



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

Newsletter N° 47 - October 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>

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

Countries	Deadline	Budget (EURO)	Reference
Sierra Leone	19/12/2017	6.500.000	EuropeAid/156704/DD/ACT/SL

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

Countries	Deadline	Budget (EURO)	Reference
All countries	09/11/2017	25.000.000	EuropeAid/155232/DH/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
Ethiopia	01/12/2017	2.400.000	EuropeAid/139206/ID/ACT/ET
Haiti	03/11/2017	8.250.000	EuropeAid/156660/DD/ACT/HT
Zimbabwe	14/11/2017	6.000.000	EuropeAid/157721/DD/ACT/ZW
West African region	30/11/2017	13.700.000	EuropeAid/157254/DD/ACT/Multi
All ACP countries	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

EU delivers on its innovate External Investment Plan to boost investments in Africa with projects worth almost €100 million, in line with its future European External Investment Plan

The European Commission has announced projects which will directly contribute to the objectives of the future External Investment Plan (EIP). As part of the Pan-African Programme, the Commission allocated this year close to €100 million for a series of initiatives that will spur private investments, provide technical assistance and enhance the African business environment. The projects will contribute to African job creation, which the European Commission recently identified as a priority area of its Partnership with Africa.

Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven Mimica said: "These initiatives worth €100 million from our Pan-African Programme will help to create much needed jobs and sustainable economic growth across Africa. They will also support the objectives of our ambitious European External Investment Plan and our priorities for the upcoming AU-EU Summit in November. The EU delivers on its commitment to strengthen our Partnership with Africa by working together to address common challenges and pursue common interests".

As part of these new initiatives, the European Commission will invest €70 million for infrastructure projects with a pan-African dimension to be funded through the *Africa Investment Facility*. Furthermore, it will provide technical assistance of €5 million to African governments by providing legal resources through creditor litigation services, advisory services in complex commercial and business transactions, and capacity building initiatives. Thirdly, the European Commission will support several initiatives that will help to strengthen the African business environment. On customs, the

Commission will support a €5 million programme with the World Customs Organisation to harmonise the classification of goods, thereby facilitating trade with the EU and within Africa. On air transport, the Commission will commit €2.7 million to support the European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service (EGNOS) for satellite navigation, while it grants €5 million to a project by the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) that aims to enhance air safety in Africa. Lastly, the Pan-African Programme will commit about €10 million to enhance ICT standards and regulations, in order to open up access to ICT services and promote internet governance in Africa.

For further information: https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/eu-delivers-its-innovate-external-investment-plan-boost-investments-africa-projects_en

News from the ACP-EU

Pacific ACP States discuss post-Cotonou arrangements with EU

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat stands ready to support members, in both advisory and coordination capacities, as they prepare for negotiations of a successor to the Cotonou Agreement. “The Cotonou Partnership Agreement review process provides us a window of opportunity to reposition ourselves better to achieve a new EU-ACP framework that serves us better,” Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General Dame Meg Taylor said at the Pacific ACP Officials meeting in September 2017. Pacific ACP countries have begun a coordinated approach to the post-Cotonou arrangement negotiations. The Cotonou Agreement, which was signed in 2000 between the ACP Group of States and the European Union ends in February 2020. In July, the Forum Secretariat was able to assist members in the ACP-EU Regional Joint Parliamentary Assembly in Vanuatu, where PACP parliamentarians shared their views for negotiations of the Post-Cotonou arrangements to be construed as a single legal undertaking with emphasis on the maintenance of the geographic and geo-political character of the ACP Group for the future of the ACP-EU partnership agreement. Strategic and united approaches as a region was a recurring theme during discussions, and recognition that deeper regional integration which will drive productivity and maximise efficiency of resource allocation and investment opportunities, needed to be nurtured by the region. “It is important that we take heed of the challenges and valuable lessons learnt from the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) for the programming of the regional priority areas under the 11th EDF Pacific Regional Indicative Programme. The imperative is placed squarely on our region to be strategic in negotiating future relations with the EU,” Dame Meg said.

Source: CTA Newsletter N 551

Pacific leaders urged to move on an EU development assistance

“It is extremely disappointing that the region has still not been able to drawdown on the regional envelope of 11th EDF funds to address the agreed priority areas identified by the region” - The Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Dame Meg Taylor, has urged leaders at the Pacific A.C.P Leaders (P.A.C.P.) Meeting to make a decision in relation to the European Union’s development assistance to the region. Dame Meg delivered the message when she spoke during the opening of the P.A.C.P meeting at Sheraton Samoa Aggie Grey’s Hotel in September 2017. The meeting is part of the build up to the 48th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting. Speaking about the European development assistance, Dame Meg reminded that such assistance is channelled through the European Development Fund (EDF). “We are now in the middle of its 11th cycle,” she said. “Excellencies, you will recall that at your meeting in 2016, Leaders were updated on the challenges faced in the programming the European Development Fund - Pacific Regional Indicative Programme for 2014 - 2020, commonly referred to as EDF 11. It is extremely disappointing that the region has still not been able to drawdown on the regional envelope of EDF 11 funds to address the agreed priority areas identified by the region. Further, the region has witnessed in recent months, a redistribution of funds within the regional indicative programme. It has also been brought to my attention that the European Union is considering a reduction in the allocated funds for the Pacific Regional Indicative Programme, particularly in the focal area on Regional Economic Integration”. This meeting provides the opportunity for Leaders to discuss this matter in more depth. Dame Meg also touched on other “high-level political issues and some operational matters” including the “Post-Cotonou Negotiations.” “As the expiry of the Cotonou Agreement in 2020 approaches, we will need to be proactive in ensuring that the development support under this arrangement is channelled effectively to our region and aligns with our regional priorities. We must also ensure that our priorities are reflected in any future partnership agreement with the European Union. The broader theme of the 48th Pacific Island Forum - The Blue Pacific - focuses on strengthening our collective identity and indeed collective political action to advance our regional priorities. I would therefore encourage the Pacific ACP Leaders to capitalise on this renewed impetus and new narrative, in progressing the preparatory discussions on post-Cotonou.”

Source: CTA Newsletter N 552

CARIFORUM- EU support firms in Leveraging the EPA

Supporting CARIFORUM firms to leverage the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) is at the forefront of the Caribbean Export Development Agency’s work programme as they implement the 11th EDF Regional Private Sector Development Programme (RPSDP) funded by the European Union. Over 70 business and Business Support Organisations participated in the specially held workshop at the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers’ Association’s (TTMA) Trade and Investment Convention (TIC) on Friday 7th July and a further 90 persons were able to participate via the live streaming. Co-hosts for the workshop, the European Union (EU) Delegation, expressed their commitment to supporting the region’s private sector highlighting that “one of the EPA’s main objectives is to promote economic growth of the region and to gradually integrate the Caribbean States into the world economy. It aims to increase chances for the Caribbean businesses to participate in global value chains and supports the conditions for increasing investment and private sector

initiatives, enhancing supply capacity and competitiveness in the CARIFORUM States” said Ambassador Biesebroek of the EU Delegation in Trinidad & Tobago in his remarks at the opening of the workshop. The EPA was signed in 2008, and the opportunity for CARIFORUM firms to grow their businesses through exporting is apparent. “Caribbean Export has focused its attention on providing export development services (such as training, grant financing, trade and business intelligence) to SMEs and Business Support Organisations in order to build their capacity and enhance their trade competitiveness globally” informed Robertha Reid, Senior Advisor at Caribbean Export. One of the Presenters, Dr. Noel Watson is currently working with the Agency to break down the EPA so that private sector can be more aware of the market opportunities available to them. Also sharing at the workshop was Mr. Adam Wisniewski from the EU Delegation’s office based in Barbados who expounded on the core elements of the EPA. The Agency, the EU Delegation and the CARIFORUM Directorate supported eight Business Support Organisations from across the region to exhibit at TIC to showcase the products of their respective members and countries in an effort to gain interest and increase regional trade. Events of the similar nature, bringing the Caribbean private sector together and explaining practical aspects of the EPA are to be organised regularly throughout the region.

Source: CTA Newsletter N 552

News from the ACP

Capitalisation of the project on mobilisation of own resources by the Boffa urban commune

The supporting project to mobilisation of own resources in Boffa reflects the clear willingness of the authorities of the Boffa urban commune to revitalise the local economy network and to boost the revenue of the commune. The objective is to support the Boffa urban commune to improve the exploitation of its economic potential to increase the collection and management of tax and incidental tax revenue, by designing a comprehensive approach to mobilising own resources. Three key activities have been initiated integrating a comprehensive approach to mobilising own resources in a synchronised manner. The first activity is based on the capacity strengthening for strategic planning and financial management. The second activity is centred on accountability and awareness on tax compliance and the last activity is on improvement of the control, collection and recovery by operational teams.

The Boffa urban commune has a huge economic potential which, with time and effective & efficient management, can initiate lasting local development, taking into account environmental requirements, with a potential revenue of more than €54,000 per year. These available resources are particularly in promising sectors, notably the Unique Property Tax (CFU), the patent, advertisement tax, boats tax and the revenues of the domain.

For two months, from April to June, enormous progress has been made. The team on the Unique Property Tax achieved 57% of the objective, with more than 2800 taxpayers recorded, with a fiscal potential of GNF82,322,750. More than 457 boats have been recorded for the boats tax, more than 50 people have been trained during the course of the project; the big market of the urban commune with a fiscal potential of GNF40,350,000; and three other weekly markets.

This project has been financed by the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs up to €185,000 through the credits of the Crisis and Support Centre allocated to the recovery plan post-Ebola in Guinea and implemented by the ACL Consulting firm in Senegal in partnership with the Charente-Maritime Cooperation and Expertise France.

Source: Newsletter ANCG N° 10 - January-July 2017

National Urban Policy Workshop Run by MIA

14 June, 2017, MIA, Bairiki - The Urban Management Unit of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) held a one-day workshop involving various government ministries, SOEs and selected Civil Societies, to formulate the first National Urban Policy. The workshop was facilitated by Ms. Charlene Liau, an Australian Technical Advisor volunteer and Eliza Tokataake, the Urban Management Officer.

The objectives of the workshop were to identify the urban development priorities, provide guidance on future developments and produce a framework on better coordination of investments in urban areas.

The participants showed great interest and were able to identify priority urban issues and match them up with relevant strategies to tackle and deal with them.

The National Urban Policy is an action assigned to MIA under the Kiribati Development Plan (KDP) 2016-2019 and listed under *Key Priority Area 4: Environment; Outcome 6: To improve the quality of environment in urban areas*. The KDP requires the National Urban Policy to be approved by Cabinet by 2018.

Urban areas are key contributors to greater economic growth as businesses benefit better infrastructure, greater access to employees and being located with similar businesses.

However, urban challenges are complex and varied. They include the degradation of the environment, increasing urban poverty, decreased health and education outcomes, increased crime and social conflict, and decreased economic opportunities.

Solutions to urban problem are difficult for government as no single ministry has complete responsibility for all urban issues; addressing urban issues require collaborative efforts by all stakeholders - the government, Councils, businesses and communities.

Currently around 57% (62,844 persons) of the total Kiribati population lives in urban local council areas - Betio Town Council, Teinainano Urban Council and Kiritimati Urban Council. This does not include the fast urbanising North Tarawa, which is not considered urban but has a population larger than Kiritimati within a smaller land area, which is over 6600 with a land area of 15.2 km² as against Kiritimati’s 6,400 with 388km².

A UNDP study of poverty in Kiribati showed the highest incidence of basic needs poverty occurred in South Tarawa, affecting 18.3% of households and 24.2% of the population. The urban centre of South Tarawa has seen a 12% (6,206 persons) increase in population in 2010 - 2015, and 24% (9,871) in 2005 -2010.

Source: KILGA Newsletter Vol 7 Issue 6 - June 2017

Announcements

CONNECT - Exchanging municipal expertise for tangible results

CONNECT, share and learn with your colleagues

Today, local and regional governments from all over the world can start making progress on issues ranging from urban and rural planning to ecotourism, sanitation and more. How? By requesting local expertise through CONNECT.

CONNECT is a new and practical mechanism created by PLATFORMA and one of its founding partners VNG International and supported by the European Commission. It gives you the possibility to connect with international colleagues and benefit from their experience, knowledge and skills. You can also offer your expertise and put it to good use in municipalities and regions around the world.

Municipal matchmaking

It all starts with an application. Once this has been validated, CONNECT seeks municipal colleagues in Europe and beyond: people with the right experience and knowledge for the job. CONNECT carefully matches local and regional (elected) officials and their expertise - then arrange the exchange.

This can take the form of:

- Expert assignments
- Roundtable meetings
- Temporary work placements
- Study visits

CONNECT continues working after the match has been made - monitoring and evaluating the actions taken before, during and after the exchange. This all leads to concrete solutions, new ideas and valuable connections.

Sharing knowledge

To increase the impact of CONNECT, local and regional government associations are involved in all exchanges. They can participate in events, and share the lessons learnt - either with local and regional governments, the central government or the international donor community. CONNECT also documents best practices, so that others can benefit too.

Find out more

You can discover more about CONNECT at www.platforma-dev.eu/connect

Are you interested in getting involved in CONNECT?

Email us at connect@ccre-cemr.org or call +32.2.265.09.30

Localizing the SDGs - Discover new tools and stories

Get the latest updates on the Toolbox for Localizing the SDGs, tools and instruments available to support the delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at local level.

Visit the virtual platform www.LocalizingTheSDGs.org and share your expertise and opinions, while exchanging with a wide range of actors from around the world.

Preventing and Combatting Corruption in local authorities and communities, 21 November-1 December 2017

The ongoing decentralisation and local development process in many African countries has also resulted in delocalisation of corruption. The important responsibilities and financial resources transferred at the local level made local decision-makers and actors more vulnerable to corruption especially since the financial sums at stake are more important in local communities. This change in the scale of corruption further increases the temptation of local elected officials and actors, and looking for efficient prevention solution becomes an imperative.

Objective

The objective of this session is to train leaders in concepts, methods & tools and to support local communities in establishing relevant potential mechanisms and approaches to reduce and eradicate corruption.

Target audience

This international session is meant for:

- Local elected officials and territorial agents willing to strengthen their knowledge in Preventing and combating corruption in local authorities and communities;
- Senior officers of Ministerial departments and Institutions in charge of Governance and local development;
- Officials from institutions involved in support-advice to local government;
- Officials responsible for training NGOs, grassroots community organisations, programmes and projects;

Practical information

Duration: 11 days

The course fee is €1.500/person excluding VTA. This includes registration fees and training materials as well as coffee breaks and lunches. Travel, accommodation, breakfast and dinner are not included.

Contact

ENDA ECOPOP - tel: +221.33.859.64.11 - fax: +221.33.860.51.33 - ecopop@endatiermonde.org - www.endaecopop.org

Fiscal Decentralisation and Local Finance, 12-23 February 2018, The Hague

How a country organises its public finances forms the basis for how local authorities govern priorities in cities, towns and villages. While national governments have the responsibility to design and supervise a system that works, local authorities are challenged to use their often limited resources for delivering better local services.

This course helps you in answering questions such as:

- How can spending responsibilities and revenue resources be best assigned to the different government layers, taking into account the country context?
- What are the responsibilities of national government in designing and supervising a system that works?
- How can sub-national governments be supported to increase local revenues and strengthen financial management?
- How can local authorities be held accountable by their citizens?

You will discuss the assignment of expenditure responsibilities and revenue sources, the design and implementation of intergovernmental transfers, financial accountability, gender budgeting and local government spending and monitoring. Country cases from a.o. Bangladesh, Kenya and Tanzania on intergovernmental transfer will be analysed. You will visit Dutch institutions including the Dutch Ministry of Home Affairs and the Court of Audit of the Municipality of Rotterdam.

Objective

This course will help you:

- Assess and monitor fiscal decentralisation practices in your country;
- Optimise the different sources of revenue, e.g. taxes, user fees and intergovernmental transfers;
- Find effective financing structures and partnerships to accomplish most with limited resources;
- Use revenue and expenditure tools;
- Increase your insight in financial management and fiscal accountability at the local level.

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

Target audience

Professionals responsible for the design and implementation of (fiscal) decentralisation processes, public sector reform programmes, public service delivery or financial management. The course is also aimed at individuals who work for national, regional or local governments, or donor and development organisations.

Practical information

The course fee is € 3,150. This includes all training-related costs, as well as drinks, lunches, training materials and travel during the training programme. Travel to and from The Hague and accommodation are not included. Group discounts are available if you participate with three or more colleagues in this course. Email us for more information. The course language is English.

For questions or more information about this course, please direct your inquiry to the Programme Manager, Nienke Vermeulen at info@thehagueacademy.com, or call +31-70-3738695.

The deadline for the application is **1 January 2018**.

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

<https://thehagueacademy.com/blog/2017/03/fiscal-decentralisation-2018/>

Reading

EU kick-starts its new EU External Investment Plan

https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/eu-kick-starts-its-new-eu-external-investment-plan_en

Will less concessional development assistance for Africa cause another debt crisis? The Brookings Institute

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2017/09/21/will-less-concessional-development-assistance-for-africa-cause-another-debt-crisis/>

The relationship between drought and famine: lessons from the Horn of Africa. The Conversation

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A New Way of Doing Business: Partnering for Sustainable Development and Peace. The International Peace Institute

<https://www.ipinst.org/2017/09/partnering-for-sustainable-development-peace>

Study on African mediation highlights the significance of the mandate. The Conversation

https://theconversation.com/study-on-african-mediation-highlights-the-significance-of-the-mandate-83046?utm_campaign=Echobox&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Twitter#link_time=1505900547

Five ways to support state-building and recovery in conflict areas. ODI

<https://www.odi.org/opinion/10461-five-ways-support-state-building-and-recovery-conflict-areas>

Opinion: The SDGs are good enough and it's time to stop analysing and start acting, the International Institute for Sustainable Development argues in an article for Devex.

<https://www.devex.com/news/opinion-the-sdgs-are-good-enough-and-it-s-time-to-stop-analyzing-and-start-acting-91074>

The world is losing a generation of development leaders, and Melinda Gates wants to fix that

<https://qz.com/1080542/unga-2017-melinda-gates-wants-to-find-and-support-the-next-generation-of-leaders-in-global-development/>

Not your parents' foreign aid: The shift from power to proximity and poverty. The Brookings Institute

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BRICS Leaders Stress Economic, Development Cooperation at Xiamen Summit. ICTSD
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Changing the rules of aid: understanding ODA modernisation. Development Initiative
http://devinit.org/post/changing-rules-of-aid-understanding-oda-modernisation/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email

World's poor bearing the brunt of global crises, stresses UN rights expert
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The frontier for climate resilience begins with smallholder farmers. African Development Bank Group
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Intra-African trade critical for economic growth. BizCommunity
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Are cash transfers better chunky or smooth? Evidence from Nigeria. The World Bank
<http://blogs.worldbank.org/african/are-cash-transfers-better-chunky-or-smooth-evidence-from-nigeria>

In 2016, resources to support development in African countries have decreased by 22% since 2012, according to the 2017 Data report by the advocacy organisation ONE.
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Trump's Africa policy is still incoherent, but key signals are emerging. SAIIA
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Designing a new UK preferences regime post-Brexit: how Africa can benefit. ODI

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What's next for impact bonds in developing countries? The Brookings Institute

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Water Stress is Driving Conflict and Migration. How Should the Global Community Respond? WRI

<http://www.wri.org/blog/2017/09/water-stress-driving-conflict-and-migration-how-should-global-community-respond>

The Land-Water-Energy Nexus: Biophysical and economic consequences

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How solar power can be made even more attractive for Africa

<http://africanarguments.org/2017/09/26/how-solar-power-can-be-made-even-more-attractive-for-africa/>

Don't ignore the one group that can make climate action happen

<http://www.irinnews.org/opinion/2017/09/20/don-t-ignore-one-group-can-make-climate-action-happen>

Can democracy alone deliver prosperity and stability?

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Sustainable Development Goals: two years in, we need the right incentives. ODI

<https://www.odi.org/comment/10551-sustainable-development-goals-two-years-we-need-right-incentives>

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