

A snapshot of our work in 2008/09



Faced with multiple crises, all of which impact negatively to the ACP and other developing countries, ECDPM is finding ways, within its capacities to address a number of key issues, including the relevance and revision of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, the trade policy options available to ACP countries and regions, and the need for the European Union to align with and build on local and national initiatives in partner countries.

- Lington L. Cumberbatch, ECDPM Board Chairperson

Lessons from development cooperation for a new global age

2009 promises to be a watershed year for international development cooperation. Ongoing negotiations to draw up a more effective international mechanism to combat climate change will conclude in Copenhagen in December. Meanwhile, economic stability remains high on the agenda for most governments as they continue to respond to the unfolding financial crisis and the food, energy, and related shocks that hit both rich and poor nations in 2008.

A unifying theme across all these efforts has been the growing recognition that the global governance architecture requires fundamental reform. The convening of the first-ever G20 meeting on the financial crisis in November 2008 sent a clear message that global problems can no longer be tackled by just a handful of rich countries.

It is precisely at this juxtaposition of global politics and policy substance that development cooperation offers unique insights to take the debate forward. From a narrow focus on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), international development dialogue has increasingly taken on board emerging critical issues of global concern, including international trade, security, governance and migration, climate change, food and energy security, and global finance. One could argue that international development cooperation has come of age and is now well placed to use its leverage in the search for innovative and inclusive solutions to address today's global challenges.

The ongoing review of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, due to be completed in 2010, provides a good case in point. A key principle at the heart of the negotiations is the understanding that development goals can be effectively pursued only if trade, governance and security policies are closely aligned to development objectives, or at the very least do not work against them. Having laid the foundation for better integration of these policies, including through closer collaboration between key actors across these policy areas, the Cotonou Agreement could provide a concrete example of how to reform international relations in a changing global context.

Similarly, the point of departure for the ambitious Joint Africa-EU Strategy is the recognition that effective development cooperation needs to address the interlinkages between the poverty reduction goals of the MDG framework and a range of related global concerns. The Joint Strategy sets out a framework for such a transformation through eight partnerships: on peace and security; democratic governance and human rights; trade and regional integration; the Millennium Development Goals; energy; climate change; migration, mobility and employment; and science, the information society and space.

Specific insights are emerging from such initiatives that can enrich development-oriented international cooperation:

- the need to establish adequate mechanisms for broad-based consultation with local, national and regional stakeholders to determine the intended results of cooperation;
- the importance of enhanced mutual accountability of both donor countries and their development partners;
- the requirement of improved harmonisation of international development financing and other bilateral and multilateral funding mechanisms;
- the need to set standards to enhance the development orientation of policies outside of development cooperation as strictly defined, e.g. policies regarding security and trade.

The 2008 Annual Report details ECDPM's contribution to this international dialogue. The Centre has continued to provide much-needed analytical input and facilitation support on issues such as the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations, aid for trade, policy coherence for development, aid effectiveness, and the 2010 revision of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement. Centre staff provided tailored advice, research and up-to-date information support to the ACP Secretariat, the ACP Ambassadors, the African Union Commission and the AU delegation in Brussels, the EU Slovenian and French presidencies and the European Commission.

To download the Annual Report 2008, visit: www.ecdpm.org/aro8

ECDPM AT A GLANCE

WHO WE ARE

ECDPM was established as an independent foundation in 1986 to facilitate international cooperation between developed and developing countries, with a particular focus on relations between the European Union and its partner countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP). ECDPM works to reduce asymmetries in knowledge, power and resources between developed and developing countries by reinforcing the capacities of public, private and non-profit organisations to better manage their development policies and international cooperation.

HOW WE WORK

ECDPM applies three complementary capacity-strengthening strategies in its work:

- Direct facilitation support for key development policy processes. This includes multi-actor dialogue, consultation, and strategic networking and advisory services in support of our international and regional institutional partners.
- Strategic research, knowledge management, networking and information services to bolster these policy processes, consisting of such activities as policy-oriented research and benchmarking; promoting the sharing and use of pertinent knowledge and information by key policy actors; and independent monitoring and evaluation.
- Strategic partnerships to support institutional development by key policy actors in developing countries. This includes supporting the institutional development of developing country policy actors and networks; participating in and, where necessary, helping to create strategic policy networks, platforms and alliances between North and South; and participating in collaborative monitoring and evaluation of the outcomes and impacts of institutional development.

Programme Highlights

Supporting a strengthened development architecture

In 2008, ECDPM contributed to various multi-actor initiatives to enhance synergies and policy coherence in international development cooperation. Following the adoption of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy in Lisbon in December 2007, ECDPM focused major effort on supporting the key players in defining an institutional architecture for implementing the ambitious plan. Emphasising treating Africa as one and concrete activities in eight thematic “partnerships”, the Joint Strategy aims to go beyond a relationship based on aid to respond to trends in globalisation and Africa’s re-emergence on the world stage. To enhance clarity and help build an enabling environment for the next phase in the dialogue on these issues, ECDPM was invited by both the European Union and the African Union to facilitate a public consultation process on the strategy. One of ECDPM’s early contributions was a seminar at which some fifty European civil society organisation (CSO) representatives agreed to create a steering group to follow the strategy implementation process.

The conclusion of the second phase of the *Whither EC Aid?* project – jointly implemented with ActionAid – further illustrates how ECDPM helps to foster rich insights among a wide stakeholder group. The project aimed to renew debate on European development cooperation with a focus on the European Commission and its added value as a development partner, the management of its aid, its accountability and its ability to stimulate ownership among its partners. More than 500 participants were involved directly in sixteen closing roundtables organised in seven EU Member States, three developing countries and at the European Commission.



Strengthening governance initiatives at various levels

At the local level, ECDPM continued to work closely with Laboratoire Citoyennetés (LC). This is a promising initiative in Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger that undertakes in-depth context analyses and encourages dialogue between actors – including local authorities, service deliverers and users. With LC, ECDPM facilitated a regional workshop to promote cross-fertilisation of local experiences from various country backgrounds. This helped LC in strategic planning while creating space for mutual learning and for linking action-oriented research with policy work. The workshop demonstrated how participatory research and dialogue can help foster a broadly-shared local change agenda and inform policy dialogue at higher levels.

ECDPM was also active at a more global level. Together with Particip (Germany) the Centre completed a worldwide evaluation of how, why and to what effect the European Commission had supported civil society organisations (CSOs). In addition to statistical analyses and a comprehensive desk study, the Centre undertook multiple workshops with key CSO actors in the EU as well as in the six developing countries where the Centre had done field work (Peru, Cambodia, Somalia, Georgia, Lebanon and Benin). The well-received study provided evidence of the multiple governance and other roles that CSOs play, as well as the extent to which EC policies and approaches to CSOs had been effective in promoting participatory development.



Bridging knowledge gaps in international trade talks

ECDPM continued to invest heavily in providing in-depth analyses on the EU-ACP Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations. Jointly with the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), it provided a seminal analysis of the first (interim) EPAs to come on stream, a study made possible by the financial support of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A core part of this activity was to inform and facilitate discussions among ACP policymakers and with their European partners. In parallel, ECDPM contributed to explore ways to address EPA development support measures in the broader context of “aid for trade” – a multilateral initiative to help developing countries adjust to a more liberalised global trade environment. In response to a request by the French EU Presidency, ECDPM documented the current state of affairs of the aid-for-trade agenda and accompanying measures for EPAs and ensured that the intricacies of the debates were shared with a broad policy audience in both developing countries and the European Union.

Efforts to strengthen the capacity of African actors continued, with the establishment and consolidation of the South-North Network, which brings together academic and policy institutions in Europe and Africa working on trade and development. The Centre also joined with the London School of Economics to lead a programme at the Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI) to prepare ESAMI trainees to deliver their own training programmes on trade and development.



CORE PROGRAMMES

ECDPM's work is organised around three thematic policy areas: development policy and international relations; trade and economic development; and governance. In each of these areas, we pay specific attention to policy processes that are critical for improved international cooperation.

The overall goal of the **Development Policy and International Relations Programme (DPIR)** is to promote effective development cooperation with a view to helping developing countries, particularly those in Africa, their governments and their institutions to derive maximum benefit from relations with the European Union. Special emphasis is on strengthening ownership and improving the capacity of developing countries to guide relations in line with their development priorities.

The **Economic and Trade Cooperation Programme (ETC)** contributes to the establishment of a trade regime that promotes sustainable development and the integration of developing countries, particularly in the ACP bloc, into the world economy. The programme operates in the context of the global debate on strategies for effective economic development, global trade liberalisation, the World Trade Organization's Doha Development Round and regional integration processes.

The **Governance Programme** supports home-grown governance initiatives in ACP countries and promotes more strategic support and effective linkages between developing countries and the European Union.

Providing overall support to the three programmes are units geared towards **knowledge management and communications, institutional relations and partnerships, policy innovation and finance and administration.**

STAFF AND BOARD

ECDPM employs 49 full-time equivalents. Our programme staff is made up of 27 staff members, six programme associates and four interns. The Centre employs more than 20 nationalities from Europe, North America and Africa. The ECDPM Board is composed of highly respected policymakers, practitioners and specialists from ACP countries as well as EU Member States.

Knowledge management and communication

A major step forward in implementing the ECDPM Strategy 2007–11 was the formulation of a broad knowledge and communication strategy built on extensive consultation and consensus across the Centre's programmes. A series of Centre-wide seminars was held, stimulating joint reflection among ECDPM staff on emerging issues and on continuing and finalised activities. The Centre also invested in improved presentation of its website and in information provision through electronic newsletters, and continued to polish corporate outreach and communications.

Some 70 research and policy papers were published by ECDPM and its partner organisations during the year and distributed through diverse policy

networks. Broader knowledge exchange and networking continued to be facilitated through the Pelican Initiative (www.dgroups.org/groups/pelican). Close to 500 members discussed a variety of topics, including impact evaluations of partnerships and multi-stakeholder platforms, capacities for monitoring and evaluation, capacity development and the new aid agenda. In collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme and the SNV Netherlands Development Organisation, ECDPM continued to publish the quarterly journal *Capacity.Org*, targeted primarily at practitioners. Also, *Trade Negotiations Insights* (TNI) was published 10 times in cooperation with the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD).



For further information or to subscribe to our (electronic) newsletters, visit www.ecdpm.org/infocentre
To order a hard copy of an ECDPM publication or the 2009 CD-ROM, e-mail info@ecdpm.org

Institutional Relations and Partnership Development

With a number of long-term funding agreements up for renewal in 2008, ECDPM's Institutional Relations and Partnership Development unit successfully renegotiated cooperation agreements with its partners in Belgium, Finland, Luxembourg, Ireland, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland. The unit further formalised and deepened Centre-wide relations with strategic and institutional partners in the South. Most of our partners regularly called upon ECDPM expertise for a range of services including in-house seminars and presentations, independent and targeted advice, written contributions and information, commentary and analysis on policy documents, and facilitation of informal contacts with ACP and AU partners.

ECDPM also invested in strengthening its partnership strategy, signing a memorandum of understanding with the new AU Commission and developing strategic partnerships with policy-oriented research institutes in both Europe and developing countries. Key partners include the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA); ActionAid; the Governance Institute, Dakar; the Institute for International Relations (IIR) at the University of the West Indies; the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), London; the Institute for Strategic and International Studies (IEEI), Lisbon; and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), Vienna.

Financial Report



THE PIE CHART ABOVE SHOWS THE ACTUAL RESULTS OF 2008. FOR 2009, THE CENTRE AIMS AT A 70/30 BALANCE IN UNRESTRICTED VERSUS MORE RESTRICTED FUNDING.

ECDPM's budget in 2008 drew on four main sources: core funding from its Dutch endowment fund; flexible, multi-annual institutional funding committed by a number of European governments; programme funding; and earmarked project funding.

The Centre has been successful in securing more predictable institutional funding over the past two years which has enhanced our independence and enabled us to focus on strategic, long-term policy and institutional engagement. The possibility of a funding slowdown due to the global economic downturn has led the Centre to now address this issue with even more vigour than in the past.

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