Fiscal en America Latina y Europa del Este**

USAID, OSI, LGI, Grupo Propuesta Ciudadana, Mesa de Articulación de Redes de América Latina, Oxfam, Participa Perú, Cooperación Belga al Desarrollo, SNV, EED [http://lgi.osi.hu/cimg/0/0/7/3/7/texto\\_completo.pdf](http://lgi.osi.hu/cimg/0/0/7/3/7/texto_completo.pdf)

This 407 page book provides important analyses of decentralization processes over the last two decades. Considering the difficulties of implementing political and fiscal decentralization policies especially because of corruption, the document aims at underling lessons from Eastern Europe which can be used in Latin America.

- **Governance Matters 2009**

The latest update of the Worldwide Governance Indicators are now available in the report *Governance Matters VIII: Aggregate and Individual Governance Indicators, 1996-2008 (available at)*. The document reports a world map project <http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wqi/worldmap.asp>, covering 212 countries and territories and measuring governance thanks to six aggregate indicators taken from 35 data sources provided by 33 different organizations:

1. The Voice and Accountability
2. Political Stability and Absence of Violence / Terrorism
3. Government Effectiveness
4. Regulatory Quality
5. Rule of Law
6. Control of Corruption

- **Donors Approaches to Governance Assessments by OECD**

In order to assess needs for partner countries, donors have developed tools to diagnose governance challenges. But most of the time, these initiatives are lead without any coordination and each donor feels necessary to make its own assessment.

This initiative aims at improving effectiveness and harmony thanks to five guiding principles:

- Build on and strengthen nationally driven governance assessments.
- Identify a clear key purpose to drive the choice of assessment tools and processes.
- Assess and address governance from different entry points and perspectives.
- Harmonise assessments at country level when the aim is to stimulate dialogue and governance reform.
- Make results public unless there are compelling reasons not to do so.

Download [Survey donor approaches.pdf](#)

Download [sourcebook donor approaches.pdf](#)

- **Carrying out a Joint Governance Assessment: Lessons from Rwanda by The policy practice**

In 2008 was lead in Rwanda the first Joint Governance Assessment based on commonly agreed indicators and aimed to bring both government and development partners to produce an objective Assessment of governance.

The Policy Practice was able to draw a general framework for Joint Governance Assessment.

It is important to notify that a JGA should be initiated by both partners and donors and should focus on a few goals such as "building mutual accountability" or "reducing duplication effort". A JGA is also matching joint concerns (Paris Declaration, reduced aid volatility, realism on reform priorities...) which explain why that kind of assessment can be undertaken.

However, several risks appear. The main one is connected to the fact that a JGA will influence future aid flows. Disagreements can therefore come up on the use of certain indicators more or less favourable. Another risk is to see government initiating JGA only on political basis and looking for international legitimacy. The report emphasizes the possibility of not undertaking a JGA when conditions are not conducting to success.

To make a JGA successful, the Policy Practice underlines the necessity of not being too consensual otherwise issues will be addressed only superficially.

Last but not least, The Policy Practice suggests guidelines for a JGA:

- Clarify the purpose
- Oversight arrangements
- Willingness to disagree
- Role of consultants
- Scope and focus
- Broad Consultation
- Political economy analysis
- Country specificity and international norms
- Indicators
- Research methods
- Sustaining the process

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