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Editorial:

Dear Development Partners,

In October and November we carried through two different activities, with excellent results: First, we met for the workshop on joint training in the field of decentralisation and local government and agreed on deepening our collaboration (see report).

Second, during the European Development Days we held the panel on "Harmonisation and Alignment in the field of Local Governance and Decentralisation" discussing experiences from Africa. (see minutes)

Again, I would like to remind you that this newsletter is designed to improve our networking more closely. If you wish to share any relevant information concerning your organisation with other members of the DPWG-LGD or a broader general public, we are happy to receive your messages at any time: nina.helm@inwent.org

Another information: Cornelia Parisius left the secretariat in November 2008, her successor will be another Nina, Ms. Nina Wade (to keep it even easier for you to contacting us:-)

Hope you have a nice day and last but not least:

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year with thanks for your faithful cooperation!



nina.helm@inwent.org

Agenda - DPWG-LGD:

- **Search for experts and trainers**

We would like to establish a database for experts and trainers on our website in the secured workspace.

In order to improve our human resource management all together we have asked you already for experts on local governance to provide studies, surveys and the like. Until now we have collected a short list of contacts. Still, it would be good to get more recommended experts from you.

After our workshop on joint training on 13-15 October 2008, we agreed to create also a database of trainers in the field of local governance and decentralisation.

So it would be very helpful, if you could ask your recommended trainers and or experts to send us their CV and if possible, to add further short information regarding their language skills, main thematic focuses (e.g. decentralisation, poverty reduction, fiscal policy, public administration, participation, gender, participatory budgeting), regional experience and professional background.

Then we could create a dynamic database implemented on the secured workspace of our website with search functions to easier access all information.

To submit any recommendations please contact: nina.helm@inwent.org

- **DPWG-LGD's next meeting end of May 2009 in Bratislava**

Our next meeting will be held End of May in Bratislava, hosted by UNDP.

Some items of the meeting will be:

- o Presentation and discussion of the draft studies provided by the three subgroups:
 - 1) "Integrated Framework" (including "Sequencing" and "Indicators")
 - 2) "Fiscal Decentralisation"
 - 3) "Capacity Building"
- o Presentation and discussion of the draft "Specific Guidelines"
- o Two presentations of donor agencies of our group

One or two presentations of other East European donor agencies

Activities - DPWG-LGD:

- **Workshop from the Development Partners Working Group: "Analysis and practical steps towards: Joint Training in the field of Decentralisation and Local Governance" 13 – 15 October 2008 in Bonn organised by the DPWG-secretariat (InWent)**

25 members of our group were present to discuss on the database of a study on joint donor training undertaken in advance and to work on practical solutions to enhance harmonisation of methodologies and experiences.

After two days of discussions on different experiences, the participants worked out important results in order to implement joint trainings in the field of decentralisation and local government.

1. UNCDF has taken the lead to analyse and plan jointly with other donors and partners the need for capacity building for the staff of donor organisations in a partner country. This step can be seen as a break through for donor harmonisation in the field of decentralisation and local governance. UNCDF will inform the other group members as soon as possible about the next steps to be taken and how the other development partners can join the planning and implementing.
2. Lead for the development of a training module for staff of donor organisations in the field of decentralisation and local governance is the French Development Agency AFD. The planning, development and implementation will be jointly coordinated with the train4dev network. AFD will get in contact in no time with the other development partners.

The secretariat will ensure the communication and organisational aspects of these activities.

Please feel free to contact us, if you have any new ideas, questions or recommendations: nina.helm@inwent.org



- **Panel on "Harmonisation and Alignment in the field of Local Governance and Decentralisation. Experiences from cooperation projects in Africa"**

16th November 2008, European Development Days (<http://www.eudevdays.eu>) in Strasbourg

The Secretariat for the Development Partners Working Group on Local Governance and Decentralisation (DPWG-LGD), hosted by InWent, has invited for a side event during the European Development Days (EDD) in Strasbourg.

The panel composed by European and African experts debated experiences and aspects of harmonised and aligned approaches for strengthening local governance and decentralisation in Southern Africa and Tanzania, and the roles of developing and developed countries in this process. It was a big success and more than 50 people attended the panel session.

Following the explanations of Jan Willem Nibbering (Senior policy advisor at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands), George Matovu (Regional Director of the Harare-based Municipal Development Partnership for Eastern and Southern Africa - a not-for-profit regional organisation with a mission of promoting decentralised governance and strengthening the capacity of local government to effectively deliver services, promote local development and fight poverty), Susanne Wendt (Senior Adviser on local service delivery and good governance in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark) and Solanus Nyimbi (Director of Local Government at the Prime Minister's Office in Tanzania, specialised in the issues of Regional Administration and Local Government) there took place a lively discussion within the panelists and the audience.

Download here the speeches of:

Mr. Matovu: [Paper on HA of Decentralisation and Local Governance George Matovu](#)

Mr. Nyimbi: [PRESENTATION - Solanus Nyimbi](#)



- **After more than one year of work our Guiding Principles are adopted.**

After long discussions about the ToR, the presentation from the consultant in Paris, the following revision, the last improvements summarised and integrated, our general guidelines are now adopted since 8th of November 2008.

(see [Adopted General Guiding Principles](#))

News from our partner organisations:

- **Launch of the European Development Cooperation Charter in Support of Local Governance**, Strasbourg, France, 16 November 2008

This Charter's goal is to improve the coherence, complementarity and efficiency of action by the various types of European actors involved in this field (institutions, local governments, civil society, and the private sector, etc.). Its aim is to define the principles, terms and conditions for harmonised action.

Many of our European partners took part in the process of formulating the Charter during the last months.

Consult the final version of the Charter: <http://www.localgovernance-coop-charter.eu/>

- **Lessons from a Decade of Public Sector Reform Workshop on Public Sector Reform in Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 9–10 December 2008**

The two-day workshop (jointly organized by the World Bank IEG, the Africa Region Public Sector Reform and Capacity Building Unit, the Public Sector Governance Group, in partnership with the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)) was held on October 9-10th in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The goal of the workshop is to improve learning among all participants on public sector reform and to enhance aid effectiveness in the sector.

The objective is twofold. First, the workshop will aim to disseminate the lessons learnt from the IEG evaluations. Second, the workshop will provide a forum for policy makers and others from selected African countries to engage representatives from the World Bank and a few development partners on the strengths and weaknesses of donor-supported public sector reform, while simultaneously providing the World Bank and development partners an opportunity to listen to client views. Together, this will facilitate learning from each other on implementing public sector reforms: what has worked well in designing and implementing public sector reform agendas in these countries? What has not worked well? What do governments and their development partners need to do differently in the future?

See article:

<http://www.theafricamonitor.com/news/ethiopian/december2008/121208/strong.htm>

- **Summercourse "Decentralisation and Local Governance"**, The Hague Academy for Local Governance, from 6-10 July 2009

This summercourse is especially designed for professionals at donor- and development organisations dealing with decentralisation processes and local service delivery. It discusses how decentralisation policies can be implemented more effectively and provides tools for strengthening local leadership in order to create better services and accountability at a local level. Contributions come from top experts with extensive experience in various developing and transitional countries. More information can be found in the brochure attached.

If you are interested in our summercourse or if you want to register, you can visit our website: www.thehagueacademy.com

- **Facilitating multi-stakeholder processes and social learning**, 7 – 25 September 2009, The Netherlands

Advanced course in the use of participatory approaches for institutional change

Complex problems require innovative solutions. Such solutions are created when diverse stakeholders are able to meet, share experiences, learn together and contribute to decisions. Ultimate success then lies in developing the collective commitment and capacity to turn ideas and plans into action. This can be achieved through multi-stakeholder processes (MSPs) and social learning.

The course shows state-of-the-art thinking about participation from local to global level and introduces the most up-to-date methodologies and approaches for facilitation and participation. How MSPs and social learning relate to concepts such as dialogue, interactive policy making and social learning is fully explored.

Early application is recommended. For online application and additional information, go to: www.cdic.wur.nl/UK/newsagenda

- **Global Forum on Local Development"**, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, organized by UNCDF, from 12-16 October 2009

The new wave of decentralization since 1990 is based on the rediscovery of the "local dimension" of development, and the related recognition of local government's potential role and added value in promoting local development and contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Local development is a complex multi-actor process comprising households, communities, local and national governments. While local governments are not the only entities promoting local development, they are increasingly key players at the forefront of delivering local development outcomes.

(Download more information [here](#))

Contacts, newsletters and websites:

- **Municipal Development Partnership** Eastern and Southern Africa Local Government Perspectives: Promoting Participatory Budgeting in Africa June 2008 No.8

(Download newsletter [here](#))

- News and resources on the **Joint Africa-EU Strategy** <http://europafrika.org/>

The 'europafrika bulletin' provides you with an up-date on the implementation and monitoring process of the Joint EU-Africa Strategy. It includes information about various events held on the topic, as well as a summary of recent contributions on the implementation. It also gives you news on the institutional negotiations and their timeline. <http://europafrika.org/bulletin/>

- Upcoming **Advanced Academic Update "Governance Indicators and Assessments - Impact and Future Trends"** at Maastricht University, January 21 and 22, 2009

The supply and use of governance assessments and indicators are booming. The aim of this Advanced Academic Update (AAU) is to discuss (1) purpose, assumptions and impact of the proliferation of governance assessments and indicators on developing countries, (2) the "benchmark model" behind the mainstream governance assessments as well as missing elements, and (3) the new trend towards "actionable indicators". Participants will learn about the latest developments in governance research and their applicability for work in the field and constructive suggestions for future work will be provided. The programme includes academic speakers and policy makers.

For further information please visit the website:

http://www.governance.unimaas.nl/training_activities/aau/Governance.html

- **UNDP Capacity Assessment Tools and Methodology**

» [Capacity Assessment Supporting Tool](#)

» [Capacity Assessment User Guide](#)

» [Capacity Assessment Practice Note](#)

Two other UNDP Assessment Tools which prepared for countries of Europe and the CIS:

» Capacity Assessment for IPA Absorption

[User Guide Revised UNDP.doc](#)

[Questions_Appendix UNDP.pdf](#)

» Local Services Delivery Capacity Assessment Tools

[Municipal Service Delivery Capacity Assessment Questions UNDP.pdf](#)

[Municipal Service Delivery Capacity Assessment User Guide Revised UNDP.pdf](#)

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