

**EU Joint Programming Mission Report**

**Country**

**Bolivia**

**Start Date End Date Report Date JP Tracker Update**

21/10/2014

21/10/2014

17/10/2014

13/10/2014

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**Objectives of Mission**

* Facilitate joint programming **retreat** of EU Heads of Cooperation including coverage of joint strategy content and division of labour.
* Development of **results** **framework** for strategy and potential visibility strategy.

**Executive Summary**

* Successful **joint programming** **retreat** facilitated with European Heads of Cooperation.

* **Consensus** **reached** on goals of joint programming, first round of division of labour, implementation modalities preferences, synchronisation of planning cycles, structure for joint strategy, potential monitoring indicators, and principal challenges.
* Tacit **timeline** proposed for drafting strategy.
* Key inputs from **capitals** now needed for further improving division of labour, clarifying the situation regarding replacement of bilateral strategies and analysis, and providing details of approval procedures for the upcoming joint strategy.

**Situation on the Ground**

The following **EU MS** have an active cooperation programme with Bolivia: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Sweden. However Sweden is planning to cease its cooperation in the near future and France is currently undecided on whether it will continue after 2016. Switzerland works closely with EU donors on the ground and is included in the joint programming process.

**Cooperation between EUD and EU MS** has historically been close and includes joint country overviews and approaches, common positions vis-à-vis GoB and other donors, specific delegated cooperation agreements and contributions to basket funds.

An **EU HoMs report** on joint programming potential was submitted to Brussels in February 2013, recommending going ahead and noting Government support for the process.

A **roadmap** was subsequently developed setting out a series of timed actions. To date, all of these have been completed to schedule. Key milestones so far include consultation with Government and with capitals, the completion of an extensive aid and donor mapping exercise, and the drafting and approval of a **European Coordinated Response (ECR).** The ECR was approved in September 2014 and received widespread publicity in Bolivia. It sets out a joint country analysis and provides information on European donors’ planned interventions up to 2017.

European donors are now **ready to move towards full joint programming** in 2017, and therefore decided to organise a retreat to look at the steps that would be needed to do this and initiate discussions on division of labour, synchronisation, joint strategy structure and indicators. The facilitation and immediate follow-up of this retreat was the reason for the Consultant’s mission.

**Delivery against Objectives of Mission**

***Facilitate joint programming retreat of EU Heads of Cooperation including coverage of joint strategy content and division of labour.***

A plan for the retreat was drafted in consultation with the EUD Head of Cooperation along with accompanying documents and a presentation. The retreat included coverage of joint strategy content and division of labour. Follow-up included drafting an Outcomes document and a timeline of next actions.

***Development of results framework and potential visibility strategy.***

Ideas were put together for indicators that can form a results framework and included in a dedicated section of the draft joint strategy structure that was drawn up by the Consultant after the retreat. It was decided by European Heads of Cooperation not to go into details regarding the visibility strategy at this point, beyond including a section for this in the strategy structure and proposing some initial products.

**Recommended Next Steps**

A detailed timetable of next steps has been proposed by the Consultant to Heads of Cooperation in La Paz. This is as follows:

**October 17th:** Retreat Report and draft communication to capitals circulated to Heads of Cooperation in La Paz for feedback. Deadline for comments: October 23rd.

**October 18th:** Email brief provided by EU joint programming Consultant to European Commission / European External Action Service in Brussels for circulation to the network of EU Member States’ joint programming focal points.

**October 24th:** agreed communication sent by European donors in La Paz to their capitals with request for ‘no objection’ by silent procedure to the proposed next steps. Deadline for comments: November 12th.

**October 29th:** circulation of draft joint strategy structure to Heads of Cooperation for comments and request for volunteers to draft each section. Deadline for comments: November 7th.

**November 10th**: finalisation of joint strategy structure and lead authors for each section. NB Sections on sectors will instead be drafted by the respective donors that will be working in them, once the division of labour process has established who these will be.

**November 14th:** short report to the EU Technical Seminar in Brussels on progress made in Bolivia (subject to agreement by organisers).

**November 21st:** meeting of European Heads of Cooperation with Government to update them on the process, timeline, sectors to be focused on and draft joint strategy structure and to seek their inputs.

**December 1st:** designated lead drafters commence work on their respective sections of the strategy (NB. This excludes the sections of the strategy dealing with sectors given that the division of labour first needs to be finalised in order to know who should draft these).

**January:** convening of capitals’ meeting in Europe to discuss progress and support needs.

**January:** consultation with civil society on the concept of joint programming, the sectors to be targeted and possibly also the EU Civil Society Roadmap process.

**February 2nd:** first drafts of non-sector sections completed and circulated to HoCs for comments with a deadline of February 13th.

**February 27th** - division of labour agreement finalised and drafters commence work on sector approach papers.

**March 2nd** -second drafts of non-sector sections completed and circulated to HoCs for comments with a deadline of March 13th.

**March** - consultation on sector approach papers with Government, civil society and other donors.

**March** - update of the joint analysis section of the European Coordinated Response, if needed.

**April 1st** - final drafts of non-sector sections completed.

**April 13th** - first draft of sector approach papers completed and circulated to HoCs for comments with a deadline of April 27th.

**May 11th** - second draft of sector approach papers completed and circulated to HoCs for comments with a deadline of May 25th.

**June 8th** - final drafts of sector approach papers completed as well as summaries of them for inclusion in the joint strategy document.

**June 15th** – final draft of joint strategy completed and circulated to HoCs for last comments.

**July 1st** - joint strategy approved by HoMs in La Paz and then sent to capitals for approval.

**December:** signing ceremony with Government.

**2016:** drafting of each European donor’s bilateral implementation plan.

**Lessons Learned**

* It would be useful if capitals confirmed that a joint analysis and joint strategy can **replace their bilateral documents** in future. Some EU MS are questioning whether this should be the case on the ground and therefore a clarification would be very welcome. Capitals could also be asked to delegate sufficient responsibility to Heads of Cooperation on the ground for drafting as opposed to seeking to comment on the detailed content of joint documents. Similarly, sufficient power needs to be delegated so that division of labour decisions can be made locally.
* It would be helpful if capitals could ensure that their **approval procedures** for joint documents are streamlined and clear.
* Capitals could usefully explore ways of ensuring that their commitments to sectors under joint strategies are maintained **regardless of domestic political changes** that may occur during the strategy period.
* Capitals have the potential to help division of labour by limiting **vertical / thematic funds** where they are not in line with their country’s agreed target sectors for the partner country in question, or by channelling them through existing initiatives on the ground.
* A **collaborative approach** should be followed for the drafting of joint strategies to ensure the production of a document that is owned by all. The use of technical assistance to assist in drafting should be considered where needed.
* **Government, civil society and other donors** should be informed about plans as early as possible and consulted on the general lines of the joint strategy but not asked to provide edits to the actual text.
* A joint document setting out the European approach to a partner country can **significantly** **increase political weight and visibility,** both with Government and other donors. This is particularly important in countries where aid is decreasing as a proportion of the national budget

**List of People Met**

* **EU Delegation:** Tim Torlot, Head of Delegation; Francisco Garcia, Head of Cooperation
* **Belgium:** Roland Provot, Head of Cooperation; Alain Schmitz, First Secretary
* **Denmark:** Lars-Heril Worsoe, Head of Cooperation
* **France:** Caroline Lavaud, Head of Cooperation; Damien Gairin, Governance Manager, Fabienne Bejanin, Health Expert
* **Germany:** Jens Ingo Busma, Head of Cooperation; Thomas Franz Oskar, First Secretary
* **Italy:** Felice Longobardi, Head of Cooperation
* **Spain:** Sergio Martin-Monero, Head of Cooperation; Africa Sanchis, Aid Effectiveness Expert
* **Sweden:** Aurore Lundkvist, Head of Cooperation
* **Switzerland:** Peter Bischof, Ambassador; Barbara Jaeggi, Head of Cooperation

**Annexes**

1. Retreat Agenda
2. Retreat Presentation
3. Overall Aid Distribution to Bolivia
4. European Aid Distribution to Bolivia
5. Retreat Outcomes Report
6. Draft Joint Strategy Structure