

EU support to democratic governance: a changing context

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Effectiveness

- **EU support to democratic governance: a changing context**

- On an international level: **post-Busan** context (commitment to strengthen development effectiveness), **post-2015 agenda / MDGS** (eradication of poverty – but also taking into account that there can be no sustainable development if no security)
- On a regional level: Arab Spring = changing political situation in the region and increased role of the civil society (youth).
- On an EU level: EU commitments

EU as a whole (Member States plus Commission-managed funds): the most generous donor of official development aid worldwide / **more than 50% of global aid** (in 2010, it provided €53.8 billion). The European Commission is responsible for the management of €11 billion of aid per year, putting it in second place among donors globally.

=> Official Development Assistance (ODA)

=> The main tool of the MDG effort

=> The EU and its Member States provide more than half of global ODA and remain committed to the 0.7% GNI commitment. Challenge: how to make all aid [and development] more effective.

Agenda for change (EU development policy): 12-point Agenda– endorsed in 2012 by the EU development ministers. EU assistance should focus on two priority areas:

1. Human rights, democracy and other key elements of good governance.
2. Inclusive and sustainable growth for human development (a greater focus on investing in drivers for inclusive and sustainable economic growth, providing the backbone of **efforts to reduce poverty**) + tackling the challenges of security, fragility and transition).

A major priority for the EU: will be also to enhance **mutual accountability and transparency** in the use of our development resources.

With ODA shrinking as a proportion of national resources (difficult economic and budgetary times), the rise of emerging donors and increased private sector investment in partner countries: **EU Joint Programming**. Better coordination and sharing of responsibilities (**division of labour at sector's level**) increases EU's reach. Concentration on a maximum of 3 sectors. A lot of efforts are also devoted to ensuring better predictability of EU funds.

New European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) 2014-2020 – greater flexibility – respond to unforeseen challenges.

- **EU support to democratic governance in Palestine: one of our main priority areas of cooperation**

Objective: Palestinian state based on RoL, respect for HR within a functioning democracy and accountable institutions at all levels.

Reflected in the **EU-PA Joint Action Plan** and in the **EU Local Development Strategy** (EU/MS division of labour – reduce aid fragmentation and increase coordination in order to progressively develop an EU joint analysis and response to Palestinian's national development strategy and needs).

EU-PA Joint Action Plan (JAP): the PA = 1st partner to have a JAP reflecting **the new response to a changing neighbourhood** based notably on **a shared commitment to universal values and democracy**. Serves as an agreed blueprint for partnership and reform.

Until now: support to **PA's state-building efforts** (RoL sector) – **as a concrete translation of EU's long standing commitment to a two-state solution** and to the peace process + CS

2014-2015: new programming document 'Single Support Framework' (SSF) – **shift**: from an institutional to a **more rights-based approach** (state-building)/institution-building process). Mainstreaming of civil society (partners). EU know-how (capitalisation of previous and ongoing support and added-value) + EU/MS division of labour.

Three focal sectors: 1. Governance at national and local levels (including Rule of Law (RoL) and democratic governance); 2. Private sector and economic development; and 3. Water and land development.

1. Governance at national and local levels (1st Focal Sector)

The **focus on RoL** emerged as a strategic priority based on the political weight of the reforms (**a pillar for a democratic and modern state**), impact (considering that well-functioning justice and security systems are the basis for prevention, management and conflict resolution).

In recent years there has been a slow-down in the pace of democratic development with lack of political legitimacy, national electoral processes stalled, and little progress as regards democratic accountability and oversight. Palestine is in need of renewed efforts to develop robust democratic institutions and to reinforce the ways in which citizens and civil society actors can participate in public decision-making.

The EU will continue to support the institution-building efforts of the PA, however with additional focus on delineating mandates and authorities of the various RoL, increased support to accountability and oversight, increased support to Palestinian independent institutions and further promotion of local governance and strengthening capacities of civil society and local administrations for planning and service delivery.

Actions in support of civil society through bilateral cooperation will be mainstreamed under this focal sector and complemented by the support provided by the EIDHR-CBSS and the thematic civil society programme.

The choice of sectors of intervention for 2014-2015 is currently been discussed with the PA, civil society and the donors (participatory approach).

- Main challenges (undermining a strategy for future support to governance and sustainable development): **1.** Occupation (Palestinian assistance – dealing with Palestinian partners); **2.** Slowing down of the political/democratic process in Palestine context (no national elections, no PLC, etc.); lack of political legitimacy; **3.** Fragmentation of the territory (WB/Area C – EJ – Gaza [challenges: e.g. how to support democratic governance in Gaza?]); **4.** Challenges related to the PA (absorption capacity, delays *PNDP 2014-2016* and fiscal crisis); **5.** Donors' *fatigue*; etc.