
EU DEAR Multi-Stakeholder Group meeting, 15th & 16th March 2016

Present:

Civil Society Organisations:

Diego Lopez Gonzalez (ITUC), Marina Sarli (CONCORD, Hellenic Platform for Development EL), Rilli Lappalainen (CONCORD, Kehys FI), Mari Helene Kaber (CONCORD, Association Humana Estonia EE), Bobby McCormack (CONCORD, Development Perspectives IE), Paola Berbeglia (CONCORD, CReA onlus IT), Miguel Silva (North-South Centre of the Council of Europe PT),

Local Authorities:

Marine Gaudron (PLATFORMA, CCRE-CEMR), Alexandru Osadci (PLATFORMA, Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova), Maria Dina Tozzi (PLATFORMA, Tuscany Region IT), Anja de Wachter (PLATFORMA, Gemeente Sint Niklaas BE)

Policy makers/civil servants:

Alexandra Allen (GENE, LU), Emanuela Benini (GENE, IT), Rosario Bento Pais (Chair 15th March, items 1 and 2 listed below, European Commission delegate), Mara Copens (GENE, BE, 15th March), Markus Pirchner (Chair 16th March, item 3 onwards, European Commission), Barnim Raspe (GENE, DE), Jan Matyas (European Commission), Liam Wegimont (GENE)

Academics/researchers:

Susanne von Itter (EADI), Galia Chimiak (EADI, Polish Academy of Sciences PL), Maria La Salete Coelho da Silva (EADI, Polytechnic Institute of Viana do Castelo/Centre for African Studies - University of Oporto PT), Jan van Ongevalle (EADI, HIVA University of Leuven BE)

Support:

Harm-Jan Fricke, Sandra Oliveira, Caroline Vilos (DEAR Support Team, meeting logistics, facilitation support, notes)

Apologies:

Matt Baillie Smith (EADI, Northumbria University UK), Astrid Frey (PLATFORMA, Cités Unies FR)

Agreed action points are indicated in bold italics.

There are Action Points relevant to **ALL** under items 4 and 6 and, in addition, for the **European Commission** under items 7 and 8, and for the **DEAR Support Team** under items 4, 5, 6 and 8

1. Welcome and introductions

Rosário Bento Pais, Head of Unit B2 Civil Society and Local Authorities DG DevCo, welcomed participants to this Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) meeting, the first organised by the European Commission. She referred to the need for different stakeholder groups to collaborate in meeting the challenges for DEAR, particularly in responding to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). From a Commission perspective stimulating multi-stakeholder processes is one in which the Commission can provide added value to the work carried out by EU member states, by CSOs and by LAs.

Recent Euro-barometer results indicate a continuing, and increasing, support of the public for development cooperation, confirming that what the EC is doing in this respect 'makes sense'. In building on that support – and extending the public's engagement with and understanding of development – the forthcoming EU Call for Proposals for DEAR, to be announced by Commissioner Mimica at the Civil Society Forum (17th-18th March), will be an important milestone and mechanism.

2. Expectations

As part of mutual introductions amongst those present, participants were invited to express their expectations of and hopes for the MSG. The following provides an overview of issues and opinions expressed:

- Regarding this and future meetings of the group:

- To develop a clear mandate for the group; identifying what this group can do that no one else can
- Foster dialogue between different stakeholder groups at EU level and promote listening and understanding of different perspectives represented within the group
- To provide a platform for examining 'blind spots' that may exist amongst stakeholders
- To develop clarity on the remit, opportunities and roles of different stakeholders in DEAR and on the basis of that clarity develop joint aspects of work, providing added value to work done by specific stakeholder groups
- Regarding the general functioning and purpose of the group:
 - To stimulate research that improves the practice of DEAR in the EU, fostering closer links between the development research community and practitioners i.c. policy makers
 - To enable an actor based approach that is complementary to work already being carried out by the different stakeholders
 - To foster and encourage dialogue between different stakeholders at national/EU member state levels
 - To support strengthening of roles and visibility of DEAR with institutions (e.g. universities, NGDOs, government departments)
 - To encourage increased input of Southern NGOs in EU DEAR practice
 - To 'upgrade' the discourse on the challenges facing DEAR and the values on which it is based

3. Issues and priorities

After discussions amongst participants representing each of the four stakeholder groups (CSOs, LAs, policy representatives, and academics/researchers) the following were noted by each of the groups as particularly pertinent for the MSG to explore further:

From a CSO perspective the following suggestions were made:

- The need to inspire (the public, governments, agencies, NGOs, etc.) by means of for example
 - development of a framework or common understanding that clarifies and facilitates development and spread of 'Global Citizenship Education'
 - Clarifying, in plain English, French, Spanish, etc. the SDGs and the values on which they are based
 - Clarifying the roles of different actors (governments, LAs, CSOs, etc.) in implementing the SDGs within the European Union
 - Providing resources (people, spaces, money, processes) to explore the relevance of the SDGs in (public and political) development (in the EU and globally)
 - Relating DEAR to the SDG framework

From a LA perspective the following were mentioned:

- Updating the 'DE Consensus' statement (2007) so it provides a vision and messages that are related to the SDGs, including
 - A framework relevant to local development, to (local) policy coherence for development and to capacity building (in DEAR) for local authorities
 - Exemplification of the principles and minimum standards by which different stakeholders can contribute to the vision and messages of the statement
 - Clarifying the key targets for promotion and work of DEAR in support of the SDGs

From a Policy perspective the following were seen as key issues and priorities for the MSG:

- Mutual awareness amongst MSG participants of respective roles and of the limitations which such roles may have in supporting DEAR
- MSG to be primarily an information sharing forum in support of developing ideas for a common vision over time
- Contribute to developing a common message (but developing a common definition for DEAR was seen as impractical or not achievable)
- For different MSG stakeholder groups to strengthen each other's roles including by supporting self-reflection within each stakeholder group

From an Academic/Research perspective the following were noted:

- MSG support for multi-stakeholder initiatives at national, EU member state levels
- Asking questions and supporting the questioning of DEAR/GCE projects to improve learning for practice and policy
- Using the MSG as a platform to explore collaborative work between different stakeholder groups, e.g.
 - Using the SDGs as an opportunity to collaborate in joint initiatives
- Providing resources to MSG stakeholders to carry out such work

4. MSG purpose and mandate

The meeting agreed in principle on the mandate of the future MSG. That mandate of the MSG is centred on exchange regarding policies, priorities, practice and research of EU DEAR programmes. The draft ToR was discussed and suggestions were made for relatively minor adjustments. Amongst the issues that were mentioned by multiple participants for inclusion in the ToR were the following:

- The inclusion of explicit reference to the SDGs as an issue of concern of the MSG.
- The opportunity for the MSG to invite representatives of southern CSOs engaged in awareness arising and education for development
- Not the set-up a 'agenda group' at this stage.
- To review the ToR at a future meeting of the MSG

The meeting discussed how decisions were to be made (where needed) and concluded that this should be done by means of consensus amongst the four groups represented (i.e. CSOs, LAs, policy makers/civil servants, academics/researchers), i.e. each group reflecting the majority views within their groups.

Action point: DEAR Support Team to re-draft the ToR in the light of suggestions made and circulate the document for final agreement to MSG participants

Action point: ALL. To show agreement or otherwise with the revised ToR once these have been circulated.

5. Communication

The DEAR Support Team will support and enable communication between MSG members.

Action point: DEAR Support Team to set up a 'closed group' of MSG members on the Capacity4Dev website. This group will enable receipts and exchange of information by MSG members, as well as discussion of ideas that are of mutual interest.

Different stakeholders outlined how they were planning to communicate the work of the MSG to their members and contacts.

CONCORD would circulate MSG reports to its Board and to 'Hub 4' members. The latter involves CONCORD members and national CSO platforms engaged in Global Citizenship Education/DEAR.

CONCORD would also inform the membership of 'Bridge 47', a global network involved in development and education focussed on SDG 4 target 7 which relates to global citizenship and sustainable development education.

EADI would inform its Board and particularly the members of the EADI Working Group on 'Development meets Global Learning'

GENE would share the work of the MSG with its Board and its approximately 40 strong membership of EU government ministries and agencies.

ITUC would keep its development cooperation network informed and particularly engage its European and global networks engaged in activities relevant to DEAR

The North South Centre would share and draw on the work of its 40 members, regional seminars and activities around the annual 'Global Education Week'

6. Stakeholder future events and activities

To stimulate regular exchanges of information between MSG stakeholder groups, it was agreed that a pro-forma would be circulated to MSG participants on a quarterly basis. This would collect information about MSG member plans and activities for the coming 12 months.

Action point: DEAR Support Team to develop and circulate pro-forma by end of April and collate and share results on a quarterly basis

Action point: ALL. To return completed forms to Harm-Jan

Susanne von Itter mentioned that EADI is planning its next major conference. This will be held in Bergen (NO) from 21st to 23rd August 2017. More details about this event will be available in the near future.

7. Next MSG meeting

No decision was made on the date of a future meeting but it was agreed that, for the MSG to be effective, two meetings per year would be advantageous. A suggested date for a meeting in the Autumn of this year will be provided in September

Action point: European Commission to suggest MSG Autumn 2016 meeting date in September

8. Next steps

The meeting discussed an initial series of activities to be carried out by the MSG. This followed on from issues and opportunities identified by the stakeholder groups under item 3. The following main activity was agreed:

To develop a document ("shared document") with suggestions on priorities for different DEAR stakeholder groups in addressing the SDGs, in particular in respect of target 4.7 (education for sustainable development, global citizenship education <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg4>). Based on exchanges of information about different perspectives the MSG would explore how shared priorities could be further promoted by the group.

Action point: DEAR Support Team to draft a workplan and timetable for this work and circulate to members for comment and agreement

As part of this work the Commission MSG members will circulate information on how the Commission is developing a response to the SDGs with suggestions on how the MSG and its members can contribute to this.

Action point: European Commission to circulate to MSG members

Not agreed for immediate work, but made as a suggestion for consideration at a future meeting would be an activity that aims to capture expenditure by governments, NGOs, LAs and others on DEAR.

Finally, a meeting evaluation form would be circulated to participants asking for comments and suggestions on how future meetings can be improved. The results of this evaluation will be shared with participants.

Action point: DEAR Support Team