

INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Info 1. News Annual Meeting

Our 7th annual meeting will take place in Oslo from June 1st -4th, and particularly focus on meeting learning needs for staff and units at country level. The meeting will be highly interactive and in itself a learning event. Topics include thematic priorities, effective and innovative ways to stimulate learning as well as Train4Dev's working modalities and set-up. A more elaborated text and the draft Agenda can be found on our Website (<http://www.train4dev.net/workshops/doc966.html>).

Make sure that for your hotel reservations you use the following link: <https://www.holmenkollenparkhotel.no/mfa/?nid=2892> (indicated in the registration form) or <https://www.holmenkollenparkhotel.no/registration/?nid=2892> (when you're at the site of the hotel).

Deadline for registration is April 3, thus it becomes **urgent** to do so!"

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Info 2. Call for Candidates for the new Chair

As you know the Chair of our network is elected during the Annual Meeting for the period of one year. The Core Group would like to invite possible candidates for the period 2009-2010 to communicate their interest to the present Chair Mr. Gérard Van Bilzen (gerard.van-bilzen@ec.europa.eu). During the Annual Meeting candidates are invited to present themselves.

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Info 3. Call for Organisers Annual Meeting 2011

The Core Group had hoped that the ILO-ITC and the UN Systems Staff College would organise the Annual Meeting in 2011, but unfortunately they are not in a position to do so. We are now looking for new candidates. As you know over the last years this event has been organised by 2 members, sharing the costs. Main costs involved would be (if required) the hiring of premises, and (again if required) the contracting of one or two moderators. Hotel costs are in principle to be paid for by the participants. Organising the Annual Meeting also implies participating in the Core Group of our network (3-4 meetings per year; some can be organised via video-conference). I would like to invite you to consider this challenge, and if you feel you could do so, to communicate this to Mr. Gérard Van Bilzen (gerard.van-bilzen@ec.europa.eu).

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Info 4. Core Group Meeting 10-11 March Marseille

During this meeting of the Core Group, held at the CEFEB-AFD offices in Marseille, we discussed amongst others the further preparations of the Annual Meeting, requests for new memberships (see info 6), and we had a longer discussion with the Chair of the Knowledge Management Subgroup, Giulio Groppi. A planned video-conference with the Chair of the Evaluation Subgroup, Låtta Brodén, had to be cancelled because of a heavy snowstorm in Stockholm...

With respect to Knowledge Management the Core Group reviewed the draft format and design of the new Website, and approved the present proposals. There will no longer be a central navigation bar. This is placed at the left hand side, as is the case in most other websites. The main colours will be blue and white. The new website will be launched by the end of May and presented also during the Annual Meeting.

The KM Subgroup is launching a Joint Learning course on Sharing Knowledge. This was welcomed by the Core Group. To start with this will be supported by the FAO, EuropeAid and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. Other contributions are welcome!

And the Core Group reviewed a proposal from the ILO-ITC to be associated to the organisation of a first Learning Week for Development Training Institutions, planned for December of this year. It was agreed that this would be a good thing. One angle we could cover is the issue of what to do with training material developed in our Subgroups, and on what basis Training Institutions could possibly use this material.

The next Core Group Meeting will take place on the 1st of April via video-conference, and will cover the outstanding discussion with the Evaluation Subgroup, and the latest points for the Annual Meeting.

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Info 5. New Members: FAO and OAS

The Core Group reviewed two requests to become a member of our network: one from the Food and Agriculture Organisation, FAO, and one from the Organisation of American States, OAS. The FAO is already participating actively within the Subgroup on Knowledge Management; the OAS does so in the Subgroup on Effective Electoral Assistance. Both requests were approved, and both organisations have been informed that they are very welcome in our network. We hope to meet their representatives at our coming Annual Meeting.

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Info 6. News KM Subgroup

Mr. Anton Mangstl, Director of the Knowledge Exchange and Capacity Building Division at FAO, opened the meeting of the Subgroup on Knowledge Management on the 21st of January in Rome and welcomed the participants. The meeting was organised on that day in order to allow the participants could also participate in the ShareFair organised by the FAO, CGIAR, IFAD and the WFP, showing how knowledge sharing improves effectiveness, efficiency and impact.

A proposal for an e-learning module tentatively entitled "Knowledge Sharing for Development" was presented. The meeting participants discussed the possibility of the course being co-funded by the Train4Dev network members as a Joint Learning Event.

The proposal is to create a flexible e-learning curriculum to support and improve knowledge exchange. Target participants are staff working in organizations in the field of cooperation, donor agencies, NGOs, research institutes, national governments etc. The module will address a wide range of possible audiences, and the module can be tailored to an individual or organization's needs through personalized learning paths.

The subgroup would like to present this Joint E-Learning Module at the Oslo Annual Train4Dev Meeting. As can be seen above, this has been planned.

A next item discussed by the Subgroup concerned the revamping of the website (see also point 4). The draft wireframe has been submitted and approved by the Subgroup and the Core Group. A new 2009 version of the site will be released at the beginning of May. The importance of having a flexible platform, open to further enhancement, has been remarked by all. Among the various collaborative tools, for the first issue of the site a discussion board has the priority.

Interested or questions: contact Giulio Groppi (Giulio.Groppi@ec.europa.eu)

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Info 7. News PFM Subgroup

On the 6th of February 2009 the PFM Subgroup met at the Austrian Development Agency in Vienna. Overall it was decided that the sub-group will continue its current form of a loose network of donor organisations but at the same to intensify cooperation at various levels. Following **objectives** were determined:

- **Broader sharing** of trainings and information among sub-group members via the Train4Dev website.
- **Broader access** to PFM trainings, with a focus on field staff as well as general T4D members, and local partner institutions.
- **Joint development, planning and implementation** of PFM trainings and related material, as needed on an ad hoc basis. Cooperation should thus already start with development where feasible and joint planning should be aspired especially at partner country level.

The Subgroup is interested to broaden membership especially towards **francophone member agencies** in order to meet the PFM training needs in francophone countries. Interested members are invited to contact Laura Leyser: (Laura.Leyser@ada.gv.at).

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Info 8. Progress Subgroup Management for Development Results

The Executive Committee (EC) of the Subgroup met on 7-8 January at the GTZ office in Eschborn. Four consultants (AGEG, MDF, ITAD/ODI, Scanteam) presented their offers for the Joint Learning Event on Management for Development Results. The EC ranked MDF highest and after clarifying further details GTZ is now in the process of finalising the contract.

It is envisaged to conduct at least one pilot course for each of the Joint Learning Events prior to the next Train4Dev Annual meeting first week of June in order to be able to report on the outcomes. So far GTZ is in contact with colleagues in Malawi and Zambia who are in principle very interested to host a Joint Learning Event on MfDR.

Interested colleagues are invited to contact Christoph or Melanie at GTZ (christoph.feyen@gtz.de, melanie.wiskow@gtz.de)

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Info 9. Progress Subgroup Pro Poor Growth

On the same days (7-8 January) the Executive Committee (EC) of the Subgroup Pro Poor Growth met at the GTZ office in Eschborn. ODI/ITAD was the only one consortium that sent in a proposal and presented itself for the Joint Learning Event. The EC came to the decision that they think the consortium is capable of designing and implementing the JLE. Same as in the case of Management for Development Results, GTZ is now in the process of finalising the contract with ODI/ITAD.

It is envisaged to conduct also at least one pilot course prior to the next Train4Dev Annual meeting. So far GTZ is in contact with colleagues also in Malawi and Zambia.

Interested colleagues are invited to contact also Christoph or Melanie at GTZ (christoph.feyen@gtz.de, melanie.wiskow@gtz.de)

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Info 10. Progress new Subgroup Intercultural and Country Preparation

The emerging Subgroup on Intercultural and Country Preparation changed its orientation: instead of aiming for headquarters training before being sent to a country, it is now envisaged to organise an in-country course. A first pilot will be organised by

AFD, InWent and EuropeAid, probably in Cameroun in th period September-November. The course should take 2.5 days and be accessible for all newcomers on the spot.

Info 11. Progress new Subgroup Climate Change

Finally some progress is made with a new initiative on Climate Change. The World Bank Institute has identified who will do the coordination. SIDA has expressed an active interest as well. A first meeting will be convened for end April in Brussels. If you are interested contact:...

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Info 12: Announcement Joint Training Effective Electoral Assistance

A next Joint Training event on Effective Electoral Assistance will take place from 15-9 June in Ghana. For the second part of the year another session is planned for Latin America, possibly Argentina or Brazil. If you have any questions or if you are interested, contact Fabio Bargiacchi (fabio.bargiacchi@undp.org) or Mario Queiro (Mario-Rui.Queiro@ec.europa.eu).

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Info 13: Announcement Joint Training Sector Wide Approaches

There is still some money left inn the basketfund of the SWAp Subgroup. For this reason a next Joint Training event on Sector Wide Approaches is now planned for the week of 4 May. If you have any questions or if you are interested, contact Jens Lorentzen (jenlor@um.dk).

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