



## **DeLoG Concept Note**

### **Learn4Dev Joint Learning Programme**

### **Enhancing Development Effectiveness for Decentralisation and Local Governance**

DeLoG<sup>1</sup>, the Development Partners Network on Decentralisation and Local Governance, aims at strengthening effective development cooperation in the field of decentralisation and local governance (DLG). The DeLoG Secretariat is located at GIZ in Bonn, Germany and manages and coordinates the activities of the network. It supervises and guides DeLoG's activities, fosters networking amongst its members and positions and debates DLG relevant topics.

There is a wide range of training courses dealing with DLG, but so far, none included a specific perspective on development effectiveness. DeLoG therefore developed a joint learning programme in order to improve aligned support to DLG with a specific perspective on development effectiveness and donor harmonisation. The generic course materials are organised modularly and can be adapted to the particular needs and priorities of the respective target group. The material can be found [here](#).<sup>2</sup>

To carry out the courses, the DLG expert group (EG) was formed and registered under the learn4dev joint learning network in 2009. Members are:

- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Austrian Development Agency (ADA)
- Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs / VNG International
- EuropeAid
- French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAE)
- Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs Denmark (DANIDA)
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (DEZA/SDC),
- UNICEF
- UNDP
- UNCDF

The tailor-made courses are implemented in three different formats:

- Face-to-face courses for DPs staff
- E-learning (blended course)
- In-country and regional policy dialogues on DLG

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<sup>1</sup> DeLoG is a network of 29 bi- and multilateral development partners working on Decentralisation and Local Governance. For a full list of members, please click [here](#).



This concept note will describe the content and expected outcomes of the different course formats, their different target audiences as well as cost-sharing arrangements and funding modalities.

### **Content and outcomes of the courses**

The contents of the courses will be adapted according to the interest of each organiser. The generic course contains all major topics related to improve effective development cooperation in decentralisation and local governance. The host country agencies can then tailor the course programme according to their specific context and priorities.

The outcomes of the seminars will depend on the topics of the event and the approach chosen. However, some of the participants' capacities that we are seeking to enhance are:

- Increased understanding of the content and challenges of the International Aid Effectiveness debate (Paris Declaration, Accra Agenda for Action, Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation) and the new era of sustainable development (2030 Agenda for sustainable development, Addis Ababa Action Agenda, COP 21 and the New Urban Agenda)
- Better understanding on the concept of *Localising the SDGs* and how the development effectiveness principles and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) relate to DLG
- Common understanding of DLG concepts, their history and rationale, and the coherence and complementarities between their different elements of fiscal, administrative and political decentralisation
- Familiarity with political economy analysis and learning how political economy analysis can be used for understanding and supporting DLG processes
- Theoretical basis to understand the concepts of political decentralisation, local governance and domestic accountability
- Increased knowledge of the basic concepts of administrative decentralisation across and within sectors, deconcentration, delegation, devolution and divestment; the subsidiarity principle and multi-level governance
- Understanding of fiscal decentralisation and own revenue generation as a way to strengthen responsiveness and accountability
- Insight into the analysis and design of harmonised support strategies for decentralisation and local governance and its challenges, including issues such as sequencing, possible entry points and capacity development
- Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) in support of decentralisation



## Face-to-face courses for DP staff

These courses will be focused on updating and deepening the understanding of DP staff members regarding a) improved development effectiveness in decentralisation and local governance or b) a special topic related to DLG. The exact course content is adapted to the necessities and interests identified by the hosting donor and the learn4dev DLG expert group, taking the potentially expressed needs of the participants into consideration.

### 1) Objective

Enhance the capacity of DP staff in the implementation of harmonised and aligned support to decentralisation and local governance.

The course addresses staff from DP agencies at HQ and country offices that are working in decentralisation and local governance. It aims at capacitating the latter ones individually and improving donor harmonisation and the implementation of joint support strategies.

### 2) Target group and geographic focus

Open courses are designed for the staff of donor agencies (HQ and in field offices). They can be conducted in English, French and Spanish. Regarding the number of participants, as any face-to-face course, it should not exceed 30 people.

The geographical focus here is to have participants coming from headquarters and different regions in order to enrich the exchange of experiences. Face-to-face courses can be offered in a country of choice, with the support of at least one development agency and are open to all development partner agencies. Courses might have a thematic focus or take place within a regional setting.

### 3) Organisational and funding issues

The face-to-face courses are usually funded within a cost sharing arrangement between one or several host agencies and the DeLoG Secretariat. The cost sharing agreement covers the organisation of the event, contracting and funding trainers, course content and logistics (venue, materials). The Secretariat provides technical and methodological advice and expertise.

### 4) Examples

- “Harmonisation, Decentralisation and Local Governance”, Thun, 27-30 August 2012 ([report](#)) [*generic course*]
- “Fragility, Decentralisation and Local Governance”, The Hague, 9-11 November 2015 ([report](#)) [*thematic focus*]
- “Decentralisation Reforms in the Asia-Pacific”, 25-27 August 2015, Manila ([report](#)) [*regional setting*]



## **In country/regional policy dialogues on DLG**

These events will be organised together with DPs in the respective partner countries. Often a concrete DLG related occasion (new legislation, local elections) in the country or region trigger the joint learning event. It has proven very useful that an in depth study on DLG and aid effectiveness is conducted prior to the joint learning event in order to define the content of the course so it reflects existing and required training needs.

### **1) Objective**

Providing a platform for policy dialogue and joint learning on DLG in a country/regional context.

The course aims at enhancing the exchange of different perspectives on DLG in a country or region by bringing together DPs, government officials from all levels, and key stakeholders from civil society, private sector and academia.

### **2) Target group and geographic focus**

These events are designed for a maximum of 50 participants in order to maintain the quality of learning and conditions for discussion. Target groups are government officials (technical and high-level, subnational and national) and civil society organisations from national and subnational levels, as well as interested (local) business and private sector representatives. Depending on the format (in country or regional learning event), the course can either be implemented in one specific partner country or in a regional setting. The proportion of participants from different sectors should be as representative as possible. However, after consulting the DeLoG/learn4dev expert group, the requesting parties will have the final decision regarding the course participants, the exact contents and the duration.

Regarding the geographical focus, the courses are flexible enough to be implemented in any developing country. So far, events have been conducted in English, French and Portuguese.

### **3) Organisational and funding issues**

The organisation will be coordinated between the Secretariat, a group of lead donors from the interested country, and a national/regional counterpart (e.g. MoF, Government, regional organisation). The Secretariat will be in charge of contracting and funding the consultants who will develop the tailor made course material and facilitate the event. The other organisers will be in charge of defining the specific contents and experiences to be discussed, of selecting participants and of covering the costs for the logistics, including venue, materials, travel costs and per diems for participants. It is recommended to contract a team of national and international consultants that can conduct the course in the working language of the requesting country.

The material available on the web page of DeLoG needs to be modified in accordance to the specific development goals from the country/region and the needs and priorities of



the implementing partners at the country level. The ownership of the course therefore lies within the parties of the requesting country/region

#### 4) Examples

- In-country course, 12-14 May 2014, Albania ([report](#))
- In-country course, 9-11 December 2014, Kinshasa, DRC ([report](#))
- Regional course, 30 June-1 July, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso ([info](#))
- More examples:  
<http://delog.org/web/learn4dev/learning-formats/joint-learning-events/>

### E-learning courses

#### 1) Objective

Enhancing interactive and cooperative learning experiences amongst DPs, practitioners as well as public administration, CSOs and academia from various regions around the world.

The course goes beyond the reading of documents and will encourage the participants to actively participate in discussions with their peers. The learning process is understood as a collective one, therefore the course will also include group work and webinars in order to enhance exchange and networking among participants.

#### 2) Target group and geographic focus

In order to enable interactive discussions and group work, the e-learning courses are designed for a maximum of 30 participants. Targeted participants for this course are DPs in the field and at HQ level who have been working on DLG and DLG-related areas for 2 - 5 years and sector specialists who have been working in decentralised settings.

The e-learning course is designed for people who, for different reasons (such as time and money constraints), cannot attend a face-to-face course. The courses are intended to cover a wide range of participants from different regions and development agencies and will therefore be conducted in English.

#### 3) Organisational and funding issues

The timeframe for the course is 2 months with an estimated total learning time of 20 - 24 hours (2 - 3 hours per week respectively), depending on the participants' previous knowledge. There is a tutor that guides through the seminar and provides general support. Furthermore, a thematic expert will provide content-specific expertise. The courses are organised by the Secretariat which also selects the participants. The e-learning courses are free of charge.

The 5<sup>th</sup> e-learning course took place from April-June 2016. More information can be found [here](#).



## Contact info

In case of any question please do not hesitate to contact us:

### **DeLoG Secretariat**

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