



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

Newsletter N° 52 - December 2018

The AISBL 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**

Countries	Deadline	Budget (EURO)	Reference
Papua New Guinea	12/02/2019	5.400.000	EuropeAid/161036/DD/ACT/PG

• **Food Security**

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

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

Countries	Deadline	Budget (EURO)	Reference
All countries	22/01/2019	15.000.000	EuropeAid/161042/DH/ACT/Multi
Papua New Guinea	open	295.000	EuropeAid/131030/L/ACT/PG

• **Various fields in ACP countries**

Countries	Deadline	Budget (EURO)	Reference
Uganda	29/01/2019	1.950.000	EuropeAid/161845/IH/ACT/UG
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 ACP-LG Platform

The Extraordinary meetings of the General Assembly (G.A.) and of the Board of the ACP-LG Platform were held in Brussels on 22-23 October 2018. Below are the conclusions and decisions of the meetings:

ACP-LG Platform - The journey so far

The G.A. traced the foundation of the Platform's creation to 1994 and acknowledged the positive role played and contributions made by various organisations to its growth. The G.A. also acknowledged with gratitude the ground-breaking role played by Mr Katiza as the founding father of the Platform. The G.A. also noted:

- That AULA started to lobby for the inclusion of local government (LG) in the ACP-EU cooperation in 1994 and in May 1994 AULA started in earnest to organise consultations on the establishment of the Platform. This establishment was further aided by the December 1999 seminar in Brussels organised by the European Commission (EC) and the ACP Secretariat on how to build a stronger partnership between the EC and LG from the ACP and EU. Among the conclusions of the seminar was a plan to gradually set up a full-fledged and operational Platform to represent the interests of LG in ACP-EU cooperation. AULA was mandated to prepare the groundwork for the setting-up of the Platform.
- That in February 2001 AULA organised a workshop in Harare attended by AULA members, PDM (representing Western and Central Africa), MDP-ESA (representing Eastern and Southern Africa) and ECDPM in order to produce the structure of the Platform. In May 2001 during the 35th World Conference of the International Union of Local Authorities [IULA] in Rio de Janeiro - a general meeting of ACP delegates formally established the Platform. However its official establishment under the Belgian law only took place in October 2006.
- That since 2001 the Platform organised various meetings among ACP-LG associations and also various rounds of consultation with officials from the EU (EC, European Parliament, European Economic and Social Committee, etc.) and from the ACP (ACP Ambassadors, ACP Secretariat, etc.).

- That as regards funding, in 2004 the Platform received a seed funding from DFID [UK Department for International Development], then in 2008 a funding from DED [German Development Service] in Harare and in 2009/2010 a funding from ACP-EU through the ARIAL programme helping to strengthen the capacity and resources of ACP-LG associations at both national, regional and all-ACP-EU levels.
- The Platform has also provided ongoing services to members in order to help them to respond to EU calls for proposals.
- The Platform has also benefited immensely from the support of its partner ECDPM since the very beginning.

The G.A. acknowledged the untiring effort and sacrifice made by the Chairman and the CEO/Administrateur délégué in keeping the Platform functioning since 2008 and affirmed its full confidence in and immense gratitude for the work done on its behalf since 2008 by both the Chairman and the CEO/Administrateur délégué. The G.A. unanimously agreed that all the actions and measures taken in the name and on behalf of the Platform by the Chairman and the CEO/Administrateur délégué since 2008 to date in order to effectively ensure the continuity and the smooth and effective functioning of the Platform are ratified and approved by the G.A.

Given its journey so far, its various achievements in the face of difficult challenges, the G.A. agreed unanimously to continue the journey and to strengthen the Platform especially in view of ensuring the inclusion of ACP-LG interests in the post-2020 ACP-EU cooperation agreement and therefore mandated the Board to undertake a strategic review of the Platform with the view to strengthening it, and in particular its membership and governance structures and to address the issue of financial sustainability.

Positioning and contribution of the ACP-LG Platform to the debates and negotiations of post-2020 ACP-EU relationship
Review of present provision and support for ACP-LG: The meeting noted that the establishment of the Platform facilitated the incorporation of ACP-LG into the ACP-EU cooperation. Thanks to the lobbying done by the Platform, the revised Cotonou Agreement recognises LG as key development actors that should be involved in dialogue and consultation, be provided with financial resources, be involved in the ACP-EU projects & programmes, and be provided with capacity building support.

Areas of present provisions requiring strengthening: The meeting also noted the long and difficult journey to integrate ACP-LG in the ACP-EU cooperation process in spite of the promises of the Cotonou Agreement. The ARIAL programme is a good example of the inconsistency of development policy in terms of access procedure (it took us 7 years to get ARIAL - which is not normal); lack of long-term commitment (the implementation period of 3/4 years of ARIAL is too short to allow efficient capacity-building); etc. The G.A. recognises the need to lobby ACP and EU officials for an improved terms and conditions for the inclusion of ACP-LG interests in the post-2020 ACP-EU partnership.

Time line for action: In the light of its importance, the meeting mandated the Board to come up within 3/4 months with a comprehensive provision in terms of:

- Memorandum of the Platform to set the position of ACP-LG in the areas they need strengthening
- Strategy for lobbying to ensure the incorporation of ACP-LG interests into the future ACP-EU cooperation

Assessment of the state of effective members of the Platform

The G.A. and the Board reviewed and took note of the state of effective membership of the association. In this respect, the Board will seek to enlarge the membership base as soon as the statutes are revised and accordingly mount a new membership drive to widen the membership to include all LG actors in the ACP - as recommended by the 6th & 7th Board meetings.

The Board like the G.A. is equally concerned that certain associations have not been active nor participated nor contributed in any way to the activities and functioning of the Platform since 2008 and therefore cannot be classified as effective members.

Future direction of the Platform

The Board be mandated to meet in 3/4-month time to:

- Engage in a deeper consideration of the future direction of the Platform and to make specific proposals and recommendations relating to:
 - Membership & governance structures and issues relating to financial sustainability
 - Review and update of the statutes: To review the proposals of the 6th & 7th Board meetings on the statutes of the Platform and to propose the necessary amendments to the statutes
 - Post-2020 Strategic Plan of the Platform
- Prepare the Platform Memorandum articulating its position vis-à-vis the post-2020 ACP-EU relations debates and negotiations and to map out a strategy for lobbying for the inclusion of local government interest, especially as regards: ACP-LG capacity-building; adequate funding and better coverage; simple access procedures; engagement in political dialogue; and access to information.
- Prepare and organise a meeting of the G.A. within the next 12 months in order to allow the G.A. to consider some of the proposal emanating from the above points.

Revamping the Board

The Assembly took note, for all intents and purposes, that the mandate of the 3 Administrators - who were nominated for a 2-year term during the constitution of the association, and whose mandate has not been renewed - ended on 12/10/2008.

In order to provide a strong voice on behalf of ACP-LG in the post-2020 debates and negotiations, the G.A. recognised the need for a revamped and active Board composed of mixture of old and new hands to provide guidance and leadership for this task. Consequently, the G.A. nominated the following Administrators/Board members: Mr Chares Katiza - ACP; Ms Lala Elisa Rafamatanantsoa - ACP; Mr Biram Owens Ndiaye - Western Africa; Ms Gertrude Rose Gamwera - Eastern Africa; Mr George Matovu - Eastern Africa; Mr Maurice Mbolela - Southern Africa; Mr Michel Kalworai - Pacific.

Given the future workload of the Board and in order to ensure inclusiveness of all that can make a positive contribution, the G.A. nominated the following as ex-officio members of the Board: Mr Félix Mourény Adegnika - Western & Central Africa; Mr Phillip Kundishora - Eastern & Southern Africa; and Mr Livison Mutekede - Southern Africa.

Appointment and mandate of the principal officers of the Platform

Meeting on 23/10/2018 the Board by acclamation reappointed the 2 principal officers as follows:

- Mr Charles Katiza as Chairman for 2 years with the quality of representative of the Platform at the highest level; and
- Ms Lala Elisa Rafamatanantsoa as CEO/Administrateur délégué with the responsibilities for daily management and representation of the association.

Acknowledgment

The G.A. and the Board acknowledged with gratitude the strong support of the Government of Vanuatu to the ACP-LG Platform over the years.

Done on 23 October 2018 by all participants in the G.A. and the Board.

News from the EU

Forum 'Cities and Regions for Development Cooperation: Local and regional partnerships for sustainable urban development', 4-5 February 2019 in Brussels

Co-organised by the European Committee of the Regions and the European Commission, this Forum (formerly called "Assises of Decentralised Cooperation") will focus on partnerships supporting sustainable urban development and helping deliver the UN's SDGs at local and regional levels.

This 2019 edition will include an "Open Space" session clustered around the theme of sustainable urban development under the five pillars of the New European Consensus (People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership). Through this participatory approach, participants will have the opportunity to intervene in the debate, suggest topics for discussion and convey policy recommendations to the European institutions.

To maximise synergies and enhance visibility, we propose to promote partners' side events or seminars by including them in the programme. Your side event should be related to development cooperation and take place after the Forum. Please note that we will not be able to contribute to the organisation of your event (neither in terms of logistics nor financing). If you wish to organise such a side event, please inform us by writing to CRDEVCO2019@ibf.be and LRA4DEV@cor.europa.eu

For further information: <http://www.regiocitiesconf2019.eu/en/>

Agenda of the Forum: https://cor.europa.eu/en/events/Documents/CIVEX/forum-for-development-cooperation/COM-050_agenda.pdf?cldee=cGxhdGZvcmlAYWNwbGdwLm5ldA%3d%3d&recipientid=contact-042646903244e61180dc005056a0542b-4555289638fb48a8b73ea44d297430ab&esid=ca0dad55-93fc-e811-8113-005056a043ea

News on the Post-Cotonou negotiations

EU and ACP countries conclude 1st round of negotiations

The first series of talks between the EU and 79 countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) led to broad convergence on the structure of the future agreement and the strategic priorities. On 14/12/2018, at the ACP house in Brussels, the EU's Chief Negotiator, Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, said: "We welcome the progress made so far. There is still a great deal of work ahead, given our ambitions and the scope of what we want to achieve together. We are looking forward to stepping up the pace to embark on a new path with the negotiation of tailor-made EU-Africa, EU-Caribbean and EU-Pacific pillars early next year." The ACP Council of Ministers met on Wednesday 12 December 2018 to take stock of the negotiation process. The Ministers appreciated the substantive progress made in the talks and observed that the coming stage in the process is demanding and would require flexibility and convergence from both sides. The ACP Chief Negotiator and Chair of the Ministerial Central Negotiating Group who is also the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Africa integration of Togo Professor Robert Dussey, said: "I take pride in the achievements recorded in a short span of time since the start of the negotiations. The positive spirit exhibited by the two sides is greatly encouraging and extremely useful in reaching a meaningful outcome in the next round." Next steps: As of January, talks will intensify. The second round of technical negotiations is expected to take place over a three-month period. Throughout that time, EU and ACP countries will start drafting the agreement around agreed priorities.

Sources: ACP Secretariat + CTA Newsletter 590

Post-Cotonou negotiations: Sustainable agriculture must remain key priority

Agriculture must be at the heart of the successor to the Cotonou Agreement between the EU and the ACP community, writes Michael Hailu - the Director of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA). "As global business leaders gather in Morocco today (30 November) for the EU-Africa Business Summit to focus on economic relations between African countries and the European Union, it is timely to remember that by 2050, the world will have another two billion mouths to feed. Without urgent reforms to agricultural production, the consequences will be both destabilising and devastating. With nearly 10 billion people, we need 65 to 100% more food than we currently produce and because land - already in short supply - is limited, we know this food is mostly going to have to come from increased yields and sustainable intensification of agriculture. Today's Summit is particularly important given the fact formal negotiations on the future of ACP-EU relations are currently underway and the Cotonou Partnership Agreement between the EU and 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP), which has been in place for two decades, is due to expire on 29 February 2020. The current agreement covers one in every five people in the world and that in Africa alone, 100 million young people will enter the workforce over the next ten years - the majority depending on agriculture for jobs. So decisions made now could have serious consequences on their future livelihoods, jobs, food and nutrition security. However, current targets set by the African Union - to create around three million new jobs each year in the African agri-food sectors - are not on track. And, with the average age of farmers in Africa still between 55 and 60, we need a significant and concerted effort to change course - and quickly.

Smallholder farmers, who produce 80% of food in Africa, must increase productivity and efficiency but we cannot achieve this shift without making rural jobs more attractive for the younger generation. A game-changing catalyst for this is digitalisation: a mobilised, tech-savvy youth who can deploy disruptive tools and business models have the greatest potential to transform the status quo. With technology, we can even bypass traditional stages of development, making much more rapid gains”.

Sources: euractiv.com + CTA Newsletter 588 EN

News from the ACP-EU

Co-Chairs' Summary of the High-Level Forum Africa-Europe 2018

On 18 December 2018, at the invitation of the Chancellor of Austria, Sebastian Kurz, and the President of Rwanda, Paul Kagame, the High-Level Forum Africa-Europe was held in Vienna to discuss “Taking cooperation to the digital age”. More than fifty official delegations from Member States of the African Union and the European Union took part in the Forum along with almost a thousand innovators and start-ups from Africa and Europe, as well as established companies. The High-Level Forum Africa-Europe provided a space for European and African Heads of State or government, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the President of the European Commission, the President of the European Parliament, representatives of international organisations, CEOs of major global companies, innovation champions, start-ups and other stakeholders - to reflect and act on what needs to be done to secure prosperity and competitiveness on both continents as well as to deepen the relationship in all its aspects with a specific focus on taking cooperation to the digital age. The Forum underlined the critical need to step up European private-sector investments in Africa and highlighted the changes to the policy and legal framework that are needed for that to happen. It emphasised the need for de-risking and blending in order to leverage resources as well as the need to focus on sectors that have the potential for high job growth in Africa in order to harness its youth dividend. The High-Level Forum Africa-Europe aimed at contributing to the ongoing implementation of the joint declaration of the 2017 Abidjan Summit between the African Union and the European Union that was entitled “Investing in Youth for Accelerated Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development”. The Forum focused on unlocking the potential of the digital economy for Africa and Europe to create jobs, skills and economic development for the youth.

Sources: eu2018.at + CTA Newsletter 590 EN

EU supports the African Continental Free Trade Area with €50 M

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is one of the key priorities of Africa’s Agenda 2063 and a flagship project for the continent. Signed by 49 African countries and ratified by 13 countries so far, it needs 22 more ratifications to enter into force. In September 2018, Commission President Juncker had announced in his State of the Union address that the EU would allocate €50 million of support for the period 2018-2020. A first step was taken on 18/12/2018 with a €3 million programme signed with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) to develop national implementation strategies for the continental free trade area. The establishment of an African trade observatory is also planned, and will be a key pillar of the African Continental Free Trade Area. The remaining budget (€47 million) will be used to provide a solid evidence base, policy analysis and strategic dialogue platforms; advice to lower technical barriers and harmonisation of African policies and the classification of goods, standards and regulations. The bulk of this funding is planned to be committed in the next two years. The AfCFTA aims at providing a single continental market for goods and services, with free movement of people and investments. Its goal is to accelerate Intra-Africa trade through better harmonisation and coordination of trade liberalisation. Through these measures, the establishment of the AfCFTA is expected to gather impetus to boost economic growth and attract investments from both within Africa and the world. The EU, with its extensive experience with creating an internal market, has been supporting the free trade area since its inception in 2015 and remains committed to support its ratification and implementation process.

Sources: ec.europa.eu + CTA Newsletter 590 EN

EIB confirms support for €495M transformational investment in Africa

At the Africa-Europe High-Level Forum in Vienna on 18/12/2018 the European Investment Bank formally agreed a total of €495 million of new financing for three projects to support sustainable transport, clean energy and internet access projects in North, West and East Africa. The three projects, signed at the summit attended by Heads of State and government from across Africa and Europe, demonstrate the European Investment Bank’s technical and financial support for life-changing investment across the continent. “New investment is crucial to unlock economic opportunities, improve lives and tackle the impact of a changing climate. As the EU Bank, the European Investment Bank is committed to ensuring the sustainable development goals can be achieved in Africa. Sustainable transport, clean energy and communications networks are shared challenges for Europe and Africa. Working together we can improve the lives of millions. The three projects signed today are more evidence of this.” said Dr. Werner Hoyer, President of the European Investment Bank.

Sources: eib.org + CTA Newsletter 590

EU: recommendations for rural Africa

At the High-Level Forum Africa-Europe 2018, the Task Force Rural Africa presented its recommendations for sustainable development and job creation in rural Africa. Established to advise on how best to develop Africa’s agriculture and food sectors and its rural economy, the Task Force proposed to improve access to private finance for small and medium size agriculture and food businesses and to mainstream environmental sustainability and promote climate action, among other recommendations. Launched in May 2018, the Task Force consists of 11 members appointed in a personal capacity, with expertise and experience in agriculture, agri-business or agroindustry, trade, development policy or migration related issues and first-hand knowledge of the agri-food sector in Africa. Meeting regularly from the launch to early December 2018, the group of experts focused on sustainability, and jobs and income creation in the African agri-food sector, taking into account the continent’s rapidly increasing labour force. The Task Force’s central recommendation is to implement an innovative Africa-Europe partnership for the inclusive and sustainable development of African agriculture, its agri-food sector and rural

economy. This partnership would operate on three levels: people-to-people, business-to-business, and government to government.

Sources: ec.europa.eu + CTA Newsletter 590 EN

Jean-Claude Juncker: "Africa's future is also our future"

Juncker urged European firms on 18/12/2018 to boost their investments in Africa in a "partnership among equals," reminding the joint European Union and Africa Union forum that Africa's population was forecast to double to 2.5 billion by 2050. "Africa's future is also our [European] future," said Juncker in opening remarks to representatives of 800 businesses and political leaders gathered in Vienna. Asked if Europe was too late in discovering business investment opportunities in Africa, Juncker replied: "Yes, but we do it better." Hosting the forum with the AU's current chairman, Rwanda's President Paul Kagame, Chancellor Kurz of Austria – which holds the rotating EU presidency and is an advocate of strict European rules on migration – said: "We must not leave the African continent to China," describing the forum as a "good start" for more investment by Europe beyond the Mediterranean. In September, Beijing hosted African leaders at a summit, offering billions. Last year, China opened its first overseas military base in Djibouti and ranks as Africa's largest trading partner, followed by Japan and the EU (taken as a single entity), according to EU statistics. Among EU nations, the highest surpluses in trade with Africa last year were accrued by Germany (€8.3 billion) and France (€5.6 billion). "It's better to start than not start at all," said Namibian Communications Minister Stanley Simataa in Vienna, saying past colonial "dark chapters" were part of the "shared history" of Africa and Europe.

Sources: dw.com + CTA Newsletter 590

Africa-Europe Alliance: first projects kicked off just 3 months after launch

Only three months after the launch of the Africa-Europe Alliance, the European Commission is presenting first progress on boosting investment and creating jobs in Africa. At the High-Level Forum Africa-Europe in Vienna, hosted jointly by the Austrian Presidency of the EU, notably by Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz, and Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda and the Chairman of the African Union for 2018, President Jean-Claude Juncker reiterated Europe's ambition for a true and fair partnership among equals between Africa and Europe. President Juncker presented the first results of the Africa-Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs, just three months after its launch. The Alliance aims to deepen the economic and trade relations between the two continents, in order to create sustainable jobs and growth. European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said: "Europe and Africa share a long history and a bright future. This is why I proposed a new Africa-Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs, to help attract both European and African investment and create 10 million jobs in Africa over the next five years. Translating words into action, we have already taken a series of measures to bring our ambitions to life." The President is accompanied to the High-Level Forum by Vice-President Andrus Ansip, Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven Mimica, Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development Phil Hogan and Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society Mariya Gabriel.

Sources: europa.eu + CTA Newsletter 590

Africa-Europe Alliance: EU to boost agri-business with €45 M

In Vienna on 18/12/2018, the European Union and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) launched a new Agri-Business Capital fund worth €45 million. The Agri Business Capital Fund (ABC) will support smallholder agriculture by increasing access to finance for individual smallholder farmers. It is expected to attract more than €200 million in investments and benefit as many as 700 000 households in rural areas. This Agri Business Capital Fund (ABC) will be a major blending operation designed by the EU and IFAD to benefit the agriculture sector. The EU will be contributing €45 million in funding, from the European Development Fund's intra-ACP allocation for the promotion of the private sector, which the EU implements on behalf of the African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States (ACP) Secretariat. The Government of Luxembourg and the Africa Green Revolution Alliance (AGRA), an international NGO, will each be contributing €5 million. The ABC Fund will invest in smallholder agriculture and address this "missing middle", which has potential to be profitable and have a development impact but has lacked sufficient funding, partly because of the perceived risks to investors. Direct investments and small-scale loans to small and medium sized enterprises, farmers' organisation and agripreneurs will make good on the EU's and IFAD's commitment to help smallholders access capital more easily.

Sources: ec.europa.eu + CTA Newsletter 590 EN

EU: Helping Africa 'hack' into Open Science

An EU-funded project has given African researchers the knowledge and tools they need to develop their own science gateways, web portals and accessible data repositories, helping to make their work more visible around the world. Africa has lagged behind Europe and other parts of the world when it comes to making the most of e-infrastructures, which allow scientists to collaborate and share data. But things are changing as the availability of high-capacity internet networks increases across the continent. The EU-funded SCI-GAIA project delivered a range of support activities to help the African research community set up a variety of e-infrastructures. Through training sessions and the production of educational materials, the project also promoted the practice and value of Open Science, which aims to make research more accessible to fellow scientists and society at large. 'There are many talented scientists and researchers in Africa who have been missing out on the opportunities presented through Open Science,' says SCI-GAIA Project Coordinator Simon J E Taylor from Brunel University London in the United Kingdom. 'We showed them how to get their data and results off their laptops and onto platforms where they could share knowledge with peers both at home and abroad.' Thirty-five code developers, educators and computer science specialists - known as SCI-GAIA champions - took part in intensive project training sessions called 'hackfests'. Hailing from universities and research institutes across Africa, they used the training to develop their own science gateways, open access data repositories or applications. Seven science gateways and five data repositories were created through the hackfests, along with 30 apps hosted on existing portals.

Sources: ec.europa.eu + CTA Newsletter 590 EN

Foreign Affairs Council: EU- African Union cooperation

Foreign ministers discussed EU - African Union (AU) cooperation in view of the first inter-Summit EU-AU ministerial meeting which will take place on 21-22 January 2019 in Brussels. The meeting will cover three main themes: political aspects (peace, security and governance), economic aspects (investment, trade and skills) and multilateralism (strengthening cooperation in support of a rule based global order). Ministers expressed their clear interest in reinforcing the EU strategic partnership with Africa. They highlighted the importance of engaging with youth. They noted the progress already made on cooperation on peace, security and governance, including through the signing of an EU-AU memorandum of understanding on 23 May 2018. On migration and mobility, they highlighted the work done in the framework of the Joint Valletta action plan. Ministers also underlined the crucial role of the private sector and private investment to boost EU-Africa relations. They welcomed the proposed new Africa-Europe alliance on sustainable investments and jobs.

Sources: consilium.europa.eu + CTA Newsletter 589 EN

F. Mogherini on the strategic importance of the EU-Africa partnership

A new model of collaboration between the EU and Africa can change today's dangerous turn of international relations, which have moved from "win-win" solutions and are now based on "zero-sum" games, EU's top diplomat Federica Mogherini said. Speaking at the 'Africa Week' conference on 7 November organised by the Socialists and Democrat group in the European Parliament (S&D), Mogherini noted that the world is facing the return to a more dangerous way of understanding global politics. "A way of interpreting international relations based not on cooperation and partnership, not on win-win solutions, but more and more often as a power game, as a zero-sum game," Mogherini said. She said Africa has a responsibility when it comes to shaping international relations. "This not just because most of the world's demographic growth is happening inside Africa, it is also about an idea of international relations and global politics," she said, adding that all EU countries are aware of the strategic importance of the European-African partnership. "Look at the numbers, look at the demography, look at the richness - natural resources, of the people. You are a big global player and together, Europe and Africa, can shape the features of international relations in quite a revolutionary way," Mogherini added. The EU foreign policy chief called for more cooperative governance of global affairs as the only effective way to deal with the challenges of our times. "Africa is experiencing on a daily basis a strengthening of its regional and sub-regional organisations that inspires many of us. It is also inspired by much of what we have done in Europe, but this is a continuous learning process in which we exchange experiences, so governance based on cooperation inside the regions and among the regions."

Sources: euractiv.com + CTA Newsletter 585

Caribbean & Central America cooperation in the context of EU relations

As part of Belize current pro tempore presidency of the Central American Integration System (SICA), the Mission of Belize to the European Union convened a seminar on 16 November 2018 in Brussels that brought together for the first time the Missions of SICA Member states and the Missions of CARIFORUM Member states with key European Union counterparts to further explore prospects for Central American and Caribbean cooperation in the context of relations with the EU. The seminar was a follow-up on the informal exchanges between Heads of Missions of both sub-regions that took place in Brussels in 2014 under Belize's SICA Group coordination. The seminar attracted participation of all eight SICA and fifteen CARIFORUM Embassies resident in Brussels and included participation from nine EU officials of the European external actions services (EEAS) and the European Commission's DG DEVCO.

Sources: [ACP Secretariat](http://acp-secretariat.org) + CTA Newsletter 587 EN

Announcements

Migration and Local Governance, 4-8 March 2019, The Hague

The world is currently witnessing the highest levels of human displacement on record. According to the latest figures of UNHCR, an estimated 68.5 million people worldwide have been forced to leave their homes. Among them are nearly 25.4 million refugees. Local governments are at the forefront of the response to these developments, providing essential services, and developing innovative solutions to complex and rapidly changing circumstances.

In this one-week course, we will explore the role of local authorities in receiving and integrating refugees. We will address several dilemmas confronting local authorities, including how to mainstream the specific needs of migrants and refugees in local development planning, and how to boost economic opportunities and the delivery of inclusive services (i.e. health care, education, waste management).

Is it better to create a refugee camp, or do we try to integrate refugees into the community? How can we maintain social cohesion in communities affected by migration?

In exploring these issues, the course will highlight the latest developments in the field, spotlight case studies, and reflect on the practical experiences of the experts and participants.

Objectives

This course will help you:

- Describe the roles and responsibilities of local authorities in managing large movements of refugees and migrants;
- Discuss the linkages between local migration challenges, the national context, and global trends as well as legal and institutional frameworks;
- Recognise the importance of investing in social cohesion in all aspects of the local response to migration and displacement;
- Describe different approaches to support local authorities in planning for migration and displacement;
- Develop approaches to strengthen service delivery in an inclusive manner.

Intended audience

The course targets policy- and decision-makers at different levels of government, development practitioners, NGOs and researchers who work to implement local policies for refugees and migrants.

Practical information

The course fee is € 2,450. 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 info@thehagueacademy.com, or call +31-70-37 38 695.

The deadline for the application is **21 January 2019**.

Funding opportunities

Participants in our courses are predominantly funded by their own employer (municipalities, ministries, NGOs and training or research institutes) or by a donor or development agencies. If you are looking for additional funding opportunities, there are a few organisations you could approach:

<https://thehagueacademy.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/funding-opportunities.pdf>

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

<https://thehagueacademy.com/blog/2018/04/migration-local-governance/>

Inclusive Service Delivery & the SDGs - 18-19 March 2019, The Hague

Local public services such as waste management, water access and social services have a huge impact on our daily lives and well-being. However, in many countries, the poor often lack access to these important services. Fortunately, local governments can ensure access and make a difference. This course discusses how different levels of government can cooperate effectively and involve citizens and the private sector to promote pro-poor local service delivery.

In this course, you will address the following questions:

- How can be different layers of government work together to ensure basic services also reach the poorest people?
- How can they set up the financial management of services in a transparent and democratic way?
- How can partnerships with NGOs and the private sector help local governments to better deal with challenges?

The **Sustainable Development Goals** will provide an important starting point for discussion and knowledge sharing. The course will address Goal 5 (Gender); Goal 6 (Clean water and sanitation); Goal 8 (Decent work and economic growth); Goal 10 (Reduced inequalities); and Goal 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions). The course will also equip you with a number of practical and analytical tools and impart new ideas to help you conceive and implement policies towards better local service delivery.

Objectives

- Increase your insight into the basic conditions for good local service delivery;
- Better understand the roles of the different layers of government, including central government in creating conditions and maintaining oversight;
- Gain insight on the implication of the SDGs for local service delivery and local governments;
- Understand challenges and possibilities in financing service provision at the local level;
- Increase collaboration and interaction between public and private sector (public-private partnerships), with the civil society and between central and local government.

Intended audience

This course is intended for professionals working in the field of decentralisation, local governance, public service provision and development. The course offers a combination of presentations by top experts and innovative exercises.

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 info@thehagueacademy.com, or call +31-70-37 38 695.

The deadline for the application is **1 February 2019**.

Funding opportunities

Participants in our courses are predominantly funded by their own employer (municipalities, ministries, NGOs and training or research institutes) or by a donor or development agencies. If you are looking for additional funding opportunities, there are a few organisations you could approach:

<https://thehagueacademy.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Funding-opportunities-General.pdf>

Nuffic Scholarships

The Netherlands Organisation for International Cooperation in Higher Education (Nuffic) offers scholarships for training courses as part of the Orange Knowledge Programme (OKP) and MENA Scholarship Programme (MSP). Both programmes seek to increase capacity building in organisations with fellowships to professionals from eligible countries. Not every course at the Academy qualifies for Nuffic. For more information: <https://thehagueacademy.com/blog/2018/11/nuffic-scholarships/>

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

<https://thehagueacademy.com/blog/2018/04/inclusive-service-delivery-the-sdgs/>

Citizen Participation and Inclusive Governance - 8-19 April 2019, 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.

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. Roundtrip travel to 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 info@thehagueacademy.com, or call +31-70-37 38 695.

The deadline for the application is **22 February 2019**.

Funding opportunities

Participants in our courses are predominantly funded by their own employer (municipalities, ministries, NGOs and training or research institutes) or by a donor or development agencies. If you are looking for additional funding opportunities, there are a few organisations you could approach:

<https://thehagueacademy.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Funding-opportunities-General.pdf>

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The Netherlands Organisation for International Cooperation in Higher Education (Nuffic) offers scholarships for training courses as part of the Orange Knowledge Programme (OKP) and MENA Scholarship Programme (MSP). Both programmes seek to increase capacity building in organisations with fellowships to professionals from eligible countries. Not every course at the Academy qualifies for Nuffic. For more information: <https://thehagueacademy.com/blog/2018/11/nuffic-scholarships/>

For more information about the application procedure and the online application form: <https://thehagueacademy.com/blog/2018/04/citizen-participation-inclusive-governance-2019/>

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