

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration
 Directorate-General for Development Cooperation
 Luxembourg

Evaluation of the Implementation of the Paris Declaration: Case Study of Luxembourg

Synthesis Report

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Executive Summary

Luxembourg's participation in this first-phase evaluation of the Paris Declaration (PD) confirms the country's great interest in and commitment to the new principles of international development cooperation that were adopted in 2005 during Luxembourg's EU Presidency.

The data highlighted in the evaluation study were collected from the beginning of 2007 through studies, questionnaires and various seminars carried out at the cooperation's headquarters in Luxembourg and in certain target countries including Burkina Faso and Laos.

As far as the results of this first phase of the evaluation study of the PD are concerned, and in line with the initial comments made by the team of evaluators of the Review of the peers of the Luxembourg Cooperation at the end of their visit to the country, which took place in Luxembourg at the end of 2007/ beginning of 2008, it can be concluded that despite excellent preparation, the details concerning the implementation of the PD have yet to be realised to a large extent. In relation to the three main questions posed by the evaluation, the following must be said:

- Despite their scope, the incentives provided and the commitments, both international and national, have not yet succeeded in translating the PD into legislation and the restructuring efforts required.
- Capacities have been significantly increased, particularly on the ground, through the establishment of decentralised cooperation offices. Nevertheless, the offices in the target countries have yet to begin to participate generally in sector-related dialogue.

- In Luxembourg, there are no formal incentive systems aimed at encouraging Government workers to implement a decisive policy at a competent level. However, participation in policy-related dialogue has certain benefits for field workers. It is also necessary to mention the obstacles to implementing a change of policy, such as the ignorance of new techniques, accounting risks and the restructuring operations that are necessary.

In conclusion, three major points are essential for putting the PD, the EC and the European Code of Conduct into practice:

1. *The restructuring of inter-departmental collaboration*, that is to say collaboration between the Ministry and its decentralised cooperation offices with LuxDevelopment (LD), both on the ground and at the Headquarters, with a number of goals including: to better master new methods of implementing aid, to achieve more compact representation to the outside world and to manage operations more effectively.
2. *Acquiring and mastering new modular techniques* for implementing aid, as well as industry-related expert reports. This task presents itself in different ways as far as the Ministry and LD are concerned. The former requires general knowledge to enable it to make decisions and to perhaps monitor the reference terms and to understand reports. Given that the primary task of the Ministry is that of a political official, it will not possess the resources or skills required to assume a leading role with regard to the issues, sectors or methods. On the other hand, LD shall be responsible for gathering together all of the expert reports and providing the Ministry with these in good time.
3. *The adaptation of the Ministry and LD's operating procedures* in accordance with the two aforementioned tasks.

It is a question of establishing a very flexible framework of operating regulations, providing field staff with a great deal of freedom to act and taking our own experience, as well as that of other partners, as a basis on which to build.