



PLATFORMA
The European voice of Local and
Regional authorities for development



Fourth PLATFORMA Seminar

Development cooperation in the post-2004 EU member States: The role of local and regional authorities

Bucharest, 12 March 2010

*Palace of the Parliament, Room Nicolae Bălcescu, str. Izvor no. 2-4
Access by principal entrance C1*

PROGRAMME

9.30-9.45 am Registration of participants

9.45 -10.00 am Opening session

- Neculai Onțanu, Mayor of the Second District of Bucharest, Vice-President of the Association of Romanian Municipalities (AMR)
- Mr Tudor Pendiuc, Executive President of the AMR, Mayor of Pitești Municipality
- Gheorghe Emacu, State Secretary responsible for the local communities
- Frédéric Vallier, Secretary General, Council of European Municipalities and Regions

10.00-10.40 am Introductory speeches: a new approach of development cooperation

Chair: Neculai Onțanu, Mayor of the Second District of Bucharest, Vice-President of AMR

Background: The accession of Central and Eastern European countries into the European Union has created new fields for development cooperation. Central and Eastern European countries are indeed engaging with the neighbouring countries from this region but also from Caucasus and Central Asia.

This opening to Europe's neighbouring countries has historic roots, which differ from the cooperation with the Southern hemisphere: no weight from past colonialism, no linguistic links with developing countries, no significant immigration flows, but a common political history.

- Sulfina Barbu, President of the Committee for Public Administration Territorial Planning and Ecological Balance, Chamber of Deputies of the Romanian Parliament*
- Mr Călin Georgescu, Director General, National Center for Sustainable Development

10.40-11.00 Coffee break

11.00-12.00

Session 1: Development cooperation in the post-2004 Member states: what role for LRA?

Background: The EU member States from Central and Eastern Europe committed to develop their contribution to the official development assistance, as well as to be part of the EU development policies.

In the framework of such European commitments as well as international action to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, what are the national strategies implemented in the post-2004 EU Member States?

What is the role and the added value of the LRA in this framework?

The European Charter of development cooperation in support of local governance can play an important role in promoting the role of LRA in the good governance for development.

Introduced and facilitated by: Mr. Valentin Băcanu, Vice-mayor of Slobozia municipality, member of the AMR

- Mihaela Rutjens, Head of the Office for Development Cooperation, Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Carine Villemagne-Cros, Policy Officer, Non State Actors and Local Authorities in Development, DG Dev, European Commission
- Camille Borella, Policy Officer, Cités Unies France, presentation of a European comparative study

Questions & answers

12.00-12.30

The Non State Actors and Local Authorities programme, and its objective 2: raising public awareness and education for development in Europe

Background : the NSA LA programme offers specific support for awareness raising actions around Development issues. This instrument is adressed to all the EU Member States, with special attention given to countries that joined the EU in 2004.

- Denis Pourchet, European Commission, Europeaid

Questions & answers

12.30-2.00 pm

Lunch

2.00-3.30 pm

Session 2: Development and decentralised cooperation: what partnership models? What partners?

Background: LRA from Western Europe and Central and Eastern Europe have a long tradition of town twinning. Such experiences could serve as partnership models and stepping stones for developing international cooperations with LRA outside Europe.

Moderator: Christophe Chaillou, General Director, French Section of CEMR

- Christophe Rouillon, Mayor of Coullaines (France), member of the Committee of the Regions
- Anatolie Harabara Mayor of Visoca (Republic of Moldova)
- Zane Duze, Adviser on Foreign Affairs issues, Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments
- Toivo Riimaa, Twinning and international cooperation coordinator, Association of Estonian Cities

Questions and Answers

3.30-3.45 pm Coffee break

3.45-5.00 pm Session 3: The role of LRA in development education: how to raise citizens' awareness? How to effectively work with NGOs?

Background: Development education is a factor for change and opening up to the world. It aims to raise citizens' awareness on the development challenges and global imbalances, in particular social and economic disparities. It can be informal or integrated in formal education curricula. LRA play a key role in this dynamic as the political level the closest to the citizens, responsible for primary and secondary education in many countries, as well as catalysts of the local associations.

Moderator: Andra Tanase, capacity building officer, TRIALOG, Network for raising awareness of development issues in the enlarged Europe

- Marina Ponti, European Director of the United Nations Campaign for the Millennium Development Goals
- Ionut Sibian, Director, FDSC, Romanian NGO
- Gordana Berjan, Coordinator for Education and Youth, North-South Centre of the Council of Europe: Joint Management Agreement on development education
- Representative of Stuttgart, Germany*

Questions and Answers

5.00-5.15 pm Conclusions

Frédéric Vallier, Secretary General of CEMR