

**Newsletter N° 17 - December 2009**

The ACP Local Government Platform e-Newsletter is an electronic newsletter produced every three months by the ACP Local Government Platform (ACPLGP). The editor of this e-Newsletter invites readers to make comments & contribute news on local government issues from their organizations, local authorities & countries. This Newsletter is also accessible via the ACPLGP Website at <http://www.acplgp.net>.

**'Local authorities in development' thematic programme - Call for proposals - Objective 1 (multi-country)**  
**Deadline for submission of Concept notes: 25/02/2010**

The 2009 call for proposals for the non-state actors and local authority (NSA-LA) thematic programme has been published<sup>1</sup>. This call for proposals combines the two budgetary years 2009 and 2010. Therefore no specific calls for proposals will be published for the 2010 budget. This is a restricted call for proposals: in the first instance, only concept notes must be submitted for evaluation. Thereafter, applicants whose concept notes have been pre-selected will be invited to submit a full application form.

Registration in the PADOR system (Potential Applicant Data On-Line Registration)<sup>2</sup> is **obligatory** both for applicants and partners.

This time, the programme has been divided into two: one for NSA and another for LA given the specific character of LA. For recall, the programme has three objectives but ACP local authorities are eligible only to Objective 1, i.e. actions in partner countries including ACP, with two categories of interventions: in-country and multi-country interventions.

**The following information concerns only Objective 1**

**General objective:** Support for development actions to be implemented by LA, in close cooperation with the local communities and the most vulnerable population groups, with a view to promoting an inclusive and empowered society in the partner countries.

**Budget:**

- In-country intervention: Euro 18.350.000 (out of which Euro 8.150.000 for ACP countries)
- Multi-country intervention: Euro 18.900.000 (out of which Euro 9.261.000 for ACP countries and Cuba)

**Activities:** All actions in the framework of Objective 1 (in-country and multi-country) should be based on an initiative of local partners and should ensure their involvement during all the stages of the action implementation. Actions proposed by LA originating from the EU must demonstrate to have an established and effective partnership with local organisations in the partner countries where the actions are taking place. In addition, **all actions must include an element of capacity building.**

**Eligibility:** all types of local authorities or associations of LA from partner countries, including ACP countries, where the action is taking place are eligible. Non-state actors from partner countries where the action is taking place are eligible as partners. Ministries of Health or Education or decentralised departments of these Ministries may also act as local partners. LA from the EU can only be considered eligible when the action is based on an initiative of local partners and ensure their involvement during all the stages of the action implementation.

**In-country intervention** (action taking place in a single partner country).

For In-country intervention, calls for proposals are expected to be published towards the first semester 2010. They will be managed at local level by EC delegations.

**General objective:** the strengthening of LA in partner countries as a pre-condition for a more equitable, open and democratic society, as well as strengthening their capacity to deliver services to the citizens, and in particular the most disadvantaged groups of population.

**Expected results:**

- Increased capacity of LA to strengthen their participation in poverty reduction and sustainable development strategies;
- Changes in government policy and practice towards LA in favour of their involvement in the development process;
- Better access of the poorest sections of the population to social services and increased participation of those groups in the policy making processes, including particularly marginalized and vulnerable groups.

**Eligible countries:** 17 ACP countries are eligible.

Eligible country	Amount of the EC grant (Euro)	EC Delegation website
Burundi *	500.000	
Cape Verde	200.000	<a href="http://www.delcpv.ec.europa.eu/">http://www.delcpv.ec.europa.eu/</a>
Dominican Republic	500.000	<a href="http://www.deldom.ec.europa.eu/">http://www.deldom.ec.europa.eu/</a>
Haiti	750.000	<a href="http://www.delhti.ec.europa.eu/fr/index.htm">http://www.delhti.ec.europa.eu/fr/index.htm</a>
Ivory Coast	750.000	<a href="http://www.delciv.ec.europa.eu/">http://www.delciv.ec.europa.eu/</a>

<sup>1</sup> <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1261484757045&do=publi.detPUB&searchtype=AS&Pgm=7573847&aoet=36538&cnt=7573876&depub=&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=15&page=1&aoref=129200>

<sup>2</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/onlineservices/pador/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/onlineservices/pador/index_en.htm)

Kenya	500.000	<a href="http://www.delken.ec.europa.eu/">http://www.delken.ec.europa.eu/</a>
Mauritania	500.000	<a href="http://www.delmrt.ec.europa.eu/">http://www.delmrt.ec.europa.eu/</a>
Mozambique	300.000	<a href="http://www.delmoz.ec.europa.eu/">http://www.delmoz.ec.europa.eu/</a>
Namibia	500.000	<a href="http://delnam.ec.europa.eu/home.htm">http://delnam.ec.europa.eu/home.htm</a>
Niger	250.000	<a href="http://www.delner.ec.europa.eu/">http://www.delner.ec.europa.eu/</a>
RCA	350.000	<a href="http://www.delcaf.ec.europa.eu/">http://www.delcaf.ec.europa.eu/</a>
Rwanda	400.000	<a href="http://www.delrwa.ec.europa.eu/">http://www.delrwa.ec.europa.eu/</a>
Senegal	500.000	<a href="http://www.delsen.ec.europa.eu/">http://www.delsen.ec.europa.eu/</a>
Sierra Leone	450.000	<a href="http://www.delsle.ec.europa.eu/en/index.htm">http://www.delsle.ec.europa.eu/en/index.htm</a>
Togo	150.000	<a href="http://www.deltgo.ec.europa.eu/">http://www.deltgo.ec.europa.eu/</a>
Zambia	750.000	<a href="http://www.delzmb.ec.europa.eu/">http://www.delzmb.ec.europa.eu/</a>
Zimbabwe	800.000	<a href="http://www.delzwe.ec.europa.eu/">http://www.delzwe.ec.europa.eu/</a>
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.150.000</b>	

\* For Burundi the call for proposals will be launched and managed locally. As the EC delegation of this country does not have website, you have to contact them directly and also regularly check the EuropeAid website at: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome>

Co-financing rule: the maximum rate of EC co-financing of the action total eligible costs is 90% for partner countries LA and 75% for EU LA

Grant size: minimum Euro 20.000 and maximum Euro 1.000.000

Duration of the action: minimum 12 months and maximum 60 months

**Multi-country intervention** (actions in at least 2 partner countries). The call for proposals has been published and the deadline for submission of concept notes is 25/02/2010. Priority will be given to actions targeting Least Developed Countries (LDCs), in particular those not included in the list of targeted countries for in-country operations. The call for proposals is managed by the EC Headquarters in Brussels.

General objective: To build the capacity of partner countries' LA to engage in local, national and international decision-making processes.

Priority to:

- Actions aiming at **improving living conditions that traditionally fall within the remit, statutory responsibilities, competence and expertise of LA**, such as land-use planning, management of metropolitan areas, water and sanitation, waste management, strategic urban planning, risk prevention, local taxation and management of local finances, public transport, economic development (including fair trade), combating unemployment and developing income-generating activities, public social services such as preventive healthcare, education, culture, sustainable development and developing human and cultural resources. Particular attention will be paid to actions providing innovative service delivery or service delivery in difficult/out-of-reach environments.
- Actions aimed at **strengthening citizen's participation** through interaction between LA and the local population/grassroots organisations in the elaboration and implementation of participatory local development plans/participatory budgets, including measures to develop and build up LA/NSA networks (North-North, North-South and South-South);
- Actions to **build the capacity of local authorities and local government associations** at national, regional and international levels by means of training for local elected representatives and officials in order to: i) build the capacity of LA in areas referred to in the two first bullets; and ii) increase LA participation in strategies to achieve the MDGs and develop a more effective aid agenda, plus actions to increase recognition of LA as partners in regional development and integration policies.
- Actions aimed at supporting **exchanges of experiences between LA and/or LA associations** in order to strengthen partnerships, associations and networks (North-South and South-South) of LA, particularly transnational associations and networks in partner countries in the scope of actions in the areas referred to in the two first bullets.

Expected results:

- Increased number of transnational exchanges, confidence building, networking and coordination activities between LA (North-South or South-South);
- Increase in LA' support for and involvement in global and regional development processes and dialogues and/or dissemination of best practices at global or regional level and replication at national or local level.
- Initiatives and projects with a supranational dimension may lead to an added value vis-à-vis the country programmes and to increased support of local populations and their involvement in regional integration processes.

Co-financing rule: the maximum rate of EC co-financing of the action total eligible costs is 90% for partner countries LA and 75% for EU LA

Grant size: minimum Euro 500.000 and maximum Euro 1.500.000

Duration of the action: minimum 24 months and maximum 60 months

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**The ACP-EU Energy Facility II - Call for Proposals - Deadline for submission of Concept notes: 01/02/2010**

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The ACP-EU Energy Facility II call for proposals has been published<sup>3</sup>. This is a restricted call for proposals (see above). Prior registration in the PADOR system (Potential Applicant Data On-Lone Registration)<sup>4</sup> is **obligatory** both for applicants and partners.

General objective: Access to energy services in a perspective of combating climate change and achieving the MDGs and World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) objectives on energy.

Specific objectives: There are two specific objectives, each objective to be addressed by a component of the call for proposals:

- *Component 1:* To Increase access to modern, affordable and sustainable energy services for rural and peri-urban poor by focussing on renewable energy solutions as well as on efficiency measures.
- *Component 2:* To improve governance and framework conditions in the energy sector at regional, national and local levels, in particular those aimed at promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Expected results:

- Improved provision of energy services in rural and peri-urban areas
- Strengthened regional cooperation on renewable energy and energy efficiency
- Reinforced capacities of key stakeholders of the energy sector
- The development of an enabling environment, particularly for private sector investment. The private sector can be a key actor for energy investments and public-private partnerships are needed. For this purpose it is necessary to build an adequate institutional and regulatory framework, ensuring a stable environment context that allows long term activities of private companies.

Collaboration with Development Banks is also sought, mainly as potential co-financiers of the projects but also as applicants when possible. Approaching and promoting the private sector’s involvement in the energy sector is key to the success of this Facility, both in terms of investment and know-how. At the same time initiatives from NGOs will be sought in the cases they provide their added value.

Priority:

*Component 1:*

- Priority will be given to **renewable energy** and **decentralised solution** consistent with partner countries’ development goals. The use of fossil fuels is however not excluded when sustainability considerations so warrant, for example for cleaner cooking fuels or for the development of hybrid solutions. All projects must be sustainable and meet relevant criteria in terms of economic, social and environmental impact.
- **Energy efficiency** is also a priority which could be tackled from the angle of sustainable use of local resources (efficient use of biomass as a cooking fuel, improved stoves, etc.), but also in the perspective of improved management of energy systems.
- **Private sector** and bank’s investments and participation in the energy sector will be sought, notably by supporting the reduction of barriers for private sector involvement.
- **Innovative schemes** from a technical, management and financial point of view will be encouraged, and in particular schemes that lend themselves to scaling-up in national and regional programmes.

*Component 2:*

- Priority will be given to initiatives which will help to put in place adequate frameworks for increasing access to energy services in a perspective of poverty reduction and for the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies.

Indicative allocation of funds by component:

Component 1: 80% max

Component 2: 20% min

The overall indicative amount made available under this call for proposals is Euro 100.000.000.

Grant size:

	Component 1	Component 2
Minimum amount: Euro	500.000	200.000
Maximum amount: Euro	2.500.000	1.500.000

No grant may exceed 75% of the total eligible costs of the action.

Eligibility: Among other actors, ACP national, local and regional public bodies having a distinct juridical personality from the respective ACP State are eligible.

Duration: Maximum 48 months

Location: in one or more ACP countries.

<sup>3</sup> <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1261493699188&do=publi.detPUB&searchtype=AS&Pgm=7573837&aoet=36538&cnt=7573876&depub=&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=15&page=1&aoref=129364>

<sup>4</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/onlineservices/pador/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/onlineservices/pador/index_en.htm)

## Types of actions:

### Component 1:

- Investment projects having a clear rural or peri-urban focus. Type of investment projects:
  - Provision of electricity to dispersed populations in isolated areas
  - Electrification on rural growth centres
  - Access for poor population in peri-urban areas
- Actions that intend to promote local investment and support microfinance activities
- Civil society initiatives, including the promotion of innovative approaches, to deliver basic energy services for the un-served poor.

### Component 2:

- Actions aiming at prioritizing energy issues in ACP countries' PRSP and National Sustainable Development Plans
- Actions supporting the preparation of sector investment programmes focusing on pro-poor energy provision, and in particular on productive activities.
- Actions supporting multi-sector, multi-stakeholder processes, in order to identify the energy needs in sector programmes, and to encourage synergy between actions to meet these needs.
- Actions aimed at strengthening the legal and institutional framework of the energy sector and the implementation capacity for operation and maintenance, including review of legislation, institutional structures and potential reforms; de-centralisation and the development of local responsibility and local government capacity.
- Actions aimed at (i) facilitating dialogue at local, national and regional levels regarding promotion of active participation of stakeholders in the energy sector reform process; (ii) creating governance structures that actively encourage communities and/or the private sector to participate and work in partnership with local government and energy providers, advocating for the poor; (iii) facilitating an effective exchange, cross-fertilization with best practices, benchmarking, cross-learning and exchanges at regional level. Co-ordination with EUEI activities such as the Partnership Dialogue Facility should be done, when appropriate.
- Actions including education programmes that allow people to understand the importance of proper energy use, in relation with the protection of ecosystems and support to biodiversity, demand side management and energy efficiency measures.
- Actions aimed at reinforcement of the capacity of the different stakeholders to prepare projects including support to the establishment of mechanisms for the preparation of guidelines & standard tender and contract documentation.
- Training and capacity development at local, regional and national levels; facilitating networking and sharing of knowledge between stakeholders in ACP States as well as between ACP and EU partners.
- North-South and South-South twinning arrangements between energy companies, and national, regional or local government authorities responsible for energy issues to enhance capacity and foster managerial skills and innovative approaches.
- Actions aimed at reinforcing ACP resource centres in energy and development.

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## **Assises of Decentralised Cooperation: Local and regional authorities: fully fledged actors in EU development policy - Brussels, 2 December 2009**

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Around 300 representatives from local and regional authorities from all over the world were meeting at the Committee of the Regions with their EU counterparts in the first "**Assises of Decentralised Cooperation**" to ensure that their increasingly important contribution to development is recognised. Discussions focused on aid effectiveness, the need for energy for sustainable development and how best to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, especially in the area of improving health care. The event, co-organised by the CoR and the European Commission, was an important opportunity for local and regional authorities to underline how they are in a unique position to encourage co-operation networks between different local communities and regions from northern and southern countries.

### **Background:**

On 8 October 2008, the European Commission published the communication "Local Authorities: Actors for Development". This recognised that local and regional authorities bring a unique added-value to development processes. It also suggested that local authorities have a key role in mobilising different stakeholders to work together, thus generating collaborative approaches to attaining common development goals.

It foresaw 3 new objectives to be achieved under the aegis of the Committee of the Regions:

- The *Atlas on Decentralised Cooperation*, which would enable to know the programmes and initiatives done by European Local and Regional Authorities on development cooperation. This instrument has been presented during the event.
- A political dialogue, which will take the form of conferences and discussions among all levels of authorities. The 2 December event was the first one.
- A web portal, which would try to match skills and capacities with needs; allow discussion through forums; inform about European funds, and inform about country strategies. It is scheduled for mid-2010.

The European Union Council conclusions on this communication, adopted in November 2008, recognised the increasing role and added-value of local authorities in cooperation development policy.

The Committee of the Regions' opinion, adopted in April 2009, while stressing the specific contribution of LRAs, recognises the need to harmonise cooperation activities at all levels and calls for progress on integrating LRAs into development and cooperation policies. Moreover, the document commits the CoR to take all necessary steps to organise, jointly with the European Commission, the annual conference on decentralised cooperation.

In some EU countries, such as Spain, local and regional authorities deliver already 15% of the total official development aid. Due to their knowledge on managing services and policies very close to the citizens, these authorities can deliver forms of aid that are well suited to the needs of local communities. There are 91,000 local authorities and about 1,150 intermediate and regional authorities in Europe.

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#### News from the EU:

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- **New website to help improve development cooperation.** The European Commission has launched Capacity4dev.eu, an interactive website aimed at improving Europe's development co-operation. It will allow the development community at large to meet and exchange best practices on the European Commission's reform of how it provides know-how through training, research, consultancy or technical support. The goal of the reform is to ensure aid for developing countries happens faster and better. The launch coincides with the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October. <http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/>
- **ACP-EU Water Facility: €200 million call for proposals planned.** The European Commission has announced phase two of the ACP-EU Water Facility, setting aside €200 million to help to tackle water and sanitation problems in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. It will launch a call for proposals at the beginning of 2010. Between 2004 and 2006, the Water Facility financed 175 proposals, contributing €414.5 million out of the total project costs of €788 million. European institutions have doubled their support to the water and sanitation sector since 2002. They are also spending more on basic water supply and sanitation for the poor - up from 22% of the aid in 2007 to 37% in 2009, and relatively less on large water supply and sanitation systems. EU donors give on average €1 billion every year to the water and sanitation sector, according to EUWI, the EU Water Initiative. [http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/acp/regional-cooperation/water/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/acp/regional-cooperation/water/index_en.htm)
- **Understanding Decentralisation and How to Support it.** The European Commission, like many other donor agencies, is providing growing levels of funds to support decentralisation and local governance in partner countries. At a recent seminar in Brussels, nearly 40 participants from some 25 delegations gathered to learn how development practitioners can strengthen the effectiveness of EC activity in this area with visiting experts from Burkina Faso, France, Madagascar, and Mali. The Brussels seminar follows two pilot workshops organised in Nicaragua in 2007 and Mali in 2008 on "Supporting decentralisation and local governance in third countries". EuropeAid E4, in collaboration with European Centre for Development Policy Management, organised the first fully-fledged seminar in Brussels, from 6th to 10th July 2009. The event and discussions focused on: (1) the concept of decentralisation; (2) the challenges linked to policy dialogue on decentralisation; (3) decentralisation processes in fragile states; (4) political decentralisation and local governance; (5) fiscal decentralisation; (6) the links between decentralisation and poverty reduction; (7) the operational challenges linked to project cycle management, approaches and instruments. [http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/understanding-decentralisation-and-how-support-it?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+local\\_governance\\_decentralisation+%28Governance%3A+Local+Governance+and+Decentralisation+%29](http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/understanding-decentralisation-and-how-support-it?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+local_governance_decentralisation+%28Governance%3A+Local+Governance+and+Decentralisation+%29)
- **DG REGIO Working paper on territories with specific geographical features.** DG REGIO has published a working paper on territories with specific geographical features. It is an interesting analysis of border, mountainous, island, sparsely populated and outermost regions with a comprehensive set of annexes, including descriptions and indicators. You are invited to send comments to us ([info@aebr.eu](mailto:info@aebr.eu)) for a joint statement and/or directly to DG REGIO, [regio-papers@ec.europa.eu](mailto:regio-papers@ec.europa.eu). The paper is available for download on: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/work/2009\\_02\\_geographical.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/work/2009_02_geographical.pdf)
- **EU to Fund 130 Projects in Nigerian Communities.** The European Union funded Micro Projects Programme in the Nine Niger Delta States (MPP 9) has commenced in Abia state with an assurance that more than 130 projects would be executed across the state by the end of 2012 as part of the N9.2 billion MPP 9 projects earmarked for the entire Niger Delta region to encourage transparency and good governance in the rural communities.
- **ACP-EU: Joint Parliamentary Assembly worried about the revision of the Cotonou Agreement.** The Joint ACP-EU Parliamentary Assembly (JPA) met from 30 November to 3 December in Luanda and adopted a series of resolutions. Climate change, global governance and the reform of international institutions and the impact of the financial crisis on ACP states were on top of the agenda. The Assembly also adopted the "Luanda Declaration" on the second revision of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement. This document highlights concerns and recommendations on a broad range of issues and reflects the growing fear among ACP and certain EU partners of erosion and weakening of the status of the ACP-EU partnership.

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## Announcement:

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Hon. Charles L. Milupi of Zambia is the new ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly Co-President.

[www.acpsec.org/en/jpa/luanda/pr\\_27-11-09\\_e.htm](http://www.acpsec.org/en/jpa/luanda/pr_27-11-09_e.htm)

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## Reading

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\* The Role of Public Services in State and Nation building: Exploring Lessons from European History for Fragile States. GSDRC. 2009. What role can public service delivery play in state-building? This article explores lessons from Western European history to argue that the design of public services is a far more political matter than is often recognised. Rather than being a neutral process, a historical review of service provision shows that it has been used as a political tool for building state legitimacy and concepts of nationhood. The paper concludes that donors need to rethink their approaches to service provision in fragile states in light of these findings. [www.gsdrc.org/go/display&type=Document&id=3541&source=rss](http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display&type=Document&id=3541&source=rss)

\* Local Governance and Decentralisation. Inwent Newsletter. September 2009.

[www.dpwg-igd.org/cms/front\\_content.php?idcat=21](http://www.dpwg-igd.org/cms/front_content.php?idcat=21)

\* Partnership for Democratic Governance. Contracting Out Government Functions and Services. Emerging - Lessons from Post-Conflict and Fragile Situations. OECD, African Development Bank.

The ability to deliver essential public services and government functions is a prerequisite for well-functioning, legitimate states. It is also a necessity if states are to meet the most basic needs of their citizens while maintaining security and stability, bringing in foreign direct investment, pursuing poverty reduction objectives and strengthening governance. The second volume of the Partnership for Democratic Governance Series investigates whether 'contracting out' core government functions and services has been conducive to capacity development. <http://www.oecdbookshop.org/oecd/display.asp?CID=&LANG=EN&SF1=DI&ST1=5KSF09SV5WBX>

\* Aid, growth and decentralization. What effect does decentralisation have on aid effectiveness? C. Lessmann and G. Markwardt via Eldis. 2009. Several national and international development agencies consider decentralization initiatives as a main part of their anti-poverty programs. This paper examines whether the federal structure of aid-receiving countries matters in explaining aid effectiveness. Following the decentralization theorem, the devolution of powers should increase aid effectiveness, since local decision-makers are better informed about local needs. At the same time, decentralization has reverse effects, e.g., through coordination problems, excessive regulation, administrative costs and local capture. Using panel data for up to 59 countries covering the period from 1966 to 1997, the study finds that aid is less effective or even harmful in decentralized countries. The main findings are that foreign aid has no significant impact on growth, decentralization has a significant positive impact on growth, and that aid is more effective in centralized countries. Furthermore, they show that decentralized countries receive more development assistance, although the results cast doubt on the appropriateness of decentralization as part of development programs. [www.eldis.org/go/display&type=Document&id=45546](http://www.eldis.org/go/display&type=Document&id=45546)

\* Capacity.org newsletter. Focus on local capacity developers. Local expertise to support people and organisations in developing their capacities is arguably one of the most valuable resources a society can have to boost development. In this issue of Capacity.org the focus is on local capacity developers (LCDs) who 'own' this expertise. LCDs facilitate change, explore new ways of working and help enhance capacity, knowing what long-term development requires. This expertise is usually found among local consultants and NGOs, and in higher education and research institutes. [www.capacity.org/en/journal/archives/local\\_capacity\\_developers](http://www.capacity.org/en/journal/archives/local_capacity_developers)

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