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Editor's notes

It is a pleasure to share with you the sixth issue of the **dlgn news**. In this issue we can affirm that 2011 was a very good year for the network. The **dlgn** has not only increased its membership to 150 but also sharing and exchange among members is becoming more consolidated.

This issue is dedicated to looking back at the activities of 2011. The **Annual Report of the Focal Point** Democratization, Decentralization and Local Governance addresses achievements and presents priorities for 2012. These will focus on supporting the application of tools and methods learned in operational situations and the coaching of strategic processes. The issue also includes an abstract of the **speech "Beyond Aid" of the World Bank's President** addressing transformed global realities. A summary of a **workshop on Governing the State with James Putzel** is followed by a **Briefing Note from the European Centre for Development Policy Management** on the EU policy to support Governance. The **Institute of Federalism of the University of Friburg** shares the competences and the work being done in the topic of dlgn.

Network news received from **LoGIn, Ukraine, Kyrgistan, and Albania**. Finally, **training opportunities** on topics related to dlgn are detailed and described with their respective contact links. Thanks for sending your contributions and updates to us!

As always, we hope that you enjoy this issue and that it provides you with the information and links you are looking for.

Warm regards and best wishes for a **Prosperous 2012** to all of you!

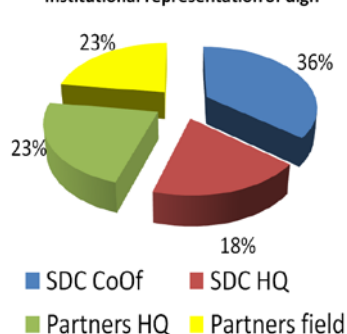
Kuno Schläfli,
Focal Point DLG, Western Balkans Division SDC

Highlights of the Annual Report from the Focal Point

Network Development

By the end of this year, 150 dlgn members are spread out in 43 countries around the world. Around 36% of network members work at SDC's Coordination Offices (Coofs), 18% work at SDC Head Quarters (HQ); 23% are SDC partners in the field and 23% are SDC partners at HQ: programme implementing organisations, competence centres, and consultants. If you want to know more about the current characteristics of our Network please refer to the following link in our Shareweb: http://www.sdc-decentralization.net/en/Home/Community_Affairs/Members/Mapping_dlgn_members

Institutional representation of dlgn



dlgn's good practice relevant for SDC's cooperation

Around 40 **dlgn** members worked intensely in six learning projects, setting up a capital of **dlg** experiences, tools and resources on local governance assessment, social inclusion, municipal finances, political economy, elections support and study tours. Furthermore, around 35 network members improved their knowledge on participation, accountability, empowerment, visual methods in PCM, power and political analysis in cooperation strategies concepts and tools, by participating in training courses and workshops and other learning events organised by the Core Group.

Focal Point's development

Partnerships with the **International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)** in Stockholm, with the **Forum of Federations** in Ottawa, the **Institute of Federalism** in Fribourg were fostered with important contributions. Additionally, a new partnership with the **Institute of Development Studies** in Sussex has been developed. Similarly, **dlgn** through the Focal Point made important contributions to policy papers in a wide variety of events.

Communications

This year, exchange between network members has been consolidated both through our mailing list, as well as through the second F2F in **Sarajevo**, which took place last March. This event was an important "moment fort" of the **dlgn**, not only because around 80 **dlgn** members participated actively and developed a strong learning dynamic, but also because it strengthened our partnership with the Network of South-East European municipal associations (NALAS). Six issues of the **dlgnnews** have been published in 2011 informing network members and other partners on selective topics related to decentralization and local governance. Network members have been gradually making important contributions sharing their activities and experiences.

Priorities for 2012

The following objectives are set as priorities for 2012:

- Sensitize strategic decision makers of proposed good practice and strategic implications
- Reconstruct the Core Group dynamics
- Create institutional backing for change-willing **dlgn** members in Coofs (NPOs)
- Create knowledge on successful approaches on the promotion of effective and inclusive civil society participation and accountability mechanisms and outcome measurement.
- Develop a work programme and establish activities supporting multilateral dialogue
- Prepare for the next F2F planned for early 2013
- Learn about international experiences and introduce SDC experiences in joint orientations of the DeLog on results measurement
- Actively contribute to governance debates in the GOVNET based on SDC experiences, feeding back to the network and contributing to peer review of related SDC projects
- Support different training activities
- Jointly with the Focal Point on PED, produce a **dlg** adapted methodological recommendation for PEA in sector reviews and planning

“Beyond Aid” a speech of the World Bank addressing transformed global realities

World Bank Group President Robert B. Zoellick held a speech entitled “Beyond Aid” at the George Washington University in September 2011. In his speech, he stated that the “time for muddling through is over” and that all countries needed to become “responsible stakeholders” in the world’s economy. “Everyone needs to act on today’s problems while building for tomorrow’s challenges; and each country needs to solve national issues with an eye towards shaping a healthy international system” he said. In his speech, he also addressed the fact that the world had changed dramatically since 1944, when the Bretton Woods system was created for the global economy. Developing countries are no longer colonial dependencies, but today they take a growing share of the global economy, including South-South trade and knowledge inter-changes. They are attaining a bigger say on how the world is run and provide development solutions to others, while remaining home to billions of poor people.

Likewise, Zoellick pointed out that developed countries had yet to fully recognize these shifts and address their problems in order to avoid dragging the global economy down. A world “Beyond Aid” recognizes that the old, hierarchical world is gone and has been replaced by a transformed set of relationships between developed and developing countries. It is a world in which good policy can be more important than money.

For developing countries, “Beyond Aid” means encouraging strong citizen involvement along with good governance, openness and transparency; investing in people with education, strong safety net programs, and making government institutions and officials deliver; encouraging small businesses and private investment; investing in infrastructure to lay the foundations for future productivity gains; and investing in connectivity while gathering data and sharing information, because good data and information will be at least as important as financial assistance.

“We will not release the full potential of half of the world’s population until we address globally the issue of equality; until countries, communities, and households around the world acknowledge women’s rights and change the rules of inequality,” Zoellick said.

For a copy of President Robert B. Zoellick’s speech, “Beyond Aid”, please click here: <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:23000133~pagePK:34370~piPK:42770~theSitePK:4607,00.html> or contact David Theis, dtheis@worldbank.org

Workshop Governing the State with James Putzel

In August, at the premises of Swisspeace, Professor James Putzel (LSE) held a workshop on “Why Donors Need a Better Definition of State Fragility” at the second meeting of the Experts Group on Governing the State in Fragile Contexts. Different inputs were discussed by participants with Prof. Putzel on the following topics: Labelling and Classification of States; Supporting non-state actors; Decentralization; prioritizing the strengthening of the army; and Legitimacy. A summary of the discussion made by Andreas Graf is available on: <http://www.sdc-decentralization.net/en/Home/dlgnews>.

Will EU deliver smarter support to governance?

From [Melissa Julian](#) - *Weekly Compass, the Newsletter of the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM)*

This ECDPM Briefing Note assesses the implications of the EU's new external action architecture for the effectiveness of its future support to governance in partner countries. The authors of this Briefing Note suggest that EC proposals for policy changes will not be successful unless the EC makes strong investments to improve institutional capacity and address existing key gaps. The Briefing Note addresses the following questions: Has the new European External Action Service improved the EU's capacity to become an effective political player? Has the creation of the European Commission's EuropeAid Development and Cooperation Directorate (DG DEVCO) helped to increase the EC's capacity to support complex development processes? Is the new institutional environment conducive to effective governance support? For more details of this Briefing Note, follow the link: <http://us1.campaign-archive1.com/?u=f3098f0aa17cc73cc4c42bc9b&id=0a41ebbdd8&e=b36b0328c3>

Competence Centers on dlg in Switzerland:

The Institute of Federalism of the University of Fribourg

From [Viorel Dupu](#)

The Institute of Federalism of University of Fribourg, founded in 1984, is a nationally and internationally recognised centre of interdisciplinary academic expertise in the fields of federalism and state organisation. The Institute focuses its activity on four fields that are potential areas of tensions: unity and diversity, solidarity and competition, structures and procedures, democracy and human rights.

The International Research and Consulting Centre (IRCC) was established in 1997 as part of the Institute. It engages in research, teaching and consulting activities with the aim of promoting academic and applied research and debate, as well as policies directed at the establishment of more just and equitable good governance institutions. IRCC hosts - along with other conferences, workshops and in-house seminars- an annual Summer University Course on «Federalism, Decentralisation and Conflict Resolution» for graduate students and an annual Practitioners Course on «Decentralisation and Local Governance» specifically designed for qualified professionals.

The Guest Researcher Programme allows scholars from all over the world to conduct research on the areas of competence of the Institute. Consulting activities are carried out on issues related to state organisation, comparative federalism and decentralisation, democracy and good governance, human rights and minority protection, multiculturalism and conflict resolution. Furthermore, the IRCC frequently hosts foreign delegations for study tours on Swiss Federalism. For more information visit the website of the Institute of Federalism at www.unifr.ch/federalism



Network News



LoGIn - Training Course on Systemic Advising for NPOs from South and East Asia

From [Sonya Elmer](#)

Between 9 and 12 November 2011, in New Delhi, 19 participants from 8 countries comprising of Programme Officers from SDC Cooperation Offices in South and East Asia and staff from partner projects gathered to attend a training course on Systemic Advising organized by the Local Governance Initiative South Asia (LoGIn). Ms. Ursula König from Ximpulse (Switzerland) and Mr. Adrian Gnägi, Assistant Coordinator at SDC Laos, guided and accompanied the group through 3 days of intense training and experience sharing on systemic thinking, task clarification, actor mapping, strategy development and partner & policy dialogue. A variety of methodologies applied led to quite a few "light bulb" moments for the participants, and a lot of room was given to learning from each others' experiences. The range of methods was broad from lectures (few!) to role plays, sketches, buzz groups and panel discussions. At the end of the 3 days, participants expressed unanimously that the training course was very useful and that a follow up course should build on the basics thus acquired to improving our systemic thinking and acting. Further, the numerous bilateral follow ups that were agreed by participants from different countries are evidence of the interest that the participants had in each other's work and the potential they saw in learning from each other. Thus, the training was not only successful in terms of building people's skills and knowledge, but also in strengthening networking across countries and team building among the participants. LoGIn is committed to support a follow up training in late April 2012.

Educational course and manual on "Sustainable Development of Society" organised by MGSDP in Kiev

From [Olena Ursu](#)

On October 27 in Kiev, the Academy of Municipal Administration (AMA) together with the UNDP Project "Municipal Governance and Sustainable Development - MGSDP" presented the educational course and manual on "Sustainable Development of Society". This educational course has been taught in the AMA since 2007 and reflects key requisites for sustainable development in which Social Mobility plays an integral part. The second edition of the manual, developed under the financial support of SDC was recommended by the Ministry of Education and Science, Youth and Sports of Ukraine for teaching in high educational institutions. For the first time in Ukraine, the Academy of Municipal Administration included this course into its curricula, enabling students to learn about practical aspects of: decentralization, democratic governance, community development and involvement in Local Self Government and seizes an opportunity to undergo an internship in local municipal departments. For more information about the course follow: http://msdp.undp.org.ua/index.php?news_id=185&language=eng

Strengthening voice and accountability: citizens' participation and oversight of budget processes in Kyrgyz Republic

From [Elvira Muratalieva](#)

The SDC-financed project "Strengthening voice and accountability: citizens' participation and oversight budget processes in Kyrgyz Republic" will be implemented by the local NGO "Development Policy Institute (DPI)" and will be co-financed by DFID. It is a long term project, which will last until 2018 after an inception period of 5 months, where DPI will design and test the model for participatory budgeting processes.

The project aims to inspire, include, and empower citizens to take responsibility for the use of public finances, in order to gradually influence the provision of public services. It will develop the interaction between citizens and public institutions and will create the space for ordinary citizens to be directly involved in budget issues at institutional level, enabling them to gain understanding and confidence in working in partnership with government agencies on the budget process, to improve the accountability and to effectively use of public funds. The project strives to ensure that the findings encountered at the local level by working on the interaction between citizens and Local Self Governments are linked to the macro level. At the same time it will make sure that issues which arise at local levels are taken up in the legal reform processes where the "PFM TF" operates.

The focus of the work will be primarily on the local level of Government and its responsiveness to citizens with regard to the financing and management of public services. A wide range of stakeholders of Local Self Governments, as well as of civil society organizations will be included in the work. For more information on this project, follow the link: <http://www.dpi.kg/en>

Dldp Albania - Grant Fund Instrument: review of the Pilot Round 2010-2011

From [Valbona Karakaçi](#)

dldp prepared a report on the Grant Fund Instrument as follow up of the dldp case presented during the BiF F2F on financial management. This report has two main objectives: 1) Evaluation of the progress of the instrument based on the internal reviews and feedback from main stakeholders; and 2) Evaluation of the potential of the scheme of the grant fund for improvement in the second round and replication in similar donor/government financed schemes.

The first chapter describes the dldp grant fund objectives, procedures and experience of distribution of the grant fund. It highlights the achievements of the pilot round of the grant fund in the dldp perspective as well as expected impact in the local governance and development in the framework of the programme.

The second chapter focuses on potential improvements and replication. Two sub-chapters address: a) the findings reflecting the feedback received from the key stakeholders from central and regional levels; and b) recommendations on the improvements of the scheme in the next round in the framework of dldp 2 as well as recommendations for replication of the scheme at regional and national level. The report can be found at the following link: http://www.dldp.al/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=36&Itemid=131&lang=en and more information on the project could be found at www.dldp.al

Training Opportunities

International Training Course on Social Enterprise Development

The IIRR is offering a course on Social Enterprise Development, which will be held on February 6 – 12, 2012 at its Yen Center in Cavite Philippines. The course introduces the principles and concepts of social entrepreneurship and innovative approaches and practices to promote and build a sustainable social enterprise. At the end of the course participants are expected to be able to assess progress/impacts of a social enterprise and be able to develop a simple business plan. For more information regarding the course contact Dulce Dominguez at the following e-mail address: dulce.dominguez@iirr.org. This training course is the product of IIRR's extensive experience in the various participatory, sectoral and management approaches of development work in Asia and Africa. It includes field visits to communities and practical application of knowledge to best facilitate the learning process. The Training Course brochure and the application form are available at: <http://www.sdc-decentralization.net/en/Home/dlgnews>

Formation "L'Art de la Transformation des Conflits".

L'importance reconnue à la médiation et à la transformation des conflits est en constante augmentation à l'âge de la globalisation, que ce soit dans pour l'économie, la société, la politique, la coopération au développement, la construction de la paix ou la vie de tous les jours. Ce cours aide à construire les capacités et compétences adaptées à chaque domaine. La formation aura lieu à Lausanne en 2 blocs: du 8 au 10 décembre et du 15 au 17 décembre 2011. Les frais d'inscription sont: CHF 2'200. Veuillez trouver des plus amples informations ainsi que le bulletin d'inscription en cliquant ici: http://www.iicp.ch/sites/default/files/2011_Flyer_Lausanne.pdf. Pour toute question supplémentaire contactez l'Institut pour la Transformations des Conflits et la Construction de la Paix (ICP): info@iicp.ch

Courses on Decentralization and Citizen Participation offered by The Hague Academy in the Netherlands

From the 19 – 30 of March, 2012 in The Hague, a training course on **Decentralization, Democratization and Development** will be offered. This two-week course focuses on how to design, implement and support effective decentralisation strategies in order to strengthen processes of governance and development from the bottom up. The course fee is € 2.890,-. This includes all training-related costs for two weeks as well as drinks and lunches, training materials and travel during the training. The course language is English. The **deadline for application is 20 January 2012**. For more information on this course follow the link: <http://thehagueacademy.com/index.php?id=437> or contact: info@thehagueacademy.com

From the 16 – 27 of April, 2012 in The Hague, a training course on **Citizen Participation and Accountability** will be offered. This course will discuss the accountability chain, the participation ladder and the do's and don'ts of citizen participation and will include case studies from different parts of the world, study visits to municipalities, active citizen groups and projects in the field of urban planning, social cohesion and law and order. The course fee is € 2.890,-. This includes all training-related costs as well as drinks and lunches, training materials and travel during the training. The course language is English. The **deadline for the application is 17 February, 2012**. For more information follow the link: <http://thehagueacademy.com/index.php?id=439> or contact: info@thehagueacademy.com

Fellowships available for training course Local Economic Development

The Netherlands Organisation for International Cooperation in Higher Education (NUFFIC) offers the opportunity to apply for a fellowship for the training course « Local Economic Development», as part of the Netherlands Fellowship Programme (NFP) for short courses. This two-week training course will be held in The Hague, The Netherlands from 10 to 21 September 2012. The course aims at strengthening the economic capacity of regional communities discussing strategies, tools and approaches to improve conditions for economic growth and job creation. More about the rules and regulations regarding the fellowship can be found at the Nuffic website: www.nuffic.nl/nfp.

The deadline for applications for the fellowship is 7 February, 2012; the deadline for applications to the course without a fellowship is **13 July 2012**. For more information about this training course following the link: www.thehagueacademy.com or contact: info@thehagueacademy.com

Two international courses offered by the University of Wageningen

The Centre for Development Innovation of the Wageningen University is offering two new courses in 2012:

An international Course on Rural Decentralisation and Local Governance in collaboration with the Royal Tropical Institute. This training will take place in the Netherlands from the 3 to 14 of September, 2012. For more information on the course and for registration follow the link: <http://www.cdi.wur.nl/UK/newsagenda/agenda/Décentralisation en milieu rural et gouvernance locale.htm>

An international course on Planning and Implementation of Impact Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation in collaboration with the Institute of Sciences and Population (Burkina Faso) and the African Evaluation Society. This course will take place in Ouagadougou from the 1 to 11 October, 2012. For more information and for registration follow the link: <http://www.cdi.wur.nl/UK/newsagenda/agenda/Planification et suivievaluation participatifs.htm>

The application deadline for applying to either training course is the **27 of July, 2012**. The deadline for applying to a **Nuffic Scholarship** is the **1 of February, 2012**. For more information follow the link: <http://www.nuffic.nl/international-students/scholarships/scholarships-administered-by-nuffic/the-netherlands-fellowship-programmes/scholarships-online>

Institute for Conflict Transformation and Peace Building – Certificate in “The Art of Conflict Transformation”

The importance of conflict transformation and mediation is constantly growing in the era of globalization whether in regard to the economy, society, politics, development cooperation, peace building or everyday life. This training course enables participants to analyze complex conflict constellations and their social, cultural and unconscious dimensions. Furthermore, participants will be able to develop and apply creative and constructive alternatives to conflict transformation with a step based approach. The next module in German will take place in Bern on the 10 and 11 of December and has Johan Galtung – Nobel Peace Prize who developed the TRANSCEN Method as guest speaker. **Deadline for application is 5 of December**. For more information follow the link: <http://www.iicp.ch/de/node/78>

IDHEAP – Institute de Hautes études en Administration Publique - Course: PBPF - Politique budgétaire & Politique fiscale dans un contexte fédéraliste

Les Mercredis du 11 janvier au 4 avril 2012 dans l'IDHEAP, le cours de Politique budgétaire & Politique fiscale dans un contexte fédéraliste sera offert. Ce cours a des Objectifs: a) analyser les implications de la politique budgétaire et de la politique fiscale telles qu'elles se présentent en réalité; b) porter un jugement normatif sur les orientations à donner à l'une et l'autre politiques en fonction de la situation et de leur évolution; c) identifier les opportunités et les risques qu'un contexte fédéraliste représente pour la politique budgétaire et pour la politique fiscale; et d) disposer des instruments nécessaires à mesurer l'ampleur des mesures prises. Présentations, travaux de groupes, enseignement assisté par ordinateur sont combinés pour favoriser une participation active de toutes les participantes et de tous les participants. Frais d'inscription: 3500 CHF pour l'ensemble du cours (documentation électronique ou papier comprise). Le cours est ouvert à toute personne titulaire d'un diplôme universitaire ou d'une expérience professionnelle équivalente, ainsi qu'aux étudiant-e-s du MPA. Des connaissances préalables de l'utilisation du tableur Excel constituent un avantage. Les demandes d'inscription seront en principe traitées par ordre d'arrivée, dans les limites du nombre de places disponibles jusqu'au **19 décembre, 2011**. Pour plus de renseignements, contacter: Prof. Nils Soguel (nsoguel@idheap-unil.ch) ou le lien:

[ht-](#)

[tp://www.idheap.ch/idheap.nsf/0/ee300a4f5a26726cc125726000477449?OpenDocument#CoursSommaire](http://www.idheap.ch/idheap.nsf/0/ee300a4f5a26726cc125726000477449?OpenDocument#CoursSommaire)

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