

INFORMATION BULLETIN

No. 1 - 12/01/2009

Summary

[Info 1: Happy New Year!](#)

[Info 2: Departure Ken King](#)

[Info 3: Core Group Meeting 11 March](#)

[Info 4: Preparations Annual Meeting 1-4 June Oslo](#)

[Info 5: Open Courses](#)

[Info 6: Washington meeting on Capacity Development](#)

[Info 7: Meeting Knowledge Management Subgroup Rome 21 January](#)

[Info 8: Meeting Public Finance Management Subgroup 6 February](#)

[Info 9: Messages for all Subgroups](#)

[Info 10: PhD Research on Train4Dev network](#)

DETAILS

[**Info 1. Happy New Year!**](#)

Our best wishes to all readers, subgroups and other members of the network! This coming year will again be a busy year for our network. New Subgroups have started, we are still talking to possible new Members, and preparations for our Annual Meeting in Oslo are well underway! Let us invest in cooperation and coordination, and promote our format of "Joint Learning"!

[Back to summary](#)

[**Info 2. Departure Ken King**](#)

Just before the meeting of the Core Group in Oslo (3-4 December), our previous Chairman Ken King informed us that he will retire from the Worldbank Institute and thus also from Train4Dev. The Core Group transferred a message to Ken, thanking him for his enthusiastic contribution to the network and his leadership, and wished him all the best for his further future.

[Back to summary](#)

Info 3. Core Group Meeting 11 March

The next Core Group Meeting will take place in Marseille, at the premises of the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) on March 11. The meeting might be extended by half a day. The final preparations of the network's Annual Meeting will be discussed, and we have also invited the chairpersons of the Subgroups on Evaluation and Knowledge Management to join. These are horizontal Subgroups and the Core Group wants to have a regular exchange of views with these Subgroups, in order to see how other Subgroups can be supported best. If you have any additional points for the Agenda, please contact Gérard Van Bilzen (gerard.van-bilzen@ec.europa.eu)

[Back to summary](#)

Info 4. Preparations Annual Meeting 1-4 June Oslo

The central theme of the Annual Meeting will be "Towards meeting learning needs of field staff and units". Almost all participating organisations have decentralized, which makes the training of field staff to an important issue for all of us. Field staff does include also locally employed staff. All organisations face problems to assure a complete pre-posting training program, given the limited time available, and thus issues like in-country training, e-learning, joint training including problems like the management of basket-funds become major points. We will have to look at how we deliver, what methods we should use. We have to see how we all organise this, given the manpower constraints in almost all organisations. The same applies to the assessment of needs in order to define the areas of intervention. Voices from the field are essential in this.

Overall innovative pro-active approaches should be shown, concentrating on organisational learning (as opposed to individual). Questions as "do we reach the right change agents", "how do we reach local staff", and how to cater for induction training, should be treated. We should try to reduce the "gestation time" (time between the identification of a training need and the final course delivery). Now this time typically can run up to 1 or even 1.5 years.

The different members of Train4Dev will have to make an effort showing that the joint courses developed within Train4Dev are not over and above "own" courses. The joint courses have to be mainstreamed. We will have to show that this joint training approach is cost effective, with limited transactional costs, and a transparent structure. At the same time we will have to show that the different subjects covered are indeed a reply to the Paris Declaration and the Accra Action Agenda.

Overall the Annual Meeting should reconfirm the value added our network delivers for all partners, especially the format of joint learning, and should make recommendations on the best way to deliver this.

As mentioned before, the Annual Meeting will take place in Oslo from 1-4 June, and the accommodation and the conference will be at the Holmenkollen Park Hotel in Oslo. Formal invitations will be sent soonest.

[Back to summary](#)

Info 5. Open Courses

Opening courses for participants from other organisations is one of the promising action points of our network. However, the actual numbers seem to be rather low, although final figures are not available, but the possible cost efficiency (not all have to develop courses in all fields) and the positive impact on the course delivery (different view points) are arguments inviting to continue. For that reason we want to call on all organisations to check which internal courses could be opened to a (limited) number of participants from other Train4Dev participants, and to communicate this to Inger Sangnes (Inger.Sangnes@mfa.no).

[Back to summary](#)

Info 6. Washington meeting on Capacity Development

The meeting took place on the 15th of December in Washington. From Train4Dev several members participated. In fact Mr. Nils Boesen, who will be a facilitator during our next Annual Meeting, was via LenCD also involved in this meeting. The meeting was content-wise closely linked to the SWAp material, and was built on the experience developed by EuropeAid in a test training in Ethiopia. The workshop brought together a high-powered and motivated group of about 30 individuals. LenCD members set up an interim governance structure for the network that will be reviewed again in a year's time.

The steering group has equal representation from South and North and across constituencies and regions. Steering group members are: Janet Awimbo (Impact Alliance, Kenya), Apollinaire Ndorukwigira (ACBF, Harare), Talaat Abdel-Malek (Government of Egypt), Andreas Proksch (GTZ), Niloy Banerjee (UNDP), Mark Nelson (World Bank), James Hradsky (OECD/DAC), Colombia, EuropeAid and JICA to be confirmed. The group is co-chaired by Janet Awimbo and Mark Nelson.

Thomas Theisoehn will continue as LenCD Coordinator for at least the next six months.

The full record of the meetings, the revised LenCD strategy 2009-11 and workplan for the coming 6 months will be available in January 2009. Info will be available on www.LenCD.org as they are available.

[Back to summary](#)

Info 7. Meeting Knowledge Management Subgroup Rome 21 January

The next meeting of the KM sub-group will be combined with a visit to the Knowledge Share Fair event on January 2009, 20th -22nd in Rome. This event is organized by the CGIAR, FAO, IFAD and WFP to demonstrate how knowledge sharing improves effectiveness, efficiency and impact. The ShareFair will kick off on Tuesday morning, 20 January with an Opening Ceremony at 10:00 followed by a Keynote Speech at 10:30 by Geoff Parcell entitled "Networks and Effective Flow of Knowledge: how knowledge sharing tools maximize success in the working environment". The ShareFair Market Place will open at 11:30. We hope many of you are able to join us on the 19th. Please be aware that the ShareFair will be attended by the Permanent Representatives to FAO, and you may want to join your country delegation. A fuller report is also included on our website (<http://www.train4dev.net/news/news907.html>). If you are interested as well: please contact Giulio Groppi: (Giulio.groppi@ec.europa.eu)

[Back to summary](#)

Info 8. Meeting Public Finance Management Subgroup 6 February

The next meeting of the PFM Subgroup will take place in Vienna on February 6, 2009. The meeting will take place on Friday, 6 February, from 09.30 – 16.30 at the Austrian Development Agency (Zelinkagasse 2, 1010 Vienna, Austria).

The intention of this meeting includes, among others, to:

- exchange experiences and discuss expectations regarding the Train4Dev PFM sub-group,
- improve coordination among member organisations regarding PFM training – both concerning joint implementation and possibly the development of specialised training modules catering to more specific needs,
- enhance delivery mechanisms of PFM trainings, and
- draw-up a strategy for the coming year.

All further suggestions for the agenda are greatly appreciated. Please send all suggestions and register your participation by email to laura.leyser@ada.gv.at until Friday January 16th, 2009. The final agenda will be sent in time before the meeting.

[Back to summary](#)

Info 9. Messages for all Subgroups

During the Core Group meeting on 3-4 December in Oslo, 2 recommendations have been made, which concern all Subgroups working on Joint Training courses:

- Environmental concerns should be integrated in all courses (taking environmental aspects into consideration both in the training material, as in the material aspects of organising Joint Courses).
- Subgroups should reflect on the links between their own work and the Paris Declaration and the Accra Action Agenda. In their publicity such links should be clearly stressed.

[Back to summary](#)

Info 10. PhD Research on Train4Dev network

Mrs. Julie Ferguson, of the Free University of Amsterdam is performing a comparative PhD research program with respect to the functioning of networks in the area of development cooperation. One of the networks she will analyse is Train4Dev. Results will be communicated to all members, once available.

[Back to summary](#)