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Welcome! New EADI Members

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Editorial

"My European dream is not that of a superpower, but that of a power that contributes to the common global priorities by maximising its influence to reach positive results", Dutch Senator Jos van Gennip said at the opening of the two-day SID/EADI conference which took place on 27/28 September 2004 in The Hague. The event entitled "European Development Co-operation: Towards policy renewal and a new commitment" brought together policy-makers, researchers and representatives from NGOs and explored the relations between foreign policy, security, trade and development. The action points agreed at the conference are outlined in this newsletter. The so-called agenda for action will be presented to Louis Michel, the new EU commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Assistance.

At the same time, the meeting was an important part in the EADI-led European Development Co-operation to 2010 (EDC2010) programme which has developed into a long-term partnership with our members and the Society of International Development (SID).

The interrelation of development and security was broadly discussed in this SID/EADI joint venture, and will have its follow-up in EADI's 11th General Conference on "Insecurity and development: regional issues and policies for an interdependent world", which will take place from 21 to 24 September 2005 in Bonn. The conference will be hosted by the German Development Institute and organised in co-operation with other Bonn-based institutions that are active in development research and SID Europe. We therefore invite you to read more about this event in this edition of the EADI Newsletter and to consider making an active contribution by February 2005. The call for papers is open and available on our conference website at www.eadi.org/gc2005.

The German contribution to the Europe-wide EDC2010 debate, the "Bonn Meeting Series", ended with a panel discussion on "EU

development co-operation - the other security policy?" which is featured here. The meeting series will be continued in 2005 with the same co-operation partners.

"The current state of development research - towards a European perspective?" was the topic of a GEMDEV/EADI seminar and at the same time the French contribution to the EDC2010 debate. On the occasion of its 20th birthday, the GEMDEV network (Groupement pour l'étude de la mondialisation et du développement) reviewed the evolution of development research initiated during the past decade in the light of topics around the questions of governance and partnership, the renewed accent being placed on the social sectors and the extension of the temporal horizon within a context of debt management initiatives for the least developed countries and, last but not least, European integration.

"Constructing democracy? Challenges for the European Development Agenda" was the theme of the second EADI International Summer School, which attracted PhD students and professionals from a variety of countries. A third EADI Summer School will be organised by the University of Economics and the Czech Development Centre in Prague in 2005.

We would also like to draw your attention to the working group section of this newsletter, where you can find a summary of the 29th meeting of the Information Management Working Group, accompanied by an opinion on "Communication: the missing link in development research" by Wangu Mwangi.

2005 will be an important year for EADI, not only because of the General Conference and the General Assembly. EADI will be turning 30! So 2005 will be a jubilee year, a year of celebration, but also a year of challenges for the Association. The new mission statement, approved by the Executive Committee in No-



vember 2003, reflects the fact that EADI aims not only to inform and to provide a forum for debate, but also to influence both national and European decision-makers in the field of development co-operation. The activities in the EDC2010 programme, our conferences, as well as our shared information services are first steps in this direction, but certainly need a broader debate vis-à-vis the new challenges development research and training institutes and the Association as a whole are facing.

We hope to offer you a forum for this debate, and our efforts to reach this goal are described in the enclosed flyer "EADI activities and highlights 2004/2005". We warmly invite you to contribute to or attend the events planned for the next year and wish you a peaceful Christmas.

Susanne von Itter

Susanne von Itter
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11th EADI General Conference

Bonn, 21-24 September 2005

Insecurity and Development:

Regional Issues and Policies for an Interdependent World

History did not end with the end of the Cold War. New threats are looming, both within the nation state and beyond. Civil wars, ethnic conflicts and global terrorism have become more relevant threats to security than the risk of war between nation states. And the perception of security risks has widened in reaction to man-made disasters like Chernobyl or potential risks arising from the depletion of the ozone layer and climate change in general. These risks can be covered by a wide definition of security as "freedom from danger". A similar widening has taken place within the concept of development, leaving behind the narrow focus on economic growth of developing countries to include political freedom and participation, poverty alleviation and provision of essential services to people in developing countries. The wider development concept has been subscribed to by all nations through the ambitious Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as the common agenda for development.

The more comprehensive the concepts of security and development become, the more they will overlap. Holistic concepts of security include political, economic, social, cultural and ecological aspects. What is the meaning of

security in the different spheres? Will a broad concept of human security replace the traditional concept of development? Or will the two concepts cover different sets of policies and measures? Do they reinforce each other or can there be a trade-off between security and development? And if there is a conflict between security and development, what does that mean for security policy and for development policy? How far do development strategies and policies have to be redefined if the goal is not economic growth and welfare, but increasing human security for every human being in the world?

These questions cannot be answered by a single discipline alone. Interdisciplinary approaches are required to find new answers and develop appropriate strategies. EADI, as the European association of development research and training institutes in the various disciplines of social sciences, focusses on such approaches. The 11th EADI General Conference in Bonn on 21-24 September 2005 and hosted by the German Development Institute (GDI) will provide a forum to take stock of the state of the art regarding the issues linked to insecurity and development and to reflect

and discuss policy recommendations derived from them. The conference will also provide an opportunity to compare European perceptions of insecurity and development with perceptions in other world regions.

Structure of the conference

The conference will consist of both plenary/parallel sessions and working group sessions. Working group sessions will be organised by EADI working groups or ad hoc working groups to be formed especially for the purpose of the conference by interested researchers, study groups and other networks interested in contributing to the conference.



Call for papers

Researchers on development issues are invited to present papers for the 11th General Conference of EADI. Papers should be related to the topics of the working group sessions of the conference. The approach to the theme may be conceptual, or it may relate to a particular field or discipline. Papers may refer to particular developing and/or transition countries or to relations between different countries and groupings or countries and regions (e.g. EU/ACP). The detailed information on the various working group sessions will be available as from 15 December 2004 at the Conference website at www.eadi.org/gc2005. Please consult this website to see the topics and to download the abstract submission form.

Procedure for submitting Conference papers

(Papers/abstracts can be submitted either in English or in French)

1. Authors will send a ONE-PAGE abstract, with a clear title, explaining the objectives of the papers as well as its methodology. The name of the author, his/her institutional affiliation, address, e-mail address and fax numbers must be clearly indicated. All abstracts should be sent by e-mail, using the submission form on the conference website. Abstracts sent by regular mail or fax will be refused. The deadline for sending abstracts to the EADI Secretariat is 28 February 2005.
2. Authors will be informed by the Secretariat no later than 30 April 2005 whether their subject has been accepted.
3. Upon acceptance of their abstract, authors will send a FULL-LENGTH PAPER to the EADI Secretariat before 30 June 2005.

The following are prerequisites for papers to be considered:

1. The text should not exceed 8,000 words.
2. On the front page of the paper the following information should be given: title of paper, name of the author, address, e-mail address, telephone and fax numbers.
3. The abstract should be reproduced at the beginning of the full-length text.
4. The bibliography should be placed at the end of the paper; footnotes should appear at the bottom of the relevant page.

Even if an abstract has been accepted at the first stage, any paper, depending on its quality, may be refused for final presentation in the Conference. Accepted papers will be presented by their authors in the sessions of the EADI Working Groups. Therefore authors should clearly indicate to which working group they refer, but the Scientific Committee will make the final decision.

Conference website

We will be keeping you informed in the EADI Newsletter and on the conference website at www.eadi.org. The website will provide you with regularly updated information on preparations for the conference, on the topics, the various sessions, the speakers, the papers, the Scientific Committee, registration and logistics.

Partners

The conference will be hosted by the German Development Institute (GDI) and organised in partnership with SID Europe, Capacity Building International (InWEnt), the Centre for Development Studies (ZEF), Bonn, and the Centre for International Co-operation Bonn (CIC Bonn).

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Timetable

Deadlines:

Submission of abstracts:

28 February 2005

Submission of papers:

30 June 2005

General Conference:

21 - 24 September 2005



Europe has to become a social superpower

SID/EADI Conference in The Hague: The first step towards a European Agenda for Action

International Conference, 27-28 September, 2004, The Hague, The Netherlands

Europe is at a crossroads. Will Europe adopt a common foreign policy in the years to come that explicitly prioritises the interests of developing countries? Will she be successful in setting up an effective European programme to combat poverty? That depends on a number of crucial decisions which will have to be taken in the near future. During the conference Europe and the South: A New Era, held on 27 and 28 September in The Hague, 250 leading experts - scientists, politicians, policy-makers and representatives of social organisations from Europe and the South - examined a series of central themes concerning European development co-operation and foreign policy. They drew up an 'Agenda for Action' which will act as a guideline for future decision-making and lay the foundations for a European network of researchers, policy-makers, social organisations and parliamentarians.

The conference called for concrete action in six areas: Europe must accept its international responsibilities and coherently act in the interests of developing countries; particular attention must be paid to the consequences for developing countries of decisions in structural areas of policy such as trade, security and migration; in the area of development aid,

the member states must impose far fewer regulations on the European Commission, as these regulations significantly reduce the effectiveness of that aid; much more work must be done to create true partnerships, as the current relationships between the EU and the developing countries are based on extreme inequality; social organisations must structure themselves and lobby far more at a European level and also increase the pressure on national governments; and the parliamentarians of the member states and the European Parliament must be supplied with concrete information and solid research results.

Europe in the world

Europe is a major player in the world arena. She should accept her responsibilities in that arena to a much greater extent. Not just by developing a common foreign and security policy, but also, and most importantly, by more fervently supporting the interests of developing countries internationally. This means that European foreign policy, just like that of the member states, must become much more coherent. In the opinion of the conference delegates, the Millennium Development Goals could act as the guideline for coherent European

European Constitution.

More attention should also be paid to the third 'C', which (in addition to Coherence and Co-ordination) was established in the Treaty of Maastricht, namely complementarity. Is the European Commission just a 26th donor, or does it add value? The conference delegates advocated giving the European Commission more room for manoeuvre. At present, its powers are too much restricted by the bureaucratic procedures and regulations that have been imposed by the member states and the national and European parliaments.

Other areas of policy: trade, security and migration

A second key and central conclusion of the conference was the priority that should be given to other areas of policy which are important for developing countries, with particular emphasis on trade, security and migration.

In the area of trade, many delegates advocated the rapid withdrawal of European farming subsidies. That would represent a vital impetus to achieving the advances that are so essential at the Doha round of the WTO negotiations. The conference also discussed the European Partnership Agreements (EPAs). Some delegates forcefully opposed the EPAs, others were more positive should certain conditions be met. Everybody supported the call for a high level of flexibility in the EPA negotiations. It was emphasised that room must be created for asymmetrical trade relations, meaning that developing countries should be allowed to protect their markets against foreign competition on a temporary basis.



Agnes van Ardenne

The conference delegates were unable to reach unequivocal conclusions about security, with the possible exception that security aspects should be explicitly included in analysis and policy. It was also agreed that the heightened attention for security and anti-terrorist measures should not be detrimental to combating poverty and that steps should be taken to guard against 'contamination' of the development budget by using it to finance other activities. Many delegates were positive about the European Commission's African Peace Facility, which provides funding for the African Union's peace mission to Darfur in the Sudan. The Peace Facility is innovative, not least because it is the expression of an important aspect of present-day conflicts: such conflicts are increasingly regional in nature and call for regional containment methods.

However, it is sometimes better that Europe does not get involved in African conflicts. That, at any rate, was the opinion voiced by Mozambique's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Leonardo Santos Simão, which met with the agreement of many conference delegates. Santos Simão made this statement in reaction to the question of why Mozambique - the current chair of the ACP countries - and other southern African countries are not more critical of the lack of democracy in neighbouring Zimbabwe. He said that there was a major risk that polarisation there would escalate to an internal conflict. "You are not the ones who will suffer the consequences of a possible civil war in a neighbouring country. We are. So it seems sensible to keep the peace there. Your boycott has not been effective. Maybe our dialogue will be."



Louk Box, Agnes van Ardenne, Zéphirin Diabré

The conference unanimously agreed on the link between poverty and migration and the need for a uniform European migration policy. Clear agreements are needed regarding the migration from Africa and other parts of the world to Europe and the asylum procedures in the EU. Southern countries must also take autonomous steps to reduce migration. Reference was also made to the advantages of migration: migrants send much more money back to their countries of origin than the sums that are made available for development aid. The majority of the conference delegates were opposed to the creation of migrant camps outside Europe. The refugee problem could be significantly eased by adopting a broader approach: in addition to the humanitarian mandate that the UNHCR currently has, much more attention should also be paid to the development dimension - when countries are able to develop, there is less reason for their citizens to flee. So migration is strongly associated with trade opportunities, development aid, investment and security.

European development aid

The conference discussed various aspects of the classical development aid policies of the European Commission and the European member states. Euro-commissioner Poul Nielson's and others' plea for fewer procedures and rules met with general agreement. As Nielson put it: "The European Commission has created a climate in which you quickly feel that you are acting outside the law when trying to achieve a practical objective. This is a result of the paralysing excess of often meaningless 'ex ante' regulatory measures which are prescribed to us by the member states and the European Parliament. This criticism of ours is supported by the NGOs."

The European development instrumentation ought to be greatly simplified, include clear poverty criteria and fall under one single budget. Going a step further, but nonetheless greeted with broad support, was the suggestion that the contribution to the European Commission should no longer be made dependent on national decisions, but to look for forms of international funding. The proposal of the French President Chirac to institute a kind of Tobin tax was quoted as an example. The UK's Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, has also spoken in favour of a more international and stable form of finance for development co-operation and new methods. The conference again appealed for harmonisation of the procedures in order to free developing countries from the countless contradictory conditions and rules that donors impose on them. Finally, when redrafting the Declaration on European Development Policy





of November 2000 - which has to be modified as a result of the addition of the ten new member states - the EU and the Commission were called upon to place more emphasis on the Millennium Development Goals. It was added, however, that the Millennium Development Goals have to be interpreted with some degree of flexibility, as, for example, an important sector like agriculture in developing countries is not given explicit attention.

Partnership

The question of the nature of the relationships between North and South was put repeatedly during the discussions at the conference. The pretence of creating partnerships and the implicit assumption that a relationship of equals can be built up within such partnerships was strongly criticised by some delegates. For example, the Assistant Secretary General of the ACP secretariat in Brussels, Pa'o Luteru, stated that Europe has the final say in the negotiations between the European Commission and the ACP countries.

Opinions were divided over the question as to whether such partnerships could ever be based on a relationship of equals. The differences in power and welfare mean that this is definitely not the case at present. Multi-

lateral partnerships guarantee greater symmetry than bilateral partnerships. It was generally advocated that the developing countries should decide the agenda and define priorities.

A serious dilemma at an entirely different level was raised: What is the situation regarding the partnership between the EU and Latin America? European aid to that continent has been reduced. Justifiably so from the perspective that the main focus should be on the world's poorest. But this also represents a severe penalty for countries that are borderline cases and still have a high proportion of poor people among their population.

Networks

The conference spoke in favour of social organisations making a greater contribution at a European level. This means that such organisations should adopt more pan-European structures. There are promises, assurances, grand plans and political agreements in abundance. However, the important thing is putting them into practice. By releasing sufficient funds. By generating the political will for them and giving them high priority. This will require social and political pressure and pressure from the scientific

community from all of Europe and the South. The conference in The Hague was part of that pressure.

Frans Bieckmanns



Bonn Meeting Series 2004 - A German Debate on the Perspectives and Challenges of European Development Policy

EU Development Co-operation - The Other Security Policy?



"EU development co-operation - the other security policy?" - was the topic of this year's last meeting in the series on the perspectives and challenges of European development policy organised by EADI, VENRO, CIC and GDI and held on 2 November 2004 in Bonn.

The panel brought together researchers, politicians and representatives from civil society in the field of development policy. The meeting series in Bonn is the German input to the EADI-run Europe-wide project "European Development Co-operation to 2010" dealing with the future of European Development Policy.

Development and security policy: a conflict of aims?

Security seems to be one of the key elements for ensuring sustainable development. However, faced with the new and complex forms of threats,

states and regional organisations like the EU have to respond in an appropriate way. Is the EU able to develop a coherent policy-mix of foreign, security, trade and development policy?

While Joachim Lindau from the humanitarian organisation "Brot für die Welt" pointed out the differences between the military and the civilian approach which could lead to a major conflict of aims, Dirk Messner (German Development Institute, GDI) emphasised the changing nature of international relations and the need to create "new alliances" of security or defence policy on the one hand and development policy on the other. He said there would be no efficient security policy without a reasonable and consistent development policy and vice versa. Since September 11 concepts dear to the development policy community - such as "conflict prevention" - have also been seriously taken into account on the part of security and

defence policy experts.

Karin Kortmann (SPD), a German MP, confirmed the need for such alliances, but had to admit that a common vision is difficult to establish on the national level, given the lack of proper co-operation between the different ministries and committees. Referring to the EU she criticised the lack of transparency and democracy in the decision-making process. The EU did not contribute to more coherence, but to even more confusion, she said.

Michael Hofmann from the Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ) stressed the importance of co-operation between the different policy fields and put forward the good and productive example of the co-operation between the BMZ and the Federal Foreign Office on the national level. Despite all the criticism, co-ordination was "everyday practice". Furthermore, it was important to note, Hofmann said, that



Michael Hofmann, Dirk Messner, Petra Pinzler

development policy was not only linked to security policy but also to many other policy fields such as environment, trade and education policy. This is why the role of security policy should not be overestimated. Finally, Hofmann provocatively questioned whether the debate on the link between security and development policy could not rather be seen as an "obsession".

European Development Policy: which priorities?

In 2000, the international community pledged to meet the so-called Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which include, for example, the commitment to reducing by half extreme poverty and hunger in the world. However, one could cast doubt on the efficiency of an European Development Policy that would have the ambition to be responsible for the world-wide achievement of those goals. Is it reasonable to claim for a European world-wide development policy which would have the ambition to meet the MDGs? Should the EU concentrate its efforts on specific regions without moral objections?

Ms Kortmann reminded the audience that in spite of the official objectives there has not been a mayor paradigm shift in the field of development policy over the past few years. The goal of spending 0.33% (or even 0.7%) of GNP on development co-operation is still beyond many members' reach. In order to be efficient, each member state should therefore concentrate its resources on a limited number of countries or regions.

In this context Messrs Messner and Hofmann emphasised the relevance of a division of labour between the different countries, regional and international organisations. Mr Hofmann criticised the lack of "complementarity" on the European level. Not every member state has to be responsible for the development co-operation with all the countries in "the South". Quite the contrary: the logic of "complementarity" should be to do one part of the job oneself and to refer to partner states and organisations for the "left-out" regions. Yet, it is fundamental that no developing country is left out by the collectivity of European development co-operation.

Mr Messner pointed out that development policy in some countries with a minimum of institutional framework - the "best performers" - is particularly successful. However, it would be very necessary to re-orientate development resources in the so-called "failing states" - and this, last but not least, in a security policy perspective.

With respect to the EU's position on the MDGs, Mr Lindau insinuated that there was a lack of commitment on the European level. In this regard, Mr. Hofmann asked that one not to think merely along monetary budget lines. He attached importance to the fact that the main work has to be done by (and in) the developing countries and that these efforts could only be encouraged by the developed countries.

The new European security strategy

In December 2003 the European security strategy document "A secure Europe in a better world", the so-called Solana strategy, was adopted by the European Council. It defines the future priorities for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and lays the emphasis on the need for more co-operation in the policy fields of CFSP and development co-operation.

Joachim Lindau made no secret of his negative attitude towards the Solana paper, which he declared to be "dreadful". Development policy issues were as a consequence being undermined for the benefit of a military approach. Furthermore, Mr Lindau reproached the document for being superficial, because it did not scrutinise the reason why "failed states" are "failed states" to begin with.

Other participants looked more favourably on the common security strategy paper. Dirk Messner stressed the significance of the multi-dimensional approach. It was crucial to understand that not only development policy but also environment policy or diplomacy must be part of a successful security policy. Karin Kortmann re-emphasised some vitally important elements in the Solana paper, such as the stress laid on its multilateral orientation. Michael Hofmann also suggested that this European security strategy was a significant counterexample to the American model.

Conclusion and outlook

The panel discussion revealed that the policy fields of development and security are strongly interdependent. While some members of the civil society, academia and politicians are worried about the growing impact of security policy issues on the European development policy, others refer to the potential positive repercussion that this tendency may have.

The speakers at the conference gave very interesting impulses for a better understanding of the current debate on development and security policy trade-offs. Given the success of the past meetings, the convening organisations have already signalled an upcoming re-edition of the meeting series in Bonn for 2005 and 2006.

Fritz Scheidhauer (Intern at EADI)



Report: 2nd EADI International Summer School 2004

Constructing Democracy? Challenges for the European Development Agenda

Enschede, The Netherlands, 29 August - 8 September, 2004

Each year since 2003, one of EADI's member institutes has organised an International EADI Summer School. The first Summer School, in 2003, was hosted and organised by the IUED in Geneva. The second Summer School took place between 29 August and 8 September 2004 at the University of Twente in the Netherlands. The theme "Constructing Democracy? Challenges for the European Development Agenda" was well chosen and attracted PhD and MA students, as well as professionals from Switzerland, the Netherlands, Austria, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Argentina, Cameroon and Nigeria.

The Summer School was organised by Irna van der Molen, with support from Jaap de Wilde (University of Twente) and valuable suggestions from several others (Joy Clancy, University of Twente; Michel Carton, IUED Geneva; Isa Baud, University of Amsterdam; and the EADI Secretariat). The Summer School was externally supported by the Dutch National Commission for International Co-operation and Sustainable Development (NCDO), the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NOW) and EADI. However, the success of this year's Summer School would not have been possible without the interesting contributions of a wide variety of speakers and the lively discussions among the participants.

Democratisation and the role of the EU were related to political development both within the EU and on local level, where fragmentation of society, economic and political interests, polarisation and rising nationalism sometimes has resulted in fierce conflicts. The thematic focus during the Summer School started with an overview of different models of democracy, and changes in thinking about democracy, and the translation of this into European and bilateral policy. During the first week, attention

gradually shifted towards democratisation processes in Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Balkans. At the end of the Summer School, attention was drawn to democratisation processes in conflict and post-conflict areas, such as Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan.

EADI President Louk de la Rive Box opened the Summer School by asking which notions of democracy we follow and why, and what had happened to good governance, referring to the case of Zimbabwe, which showed a breakdown of communication between the respective government and the EU.

Jos van Gennip, Senator and President of SID Europe, gave an overview of recent European history in supporting political parties and pointed out that, although political parties were initially overlooked as actors in the debate, the mid-1990s had witnessed the introduction of the concept of good governance as well as a considerable increase in organisations and agencies promoting democracy. He continued by outlining a number of dilemmas and problems as experienced by donors and beneficiaries, and listed a number of solutions to these problems.

Dr Ron Holzhäcker from the Department of Political Science at Twente University gave a basic overview of models of democracy, concentrating on the theory of democracy and some of its main contributors, like Robert Dahl, Joseph Schumpeter and Jürgen Habermas. He concluded by identifying two main questions to be asked in future discussions: (a) How can democratic institutions be created above the nation-state? (e.g. pollution in rivers in Europe; i.e. problems which affect not just one society; or the African Union's new parliament which has weaker links to citizens); and (b) How do these ideas apply to developing countries?

In the following session Prof. Dr Jaap de Wilde, Professor in the same Department, presented the main ideas of his paper 'Flagging Democracy', denouncing the lack of democratic structures in international organisations and supranational bodies. His presentation was oriented to two questions: (1) Is democracy always effective? (2) What are we talking about when we talk about democratisation processes? During the presentation he referred to preconditions for democracy, globalisation processes and to democracy as ideology or myth and to indicators of democracy.



Witho Oost, Mient-Jan Faber, Dick Leurdijk

Dr Sven Grimm from the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) in London informed listeners about the European Democratisation Agenda towards Africa, focusing on the relation between the EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states.

Jan Tuit, from the Institute for Multiparty Democracy, talked about his experience of Dutch democratisation assistance in Mozambique, Ghana, Mali and Indonesia, which led him to conclude that democracy assistance is far more than political party assistance.

Zoran Nikolic, leader of the 1997-1998 student movement in Serbia, opened up the more practical part of the Summer School on Thursday morning. He told participants about the evolution and the conflict's socio-economic, historical and ethnic dimension on the Balkans. Details about Nikolic's personal involvement and commitment to the struggle against the Serb authorities gave the audience a thorough insight into the resistance movement in Serbia.

Amin Kamete from the Nordic Africa Institute, Sweden outlined the realities of democratisation processes in Africa and provided an in-depth insight into the political situation in Zimbabwe.

Continuing with Africa, Jeroen Cuvelier from the Institute for Peace Information Services in Antwerp presented a brief overview of the main theories of civil wars in sub-Saharan Africa, which he classified as the "ancient hatred argument", the "new barbarism argument", the "bad government argument" and the "greed

argument", before concentrating on the civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Dr Gordon Crawford from the Institute for Politics and International Studies, University of Leeds elaborated on the relation and interlinkage between democratisation and decentralisation in Ghana, especially from the point of view of poverty reduction.

Prof. Isa Baud from the Institute for Global Issues and Development Studies, University of Amsterdam concentrated on new ways of managing cities, focusing on aspects like decentralisation, privatisation and democratisation.

Dr Marcus Klein, research fellow at the Centre for Latin American Research and Documentation (CEDLA), gave an introductory lecture on democratisation processes in general in Latin America from the 1970s up to now, emphasising the factors that led to an almost complete democratisation of the continent (except for Cuba) in contrast to the seventies, when only Columbia, Costa Rica and Venezuela could be considered as democratic.

Hugo Estrella, Secretary of Justice of Cordoba state at the Centre for Crime Victims' Support, presented the democratic evolution in Argentina, which still lacks a participatory approach.

Moving to post-conflict societies in Iraq and Afghanistan, Dick Leurdijk, policy advisor at the Netherlands Institute of International Relations Clingendael, and Mient-Jan Faber, Professor at the Free University in Amsterdam and former General Secretary of the Interchurch Peace

Council IKV, shared their tremendous experience in the field. Leurdijk focused on the role the United Nations plays in the democratic transition in post-conflict societies, specifically on the Security Council and its resolutions; Faber concentrated on citizen involvement in war situations, based on examples from the Balkans, Israel/Palestine, Afghanistan and Iraq. A discussion moderated by Witho Oost, a radio journalist from the Netherlands Interchurch Radio IKON, concluded the day.

The speaker of the last session, Dr Göran Sluiter, discussed the role of international law and the international criminal tribunals, such as the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Criminal Court. The Summer School was rounded off by a visit to the ICTY, where students attended court sessions in the trials against Milosevic, Dragan Nikolic and Strugar. Throughout the entire Summer School, participants were busy working on a case study on Zimbabwe, which turned into a lively negotiation round on the last day. A final statement drawn up by the experts in this role play and other documents can be visited on the EADI website.

Report written by Franziska Sigrist and Irma van der Molen

¹De Wilde, Jaap 2004: Flagging Democracy. In: International Journal for the Semiotics of Law. Revue Internationale de Sémiotique Juridique 17: 211-227.



News from EADI Working Groups

EADI Working Group "Information Management"

Conference report

Information Management for Development: Do the Policies Work?

Setting the framework of the conference, "Do information management polices work?", Jan Hoekema (DGIS) outlined the importance of knowledge as a social construct with a specific purpose, time and place values. Adding to this, Paul Engel (ECDPM) placed knowledge firmly as global public good and a contributor to the knowledge economy, though the development of information infrastructures, appreciative systems and global governance. Louk de la Rive Box (University of Maastricht) challenged information managers to step out of the box either at the global level though WSIS or at the level of the Public Library for Science which makes leading academic literature a public resource.

The practical experiences for European actors included the insight that proactive, well-organised information policies in Poland (R. Riedel, University of Polonia) are necessary for the populace to remain informed and in touch. In contrast, the experiences of the South African information society (Leo Van Audenhove, Free University Brussels) has left gaps between policy and implementation, which has led to a strong need for localised policy and solutions. Julie Ferguson (HIVOS) felt that, by and large, its polices are working in awareness raising, capacity development, networking and lobbying, but are working less effectively in the implementation of government polices, the involvement of civil society and public private partnerships.

Joseph Akoa (AGRO-PME, Cameroon) outlined the complex experience of his

organisation to self-finance information services. Adding to this, Abou Moussa Ndongo (CODESRIA, Senegal) provided feedback from their conference on 1-2 September in Senegal, citing some need for greater exchange of experiences via online interactions and publication. Syke Siyumbwa (PACT, Zambia) placed the information divide squarely in the minds of participants; he also appealed for considered and well-planned support for ICT that met the needs of local people.

Mixed results of the impact of e-networking from EUFORIC's experiences (Huub Mudde) were tempered by the understanding that face-to-face interactions are just as valuable as on-line discussions. Balancing this view, Sarah Cummings (KIT) and Maartje op de Coul (Oneworld International) expressed cautious optimism that the information management

policies were working, especially where technologies were compatible with traditional technology, and that tools for evaluating the impact of technology and information services are valuable. Ivan Kulis (IICD) found that building a collaborative partnership of funders and national groups for realising digital and communication opportunities (BCO) resulted in unexpected synergies, mutual respect and learning.

Taking a global perspective, Harry de Backer (DG Development) outlined the challenges of bringing ICTs to less developed parts of the world, emphasising that although funds through the European Development Fund are available, uptake from mainly African governments has been lower than anticipated. Completing the global perspective, Alec Singh (ACP Secretariat) linked the usefulness of ICTs



Alec Singh, Harry de Backer, Bridget McBean



Sykes Siyumbwa; Abou Moussa Ndongo, Myriam Galloway

in contributing to the Millennium Development Goals, citing examples of achievements from the ACP.

Paul Maassen (HIVOS) related the experiences and dilemmas of a national NGO as part of the government's delegation to the World Summit on Information Society, concluding that their contribution to the delegation and for their constituents remains valid. Danielle Bouhajib (AIF) discussed some of the implications of the WSIS in more detail, such as the role of the international ICANN and its relevance as a US-based organisation.

In attempting to answer the question, 'Do policies for information management work?', the results are mixed. The outcome of the conference was that a policy is successful when technology and information needs are met and a strong willingness and capability for implementation exists. Gaps in policies arise in balancing the technology needs with the need for knowledge. Technology often plays a part in driving the process of integrating developing countries into the world economy, whereas it could be viewed as a tool for people, and thus countries, to build up their own economies. The World Summit on Information Society, despite its limitations, provides an international policy arena. Policy-makers and practitioners should invest in:

- Developing a keener awareness of the needs for knowledge, based on what

knowledge already exists and the appropriateness of technology.

- Implementing creative solutions, based on a combination of new and traditional technologies that avoids the lure of technologies for technology's sake.
- Change processes that are complex and that require focused resources, leadership and involvement.
- Continued action to ensure knowledge and information is respected, validated and protected in ways that contribute more to the world's economy.
- Support and incentive systems for the generators of knowledge (researchers, innovators, educators, communicators) and the managers of information (librarians, knowledge workers) that balance with the need for global governance of information and communications technologies.
- Capabilities for implementing integrated policies for information management, knowledge generation and governance.

The EADI Information Management Working Group conference took place from 8-11 September 2004 in Maastricht. Seventeen speakers presented insights on the practical implementation of information management policies to an audience of 60 people, a record attendance. Funding for the conference and for an ECDPM InBrief to further share these insights was received from DGIS. Additional support was sourced from AIF, EADI and

ECDPM. The responses to the conference evaluation form was analysed, which contained recommendations to the IMWG. The evaluation results and the conference presentations are available online via the EADI website.

Business Meeting of the Information Management Working Group (IMWG)

The IMWG business meeting concluded the conference. The business meeting updated the participants on the upcoming conference, developments regarding ELAND, the need for the eldis listserv or an alternative, the Working Group's annual report and the appointment of the Nordic African Institute (Marie Louise Fendin) and ECDPM (Bridget McBean) as part of the core group.

Bridget McBean, ECDPM

Opinion

Communication: The Missing Link in Development Research?

by Wangu Mwangi

Ask most people involved in the daily business of 'development' - the frontline extension workers, community-based organisations, NGO networks, local council officers - to participate in a research project and chances are that they will react with little enthusiasm, or demand substantial payment for their efforts. Many a rebuffed researcher has questioned this negative reaction, as such studies are expected to add value to the work of the development community.

This widely held suspicion presents a paradox, given the evident need for research inputs in many development interventions. Both government and non-governmental organisations are looking for sound research findings to reassure themselves that they have identified the best possible approach to solving local problems. There is much talk of evidence-based policy-making. For example: What is the true nature of rural livelihoods and what options are available for addressing the agendas and aspirations of poor people? Or, does a strategy for privatising agricultural extension services discriminate against the poor and how can this be altered to make it more inclusive?

In my view communication, or the lack of it, lies at the heart of the gap between research and the identification of practical solutions to real problems 'on the ground'. Even when relevant studies are available elsewhere, there is need for further analysis to fit them to local conditions. This requires the repackaging of such information to facilitate meaningful discussions. It is at this level of engagement that research often fails to meet the needs of clients, thus rendering the outputs effectively unusable.

Part of the problem seems to be that research projects often disregard the need to communicate with a broader constituency, or leave it to the final stages of the research cycle.

The way forward is not to pay more attention to research dissemination as a stand-alone activity, but rather to find ways to make the entire research process more interactive, particularly with those who will need to use the results.

Involving the clients of research right from the beginning helps researchers and their clients to jointly formulate research questions and identify ways of designing recommendations so that they can be realistically implemented. Clients of research can also help to determine the most effective communication channels and formats.

It is questionable whether several initiatives currently underway to make research findings more widely available - for instance through free downloads on the internet - will be of benefit to people outside the academic community. This should be a source of concern for researchers who believe that their work contributes to improving the livelihoods of people in developing countries. Finding ways in which researchers, communication specialists and their clients can work more

effectively together remains a central challenge. Ultimately, the measure of successful communication should be its ability to bring together diverse interests to set the research agenda and, importantly, to help in designing, implementing and monitoring follow-up programmes.

Wangu Mwangi

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The views expressed in this article are personal and do not necessarily reflect the position of UNU-INTECH



Working Group "Europe and Latin America"

Conference report

New Trade Challenges Facing Fair Trade: Evolution of the Actors' Dynamics

On 21 June over 80 academics, students, NGO and public agency representatives attended a conference in Brussels on "New trade challenges facing fair trade: evolution of the actors' dynamics" organised by the EADI Working Group on Europe and Latin America in collaboration with the Université catholique de Louvain (UCL), Belgium, the Institut Universitaire d'Etudes du Développement (IUED), Switzerland, and the Université de Liège (Ulg), Belgium.

The diversity of the speakers, which included academics as well as field actors (NGOs, Latin American producers' association, distribution chain) enabled this conference to present an in-depth understanding of the development of fair trade. Introduced by Isabel Yépez del Castillo (UCL), the first panel aimed at providing an overview of the evolution of the concept and the practice of fair trade. Claude Auroi (IUED) emphasised the external factors responsible for the evolution of the concept of fair trade, while Marie-Paule Kestemont (UCL)

highlighted the tensions between fair trade and ethical trade. Carol Wills (IFAT) presented the old and new actors that have emerged in fair trade over the years.

The second panel then raised the issue of fair trade as a mean to women's empowerment given the overwhelming presence of women handicraft producers in fair trade, especially in Latin America. After an analysis of the concept of women's empowerment by Sophie Charlier (UCL) and Malika Basu (ISS, Netherlands), Maria Julia Jimenez (CIOEC, Bolivia) shared with the audience the experience of women handicraft producers in Bolivia, especially whether women's participation in a fair trade network helped them gain recognition.

Introduced by Isabelle Haynes (Ulg), the third panel focused on the challenges and the tensions arising with the opening of new channels of distribution of fair trade. After an inspiring overview of the tensions between fair trade and globalisation by Catherine Schümperli (IUED), the various panellists

analysed the challenges faced by the different actors: the producers (Georgina Dávalos, Ayniart, Peru); the consumers (Patrick De Pelsmacker, Université d'Anvers, Belgium) and the distributors (Jean-François Rixen, Magasins du Monde Oxfam and Xavier Ury, Delhaize, Belgium).

The conference was followed by a second day which gathered together a smaller group made up of fair trade experts and which consisted of workshops that focused on specific issues: handicrafts and development and the relationship between fair trade and organic farming.

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Working Group "Transformations in the World System - Comparative Studies in Development"

Social Disintegration and Decline in (Semi)-Peripheral Regions: An Alternative Pattern of Development in the World System?

Budapest, 24-25 September, 2004

The workshop was organised jointly with the Centre for Social Studies and the Institute for Political Science of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Ten scholars from Austria, Hungary, Denmark and the Russian Federation presented their papers and participated in discussions. The speakers focused mainly on issues of social decline and disintegration as results of the negative impact of globalisation. The participants considered the following issues:

- The cycles of catching up modernisation in Eastern Europe (from 1867 up today).

- The shift from catching up development towards anti-development (the case of Russia);
- The rise of poverty during the transition period (the case of Hungary);
- The role of small states and local policies in the process of globalisation;
- The world disorder after the end of Cold War and the problem of human rights.

In the course of discussions the contributors and discussants came to some major conclusions concerning the issues raised:

- Situations of decline and social disintegration prevalent in many non-western peripheral and semi-peripheral countries are a result of the negative impact of globalisation and previous, sometimes even successful, development;
- The dilemma of "strong state - weak, poor market" or "weak state - strong, effective market" is a false one. Neither the state nor the market can separately resolve social problems and stop the drift into decline. Only a combination of state effort and market

forces can be instrumental for successful development and poverty reduction;

- As the experience of various countries demonstrates, social disintegration and decline are the result of ruptured linkages between the state and the market. At the same time, those appear as forms of spontaneous adaptation of ineffective and

obsolete social structures and socially marginalised people to the challenges of globalisation.

Furthermore, the working group participants discussed their contribution to the 11th General Conference of EADI.

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GEMDEV/EADI Seminar

The Current State of Development Research: Towards a European Perspective

18/19 November 2004, Paris



GEMDEV has turned 20! In honour of this occasion GEMDEV recently organised a two-day seminar on "The current state of development research - towards a European perspective?" The first day was based on the book "The current state of development research" ("L'état des savoirs sur le développement", Choquet et al. 1993). The past decade has been marked by changes in development analysis and discourse, as an answer to the international situation, but also as a reaction to the poor progress that has been made in developing countries. During the first part of the seminar, GEMDEV asked three representatives from different fields (anthropology, economics and political sciences) to give the book a critical rereading. Building upon these three disciplinary fields, the speakers discussed the changes that have occurred in terms of development issues on the one hand and reflected on specific aspects of francophone development perspectives on the other.

The debate particularly focused on

- The interactions between the different actors (donors, researchers, users) involved in the emergence of new topics. How can the focus be controlled more by the "users" of development co-operation? In other words, how can the current trend be turned around? The question of administrating research by the responsible ministries was also tackled.
- One of the main contributions of

development analysis, namely the use of scales (dimension and time) to identify appropriate solutions.

- The necessity of being careful about the weight placed on certain concepts (governance, sustainability, etc.)

The importance of strengthening the dialogue between the different disciplines was also underlined.

The aim of the second day, with its contributions from several members of the EADI Executive Committee, was to find the conditions needed for the emergence of a truly European perspective on development to 2010. What "common basis for analysis" can be

linked with the diversity of focuses and even points of view - which undoubtedly are one of the values of the European Union?

Four topics were pointed out : Poverty eradication, to which the EU has committed itself, but which was originally initiated by the World Bank; regional integration and political dialogue (both initiated by the EU); decentralised co-operation (a topic which shows the diversity and complementarity of approach between the EU and one of its member states).

The debates focused on those aspects where the EU could increase its opposition to the international institutions: Not considering poverty



Robrecht Renard, Vincent Geronimi, Francois Pacquement, Simon Maxwell



Claire Mainguy, Jean-M. Hatton, John Igué

as an exclusively monetary phenomenon (by including social and legal aspects, for instance); taking into account the pace and directions of the productive sectors (progressive liberalisation); taking into consideration the fact that institutions have an important role to play in the architecture of aid.

The EU could also focus on the gap between discourse and implementation of PRSP; the contradictions which, for instance, turn appropriation into a conditionality; the contradictions between the long-term perspective needed to reduce poverty and the short-time perspective used to judge the

efficiency of the measures.

As regards specific topics such as regional integration or political dialogue, the focus was on internal incoherence within the EU: between the different policies (agriculture and development) or with respect to measures taken by two different

Directorates (the "Everything But Arms" initiative, which complicates the implementation of regional integration, for instance); on the realities of political dialogue, when in fine, the choices belong to the EU.

The issue of decentralised co-operation allows us to measure the variety of different perspectives (the EU and France), but also to see the limitations of the EU when it comes to taking these particularities into account.

Some participants underlined the lack of openness of the Commission towards the world of research; we have to be more aware of the transfer of our questions, discourse and convictions to the European institutions with

respect to the topics and the policies and their implementation.

During the second half of the day, the speakers concentrated on those who, at different levels, contribute to the analysis mentioned throughout the seminar.

The diffusion of information is facilitated by networks such as Euforic. Research on international co-operation is not considered as a priority by the Commission. The GEMDEV's "Observatory of Research on Development" (l'Observatoire des recherches sur le développement, ORD) database is a type of "who does what" of development researchers. The state of education on development shows that students are interested in these careers, but the question of career prospects remains unanswered. The European Master's will offer the possibility of an international degree on development issues.

Claire Mainguy, GEMDEV

Welcome! New EADI Member

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) was established in 1965 as an autonomous body within the United Nations with the aim of enhancing the organisation's effectiveness through appropriate training and research. UNITAR is governed by a Board of Trustees and is headed by an Executive Director, Mr Marcel Boisard. The Institute is supported by voluntary contributions from governments, intergovernmental organisations, foundations and other non-governmental sources. UNITAR is based in Geneva, Switzerland, but also has regional offices in Hiroshima and New York.

In recent years, UNITAR activities in training, capacity building and research on training have increased significantly. The institute is currently responsible for organising over 150 different training programmes a year across five continents, reaching over 7000 participants mainly from developing countries and countries in transition annually.

The training and capacity building programmes broadly deal with

- International affairs management,
- Negotiation and multilateral diplomacy, peacemaking and conflict resolution,
- Economic and social development, including environmental management and sustainable development.

For the most part, these programmes are conducted in close co-operation with international, regional and national training institutions.

<http://www.unitar.org>

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