Local & regional authorities and development cooperation

Speaking and acting together, developing better

Prague, April 2014
Local & regional authorities and development cooperation

1. Context
2. Speaking as one
3. Cooperating
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A “decentralising” world
An “urban” world
The Global Agenda: starting point of European and local public policy
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• Development policy

  • “The primary and overarching objective of EU development cooperation is the eradication of poverty in the context of sustainable development, including pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals.”
    (European Consensus on Development, 2005)

  • Good governance at local level is necessary to achieve sustainable development. It creates the conditions for inclusive, responsive and effective development processes.
    (2013 Communication on Empowering Local Authorities...)
EU vs. Local public policy

• 60% of local public policy is influenced by European decision-making
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Local and regional authorities speaking as *one* voice

- **European level**
  - CEMR
  - The case of *PLATFORMA*

- **Global level**
  - UCLG
  - The case of the *Global Taskforce for Post 2015 Development*
Local and regional authorities speaking as *one* voice in Europe
Local and regional authorities speaking as one voice in Europe

- **Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)**
  - 57 associations from 41 countries
  - Covering 150,000 local and regional authorities in Europe
  - 2 missions:
    - Influencing European legislation
    - Promoting cooperation and exchange of experiences
  - 5 working themes:
    - Democracy, citizenship and enlargement
    - Resource efficiency and environment
    - Cooperation, partnership and world affairs
    - Economic, social and territorial cohesion
    - Local and regional governments as employers and service providers
Local and regional authorities speaking as one voice in Europe
Local and regional authorities speaking as one voice in Europe

• PLATFORMA

• Voice of European local and regional governments in development cooperation since 2008

• 24 partners: local and regional authorities and their national, regional and global associations (incl. VVSG)

• 3 objectives:
  • Coordinate their positions towards the European institutions (e.g. influence EU regulations for the 2014-2020 financial framework)
  • Strengthen their participation to European development programmes (e.g. dissemination of funding opportunities)
  • Facilitate exchange of experiences (e.g. European Development Days, etc.)
Local and regional authorities speaking as *one* voice globally

United Cities and Local Governments
Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis
Ciudades y Gobiernos Locales Unidos
Local and regional authorities speaking as one voice globally

• United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)
  • Represents local and regional authorities and advocates for democratic local self-government on the world stage (UN, etc.)
  • Founded in 2004
  • World Secretariat based in Barcelona
  • 8 sections (6 geographical and 2 thematic)
    • CEMR is European section
Local and regional authorities speaking as *one* voice globally

GLOBAL TASKFORCE
OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS
FOR POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA
TOWARDS HABITAT III
Local and regional authorities speaking as one voice globally

- **The Global Taskforce** (of Local and Regional Governments for Post 2015 Development and Towards Habitat III)
  - Created in 2013
  - Gathers key global & regional networks of local and regional authorities and partners
    - Global: UCLG, ICLEI, CLGF, AIMF
    - Regional: CEMR, UCLG Africa, Metropolis, etc.
    - Partners: UNICEF, UN Habitat, UNDP, etc.
  - Defines common positions on *international policy* related to the *post 2015* development agenda, the *climate change* negotiations and the global *urban* agenda (Habitat III)
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What is “decentralised cooperation”? 

- **Many names**: twinning, international municipal cooperation, development partnerships, sister cities, etc.

- **One principle**: Willingness of two municipalities to collaborate to address a particular issue (e.g. waste, youth engagement, urban planning, raising finances, etc.)

- **Expected outcome**: stronger administration
  - Local development is managed in a better, more effective way
  - Better public services
  - Greater engagement of citizens
  - Decentralisation movement is stronger
Why “decentralised cooperation”?

• Local authorities are the **closest to the citizens**
  • Decentralised cooperation is anchored in **people’s needs** and demands

• Local authorities are the **best placed to help colleagues** facing similar challenges
  • Greater **trust** between us
  • Not donor-driven; **bottom-up** approach

• Local authorities have the **capacity to mobilise** and support a wide range of local actors (civil society, private sector, etc.)
How is “decentralised cooperation” funded?

- **Own** resources *only* (Spain and Italy)
- **Own** resources *complemented* by **national** funds for regions and local governments (France)
- **National** funds channelled directly to regions or municipalities (Germany, Denmark, UK)
- Funds partly channelled from **national** government to local or regional governments **associations** and partly challenged directly to municipalities or regions (Flanders, Sweden)
- National government channels funds to local government **associations** (The Netherlands, Finland)
- **EU** funds and programmes – covering almost all non-European countries
New opportunities

- **Post-2015 Agenda and “Sustainable Development Goals”**
  - Millennium Development Goals are ending in 2015
  - New framework under negotiations – new themes
  - Greater focus on cities, towns and municipalities – “Urban SDG campaign”

- EU funding for 2014-2020

- Strategic partnership between European Commission and CEMR-PLATFORMA
Děkuji!

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