

EU-DEAR Multi-Stakeholder Group meeting, 26th April 2018, Brussels

Membership of the EU-DEAR MSG consists of representatives of the European Commission and of networks of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Local Authorities (LAs), Academic & Research Institutes, Member States and other International Organisations involved in DEAR in the European Union.

Participants of meeting: see list of attendees appended to these notes.

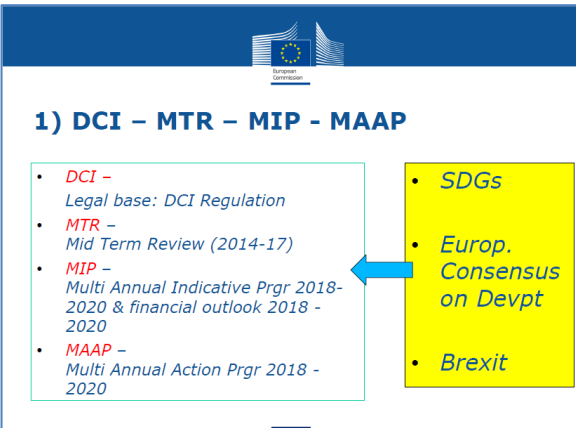
Thursday morning, 28th April 2018, 10.00 to 12.45 hrs:

1. Welcome and introductions.

- a. Fabienne Van Den Eede (FVDE) (Deputy Head of Unit DEVCO B1 'Gender Equality, Human Rights and Democratic Governance'), welcomed participants and introduced the purpose and content of the meeting. She referred to the change in structural location of the DEAR Sector within DG DEVCO, from the Unit dealing primarily with CSOs and LAs to the Unit responsible for overarching/cross-cutting issues of Gender Equality, Human Rights, Democratic Governance.
- b. FVDE mentioned that "we are living in challenging times" with changes in aid architecture taking place, a shrinking civic space in many parts of Europe, and increasing intolerance to "the other". In that situation "DEAR is more relevant than ever".
- c. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and explore ideas that are relevant to actors in DEAR from across the EU, and in this instance to consult on and discuss initial ideas from the Commission about the future development of its support for DEAR
- d. This introduction was followed by a roundtable of other participants introducing themselves and their networks or organisations.

2. Introduction on the future Multi-annual Indicative Plan (MIP) and the Multi-Annual Action Plan (MAAP), and outlook to the next DEAR Call for Proposals.

- a. Fabienne Van Den Eede introduced these themes with the help of a power point presentation which was divided into three parts providing an update on:
 - i. Mid-Term Review, MIP and MAAP
 - ii. Past Call for Proposals
 - iii. Future Call for Proposals

1. 

1) DCI – MTR – MIP – MAAP

- **DCI** – Legal base: DCI Regulation
- **MTR** – Mid Term Review (2014-17)
- **MIP** – Multi Annual Indicative Prgr 2018-2020 & financial outlook 2018 - 2020
- **MAAP** – Multi Annual Action Prgr 2018 - 2020

- **SDGs**
- **Europ. Consensus on Devpt**
- **Brexit**

2. 

priorities under consideration for MIP for DEAR

- EU Presidency projects to be strengthened to deliver joint strategic campaigns on specific thematic areas
- More focussed and strategic pan-European campaigns on targeted priorities bringing EU Development Policy and EU answers to global challenges closer to citizens.

3.

New Overall objective in MAAP

- *to ensure the commitment of EU citizens to development and contribute to sustainable lifestyle patterns of EU citizens.*

4.

New specific objective in MAAP 1/2

- 1) *develop European citizens' understanding of the interdependent world, of roles and responsibilities in relation to development issues in a globalised society;*

5.

New specific objective in MAAP 2/2

- 2) *support European citizens' active engagement with global attempts to eradicate poverty and promote justice, human rights and democracy, social responsibility, gender equality and sustainable development strategies in partner countries, based on initiatives designed and led by CSOs and LAs.*

6.

Timeframe for MIP and MAAP

- *Commission inter service consultation ongoing*

Thursday 30 May	DCI Committee
Wednesday 30 May	PANAF Committee
Mid-June	Adoption by European Commission (College)

7.

2) Past Call for Proposals:

- **23 contracts for 89,3 Million EUROS awarded**
- **Awarded grants published [here](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/our-services/index.cfm?AD5563461324634596781&do=publi.webcontent&af=151103&orderby=ad-DESC&publstat=15&sortby=50&sortdir=up&show=1&page=1):**
- **One more contract from reserve list to be awarded**

8.

23 Projects in the following fields:

field	no. of projects
1 DE (devpt. education, mostly formal)	8
2 DEAR	1
3 SDGs	3
4 GCE (Global Citizenship Education)	1
5 PCD (Policy Coherence for Devpt)	1
6 responsible consumption	2
7 climate change	2
8 urbanisation	1
9 open society	1
10 workers' rights	1
11 Migration	2
Total	23

9.

Conclusions learned during recent Inception seminar regarding project size

Lessons learned from outgoing projects:

- "size does matter"
- *Big projects can achieve things smaller projects cannot (e.g. negotiate with a European supermarket chain...)*

BUT: Administration of big projects is challenging, managing differing expectations of project partners

Markus Pirchner (DG DEVCO Unit B1 DEAR Sector) illustrated the benefit of larger projects by referring to the success of the 'Make Fruit Fair' project in affecting the fruit production and purchasing policies and practices of big European supermarket chains (for information about the project see for example:

<https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/dear/news/informed-consumers-change-lives-better>)

10.

3) Future Call for Proposals, main principles

- More focused, more strategic, more value for money.
- Focused on "youth" as primary target group
Youth as influencers and/or multipliers
- People & Planet Pillars:
 - Migration & mobility
 - Climate change & environment

11.

- reconfirmation of European values
- targeting European citizens (action needs to happen out there) - bring Europe closer
- DE and AR: both maintained, more focus on AR
- More robust strategy + dedicated communication strategy required from projects

12.

Specific objectives (proposal) :

- to develop European citizens' awareness and critical understanding of the interdependent world, of roles and responsibilities in relation to the development issues related to "People" and "Planet"
- to encourage their active engagement with global attempts to address these issues whilst simultaneously promoting the European Union's fundamental values.

13.

A few considerations

- Overall project size will increase
- EU Co-funding 90%
- Longer project duration
- Third-party support maintained
- Lots still to be determined



14.

A few considerations (2)

- Submission time for full proposal extended
- Mainstreaming of gender equality, disadvantaged groups, climate change & environmental concerns
- 77 M EURO (for budget 2018 – 2020)



15.

Timeline:

- Multi Stakeholder Group 26/04
- Tentative publication: autumn 2018
- Contracting: autumn 2019

[N.B.:

- The **Mid-Term Review** referred to in #1 can be found here: 'Evaluation Report on External Financing Instruments - Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)', June 2017
https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/draft-evaluation-report-external-financing-instruments-development-cooperation-instrument-dci_en
- The **European Consensus for Development 2017** referred to in #1 can be found here:
<https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/dear/node/70382>
- The **2016 Call for Proposals awarded contracts** referred to in #7 can be found here:
<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome&nbPubliList=15&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&searchtype=RS&aofr=151103>]

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- b. In presenting the power point slides Fabienne Van Den Eede mentioned amongst others:
- i. That for the design of the post-2020 multi-annual financial framework thought is being given by the Commission to a reconstruction of the currently existing Instruments and geographically and thematic programmes. Although one or more thematic programmes would likely continue to exist proposals on their future structure are still in development. (At a later point FVDE mentioned that the European Parliament is thinking of an 'EU Values Instrument' to replace a variety of currently existing Instruments.)
 - ii. Consultation on the MIP and MAAP has already taken place at various instances.
 - iii. Much of the information shown on the slides in particular that relating to MIP, MAAP and the future DEAR call is still at a draft stage, with decisions to be made over the coming months.
 - iv. The MIP priorities for DEAR are that it should be focussed * on (one or more) themes and * on the EU's development priorities.
 - v. The new overall and specific objectives for DEAR (mentioned in slides #3, 4, 5 above) will inform the new DEAR Call
 - vi. Proposals for the new DEAR Call and the projects it will support include:
 1. Ensuring that they are more focussed, more strategic and give more value for money;
 2. A focus on 'youth' as a primary target group and support for their development as influencers/multipliers. However, it would likely include a broad definition of 'young people' and also enable support for those who work with youth (e.g. teachers, youth and community workers);
 3. A focus on the 'People' and 'Planet' themes of the Consensus for Development, in particular in relation to * migration & mobility, and * climate change & environmental sustainability;
 4. Explicit attention to the promotion of fundamental European values;
 5. Increased attention to 'awareness raising/campaigning-advocacy' – while 'development education' would remain eligible;
 6. The need for projects to develop a robust communication strategy, not only in respect of their primary audiences but also in respect of communicating to a wider public how the project contributes to the overall intentions, need for and benefits of the EU DEAR programme.
 7. The 2016 Call awarded projects receive an average contribution of €3.9 million per project. It is the intention that this will increase for projects awarded following the new DEAR Call.
 8. The total budget available for the new Call is €77 million (which is less than for the previous Call, but this new Call will be funded through fewer EC budget years than the 2016 Call). In addition, the EC also supports DEAR through strengthened EU Presidency projects and targeted grants (GENE, NSC) as well as the DEAR Support Team services.
 9. Consideration is still being given to the following (but no decisions on this have been made):
 - a. Increasing the maximum length of projects to 4 years;
 - b. Providing EU co-funding up to 90% of the total project budget;
 - c. Considerations about the organisation of third party support/sub-granting;
 - d. The arrangement of the Call into different Lots.
 10. It is the intention to launch the Call in September 2018 or possibly before. More time will be available for the submission of full applications than on previous occasions (the exact time to be available is still to be decided but may be up to 90 days). Contracting would be planned to occur during the

3. Discussion and exchanges on the presentation and related issues.

- a. Fabienne Van Den Eede invited responses from MSG members to the presentation. Feedback received and ideas would help the Commission in developing its future work and in decisions about the Call.
- b. MSG participants thanked FVDE for the input provided and for the opportunity to discuss the ideas with the Commission. Participants welcomed, amongst others, the intention to provide up 90% of project costs and that more time would be available to submit applications.

[The feedback and ideas voiced by MSG members are grouped under particular themes rather than noted as delivered at the meeting.]

c. *Regarding intended target audiences, comments received included the following:*

- i. Questions were raised about the wisdom to target ‘youth’ since they are unlikely to be the major influencers that affect EU policies and public opinion. [In response FVDE mentioned that for the EC the key fact was that ‘youth’ are generally in favour of development cooperation/global development efforts but they do not know much about it. Their ability to affect peers (and parents) is well known. However, ‘youth’ would be interpreted broadly to also include those who work with young people, such as educators.];
- ii. Comment was made that in developing understanding, addressing opinions and influencing behaviour, life-long learning, involving adults as well as young people, was important. [FVDE agreed that this should be considered more in the development of the criteria for the Call.]
- iii. To enable a close connection with and *practical* involvement of citizens, the point was made that LAs may be better placed than large international development organisations.

d. *Regarding the meaning and terminology of DEAR, comments included:*

- i. Various participants requested the renaming of DEAR to Global Citizenship Education. [FVDE mentioned that although the title may not have been updated, the thinking is very much along the lines of the SDGs.] It is noted that target 4.7.1¹ of the SDGs refers to global citizenship education and education for sustainable development side by side, hence, both policies contribute to SDG 4.

e. *Regarding the suggested themes and approaches of the Call, comments included:*

- i. The point was made that Calls for Proposals are an instrument that give CSOs a ‘right of initiative’. A focus on ‘migration’ might limit that right rather significantly since for most CSOs migration is not part of their priority way into public engagement. Instead CSOs tend to focus on the issue of ‘fundamental rights’. [FVDE mentioned that a focus on e.g. migration did not undermine the right of initiative of CSOs, however a focus on e.g. ‘fundamental rights’ might be considered. The key point is however that “we cannot be everywhere”: there is a need to focus on a limited number of strategic themes. Finite resources mean that there is a need for a focus in themes and target groups.];
- ii. Comments were made that increasing attention to Awareness Raising (campaigning-advocacy) to the detriment of attention to Development Education (global learning, global education, global citizenship education, etc.) would not address the need for development of public understanding and behaviour or policies that are based on understanding. [FVDE mentioned that attention to DE would still be given in the Call.]

¹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg4>

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- iii. In relation to the promotion of 'European values' should the focus not be on the promotion of 'universal values' (also given the universality of the SDGs)?
 - f. *Regarding the size and duration of the projects, comments included:*
 - i. The proposed 90% EC contribution to projects was welcomed as was the continued use of sub-granting, which was felt to be particularly important for education projects and for work organised through small and medium sized CSOs.
 - ii. Several CSO representatives questioned the logic for bigger projects and raised the issue of access to funds by smaller/new MSS' organisations mentioning also that sub-granting alone does not help in their sustainability.
 - iii. Another MSG member made the point that for many LAs, bigger projects are not better than smaller ones.
[In response FVDE mentioned that experience shows that sub-granting by involving smaller CSOs can make a difference, despite the challenges of its implementation and administration.]
 - iv. The suggestion was made to consider having one Lot for bigger projects and one Lot for smaller projects.
 - v. Providing opportunities for projects lasting 4 years was seen as good (except perhaps in the case of policy campaigns projects).
 - g. *Regarding eligibility criteria and participation by CSOs and LAs, feedback and suggestions included:*
 - i. The suggestion was made to open up full partnership in DEAR project to overseas organisations, since it would help in * informing the projects aimed at EU audiences and * give concrete examples of how overseas aid and development can make a difference. [FVDE mentioned that the Commission is looking into how overseas/ extra-EU partners could be better involved in DEAR projects, e.g. through the use of third party/sub-granting arrangements. However, the focus will still have to be on engaging EU publics.]
 - ii. Building on the previous point the suggestion was made that the new Call should open up opportunities to build and contribute to global partnerships that, within the context of the SDGs, work towards similar aims.
 - iii. In the previous Call an organisation or LA could not be part of more than one application, will that change? [In response FVDE mentioned that this was under consideration.]
 - iv. Although 90% support from the EC to projects is good, for many CSOs in New Member States finding the required co-funding is a major stumbling block, particularly in those countries where government funding for DEAR is absent. [FVDE mentioned that the EC is considering this situation.]
 - h. *Regarding communications comments included:*
 - i. Projects are not very good at learning from their experiences (beyond limited Monitoring & Evaluation) – let alone at sharing learning. [FVDE agreed with this and mentioned the Exchange Hubs for EU-DEAR projects which are (partly) a response to this lack of learning. DEAR projects and the programme need to improve their communication of outcomes of work done – to date too much attention had been given to reporting on results.]
 - ii. The concern was expressed that DEAR had to deal with increasingly hostile audiences with some governments (and some CSOs) having populist views. Given that the EU is also seen by many in a negative light, how do we communicate that Global Education/Development Education is relevant and useful to Europeans? [FVDE agreed that this was an issue that needed addressing in the communications work and that there also is a need to combat false reporting, including through DEAR projects.]
In response, other MSG members made the point that DEAR should start from, and
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respond to the issues that are of concern to EU citizens – and not necessarily make their own issues the starting point for communication.

[FVDE: the new Call will demand from projects a more robust communications strategy, not only relating to communicating with primary audiences but also in contributing to communicating the whole EU-DEAR programme and its relevance to EU citizens. In relation to the development of such a strategy Markus Pirchner referred to work done by BOND (the UK NGO network) on the need to segment the population and developing specific communication approaches to different public segments.] [N.B. the approach mentioned by MP is described in, amongst others:

https://www.bond.org.uk/sites/default/files/resource-documents/uk_public_attitudes_-_understanding_our_audiences.pdf

- iii. MSG members also referred to CONCORD's 'Code of Conduct on Images and Messages' as worthy of incorporation in any communications work [For the Code see: <https://concordeurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/DEEEP-BOOK-2014-113.pdf?56c6d0&56c6d0> and for practical examples of how it can be applied see http://dochas.ie/sites/default/files/Illustrative_Guide_to_the_Dochas_Code_of_Conduct_on_Images_and_Messages.pdf]
- i. In making final comments participants mentioned:
 - i. That there is a need to give more attention to Global Citizenship Education and for the DEAR Programme to relate more closely to the intentions and objectives of SDG 4.7 in particular.
 - ii. That campaigning actions should be quick – they shouldn't take 4 years to conclude.
 - iii. That changing the way in which communications are carried out should start with the issues that are alive amongst EU citizens.
 - iv. That it would be good if partners from the Global South were involved in EU DEAR projects to illustrate different perspectives and experiences of the issues considered by EU-DEAR.
 - v. That explicit attention should be given to the issue of digitalisation in communications work.
 - vi. That cross-cutting themes such as gender issues should be better highlighted through DEAR [see reference to research into this in the 'Information Exchange'].
- j. In concluding the session Fabienne Van Den Eede thanked contributors for ideas and comments and apologised for not being able to be present after lunch because of other engagements. Asked if further reflections would be useful she mentioned that suggestions from networks would be very welcome. It would be helpful if they came to her by the end of May.

Thursday afternoon 14.15 to 15.45 hrs:

4. Information Exchange.

- a. The meeting continued chaired by Joseph Schermesser (Head of DEAR Sector, DEVCO B1).
- b. The session focussed on sharing information from strategies, projects and publications recently developed or in development by MSG members.
- c. An updated 'MSG Information Exchange April 2018' document will be circulated as part of these notes of the meeting.
- d. The meeting closed at 15.45 hrs.

Notes:

Harm-Jan Fricke,

DEAR Support Team for European Commission,

1st May 2018

Feedback after the MSG meeting

After the meeting, participants were asked to complete an evaluation of the event. The results of this are shown below. (Scores are out of 10 maximum.)

- | | |
|---|-----|
| • Extent to which expectations of the meeting were achieved: | 7.5 |
| • Quality of Commission presentation about MIP, MAP and future Call: | 7.5 |
| • Quality of discussion about the Commission proposals: | 7.8 |
| • Usefulness of the Information Exchange between participants: | 7.7 |
| • Quality of logistics support (travel and accommodation arrangements): | 9.3 |
| • Quality of the meeting venue: | 9.2 |
| • Extent to which the objectives of the meeting were met: | 7.2 |

Suggestions about content, process or venue of a future MSG meeting included:

- Keep plenary presentations short
- Clarify the aims of the meeting better and together with papers circulate well in advance (“they were a bit too late to be able to gather comments ...”). This or similar comments were made by multiple participants with one exception who felt that preparation had been good
- Improve the methodology for the Information Exchange session
- “We could share some lessons learnt/most important results/findings from our work. We all know where we come from and what are the important issues in the sector we represent, but I believe we could share more and tap each other's knowledge, thus also better informing our future work/cooperation.”
- Follow up to the meeting with a regular, speedy information flow
- Good venue and meeting room “but maybe for next time microphones could be useful to fully hear everyone as the room was quite large”
- Next meeting “could focus on more political aspects re GCE. Where is GCE in next MFF, what bigger processes influence implementation of various GCE policies on EU and member state level, how to bring together various educations (GCE, ESD, HR edu, peace edu etc). Maybe invite more member state representatives, also European Youth Forum and other civil society actors.”
- The group should meet every 6 months in order to strengthen the relations among the different stakeholders and build synergies among them
- Organisational support provided by the DEAR Support Team was very good.

		EU DEAR Multi-Stakeholder Group meeting, Participants 26 April 2018, Brussels			
	First Name	LAST NAME	Country	Organisation/Institution	Type of Organisation/Institution
1	Kerstin	ROESKE	Germany	Engagement Global	Member State agency
2	Mara	COPPENS	Belgium	MFA - Belgium	Member State department
3	Galia	CHIMIAK	Ireland	Institute of Philosophy and Sociology Polish Academy of Sciences	Academia
4	Maria de La Salette	COELHO DA SILVA	Portugal	Polytechnic Institute of Viana do Castelo Centre for African Studies - University of Oporto	Academia
5	Marine	GAUDRON	Belgium	PLATFORMA	Local Authority association
6	Lisa	NOZZOLI	Italy	Regione Toscana	Local Authority
7	Soetkin	BAUWENS	Brussels	VVOB Education for Development	Civil Society Organisation
8	Miguel	CARVALHO DA SILVA	Portugal	North-South Centre of the Council of Europe	Inter-governmental organisation
9	Jules	DE WINTER	Belgium	Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VVSG)	Local Authority association

10	Veronica	GOLIANOV A	Slovakia	Habitat for Humanity International Europe Middle East and Africa	NGO
11	Laure	HEINRICH	Germany	GLEN - Global Learning and Education Network	Organisation
12	Mari-Helene	KABER	Estonia	CONCORD - Estonian Roundtable for Development Cooperation AKÜ - Humana Estonia	NGO
13	Raffaella	KIHRER	Belgium	European Association for the Education of Adults	Organisation
14	Rilli	LAPPALAINEN	Finland	The Finnish NGDO Platform to the EU, Kehys	NGO network
15	Diego	LOPEZ GONZALEZ	Brussels	International Trade Union Confederation	Organisation
16	Alexandru	OSADCI	Moldova	Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova	Local Authority network
17	Francesca	ROMANA MINNITI	Belgium	CONCORD Europe	NGDO network
18	Luisa	TEOTONIO PEREIRA	Portugal	GENE - Global Education Network Europe	Network of Member State departments and agencies
19	Laia	VINYES	Belgium	PLATFORMA	Local Authority network
20	Susanne	VON ITTER	Germany	European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes - EADI	Academic network

21	Fabienne	VAN DEN EEDE	Belgium	Deputy Head of Unit DEVCO B1: Gender Equality, Human Rights and Democratic Governance	European Commission (Chaired the morning sessions)
22	Joseph	SCHERMES SER	Belgium	Head of DEAR Sector DEVCO B1	European Commission (Chaired the afternoon session)
23	David	FLYNN	Belgium	Programme Manager, DEAR Sector DEVCO B1	European Commission
24	Alfredo	JANAMPA RAMOS	Belgium	Programme Manager, DEAR Sector DEVCO B1	European Commission
25	Markus	PIRCHNER	Belgium	Programme Manager, DEAR Sector DEVCO B1	European Commission
26	Jady	WANG	Belgium	Programme Manager, DEAR Sector DEVCO B1	European Commission