**Country Joint Programming Factsheet**

***Regional workshop on Joint Programming for Asia***

* *Factsheet* ***to be completed by EU Delegation together with EU******MS*** *(max 2 pages)*
* *Consolidated version* ***to be submitted by the EU Delegation*** *to* [*EuropeAid-A2@ec.europa.eu*](mailto:EuropeAid-A2@ec.europa.eu) *and* [*VI-B2@eeas.europa.eu*](mailto:VI-B2@eeas.europa.eu)***by 17 April 2015****. Factsheet will be used during the seminar.*

1. Country: Lao PDR
2. General expectations for workshop:
   1. To learn from the experiences (good practices and challenges) of other JP countries in the region, as well as from DEVCO, EEAS and Member States.
   2. To share the JP Lao experience.
   3. To obtain concrete advices as regards to the options for the next steps (i.e. JP 2016-2020).
3. Status of Joint Programming in your country:
   1. Ongoing Joint EU Transition Strategy 2014-2015 in support of the Lao Government’s 7th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP).
   2. A new EU JP document will be aligned to 2016-2020 Lao PDR national development plan (8th NSEDP).
   3. JP analytical studies (update of Political Economy Analysis and Social Media study) are ready. These together with the preliminary findings of a study on Youth and mapping of civil society will feed in the JP country analysis.
   4. JP Technical Assistance has just been selected.
4. Key challenges ahead *(to be taken into account for workshop session on 'Identification of operational challenges’)*:
   1. How to effectively engage the government in the consultation process and ensure their interest.
   2. How to develop and maintain a joint policy dialogue with the government during implementation.
   3. Systematic gap of two years between the launch of the strategy and the operational rollout.
   4. From convergence of bilateral strategies through JP to a possible gradual replacement of the same by a robust/fully-fledged JP document.
   5. Phasing towards a more joint results-oriented approach.
5. Challenges overcome:
   1. Principle of agreement on a more robust JP document including sector details with high-level objectives etc.
   2. Common interest to harmonize the process so as to reduce transaction costs.
6. Lessons learnt:
   1. Need for flexibility and hence to consider various scenarios.
   2. Joint and inclusive process.
   3. Importance of ensuring consultations with the Government early on in the process.
   4. Implementation and JP including division of labor are becoming more and more interlinked processes.
7. Element for next steps *(as starting point for workshop 'Joint Programming individual country sessions'):*
   1. Adopt decision on options for a full-fledged EU JP document, accommodating the requirements of EU Del and MS.
   2. Consultations with Government of Laos, DPs, Civil Society and Private Sector to inform the drafting of the strategy
   3. Division of Labor.