



Migration, Development and Integration. Complementarity of the role and actions of local authorities and civil society in relation to the EU
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European Economic and Social Committee

Introduction

For the last few decades, local authorities have become important actors of development policies¹. In a 2008 Communication, the European Commission considered that local authorities brought a unique added value to development due to:

- their capacity to mobilize, bring different actors to work together and to raise public awareness;
- their knowledge of the needs of populations and their expertise in sectors that are instrumental to the reduction of poverty as listed in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (urbanism, water supply and sanitation, etc.);
- their direct experience in territorial development.

In 2005, the European Consensus on Development, the revised Cotonou Agreement and a certain number of conclusions, resolutions and communications² brought back the attention on the essential expertise of local authorities, not only in terms of providing services, but also as a driving force for change, for preventing conflicts, for decentralization and for reinforcing trust in development processes. The participation of local authorities in foreign policy, international cooperation and development goes far back in time, in the case of town-twinning; yet this participation has radically changed over the past ten years. Within this context, decentralized cooperation appeared as a new important dimension of development cooperation.

The Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 framework

Two of the pressing challenges government policies are facing, in an era of globalization, are the eradication of poverty and the means necessary to make prosperity and well-being last. In this sense, 2013 will be an important year for the international community and the EU taking stock of the efforts made to reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and reflecting beyond 2015. Since the “Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness” in 2005, the international and national situation has evolved, with major implications for the support of local authorities. In view of its forthcoming communication on local authorities and development, the European Commission took into account the complex challenges that need to be met for achieving the goals for a sustainable development poverty reduction. Actors at a local level need to be more involved in order to promote and ensure good governance, sustainable development and inclusive growth.

¹ Communication on governance and development, COM(2003) 615 final, Notice of the Committee of regions on decentralized cooperation in the reform of EU development policies, 2006/C115/09. Notice of governance in the European Consensus on Development, 2007/C197/09. European Parliament resolution of March 15th 2007 on local authorities and development cooperation (2006/2235(INI)). Joint EU-Africa Strategy and 2007 Action plan. European Commission communication on the EU's strategy for Africa: towards a Euro-African pact to accelerate Africa's development (Com(2005)489, final).

² The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and in Istanbul in 1996) and the UN Committee for Human Settlements, the Millennium Summit in 2000 and the Johannesburg World Summit of 2002 on sustainable development, have officially acknowledged their role.



The “**Busan Partnership**” in **2011** recognized that the transition from mutual responsibility and accountability (donors and central administrations) to **multi-actor and multi-level responsibility** has important consequences on the way development aid is defined. In this context, the “Busan Partnership” confirmed the importance of the role local authorities and the civil society play in “linking more closely the government and citizens and in ensuring a democratic and broad-based appropriation of the development programs of countries”.³

Policy coherence: Migration, Development, Integration at the core of local action

As regards to **policy coherence**, the EU is committed to strengthening its policy in terms of migration and development by examining how to promote the potential advantages that migration can provide for development. However, a key theme of the debates is not sufficiently highlighted: it concerns the role local authorities and civil society play in the triangular relationship between migration, development and integration.

The EU acknowledged that the social integration and citizenship of migrants are crucial elements in the positive implementation of the migration and development nexus⁴. Nevertheless, “a migrant-centred approach” needs to be placed in the wider context of international migrations, the right to mobility and the role of stakeholders, the local and national public authorities on one hand, migrants and their associations on the other hand. It is also necessary to question migrants’ different situations nowadays, by considering the migration experience in its global dimension and the multiple dimensions of reference that are part of that experience.

The globalization of migrations is caused by the major urbanization trends that affect countries of origin in the South and results in reinforcing the presence of migrants in urban areas. “Living together” and integration policies have increasingly mobilized the action of local authorities in host countries. The challenges to be faced are to ensure the economic and social integration of immigrant populations in host countries. For local authorities in the South, migratory flows and their causes (civil war, crisis and famines) have consequences on territorial management and on the emerging needs of populations, particularly those of families left behind in countries of origin. The expressions of active citizenship need also to be supported in the context of transnational links that migrant populations maintain with their countries of origin.

³ “Document – analysis of local authorities in development”, European Commission – 2012; see Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness “Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation”, November 29th to December 1st 2011, Busan, Korea.

⁴ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: “The Global Approach to Migration and Mobility” – COM(2011) 743 final; Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: “The European Agenda for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals” – COM(2011) 455 final



Civil society and local authorities: acting in solidarity to promote the migration and development nexus

Through town-twinning and, more recently, decentralized cooperation programs, local authorities have acquired experience in territorial development with developing countries.

Their capacity to mobilize and to bring different actors to work together, their knowledge of the needs of populations, their expertise in the implementation of local public policies and their direct experience with territorial development has made them become key actors together with the civil society.

The role local authorities play in the promotion of the relation between migration and development needs also to be taken into account, especially the actions they carry out to facilitate migrants and their integration in host societies, and their participation in projects of decentralized cooperation in the South... Co-development can in this context bring social innovation models helping to bridge international solidarity actions with local development.

Co-development, a tool for citizenship and for social cohesion

The commitment of local actors and, in particular, of migrant organizations and young people with a migrant background, in decentralized cooperation projects, represents an opportunity for local authorities to better manage “living together” policies. In this sense, co-development can also be seen as a tool for citizenship and for the social cohesion of territories.

The intercultural skills of local communities: an advantage to increase the impact and the relevance of actions of development

Migrants have plural identities, combining the cultures of their country of origin, of their country of residence. They potentially convey ideas, values and ways of life which can create dynamics of social change. Intercultural skills are thus valuable tools that can help better foster international cooperation projects and citizenship participation.

II. Aims of the seminar

At the moment where the European Commission is working on a new communication on local authorities and development for 2013, the EUNOMAD network is organizing a seminar intended to contribute to the EU political agenda in this field. The aims of the seminar are:

1. To link the challenges of international solidarity and human mobility in the perspective of the MDGs and of the post-2015 development agenda;
2. To take stock of the challenges local authorities face in the South and in the North in the management of populations and of the territories they administer;
3. To examine the actions carried out by local authorities in the North which value migrants and their civic integration in host societies, in the context of the management of diversity at local level;
4. To review good practices performed by local authorities within the EU and in countries of origin, in the context of the implementation of decentralized cooperation projects involving migrant participation;
5. To submit recommendations on actions to take for a local governance of migration, development and integration.



III. Provisional agenda

13 May 2013	Morning
09.30-10.00	<p>Welcome <i>Ronald Lucardie – Chair of EUNOMAD</i></p> <p><i>Beatriz Porres – Head of Unit, Section of External Relations (REX) of European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)</i></p>
10.00-10.45	<p>Opening session</p> <p>Global governance of migration and development and the right to mobility - What issues and challenges? <i>Catherine Withol de Wenden</i> <i>Research Professor at CNRS at CERI (Centre for Studies in International Relations of Sciences-Po Paris)</i></p> <p>Citizenship and solidarity in territorial management: towards enhanced cooperation of civil society actors and local and regional authorities – shared views» <i>Ronald Lucardie - President of EUNOMAD</i> <i>Elected official from CCRE /PLATFORMA (TBC)</i></p> <p><i>Session facilitated by a member of Eunomad network</i></p>
10.45-11.45	<p>“Recent trends in international efforts for development in line with the Millennium Development Goals”. What role for civil society and local authorities <i>Fokion Fotiadis</i> <i>Development and Cooperation- Europe Aid Director General</i></p> <p>Dialogue speakers-participants</p>
11.45 -12.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
12.00-12.45	<p>Contextual introduction to the debates <i>Altay Manço –Professor on Social Sciences and Scientific Director of IRFAM (Belgium) - Member of Eunomad network</i></p>
12.45-13.00	Dialogue speakers-participants
13.00-14.15	<i>Lunch</i>



13 May 2013	Afternoon
First thematic session	Added value of local and regional governments in the triangulation "Migration - Integration - Development"?
14.00-15.30	<p><i>EU's agenda on integration has recognized the importance of the local dimension of integration and the benefits it brings to the migration and development nexus. This session will examine integration policies and practices carried out by local authorities.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Hélène Flautre, Member of the European Parliament Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs</i> • Experiences of European CSO Practitioners — <i>Thi Thanh Van Vu, Sprint Rostock city</i> - Representative of Eunomad Platform of Germany • Experiences of European CSO Practitioners - <i>Duy Le Duc, Infodracek NGO</i>, Representative of Eunomad Platform of Czech Republic • Experience of the city of Milan -Assessment of integration practices for social cohesion - in the light of the Charter "INTEGRATING CITIES" driven by Eurocities • Experience of the city of Stuttgart, <i>Ayşe Oezbabacan, CLIP Network</i>, a network of European Cities for Local Integration Policy - European Network "Cities for Local Integration Policy" <p>Dialogue speakers-participants <i>Session facilitated by a member of Eunomad network</i></p>
15.30-16.00	Coffee break
Second thematic session	Local Authorities and Civil Society Organisations : links and consistency with European public policies



16.00-18.00	<p>EU policies towards regional and local authorities for development Introducing the new EC Communication on Local Authorities and Development. <i>Kristian Schmidt, Director, Human and Society Development Direction, DG DEVCO</i></p> <p>Linkages with the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility <i>R.Rozenburg, Head of Unit, DG Home Affairs, European Commission</i></p> <p><i>Franziska Keller, Member of the European Parliament</i> <i>Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance</i></p> <p>Presentation of the report Eunomad 2012 "Migration, development, integration / citizenship: State of affairs in 2012" <i>Lorenzo Gabrielli, Researcher at GRITIM-Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona and Associate Researcher at the Centre Emile Durkheim, Sciences Po Bordeaux</i> Dialogue speakers-participants</p>
19.00-21.00	<p>Cocktail buffet hosted by the City of Brussels Town Hall of Brussels, Grand Place, Brussels 1000</p>
14 May 2013	<p>Morning</p>
Third thematic session	<p>How the practices of active citizenship and intercultural dialogue carried by local authorities and migrant associations can bring better policy coherence between migration, integration and development?</p>
9.30-11.00	<p><i>This session will examine how, in light with practices of active citizenship, local authorities and civil society can effectively bring better policy linkages between migration, integration and development. This panel will also address the issue of intercultural governance as a participatory, proactive and preventive approach. Several practices carried out by regions, cities and municipalities will be presented:</i></p> <p>Possible speakers foreseen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ahmed Aboutaleb, Mayor of the city of Rotterdam (Netherlands) • Emmanuelle Berthinier, directrice de la Maison Internationale de Rennes (France) • Anne Wehkamp, Head of Unit, integration program of the city of Solingen (Germany) • Romain Colas, Vice-President of the General Council of Essonne - Department of Essonne (France) • Experiences of European Practitioners – Representative of Eunomad Platform (to be specified) <p>Session facilitated by a member of Eunomad network</p>



Fourth thematic session	Territorial management, decentralized cooperation, international solidarity and co-development projects
11.00-13.00	<p><i>This panel will seek to clarify what is meant by decentralized cooperation, its forms and its functioning and to examine how to build projects involving migrant associations and local authorities (LA). Session themes could address innovative partnership between migrants and LA, making partnerships between CSOs and LA more effective; what success factors, difficulties and limitations are.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ahmed El Ktibi</i>, Deputy Mayor of international solidarity, City of Brussels (Belgium) • Cities of Madrid or Barcelona (Spain) • Experiences of European Practitioners – Representative of Eunomad Platform (to be specified)
13.00-14.15	<i>Lunch</i>

14.15-15.45	<i>Brief summary of debates (Speaker to be confirmed)</i>
15.45-16.15	<p>Presentation of the joint statement "Recommendations of actions for local governance of migrations, citizenship and development"</p> <p>Towards a strengthened dialogue between LRA and OSC – What next steps? <i>Remarks of EUNOMAD and PLATFORMA</i></p>
16.15-16.45	<p>Closing speech <i>Ronald Lucardie -President of EUNOMAD</i></p>

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The Eunomad network, a public arena for multi-actor dialogue

Eunomad is a European network that intends to foster better stakeholder dialogue on practices linking migration, development and integration.

In 2007, eleven structures from nine European Union countries took the initiative to collaborate on the relationship between migration and development and to address the lack of transparency and recognition of co-development actions, both in North European countries as well as in the South in the countries of origin. To improve best practices in this area and enhance their impact, it appeared necessary to create a European network. In 2011 the network was made up of over one hundred European stakeholders from the civil society, local authorities and the academic world, doing research in the field of migration, development and integration/citizenship (migrant associations, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, research institutes, stakeholder networks and national groups). Stakeholders are grouped in country platforms, which, in turn, are gathered at a European level in the Eunomad network.

A driving force for co-development practices promoting migrants as development actors “here and there”

The values shared within the network are based on:

- Recognizing the contributions brought by migrants to their countries of origin and to European hosts societies
- Affirming the right to mobility for development “here and there”.
- Bringing a constructive and positive approach to the migration debate in Europe

Eunomad aims to strengthen its members’ practices through capitalization, and advocacy in order to inform public policies and better support the migration, and development nexus in the interest of migrants both in the countries of origin and of residence.

To achieve these objectives the Eunomad network focuses its activities on the following areas:

- **Capitalization.** Promoting best practices and exchanging tools and methods in the field of migration and development.
- **Research.** Reviewing policies and practices covering the social, cultural and economic development of the countries of origin as well as countries of residence.
- **Advocacy.** Formulating recommendations for public authorities, European Union Member States, countries of origin and intergovernmental bodies such as the Council of Europe, the United Nations, and the European Union.