



Charter

Joint Donors' Competence Development Network

Train4Dev

1. Background

Based on decades of experience in the field of development co-operation, the international donor community is increasingly aware of the need for increased aid effectiveness. Donor harmonisation and alignment with country policies and procedures is an essential part of this agenda. A broad common policy framework has been developed both at country level and internationally:

- the PRS approach;
- the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs derived from it;
- the Monterrey Consensus for Increased Aid Effectiveness;
- the Rome Declaration on Harmonisation;
- the DAC Good Practice Paper, “Harmonising Donor Practices for Effective Aid Delivery”; and most recently
- the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness

This new international development architecture presents donors and development agencies with challenges and opportunities that require development and staff training in a wide range of areas and at different levels. Donors have become conscious that this can be done more effectively by pooling technical and financial resources through joint initiatives in this field. Besides sharing resources and experience, joint competence development helps achieve a common understanding

and language in development co-operation and fosters harmonisation between donors.

An initiative was taken to arrange a workshop on competence development among donors in Glasgow in 2003. This workshop was followed by another in Copenhagen in 2004. These initiatives supported the strengthening of a network, the creation of an environment of mutual support for better competence development and the identification of useful ways of co-operation. In Copenhagen, the conference established an agreement with regard to the future of donor co-operation in terms of the network's objectives and also its structure, organisation and activities.

2. Objectives of the Network

The overall objective of the network is:

to promote improved aid effectiveness for poverty reduction through enhanced donor co-operation in the field of competence development and training.

The specific areas of co-operation will be determined by the participating donors in accordance with the needs identified.

The principal focal areas currently include:

- Efficient networking in the field of competence development and training for all staff categories, including local staff
- Enhanced and efficient joint training of donor staff at headquarters and country level and information on and access to the training programmes of participating donors
- Enhanced and efficient co-operation in the field of e-learning and IT-based knowledge sharing

The network aims to create an environment of mutual support for better competence development by sharing resources, exchanging experience and identifying and following up on useful areas of co-operation.

3. Membership of the Network

In view of the overall objective of enhancing aid effectiveness for poverty reduction, the Joint Donor Competence Development Network is an open forum for donor agencies who can commit to the Network's objectives and its working principle of result orientation. Membership is open to donors who make a substantial financial and technical contribution to development co-operation and meet the following conditions:

- Members subscribe to the overall objective of the Network;
- Members endorse the international policy framework described above and the underlying principles;
- Members are committed to donor alignment and harmonisation and believe in donor co-operation;
- Members consider competence development and staff training to be important ingredients in a professional approach to development co-operation and have developed experience in these fields;
- Members acknowledge that the aim of competence development and training is to enhance aid effectiveness for poverty reduction and that programmes and products developed jointly have no commercial purpose. Intellectual ownership rests with the donor contributing the programme or training materials and/or with the Network;
- Members agree to not only benefit from the experience and opportunities offered by the Network but also to contribute their own experience;
- Members have an open attitude to co-operation and are willing to open up their programmes to participation from other members of the Network;
- Donors participating in the network should be ready to contribute in an effective way to activities defined by the annual conference, show interest in the Network area and set aside resources in order to contribute to the achievement of results.

The Network is restricted to the donor agencies or departments of the participating countries or multilateral organisations.

Donor representatives participating in the Network are senior officials from training departments, technical departments or policy departments. It is considered essential that this donor forum (Train4Dev) be composed of a balanced mix of specialists from these three sections or departments to ensure dynamics and good performance. They have a mandate to speak on behalf of the organisation they represent.

4. Observer Status

Special consideration is given to countries in the process of developing or establishing an aid organisation. The number of invited countries will gradually be expanded according to the capacity of the donor forum.

Also, the Network will invite major donors who are shaping development policies in recipient countries in order to explore the possibility of inspiring these donors to identify with the Network's aid and harmonisation agenda and enhance aid effectiveness in general. Invitations will be based on the capacity of the Network and depend on progress in establishing an operational Network with several joint activities.

5. Structure and Organisation of the Network

The Network will operate by means of an annual workshop and subgroups working on priority themes or areas identified and endorsed by the annual workshop. Membership of a subgroup is on a voluntary basis and in accordance with the priority given to the particular theme covered by the subgroup. The products, programmes and results developed by the subgroups are shared with all members of the Network. Minutes or drafts resulting from subgroup meetings are shared through the train4dev website.

The annual working programme is discussed and adopted by the annual workshop.

A core planning group, consisting of the previous, present and future hosts of the annual workshop, plans the next workshop. One or – more often – two donors will each year share the responsibility of hosting the Train4Dev workshop.

It is expected that all participating donors will take turns to host the annual workshop.

On an annual basis, the core planning group will speak on behalf of the Network and also give guidance to the subgroups as and when requested or required.

The subgroups identified and staffed for a specific project will be headed by a lead agent responsible for reporting back to the core group and the annual conference.

The Network will communicate with the DAC in the form of “Official room documents”.

6. Financial arrangement

Training activities developed by the Network will be financed jointly by participating donors. Efficient modalities for cooperation in the financial field are crucial and will be developed.

7. Information and communication

All the network's information and communication should take place through the network's established website: www.train4dev.net.