



HOW TO STRENGTHEN
THE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN THE
EUROPEAN UNION AND
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
OF LATIN AMERICA:
INSTRUMENTS FOR
DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION

Dialogue and capacity building of
local and regional authorities
in EU partner countries
in the fields of development
and local governance

2015



PLATFORMA

The European voice of **Local** and
Regional authorities for development



FEDERACION ESPAÑOLA DE
MUNICIPIOS Y PROVINCIAS

How to strengthen the relationship between the
European Union and the Local Governments of Latin America:
instruments for development cooperation

PLATFORMA – 2015
FEMP – 2015

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in EU partner countries in the fields of development and local governance

Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)
United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)
French Association of CEMR (AFCCRE)

International Cooperation Agency of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG International)
Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SKL)
Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP)

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Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)
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1. OBJECTIVES AND AREAS OF ACTION OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

1.1 Introduction

Solidarity with less developed peoples and the eradication of poverty have been and continue to be the objectives of the development policy of the European Union, which was made clear on 20th December 2005 when the Commission, the Council, and the Parliament jointly adopted the “European consensus on the development of the EU”¹.

This political declaration establishes a uniform set of principles and values for the development cooperation of the member states and the institutions of the EU. The text lays down central objectives for European development policy, such as the reducing of poverty, in harmony with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of the United Nations and the promotion of Europe's democratic values all over the world.

The “Consensus” also confers clear responsibilities for their own development on developing countries. Under the section devoted to increasing and improving the aid from the EU, the Union and the member states undertake to increase their expenses in Official Development Assistance (ODA) to 0.7% of the Gross National Income (GNI) for 2015, to devote at least half of the additional financing to Africa, and to apply a focus favouring the poor in the work of development.

This is also stipulated in the Treaty of Lisbon², for which *“support for the efforts of the developing countries to eradicate poverty is the main objective of the development policy and a priority of the external action of the European Union, so as to contribute towards the achieving of the objective pursued by the European Union for the world to be stable and prosperous”*.

The cooperation policy of the EU has one main objective: “the reducing and eventually the eradication of poverty”.

Other essential objectives include the following:

- the defence of human rights and democracy
- the promotion of equality between men and women, and more recently,
- facing environmental and climatic challenges

Therefore, with the essential objective of the European Union development policy being the eradication of poverty in a sustainable manner, it is vital for the basis of the planning of European Community policy to consist of the achieving of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of the United Nations³. Among them we highlight:

- the objective of reducing extreme poverty by half
- that of halting the spread of AIDS, and
- that of universal primary education.

¹ EU: Joint declaration of the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the member states gathered at the Council, the European Parliament, and the Commission on the development policy in the European Union entitled “European consensus on development” (2006/C 46/01), Official Journal of the EU, 24-2-2006, C 46/2.

² On 13th December 2007 the 27 heads of state or government of the EU signed the new modifying treaty in Lisbon. The **Lisbon Treaty** came into effect on 1st December 2009 after having being ratified by all member states in accordance with their respective constitutional rules.

³ <http://www.un.org/es/millenniumgoals/>



The number of people living in abject poverty has fallen by 600 million since 1990, but progress in the other millennium goals is not so promising⁴. One of the most difficult to achieve by the date proposed for compliance (the end of 2015) is the reducing of the number of deaths in childbirth (of both mothers and newborn babies) and the providing of drinking water.

In 2011, the European Union promised an additional 1,000 million euros for these two objectives, towards which slower progress had been made in 79 countries in Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific.

The Development Policy therefore plays a central role in the external action policies of the EU, supporting since its creation social and economic development in associated regions.

This aid initially concentrated on the states of Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific (ACP) but was subsequently extended to other more impoverished world regions; it is present nowadays in over 160 countries in the world.

The EU has become the major world donor of development aid, providing together with its member countries over half of the world's Official Development Assistance (ODA).

With the commitment of gradually adapting EU policy to the new commitments of the international development agenda and the premises of the member states, the European Commission approved in 2012 the *Programme for Change*⁵, a new programme that marked a before and after in EU development policy, rethinking this policy with the aim of reflecting world changes, the emergence of new donors, and the current challenges of developing countries.

This new policy lays the foundations for more strategic aid that concentrates more on the results and formulates explicit suggestions to increase the impact of the EU development policy. The two main components of the "*Programme for Change*" are:

- The encouraging of human rights, democracy, and governance, and
- Integrating and sustainable growth so that the population can abandon poverty using its own means.

By way of a summary, as from the adoption of this programme the UE development policy:

1. Concentrates development aid on three aspects:

- a. Social protection, health, education, and employment;
- b. In a business environment of world trade and markets;
- c. Promoting sustainable agriculture and energy.

2. Seeks to increase the efficacy and efficiency of the aid, to introduce innovative financing systems (by means of a combination of a loan and a subsidy), and to guarantee the coherence of UE policies (climatic change, agriculture, and trade) with the development objectives.

3. Giving disadvantaged people from developing countries control over their own development. This means:

- Trying to eliminate the reasons for their vulnerability, such as the lack of access to food and clean water or education, health, employment, land, social services, infrastructures, and a healthy environment.
- Eradicating disease and providing cheap access to medicines against epidemics such as AIDS.
- Reducing the debt of developing countries in such a way that they have more money for essential public investments instead of paying interest to rich moneylenders from the industrialised countries.
- Encouraging self-help and strategies for eradicating poverty, supporting the democratic process, consolidating respect for human rights including equality between men and women, and stimulating a more stable economy within which companies can grow and create employment.

⁴ Data included in the annual report on compliance with the MDGs.

⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/developmentolicies/documents/agenda_for_change_en.pdf



4. Concentrating actions on fewer countries and on fewer sectors to encourage efficacy and efficiency.
5. Recognising the need for continuing to count on other essential players (other than central governments) so that in a joint and coordinated manner, combining efforts and powers, progress can be made in the achieving of the Millennium Development Goals for the 2015 horizon.

All these commitments included in a “programme for change” are also reflected in the “proposal for the 2014-2020 Long-Term Financial Framework” in which the European Commission confirms the commitment of the European Union to the strengthening of the role of Local Authorities in each country's development policy, and includes a thematic programme aimed at the organisations of civil society and Local Authorities.

1.2 Origin and evolution of decentralised European cooperation:

The idea of decentralised cooperation (local and regional) arose in the 1980s with the promotion of various forums and institutions, among which we can stress the work of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), which in 1984 encouraged the European local and regional Administrations to contribute towards development aid. In this context, 1985 saw the creation in Cologne of the European network of Cities and Development, which groups together municipalities, federations of municipalities, and NGOs. Its manifesto From Charity to Justice was far-reaching and encouraged pioneering experiments.

In 1988 the Council of Europe Conference on Interdependence and Solidarity, which was held in Madrid, advised encouraging the solidarity of local entities. In consequence, a year later the European Centre for Interdependence and World Solidarity was created with its headquarters in Lisbon for the promotion of decentralised cooperation between MPs, governments, NGOs, and local and regional authorities. It was also in 1989 that the Commission of European Communities opened a budget area devoted to development and began to recognise the specific role that corresponds to decentralised cooperation.

In 1990 the International North-South Conference held in Bulawayo in Zimbabwe expounded among its conclusions that the local North-South authorities must assume the responsibility of influencing governments and parliaments to favour a change of direction in global policies. Two years later in 1992, once again Cities and Development at the Berlin Conference insisted that local governments should assume the responsibility of establishing new forms of cooperation with the South, as from the confirmation that the short-term policies of public authorities on all levels had failed to address the North-South problems adequately.

The recognition of decentralised cooperation as one of the essential players in the eradication of poverty and the encouraging of sustainable development, both inclusive and reflecting solidarity, has been acknowledged in various documents and positions drawn up by various bodies and institutions:

- In 2011 the plenary session of the European Parliament approved a resolution in which it defended the relevance of development cooperation, underlining the specific role that corresponds to local authorities, and urged member states to increase official aid up to 0.7% of the GNI in 2015. The approved text emphasises that *“the participation of local authorities in development policies is essential for achieving the MDGs and for guaranteeing good governance”*. It underlines that local governments can play a leading role in fields such as education, the fight against hunger, health, water, sanitation, social cohesion, and local economic development.



- The European Commission approved in late 2011 “the Agenda for Change” in which it also recognises that there is scope for the EU to collaborate more with the private sector, foundations, civil society, and **local and regional authorities**, as the role of these authorities in development is increasing. Likewise it says: “*The EU should study how to mobilise the technical knowledge of local authorities, for example through networks of excellence or twinning associations*”. It is also important to mention the report “A decent life for all” in which the European Commission proposes a new approach to the “new” Millennium Development Goals after 2015.
- In the “IV High Level Forum on Aid Efficiency” held in late 2011 in the city of Busan in the Republic of Korea and organised by the United Nations, together with the recognition of the United Nations Campaign for achieving the Millennium Development Goals of local governments worldwide.
- United Local Cities and Governments (Ciudades y Gobiernos Locales Unidos, CGLU)⁶, drew up a Position Document on Aid Efficiency and Local Governments which included the Spanish experience as a point of reference.
- The report of the Commission to the European Parliament, to the Council, to the Committee of Regions, and to the Economic and Social Committee: “*Training of Local Authorities in the member countries in the interests of improving governance and the efficiency of the development results.*” (15th May 2013)⁷:

It emphasises the importance of local authorities to development and aims to shape the support of the European Union in the interests of improving governance and the efficiency of the development results at a local level, in keeping with:

- Decentralisation processes
- Development of the powers of local authorities
- Sustainable urbanisation
- Encouraging associations of local authorities
- The development of more flexible and efficient mechanisms of financial support.

With this report, the European Union stresses the role of local governments and their associations as development players, and not only as beneficiaries. Likewise, through the promotion of decentralisation, for which it proposes budget support, it aims to promote the political and tax independence of local governments. It calls for greater support for strengthening the powers of local governments and their associations in the member countries.

1.3 Origin and evolution of Spanish decentralised cooperation:

In Spain, the first municipal cooperation actions were carried out in the mid-1980s. These were symbolic actions promoted by the sensitivity of administration managers. Among institutional collaboration initiatives we can mention the drive of the Madrid Town Council in 1982 for the creation of the Union of Latin American Capital Cities (*Unión de Ciudades Capitales Iberoamericanas*, UCCI); and the founding in Granada under the auspices of the county councils of Andalusia of the Centre of Municipal Studies and Interprovincial Cooperation in 1986. In this period of over 30 years of solidarity with Spanish local governments, progress has been made in efficiency and consolidation.

The proximity, the commitment, the horizontal cooperation between towns, the transfer of knowledge, and good local governance have been among the distinguishing marks of the local decentralised cooperation of Spanish municipalities.

The 1980s marked the beginning, the hope of sharing with other territories the incipient development of Spanish society and the need for transferring political commitment to the field of solidarity with the towns and cities of the South.

⁶ [http://www.femp.es/files/566-871-archivo/9243688289_\(ES\)_sp_uclg_position_paper_final.pdf](http://www.femp.es/files/566-871-archivo/9243688289_(ES)_sp_uclg_position_paper_final.pdf)

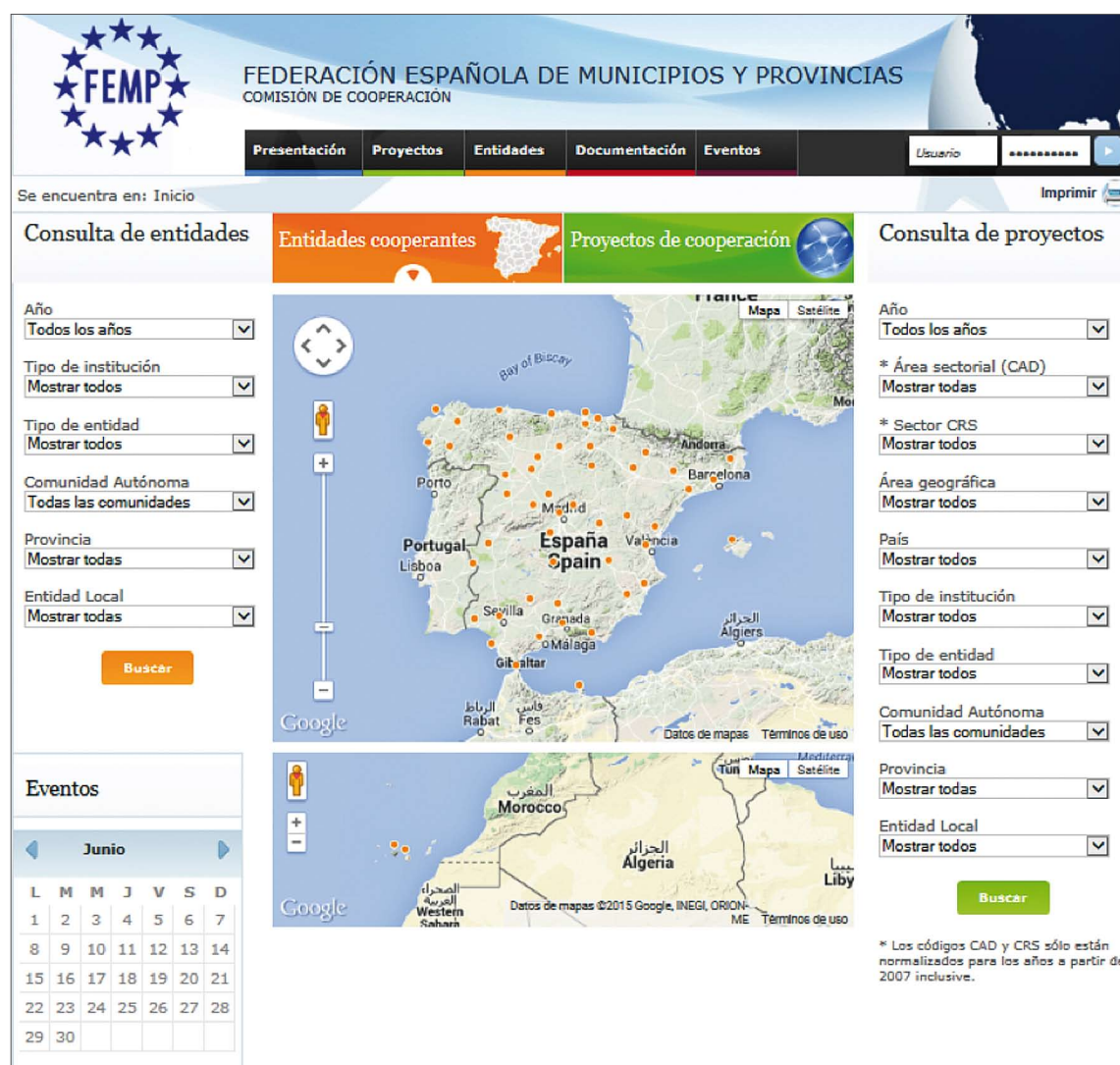
⁷ At the end of this document some ideas are put forward for the debate on this new and important report on the role of Local Governments in Development.



The 1990s were the time of the promotion of civil society and the drive of the campaigns for 0.7%. Many town councils embraced this commitment and decided to devote 0.7% of their budget to the promoting of cooperation policies. Numerous Cooperation Councils were set up and calls for subsidising the organisations of civil society became generalised. This strengthened the relations between the social fabric and municipal policy in favour of the local development of the most impoverished towns.

In the year 2000 with local cooperation being increasingly widespread, the commitment had been that of a bid for coordination and complementarity, encouraging the creation of local government networks and direct cooperation between municipalities and/or associations of local governments, giving priority to actions tending to transfer knowledge and knowhow in the various administrative areas of municipal policy.

At this time, the effort made by the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (*Federación Española de Municipios y Provincias*, FEMP) with the support of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Spanish Government must be emphasised; this was done to have a public “atlas of local decentralised cooperation” accessible on the website <http://cooperacion.femp.es>.



FEMP
FEDERACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE MUNICIPIOS Y PROVINCIAS
COMISIÓN DE COOPERACIÓN

Presentación Proyectos Entidades Documentación Eventos Usuario

Se encuentra en: Inicio Imprimir

Consulta de entidades Entidades cooperantes Proyectos de cooperación

Año: Todos los años

Tipo de institución: Mostrar todos

Tipo de entidad: Mostrar todos

Comunidad Autónoma: Todas las comunidades

Provincia: Mostrar todas

Entidad Local: Mostrar todas

Buscar

Eventos

Junio

L	M	M	J	V	S	D
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Consulta de proyectos

Año: Todos los años

* Área sectorial (CAD): Mostrar todas

* Sector CRS: Mostrar todos

Área geográfica: Mostrar todos

País: Mostrar todos

Tipo de institución: Mostrar todos

Tipo de entidad: Mostrar todos

Comunidad Autónoma: Todas las comunidades

Provincia: Mostrar todas

Entidad Local: Mostrar todas

Buscar

* Los códigos CAD y CRS sólo están normalizados para los años a partir de 2007 inclusive.



On this website, the user can consult over 30,000 actions implemented by local Spanish governments since 2005. Their objective is to facilitate coordination between different players operating in the various priority regions and countries for European cooperation so as to encourage the complementarity and efficiency of the aid.

This tool aims also to be of use to the local governments of member states when seeking Spanish members for their cooperation projects, as searches can be made both by fields of action and by their players.

During these three decades, and although development cooperation was never a “municipal competence in its own right”, the regulations current until December 2013 (Law 7/1985 Regulating the Basis of the Local System) made possible the exercising of other non-express competences by local governments based on their municipal autonomy, allowing local governments to develop their own municipal cooperation plans.

Currently, after the coming into effect of Law 27/2013 on the Rationalisation and Sustainability of Local Administration⁸ and of Law 2/2014 on Action and the Exterior State Service⁹ at the end of March of the same year, the procedure has been modified so that Spanish local governments can continue to carry out actions of development cooperation, with it being necessary to apply for obligatory reports at the start of the activity.

However, and in spite of this change in the regulations, local governments have continued to implement development cooperation programmes and actions, and have adapted not only to the new internal requirements but also to the challenges that local decentralised cooperation faces given the new development agenda, together with the role that they are granted by international agreements in terms of essential agents for change and inclusive and sustainable local development.

The Development Cooperation Commission of the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP):

It is articulated as a forum for discussion and the representation of solidarity encouraged by local governments. Its main objectives are:

- Favours the coordination and the complementarity of the aid with the aim of encouraging its quantitative and qualitative improvement, stressing harmonisation and appropriation according to the declaration of Paris, Accra, and Busan.
- Encouraging processes of the institutional strengthening of local governments of the South and associated municipal processes.

It carries out its work from 4 visions of COORDINATION in the interests of this improvement in the efficacy and efficiency of the cooperation actions of Local Entities: Coordination of information; Coordination of instruments; Coordination of action; and Coordination of policies.

Likewise, it coordinates with the Spanish Government by means of a collaboration agreement with the major objective of making progress in TRANSPARENCY, making it clear on what, where, and with whom the Spanish Local Entities are working on the ground. All this is available on the free access website to facilitate the complementarity of the individual actions of the Local Entities. Moreover, it has been drawing up instruments such as the **Cooperation Manual for Local Governments of the FEMP**¹⁰, which is an essential tool for understanding the types of local cooperation and its characteristics. The latter includes in the form of a catalogue of experiences a list of the interventions that the local governments consider to be of interest because of their level of efficiency and the specific value contributed by the town council or county council to the project or action.

⁸ <http://www.femp.es/files/566-1691-archivo/BOE-A-2013-13756.pdf>

⁹ <http://www.femp.es/files/566-1692-archivo/BOE-A-2014-3248.pdf>

¹⁰ <http://www.femp.es/files/566-1077-archivo/ManualdeCooperaciónFEMP2011.pdf>

Some examples of one of the local priority sectors of Spanish cooperation can be consulted in the files attached below which are included in the aforementioned manual:

GOVERNMENT AND CIVIL SOCIETY

15112 Decentralisation and support of regional and local governments

NAME OF THE ENTITY	Córdoba Town Council
NAME OF THE PROJECT OR ACTION	Support for budget participation in the Dominican Republic
START DATE AND END DATE	Support has been given from 2006 to date (June 2011).
SUMMARISED DESCRIPTION	<p>Since 2006, the Córdoba Town Council has been cooperating in the programme "Support for budget participation in the Dominican Republic" with the Dominican Federation of Municipalities (<i>Federación Dominicana de Municipios</i>, FEDOMU) and through the Andalusia Fund of Municipalities for International Solidarity (<i>Fondo Andaluz de Municipios para la Solidaridad Internacional</i>, FAMSI).</p> <p>The objective of this programme is to improve transparency and efficiency in municipal administration and the strengthening of citizens by means of participative instruments of public administration.</p> <p>Collaboration takes the form of support for maintaining the National Participative Budget Unit of the FEDOMU and of several technical exchanges between civil servants and elected officials from the Dominican Republic and from Córdoba.</p> <p>Until 2007 in the Dominican Republic the Municipal Participative Budget was voluntary in its application, but that year the Budget Law was approved. Its objective was to establish mechanisms of citizen participation in the discussion, drawing up, and follow-up of the budget of the municipality, especially concerning 40% of the transfer which the municipalities receive of the National Budget which they must devote to capital expenses and investment, together with the income of their own applicable to this concept.</p> <p>The Córdoba Town Council has a very positive opinion of the legislative and administrative achievements of the National Participative Budget Unit of the FEDOMU, strengthening its collaboration in the programme.</p> <p>During the most recent period FEDOMU, by means of this programme, is making an effort to improve decentralisation; in order to do so the Regional Associations of Municipalities are being strengthened and municipal technical personnel and local authorities are being trained.</p>
CRS ACTION SECTOR	(15112) Decentralisation and support for regional and local governments
COUNTRY AND LOCATION	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. All municipalities.
ECONOMIC DATA: TOTAL AMOUNT; FOR THIS PROJECT, TOTAL CONTRIBUTED BY THE LOCAL ENTITY	164,141.22 € in three budget years
EXECUTING ENTITY	Andalusia Fund of Municipalities for International Solidarity and Córdoba Town Council
LOCAL COUNTERPART	Dominican Federation of Municipalities
COFINANCING	
DIRECT COOPERATION OR INDIRECT COOPERATION	Direct Cooperation



<p>SPECIFIC VALUE PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO THE PROJECT</p>	<p>What is interesting about this initiative is the exchanging of experiences with the aim of improving the execution mechanisms of the Participative Budgets and of the municipal policy of citizen participation in general.</p> <p>It is for this reason that the project allows bidirectional exchanges of both technical personnel and political authorities.</p> <p>Córdoba has a consolidated history of citizen participation. It was one of the first Spanish cities to establish the regulatory framework of citizen participation at a local level: the Citizen Participation Regulations by means of which an attempt was made to channel citizen participation into public affairs in the 1980s.</p> <p>Its history has generated an extensive framework of participation spaces within the Municipal Organization Chart (Council of the Citizen Movement, District Councils, Sectorial Councils, etc.).</p> <p>The Participative Budgets were initiated in the city of Córdoba in January 2001.</p> <p>Although Participative Budgets are currently not being implemented in Córdoba, the continuity of the Córdoba Town Council in this project continues to make sense, as the project has been opening up to other actions that favour decentralisation and good governance.</p>
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15112 Decentralisation and support of regional and local governments

NAME OF THE ENTITY	Santa Cruz de Tenerife Town Council
NAME OF THE PROJECT OR ACTION	Promoting local economic development in the municipalities of the Department of Santa Cruz by means of the operation of the Training Centre for the local economic development of Santa Cruz de la Sierra in Bolivia.
START DATE AND END DATE	The agreement is signed for the 2006 – 2008 trading years, but its actual execution covers the years from 2007 to 2010.
SUMMARISED DESCRIPTION	<p>By means of the Training Centre for Local Economic Development this process has provided support for training and institutional strengthening in the 56 municipalities of the Department of Santa Cruz in Bolivia. It has allowed the consolidation in the municipalities mentioned of local economic development as an integrating element of local public policy and also in the social players of the territories, which are the main beneficiaries of the project.</p> <p>It should be emphasised that by means of this initiative an effective governance process has been promoted between the Departmental Government of Santa Cruz, the Municipal Governments, and the productive players as previously mentioned, and that the various initiatives implemented during the execution of the project are assumed by each of the institutions involved as public policy, including budgets and counterparts in each of the anticipated activities.</p> <p>The project has proposed in its three stages the strengthening and support of micro-business initiatives promoting the creation of new companies, the search for markets for the generation of income in the territories, and revitalisation and the generation of employment. In this sense the following areas of action have been promoted and encouraged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Productive, cultural, and tourist fairs – Training – Investments – Institutional relations – Publications <p>In order to do so an essential aspect has been the coordination between public institutions and private entities of all kinds and decentralised international cooperation, which by means of public-private coordination has generated a mood of confidence and planning, promoting activities to benefit productive people of each of the municipalities of the department.</p>
CRS ACTION SECTOR	(15112) Decentralisation and support for regional and local governments
COUNTRY AND LOCATION	The 56 municipalities of the Department of Santa Cruz in Bolivia.
ECONOMIC DATA: TOTAL AMOUNT; FOR THIS PROJECT, TOTAL CONTRIBUTED BY THE LOCAL ENTITY	<p>60,000 euros 2006 60,000 euros 2007 60,000 euros 2008</p> <p>This action is financed 100% by the Santa Cruz de Tenerife Town Council.</p>
EXECUTING ENTITY	CEPAD (Centre for Participation and Sustainable Human Development)
LOCAL COUNTERPART	CEPAD and municipalities of the Department of Santa Cruz involved in this process.
COFINANCING	The process carried out by the CEPAD is being supported by multiple Latin American and European entities, AECID, FELCODE, Córdoba County Council, etc., but this action within this wider framework is financed 100% by the Santa Cruz de Tenerife Town Council.
DIRECT COOPERATION OR INDIRECT COOPERATION	<p>Direct Cooperation</p> <p>2006-2008 collaboration agreement between the Centre for Participation and Sustainable Human Development (CEPAD-Bolivia) of Santa Cruz de la Sierra in Bolivia and the Town Council of Santa Cruz de Tenerife in the Canary Islands.</p>



<p>SPECIFIC VALUE PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO THE PROJECT</p>	<p>Initial twinning relationship between Santa Cruz de la Sierra and Santa Cruz de Tenerife (since the 1980s).</p> <p>The technical cooperation relationship between the Santa Cruz de Tenerife Town Council – the Santa Cruz de Tenerife Local Government Agency – the Santa Cruz de la Sierra Town Council and the CEPAD in said department constitutes a network between equivalent entities in two very different situations but with some similarities and with a strong interest in promoting local development processes in both territories. The contact between agents and the exchanging of experiences between these players (from the North and the South) has been highly enriching and has had other interesting and enriching effects that were not initially anticipated.</p> <p>Technical assessment: When decentralised cooperation is carried out between equivalent entities (whether these be associations for women, young people, public institutions, professional associations, trade unions, schools, agricultural cooperatives, etc. from different territories) the risks that often arise in international development cooperation are reduced. Nevertheless, prudence and the idea that we are not going to “teach” how well we do things in Spain is vital. It must be a bidirectional process and this must be understood from the outset.</p>
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15112 Decentralisation and support of regional and local governments

NAME OF THE ENTITY	Barcelona County Council
NAME OF THE PROJECT OR ACTION	Platform to support institutional strengthening and local development in Morocco
START DATE AND END DATE	April 2008 to date [June 2011]
SUMMARISED DESCRIPTION	<p>The Barcelona County Council is collaborating with the Moroccan Local Development Institute (<i>Institut Marocain pour le Développement Local</i>, IMADEL) in its work of the institutional strengthening and promotion of local development policies in Moroccan municipalities from the regions of Marrakech Tensift Al Hauz, Tadla Azilal, and Sous Massa Daraa.</p> <p>The major lines of action of this institute are as follows: establishing the basis of local governance by means of ongoing training programmes and support for local development projects; work on political advocacy and awareness of the importance of local development, and the promotion of decentralised cooperation between towns.</p> <p>One of the fields of action is the aforementioned collaboration has been the creation of links between municipalities of the regions in which IMADEL works with their counterparts of the province of Barcelona. Among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Town Council of Viladecans is leading together with the district of Menara (city of Marrakech) a consortium of local governments consisting of the Town Councils of Sant Vicenç dels Horts, Cornellà de Llobregat, Sant Joan Despí, and Esplugues de Llobregat, and the Municipalities of Loudaya, Tasseltant, Souhila, and Saada to define a local socio-cultural policy and revitalise the two sets of equipment of the civic centres. – Cerdanyola del Vallès has supported the creation of the first municipal vocational training centre of Morocco in the municipality of Ait Ourir. – By means of a project Santa Coloma de Gramenet has supported the inclusion of the requirements of vulnerable groups in the Marrakech Communal Development Plan.
CRS ACTION SECTOR	(15112) Decentralisation and support for regional and local governments
COUNTRY AND LOCATION	MOROCCO. Regions of Marrakech Tensift Al Hauz, Tadla Azilal, and Sous Massa Daraa.
ECONOMIC DATA: TOTAL AMOUNT; FOR THIS PROJECT, TOTAL CONTRIBUTED BY THE LOCAL ENTITY	<p>Total: 518,432€</p> <p>Contribution of IMADEL: 200,000€</p> <p>Direct contribution of Barcelona County Council to IMADEL: 318,432€</p> <p>Contribution of Barcelona County Council to the actions of the municipalities of the province linked to IMADEL: 135,460€ since 2008.</p>
EXECUTING ENTITY	Barcelona County Council
COUNTERPART	Moroccan Local Development Institute (IMADEL)
DIRECT COOPERATION OR INDIRECT COOPERATION	Direct Cooperation
SPECIFIC VALUE CONTRIBUTED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO THE PROJECT	<p>Support for the construction of areas of action of the IMADEL starting from the experience of the Barcelona County Council in its action with the town councils of the province.</p> <p>Facilitating technical exchanges between municipalities from Morocco and from Barcelona province in the drawing up of local strategic plans and in the defining of proximity policies such as those on gender, culture, young people, the environment, etc. These exchanges took the form of partnerships for the implementation of specific projects. In this manner, the direct action of Barcelona County Council is linked to that of the municipalities of its province.</p>



15140 Government administration

NAME OF THE ENTITY	San Sebastián de los Reyes Town Council
NAME OF THE PROJECT OR ACTION	Inter-municipality: an efficient tool for social and territorial cohesion in Latin America
START DATE AND END DATE	January 2009 – December 2012
SUMMARISED DESCRIPTION	This project is a consortium between local governments of Europe and Latin America to contribute to social and territorial cohesion by means of specific projects in an association of municipalities (waste treatment, the environment, citizens, etc.) in five Latin American countries and the systematisation and exchanging of experiences that allow the proposing of an inter-municipality model for the region.
CRS ACTION SECTOR	(15140) Government Administration (41010) Environmental Policy
COUNTRY AND LOCATION	MEXICO, GUATEMALA, NICARAGUA, ARGENTINA, AND BOLIVIA
ECONOMIC DATA: TOTAL AMOUNT; FOR THIS PROJECT, TOTAL CONTRIBUTED BY THE LOCAL ENTITY	The project has a total budget of 2,800,202 €. The Town Council's contribution is assessed; essentially it contributes to the dedication of municipal employees.
EXECUTING ENTITY	Local governments of the five Latin American and two European members.
LOCAL COUNTERPART	Government of the state of Michoacán de Ocampo in Mexico, town councils and associations of municipalities of Nicaragua, Guatemala, Argentina, Bolivia, and Mexico, and the <i>Conseil général des Hautes-Pyrénées</i> in France.
COFINANCING	The European Commission (URB-AL Programme) is the main source of financing. The members contribute 20% of the total (in cash or in the form of securities).
DIRECT COOPERATION OR INDIRECT COOPERATION	Direct Cooperation (as a consortium)
SPECIFIC VALUE CONTRIBUTED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO THE PROJECT	The Government of the state of Michoacán de Ocampo is the coordinator of the project, which also has collaborating entities which are very important for the development of this initiative such as: the Observatory of Changes in Latin America (LOCAL) with its headquarters in France; the Latin American Centre of Human Economics (Centro Latinoamericano de Economía Humana, CLAEH) with its headquarters in Uruguay; and Cités Unies France (CUF). The <i>Conseil général des Hautes-Pyrénées</i> and the Town Council of San Sebastián de los Reyes have an accompanying role in the exchanging of experiences and aid in the systematisation of the project, with the aim of contributing towards the generating of a Latin American inter-municipality model in its own right.

15170 Organisation and institutions for women's equality

NAME OF THE ENTITY	Bilbao Town Council
NAME OF THE PROJECT OR ACTION	Faced with violence, women break their silence
START DATE AND END DATE	Start: 1 st January 2007 End: 31 st December 2007
SUMMARISED DESCRIPTION	<p>The promotion and the defence of women's rights has become essential for the generating of structural changes aimed at improving women's opportunities. This campaign seeks social mobility to increase public awareness and to generate a debate on specific actions for protecting their rights, the promotion of equality, social recognition, and the prevention and eradication of violence against women.</p> <p>Contents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Information, education, and communication (training workshops, radio and television programmes, advertising campaigns, etc.) 2) Training of companions of battered women. 3) Setting up offices for attending battered women. 4) Support for shelters for battered women. 5) Didactic material and its dissemination (in libraries, video libraries, etc.)
CRS ACTION SECTOR	(15170) Organisation and institutions for women's equality
COUNTRY AND LOCATION	COLOMBIA, Medellín
ECONOMIC DATA: TOTAL AMOUNT; FOR THIS PROJECT, TOTAL CONTRIBUTED BY THE LOCAL ENTITY	Total amount: 156,465 € Subsidy Bilbao Town Council: 30,000 €
EXECUTING ENTITY	Medellín Town Council, Secretariat for Women's Affairs
LOCAL COUNTERPART	Medellín Town Council, Secretariat for Women's Affairs
COFINANCING	Remainder by the Medellín Town Council
DIRECT COOPERATION OR INDIRECT COOPERATION	Direct Cooperation
SPECIFIC VALUE CONTRIBUTED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO THE PROJECT	<p>Advice in dissemination campaigns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Exchanging experiences of tackling the prevention of gender violence – Orientation on actions for taking in women who have suffered gender violence – Participation of the people in Medellín responsible for the programme in congresses and events organised in Bilbao.

Another of the commitments of the FEMP and of Spanish local governments as a whole has been support for the Millennium Campaign of the United Nations, with which the Federation signed an agreement in 2008 by which it undertook to project the cooperation actions of Spanish local governments, drawing up for the purpose an adapted guide of "8 ways to change the world"¹¹.

¹¹ http://www.femp.es/files/566-634-archivo/Guía%20Gobiernos%20Locales_Norte%20y%20Sur_final.pdf



An example of this is the initiative of the Town Council of Lleida, Solidàrium. The Lleida Fair of support organisations:

Millennium Goal to which it contributes to achieving: It is an annual awareness project and each year a Millennium Goal is worked on. The Solidàrium offers the possibility of getting to know Lleida's support network and the various activities, resources, teaching materials, and awareness resources of the Non-Governmental Development Organisation (NGDO) and of whatever entities are working in the field of cooperation. To carry out this activity a tent is put up in the Plaça de Sant Joan, where over 70 specialised entities have their own space. Parallel to this at the same time can be found: the Exhibition of Information and Documentation for Development organised by the University of Lleida; exhibitions on Millennium Goals; spaces for theatre, dance, and musical performances and also for games and workshops, and a small Fair Trade café.

Exhibitions held simultaneously in other points of the city and radio and television programmes complete this project, in order to achieve which work has been done in Lleida schools, which have been sent a specific didactic guide on the Millennium Development Goals and in particular on the theme of the Solidàrium.

1.4 Decentralised cooperation in Latin America

Decentralised cooperation with Latin America goes back to the 1980s. At that time, the region was involved in an important process of transformation and considerable democratic progress was made in many countries, in which local governments played an important part.

Since then cooperation between Latin American and European municipalities has mainly been based on support for decentralisation and the recognition of municipal independence and governability, together with the strengthening of powers and social and political leadership.

By means of the creation and institutionalisation of networks of cooperating governments from the “north and south”, this municipal cooperation has achieved its greatest successes in terms of local development and fighting against inequality.

Experiences such as the URBAL programme¹² and the MUNICIPIA programme¹³ show the importance of the appropriation by the local governments of the receiving countries of the aid in the results expected, together with the added value that this horizontal cooperation among equals also gives to the donor local governments. Both initiatives have served to strengthen the “City-City” cooperation that highlights technical cooperation and the transfer of knowledge above cooperation based on the transfer of financial resources. Likewise, we must stress the support for programmes of multi-actor and multi-sectorial intervention based on the complete sustainability of the actions, with approaches based on appropriation, alignment, harmonisation, and administration based on results and accountability promoted by the ART initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The actions within the framework of the “City-City” initiative take the form of Memorandums of Understanding and Collaboration signed by UN-Habitat and the local governments of Latin America and Spain. They are carried out by means of operative programming with commitments of economic and technical cooperation and the implementation of specific actions in pilot projects developed jointly by the players and the institutions taking part, which will be the main objective of the seminar.

¹² Although this programme disappears we consider it important to highlight the good experiences that have been achieved within the framework of this European Union - Latin America and the Caribbean (EU-LAC) cooperation.

¹³ A municipal cooperation programme of the Spanish International Cooperation Agency that ended in 2010.



The URB-AL III programme (2009-2013) was an innovative project of decentralised cooperation of Europe-Aid (European Commission) with Latin America, the objective of which was encouraging local public policies that contribute towards increasing the level of social cohesion of the subnational groups of the region and may become models of reference.

The Programme has some 1.8 million beneficiaries and has carried out more than **20 cooperation projects** implemented in 74 Latin American territories and by a Coordination and Orientation Office (*Oficina de Coordinación y Orientación, OCO*). URB-AL III has generated or strengthened 131 local public policies that help to encourage social cohesion in over 500 Latin American municipalities.

Although the programme has been completed, its results and the specific experiences can be consulted on its website (<http://www.urb-al3.eu/>).

It supported the Conference on Local Partnership between the European Union and Latin America (Valparaíso, March 2004) where the need to get to know and take a closer look at direct cooperation between municipalities was revealed. After the Conference and within the same framework of the URB-AL Programme, two far-reaching projects were launched: the Documentation Centre of the URB-AL Programme, a space for the synthesis of the knowledge generated by thematic networks; and the European Union – Latin America (EU-LA) Decentralised Cooperation Observatory.

As for the MUNICIPIA¹⁴ programme, which has also been completed, it is important to involve it in the debate, as its work areas are valid today and it is a cooperation experience that can be taken up again.

The main work areas of Municipia were based on the efficiency of the aid and in particular were clearly in tune with the principles of appropriation and alignment. The programme supported projects that strengthened the processes of decentralisation and concentrated on strengthening local public administrations so as to improve public services. The methodology used was directly related to the principles of mutual responsibility and administration based on results. Among the achievements of Municipia, the following can be highlighted:

- Debate and coordination in the donor country. Several encounters have been held with the objective of compiling experiences and reaching agreement on the priorities of local governments and of the central government.
- The work of diagnosis and planning on the ground with the local partners. Encounters have been carried out in regional areas and/or countries in which with the participation of the structure of Spanish cooperation the players of the programme have debated with the local partners the areas of the work to be carried out.
- It is a case of creating a favourable atmosphere for a fluid dialogue between the Spanish public administrations and the public administrations of the member countries with a view to a suitable approach to the aid devoted to strengthening local entities. The alignment and appropriation criteria articulate this work of diagnosis and planning.
- The carrying out of programmes and projects within the framework of a joint action strategy. Once the programme's action strategy has been designed and agreed with the local members, it is they who play a leading role in the development of the interventions financed.

Although the programme had been specifically conceived for use on a local scale, it provided a wide-ranging double dimension that can be extrapolated: 1) it favours the development of a joint strategy by the Spanish public administrations acting in this field; 2) it proposes a political dialogue with the member countries that should organise the aid devoted to local governability.

¹⁴ <http://www.programamunicipia.org/>



As for other cooperation opportunities that have been strengthened over the years and which would allow Latin American local governments access by association to the European announcements, these include in particular analysing the impact results of some initiatives of an eminently political nature, such as the Latin American Local Government Forums, and other more instrumental initiatives such as the programmes supported by the United Nations, to be specific by the UNDP, with its **ART initiative** and by UN-Habitat with its "National Dialogues for Decentralisation" and the most recent "City-City" project.

The **ART initiative of the UNDP** began in 2005 with the aim of contributing with the efforts of the countries to accelerating progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDG); strengthening the construction of better levels of sustainable human development at a local level by means of drawing up local development plans; and the strengthening of the planning processes, reinforcing the strategic roles of the regional authorities (departmental, provincial) and the local authorities (municipal, parish, community), in full collaboration with the national authorities and with high levels of participation in the organised population.

In addition to the essential organisation paradigms of the UNDP and the national and local priorities of each of the countries in which it is present, the ART initiative is orientated by and takes on not only the MDGs but also the specifying of the Paris Declaration referring to the principles of aid efficiency, the Accra Action Agenda, the Busan resolutions, and the Río+20 recommendations.

The ART initiative of the UNDP promotes and sustains framework programmes of the Articulation of Territorial Networks for Sustainable Human Development. They are defined as framework programmes because they create an institutional context organised in such a way that the various national and international players can contribute towards the human development of the country in a coordinated and complementary manner.

By means of its programmes ART operates in different geographical, economic, cultural, and religious contexts with different levels of development, in conflict or post-conflict situations or those with binational dynamics, or in countries undergoing transitions. All this is with the aim of contributing to, strengthening, and revitalising (with an articulation strategy of multiple players and of levels of action and the integration of different thematic areas) the territorial processes of human development that help the communities to initiate, administer, strengthen, and consolidate the achieving of the Millennium Goals at a local level, in the sense of sustainability, inclusive character, and the reduction of inequality.

The ART initiative of the UNDP was requested by eight countries in very different situations: Cuba, Uruguay, the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Bolivia, and Honduras with the Women and Local Economic Development programme (*Mujer y Desarrollo Económico Local*, MyDEL)

On the other hand, it is very important to stress the role and the work carried out by the associations of municipalities and local governments in development and their vital contribution to the consolidation of municipal independence in their countries, together with the promotion of decentralised cooperation as a public development policy. The fruit of this work includes the institutionalisation of **Latin American Local Government Forums** as a space for common political debate between all Latin American mayors, achieving the approval of the *Latin American Charter of Municipal Autonomy*¹⁵ in that held in 2009, and its inclusion on the Official Agenda of Latin American Heads of State and Government Summits.

In these forums the role of local governments in development and the crucial contribution of decentralised cooperation to the decentralisation processes in the Region are continuous. There are always spaces in them to debate and agree on the role of the associations concerning the new global agenda of development.

¹⁵ <http://www.femp.es/files/566-1093-archivo/Carta%20Iberoamericana%20de%20Autonomía%20%20Municipal%20IV%20Foro%20Lisboa.pdf>

Another result of the collaboration between associations of municipalities is the **institutional recognition** that their central governments have given to many of them after the manner of the recognition that the FEMP enjoys in Spain, such as the interlocutor before the remainder of the administrations to defend municipal independence and the work of the local government.

2. WORK OPPORTUNITIES OF LOCAL LATIN AMERICAN ENTITIES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF EUROPEAN COOPERATION POLICY

Despite Europe's economic difficulties and the crisis, the European Union continues to be one of the major international donors (from EU funds and those of the member countries). In 2011 the total figure amounted to more than 53 thousand million euros, over 50% of the total world aid for development.

This amount represents 0.42% of the Gross National Income (GNI) of all the countries of the European Union and makes it the most generous aid donor in the world. It is however still far from the commitment (which it still maintains despite the crisis) of devoting 0.7% of its gross domestic product to development cooperation and the commitment to eradicate poverty by 2015.

The European Union has drawn up its budget for the 2014-2020 period and also includes in it the budget commitment that it will devote to the development cooperation policy and to the **financial instruments created to materialise it**.

These financial instruments constitute the legal basis for the application of the geographical and thematic programmes, i.e. European development aid will be transmitted by means of projects complying with the geographical priorities of the European Union for the 2014-2020 period (geographical programmes) and the areas for priority action approved (thematic programmes) with a specific budget for this 7-year period.

2.1 Geographical programmes

Geographical programmes are the preferred cooperation instrument. After a dialogue with the member countries, the Commission will draw up "country-strategy" documents that concentrate on the needs brought up by the countries and regions. These strategy documents establish the priority areas for the financial assignments and serve as a basis for programming the development aid. An action programme is adopted each year to define the specific objectives, the fields of intervention, the results expected, and the amount of funds that will be provided.

Both local governments and civil society organisations are invited to participate in the designing and carrying out of the strategic agreements in accordance with the principle of association.



ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA		
Countries eligible for bilateral aid	Countries that may participate in the geographical and thematic programmes:	
1. Bolivia 2. El Salvador 3. Guatemala 4. Honduras 5. Nicaragua 6. Paraguay	1. Argentina 2. Bolivia 3. Brazil 4. Chile 5. Colombia 6. Costa Rica 7. Cuba 8. Ecuador 9. El Salvador	10. Guatemala 11. Honduras 12. Mexico 13. Nicaragua 14. Panama 15. Paraguay 16. Peru 17. Uruguay 18. Venezuela

Note: The Commission has issued this proposal to reduce the number of countries receiving aid to 19 and 11 of these are from Latin America. Only 6 countries receiving bilateral aid remain in the region.

EU COOPERATION SPACES COVERED BY THE GEOGRAPHICAL PROGRAMMES according to European Regulations valid until December 31 st 2013	
I. Human rights, democracy, and other key elements of good governance Democracy, human rights, and the rule of law 1. Gender equality and women's emancipation 2. Administration of the public sector 3. Tax policy and administration 4. Corruption 5. Civil society and local authorities 6. Natural resources 7. Link between development and security	II. Integrating and sustainable growth for human development: 1. Social protection, health, education, and employment 2. Business environment, regional integration, and world markets 3. Sustainable agriculture and energy III. Other important environments for the coherence of development policy: 1. Climatic change and the environment 2. Migration and asylum 3. Transition between humanitarian aid and the response to the crisis, and long-term cooperation development



Specific areas of cooperation with Latin America in the geographical programmes:	
guaranteeing the appropriate follow-up of short-term emergency measures tackling recovery after catastrophes or the crisis applied by means of other financial instruments	encouraging social cohesion, in particular social insertion, decent work and equity, gender equality, and women's emancipation;
supporting education and development policies of a common area of higher education in Latin America;	support for the various processes of regional integration and the interconnection of the networks of infrastructures, and at the same time guaranteeing complementarity with the activities supported by the European Investment Bank (EIB) and other institutions;
tackling the security-development connection; tackling economic vulnerability and contributing towards structural transformation by means of the creation of trade associations, investments, technical knowledge and research, innovation, and technology, and encouraging sustainable and integrating growth in all their dimensions, paying particular attention to the challenges of migratory flows, food security (including sustainable agriculture and fishing), climatic change, sustainable energy and the protection and improvement of biodiversity and the services of ecosystems, including water and forests, together with productive investment to create more jobs and in better conditions in the ecological economy;	tackling matters of governance and supporting policy reform, in particular in the fields of social policies, the administration of public funds and taxation, security (including drugs, crime and corruption), strengthening good governance and public institutions (even by means of innovative mechanisms for providing technical cooperation, such as Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) and twinning associations, the protection of human rights, including those of native peoples and the rights of descendents of Africans, the environment, the fight against discrimination and the fight against drug production, consumption, and traffic;



2.2 Thematic programmes

The thematic programmes concentrate on specific subjects that are of common interest to the European Union and its members. The European Union establishes long-term strategies that define the objectives and priorities for this period under which aid can be requested, both by EU member countries and by partner countries. These programmes are normally implemented by means of calls for subsidies in which it is determined which countries are eligible.

INSTRUMENTS OF GEOGRAPHICAL FINANCING 2007-2013:

Financial instrument	Geographical area	Number of countries with access	Average annual financing (in euros)	Total budget for the 2007-2013 period (in euros)
European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument <i>ENPI</i>	It is aimed at countries that form part of the European Union neighbourhood policy and encourages a novel form of cross-border cooperation	17	1.6 billion	11,181 billion
European Development Fund <i>EDF</i>	Instrument for the application of the Cotonou Agreement which is open to all ACP countries	79	3.7 billion	22.7 billion
European Development Fund <i>EDF</i>	Programme encouraging cooperation with average and low income countries of Latin America, Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East, and Southern Africa.	47	1.4 billion	10.05 billion

INSTRUMENTS OF THEMATIC FINANCING 2007-2013:

Financial instrument	Geographical area	Average annual financing (in euros)	Total budget for the 2007-2013 period (in euros)
<p>European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights <i>EIDHR</i></p> <p>It contributes towards development and the consolidation of human rights and fundamental liberties, democracy, and the rule of law worldwide</p>	All countries except industrialised countries and those of the EU	160 million	1,104 billion
<p>Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation <i>INSC</i></p> <p>It supports the promotion of a high level of nuclear safety, radiological protection, and the application of efficient and effective safeguards for nuclear materials in third party countries</p>	All countries except industrialised countries and those of the EU	75 million	524 million
<p>Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)</p> <p>It finances a series of thematic programmes on matters of common interest for the EU and its members worldwide. The themes are as follows:</p>			
<p>The environment and natural resources represent the promotion of the ecological dimension of the development policy, in particular by means of the expansion of environmental and energy policies of the EU with the rest of the world.</p>	All countries except industrialised countries and those of the EU	120 million	470 million
<p>Non-State Actors and Local Authorities (NSA-LA) are participating to reduce poverty and encourage sustainable growth</p>	All countries (including the EU) and industrialised member countries	230 million	1.6 billion



Food security is supporting the development of national food security policies and surveillance systems with the aim of ensuring that a strategic approach to food security is established in national strategies for reducing poverty	All countries except industrialised countries and the EU	240 million	925 million
Migration and asylum are supporting member countries from outside the EU so that they can improve the administration of the migratory flows	All countries except industrialised countries and those of the EU	60 million	384 million
Investing in people is the promoting of cooperation in health, knowledge and skills, culture, employment and social cohesion, gender equality, and children and young people	All countries except industrialised countries and those of the EU	150 million	1 billion
Instrument for Stability <i>IFS</i> This is a strategic tool designed for facing the challenges of world security and development as a complement to geographical instruments. It has been in force since 1st January 2007 and replaces several instruments in the fields of drugs, mines, people who have lost their roots, crisis management, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.	All countries except industrialised countries and those of the EU	290 million €	2.062 billion € for 2007-2013



Thematic programmes of the EU for local governments (*some considerations*):

Local governments face many obstacles if they are to play a more important and more active part in development policies. They often lack sufficient human and financial resources, apart from the fact that in many cases the staff in charge of development cooperation lacks the technical and administrative knowledge necessary to gain access to the sources of financing of the international donor community as a whole.

On the other hand, access to information tends to be limited on both a national and international level; this is why the promotion of networking and associations is so important.

In order to remedy this situation and promote the effective participation of local governments in active development policies, the EU has set in motion a specific thematic programme devoted to **local governments and civil society**. The first programme, that of the Non-State Actors and Local Authorities (NSA-LA) from 2007 to 2013, will be replaced by the new programme "Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities" (CSO-LA) for the 2014-2020 period.

1. Thematic programme: Local Authorities and Non-State Actors (2007-2013):

The programme promotes and supports the participation of non-state actors and local authorities in the designing and implementation of development policies. The idea is to strengthen the powers of the NSA-LA by means of the creation of networks, the exchanging of information, and joint cooperation on specific themes by the agreement of all participating countries.

The EU strategy for the NSA-LA thematic programme has three objectives for the 2011-2013 period.

The "country/region" strategy is the basis for launching calls for proposals at a national, regional, or multinational level. In other words, the priorities defined in the guidelines for the applicants must be in accordance with the objectives of the strategy. They tend to give a great deal of freedom to local governments for design projects that directly tackle their needs.

Any good idea can lead to an application for financing, provided that it is inscribed in the priorities defined in the guidelines and is based on the association of various organisations and countries that allow the creation of networks and the exchanging of information and training, which in the last analysis strengthens the role of local governments in development.

Many local governments complained of the complexity and the duration of the application process, the scarcity of funds, and the number of measures specifically directed at local governments and the difficulty of developing and administering the alliances of a large number of countries. These criticisms partly reflect the lack of experience of local governments, both in development cooperation and project administration.

2. Thematic programme: Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities (2014-2020)

The new programme supports civil society organisations and local governments from all over the world to help to contribute towards good governance and development. Three components are included:

1. Improving CSOs and LAs in their contribution to the processes of development and governance

This component seeks to increase the powers of CSOs and local governments for working at a national level, taking into account the various functions and roles that they fill respectively in promoting democracy and accountability and in facilitating the providing of services to the poor and inclusive economic growth.



A specific objective refers to the strengthening of the powers of local governments for carrying out their governmental duties. Aid will be provided so that local governments can in effect guarantee the providing of services and public assets and can encourage inclusive and sustainable growth within their framework of competences.

Likewise it will provide a territorial approach to development, including multi-actor actions with the participation of the LAs, the CSOs, and other local actors.

2. Strengthening the networks of the CSOs and the LAs in the field of regional, EU, or international development

With the aim of improving the structures of the CSOs and local governments, the component will strengthen transnational alliances and thus initiatives for dialogue, exchanges, the creation of networks, and the dissemination of good practices at a regional, EU, and global level.

Associations of local governments may also have access to strengthen their powers, collaborate with decision-makers and political leaders of the member countries and of the EU itself, learn from other members of the network, and participate in the dialogues related to the European Union Political Forum for Development.

3. Education and citizen awareness of development

The objective of the last component is to increase citizen awareness of development matters and to support their active participation in the global efforts to eradicate poverty and promote justice, human rights, and sustainable socio-economic development in member countries. This will be done in the form of public awareness campaigns, education and training, the creation of powers, and the exchanging of experiences and good practices among the population and the interested parties. Local governments may participate together with civil society organisations in the designing and implementation of this kind of initiative.

2014-2020 budget framework (advancement):

The Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) will receive 23 thousand million € to concentrate on the **eradication of poverty and to maintain its commitment with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**. This is in addition to those that will be financed by the European Development Fund outside the EU budget; its proposal is 30 thousand million.

The thematic programmes will be concentrated and will be simplified to reduce them to two:

- Universal products and public challenges, supporting actions in fields such as the environment and climatic change, sustainable energy, human development, food security and sustainable agriculture, and migration and asylum.
- Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities (CSO-LA) will finance development initiatives on behalf of or for civil society organisations and local governments from member countries, the European Union, candidate countries, and potential candidates.

3. SOME CONCLUSIONS

[Creation of powers of local and regional governments and institutional strengthening]

The processes of local governance and sustainable development require concerted efforts (among the various levels of government) for institutional reform and the development of powers linked to the consolidation of the local authorities responsible for municipal administration.

Their proximity to citizens, one of the characteristics of local governments, means that their political officers are closest to their needs but are also those who first of all receive demands to solve citizens' problems. This potential of local authorities to increase their contribution to development may be hindered by various internal limitations to their powers, which include:

- human resources (for example, not enough staff or staff lacking basic skills or information);
- material resources (for example, insufficient budgets for operation, installations, or office material);
- institutional limitations (for example, poorly defined procedures regarding planning, budget management and capital investments, and the providing of services and the creation of associations);
- few incentives for improving performance (for example, the lack of an accountability mechanism) and deficient governance mechanisms.

The development and support of the strengthening of these powers by Associations of Local Authorities towards their associates should contribute towards improving the supplying of goods and local public services and also towards promoting both internal governance of local administration and governance in the territory of the local authorities.

A new definition of the development of the powers of LAs should take into account the duties of local authorities and the coordination between interested parties at a local level, together with the institutional framework that exists at a national level.

The development of powers entails involvement in a continuous process that is flexible and adaptable in order to promote the appropriate reforms of both politics and of the duties of the agents involved in local governance and development.

With all this, and even more so at this time of crisis when less economic resources are available and local governments have less income, not only that deriving from the budget of state income but also that deriving from international cooperation, it is more important than ever to put faith in the training and skills of those who have to administer public assets in an efficient and solvent manner. If they are to do so they need to continue to be provided with suitable tools. It is necessary to continue to innovate and create new city-city partnerships and to encourage and support the transferring of experiences so that the bid for strengthening powers of both elected officers and local civil servants continues to be one of the priorities of international cooperation, as the implementation of social cohesion policies requires administrative structures capable of putting them into practice.

[Inclusive growth]

Alliances with other actors:

Integrating and sustainable economic growth is essential to reduce poverty in the long term and the rules of growth are as important as the growth rate. Inclusive growth is characterised by the capacity of people to participate in the creation of wealth and employment and to profit from it. Therefore the encouraging of decent work as the European Commission understands it must be included in EU development policy.



Development is not sustainable if it deteriorates the environment, biodiversity, and the natural resources and increases exposure and vulnerability to natural catastrophes; these matters must also be taken into account in planning development policies.

Especially if we refer to the territorial unit that is the city, the municipality, integrating and inclusive growth must count on citizen participation with the various sectorial associations that operate in the territory and in addition with the local business fabric.

Public-private alliances are therefore associations that local public authorities must explore as another means of collaboration in their fight against poverty and for the sustainable and integrating development of their cities, recognising as strategic members those cities including "social responsibility" in their ideology and business policy.

Inclusive and integrating development also benefits from the exchanging of experiences and knowledge thanks to South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, new models of cooperation that go beyond the traditional one of donors-recipients. They involve each of the players from the various regions and/or countries in an "alliance of horizontal cooperation and feedback".

Decentralisation: financial and economic resources

On the other hand, for mayors to be able to develop inclusive policies to promote economic and social cohesion in the interests of an integrating territorial development they must have sufficient economic resources to provide the necessary public services.

In the last twenty years the importance of decentralisation in development cooperation has increased. Decentralisation has been encouraged to improve the supplying of goods and public services (medical attention, education, water, transport, local infrastructures, food security, etc.), and also to increase local participation in the processes of the drawing up of policies, as local authorities are closer to citizens and probably understand local needs better than central authorities.

Decentralisation is a process that implies the transferring of various powers (decision-making, tax collection, etc.), responsibilities (the providing of services) and resources (financial, human, and administrative) from the highest levels of political institutions (central governments) to authorities at a local level.

Three categories of decentralisation can be distinguished: *political decentralisation*, *administrative decentralisation*, and *tax decentralisation* which is what gives local governments considerable authority on expenses and incomes. This point is particularly important since local authorities can only operate efficiently if they have sufficient resources. For this reason one of the major demands of all local governments from both world regions is that of adequate tax autonomy and sufficient resources.

[The role of Local and Regional Authorities on the international development agenda]

In recent years European and Latin American local governments have acquired considerable relevance in International Development Forums together with Local United Cities and Governments (*Ciudades y Gobiernos Locales Unidos*, CGLU) with a strong agreed position on what should be the role of local governments so as to make progress with the Millennium Development Goals.

From the United Nations to various national governments and via the European Commission, local governments are being recognised as essential players for development. This work has not always been easy, hence the importance of the lobby of the CEMR and its PLATFORMA members for the recognition of the independent role of local governments of organised civil society.

Likewise, the objective of the CGLU Development Cooperation Commission is to defend the characteristics of the proximity, solvency, and efficiency of local governments so as to respond to the population's immediate needs at critical moments.

The adoption of an international development agenda without the voice, the experience, and the good practice of local governments would make no sense, as the main barometer of social cohesion is the coexistence of citizens in cities and towns.

The post-15 development agency must learn that without the appropriation of local governments in the development process adopted compliance with the general objective of eradicating poverty is very difficult.







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Square de Meeûs, 1

B-1000 Brussels

Tel: +32 2 265 09 30



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