Practitioners' Network
for European Development Cooperation

Effective Partnerships Working Group (EPWG) | *Minutes, 11 February 2021*

Co-leads: AFD, British Council, CPMA | **Venue**: Online

Attendees

Agency	Name
ADA	Luitgard Hammerer
AECID	Matoya Wulff
AECID	Alina Orrico
AFD	Amélie Aubert
AFD	Lisa Verriere
British Council	Louise Kallora Stimpson
British Council	Katie Wade
Camoes	Ana Cláudia Andrade Pereira
Camoes	Natacha Silva
COORD	Alejandra Rojo
DANIDA	Mette Schou Heise
INTPA	Inga Navardauskiene
INTPA	Beatrice Toletti
Expertise France	Christelle Dorner
ENABEL	Sophie Besancenot
ENABEL	Florence Seeuws
FCDO	Bo Sundstrom
FIIAPP	Silvia Prada
FIIAPP	Iosu Iribarren
FIIAPP	Myriam Erquicia Leon
GIZ	Caroline Przybylla
LuxDev	Dimitri Mayaux
LuxDev	Rocío Vázquez Lamela
SIDA	Kristina Kuhnel
SNV	Bénédicte Marcilly

Session 1 – Presentation of DG INTPA's new structure

- DG DEVCO became DG INTPA (International Partnerships) on 16th January.
- Priorities for DG INTPA:
    - Green alliances and partnerships;
    - Science, technology, innovation and the digital sector;
    - Sustainable growth and jobs;
    - Migration partnerships;
    - Governance, peace and security, and human development.
- Directorate D: Sustainable development policy and coordination:
    - Providing analysis and policy formulation on global development and international cooperation issues; notably Agenda 2030;
    - Following budgetary and legal framework developments related to the design and implementation of the MFF;
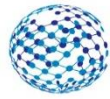
- o Planning and managing evaluations of strategies, policies, instruments, themes, country and regional programmes and implementation modalities.
- Unit D1: Effective development policy and Team Europe:
  - o Coordinate capitals-based, Brussels-based and partner country level Team Europe / Team Europe initiatives;
  - o Act as a centre of expertise for development effectiveness and implementation by EU and MSs;
  - o Promote and implement aid transparency within the Commission, with MSs and globally, ensuring that the EU is a visible leader in transparency;
  - o Support EU policy-making across DGs to ensure that external impacts of policies are supportive of sustainable development in partner countries.
- Short-term priorities for Directorate D still being mapped out, but Team Europe Initiatives, Joint Implementation and ensuring efficiency in the field will all feature.
- Do not anticipate any changes to relationship with the PN; main focal point will remain the same, as will the wish to continue working on Team Europe Initiatives through dedicated working groups.

Session 2 – Study on the EU and its Member States mobilising Public Sector Expertise for Development

- Study and mapping presented by FIIAPP and DG INTPA, covering Phases I and II and including key findings from 20 MSs, including how they interact with PSE.
- Final analysis report for Phase II due at the end of February.
- Expertise shared during the session from Enabel, AECID, Sida and Danida.
- NDICI programming exercise offers an important opportunity for PSE.
- Cross-border cooperation, MS expertise and expertise of international organisations is required to bring together the tools and experience being amassed on PSE coordination, especially at local and regional level.
- Strength of Public Sector Expertise is in providing tools as implementing agencies that help implement partner development plans.
- Experts come from MSs in order to stimulate reform based on their own experiences and ideas.
- Recognition of the complementarity of PSE and development expertise, to be deepened through practical tools such as knowledge sharing. Example of Cambodia where PSE experts are gathered once a year to improve knowledge of country context.
- Joint implementation through PSE should be encouraged and seen as an added value; discussions to continue.

Session 3 – Advancements across Joint Implementation work

- New JI projects signed:
  - o Fight Against Corruption in Morocco: AECID and FIIAPP.
  - o TVET Toolbox II: Enabel, British Council, GIZ and LuxDev.
  - o Socio ++: Expertise France and FIIAPP.
  - o D4D Hub: GIZ, Enabel, LuxDev, Expertise France, AFD, MFA Estonia.
- Action: co-leads to share formatted and final version of JI guidelines by next EPWG.
- Presentation from Presidency on proposal to create a new JI database which is integrated into the PN website. Other platforms such as AidExplorer and IATI have been explored but are not fit for purpose.
- Benefits of new database include a quick-add form to easily add projects, an interactive map and a narrative section for lessons learnt.
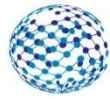
- Discussion around the criteria to classify a project as Joint Implementation. At the moment the definition covers two implementing partners plus the EC, but this could be widened in time, to include donor organisations other than the EC.
- Question on capacity of organisations to update was brought up; this needs to be made as easy as possible.
- Requirement for a clear definition of what the data will be used for, giving visibility and demonstrating the role of practitioners in JI.
- Action: Presidency to survey members on whether criteria for JI projects should remain the same or change. Suggestion to begin database with two implementing agencies plus the EC, then widen from there if utility is proved.

Session 4 – Presentation from AFD Campus

- Presentation given by AFD on their overall structure and priorities, followed by a presentation from AFD Campus, which specifically focuses on training and knowledge sharing with AFD partner organisations.
- Training programmes are focused around managers, with emphasis specifically on how leaders change the way they manage and how this impacts the organisations in which they work.
- Training is open to colleagues to invite them to test the methodology.
- Capacity building initiatives mainly linked to partner countries but are also opened up to the wider public, for example through MOOCs.
- The "Innovation Fund" is in its early stages, testing new ideas and encouraging activities informed by collective intelligence. *NB: this fund is not directly managed by Campus.*
- Action for additional questions not answered during the session to be responded to:
  - *Do you have any particular measures that promote gender equality within your programme?*
  - *How are new programmes designed, taking into account an adaptive management approach for use in complex and volatile contexts.*

Session 5 – Looking ahead to the 2021 Inclusiveness Workshop

- Proposal that 2021 Inclusiveness Workshop concentrates on Aid Effectiveness:
  - **The PN's role in the implementation of Aid Effectiveness in partner countries.** *How are PN members implementing effectiveness and how is this being put into practice on the ground?*
- Key questions:
  - How do we demonstrate that effectiveness delivers more impact?
  - Why is effectiveness not as effective as we want it to be?
  - What can we do about this in terms of finding strategic entry points to make effectiveness work better in practice?
- Idea for members to take the opportunity to find case studies and best practice of Aid Effectiveness from within their organisations, in order to provide some rich discussion on the topic.
- M&E session to be run in the afternoon, with a separate Digital session to be run outside of the workshop if there is appetite.
- Proposal to hold workshop in Autumn 2021 with the hope of a face to face event.
- Support from several members for this proposal was voiced, with the suggestion that the agenda is weighted more heavily towards Aid Effectiveness than M&E.
- Links to be made with PN in the Field event, planned for April 2021.

- Proposal to create a Steering Group of EPWG members who are interested in fleshing out the content and constructing the concept. <u>Action for members to get in touch with co-leads if interested in participating in this Steering Group.</u>
- <u>Action for all members to investigate where Aid Effectiveness is dealt with within respective organisations and the activities going on under this banner, in order to inform subsequent conversations and the agenda.</u>

* The next EPWG will be held in April 2021 (date TBC) *