

## BEST PRACTICES IN DECENTRALISATION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

### → Best practices sheet

Please send the duly completed form to the Secretariat of the DAL Committee, which remains at your disposal for any questions or comments.  
E-mail: [dal.cglu@diba.cat](mailto:dal.cglu@diba.cat)

#### Best practices in Decentralisation and Local Governance sheet

**Title: DeLoG: Development Partners Working Group on Decentralisation and Local Governance**

**Promoting organisation: GIZ**

**Territorial sphere: international**

**Subject area:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Politics/ Law</b>       | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Environment and sustainability</b>               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Economics/ Taxation</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Capacity building / administrative structure</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Basic services</b>      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Multilevel dialogues</b>              |

**Start date: 2006**

**End date: ongoing**

**Summary of the initiative:**

Founded in 2006, DeLoG is an informal network of bi- and multilateral development partners. The working group emerged from a growing awareness that more alignment and harmonisation is needed if support to decentralisation and local governance is to become more effective. Its work is facilitated by a Secretariat hosted by GIZ based in Bonn. The cooperation takes the form of:

- Sharing and disseminating knowledge through a website and newsletters;
- Conducting studies on issues of crucial importance for the improvement of development effectiveness in the area of decentralisation and local governance (DLG);
- Generating evidence-based advocacy for DLG in the international development debate;
- Contributing to the design of joint development partner support strategies ;
- Conducting and facilitating joint training for more effective support to DLG.

**Relevance of the initiative with regard to the local and national context** (economic, political, social, administrative, organisational context):

Expectations connected to decentralisation reforms include improving basic service delivery, increasing citizen participation and voice in local decision-making as well as local economic development through economic policies adjusted to local conditions. DeLoG propose through its work to get some these expectations than in the past, have not always been fulfilled.

**Objectives:**

In order to fully unlock the potential of decentralisation and local governance with regards to tackling developmental challenges. DeLoG defined strategic lines for 2012/2013 consisting of increasing effective development partners (DP) support to DLG and of positioning the topic in the aid effectiveness and post MDG agendas promoting the cooperation between development partners (DP) in that particular area. Better harmonised and coordinated interventions are expected to improve development effectiveness in the field of DLG and are in line with international agreements on aid effectiveness.

**Parties involved, distribution of responsibilities and coordination mechanisms:**

The main actors and partners of the DeLoG Secretariat are the bilateral and multilateral members of the working group itself (for a full list of members, please visit [www.delog.org](http://www.delog.org)). In addition, DeLoG also is part of [learn4dev](http://www.learn4dev.net) ([www.learn4dev.net](http://www.learn4dev.net)), a DP capacity development network that seeks to harmonise and improve the development effectiveness of capacity development approaches. Main strategic partners are UCLG (the Global Local Government Network), CLGF (Commonwealth Local Government Forum), the New York University and the Urban Institute.

**Impacts** (on public policy, on political culture or on social cohesion):

Concrete activities conducted in the second half of 2012 therefore included a workshop for development

partner staff on aid effectiveness and decentralisation in Switzerland as well as an in-country workshop in Benin that brought together all relevant actors in the Beninese decentralisation process to discuss successes, bottlenecks and the way forward. DeLoG also supported research on the possible role of local governance in a post MDG framework and hosted a special session on "MDGs and the Post-2015 Agenda: Development Partners' Support to Local Governments" at the 6thAfricitésSummit in Dakar (Senegal) in December.

**Transferability:** Yes, this practice can be replicated in a different context

**Assessment (comments and lessons learned):**

Decentralisation and local governance (DLG) reforms are highly political processes. They involve different government levels and a multitude of actors with different interests and incentives. In order to fully unlock the potential of DLG reforms, these political economy dynamics need to be taken into account. An appropriate legal and institutional framework needs to be established and must be embedded coherently in a wider public sector reform process. They also need to provide lower tiers of government with adequate financial resources, ideally through intergovernmental transfers and access to meaningful local sources of revenue. Development partners need to take all of these aspects into account when providing support for DLG. Thus, the exchange of experiences and the coordination of different activities to support these DLG reforms have proven to be invaluable.

**Additional documentation (a place to attach documents and web links that complement the sheet description):**

**Basic information on the promoting organisation (local or regional government, association of municipalities or the ministry that has led the process)**

**Name of sponsoring institution:** GIZ

**Municipality/ Province:** Bonn

**Country:** Germany

**More information:** [dal.cglu@diba.cat](mailto:dal.cglu@diba.cat)