

(Draft 15th of March 2016)

CONCEPT NOTE FOR THE JOINT EVENT

ALDA/UNDP ART/AFCCRE Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France, 2016

CAPITALIZATION OF THE EUROPEAN YEAR FOR DEVELOPMENT STRENGTHENING DECENTRALISED COOPERATION AND THE COMMUNITY APPROACH

Rational

The whole event represents an attempt to capitalize and consolidate the lessons learned from the European Year for Development 2015, within the new development framework: the 2030 Global Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). How to create continuity to this momentum? What are the next steps seen from the perspective of local authorities working together with civil society to face the challenge of SDGs implementation at local level?

The event wants to highlight: a. the importance and the added value represented by local authorities and Civil society in order to face the challenges presented by 2030 Global Objectives; b. the innovative approach needed to enable international cooperation to face this complex objective. In this sense, the event will showcase **decentralised cooperation as a modality able to promote dialogue and action on the “common interest” represented by the SDGs, focusing on their implementation at local level.** Decentralized cooperation have been existing for decades, but it evolved in the last fifteen years from largely cultural and symbolic partnerships founded on a philosophy of citizen diplomacy to a strategic horizontal and mutually beneficial partnerships recognized as key drivers for development, innovation on governance and local development, and capacity building.

In an especially difficult context marked by a changing economic, social and political landscape in France, in Europe and at global level, and a reduction of budget and political sensitivity on major trends like migrations or regional collaboration, that unease moves to adapt, we consider that dialogue and decentralized cooperation are part of an overall strategy for peace building, social cohesion and sustainable development.

The event, held in cooperation with the Delegation for External Action of Territorial Communities (DAECT) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France, will have three particular focuses a) Revitalize Decentralised Cooperation in France (involving as many as possible French local authorities and networks) b) the Balkans (with a special session dedicated) – Relaunch of the programme programme France Balkans 3 c) DEAR and global citizenship with LADDER approach and partners.

The added values to be valorized and addressed during the event with a specific speakers and facilitators will be:

- The highly strategic challenges linked to SDGs implementation at all levels;
The importance given to decentralisation and Public Administration Reform in the Neighbourhood and Enlargement Countries. In this context and for these objectives, the work of decentralised cooperation could be of very high benefit;
- The excellent costs/benefit of the decentralised cooperation and community approach. The possibility of being change makers in development with actions in decentralised cooperation are particularly high engaging relatively low level of resources for very high and long standing results;
- In this sense, the importance of decentralized cooperation to foster innovation in local systems to enhance public service delivery and economic opportunities for all;
- The capacity of development, especially at the local level, engaging the community, multistakeholder and multilevel approach is particularly valorised and important. It has been recognised a cross cutting element as “localizing development” in the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Decentralised cooperation can have an impact locally, in the communities engaged in cooperation. It is based on reciprocity and both side of the cooperation have a positive feedback on it. It regards also possibilities to develop new important relationships. Local governments can also get supported and receive knowledge and empowerments for their engagement at the local level (see LADDER community);
- Decentralised cooperation supported by national and local funds can now match European support. Local authorities oriented to cooperation can get co funding from European commission funding and other support (examples from the Neighbourhood). This must be done in national and local multilevel and multistakeholders platforms that ensure the involvement of all relevant stakeholders and the scaling up of best practices within national policies;
- Decentralised cooperation promotes peer-to-peer exchanges and direct contact between communities. It creates bridges between citizens and institutions and breaks the divisions and cultural barrier. It helps to create trust and empower communities;

- The community approach and multistakeholder community create a permanent dialogue between institutions and citizens and develops possibilities in citizen participation, also fundamental to build trust so essential to development;
Proposal of the Local Democracy Agencies as permanent platforms of cooperation in Neighborhood and Enlargement

Organisation of the activities

all taking place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Building *La Convention*

High level session: 12th of May 1016 - 14.00 to 16.00

President of ALDA, moderating

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

European Commission Representative

President of AFCCRE

UNDP Art representative

Local Authorities representative from EaP and from South

Representative of LADDER Community

High-level session 12th - 16.00 to 18.00 – France Balkans Network

Jean Claude Mairal

President of Normandie

Representative from Macedonia

Other representatives

Capitalisation European Year for Development: Working Groups 13th of May 2016

See partnership with Platforma and AFCCRE ?

Two rooms in parallel

Workshop 1 : Morning Support to Local authorities in decentralised cooperation - cofounding possibilities

ALDA- representative of the EU / Europe for Citizens/ DEVCO and DG Near
workshop with AFCCRE, Ladder community

Workshop 2 : Support to Local authorities in decentralised cooperation – Localizing development and multistakeholder approach – workshop with ALDA/UNDP