



Press release – 13 May 2008

A new programme will look at key global challenges faced by the European development co-operation

Over the next decade, Europe's development policies will have to act on a combination of old and new domestic issues and substantial changes in the global landscape. Change in Europe's internal architecture – with implications for development policy – takes place in times of wide-ranging global shifts, and at a time when questions of European identity loom large in national debates. A key question is: How will the EU, how will "Brussels" and the member states collaborate and tackle common problems? Global challenges include three increasingly important issues facing EU's development policy agenda



Project funded under the Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities theme

The emergence of new substantial actors in international development

Project associate dealing with this issue, Sven Grimm (German Development Institute, DIE), points out:

"There is increased evidence that developing countries will have more power in global governance, be it via increasing foreign direct investment, their weight in the international financial system or their increasing importance in regional and global security as well as in international organizations by virtue of sheer size and international connectedness...What effects will emerging actors such as China, India and Brazil have on European thinking about aid instruments, modalities and organization of the European aid system?"

The linkage between energy security, democracy and development

Richard Youngs (Fundación para las Relaciones Internacionales y el Diálogo Exterior, FRIDE), project associate working on Energy security said:

"European Union policy commitments formally state that the EU's approach to energy security will increasingly be based on efforts to improve governance standards in producer states and on the recognition that security requires more effective development co-operation...Is the EU striking the right balance between the 'access to energy' of poor communities, on the one hand, and its own supply concerns, on the other hand?"

The impact of climate change on development

Leo Peskett (Overseas Development Institute, ODI), project associate conducting research on climate change, stressed:

“Climate change is now high on the European policy agenda. Much of the effort is domestically focussed, for example dealing with emissions from European countries through setting greenhouse gas targets and getting the EU emissions trading system to work. But climate change issues are working their way into European development policies...What might climate change mean for current and future policies in areas such as agriculture, trade, disasters and risk reduction and humanitarian assistance?”

What will EDC2020 provide?

Public and policy-making debates need to be informed about future options and their likely effects; and decisions need to be based on good research and sound evidence. EDC2020 seeks “to improve EU policy-makers’ and other societal actors’ shared understanding of the above named emerging challenges facing EU development policy and external action.” To this aim, EDC2020 will provide policy-oriented publications, a shared project website and high-level European policy forums.

The three-year project EDC2020 is funded by the 7th Framework Programme of the European Union. Co-ordinated by EADI (European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes), the EDC2020 is a consortium project of 5 development organizations: Overseas Development Institute (ODI), Institute of Development Studies (IDS), German Development Institute (DIE), Fundación para las Relaciones Internacionales y el Diálogo Exterior (FRIDE), Society for International Development (SID)

The kick-off conference of the project will take place on **2 June 2008, in Brussels**.

More information about our the EDC2020 project can be found at www.edc2020.eu

(END)

Contact:

Charlotta Heck (heck(AT)eadi.org)

European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes
Association Européenne des Instituts de Recherche et de Formation en Matière de Développement
Kaiser Friedrich Strasse 11
53113 Bonn, Germany

Tel: (+49) 228 261 89 68

Fax: (+49) 228 261 81 03