



ROOM DOCUMENT 14

DAC Network on Development Evaluation

PRESENTATION OF THE TRIPLE C JOINT EU EVALUATION INITIATIVE

Item II: f

This document has been submitted by Sweden, as Chair of the 3C's evaluation steering group, for information at the DAC Network on Development Evaluation, 9 – 10 November 2004.



**2nd meeting
9 – 10 November 2004**

Presentation of the Triple C Joint EU Evaluation Initiative

Introduction

In the Maastricht treaty, which laid the legal foundation for the European Union, the member countries pledged to observe three principles in the area of development cooperation; Coordination, Complementarity, and Coherence.

In 2000, the EU heads of evaluation services in the area of development cooperation (EUHES) began a process of evaluation of the three Cs. On the one hand, focus was on whether these principles had been integrated into the actual operations of their respective agencies. Had the ambitions contained in the treaty been matched by actual achievements on the ground? On the other hand, they also wanted to try and assess what this had come to mean for the impact and effectiveness of development cooperation. Had implementation of these principles made a difference?

Preparatory Steps

At the beginning of the initiative four conceptual studies were commissioned, which dealt with each of the key concepts of complementarity, coherence, and co-ordination, as well as assessing the international legal environment in which they were supposed to function. These four studies were performed by a team under the leadership of Paul Hoebink of Nijmegen University, and are currently being re-published by the Dutch foreign ministry on behalf of the task force.

A first initiative to arrive at actual evaluations foundered in 2002 due to differences in understanding between the members of the task force, and the consultant chosen. After a period of reflection a workshop with policy-makers, aid programme managers and evaluators was organised in Brussels in February of 2003. Although the workshop did not provide a clear direction for the evaluation it confirmed that issues connected to the implementation of the 3 Cs held wide interest for both parties involved in policy and operational work. On the basis of a programme of studies suggested by European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM)ⁱ the EUHES decided to go ahead with the initiative at its meeting in June 2004.

Upcoming Evaluations

From an original list of 26 possible studies covering different aspects of European aid prepared by the ECDPM, a first wave of six studies were selected and are currently being launched as part of a two-year programme. While the evaluations differ somewhat in methodological approaches and focus according to the theme under study, the evaluations will employ common definitions of certain core concepts and share a common general focus in order to ensure comparability between the eventual results.

Concretely, the six first evaluations deal with:

- 1) Application of article 96 of the Cotonou agreement (i.e., a clause of conditionality).
- 2) Trade capacity building (TCB).
- 3) Humanitarian assistance.

- 4) Instruments for enhancing policy coherence among European member states and the commission.
- 5) Country Strategy Plans (CSP).
- 6) Support for local development planning.

Each of the evaluations will be conducted by a small group composed of a leading agency, partners, silent partners, along with those countries that only want to be kept posted on developments. The distribution of responsibilities is shown in the following table:

	1 Art 96	2 TCB	3 Hum. assistance	4 Instr. for policy coh.	5 CSP	6 Local development
AIDCO		L			P	
Belgium		cc.		P	P	P
ECHO			L			
France	P	P	SP	L		P
Germany				P	SP	cc.
Ireland			P		P	SP
Netherlands	L	SP		P		SP
Sweden			P		SP	L
U.K.	(S)P	P	P		L	

L = Leading agency

P = Partner

SP = Silent partner

cc = would like to be kept posted on developments.

A second wave of envisaged evaluations will target the areas of EU involvement in multilateral forums, coherence between trade liberalisation and fiscal reform, donor support to regional integration processes, and donor support to the private sector.

Process of evaluation

This is a joint undertaking of a rather particular kind. The first drafts of the terms of reference were drawn up by an external institute (the ECDPM). At the present stage of re-writing them, responsibility rests with the groups formed by the leading agencies and their partners, some five to six countries in most cases. Eventually, the actual evaluations will be performed by consultants who will be separately tendered for each evaluation, with the leading agencies and partners serving as supervisors. Overall responsibility and oversight will belong to the task force, however.

It has not yet been decided if and how the results from the studies shall be synthesised. Decisions in this regard will have to await the actual results of the evaluations. The first of them, presumably from the evaluation on trade capacity building, might be expected by the end of next year, but it will possibly take at least another year before any more general results are ready for dissemination.

Participants

The evaluation is managed by a task force which is open to all members of the EUHES. In practice, however, a core task force has emerged which brings together the aid evaluation units of Belgium, the European Commission (AIDCO and ECHO), France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Portugal, and the United Kingdom, with

Sweden currently holding the presidency. A secretariat for the task force is formed by AIDCO, Belgium, the Netherlands and Sweden. In terms of responsibility, the task force remains the main forum for discussion and steering of the process, with the secretariat taking a merely preparatory function. Meetings of the task forces are held with some regularity, three to four times per year.

In addition ECDPM is involved as a crucial facilitating agent in the process. Thus, it maintains the learning platform which is a fundamental part of the initiative, and will provide technical assistance to the various evaluations and to the task force.

¹ The ECDPM is an independent institute whose main task is the fostering of ties between the EU and the ACP countries.