



DECENTRALISATION & LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Dear Reader,

in our in-profile series of the DeLoG newsletter, we feature Claudia Pragua, head of unit at the BMZ, the main funding partner of DeLoG and host of this year's 10th Annual Meeting in Bonn, Germany. We also report on the Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa and the role of local and subnational governments in the conference outcome document, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Further, we are pleased to introduce our new colleague Lea Flaspöhler who has joined the team of the DeLoG Secretariat this month.

We wish you a pleasant reading!

Your DeLoG Team

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■ DeLoG Activities

In-profile: Interview with Claudia Pragua

The 10th DeLoG Annual Meeting will take place from 9th to 11th September 2015 in Bonn, Germany under the theme “*Implementing the SDGs: The key role of decentralisation and local governance in achieving effective, transparent, accountable institutions and sustainable urban development*”. This year’s meeting is hosted by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), one of the network’s founding members. Claudia Pragua is head of division at the BMZ’s unit on governance, democracy, rule of law, freedom of speech and of the press and introduces Germany’s key positions and ideas on decentralisation and local governance in the debates on the post-2015 development agenda in the following interview.

» [Read the interview](#)

4th E-Learning Course on Enhancing Development Effectiveness in Decentralisation and Local Governance



Between 12th October and 6th December 2015, the fourth tutored e-learning course on “*Enhancing Development Effectiveness in Decentralisation and Local Governance*” will take place.

Based on an interactive learning approach in different learning formats such as self-paced content study, an online lecture, a collegial peer-to-peer consultation and moderated online discussions, the course will provide the opportunity for a structured exchange of experiences and approaches. Topics of the course will be an introduction to harmonisation, decentralisation and local governance, political, fiscal and administrative decentralisation, political economy analysis, linkages between decentralisation and sector support, the design of coherent support strategies and monitoring and evaluation.

The course is based on the experiences of three previously conducted courses, amongst them the third e-learning course that took place from 13th April to 11th June 2015. The 30 participants came from various regions and different working backgrounds, for example from development agencies, public and local administration and CSOs, and thereby brought together a broad range of perspectives on decentralisation and local governance (DLG).

Registration is open until 15th September. Information on the registration process can be found [here](#). For further questions, please contact Nils Huhn (nils.huhn@giz.de).

DeLoG at the Commonwealth Local Government Conference in Gaborone, Botswana



The Commonwealth Local Government Conference took place from 16th to 19th June 2015 in Gaborone, hosted by the Botswana Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, organised by the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF). Running under the theme “*Local Government 2030: achieving the vision*”, it focused on priorities for local government post-2015 to play its full part in development, including improving local governance and effectiveness, promoting sustainable local development, and strategies for inclusive, resilient and sustainable cities. Amongst the over 500 participants were also the President of Botswana, Seretse Khama Ian Khama and Helene Clark, Administrator of UNDP.

The DeLoG secretariat facilitated a working session on multi-level-governance, intergovernmental relations and the role of local government associations. Speakers were Mayor Scean Barnswell,

President of the Association of Local Government Authorities of Jamaica, Councilor Mpho Nawa, Vice Chair of the South African Local Government Association and Patrick Mutabwire, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Local Government in Uganda. They all emphasised that all levels of government need to efficiently work together to enable local governments to fulfill their important role in implementing the SDGs. This requires access to financial resources and capacity development with the support of the central governments and development partners.

» [A background paper for more information on the conference can be downloaded here.](#)

» [Please follow this link to access the Gaborone Declaration.](#)

■ News from our Member Organisations

New EU Approach on Decentralisation and Territorial Development



The Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO B2) at the European Commission (EC) has initiated a process that aims at clarifying the Territorial Approach to Local Development (TALD) and at identifying opportunities and challenges to promote the concept through the EC's thematic and bilateral support. The new approach will build on the integration of citizens as key democratic actors in local resource mobilisation, the role of autonomous and accountable local authorities as catalysts for TALD processes and the facilitation of an effective engagement

in domestic policy processes and the participation in EU-supported sector operations of local authorities. More information on the TALD process can be found in a [recent article](#) in the Great Insights Magazine (ecdpm) by Jorge Rodriguez Bilbao, Quality Support Manager of the Civil Society and Local Authorities Unit in the European Commission.

» [Please follow this link to access ecdpm's GREAT Insights Magazine on territorial development.](#)

IDB Sector Framework Document on Subnational Governments and Decentralization



Inter-American Development Bank

The Inter-American Development Bank has recently published the Subnational Governments and Decentralization Sector Framework Document. This paper takes stock of international evidence concerning the effectiveness of policies and programs in the subnational government and decentralisation sector and identifies implications for the IDB's work. It further describes the main challenges for the decentralisation processes in Latin America and the Caribbean such as the subnational governments' dependence

on fiscal transfers and insufficient capacities to monitor subnational management. Based on an analysis of lessons learned from the IDB's experience in the decentralisation sector, the authors have developed a set of actions and activities for addressing the challenges and bottlenecks in the region's decentralisation processes.

» [Please follow this link to access the publication.](#)

Dialogue on the Implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda on the theme of “Helping to Strengthen Capacities and Build Effective Institutions”



Within the framework of the process towards the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015, six “Dialogues on Implementation” of the post-2015 development agenda took place between April 2014 and March 2015, amongst them the Dialogue on Strengthening Capacities and

Building Effective Institutions. This consultation process consisted of both global level activities and consultations on the national level in eight countries with discussions, expert meetings and a literature review was co-led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Labor Organization (ILO) and supported by the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Moldova.

The outcomes of the consultation process were compiled in a final report that was published in July 2015. The final document emphasises that local contexts are very important for the functioning of institutions and the development of strategies and policies and that accountability and participation should be built from the bottom up. Furthermore, it is crucial to empower local authorities and communities through sub-national capacity building for resource mobilisation, the participation in local development strategies and monitoring and evaluation at the sub-national level.

» [The final report can be accessed here.](#)

Habitat III Issue Papers and Urban Dialogue



Against the background of the process towards the Habitat III Conference, UN Habitat has published 22 Habitat III Issue Papers. The documents address one or several research areas, summarise general

findings and identify needs for further research on topics related to sustainable urban development. The Issue Papers provide analysis of specific issues that are relevant to the Conference discussions and are elaborated by the UN Task Team on Habitat III. This working group consists of various UN agencies and programs, experts and organisations. Thematic areas covered in the Issue Papers are social cohesion and equity-livable cities, urban frameworks, spatial development, urban economy, urban ecology and environment and urban housing and basic services.

Furthermore, from 6th to 31st July, UN Habitat hosted a series of e-discussions on the thematic areas of the Habitat III process mentioned above. The objective of those thematic consultations is to provide a platform for individuals and organisations to discuss ideas and outcomes of the issue papers.

» [The Habitat III Issue Papers can be downloaded here.](#)

» [Please follow this link to access the Urban Dialogue Platform.](#)

■ Info, Links, Downloads

Financing for Development Conference



**FINANCING FOR
DEVELOPMENT**
13-16 JULY 2015 · ADDIS ABABA · ETHIOPIA
TIME FOR GLOBAL ACTION

From 13th to 16th July 2015, the Third International Conference on Financing for Development took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The negotiations resulted in the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which also acknowledges the importance of the subnational and local level: In article 34, it is emphasised that local governments need to be supported in mobilising revenues at the local level and that international

cooperation must be scaled up for strengthening the capacities of municipalities and local authorities.

At the conference, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development and UCLG organised a side event on “A New Financial Architecture for Localising FfD: A Critical Dimension to the Implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda”. The event was jointly opened by Annick Girardin, Secretary of State for Development and Francophony, France, and Stephan Ohme, Head of Unit at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). In their speeches, the growing role of local governments as actors for development was acknowledged, but also the need to empower them with sufficient competences, financial resources and capacities for local revenue mobilisation and to provide them with access to long-term development financing mechanisms. During the discussion, it became clear that besides access to intergovernmental fiscal transfers and long-term development financing mechanisms, the strengthening of local governments’ capacities in tax collection for domestic resource mobilisation is crucial for an enhanced role of the subnational level in financing development. Therefore, innovative financing mechanisms must be established such as municipal development banks, credit pools or municipal bonds. Further issues discussed at the side event captured challenges such as the delivery of public services to informal urban settlements, the provision of resources to local governments for tackling climate change and the challenge of financing migration to urban areas.

Concerning the role of local governments in the financing for development negotiations, the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments has recently published a position paper. The Taskforce acknowledges the explicit recognition of subnational and local governments and the need to support local governments in resource mobilisation in the final outcome document; however, it is also emphasised that public financing is a critical source of financing public service delivery and that an enhanced access to financial markets for subnational governments and the establishment of local development banks and municipal funds is crucial for a strengthened role of local governments in financing development on the local level.

Regarding the access to financial resources of local governments, FMDV and the French Development Agency (AFD) have published a paper on “The Potential Catalytic Role of Subnational Pooled Financing Mechanisms (SPFMs)”. SPFMs provide long-term cost-effective private finance from both banks and bond issues to fund infrastructure and public services provided at the subnational level. The paper gives an overview of structures and types of SPFMs as well as policy recommendations for the engagement with the instrument.

» Please follow [this link](#) for an overview of side events with involvement of local governments in Addis Ababa.

Consensus Reached on the Sustainable Development Agenda to be Adopted in September



On 2nd August 2015, all 193 member states of the United Nations have agreed upon the outcome document for the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The contribution of sub-national governments and local authorities to the cooperation for achieving sustainable urban development and management is acknowledged in paragraph 33. Furthermore, in paragraph 45 the need for cooperation between national governments and public institutions on the one hand and sub-regional institutions and local authorities on the other hand for the implementation of the new agenda is emphasised. Concerning the

follow-up and review process, the possible contribution of the sub-national level is implicitly taken into account in the statement in paragraph 48 that “reliable disaggregated data” will be required for the measurement of the implementation of the SDGs.

The SDGs will be adopted at the UN Summit on the post 2015 development agenda from 25th to 27th September 2015 in New York.

» [The finalised text for adoption can be accessed here.](#)

» [Please follow this link for more information on the post 2015 process.](#)

European Committee of the Regions Calls for Greater Role of Local Authorities and Communities in the European Neighbourhood Policy

EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions

The [European Committee of the Regions](#) that acts as the European Union’s assembly of regional and local representatives has demanded more influence of local and regional authorities in the policy formulation of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). In a [statement](#) from 9th July 2015, the crucial role of the local and regional levels of governments for democracy building

and democratic transition is emphasized. It is further argued that local and regional authorities (LRAs) are crucial actors for the success of the ENP and that there is a need for a stronger role of LRAs in local decision-making and more autonomy from central government powers in the EU’s neighbouring countries. It further calls for strengthening the capacities of governments in ENP countries with a special emphasis on the local and regional dimension and for the need of the ENP to promote decentralisation processes in ENP countries.

State of Local Governance Institutions Initiative



The State of Local Governance Institutions (SoLGI) initiative, a collaborative partnership led by the Local Public Sector Initiative, has launched the Local Governance Institutions Comparative Assessment (LoGICA) framework. The establishment of the framework is based on the challenge that, although local

governments and local administrative bodies play a crucial role for the transformation of global and national development objectives into improved services and development outcomes at the local level, there is a lack of knowledge and empirical evidence about the state of local governance institutions. In order to fill this knowledge gap, the initiative aims at establishing an information baseline about the state of local governance institutions in about 35 countries around the world.

Based on five main institutional dimensions (assignment of functional responsibilities to the local level, local political space and dynamic and responsive local political systems and leadership, local control over the administration of local services, local fiscal autonomy and local financial management, participatory and responsive local service delivery) and 40 individual indicators, the LoGICA framework serves as the assessment and comparison tool of local governance systems. It aims at providing a common pool of information for the measurement and monitoring of local governance institutions' performance and at providing a common platform for dialogue. As a result of the initiative, several [LoGICA scorecards](#) on the state of local governance systems have already been published, e.g. on Indonesia, Cambodia and Tanzania.

» [Please follow this link for more information on SoLGI and the LoGICA framework.](#)

DFID releases report on “Quantifying Governance – an indicator-based approach”



**Department
for International
Development**

The UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and the London School of Economics have published a report on quantifying and assessing governance. The authors of the paper review indicator-based approaches to the quantification of governance in the governance dimensions of Public Financial Management (PFM) and Corruption and assess the construction of composite/aggregate indicators. Concerning the measurement of PFM, the study finds that the Open Budget Survey indicators are most valid and reliable, especially for the monitoring of underdeveloped PFM systems. For corruption measurement, Global Corruption Barometer indicators are particularly useful at the early stage of project formulation. The authors further recommend to drop problematic or redundant indicators within each indicator set and to classify indicators that seem to be tautological.

» [The publication can be accessed here.](#)

Urban SDG Alliance Established



Mayors and city associations from all over the world have agreed upon the establishment of an Urban SDG Alliance. The symposium on “Sustainable Cities: Empowering People, Enabling Prosperity and Protecting the Planet” was organised by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and the Vatican's Pontifical Academy of Sciences and took place on 22nd July 2015. The newly formed Alliance aims at supporting and empowering cities in the achievement of the SDGs, inter alia by enhancing the devolution of powers and finances to cities. The Urban SDG Alliance will work together with universities, cities governments, social movements, UN agencies, the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences and other interested urban stakeholders. The initiative will be officially launched on 24th September 2015 in New York, one day before the adoption of the SDGs.

» [Please follow this link for a press report on the creation of the Urban SDG Alliance.](#)

» [The full text of the final declaration of the symposium can be read here.](#)

Resilient Cities - 6th Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation



From 8th to 10th June 2015, the 6th Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation, organised by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, took place in Bonn, Germany. The conference on urban resilience and climate change adaptation aims at connecting local government leaders and climate change adaptation experts and at providing a platform for discussions on urban climate change adaptation challenges. More than 420 participants, including about 170 speakers, from 56 countries from a wide range of international and non-governmental organisations, the academia and local governments came together at this year's conference. Topics of the sessions included inter alia the contribution of local financial institutions to funding climate change adaptation, innovative resilience planning in growing African cities and resilient urban food systems.

» [More information on the conference and the conference report can be accessed here.](#)

■ Courses

The Hague Academy for Local Governance



» [Conflict, Rule of Law and Local Security](#)

Date: 30th November - 11th December 2015

Apply by: 2nd October 2015

Place: The Hague, Netherlands

This course aims at exploring the nexus between conflict, rule of law and security at the subnational level. Participants will learn more about the role of institutions in restoring security and legitimacy, increase their understanding of the concepts of good governance and rule of law and get to know tools for rule of law reforms and frameworks for human security. The course is open to professionals from government agencies, civil society, non-governmental organisations and international institutions who have been working on issues related to fragile and conflict affected areas.

swisspeace



» [Business, Conflict & Peace Course](#)

Date: 2nd - 6th November 2015

Apply by: 31st August 2015

Place: Bern, Switzerland

This course focuses on the conceptual, policy and practical challenges of examining the role of business in peace and conflict. Participants will have the opportunity to critically explore and discuss relevant concepts and theoretical challenges on business, conflict and peace, the role of multi-stakeholder initiatives and policies in shaping international debates and practices and to gain practical insights on state, company and civil society engagement in actual case studies. The course is open to practitioners and academics that are interested in linking their own experiences with conceptual insights and practical knowledge in the area of business, conflict and peace.

Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation

[» Governance of landscapes, forests and people](#)



Date: 4th - 15th April 2016
 Apply by: 8th February 2016
 Place: Indonesia

This course focuses on institutional development at the landscape level, including multi-stakeholder platforms and networks, and on financial support mechanisms to guide landscape dynamics on the ground. Participants will be enabled to adopt an integrated perspective of landscape governance and learn more about the nexus between the public and the private sector. Topics of the course are the examination of landscape dynamics at various levels and scales, the creation of an understanding of the implications of scaling-up participation to working with diverse stakeholder groups at landscape level, public-private collaboration and multi-stakeholder governance processes and competence development for landscape governance processes. The course is open to professionals with several years of working experience in the fields of natural resource management, forestry, agriculture, rural development and livelihoods, sustainable development and other relevant areas.

World Bank e-Institute



[» Municipal Finances – A Learning Program for Local Governments](#)

Date: 27th October - 18th December 2015
 Apply by: 13th October 2015
 E-learning course

This e-learning course is organised modularly and covers topics such as intergovernmental finances in a decentralised world, municipal financial management, management of local revenues, local expenditures, local assets and external resources, measurement of municipal finances performance and metropolitan governance and finances. The course aims at enhancing the participants' knowledge on municipal finances and offers tools and instruments for effective management and assessment. The target group of the course is local governments and municipal practitioners.

■ Studies

Local Governance and Decentralisation

Timor-Leste: The Adventurous Tribulations of Local Governance After Independence

Rui Graça Feijó (2015)

Although decentralisation has been a constitutional mandate since Timor-Leste's independence, the implementation of the reform process has proved to be very difficult. Based on own field research and a literature review, the author of this paper analyses the different policy options for policy-makers on both the theoretical level by distinguishing between the various forms of decentralisation and on the empirical level. Furthermore, the implications of those policy options for the democratisation process at the intermediate, district and grassroots village level are analysed and discussed.

[» The paper can be downloaded here.](#)

Development Effectiveness

The Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation: Origins, Actions and Future Prospects

Talaat Abdel-Malek, DIE/GDI (2015)

This study analyses the commitments, actions and challenges of the international community in the development effectiveness debate. Starting with a description of trends in development assistance, aid modalities and innovative financing mechanisms, the author extensively analyses the High Level Fora in Rome, Paris, Accra, concluding with the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation that was established at the 4th High Level Forum in Busan 2011. The concluding chapters of the study focus on key challenges and future prospects for the implementation of the Global Partnership and the post-Busan follow-up. The author finds that the Busan architecture has considerable potential for enhancing development cooperation. He recommends to regain a sharper focus on the Busan principles and goals and to give developing countries a stronger voice in setting future agendas.

» [The book can be downloaded here.](#)

Fragility/Post Conflict Settings

Local Government Associations in Fragile States

VNG International (2015)

The objective of this paper is to provide insights into the challenges that fragility poses to citizens and to explain the crucial role that local government associations (LGAs) play in fragility and its underlying crises. The analysis is based on VNG's concept of the "fragility circle" that divides fragility into three stages and types, namely stable fragility, prolonged crisis and instability and describes different types of interventions for LGAs, depending on the respective fragility type. Further, the paper introduces VNG International's approach of supporting LGAs and enabling them to exercise their role vis-à-vis other government layers and the international community.

» [Please follow this link to access the paper.](#)

States of Fragility 2015. Meeting Post-2015 Ambitions

OECD (2015)

The OECD's 2015 States of Fragility report introduces a new approach for the assessment of fragility that goes beyond a single categorisation of fragility and takes into account the diverse risks and vulnerabilities that lead to fragility. It identifies most vulnerable countries and assesses their opportunities to achieve the SDGs. It is argued that addressing fragility is key to the SDGs and that fragility will impede the achievement of the post-2015 agenda if left unaddressed. Although official development assistance (ODA) significantly supports fragile countries, the authors find that it is distributed unevenly amongst fragile states and recommend scaling up ODA to the poorest and most fragile countries. Furthermore, it is called for greater national ownership and international support to more demand-driven and risk-tolerant aid modalities such as support to domestic revenue generation and the use of public finance instruments for attracting foreign direct investment.

» [Click here to download the publication.](#)

Fiscal Decentralisation

The Challenge of Local Government Financing in Developing Countries

UN Habitat (2015)

This report assesses and portrays the challenges and solutions concerning the ability of local governments for revenue mobilisation from local resources, identifies successful governance mechanisms for the efficient and equitable provision of public services in metropolitan areas and shares experiences and methods to making public service provision more viable. The document is structured along four different research areas: Mobilising financial resources for public service delivery and urban development, urban government revenues, innovative governance approaches in metropolitan areas of developing countries and on structuring service delivery in small urban areas. It concludes that local governments need access to sources of own tax revenues and non-tax revenues in order to fulfil their mandate and that their political economy considerations must be taken into account for assessing the options for effective local revenue reform and decentralisation in general.

» [The publication can be accessed here.](#)

Post 2015

Mind the Gap? A Comparison of International and National Targets for the SDG Agenda

Andrew Scott/Paula Lucci/Tom Berliner, ODI (2015)

The paper aims at assessing the gap between national and global targets for the SDG agenda by comparing policy commitments and objectives at the national level with corresponding SDG targets. Based on a gap analysis between national and global ambitions for 13 indicators across eight goal areas, the authors find that for low-income countries, there is a considerably bigger gap between their objectives and the achievement of the SDGs than for middle-income countries. The gaps identified provide indicators where particular efforts are required to achieve the SDGs and where low-income countries will need special support. The analysis concludes that the post-2015 development agenda should be aligned with national policy-making and planning processes and that there is a need for clear guidance of the SDG framework on national target-setting. Furthermore, the establishment of common indicators to enable comparisons across countries and to increase national accountability is recommended.

» [Please click here to read the paper.](#)

■ Contact, Newsletter & Website

Please refer to our website: <http://www.delog.org>



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