



Newsletter N° 44 - December 2016

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 (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 (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 10th 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>

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

Countries	Deadline	Budget (EURO)	Reference
Botswana	15/02/2017	540.000	EuropeAid/154098/DD/ACT/BW
Papua New Guinea	open	295.000	EuropeAid/131030/L/ACT/PG

• **Food Security**

Countries	Deadline	Budget (EURO)	Reference
Madagascar	open	1.700.000	EuropeAid/134180/M/ACT/MG

• **Various fields in ACP countries**

Countries	Deadline	Budget (EURO)	Reference
Senegal	28/02/2017	500.000	EuropeAid/138521/IH/ACT/SN
Mauritius	open	56.000.000 (MUR)	EuropeAid/134113/M/ACT/MU
All ACP	open	7.000.000	EuropeAid/130741/D/ACT/Multi

Should you need assistance in responding to an EC call for proposals let the ACP-LG Platform know by sending an email to platform@acplgp.net and we will be pleased to help you register in the PADOR system, find partners, check your proposal, etc. You are also encouraged to read the article "How to write a good project" on our website www.acplgp.net

News from the EU

Sustainable Development: EU sets out its priorities

On 22 November 2016 the European Commission set out a strategic approach for achieving sustainable development in Europe and around the world. A first Communication on the next steps for a sustainable European future explains how the Commission's 10 political priorities contribute to implementing the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and how the EU will meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the future. A second Communication on a new European Consensus on Development proposes a shared vision and framework for development cooperation for the EU and its Member States, aligned with the 2030 Agenda. A third Communication on a renewed partnership with African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries proposes building blocks for a new, sustainable phase in EU-ACP relations after the Cotonou Partnership Agreement expires in 2020. First Vice-President Frans Timmermans said: "To build a future for our children and our planet to the benefit of everyone we are making the SDGs and sustainability a guiding principle in all our work. Implementing the UN 2030 Agenda is a shared commitment and needs everyone's contribution and cooperation, including Member States and civil society at large."

Background documents:

EC Communication on the Next steps for a sustainable European future

https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/communication-next-steps-sustainable-europe-20161122_en.pdf

EC Communication on a New Consensus on Development

https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/communication-proposal-new-consensus-development-20161122_en.pdf

EC communication on a renewed partnership with the countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific

https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/joint-communication-renewed-partnership-acp-20161122_en.pdf?utm_source=brussels.cta.int+feb+2014&utm_campaign=a2d606a33b-CTA_Brussels_Office_Newsletter_519_25_10_2016&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f50a0786c3-a2d606a33b-78361057&goal=0_f50a0786c3-a2d606a33b-78361057&mc_cid=a2d606a33b&mc_eid=4454c92803

Source: CTA Newsletter N 519

Towards a renewed partnership with ACP countries after 2020

The Joint Communication Towards a renewed partnership with African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries builds on the longstanding relationship with the ACP countries, which provides a good starting point to build a strong and modern alliance that is apt for the challenges of a more interdependent, complex and contested world. It should help building peaceful, stable, well-governed, prosperous and resilient states and societies at our borders and beyond and deliver on our objective of a multilateral rules-based order addressing global challenges. High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini and Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, propose significant changes with the aim of setting out with partner countries on an umbrella agreement with common values and interests and facilitating increased cooperation at international level. This would be combined with regional tailored partnerships for Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. Furthermore, future relations should also link up ACP countries with neighbouring regions, which are not part of the ACP group of states, but play a key role in relation to achieving EU objectives.

Source: CTA Newsletter N 520 and http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-16-3885_en.htm

EP calls for major reforms in ACP-EU relations after 2020

The Cotonou Agreement between the African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the EU needs to be reformed in order to improve its effectiveness, MEPs said in a resolution adopted in early October. They call for a new legally binding framework that focuses on global development goals, human rights and enhances regional cooperation. "This report is a sound basis for a new partnership that offers a strong and effective structure. It is all the more important for human rights, where political dialogue was not very effective in the past. In a new agreement this should be strengthened. This would serve the interest of all participating nations" - Norbert Neuser (S&D, DE) rapporteur of the report said before the vote. The non-binding resolution was adopted with 489 votes to 146 with 37 abstentions. Sustainable Development Goals must be placed at the heart of a new agreement with proper monitoring and accountability mechanisms, MEPs stressed. Tailored regional agreements are also vital for effective cooperation. These should take into account existing regional organisations and strategies, they added. Monitor human rights. The agreement beyond 2020 must leave behind the donor-recipient mentality and promote the principle of ownership. Good governance needs to be a crucial element of future relations along with an improved monitoring of human rights. In this respect, the European Parliament would welcome regular evaluation and joint reports in all areas.

Source: CTA Newsletter N 512 EN and <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P8-TA-2016-0371+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

News from the ACP-EU

Mimica: Europe's new plan for Africa 'could reach €88 billion'

The European External Investment Plan (EEIP) is an innovative approach to boost investments in Africa and EU Neighbourhood countries. These investments shall contribute to creating sustainable growth and inclusive jobs, particularly in socio-economic sectors such as sustainable energy or social infrastructure and support micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. The EEIP consists of three complementary pillars: The first provides improved access to finance. At its heart lies a new European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD) which combines existing investment facilities with a new guarantee. This guarantee will be passed on to intermediary financing institutions, which in turn will lend support - via loans, guarantees, equity or similar products - to final beneficiaries, such as private companies. The second pillar focusses on technical assistance in order to help develop financially attractive and mature projects. The third includes actions to improve the general business environment, e.g. by addressing good governance, fighting corruption, removing barriers to investment and market distortions. The EEIP will benefit from €3.35 billion from the EU Budget and the European Development Fund. It will finance innovative instruments such as guarantees, in order to support private investment, with the aim of mobilising up to €44 billion. If the Member States and other partners follow the example of the Commission, the total amount mobilised could reach €88 billion.

Source: CTA Newsletter N 511

Meeting between Federica Mogherini and Cariforum Ministers

The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini and the CARIFORUM Foreign Ministers met in the margins of the First CELAC-EU Foreign Ministers Meeting in the Dominican Republic, on 26 October 2016, and reaffirmed the two regions' commitment to strengthen their longstanding partnership. Miguel Vargas, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, welcomed the CARIFORUM and EU representatives. The meeting was co-chaired on behalf of CARIFORUM by Senator the Honourable Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica and by Federica Mogherini, High Representative/Vice-President, on behalf of the EU. The meeting provided the opportunity to review the bi-regional relationship in the framework of the Joint Caribbean-European Union Partnership Strategy, adopted in November 2012, with the focus on Regional Integration and Cooperation in the Wider Caribbean; Reconstruction of Haiti; Climate Change and Natural Disasters; Crime and Security; and Joint Action in Bi-regional and Multi-lateral Fora and on Global Issues. In this regard, they welcomed the convening of the first meeting of the Joint EU-CARIFORUM Working Group held on 17 June 2016, in Brussels.

Source: CTA Newsletter N 515 EN and https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/13184/meeting-between-federica-mogherini-and-cariforum-ministers_en

EU helps launch climate change resilience project for the Pacific

In a world-first, the Pacific has launched a regional industry association for practitioners involved in climate change, disasters and other sectors related to building resilience. The Pacific Regional Federation for Resilience Professionals will boost the skills, education, training and employment opportunities for diverse professionals dedicated to climate

change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and maintaining ecosystem services in a highly vulnerable region. The launch by the European Union, Pacific community, and The University of the South Pacific took place at the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management in Suva, Fiji, within the margins of Pacific Resilience Week 2016. Envisioned to become a vibrant industry association, the federation will be supported through two major projects: the EU's Pacific Technical Vocational Education and Training in Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Adaptation Project and the Global Environment Facility Pacific International Waters Ridge to Reef Project. According to the Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific, Head of Infrastructure, Natural Resources, Environment and Energy Section, Jesus Laviña, the new federation will be a vital support mechanism for practitioners on the frontlines of climate change and disasters and elevate resilience as a sector in its own right.

Source: CTA Newsletter N 517 EN

EU: €166m to promote growth and resilience in the Pacific

The creation of jobs, strengthening private sector engagement, mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change and strengthened human rights and gender empowerment are a few of the impacts targeted through the new EU Pacific Regional Indicative Programme (RIP) under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) for which the European Union makes available €166 million. Beneficiaries are the 15 Pacific Island Countries which have signed up to the Cotonou Partnership Agreement between the European Union (EU) and the African, Caribbean and Pacific. In November the Fund's Regional Steering Committee for the Pacific met in Suva and brought together high level representatives from 15 Pacific countries, regional organisations, overseas countries and territories, Civil Society Organisations and the EU. The Committee reviewed the progress and lessons learned from previous regional programmes of over €119 million. It also provided strategic guidance to ensure that the €166 million allocated under the 11th cycle responds effectively to the challenges faced by the people of the Pacific.

Source: CTA Newsletter N 518 EN

Announcement

Fifth Assises of Decentralised Cooperation - Change of date

Due to logistical and organisational reasons the initial dates of the fifth Assises of Decentralised Cooperation from 20-21 March 2017 are changed to **10-11 July 2017**.

Citizen Participation and Inclusive Governance, 27 March - 7 April 2017, The Hague

Responsive governments and empowered citizens are important conditions for inclusive development. But what can governments and civil society do to make sure that all voices are heard?

In the training course Citizen Participation and Inclusive Governance you will discuss how governments can inform and involve their citizens, including minorities and marginalised groups. You will also learn how civil society can be empowered in such a way that citizens can hold their governments accountable and bring their concerns on the table.

Objective

This course will help you:

- identify instruments for increasing social accountability;
- define your own role and responsibilities in participation processes as well as the role of your partners;
- specify conditions and do's and don'ts for successful participation projects;
- work on the policy cycle;
- apply tools for communication with citizens, NGOs and other stakeholders.

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

Target audience

Professionals working for municipal, provincial or national government, a donor organisation or NGO and who are involved in participation and accountability processes in relation to development and governance.

The experts

To increase your understanding of the underlying principles and mechanisms of accountability and citizen participation processes, experts will share with you their thoughts and experiences. Contributions come from professionals and practitioners in the field of accountability and participation, e.g. ombudsman, municipal staff, experts from well-known institutes and residents.

Practical information

The course fee is €3,150. This includes all training-related costs as well as drinks and lunches, training materials and travel during the training. 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.

If you have questions or if you are interested in a tailor made course on citizen participation you can contact us at: info@thehagueacademy.com, or +31-70-3738695.

Application procedure and on-line application form:

The deadline for the application is **27 January 2017**.

For more information about the application procedure and the online application form:

<http://thehagueacademy.com/blog/2016/08/application-citizen-2017/>

Fellowship opportunities

Nuffic Fellowships:

The Netherlands organisation for international cooperation in higher education (NUFFIC) offers fellowships for training courses, as part of the Netherlands Fellowship Programme (NFP) for short courses and the MENA Scholarship Programme (MSP). The aim is to promote capacity building within organisations in eligible countries (50 for NFP en 10 for MSP) via

training and education for professionals. This is initiated and fully funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The application for Nuffic fellowships for this specific course has passed already (this was 4 October 2015).

<https://www.epnuffic.nl/en/scholarships/nfp-and-msp/nfp-and-msp>

Talent for Governance:

Talent for Governance is The Hague Academy's own scholarship programme. This programme is for young, talented and motivated civil servants working for a local government in one of the countries on the DAC country list. The programme consists of this two-week training course on citizen participation, a week-long internship at a Dutch Municipality, Talent for Governance networking activities and a back home action plan.

Application for this programme has passed already (this was 18 November 2016). For more information and application:

<http://thehagueacademy.com/tfg/talent-programme/>

Reading

Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, UNDP and UN-Habitat Launch Engagement Platform on Localizing the SDGs

<http://localizingthesdgs.org/>

My JMDI e-Toolbox on Migration & Local Development

<http://www.migration4development.org/en/resources/toolbox/elearnings>

Why EU aid is making a difference for sustainable development. European Parliament briefing.

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2016/593790/EPRS_BRI\(2016\)593790_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2016/593790/EPRS_BRI(2016)593790_EN.pdf)

GDI's newest blog discusses, whether the High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) was a success, and calls for a more specific GPEDC narrative, as well as an open and serious dialogue with emerging powers.

<http://www.die-gdi.de//die-aktuelle-kolumne/article/crisis-or-progress-the-global-partnership-for-effective-development-cooperation-gpedc-after-nairobi/>

Outcome of the Second High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC). Global Partnership.

<http://effectivecooperation.org/2016/12/global-partnership-nairobi-outcome-document-released/>

How Close to Zero. This new Brookings paper assesses how close countries are to reaching the ambitious aim of the Sustainable Development Goals to end extreme poverty by 2030. Regarding most poverty-related goals, most countries appear to be still far from the target.

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2016/12/02/how-close-is-the-world-to-ending-extreme-poverty/>

After decade-long increase, demand for democracy in Africa has been decreasing since 2012, according to a new Afrobarometer study, asking whether Africans still want democracy.

http://afrobarometer.org/sites/default/files/publications/Policy%20papers/ab_r6_policypaperno36_do_africans_want_democracy.pdf

Trump's leadership traits that are bad news for democrats in Africa. This Mail&Guardian Africa's article reflects the concerns of African governments towards the newly elected US president. Among the points of concern there is Trump's climate change denialism, since Africa is the continent most hit by climate change.

<http://mgafrica.com/article/2016-12-05-trumps-leadership-traits-are-bad-news-for-democrats-in-africa>

Residents of more ethnically diverse neighbourhoods report higher levels of social cohesion than those who lived in less diverse areas, according to a new LSE study.

<http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy/are-neighbourhoods-with-ethnically-diverse-populations-more-likely-to-suffer-from-low-levels-of-perceived-social-cohesion-a-new-study-suggests-not/>

The ISS and the Global Initiative published four joint papers and policy briefs to deepen the understanding of human smuggling from Africa to Europe, based on direct input from human smugglers.

<http://globalinitiative.net/research-series-human-smuggling-from-africa-to-europe/>

Collaboration between public and private sector is key to delivering SDGs, according to new article in the Parliament Magazine.

<https://www.theparliamentmagazine.eu/articles/news/collaboration-between-public-and-private-sector-key-delivering-un-sustainable>

African migration to Europe is a result of failed development policies in Africa, according to East African Community Deputy Secretary General Bukuku.

<http://www.eac.int/news-and-media/press-releases/20161206/migration-europe-result-failed-development-policies-africa>

The Commission took the opportunity provided by the September 2016 mid-term review/revision of the MFF 2014-2020 to propose the creation of a new innovative financial instrument - the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD)

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2016/595837/EPRS_BRI\(2016\)595837_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2016/595837/EPRS_BRI(2016)595837_EN.pdf)

Reporting on the European Year for Development 2015, the EU communication campaign to bring development cooperation closer to European citizens.

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/reporting-european-year-development-2015_en

EU Communication: "A renewed partnership with the countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific" ECDPM Preliminary Analysis

<http://ecdpm.org/publications/analysis-eu-communication-new-partnership-acp/>

Brexit should be good for Africa, and Africa could be good for Brexit, too

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2016/11/06/brexit-should-be-good-for-africa-and-africa-could-be-good-for-br/?utm_source=brussels.cta.int+feb+2014&utm_campaign=057703fcb3-CTA_Brussels_Office_Newsletter_517_11_10_2016&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f50a0786c3-057703fcb3-78361057&goal=0_f50a0786c3-057703fcb3-78361057&mc_cid=057703fcb3&mc_eid=4454c92803

Beyond Brexit: How Will EU Overseas Development Assistance Be Affected?

http://www.cgdev.org/blog/beyond-brexit-how-will-eu-overseas-development-assistance-be-affected?utm_source=ECDPM%20Newsletters%20List&utm_campaign=ca723f0d65-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2016_10_28&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f93a3dae14-ca723f0d65-388585893&utm_source=brussels.cta.int+feb+2014&utm_campaign=057703fcb3-CTA_Brussels_Office_Newsletter_517_11_10_2016&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f50a0786c3-057703fcb3-78361057&goal=0_f50a0786c3-057703fcb3-78361057&mc_cid=057703fcb3&mc_eid=4454c92803

'Global Civil Society Consultation on Migration and Local Development: A Synthesis Report in the Context of the 3rd Global Mayoral Forum on Human Mobility, Migration and Development'

<http://www.migration4development.org/en/resources/library/global-civil-society-consultation-migration-and-local-development-0>

Director-General Stefano Manservigi on the Future of EU-ACP Cooperation

http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/dev-policy/blog/director-general-stefano-manservigi-future-eu-ACP-cooperation?utm_source=brussels.cta.int+feb+2014&utm_campaign=a2d606a33b-CTA_Brussels_Office_Newsletter_519_25_10_2016&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f50a0786c3-a2d606a33b-78361057&goal=0_f50a0786c3-a2d606a33b-78361057&mc_cid=a2d606a33b&mc_eid=4454c92803

Migration boosts world economy by USD 3tn, representing 4% of the global output. Yet, weak policies lead to shorter-term cost being much higher than necessary. Financial Times.

https://www.ft.com/content/3aefb5b8-b669-11e6-961e-a1acd97f622d?ftcamp=published_links%2Ffrss%2Fworld%2Ffeed%2F%2Fproduct

2016 Report on the World Social Situation focuses on the "Imperative of Inclusive Development". The UN DESA report calls for lessening barriers to participation through laws, policies, and institutional practices.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55684#.WEf5KeQzWUM>

Developing countries need to better tap their sub-national resources in order to meet the goals of the 2030 Agenda; not just as a financial need but also from a development policy perspective. DIE/GDI Briefing Paper.

<http://www.die-gdi.de/briefing-paper/article/the-mobilisation-of-sub-national-revenues-is-a-decisive-factor-in-the-realisation-of-the-2030-agenda/>

UNDP and the French Development Agency (AFD) publish a joint report, looking at how a more diversified financing for development 'tool-box' could benefit least-developed countries in financing the SDGs.

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/poverty-reduction/afd-undp-financing-sustainable-development-and-managing-vulnerab.html>

As only 8 percent of international climate finance for developing countries reaches least-developed countries, new models must be developed to channel funds to local communities, where they are needed most.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201611280913.html>

Facts and figures around the Africa Trade Week. Brookings. As a result of differences in global protection, it is often cheaper for African countries to export to a foreign market than within Africa.

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2016/11/30/figures-of-the-week-trade-week-africa-and-the-continental-free-trade-area/>

A Development Initiatives report looks at the use of blended finance and its potential for Agenda 2030, calling on donors to view blended finance as a resource that complements rather than simply adds to other resources.

<http://devinit.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Blended-finance-Understanding-its-potential-for-Agenda-2030.pdf>

The 2016 CONCORD report on Sustainable Development stresses that an overall strategy is essential for the EU to achieve the SDGs in 14 years.

<https://concordeurope.org/2016/11/16/sustainable-development-report-2016/>

New study reveals how giving cash and land to refugees can actually have a positive economic impact on host communities.

<http://www.ifpri.org/news-release/uganda-refugees-are-actually-boosting-economy-voice-america>

Enhancing Local Peace Committees: facilitating stakeholder debate on the strategic choices involved in transitional justice in Burundi and Eastern DR Congo. Policy brief by the Knowledge Platform - Security and Rule of Law.

<http://www.kpsrl.org/browse/browse-item/t/enhancing-local-peace-committees-facilitating-stakeholder-debate-on-the-strategic-choices-involved-in-transitional-justice>

Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation and development effectiveness. Overseas Development Institute (ODI). The briefing note puts forward recommendations for the 2nd High-Level meeting in Nairobi.

<https://www.odi.org/publications/10639-where-next-development-effectiveness-recommendations-gpedc-nairobi-and-beyond>

Financing for sustainable infrastructures. Overseas Development Institute (ODI). The report focuses on the complexities of project preparation, in line with the aims of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement.

<https://www.odi.org/publications/10633-finding-pipeline-project-preparation-sustainable-development>

Potential for development of Africa's trade in services. The World Bank report suggests some actions to be taken by governments in order to address the challenges posed by domestic regulations and trade barriers.

<http://www.afdb.org/en/blogs/integrating-africa/post/the-unexplored-potential-of-africas-trade-in-services-16416/>

COP22 talks show little progress regarding the \$100 billion per year package promised by developed countries to support developing countries to respond to climate change.

<http://www.euractiv.com/section/climate-environment/news/cop22-climate-finance-pushed-back-to-2018/>

The Africa Research Institute collected a series of relevant articles that help reflect on the consequences of Trump's election for Africa

<http://www.africaresearchinstitute.org/newsite/blog/trump-and-africa/>

Launch of Boost Africa Initiative, a new integrated approach to boost young innovative entrepreneurs across Africa

<http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2016/2016-299-launch-of-boost-africa-initiative-a-new-integrated-approach-to-boost-young-innovative-entrepreneurs-across-africa?media=rss&language=EN>

Beyond Cotonou: European Development Cooperation after 2020: A perspective for CSOs

<http://kaleidosresearch.nl/publication/beyond-cotonou-european-development-cooperation-after-2020-a-perspective-for-csos/>

The German Development Institute published a new briefing paper with recommendations for a SDG-sensitive development cooperation, aiming to support evidence-based policy.

<http://www.die-gdi.de/briefing-paper/article/ensuring-sdg-sensitive-development-cooperation/>

Blended finance: Understanding its potential for Agenda 2030. The Development Initiatives report finds that donors who plan to scale up aid investments in blended finance would be doing so with inadequate information on where their investments are going and what impact they are having.

<http://devinit.org/#!/post/blended-finance-understanding-its-potential>

A recent OECD analysis foresees a significant decrease in undernourishment level around the globe in the next ten years. The analysis highlights how the current problem is not the quantity of available food, but rather the lack of access to it.

http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/agriculture-and-food/the-implications-of-agricultural-trade-and-market-developments-for-food-security_5jlr579rkqwk-en

Private Sector Engagement for Sustainable Development. The OECD report examines how its members are increasingly working with the private sector in development cooperation to realise sustainable development outcomes.

http://www.keepeek.com/Digital-Asset-Management/oecd/development/private-sector-engagement-for-sustainable-development_9789264266889-en#.WEgPueQzWUk

2016 Progress Report on Making Development Cooperation More Effective. The UNDP and OECD report focuses on progress in increasing efficiency of development cooperation at country level for 81 low and middle-income countries.

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/development-impact/making-development-co-operation-more-effective--2016-progress-re.html>

Briefing note on the Africa regional dialogue. The ODI Development Progress Project identifies key actions towards addressing unfinished Millennium Development Goals business. The briefing note calls for leveraging regional space in order to implement the Sustainable Development Goals.

<http://www.developmentprogress.org/publication/briefing-note-africa-regional-dialogue>

The Institute of Development Studies reviews ten frontier technologies for international development in order to shed light on both their potential for positive changes in international development and the uncertainty and risk involved.

<http://www.ids.ac.uk/frontiertech>

According to the latest Afrobarometer, the majority of Africans (63%) call China a "somewhat" or "very positive" influence for their countries, with only 15% considering it as "somewhat" or "very negative"

http://afrobarometer.org/sites/default/files/publications/Dispatches/ab_r6_dispatchno122_perceptions_of_china_in_africa1.pdf

UNDP's Helen Clark spoke at the Opening Session of the UNDP Africa Cluster Meeting on SDGs Implementation Within the Framework of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, stating that "by the end of the 2030 Agenda period, African development can be transformed".

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/speeches/2016/11/02/helen-clark-speech-at-the-opening-session-of-the-undp-africa-cluster-meeting-on-sdgs-implementation-within-the-framework-of-the-2030-agenda-and-agenda-2063-.html>

Universality and the SDGs: A Business Perspective, the Sustainable Development Goal Fund. The new UN report underscores the importance of universality as a potential driver to impact engagement with the private sector.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55541#.WEgVm-QzWUm>

General Assembly President outlines strategy for stepped-up implementing UN 2030 Agenda

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55507#.WEgWMeQzWUI>

AU Retreat to Elaborate a Roadmap on Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by 2020 Concludes in Lusaka, Zambia

http://www.peaceau.org/en/article/au-retreat-to-elaborate-a-roadmap-on-practical-steps-to-silence-the-guns-in-africa-by-2020-concludes-in-lusaka-zambia?utm_source=Email_marketing&utm_campaign=Wednesday_November_9_2016_-_1&cmp=1&utm_medium=HTMLEmail

The International Spectator has published a special issue on the new EU Global Strategy, which according to some authors should be realistic but not too modest.

<http://us3.campaign-archive1.com/?u=d26e692aebad02c46a75ef39c&id=8dbcfb7ecb>

Doing Business 2017: Equal Opportunity for All. The World Bank report compares data across 190 economies over time.

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

Root causes and drivers of migration. Implications for humanitarian efforts and development cooperation. The new report from PRIO argues that the creation of the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa signals a renewed European interest in addressing the root causes of migrations.

https://www.prio.org/Publications/Publication/?x=9229&utm_content=buffer6f807&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

Meeting on the Operationalisation of the African Union Mediation Support Unit (AU MSU). The African Union calls for intensified mediation efforts to respond to increasingly complex conflicts.

<http://www.peaceau.org/en/article/report-of-the-meeting-on-the-operationalization-of-the-african-union-mediation-support-unit-au-msu>

Why are EPAs taking so long to get off the ground? The EurActiv article outlines obstacles, including lack of political will, geostrategic concerns, limited institutional capacity, and societal opposition.

<http://www.euractiv.com/section/trade-society/opinion/why-are-epas-taking-so-long-to-get-off-the-ground/>

As the EU again fails to meet its ODA commitment, the CONCORD AidWatch Report 2016 criticises the increasing misuse of ODA budgets to meet refugee costs at home.

<https://concordeurope.org/2016/10/26/aidwatch-report-2016/>

Economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa this year is set to drop to its lowest level in more than 20 years, reflecting the adverse external environment, and a lackluster policy response in many countries, says the IMF.

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/reo/2016/afr/eng/sreo1016.htm>

Communication on the 2017 Commission Work Programme

http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/pdf/cwp_2017_en.pdf

SADC, EAC and COMESA seek to implement Tripartite Free Trade Area

<http://www.bilaterals.org/?sadc-eac-and-comesa-seek-to>

Trade as a tool to achieve the SDGs in Africa. The latest issue of ICTSD's Bridges Africa includes an article on tracking regional integration in Africa.

<http://www.ictsd.org/bridges-news/bridges-africa/issue-archive/trade-as-a-tool-to-achieve-the-sdgs-in-africa>

The contribution that different levels of democracy would have on Africa's economic and human development under two scenarios: a democratic regression and a positive wave of democracy. A forecast to 2070 by the Institute for Security Studies Africa.

https://www.issafrica.org/research/papers/the-future-of-democracy-in-africa?utm_source=BenchmarkEmail&utm_campaign=ISS+Weekly&utm_medium=email

The African Investment Report 2016. This is Africa shows that growth rates are much lower than those from the first decade in the 21st century.

<http://www.thisisafricaonline.com/Microsites/The-Africa-Investment-Report-2016/The-Africa-Investment-Report-2016>

The Center for Global Development has ranked 27 countries according to their migration policies, to see which ones have the most development-friendly policies.

<http://www.cgdev.org/blog/which-countries-have-best-migration-policies>

Managing migration effectively: Commission reports on progress in the implementation of the Partnership Framework with third countries

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-3473_en.htm

Development effectiveness for the SDG era: five reasons why we need a new agenda. The ODI report argues that we need a new agenda on development effectiveness and sets out five reasons why.

<https://www.odi.org/comment/10451-development-effectiveness-sdg-era-new-agenda-aid>

The European Investment Bank in Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific: Business Strategy 2016-2018

<http://www.eib.org/infocentre/publications/all/the-eib-in-acp-business-strategy-2016-2018.htm>

Overview of the challenges regarding support to decentralisation and local governance in fragile contexts. The German Development Institute discusses risks and opportunities, and develops suggestions on how development cooperation can better rise to the challenges surrounding the promotion of decentralisation in fragile states.

<http://www.die-gdi.de//discussion-paper/article/the-promotion-of-decentralisation-and-local-governance-in-fragile-contexts/>

Afronline published an interview with the ACP Group Secretary General on the future of the ACP group.

<http://www.afronline.org/?p=42556>

The European Parliament published a study on the growing impact of EU migration policy on development cooperation.

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EPRS_BRI\(2016\)589815](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EPRS_BRI(2016)589815)

Development Initiatives published a new discussion paper on blended finance, with a focus on aligning it to principles of effective development cooperation. The paper identifies potential key barriers.

<http://devinit.org/#!/post/aligning-blended-finance-to-busan-principles>

Brexit will likely "blow a hole in EU-Africa relations". A new Conversation article examines implications of Brexit for the socio-political and diplomatic dimensions beyond Europe.

<https://theconversation.com/brexit-will-blow-a-hole-in-eu-africa-relations-65925>

Governance in Africa has seen very little improvement over the past decade. Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG). The scores of major economies like Ghana and South Africa incurred some of the most significant losses.

<http://mo.ibrahim.foundation/iiag/>

The World Bank's 2016 Poverty and Shared Prosperity Report focuses on the role of inequality reduction in ending extreme poverty, addressing a number of myths and best practices of public policies.

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/poverty-and-shared-prosperity>

“What works and why?” in supporting regional cooperation and integration in Africa. A new study by Fredrik Soderbaum and Therese Brolin.

http://eba.se/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Support_to_regional_cooperation201601.pdf

The resilience of China’s investments in African infrastructure is unlikely to decrease amidst changing economic China-Africa relationship, according to new paper by South African Institute of International Affairs.

<http://www.saiia.org.za/policy-insights/chinas-african-infrastructure-projects-a-tool-in-reshaping-global-norms>

Need for improved institutional coordination and evidence-based policy-making for successful implementation of the two agendas. UNDP final MDGs to Agenda 2063/SDGs Transition Report.

<http://www.africa.undp.org/content/rba/en/home/library/reports/2016-mdgs-to-agenda-2063-sdgs-transition-report--towards-and-int/>

5 specific targets that need complete reversals in their trajectories. The Guardian argues that none of the SDGs will be met unless efforts are increased.

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2016/oct/05/sustainable-development-goals-most-difficult-targets>

Towards an Integrated and Coherent Approach to Sustainable Development in Africa. UNDP new 2016 Transition Report.

<http://www.africa.undp.org/content/rba/en/home/library/reports/2016-mdgs-to-agenda-2063-sdgs-transition-report--towards-and-int/>

From now to 2030: What is needed to measure SDG Goal 16. The Institute for Economics & Peace.

http://economicsandpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Goal16_2016_webfile.pdf?utm_content=buffer168e8&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

Regional competition Law from a COMESA perspective. African regional integration efforts must be based on clearer designs and stronger rules, according to this new Tralac brief.

<https://www.tralac.org/publications/article/10472-regional-competition-law-a-comesa-perspective.html>

The diverging speeds of economic growth rates in Sub-Saharan Africa depend on quality of fiscal policies, business regulation, export diversity, and effectiveness of public institutions, according to World Bank.

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/25097>

Structural Transformation for Inclusive and Sustained Growth. The UNCTAD Trade and Development Report 2016 examines how to establish strong linkages and complementarities across productive sectors.

<http://unctad.org/en/pages/PublicationWebflyer.aspx?publicationid=1610>

Brookings analyses systemic sustainability as the strategic imperative for the post-2015 agenda in light of systemic risks and threats to social, political, economic, and environmental systems.

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/systemic-sustainability-as-the-strategic-imperative-for-the-post-2015-agenda/>

Strategic private investment promises significant impact on African economy and Africa’s infrastructure deficit, according to Brookings.

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2016/09/21/the-us-africa-business-forum-key-interventions-for-infrastructure-investment/>

Harvard Business Review identifies which sectors of Africa’s economy are ‘poised for growth’. HBR stresses that the private sector’s role is just as important as that of governments in improving the state of Africa’s economies.

<https://hbr.org/2016/09/these-6-sectors-of-africas-economy-are-poised-for-growth>

A new GLOBUS blog provides an outlook on a crucial year for EU development policy and the key negotiations taking place in the next 12 months.

<http://www.globus.uio.no/resources/global-justice-blog/saltnes-crucial-year-eu-development-policy-sep-2016.html>

The Center for Global Development presents Six Ideas to Leverage the Private Sector for the SDGs, after challenging more than 1,200 UBS staff to use their financial expertise for innovative solutions.

<http://www.cgdev.org/blog/one-year-sdgs-six-ideas-leverage-private-sector>

As more EU ODA is spent on addressing the refugee crisis within European borders, the share of aid going to developing countries declines significantly, according to ONE’s Data Report 2016.

<http://www.vitainternational.media/en/article/2016/09/19/europe-spent-more-aid-within-its-own-borders-than-overseas/544/>

For any request for information/comment/contribution to the ACPLGP e-Newsletter, please contact:

ACPLGP - Avenue Eugène Plasky, 8/12 - 1030 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32.(0)2.732.85.62 - Fax: +32.(0)2.742.36.73

Email: platform@acplgp.net - Website: www.acplgp.net