



Covid-19



UCLG AFRICA
United Cities and Local Governments of Africa
Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis d'Afrique
CGLU AFRIQUE

WEBINARS

**OF UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENTS OF AFRICA
(UCLG AFRICA)**

Webinars

Online
Trainings

Virtual
Presentations

Online
Meetings

Virtual
Workshops



United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa)

Webinar for the National Associations of Local Authorities (NALAs)

Interaction between the Associations of Local and Regional Governments and the European Union (EU) Delegations in the framework of the programming process of the EU Cooperation (2021/2027) in Africa

In the framework of the Covid-19 Pandemic crisis, and the new context of financial cooperation with the EU and programming, UCLG-Africa has decided to launch a series of online activities to stay in touch with its Member's Network.

Webinar on **Thursday 7 May, 2020**

From 1:00pm to 3:00pm (Rabat, Morocco, Local Time)

3:00pm to 5:00 pm (Brussels Local Time).

Platform and connection via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87203452787?pwd=ZWxLM2dmUE4xODBEUDk5Y1o0S3BkUT09>

Meeting ID : 872 0345 2787

Password: 463657

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

Context : A new financial cooperation instrument (NDICI)

The EU has elaborated a new financial and cooperation instrument called Neighborhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI). This instrument, yet to be finally adopted, is meant to simplify the definition and implementation of EU cooperation, using a **unique financial framework** covering all EU external cooperation to replace the different and overlapping instruments developed over the years. This instrument, is funded by the EU Budget on a multiannual basis (2021/2027) and replaces the former European Development Fund previously financed by EU member states outside the EU annual budget.

Another **innovative character** of the NDICI is that the main focus and “center of gravity” of the future EU cooperation is its **geographic dimension** in order to improve the coherence and efficiency of EU cooperation. In this perspective the financial envelope dedicated to **Africa** (North African countries and Sub Saharan countries) will get the biggest share within the NDICI.

The 2021/2027 EU cooperation programming process : Role of the EU delegations

Together with the geographical focus of future EU cooperation, EU delegations established in all African countries will have the main role and responsibility in the programming of the EU cooperation at national level with the partner country (some delegations are also in charge of regional programming covering several states or allocated to regional economic communities, RECs).

The programming process has already started notably the *preprogramming process*, a new feature of the programming process, during which the delegation together with the headquarters, and particularly the External Action Service (EEAS) in charge of the political dimension of EU cooperation, define the key political objectives of EU cooperation in each country. The partner country is not associated in this preprogramming phase.

Whereas this preprogramming phase should be finished by June 2020, the programming phase, in consultation with all national actors, should normally start in June/July 2020 and be finished by October 2020.

Recognition of the role and responsibility of Local and Regional Governments in EU cooperation

LAs have been considered generally as non-state actors since the entry into force of the Cotonou agreement. The strong advocacy made since then notably by UCLG Africa has gradually led to the recognition of local and regional government as state actors in their own rights. This major step appears clearly in the 2013 EU Communication on “Empowering local authorities in partner countries for enhanced governance and more effective development outcomes”, but this Communication has not yet been operational in the EU cooperation instruments. Indeed, the NDCI instrument does not state clearly that LAs should be considered as states actors, but one article 11.1 implicitly recognizes it¹.

¹ NDICI Article 11.1: Actions shall be based, to the extent possible, on early and continuous dialogue between the Union, the member states and partner countries concerned, including national and local authorities, involving civil society, national and local parliaments and other stakeholders, in order to enhance ownership of the process and to encourage support for national and regional strategies.

The Memorandum on “**Time for a more ambitious political partnership between the European Union and Cities/Local and Regional Governments in the external action of the Union**” prepared by UCLGAfrica (see document N° 1 attached) with its partners and sent end of 2019 to the new leadership of the European commission, represents today the **state of the art** regarding the role and responsibility of local and regional governments of partner countries in the EU cooperation and the way to improve this role. This document should serve NALAS and their members as the reference document in any dialogue with the delegations or with the national governments.

Programming guidelines for Local and Regional Governments

To complement this Memorandum, UCLG Africa considers that the time has come to **take the opportunity of the programming process to explicitly present operational guidelines** to mainstream and integrate fully local authorities in the EU cooperation both at programming level and implementation level. The guidelines to be presented at the webinar for the use of the National associations and their members, present concrete and operational innovative modalities to mobilize and engage fully the **LAs as developmental actors** alongside national governments in their dialogue and consultations with the EU delegations (see document N°2 attached).

These guidelines present both the strategic axes for LAs engagements and concrete and **innovative** modalities for supporting local governments to take their full role as developmental actors both in localizing public policies and programs, and implementing a territorial approach to local development (TALD).

These guidelines will be sent to the Commission services presently in charge of finalizing the general guidelines for programming.

Dialogue and interaction with EU delegations

In the past year UCLG Africa noticed that numerous national associations of local and regional governments of African countries have encountered difficulties in dialoguing with the EU delegations. This has led unfortunately to low consumption of the EU budget lines earmarked for local authorities. Today these budget lines have disappeared (together with specific focal point in the EU delegations) following the special attention given to the geographic dimension of the NDIC.

This is why it is all the more critical that national associations of local and regional governments be fully aware of their new role in the consultation process to be held during the coming programming phase. This process of consultation should take place **concurrently with the dialogue with the national governments and NOT in the framework of consultations with the non-state actors (NSA)**. This should be a key **innovative feature** of the dialogue with EU delegations. UCLG Africa is ready to be fully engaged in supporting national associations in this new role and capacity. (A letter template could be prepared for the associations which have not yet regular contacts with the EU delegation).

Elaboration of a strategic road maps for LAs involvement in EU cooperation

Together with the dialogue, the EU Commission has proposed to voluntary EU delegations to work on the elaboration of a roadmap for an enhanced participation of LAs in the EU cooperation, aiming to identify strategic priority areas of interventions. The Local authorities (LAs) roadmaps has been so far elaborated in Mali and Chad. UCLG Africa supports the elaboration of LAs roadmaps in each African country to allow a better and continuous interaction between the EU delegation resulting in agreed strategic priorities.

Agenda

- 1. Welcoming and Introduction, by Mr Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, Secretary General of UCLG-Africa.**
- 2. Speakers:**
 - The new financial cooperation instrument (NDICI) and the foreseen agenda for the programming exercise, by Ms Claire Mandouze, Special Advisor to the Secretary General of UCLG-Africa.
(10 minutes).
 - Strategic guidelines for mainstreaming Local and Regional Governments in the EU cooperation, by Mr Jean Bossuyt, Expert.
(20 minutes).
 - Mainstreaming local authorities in the EU cooperation agenda; key strategic entry points and strategic priorities, by Mr Jorge Rodriguez, Expert
 - Territorialisation /localization of public policies.
 - Territorial approach to local development (TALD).
(20 minutes)
- 3. Questions and Answers**
Mr Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, Facilitator
(30 minutes exchange).
- 4. Agreeing on a Roadmap for Collective Action**
Mr Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, facilitator.
(30 minutes)
- 5. Any other business**
Wrap up of the Webinar
(10 minutes)