



Newsletter N° 48 - December 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
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
Zimbabwe	30/01/2018	25.500.000	EuropeAid/157821/DD/ACT/ZW
Swaziland	foreseen	300.000	EuropeAid/139214/ID/ACT/SZ
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

European Development Days 2018, 5-6 June 2018, Brussels - First Community Meeting, 24 January 2018, Brussels
The 12th EDD edition will focus on 'Women and Girls at the Forefront of Sustainable Development: protect, empower, invest' and offer a platform for stakeholders across all sectors to bring this topic to the fore.

Over the years, EDD has built a community and the first Community Meeting taking place in Brussels on 24 January 2018 will launch this unique participatory approach, where everyone can play a role in the EDD programme.

Registration for the first Community Meeting will be open as of first week of January 2018.

For further information please contact the EDD team at community@eudevdays.eu

EU: 2018 budget agreed with cuts in development aid

In the early hours of Saturday (18 November), after 16 hours of negotiations, the EU member states and the European Parliament struck a deal on the EU's budget for 2018, three days before the end of the conciliation period on 20 November at midnight. Total commitments are set at €160.1bn and payments at €144.7bn. Finance Ministers rejected the European Parliament's proposal to increase external spending and agreed to limit funding at €9.57bn, a decrease of €868m, or 8%, below the final 2017 budget, with €256m left unallocated in the margin. Compared to 2017, long-term development aid was cut by 6%, however health and education funding will increase to €206m and agriculture, food security and nutrition funding will rise to €217m in 2018. The agreement also outlines a slight increase from 2017 to humanitarian aid, to €1.1bn. "We have strived this year to maximise the impact of EU spending, whilst maintaining sufficient leeway to be able to react to unforeseeable needs," said Märt Kivine, deputy finance minister of Estonia and chief Council negotiator for the 2018 EU budget. "The 2018 budget focuses strongly on priorities such as boosting economic growth and job creation, strengthening security and addressing the challenges posed by migration."

Sources: EurActiv & CTA Newsletter N 560 EN

The European Union's External Investment Plan: green light for the first five investment areas

Brussels, 23 November 2017

The European Commission has defined concrete areas of investments for its External Investment Plan. The new plan will mobilise €44 billion of sustainable investment for Africa and the EU Neighbourhood countries.

The European Commission singles out five areas of investment, so-called "investment windows", in which the first actions of the External Investment Plan (EIP) will be implemented. These investment areas are crucial for the sustainable development in countries in Africa and the EU Neighbourhood countries.

The High Representative/ Vice-President Federica **Mogherini** said: *"The European External Investment Plan is the largest ever investment programme for Africa. Today, only four per cent of global foreign direct investment goes to Africa. With the European External Investment Plan, we can raise at least €44 billion in private investment by 2020, notably for the most fragile parts of the continent. I hope and I expect that others will join this effort. This is a strong signal of the strengthened partnership with Africa as we are heading towards the AU/EU Summit next week."*

Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven **Mimica** added: *"With today's decision we are setting the agenda for sustainable investments. Unlocking the potential of sustainable energy, promoting digitalisation for development or supporting micro, small and medium sized enterprises will help us to create sustainable development and reduce poverty, for the benefit of all."*

Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes **Hahn** commented: *"The investment windows represent real opportunity for many people and businesses in partner countries and in the European Union. Involving the private sector and securing the most conducive environment for it to flourish will contribute to sustainable growth, which is what we aim for. The External Investment Plan will bring tangible results for citizens across our Neighbourhood and beyond, contribute to job creation and greater competitiveness, stronger economy, governance, connectivity, and a stronger society."*

The five investment windows include:

- "Sustainable Energy and Connectivity" - to attract investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency and transport.
- "Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) Financing" - to improve MSME's access to finance. Such businesses are the main employers in Africa and the EU Neighbourhood, and offer important and more sustainable alternatives to the informal economy.
- "Sustainable Agriculture, Rural Entrepreneurs and Agribusiness" - to provide better access to finance for smallholders, cooperatives and micro, small and medium sized enterprises agribusiness, allowing to address food security issues.
- "Sustainable Cities" - to mobilise investments in sustainable urban development of municipal infrastructure, including urban mobility, water, sanitation, waste management, renewable energy services.
- "Digital for Development" - to promote investments in innovative digital solutions for local needs, financial inclusion and decent job creation.

Background

As a next step, the European Commission will invite eligible financial institutions, for example development banks, to present their concrete proposals for investment programmes within these five areas. After an assessment by the Commission and independent experts, a number of selected financial institutions will be entrusted with managing these investment programmes. The first agreements with such financial institutions are expected to be signed in the first half of 2018.

Businesses and organisations, who would like to benefit from support under the EIP, will then be able to contact these financial institutions with their project proposals. A dedicated EIP secretariat and a web portal will help to guide interested businesses.

Projects have to have a clear sustainable development objective and contribute to economic and social development, with a focus on sustainability and job creation, particularly for youth and women. Investment proposals should provide adequate risk sharing, be economically and financially viable, as well as socially and environmentally sustainable. They have to address market failures or sub-optimal investment situations and must not distort market competition.

For further information

Press release:

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-17-4884_en.htm

Factsheets and guides on the EU's External Investment Plan:

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/factsheets-and-guides-eus-external-investment-plan_en

Questions and answers about the European External Investment Plan:

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-17-3484_en.htm

News from the ACP-EU

EIB banking on new business in East Africa

Offering credit to East African banks might not be many people's idea of traditional development aid. Yet promoting private small and medium enterprise, alongside funding for infrastructure projects that will help develop local businesses, lies at the heart of the new strategy for Africa. Dating back to the Cotonou Agreement, signed in 2000 by the EU and 78 African, Caribbean and Pacific states in Benin, the strategic goals are changing with the EU focusing much more on increasing stability and resilience by supporting economic development programmes to defuse migration pressures. The Luxembourg-based European Investment Bank (EIB) lends €700m per year to banks and financial sector

firms across sub-Saharan Africa. The bank, which is jointly owned by the EU's 28 countries, has been active in East Africa since the 1960s and has had a regional bureau in Nairobi since 2005. The EIB-backed lending has however changed over the years. In 2016, 49% of EIB-backed lending in Africa supported private sector investment by small and medium sized businesses. "There is clearly a fairly large appetite," says Catherine Collin, the bank's regional representative in East Africa, of the credit lines in euros, dollars or local currency that the EIB and its partners are offering to local banks. Alongside the credit, the EIB offers technical assistance programmes for banks and the local entrepreneurs who are the intended recipients of funding, alongside programmes improve financial literacy. "We were asked by EU member states to target more the training needs of final beneficiaries," says Collin.

Sources: EurActiv & CTA Newsletter N 560

Fourth meeting of the Joint CARIFORUM-EU Council

The Fourth Meeting of the Joint CARIFORUM-EU Council under the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) took place in Brussels, Belgium, on 17 November 2017. The Meeting was co-chaired by Ms. Cecilia Malmström, EU Commissioner for Trade and by Mr. Sven Mikser, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Estonia and representing the EU Council. The CARIFORUM delegation included Ministers of CARIFORUM States and was led by Senator the Honourable Ms. Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Jamaica. EU Member States were also present. The Joint CARIFORUM-EU Council is the highest body of the CARIFORUM-EU EPA and is vested with the responsibility of supervising the implementation of the EPA. The Council meets every two years for political discussion and to provide ministerial guidance for EPA implementation. The Meeting noted the recommendations emanating from the Third Meeting of the CARIFORUM-EU Parliamentary Committee, held on 31 October - 1 November 2017 in Trinidad and Tobago and the Third Meeting of the CARIFORUM-EU Consultative Committee, held on 6-7 November 2017 in Trinidad and Tobago, which reflect the important role those Committees have in EPA implementation and communication.

Sources: EIN news & CTA Newsletter N 560 EN

Pacific - EU: Import substitution focus

Developing import substitution on exports of fruit and vegetables and addressing market opportunities was on the agenda of a workshop organised by the Pacific Community (SPC) in Nadi on 20 November 2017. The two-day discussions were part of the Improving Key Services to Agriculture (IKSA) project implemented by SPC and funded by the European Union. According to SPC, participants would discuss factors generating the selection of produce and ingredients, particularly in terms of menu design at Fiji's resorts, trading of local produce and the ability to meet the demands of resorts as well as production models used to grow produce for timely and reliable local supply. Discussions on accessing new export markets, improving the compliance of farmers and exporters through quality controls on exported fruit and vegetables and monitoring of compliance by the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji and by the Ministry of Agriculture was also on the agenda. EU Delegation for the Pacific head of co-operation Christoph Wagner said the EU was proud to finance the IKSA project, which assisted farmers with practical support. "To complement the support to improve the supply side of agriculture production, through the enhanced research and extension services for nursery and farmer development, the IKSA project is, through this workshop, addressing the demand side," he said.

Sources: Fiji Times & CTA Newsletter N 560 EN

News from the ACP

Female Elected Leaders Training (FELT) Held for Female Councillors

Eight of ten elected female Councillors attended KiLGA's Female Elected Leaders Training (FELT), jointly sponsored by Canada Fund and SPC's Regional Rights Resources Team (RRRT) which took place from 16-20 October, 2017 at various venues in South Tarawa.

The first session of the training allowed the female Councillors to express their expectation about it. Most said it was useful and would provide "new knowledge and skills and leaders tools, to improve our work as a female Councillor, since our communities and male-dominated Councils, still consider males as leaders."

The **Locally-Elected Leaders** training (LEL) based on the UN HABITAT manual, focusing on nine leaders' competencies was delivered by Rine Ueara, a former Director of Local Government and experienced LEL Trainer.

Opening – That same afternoon, the opening reception at Koakoa Restaurant was officiated by Vice President Hon. Kourabi Nenem and witnessed by government officials, female MPs, ChildFund and UNICEF officials, Resource Persons and other partners. In his opening address, Hon. Kourabi Nenem thanked KiLGA for organising the training and the donors for providing funding.

"We've all been talking about organising such a training but never got around to doing it, so we happy that KiLGA has taken the lead in this area", said the Vice President.

DAY 2 of the FELT workshop saw RRRT's Focal Officer, Mr. Amberoti Nikora, assisted by Ms. Aileen Bauro and Henty Pine, explain Human Rights, the Constitution and UN Conventions.

The Manager of *Te-toamatoa*, Mr. Tekamangu, assisted by Ms. Teewata, then explained the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). James Teaero, Disability Officer of MWYSA, also provided information on Government's policy dealing with disabled persons, that involves Councils.

The Head of the Women's Division in MWYSA, Anne Kautu, later explained the Gender-Based Violence Policy. She was followed by Tabotabo Auatabu who talked on the rights of children, and answered many questions from participants.

DAY 3 was held at the UNJPO in Tekabutkeke, and focused on the Transformational Leadership, delivered by Katarina Tofinga, of UN WOMEN. She was followed by Ms. Tarema Henry, of UNICEF, who explained the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

DAY 4 took place at the PSO Boardroom, focusing on the KV20 and International Meetings protocols, conducted by Tessy Lambourne, the Secretary to Cabinet.

She was followed by Mr. Terieta Mwemwenikeaki, Secretary of PSO and Chairman of the National Anti-Corruption Committee, who explained the National Anti-Corruption Strategic Plan 2017-2020. He was followed by the Akineti Tuen who talked on the Small Grants procedures.

Lunch with the First Lady - The participants then had lunch with Madam Teiraeng Maamau at the State House, on the invitation of the First Lady.

Parliament - In the afternoon, a guided tour of the Parliament allowed the participants to meet the Speaker and enter the Parliament chamber.

Source: KiLGA Newsletter Vol 7 Issue 10 - October 2017

Announcements

Citizen participation and Inclusive Governance, 5-16 March 2018, The Hague

Inclusive development requires responsive governments and empowered citizens. But what can local officials and civil society organisations do to ensure all voices are heard?

In this training course, participants will discuss ways to involve citizens - especially minorities and marginalised groups - to create a culture of inclusive governance. Participants will also learn about how civil society can empower citizens to voice concerns and keep their governments accountable to issues affecting their community.

This training will be a true experience! In this course, you will meet the Ombudsman of The Hague and visit examples of joint policymaking and multi-stakeholder governance, such as neighbourhood projects in the city of Amsterdam / The Hague.

You will work on an enlightening case study of a social housing project in Camdeboo, South Africa. And you will experience the role of the media through practical exercises from Radio Netherlands.

Objectives

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 this course, you will receive a professional certificate of completion from The Hague Academy for Local Governance.

Intended audience

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

Experts

Contributions come from professionals and practitioners in the field of accountability and participation. This will include ombudsman, municipal staff, practitioners and experts from well-known international 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, Lars Burema at info@thehagueacademy.com, or call +31-70-3738695.

The deadline for the application is **22 January 2018**.

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

<https://thehagueacademy.com/blog/2017/03/citizen-participation-inclusive-governance-2018/>

Integrity and Anti-corruption, 9-20 April 2018, The Hague

Corruption is one of the root causes of extreme poverty, conflict and state fragility. It cripples service delivery and the rule of law, and it has corrosive effects on business practices, economic policy and social development. Moreover, international research has repeatedly shown that poor people suffer most from corruption.

The Hague Academy will convene participants again for one of its most popular and highly-relevant courses. This course will help you to understand the drivers of corruption. You will strengthen your analytical skills and learn about the instruments necessary to develop integrity and anti-corruption policies and programmes in line with recent international initiatives, legislation and agreements.

Objectives

This course will help you:

- Examine the cross-cutting nature of corruption and its impact on social and economic development and the rule of law;
- Assess corruption vulnerabilities in governance institutions and processes;
- Learn about innovative instruments and the latest international developments related to integrity and anti-corruption, and analyse how these instruments can be employed to work in your country context;
- Engage with government, civil society and the private sector leaders to develop and implement integrity and anti-corruption policies and programmes with a view to achieving sustainable and equitable development;

- Support the establishment and strengthening of effective accountability and integrity institutions in locally appropriate ways;
- Learn from the experiences of the experts, as well as your fellow participants, and expand your professional network in the field of integrity and anti-corruption.

After this course, you will receive a professional certificate of completion from The Hague Academy for Local Governance.

Intended audience

This course is intended for consultants and professionals working for: government, international organisations or NGOs and who are involved in anti-corruption, transparency and accountability processes in relation to development and governance.

The Experts

Senior experts in the field of integrity and the eradication of corruption will share their expertise:

- **Henk Bruning** (is an expert and associate of VNG-International and works in Spain and other countries to develop good governance and integrity programs in relation to capacity building and HRM programs. He has a great knowledge of i.e. international standards of HRM and organisational policy and previously he worked as a project manager of large organisational change, transition and implementation programmes)
- **Ana Vasilache** (Director of the Partners Foundation for Local Development, a Romanian NGO enhancing democratic processes worldwide and strengthening civil society. She was appointed Vice-President of the Executive Committee of Partners for Democratic Change International (PDCI). Since 2004, she addresses corruption in local governments within the CEE/SEE anti-corruption network)
- **Prof. Dr. Henk Addink** (professor in administrative law and good governance, Utrecht University)
- **A representative of Transparency International NL** (he/she will provide tips and guidance on how to address issues of corruption in government, business and among citizens who abuse levels of power)

Participants will also gain insights through study visits to Dutch institutions such as the Ombudsman, the National Public Prosecutor for Corruption, the National Police and the House for Whistleblowers.

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 **23 February 2018**.

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

<https://thehagueacademy.com/blog/2017/03/integrity-anti-corruption-2018/>

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L’Afrique est-elle prête à signer des accords de partenariat économique (APE) avec l’Union européenne ? Forbes Afrique

http://www.forbesafrique.com/L-Afrique-est-elle-prete-a-signer-des-accords-de-partenariat-economique-APE-avec-l-Union-europeenne_a10142.html

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<https://www.africaportal.org/features/africa-open-borders-possibility-or-pipe-dream/>
The AU-EU Abidjan Summit: Is there life beyond migration? ECDPM
<http://ecdpm.org/talking-points/au-eu-abidjan-summit-life-beyond-migration/>
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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