



PLATFORMA

The European voice of **Local** and
Regional authorities for development

SEMINAR

**THE REQUIREMENTS FOR EFFECTIVE ACTIONS BY
LOCAL/REGIONAL AUTHORITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT**

Brussels, 11 March 2009

DETAILED REPORT

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STRATEGIC INTERACTIVE SESSION

**THE CONTRIBUTION OF LOCAL/REGIONAL AUTHORITIES TO
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION**

MODERATED BY CHRISTIANE LOQUAI, ECDPM

a. Introduction

The European Platform of local/regional authorities for development held its first seminar on 11 March 2009 in Brussels which was hosted by the Committee of the Regions with the support of the European Commission.

This event brought together 92 participants, including many representatives of local and regional authorities from all over Europe as well as three representatives from Africa. The diversity of the participants and their contributions were bolstered by the active participation of the following representatives from the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Committee of the Regions and CONCORD, the European Confederation of NGOs:

- Pierre Schapira, Member of the European Parliament
- Olivier Luyckx, Head of Unit, DG Development, European Commission
- Angelo Baglio, Head of Unit, EuropeAid
- Christophe Rouillon, Member of the Committee of the Regions, Rapporteur
- Olivier Consolo, Director, CONCORD

Gerhard Stahl, Secretary General of the Committee of the Regions, opened the seminar and stated how pleased he was that the Committee of the Regions was able to host this seminar. He spoke of the Committee of the Regions' interest, as an institution representing local and regional authorities, in meeting with the platform's partners, and called for an increased collaboration of work efforts.

Jeremy Smith, Secretary General of CEMR, welcomed these prospects for co-operation and emphasised the platform's availability to participate in the organisation of the Congress of Decentralised Co-operation to be held in December 2009 as well as the setting up of an online point of exchange for decentralised co-operation, based for example on the website already set up by CEMR.

He then presented the platform's twenty partners and their commitment, beginning with this first seminar, to work on the challenges of attaining effective development co-operation. The goal was in fact to use the opportunity of this first interactive session to present the experience of local and regional authorities in the area of development co-operation and to debate their strengths but also the challenges to be tackled to ensure the impact on

development in their partner countries. The interaction with the European Institutions also allowed for exchanges on the prospects of these actions.

Christiane Loquai, European Centre of Development Policy Management, introduced the debate by reframing the issue of decentralised co-operation within the context of the combat against poverty and the agenda of the Millennium Development Goals and aid effectiveness in light of the Paris Declaration and the Accra action agenda. As important players in development, local and regional authorities also pledge today to take part in an evaluation process of their actions with their southern counterparts. This session provided the opportunity to debate these issues with valuable contributions to be provided by several speakers representing the South, namely Michel Makpenon, Director of Municipal Planning and Development for the City of Cotonou in Benin, and Hamisi Mboga, Secretary General of the Association of Local Government Authorities in Kenya.

The discussion, including remarks from the European Commission, the Committee of the Regions and CONCORD, was broken down into three parts, and is summarised chronologically:

- a. An overview of the contribution of European and international organisations of local and regional authorities
- b. An overview of the contribution of national associations of local and regional authorities, including those made directly by individual authorities
- c. An overview of the contribution from partner authorities in Africa

b. An overview of the contribution of European and international organisations of local and regional authorities

Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR), 159 regional members in Europe

Xavier Gizard, Secretary General of CPMR, emphasised the commitment of his organisation to the co-ordination of the international action of its regional members. The role of CPMR is to help ensure that these regions' developmental aid has a greater impact. For example, with the support of UNDP, CPMR works towards a harmonisation of the co-operation carried out by European regions with the Tanger-Tétouan Region in Morocco.

Xavier Gizard stated that the relevance of using a local and regional approach to development was that it constituted its principal force, and that the major challenge for development remains the food crisis. Finally, he announced that the Platform's second seminar would be devoted to a local and regional approach to development co-operation and would be organised by CPMR in Marseille on 29 May 2009.

United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), federating structure of local government on five continents (each one with a regional structure), and covering 127 pays

Edgardo Bilsky, Director of Programmes and Research for UCLG, presented details regarding its undertakings with respect to the Paris Declaration as well as the guidelines of his organisation's work in view of having greater aid effectiveness, in particular:

- Harmonisation: UCLG is carrying out consultations with the World Bank to better articulate its co-operation commitments.
- Appropriation and alignment: UCLG calls for greater democracy to ensure appropriation for actions carried out, and for an alignment with national policies which constitute a means for local and regional authorities to contribute further to their conception. The example of urbanisation, of managing large cities in the South, as well as financial aid was cited to underline the importance of defining the interaction between the levels of government in order to ensure the full inclusion of the territories as integral players in these arbitrations.
- The results: UCLG is active with ECOSOC and the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) to ensure that decentralisation and good governance are used as transversal indicators in the measuring of aid effectiveness.

International Association of Francophone Mayors (AIMF), with member cities and national associations in 48 countries

Olivier Chambard, Secretary General of AIMF, emphasised the specific nature of the association, which was both a network of cities and a leader of development projects in member cities, carried out within the context of national policies relating to decentralisation.

The direct work with the mayors from the South, the strengthening of the municipal team's capabilities as well the association's fostering of the exchanges of experiences between mayors, particularly those uniquely from the South, figure prominently among the incentives of co-operation nurtured by AIMF.

Olivier Chambard identified the following points as the major challenges to be addressed in order to improve the effectiveness of co-operation:

- Increasing direct links between local/regional authorities and backers,
- Evaluating aid in a structured fashion, such evaluations currently being made possible by the long-term nature of decentralised co-operation, but which are less feasible or ideal in the case of a short-term project,
- Developing relations with the private sector in the area of co-operation, a major concern of mayors from the South,
- Seeking recognition, notably by the backers, of the mayor as a key player of development in his/her municipality.

Europeaid, F1 Unit, relations with civil society and co-ordination

Angelo Baglio, Officer of the theme-based Non-State Actors/Local Authorities programme, was pleased with his programme's support of the platform and the opportunity that this represented for the structuring of the dialogue, with local actors recognised as a fundamental part by the European Commission. Until recently, the role of local and regional authorities was underutilised in the European context as actors for development.

Angelo Baglio then underlined that, with respect to the Millennium Development Goals, even if the majority of them would probably not be achieved by 2015, they should nevertheless remain the reference framework for development co-operation.

On the other hand, he cautioned the Platform on the challenges it faced and the effectiveness it would have to demonstrate during these two years of operations. The Platform was in fact invited to define indicators of effectiveness which would allow the European Commission, its principal backer, to evaluate its action.

It recognised that local and regional authorities disposed of unique competencies in dealing with basic services, such as water, a subject topically addressed during this seminar. Lastly, as backers, he believed that local and regional authorities also had a role of responsibility and, in this regard, were invited to become active in the international aid effort for development.

European Commission, DG Development

Olivier Luyckx, Head of the Unit "Aid effectiveness and relations with Member States and EEA States", recalled that his department had been responsible for the drafting of the European Commission's Communication of 8 October 2008, "Local Authorities: Actors for Development". He had taken note of local and regional authorities' commitment to co-operation in view of promoting development, even if it could vary according to the regions. In his view, the tradition was an old one and the know-how of local and regional government indisputable.

It was currently a question of structuring their actions in a co-ordinated manner. In this respect, the annual congresses on decentralised co-operation could allow for an exchange of substance between the European Commission, the Committee of the Regions and the European Platform on the comparative advantages to be favoured between the strategies of Member States and those of local and regional authorities.

He invited these different actors to develop their online exchanges in order to become better acquainted with their mutual strategies. A graphic map listing the ones used by European actors in the area of decentralised co-operation would be a very effective tool in highlighting interventions by sector and by country and would also promote the use of complementary methods where applicable.

c. An overview of the contribution of national associations of local and regional authorities including those made directly by individual authorities

Local Government Association (LGA), United Kingdom

Rosalie Callway, International Affairs Officer, presented the following analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges relating to co-operation activities carried out by British local and regional government.

The capacity to make a genuine contribution to the Millennium Development Goals and to reinforce local governance was the principal strength of local government. The monitoring and evaluating of projects carried out by local authorities could be improved, particularly in terms of the measure of the impact on development.

Two major challenges facing decentralised co-operation could be seen today:

- The economic recession, which should lead to a reduction in the financial means allocated to the fight against poverty. For example, LGA's 2009 budget was reduced by 10%. On the other hand, this situation should be considered as an opportunity to promote more efficient and proportionally less costly local governance.
- Climate change, which would have a significant impact particularly on the populations of lesser developed countries. The impact would undoubtedly be greater than the one foreseen by the Panel of intergovernmental experts on climate change. Moreover, population growth and a growing increase in energy needs were both aggravating factors. These ecological challenges represented an opportunity for local and regional authorities to develop and communicate their expertise and experience, notably in the areas of energy efficiency and risk management, but to promote a green economy as well.

United Cities France (CUF), France

Nicolas Witt, Deputy Director, presented United Cities France, an organisation grouping together more than 400 French local and regional authorities active in decentralised co-operation and a direct member of UCLG, and underlined the ambition of the Platform in creating a European area of decentralised co-operation, particularly by working together with NGOs.

In his opinion, decentralised co-operation is a movement which has long existed. Its main strengths consist in fact of those which are essentially basic characteristics of local/regional authorities:

- A mobilisation of territories and local actors. All departments of a municipality can sometimes be mobilised in a co-operation action, for example, as is the case in the exchanges between the cities of Angers and Bamako;

- Partnerships which are conceived for the long haul and which therefore do not fit the logic of a simple project;
- A capital of trust which is created as a result of democratic legitimacy, proximity with the citizens and the direct involvement of the latter in the projects. The political link with partners also allows for arbitration.
- International co-operation becomes a genuine element of local policy.

There are four types of principal challenges faced by local and regional authorities (LRA):

- Better publicise what it is that LRAs do in terms of decentralised co-operation,
- Become more aware of and be able to better measure the impact of LRA's actions, particularly by quantifying the impact (number of persons gaining access to water, etc.),
- Improve organisation among LRAs for a greater coherence of local actions,
- Better highlight the contribution and role of LRAs to bilateral and European development policies. In particular, Nicolas Witt called for a co-ordination of local actors for the next Africities Summit in Marrakech in December 2009.

VNG International, The Netherlands

Hans Buis, Director of Projects, pointed out VNG International's long experience in the area of development co-operation, particularly in the strengthening of capabilities of local authorities from the South, but also of national LRA associations. He signalled two major stakes to be heeded in view of improving the aid effectiveness of LRAs on the international scene:

- Develop an individual country approach, which allows for the co-ordination of the programmes of different LRAs involved in a same country. This first calls for the proper dissemination of information.
- Develop an evaluation system. Hans Buis cited the example of a project of waste collection in Ghana, which first required, in order to have a system of affiliation fees put into place, that a census of contacts and situations be taken among the population. This example demonstrated the overlapping of different fields of action to ensure that not only was a helping hand given to the development of the partner city, but also that the local population took on the project as their own, and that there was a need to have an evaluation of the action initiated. Through their actions, LRAs indirectly contribute to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, a point which should be at the core of the evaluation indicators.

Romanian Municipalities Association (AMR)

Calin Chira, representative of AMR in Brussels, spoke of the Romanian municipality staffs' interest and requests, both political and technical, to receive training in order to facilitate their actions on the international scene. He was pleased with the seminar which had been organised by CEMR and CUF with this objective in mind in 2005.

AMR's main contribution in this area is to advise and support Romanian LRAs in developing co-operation actions with foreign counterparts, mainly in the economic, social and cultural areas.

The primary country with which Romanian LRAs co-operate is Moldavia, which can be explained by the lesser level of development of this neighbouring country and the linguistic proximity between the two countries. This point also brings to mind the importance of the EU's neighbourhood policy.

French Association of CEMR (AFCCRE)

Daniel Groscolas, Vice President of the French Association of CEMR and Vice President of La Rochelle and its outlying areas, highlighted the duration of an action as a major advantage of co-operation between cities. Using the example of the city of La Rochelle, whose international action is structured at the level of its greater urban community, he listed three types of concrete contributions of a city in terms of development co-operation:

- The sharing of know-how gained from a particular geographic aspect: the protection of the coastline or seashore, for example,
- Genuine ties of partnership and not those of donors/beneficiaries: in the case of the co-operation between La Rochelle and Haiti for example, not only were training sessions of French and Haitian elected representatives held in Haiti but support was also given following the storms,
- Emergency aid in case of natural disasters.

Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP)

Javier de Frutos Gonzales, Project Officer, spoke of the efforts of co-ordination carried out in Spain between the State and LRAs, but also of the various interventions made in the country by all the Spanish actors for development. From this point of view, the main advantages of Spanish decentralised co-operation was the adapting of projects to ensure greater co-ordination of strategies.

Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR)

Fredrik Astedt, Advisor on International Affairs for SALAR, emphasised the complementary spheres of action between the LRAs themselves and their national associations, which act more as co-ordinators of the international undertakings of the LRAs.

In his opinion, one of the principal pillars of these actions was the strengthening of local democracy.

Lastly, he underlined the specific competencies of Swedish LRAs, which do not have the capacity to commit funds to international co-operation.

Autonomous Community of Andalusia, Spain

Carmen Vélez, from the Andalusian Agency of International Co-operation, whose region is a member of the Assembly of European Regions, presented the progressive organisation of Andalusian co-operation. Since 2003, a law enables a greater commitment on the part of LRAs in international co-operation. In 2008, Andalusia established a four-year action plan for development co-operation, which follows the principles set forth in the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action. The main ones among these are the following:

- seeking quality of actions through the implementation of methods involving active participation and programmes adapted according to the country,
- seeking out what works,
- seeking greater participation and integration (gender mainstreaming and cultural diversity)

In 2008, the budget in Andalusia set aside for development co-operation amounted to 107 million euros. Carmen Vélez mentioned two examples of programmes which were implemented:

- the Medelco programme, the objective of which was the exchange of information between local authorities in Morocco, particularly in the areas of waste management and education,
- a system of Latin American integration which led to the drafting of a charter addressing decentralised co-operation and the training of mayors.

City of Saragossa, Spain

Francisco Javier Rodriguez Melón, Head of the Municipal Department on Co-operation, wished to point out that, prior to being financial donors, LRAs primarily offered public services and opportunities for their citizens.

He believed that it was important to distinguish between the roles played by NGOs and LRAs in development co-operation. Access to new information and communication technologies increasingly allowed LRAs to directly take action with their counterparts in the South without going through the intermediary of an NGO.

Region of Pouilles, Italy

Irene Di Ciomino drew the participants' attention to the difficulties of LRAs in measuring the effectiveness of their co-operation actions as a result of a lack of means. She asked that the European Platform unite resources to support European LRAs in the process of evaluating the impact of their actions of development co-operation.

District 2 of the City of Bucharest, Romania

The city enjoyed partnership relations with counterparts in Italy, Spain and Sweden under the framework of supporting the combat against poverty in Romania. It also developed co-operation actions with the cities of Beijing, Istanbul and Baku in view of holding exchanges of experiences.

Benchmarking, along with systems of information and communication, was in this regard an important training tool for municipal staff.

Association of the City and Municipalities of the Brussels Capital Region, Belgium

Jean-Michel Reniers, Advisor to the Association, pointed out the gaps in timing between the launching of the call for proposals by the European Commission and the planning processes of LRAs. Once their programmes were scheduled, it was difficult for an authority to respond to a call for proposal requiring co-financing from the LRA.

In his opinion, the Platform could play a role of co-ordinating joint planning with all the different actors.

J. An overview of the contribution from partner authorities in Africa

Association of Local Government Authorities of Kenya (ALGAK)

According to Hamisi Mboga, Secretary General, making the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) an action priority at local level and defining strategies to ensure more effective partnerships were the principal challenges for local actors involved in development co-operation.

For the countries from the South, the development of human resources was a prerequisite for the proper implementation of development projects with their partners from the North. For ALGAK, this meant being able to lobby the government and leadership capabilities, requirements which had been developed through a partnership with GTZ and VNG International.

A partnership with Cities Alliances and UCLG also enabled the launching of a local strategy based on the MDG in ten cities.

The effectiveness of development co-operation had to be measured in terms of the results produced by the action. The appropriation of projects by local partners could be considered one of the main indicators. The co-ordination of efforts was also another one and could be illustrated, at national level, by the holding of a round table organised with the backers who were active in the country and, with regard to ALGAK, by the drafting of a five-year action strategy.

Lastly, Hamisi Mboga identified the issues of AIDS and governance as ones of priority in the LRAs' action agenda, particularly as galvanising themes at regional level (East Africa).

He concluded by highlighting the objectives of networking and the exchange of best practice as ones to be pursued by a platform of LRAs.

City of Cotonou, Benin

The experience of decentralised co-operation of the city of Cotonou was presented by Michel Makpenon, Director of Municipal Planning and Development. The city had recently drawn up a development plan for the coming five years. It was developing co-operation with several stakeholders: the AIMF, the European Commission, the French cities of Créteil and Rosny-sous-Bois and the French Development Agency.

Michel Makpenon believed that the main difficulties of LRAs in the South were of two types:

- decentralisation was limited: Cotonou is 85% dependent on State resources,
- the technical capabilities of senior officers working in the municipalities were limited in terms of being able to effectively carry through development projects, and in addition, the number of senior officers was insufficient,

Nevertheless, he felt that decentralised co-operation was a compelling experience, which led to the following results:

- the implementation of a system of management focused on results following an AIMF training session with the city's senior officers,
- the improvement of living conditions as a result of the population having better access to basic services, especially education and health,
- the viewing of the partnership as part of a long-term goal as the result of relations among like-minded colleagues.

He made note of four recommendations:

- decoupling politics from commitments of co-operation
- continuing the strengthening of the skills and competencies of elected representatives and LRA technicians in the countries in the South,
- inciting States to transfer financial and human resources to LRAs in developing countries,
- supporting South/South exchanges.

European Commission, DG Development

Olivier Luyckx recalled that the lack of co-ordination of stakeholders' actions was an obvious demonstration of the non-effectiveness of development co-operation, and that in times of crisis, what needed to be put into practice was to achieve more and better results with the funds available.

He believed that the key point of effectiveness was the division of labour and in particular the implementation of niche policies to maximise the impact of actions. Using a concrete example, Olivier Luyckx called on LRAs to study sectors not covered by other actors and to take their decisions to commit to a certain area from this new perspective.

Committee of the Regions

Christophe Rouillon, Member of the CoR's Committee on External Relations and author of an opinion unanimously adopted by this Committee entitled "Local Authorities: Actors for Development", represented the CoR during this session. He stated that he was honoured to be invited and believed that the current economic crisis was in fact an opportunity to demonstrate European solidarity vis-à-vis the lesser developed countries, particularly as the European situation was closely linked to the fate of countries in the South. It was his view that immigration issues were at the forefront of these new stakes.

To confront these challenges, he expressed the hope that the portion of the European budget set aside for development would be more substantial.

CONCORD

Olivier Consolo, Director, welcomed CONCORD's partnership with the Platform of LRAs, which became a reality with the organisation of a joint session during the European Development Days in November 2008.

He underlined that, from the point of view of the Institutions, NGOs recognise not only the role but the responsibilities of LRAs in development. LRAs are in fact key players who also have a responsibility as the local "orchestra conductor" of development.

CONCORD was in particular very interested by the experiences of LRAs in local and regional development as NGOs had much to learn from the territories and from these methods as well as from the sectors which were currently given a preferential role to play by the backers.

Olivier Consolo identified four levels of collective processes to be implemented at European level:

- ensuring the effectiveness of development: reflecting upon an evaluation of the partnerships. Two examples of structures to be given prominence: the CSO forum for

development effectiveness moderated by CONCORD and F3E, a French evaluation organisation which groups together NGOs and LRAs, which could be used as a model for a similar structure at European level;

- strengthening the institutional environment at European level to have a greater emphasis on achieving impact;
- having more influence on the causes behind poverty;
- supporting development education, an important point of co-operation between NGOs and LRAs.

e. Summary of the session

Jeremy Smith thanked the participants for their active contribution to this session, which was the first of its kind for the Platform.

The issue of effectiveness could also be raised in the following terms: to what extent did the actions of LRAs have to follow the line of those of the States and vice versa?

Concerning the role of LRAs, it was to be noted that the one of donor of development co-operation varied from one country to another in Europe.

To follow up on the recommendations made by the representatives of the European Commission, Jeremy Smith proposed that the Platform, as well as the LRAs that it represented, work in collaboration with the Commission on drafting guidelines for the evaluation of development co-operation actions.

Lastly, he indicated that the search for effectiveness had been begun at European level and therefore called for a constructive partnership between the Platform and the Committee of the Regions and the European Commission, particularly concerning the setting up of a decentralised co-operation exchange and the organisation of the Congress to be held in December 2009.

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THEMATIC SESSION

**DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION ON
WATER AND SANITATION**

WHAT OUTCOMES? WHAT LESSONS CAN BE DRAWN?

MODERATED BY PIERRE SCHAPIRA AND OLIVIER CHAMBARD

a. Introduction

This session, organised around a specific theme, was held from 14.00 to 16.30 and was chaired by Pierre Schapira, MEP and Deputy Mayor of Paris. Water and sanitation are part of key areas of jurisdiction of local and regional authorities. Addressing this theme during this first seminar of the Platform aimed both to learn of the experiences of co-operation of LRAs in this area as well as to prepare for the representation of LRAs at the World Water Forum organised in Istanbul from 16-22 March 2009.

On the eve of the debate on the resolution on water and local governance during the plenary session of the European Parliament, Pierre Schapira, MEP and Deputy Mayor of the city of Paris, introduced this session and recalled that the management and distribution of water was truly a competence of local authorities. The principal challenge of the World Water Forum in Istanbul from 16-22 March 2009 and especially the two days specifically dedicated to local/regional authorities would be to be able to conclude a solid pact which would send a strong signal to the actors on the ground, especially those committed to actions of co-operation.

He emphasised the need for concrete actions in the context of co-operation and particularly the importance of being able to evaluate these actions both quantitatively and qualitatively. In fact, it was a question of measuring the quantitative change in the target populations' access to water, the impact made on the political and economical management of water distribution as well as the breakdown of tasks between men and women. Access to water also involves a process of education about water.

Pierre Schapira also presented the French Oudin-Santini Law, which allows municipalities and unions in charge of water and sanitation to set aside up to 1% of the budget for these services in view of carrying out actions of co-operation in the fields of water and sanitation. Entered into force since 2006, this law has made available a considerable amount of funds in France (8.4 million euros already mobilised). To this end, among the many actions of decentralised co-operation, the city of Paris has for example set up a project of social connections through canals in Phnom Penh, as well as a partnership with the Palestinian and Israeli water authorities in Jericho.

b. Heading towards the World Water Forum in Istanbul

Edgardo Bilsky, Director of Programmes and Research at UCLG, underlined the political prospects implicit in the World Water Forum in Istanbul: its success would lead to strong decisions on the international scene to accelerate access to water at world level. As water management is a key local competency, the principles to be promoted in this respect are not only the right to water but decentralisation as well.

Edgardo Bilsky announced the holding of a General Assembly during the two days devoted to local/regional authorities, jointly organised by UCLG, ICLEI and the World Water Council. This Assembly should provide the opportunity for the signing of the Istanbul Pact on Water, a document committing the signatories to act to promote the universal access to water at a equitable cost and specifically for the implementation of a concrete action plan. The theme of decentralised co-operation in the specific field of water and sanitation would also be addressed during the General Assembly.

More than 200 local/regional authorities would be represented at the World Forum.

c. Exchange of experiences on water and sanitation in the context of decentralised co-operation

This session was chaired by Olivier Chambard, Secretary General of AIMF.

The experience of the Urban Community of Greater Lyon, in France, was presented by Vincent Dussaux, Policy Officer, International Solidarity on Water

In applying the Oudin-Santini law, the urban conglomeration of Lyon devoted 0.4% of its water revenue to actions of international co-operation and implemented two provisions:

- The water funds, which amounted to 2.6 million euros in grants and which also provided expert support for medium-sized projects carried out by associations.
- The decentralised co-operation projects of the Greater Lyon Area, the objectives of which were to strengthen the capabilities of local public water services. Vincent Dussaux presented the experience of partnership of the Greater Lyon Area with the Haute-Matsiatra region in Madagascar as part of the European Commission's Water Facility programme. The process of decentralisation is now underway in this country. This partnership produced three results: a map to help anticipate natural disasters, the strengthening of local capabilities and the establishment of a skills centre.

Vincent Dussaux concluded his remarks by noting four conditions for achieving a durable impact from these types of co-operation actions:

- Relations of trust between the partners,
- The joint conception of projects by local authorities from the North and the South,
- The defining of long-term objectives,
- The existence of a high level of professionalism in the decentralised co-operation actions through the mobilisation of experts, including technical ones, from different sectors.

The experience of the city of Saragossa, in Spain, was presented by Francisco Javier Rodriguez Melón, Head of the Municipal Department on Co-operation

The city of Saragossa and the province of Aragon chose to make water a priority in its international co-operation actions. Between 2004 and 2008, 2.3 million euros were allocated by the city to international projects in the area of water, the majority of which went towards a greater participation on the part of local communities.

Several initiatives were at forefront of this priority: the water pact signed by Aragon, the Alliance for water, or the Africagua platform, which groups together NGOs from Saragossa, working for co-development with African partner associations.

F.J. Rodriguez Melón concluded by calling for greater co-ordination of actions with other backers and actors on the ground, particularly NGOs, a recommendation that Saragossa strives to put into practice in the development of its projects.

The experience of Kindia, in Guinea, was presented by Ousmane Bah, Project Leader of "Support for the improvement of services to provide potable and decontaminated drinking water"

Under the framework of the European Development Fund (EDF) and its Water Facility, the city of Kindia has been carrying out this project since 2008 in partnership with AIMF, Nantes Métropole and the Department of the Loire Atlantique (France). With a total budget of 2.2 million euros, this initiative has set up a decentralised management of services to provide potable water. It is a unique project in Guinea, a country which possesses an average of one water fountain for 200 persons.

The three major problems which this project attempts to resolve are a very limited access to water, an absence of a co-ordinated strategy among the local and national actors and a lack of management capabilities among these same actors.

Endowed with a vision that he considers particular to the South, Ousmane Bah called on the European Commission to:

- Continue financing future call for proposals from the Water Facility,
- First seek to strengthen the capabilities of municipal senior officers and elected representatives as they are the ones who are the decision-makers,
- Use the means put into place as leverage to promote development at national level,

- Extend the efforts made to address sanitation issues given that even drinking water produces run-off water.

The experience of the Tuscan Region, in Italy, was presented by Franco Gallori of the Region's Environmental Directorate.

Signatory of a charter on the future of water as a public asset, and at the head of a water conservation programme since 2005, the Tuscan Region has been actively committed to the cause of the recognition of water as a public asset at national level as well as globally.

The Region has been developing co-operation actions in this area with several local authorities from lesser developed countries, notably a large-scale project in Brazil to recover rainwater for local agriculture.

In partnership with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Region launched an initiative in 2007 involving many actors for the implementation of the Initiative of Multi-partnership to implement the Universal Right to Water and sanitation (IMURW).

d. Conclusion

In his closing remarks of the session, Olivier Chambard emphasised the AIMF's commitment to strengthening the water services of its partner cities and to supporting projects initiated in this area locally. Projects of a total value of six million euros have been carried out since 2000. These funds are meant to compensate the main limit to the processes of decentralisation in many lesser developed countries: a transfer of competencies without the delegation of the adequate financial and human resources.

In Olivier Chambard's view, the principal challenges are henceforth to mobilise financing, to overcome the problems of insufficient human resources both in terms of quantity and qualifications, to strengthen the ties between municipalities and civil society to increase the populations' awareness of not only water usage but its management as a resource.

Lastly, he called on the European Commission to encourage the development at European level of tools similar to the French Oudin-Santini law, to support project developers from LRAs in the South as well as the promotion of ties between LRAs and civil society to ensure that the questions of the usage and upkeep of water and sanitation infrastructures are properly addressed.

In closing the seminar, Sandra Ceciari, Director of Citizenship and International Co-operation at CEMR thanked the Committee of the Regions (CoR) for hosting this first seminar and for thus launching the co-operation between the Platform and CoR. She underlined the Platform's willingness to strengthen the dialogue on the means of co-operation with CoR, and in particular to actively participate in the organisation of the Congress on decentralised co-operation in December 2009. She then thanked the participants for their active contribution to this initial dialogue with the European Institutions, particularly the Commission, which enabled a better awareness of the actions of co-operation carried out by LRAs. Starting in June, a dialogue would be initiated with the new European Parliament.

Lastly, Sandra Ceciari announced that the next conference of the Platform, organised by CPMR, would be held in Marseille on 29 May 2009 and would address the theme of "Regions and Development". She also mentioned that the Platform's Secretariat (Lucie Guillet : lucie.guillet@ccre.org) remained at the disposition of the members and would be working on the round table of exchanges in view of the next conference.



PLATFORMA

The European voice of **Local** and **Regional** authorities for development

SEMINAIRE 11 MARS 2009 – SEMINAR 11 MARCH 2009

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS / ATTENDANCE

☆ REPRÉSENTANTS DES AUTORITÉS LOCALES ET RÉGIONALES ☆ REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

M. Alfonso ALCOLEA	Valencian Regional Office
Mr Fredrik ÅSTEDT	International Policy Advisor, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions
Mme Valia ATHANASOPOULOU	Chargée de mission - relations internationales, Union Centrale des Villes et Communes de Grèce (KEDKE)
M. Giuseppe ANZALDI	Directeur Général, représentation de la présidence de la région Sicile à Bruxelles (I)
M. Ousmane BAH	Chef de projet "Appui à l'amélioration des services d'alimentation en eau potable et d'assainissement de Kindia (2 ^{nde} Facilité Eau UE/ACP) (Guinée)
M. Peter BANG	Denmark Region
Mme Marga BARCELO	
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Ms Rosalie CALLWAY	International Policy Officer, Local Government Association for England and Wales (UK)

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Mme Isabelle CAVÉ	Chargée de mission - coopération décentralisée, bureau de représentation à Bruxelles de la région Basse-Normandie (F)
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M. Calin CHIRA	Représentant de l'AMR, Bruxelles (RO)
Mme Françoise CHOTARD	Directrice du bureau Ile-de-France Europe (F)
M. Javier CONRALES	Valencian Regional Office
M. José CRUZ	Association of European Border Regions
M. Laurent DEVILLE	Secrétaire du Syndicat des Villes et Communes Luxembourgeoises
M. Javier De FRUTOS	Chargé de mission, Direction International et Coopération, FEMP (E)
Mme Irene DI CIOMNIO	Région des Pouilles (I)
Mme Audrey DUQUENNE	Chargée d'information, délégation Lorraine et Champagne-Ardenne à Bruxelles (F)
Mme Maryse DUSSELIER	Déléguée aux affaires internationales et à la coopération décentralisée, Association des Régions de France
M. Vincent DUSSAUX	Chargé de Mission, Solidarité Internationale Eau, Direction de l'Eau du Grand Lyon (F)
Ms Libby FERGUSON	UK Local Government Alliance for International Development
Mme Anouk FLAMANT	Région Haute-Normandie
Mme Claire FROST	Chargée de mission, Secrétariat mondial de Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis
M. Franco GALLORI	Région Toscane (I)
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Mme Patricia GARCIA	

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Mme Maria GOMOY	Bureau de l'Andalousie à Bruxelles
M. Daniel GROSCOLAS	Vice-Président de l'Association Française du CCRE Maire de L'Houmeau Vice-Président de la Communauté d'Agglomération de La Rochelle (F)
Mme Lucie GUILLET	Secrétariat de la Plateforme européenne des autorités locales et régionales pour le développement
Mme Elise HADMAN	Bureau des Régions Bretagne-Pays de la Loire-Poitou Charente à Bruxelles
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M. Laurent JABOEUF	Chargé de mission, Association Internationale des Maires Francophones
Mr Bert JANSSEN	Member of staff, Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (B)
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Mme Gemma MARTINEZ	Government of Canaria (S)
Mr. Hamisi MBOGA	Secretary General, Association of Local Government Authorities of Kenya
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M. Neculai ONTANU	Maire du District 2 de Bucarest (RO)
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M. Fabio PELLEGRINI	Premier Vice-Président de l'Association Italienne du CCRE
M. Salvatore PETRELLA	Région des Pouilles (I)
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Parlement européen / European Parliament

M. Pierre SCHAPIRA	Adjoint au Maire de Paris Député européen, membre de la Commission du Développement (F)
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Comité des Régions / Committee of the Regions

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M. Christophe ROUILLON	Membre du Comité des Régions, Rapporteur
M. Bernard CHANE KUNE	Administrateur
Mme Mihaela VASILE	Administratrice
M. Victor TILEA	Administrateur
M. Gianluca SPINACI	

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Confédération Européenne des ONG d'Urgence et de Développement (CONCORD)

M. Olivier CONSOLO	Directeur
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☆ MODÉRATRICE / MODERATOR ☆

Mme Christiane LOQUAI	Chargée de programme, Centre Européen de Gestion des Politiques de Développement (ECDPM)
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