

## Newsletter N° 38 - June 2015

The ACP Local Government Platform e-Newsletter is an electronic newsletter produced every three months by the ACP Local Government Platform (ACP-LG Platform). The editor of this e-Newsletter invites readers to make comments & contribute news on local government issues from their organisations, local authorities & countries. All former editions of the newsletter are available on the Platform website: [www.acplgp.net](http://www.acplgp.net) (go to 'News', then 'Platform Newsletters'). For those who want to know about the Platform and its history, please visit the Platform website [www.acplgp.net](http://www.acplgp.net) (go to 'The ACP-LG Platform', then 'Background', 'Establishment of the Platform' and 'Future orientation'). The Newsletter N 23 is a special edition to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Platform.

## EC calls for proposals: open / foreseen

Various EC calls for proposals open/foreseen for some programmes of interest to local authorities can be seen at <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome>

### • Non-State Actors and Local Authorities thematic programme (NSA & LA)

Countries	Deadline	Budget* (EURO)	Reference
Angola	24/08/2015	1.875.000	EuropeAid/137068/DD/ACT/AO
South Sudan	24/08/2015	7.000.000	EuropeAid/137245/DD/ACT/SS
Uganda	16/07/2015	3.000.000	EuropeAid/150160/DD/ACT/UG
Djibouti	15/07/2015	1.400.000	EuropeAid/137160/DD/ACT/DJ
Rwanda	16/07/2015	4.200.000	EuropeAid/137210/DD/ACT/RW
Caribbean region	31/08/2015	855.000	EuropeAid/137213/DD/ACT/Multi
Eritrea	open	250.000	EuropeAid/131033/L/ACT/ER

### • EIDHR: European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights

Countries	Deadline	Budget (EURO)	Reference
South Sudan	13/07/2015	1.800.000	EuropeAid/137172/DD/ACT/SS
Guyana	15/07/2015	677.500	EuropeAid/136904/DD/ACT/GY
Mali	20/07/2015	1.500.000	EuropeAid/137231/DD/ACT/ML
Papua New Guinea	open	295.000	EuropeAid/131030/L/ACT/PG

### • Food Security

Countries	Deadline	Budget (EURO)	Reference
Senegal	26/08/2015	3.000.000	EuropeAid/137163/DD/ACT/SN
Madagascar	open	1.700.000	EuropeAid/134180/M/ACT/MG

### • Various fields in ACP countries

Countries	Deadline	Budget (EURO)	Reference
Eastern & Southern Africa	24/07/2015	5.000.000	EuropeAid/137090/ID/ACT/Multi
Malawi	27/07/2015	9.000.000	EuropeAid/137204/ID/ACT/MW
Overseas Countries & territories	06/08/2015	200.000	EuropeAid/137191/ID/ACT/Multi
Mauritius	open	56.000.000 (MUR)	EuropeAid/134113/M/ACT/MU
All ACP	open	7.000.000	EuropeAid/130741/D/ACT/Multi

## News from the EU

### 4<sup>th</sup> Assises of Decentralised Cooperation - Brussels, 1 & 2 June 2015

In a crucial moment for the international development agenda, the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) hosted, on 1 and 2 June 2015 the 4<sup>th</sup> Assises of decentralised cooperation for development. The event, co-organised with European Commission, brought together more than 500 participants, including: local and regional leaders from the EU and developing countries, as well as representatives of EU institutions, to offer a platform for sharing knowledge and best practises in the field of development cooperation.

The ultimate aim of the event is to contribute to reinforce development aid effectiveness towards the full integration of local and regional authorities into the development cooperation policies and to build a genuine EU partnership between the different actors active in the field of development.

The fourth edition of the Assises included an opening session, five parallel thematic roundtables, and associated seminars. In addition to the specific conclusions of the debates, one of the main conclusions arising from the debate is that cooperation for development is a matter of concern not only for the international organisations and countries, but also for local and regional authorities. The exchanges have once again highlighted the specific added value of local and regional authorities and have shown how the Post-2015 Development Agenda should take into account their active role and their involvement.

In the coming months, two important meetings will lay the foundations for the next 15 years and determine the way the world will address the challenges of poverty eradication and promote sustainable development between now and 2030. The first is the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, in Addis Ababa in July. Then, September will see the UN Summit for the adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

<http://lra4dev.cor.europa.eu/portal/EN/Pages/welcome.aspx>

### 2015 EDD: Our world, our dignity, our future - Brussels, 3 & 4 June 2015

This year is the European Year for Development (EYD2015). European Development Days (EDD15), 3-4 June, is its flagship event. Each individual and every policy have a role to play to create a more sustainable and peaceful world.

In 2015, we want to tell stories from around the world to show that regardless of where we come from or where we want to go, our aspirations remain the same. We strive for a stable and peaceful world, education for our children, jobs for young people and a decent life on our planet, which we need to take better care of.

This year, participants addressed issues such as how to create sustainable growth, how to promote universal and fundamental rights, or how greater cooperation among all actors can help to eradicate poverty and reduce inequality. Participants were invited to debate, brainstorm, find solutions and share best practices. Participants were able to realise the benefits of international cooperation through concrete examples of projects showcased at the Project Village, composed of 50 stands. Young adults aged 21 to 26 from all over the world were invited to join different panel sessions to share their experiences and their visions of development. In this way, they were actively engaging in shaping the decisions that will affect them and their future.

Each year, the forum attracts about 5 000 participants from over 140 countries, representing 1 200 organisations from the fields of development cooperation, human rights and humanitarian aid. The EU also engages political leaders, development practitioners, the private sector and civil society to shape the EU's policies for tackling poverty worldwide. EDD is an incubator of new ideas to inform our shared aim of a poverty-free, sustainable and fair world.

<https://eudevdays.eu/topics/our-world-our-dignity-our-future>

### **A new global partnership: European Commission approves Communication to deliver on the post-2015 development agenda**

On 5 February 2015, the European Commission approved a Communication, entitled "A Global Partnership for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development after 2015", which outlines the European Union's vision for delivering on the post-2015 agenda, above all reaffirming the need for collective action and the creation of a global, multi-stakeholder partnership. The Communication insists on that the post-2015 framework must represent a "contract" between people, civil society organisations, the private sector and elected representatives. Key to this global partnership is an agenda developed through a "multi-layered approach" and a reinforced implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals with the participation of stakeholders from the local, national and international level, as well as representatives from all groups.

With regard to local and regional governments, and in order to achieve the post-2015 objectives both domestically and internationally, the Communication calls on countries to enable the sub-national level and to reinforce multi-level coordination. National governments must above all develop the legislative and regulatory framework needed to "unlock the development potential of local authorities and stakeholders".

Lastly, the EC vision on a global partnership is wholly based on the principles of "shared responsibility, mutual accountability and respective capacity", it not only calls for the involvement of all stakeholders, including social partners, academia and institutions, but is universal to all countries.

Source: PLATFORMA Newsletter - n° 30 - February 2015

### **Launching the EU International Cooperation and Development Results Framework**

This is a Staff Working Document developed by the European Commission as part of the implementation of the commitment articulated in the 'Agenda for Change' to strengthen the capacity of the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development to monitor and report results, enhancing accountability, transparency and visibility of EU aid. It follows on from and develops the key issues that were described in the December 2013 Staff Working Document titled 'Paving the way for an EU Development and Cooperation Results Framework'. It translates the approaches set out in the 2013 Staff Working Document into operational terms, includes the mechanisms in support of the reporting process and details the indicators of the EU Results Framework against which DG International Cooperation and Development will report annually as of 2015 to demonstrate how funds spent contribute to the achievement of the policy objectives.

[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/swd-2015-80-f1-staff-working-paper-v3-p1-805238\\_en\\_0.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/swd-2015-80-f1-staff-working-paper-v3-p1-805238_en_0.pdf)

**EU Development Ministers adopted conclusions on the Post-2015/Financing for Development;** migration and development; the annual report on EU development aid targets; EU food and nutrition security policy; financial cooperation with third countries; EuropeAid's evaluation and monitoring systems; and a report on EuropeAid's evaluation and results oriented monitoring systems.

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/fac/2015/05/26/>

### **EU: Paradigm Shift in Development Cooperation**

Ahead of the international Conference on Financing for Development, the EU has called for a "true paradigm shift" in global development cooperation. The European Commission is pleading for "moving towards a universal agenda": goals and targets agreed in New York will apply to all countries, challenging them to achieve progress domestically, therefore contributing to the global effort. The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the European Report on Development (ERD) focuses on 'Combining Finance and Policies to Implement a Transformative post-2015 Development Agenda.' The findings of the report are in line with three major guidelines which would drive the EU Commission's action to implement the new development agenda: "if it is not sustainable, it is not development; if it is not resilient, it is not development; if it is without women, it is not development."

Source: CTA Newsletter N 446

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### **News from the ACP-EU**

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#### **11<sup>th</sup> EDF Enters into Force - € 30.5 billion**

On 1 March 2015 the EU's 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund (EDF) has entered into force with a total of €30.5 billion in financing. The EDF will finance the EU's development cooperation projects in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and with Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) to assist countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty.

These funds come from EU Member States and will be managed by the European Commission to target the people most in need and to finance different sectors such as health and education, infrastructure, environment, energy, food and nutrition. The promotion of good governance, democracy and the rule of law are also other key areas that are supported as is

sustainable development, including sustainable agriculture and rural development. These are ways how the EU and its Member States are clearly signalling support to the future post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) so that we continue focussing all our efforts in countries where our EU aid can have the most impact. This is in line with our vision set out in the 2011 "Agenda for Change".

EDF long-term development programmes are always agreed in close partnership with each of the countries or regions. This ensures that the cooperation is aligned to the respective national or regional priorities and that partner countries exercise their ownership of the development process.

Source: [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_STATEMENT-15-4518\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-15-4518_en.htm)

#### **EU-Caribbean: €1.7m for EPA Social chapter**

A €1.7 million project between the International Labour Organisation (ILO), with funding from the EU, was formally launched with the Caribbean Employers' Confederation (CEC) and the Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL) at the 9<sup>th</sup> Caribbean Ministers of Labour Meeting in Nassau, Bahamas. The project aims to strengthen the implementation of the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), particularly those aspects relating to the EPA's Social Chapter on core labour standards (freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining; the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour; the effective abolition of child labour; and the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation), as well as to deepening regional integration.

Source: CTA Newsletter N 438 (EN)

#### **EU-CARIFORUM Joint Declaration on future**

In the margins of the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Union-CELAC (Community of Latin America and Caribbean States) Summit in Brussels, on 11 June 2015, the EU and Cariforum signed a regional cooperation programme of €346 million. The programme is intended to contribute to Caribbean development efforts in the fields of regional integration, climate change, sustainable energy, environment, as well as crime and security, and allocations to the Caribbean Investment Facility. This forms part of the €1 billion allocated to the region for the 2014-2020 performance. In relation to the Cariforum-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), leaders agreed that the EPA can offer important opportunities for growth and sustainable development, and welcomed the signing of the visa waiver for Caribbean countries: the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Source: CTA Newsletter N 451 (EN)

#### **News from the ACP**

##### **KiLGA Joins the Executive Committee of the KCSP**

The Executive Officer of KiLGA, Rikiaua Takeke, was elected Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Kiribati Civil Societies Platform (KCSP), which will act as an umbrella body for all Civil Society Organisations in Kiribati. The election of the Committee happened during a workshop attended by about 50 Civil Societies in Tarawa, held on 8 January 2015, at BTC Boardroom, coordinated by KiriCAN. The participating CSOs included church groups, trade unions, associations, businesses and others. Other members of the Committee are Meere Riwata, elected as Secretary, Rine Ueara, (Treasurer), and three other members. The committee is tasked to establish governance instruments needed, such as the Constitution, Financial Regulation and Code of Ethics, register with government as an incorporated society, hold an Annual General Meeting and carry out advocacy work with the authorities, partners and other organisations in Kiribati and abroad.

Source: KiLGA Newsletter Vol. 5 Issue 1

##### **Launching of a Sector Programme Support to Decentralisation and Deconcentration in Guinea**

Implemented in the framework of the 10<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund (EDF), the Sector Programme Support to Decentralisation and Deconcentration (PASDD) with a budget of €10 million over a three year period started in February 2015 with the arrival of a team of four technical assistants specialist in the sectors of training, public finances, public administration and staff management assigned to the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation, Ministry of Budget and the Ministry of Public Function, of State Reform and of Modernisation of Public Administration.

In line with the strategic orientation of the Letter of Decentralisation and Local Development National Policy, the PASDD will provide financial and institutional support to notably:

- Strengthen the political and technical steering of the decentralisation process.
- Improve the financing of local government through the creation of a local development national fund and a support to local tax reform.
- Deepen the transfer of skills to local government.
- Undertake the creation of a local public function.
- Strengthen local democracy through notably a support to the National Association of Communes of Guinea in the field of communication, and towards promoting decentralised cooperation and inter-communality.

Source: ANCG Newsletter N 3

##### **EALGA-IRI Rising Stars Exchange**

In a bid to scale up fiscal decentralisation in East Africa, the East Africa Local Governments Association (EALGA) with support from the International Republican Institute (IRI) organised the first fiscal decentralisation knowledge sharing platform for selected local governments in the region, through their Local Government Associations.

The training dubbed, "East Africa Local Rising Stars Exchange", was held between 1 & 4 March 2015 at Kunduchi Beach Hotel in Dar es salaam, Tanzania and was hosted by the Association of Local Government Authorities of Tanzania (ALAT).

Participants who were drawn from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda explored why it is difficult to decentralise money even when all the structures, policies and legal framework are in place. It was observed that though all countries in the region practice decentralisation, their implementation modalities differ and so does the level of devolvement of the system per country.

Among the five countries, Rwanda offered a more highly advanced implementation system albeit with a few challenges similar across all countries, such as substandard public finance management capacities in some local governments and over reliance on central government transfers.

Each participating local government/ municipality developed a fiscal decentralisation best practice adoption work plan that if approved by the International Republican Institute could be funded for implementation through the concerned Local Government Association.

A field visit to Kinondoni, the biggest municipality in Tanzania with a council of 56 members, ten of whom are members of parliament, crowned off the exchange. The municipality collects the biggest revenue in the country owed to the use of a digitised system of revenue mobilisation whereby they partner with service providers who get a commission off the collections. The system only applies to big tax payers and service providers get all the data required from the municipality. Kinondoni also uses a geographical information system (GIS) where all properties are given plot numbers, block numbers and roads to ease location which records are helpful in revenue mobilisation.

Source: ULGA Newsletter N 1

## News on Post-2015 global development agenda

### Post-2015 Financing for Development commitments

In a joint statement from the Heads of the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Investment Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund, the multilateral agencies pointed to 5 ways to transform financing for development: (i) while 2015 marks a critical year for development, resources needed to implement such an ambitious agenda far surpass current development financial flows; (ii) achieving the SDGs requires a paradigm shift for a wide-ranging financing framework capable of channelling resources and investments (public and private, national and global), as well as greater efforts to unlock, leverage, and catalyse more public and private flows. Countries also need to improve their institutional and policy environments attain sustainable and inclusive growth; (iii) International Financial Institutions (IFIs) are well-positioned to assist member countries in creating such an enabling environment; (iv) But more can be done: innovative financing and customised policy solutions; sharing experiences, lessons learned and best practices; translate the SDGs into national targets; improve coordination and complementarities among IFIs and with other public and private sector actors; (v) critical opportunities and a challenging agenda are ahead (SDGs, COP21, FfD).

Source: CTA Newsletter N 443

### 2015 crucial year for Africa's future development

This year marks a crucial shift in the way Africa deals with its own development, with four decisive conferences on the post 2015 agenda, development financing, trade and climate change that should create a more conducive setting for sustainable development.

- Third UN International Conference on Financing for Development (13 July, Addis Ababa)
- The UN General Assembly to decide the Sustainable Development Goals to replace the Millennium Development Goals (15 September, New York)
- 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP 21) under the UN Framework for Combating Climate Change (UNFCCC) (30 November, Paris)
- The World Trade Organisation's (WTO) 10<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference (15 December, Nairobi)

If all four conferences come to reach mutually supportive conclusions it will be a huge step forward at the global level and for Africa.

<http://ecdpm.org/press/2015-crucial-year-africas-future-development/>

## Announcement

### Participatory Budgeting, 21-31 July 2015, Dakar, ENDA ECOPO

The strengthening of local democracy and citizen participation in planning, budgeting and management of local public affairs, is nowadays at the heart of development strategies. Participatory Budgeting is one of the innovative approaches to participatory democracy, to promote inclusion, equality, equity, transparency and efficiency of public expenditures. This training session of facilitators and counsellors aims to strengthen African countries capacities and skills in order to promote, implement and assess the approaches to participatory budgeting in local government.

Course fee: €2,000 - Including registration and didactic fees, coffee breaks and lunch. Air transport, accommodation, breakfast and dinner are to be covered by participants.

#### ENDA ECOPOP

Complexe Sicap POINT E - Immeuble B, 2<sup>e</sup> Etage Avenue Cheikh Anta DIOP - BP: 3370 Dakar, SENEGAL

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Email: [ecopop@endatiersmonde.org](mailto:ecopop@endatiersmonde.org) - Website: [www.endaecopop.org](http://www.endaecopop.org)

### Local Economic Development, 7-18 September 2015, The Hague

This course focuses on strengthening the economic capacity of a local or regional community to make optimal use of the existing and potential characteristics of the area. Participants will be provided with strategies, tools and approaches to improve conditions for job creation and inclusive economic growth. This course will help you to:

- assess the economic and political context for regional development;
- identify challenges and opportunities for strengthening the local economy and job creation together with stakeholders at local, regional and national level;



- develop approaches for strategic local economic planning;
  - get acquainted with practical tools for supporting the local economy.
- After successful completion of the course you will receive a certificate of The Hague Academy for Local Governance.

**Practical information**

The course fee is € 2,890. This includes all training-related costs, as well as drinks, lunches, training materials and travel during the training programme. Travel to and from The Hague and accommodation is not included. **Group discounts** are available if you participate with three or more colleagues in this course. Email us for more information.

The course language is English. This course takes place in our office in The Hague, The Netherlands.

If you would like to receive more information or in case you have any questions, you can contact us at [info@thehagueacademy.com](mailto:info@thehagueacademy.com) or +31(70) 37 38 695.

**Deadline for application: 10 July 2015.**

**Application procedure and on-line application form:**

<http://thehagueacademy.com/blog/2014/10/application-procedure-local-economic-development-2/>

<http://thehagueacademy.com/blog/2014/04/local-economic-development-3/>

**Fiscal Decentralisation and Local Finance, 28 September - 9 October 2015, The Hague**

The way public finances are organised in a country forms the basis for how local authorities run their activities in cities, towns and villages. While national governments have the responsibility to design and supervise a system that works, local authorities are challenged to use their often limited resources for delivering better local services. This course helps you to:

- assess and monitor fiscal decentralisation practices in your country;
- optimise the different sources of revenue, e.g. taxes, user fees and intergovernmental transfers;
- find effective financing structures and partnerships to accomplish most with limited resources;
- be able to use revenue and expenditure tools;
- increase your insight in financial management and fiscal accountability at the local level.

After successful completion of the course you will receive a certificate of The Hague Academy for Local Governance.

**Practical information**

The course fee is € 2,890. This includes all training-related costs, as well as drinks, lunches, training materials and travel during the training programme. Travel to and from The Hague and accommodation is not included. Group discounts are available if you participate with three or more colleagues in this course. Email us for more information.

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**Deadline for application: 31 July 2015.**

**Application procedure and on-line application form:**

<http://thehagueacademy.com/blog/2014/10/application-procedure-fiscal-decentralisation/>

**Reading**

**Overview: Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities Thematic Programme**

[https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/images/c/c8/20150216\\_CS0-LA\\_Overview\\_-\\_LA.pdf](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/images/c/c8/20150216_CS0-LA_Overview_-_LA.pdf)

**EC Communication: A Global Partnership for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development after 2015**

[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/communication-global-partnership-poverty-eradication-and-sustainable-development-after-2015\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/communication-global-partnership-poverty-eradication-and-sustainable-development-after-2015_en)

**Localizing the post-2015 Development Agenda - Dialogues on Implementation**

[http://www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/dialogues\\_on\\_localizing\\_the\\_post-2015\\_development\\_agenda.pdf](http://www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/dialogues_on_localizing_the_post-2015_development_agenda.pdf)

**The Barefoot Guide Connection.** <http://www.barefootguide.org/barefoot-guide-4---english-final.html>

**Oxfam International looks at financing the Sustainable Development Goals.** Based on lessons from tracking country budgets, this report looks at how the SDGs should be financed and suggests: doubling tax revenue; radically overhauling global tax rules; doubling concessional development cooperation and improving allocation and effectiveness of financing; and raising \$500bn in public innovative financing.

<https://www.oxfam.org/en/research/financing-sustainable-development-goals>

**Transforming our world by 2030 - A new agenda for global action.** The United Nations published this Zero Draft of the Post-2015 Development Agenda text. It affirms 17 goals and 169 targets.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/7261Post-2015%20Summit%20-%202020June%202015.pdf>

**The World Economic Forum's Africa Competitiveness Report 2015** says African economies' prospects for long-term, sustainable growth are under threat from weakness in the core conditions necessary for competitive and productive economies, despite outwardly healthy-looking growth rates in many parts of the region. The data points to low and stagnating productivity across all sectors: agriculture, manufacturing and services, partly as a result of ongoing weakness in the basic drivers of competitiveness, such as institutions, infrastructure, health and education.

<http://reports.weforum.org/africa-competitiveness-report-2015/>

**Preparing infrastructure programmes to attract private investment can be a complex and demanding challenge.** In Africa, the key obstacle is a shortage of appropriate capabilities and capacities. There is plenty of private sector interest in financing bankable projects but preparation resources are insufficient to advance projects to a bankable stage. This report from the World Economic Forum examines the challenge and outlines a new model of infrastructure project preparation facilities. <http://reports.weforum.org/africa-strategic-infrastructure-initiative/>

**African Economic Outlook 2015: Regional development and spatial inclusion.** This year's African Economic Outlook by the African Development Bank, the OECD Development Centre and the United Nations Development Programme, takes a close look at the challenges posed by demographic and spatial dimensions in the continent's quest for structural transformation. By 2050, Africa's population will rise to over 2 billion people, representing 25% of the world's population. Both cities and rural areas will grow fast, and their interactions will intensify. Jobs will need to be created for the youth entering the labour market. The report proposes a seven-step methodology to crafting development strategies, stressing four main areas of improvement: designing informed policies through better statistics; defining integrated strategic priorities through regional foresight studies; building capacity at multiple levels of government; and mobilising adequate financing for regional economic development at both local and national levels.

<http://www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en/>

**World hunger has fallen to under 800 million**, with 72 countries having achieved the Millennium Development target of halving proportion of the chronically undernourished, according to the State of Food Insecurity in the World 2015 report from the Food and Agriculture Organisation.

<http://www.fao.org/hunger/en/>

**IDS assess the conditions under which new relationships between business and development actors are likely to be effective in addressing key constraints to development.**

<http://www.ids.ac.uk/publication/business-state-and-society-changing-perspectives-roles-and-approaches>

**Exploring spaces for economic transformation in the Sustainable Development Goals** by the Overseas Development Institute examines what economic transformation means in practice and how it can be achieved, without sacrificing social and environmental objectives.

<http://www.odi.org/publications/9579-yurendra-basnett-debapriya-bhattacharya>

**China's Position Paper on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.**

[http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/zxxx\\_662805/t1263455.shtml](http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1263455.shtml)

**Brookings Institution's new report shows that external financial flows to sub-Saharan Africa** (defined as the sum of gross private capital flows, official development assistance (ODA), and remittances to the region) have not only grown rapidly since 1990, but their composition has also changed significantly.

<http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2015/05/private-capital-flows-sy-rakotondrazaka>

**Governance in Africa** - bringing together some of the most important and inspired thinkers, policy makers and experts focused on issues affecting governance in Africa - a new website from the Mo Ibrahim Foundation.

<http://www.governanceinafrica.org/>

**"We are committed to telling the African success story"** says the new website Rising Africa.

<http://www.risingafrica.org/>

**"UN Financing for Development negotiations: What outcomes should be agreed in Addis Ababa in 2015?"** Afrodad and 137 civil society organisations adopted this paper which summarises civil society's recommendations for concrete changes that could be made at the financing summit in July.

<http://www.africa-platform.org/resources/un-financing-development-negotiations-what-outcomes-should-be-agreed-addis-ababa-2015>

**Comprehensive tool for financial and other resource flows.** This latest online resource from Development Initiatives enables you to view, chart, map and compare at a global, national and local level, turning complex data into easily accessible information and evidence.

[http://devinit.org/?utm\\_source=Development+Initiatives+Poverty+Research+Limited&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=5628283\\_Launch%3a+Development+Data+Hub&dm\\_i=1E6I,3CMT7,B0GLWS,BZHNF,1#!/data](http://devinit.org/?utm_source=Development+Initiatives+Poverty+Research+Limited&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=5628283_Launch%3a+Development+Data+Hub&dm_i=1E6I,3CMT7,B0GLWS,BZHNF,1#!/data)

**What China's economic shift means for Africa?** This latest blog from How We Made It In Africa argues that current structural changes in China's economy will have significant implications for Africa's developmental ambitions.

<http://www.howwemadeitinafrica.com/thought-leadership-what-chinas-economic-shift-means-for-africa/48540/?fullpost=1>

**The World Development Indicators charting progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.** New data includes the average income growth of the bottom 40 percent of the population as an indicator of prosperity.

<http://data.worldbank.org/products/wdi>

**Can the rise of the middle class lock in good government in the developing world?** Centre for Global Development. Juergen Wiemann concludes that the rise of the middle class in the developing world is a cause for optimism.

<http://www.cgdev.org/publication/does-rise-middle-class-lock-good-government-developing-world>

**The COMESA Summit final communique was published.** Heads of Government welcomed progress made towards the finalisation and launching of the COMESA-EAC-SADC-Tripartite Free Trade Area Agreement.

<http://www.comesa.int/summit2015/curtains-down-for-the-18th-comesa-summit/>

**The world has made good progress in improving global livelihoods** with real increases in wages for unskilled workers, better life expectancy, greater gender equality and more widespread literacy, according to this OECD report. However, a number of daunting challenges threaten to undo this progress, particularly on the demographic and environmental fronts.

<http://www.oecd.org/dev/securing-livelihoods-for-all-9789264231894-en.htm>

**How can the Financing for Development Conference advance country efforts to manage the wide range of development finance tools and partners needed to implement the post-2015 agenda?** Read Eurodad's recent submission to a recent discussion hosted by the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation.

<http://eurodad.org/Entries/view/1546372>

**Innovative financing for the economic transformation of Africa.** This book from the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa underscores the centrality of domestic resources mobilisation and stopping illicit financial flows in Africa's quest

to underwrite its economic transformation agenda. It demonstrates that a number of characteristic features of African economies are at the root of the rather low levels of mobilising domestic resources, including low public and private savings rates, complex administrative and bureaucratic procedures, corruption and tax evasion. The book outlines the range of opportunities and policy options that are available to African countries. It also discusses the importance and potential of regional integration in fostering investor confidence, lowering costs and improving efficiency of raising capital across jurisdictions.

<http://www.uneca.org/publications/innovative-financing-economic-transformation-africa>

**The Brookings Institution outlines six priorities for Africa in financing development**, ranging from domestic finance to remittances, financial regulation, illicit financial flows and philanthropy.

<http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/africa-in-focus/posts/2015/03/10-financing-development-africa-sy?rssid=africa+growth>

**Community-led local development as an approach to territorial development.** This European Parliament report looks at where local actors work in partnership to design and implement their own strategies.

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EPRS\\_ATA\(2015\)551322](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EPRS_ATA(2015)551322)

**Universality and differentiation in the post-2015 development agenda.** Translating the universal post-2015 goals and targets into national actions, commitments, responsibilities and accountability that respect national priorities and circumstances is a major challenge. There is a need for a pragmatic and flexible differentiation system that accounts for country priorities and ownership. In order to ensure universality and accountability, common rules that leave some room for self-determination could be helpful. The new element of universality in the development agenda requires a shift of mindset by everyone. To contribute constructively to these discussions it is, therefore, valuable for each country to explore what universality implies at home.

<http://ecdpm.org/publications/universality-differentiation-post-2015-development-agenda/>

**Economic growth, policies and institutions, not aid, are the main factors for development.** We have learned that the countries that made the most progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were not necessarily the ones that received the most additional aid. Rather, strong economic growth and improved policies and institutions were the main factors. Approaching development as a problem of finance can be counterproductive. From the donor's side, a focus on raising the resources distracts from investing in the knowledge assistance needed to help unblock political equilibria. And from the government's perspective, many of the reforms that are needed to accelerate poverty reduction are politically difficult. Discussions of financing needs enables policymakers to avoid these difficult reforms, while giving them an excuse for missing the goals.

<http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/future-development/posts/2015/03/02-costing-millennium-development-goals-devarajan#.VPR1MiR2Tcl.twitter>

**EU preferential trade agreements found to be relevant, coherent and efficient.** This European Commission evaluation assesses the impact of EU preferential trade agreements and arrangements (PTAs) on the development of agricultural trade in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) region countries for the period 1990-2012. Analysis shows that EU PTAs have been effective at promoting ACP countries agricultural trade in most agricultural sectors.

[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/evaluation/market-and-income-reports/epas-2014\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/evaluation/market-and-income-reports/epas-2014_en.htm)

**China in international development policy arenas.** The China International Development Research Network has published a series of Policy Recommendations papers that look to a larger engagement by China in international development policy arenas. The Chinese versions have been well received by Chinese officials. In particular, Policy Recommendation No. 1 makes a strong case for China's participation in the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. And in Policy Recommendations No. 2, they argue for China's engagement more generally in a "new international development aid system". Another provides an insightful analysis of the second Chinese White Paper on Development. They also call for a China International Development Agency under a new law with strong supervision and evaluation functions and a greater role for Chinese civil society.

[http://rcid.cau.edu.cn/art/2015/2/5/art\\_11130\\_352385.html](http://rcid.cau.edu.cn/art/2015/2/5/art_11130_352385.html)

**The Age of Sustainable Development** is the latest book from Jeffrey D. Sachs and attempts to build a practical framework for how global citizens can use a holistic way forward to address sustainable development.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Sustainable-Development-Jeffrey-Sachs/dp/0231173156>

**What does BRICS cooperation mean for African trade and sustainable development?** The BRICS are not only becoming a larger feature on the global and African economic landscapes, but also their economic, political, and strategic position in global affairs is a manifestation of the potential for South-South cooperation.

<http://www.ictsd.org/bridges-news/bridges-africa/news/what-does-brics-cooperation-mean-for-african-trade-and-sustainable>

**"Nine priority commitments to be made at the UN's July 2015 Financing for Development Conference".** This Brookings paper identifies gaps or issues that could present obstacles to the successful implementation of the SDGs if left unattended.

<http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2015/02/united-nations-financing-for-development-kharas-mcarthur>

**d-portal.org** is a country-based information platform that tracks resource flows from multi donors to developing countries and to the project delivery point. <http://www.d-portal.org/>

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