

# Discussion paper on the thematic programme Global Public Goods and Challenges

## PLATFORMA contribution

### I. Remarks on the discussion paper

#### Entry points for local and regional governments

The main entry point during the previous programming period, to increase local and regional governments' (LRGs) participation to development processes, was the Non State Actors and Local Authorities programme and LRGs did not benefit as much as they could have from the four programmes the Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) builds on.

The Structured dialogue and PLATFORMA's contributions highlighted LRGs' role in this respect:

- ▶ Local and regional governments, as a sphere of democratic governments, have legitimacy to define and implement integrated and holistic territorial development plans encompassing the three dimensions of sustainable development, the five key areas of this programme, to deliver basic services to the citizens, to play a catalyst role and coordinate various stakeholders involved on their territory, to raise awareness within the formal or informal education system and to engage with the central government;
- ▶ Community resilience, climate change mitigation and adaptation, energy savings, protection of natural resources, inclusive economic development are all issues that are to be addressed at the territorial level and on which local and regional governments have an impact;
- ▶ In this regards the Communication "Empowering Local Authorities in partner countries for enhanced governance and more effective development outcomes" states that local and regional governments are responsible to mobilise local communities and design inclusive development processes and solutions to urgent challenges such as social exclusion, migration, food security, depletion of resources environmental and social impact of extractive activities, climate change adaptation and mitigation;
- ▶ Hence LRGs should be involved in national initiatives addressing Global Public Goods and networks of LRGs, at all levels, should be supported in their capacity to address GPGs (this must be done in accordance with the CSO-LA thematic programme which provides similar provisions.

We hope that increased understanding of local and regional governments responsibilities will provide for a better partnership between the European Commission and LRGs in the implementation of the GPGC programme.

#### "Flagships programmes"

Although we fully understand the rationale behind the "flagship programmes", and supports a comprehensive approach to tackle interconnected issues, more information on the implementation of the ten flagships is needed, first to capture the potential and opportunity that they represent, second to identify entry points for local and regional governments.

#### Aid modalities

We strongly support the use flexible aid modalities and alternatives to Call for Proposals:

- ▶ The EC should make sure that, in the sectors local and regional governments have competences, budget support gets down to LRGs;
- ▶ Wherever it is possible the EC should consider providing direct award of grants to local and regional governments;
- ▶ Decentralised cooperation (North-South, South-South and triangular) provides an efficient framework for mutual learning and capacity building;
- ▶ Possibility to fund long-term programmes rather than short-term projects should be considered;
- ▶ Support cross-border initiatives and programmes and regional programmes for areas where common concerns are identified such as the Mediterranean Sea Basin.

### **Synergy between the two thematic programmes and with other instruments**

Principles applied in the Civil Society Organisations – Local Authorities (CSO-LA) thematic programme should be applied to the GPGC programme:

- ▶ CSO-LA thematic programme provides a framework to support local and regional governments in their capacity to govern according to the democratic governance principles, notably to increase transparency, accountability, sound budget management, their capacity to engage on policy dialogue with national governments, to deliver public services and to implement law and policy;
- ▶ Hence the GPGC programme should support local and regional governments' governance, policy definition and implementation capacity and promote the development of integrated and cross-sectoral policies in the five areas that the programme covers.

The programme should also seek synergies with other instruments such as the instrument for stability; peace and stability are public goods of primary importance to which LRGs contribute.

### **Global agendas**

The programme should ensure that global agendas mentioned in the discussion paper encompass local and regional governments' perspectives and that the principles defined at the world level be transcribed in the local and regional policies.

It is important to allow for the involvement of local and regional governments in the international governance of global public goods, such as in the international environmental and climate governance structures, global food security governance or migration governance.

We hope to have the opportunity to further exchange in the coming weeks regarding the programme and implementing modalities.

## **II. Competences to be supported with regards to key areas of the GPGC programme**

We have identified, but the list is not exhaustive, a number of responsibilities that have an impact on the themes the GPGC programme addresses and that should be supported:

### **Environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation**

- ▶ Developing public transport networks;
- ▶ Increasing energy efficiency of public buildings;
- ▶ Promoting behavioral change and climate friendly behavior;

- ▶ Managing and protecting natural resources like forest when decentralisation confers such competence to subnational governments;
- ▶ Developing emergency response to natural disaster;
- ▶ Increasing community resilience and adaptability to climate hazards through promoting economy diversification and adapting public infrastructures;

At the world level, global networks (UCLG, CLGF, AIMF) ensure LRGs' representation in international talks such as the climate conferences, Rio+20 and the post-2015 development agenda.

### **Sustainable energy**

Local and regional governments adopt public sustainable procurement practices, for example in procurement relative to public lighting, and promote renewable energies to citizens. These practices also contribute to tackle climate change adaptation and mitigation.

### **Human, social and economic development:**

Local and regional governments are the legitimate authorities that provide Global Public Goods at the local level. They provide basic services among which health and primary education, they include gender perspectives in policy implementation ensuring better access to services to women.

As employers, responsible for large scale public spending, receiving tax income from businesses and the handling of numerous investments, local and regional governments have substantial influence on the growth and economic/social repercussions at local level.

In addition they define, plan and implement the local development strategy and consequently give a guiding framework and help ensure an enabling endogenous environment for growth in a territory.

### **Food security and sustainable agriculture and fisheries**

Local and regional governments have key competences in helping to support sustainable and quality agriculture at local level, thus contributing to increased food security in territories:

- ▶ Responsibilities for building the basic infrastructures necessary for agriculture production and distribution: accessible market places, storage for stock, road etc;
- ▶ Responsibility for access to water and sanitation, and maintenance of such services;
- ▶ Responsibility for land management, particularly crucial in conflicts over land;
- ▶ Coordination of the various actors involved in the area – cooperatives, sector-based organisations), promotion of short supply-chain at local level;
- ▶ Health watch, respect of the sanitary rules, promoting labels;
- ▶ Strengthening of food supply chain.

### **Migration**

Migrants flux impacts services and infrastructures (housing, health, education) as well as the local economy and social cohesion. Local and regional governments' migration management capacity includes trained civil servants to inform and guide migrants, inclusion policy to enable their participation to democratic life and to value co-development processes.