

# **Seminar on Decentralisation and Local Governance**

**Some key messages from Day 1**

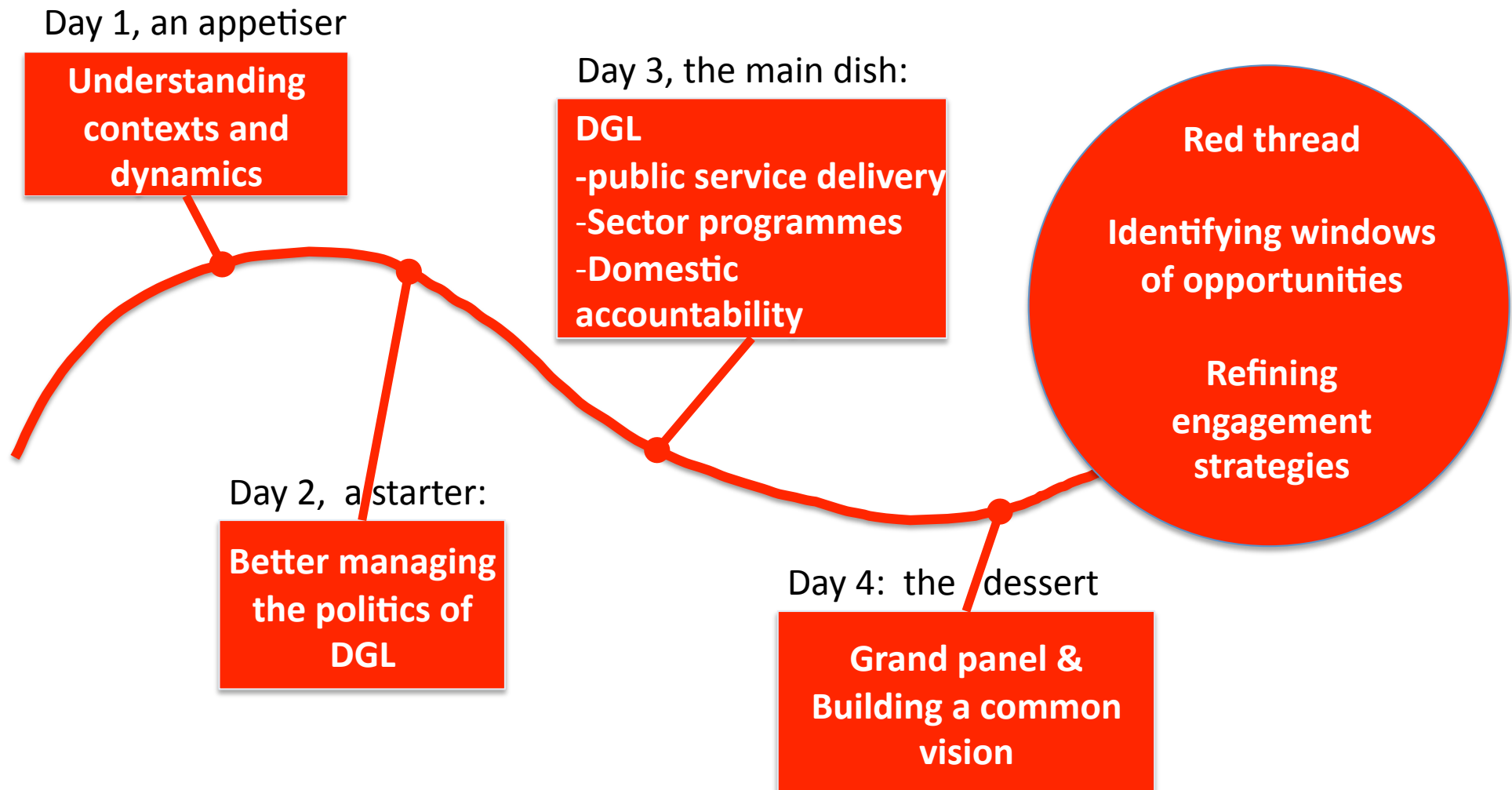
# Reality check...

➔ INTERACTION

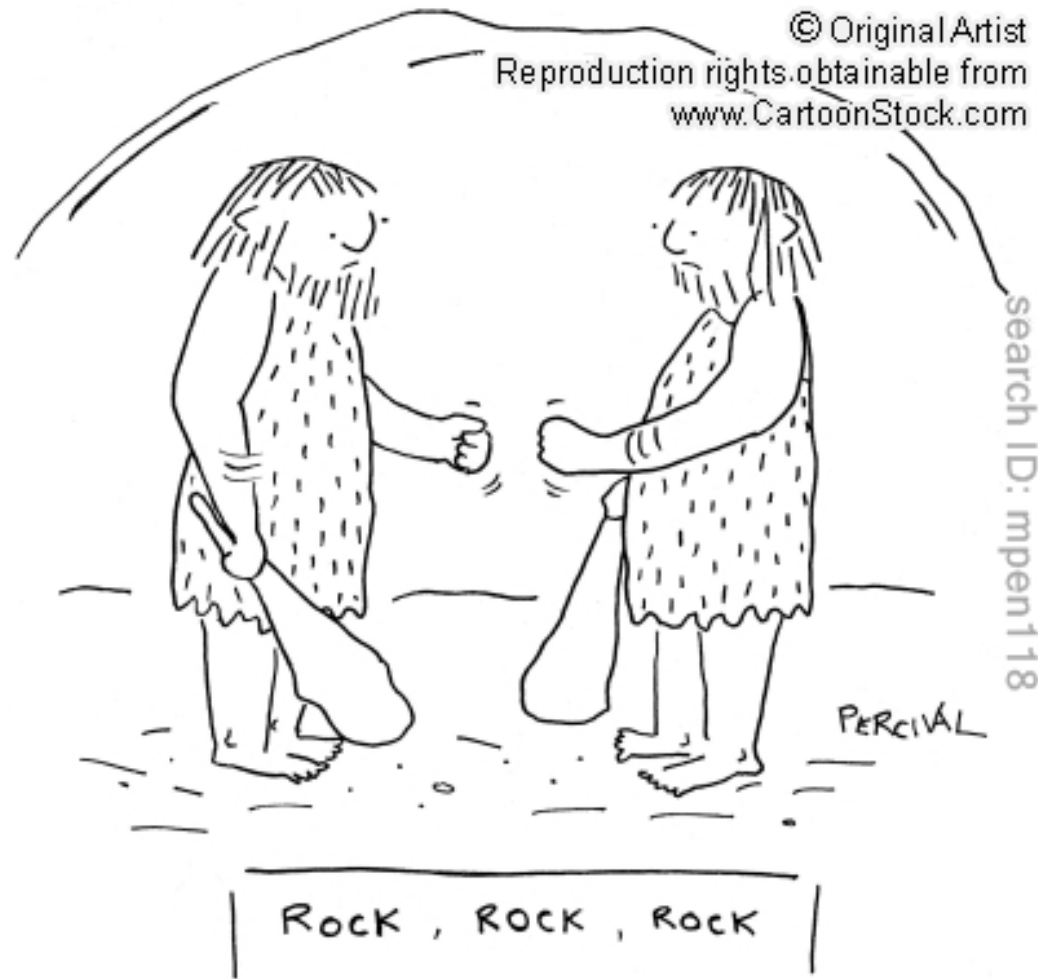
➔ EXCHANGE GOOD PRACTICES

➔ CO-PRODUCTION OF AGENDAS

# The red thread of the seminar



# We still work in hostile environments





Often only small openings available...

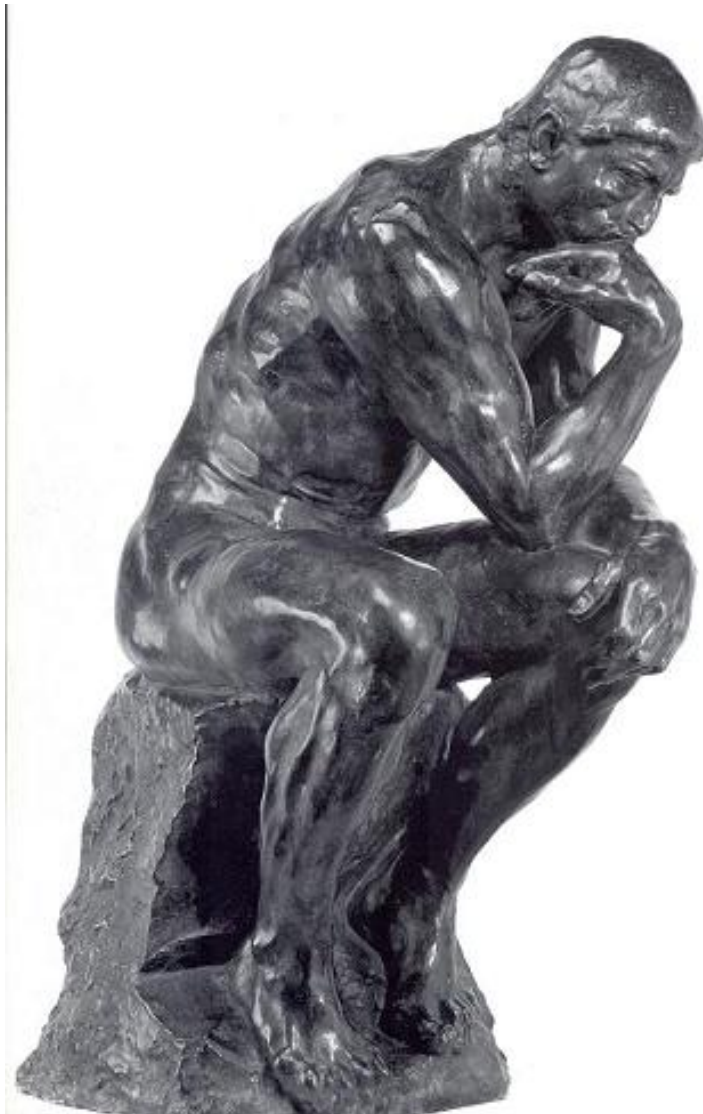
More for more?



**That ought not be surprising...**

**DECENTRALISATION  
AS A HIGHLY POLITICAL PROCESS**

**In this context... several existential  
questions arise**





# Existential question 1

*Why should donors care about decentralisation and support it in hostile environments?*

## 6 reasons why we should care about DGL

- ❑ Adapting to a decentralising environment
- ❑ In some countries there is (growing) societal demand for DLG
- ❑ DLG can be an effective TOOL for better development and governance outcomes
- ❑ Local democracy and participatory development are EU values
- ❑ Busan principles of country/democratic ownership and inclusive partnerships
- ❑ Agenda for Change : call for a more “political approach” to cooperation involving all actors

# Paradigm shift



# Existential question 2

*Do we properly understand the politics and dynamics of decentralisation processes ?*

# Existential question 3

*Is decentralisation the right thing to do in all countries at same time? For what reasons do we support it?*

# Existential question 4

*What is the role of donors/EU ?*

*Many hot debates:*

- ✓ *Political vs technocratic role*
- ✓ *Accompanying/facilitating change processes*
- ✓ *Ownership vs results*
- ✓ *Are we equipped to play these roles?*
- ✓ *Can we be politically coherent ?*

Lack of coherence can affect our  
credibility on the ground



# Some elements of response

- 1) The question is not whether we should support decentralisation or not....  
Decentralisation is a fact!
- 2) The question is how to mainstream it in our sector operations and to frame it around added value
- 3) You first need to have a vision and political will... then you choose aid modality accordingly