



INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 1 - 15/03/2010

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DETAILS

[Info 1. Introductory remarks](#)

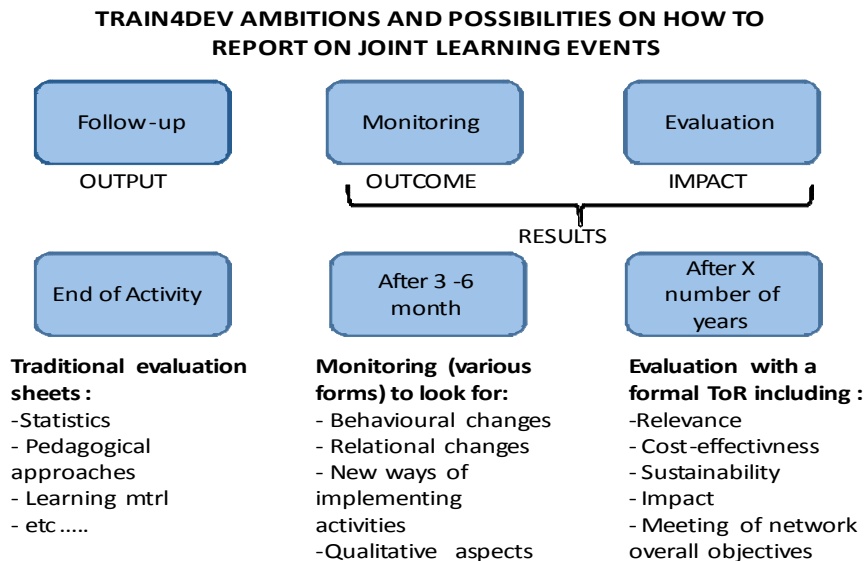
Since the last Bulletin, No 4 2009, the Core Group (CG) had a meeting in Vienna 14-15 January 2010 and the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) very generously hosted the CG within their premises. The information in this Bulletin is on some items based on the Minutes from this meeting and the full text from these Minutes are as before found at our homepage www.train4dev.net within the member section.

In general it can be stated that the Result Matrix format for the CG and Sub-Group (SG) results and activities is a good tool for securing progress and follow-up. Also these documents have been updated and are as earlier posted at the homepage.

Those of you who are Contact Persons for Train4Dev within your organisation, you have an important task in making Train4Dev purpose and activities known to a wider audience. A suggestion from the CG is that you forward this Bulletin to relevant persons within your organisations – including your Director General – perhaps together with some more specific comment or information regarding specific areas where your own organisation is involved. Good luck!

Info 2. Continued work on improved and clear reporting mechanism on T4D activities

Being one of the main results according to the Result Matrix – “Train4Dev activities and results effectively monitored and documented” - the CG moved forward on this subject in the Vienna meeting. The following simplified picture/model was used to form a common view and discuss possibilities and challenges for the Network.



The CG concluded that for most of the Train4Dev Joint Learning Events the possibility to report beyond “**Output**” level is limited as long as events are organised as one-time events. Even so, as a network, we have had some difficulties in both compiling and reporting in a systematic way on basic quantitative data. At “**Outcome**” level, the CG reflected upon the Cambodia-example, presented at the Oslo annual meeting (see report from Annual Meeting in Oslo at the homepage) which could show interesting results through indicators of behavioural changes (Ministries working together over sectors) and activities changed (sector programmes being discussed and new directions taken). Still, this outcome level was not planned at the outset, and the results surfaced partly as a consequence that a number of JLEs were held in the same country (even though in different sectors).

Having discussed the above, the CG discussed a proposal on a “Simplified monitoring system” for Sub-Groups to report on its activities to be put in place as soon as possible. Lux-Dev will develop an internet based reporting mechanism on the Train4Dev webpage where all data from different JLE will be automatically aggregated.

Some implications and conclusions:

- Train4Dev will as a minimum level always report on certain basic quantitative data and qualitative aspects on all JLE according to a set format. This information is mostly at **Output** level but will ensure that Train4Dev, in a more structured way, will be able to report on joint financed activities. The SG Coordinator will have as a task to follow-up with SG Leaders to ensure that the format is used.

- More thorough **Outcome** monitoring and reporting will be linked to JLE where there is a possibility to plan for a more process-oriented learning approach (i.e. not only one-time events)
- This issue has implications on how Train4Dev activities can be monitored against our overall objective “to promote improved aid effectiveness”.
- We also need to find ways to monitor and report on network activities that do not use the JLE-concept as its modus operandi, like the very interesting and successful work within the PFM SG.

[Info 3. Sub-group issues](#)

For those that want to see a more full report of the progress in the different sub-groups, please see the full Minutes from the CG meeting in Vienna, posted at www.train4dev.net in the member section. Here follows a summary of activities:

The ***JLE Management for Development Results (MfDR)*** for 2009 included course design, conduct two pilot courses as well as conduct 4 more courses. The MfDR Executive Committee met in October 2009 and discussed following issues:

- Incorporate experiences, comments and suggestions
- Discussion core and optional modules
- Additional briefing note
- Design module on PIA/PSIA
- Upgrade training pack (enable “stand-alone” learning)
- Arrangements with in-country lead donors for four courses
- Implementation four tailored courses

For 2010 there are five MfDR events scheduled and some other proposals are in the pipeline.

27-29 January Tanzania

22-26 February Mongolia

Mid April Malawi

18-20 May Bolivia

24-26 May Cameroon

On ***Pro Poor Growth (PPG)***, one pilot was conducted in Tanzania in October. Following the Pilot JLE, an After Action Review (AAR) was conducted in London involving EC members and the ODI/ITAD team. The purpose of the exercise was to review and discuss the working relationships and processes involved in preparing and delivering the JLE. The process for adapting and completing the course materials and for restructuring the JLE will take place in the first half of 2010.

A new (but continued) initiative on a “second generation” of ***JLE on SWAP/PBA*** has been taken with France in the lead. A meeting was held in Paris 30 November -1 December 2009 with a number of donors present. The “old SWAP” will use some remaining funds to implement a follow-up multi-sector work-shop in Malawi in April which will present an interesting possibility to for a more process-oriented learning approach

The SG on **Effective Electoral Assistance** have a number of activities, as well as specific trainings, planned during 2010:

- Further develop the face-to-face workshop and eLearning course on Effective Electoral Assistance
- Development of specialised/customized face-to-face training modules with the first one coming up being the Thematic Workshop on Elections, Violence and Conflict Management
- Development of specialised/customized eLearning modules with the first one coming up being the eLearning Course on the Use of ICTs in Electoral Processes (building on the last face-to-face workshop organized in Brussels)
- Finalization of the ICT Study and the Handbook on the Use of ICTs in Voter Registration Processes
- The preparation and production of Operational Papers with particular reference to topic areas related to the linkage between democratic elections and democratic politics and on the application of the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA) in electoral assistance programming.

The networking activities within the **Public Financial Management (PFM)SG** are of a different character than other SG, as they are not developing JLE. The PFM SG is built around informal learning and sharing of experiences, exchanges of learning mtrl and other relevant PFM related documents. As example, topics that have been discussed are “gender budgeting” and “tax reform”. The concept of “Open Courses” is working very well in the PFM area with a large number of training opportunities. The PFM SG will now also try to coordinate training opportunities among donors in order to spread them evenly over the year and in different geographical regions. There are evidence that this way of networking is giving very interesting outcomes such as a donor moving away from purely in-house to field based multi-donor trainings. A large number of PFM related mtrls is also found at the homepage.

The CG has concluded that this way of networking around a specific subject is both a very efficient and cost-effective way to network, as well as an example that the Train4Dev could develop further.

In the area of **Environment and Climate change** Belgium took an initiative in January 2010 in order to renew an effort to form a formal subgroup in order not to lose the momentum gained in Oslo. The outcome is still not clear. In Vienna, the CG concluded though that this subject area is probably of such a character that it would be suitable for the kind of networking that the PFM SG is pursuing, rather than joint financed JLE. The outcome of the Copenhagen Summit will nevertheless obviously have an impact on this area, probably also affecting the issue on joint training and learning.

Public Sector Reform has taken off with two meetings held in November 2009 and in February 2010, both in Brussels, with a number of interested donors. The Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC) has taken a lead looking for a possible development of a JLE. Discussion has taken off well and revision of training material and development of new modules are looked into. Contact person at BTC is Eva Beuselinck, Governance Unit Coordinator.

In the *Knowledge Management SG*, staff within Lux-Dev as well as within Europe Aid engaged themselves and cooperated for a very successful and smooth transfer of the Website to Lux-Dev. Europe Aid will continue nevertheless continue to be in Lead of the KM SG.

Continued work on the e-learning module on KM with FAO, Switzerland and Europe Aid as driving forces is coming closer to a finalised product and will be ready in the second part of the year. First modules might be available already during the Annual Meeting in Marseille.

[Info 4. The network Charter](#)

As discussed intensively in Oslo, the CG has taken on the task to present a proposal to the Annual Meeting in Marseille 2010 in some areas in the network Charter. The most important being a vision statement, clearer objectives that better reflects what the network really do and wordings on membership issues.

First, as mentioned above, the present phrasing of the network “overall objective” present a certain dilemma in connection to the issue on monitoring and evaluation. One way to come around this situation would be to slightly reformulate the present objective/proposals from Oslo as a “Network Vision”. This would enable Train4Dev to keep its full support towards the development and effectiveness agenda, and at the same time reducing the pressure to report concrete results when it comes to impact.

Secondly, in Vienna, the CG discussed that there are now three main activities/objectives that Train4Dev is pursuing (following the main outline of the Oslo discussion), namely:

- Development and delivery of joint learning events
- Knowledge sharing on effective approaches to training and learning in general and on specific identified subjects (i.e networking around issues such as PFM)
- Sharing of open courses

Thirdly, there are a number of basic principles that should be applied to the above, such as that all training mtrl/documentation is “public goods”, that the network should use “using economies of scale”, the issue on “target groups” as well as wordings related to membership and some other areas.

This will be on the agenda in the next CG meeting. A draft version will later be circulated to the network in advance of the Annual Meeting in Marseille.

[Info 5. Next Annual Meeting](#)

The invitation for the Annual Meeting 2010 in Marseille 1-3 June has been sent out by this years organisers, France and the European Commission. As mentioned in the invitation, the meeting has been shortened to two full days (lunch – lunch) allowing participants to arrive and leave in the morning and afternoon respectively. The specific agenda will be discussed at the next CG meeting in Paris 23-24 March and then communicated to the Network.

[Info 6. Changes on www.train4dev.net](http://www.train4dev.net)

LuxDev has now successfully taken over the administration of the homepage. The very good work and continued financial support given by the European Commission during a number of years, has been extremely valuable. Specific thanks should go to Ms Anna Bertele, Guilio Groppi and Gerard van Bilzen – Thank You!!

Ms Leatetia Polis in LuxDev is now our networks new web-master. A number of minor and larger changes will be made to improve some features where some has already been put in place. And as mentioned above, an on-line reporting mechanism will be developed for sub-groups allowing for improved reporting, follow-up and statistics.

[Info 7. Membership issues](#)

In February **the AFDB** joined the PFM SG. Being a member of a SG, not yet having become a full network member, is not foreseen in the present Charter but has been a practice over the years. The CG believes this is a very useful and effective way to attract potential full members and for them to learn about our network. The CG will propose a minor change in the Charter to allow for this also in a more formal sense.

Within the CG, Norway has changed its members and we now have Mr Steinar Lindberg and Ann-Kristin Johnsen, both from the Norwegian Foreign Service Institute (UKS). Steinar Lindberg has replaced Kjersti Sommerset as Deputy Head within UKS and Ann-Kristin is replacing Anne-Lise Langoy and has taken over the function as sub-group coordinator. Ann-Kristin is also leader in MfDR sub-group and is well acquainted with the network.

[Info 8. Next Chairman and Organisers for Annual Meeting 2012 - call for proposals!](#)

As we all know, our network builds and thrive on voluntary contributions in an understanding that we all have something to win through cooperation and sharing of resources. The underlying understanding is that we “take turns” and try to spread contributions among us.

A year passes quickly and we have only a few months left before we meet in Marseille. A new Chair needs to be elected. Some contacts have been taken but since the Chair do not have day to day contact with all of you, please consider this issue.

LuxDev and Belgian BTC announced in Oslo that they volunteered to organise the Annual Meeting in 2011. We are now looking forward to any members interested and willing to take this opportunity to raise awareness of learning and training within their organisations. A better opportunity is hard to find!!

Please feel free to contact the Chair for any thoughts and suggestions on these topics.

[Info 9. Next Core Group meeting](#)

The next meeting will take place in Paris, 23-24 March. Part of the CG will meet colleagues connected to the OECD/DAC in order to discuss more closely to the concept of joint training and Train4Dev in relation to the HLF in Seoul 2011.

If any member wishes the Core Group to discuss a specific issue at this upcoming meetings, please contact your network Chair peter.swartling@sida.se