

From Paper to Practice: How is Europe Measuring Up?

European Development Days 2017 | EDD Village Stand |
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM | L1-Meeting Room | 7 June 2017 | Brussels

Context:

Recent data from OECD-DAC puts the European Union and its Member States as the top investor in development cooperation reaching €75.5 billion in 2016. In the last four years, the EU's assistance has consistently increased and has even reached its highest level to date. While this increase in volume is commendable, including the current data that six EU donor-countries have met their ODA contributions of 0.7% of their gross national income, there are still serious gaps and barriers in development cooperation that must still be addressed if the world is to make a meaningful journey towards achieving the goals set forth by Agenda 2030.

At various levels of engagement, CSO documentation reveals gaps and deviations from the principles of effective development cooperation to which they recently recommitted at the Second High Level Meeting (HLM2) of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC), which concluded with the Nairobi Outcome Document (NOD). Research and practice shows that the four principles of effective development cooperation—namely: 1) ownership of development priorities by developing countries, 2) a focus on results, 3) inclusive development partnerships and 4) transparency and accountability—have concretely spelled out clear victories in language. Nevertheless, lack of action on these commitments poses harm to the achievement of Agenda 2030, especially of leaving no one behind, addressing gender gaps, reducing inequalities, responding to climate change and building just and inclusive societies.

In recent years, there are mounting concerns about a growing tendency for the EU and Member States to address their own economic and security concerns through development policy and funds rather than focusing solely on global development objectives clearly pronounced in the European Consensus on Development. In addition, there are no clear strategies to institutionalize civic participation in development planning at all levels that would make effective and accountable development cooperation a reality.

The Forum will provide an overview of the gains that CSOs won in the HLM2 process, remaining challenges from both engagement and research of CSOs at different levels, and how the current trends in EU's development policy impact progress towards Agenda 2030 if not addressed soon enough. To this end, the Forum will generate potential ways forward.

Format: Panel

Moderator: Justin Kilcullen, European Representative - CPDE

Speakers:

Tetet Lauron, APRN and Co-Chair of CPDE
Joan Lanfranco, ITUC and CPDE
Antonio Tujan, IBON International and CPDE
Rosario Bento Pais, European Commission

Programme:

Welcome and Opening Remarks by the Moderator

Key questions for the speakers:

On the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC)

- How do CSOs and governments weigh in to the commitments from Nairobi and the reported progress in the GPEDC 2nd Progress Report?

On the European Consensus on Development

- What was the political and economic conditions that pushed EU to bundle its security and investment interests with its development cooperation agenda?
- What are the EU's clear strategies to institutionalise civil society spaces in recipient-countries and in international multistakeholder spaces (GPEDC, IFIs) in the light of lessons from uprisings in its recipient and neighboring countries?
- Are the accountability mechanisms established enough to make private sector accountable to development results in the light of the increasing roles accorded to it?

Interactive Discussion - towards the speakers and audience

Conclusion and Closing Remarks