**Country Joint Programming Factsheet**

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

1. Country:

Vietnam

1. General expectations for workshop:

Innovative ideas on how to enhance coordination at the sector level and joint sector policy dialogue would be useful. This includes approaches as to how coherence among EU and EU Member States’ policies and future planning cycles can be further improved given the specific circumstances of operating in a Middle Income Country such as Vietnam.

1. Status of Joint Programming in your country:

There is no Joint Programming in Vietnam. Joint programming is not deemed a suitable option for Vietnam at this stage of the project cycle (MIP 2014-2020 just been adopted). In the context of recent phasing out of several EU MS, restructuring country portfolios of several MS as well as a wide range of focal sectors by MS, the EU Delegation and EU Member States have decided to focus on enhanced coordination of policy dialogue and operational activities in sectors where more than one donor is active.

Notably in the new EU sector of Sustainable Energy (see section 7 below), MS and other Development partners are informed and involved in the design of the sector intervention. DEL is active in laying foundations for a joint approach for sectoral support in this area of Sustainable Energy.

Thereby, the EU Delegation and MS have embarked on a pragmatic approach to maximizing aid effectiveness through sector coordination in the focal areas where EU and/or MS possess comparative advantages and will mutually reinforce their development objectives (e.g. political neutrality, know-how, financial volume)

Other areas for sectoral coordination could be Green Growth and Climate Change and Governance.

1. Key challenges ahead *(to be taken into account for workshop session on 'Identification of operational challenges’)*:

Viet Nam being a Middle Income Country, a number of EU MS are phasing out their grant based-ODA (such as Sweden, Spain, Denmark, Luxemburg and DFID in 2016,) or shift relations to Vietnam to less-concessional ODA loans (such as France through the Agence Française de Développement) or trade-based cooperation. Active donor coordination at the initiative of the government of Vietnam is non-existent. Most sectoral coordination platforms are donor driven. There is no single national development strategy for reference of all donors. Apart from the Socio-Economic Development Plan (5 year plan of the Government) a number of recent strategies (e.g. Green Growth Strategy, Climate Change Strategy) are being used by donors. Formulation of joint strategies between the Government of Vietnam and donors is not realistic given the political setting.

1. Challenges overcome:

Agreed to strengthen coordination in specific sectors where the EU can play a better role by working together, notably in the sustainable energy sector, which the EU recently entered Regular consultation and coordination among EU and MS has also taken place in the environment sector (notably EU-FLEGT negotiations) and the Health Partnership.

As of 2014 a new forum for donor coordination including both bilateral and multilateral donors (Vietnam Development Partner Group) has been established upon joint engagement of the EU and member states.

1. Lessons learnt:

Lessons learnt: Donor coordination in Vietnam is largely done at the initiative of donors. GoV will follow suit on concrete and non-political issues. EU and EU MS will have more impact on policy issues if multilaterals are included in sector dialogue.

1. Element for next steps *(as starting point for workshop 'Joint Programming individual country sessions'):*

Sustainable Energy sector: a workshop is scheduled for 15 April to discuss enhanced coordination in sustainable energy and define the next steps. GoV is fully associated with this initiative that will provide the basis for a regular and structured policy dialogue in view of policy reform. The lessons learnt from the Health Partnership or the on-going Policy Dialogue on Climate Change (Support programme in Response to Climate Change - SPRCC) will be taken into account. The workshop will also provide lines of action for programme formulation with possible participation of MS (policy dialogue, budget support, cofinancing between AIF and IFIs like EIB, AFD, KfW for instance) and other development partners.