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Editorial:

Dear Development Partners,

welcome to the summer edition of our newsletter. Between 18 – 20 May we hold our 6th annual meeting in Brussels hosted by EuropeAid supported by Switzerland. The group has renewed its commitment to contribute substantively to shape the agenda and the outcome document of the 4th High level Forum on Aid Effectiveness end of November 2011 in Busan, South Korea as decentralisation and local governance continues to be an important building block for development partner strategies to improve governance and public services and to confront existing and emerging development challenges, such as fast urbanisation, growing social exclusion and ever bigger environmental challenges.

In this edition we feature "in profile" Tara Sharafudeen from the World Bank who is a longstanding and experienced member of the working group for now more than four years. In her interview she focuses on two of her projects the "South Asian Decentralization Series", a joint initiative with AusAID and the "Policy Facility for Decentralization, Local Governance and Service Delivery" that she presented at our annual meeting.

We are also pleased to inform you that the training course on "Harmonisation, Decentralisation and Local Governance is now available online on our website. The course was jointly developed by ECDPM, The Hague Academy for Local Governance and Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation. This important instrument for improving joint support strategies in DLG is as well available at train4dev, a joint donor's competency development network where the group is a member.

As you can see from the new outline of the Newsletter the Development Partners Working Group on Decentralisation and Local Governance has changed its abbreviation from DPWG-LGD to **DeLoG** that was chosen out of various proposals made by group members through an election process. We are currently in the process to adapt our web address to the new name and we will inform you as soon as the new address is operational. Our current address remains valid until end of 2011 to avoid any problems in accessing our website.

We wish all our readers a relaxing and enjoyable holiday time.

With best regards,

Jochen Mattern
Contact: jochen.mattern@giz.de

- [Global High Level Meeting “Increasing Accountability and Development Effectiveness through Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting”](#)
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DeLoG Activities :

• Annual Meeting



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From 18 – 20 May 2011 the informal Development Partners Working Group on Local Governance and Decentralisation held its 6th annual meeting in Brussels, hosted by EuropeAid and co – hosted by the Swiss Development Agency (SDC).

A total of 47 participants from 24 organisations show clearly that the working group continues to play an important role as a knowledge sharing platform for enhanced donor harmonisation and aid effectiveness in the field of decentralisation and local governance. The positive evaluation and feedback from the participants also reflects the success of the annual meeting.

The thematic sessions were centred on challenges of integrating decentralisation and local governance issues in sector wide approaches, measuring progress of decentralisation reforms and impact of donor support as well as fiscal decentralisation and its linkages and importance for public finance management. Especially the subject around measuring of results and impact has generated a great interest amongst participating DPs. Consequently this issue will be further deepened and developed.

[» Closing Statement \(PDF 401 KB\)](#)

• DeLoG Contribution to HLF-4 in Busan

At the annual meeting 2010 in Washington the group agreed to make a contribution to the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness that will take place from 30 November – 2 December in Busan, South Korea (Newsletter Edition 8). In early May the secretariat participated in the OECD/DAC Cluster “A” meeting in Paris. Cluster “A” is dealing with the issues of ownership and accountability. DeLoG has made significant contributions to the cluster documents that have been discussed at the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness (WP-EFF) meeting early July. Further DeLoG has provided inputs to the progress since Paris report that will be published shortly before the meeting. However the independent Evaluation of the Paris Declaration that is one pillar

for the report is now publicly available. At the end of June DeLoG has elaborated a [position paper](#) that contains key messages for the inclusion of DLG related issues in the Busan Outcome Document and that has been included in the documentation for the WP-EFF meeting mentioned above.

- **Course on Harmonisation, Decentralisation and Local Governance now online**

Five DPs – EuropeAID, SDC, DANIDA, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and GIZ (InWEnt) committed themselves to develop a [joint training](#) on DLG and how to support its harmonised implementation. ECDPM, The Hague Academy and Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation joined forces to develop a high quality and state of the art training course. At the end of January 2011 a first pilot training took place at EuropeAID in Brussels that gave valuable feedback and inputs for finalising the course materials. Already at the end of 2009 the mentioned DPs registered as a subgroup of the [train4dev network](#) a joint donor's competence development network that seeks to contribute to more harmonised capacity development approaches and that offers a lot of training material free of cost. The secretariat has been participating in the [train4dev annual meeting](#) (30 May – 2 June) in Brussels and presented the course there. On that occasion the Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC) has expressed its commitment to contribute to the implementation of the course and forms now part of the DP subgroup.

News from our Member Organisations:

- **Interview with Tara Sharafudeen (World Bank)**



» [Interview with Tara Sharafudeen](#)

Tara Sharafudeen, Senior Operations Officer, South Asia Region, The World Bank, has participated in the last three annual meetings of DeLoG, contributing to improved DP harmonisation in decentralisation and local governance. In this edition we feature two initiatives, the AusAID –World Bank South Asia Decentralisation Series, and the Policy Facility for Decentralization, Local Governance and Service Delivery that she presented at this year's annual meeting in Brussels.

- **UNDP Consultative Process for HLF-4 Busan**

From 15 – 17 June was held the [International Forum](#) on Aid Effectiveness at the local level territories networking for human development, hosted by FELCOS Umbria and [UNDP ART](#) in Foligno, Italy. This event has been the fourth and final stage of the international consultation process on aid effectiveness at the local level organised by UNDP through the CDG/BDP and the ART Initiative, which intends to bring the voice of the territories to HLF-4. Previous milestones of this process where meetings in Barcelona, October 2010; Dakar, February 2011 and Medellin, April 2011. UNDP presented this experience at the DeLoG annual meeting in Brussels.

The Forum that was attended as well by the DeLoG secretariat gathered together 160 participants from 15 different countries: Albania, Austria, Bolivia, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco,

Senegal, Spain, Syria, Sri Lanka. During the various sessions, more than 50 panellists contributed to the Forum debate. The event, which saw a large participation of local, national and international actors, reaffirmed the strategic role of local authorities, regions and socioeconomic actors of the territories in promoting human development and territorial cooperation. It was highlighted the importance of articulating the territories' actions with those of the regional and national governments, the international organisations and the European Union in a multilateral framework, facilitating complementarity and harmonisation, as recommended in the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda; this, in order to achieve a greater sustainability and a more effective support to governance, decentralisation and development processes, already existing in the countries.

- **SDC publishes handbook on municipal finance**

The Swiss Agency for development and Cooperation (SDC) has published a "LernBuch" on "[SDC Support for Sustainable Local Governance Finances](#)" as final product of the Decentralization and Local Government Network (DLGN) learning project on sustainable local government finances. The LernBuch includes links to different inputs by dlgn members, videos, learning tools and reflection questions.

- **ADB book release: Deconcentration and Decentralisation Reforms in Cambodia: Recommendations for an Institutional Framework**

This study analyses strategic and programming issues arising from the emerging deconcentration and decentralisation reforms in Cambodia. The study looks at the evolving legal and regulatory framework pointing to the gaps and inconsistencies that need to be addressed for a coherent framework over time. The study elaborates on the large cast of complex, and sometimes competing, institutions and the challenges of setting up an equitable and transparent intergovernmental financing system. Evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of the government's 10-year national program, the study suggests some critical steps for successful implementation of the reforms, including the need to develop a clear reform policy framework, obtain better coordination among government agencies and between the government and development partners, clarify uncertainties in the assignment of functions between tiers of government, design a robust system on intergovernmental financing, and develop capacities to implement the reforms.

[» Read more](#)

- **UN-Habitat : « A new roadmap for Iraq's local government »**

The high-level conference that took place from 8 – 10 May in Amman/ Jordan, organised by the UN-HABITAT Iraq office in Amman, brought together key representatives of the Iraqi government, members of the Iraqi Local Government Association representing all 18 provinces, or governorates, eminent speakers from the World Bank, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and United Nations agencies as well as experienced practitioners in the field of local governance, to set out a roadmap that will enable Iraq to move towards a system of effective decentralized local government. The discussions and debate from the conference will be published in the form of a toolkit, which will serve as a guiding tool to Iraqi representatives in the field.

[» Read more](#)

Infos, Links, Downloads:

- **UCLG financing cities in Africa**

The “Workshop on Finance on Urban Infrastructure Investment in Africa - What role for local authorities?” took place on 20 – 21 June 2011 in Rabat at the invitation of the City of Rabat, the world organisation of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and its African regional section (UCLGA), and Cities Alliance. Around 80 participants - African mayors, representatives of national associations of local governments from all African regions, representatives of international institutions, members of regional and national funds and banks from different African regions and the presence of development agencies and national ministries got together to boost the understanding on modes of urban infrastructure finance in the African context.

Discussed was the need to strengthen local taxation, the sharing of national resources, urban development led by the States, the coherency of land management and local resources mobilization, the need to increase the variety of programs and financial fund offers as well as a better adaption of tools and instruments to meet local needs.

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- **“Second World Congress on Cities and Adaptation to Climate Change: National and State Level Climate Change laws and policies”.**

The Resilient Cities' second World Congress took place in Bonn/ Germany from 3 – 5 June 2011, convened by ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, the City of Bonn and the World Mayors Council on Climate Change, supported by UN-Habitat, brought together representatives from local governments, UN and international agencies, national governments, financial and insurance institutions, the urban infrastructure industry and non- governmental organisations with city planners, urban researchers, consultants and academics about urban climate change adaptation.

[» Read more](#)

- **CISAP course on decentralisation 19 – 30 September 2011 in Paris**

The École nationale d’administration (ENA) runs a training courses entitled « Local Governments: Trends and Challenges” aimed at civil servants with responsibilities at local authority level, government experts, elected or appointed heads of local and regional authorities. The course focuses on the different experiences the participants have made regarding decentralisation. The deadline for the application is the 19 August 2011.

[» Course on Local Governance: Trends and Challenges \(PDF 90KB\)](#)

- **Courses at the Hague Academy for Local Government**

The Hague Academy for Local Governance organises practice-oriented training courses for people involved in local governance. Mayors, civil servants and citizens are welcome to take part in our programmes, as are consultants and other professionals working on strengthening local democracy worldwide. Citizen Participation & Accountability. The timetable for the upcoming courses is as following:

- **Training Citizen Participation & Accountability 12 – 23 September 2011**

Key questions to be discussed in this two-week innovative training course include: How can municipalities increase accountability towards their citizens? And how can they benefit from involving citizens and organisations in a smart way? You will discuss the accountability chain, the participation ladder, do's and don'ts and you will visit participation projects in urban planning, social cohesion and safety.

[» Read more](#)

- **Climate Change & Sustainable Local Development 16 – 21 October 2011**

This course will focus on what local governments can do to promote green growth and manage local resources. Questions that will be addressed include: how can local governments be proactive in responding and adapting to climate change? How can they plan and implement solutions for environmental and natural resource problems? And how can they promote sustainable economic development?

[» Read more](#)

- **Fiscal Decentralisation & Local Finance 6 – 11 November 2011**

This course, developed in cooperation with the Urban Institute, helps you in answering questions such as: How can spending responsibilities and revenue resources be divided between the different levels of government? To what extent can local authorities determine their own revenues and expenditures? And how can municipalities manage their finances and be held accountable in a transparent way?

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- **Course on Decentralised Governance and Conflict Prevention & Peacebuilding**

The course on “Decentralized Governance and Conflict Prevention & Peacebuilding” aims to provide participants with insights on the concept of decentralised governance and its relationship with conflict. The objective of the course is to ensure that participants gain sound grounding in the theoretical concepts and supply them with the precise analytic tools and skills to enable them to better understand when and how Decentralized Governance can contribute to Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding efforts in volatile and post-conflict contexts. Contributions come from experts and practitioners from the UN and Academia working in the field of decentralisation and local governance, with wide-ranging experience in various parts of the world.

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- **The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC/CEPAL) has recently published 2 studies dealing with decentralisation:**

- **“Descentralización de servicios esenciales. Los casos de Brasil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica y México en salud, educación, residuos, seguridad y fomento.”** (available only in Spanish).

The study deals with the advantages of delivering basic services through decentralised structures and tends to explore the scale for the optimal provision taking into account the social cost and benefits, fiscal equilibriums, particular conditions for provision of specific basic services and citizen participation. Beyond that the study gives recommendations for improved basic service delivery at local and national government level.

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- **“Macroeconomic Challenges of fiscal decentralization in Latin America in the aftermath of the global financial crisis”**

Seeing that Sub-national governments (SNGs), linked to the democratisation and decentralisation process, now account for substantial shares of public expenditures, the study looked into the growing challenges for macro-fiscal management - ensuring medium-to long-term fiscal sustainability and minimising the impact of cyclical and commodity prices fluctuations on sub-national budgets. The paper discusses how fiscal decentralisation is affecting macro-economic management in the main LA countries as well as the question which reforms in the existing intergovernmental fiscal systems could help strengthen their fiscal sustainability, minimise the risk of procyclicality at all levels of government and create “fiscal space” for active countercyclical responses to economic shocks.

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- **Global High Level Meeting “Increasing Accountability and Development Effectiveness through Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting”**

The meeting is convened by UN-Women with support of the European Commission and will be held From 26 – 28 July in Kigali hosted by the Government of Rwanda.

It aims at demonstrating how gender responsive budgeting can be used as a government standard for transparency and accountability and how it links policy commitments to financing on gender equality and women's rights. It will articulate policy recommendations based on shared good practices and challenges that will contribute to HLF-4 in Busan. The secretariat has been invited to share its experience in harmonising development partner interventions in DLG and its position towards HLF-4.

[» Flyer: Global High Level Meeting \(PDF 181 KB\)](#)

[» Aid Memoire \(PDF 303 KB\)](#)

- **ODI Busan and beyond: aid effectiveness in a new era -Public events series 7 July – 30 October 2011**

The Overseas Development Institute (ODI) has launched a series of events, organised by the Politics and Governance Programme and the Centre for Aid and Public Expenditure with support from the BBC World Trust Fund, relating to the following issues: Have the Paris Principles on aid effectiveness worked? Do they need to be revised? Who should lead the aid effectiveness agenda in the future, and how should donors outside the DAC framework be incorporated? How can challenges of multiple accountabilities be addressed and results be better measured? How can aid effectiveness be made ‘fit for purpose’ in fragile states? These and other questions will be discussed by high level speakers in a series of cutting edge debates over the coming months.

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- **T/A Initiative releases new paper on open governance**

The Transparency and Accountability Initiative (T/A Initiative) is a donor collaborative working group to expand the impact and scale of transparency and

accountability interventions. The newly released paper "opening Governments" compiles the state of the art in transparency, accountability and citizen participation across 15 areas of governance, ranging from broad categories such as access to information, service delivery and budgeting to more specific sectors such as forestry, procurement and climate finance.

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Contacts, Newsletters and Websites:

- **Our website:**

www.dpwg-lgd.org



Secretariat for the Development Partners Working Group
on Local Governance and Decentralization
Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 40
53113 Bonn, Germany
secretariat_dpwg_lgd@giz.de
www.dpwg-lgd.org



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If you do not want to receive our newsletter anymore, write to:
secretariat_dpwg_lgd@giz.de