



## BÊKOU

### EU Trust Fund for the Central African Republic

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#### About Bêkou

*To innovate and act together*

In the aftermath of the 2013 crisis in the Central African Republic, which has resulted in the massive displacement of populations, the degradation of infrastructures, the near absence of basic services and the weakening of the public administration, a quick structured and adapted international aid was necessary to provide immediate assistance to the people while preparing the country's reconstruction.

It is with this aim that the first multi-donor EU Trust Fund was established on 15 July 2014 at the discretion of the European Union, as a partner of the Central African Republic, and its three Member States, namely France, Germany and the Netherlands. This Fund was named *Bêkou*, which means "hope" in Sango. It is designed to expand the toolbox of the European aid system, in order to develop an innovative approach to crisis response, to mobilise different sources of EU funding and to gather contributions from Member States and donors in third countries.

#### LRRD: The articulation between humanitarian assistance and development cooperation

For a long time, the Central African Republic is characterised by the fragility of its institutions and the recurrence of political and humanitarian crises. The latest crisis has aggravated and deepened its structural weaknesses. The current situation in the Central African Republic is part of a "complex emergency" with a strong interlocking of political, economic and humanitarian issues, and thus the coexistence in the field of emergency and transitional situations. Consequently, this situation calls for a close coordination between security operations that are conducted by international forces, humanitarian response and reconstruction/development programmes, i.e., according to the so-called LRRD approach: Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development.



Bangui, September 2014, European Commission

The Bêkou Trust Fund aims to associate precisely the skills of development and humanitarian actors to build programmes on the border between the two fields, which will provide immediate relief to the people, while strengthening the capacity of local authorities as well as creating conditions for long-term development.

For more information, please contact: [EuropeAid-E1-TRUST-FUND-BEKOU@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EuropeAid-E1-TRUST-FUND-BEKOU@ec.europa.eu)

Or visit: [http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/subsites/trust-fund-bekou\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/subsites/trust-fund-bekou_en)

## A new financial instrument for a collective action

Following crises like the one experienced by the Central African Republic in 2013, the sudden increase in donors and the weakening of the local national authorities is an extra challenge regarding the coordination of international community's actions.

The Bêkou Trust Fund, in the agreement with the authorities of the Central African Republic, was designed to present a collective European action. It aims to mutualise our resources and our capacity to analyse, identify and implement appropriate actions.

In addition, as the Central African Republic is often considered an "aid orphan" since the early 2000s, the Trust Fund aims to rely on the expertise of the partners that have a continuous presence in the field, such as the European Union, the French, the German and the Dutch development cooperation. Their knowledge and competencies permit other donors that are not present on the ground to contribute to the recovery and development of the country. Together, they are ready to build a diversified portfolio of actions in the sectors identified by the Constitutive Agreement:

- Revival of essential public and social services;
- Country's economic recovery;
- Reconciliation and national cohesion in the observance of Human Rights;
- Establishment/strengthening of national and local administrative structures;
- Response to the crisis regional consequences (mainly humanitarian).

## Governance and management of the Trust Fund

The global strategy is set by the **Strategic Board** which is chaired by the European Union and is composed of representatives of the European Union, the Member States and other donors who contributed to the Trust Fund. Then, the **Operational Committee** selects appropriate projects. It is constituted of representatives of the European Union and all the other Donors (for a minimum amount of € 3 million). The Central African Republic is represented in both bodies. Finally, a small team within the European Commission coordinates and executes the tasks of the Trust Fund and is led by **the Trust Fund Manager**.



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