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Asia regional PFD feedback

In the regional discussion of July 23rd, The participants highlighted the following areas where EU cooperation priorities are especially relevant to Asia:

1. **Building local resiliency:** Strengthen capacity of LAs and CSOs and provide an enabling environment for LAs and CSOs to build back better. These include social, economic and institutional aspects such as climate, health and economic resilience. For example, we have to address the impacts of COVID-19 on Asian and Pacific islands whose economies are driven by tourism. A Green Development Deal in Asia should include the resilience aspect, with emphasis on localising the SDGs and meeting commitments in the Paris Agreement.
2. **Environmental management is an economic driver** that needs to be enhanced, such as through the management of waste. For example, marine plastic is a serious issue. Much revenue in Pacific countries goes to waste management. Plastic waste is part of a circular economy that needs political will to thrive.
3. **Decentralisation:** Support decentralisation and devolution with proper resources. Within EU programming: local authorities are calling for their own road maps. This will that EUDs have a clear strategy for the inclusion of local government, especially in geographic programming.
4. **Improving equality:** Inequality has been increasing and with COVID-19, the gap is even widening. EU programming should focus on economic recovery from COVID-19 with a focus on productivity as well as **sustainable enterprises, tackling informality and skills** to provide jobs.
5. In the wake of COVID-19, **digitalisation** is an urgent priority. But we have to provide an enabling environment for digitalisation and minimise the digital gap. One example is cooperatives' work with their members on how to use technology so that they can continue with their businesses.
6. **Migration:** LAs and CSOs play an important role in managing migration on the ground, more so in ensuring the safety and well-being of migrant workers in the context of COVID-19. The health crisis has also revealed concerns about the capacity of source countries to absorb returning nationals. Migrants have found themselves without protection because of their status. Intraregional migration is a major trend which is also included in the trajectory of regional or subregional integration. LAs and CSOs must secure a formal space in the regional and global conversation on migration, particularly the regional review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration.

Some questions and recommendations emerging from Asia:

1. We wonder why the region has only seen a budget increase of 2%?
2. We consider that MSPs can be more creative in finding new financing models such as revolving funds, crowdfunding, green bonds in order to shift from traditional single source dominated modalities. Accessibility to alternative financing for LAs and CSOs needs to be strengthened.
3. Also in our discussion of strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships, we noted the **Framework Partnership Agreements (FPAs)** as a best practice to could be implemented at the national level.