

Finance Working Group – a progress report

Presentation by Johan Holmberg
to the fourth meeting of the OECD
DAC/EPOC water task team,
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FWG progress

- Work since April has focused on launching WSS sector financing strategies in two African countries.
- Agreement has been reached with Lesotho, procurement of consultants has been completed, the contract was awarded to a Danish company, field work started in early October

FWG progress

- The other country was intended to be Mauritania which corresponded to established criteria and had expressed interest
- The coup in that country in August created a major problem since the new government is considered illegal by EU
- EU has initiated par. 96 consultations under the Cotonou agreement and all cooperation is suspended

FWG progress

- A decision has to be taken relatively soon on whether to await the outcome of EU's consultations or decide on another (French speaking) country
- There is little flexibility for other new initiatives within the current project

FWG progress

Meanwhile, proposals have been made for the development of the FWG after the current DFID/EC project comes to an end after 2009

FWG progress

They envisage that FWG would

- Support no further WSS financing strategies (since they can be funded bilaterally, if desired)
- focus on WSS and IWRM
- continue as part of the EUWI
- resume being a "working group"
- continue the partnership with OECD
- support innovative or experimental work

FWG progress

The following types of activities could be supported by FWG:

- Involvement in EUWI country dialogues
- Enhanced collaboration with AMCOW
- Training in finance for water practitioners
- Address issues in water pricing
- Promote solid cost analysis of IWRM
- Exchange experiences regarding innovative financing mechanisms

That was all!