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Editor's notes

Welcome to the eleventh issue of the **dlgnews**. This issue looks back at the F2F in Aswan sharing main results and links on this event. It also presents news from DeLoG: **the Post-2015 Global Governance Consultation**; the **Agreement signed with SDC for the co-funding of DeLoG and its secretariat in Bonn**; and information about **Equity, Accountability and Effectiveness in Decentralization Policies in Bolivia**. In the **Network News**, this issue shares: the **publications of IDS and HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation**; **LoGIn's three week certificate course for mid-career professionals on Decentralization and Local Governance**; a **Report on the Cost-effectiveness of dldp interventions through the grant fund in Albania** and **SDC's policy briefs**. Finally, training opportunities at the Wageningen University and the institute of Federalism in Fribourg are shared. As always, we hope that you enjoy this issue.

I also want to seize this opportunity to say good bye. After having served as SDC's Focal Point for Democratisation, Decentralisation and Local Governance during the last four and half years, I leave that position. Having more than 200 members today, the **dlgn** is a community of practitioners, where so many rich experiences from four continents are exchanged in order to inspire each other's practice. I am proud of how the **dlgn** has developed over that time, and I want to thank all of you who contributed to the network dynamic: it has been a great privilege working with you.

I also want to thank Corinne Huser who has been very engaged in the **dlgn** from the beginning. She will be taking over the moderation of the **dlgn** as of beginning of August, and I wish her and you all the best for the continuation of this journey.

With very warm regards and best wishes to all of you!

Kuno Schläfli, Focal Point DLG, Western Balkans Division SDC

Looking back at the F2F Meeting in Aswan



Around **80 members** of the **dlgn** participated in our third F2F organised in Aswan, Egypt from May 12 -16: three and half days of intensive discussions of SDC thematic issues and experiences in working on development projects related to governance, decentralization and democratization.



The first day started with a discussion on hot issues in democracy and governance. Moving away from the institutional and thematic context to realities on the ground, a panel discussion grouping experts from Egypt, Kirgizstan and Macedonia provided participants with a glimpse of the complexity of working on governance and democracy. In the afternoon, participants joint different master classes offered by IDS experts and **dlgn** members on a wide variety of issues: political economy, casual chain approach, decentralization and peace building, Egypt's unfinished revolution, decentralization and social cohesion, and informal local governance.

The second day addressed aspects related to the drafting of governance strategies. The first session presented the findings of the learning project on **"citizens' participation & accountability: what is good practice and what needs to change?"** The second input introduced the **political economy analysis (PEA) and the power analysis**. In the afternoon, the theory was tested by practice as four SDC offices presented their experience in using PEA. The final input of the day was on key issues of quality assurance.



On the **third day**, the findings from the learning project on **outcome measurement in local governance programs** were presented. During the afternoon participants joined several roundtables, with Egyptian politicians including members of Parliament, about the Egyptian transition process.

The forth day was devoted to looking ahead and identifying priorities of **dlgn's** future work:

- *Already **existing tools** like local governance assessment are useful to improve steering and reporting and do have the potential to increase impact of programs. However, they are not yet applied to their full potential, and the **dlgn** should make efforts to broadly introduce them.*
- *Improve our **competences** in analyzing **power relations** and do coherent **political economy analysis**, in order to better adapt SDC's strategies to local contexts (best fit instead of general best practice). This calls for strengthened offers in training and capacity development.*
- *Analyze the role of so far 'ignored' actors like **political parties** and **legislative bodies**. According to their potential as drivers and restrainers of democratic change, cooperation strategies should be developed taking these actors into account (members ask for guidance on that).*
- *Invest more in **innovative approaches on citizen-led-accountability**. Visual methods presented by and the recommendations issued from the learning project "civil society participation and accountability" show how SDC can go beyond its practice on policy and on practical cooperation.*
- *Municipal funds are crucial for improved local governance. **Fiscal decentralization** including PEA and capacity development has a central place in all strategies on DLG and must be adequately considered.*
- *Regarding **assessing results**, lessons from the learning project "outcome measurement", including a set of indicators should be further used in future.*
- *On a **multilateral level**, Governance must be treated as a "strategic enabler", in particular in the **Post-2015-MDG agenda**. The close cooperation of **dlgn** to the DeLoG can be used as a transmitter of these policy quests.*



For more information about the results of the F2F look at the well-documented Blog: <http://www.blog4dev.ch/dlgn-f2f2013/> or the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Face-to-Face-DLGN-2013-Aswan/502785489781727?ref=hl>

News from DeLoG

Post-2015 Global Governance Consultation



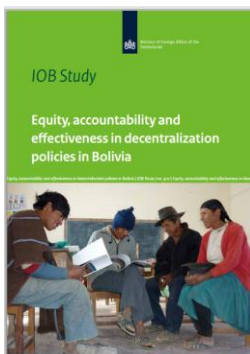
From 28 February to 1 March, the final meeting of the Post-2015 Thematic Consultation on Governance took place in Midrand, South Africa, hosted by the Pan African Parliament and co-chaired by UNDP and UNHCHR. Over 200 government officials, civil society representatives, governance experts and practitioners came together to identify key areas and themes of governance, and to explore how governance and accountability can be integrated into the post-2015 development agenda. Local governance and local development were identified as one of eight pre-selected topics that were discussed in roundtables. The DeLoG secretariat was amongst the selected panellists for this session. This presented an excellent opportunity to launch and disseminate the latest DeLoG working paper. The outcomes of the meeting will feed into an overall report, which will be used to engage with the UN-HLP, the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other key processes in preparation for the General Assembly's Special Event on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in September 2013 and beyond. To read the report, look at the following link: <http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/sd/crsvol208num3e.pdf> and to read the DeLoG working paper, follow the link below: http://delog.org/cms/upload/pdf/DeLoG_WorkingPaperNo2_Feb2013_Post_2015.pdf

Agreement signed with Swiss Development Cooperation for the co-funding of DeLoG and its secretariat in Bonn

On February 18th, "pen has been put to paper" at SDC headquarters in Bern to formalise the SDC contribution to strengthen the DeLoG network and its secretariat from 2013- 2015 with an annual contribution of approximately US\$ 300'000. A substantive part is directed to the implementation of the DeLoG/learn4dev joint learning programme. This is an important milestone in the life of the Development Partners Working Group on Decentralisation and Local Governance (DeLoG) towards a more collectively owned and widely engaged network. The Interview with Brigit Hagman on this topic can be found: http://delog.org/cms/front_content.php?idart=202

Equity, Accountability and Effectiveness in Decentralization Policies in Bolivia

IOB Study (2012)



The Policy and Operations Evaluation Department (IOB) and Dr. Jan Willem le Grand of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs have recently published a study on decentralization policies in Bolivia. Based on longitudinal data (collected for the period between 1996 and 2011) this study follows a micro level approach to unravel decentralization policies in Bolivia. The study compares different municipalities and goes down to the level of individual communities to get an understanding of the implications for questions of access, equity, participation and accountability. The report can be found: [http://www.delog.org/cms/upload/pdf-account/IOB_Study_370-Decentralization_Bolivia -_Equity_Accountability_and_effectiveness_in_decentralization_policies_in Bolivia.pdf](http://www.delog.org/cms/upload/pdf-account/IOB_Study_370-Decentralization_Bolivia_-_Equity_Accountability_and_effectiveness_in_decentralization_policies_in_Bolivia.pdf)

Network News

IDS and HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Publications

From Celestine Kroeschell

The research project presented in these publications aimed both to offer practical knowledge via conclusions and recommendations, addressed to development practitioners and aid agencies, and to nourish conceptual, academic and policy debates around this topical theme in Switzerland and beyond. Central to the project was in depth fieldwork, conducted by junior researchers from Swiss universities in partnership with staff of local HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation offices and partner organisations.

This synthesis report is written by IDS and the HELVETAS Governance and Peace team leader can be found in the following link:

<http://www.ids.ac.uk/publication/local-accountabilities-in-fragile-contexts-experiences-from-nepal-bangladesh-and-mozambique>

And the three case studies:

- <http://www.ids.ac.uk/publication/accountability-at-the-local-level-in-fragile-contexts-nepal-case-study>
- <http://www.ids.ac.uk/publication/accountability-at-the-local-level-in-fragile-contexts-bangladesh-case-study>
- <http://www.ids.ac.uk/publication/advancing-accountability-through-conselhos-consultivos-in-mozambique-progoas-case-study>

A feature of IDS website: <http://www.ids.ac.uk/news/local-accountabilities-in-fragile-contexts-experiences-from-nepal-bangladesh-and-mozambique>

LoGIn: Three week certificate course for mid-career professionals on Decentralization and Local Governance

From Preeta Lall

LoGIn and the Institute of Rural Management, Anand (www.irma.ac.in) have collaborated once again to offer in June, a three week residential course for mid-career professionals on Decentralization and Local Governance. The course focused on four modules: (a) Democratic Governance, Institutional Design and Organizational Capabilities; (b) Strengthening and Managing Fiscal Decentralization; (c) Decentralised & Participatory planning; and (d) Institutional Intra-preneurship & Leadership. For more information about this course: <http://www.sdc-decentralization.net/en/Home/dlgnews>

Cost-effectiveness of dldp interventions through the grant fund

From Valbona Karakaçi

The purpose of this report was to measure selected indicators on the cost-effectiveness of the dldp 2 grant fund, in the framework of a broader effort of SDC to address cost-benefit of its projects in different countries. The report analyses two main interventions related to the grant fund: 1) the cost – effectiveness of the projects co-financed by the grant fund; and 2) the cost – effectiveness of the technical assistance offered by dldp in the form of capacity building/coaching for the LGU-s related to project cycle management and procurement. Based on the indicators selected, one can conclude that the dldp grant fund has made a substantial contribution towards achieving one of the project outcomes related to the strengthened capacities of the LGU-s in Shkodra and Lezha Regions to perform better services. The analysis of the indicators shows that further efforts are needed in some areas in order to sustain the results achieved. This report of dldp on cost – effectiveness on grant fund management presents an insightful content and a methodology that might be interesting for dlgn members. For more information, take a look at the report: <http://www.sdc-decentralization.net/en/Home/dlgnews>



Advokatur Law and Governance, Switzerland

From Mirjam Strecker,

With the inclusion of two new partners Marcel Brühlhart and Martin Buchli to firm the Arn Friederich Strecker, this competence centre has a new name "Law & Governance", which represents the current orientation of activities and services offered by the firm. You can find the detailed information on their website www.recht-governance.ch

Policy Briefs

From Werner Thut

In the context of SDC's development policy dialogues with other European donor agencies, SDC seeks to focus on a limited number of themes where Switzerland can credibly bring to bear specific and relevant experiences. SDC's experience on Democracy promotion at the local level is a theme which finds a lot of interest, be it with the European Commission (DEVCO), Poland/Polish Aid or Sweden/SIDA. Moreover, the Swiss experience is relevant in the context of the *European Endowment for Democracy*, which is currently being set up, and which is also supported by SDC. Other Donors that are not necessarily dialogue partners are equally interested. In this context, the Policy & Analysis Division with the support of **dlgn** drafted two documents to make accessible SDC's experience to an interested international audience:

- Ep Brief 01/2013 – Democracy Support and Local Development – Swiss Development Cooperation at Work, to be downloaded at: <http://www.sdc-decentralization.net/en/Home/dlgnews>
- Martin Dahinden (2013), "Democracy Promotion at the Local Level – Experiences, Perspectives and Policy of Swiss International Cooperation", International Development Policy / Revue internationale de politique de développement: <http://poldev.revues.org/1517>

Training Opportunities

Wageningen Université

Wageningen Université – à travers son Centre du Développement et de l'Innovation au plaisir de vous annoncer l'organisation de deux sessions de formation :

« Cours International en Décentralisation rurale et Gouvernance locale ».

- Cette formation a lieu aux Pays Bas du 3 au 13 septembre 2013. Elle est encore ouverte aux personnes sur propre financement.
- Echéance : 22 juillet 2013.
- Pour des renseignements et **pour vous inscrire**, visitez le site [http://www.wageningenur.nl/en/Expertise-Services/Research-institutes/Centre-for-development-innovation/short-courses/short-courses-2013/cdicourse decentralisation en milieu rurale.htm](http://www.wageningenur.nl/en/Expertise-Services/Research-institutes/Centre-for-development-innovation/short-courses/short-courses-2013/cdicourse+decentralisation+en+milieu+rurale.htm)

« Cours International en Planification et Suivi-Evaluation Participatifs ».

- Cette formation a lieu du 14 au 24 octobre 2013 à Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.
- Echéance : 2 septembre 2013
- Pour des renseignements et **pour vous inscrire**, visitez le site [http://www.wageningenur.nl/en/show/CDIcourse planification et suivi evaluation 2013.htm](http://www.wageningenur.nl/en/show/CDIcourse+planification+et+suivi+evaluation+2013.htm)

Institute of Federalism of the University of Fribourg

States Falling Apart? Secessionist and Autonomy Movements in Europe

To celebrate the 25th edition of the Summer University on Federalism, Decentralisation and Conflict Resolution, the Institute of Federalism will host an international conference to discuss some of the most pressing issues currently on the European and global agendas.

This interdisciplinary conference seeks to observe and to analyse different secessionist and autonomy movements and the ways in which European states are responding to these requests for greater independence. The cases of Scotland, Catalonia, Cyprus, Greenland, Flanders and the Basque country will be examined as a backdrop to a broader exploration of the cultural, political and economic factors and forces that contribute to autonomy movements and their desired outcomes. The conference should be of interest to experienced and emerging scholars, practitioners and members of the public from a range of backgrounds and geographical locations. Registration open until 1 August 2013 on:

http://www.unifr.ch/federalism/en/international_centre/continuing_education/InternationalConference or you can find the flyer at: <http://www.sdc-decentralization.net/en/Home/dlgnews>

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