

Energy Security, Democracy and Development

The EDC2020 project found that EU development and energy policy urgently need coordinating. At present they often work at odds to each other. This will be a major issue in future years, where the EU needs to reform its policies to make a major impact.

On the basis of the analysis of three regions, namely sub-Saharan Africa, Central Asia and the Middle East, the following conclusions are important for energy security, democracy and political development:

- **Energy security and development are more inter-linked in Africa** than in other energy producer regions. 'Energy poverty' seems to be an essential component of EU development policy. The governance efforts in the Niger Delta provide perhaps the best example of this link being made in practice. On the other hand, EU development action in the Middle East, Russia and to a certain extent in Central Asia seems to focus on energy mainly for geopolitical reasons.
 - **Democratic governance does not appear as a main driver for EU developing policy in many producer states** that remain authoritarian and marred by deep internal poverty. This has been observed not only in Russia and the Middle East but also in Central Asia and Africa (e.g. Angola, Sudan, Chad).
 - **A tight linkage between development and energy security should be applied in all contexts.** While the MENA region enjoys increasing energy wealth it also suffers from growing inequality and pockets
- of absolute poverty. Central Asia has increasingly witnessed instability and conflicts, some of which are energy-rooted, and no improvement in human rights standards. It is a mistake for Europe to see energy imperatives as only geopolitical rather than developmental and governance-related in nature.
- **The shift has to be made from focusing on the 'hardware' (pipelines, contracts etc) to focus on the 'software' (the good governance of energy resources) of energy security.** The EU needs to develop a truly inclusive approach that incorporates national policies of all member states, which remain the main actors in European energy security policy, and the actions of European multinationals into a more governance-oriented policy.
 - **The Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative's (EITI) potential should be better explored.** Steps should be taken to ensure the objectivity and independence of the EITI. Economic diversification and better public financial management should be encouraged. Finally, the EU and OECD member states must demonstrate greater commitment to the EITI.

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FRIDE is leading the EDC 2020 Energy Security work package. The views expressed in this publication are the sole responsibility of the project team and do not necessarily reflect views of the European Commission.

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