



PLATFORMA
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Regional authorities for development

Integrated Territorial Partnerships and the SDGs: How to “leave no one behind”

14 June 2016 – 14.00 to 18.00

Venue: Basque Government Delegation to the EU – 27, Rue des Deux Eglises, Brussels
Programme

Interpretation in en – es – fr

13.00 Networking lunch offered by PLATFORMA

14.00 Opening session

Mr. Paul Ortega – Director, Basque Agency for Development Cooperation, Basque Country, Leading region of the CPMR External Cooperation Working Group

Ms. Rosario Bento Pais – Head of Unit B2. “Civil Society, Local Authorities”, DG International Cooperation and Development and (DEVCO), European Commission

Mr. Patrizio Fiorilli – Director, PLATFORMA

Mr. Giovanni Camilleri – International Coordinator, UNDP ART Initiative

14.45 Territorial approaches to implementation of the SDGs: Fostering coherence, effectiveness and accountability

Moderator: Ms. Eleni Marianou – Secretary General, CPMR

Speakers:

Mr. Jorge Rodríguez Bilbao – Quality Manager, Unit B2. “Civil Society, Local Authorities”, DG DEVCO, European Commission

Ms. Aziza Akhmouch – Head of Water and Governance Programme, Regional Development Policy Division, OECD

Mr. Paul Ortega – Director, Basque Agency for Development Cooperation, Basque Country

Ms. Silvia Grandi – Head, Department of Coordination of European Policies, Agreements and Special Area Programs, Emilia-Romagna Region

Mr. Jerker Stattin – Director of International Relations, Swedish Association of Local and Regional Authorities – PLATFORMA representative





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16:15 Vertical and horizontal coordination of Implementation of the SDGs: Achieving multi-level governance and cross-sectoral solutions

Moderator: Mr. Giovanni Camilleri – International Coordinator, UNDP ART

Speakers:

Mr. Eduardo Tabosa Gonçalves – Secretary General, National Confederation of Municipalities, Brazil; Mayor of Cumaru

Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments for Post-2015 Agenda, United Cities and Local Governments (tbc)

Mr. Carles Llorens – Secretary General, ORU-FOGAR

Ms. Ikbel Kerkeni – Director, International Cooperation, Sousse Governorate

Ms. Flavia Donati - Director, Partnerships and International Cooperation, Tuscany Region, PLATFORMA representative

17.45 Reporting and conclusions

Rapporteurs:

Mr. Wouter Boesman – Policy Adviser, PLATFORMA

Mr. Aitor Gabilondo – Basque Fund / Association of cooperating Basque local entities (Euskal Fonda)

Conclusions:

Mr. Luc Martens, Vice-President, CEMR

Mr. Michael Ellis – Adviser, Directorate A “Development Policy and International Cooperation”, DG DEVCO, European Commission

Ms. Marta Marin - Basque Country Delegate to the EU

18:00 End of the Seminar





Objective of the seminar – To exchange among a wide range of stakeholders on the practical aspects of how territorial partnerships and decentralised cooperation contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and hence to sustainable human development at the regional and local levels.

Local and regional governments: Crucial actors in the new global sustainable development framework – The new global framework for development policy, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, was adopted in September 2015 by heads of state and government gathered at an the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit. The agenda encompasses 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with 169 related targets with the overarching aims of ending poverty, combatting inequality, and fighting climate change in the horizon of 2030. Among them, SDG11 “To Make Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable” and SDG 16 “To promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.” The agenda provides tools to achieve the SDGs, recognises the role of local and regional governments in their implementation and encourages partnerships among local, national and international actors.

Led by the Basque Country, at its 2015 General Assembly, the 180 member regions of the **Conference of Peripheral and Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR)** adopted the **position paper** “Decentralised Cooperation and the Regional Dimension in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”¹

The growing responsibilities of LRGs in local and national public policies, and the common understanding of the impact of their external action position LRGs as critical partners for the achievement of sustainable human development. Many local and regional governments are deeply engaged in discussions about their role in the elaboration, implementation and monitoring of the global agenda. For decades, local and regional governments have been playing a very active part in the landscape of development cooperation; an area that represents a remarkable and important tool for the implementation of the SDGs. Territorial partnerships, through technical exchanges and mutual capacity-building, have proven to be essential to enhance public service delivery, local governance, and local economic development in both the Global South and North.

As it was demonstrated throughout the Global Dialogues on Implementation of the Post 2015 development agenda, led by the UN Development Group during the elaboration of the 2030 Agenda, and is now enshrined in this new global framework LRGs together with other

¹ http://www.crpm.org/pub/docs/448_en-cprm-position-2030agendasd.pdf





stakeholders such as civil society organizations, academia and private sector must be placed at the centre of the SDGs subnational implementation.

The Basque Country's experience in pioneering policy coherence for development – Policy coherence for development (PCD) in the interest of advancing sustainable human development policies with increased effectiveness and accountability is a challenge for all levels of government and administration. The Basque Government is publicly committed to promoting government action to address this challenge. In this context, the Basque approach adopts PCD as a guiding principle for policy-making and as a formula for operationalising solutions both at the local and international levels.

Led by the **Basque Agency for Development Cooperation** and approved by the Basque Government's Council, the **Basque Policy Coherence Framework** enshrines the commitment of all government departments to pursuing PCD in response to the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs. The Basque Government is also committed to sharing its ongoing experience in the implementation of this PCD framework in the hope that it can facilitate the work of other regional and local governments, as well as of the European Union institutions.

The support of the European Union and the UN Development Programme to decentralised cooperation – As part of its external action, the European Union, mostly through the European Commission, provides crucial support for decentralised and cross-border cooperation among local and regional governments both in EU member states and partner countries.

The European Commission's Communication "Empowering Local Authorities in partner countries for enhanced governance and more effective development outcomes" recognises LRGs as genuine actors of development cooperation and, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, as key partners towards good governance and sustainable development.

The 2013 Communication underlines that decentralised cooperation between EU LRGs and their counterparts in third countries brings added value to the implementation of development actions through continuous peer-to-peer learning, transfer of know-how and enhancement of local actors' participation in the public space at local level. It also calls on European Union LRGs to bring together their expertise to engage in more systematic cooperation activities, in order to enhance the impact of this cooperation at local level, in respect of the principles of aid and development effectiveness. Finally it affirms that support to decentralised cooperation *"needs to be based on a clear and sound partnership and have at its core the key commitments of aid effectiveness that underpin good development programmes including on avoiding fragmentation."*





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The approach of the UN Development Programme to local governance and local development - UNDP operates in nearly 170 countries and territories, helping to achieve the eradication of poverty, and the reduction of inequalities and exclusion. It helps countries to develop policies, leadership skills, partnering abilities, institutional capabilities and build resilience in order to sustain development results.

UNDP is deeply involved in all processes around the Sustainable Development Goal deployment and specifically, in supporting the implementation at the local level i.e. the localisation of the SDGs. As we have learned from the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), if the new development framework wants to be truly transformative – an Agenda “of the people, for the people, and by the people” – it needs to be implemented and fully realised at the local level. Therefore, the localisation of the new agenda, a process that envisages an effective landing of the SDGs into practices at the local level, will be the only way to have a concrete and positive impact on people’s lives.

In this context, while we need to face critical challenges, many of them being global concerns with a strong local impact, local and regional governments have a critical role in setting priorities, executing plans, monitoring results and engaging with local businesses and communities, especially with the emergence of more decentralised forms of governance. Local and regional governments have therefore an essential role to play as development partners and as development stakeholders, and their involvement in the implementation of the new agenda will be key to make sure that no one is left behind.

In March 2016 the UNDP presented its new integrated approach to local governance and local development² that will guide coordination and action on the ground and responds to the challenges related to “localising the 2030 Agenda.”

PLATFORMA, the European voice of local and regional authorities for development - PLATFORMA is the network of local and regional governments and their associations, active in the field of development cooperation between Europe and partner countries. PLATFORMA has 34 members: national, European and international associations, as well individual local and regional governments. Its Secretariat is hosted by the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)

² http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/democratic-governance/local_governance/integrated-framework-to-support-local-governance-and-local-devel.html





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Since its creation in 2008, PLATFORMA has actively engaged with the European Union institutions to inform and constructively participate in shaping the EU development policy with two main objectives; (a) strengthening EU support for local governance in partner countries and, (b) strengthening EU support for decentralised cooperation as a means to implement development cooperation. As such, PLATFORMA actively contributed to the drafting of the 2030 Agenda³.

In 2015, PLATFORMA signed a strategic partnership agreement with the European Commission, committing to take actions based on common values and objectives to tackle global poverty and inequality, and to promote democracy and sustainable development.

Background documents

- Citizen-based monitoring of development cooperation to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Development Cooperation Forum Policy Brief.
- Decentralised cooperation and the regional dimension in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, CPMR Policy Position.
- El rol estratégico de los territorios y de la cooperación descentralizada en la Agenda de Desarrollo Post-2015, Revista Española n.37.
- Integrated Framework to Support Local Governance and Local Development, United Nations Development Programme.
- Monitoring and review of development cooperation at the local level, Development Cooperation Forum Policy Brief.
- Report of the Dialogues on Localizing the Post-2015 Development Agenda, United Nations Development Group.

³ http://platforma-dev.eu/event.php?parent_id=19&page_id=229

