



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

EuropeAid Development and Co-operation Directorate-General

Director General

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**INVITATION TO A WORKSHOP ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION REFORM AND
CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT**

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

In mid-2008, as part of its commitment to aid effectiveness, the European Commission adopted a reform to enhance its approach to Technical Cooperation (TC) and Project Implementation Units (PIUs) with a view to support Capacity Development (CD) more effectively. The European Union also addressed this issue as part of its Operational Framework for Aid Effectiveness, adopted in November 2009 by the EU Council.

We would like to invite colleagues from EU Headquarters, EU Delegations and development practitioners from Member States' development agencies and international experts working on CD and TC issues to attend a workshop aimed at reviewing experiences in advancing the new approach to TC and its impact on CD.

The purpose of the event is to further strengthen the reform process of the EC and to take stock of currently achieved results. The workshop will also provide opportunities to look at selected cases from the EC and other organisations and to discuss how a new approach to TC can effectively contribute to CD. Finally, the event will be useful to identify messages to be taken forward at the next High-Level Forum taking place in Busan, Korea, in November 2011.

We envisage the event to take place on 4th and 5th July 2011 in Brussels (date to be confirmed). The event format will consist of presentations and discussions. Development practitioners from EC Member States development agencies and other organisations are invited to contribute to the event by providing case material on TC reform and new TC practices for discussion.

Kindly let us know whether your organisation will participate to the event and indicate a contact person with whom our organisers can communicate to arrange for possible inputs from your side. We would welcome if you could confirm your participation by 15 March 2011 to EuropeAid-TC-PIU@ec.europa.eu.

If you would like to send more than one participant from your institution, could you please contact my staff listed below.

Please find enclosed the preliminary programme and list of invitees.

Yours sincerely,



F. FOTIADIS

ANNEXES:

- List of invitees
- Preliminary programme of the Workshop on Technical Cooperation reform and Capacity Development, 4-5 July 2011

ANNEXES:

Workshop on Technical Cooperation reform and Capacity Development

(4-5 July 2011)

List of invitees

- EuropeAid Development and Cooperation Directorate General
- EU delegations
- Relevant partner countries representatives
- DG Elarg
- EEAS
- European Parliament
- Member States(indicative list of institutions):
 - Austrian Development Agency
 - Coopération technique belge
 - Bulgaria's permanent representation to the EU
 - Cyprus' permanent representation to the EU
 - Czech Development Agency
 - Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 - Estonia's permanent representation to the EU
 - Finland's permanent representation to the EU
 - Agence française de développement
 - Deutsch Gesellschaft für International Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
 - Greece's permanent representation to the EU
 - Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 - Irish Aid
 - Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 - Latvia's permanent representation to the EU
 - Lithuania's permanent representation to the EU
 - Luxembourg Agency for Development
 - Malta's permanent representation to the EU
 - Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 - Polish Aid
 - Portugal's permanent representation to the EU
 - Romania's permanent representation to the EU
 - Slovenia's permanent representation to the EU
 - Slovakia's permanent representation to the EU
 - Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 - Sweden's permanent representation to the EU
 - UK Department for International Development
- Others
 - OECD
 - LenCD
 - ECDPM
 - SNV
 - Capacity Development Alliance

Preliminary programme

Workshop on Technical Cooperation reform and Capacity Development

**What can we learn from the implementation of the TC Reform?
How can we be more effective in supporting CD?**

Brussels, 4th and 5th July 2011

Since mid-2008 the European Commission has devoted a strong effort into changing how it works with Technical Cooperation (TC) and Project Implementation Units (PIUs). To guide this process, it has formulated the Backbone Strategy on Reforming TC and PIUs. The reform is part of the European Commission's commitment to the aid effectiveness agenda, and its ambition is to show that dealing with TC and PIUs from a renewed perspective can contribute to enhance ownership and the Capacity Development of partners. As part of this renewed approach, the European Commission joined up with Member States to formulate the European Union's Operational Framework for Aid Effectiveness, adopted in November 2009 by the Council.

After three years of implementation and in the run-up to the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, Korea (November 2011), the European Commission would like to take stock of this reform together with colleagues from organisations that have gained their own experiences in making TC more effective.

The *purpose* of the event is:

- i) To further strengthen the TC reform process of the European Commission by taking stock of currently achieved results;
- ii) To look at selected development interventions from the EC and other development organisations to discuss how new approaches to TC can effectively support CD;
- iii) To identify issues and messages that could be brought onwards to the next High-Level Forum in Busan.

The event will be structured around presentations, plenary exchanges and working group sessions to discuss:

1. *European Commission's TC reform experiences – what achievements and challenges can be noted?* The EC has embarked on an ambitious plan to reform its operations in dealing with TC and PIUs. This reform has sought to apply the principles of the aid effective agenda and lessons from change management and Capacity Development: investments were made towards a change in practices at Headquarters as well as at the Delegation level; a collaborative web-space was created to engage stakeholders in knowledge exchange and learning (capacity4dev); a procedural review aimed at improving TC practices in support

of Capacity Development was carried out. Has this institutional approach to change worked? And to what extent has this resulted in improved operations at the partner country level?

2. *TC reform experiences of the EC and beyond – are we addressing the right issues?* Development agencies have developed various approaches to make TC more effective. The chapter on TC reform for Capacity Development in the EU's Operational Framework on Aid Effectiveness is the latest example. We will look at the experiences of various development actors in yielding results from such TC reform and question whether such reforms are addressing the right issues. What experiences in the reform of TC practices can be shared and is the use of technical assistance personnel the principal problem? Which contextual issues that impact on the effectiveness of TC need to be taken account of? What challenges remain to be identified and how can they be addressed?

3. *TC reform for capacity development and change – what messages to take on to the aid effectiveness debate?* As part of the preparation for the next High-Level Forum in Busan, this workshop on reforming TC for more effective support to CD can provide a useful mirror to check on current progress and to look ahead. As such, the workshop provides opportunities to discuss alternatives to traditional TC models, including forms of triangular cooperation, increased use of local expertise and horizontal peer-based cooperation than one can find in twinning arrangements. There will also be space to discuss complementary TC issues, such as the role of vocational training and higher education or the contributions the private sector can make to effective CD and to bring these into the aid effectiveness debate.

The event will be held in Brussels (venue to be determined).

The preliminary programme is as follows:

Day 1:

- Opening
- European Commission's TC reform – follow-up on aid effective commitments achievements and challenges, where do we stand?
- Discussing TC reform: field experiences of the EC and other development partners: TC in fragile situations and TC in public sector reform programmes (working groups)
- Feed-back to plenary

Day 2:

- Discussing TC reform: Alternatives to traditional TC provision and TC reform at Headquarters level (working groups)
- Feed-back to plenary
- TC reform experiences of the EC and beyond – are we addressing the right issues? What messages to take on to the aid effectiveness debate?
- Closing

A detailed programme, including timing, will be made after proposals for inputs to the workshop are received from participants from other organisations than the European Commission. We kindly ask to provide us with case proposals that can be presented and discussed during one of the working groups before 15th March 2011 at EuropeAid-TC-PIU@ec.europa.eu.

If you would like to send more than one participant from your institution, could you please contact my staff listed below.

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