

DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS & THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

INTRODUCTION

This factsheet offers a brief presentation on the evolution of the global discussions on development effectiveness, the role of civil society in making aid more effective, the activity of CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness – CPDE, the engagement of the Black Sea NGO Forum in this topic, as well as offers arguments for civil society organisations in favour of becoming involved in the discussions on development effectiveness at national level.

THE ROAD TO MAKING AID MORE EFFECTIVE

Although international development cooperation has contributed to a significant extent to advancing global development and reducing extreme poverty, over the time, several factors have hindered this process - insufficient coordination, overly ambitious targets, unrealistic time and budget constraints and national interests prevailing over global objectives, all of them preventing aid from having the expected impact.

Therefore, in an attempt to **increase aid and maximize the results of development efforts**, donor and partner countries as well as bilateral and multilateral development institutions gathered in [four high level fora](#) in Rome (2003), Paris (2005), Accra (2008) and Busan (2011) to discuss and formulate a set of principles dedicated to aid effectiveness.

This process culminated in the endorsement of the [Busan Partnership Agreement](#) in 2012 by 100 countries – a reference document for aid effectiveness that:

- 1) Set out **common principles essential to making development cooperation effective**;
- 2) Established a series of **concrete actions** to speed up the implementation of the commitments made at the previous high level fora;
- 3) Recognized the importance of other sources of **financing for development**;
- 4) Elaborated a [monitoring framework](#) at global and country level in order to be able to track the progress made towards achieving the development effectiveness commitments.

BUSAN PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT Aid Effectiveness Principles



#1 Ownership
of development priorities
by developing countries



#2 Results
A focus on
Development efforts should have
at its centre sustainable impact



#3 Partnerships for development
Development depends on the
participation of all actors



#4 Transparency & Shared Responsibility
Development cooperation should be
transparent and accountable to all
citizens

Source:
<http://www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/Busan%20partnership.pdf>

But even more importantly, the **Busan Partnership Agreement recognized civil society as an equal partner in development**. Therefore, indicator 2 of the 10 indicators set out in the Global Monitoring Framework that assesses progress towards the aid effectiveness commitments refers to ensuring an enabling environment for civil society organisations: “Civil society operates within an environment which maximizes its engagement in and contribution to development”.

From a technical point of view, the countries present at the 4th High Level Forum in Busan agreed to a series of **concrete measures** to accelerate the implementation of aid effectiveness commitments which refer to:

- Using results frameworks and country-led coordination arrangements;
- Untie aid;
- Approve a common standard for the electronic reporting of development cooperation data;
- Prevent the proliferation and overlapping of global programmes and funds;
- Provide partner countries with regular, timely, indicative three-to-five-year forward expenditure plans;
- Increase the support given to national governments and parliaments etc.

untied aid
enabling civil society
partnerships for development
transparency
results
common standards
responsibility
ownership
avoid overlapping programmes

For the implementation of all commitments agreed upon in Busan, the **Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC)** was created. GPEDC is an inclusive political forum bringing together governments, bilateral and multilateral organisations, civil society and representatives from parliaments and the private sector, committed to strengthening the effectiveness of development co-operation to produce maximum impact for development. It promotes inclusive partnerships, monitoring of progress in development effectiveness, innovation in implementation, the production and use of data derived from national systems, country dialogue, structured learning, knowledge sharing, and mutual accountability.

INVOLVEMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS

The involvement of civil society in the development effectiveness agenda begun in 2007 when a CSO Steering Group was created as a formal counterpart to the Development Effectiveness Working Group of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), later known as the **Better Aid Coalition**.

Civil society assumed a more important role after the 3rd High Level Forum held in Accra (2008) when CSOs all over the world became more engaged in advocating for development effectiveness. Also, the donor community challenged CSOs to also act as responsible actors and assume a set of principles in this sense. In order to address this issue, the **Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness** was established.

At the first General Assembly of the Open Forum (2010, Istanbul) an important document was adopted - the **Istanbul CSO Development Effectiveness Principles** – which should guide the activity of CSOs working in international development, in both peaceful and conflict situations, in various areas of work ranging from grassroots to advocacy activities, in humanitarian aid, as well as long-term development programmes.



1. RESPECT AND PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE



2. EMBODY GENDER EQUALITY AND EQUITY WHILE PROMOTING WOMEN AND GIRLS' RIGHTS



3. FOCUS ON PEOPLE'S EMPOWERMENT, DEMOCRATIC OWNERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION



4. PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



5. PRACTICE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY



6. PURSUE EQUITABLE INTERDEPENDENCIES AND SOLIDARITY



7. CREATE AND SHARE KNOWLEDGE AND COMMIT TO MUTUAL LEARNING



8. COMMIT TO REALIZING POSITIVE SUSTAINABLE CHANGE

1. Respect and promote human rights and social justice;
2. Embody gender equality and equity while promoting women and girls' rights;
3. Focus on people's empowerment, democratic ownership and participation;
4. Promote Environmental Sustainability;

5. Practice transparency and accountability;
6. Pursue equitable partnerships and solidarity;
7. Create and share knowledge and commit to mutual learning;
8. Commit to realizing positive sustainable change.

The above mentioned principles were integrated in a broader [International Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness](#) at the next General Assembly held in 2011, in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Besides the Istanbul Principles, this framework also includes strengthening mechanisms for CSO accountability and conditions that should be implemented by governments in order to ensure an enabling environment for civil society organisations to carry out their work in the field of development effectiveness. Both the Istanbul Principles and the International Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness were officially recognized in the Busan Partnership Agreement.

Civil society was also represented at the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan by the Better Aid Coalition, focusing on policy recommendations for the outcome document of this forum. Given the official recognition of the importance of civil society in development and therefore the inclusion of civil society as an independent actor in the global negotiations, **the Better Aid Coalition and the Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness merged into a single, representative, global CSO platform dedicated to development effectiveness – The CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness – CPDE.**

CSO PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS (CPDE)

[The CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness – CPDE](#) is an open platform that unites civil society voices from around the world on the issue of development effectiveness. CPDE is the official CSO platform engaging in GPEDC.


 CSOPartnership
for Development Effectiveness

CPDE's mission is to promote development effectiveness in all areas of work, both its own and the work of others, including through active engagement with the GPEDC. To achieve this, CPDE adheres to the Istanbul Principles and respects the following values: mutual respect, equity and gender equality; accountability to members and peers; and transparency in all decision-making processes and actions. In its work, CPDE is guided by a human rights based approach.

CPDE's objectives are:

- To pursue and advocate for a transformative agenda for development and development cooperation;
- To protect and deepen policy gains made in Paris, Accra and Busan, and reverse any of the harmful provisions that continue to guide those three agendas;
- To continue to advocate for development effectiveness in development cooperation policy and practice, in particular as it relates to the accountability of governments to the broader development effectiveness agenda;
- To continuously work to improve its own effectiveness and the realisation of an enabling environment for civil society as independent development actors in their own right.

In order to develop a strong basis for CSO participation, **CPDE works with national, sub-regional, regional, and sectorial civil society**, and delivers coordinated regional and global work on development effectiveness.

In terms governance structure, CPDE is composed of:

- The Global Council which acts as a General Assembly – each year it gathers members representing the regions where CPDE is present and the different sectors (NGOs, trade unions, faith-based organizations, feminist organizations etc) plus 4 co-chairs elected independently.
- The Coordination Committee (20/22 members delegated by the Global Council);
- The Working/ Reference groups;
- The Independent Accountability Committee (IAC) that ensures the observance of the Istanbul principles in CPDE's work;
- The Global Secretariat.

CSOs from all over the world are represented in CPDE through **the regional and sub-regional representatives** elected once every 2 years at the Regional / Sub-regional Meetings.

The European Region is divided into 2 sub-regions: the EU sub-region and the non-EU sub-region comprising the Black Sea Region & the Balkans.

THE BLACK SEA NGO FORUM



Since 2013, [the Romanian NGO Platform - FOND](#) developed a **partnership with the CPDE** which aims to bring the regional discussions of the [Black Sea NGO Forum](#) in the broader global context of development and make the voices of civil society organisations in the

Black Sea Region and the Balkans heard in the development effectiveness discussions and decisions.

Since 2015, the **Romanian NGO Platform – FOND holds the secretariat for the European Region** within CPDE and is **the focal point for the Non-EU Black Sea and the Balkans sub-region**.

In order to support development effectiveness in the region, the Black Sea NGO Forum:

- Holds each year a special session dedicated to development effectiveness and provides a space for organising the European Regional Meeting every two years;
- Holds every two years the election of the Non-EU Black Sea & Balkans Sub-regional Representative. This position is currently held by Ms. Antonia Fonari, the President of the National Council of NGOs in the Republic of Moldova, elected following the VIIIth edition of the Black Sea NGO Forum (2nd-3rd of November 2015, Tbilisi, Georgia).
- Coordinates with the CPDE Global Secretariat and the sub-regional representative to promote development effectiveness in the Black Sea & Balkans sub-region and ensure the adequate information and engagement of CSOs here in global development discussions.

Moreover, since 2014, given the developments in the Black Sea Region leading to a more and more restricted space of civil society organisations, the Black Sea NGO Forum brought the topic of enabling environment for civil society organisations (CSOs) in the region in focus.

Therefore, at the VIIth edition of the Black Sea NGO Forum (8th-10th of December 2014, Kyiv, Ukraine), a [regional consultation](#) was organised in which CSOs present identified **the needs and challenges for having an enabling environment in which civil society carries out its activity at national & regional level**.

As a follow-up activity, in 2015 FOND supported the development of a research on enabling environment for CSOs in 8 countries from the Black Sea Region – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Turkey and Russia.

[The Report Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development in the Black Sea Region](#) analyses aspects related to human rights and freedoms (especially the freedom of speech and assembly), the legislative framework that ensures the viability and sustainability of CSOs, the possibility of CSOs to influence public policies and the relationship between CSOs and donors.

One of the conclusions of the report, based on the responses of questioned and interviewed CSO representatives from the Black Sea Region, was that enabling environment for civil society should become a priority for civil society cooperation at the Black Sea. Following this recommendation, **enabling environment for civil society organisations was included in the Strategic Framework for Civil Society Cooperation in the Black Sea Region** – a document finalised at the 2015 edition of the Forum.

More information regarding CPDE's work in the Black Sea & Balkans sub-region, please visit the CPDE section on the Black Sea NGO Forum website: www.blackseango.org.



WHY BECOME INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS DISCUSSIONS?

As a civil society organisation, by being actively involved in promoting and advocating for development effectiveness, you would work towards:

- 1. Ensuring an enabling environment for civil society organisations in your country;
- 2. Making aid more transparent, accountable and predictable;
- 3. Making sure that the development priorities set out at global level and, consequently, the priorities of donors are in line with the development needs in your country;
- 4. Advocating for a greater coordination of development programmes and funds in your country;
- 5. Promoting partnerships for development instead of the duplication of efforts;
- 6. Ensuring the participation of all citizens in development discussions & decisions, particularly vulnerable groups.

USEFUL RESOURCES

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), "The High Level Fora on Aid Effectiveness: A history":

<http://www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/thehighlevelforaonaideffectivenessahistory.htm>

The Busan Partnership Agreement – In Brief: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/49650173.pdf>

The Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (full document):

<http://www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/Busan%20partnership.pdf>

The Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation: <http://effectivecooperation.org/>

The Monitoring Framework of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation:

<http://effectivecooperation.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/GPEDC-Monitoring-Framework-10-Indicators.pdf>

The International Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness:

http://cso-effectiveness.org/IMG/pdf/international_framework_open_forum.pdf

The Istanbul Principles CSO Development Effectiveness Principles:

http://cso-effectiveness.org/IMG/pdf/final_istanbul_cso_development_effectiveness_principles_footnote_december_2010-2.pdf

CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness – CPDE: <http://csopartnership.org/>

The Romanian NGDO Platform – FOND: www.fondromania.org

Black Sea NGO Forum: www.blackseango.org

Cover Report Black Sea NGO Forum 2014: <http://www.blackseango.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Cover-report-Black-Sea-NGO-Forum-20141.pdf>

Report on Enabling Environment on the Civil Society Development in the Black Sea Region:

http://www.blackseango.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Report-Enabling-Environment-for-CSOs-in-the-Black-Sea-Region_final.pdf