DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS NETWORK ON DECENTRALISATION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

15th Annual Meeting, July 7 – 16, 2020 (online)
Warm Welcome to our Members and Partners from around the World!
Opening Remarks

Strategic Support Group:

Kerstin Remke (BMZ)

Ursula Keller (SDC)
New Member

Romanian Agency for International Development Cooperation (RoAid)
New Partner

Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS)
Development Partners Network on **Decentralisation and Local Governance (DeLoG)**

A: On the Relevance of DLG

- All respondents rate the relevance of decentralisation, local governance and territorial governance as very relevant or relevant for their organisation:
  - for regional departments
  - for operational programmes in partner countries
  - for technical divisions for learning, communication, policy and advocacy
  - for research
B: On the Institutional Setup and Mandate

- Expectations are very much met
- Informality allows flexibility and easy adaptation to new trends and topics
- It's a convening platform for networking, providing formats for learning and exchange
- Secretariat: very competent staff, but multiple changes last year were a challenge for the network
C.1: On the Promotion of Harmonisation, Learning, Exchange of Experiences and Agenda Setting

- Key objectives to be pursued, as long as influence (advocacy) is driven by exchange of experiences
- Greater emphasis on bringing together the network and cities’ networks to develop joint initiatives
- More emphasis on influencing agendas
- On the other side, reservations to what extent DeLoG should influence agendas
C.1: On the Promotion of Harmonisation, Learning, Exchange of Experiences and Agenda Setting

- Suggested actions:
  - Strengthen the **networking aspect** within its member institutions as well as externally
  - Assess to which extent it has been successful in its efforts directed at **harmonisation**
  - Provide a **periodic perspective** on developments trends, current challenges, global events and their consequences
  - Establish a ‘**linkage**’ function to the DAC GOVNET as a key player for standards and good practices
C.2: On Governance and Management of DeLoG

- The strategic support group is good
- But: It needs strengthening and broader anchoring among the members
- The work plan/work streams depend heavily on members’ inputs, but capacities are limited
- Significantly more efforts need to be invested in the preparation of the annual work plan and its follow-up
- A strong secretariat is key for networking staying relevant and attractive for members
D.1: On Added Value compared to Other Networks

- Currently lacking:
  - Clear **strategic purpose and orientation** – the membership profile should be oriented towards a strategic goal
  - DeLoG may have to ‘**reframe**’ its thematic priority focus
  - **Reshape the narrative** on what DeLoG stands for, as topics and trends tend to shift continuously
D.1: On Added Value compared to Other Networks

- DeLoG as unique platform for promoting information, exchanges and coordination of efforts
- Mixed membership is an added value
- DeLoG closer to the field and relevant constituencies
- Can act as interlocutor between the mixed membership
- Other networks often centred around a particular sub-topic of local governance
- Or, they consist of mainly local governments and their associations
D.2: On Partners / Members – and Other Networks

- The network must **clarify the strategic directions** and **identify the value** added (or the niche that DeLoG has)
  - Is it the **transfer of good practices** and experiences to policy making?
  - Is it **providing the linkages** between different constituencies?
  - Is it the focus on topics and **issues that are not dealt with otherwise**?

- Based on this, DeLoG could reshape and add members/partners
DeLoG needs to be very clear on what its members’ expectations are and what it hopes to achieve

Policy-oriented research institutions and think-tanks would be a valuable addition

Relations with e.g. private sector, CSO should be sought when dealing with specific issues

Be careful not to make this network too big and lose focus and relevance

Informally, dialogue with other networks exist anyway
E: On Thematic Priorities (I)

- DLG as an actor of local and regional development;
- **DLG in fragile contexts** (here we need to become a little bit more specific and focus on i.e. prevention of extremism);
- Decreasing support for decentralized international cooperation
- Contexts where implementation experiences influence the donor agenda
- **Multilevel governance mechanisms** to support the localisation of the SDGs
- More emphasis on **fiscal decentralisation**; LRG’s access to capital markets;
- Broader approach towards **urbanisation**
E: On Thematic Priorities (I)

- **Digitalization and governance;** DLG and digital transformation;
- **Countering climate change and sustainable energy** at local level-policies and financing; local governments and climate governance;
- Youth/child perspectives
- Integration
- **Resilience/crisis management** related to crises like the COVID-19 pandemic; response functional decentralization; fiscal incentives; open government;
- Local governments and role in **migration issues** (including reverse migration);
- **Trust/legitimacy**
F: On one More Thing

- One little thing that may be interesting:
  - The heroic failures:
  - When sharing experiences, give specific attention to things that did not work well
  - Oftentimes, members are inclined to share good practices and success stories
  - But: There are many things that we can learn from failures

G: Thank you for listening!
## Consultation’s Visual Roadmap

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DeLoG Annual Meeting 2020

10.07.2020
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

See you tomorrow!