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## Editor's notes

Welcome to the tenth issue of the **dlgnews**, the first in **2013**. This issue starts with **News from the Network** addressing a presentation from Dr. François Paul Yatta on: **Developments and trends in the medium and long term in West Africa**. Additionally, details on the **Regional Governance Seminar** held by the Western Balkans Division in Sarajevo are shared. HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation presents a video on a **methodology for introducing gender responsive budgeting in local governments**, an experience drawn from Kosovo. SDC in Serbia shares information about a **new project aiming at strengthening the oversight function of Parliament in Serbia**; and from Bosnia and Herzegovina we received the news about the **introduction of decentralised wastewater management**. In the section **News from other organisations**, International IDEA discusses **the impact of social media on democratic governance**.

The section of **Studies and Publications** on dlgn includes two documents from the **OECD DAC GOVNET: "Orientations and Principles on Development Cooperation, accountability and Democratic Governance"** and **"Citizen-State Relations – Improving governance through Tax Reform"**. Additionally a PhD Dissertation from Mirjam Strecker on the Topic of **Legal Challenges on Accountability of Local Governments** is presented, followed by information on a new book on **Democracy in the age of globalization and mediatization** from NCCR.

**Training opportunities** from NADEL, the Institute of Federalism of the University of Fribourg, The Hague Academy for local governance and the University of Wageningen close this issue.

**Focal Point News:** By the end of June 2013, I shall leave my position of Focal Point Democratization, Decentralization and Local Governance after four and half years. My successor is **Corinne Huser**. Most of you know her from her very active participation in the **dlgn** during the past four years, be it as member of the Focal Point Steering Group and of the network's core group; be it as an "owner" of learning projects (on local governance assessment, social inclusion, study tours guidelines, outcome measurement); or from her active engagement in the two previous F2F meetings of the **dlgn**. I am very happy that Corinne will now be able to devote her full working time, her rich experience, and her profound knowledge as a Focal Point and in the animation of the **dlgn**. I wish her all the best!

**Reminder - F2F in Egypt, 13 – 16 of May:** Our F2F is approaching do not forget to register. Registration is closing at the **end of February**.

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 to all of you!

Kuno Schlöffli,

Focal Point DLG, Western Balkans Division SDC

## Network News

### Les évolutions et tendances à moyen et long terme en Afrique de l'Ouest (Français)

A l'invitation de la Division Afrique de l'Ouest, le Dr François Paul Yatta, coordonnateur du **Local Economic Development Network of Africa** (LEDNA) a tenu une conférence sur « Les évolutions et tendances à moyen et long terme en Afrique de l'Ouest » le 18 octobre 2012 à Berne. L'occasion pour cet économiste de dresser un vaste panorama des défis qui attendent les acteurs du développement, tout en relevant quelques pistes: <http://www.sdc-decentralization.net/en/Home/dlgnews>

### Regional Governance Seminar - Western Balkans Division in Sarajevo

*From Katharina Häberli Harker, Regional Governance Advisor, Western Balkans*

In September 2012, the Regional Governance Workshop for and in the Western Balkans was held in Sarajevo. The responsible for the Governance portfolio for SCO management, NPOs, the division's management, the responsible for the governance subject from Berne and the – in 2012 newly introduced – regional governance advisor gathered together in this workshop. They reviewed in depth the instrument of political economy analysis (PEA) in the governance domain for the development of both the cooperation strategy and portfolio. The workshop was co-moderated by the Institute of Development Studies (Brighton, UK), author of the political economy studies in Macedonia, Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Workshop started with the challenging perceptions that (i) PEA is a difficult-to-understand instrument and (ii) PEA is, first and foremost, a tool to explain why reforms do NOT happen. However, it quickly became obvious, that the method – which basically combines a simple problem analysis, with the identification of drivers and restrainers of change of these problems – has deeply engrained into the thinking of all division's collaborators. Intervention strategies that align with drivers of change and take restrainers more consciously into account stood in the centre of the working groups. For example, a frequently re-occurring restrainer in the Western Balkans is the absence of sanctions, even if legally binding procedures are not followed by local governments. Similarly, reflections on cost efficiency and cost benefit related to governance interventions, discussed together with the Chief Finance and Administration spiced the workshop with quite some emotions. The subject of adequate "PEA research update methods" will continue to occupy the work of the divisions' governance staff.

Recognizing the importance of face to face events and the need to keep alive the momentum from one event to the next, a subsequent regional governance workshop in and for the Western Balkans is scheduled for April 17th to 19th, 2013. It will presumably be held in South Serbia. This workshop will aim to focus on civil society support: how to get it right; as well as, on instruments on how to drive fiscal decentralization in the Western Balkans further.

### Methodology for introducing Gender Responsive Budgeting in local governments developed in Kosovo

*From Norbert A.E.M. Pijls*

HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation has developed a methodology for introducing Gender Responsive Budgeting in local governments. A video on the experiences in Kosovo: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKdp7PpnaLc>. Another video on own source revenues (real estate tax collection) can be found here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2QvAOAnNE4>



### **Strengthening of the oversight function in the work of Parliament in the Republic of Serbia**

*From Petar Vasilev*

SDC will support the National Parliament of the Republic of Serbia to establish and strengthen the monitoring mechanisms, with a special emphasis on citizens. On September 5, 2012, the Swiss Ambassador to Serbia Mr. Erwin H. Hofer, the Serbian Parliament Speaker Mr. Nebojsa Stefanovic and the UNDP Resident Representative Mr. William Infante signed the Statement of Cooperation and reiterated the intention to enhance parliamentary development in Serbia. In the words of Mr. Hofer, Switzerland would offer Serbia a long-term support in reforms towards European Integration. "The National Parliament has a central role in this process and a demanding legislative and supervisory role in accordance with the will of their constituents. Although Switzerland is not an EU member, we welcome you in the way we support and believe that this is the best for Serbia", stressed the Swiss Ambassador.

The present project addresses the issue of parliamentary oversight, placing a particular emphasis on the financial accountability of the executive government. An innovative tool will assist Serbian members of parliament (MPs) to oversee spending of the government. Moreover, the project will help the Parliament to encourage democratic involvement of citizens throughout the country, by bringing parliamentary committee sessions to the local level and by strengthening its outreach mechanisms. The final result will be an increased participation and public consultation during parliamentary hearings and an improved public image of the Serbian Parliament. For more information about this project, take a look at the dlgn Shareweb: <http://www.sdc-decentralization.net/en/Home/dlgnnews>

### **Decentralised Wastewater Management in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

*From Emilija Mažar*

SDC and the Government of Republic of Slovenia, through the local consulting company Resource Centre and Consultancies for Water and Environment "Una Consulting" LLC from Bihac, have introduced for the first time in Bosnia and Herzegovina decentralized wastewater management. They support the pilot project DECENT: "DECENTralized wastewater management in Una-Sana Canton". This project is implemented in partnership with three municipalities of the north-western part of Bosnia and Herzegovina - Bihac, Cazin, Buzim together with Una- Sana Canton in the period from 2012 to the end of 2013.

Good practices and experiences of Switzerland and Slovenia are shared with the partners from these municipalities, who besides co-financing the project apply principles of good governance in the provision of quality services within the wastewater management sector. Thus, they contribute to the improvement of basic living conditions for their population, as well as to the protection of natural resources. 150 to 400 population equivalents in three pilot agglomerations in each project municipality will directly benefit of this innovative project. The Ministry of Spatial Planning, Construction and Environmental Protection of Una-Sana Canton is a project partner and provides significant support to the implementation of the Project through improvement of legislation in the sector of water and environment. The Cantonal Wastewater Collection and Treatment Plan will be developed during project implementation aiming at capacity building and the creation of framework policy for selection and application of cost-efficient wastewater technologies at municipal level. Further information to be found in the following Link: <http://www.unaconsulting.ba/en/news/>

## News from other organisations

### International IDEA: Social Media and Democratic Governance

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research jointly with Estoril Conferences of Portugal and International IDEA organized a one-day workshop to deliberate the role of Social Media and Democratic Governance. In his opening remarks, Dr. Massimo Tommasoli, Permanent Observer of International IDEA remarked how increasingly ICTs enhance the ability to report and document government delivery of goods and services, as well as to advocate for political changes. He also compared the use of technology for democracy as either transformative, "Liberation Technology" or as controlling technology. During the workshop, participants debated the use of social media and possible negative consequences, such as the spread of propaganda without any checks or regulation. Despite this sense of caution, participants all agreed that social media plays a pivotal role in bringing about political change, whether at the grass roots level or as part of big party politics. More information: <http://www.unitar.org/social-media-envisaged-important-ensuring-democratic-governance>

## Studies and Publications on dlg

### The OECD DAC GOVNET published two interesting documents in 2012

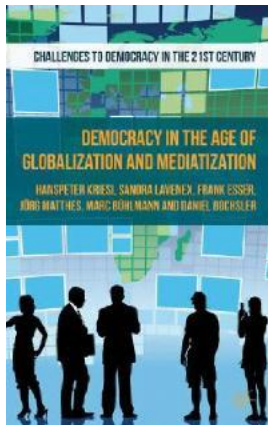
The publication "Orientations and Principles on Development Cooperation, accountability and Democratic Governance" identifies emerging good practice for supporting elections, parliaments, political parties and media. The conclusions push donors and partners to enhance their work together. Additionally, they are called to ensure that support to democratic accountability builds on political economy analysis that informs 'best fit' practice moving away from importing external models. System-wide approaches to support accountability shall be more effective and balanced. In case of interest in piloting these in your country, contact [Alexander.Widmer@deza.admin.ch](mailto:Alexander.Widmer@deza.admin.ch).

The publication "Citizen-State Relations – Improving governance through Tax Reform" focuses on specific measures by governments, supported by development partners, to strengthen the state building role of taxation. The full publication is available at: <http://www.logincee.org/libraryitem/29502> or at: <http://www.sdc-decentralization.net/en/Home/dlgnews>

### PhD Dissertation on the Topic "Accountability of Local Governments – Legal Challenges "

*Excerpt from the Abstract – Mirjam Strecker*

Experience has shown that decentralization alone is not sufficient to make the state more accountable. Indeed, it has brought about some of the worst cases of mismanagement, elite power control and corruption. Thus, it is of great importance to have a clear concept of accountability also at the local level. But what does this precisely mean? This study aims at answering that question from a public law perspective. In the first part, a conceptual framework for dealing with the most important legal challenges resulting from the quest for accountability in the context of a decentralised (or non-centralised) state is developed. In the second part, the main features of the system of local government of Pakistan, Serbia and Switzerland are briefly introduced. The legal framework for local government in these three countries is then, in the third part, used as basis for development and illustration of concrete legal challenges that result from the quest for accountability. More information about this Thesis: [mirjam.strecker@advokatur-afs.ch](mailto:mirjam.strecker@advokatur-afs.ch) or follow the link: [www.zb.unibe.ch/download/eldiss/09strecker\\_m.pdf](http://www.zb.unibe.ch/download/eldiss/09strecker_m.pdf).



### **New book summarizing the NCCR Democracy's main research results: Democracy in the age of globalization and mediatization.**

The book provides a comprehensive overview of the models of contemporary democracy, its social, cultural, economic, and political prerequisites and existing varieties. It examines the transformation of democracy today as national political communities increasingly dissolve and, in addition, how democratic systems confront the increasingly powerful role of the media in politics. Furthermore, it covers the global spread of democracy to areas and institutions in which democratic governance has thus far been absent or has had only a very tenuous hold. In this way, it confronts the perpetually unsatisfactory quest to make "real, existing democracy" conform better to "potentially ideal democracy". "Democracy in the age of globalization and mediatization" is an important contribution to the literature on the – assumed – crisis of democracy. It will be of interest to the research community, practitioners and policy makers, media, and informed readers. If you are interested in acquiring this book have a look at the following link: <http://www.palgrave.com/products/title.aspx?pid=652522>

## **Training Opportunities**

### **NADEL**

NADEL is offering training courses in German during spring 2013:

- Project Planning and Monitoring
- Financial Management from Development Projects
- Capacity Development in the international Cooperation
- Project Evaluation
- Migration: a challenge for the development cooperation

The course "**Policy Making in International Cooperation: The Role of Civil Society**" scheduled for the 9 – 12 April 2013, will be held in English. NADEL invites **dlgn** members to consider the opportunity of sending local collaborators and/or staff of partner organisations to this course. The positive experiences in the past, with participants from the East and South, have shown that policy-making is a very suitable topic for heterogeneous, international groups of learners. We hope that this course arouses your interest, as well as, the interest of your collaborators. More information and the application form can be downloaded: <http://www.sdc-decentralization.net/en/Home/dlgnnews>

### **Institute of Federalism of the University of Fribourg**

#### **25<sup>th</sup> Summer University on Federalism, Decentralisation and Conflict Resolution (19 August-6 September 2013) in Fribourg**

Today's world faces numerous violent conflicts, most of the conflicts being within a country's border. Federalism and decentralisation are powerful tools for conflict resolution. The Summer University enables students to enhance their knowledge about Power Sharing (e.g. Federalism and Decentralisation), especially its chances and limits in relation to conflict resolution. Every year, between 40 and 45 participants from all over the world are selected from over 100 applicants to participate in our programme. 43 participants from 27 countries attended the programme last year and over 1000 people are now part of the Summer University alumni. The event will include an international conference with renowned speakers. Applications will be accepted until the 28 February 2013. More information at: [http://www.unifr.ch/federalism/en/international\\_centre/continuing\\_education/summeruni](http://www.unifr.ch/federalism/en/international_centre/continuing_education/summeruni)



### **Internship Programme for Professionals in Federalism**

The Internship Programme for Professionals in Federalism of the Institute of Federalism of the University of Fribourg gives participants the chance to develop their competencies and to experience multicultural Swiss federalism first-hand. From September to October 2013, participants will be assigned to a cantonal administration for a period of 6 weeks, where they will not only gain insights of how the Swiss cantonal authorities work, but also they will have the opportunity to develop a project on a relevant issue. Applications will be accepted from 1 January to 28 February 2013. The Internship Programme is aimed at persons from developing or transition countries having successfully completed the Institute of Federalism's International Summer University or the Practitioner's Course and with working experience. Further information on this internship, as well as the application documents are: [http://www.unifr.ch/federalism/en/international\\_centre/continuing\\_education/internship](http://www.unifr.ch/federalism/en/international_centre/continuing_education/internship).

If you are interested in the internship and have not participated yet in one of our offers of further education; please consider an application at the 25th Summer University 2013.

### **The Hague Academy for local governance**

This year The Hague Academy for local governance is offering the following courses:

#### **Leadership and Municipal Management**

From the 8 – 19 of April, the course Leadership and Municipal Management is being offered. This course addresses the development of organisational and human resources and the use of financial management systems, planning arrangements, evaluation tools and performance based management in local governments. During interactive sessions you will learn about the Leadership Benchmark as a comprehensive tool for improving leadership in local government. The deadline for application is 11 February, on the Link: <http://thehagueacademy.com/blog/2012/04/application-procedure-leadership-and-municipal-management/>.

#### **Peacebuilding and Local Governance**

From the 27 of May to the 7 of June, the Peace Building and Local Governance course is being offered. It will help you to analyse the state of local governments and the local political economy in fragile countries; design and implement initiatives aimed at strengthening local governments; judge the impact of local governance and decentralisation on realising a sustainable peace and building state legitimacy; and cooperate and coordinate with local governments, the private sector, NGOs and other stakeholders. The course language is English. Deadline for application is 1 April, 2013 on the Link: <http://thehagueacademy.com/blog/2012/04/application-procedure-peacebuilding-and-local-governance-2013/>

For further information on courses, take a look at the Course Brochure for 2013, available on the following link: <http://thehagueacademy.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/brochure-the-hague-academy-low.pdf> or at <http://www.sdc-decentralization.net/en/Home/dlgnews> or contact: [info@thehagueacademy.com](mailto:info@thehagueacademy.com)

## Wageningen Université

### Cours International en Décentralisation rurale et Gouvernance locale

Wageningen Université – à travers son Centre du Développement et de l'Innovation à le plaisir de vous annoncer l'organisation de la session de formation: "Cours International en Décentralisation rurale et Gouvernance locale". Cette formation a lieu aux Pays Bas du 3 au 13 septembre 2013. Pour des renseignements et pour vous inscrire, visitez le site [http://www.wageningenur.nl/en/show/CDIcourse Decentralisation en milieu rurale.htm](http://www.wageningenur.nl/en/show/CDIcourse+Decentralisation+en+milieu+rurale.htm). Appliquer au CDI, Wageningen UR: [www.wageningenur.nl/cdi](http://www.wageningenur.nl/cdi). Une application anticipée est recommandé puisque la procédure pour finaliser souscription (par exemple le financement, visa) peut prendre du temps.

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