

FSG MEETING

**29-30 January 2013, Brussels**

**ITUH, Bd. du Roi Albert II, 5 – ROOM E, first floor**

**REPORT**

**29 January:**

**09.00h-12.30h**

**TUDCN evaluation**

*First elements of feedbacks on evaluation*

* External level: TUDCN has allowed visibility and credibility to TUs in development, but there is still a long way to go;
* INTERNAL level:
  + TUs Principles & guidelines on Development Effectiveness are seen as an asset in building up coherence and coordination amongst TUs;
  + TUDCN has also enhanced capacities of member organisations at political and technical level, as well as, enhanced partnerships and knowledge on development projects among members;
  + TUDCN is still seen as a ‘project based initiative’;
  + Although improved over time, the participation from the south has to be improved and commitment of the GUFs is still weak.

*Gathering further inputs for the evaluation: general remarks*

* Feedbacks on the ‘recognition’ of the network have to be looked for also from external (institutional and non-governmental ) actors;
* External factors (such as governmental policies) have also to be taken into account when assessing the influence of the TUDCN on national organisations ;
* Due consideration should be put on impediments and obstacles that might be hampering some organisations to join the network;
* Much more attention and support should be given to organisations in the south at regional and national level in order to enable them to structure their participation and representation.
* what is the “critical mass” that is needed to assess the degree of sufficient representation capacity of the TUDCN (see also other networks in the TU landscape)

*Gathering further inputs for the evaluation: Working Groups*

* On advocacy terms we are more successful/effective with the external partners than with our own constituency, as development agenda is not that high on the TU agenda;
* The integration of the TUDCN into the ITUC should be improved; there are different degrees of operationalization in the different regions.
* Plurality on views and strategies is a constituent part of the network: different publics and therefore expectations, although they cannot be seen as “separated”: e.g. development/aid/project practitioners and advocacy/policy officers – leaders. Do we need to diversify or not? If so, what does that mean in terms of governance, participation and activities?

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| POINTS FOR ACTION |
| * An evaluation questionnaire will be sent to the whole TUDCN (following the check of the FSG); * Interview will be organised with internal and external actors (including governments and international, regional and CSOs): the secretariat will send out a draft list to the FSG for inputs; * Possible 2 meetings with focus groups (different stakeholders) at national level; * The draft report will be sent to the FSG (end of March) prior to its dissemination for discussion during the GM in DK. |

**14.00h-17.00h**

**TUDCN governance**

*Discussion on governance and working modalities within the TUDCN*

After 2/4 years of working we want to revise the institutional settings and working methods of the network. Too many meetings and training seminars are implemented with the risk of overburden the regional and national organisations human resources.

General Remarks:

* How does the ITUC relate to the network: question de fond. Development Cooperation deserves a higher priority within ITUC;
* The multi-actor nature of the network cannot be crystallised in a simple member-based institutional statutory settings. It has to stay informal and flexible in order to be inclusive (GUFs and SSOs). Rules have to to be based on consensus. This does not hamper a formal recognition of the network by each constituency, including ITUC in its governance structures;
* Regional networks need to be reinforced. TUDCN meetings and action plans should reflect what happens in the regions. This is happening in LA and should happen also in the other continents. Support to regional development networks (fostering, a.o., peer to peer/south-south exchanges) is crucial for the next phase of the network in order to have bottom up leverage for participation and input. This would also help to support targeted participation of the southern representatives at global level;
* The secretariat cannot cope with a heavy workload in follow up and representation from the global level as things are now more and more happening at regional and national level;
* PERC and MENA regions have to be more involved;

**Ways Forward:**

Future review of the current mandate, rules and objectives of the TUDCN are needed during the next GM. Also changes on the governance (see below) will be discussed and decided upon during the GM in April 2013.

* + General Meetings:
* *Composition:* enlarge southern regional representation to 5 per region (LA,AP, Africa) include also PERC, MENA
* Nomination of “permanent” participants done by organisations, with indication of possible alternates (should receive all info and step in when necessary)
* Provide a definition of the SSOs (trade union based/trade union supporting organisations) to allow better understanding of membership “criteria”
* *Mandate:* policy decisions and orientations making, focusing on thematic based discussions (limiting governance when needed)
* *N. meetings* : 2 meetings 2/3 days per year
  + FSG:
* *Composition:* increase the members per regions (2 affiliates and 1 regional rep each) with a time bound mandate; participation from MENA and PERC regions to be assessed.
* Nomination done by organisations with indication of alternates
* *Mandate:* follow up on activities and management issues (reporting) ; take management decisions in between GM, take up representation
* *Meetings*: 1 or 2 per year besides the back to back GM meetings
  + Areas of work and methodologies:
* *Decision-making on position papers:* physical WG meetings only are not the appropriate approach to have inclusive decision making processes. Policy documents should be sent to the whole TUDCN and sign off procedure should be implemented. Ad hoc meetings will be maintained anyways, open to all interested TUDCN members, complementing online consultations and shared drafting work;
* *Seminars:* topic-based seminars should be used as starting points for work-streams on specific issues.
  + Communication and visibility strategy and instruments:
* *Newsletter*:
* not only informative but also to provide analysis. Critical assessments should be made on TUDCN activities and on relevant external events ;
* dissemination by the regional structures to national affiliates in the continent is needed;
* 2 pagers on policy topics: very useful
* *Development papers:* occasional production is ok
* 1 publication on evaluation/history of TUs engagement in the development effectiveness agenda and main messages;
* *Database on projects:* we need to adopt individualised approaches for follow up
* *Other instruments* (new leaflets, new logo (?) , TUDCN outcomes report document to the wider public; possibly a video-clip on the work of the network)
* *Web site:* add the activity calendar

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| POINTS OF ACTION |
| * Revised document on mandate & governance to be presented to the TUDCN GM in April * Draft Report on TUDCN results for the wider public to be presented to the TUDCN GM in April * Add the activity calendar on the web site and finding a more communicative fashion (such as a commented agenda) |

**30 January:**

**09.00h-12.30h**

**TUDCN future planning**

*Concept and activities for 2013-2016*

1. Capacity Development

This objective will be discussed with the regions in the framework of the overall “organising” campaign of the ITUC.

1. Advocacy and international development agenda SEE DOCUMENT
   * EU component to be added: Policy Forum for Development = Private sector: there are overlaps with other working areas (ESP) on investment, trade, …; link to the HRBA and untying aid in terms of criteria and tools to support development projects.
   * Setting up Regional development networks (can be covered by the Advocacy component – objective 2, as well as, resources will be available under the CPDE)
2. Trade Union Partnerships SEE DOCUMENT

Northern organisations are more and more pressured by back donors in showing results and earmarking, as well as, southern organisations are floated with many and different conditionality rules by donor gov/trade unions. This work stream deals with these kinds of issues. Remarks: showing results is crucial for trade union organisation vis-à-vis their constituencies in the EU. This has to be more underlined in the outcomes in the next project Log Frame.

*Action plan TUDCN*

* + Current program Agenda (April 2013)

EU component to be added and detailed

*Preparation of the next General Meeting in April*

* Short activities report: could also include private sector research and M&E guide
* Evaluation report presentation
* TUDCN New governance structure (updated mission document)
* Planning of the new project phase (highlighting the experience of LA under the capacity development of regional networks)
* Policies: proposal for inviting HL external persons (HLP post 2015 Sweden, DK, UK, FR, EU-Piebalgs)

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| POINTS OF ACTION |
| * Draft GM Agenda to the FSG for comments & endorsement by mid-March * Support letters to the new project from TUs major constituencies |