



**First Information to the F2F meeting of the  
Network Democratization, Decentralization and Local Governance (DDLGN),  
14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> May, in Kyiv/Ukraine**

The F2F is an excellent opportunity for practitioners to meet and exchange experience for joint learning and to reinforce networking. Though contexts differ we usually are confronted with similar challenges to which different solutions are possible. Exchange with network colleagues across the world may open up new perspectives and provide new ideas of how to approach different issues. It is an effective way of cross-regional knowledge transfer and an opportunity for joint critical reflection. Available knowhow is directly visible and new DDLGN members get to know network colleagues.

The F2F is also a crucial moment for stocktaking and agenda setting. Since the last F2F in 2015 in Pemba (Mozambique), it is now time to bring back to DDLGN members the results of the work produced these past 3 years, to inform about trends globally, in SDC and to define the next steps.

This F2F is marked by a very special moment: It is the 10years anniversary of the DDLGN – time to celebrate!!

## **1. Objectives**

The F2F should enable DDLGN members to learn about current practice and identify common approaches in the thematic areas of DDLG. It shall provide further knowhow and inspiration on selected topics for their respective operational work. Finally yet importantly, it will strengthen the network dynamic:

### **Joint discussion, learning and common understanding around selected topics:**

- DDLG in fragile contexts: Participants learn about experience and possible approaches in SDC programming in fragile contexts and develop recommendations for SDC practice;
- Media support: Participants are familiar with the SDC approach and international practice in media assistance (results of the experience capitalization will be shared), and they learn from peer experience, particularly from the SENAP (South, East, North Africa and Palestine) region;
- Gender responsive and socially inclusive budgeting: Participants agree on a common definition and brainstorm about possible approaches to GRB SIBM;
- Transversal Theme Governance: Participants know about the SDC approach to transversal governance (introduction of the new guidance documents) and are inspired to apply it.
- Field visit: By exchanging with SDC partner and local actors in the Ukraine, mainly related to the topics discussed during the F2F, participants have the opportunity to learn from concrete DDLG practice.

According to the thematic priorities a collaboration with the networks Conflict and Human Rights (C&HR) and Gender is established.

### **Information sharing and peer learning:**

- Linking back to Pemba 2015: Information by network members on their follow up after Pemba and news from the DDLG thematic unit about completed work. This will also facilitate the onboarding of new members and highlight available experience and regional dynamics.

- Information by the DDLG thematic unit on global trends and developments at headquarters related to Governance/DDLG
- Knowledge hubs by peers: DDLGN Peers share interesting practice, experiences with other network members. This will foster the network spirit of peer exchange and peer support.

**Planning and next steps:** The participants will jointly prioritize the main areas of work for the DDLGN over the next two years

## 2. Participants

Participants: The f2f is destined for DDLGN members, including SDC staff in Berne and in the foreign representations / country offices, as well as staff from SDC partner organizations. Moreover, interested persons from SECO, DHS are invited. Based on previous experience, around 60 up to a maximum of 80 participants are expected. To ensure quality interactions the F2F will be limited to max. 80 participants.

For particular sessions DDLG will invite experts to contribute to the discussion.

## 3. Language

The working language will be English. Simultaneous translation will be available between English and French.

