Building www.capacity4dev.eu

EuropeAid

An open platform for more effective technical cooperation

In June 2009 EuropeAid launched www.capacity4dev.eu as a central component of the Backbone Strategy for Technical Cooperation (TC) reform. It is developed as a user-friendly yet powerful knowledge management platform using state of the art Web 2.0 technologies.

An email will be sent out when the Version 1 of the platform is released and ready for you to use it.

What is offered through www.capacity4dev.eu

The platform will support interactivity, collaboration, knowledge sharing and exchange both inside the EC and with the rest of the world, including with partner countries, Member States and other donors, academia and civil society, through:

- High value content and resources, including:

o News, editorials, interviews in the form of a regularly updated "magazine";

o Guidance, tools, peer support in the form of Q&A, Frequently Asked Questions

o Hands-on practical information, case studies on good/innovative practice, tips etc.

- Online workgroups, discussion forums and collaboration spaces and various tools to facilitate communication among others between HQ and Delegations, among Delegations and with other stakeholders.

Key priorities:

The initial focus will be on supporting the daily work of EC staff, partners and stakeholders, to better design and manage TC, facilitating the exchange and learning on new TC approaches, inline with the Accra Agenda for Action.

Six topics are identified as a priority:

- Capacity Development: This section will include resources about approaches to capacity development; capacity assessment tools; country and sector level strategies for CD; CD for private sector and civil society; change management; and donor support modalities.

- Public Sector Reform and Decentralisation: Public sector reform will span resources related to big scale reforms and sector reform; decentralisation and devolution; anti-corruption reform; public and private service delivery; civil service reform and performance and quality enhancement processes.

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- [Public Financial Management](): Public expenditure management (PEM) functions, tools and controls; revenue; procurement; transparency and accountability; legislative scrutiny and public oversight; assessing PFM and PFM reforms.

- [Governance](): General and sector governance; local governance; democracy; political economy and power; fiscal decentralisation.

- [Working with technical cooperation](): Country level policies; donor approaches to TC; harmonisation in practice; design of TC support; programme implementation arrangements; monitoring and evaluation of TC; TC quality assurance and TC procedures from A-Z.

- [Technical cooperation & aid reforms](): The EC reform progress; Linking to the broader aid effectiveness agenda; donor policies on TC; training and in-house events

Contribute content, experience and ideas! You Benefit!

The engine behind www.capacity4dev.eu is the time and energy spent by its users to populate it with high value contents ideas and materials to be shared with the rest of the development community, colleagues or members of their group. We make sure that you get the best possible tools for you to share and exchange information and knowledge and facilitate collaboration with colleagues and the development community at large.

What to contribute:

Resources: projects, documents and reports, any documentation illustrating good practices, Terms of References, guidance and methodologies, video clips, reports/evaluations, links, studies, abstracts of academic books, articles, material from conferences/events, your thoughts and notes, etc.

Ideas and contacts: Suggestions on innovative uses of the platform, on colleagues or others external partners (partner countries, experts, donors, researchers) who might have good stories to tell or that should be interviewed / invited to contribute contents and experience.

How to contribute:

Once the platform is launched you will be able to contribute and engage online using the various possibilities offered throughout the site.

You can upload relevant documents, files links etc: through easily identifiable links across the site you can upload contents through a form. Providing relevant information on what you are submitting through the upload form will allow for your contents to be easily found by others and yourself, using for example the search functionality at your disposal.

You can initiate or join discussions on specific issues, where you can share your views and experience with colleagues or the development practitioners at large. This will be easy to do through the "Discussions" page by clicking on the relevant links to join existing discussions or start a new one.

You can create or join work groups, and use a wide array of tools offered to facilitate the collaboration and exchange of information as well as the management of the group member activities online or off line, using calendars, creating events and To-Do lists. This will be easy to do through the "Groups" page clicking on the relevant links to request membership in existing groups or request the creation of a new one.

You can tag (add keywords), comment, rate and add to your favorites most of the contents posted on the platform, helping others and yourself to increase the value of the contents and help better identify the relevant information.

You can share Knowledge and experience online through the Questions and Answers/ Peer Support function of the site which allows for users to ask the development community for support on specific issues. If you happen to know something about it, we encourage you to share it online replying to

these questions. You will of course be able to ask questions as well.

You can share information about you and your area of practice, through your profile. Filling in this information is not compulsory but allows some interesting additional functionalities on the site such as finding colleagues and other practitioners that share the same work interests, receiving notifications about new activities or contents submitted in specific fields you are interested in etc. This will be easily done through your "Profile" page.

Who has access to www.capacity4dev.eu and how

There are 4 different levels of access to the platform:

1.   Unregistered visitors: of the site will be able to see all contents uploaded for public use but will not benefit from the interactive features of the platform or participation in discussion or groups.

2.   Registered users: will be able to access all contents uploaded for public use and will benefit from the interactive features of the platform and will be able to join or create discussions and groups

3.   Registered EC Staff: will be able to access all contents uploaded for public use and documents uploaded for "Internal use" (EC Only). They will of course benefit as well from the interactive features of the platform and will be able to join or create groups.

4.   Members of Work-Groups: Registered users can create or join Work-Groups. All members of a group can access all contents belonging to the group. If the group is open to the general public its contents are accessible to visitors as well.

What is public and what is for "EC internal use" only:

The general policy is that "everything the Commission produces is public unless specific exceptions apply". These exceptions include among others, disclosure of personal or financial data concerning third parties. Contents submitted indicating that they are for "Internal EC use" will be accessible only to EC staff. If you are unsure just signal it to us and we will look into it.

How www.capacity4dev.eu is run

The development, content and community management and maintenance of the platform is ensured by a broad governance scheme coordinated by the "Quality monitoring systems and methodologies" unit in EuropeAid (Unit E5). The technical development and maintenance is ensured by the EC Joint Research Centre (JRC) / IES in ISPRA.

Editorial and Content aspects of the platform

Core editorial team:
- Wojciech Lubowiecki, head of the editorial team
- Nils Boesen, chief editor
- Virginia Manzitti, core editorial team member
- Sarah Simpson, core editorial team member
- Audrey Gueudet, core editorial team member
- Christoforos Korakas, core editorial team member

Topic co-editors:
1. Capacity Development: Virginia Manzitti, Nils Boesen
2. Public Sector Reform and Decentralisation: Jean-Pierre Sacaze, Norman Flynn
3. Public Financial Management: Claudio Salinas, Xavier Le Mounier, Jérôme Dendura
4. Governance: Joanna Athlin Villa, Jan Vanheukelom
5. Working with technical cooperation: Christopher Knauth, Nils Boesen

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6. Technical cooperation & aid reforms: Bryan Fornari, Dominique Albert, Nils Boesen

Technical and web development aspects of the platform

JRC / IES
- Cesar Carmona-Moreno, Project Manager
- Marco Giacomassi, Developer
- Paolo Mainardi, Developer
- Laura De-Masi, Designer

EuropeAid
- Christoforos KORAKAS, Project Manager

Project management Team

- Wojciech Lubowiecki
- Virginia Manzitti
- Christoforos Korakas
- Cesar Carmona-Moreno

Project Steering Committee

- Francesca Mosca, Director "Quality of Operations"   Dir. E
- Wojciech Lubowiecki, Head of Unit "Quality Systems"   Unit E5
- Fernando CENTURIONE, Head of Unit "Information Systems"   Unit G5
- Virginia Manzitti, "Quality Systems"   Unit E5
- Andrea LEONE, (Project Manager Water KMP) "Infrastructures"   Unit E7
- Anna BERTELE, "Training and Knowledge Management"   Unit G4
- Didrik DE SCHAETZEN, "Information and Communication"   Unit 04
- Christoforos Korakas, "Quality Systems"   Unit E5

Geographical Directorates

- Ian HOSKINS   /ENPI /Unit A2
- José VILLAGRA   /LATIN AMERICA /Unit B1
- Thierry BARBE, Yasmin SOEZEN   /ACP /Unit C1+C2
- Jos JONCKERS, Frank VIAULT   /ASIA and CENTRAL ASIA /Unit D1

The www.capacity4dev.eu team

Wojciech Lubowiecki is the head of the editorial team of the www.capacity4dev.eu platform. He is also the Head of Unit E5 in EuropeAid. Before joining the ranks of European administration Wojciech worked as a journalist and a broadcaster. He was an Editor in the BBC World Service where he oversaw the development of the news website of the Polish Section.

Nils Boesen is chief editor of the www.capacity4dev.eu platform. Nils is a Danish consultant specialising in organisational change, process consulting and aid methodologies. He assisted EuropeAid in the preparation of the Guidelines for Technical Cooperation, and is training and coaching in this area as well as in capacity development. He has written extensively on capacity development and institutional change (see www.nilsboesen.dk for details).

Virginia Manzitti is the task manager ensuring the overall coordination of the TC reform. She is a core editorial team member for the www.capacity4dev.eu platform and co-editor of the section dealing with Capacity Development. Virginia has worked many years in Delegations (Burkina and Senegal). She has been in EuropeAid since 2002, working on methodology, guidance and training in various areas related to sector approach and budget support. Since 2004 she has initiated a new work stream in the area Capacity Development.

Sarah Simpson is a core editorial team member for the www.capacity4dev.eu platform. Sarah is a British consultant and professional journalist and has spent many years in Africa working for The Economist and Al Jazeera English, among others. She has a master's degree in development from the University of Birmingham, UK.

Audrey Gueudet is a core editorial team member for the Capacity4Dev platform. She is also supervising the different publications of the Aid Delivery Methods programme and of producing communication material on the EC Backbone Strategy on Reforming Technical Cooperation and PIU. Before joining EuropeAid, Audrey worked for many years as a communication expert successively for a Brussels-based communication consultancy and for the European Anti Poverty Network, a NGO involved in the fight against poverty and social exclusion in the European Union.

Christoforos Korakas is a core editorial team member and the Project Manager of www.capacity4dev.eu. He is also in charge of Information and Communication in DG EuropeAid Unit E5 since 2008. His has an MA in political science and international relations with a specialisation to social and political implications of IT.
He was expert for the EC and the Greek Secretary for Information Society, Scientific Director at the NGO access2democracy, Advisor at the Computer Technology Institute of Greece (RA-CTI) and eDemocracy expert at the CoE. www.linkedin.com/in/ckorakas

Public Sector Reform, Decentralisation and Anti-corruption Cluster: Within the Governance, Security, Human Rights and Gender Unit of EuropeAid, our cluster provides quality support in the fields of Public Administration Reform (Pierre Hennebert), Decentralisation (Clara Molera Gui) and Anti-corruption (Jean-Pierre Sacaze). Our cluster has adopted a team work approach for maximising synergies. Santeri Eriksson joined us as a stagiaire on Anti-corruption (from April to July 2009). Chantal Van Nes, Marta Kucinska, Magda Pyrzanowska are providing support to our unit for following administrative procedures, managing communications, information, documents, meetings, personnel administration and logistic needs.

Norman Flynn is co-editor of the Public Sector Reform section. He is a Senior Lecturer at School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, where he heads the distance learning programmes in Public Policy and Management and Finance. He has published books on public policy and management in the UK, Europe and Asia.

Claudio Salinas is co-editor for Public Finance Management. Claudio has an educational background in quantitative economics acquired in Canada, the UK and Belgium. He has worked as Head of the Economic section in the delegation in Mozambique and is currently working for the Unit AIDCO/E1 "Macro-economic support".

Xavier Le Mounier is co-editor for Public Finance Management. Xavier has an educational background in political science and economics. He has experience in EC delegations in Africa in the field of public finance management, macro-economics and budget support and is working for the Unit AIDCO/E1 "Macro-economic support".

Jérôme Dendura works with the ADM programme and is co-editor of the section on public financial management. He is a French consultant based in Africa (Ghana). He has been working with the EC and other donors on PFM and reforms, food security and aid delivery for 12 years. Jérôme has one son, Benjamin.

Joanna Athlin Villa is co-editor of the governance section of the platform. Joanna has been in EuropeAid, Directorate E4 since 2006, where she is working on horizontal issues in the field of democratic governance. Before joining EuropeAid, Joanna worked on democratic governance for the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida, both at Headquarter and in the field.

Jan Vanheukelom is is co-editor of the Governance section of the platform. He is coordinator of the Governance Programme at the Maastricht based European Centre for Development Policy Management (www.ecdpm.org). Currently he is reading "The Politics of Aid".

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Christopher Knauth is medical doctor and public health specialist (MCommH, Liverpool). He is working in the Quality Support Directorate on health sector programmes in Asia. Before, he worked as lecturer and consultant in the "planning & evaluation" (EvaPlan) team at the Heidelberg Institute for Tropical Medicine and Public health. Publications and presentations on health systems strengthening and Commission approaches sector support and TC.

Bryan Fornari is closely involved in coordinating AIDCO's Backbone Strategy for TC Reform and co-editor of the TC reform section. Bryan works in AIDCO on Business, Trade and Regional Integration and has previously worked in NGOs and EC Delegations in Africa and Asia. He has a Masters in development from the School of Oriental and African Studies, London.

Dominique Albert is closely involved in coordinating AIDCO's Backbone Strategy for TC Reform. She is co-editor of the platform section dealing with reforming Technical Cooperation. Dominique works in AIDCO on Agriculture and Rural Development supporting Delegations in designing and implementing sector approaches. She has previously worked in the field of Rural Development in Europe and in developing countries (including Vietnam, Brazil and Angola). Dominique is an agro-economist.