



The Africa Caribbean Pacific Local Government Platform
Plateforme des Collectivités Locales des pays Afrique Caraïbes Pacifique

Newsletter N° 45 - April 2017

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
Uganda	23/05/2017	3.900.000	EuropeAid/154942/DD/ACT/UG
Comoros	17/05/2017	1.500.000	EuropeAid/154693/DD/ACT/KM
Swaziland	18/05/2017	500.000	EuropeAid/155126/DD/ACT/SZ
Swaziland	16/05/2017	2.000.000	EuropeAid/155200/DD/ACT/SZ
Angola	16/05/2017	3.750.000	EuropeAid/155519/DD/ACT/AO

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

Countries	Deadline	Budget (EURO)	Reference
Swaziland	16/05/2017	800.000	EuropeAid/155320/DD/ACT/SZ
Dominican Republic	30/05/2017	1.400.000	EuropeAid/155077/DD/ACT/DO
Angola	16/05/2017	800.000	EuropeAid/155399/DD/ACT/AO
All countries	04/07/2017	5.000.000	EuropeAid/153778/DH/ACT/Multi
Haiti	20/06/2017	1.000.000	EuropeAid/154706/DD/ACT/HT
Jamaica & Belize	10/05/2017	875.000	EuropeAid/155110/DD/ACT/Multi
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
Lesotho	07/06/2017	4.000.000	EuropeAid/155297/DD/ACT/LS
Malawi	18/05/2017	800.000	EuropeAid/155286/DD/ACT/MW
All ACP	open	7.000.000	EuropeAid/130741/D/ACT/Multi
Mauritius	open	56.000.000 (MUR)	EuropeAid/134113/M/ACT/MU

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

European Development Days 2017 - 7-8 June 2017, Brussels

Organised by the European Commission, the European Development Days (EDD) bring the development community together each year to share ideas and experiences in ways that inspire new partnerships and innovative solutions to the world's most pressing challenges.

The edition 2017 - under the title 'Investing in development' - will evolve around three themes clustering the five Ps of the Agenda 2030: investing in People and Planet; investing in Prosperity; and investing in Peace and Partnerships. Three cross-cutting issues will include gender equality, youth and the role of the private sector.

- Theme 1: Investing in People and Planet - topics are: young people, gender equality/women empowerment, migration and mobility, demography and development, inequalities, sustainable energy and climate action.
- Theme 2: Investing in Prosperity - topics are: sustainable investment, domestic resource mobilisation, trade and fair globalisation, digitalisation, decent jobs.

- Theme 3: Investing in Peace and Partnership - topics are: partnering with the private sector, partnering with CSOs and local authorities, engaging with Middle Income Countries (MICs), building global partnerships, fragility and resilience.

Some highlights of the EDD 2017 will include:

Young Leaders Programme

Sixteen extraordinary Young Leaders have been selected for EDD 2017.

Coming from across the globe, aged between 21 to 26, they were chosen for their expertise, innovation and commitment to international cooperation and sustainable development.

<https://www.eudevdays.eu/young-leaders#anchor-12923>

EDD 2017 Youth Inclusion

The Youth Agenda regroups all youth-related content at EDD 2017.

The Creative Youth Activities give a space for youth to get involved in a fun and interactive way.

<https://www.eudevdays.eu/youth>

The Global Village

The EDD Global Village is an exciting platform featuring stands showcasing successful projects and groundbreaking reports from around the world.

The Village is the focal point of the EDD 2017: it serves as a crossroad for interaction, innovation and networking among participants.

The main objective is to share knowledge and foster long-lasting and sustainable partnerships, as well as showcase and share innovative and successful initiatives of development practices.

Special events

EU-Africa Business Forum

The EU-Africa Business Forum (EABF) will be organised as a series of high level thematic events in 2017 culminating in a session at the 5th EU-Africa Summit, scheduled to take place in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire on 29-30 November 2017.

A number of sessions will take place at EDD on 7 June. The European Commission in consultation with the African Union Commission will select the proposals. Applications are now closed.

For further information on the EU-Africa Business Forum you can contact: info@euafrica-businessforum.eu

World Reconstruction Conference

The third edition of the World Reconstruction Conference (WRC3) will take place in Brussels from 6 to 8 June 2017.

Co-organised by the European Union, the World Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, the United Nations Development Programme and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, it aims to promote resilience through post-crisis recovery. Registration: <https://www.gfdrr.org/wrc3>

Lorenzo Natali Media Prize

Launched by the European Commission in 1992, the Lorenzo Natali Media Prize is awarded to amateur and professional journalists whose reporting has informed, inspired and given voice to the voiceless.

Who tells the stories to the world about the development challenges we care about at EDD? *Journalists*.

When it comes to democracy, human rights, poverty eradication, and religious freedom, journalists are there capturing the big moments.

The Lorenzo Natali Media Prize celebrates the best and the bravest among them on a global scale. Applications featuring print, digital and broadcast stories are eligible from Africa; the Arab World and the Middle East; Asia and the Pacific; Latin America and the Caribbean; and Europe. Each winner will be awarded €5,000 by an independent jury.

This year for the first time, the award ceremony will take place at European Development Days in Brussels in June. Applications are now closed.

EDD 2017 Programme: <https://www.eudevdays.eu/agenda>

EDD 2017 Registration: <https://www.eudevdays.eu/register-anonymous>

News from the ACP-EU

Africa: Failure in levying taxes

According to the European Court of Auditors, the attempts of the European Union (EU) to help sub-Saharan Africa to recuperate more taxes have failed due to an approximate implementation. However the EU had announced in its development assistance strategy as a priority to help the poorest countries of Africa to increase their income tax rate. A survey reveals a series of inconsistencies, both in the implementation of measures and the initial conditions imposed on beneficiaries. About 20% of European development assistance flows through this kind of programmes. In 2012 and 2016, about €1.7billion transited through the region. The responsible for the report, Danièle Lamarque, explained that the mobilisation of domestic income is a priority for the development community. "European assistance has however become counterproductive due to weak project definition and implementation, and also to difficult local circumstances" indicated Danièle Lamarque. Among the reasons mentioned are poverty and illiteracy, bartering, isolation of subsistence farmers, agriculture and weak administration. All this complicates the collection of taxes for the government of the poorest countries. This is the case for Cape Verde, Central Africa, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal and Sierra Leone. In their overwhelming conclusion, the members of the Court of Auditors concentrated on the initial evaluations of the beneficiary countries. The experts think that "the new approach of the Commission has increased the capacity of budget support to reinforce domestic revenue mobilisation, but this potential could not be fully exploited because of the weaknesses affecting its implementation". Initial contracts were not always complete, and the evaluations conducted by the Commission "did not address certain key aspects of tax policy and administration" in the

cases analysed. Tax evasion of large multinationals costs about 60% of the income of certain African countries. The activist Stella Agara thinks that the EU is not doing enough to combat this phenomenon. According to the Court of Auditors, in all the types of contracts of budget support, the conditions for domestic revenue mobilisation - yet considered as “essential - have been hardly implemented”. Difficult national contexts have even sometimes impeded a regular dialogue on the policies to apply. Result: the absence of “well-defined priorities, objectives, interlocutors and calendar”.

Source: www.adiac-congo.com - CTA Newsletter N 532 FR

News from the ACP

KiLGA attended DevNet Conference and met partners in New Zealand

5 Dec.—A joint-sponsorship by ChildFund (NZ) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) of NZ, allowed KiLGA’s Executive Officer to attend the DevNet Conference at the Victoria University of Wellington. At the conference the EO made a joint-presentation with Ms Shona Jennings - the Programme Director of Child-Fund NZ - that explained the model partnership between ChildFund, KiLGA and the Betio Community, to collaborate on a project to develop the social and economic well-being of children and their families in Betio Village. The EO also chaired a Development Practitioners’ panel which saw a presentation by CARITAS New Zealand on a survey done in Kiribati for the Catholic church, among others.

Meeting with MFAT Officials

6 Dec.—The EO accompanied ChildFund senior officials to a meeting with MFAT at its office in Wellington, to promote the Kiribati Child-Fund Project in Betio. The EO provided additional information on Betio, KiLGA and Local Government in Kiribati. KiLGA and Child-Fund have signed a Teaming Agreement to work together on a project at Betio village, (with a possibility of replication in other Councils in the future) aimed at improving economic and social conditions for children, with funds being sought from MFAT.

Meeting with the LGNZ

Later that day, the KiLGA’s EO, accompanied by Shona Jennings of ChildFund, visited Ms Helen Mexted - Deputy Chief Executive Advocacy of the Local Government Association of NZ (LGNZ), at the Association’s main office in Wellington. The meeting between the officers was brief but allowed the KiLGA’s EO to express the interest of KiLGA in developing a partnership with the LGNZ on various areas including Bulk Purchase and Exchange schemes.

Source: KiLGA Newsletter Vol 6 Issue 4 - October-December 2016

Proposed Councils’ Adaptation Fund to Assist Councils

Most Councils in Kiribati have money constraints in their operations and for projects for their communities. One way of providing such resources is to pool together their own funds and establish a Local Government Development Fund that should be able to provide small grants to Councils as and when needed and is sustainable.

KiLGA is currently collaborating with the Rural Planning Division (RPD) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, whose Acting Director Kaotitaake Kokoria is consulting relevant authorities and bodies on the matter. These include the National Economic Planning Office (NEPO), Kiribati Development Bank (KDB) and the Kiribati Provident Fund (KPF). KiLGA has also consulted other bodies including the World Bank, USAID’s Climate Ready, PIPA and others.

One proposal is to study the Tuvalu’s Falekaupule Fund model, which is very successful. Initial contacts has been made with officers of the Falekaupule Fund and more discussions are expected in the near future.

Recently, concrete support came from the Phoenix Island Protected Area (PIPA) Trust Fund’s CEO, Mr. Nabuti Mwemwenikarawa, who ex-pressed his support to the move and his willingness to provide technical advice and advocacy with its international partners.

Some Councils have already agreed to invest their own funds in the Fund, including their IBD savings as well as their allocations from the government’s Priority Projects.

Source: KiLGA Newsletter Vol 7 Issue 5 - March 2017

KiLGA Takes Part in the Training of IPOs

MIA -Island Project Officers (IPOs) from all 23 Councils in Kiribati attended a session on developing Strategic Plans for Local Economic Development (LED) delivered jointly by Eliza Tokataake, Urban Management Officer of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) and Rikiau Takeke, Executive Officer of the KiLGA.

The topics include Benefits and Relevance of LED to Council Communities’, ‘Using SWOT Analysis in LED Planning’ and others. The IPOs were encouraged to use the skills they have learned by completing new LED projects and submitting them for assessment via e-mail to KiLGA. This is a kind of test to see if they are able to draft and submit project proposals to donors such as NZ, Australia and Canada, through the Internet

The training is part of a two-week training course for IPOs that the Rural Planning Division (RPD) of MIA organized, fully funded by the division from its surplus funds for 2016.

“We had wanted to carry out this training for our IPOs so remaining funds from our 2016 recurrent budget was used to purchase their air tickets” said Kaotitaake Kokoria, the Acting Director of RPD. The IPOs agreed that the training was valuable and also allowed them to come together in Tarawa and share good practices and experiences.

Source: KiLGA Newsletter Vol 7 Issue 5 - March 2017

Announcements

Localizing the SDGs. Discover new tools and stories on Localizing the SDGs: <http://www.localizingthesdgs.org/>

Discover the new website of PLATFORMA at <http://platforma-dev.eu/>. Redesigned and refurbished, PLATFORMA's revamped website goes live with a string of new features. The intent is simple: to provide local insight into development cooperation in Europe and worldwide.

Facilitating multi-stakeholder partnerships to foster sustainable and inclusive food systems - 23 October - 10 November 2017, Wageningen - The Netherlands

This course covers state-of-the-art thinking about designing and facilitating multi stakeholder partnerships (MSPs) and institutional change. You will learn what MSPs are, why we need them, what their key elements are and how to design and facilitate them. We will work highly interactive by building on participant's own experiences. You will have plenary discussions, work on group assignments, engage in role-plays and undertake fieldwork to explore a real life MSP. You will practice a wide range of participatory methodologies and tools. The facilitators follow a flexible programme that allows adaptation to the specific needs of individuals and the group.

Objective

Upon completion of the course you will be able to:

- understand the concept and rationale of multi-stakeholder partnerships and institutional change;
- have a good insight into the key principles for effective MSPs;
- analyse different types of multi-stakeholder partnerships in terms of the issues at stake, the stakeholders, their interests, power relations and conflicts;
- use a broad range of participatory methodologies and tools in MSPs;
- design an extended MSP;
- assess the impact of your personal style in facilitation, communication, leadership and dealing with conflicts.

Target audience

We welcome participants who are involved, or will be involved in the future, in the facilitation of multi-stakeholder partnerships. You may work for an NGO, government, private sector organisation, research facility, university or consultancy and you are in the challenging position to design, facilitate or participate in MSPs. Proficiency in English is required.

Practical information

The course fee is €3,900.

If you have questions you can contact us at: training.cdi@wur.nl, or +31-317.486.800

Application procedure

The deadline for the application is **11 September 2017**.

For more information about the application procedure: www.wur.eu/cdi

Reading

Annual Report 2016 on EC Budget Support

https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/annual-report-budget-support-2016_en.pdf?utm_source=brussels.cta.int+feb+2014&utm_campaign=79150a57d5-CTA_Brussels_Office_Newsletter_527_20_02_2017&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f50a0786c3-79150a57d5-78361057&goal=0_f50a0786c3-79150a57d5-78361057&mc_cid=79150a57d5&mc_eid=4454c92803

The European Union and the African Union - A statistical portrait - 2016 edition

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3217494/7777286/KS-FQ-16-001-EN-N.pdf/1203bac4-e198-477f-b568-0ce943d20208?utm_source=brussels.cta.int+feb+2014&utm_campaign=ec60d0d781-CTA_Brussels_Office_Newsletter_529_04_03_2017&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f50a0786c3-ec60d0d781-78361057&goal=0_f50a0786c3-ec60d0d781-78361057&mc_cid=ec60d0d781&mc_eid=4454c92803

How do donors support the Decent Work Agenda? This new TUDCN-ODI study reviews the contribution of five donor countries to providing decent work in developing countries. Among the recommendations is that of moving beyond employment creation and give greater attention to social dialogue and social protection.

<http://www.ituc-csi.org/Decent-Work-ODA?lang=en>

Growth-oriented policy agenda needed to ensure stronger economic recovery with benefits for all workers and households. According to this OECD's report governments should design reforms that simultaneously target economic and social objectives.

<http://www.oecd.org/economy/growth-oriented-policy-agenda-needed-to-ensure-stronger-economic-recovery-with-benefits-for-all-workers-and-households.htm>

Start-up from scratch? How entrepreneurship can generate sustainable development and inclusion in the Sahel. World Bank blog.

<http://blogs.worldbank.org/psd/start-scratch-how-entrepreneurship-can-generate-sustainable-development-and-inclusion-sahel>

Supporting economic transformation: an approach paper. This ODI's paper approaches the issue of economic growth, highlighting how the latter is often highly skewed and non-inclusive. The paper explains how economic growth often occurs without a real economic transformation.

<https://www.odi.org/publications/10748-supporting-economic-transformation-approach-paper>

Sound economic governance depends on strong civil service, IMF official says

<http://www.publicfinanceinternational.org/news/2017/03/sound-economic-governance-depends-strong-civil-service-imf-says>

Is Infrastructure the Key to Africa's Economic Transformation? This ICTSD article brings attention to the fact that infrastructure has a crucial role to play in promoting sustainable development, particularly in the world's poorest countries.

<http://www.ictsd.org/bridges-news/bridges-africa/news/is-infrastructure-the-key-to-africas-economic-transformation>

Africa: To Power Africa's Future, a 'Wall of Money' is Ready

The Powering Africa Summit, held in Washington, concluded that the energy market opportunities are massive, and the challenges are equally large. While financial needs are huge, participants were convinced that there is a 'wall of money' available to electrify Africa with bankable projects.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201703200912.html>

Benefits of off-grid electricity solutions. The Africa Progress Panel released a report pointing out Africa's massive energy gap stating that two-thirds of Africans - 620 million people - lack access to electricity. Innovative solutions rather than traditional provide a way out of energy poverty.

https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2017/03/17/figures-of-the-week-benefits-of-off-grid-electricity-solutions/?utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=global

Financing African infrastructure through pension funds

In a Brookings blog, Christina Golubski of the Africa Growth Initiative analyses Africa's massive infrastructure gap and the possibilities for domestic financing of the sector, for instance through investments by pension funds.

https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2017/03/14/financing-african-infrastructure-through-pension-funds/?utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=global

World Water Day 2017: Turning Wastewater into a Source of Wealth in Africa

The African Development Bank draws attention to the issue of wastewater management in Africa at the occasion of World Water Day 2017. Providing water and sanitation is considered as a main development priority, improving the lives of hundreds of millions of underserved Africans.

<https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/world-water-day-2017-turning-wastewater-into-a-source-of-wealth-in-africa-16832/>

The 2030 Agenda's "Missing Piece": Update on SDG Indicators. IISD reports on the latest steps ahead with regard to creating the indicators for the SDGs.

<http://sdg.iisd.org/commentary/policy-briefs/the-2030-agendas-missing-piece-update-on-sdg-indicators/>

Identity politics and intolerance a barrier to development, says UN report. The annual Human Development Index cites Brexit as an example of a nationalist agenda that could hold back progress on the achievement of the global sustainable development goals.

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2017/mar/21/identity-politics-intolerance-a-barrier-to-development-says-un-report-brexit>

What to take into account when measuring poverty? Poverty and Inequality at #OxCSAE2017. This CSAE blog post draws lessons from a conference where several approaches to measuring poverty were discussed.

<http://blogs.csa.e.ox.ac.uk/2017/03/csa2017-poverty-inequality-by-rocco-zizzamia-and-elwyn-davies/>

Can aid stop migration to Europe? This ODI's article points out that employment support and refugee resettlement policies have very little impact since they do not focus on the needs of refugees.

https://www.odi.org/comment/10496-can-aid-stop-migration-europe?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social%20media

Why do countries become donors? Assessing the drivers and implications of donor proliferation. ODI

<https://www.odi.org/publications/10747-why-do-countries-become-donors-assessing-drivers-and-implications-donor-proliferation>

Twelve Points for the New African Union Commission Chairperson to address for a more stable and more peaceful Africa. The International Crisis Group says that the continent is experiencing the highest number of humanitarian crises since the 1990s.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/world/twelve-points-new-african-union-commission-chairperson>

Coherent G20 policies towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. GDI proposes a focus on coherence in trade and investment policies, climate policies, partnership with Africa, and the policy coherence set-up within the G20.

<http://www.die-gdi.de//externe-publikationen/article/coherent-g20-policies-towards-the-2030-agenda-for-sustainable-development/>

Lights, Power, Action: Electrifying Africa. This Africa Progress Panel paper - as a follow-up to its annual flagship report - assesses the issue of energy access in Africa, and what steps should be taken by the international public and private sectors.

<http://www.africaprogresspanel.org/policy-papers/lights-power-action-electrifying-africa/>

Disintermediating the State: Would a 'Universal Basic Income' Reduce Poverty More Than Targeted Programs?

The Centre for Global Development argues that well-designed universal basic income initiatives could help reduce poverty. The article is a reaction to a recent New York Times piece about a pilot project in Kenya.

<https://www.cgdev.org/blog/disintermediating-state-would-universal-basic-income-reduce-poverty-more-targeted-programs>

Why French should become the new lingua franca of African private equity since investors have historically focused on English-speaking countries, missing out on opportunities in Francophone West Africa. Brookings.

https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2017/03/13/why-french-should-become-the-new-lingua-franca-of-african-private-equity/?utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=global

Accountability for development cooperation under the 2030 Agenda. In this paper GDI discusses the contribution of development cooperation to the 2030 Agenda, and how accountability for that contribution can be ensured.

<http://www.die-gdi.de//discussion-paper/article/accountability-for-development-cooperation-under-the-2030-agenda/>

Dialogue and action in equal measure. Svenja Brachmann from GIZ Madagascar highlights how a GIZ programme in Madagascar is promoting more responsible artisanal and small-scale mining, in an article for IIED.

<https://www.iied.org/dialogue-action-equal-measure>

The impact of cash transfers on women and girls. ODI summarises the evidence presented in a larger study.

<https://www.odi.org/publications/10749-impact-cash-transfers-women-and-girls>

Africa must trade itself out of poverty. Dr. Richard Sezibera, a Rwandan Senator and former secretary-general of the East African Community, writes an article for Tralac explaining why now it is the moment for Africa to trade itself out of poverty.

<https://www.tralac.org/news/article/11405-africa-must-trade-itself-out-of-poverty.html>

ECA urges Africa to invest more in infrastructure for sustainable development. Stephen Karingi, director of the Economic Commission for Africa's Capacity Development Division

<http://www.uneca.org/stories/eca-urges-africa-invest-more-infrastructure-sustainable-development>

After Brexit - Securing ACP Economic Interests

This Ramphal Institute report highlights the implications of Brexit for the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

<http://www.ramphalinstitute.org/brexit-and-third-countries.html#/news/>

Brexit and some possible unforeseen consequences for third country exports of farm products. ICTSD

<http://www.ictsd.org/opinion/brexit-and-some-possible-unforeseen-consequences-for-third-country-exports-of-farm>

Post-Brexit trade policy and development: current developments; new directions?

A recent ODI Briefing Paper explores recent developments in the debate around post-Brexit trade, puts forward recommendations for policy-makers and makes the case for a trade policy that both protects developing economies and benefits the UK economy.

https://www.odi.org/publications/10732-post-brexit-trade-policy-and-development-current-developments-new-directions?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social%20media

Meeting Sub-Saharan Africa's Frontier Market Financing Needs: More Is Better from the IMF. CGD

<https://www.cgdev.org/publication/meeting-sub-saharan-africas-frontier-market-financing-needs-more-better-imf>

East African institutional investors have strong unmet demand for regional investment funds. This recent Brookings article argues that a critical step in building capital markets is to encouraging greater participation by local institutional investors such as pension funds and insurance firms. Investors in four East African Community (EAC) countries are keen on having longer term investment vehicles.

https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2017/03/02/east-african-institutional-investors-have-strong-unmet-demand-for-regional-investment-funds/?utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=global

Talking trade in the post-truth era: Bringing the numbers that matter. This new ICTSD opinion piece argues that economists must bring the narrative for international trade to the local level. According to the author, only a focus on micro-economic evidence can strengthen credibility in the so-called post-truth era.

<http://www.ictsd.org/opinion/talking-trade-in-the-post-truth-era-bringing-the-numbers-that-matter>

Assessing Africa-EU trade relations. Brookings' report based on EUROSTAT's recent publication 'The European Union and the African Union: A statistical portrait (2016 edition)'.

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2017/03/02/figures-of-the-week-assessing-africa-eu-trade-relations/#cancel>

German Government unveils Marshall Plan with Africa at the AfDB, saying the plan can help resolve some of the challenges facing Africa.

<https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/german-government-unveils-marshall-plan-with-africa-at-the-afdb-16751/>

New opportunities for EU-China-Africa trilateral cooperation on combatting climate change. According to this new briefing paper by DIE, cooperation should initially focus on renewable energy.

<http://www.die-gdi.de//briefing-paper/article/new-opportunities-for-eu-china-africa-trilateral-cooperation-on-combatting-climate-change/>

The AU's new institutional reforms: implications for its relations with China. SAIIA

<http://www.saiia.org.za/opinion-analysis/the-aus-new-institutional-reforms-implications-for-its-external-relations-with-china>

The Sustainable Development Goals and their trade-offs. ODI publishes a case study, exploring the trade-offs between the SDGs in the case of an imaginary country, in order to highlight the complexities around integration of conflicting SDGs or their targets.

<https://www.odi.org/publications/10726-sustainable-development-goals-and-their-trade-offs>

Economic diversification: A priority for action, now more than ever, as developing countries with sector-dependent economies face mounting pressures. World Bank

<http://blogs.worldbank.org/psd/economic-diversification-priority-action-now-more-ever>

Trade, Public Health, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This new ICTSD publication outlines how reforming relevant WTO agreements could enhance health innovation and access.

<http://www.ictsd.org/themes/global-economic-governance/research/trade-public-health-and-the-2030-agenda-for-sustainable>

Trade Unions and campaigners around the world accuse the World Bank of encouraging dangerous hidden debts, boycott consultation on Public Private Partnerships (PPPs). Eurodad.

<http://www.eurodad.org/Boycott-World-Bank-PPPs-Consultation>

South-South Cooperation for ecological civilization. This new DIE publication explores China's efforts to harness its South-South cooperation, for SDG implementation, the Paris Agreement and African development.

<http://www.die-gdi.de/externe-publikationen/article/south-south-cooperation-for-ecological-civilization/>

Financing Africa's development: Challenges and opportunities. ICTSD's Bridges Africa

<http://www.ictsd.org/bridges-news/bridges-africa/issue-archive/financing-africa%E2%80%99s-development-challenges-and>

Why the Trump Administration Should Not Overlook Africa. This briefing by the European Parliament assesses pros and cons of the new European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD), which stems from the September 2016 mid-term review of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020.

<http://carnegieendowment.org/2017/02/22/why-trump-administration-should-not-overlook-africa-pub-68081>

How to achieve the SDGs by 2030 - lessons from 50 case studies. ODI has conducted 50 case studies in order to draw a number of lessons on how to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, which are put forth in a three-part series of blogs on the Development Progress project.

https://www.odi.org/comment/10491-how-achieve-sdgs-2030-lessons-50-case-studies?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social%20media

Beyond rhetoric: engaging Africa's youth in democratic governance. ISS has recently published the brief "Africa's youth has an important role to play in fostering peace, development and democracy on the continent", presenting an overview of the continental normative framework on youth engagement by the African Union

<https://issafrica.org/research/policy-brief/beyond-rhetoric-engaging-africas-youth-in-democratic-governance>

Improving Conditions for People and Businesses in Africa's Cities Is Key to Growth. World Bank

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2017/02/09/world-bank-report-improving-conditions-for-people-and-businesses-in-africas-cities-is-key-to-growth>

The G20 and Africa - an alliance for sustainability? This ODI's column offers an overview of what challenges and opportunities generated by cooperation with Africa being high on Germany's agenda for its G20 Presidency.

<http://www.die-gdi.de/en/the-current-column/article/the-g20-and-africa-an-alliance-for-sustainability/>

Two landmark publications from the World Bank and DFID bring 'good fit' governance into the mainstream. This ODI article acknowledges the need for a more targeted and context-sensitive approach.

<https://www.odi.org/comment/10488-two-landmark-publications-world-bank-and-dfid-bring-good-fit-governance-mainstream>

World Development Report 2017 - Governance and the Law

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/wdr2017>

Why 2016 was actually one of the best years on record. Brookings reacts to an article by the Washington Post, which claimed that, concerning poverty reduction, 2016 was actually one of the best years on record, and explains why this is likely not to be the case.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/why-2016-was-actually-one-of-the-best-years-on-record/2016/12/30/bc12701e-ce0a-11e6-a87f-b917067331bb_story.html?utm_term=.0de88cd85447

New finance source for developing countries. This article looks at the creation of the New Development Bank to finance projects in infrastructure, whilst underlining that - besides funds - project viability and prospects are key.

<http://www.breakbulk.com/new-finance-source-for-developing-countries/>

More aspiration than action: Searching for inclusive growth. This World Economic Forum's article calls to assess local realities in order to boost results.

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/02/ambition-and-the-single-woman-facebook-fights-gender-pay-gap-and-other-top-gender-stories-of-the-week>

2017 African presidential elections. Africa Research Institute publishes this new interactive tool on 2017 elections in Africa, as the continent will see at least three new presidents this year.

<http://www.africaresearchinstitute.org/newsite/blog-sticky/2017-elections-africa/>

The impossible question: how much inequality is too much? World Economic Forum

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/12/how-much-inequality-is-too-much>

The proposed new European Consensus on Development: has the European Commission got it right? The new European Consensus on Development presents the basis of contemporary development problems, but does not serve as an actual strategy, according to a recent ODI publication.

<https://www.odi.org/publications/10709-eu-european-union-european-commission-new-european-consensus-development-sdgs-sustainable>

How Will President Trump's Executive Orders Affect Development? CGD Experts Consider the Evidence

<https://www.cgdev.org/blog/how-will-president-trumps-executive-orders-affect-development-cgd-experts-consider-evidence>

What Tillerson's Leadership Could Mean for US Development Policy

<https://www.cgdev.org/blog/what-tillersons-leadership-could-mean-us-development-policy>

Africa's new climate economy: economic transformation and social and environmental change. This new ODI report assesses the economic transformation and social and environmental change for decision-makers to draw lessons for the future.

<https://www.odi.org/publications/10593-africa-s-new-climate-economy-economic-transformation-and-social-and-environmental-change>

Resilience Scan: July-September 2016. ODI's reviews writing and debates in the field of resilience during the third quarter of 2016, mainly focussing on the context of developing countries as well as gender equality and resilience.

<https://www.odi.org/publications/10659-resilience-scan-july-september-2016>

Corruption Perceptions Index 2016. Transparency International reports endemic corruption in countries' public sector. The top two on the list are Somalia and South-Sudan.
http://www.transparency.org/news/feature/corruption_perceptions_index_2016

Who owns the EDF? Ensuring domestic accountability in ACP-EU development cooperation. This report by the European Partnership for Democracy examines the extent to which domestic accountability in recipient countries is currently addressed in the EDF.
<http://www.epd.eu/who-owns-the-edf-report/>

New Report on Unrecorded Capital Flight Finds Developing Countries are Net-Creditors to the Rest of the World. According to a new report by Global Financial Integrity, developing countries are net-creditors to the rest of the world, as much more money flows from poor to rich countries than vice versa.
<http://www.gfintegrity.org/press-release/new-report-on-unrecorded-capital-flight-finds-developing-countries-are-net-creditors-to-the-rest-of-the-world/>

Beyond the headlines: quantifying the economic contributions of migrants. This new World Economic Forum article suggests that migration can be approached from a different angle by looking at how migrants contribute to the economy of their host countries.
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/01/beyond-the-headlines-quantifying-the-economic-contributions-of-migrants>

A Shifting Global Economic Landscape. The World Economic Outlook provides predictions on the global output growth on various topics and for different types of economies.
<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2017/update/01/index.htm>

No Marshall Plan for Africa, Please! The President of EIB refers to a shift in European budget policies towards Africa as the "Marshall Plan for Africa". However, some authoritative voices argue that development in Africa can and must only be done by Africans.
<http://ibrahimmayaki.com/no-marshall-plan-for-africa-please/>

The Dangers of Deal Making for Development. In this note the Centre for Global Development assesses the risks behind the shift towards enhancing the role of private funds to development projects.
<https://www.cgdev.org/publication/dangers-deal-making-development>

We can eradicate hunger by 2030. Here's how. This article by World Economic Forum states we can eradicate hunger by 2030 and indicates how to achieve the Zero Hunger goal in 5 steps.
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/01/5-steps-towards-ending-hunger-worldwide>

Foresight Africa: Top priorities for the continent in 2017. This Brookings report explores financial resources, employment, technology, urbanisation and climate change as the six overarching themes for Africa to tackle in 2017.
https://www.brookings.edu/multi-chapter-report/foresight-africa/?utm_campaign=Africa+Growth+Initiative&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=40906947

10 elements for an effective Trump foreign aid program. Brookings.
<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2017/01/10/10-elements-for-an-effective-trump-foreign-aid-program/>

Will Trump embrace the funding of overseas aid? BBC.
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-38334846>

The concept of SDG-sensitive development cooperation: implications for OECD-DAC members. This DIE publication addresses the question of how to shape SDG-sensitive development cooperation in line with the requirements of the 2030 Agenda, outlining implications for OECD-DAC members.
<http://www.die-gdi.de/discussion-paper/article/the-concept-of-sdg-sensitive-development-cooperation-implications-for-oecd-dac-members/>

Effective development aid through blended finance? Proceed with care. According to this new Oxfam blog, governments, civil society, and the private sector need to work together to advance quality blended finance that benefits development aid effectiveness.
<https://blogs.oxfam.org/en/blogs/17-01-06-effective-development-aid-through-blended-finance-proceed-care>

More than a buzzword? Resilience to climate change in Zimbabwe. This new IRIN article calls for strengthening communities by building their resilience ahead of climate change-induced disasters.
<http://www.irinnews.org/feature/2017/01/06/more-buzzword-resilience-climate-change-zimbabwe>

Kenyan slum activists build climate change resilience from the bottom up
<http://www.irinnews.org/feature/2017/01/12/kenyan-slum-activists-build-climate-change-resilience-bottom>

Four ways start-ups can transform a city. This new World Bank blog illustrates 4 ways in which start-ups can transform a city, highlighting economic growth, new jobs, resources for local innovation, and transformation of urban environments.
<http://blogs.worldbank.org/psd/four-ways-start-ups-can-transform-city>

It's the SDGs' first birthday: here are six things to celebrate. This ODI blog identifies six reasons to celebrate the first birthday of the SDGs, and highlights challenges that remain.
<https://www.odi.org/comment/10474-it-s-sdgs-first-birthday-here-are-six-things-celebrate>

Internet shutdowns in sub-Saharan Africa in 2016. Brookings illustrates a concerning trend.
<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2017/01/06/figure-of-the-week-internet-shutdowns-in-sub-saharan-africa-in-2016/>

Mobilising aid through the private sector can yield high poverty reduction returns. The Guardian
https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2016/nov/30/mobilising-aid-private-sector-high-poverty-reduction-returns-dirk-willem-te-velde-odi?CMP=share_btn_tw

Perspectives on Global Development 2017 - International Migration in a Shifting World. OECD examines whether the shift in global economic activity towards developing countries has in parallel led to shift in migration towards these countries.

http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/development/perspectives-on-global-development-2017_persp_glob_dev-2017-en

Scale up or cut back? Aid sector grapples with growing funding gap. IRIN reports an alarming cut back of funding of the developing sector. Humanitarian needs caused by conflicts and natural disasters have never been as high, requiring prioritising of the most urgent life-saving actions.

<http://www.irinnews.org/analysis/2016/12/09/scale-or-cut-back-aid-sector-grapples-growing-funding-gap>

Better international coordination could lead to more worldwide benefits from migration. OCED

<https://www.oecd.org/migration/better-international-co-ordination-could-lead-to-more-worldwide-benefits-from-migration.htm>

Building quality infrastructure promotes sustainable economic development. One of the main conclusions of the 12th Annual Meeting of the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA) was that investments in infrastructure play an essential role to make a quantum leap in the continent's economic development.

<https://www.icafrica.org/en/news-events/ica-news/article/building-quality-infrastructure-promotes-sustainable-economic-development-525363/>

Poverty trap leaves least developed countries ever further behind. UNCTAD publishes the Least Developed Countries Report 2016, stating that global poverty is increasingly concentrated among 48 least developed countries, falling even further behind the rest of the world.

<http://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1397>

Africa must act now if it is to feed itself in 2050 - scientists. Only if Africa starts investing more in agriculture, it can be able to feed its growing population by 2050, according to scientists. Currently Sub-Saharan Africa imports 20 percent of its cereal needs, and this could rise to 50 percent by 2050 if no action is taken.

<http://news.trust.org/item/20161212200414-2dc8b>

Innovative Research Helps Rwanda Raise \$9m in Tax Revenue. While similar studies have been conducted in Europe and North America, Rwanda presents the first case for Africa.

<http://www.ids.ac.uk/news/innovative-research-helps-rwanda-raise-9m-in-tax-revenue>

The 'fourth industrial revolution': potential and risks for Africa. This report by SAIIA concludes that governments need clear strategies that entail all the benefits of a fourth industrial revolution not to lag behind.

<http://www.saiia.org.za/opinion-analysis/the-fourth-industrial-revolution-potential-and-risks-for-africa>

The impact of the cabinet reshuffle on South Africa's standing as an emerging power. This article by SAIIA argues that South Africa is likely to "lose its hard-won footing on the international stage".

<http://www.saiia.org.za/opinion-analysis/is-south-africa-still-an-emerging-african-power>

Africa's future depends on its ability to meet the expectations of its young people. Tralac

<https://www.tralac.org/news/article/11491-africa-s-future-depends-on-its-ability-to-meet-the-expectations-of-its-young-people.html>

What are the prospects for low-carbon growth in Africa? IDS

<http://www.ids.ac.uk/opinion/what-are-the-prospects-for-low-carbon-growth-in-africa>

Why we gamified the Sustainable Development Goals. ODI

https://www.odi.org/comment/10503-why-we-gamified-sustainable-development-goals?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social%20media

Africa: Can the SDGs Be Financed? This article by AllAfrica states that investment in the least developed countries will need to rise by at least 11% annually until 2030 in order for them to achieve the SDGs.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201704040307.html>

Why should NGOs care about the future of work? This article invites the development community to give a greater consideration to the impact of automation on the future of work, since people's jobs in lower-income countries are at greater risk than those elsewhere.

https://www.bond.org.uk/news/2017/03/why-should-ngos-care-about-the-future-of-work?utm_content=buffer69178&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

Extreme poverty set to rise across Southern Africa. ISS highlights that over 40 million more people are expected to face extreme poverty by 2040.

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/extreme-poverty-set-to-rise-across-southern-africa>

10 things to know about the global labour force. ODI has released an explanatory infographic about SDG 8 concerning labour. It is based on a UN survey identifying better job opportunities as key for people's livelihoods.

https://www.odi.org/publications/10770-10-things-know-about-global-labour-force?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social%20media

Top 8 effects of Brexit on the future EU policies. VoteWatch Europe has released a report analysing possible changes in decision-making in the EU after the Brexit because of shifting political preferences and alliances.

<http://www.votewatch.eu/blog/top-8-effects-of-brexit-on-the-future-eu-policies/>

Brexit and the joys of starting over. This article by Friends of Europe reflects on the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European project and suggests that, though heart-breaking, Brexit might mark the emergence of a reinvented EU.

<http://www.friendsofeurope.org/future-europe/frankly-speaking-brexit-and-the-joys-of-starting-over/>

Africa: Brexit As an Opportunity for Africa? AllAfrica

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201703280597.html>

Aid for Trade Review - Suggestions for the forthcoming review: Prioritising inclusiveness and sustainability - March 2017. ActionAid published an article about DEVCO's ongoing revisions of the EU's Aid for Trade strategy, which aims at making the latter more effective, especially for least development countries.

<http://www.actionaid.org/2017/03/aid-trade-review-suggestions-forthcoming-review-prioritising-inclusiveness-and-sustainability>

Non-tariff barriers and 'complaints' in the East African Community's reporting process. This ODI publication provides statistics painting a mixed picture about the impact of the East African Community (EAC) on intra-regional trade.

<https://www.odi.org/publications/10761-non-tariff-barriers-and-complaints-east-african-communitys-reporting-process>

To improve investments, Africa must strengthen policies and regional integration of its markets. Tralac

<https://www.tralac.org/news/article/11469-to-improve-investments-africa-must-strengthen-policies-and-regional-integration-of-its-markets.html>

Why International Financial Cooperation Remains Essential. This IMF's blog addresses financial regulations, stating that no national authority by itself can guarantee the stability of its own financial system when banks and other financial institutions operate globally.

<https://blogs.imf.org/2017/03/23/why-international-financial-cooperation-remains-essential/>

Climate Change Is A Security Threat. This article by The Huffington Post explains how climate change is a security threat that fosters vulnerability. The threat, explains the article, starts in the Sahel, where drought brings families into a downward spiral of poverty.

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/58d9b7b4e4b0ef7ce8c5c105>

2017 Global Food Policy Report. This IFPRI report highlights that poverty, food insecurity, and malnutrition are increasingly becoming urban problems in all regions.

<http://www.ifpri.org/event/launch-2017-global-food-policy-report>

Local aid agencies: still waiting for a bigger share of the funding cake. IRIN published an article on the ongoing debates regarding the UN's pledge to give humanitarian aid funding "as directly as possible" to local NGOs since terms such as 'local' and 'direct' are still to be defined.

<http://www.irinnews.org/analysis/2017/03/27/local-aid-agencies-still-waiting-bigger-share-funding-cake>

Being frank about Africa's democracy: progress and deficits. This article by ISS builds on the 10th anniversary of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, calling for open discussions around the many issues that still need to be addressed on the continent.

https://issafrica.org/pscreport/addis-insights/being-frank-about-africas-democracy-progress-and-deficits?utm_source=BenchmarkEmail&utm_campaign=PSC+Report&utm_medium=email

Why is peacebuilding so difficult to achieve? ODI

<https://www.odi.org/publications/10757-why-peacebuilding-so-difficult-achieve>

IPI Panel Debates Need for Stabilization Doctrine. This book by the International Peace Institute sheds light on how peacekeeping needs to adapt to the new need for stabilisation, protection and to emerging threats.

<https://www.ipinst.org/2017/03/towards-un-stabilization-doctrine#5>

Why denying refugees the right to work is a catastrophic error. Paul Collier and Alexander Betts analyse the dramatic socio-economic and humanitarian position of migrants and refugees.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/mar/22/why-denying-refugees-the-right-to-work-is-a-catastrophic-error>

Sharing results of a project to increase farmers' production in Senegal. IFPRI

<http://www.ifpri.org/blog/sharing-results-project-increase-farmers%E2%80%99-production-senegal>

Zambia: From Research to Entrepreneurship - Fishing Youth and Women Out of Poverty. AllAfrica

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201704190203.html>

World Bank's 2017 Atlas of SDGs Provides Tool for Tracking Implementation. The Atlas includes over 150 maps and data visualisations to assist with efforts to track progress in achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

<http://sdg.iisd.org/news/world-banks-2017-atlas-of-sdgs-provides-tool-for-tracking-implementation/>

'Radical' investments needed to meet global water and sanitation targets - UN report

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2017/04/radical-investments-needed-to-meet-global-water-and-sanitation-targets-un-report/>

Making Africa Great Again: Reducing aid dependency

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2017/04/20/making-africa-great-again-reducing-aid-dependency/>

Democracy Is Not Dying

<http://carnegieendowment.org/2017/04/11/democracy-is-not-dying-pub-68651>

Afrique, continent d'avenirs. The Agence Francaise de Developpement has published a collection of interviews around the topic of the future of Africa, featuring the voice of five different African stakeholders with different geographical and professional backgrounds [in French]

<http://ideas4development.org/afrique-continent-avenirs/>

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